



Walter Mencken's

SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news

(Mis)managed Competition? City Outsources Fire Department Services to C. Chaplin Fire Brigade and Disaster Avoidance Co.

As part of his quest to leave a San Diego with “no structural deficit” when his term expires in 2012, mayor Jerry Sanders today announced that he had successfully outsourced the city’s fire department services to Mr. Chaplin’s “crack outfit of fire-fighting men and their splendid Dalmatian mascot, Ashes. We’ve

already had great success turning over IT services and the landfill to private companies, with Street Maintenance and Parks & Recreation to follow in short order. This next step just made good fiscal sense.” As of press time, negotiations to hand over police services to Keystone Kops, Inc. are ongoing.



I feel safer already.



Is this man smiling because he's coming to America's Finest City?

Report: Tucson Massacre Totally Has All Kinds of Newsworthy San Diego Connections.

The January 8 shooting spree, which left six dead and 13 wounded, has been a news-cycle bonanza for San Diego, says San Diego gossip columnist Ned Rizzo (sandiegohotgossip.com). “Not only has San Diego-based federal attorney

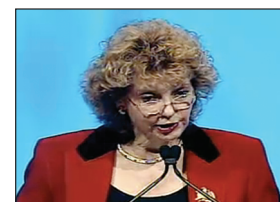
Judy Clarke been assigned to defend [alleged gunman Jared] Loughner, but Loughner’s other lawyer, Mark Fleming, also reportedly has San Diego roots. And U.S. district court judge Larry Burns, who has been assigned to the case?

Went to Point Loma College and then USD! And because of the whole death-penalty thing, there is reason to believe that Clarke will file a motion to have the case moved right here to San Diego! This is so exciting!”

BOOK 'EM! Scenes from the American Library Association's Midwinter Meeting at the San Diego Convention Center, Part I:

Alexander Wept

During her keynote address, American Library Association president Roberta Stevens issued an impassioned plea for “someone, anyone out there to start banning books again. Banned Book Week has always been our big buzz machine,” explained Stevens, “our chance to make reading a book — the sort of thing you might be able to find in a library — seem sexy and countercultural and progressive, instead of hopelessly Words 1.0. It was our chance to convince the young people of today that libraries matter somehow. But, Dewey my decimals, have you seen what’s on our top ten ‘challenged books’ list for 2009? *To Kill a Mockingbird*? *Twilight*? *The Color Purple*? Some series based on IM abbreviations? Compare all that with what’s out there



Stevens, pining for the good old days of *Ulysses* and *Lady Chatterley's Lover*.

on the internet today. We sound like the Victorian Letters Society, championing that fusty old crap. We’d have to have *Basement Playpen: The Autobiography of Pedobear* just to get noticed. And even if we did, who would bother to ban it? Who would provide the precious, precious outrage that makes us viable? We can’t even count on the Jesus freaks anymore — that one guy who was gonna burn the Koran chickened out! Truly, we live in dark and difficult times — anyone can say anything, so who cares what anyone says?”

BOOK 'EM! Scenes from the American Library Association's Midwinter Meeting at the San Diego Convention Center, Part II:

Newberry? More like Oldberry!

At its 2011 Midwinter Gathering, the American Library Association introduced a new award, the Meta, for the work that “does the most to alert the public to the vital role played by libraries in American life and culture.” The association awarded its first annual Meta to YA author Cary Andrews’s *Book Slut: The Story of a Brilliant but Misunderstood Teen with an Unusual and Intriguing Sexuality Who Solved Lurid Yet Strangely Fascinating Crimes and Found*



A bowl of commas cereal?

True but Unconventional Love by Frequenting Her Local Library and Discovering the Hidden Treasures Therein, published by ALA Books. Honorable mention was awarded to the ALA pamphlet “Free Online Job Application: Why You Need Your Library Now More Than Ever.”

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WHO PLAYS WHO

SAN DIEGANS IN THE SPOTLIGHT EDITION



On *The Simpsons*, **Hank Azaria** provides the voice of Chief Wiggum, Springfield’s face of law and order.



U.S. district court judge **Larry Burns** will attempt to maintain order during Jared Loughner’s trial.



Tiffani-Amber Thiessen found a measure of success as a teen idol on *Saved by the Bell*.



Miss California **Arriana Afsar** found a measure of success on *American Idol* as a teen.



In *Oscar and Lucinda*, **Cate Blanchett** plays a desperate gambler on the fringe of society.



Judy Clarke will be counsel for the defense at the trial of Jared Loughner.