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San Diego's Cheerleader In Chief



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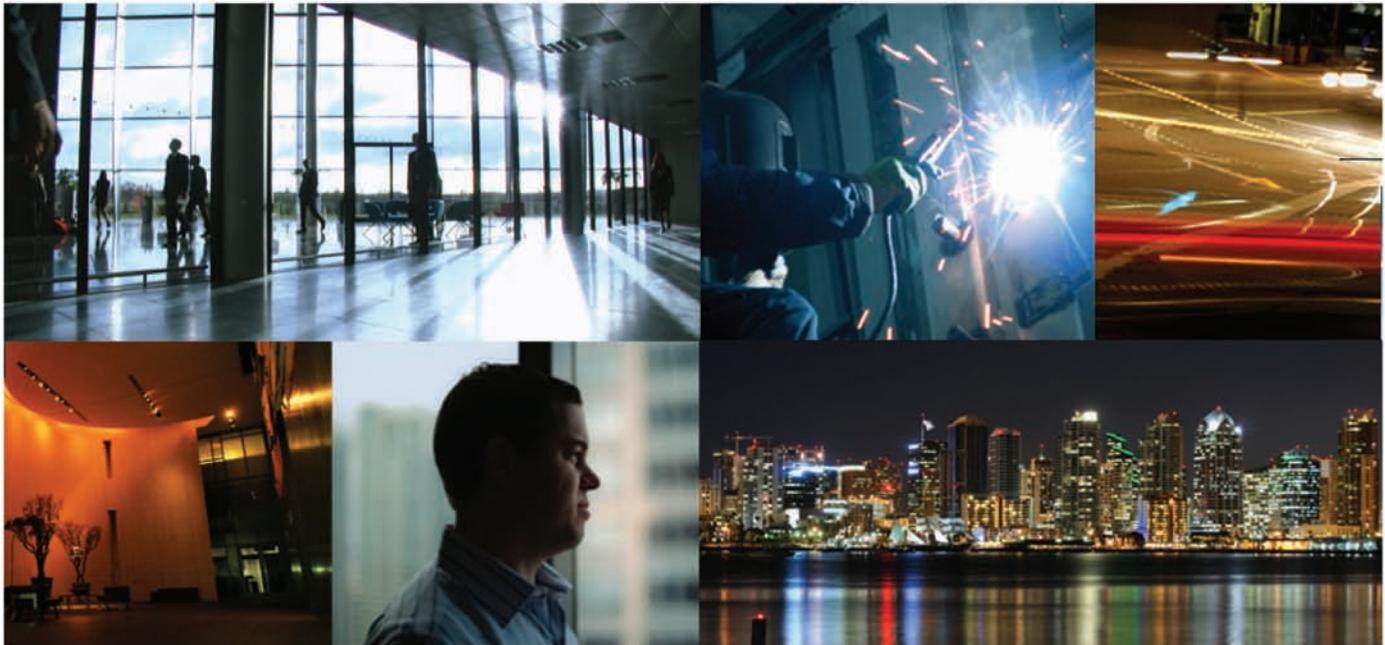
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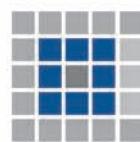
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COVER STORY

ON THE COVER:

Doug Manchester, developer and new owner of U-T San Diego. Illustration by Jason Luper.



16

San Diego's Cheerleader in Chief

A conversation with "Papa Doug" Manchester, controversial and sometimes cranky new owner of U-T San Diego.



28

Two Dark Juicy Dramas

Theater columnist Pat Launer reviews "Parade" at the Cygnet and "Buried Child" at New Village Arts.



31

King of the Air(port)

Robert Gleason, chairman of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, talks about Lindbergh Field's renovation and the odds for future relocation.

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Spring Camps – Fun With a Camera

The Museum of Photographic Arts (MOPA) annual Spring Camp is the best way for kids to enjoy their spring vacation with fun and creativity. The full-day camps start on April 2 and end on April 6. Each day will feature a different activity and theme on-site at MOPA. The cost is \$45 per day or \$210 for all five days of camp. MOPA members enjoy a special rate of \$35 per day or \$160 for five days of camp. To learn more or to register, visit mopa.org/springcamps.

Monday, April 2: Picture Me: Fun and Creative Self-Portraits. Learn the different techniques of self-portraiture. **Tuesday, April 3:** New Landscapes: Panoramic Photo Collages. Create large-scale panoramic photo-collages of Balboa Park. Students will

photograph in natural landscapes and make original artworks by creatively assembling multiple images. **Wednesday, April 4:** MOPA Geographic: Photo Safari (Includes free admission to San Diego Zoo). The day begins at the zoo as youngsters are led on a photographic safari. They will complete the day by creating an animal photo collage. **Thursday, April 5:** Fun in the Sun: Cyanotype Printing Mania. Discover how to use the sun to make photographs. Students will learn how to combine modern digital photography with sun printing. **Friday, April 6:** Hands On: Get Crafty With Your Camera. Explore the crafty side of photography — digital photography, photo collage and more while visiting exciting locations in Balboa Park.

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Procopio Awards Native American Law Internship

Jaelyn Simi, a graduate of Notre Dame de Namur University who is completing a law degree at California Western Law School, has been chosen to receive the 2012 Native American Law Educational Internship by Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch. Procopio is working with California Western School of Law's Clinical Internship Program to provide Simi experience with everyday legal issues facing the Native American community. She assists with specific Indian law related legal practice matters and other legal problems. She will conduct legal research on various Native American matters and pro bono matters affecting Indian country, while gaining experience working in a law firm. She is a member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma.

Taste of Shelter Island Set for April 17

The Peninsula Chamber of Commerce will stage the 23rd annual Taste of Shelter Island on April 17 from 6 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person, with discounts to students of Point Loma Nazarene University and members of 6 Degrees. Tickets may be purchased online at peninsulachamber.com or in the parking lot of the Point Loma Brigantine Seafood restaurant on the day of the event. Shuttles will be provided. The Taste of Shelter Island will showcase an array of San Diego eateries, each offering a sampling of a signature dish from their menus. These include such eateries as The Wine Pub, Elegant Truffle and The Pearl Hotel.

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Grossmont College Reopens Renovated Student Center

Grossmont College has reopened its newly renovated and expanded student center — now called the Griffin Center — and will stage an April 14 dedication ceremony for both the administration and student services complex and Griffin Center. The 9:30 a.m. event is part of the college's open house celebrating its 50th anniversary.

The revamped 46,734-square-foot facility involved renovation of about 27,000 square feet of the existing building and the expansion of nearly 20,000 square feet, including upgrades to meet current accessibility and code requirements. It includes meeting rooms for student groups, seating for dining, lounging or study, easy access to a career center and other student services, as well as a 10-foot screen in the lobby for watching movies, four food stations and a mini-market. A partial second story has added a quiet study area along an indoor balcony. Seating is available in three indoor and two outdoor dining areas, where students can order four types of fare: oven-baked pizza, Mexican, grilled dishes and healthy salads and sandwiches.

The center also houses the offices and work areas of the Associated Students, the culinary arts program, student health services, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) for low-income students, the career center and job placement, a club room for student organizations, and Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS). A large conference room has multiple uses: governing board meetings, conferences and a gathering spot for groups of all sizes, thanks to rollaway walls.

Designed by Architects Mosher Drew, the remodeled building is part of a \$36.2 million, two-building project that also updated and expanded an aging student and administrative services building completed in late December.





Kathryn Cloward

'Kathryn the Grape' Series Honored

Kandon Unlimited Inc.'s "Kathryn the Grape" book series has been named the best in family-friendly media, products and services by the Mom's Choice Awards, earning a silver award of excellence. The honored books, "Kathryn the Grape—Just Like Magic" and "Kathryn the Grape's Colorful Adventure" feature an "everyday girl" who helps children develop authentic self-love. Kathryn Cloward is publisher, author and creator of Kathryn the Grape. She shares the Mom's Choice Award honor with the books' co-authors, Jody Duhamel and Ginny Hornby, and illustrator Christine Winscott. The third book, "Kathryn the Grape's Piece of Love," written by Cloward and illustrated by Winscott, will be released this summer. The book series is available on amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and at kathrynthegrape.com.

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Festival of Science & Engineering Lures Students

UC San Diego has organized the March 17-24 San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering — an effort to get students excited about science and engineering — that will culminate with Expo Day at Downtown’s Petco Park. “It’s never too late to fall in love with science and engineering,” says Steve Briggs, a plant biologist and faculty member at UC San Diego, who started out as an English major until a botany class convinced him to switch his focus. Briggs is also chief scientist for the festival. Now in its fourth year, the weeklong community celebration features nearly 40 events across the county, culminating in the all-day finale event, EXPO DAY, on March 24 that will include 140 organizations presenting hands-on activities, 50 “Ask Me” scientists and engineers that students will be able to interview, plus 16 stage performances ranging from Sid the Science Kid to the DNA Dragon to Space School Musical. Many of the presentations and information booths will feature Spanish speakers. A complete schedule of festival activities is available at sdsciencefestival.com. The 2012 San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering marks the last year of support from the National Science Foundation—the three-year grant funded seed money to establish and grow the regional San Diego festival, as well as create an alliance to start other festivals throughout the U.S.





Hailey, before and after rescue by Baja Animal Sanctuary.



Donnie, before and after rescue.



Kristina Hancock

Law Firm Aids Animal Rescue Organization

Baja Animal Sanctuary, a nonprofit organization in northern Baja California, has regained its tax-exempt status through the efforts of Kristina Hancock, senior counsel for the law firm of McKenna, Long & Aldridge. Because of provisions added to the Internal Revenue Code in 2006, Baja Animal Sanctuary was one of 275,000 nonprofits in the country that received notice that their federal tax-exempt status had been revoked. Hancock and attorneys from Luce Forward devoted pro bono work to re-establish its tax-exempt status. The San Diego Foundation made it possible for the organization to receive an income stream from one of its funds while the law firm worked on the reinstatement. According to Luce Forward, Baja Animal Sanctuary, an animal rescue organization, is the only no-kill shelter of its kind in the region and has been rescuing animals from the streets of Mexico for more than a decade, providing them with food, medical care, and a safe home for the rest of their lives. Over the past decade, the Sanctuary has rescued more than 12,000 animals and it currently houses more than 400 dogs and cats who are awaiting adoption.

Warwick's Hosts Women Writers

Warwick's in La Jolla will host an evening of book talk and publishing advice from four authors from San Diego Writing Women on Tuesday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m. Moderator is Caitlin Rother, author of "Poisoned Love," and will feature authors Laurel Corona, "Finding Emilie," Margaret Dilloway, "How to Be an American Housewife," and Marjorie Hart, "Summer at Tiffany." The program will offer a panel discussion on the authors' own paths to publishing, and specific advice by genre: how to write a query letter and find an agent, how to research your book and write a book proposal, and how to conduct research for fiction and nonfiction. Warwick's is at 7812 Girard Ave.



Caitlin Rother



TranscendANCE performers

National Conflict Resolution Center Peacemaker Awards

San Diego-based transcendANCE Youth Arts Project and David Gergen, senior political analyst for CNN, received Peacemaker Awards from the National Conflict Resolution Center on Feb 16 at the 24th annual Peacemaker Awards dinner. Gergen is the recipient of the national award. transcendANCE is the San Diego Peacemaker honoree. TranscendANCE Youth Arts Project empowers culturally diverse youth to mobilize social change through intensive technical training in dance, choreography, creative writing and theater. The organization uses the arts as a vehicle for helping youth address complex social issues that impact their community through leadership development, community-building activities and service projects.

Gergen has served as a White House adviser to four presidents: Nixon, Ford, Reagan and Clinton. He is a professor of public service and the director of the Center for Public Leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School.



Pink Cloud Cherry Trees Donated to San Diegans

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first gift of cherry trees from Japan to the United States, the Consulate-General of Japan in Los Angeles is offering more than 20 Pink Cloud cherry trees to the people of San Diego through the Port of San Diego. Kuniko Nakamura, a consul with the Consulate-General, attended a February Board of Port Commissioners meeting and asked the commissioners to accept the offer of the cherry trees “as a symbol of friendship between the United States and Japan.” A tree dedication ceremony is set for 11:30 a.m. on March 29 at Tuna Harbor Park at Tuna Lane and North Harbor Drive.

Lindbergh Field to Get New Fixed Base Operation

The San Diego County Regional Airport Authority has awarded a 37-year lease to Landmark Aviation for the development and operation of a corporate and general aviation fixed-base operator facility (FBO) at San Diego International Airport. The FBO serves all corporate and general aviation aircraft, providing services such as fueling, maintenance and aircraft parking. Landmark Aviation operates 52 FBOs across the United States, Canada and Europe, and is the current operator of San Diego International Airport’s FBO. Under the new agreement, Landmark will design, build and operate a new FBO, with a 20,000-square-foot terminal, a 250,000-square-foot aircraft parking ramp and five hangars on 12.4 acres of airport property. The lease is expected provide the Airport Authority \$315 million over 37 years, an additional \$4.5 million in rent annually over today’s level. The FBO will also meet requirements for LEED certification. Under the terms of the lease, Landmark is required to invest \$39 million and construct a new FBO facility that achieves LEED Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.



San Diego County Credit Union Wins Honors

San Diego County Credit Union (SDCCU) was honored for demonstrating a commitment to ethical business practices by the San Diego Better Business Bureau (BBB). The credit union received a 2011 BBB Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics in the more than 500-employee category. The Torch Awards is the BBB’s annual awards program that honors outstanding local for-profit companies and nonprofit charitable organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to ethical business practices, both in operations and in terms of being ethical, reliable and responsive to employees, vendors and customers. It was SDCCU’s second BBB Torch Award, after previously winn the award in 2009. Award winners are not eligible to compete in consecutive years.

The credit union is at the forefront in contributing to the community. It supports more than 70 nonprofit organizations, among them the Make-A-Wish Foundation of San Diego, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Scripps Clinic and Rady Children’s Hospital. SDCCU is currently the nation’s only credit union to serve as a title sponsor of a college football bowl game. As title sponsor of the San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl, \$1 of every ticket sold goes directly to a local charity. This one-of-a-kind partnership between SDCCU and the Poinsettia Bowl has been in effect since the game’s inception in 2005.

Teresa Halleck, SDCCU president and CEO, is serving as the 2012 chairman of the board of the California Credit Union League (CCUL), the nation’s largest statewide credit union trade association. CCUL, based in Ontario, Calif., represents 330 credit unions in California, with more than nine million members and more than \$115 billion in assets. Halleck joined SDCCU as president and CEO in August 2010. Prior to SDCCU, she served as president and CEO of Sacramento-based The Golden 1 Credit Union for nearly eight years.



Platt College offers tablet application design training

Terry Warner is a man who never stops and rarely rests. He is one of the types without the stop button. He teaches graphic design classes at Platt College San Diego Digital Media Design School from early in the morning till noon, then rushes back to his home office in Santee where he operates a design business, T. Nelson Warner Media. Late afternoon he is off to Platt College again to teach evening classes.

Even as he was recovering from spinal surgery after an injury from hiking Yosemite's Half Dome, he took on a new project that resulted in a boon for Platt College students. "I was in a neck brace and I couldn't move much, so I started studying the new InDesign 5.5 program for tablet application design and got proficient at it," he says. In fact, he became such an expert working with the new technology that he came up with a proposal how to enhance a curriculum for a digital publishing class. His proposal was embraced by the school and content of the existing digital publishing class was enriched by new, the most current features.

Today the first group of students is learning to design publishing applications for tablets and Android devices. Warner says he is happy that his class of 22 students are offered brand new material that will help them to blaze a new trail in technology.

"When observing Terry's class, the enthusiasm in the classroom is joy to witness," says Marketa Hancova, dean of education. "The students' excitement to be able to learn the latest InDesign program...with its capacity to design for tablet devices serves as a great motivator to learn the fundamentals of digital publishing."

Warner designed a tablet publishing ap-

plication for the 30-year anniversary of the space shuttle program. It lets viewers explore the development, testing, operation and eventual retirement of the space shuttle fleet. He takes professional pride in his impressive application, but lights up when showing his students' work. He beams as he shows the swipe-and-touch slideshow on the application for a cruise line a student designed for a class project. He pinches and zooms to provide images of small detail and broad overviews of the ship.

Warner explains that he is especially impressed with the button interactions that this student provided. He turns the screen from a landscape to portrait view. The orientation immediately adapts. "If the cruise line decided to use this application, no one would ever know it was designed by a student. It's that good," he says.

With a few taps on his iPad, Warner shows another student project, a tablet application for Cabrillo National Park, which offers information on park history, activities and even a scavenger hunt for kids. "When the student reached out to Cabrillo Park to get information, they told her they'd been thinking about doing an app and that she should call them when the application is completed," says Warner. "If they call her they will find a polished, professionally designed publishing app."

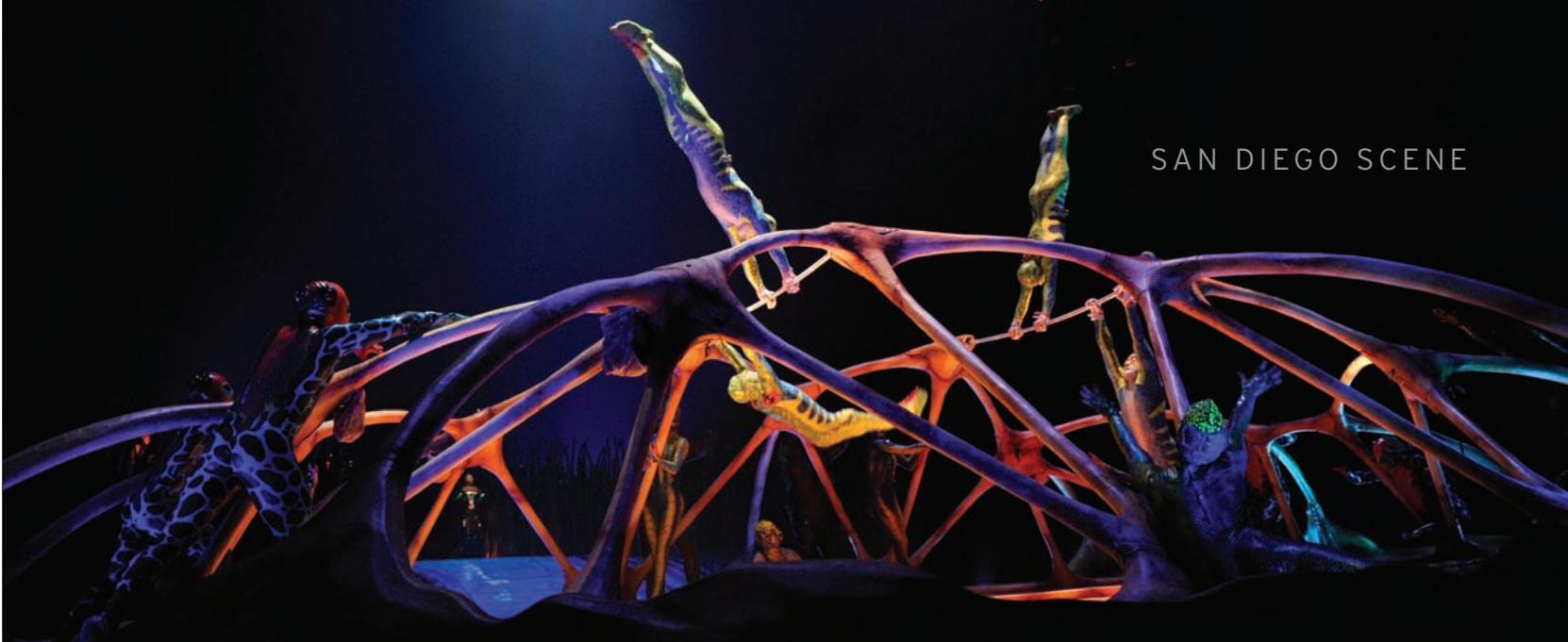
Hancova says she wants to be clear about what the class offers. "We offer design of tablet publishing applications that can also be used on Android devices, but we are not teaching how to create Angry Birds-style apps or apps for all smartphones," she says. "The feedback has been impressive. Terry is an excellent teacher and in the class content is wonderful."



Platt College student Anel Aguilar shows a freshly designed publishing application.



Instructor Otto Lai is excited about the class.



'Totem' Comes to Del Mar Fairgrounds

Cirque du Soleil presents its Big Top production

Cirque du Soleil's latest Big Top production — "Totem" — opens at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on April 26 for a limited engagement. Written and directed by Robert Lepage, the characters evolve on a stage evoking a giant turtle, the symbol of origin for many ancient civilizations. Between science and legend, the show looks at the ties between Man and other species, dreams and infinite potential.

"Totem" first premiered in Montréal in April 2010 and is now touring in North America. Since its world premiere, the show has visited more than 10 cities and played before more than 1 million people in North America and Europe. San Diego will be its only Southern California stop in 2012, running through May 27.

The show traces the journey of the human species from its original amphibian

state to its ultimate desire to fly. The word "totem" contains the idea of the order of species. Humans carry in our bodies the potential of all species, all the way to our desire to fly — like the thunderbird at the top of the totem pole.

Tickets are available online at cirquedusoleil.com/totem. Visit the Website for performance dates, times and special offers.



DOUG MANCHESTER

San Diego's Cheerleader In Chief **By Rob Davis**



It's early morning and Doug Manchester is sitting at a corner table in the ornate private dining room at the \$300 million Grand Del Mar. He owns the place and looks the part. The fireplace is burning, and he puts his napkin in his lap as he sips a foamy vanilla latte. A copy of the U-T San Diego rests beside him. He owns that, too. He bought the newspaper company for roughly \$110 million last November. One of the perfectionist's first changes at the newspaper? He hired more janitors. Like the gold leaf trim and imported marble blanketing the resort around him, every detail about Manchester feels meticulous: dyed brown hair, fixed in place; dress shirt, top two buttons unbuttoned, a bit of chest exposed; white handkerchief peeking out of his blue blazer pocket; khakis, perfectly pressed. Manchester swats aside my first question. He wants me to know the words he lives by: "Making positive memories." He thinks it should be part of his newspaper's mission statement. This reminds him of a favorite poem. Unprompted, he begins from memory:

*When you get what you want for struggling for self,
And the world has made you king for a day,
Then go to the mirror and look at yourself,
And see what that man has to say.*

*For it's not your father, or mother,
Whose judgment must pass,
The verdict which counts most in life,
Is the man staring back from the glass.*

*You may be like Little Jack Horner and chisel a plum,
And think you're a wonderful guy,
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum,
If you can't look him straight in the eye.*

Few San Diegans could have evoked the visceral cancel-my-subscription-today reaction that Manchester did when he bought the Union-Tribune. He has a reputation: egomaniacal, short-tempered, litigious, unrelenting. Some fear him. Two politically connected people warned me not to write a negative word about him. "If there is a hell, Doug Manchester is the face of it," one said.

No Middle Ground

Douglas Frederick Manchester leaves little middle ground. This is how he deals with it.

"There's always going to be people who may be jealous," he explains. "As long as you don't cheat the man in the glass, you can live your life to the fullest. I get up every morning and tell myself, 'Hey, Papa

Doug, this is the first day of the rest of my life. Let's live it to the fullest. Like it's the Super Bowl, only without any timeouts or instant replays." Manchester is 69 years old. He is a developer, a Catholic, anti-tax, Mitt Romney-supporting Republican. He's shorter than you'd expect, with steel-blue eyes. He drives a four-door Porsche Panamera (the fastest car he could find, he says). Everyone from his restaurant staff to Romney calls him Papa Doug. He insists. It's how he signs his name. (He explains it's to distinguish himself from his son, Doug.)

He is famously wealthy. He spent \$200,000 on his 65th birthday party at his namesake Manchester Grand Hyatt in 2007, then jetted to Costa Rica for a lavish week-long cruise (\$350,000) aboard a 165-foot yacht. His wife's estimate of their monthly utilities bill at their former home (\$7,000) is more than most San Diegans' monthly home payments. His bank accounts in 2009 held more than \$56 million. And that was just his cash.

Now he is the publisher of San Diego's largest newspaper. The purchase marks a bold entrée into the city's cultural establishment by someone who's not only lived outside of it. He's also been one of its biggest targets.

Manchester has today appointed himself San Diego's top "cheerleader." The U-T gives him a significant platform for this civic rah-rah-rah, even if its influence has waned in the post-print age. The news staff is half of what it was five years ago. The opinion page stopped taking the strong positions that once made it a lightning rod. But in one day in

November, the man who calls himself Papa Doug made America's eighth-largest city wonder, Just how much power remains in the 143-year-old newspaper? And will he use it as a bullhorn — or a bludgeon?

A New Phase

Manchester says he's entered a new phase of his life. It's how he explains away old stories about his tirades and temper. They're in the past, he says. His partner, John Lynch, CEO of the newspaper and the L in MLIM (Manchester Lynch Integrated Media), the company that technically owns it, agrees. Lynch describes him with a phrase you don't often hear people say about a man who's nearing 70: "I think he's grown and matured." The man who's been called "Papa" for more than two decades would have you believe he's finally acting the part.

"He loves our city," says Lynch, a former sports radio executive. "I can see how people get put off because he is aggressive and doesn't put up with crap. And there's a lot of crap in our city right now. There was a time when we were a real shining light, a city that was growing and exciting. We lost all of that. And we've got to get it back."

Manchester, too, is poised for a revival. His most notable projects are decades old. He recently endured a very public separation from his wife. He took a political beating by donating money to defeat gay marriage. The U-T marks his opportunity for redemption. It's his chance to prove to all the haters that he loves not just the man in the glass, but San Diego, too.

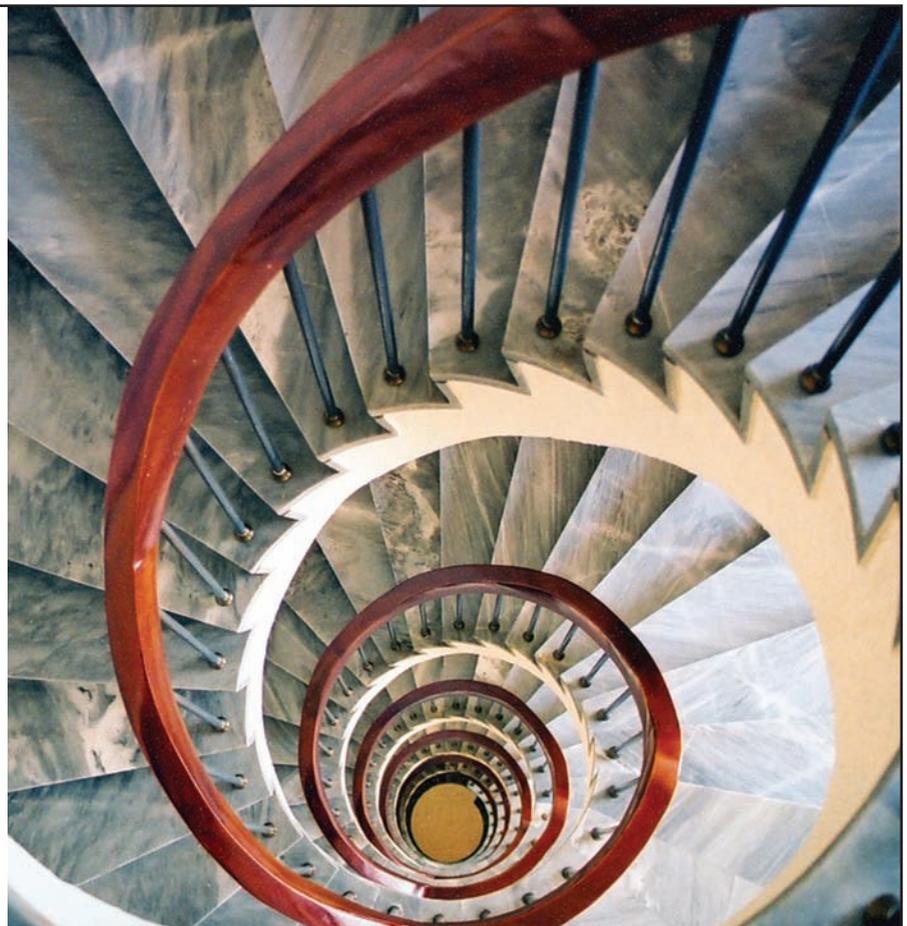
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The newspaper has been fighting for its life since 2006. Former owner David Copley sold low following the depths of the recession in 2009, dumping the paper that had been in his family for generations. Platinum Equity, a Beverly Hills-based buyout firm, spent two years making it profitable, then flipped it to Manchester. Platinum stopped the freefall, but the U-T's long-term viability is still in question. Analysts expect U.S. newspaper advertising revenues to drop about 8 percent this year to \$25 billion, roughly half what it was in 2008.

The city faces a challenging, decisive year, too. San Diego will elect a new mayor. Voters will decide on a major pension reform initiative. Unemployment is still high, local schools are on the brink of insolvency, and the city budget faces yet more cuts.

And yet Manchester says he wants to focus on "positive news" and champion big building projects. And considering the dreary financial outlook for news in print, Manchester, a savvy businessman, admits he has more planned for the company than pushing the newspaper online. He also wants to eventually develop the prime Mission Valley parcel on which the paper's headquarters sit. The parking lot could become condos, offices, or shops, all with convenient freeway access. Gary London, a local real estate analyst, says the land's long-term prospects are clearer than the newspaper's.

"The greater risk is on the media part of the acquisition. The lesser risk is on the real estate," London says. "But to be the real estate mogul and media mogul in this town, it had to be irresistible to him."

A solid real estate investment with the added bonus of the power of publicity? Manchester insists that's not the case. His goal, he claims, is simpler.

Toasts, Not Roasts

"I never go to roasts anymore," he says. "I don't like it. I like to go to toasts. I like to toast people and to look at what's right and good in San Diego and maybe not what's negative.

Like when you're running, he says. When you pass someone and smile, he says, they smile back. If you don't, they don't either.

"I hope we can smile at San Diego," he says.

So far, a skeptical city hasn't smiled back.

Neither Manchester nor Lynch has run a

newspaper before. And it has shown.

On the day the sale was announced, Lynch said he wanted the paper's sports page to call out opponents of a new downtown football stadium as "obstructionists." The misstep elicited nationwide criticism. "Ugh," tweeted Judy Battista, *The New York Times'* football reporter. "Disturbing story," tweeted Richard Deitsch of *Sports Illustrated*. Now, after becoming the CEO of a major newspaper company, Lynch acknowledges the opinion page, not the sports page, is the correct forum for that type of attack.

"To make those proclamations was misguided on their part," says Dean Nelson, director of the journalism program at Point Loma Nazarene University. You'd think a paper as large as the U-T wouldn't be run by someone who's learning on the job, he says. "But that's apparently what he's doing."

Manchester certainly isn't the first bombastic ideologue to buy a local newspaper and elicit jeers. Philadelphia groaned when Brian Tierney, a local public relations executive, bought that city's major newspapers in 2006. He was a prominent Catholic who'd severely criticized the newspapers' coverage of the Catholic Church sex abuse scandal there. But he addressed his reputation directly. On his first day of ownership, Tierney declared that he would guard the papers as a public trust and signed a pledge not to interfere with news coverage. The city ultimately lauded him as a hero who fought (unsuccessfully) to keep the papers out of the hands of bankruptcy creditors.

News Independence

Manchester and Lynch have made only reactionary pledges about news independence. Their early missteps don't bode well, says Ken Doctor, a media analyst with Newsonomics.

"I don't mind the personality and bombast and boosterism, as long as you understand that journalism is about telling people what's really going on on all sides of a story as fairly and truthfully as you can," Doctor says. "I was troubled by those first comments."

The paper gave its new owner an early break that other community members don't receive.

On Christmas Day, he wrote a greeting to readers putting his Christianity front and center. "No other individual, before or since, has so influenced mankind as Jesus Christ," he wrote. Online commenters questioned whether he was excluding other religions — until the comments were closed and erased.

Lynch has been the one to articulate the clearest view of the U-T's digital future. He says he, not Manchester, raised the idea of buying it. He met with Manchester last summer to talk about the underlying real estate's value. By the end of an hour-long breakfast at the Grand Del Mar, the two had agreed on a plan to buy it. They say the economics made sense. But they also wanted to be players.

Manchester, known as a tough negotiator, threatened to walk away from the deal twice. Once over the price and again over the newspaper's pension obligations for retirees. He talked the price down. But he got stuck with its pension responsibility, a substantial risk.

They wouldn't sell it any other way, Lynch says. "We committed to a couple of things we shouldn't have," he says. "We gave on like 20 different issues. He wanted the deal done."

Manchester and Lynch are already leaving a clear mark on the newspaper. They've renamed it U-T San Diego. They instituted a dress code and patched the office walls. They replaced the paper's old motto, which stressed it was still important ("More Than 1,000,000 Readers Weekly"), with one that highlights their jingoism: "The World's Greatest Country & America's Finest City." They enlarged the American flag adorning the front page and named the U.S. Marine the "person of the year" for 2011. Their aims sound almost Murdochian. They want to bring television and radio stations into the U-T building. Manchester says he might like to buy the region's other major paper, the North County Times, too.

I had asked Lynch and Manchester to sit down

for interviews at the paper's wood-paneled executive offices on the top floor. They declined. "It's almost like a fortress," Lynch later told me. "Very few offices. It's like they didn't want to be with the masses. That's not the way we're going to operate. We're going to get very involved."

He answers his cell phone as he always does. "Papa Doug."

His voice sounds low and breathy, like he's talking in a library. He's waiting to check into a hotel.

"I'm in Saudi Arabia right now," he volunteers. "I suggest you call John Lynch. I'll be back in a couple of days."

Click.

Three days later, Manchester is back in San Diego, apologizing that he couldn't talk. He'd spent a long day with a group of CEOs touring oil fields at the invitation of the Saudi kingdom.

Man About Town

Manchester knows people everywhere. But ask who the best person in town is to tell a "Papa Doug story," and they'll point you to a public official who served four mayors ago. Or port officials who are dead. Or someone who only remembers vague details.

Louis Wolfsheimer, then serving on the Port Commission, remembers getting invited to Manchester's skyscraper suite for a drink decades ago. Manchester made a pitch: He wanted to use cheaper materials on a downtown hotel project, and he needed Wolfsheimer to support it and convince other board members, too. Wolfsheimer refused. Manchester yelled. Wolfsheimer yelled back. "Strong words were used," is all Wolfsheimer would say.

Some 20 years later, Manchester snapped to attention when I mentioned the fight. Wolfsheimer had forgotten which hotel they argued about (the Grand Hyatt). Manchester remembered like it happened yesterday. But it didn't. Manchester left his mark on San Diego decades ago, most notably at the waterfront hotels he built in the 1980s and 1990s.

The Grand Hyatt is San Diego's largest hotel and the West Coast's tallest waterfront hotel. The Marriott Hotel & Marina helped pioneer the city's waterfront convention tourism busi-

ness. When it opened before the delayed Convention Center it was meant to serve, Manchester sued San Diego's port district, a late 1980s lawsuit that people still talk about. He settled for more than \$11 million.

Lately, though, his attempt to transform dilapidated downtown Navy property into offices and retail space languished. And the posh Grand Del Mar resort (which is in Carmel Valley) opened during the recession and hasn't attracted as many guests as expected.

Still, Manchester's development portfolio is massive, an empire built from scratch. He arrived in Coronado at age 7 from Los Angeles when his father took a factory job with Rohr Aircraft Corp. in Chula Vista. After graduating from San Diego State, he sold insurance, began development work in La Jolla and Torrey Pines and, he says, retired by 1978. He flew a plane around the world, got bored and then launched into the hotel business.

As a boy, hawking morning newspapers to Coronado ferry passengers and looking across the bay toward downtown, Manchester says he never imagined the work he would do there.

The bay bridge didn't even exist yet.

As we talked, Manchester looked at my wedding band and quizzed me about how I met my wife. There was a melancholy to his polite small talk. For years, Manchester styled himself as the ultimate family man. His wife, five children, and 10 grandchildren were his essence. He named ballrooms after them at his hotels, put up their pictures in his hotel lobby. Manchester sold an intertwined identity: successful developer and family man. But the way he carried himself also came across as sanctimonious and helped feed allegations of his egotism. When he sold the Manchester Grand Hyatt last March for \$570 million, he required his name to stay on it for 20 years. Why?

"Why not?" he said.

About Proposition 8

Now, the man who can afford to write a check to buy a newspaper company is without the family member who was so long identified with him: Betsy, his wife of 43 years. He says they are still friends, but they legally separated in 2010, a high-profile court case that attracted attention because of Manchester's financial

support for Proposition 8. At the same time he fought for the sanctity of marriage, he struggled with his own. He acknowledges it made him appear a hypocrite.

Manchester admits that he was unfaithful and fell in love with someone else. He talks in a hushed voice about it. "I did what I did, and it's something that was a huge mistake," he says.

He has apologized to the gay community for his Prop. 8 campaign donation, though the sting remains. Linda Perine, a local LGBT activist, says she worries about his control of the paper. "It's of enormous concern when you have someone with a checkered past on LGBT civil rights take over a newspaper that's never been noted for being particularly LGBT-friendly," she says.

Manchester says he didn't buy the paper to advocate for or against gay marriage.

"I'm not going to do anything with the press or with regards to ownership of the Union-Tribune that would take a position one way or another with that issue," he says. "I'm through with that issue. I understand the hurt that the gay and lesbian community felt as a result of that. And I don't want to cause hurt to anybody."

The Manchesters sold their oceanfront La Jolla home for approximately \$18 million, as part of the separation. Doug now lives in a home he built overlooking the 16th hole of Grand Del Mar's golf course. The greens look lush, the rough is a wintry yellow. The man who's worn his family on his sleeve says he's dating again, but has no plans to get remarried. He gets up every morning, takes his black lab, Tita, for a jog, and says hello to what he calls "his family of workers." He still sees Betsy at birthdays and Christmas.

This is his new phase of life. He insists that he's happy. He promises that he wants that for San Diego, too.

With each newspaper that lands on the region's doorsteps, we'll find out just how committed Manchester is to that ideal.

This story also ran in the February 2012 issue of San Diego Magazine.

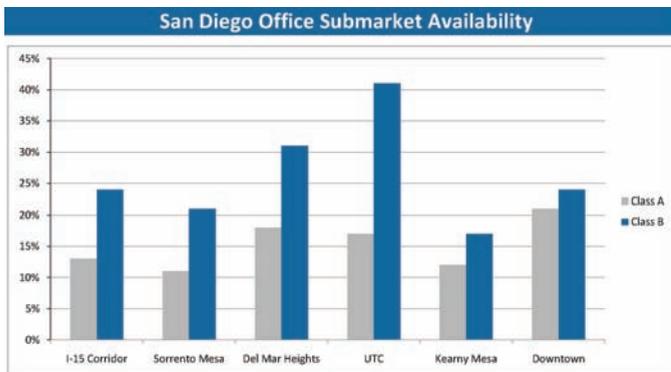
Rob Davis is a senior reporter at voiceofsandiego.org. You can contact him directly at rob.davis@voiceofsandiego.org or (619) 325-0529.

Moving from Class A to Class B offices By David Marino

Over the last four years of the commercial real estate recession, most tenants' leases in San Diego County have expired. When faced with that event, there has been a tremendous migration of tenants in all office submarkets moving from Class B buildings to Class A buildings. Tenants that signed leases for Class B space in 2003-2006, signed as the market was inflating, and had subsequent expirations in the most favorable tenant market in 15 years from 2008-2011. As rents collapsed from 2008-2011, those same Class B tenants could get better space, in a better submarket, for less money than they were paying for their existing inferior Class B space. For example, in 2007, a tenant in UTC would have paid \$3.50 "full service gross" for the best Class A office space, and in Del Mar Heights \$4.20 "net of electricity." Those prices have collapsed \$1-\$1.50 per square foot per month. As a result, tenants that had expiring leases from 2008-2011 were able to move from lower quality Class B buildings to Class A for the same or less money than they were previously paying for lesser quality. Similarly, tenants have been able to migrate from second tier markets like Sorrento Mesa, Kearny Mesa and Mission Valley to the premium markets of UTC and Del Mar Heights for the same rents they were paying for second tier submarkets.

The following chart shows the great disparity in the major office submarkets between Class A and Class B availability, whereby Class A office availability is much less today, due to the migration of tenants from Class B to Class A over the last three years.

Now in 2012, as the market has begun to firm, we are seeing



Class A landlords try to move the pricing pendulum in their direction. The reduced availability in Class A office space has caused landlords to reevaluate their economic goals for 2012. Already, major landlords like The Irvine Company have raised rent expectations in UTC by 10 percent. However, I have learned over

my 23-year San Diego commercial real estate career that San Diego companies are incredible frugal. Most San Diego companies' ownership is privately held by people who live and work here in San Diego. As a result, a 10 percent increase in rent comes right out of the business owner's pocket. Likewise, there are few Fortune 500 companies headquartered in San Diego County whereby such companies might have the liberty to be opulent with their rent dollars. Most San Diego companies, even if they are public companies, run very lean when it comes to rent dollars. This is particularly true of the venture capital-backed business community, represented by so many San Diego companies, where the investors look for low cost and value when it comes to rent expense.

Landlords need to take caution thinking that San Diego County companies are just going to pay up. Taking Sorrento Mesa as an example, some recent leases have been signed in the \$2.60 net of electricity range. In that same Sorrento Mesa market, a tenant can get a very clean, attractive and professional Class B office space from a \$1.50 to \$1.85 net of electricity, where there is still significant softness in Class B space. We can expect tenants that have leases expiring in the next two years to migrate back to Class B space, and back to secondary submarkets where value can be had. While San Diego landlords will certainly look to push rent up as availability continues to decline, landlords have to be cautious not to get ahead of the recovery, whereby tenants will simply flood back to value.

David Marino is principal of Hughes Marino, the largest San Diego commercial real estate company with brokers exclusively specializing in tenant representation for lease negotiations and building purchases. (619) 238-2111. Email: david@hughesmarino.com.



Local Komen Foundation works to repair damage from Planned Parenthood controversy

By Marty Graham

As the dust settles on the ugly brawl between two of the leading women's health nonprofits — the Susan G. Komen for the Cure foundation and Planned Parenthood — local leaders are looking at lessons learned and how to avoid the painful process again.

"We were inundated with thousands of posts on our Facebook page. Our Twitter account was hacked," says Laura Farmer Sherman, a breast cancer survivor who serves as the executive director for the local Susan G. Komen affiliate. "It shows how passionate our supporters are and how much we believe that women's health is our central mission."

Now, she says, the organization is left with the cleanup. The national office apologized profusely, got rid of the public policy adviser who allegedly led them into the mess and plans to work closely with its 120 affiliates to make sure this doesn't happen again. "We are going to develop a more formal and transparent decision process (at the national level)," Sherman said. "The local affiliates want to carry back to our supporters that our voices will be heard."

The San Diego chapter, along with all six other California affiliates, had already decided not to go along with the national directive — which wasn't much of an issue here since Planned Parenthood had never asked the local Komen group for money anyway.

"We let the national know that we are strongly opposed and we are not going along with this," Farmer said. "We weren't alone in that, but for us, as individuals, it was very difficult."

Farmer said she was shaken by the dilemma the local group faced. She actually considered resigning over the policy. "For me, it was a tsunami of emotion, of the misrepresentations and being called on to choose sides," she said. "For our small office — there are four of us — to have to take sides against the national office was gut-wrenching."



Laura Farmer Sherman, executive director of the local Susan G. Komen affiliate, was recognized as one of SD METRO Magazine's 1202 Movers in January/February.

"We were very upset with the national decision and the position it put us in — we are passionate advocates for women's health — something we have shared with Planned Parenthood from the very beginning," she added. "The people who would have suffered are the people who always suffer — the poor, and especially women and children."

Local affiliates keep 75 percent of the money they raise and make their own grants. The remaining 25 percent goes to the national organization and the vast majority of that money goes for research to find a cure, Sherman said. The local funds go for preventative care and screening, and to help women and their families who must undergo treatment for breast cancer.

"Planned Parenthood was among the first organizations to care for the health of women above all," she added. "I went there for contraceptives when I was in college and our members have relied on and benefited from

their long time commitment to women."

The controversial decision by the national office of the Susan G. Komen Foundation came innocuously as a notification in mid-December that organizations under investigation would not be allowed to receive Komen grants. Karen Handel, the resigned senior vice president for public policy who ran for governor of Georgia on an anti-abortion platform in 2010, has acknowledged that she helped craft the policy, but says it was reviewed and approved by the organization's board. In practice, the policy cut funding only to Planned Parenthood, which received \$680,000 in funding from various affiliates for breast cancer detection in 2011.

Notice of the new policy set off a storm of reaction and media coverage.

More than \$3 million in donations poured in to Planned Parenthood during the first week, including \$100,000 from Lance Armstrong's foundation and more than \$250,000 from New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Meanwhile, threats and furious messages poured into the Komen foundation, at the local and national levels.

Though the Komen board reversed itself within a week, the damage had been done. The group that women have long respected and trusted will now have to work to restore its relationship with its members, Sherman said.

The group polled its members and found reaction to the events fell into three categories. "The largest group says we're watching this very closely and if we don't like what we see, there will be problems," Sherman said. "The next largest group said 'everyone makes mistakes' and is ready to move on. And there are people who are done with our organization."

NEW CAR REVIEW: 2012 Hyundai Genesis R Spec By Eric Peters



Want to make a BMW (or Benz) guy cry? Show him your new Hyundai Genesis R Spec. Tell him about the 429 hp 5 liter V-8 (and 5.2 second 0-60 time). Ask him about his \$61,700 BMW 550i (or maybe his \$59,790 Benz E550). Now show him your Hyundai's \$46,500 window sticker. Better have some tissues handy.

What It Is

The R Spec is the high-performance version of Hyundai's mid-sized Genesis sedan. While the standard Genesis is powered by a 3.8 liter V-6 (333 hp) with a 4.4 liter V-8 (378) optional, the R Spec comes with a larger — and much stronger — 5 liter, 429 hp V-8 as well as an eight-speed automatic transmission, 19-inch wheels (available with ultra-performance "summer" tires) and additional suspension/trim upgrades. Base price for the R Spec is \$46,500 — only \$2k more than Hyundai charges for the 4.4 liter-equipped Genesis and \$15,200 less than BMW asks for the less powerful (400 hp) 550i and \$13,290 less than Mercedes charges for the also-less-powerful (402 hp) E550.

What's New

The R Spec package is new for 2012 and represents Hyundai's determination to offer equivalent (or better) performance than the mainline German (and Japanese) premium brands at a steep discount.

What's Good

Equals the performance of the V-8 BMW 5 (and almost matches the \$85,700 M5) for \$100 less than the base price of the four-cylinder (and 240 hp) BMW 528i. Eight-speed transmission. Low profile lets you use what you're packing. Top-drawer warranty.

What's Not So Good

Just one bodystyle — no wagon version. No available AWD. Eight-speed auto could shift more sharply when asked to.

Under The Hood

The centerpiece of the R Spec package is a direct-injected 5.0 liter V-8 producing 429 hp. This is a big number — without even having to add the qualifier, for the money. Consider: The price-equivalent 2012 BMW 5-Series (the \$46,700 BMW 528i) has four fewer cylinders and almost 200 less hp. On the far end of the scale, the BMW M5 — with a turbocharged 5 liter V-10 — musters a solid 500 hp. But at \$85,700 the M5 is literally almost twice as much as the R Spec Hyundai.

On The Road

Beauty and the beast. The same week I had the Genesis R Spec I also had a new Camaro SS. Both had virtually the same horsepower under the hood, but the Hyundai's hp was far more real-world usable than the Camaro's. The Genesis is a car that just glides under the radar, arousing few hostile glares from cops in part because it doesn't — yet — have the reputation for being fast. It also drives beautifully — as do all the cars in this class.

At The Curb

This is a good-looking, if somewhat derivative, car. The best — and most original — angle is from the front, where it has its own unique face. But, again, this stylistic quietude has its own rewards. The car is elegant, but doesn't demand attention in the way a Benz or BMW does. The closest to it in curb character is the Lexus GS. But Hyundai has priced the Genesis so much lower than the GS.

The Rest

You can't (for now) get a wagon body or order AWD — two features that are offered by Benz and BMW. And true enough, the Hyundai nameplate hasn't yet got the cachet that BMW and Benz (or Lexus) have. But Lexus also lacked cachet once upon a time — and the times they are a' changin'.

The Bottom Line

On the merits, I see no reason why history can't repeat itself here. This car — and this brand — has the stuff to play on the same field with the big boys and delivers that stuff for a lot less.

Eric Peters is the author of "Automotive Atrocities" and "Road Hogs" and a former editorial writer/columnist for The Washington Times, a contributor to Cars.Com, The CarConnection.com and SD METRO.



2012 Hyundai Genesis R Spec specifications:

- Base price:** \$46,500. As tested \$46,500
- Engine:** : 5.0 liter V-8, 429 hp and 376 lbs-ft. of torque
- Transmission:** eight-speed automatic
- Length:** 196.3 inches
- Width:** 74.4 inches
- Wheelbase:** 115.6 inches
- Curb weight:** 4,046 lbs.
- Luggage capacity:** 15.9 cubic feet
- EPA fuel economy:** 16city/25 highway
- Where assembled:** Ulsan, South Korea



Attorney Michael Kirby Leads Successful Law Practice

Michael L. Kirby is a founding partner at Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge LLP, whose practice involves business disputes, real estate and securities matters.

He has been honored with the Outstanding Trial Lawyers Award in San Diego, and has been a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates since 1995. He successfully completed litigation in 2011, clearing the way for construction of the new FBI regional complex in San Diego. He has been actively involved in trials for over 30 years.

Kirby has been named in Best Lawyers in America for several years for commercial litigation. He has received a 10 of 10 rating for investment fraud cases by AVVO, an independent lawyer rating company.

He has been named by California Super Lawyers magazine as one of the top attorneys in California each year since its inception in 2007. Only five percent of the California lawyers are named by Super Lawyers magazine.

In 2011 and 2012, he was named as one of the top lawyers in San Diego by SD METRO Magazine.

Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge has 15 lawyers specializing in civil litigation, representing both plaintiffs and defendants.

Since 1994, Kirby has been a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), a national organization of civil trial attorneys, which requires the completion of 20 civil jury trials to verdict. Admission to membership is by vote of the members.

He has handled more than 40 jury trials, including successful jury trials in courts throughout California, Florida and Nevada. Kirby's practice is varied but as lead counsel for various individual plaintiffs or classes, he has obtained total recoveries valued in excess of \$275 million.

He was lead counsel for the class action plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed against a national securities firm in San Diego, which was later

transferred to the U.S. District Court in New Jersey, where he remained lead counsel, and obtained a settlement of \$91 million for those class members, many of whom were elderly or retired.

More recently Kirby has represented investors in cases against one of the nation's largest title insurers and its escrow affiliate, which resulted in a multi-million dollar jury verdict, including punitive damages, after a four month jury trial.

He is president of the San Diego chapter of the International Network of Boutique Law Firms, and Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge is the chapter's designated law firm for civic business litigation. He is a past recipient of the San Diego Consumers Attorneys' Outstanding Trial Lawyer and has lectured extensively to lawyers on federal civic practice, opening statements, closing arguments, damages and jury instructions.

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<p style="text-align: center;">BOOK SIGNING FRIDAY MARCH 30, 2012 WARWICK'S BOOKS</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 5px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">CAR TOUR SATURDAY MAR 31, 2012 SAN DIEGO</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 5px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">CONCOURS SUNDAY APRIL 1, 2012 SCRIPPS PARK</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">PREMIER SPONSOR</p> <div style="text-align: center; background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 5px auto; width: 60px;"> WELLS FARGO </div> <div style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>TICKETS: \$35 in advance \$40 at the event</p> <p>LaJollaConcours.com or 619.233.5008</p> </div>
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San Diego County Residential Markets Snapshot

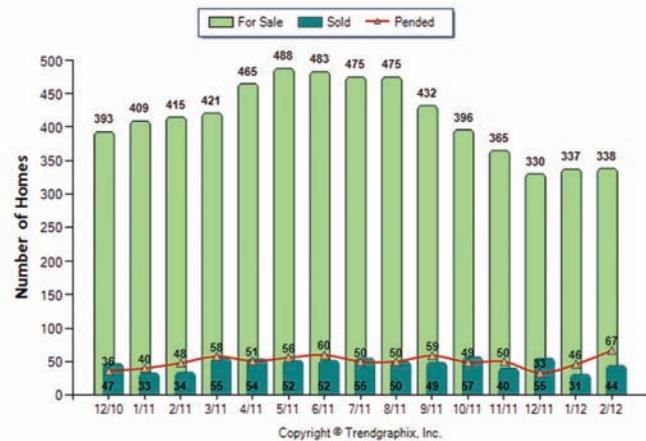
Buyers' market appears shifting to a more balanced dynamic By Zach Todaro

This month's column will be a followup to a few months back, when I covered an interesting trend in the San Diego real estate marketplace. In nearly every ZIP code, the number of active listings has been continuously dropping. Last go around we looked at North Park, Downtown and Hillcrest. This iteration will focus on the coastal communities of Coronado, Del Mar and La Jolla. We will also compare North Park, Downtown and Hillcrest to see how the numbers have changed since the last column.

Coronado

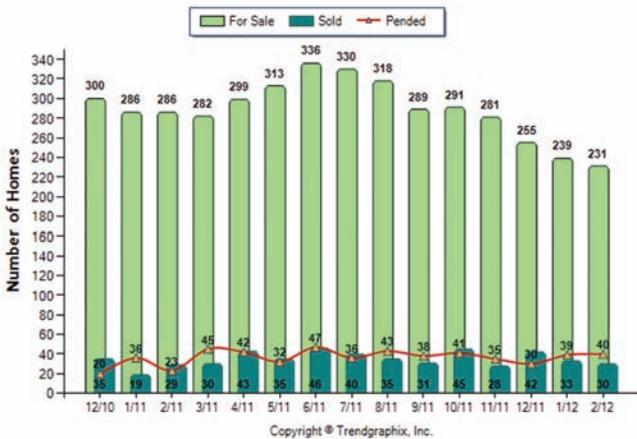
First up is Coronado (92118) which in February was home to 166 active listings. There were 205 active listings in February 2011, so an 18.5 percent drop in inventory. The quarterly comparison is similar, showing a 18 percent decline. Sales for the quarter are up 25 percent, and pending properties up 26 percent, compared to the same time period last year. Sold properties are taking 15 percent longer to sell compared to the same quarter last year. Taking all this into account, there is less available property, the result of increased sold and pending activity. Those sold properties are, however, sitting on the market longer compared to last year, interesting in that one would expect the opposite with reduced inventory. Let's see if other coastal locales follow this trend.

markably similar to what is seen in Coronado, not surprising considering both are high price point marketplaces, where buyers and sellers share similar motivations.



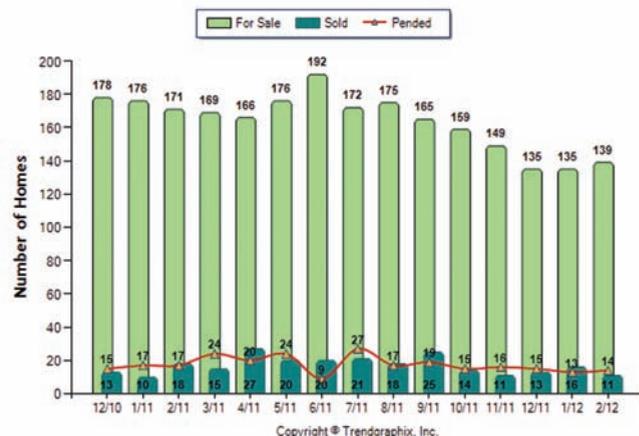
Del Mar

Del Mar saw 139 active listings in February, down 18.7 percent from the same month last year. The quarterly comparison shows 22.3 percent less active inventory. Unlike both Coronado and La Jolla, Del Mar had 38 percent less sales in February 2012 vs. 2011, and 17.6 percent less pending homes. The quarterly numbers show a reduction of 7.1 percent and 12.5 percent, respectively. The average sold is taking 29 percent longer than the same month last year. This market illuminates an interesting fact in that the reduction of active inventory is a trend independent of sale or pending numbers.



La Jolla

La Jolla saw 338 active listings in February of this year, an 18.6 percent decline from February 2011. The quarterly comparison shows a decline in active inventory of 17.5 percent. Sold listings are up 13.2 percent, and pending listings 19.5 percent, compared to the same quarter last year. Sold listings are taking on average 12 percent longer this quarter compared to last year. These numbers are re-



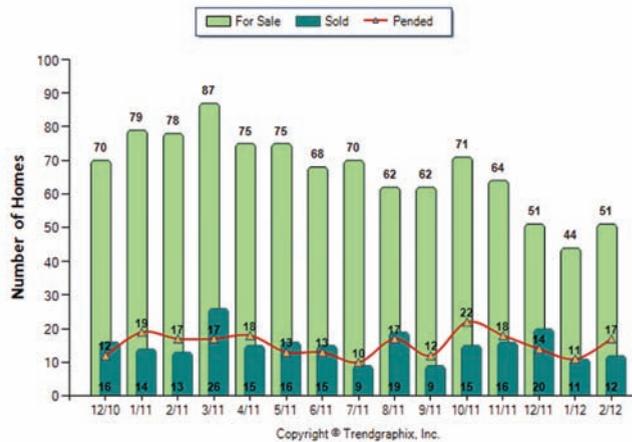
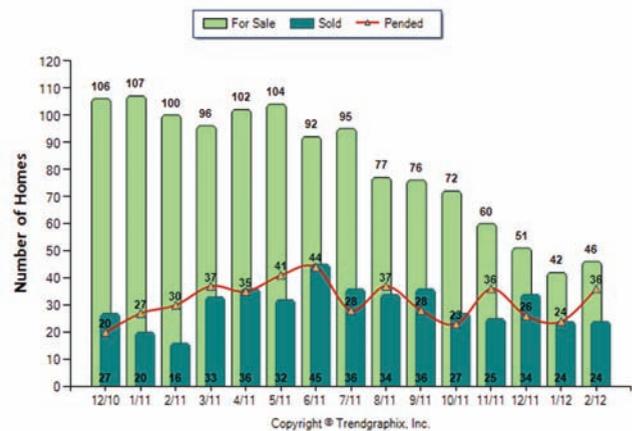
North Park-Downtown-Hillcrest

So how do these numbers compare to North Park, Downtown, and Hillcrest? Active listings in North Park are down 54 percent, with sold properties up 50 percent and pending up 20 percent. Active listings Downtown are down 57 percent, sold properties are down 11 percent, and pending properties down 3 percent. Active listings in Hillcrest are down 34 percent, with sold and pending listings virtually unaffected.

So what does this mean? The number of active listings are down in all six markets an average of 33.4 percent. This is an incredible number. What we saw as a buyers' market the last three years might finally be shifting to a more balanced dynamic. Sellers benefit from fewer competing properties, where buyers still have low home prices (compared to the boom) and even lower interest rates.

This will be a very interesting summer, to see if these numbers hold up over the traditionally higher volume sales period. The timing right now is ideal for potential move up or move down homeowners, who can list their property and take advantage of reduced competition and strong sale and pending numbers.

When that seller becomes a home buyer during the summer/fall, there will likely be increased inventory and a better selection of replacement property. Have a different take on these numbers? Write us and we might include your reasoning in the next edition of this column.

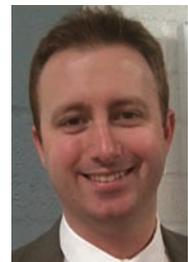


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Dark Days Ahead Onstage (with music)

By Pat Launer



Theater omnivores can sink their teeth into two dark, juicy dramas: one by acclaimed actor/playwright Sam Shepard and another, based in fact, that's deep, disturbing — and musical.

"Parade" - at Cygnet Theatre

It sounds like a celebrational event. But behind the upbeat title is a very unsettling story.

In 1913, Jewish factory manager Leo Frank was accused and convicted of raping and murdering a 13 year-old employee, Mary Phagan. The trial was sensationalized by the media and aroused anti-Semitic tension in Atlanta.

On many levels, the case represents a massive miscarriage of justice. And one of the more harrowing episodes, but by no means the end of the story, features a group of hooded men who kidnapped Leo Frank from prison, drove him to Phagan's hometown of Marietta, Ga., and lynched him.

Doesn't sound much like a musical, but "Parade" won Tony Awards for its beautiful, haunting score (music and lyrics by L.A.-based composer Jason Robert Brown) and



The full cast of 'Parade,' at Cygnet Theatre. (Daren Scott photo).

original book (by acclaimed Atlanta-born playwright Alfred Uhry). When a pared-

down version of the 1998 show was produced in Los Angeles in 2009, it was hailed as "one of the most thrilling evenings of a theater-lover's lifetime" (Christian Science Monitor).

The downsized chamber musical has "a wonderful intimacy and intensity," says Cygnet Theatre artistic director Sean Murray, who helms the local premiere. "The experience of being that close to the story is very powerful.

"I've always been fascinated by what a single individual goes through when caught up in a historical moment," Murray says. "Leo is looked at as a carpetbagger: a highly educated, Northern Jew, brought down to run a factory that exploits child labor. He became a symbol of so many things — race, class, geography, industrialization."

These issues provide a contextual backdrop, but the musical focuses primarily on the increasingly close relationship that develops between Leo and his wife as they weather the firestorm. So there are love songs, and there's upbeat music, too.

"It's entertaining," Murray says. "The music is so gorgeous, so brilliantly written. It's a compassionate play, essentially a love story. But you can't see it without walking away thinking and talking. There are all these layers that draw you in, deeper and deeper."

"Buried Child" - at New Village Arts

The best theater is all about thinking and talking. Consider "Buried Child."

Deep in the American Heartland, Dodge, an aging alcoholic, argues with his wife and trades insults with his eldest son,



The real Leo Frank, in the early 1900s.



Sandy Campbell is Lucille Frank and Brandon Joel Maier is Leo Frank in the Cygnet Theatre production of 'Parade.' (Daren Scott photo).

who has degenerated from football hero to petty criminal. In one fraught moment, Dodge actually denies that Tilden is his son, insisting that his real son is buried in the backyard.

So begins another enigmatic Sam Shepard tragedy that confronts family dysfunction and the dissolution of the American Dream.

It's a challenge for actors and audiences alike, says director Lisa Berger. "We've been having an ongoing debate in rehearsals about certain aspects of the story," Berger says. "Shepard poses questions, but doesn't give answers. For example, who is the buried child? Shepard wants you to question your own perceptions. I like that about him. So, the cast (members of the year-long New Village Arts Ensemble Project) decided we're not going to give any answers, either."

The line in the play that has guided Berger's production comes from Tilden, addressed to his father: "You gotta talk about things, or you're gonna die."

“That idea resonates with me and reverberates throughout the text,” says Berger. “Nobody here is talkin’ and everybody’s dyin’. Though I do have some hope for Tilden. He’s the most damaged, but at least he’s trying to communicate.”

Berger sees the play as something of “a horror movie. There are a lot of similarities to the ‘American Horror Story’ series on TV. There’s a lot of paranormal activity, and people from the outside come wandering into this haunted house.”



The cast of 'Buried Child' at New Village Arts. (Daren Scott photo).

The director, tackling the play for the second time, has a deep understanding of its characters. “I come from a long line of alcoholics,” Berger says. “Dodge is just like my grandfather, who was a ranch hand out West. I imagine he felt very broken at the end of his life, and had a lot of regrets. One of Shepard’s recurring themes is identity; you can’t get away from your family, can’t escape your DNA.”

Questions, answers, family demons.

“When you tell a story well,” says Berger, “and the audience is moved by it in some way — even if they hate it or it makes them angry — it’ll provoke a conversation.”

And that, ultimately, is what theater — and life — are all about: “You gotta talk about things, or you’re gonna die.”

“Parade” runs through April 22 at Cygnet Theatre, 4040 Twiggs St., in Old Town. (619) 337-1525. cygnettheatre.com.

“Buried Child” plays New Village Arts Theatre March 31-April 22 at 2787 State St., Carlsbad. (760) 433-3245; newvillagearts.org.

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Beneficiaries: San Diego Opera, Seacrest Village, Promises2Kids

By Margo Schwab

The San Diego Opera opened the 2012 season with “Salome” and quite the gala.

Audrey Geisel was honored for a 10-year, \$1 million commitment to the opera. The 2011–2012 Dow Divas and chairs of the San Diego Opera 2012 Gala were once again: President Iris Lynn Strauss, Rusti Bartell, Barbara Bloom, Lee Clark, Karen Cohn, who is also president of the opera board of directors, Valerie Cooper, Olivia Farrell, Alberta Feurzeig, Dawn Gilman, Lee Goldberg, Jennifer Greenfield, Joan Jacobs, Jeanne Jones, Lynda Kerr, Sheila Lipinsky, Mary Keough Lyman, Sarah B. Marsh-Rebello, Colette Carson Royston, Debbie Turner, Sheryl White, M. Faye Wilson and Pamela Wygod.

New Diamond Circle Sponsors, those committing to \$100,000 per year for five years, are Karen and Don Cohn, Iris and Matthew Strauss and Valerie and Harry Cooper.

Promises2Kids Teams With Nordstrom’s

Promises2Kids teamed up with Nordstrom’s for one fashionable designer fashion show at the Port Pavilion on Broadway Pier in Downtown San Diego. Among those supporting Promises2Kids mission “to break the cycle of child abuse through prevention, education, and advocacy,” were Evva Fenison, Taylor Miller, Abeer Hage (in brilliant Versace), Emma Zuckerman, Linda Swortwood, JoAnn Kilty, Dawn Davidson, Salem Ciuffa, Lynda Kerr (in timeless Chanel), Malgorzata Wieteska-Slocumb, Joan Waitt, Susie Spanos and May Zawaideh.

Women’s Auxiliary Gala Benefits Seacrest Village

The 34th annual Women’s Auxiliary Gala named “Magical Moments!” took place Feb. 11 at the Estancia La Jolla Hotel & Spa. The evening benefited the Seacrest Village Retirement Communities’ mission “to provide excellence and quality of life while embracing traditional Jewish and cultural values.” Guests for this evening included Women’s Auxiliary President Mary Epsten and her husband, Jon Epsten, Nancy and Micky Gordon, Lee and Frank Goldberg, Sheila and Jeff Lipinsky, Susan Ulevitch, Melissa and Michael Bartell and event chairs Cindy and Larry Bloch. Also attending were honorees Lisa and Gary Levine who have done so much for Seacrest Village Retirement Communities.

The San Diego Opera:

- 1. Emma Zuckerman.
- 2. Jennifer Greenfield and Lynda Kerr attend opera gala.
- 3. Natasha Reiss with her mother, Claire Reiss, and sister Tanya Reiss at the opera gala.

Promises2Kids Teams With Nordstrom’s:

- 4. May Zawaideh with Linda Swortwood, Emma Zuckerman and Rosemarie Pipitone.
- 5. George and Abeer Hage.
- 6. Miriam and Dr. David Smotrich.

Women’s Auxiliary Gala Benefits Seacrest Village:

- 7. Pauline Foster and Irwin Jacobs at the Seacrest Village gala.
- 8. Joan Jacobs, Marjory Kaplan of the Jewish Community Foundation and Jerri-Ann Jacobs at Seacrest.

KING OF THE AIR(PORT)

We sit down with Robert Gleason, chairman of the Airport Authority, to see what's up with all that construction and when we'll start hearing about relocation again. **By Randy Dotinga**

When Robert Gleason gets a text message on his phone, it might be a complaint from a friend about inadequate customer service. But it's not likely to have anything to do with his job as chief financial officer of Evans Hotels, a chain of three local luxury resorts.

Instead, Gleason often hears from his pals who are annoyed by problems at the airport, like broken lights or trash cans that need to be emptied.

Such is life for the chairman of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, which oversees Lindbergh Field, aka San Diego International Airport.

Tough gig? Gleason says he's actually willing to hear the gripes of just about everyone who has an opinion about the region's major airport, which happens to be just about everyone. (Not least of all that peeved guy who became a national hero when he told a Lindbergh security agent to not touch his "junk.")

Not that Gleason will necessarily join in any negativity. His sunny personality and optimism may leave you brimming with a sense of the airport's promise instead of griping about its long lines, cramped terminals and messy traffic.

In an interview, Gleason talked up the massive "Green Build" project at Terminal 2, explained why things soon won't cost so much and promised a better experience for hungry and line-averse travelers. He also put up with questions about a few of my personal peeves.

Among other things, the airport is busy expanding and renovating Terminal 2 to allow the airport to handle more flights and planes. What on

the horizon will change how we experience the airport?

Our mandate is to improve the experience throughout the airport.

For example, the Green Build, which includes 10 new gates. They'll come with expanded seating areas and a much bigger security screening area along with more types of concessions for food, beverage and retail. And there will be a double-level roadway in front of Terminal 2 where you will arrive below and depart above, like at other airports. There will also be a significant curbside check-in area.

In Terminal 2 East, which is mostly American Airlines, we'll be increasing the seating areas and the concessions options. And the parking will be back in front of Terminal 2.

At the same time, we're doing other improvements overall. At the end of this year, we'll be expanding the number and variety of offerings on the food, beverage and retail side. We'll have a lot more local flavor. You'll see Phil's BBQ, Warwick's books, a KPBS store, Pannikin coffee, Ryan Brothers coffee.

Will the airport ever give passengers a break in terms of \$5 bottles of water and other jacked-up prices?

The new concessions are restricted to street pricing plus 10 percent. That means a cup of coffee here from Peet's will be no more than it is at an off-airport location plus 10 percent. You will see significant changes.

What about Terminal 1, where Southwest is based? It can be aggra-

vating since many of the restaurants are outside the secured area. That means you – and by you, I mean me – risk getting stuck in a long security line, potentially missing your flight if you take time for a bite to eat.

Right now, 70 percent of concessions are pre-security, which is a remnant of pre-9/11 construction. With both the opening of the new Green Build project and a reconfiguration of all of the rest of the concessions, 80 percent of those options will be post-security as of next year.

Terminal 1 is cramped, compared to the much more roomy Terminal 2, and has the food-before-security problem. Why renovate Terminal 2 first?

What we're doing is building 10 entirely new gates, adding capacity.

Will we ever return to the good old days when incoming passengers could walk across the street in front of baggage claim to shuttle buses and their cars without having to deal with any annoying pedestrian bridge?

The pedestrian bridges will still be at Terminal 2 and Terminal 1.

What about security lines? Will any of this affect their size?

What we can do is provide better, more efficient facilities to allow screening to take place faster. In the new portion of Terminal 2, the security area will be twice as big and

AVIATION

greatly expanded in terms of the lanes available. It will be for all of the terminal.

What about how I sometimes get confused in Terminal 1 if my Southwest flight is at gate 1 or 2 and I end up going in the wrong security line? Could you put up some signs just for me?

How about if we provide an escort? (Laughs.)

That would be awesome!

So the airport is working on creating a consolidated car rental facility, like some other airports have, by 2015. And there are other construction projects in progress. Does this mean talk of moving the airport is dead?

In 2006, voters very decisively said they did not want the airport moved to Miramar, which was the only viable option. Since then, the focus has been on making this airport work to the maximum extent possible.

This summer, we'll start on the Airport Development Plan, a process which will last probably about four years. It will address what the development will look like at this airport for the next 20 years. It will talk about Terminal 1, the Teledyne Ryan site (on North Harbor Drive), which is now in the late stages of demolition and environmental remediation, and the airport's capacity.

Passengers are often quite critical of Lindbergh Field, although they appreciate its convenient location, and it recently got an average rating from the J.D. Powers people. There must be plenty of passengers like me whose favorite part of the airport is the exit. Is it difficult for you personally when people like me say stuff like that and complain endlessly about travel hassles?

I love listening to the stories. I've experienced them too, and part of my job is to respond to the concerns, explain who might be responsible and see if we can work to improve things.

I am proud of this organization, its staff and its ability to work in a constrained environment, in terms of the physical and financial constraints. We are excited about where things are going.

The interview was first published in Voice of San Diego on March 2, 2012. Reprinted with permission. Interview conducted and edited by Randy Dotinga. Please contact Dotinga directly at randydotinga@gmail.com and follow him on Twitter: twitter.com/rdotinga.



Robert Gleason is chairman of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, which oversees San Diego International Airport.

A vibrant poster for the musical 'Rock of Ages' at Broadway San Diego. The title 'ROCK OF AGES' is written in large, stylized, metallic letters. Above it, a quote reads '"IMPOSSIBLE TO RESIST!" - The New York Times'. Below the title, it says 'THE NEW HIT MUSICAL COMEDY!' and lists the cast: Journey, Styx, Pat Benatar, Poison, REO Speedwagon, Foreigner, Night Ranger, Twisted Sister, Whitesnake, and many more. The poster features a silhouette of a man and a woman walking away, with a guitar case on the ground. The text 'Broadway SAN DIEGO 35th Anniversary' is prominently displayed. It announces 'NOW ON SALE! March 27 to April 1' at the Civic Theatre (3rd & B Street) with phone number 619.570.1100. Ticketmaster information is provided: 800.982.ARTS. Group discounts are listed as 619.564.2001 and season tickets as 888.937.8995. The bottom of the poster includes logos for sponsors: San Diego County Credit Union, Civic Theater Shows Sponsor, Official Hotel, and Official Media Partner. The website www.BroadwaySD.com is at the bottom.

Laid-Back Luxury IN LAGUNA

Slip away to Montage Laguna Beach for the perfect weekend escape

By Michelle Lyn

The moment you pull up to the entrance of Montage Laguna Beach, you know you are in for an unforgettable experience. The valet team greets you instantly, and I say team because before you know it, someone is opening your doors, another person is unloading your bags and yet another is walking you into the lobby, chatting amiably until it's your turn to check in.

You are immediately greeted by sweeping ocean views the second you walk through the door. If you're checking in with your family, as I was, one of the team members instantly rolls out a red radio flyer wagon stuffed to the brim with complimentary stuffed animals, much to your child's delight.

A brief and scenic drive up the coast from San Diego, Montage Laguna Beach is a sophisticated, yet approachable resort that makes for the perfect relaxing weekend away from home.

Built in 2003, Montage Laguna Beach is discreetly perched on an oceanfront bluff along South Coast Highway. Spanning 30 acres, this luxury Craftsman-style resort melds the perfect blend of elegance and comfort.

The lobby lounge is spacious and welcoming, flanked by a fireplace and a bar on either end. Once you've checked in, you are guided across the lobby to the main balcony for a vantage point tour of the property.

Having entered on the fifth and top floor

of the resort, you're able to get your bearings as you quickly scan rooms to the left and right of you and settle on the jaw-dropping view of the Pacific Ocean that extends beyond the massive mosaic-tiled infinity-edged pool in the center of the grounds.

To the right of the pool is Mosaic Bar & Grille, a casual bluff-side terrace and grill complete with a fire pit. On the edge of the bluff in a standalone Craftsman cottage is Studio, the resort's signature fine dining restaurant.

After several minutes absorbing the picturesque view, you are then escorted to your room. There won't be any aimless hallway wandering here.

To say we were impressed by the balcony view from the lobby would be an understatement compared to how we felt once we entered our suite.

Walking into our foyer (yes, foyer), we were greeted once more by the same stunning ocean view we had just left moments ago. Just a few floors lower, we were directly

in front of the pool. Sheer white curtains billowed in the breeze that wafted in from our living room balcony, and yes, I have to specify because our suite had two.

Fresh flowers arranged on the coffee table added a welcome touch, as did the personalized note welcoming us to the resort.

Within minutes, a pistachio crusted, cranberry goat cheese hors d'oeuvre of sorts was delivered, only to be followed by a chilled bottle of champagne, of course. We had been at Montage less than an hour and I was beginning to think I might never leave.

Although it felt like we probably had the best room on the property, each of the 250 guest rooms have their own private oceanfront balcony with floor to ceiling windows that afford a view of the glittering sea.

The well appointed rooms boast marble bathrooms with oversized soaking tubs, feather topped beds with goose down pillows, plenty of sitting areas and a bar area that make it a more than comfortable home away from home.



Montage Laguna Beach is nestled on the Pacific.

Taking advantage of our early arrival, we headed over to Mosaic for an informal, light lunch before taking a walk along the beach. The fire pit in the middle of the terrace provided just the right amount of warmth.

On the edge of the property, there is an enchanting path that leads you along the lush landscaping, overlooking four pristine white sand beaches that rival those in Hawaii or Southern Portugal. From a perfectly manicured park at the edge of the path, you can peer over the cliff, down into the marine tide pools. Perfect for a romantic stroll or a walk with the family, beach access is available from several different spots on the path.

After walking the grounds, our afternoon agenda consisted of nothing more than indulging in the resort's amenities. Child care accounted for, my husband headed to the fitness center where he could work out while watching the sunset through the floor to ceiling windows overlooking the private adult lap pool.

I, on the other hand, chose to retire to Spa Montage for a complete dose of relaxation. There's something intoxicating about walking into a spa and smelling that combination of candles, scented lotion, cucumber water and eucalyptus emanating from the steam room.

The outdoor waterfall whirlpool beckoned me to leave the outside world and all my worries behind. It isn't surprising that I soon found myself contemplating the logistics of replicating this experience in my own home.

The next couple hours were an escape from all responsibilities as I retreated into the steam room, followed by a customized balancing massage. The spa successfully

manages to achieve a sense of quiet intimacy, despite the labyrinth of treatment rooms.

Refreshed and ready for our next meal, we made our way down to the edge of the property for dinner at Studio. We passed the Studio garden, where Executive Chef Craig Strong grows fruit trees, berry bushes and five raised planter beds full of organic vegetables and herbs that provide a year-round source of fresh produce for use in Studio cuisine.

Dining at Studio is everything you would expect from a 5-star restaurant, minus the pretension and arrogance. Service is friendly and unhurried the instant you arrive.

Before sitting down to dinner, we pulled up a chair at the communal bar table for a drink. Although you have your pick of \$20 glasses of wine, the ambience is nothing what you would expect for a restaurant with such steep prices. The bar actually feels more like you're at a swanky cocktail party at a friend's lavish beach cottage.

Upon entering the dining room, I was struck by the laid back chatter and instant warmth I felt as we're led to our table. Servers clad in dark suits rush about in every direction, smiling with a sense of authenticity you don't often see in fine dining establishments. Service is impeccable, while achieving congeniality at the same time—not always an easy thing to do. The menu is described as 'Modern French with California influences,' so we decided to leave the progression to the experts and embark on the Chef's Tasting Menu: six courses appropriately paired with unique wines from around the world.

Before our first course, however, we were treated to some delectable small bites, such as a caviar taco and a mini quiche, as well as

a warm brioche roll served with house made lemon garlic butter. Yum.

And it just got better and better after that. Dungeness crab, persimmon and ginger salad, followed by parsnip soup with quince and candied pecans (paired with a Champalou Vouvray which was absolutely delicious), filet mignon with a creamed parsley, and one of my favorites...the cheese course.

Chef prepared a Brillat Savarin Affiné, a decadent triple cream Brie that was paired with a blueberry – rosemary compôte. I think I finished mine before my husband had even taken a bite of his.

Towards the end of our meal, the affable Chef Strong came out to our table to introduce himself. It was refreshing to hear his philosophy on fine dining and his vision for it to exist in an unpretentious atmosphere where you don't have to spend all your time worrying about which fork to use.

This dining experience runs you around \$500 for two people.

As our weekend came to a close, we headed to The Loft for breakfast. If you don't want a sit down breakfast, it's great to grab coffee and a pastry and head down to the beach. Very family friendly, the staff was happy to accommodate our stroller at a table on the gorgeous balcony with a perfect view. Complimentary warm banana bread was served immediately alongside my coffee, yet another pleasant surprise. I ended my culinary sojourn with some of the best french toast I've ever had—brioche with cinnamon and whipped crème fraîche with a citrus zest.

Our entire stay was just under 24 hours, but we felt so well rested and rejuvenated, it was as if we'd been on vacation for a week.

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Kudos to Jerry Coleman and Chuck Yeager: World War II Veterans

Former fighter pilots honored by the San Diego Air & Space Museum

Two World War II veterans — San Diego's Jerry Coleman and Air Force fighter pilot ace Gen. Chuck Yeager — were feted at the Spirit of '45 Awards and Celebration Dinner on Feb. 18 at the San Diego Air & Space Museum in Balboa Park.

The event was part of the 2012 Spirit of '45 National Leaders Conference. Yeager, who served as a fighter pilot during WWII and was the first to break the sound barrier in October 1945, was presented the Individual Lifetime Achievement Award. Coleman, a decorated Marine Corps pilot and current broadcaster for the San Diego Padres, served as honorary chairman of the event.

One of the highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2012 Spirit of '45 Awards to six World War II industry leaders, which were major contributors to America's "Arsenal of

Democracy" during World War II —Northrop Grumman, Boeing, Ford, General Motors, Lockheed Martin and Chrysler.

Several other World War II veterans and defenders of freedom were in attendance, including Rossco Brown of the Tuskegee Airmen.

The Spirit of '45 is a nonprofit, non-partisan initiative to raise public awareness about National Spirit of '45 Day so that it is observed every year in communities throughout the country

Coleman, World Series MVP for the New York Yankees, left professional baseball to serve as a pilot during World War II and the Korean War. He is the only Major League Baseball player ever to see combat in two wars.

Coleman earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses for his wartime exploits. He was a second baseman and member of the six-time World Series champion New York Yankees.

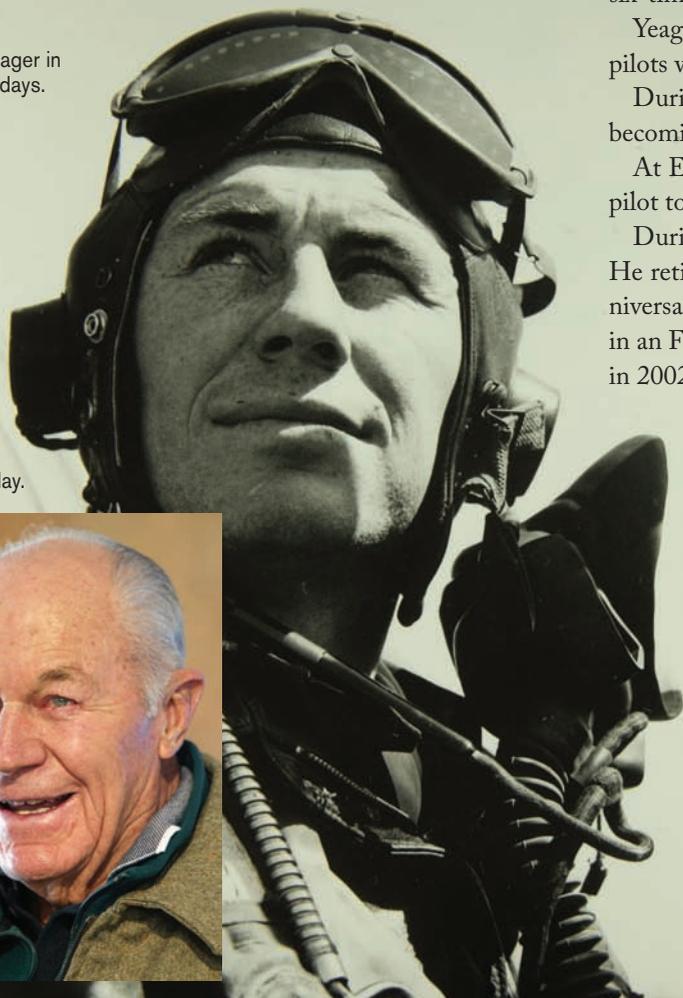
Yeager joined the Army Air Forces in 1941 and received his pilots wings in 1943.

During World War II, Yeager shot down 13 German aircraft, becoming an ace.

At Edwards Air Force Base in 1947, Yeager became the first pilot to break the sound barrier in the Bell X-1 aircraft.

During the Vietnam War, Yeager flew 127 combat missions. He retired from active duty in 1975. In 1997, on the 50th anniversary of his historic flight, he broke the sound barrier again in an F-15 fighter. He retired from flying active military planes in 2002.

Chuck Yeager in his flying days.



The retired general today.



Jerry Coleman

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GEORGE'S CAMERA IN FOCUS

By Delle Willett

It's been voted "Best Camera Store in San Diego" year after year for a good reason.

George's Camera is unique. One of the country's largest single-store operations, it's the only full-service camera store in San Diego, providing everything that focuses on photography. The shop sells and rents equipment and all types of supplies. It teaches classes and offers photo finishing services. And it's been at it for a long time — 40 years.

"Customer experience is our primary objective. We want to be sure that every customer who walks through the door experiences the best environment of any store they shop in—not just camera stores," says President and CEO David Rivera.

David's father, George, started the business in 1972. His entrepreneurial traits can be attributed to father Jorge Rivera, founder of The Mighty 690 — at the time the world's strongest 50,000-watt radio station. He also owned XETV Channel 6 TV in Tijuana.

A graduate of St. Augustine High School and the University of San Diego (1964) with a business degree, George expected to go into his father's radio business. But after suffering a stroke in the early 1960s, Jorge decided to retire and sell the network. So instead of radio, George got into the photography business with his cousin and brother-in-law, with Jorge financing the growing conglomerate of four camera stores (San Diego Camera Exchange, North Park Camera, Pacific Beach Camera and College Camera), Surfer magazine and several liquor stores.

The San Diego Camera Exchange opened in 1965 at Fourth Avenue and B Street Downtown, run by George. Eventually the partnership broke up and George took over North Park Camera in 1972, changing the name to "George's Camera & Video Exchange," and bringing with him all the relationships he had developed with vendors, manufacturers and customers.

George's Camera is a destination store for North Park. An icon. Centrally located, it draws customers from all over San Diego to North Park, which has changed dramatically and completely over the recent years. "The area is a happening place now," says David, who appreciates the additional exposure



David Rivera took over management of George's Camera in 1999 from his father, George Rivera, who opened the store in 1972.



George's Camera store is filled with thousands of cameras, camera equipment and supplies.



The store founder working on a camera back in the day.



The store is a fixture on 30th Street.

George's is getting with the swarms of people patronizing North Park's new restaurants and night spots.

Over the years George's clients have been literally everybody: owners and players of both major league teams in San Diego, the city of San Diego, U-T San Diego, the aerospace industry, the U.S. Navy, President Jimmy Carter, and well-known entrepreneurs such as Qualcomm co-founder Irwin Jacobs.

Rivera, 42, started working in the store in 1988 and took over management in 1990. George officially retired in 2009. Before taking the management role, Rivera gained management and administrative experience at Aladray ANA, while he was in high school and college. He also spent nearly eight years shooting NFL and major league baseball in San Diego. This experience helped create a clientele of professionals for the camera store.

Business has grown every year for the past 20 years. And it's changed. Changed with the Internet. With the death of film. With rapidly evolving digital technology. With shorter product lifecycles. With introduction of the Best Buys of the world.

The Internet creates challenges because, since taxes are not included in the online price, it gives the customer the perception that George's is the more expensive option. Conversely, the Internet has helped the

store because it provides a wealth of information on equipment, specs and training. People will research online and then buy in the store. Or, research in the store and then buy online.

Regardless, given any opportunity to help someone, the staff of George's Camera will. "We'll train anyone who requests help; everyone is a potential customer even if they have purchased everything online," says Rivera. While the firm lost a huge revenue stream from the dropoff of film processing, George's is selling more cameras. Most people today replace their digital cameras every two years or less, while the life of a film camera is three to 10 years.

To compete with the purchasing power of the Best Buys of the world, George's is part of PRO, the largest photography-buying group, with 2,000 locations. Through this group, the shop gets recognition from the manufacturers, giving them buying leverage in the constant battle for product availability and distribution.

"My father worked in the business; I work on the business," explained Rivera. Working on the business includes working with every local chapter of national photographic trade associations and every photographic business in San Diego in some capacity, and sitting on a number of boards — at one time five of them: Museum of Photographic Arts, Photographic Research

Organization, Digital Imaging and Marketing Association, American Dental Association and High Tech High.

Wanting to be more than the owner of a camera store, Rivera saw an opportunity with the introduction of digital technology. "Right from the get-go I embraced digital technology," says Rivera, who became involved in helping mold industry standards through his involvement in professional associations such as the American Society of Media Photography. With his considerable experience, David also serves as expert witness for U.S. Customs and the DEA, and also works on private criminal cases.

"Photography has opened up my life to going places and meeting people I never would have known otherwise," says Rivera.

Continuing the family tradition, Rivera's mother, Mary (who died in 2009), and his wife, Franca, have both worked in the business. His daughters, 11 and almost 13, aren't working there yet, but the almost-13-year-old, who is a "phenomenal photographer" (according to Dad), could very well be in there some day soon, giving the excellent customer service that George's is known for.

George's Camera is located at 3837 30th St. Phone: 619) 297-3544 .

Hours: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Website: georgescamera.com.

YWCA's Blowout Fundraiser to Aid Victims of Domestic Violence and the Homeless

In the Company of Women program expanded to include TWIN Awards; Ashley Judd Keynotes

In the Company of Women, the YWCA of San Diego County's largest annual fundraising event, will be held Monday, April 16, to raise financial support and awareness for survivors of domestic violence and homelessness.

The notable annual fundraiser will be expanded this year because of the incorporation of the YWCA's Tribute to Women in Industry (TWIN) awards. The YWCA of San Diego County is taking the best features of two signature fundraising events and creating one spectacular affair.

"We're merging our two most popular and largest annual fundraisers to create one big event," said Heather Finlay, CEO of the YWCA of San Diego County.

Keynote Speaker: Ashley Judd

This year's In the Company of Women will feature Ashley Judd as the keynote speaker. Judd, recognized as an acclaimed actor, but has also become a dedicated humanitarian and a woman who has devoted much of her life to carrying the message of empowerment and equality.

"Ms. Judd is an impressive presenter," said Finlay. "She stuns audiences with information that not only educates, but stirs the spirit. She's articulate, passionate, but not without humor, as her experiences regarding the human condition are universal principles, applicable to all."

In the Company of Women has become a popular fundraising event due mostly for where the money goes and how the YWCA helps these victims and their families, in many cases their young children.

Women, and men, fall victim to domestic violence at an alarming rate. According to the San Diego Domestic Violence Council,

on any given day in San Diego, 531 women and children need shelter due to domestic violence situations. On average, 21,000 domestic violence-related calls or cases are reported to law enforcement, with over 5,600 calls coming in to the domestic violence hotline annually. And, an estimated one out of every four children in California is directly exposed to violence as a victim or witness.

While the local domestic violence numbers are nothing short of stunning, the statistics on a national scale are just as shocking. According to the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, an estimated 1.5 million women and more than 800,000 men are raped and/or physically battered or assaulted by an intimate partner every year. While every year, approximately 500,000 women who are abused by an intimate partner require some form of medical treatment for their injuries. And, more than 300,000 pregnant women suffer from some form of intimate partner violence every year in the United States.

TWIN Awards

In the Company of Women 2012 will not only raise awareness about domestic violence, homelessness, and the YWCA programs, but will also feature an awards presentation, honoring three selected TWIN nominees for their outstanding accomplishments.

The TWIN awards program recognizes outstanding female professionals and the companies who support them, while raising financial support and awareness for local programs and services for women, children, and families who are working to break the cycle of domestic violence and homelessness.

One outstanding female professional will

be chosen for each of the three TWIN awards — The TWIN Mentor Award, The TWIN Humanitarian Award and The TWIN Visionary Award.

The luncheon will be held April 16 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Marriott Marquis



Judd meets with miners near Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo in 2010. The actress is working to end the link between 'conflict minerals' and militia who profit from them.

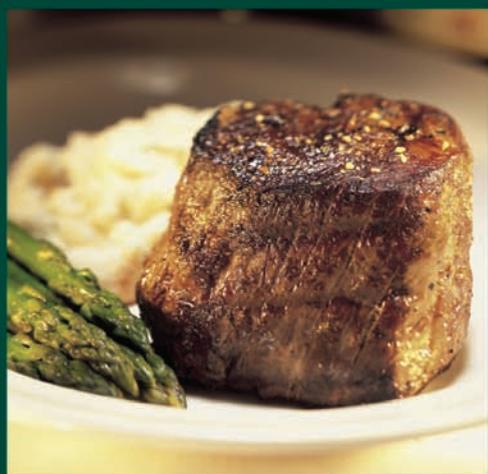
and Marina, located Downtown on 333 West Harbor Drive, in the Marina Ballroom.

Seats and tables must be purchased in advance through the YWCA's Website. The event is open to the public. Individual seats cost \$150. A table of 10 is \$1,500. Tickets on event day are \$200 each, subject to availability.

The YWCA's fundraising events help over 4,000 women and children a year. All proceeds go directly to fund YWCA programs and services for survivors of domestic violence and homelessness, including Becky's House, Passages and the Cortez Hill Family Center.

For more information on the YWCA, its programs or to purchase tickets for April 16, visit www.ywcasandiego.org or call (619) 239-0355, Ext. 218.

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