



Walter Mencken's

SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news

Imperfect Harmony

World's Largest Jade Buddha Shattered During Visit to Escondido After Positive Energies Put Forth By Crowds of Peace-Loving Visitors Set Up Disastrous Harmonic Resonance

"But — but they were all such good vibrations."

THE DUMPSTERS BEHIND ESCONDIDO'S GRAPE DAY PARK — The Jade Buddha for Universal Peace today lies in pieces, pieces that once formed the largest gemstone-quality jade Buddha in the world. The statue had been brought to Escondido as part of a world tour on behalf of peace — in the individual soul, in personal relationships, in communities, in countries, and around the world. But it seems that the Buddha for Peace was as fragile as peace itself. Shortly before it was

to be packed up and shipped back to Australia, where it was commissioned, the statue suffered what seems to have been a breakdown brought on by a powerful wave of the very thing it sought to inspire.

"Usually," said park spokeswoman Brandy Miner, "there is enough animosity and discord just floating around out there to prevent this sort of thing. With all the competing energies, there is no danger of any one emanation gaining too much strength. But with football



If you meet the Buddha in the park...

season being over, and with everybody's concern over the tenuous situation in Egypt, we just suffered an onslaught of well-wishers and their loving, peace-filled thoughts. Apparently, those thoughts were similar enough to set up a massive mechanical-metaphysical resonance, one strong enough to overcome the integrity of a four-ton jade statue."

Miner said that the City

of Escondido is in negotiations with insurers as to who will pay for the statue, which is valued at around \$5 million, but noted that the discussion is already growing contentious. "The insurers, blinded as they are by greed and thoughts of worldly gain, cannot see how simple good thoughts could bring about such an apparently unfortunate result. Stupid, unenlightened jerks."

A Grim Fairey Tale?

San Diego's New Graffiti Tracking Program Identifies Tagger Behind Elaborate Hillcrest Mural as Shepard Fairey

"Um, so, do we arrest him again?"

OUTSIDE URBAN OUTFITTERS, HILLCREST — As of January 2011, every city in San Diego County is connected to the online database Graffiti Tracker. The database has been hailed by some as "a digital paper trail to identify prolific taggers across the county," one that will help the district attorney's office to build more substantial cases against what it calls "habitual vandals." "The database analyzes each individual instance of graffiti in relation to all the other images in its database," explained assistant sheriff Ed Pendergast. "Through a series of complex algorithms similar to the one that dude used in *The Social Network* to help him rate hot girls online, it is able to track an individual tagger's development as a technician and as an artist, as well as helping us nail the little bastard."

Amazingly, just a week after



The tell-tale giant.

being implemented, the program scored its first big hit, identifying the tagger behind the elaborate mural here on Fifth Avenue in Hillcrest as none other than the notorious and mysterious Shepard Fairey. "The computer doesn't lie," boasted Pendergast. "This time, we've got this so-called 'artist' dead to rights. Unless maybe it's that English rascal Banksy pulling some kind of prank. That'd be just like him. Hey — we could call him 'Pranksy!' That would be funny."

Taking Location Discrimination to New (City) Heights

Report: Communities Sought Community Block Grant to Block Off Community

"It's not like anyone is suggesting militarized checkpoints."

The City of San Diego's recent effort to "clean house" on its Community Grant Program — which has harbored millions of unspent federal dollars for a number of years — has uncovered a number of unusual grant requests, none of them more controversial than the so-called "City Heights Beautified Border Project." The proposal, which was put forth by the surrounding neighborhoods of North Park, Normal Heights, Talmadge, and even Kensington, requested \$7 million "for

the purpose of demarcating and decorating the precise borders of City Heights" via a "concrete masonry wall of no less than 15 feet in height, topped with razor wire and maybe also electrified fencing." The wall's exterior would then be decorated by "local artisans and muralists, just as long as they didn't make it look like tagging or any of that 'urban' street art." The decoration of the wall's interior would be left up to the "upstanding citizens, however many there may be, of City Heights. Or the local



riff-raff. Whomever."

"We regard the wall as a matter of local pride more than anything else," wrote North Park Planning Committee project-review chair Robert Barry. "Many residents of City Heights have come to depend on the 'street cred' that comes with an address in that fine neighborhood. This way, said residents will no longer run the risk of losing that 'cred' by acci-

dentally renting an apartment on the wrong block — say, in some hipster gentrification zone west of the 15. A gentleman would be hard pressed to maintain his swagger were he to wake up one morning and find himself living above a boulangerie specializing in artisanal rolls and nut muffins. If the project goes ahead, all he has to do is make sure he rents somewhere inside the wall, and everything will be just fine."

San Diegans Brace for Storm of Snow-Related Complaints About the Weather Coming Out of the Midwest



A mighty whine is gonna blow...

Forecasters warn of icy blasts of envy and spite mixed with potentially record-setting accumulation of self-pity and frustration, creating a "perfect storm" of malice heaped upon

America's Finest City. "At this point," warns KNSD weather guy Jason Austell, "all we can do is strap on our flip-flops and try to ignore the haters. We'll get through this. We always do."

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