

SAN DIEGO: SEASIDE PARADISE OR "ENRON-BY-THE-SEA"?

By **Steven P. Erie,**
Vladimir Kogan, and
Scott A. MacKenzie

In the popular imagination San Diego is a sunny seaside paradise. Local boosters trumpet the "immense options" for business as well as pleasure in a place that proudly proclaims itself "America's Finest City." Unfortunately, there is a grim and increasingly visible civic reality to San Diego not depicted in slick marketing brochures. It consists of a permanent fiscal crisis, exacerbated in recent years by a multi-billion dollar pension scandal; severely underfunded public services and infrastructure; grandiose plans for big-ticket civic projects divorced from straitened fiscal realities; and a privatized downtown and bay front, the product of poorly-crafted and inadequately monitored public-private redevelopment partnerships, underwritten by hundreds of millions of dollars of public investment. Paradise, it appears, has been plundered.

The result of San Diego's civic mismanagement is the making of an American Potemkin Village – an impressive privatized façade with a dark public-sector underbelly – featuring a gleaming new downtown and bevy of tourist attractions, but saddled with billion-dollar pension liabilities and deficient public services and infrastructure. With civic energies and resources focused on building downtown "legacy projects" such as a new city hall, central library, expanded



Erie



Kogan



MacKenzie

convention center and, possibly, a stadium for the San Diego Chargers, pressing neighborhood improvements and regional initiatives, ranging from improved fire protection to a new airport, have faltered. The appearance of prosperity well serves the interests of the remnants of a once-potent local growth machine, which includes real-estate developers, professional sports team owners, the tourist industry, organized labor, public agencies, business groups, and self-interested politicians seeking legacy projects and reelection.

San Diego's civic woes have tangled roots. As far back as the 1970s, the city

was an early and eager advocate of limiting taxes and living beyond its means. City officials raided the pension and other revenue streams to cover big-ticket items while providing a semblance of public services that tax-averse residents demanded but did not want to pay for. At the same time,

voter-approved constitutional initiatives at the state level, the culmination of a nationwide tax revolt, erected crippling barriers to local governments' ability to raise new revenues. These changes also empowered small but impassioned minorities to block future efforts to raise taxes, thus exacerbating the tenuous financial position of cities like San Diego. To go along with its "free lunch" civic culture, San Diego scores unexpectedly low on social capital metrics, with residents displaying low levels of trust in local government and high levels of political ignorance and apathy. As a former local reporter observed, "To win over San Diegans, you have to let them sit back and do nothing and then congratulate them for doing it." Arguably, low social capital makes collective action and public monitoring of government performance more difficult.

At the elite level, the capacity to resolve civic challenges has diminished as the old business elite faltered and San Diego became a quintessential branch-plant town. New policy entrepreneurs on the scene have pursued self-interested,

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single-issue agendas. They include professional sports team owners, real-estate developers, and powerful public-sector unions demanding larger pension benefits in lieu of pay raises. Aiding and abetting these new policy entrepreneurs are semi-autonomous “shadow governments” such as the Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC), responsible for revitalizing downtown, and the San Diego City Employees’ Retirement System (SDCERS), which manages local pension funds. Another factor contributing to weakened civic capacity has been a sharp decline in the monitoring and effectiveness of civic watchdogs, ranging from the local media to good-government groups. Though hardly unique among the nation’s big cities in terms of these civic trend lines, San Diego has been among the leading trendsetters.

Modern San Diego came of age during and after World War II. In the postwar era, the defense industry brought growth and prosperity, but it collapsed when the Cold War ended, sending unemployment soaring. San Diego embraced the widely held mantra for urban growth that low taxes, low debt, a small public sector, and business-friendly regulations are the most crucial factors attracting new businesses and keeping local industries globally competitive. This formula appeared to work. By the late 1990s, San Diego had reinvented itself, with new high-tech industry and foreign trade joining traditional real estate and tourism as pillars of a diverse and apparently healthy economy. In a study of the causes of regional innovation, urban scholar **Richard Florida** rated San Diego the nation’s third best “creative class” city based on a new model of urban economic development tapping technology, talent, and tolerance.

Beneath the accolades, however, serious problems were festering: woefully underfunded public services and infrastructure, a large and growing low-wage services sector, inadequate schools, and one of the nation’s least-affordable housing stocks. San Diego’s public sector was undernourished and overburdened. Relative to its size (1.3 million residents), the city’s police and fire departments ranked

among the nation’s smallest. Their equipment was aging and deficient. In the disastrous 2003 Cedar fire, San Diego had no firefighting helicopters to help contain the conflagration.

In the 1990s, as San Diego recovered from defense cutbacks and a deep recession, the city doubled down, joining other cities in the competition for national conventions, Super Bowls, and giveaways to professional sports team owners. Raiding pension funds swollen by the 1990s bull market was one of the few ways San Diego could pay for big-ticket items like the 1996 GOP national convention and balance its books without raising taxes. Despite San Diego’s relatively low tax burden, the “T” word remained anathema to residents in this military and retirement Mecca. This has resulted in little money for public services and basic infrastructure improvements essential to a sound economy. In what appeared to be a case of quid pro quo, municipal unions allegedly extracted increased pension benefits for city employees in exchange for allowing the city to divert its annual pension payments to pay for the 1996 GOP convention and big capital projects. After public pensions were boosted, many blamed organized labor for the city’s financial woes.

Having plugged its immediate budget deficit with money meant for municipal pensions, San Diego’s elected officials chose to lavish scarce public resources on downtown redevelopment and professional sports stadiums. The “Downtown Renaissance,” whose capstone project was the Padres’ Petco Park baseball stadium and ancillary development in the once-moribund East Village, has been widely hailed as a public-private partnership worthy of emulation. These projects, its proponents promised, would spur private investment downtown, create new jobs, affordable housing, and public improvements. Critics, however, have pointed to the city’s chronic inability to achieve meaningful public oversight and benefit – such as public facilities and parks – from substantial public investments in downtown and bay front redevelopment.

California’s other big cities appeared to be better prepared to cope fiscally. After Proposition 13 passed in 1978, many cities raised new revenues by imposing utility user taxes, increasing business taxes, and charging higher user fees. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, for example, found “surplus” revenue to balance that city’s budget. Had San Diego emulated these cities, its general-fund revenues would have been much higher, capable of financing essential services and infrastructure without raiding its pension funds. Instead, San Diego became a poster child for the state’s tax revolt and the penurious effects of Proposition 13’s fiscal straitjacketing of local government. With the onset of the 2008 recession, even fiscally creative cities like Los Angeles faced yawning budget gaps and demands to scale back pensions. In San Diego, the downturn has brought the city to the edge of bankruptcy.

The irony is that before 2003 San Diego had been lauded as one of the nation’s best governed cities and hailed as a model for the new millennium with its low-tax, business-friendly government, downtown renaissance, and environmentally-sensitive planning. On the eve of the 1996 Republican national convention, San Diego was lavishly praised by the *Economist* as “Futureville” for its vibrant high-tech economy, rapidly-growing Mexican trade, and lean, efficient municipal government with the lowest ratio of city employees to population among the nation’s 50 biggest cities. Urbanist **Joel Kotkin** hailed San Diego as an exemplar of a “Republican’ form of urban governance ... that could make [the GOP] a majority party well into the next century”:

[P]rivate-sector activism constitutes a critical component of making smaller and less expensive government work.... This political model, first developed by Republican Progressives in the early 20th century, adapts the best private-sector accounting and hiring practices to city government. Such governments tend to see themselves as a utility that serves the public rather than as a vehicle for political patronage and redistribution of wealth.

Kotkin also claimed that San Diego “has benefited from what it fortunately does not have: no vast municipal welfare state, no entrenched urban underclass, no powerful municipal employee unions to skew spending priorities, and no industrial union tradition to make its labor force rigid.” But San Diego’s Republican Progressive political tradition had shallow roots, and by the mid-1990s the city was having trouble managing newly assertive public-employee unions.

Within a few short years of these sunny prognostications, San Diego earned national notoriety as one of the most ineptly managed cities with a brink-of-bankruptcy pension deficit, a spate of bribery and corruption scandals, resignations of key city officials, and charges of gross fire safety unpreparedness in the wake of major wildfires destroying thousands of homes. San Diego’s metamorphosis from civic archetype to national laughing stock was swift. By 2004, as the city’s pension scandal unfolded, *The New York Times* proclaimed that “Sunny San Diego Finds Itself Being Viewed as a Kind of Enron-by-the-Sea” while *Governing* magazine called the city “Paradise Insolvent.” In 2005, with corruption scandals erupting amidst civic turmoil, *Fortune* called San Diego “possibly the most dysfunctional big city in America.” The *Washington Post* reported “a serious vacuum of power” in a “former beacon of good government now dimmed by federal corruption probes, deep deficits and election controversies.”

By 2010, a sizeable \$2.1 billion unfunded pension liability – projected to increase to \$2.6 billion by 2015 – placed San Diego’s shaky municipal finances in dubious company with once-bankrupt Orange County and once nearly-bankrupt New York City. Ballooning pension payments were severely straining general-fund outlays for critical public services like fire protection, police, parks, streets, and libraries. Long considered a model “reform” city, early 21st century San Diego, according to the *Chicago Tribune*, exceeded machine-politics Chicago for the number of local public officials indicted for or convicted of bribery and corrup-

tion. **Randy “Duke” Cunningham**, a local congressman, was convicted in one of Capitol Hill’s worst bribery scandals. Three city council members were indicted for accepting illegal payments from a strip club owner and were forced to resign. Ongoing criminal investigations into the pension debacle led to the indictment of several members of the city’s retirement board. In the face of scandal and investigations, city hall became a revolving door, with the mayor, city manager, and auditor/controller all resigning.

In the wake of these events, it was apparent that civic priorities were misplaced. With strong local anti-tax sentiment and feckless political leadership, vital public services remained underfunded and impoverished. Despite the disastrous wildfires in 2003 and 2007, the city had barely two-thirds of the fire stations needed to meet national accreditation standards. Its aging water and sewer infrastructure required billions of dollars in replacement pipes and upgrades. San Diego continued to seek waivers from the Federal Clean Water Act while it continued to dump millions of gallons of partially-treated wastewater into the Pacific Ocean. With key public officials voicing opposition or sitting on the sidelines, voters rejected plans to build a new airport to relieve congested Lindbergh Field. With no new revenues and growing pension outlays, San Diego faced a chronic, long-term “structural deficit” budget crisis.

San Diego can take pride in a history of notable accomplishments. The creation of one of the nation’s largest cities on a geographically isolated scrabble of semi-arid land with limited local water supplies was no small feat. While the natural harbor, scenic coastline, temperate climate, and nearby mountains were impressive natural endowments, it took concerted collective action to build this idyllic, if now troubled, paradise. Early visionaries planned and built iconic Balboa Park and the world-renowned San Diego Zoo. Energetic civic leaders successfully lobbied for a reliable water supply and to reinvent San Diego as “Navytown U.S.A.” Like many other Sunbelt cities, San Diego’s

20th century growth was underwritten by the federal government in the form of large-scale military investments. Massive public investments built upon the region’s impressive natural endowments.

Therein lies the paradox at the heart of San Diego’s storied past and troubled current circumstances. The city and region were built and sustained by big government. Even in the early 21st century, the military – payroll and defense procurement contracts – still accounts for a significant share of the region’s economy. The State of California, through investments in two large public universities, pumps hundreds of millions of dollars more into the regional economy, and has fueled a significant number of business spin-offs. As a creature of big government, San Diego never had to fully pay its own way. The region grew accustomed to someone else – particularly the federal and state governments – paying for critical public services and infrastructure ranging from aqueducts to fire protection. Today, however, San Diego’s public dialogue is dominated by conservative critiques of big government and a celebration of laissez faire capitalism and rugged individualism – notwithstanding a still hearty appetite for public services coupled with a strong aversion to paying taxes.

Erie is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Urban Studies and Planning Program and author of several prize-winning books on urban politics; MacKenzie is Assistant Professor of Political Science at UC Davis; Kogan is a doctoral candidate at UCSD. This essay is drawn from their book-in-progress, Paradise Plundered: Fiscal Crisis and Governance Challenges in San Diego. ♦

Emeriti Website

The UCSD Emeriti Association maintains a website:

<http://emeriti.ucsd.edu>

Clicking the NEWS, PROGRAMS & MEETINGS button will allow you to view past issues of this newsletter. The website also provides the constitution and by-laws, lists of members, and minutes of meetings.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By Richard Attiyeh, Professor Emeritus of Economics

As UCSD continues to face serious financial challenges, emeriti continue to play an active and productive role by contributing generously to the intellectual life of the campus. As was revealed in a recent survey, many of our members continue to teach courses at all levels, maintain active research programs, attract extra-mural funding for their research, and serve on academic and administrative committees. Clearly, we are a valuable resource for this great institution, especially at this difficult time.

The Emeriti Association's Executive Committee is responsible for developing and leading the Emeriti programs. **Ann Craig**, our Vice President and President-elect, chairs our Program Committee, which selects speakers for our monthly meetings. **Jackie Hanson**, who provided outstanding service as last year's President, chairs the Nominating and Awards Committees. **Phyllis Mirsky**, this year's Secretary-Treasurer, chairs the Budget Committee. **Sandy Lakoff** continues to provide exceptional service as Editor of *Chronicles*, our newsletter. And **Bill Griswold** serves as Liaison with the UCSD Retirement Association.

Our Mentoring Program – a source of great pride to the Association – will continue to be directed by **John Wheeler**. Begun just three years ago under the leadership of **Mel Green**, the program now cooperates with the

LIJPHART WINS UCSD'S SECOND PANUNZIO

Arend Lijphart, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, has been awarded the coveted UC-wide Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award – an honor previously won by only one other UCSD nominee, **Avrum Stroll**. The award carries a stipend. Lijphart was put forward by the Nominating Committee of the Emeriti Association, headed by **Colin Bloor**, with the enthusiastic support of the department chair, **Clark Gibson**.



Lijphart was cited for major achievements in research following his retirement in 1995. These include publication of *Patterns of Democracy* (Yale U.P.), a highly regarded study comparing thirty-six well-established democracies, now translated into nine other languages; *Thinking About Democracy* (Routledge), a collection of his essays, with a fresh introduction and conclusion reflecting on his findings; eight edited volumes; and more than seventy articles and book chapters.

During this period, Lijphart has also been awarded the prestigious Johan Skytte Prize in Political Science, the Aaron Wildavsky Book Award, and honorary doctorates from the University of Leiden and the University of Ghent. He has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences, and the British Academy. Immediately following his retirement he was elected President of the American Political Science Association, the profession's highest mark of recognition. He continues to serve on the editorial boards of many journals and has lectured widely in America and Europe.

In a supporting letter, Gibson observed that Lijphart's "pioneering research, invaluable service, and genuine collegiality distinguish him even among his illustrious peers."

campus's Express to Success Program. These two programs jointly sponsor the monthly Chancellor's Scholars Program, which provides our mentees with communication, leadership, and community-building skills. This past year, emeriti mentored 57 students, all of whom were the first in their families to attend college. We hope that the number of mentors and mentees will continue to grow this year.

The Emeriti Association benefits greatly from campus support. Chancellor **Mary Anne Fox** and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Human Resources **Tom Leet** continue to provide funding and

space for the Retirement Resource Center. And **Suzan Cioffi**, the Director of the RRC, provides the coordination and administration without which we could not function. All of us who have served on the Executive Committee have come to appreciate Suzan's energy, skill, and commitment.

I hope that current members will encourage any of their colleagues who have just retired and have not yet joined the Association to consider becoming members. The Association provides an enjoyable way of staying connected to the campus and keeping in touch with fellow retirees. ♦

A DAY AT THE WHITE SANDS OF LA JOLLA



by **Natasha Josefowitz**

Unlike teenagers who stay up till all hours of the night and then sleep till noon, we retired people at The White Sands go to bed by a respectable hour in the evening and get up in time for breakfast at 6:45 – where we start the day with whatever we fancy, including pancakes or waffles, French toast, eggs benedict, and on Sunday a large brunch buffet.

Then it's time for yoga, Pilates, strength training, tai chi, or pool exercises in the 86°-all-year-round outdoor pool. After that it's either music or art appreciation or current events (complete with heated discussions), and then lunch – always three entrees with barbeque always available. You can sit by yourself or join friends either in the dining room or on the patio, overlooking the ocean, weather permitting. We stop eating to watch a dolphin swim by or, during the season, a whale spouting in the distance.

After a short nap there are choices between a lecture, a book review, and various committee meetings. (The White Sands is resident-run and our voices are heard.) In the late afternoon it's time for cocktails at someone's apartment, then dinner with friends or at the Spanish or French table. No one ever needs to eat alone. Residents who are recently widowed are constantly surrounded by concerned friends. We are a family here.

Conversations are about politics and recently read books. Yes, aches and pains too, with suggestions of remedies we have tried, as well as the latest amazing grandchildren's doings. We know each other's stories and care when the stories don't end well.

After dinner the bus takes us to the opera, the Old Globe, the Symphony, chamber music, and most of the regional theaters – no parking problems, no driving at night. Or we can attend a concert on the premises, a lecture, a movie on the big screen. Other days, there are excursions: an L.A. museum, flower fields, hikes, shopping malls, and local events. We go on cruises and fly to interesting sites. One can also choose to stay home quietly, read, lie in the sun by the pool, walk on the beach, shop at the local market or drug store, or take the free limousine that does the rounds of La Jolla every thirty minutes.

Recent studies have shown that people who live in retirement communities are healthier and live on average seven and a half years longer than single people isolated in their homes. Some older people say they are not ready to move, but by the time they feel ready, it can be too late. That step should be taken while you are still healthy enough and have enough energy to downsize and start a new phase of life. The longer you wait the harder it may be to make the move. If you decide early enough, you can enjoy the pleasures of leisure. Among the residents here are avid tennis players, golfers, bicyclists. We even have a man who flies his own plane and some who still work full-time. We have theatrical producers, actors, movie directors, doctors, lawyers, university presidents, teachers, ministers, nurses, homemakers, musicians, painters, writers; you name it, we've got it. Over sixty percent of us have advanced degrees, which makes our current events classes and dinner conversations quite lively.

The White Sands sits on eight acres of prime property and is today one of the most desirable retirement communities in the country, with its incredible location right on the Pacific Ocean and the Marine Street Beach at its feet. Everyone who lives here is thrilled by the proximity of the sea, the town, the availability of good healthcare, transportation, and mostly the

family atmosphere – people are not only friendly, they are fun. Cheerful greetings and laughter resonate throughout – this is a happy, busy community. There are four levels here: independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing, and a locked dementia facility. We have 260 residents, helped by a large staff of committed caregivers.

In the four years I've been here, I have not missed our five-bedroom house for a minute or having to prepare meals and worrying about the upkeep of a house. I can devote myself to whatever interests me without any obligations or guilt that I'm not getting something done. This is true freedom. Sadly, my husband **Herman** died in August 2009. Two bus loads of residents attended his funeral. I am surrounded by people who have become my family.

So let me invite you for lunch, as I am immediate past president here. Contact me any time through the marketing department at (858) 454-4201. Come see our gym with the latest equipment, our therapy pool, our art studio, the country kitchen, and the spacious resident apartments. And then start preparing for your own older age. How long do you plan to stay in your home? Who will take care of you if you cannot manage alone any more? Might you become a burden to your children? There are many questions, but there are also many answers. The White Sands of La Jolla is one of the answers. Come join us on our stationary cruise ship.

Natasha Josefowitz, Ph.D., has enjoyed a long career as a popular writer and lecturer. At the University of New Hampshire, she taught the first course in the country on Women in Management. She is the author, among other books, of Retirement: Wise and Witty Advice for Making It the Next Great Adventure (Blue Mountain Press paperback). Her late husband Herman Gadon held a doctorate in Economics from MIT and played a leading role in developing the UCSD Extension Division program in executive education. ♦

General Meeting Set to Discuss UCSD Affiliate Senior Housing Options: 1:00 – 3:00 pm Saturday, October 9, Pepper Canyon Hall

Members of the Emeriti Association and the Retirement Association are urged to participate in an upcoming gathering planned to present information about a new initiative related to senior housing options for UCSD affiliates and to gauge general interest in this topic among our combined EA/RA membership. Join us on Saturday, October 9, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in Conference Room 122 of Pepper Canyon Hall, the building immediately north of the Gilman Parking Structure. (UCSD classrooms are so heavily used that this kind of room is available on Saturday only.)

A small working group of UCSD RA and EA members began to study this matter in late spring, coordinated by **Suzan Cioffi**, Director of the UCSD Retirement Resource Center, after learning about a multi-year initiative at UCLA that resulted in the establishment of the Belmont Village Senior Living facility in Westwood. Members of the working group include both **Marguerite Jackson**, immediate past president of the RA, and me. The group agreed that the next step should be to hold an open meeting for faculty and staff retirees to present them with general information about the range of available senior housing options, and then to survey members to assess what type of project our members are most interested in seeing pursued. Two specialists in the field of senior housing will present information at the October 9 session.

We hope you'll join us. Mark your calendar, and RSVP to emeriti@ucsd.edu by September 20th to reserve a seat for this presentation.

Jacqueline Hanson
Immediate Past President, Emeriti Association
and member, Retirement Association

John Ross Cited for Distinguished Achievement



The Weill-Cornell Medical School has awarded **John Ross, Jr., M.D.**, UCSD Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Medicine, an "Award of Distinction" presented annually to a deserving alumnus of the school, where Ross received his degree in 1955. The citation cites his notable achievements as a physician, scientist, and educator.

Ross served as head of the Division of Cardiology for 23 years and continues to conduct research. He was also head of the American College of Cardiology and editor-in-chief of *Circulation*, the leading journal of the American Heart Association. He is credited with over 500 scientific papers and he and his laboratory pioneered the development of many techniques now regularly used in heart surgery and heart disease detection and monitoring. Most recently, his laboratory has developed transcatheter cardiac gene transfer in rodents and used the discovery to prevent progression of cardiac dysfunction in hamsters.

Ross and his wife, UCSD anthropologist **Lola Romanucci-Ross**, have endowed a program that provides financial awards to graduating medical school students who have achieved distinction in course work and research.

Anecdote

By **Sandy Lakoff**

Literature and Learning

Fyodor Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*, which I read while in high school, captivated my thinking for years afterward. As a lark, I substituted the name **Alyosha**, the brother I identified with, for my own rather blander middle name of **Allan** alongside my photo in the college yearbook. And in graduate school at Harvard, I used "Alyosha K" as the pen name on a seminar essay I submitted in the Bowdoin Prize competition. (The essay, "The Trial of Dr. **Oppenheimer**," was awarded the prize "with stipend doubled for exceptional excellence" and later appeared in a book I edited called *Knowledge and Power: Essays on Science and Government*.)

Apart from the famous "Legend of the Grand Inquisitor," which has rightly fascinated readers of the novel, I was drawn to the Biblical epigram of the book:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. (John 12:24)

I thought Dostoevsky intended the citation to call attention to the example of Alyosha, who became a monk and dedicated his life to the service of God. (Like **Freud**, who said he was "religiously unmusical," I had no clerical calling in mind but I thought that the life of an intellectual and teacher, on which I was embarking, was a kind of secular equivalent.)

So in 1989 when I finally got to a famous Russian Orthodox monastery near Moscow, and the monk who was our guide showed us a photo of Dostoevsky, a hero of the church, surrounded by votive candles, I told him that I had always wanted to ask someone like himself how we should understand what Dostoevsky had in mind. "Sorry," he said, with a puzzled look on his bearded countenance, "I can't help you." Talk about a let-down!



And that wasn't my only literary come-uppance. A few years ago I was in a small group that had the privilege of having dinner with the novelist **Herman Wouk**. Now in his 90s, he lives in Palm Springs. A chair has been established in his honor in the UCSD Judaic Studies program. I knew he is an observant Jew and had taught English at Yeshiva University. "Mr. Wouk," I said, "I've always wanted to ask you whether in writing *The Caine Mutiny* you had in mind the Biblical story of Cain and Abel. Were you suggesting, I went on, that the officers who mutined against the captain were like Cain when he murdered Abel? Is that why the villain is called Kiefer (as in both's keeper?) I didn't have to wait long for an answer. He threw back his head, guffawed, and looking at the rest of the dinner group, answered, "Oy, a Ph.D.!"



But I discovered one kindred spirit who had been inspired by another writer. When I wrote a biography of the columnist and academic **Max Lerner**, I mentioned in the preface that as a teenager in the late 1940s I had read Lerner's opinion pieces in the New York newspaper PM as fervently as I had the writings of the iconoclastic **Philip Wylie** (author of *A Generation of Vipers*). Wylie was famous at the time for railing against bourgeois morality and what he called "momism." One of the referees of the book manuscript for the University of Chicago Press was the historian **Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.** He sent me a note afterwards to say: "You and I must be the only ones still around who remember Philip Wylie with such fondness."



When Humor Had Class

Compiled by Anonymous of the Internet

"He had delusions of adequacy."

– **Walter Kerr**

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire."

– **Winston Churchill**

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure."

– **Clarence Darrow**

"He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary."

– **William Faulkner** (about Ernest Hemingway).

"Poor Faulkner. Does he really think big emotions come from big words?"

– **Ernest Hemingway** (about William Faulkner)

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it."

– **Moses Hadas**

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it."

– **Mark Twain**

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends."

– **Oscar Wilde**

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend... if you have one."

– **George Bernard Shaw** to Winston Churchill

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... if there is one."

– **Winston Churchill**, in response.

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here."

– **Stephen Bishop**

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator."

– **John Bright**

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial."

– **Irvin S. Cobb**

"He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others.."

– **Samuel Johnson**

"He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up."

– **Paul Keating** ♦

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Chronicles
September 2010

Mark Your Calendar!



Daniel L. Rudnick
Professor of Oceanography
**Underwater Observations
Around the World
(Including the Gulf of Mexico):
The Glider Spray**
Wednesday, October 13, 4:00-5:30 pm

Gary Jacobson
Professor of Political Science
The 2010 Elections in Perspective
Wednesday, November 10, 4:00-5:30



~ Green Faculty Club ~

Chronicles

Newsletter of the UCSD Emeriti Association



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Jeff Calcara	Layout and Design

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Forward queries, changes in mailing/e-mail address to **Suzan Cioffi**,
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