

Ticket guarantee spinoff

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Head varies

With the city of San Diego committed to a 60,000-seat guarantee at Qualcomm Stadium, the push is on to sell Chargers tickets. And it's proving to be an unexpected boon to disadvantaged kids and charitable groups as local firms buy season tickets and donate them to good causes.

Sports Council Prez John Lynch and Ron Fowler (S.D.'s '97 Nice Guy of the Year) each bought 125. SDG&E is in for 100. Copley Press President David Copley bought 50 for programs in Barrio Logan and another 50 for the YMCA.

Nonprofit charities interested in free tickets should call the S.D. International Sports Council. It's acting as ticket broker and wants people to sign up.

Other ideas to help cover the seat guarantee: a plan to promote interest-free credit union loans for season tickets. And, since shelling out cash in advance is a hardship for most wage earners, some bosses -- John Hawkins of Cloud 9 Shuttle and Fowler of Mesa Distributing -- are offering employees payroll deduction plans.

As of July 18, general admission seat sales were just over 43,000 -- almost 17,000 shy of the guarantee. And now? Chargers spokesman Bill Johnston says the next seat sale accounting won't be until the first season home game Sept. 14, per tradition.

You be the judge

ABC "Nightline" correspondent Nina Totenberg was in town interviewing chief U.S. District Judge Judith Keep and lawyer Michael Crowley on overloaded federal courts. There are 102 federal judge vacancies -- 12 percent. The segment is tentatively set to air tonight.

On the VIP front

Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was aboard the Nimitz during Fleet Week exercises, but not in an official capacity. Seems every year when her husband heads off with his pals to the Bohemian Grove retreat, she vacations with lady friends. This year the ladies spent a week in S.D. at the Coronado home of Helen and Leo Hansen . . . President Clinton called the coming together of business and environmental forces to clean up Lake Tahoe "a good example for Bosnia, Ireland" (pause) "and Washington, D.C." So notes Jeanne Lawrence, Christie's auction house rep, who took time out to join Saturday's Tahoe presidential forum. She'll be back in S.D. soon for her usual August R&R . . . Lawrence's latest S.F. gossip: Former Secretary of State (and widower) George Shultz, now a Stanford U. think-tank fixture, is set to marry Charlotte Mailliard, Mayor Willie Brown's protocol chief, Aug. 15.

Canine legacy

Visitors from S.D.'s sister city of Edinburgh stopped by Mayor Susan Golding's office yesterday to present the city with a bronze statue of the town's legendary dog -- Greyfriars Bobby. In her proclamation of acceptance, Golding read: "As the 32nd mayor of San Diego . . ." Upon which a Scottish voice whispered: "Is this really the mayor's last duty? She's only going to be in office 30 seconds more?" (Now there's a challenge for one-minute manager Ken Blanchard!)

But does she do Windows?

Women have come a long way -- but we can't seem to shake some stereotypes. Mindy Rawers was shopping for a computer when her 7- year-old, Hayley, counseled: "Be sure to get one that comes with Windex 95."

To submit item suggestions, call (619) 293-1518, send e-mail to: diane.bell@uniontrib.com, or fax to (619) 293-2443.

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Abstract (Document Summary)

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