



SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news

Bud Black Gets Back to His Roots

Padres Manager Works with Old Friends to Open Medical Marijuana Dispensary in Petco Park

"Tony Gwynn knew a thing or two about easing chronic pain. Heh, 'Chronic.'"

WAKING AND BAKING IN THE PADRES' MASSAGE ROOM — As San Diego Padres manager Harry Ralston "Bud" Black closed his eyes and exhaled, you could practically watch the tension leave his body along with the thick cloud of marijuana smoke pouring from his mouth and nostrils. "That was a rough one," he drawled, referring to the Padres' 1-0 loss to the Chicago Cubs the previous evening. "Just the kind of thing to bring on one of those godawful migraines that trouble me so. Thank God for my medical marijuana prescription."

As it happened, medical marijuana was the reason Black wanted to talk just then. He had called me in to announce the opening of Bud Black's Bud Bazaar, right in the heart of Petco Park. "Just before the season got under way," he explained, "I got a call from a fellow I played with during my rookie year in Seattle. Seems he'd gotten into the Mary Jane business up in the Pacific Northwest and had even been supplying some of the local dispensaries before the San Diego City Council passed their new set of restrictions in March. Those restrictions, of course,

made it illegal to run a dispensary within 600 feet of a school, public park, church, child care center, or library, and as a result, my friend had just lost a lot of business. But, he noted, the regulations didn't say anything about



Black, feeling no pain after a tough loss.

ball fields. I made a few calls and, bingo, Bud Black's Bud Bazaar was born."

To show his gratitude for the help, Black's friend is developing custom strains of marijuana for exclusive sale at the bazaar and is naming them after former Padre greats. So far, the bazaar is offering Fred McSpliff, Randy Jonesing, Crave Winfield, Goose Grassage, Wally Jointer, and the recently released Adrian Bongzales — all with their own distinctive effects. "It's like a baseball team," marveled Black. "Each one doing his particular job, and together, producing a winning combination. Awesome."

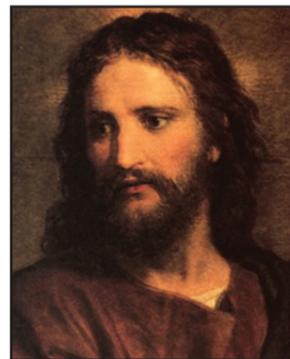
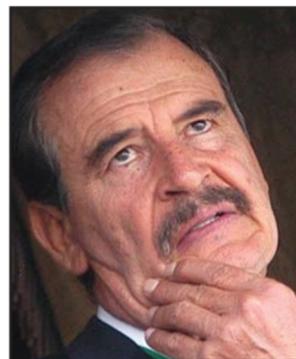
God or Mammon?

Twin Incidents Serve to Heighten Tensions Between Local Churches

A New Protestant Reformation?

The Easter season is traditionally a time when the many and various Christian denominations put aside their doctrinal and pastoral differences and instead stress the thing that unites them all: belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. But two recent incidents, both of which grabbed secular headlines, have instead served to illustrate the differences between Catholics and Protestants here in San Diego.

First came Point Loma Nazarene University's decision to rescind an invitation to Vicente Fox that would have seen the former Mexican president speaking on campus in early April. Mr. Fox has of late come forward in support of drug legalization as a means of combating the cartels ravaging Mexico today, and the school wanted to distance itself from such a stance. "It's not at all clear to us how legalizing a destructive drug like marijuana is any kind of legitimate solution to the admittedly horrible problems associated with the illegal drug trade in Mexico," said PLNU vice president for external relations Joe Watkins. "Our reasoning isn't that complicated: two wrongs don't make a right. St. Paul is pretty clear about what happens to those who submit to the works of the flesh in drunkenness and revelings: they don't inherit the kingdom of Heaven. And maybe you can get only a little bit drunk and dodge the bullet, the way the Catholics say you can. But have you ever met a pothead who was only a little bit stoned? Given all that, we decided it would not be in the best interests of Point Loma Nazarene's mission to host Mr. Fox."



Clockwise from top left: Fox, McPherson, Jesus Christ, Carroll

The reference to Catholics was a pointed one; Charles Pope, assistant director of the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego (which is Catholic), was only too happy to step into the breach and play host to Fox, who spoke at the school on April 7. Pope also had an answer for PLNU's Watkins: "To me, this sounds like a classic case of Protestants fretting over their own personal salvation without giving much thought to the kind of social-justice concerns demanded by Our Lord in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus was always in solidarity with the poor and the oppressed, and the Mexican people suffering under the tyranny of current U.S.-Mexico drug policy are about as poor and oppressed as they come. Rigid doctrines about degrees of intoxication are not the issue here."

Soon after, tensions flared again when Catholic priest Joe

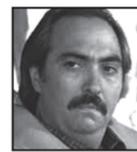
Carroll, founder of the local charity institution Father Joe's Villages, announced his retirement as the organization's CEO. On April 3, the Rock megachurch pastor Miles McPherson mentioned a possible "marriage of convenience" between his church and the Villages, leading some to speculate that a merger/takeover might be in the works. "Frankly," said McPherson in a specious followup interview, "San Diego Christians have long been uncomfortable with some of Father Joe's fundraising methods — hobnobbing with the rich and powerful of the secular world. We think the poor and needy of this city would be better off knowing that their help was from the Lord, via His followers. My congregation stands ready to show San Diego the saving power of Jesus Christ."

Reached for comment, Father Joe said simply, "What? Well, bless their hearts."

WHO PLAYS WHO

BAD COP, BAD COP EDITION

In *Do the Right Thing*, Miguel Sandoval played a cop who stepped over the line and sparked a riot.



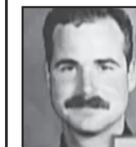
Officer Anthony Arevalos was accused of sexually harrasing a woman during a DUI stop, and four other women stepped forward with similar charges.



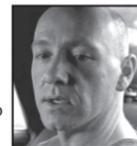
In *Alice in Wonderland*, Crispin Glover played the Knave of Hearts, a card who stalked and harassed poor Alice.



Sergeant Kenneth Davis was moved to desk duty after allegedly stalking and harassing a fellow officer.



In *Se7en*, Kevin Spacey played a madman who sought to punish lust by forcing a man to kill a woman during sex.



Vice officer Arthur Perea resigned after being accused of raping a college student.

