1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
9	SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
10		
11	RODNEY E. AKINS,	Case No. 12cv00576 BTM (WVG)
12	Plaintiff, v.	ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS
13	SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE	AND DISMISSING CASE
14	DISTRICT, et al.,	
15	Defendant.	
16	Plaintiff Rodney E. Akins, a nonprisoner proceeding pro se, has submitted a complaint	
17	raising fifteen separate claims arising out of allegations that various students, faculty, and	
18	administrators at San Diego Mesa College ("Mesa College") physically and psychologically	
19	abused him between 2004 and 2010. Plaintiff has not paid the \$350 civil filing fee required	
20	to commence this action, but rather, has filed a motion to proceed in forma pauperis pursuant	
21	to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a).	
22	Under § 1915(a), the Court may authorize the commencement of a suit without	
23	prepayment of fees if the plaintiff submits an affidavit, including a statement of all his assets,	
24	showing that he is unable to pay filing fees. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). Plaintiff has	
25	submitted an affidavit which sufficiently shows that he lacks the financial resources to pay	
26	filing fees, and the Court accordingly GRANTS Plaintiff's motion to proceed in forma	
27	pauperis.	
28	//	

1

12cv00576 BTM (WVG)

Notwithstanding payment of any filing fee or portion thereof, a complaint filed by any
person proceeding in forma pauperis pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a) is subject to a
mandatory and sua sponte review and dismissal by the Court to the extent it is "frivolous,
malicious, failing to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeking monetary
relief from a defendant immune from such relief." 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B); <u>Calhoun v.</u>
<u>Stahl</u>, 254 F.3d 845, 845 (9th Cir. 2001) ("[T]he provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B) are
not limited to prisoners.").

8 A complaint "is frivolous where it lacks an arguable basis either in law or fact. [The] 9 term 'frivolous,' when applied to the complaint, embraces not only the inarguable legal 10 conclusion, but also the fanciful factual allegation." Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 325 11 (1989). When determining whether a complaint is frivolous, the Court need not accept the 12 factual allegations as true, and may look beyond the face of the complaint to determine if the allegations are "fanciful," "fantastic," or "delusional." Denton v. Hernandez, 504 U.S. 25, 32-13 14 33 (quoting <u>Neitzke</u>, 490 U.S. at 325-28). "[A] finding of factual frivolousness is appropriate 15 when the facts alleged rise to the level of the irrational or the wholly incredible, whether or 16 not there are judicially noticeable facts available to contradict them." Id. at 33.

Additionally, the Court may dismiss an action if it arises from the same series of
events and alleges the same facts as another action filed by the same party. <u>See Tripati v.</u>
First Nat'l Bank & Trust, 821 F.2d 1368, 1370 (9th Cir. 1987); <u>Cato v. United States</u>, 70 F.3d
1103, 1105 n.2 (9th Cir. 1995) (court may dismiss an action as frivolous if it "merely repeats
pending or previously litigated claims.") (citing <u>Bailey v. Johnson</u>, 846 F.2d 1019, 1021 (5th
Cir. 1988) ("[R]epetitious litigation of virtually identical causes of action" may be dismissed
under § 1915 as frivolous or malicious.")).

- In 2005, District Judge Houston dismissed a complaint filed by Plaintiff that made
  fantastic and delusional allegations similar to Plaintiff's present claims. <u>See Akins v. San</u>
  <u>Diego Community College District</u>, No. 05cv02260, slip op. at 4 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 28, 2005).
  Judge Houston described Plaintiff's 2005 allegations as follows:
- 28 In the complaint, Plaintiff alleges he is enrolled in classes as Mesa College and students on campus tell him to leave or quit, and play "recorded screaming

noises as if to say that [Plaintiff's] 24-year old son was being tortured and beat up behind closed doors on campus."... Plaintiff further alleges students and faculty have struck him with "some kind of injectible device" and injected him with "germ, spit, urine, blood" and even syphilis and the flu.... He also alleges he was "hit with some kind of saline solution that probably has something to do with [his] blood pressure being so high," because his doctor prescribed medicine for high blood pressure and he was warned high blood pressure could lead to a heart attack or stroke. ... Plaintiff alleges this amounts to attempted murder. Additionally, he alleges his work is destroyed, his food is tampered with and he suffers "physical attacks or 'hits' in the library, cafeteria, administrative office and classrooms."

7 Id. at 3-4 (citations omitted).

1

2

3

4

5

6

8 In his present complaint, Plaintiff alleges that these same forms of abuse continued 9 through 2010. Specifically, Plaintiff repeats his allegations that students verbally harrass him 10 (Cplt. at ¶¶ 11-12, 48), that students and faculty "followed [him] around campus playing these 11 [recorded] screaming noises again and again" (id. at ¶ 13; see also id. at ¶¶ 14, 50, 51a, 51b, 12 59, 60, 65, 66, 93, 105), and that he was "attacked" or "hit" with "sharp objects resembling some type of injectable/hpodermic needle" (id. at ¶ 15; see also id. at ¶¶ 24, 26, 51a, 51b, 13 14 65). Plaintiff also alleges that on at least two occasions someone broke into his locker and 15 placed "a solution that smelled like battery acid . . . in [his] face lotion which caused [his] skin 16 to burn and scar [his] face" (id. at ¶ 16); that "students and lab employees [including named 17 Defendants Charles and Owen] . . . were constantly hacking into [his] terminals and reading 18 [his] emails" (id. at 53), that "students were using some kind of mace type spray to cause 19 [his] eyes to burn and to cause [him] to become somewhat 'disoriented' in [his] Physical 20 Geography and Elementary Alegebra & Geometry class" (id. at ¶ 61, see also id. at ¶ 63), 21 that "students and or employees" attacked him "with a yeast fungus that [made him] 22 discharge a foul urine smelling odor from [his] urinary tract" (id. at ¶ 80) and that gave him 23 a "facial rash" (id. at ¶ 126).

These alleged facts, viewed individually and considered as a whole, clearly fall within the category of irrational, delusional, and wholly incredible allegations that fail to form the basis of a claim upon which relief can be granted and warrant sua sponte dismissal under 27 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B). Moreover, they appear to be part of the same series of events constituting the basis of the complaint that was dismissed sua sponte by Judge Houston in 2005. It is clear that "the deficiencies in the complaint [relating to these allegations] could
 not be cured by amendment," and accordingly the Court DISMISSES without leave to amend
 all claims based on the alleged abuses described above. <u>See Franklin v. Murphy</u>, 745 F.2d
 1221, 1228 n.9 (9th Cir. 1984).

5 Plaintiff also describes at great length an alleged incident occurring on May 25, 2010, 6 in which Plaintiff (a) attempted to serve eleven defendants in an unspecified action by 7 dropping off envelopes at the administrative office at Mesa College; (b) was prevented from 8 doing do by Defendant Hedgecoth; (c) proceeded to walk toward the office of Rita Cepeda 9 (President of Mesa College); and (d) was subsequently detained by campus police 10 responding to a call from Defendant Hedgecoth, resulting in an alleged injury to Plaintiff's 11 "rotor cup." (¶¶ 128-145). These alleged events forms the basis of several of Plaintiff's 12 claims against Defendant Hedgecoth, but Plaintiff elected not to name the campus police 13 officers as defendants because he "could not and will not implicate the officers for doing their 14 job by simply responding to a fraudulent complaint call from Penny Hedgecoth." (Id. at ¶ 15 145.) Although these factual allegations do not rise to the level of "wholly incredible," Plaintiff 16 has failed to state a claim upon which relief can be granted as to Defendant Hedgecoth.

Thus, the Court DISMISSES all claims based on the alleged events described in the
forgoing paragraph without prejudice. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B). Plaintiff must submit
any amended complaint within 45 days after the entry of this order. Failure to submit an
amended complaint within this period may result in the dismissal of Plainitff's case.

21

24

25

26

27

28

## 22 IT IS SO ORDERED.

23 DATED: April 16, 2012

BARR V TED MOSKOWITZ, Chief Judge United States District Court