

SAN DIEGO'S WEEKLY

Reader



DOWN ON SOUTH BEACH
about 20 swimmers are doing the Coronado shuffle, a jivey two-step through the surf to scare off stingrays. On north beach a rip current is sweeping three kids on boogie boards out to sea. The lifeguard in the north tower is trying to call Central but he can't be heard over the noise of two U.S. Navy S-3s flying their touch-and-goes, coming in for a landing, then pulling up and going around again. One of the jets makes a groaning noise like an elephant passing a gallstone.

Now the orange lifeguard boat, a 12-foot Arancia made in New Zealand, slaps across the waves toward the boogie boarders caught in the rip. The pickup guy sitting in front shouts to get their attention: Hang onto your boards! One of the boys has lost his board. The guard can tell their degree of experience by the degree of their tan. These three are as white as a breaking wave. He gets ready to grab the kid without his board, taking him under the arms and pulling him back into the boat. The driver judges the distance between the waves, trying to determine how many seconds he has to get the victim and get out before the water breaks down upon them. Maybe four seconds. *(continued on page 20)*

Coronado Watch

AUG 1996

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Motorola
Handheld
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Uniden
Handheld
• 70 minutes talk time
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LETTERS

We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader. You may phone them in by calling 235-3000, ext. 400; address them to Letters to the Editor, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803; fax them to 231-0489; or e-mail them to letters@reader.com via the Internet. Please include your name, address, and telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Finally Appalled

I was at first surprised and then finally appalled by your August 8 issue ("San Diego, City of Shame"). I am not referring to story content as much as I am referring to the cover. The "City of Shame" headline was not only poorly timed, but also demonstrates a lack of respect for the citizens of San Diego. At a time when national attention is focused on our city, to run such a headline shows a genuine contempt for your readership. To choose the eve of the GOP convention to berate and embarrass our city is more than inappropriate, it's malicious. Shame on YOU.
Bernard W. Winters

I'm Thirsty

As a relative newcomer after long years in the L.A. area, your August 8 Reader, a history of "San Diego, City of Shame" is indeed welcome in the Union-Tribune informational desert. I'm thirsty. I have not completed the article but conclude that the "T1 Mafia and Its Sister Cities and Brothers" is missing.
Virgil Duncan
University City

Susan And Roger

Rail Against Reader
I wish you'd been listening to Roger Hedgecock and Mayor Susan Cocking moments ago. They gave you exactly what you folks deserve, a real put-down for all of your crummy articles in this week's Reader ("San Diego, City of Shame," August 8). I could not agree with them more. You guys are real losers.
Name withheld

Very Disturbed

I'd just like you to know that I'm very disturbed about the front page of the Reader this week ("San Diego, City of Shame," August 8). I think that San Diego has an awful lot to offer the GOP convention and visitors and tourists, and I find it really repulsive that you have chosen to put bad publicity on the cover of your magazine. I'm in real estate. I often refer people to your magazine for rentals and as a source of reference for entertainment, etc., and I would be ashamed this week to ask anybody to pick up your paper, because I think that the front page is extremely negative and repulsive and por-

traying the wrong image of this beautiful city that we live in. I just felt very emotional about it and felt I needed to tell you, and I think there are an awful lot of people who share my feeling.
Nina McCarthy
La Jolla

Democrat Enjoyed Shame

I just want to compliment you on your August 8 issue. I'm a Democrat, and I'm very amused about your coverage of the "City of Shame" for the Republicans. Keep up the good work.
Barbara Schaffer
San Diego

Why?

The Republican convention is a perfect opportunity to show visitors from around the country what a great city we have. The residents, the businesses, the city government have all cooperated. The Reader, however, sees the convention as an opportunity to embarrass the city. Your August 8 edition ("San Diego, City of Shame") was a recap of all the political problems of the last 30 years. Nothing new, nothing positive, just all the old garbage. Why? What did you hope to accomplish? In my opinion, all you accomplished is to prove that you will resort to anything just to get a little attention. I am disappointed and disgusted.
James G. Gray
Pacific Beach

Correction

The by-line for "The Prince of Promoters" (August 8) should have read Laura McNeal and not Marcy Hunacker.
—Editor

Socio-Pornographic Leadership

After perusing the Reader's "San Diego, City of Shame" (August 8), I found myself totally amazed that such a beautiful city with so many good and decent citizens can have such a sordid and socio-pornographic leadership (past and present). The role of the San Diego Union-Tribune is no surprise. This journalistic (and I use the term lightly) molester of minds has a widespread reputation as a purveyor of blatant lies, unabashed promotion of the worst of Republican pornography, and a dishonesty that would embarrass the dead. No one knows would buy this repugnant paper to even line the birdcage.

Consequently, you can take the Coppleys, the Nixons, the Hedgecocks, the Wilsons, and, yes, current Mayor Golding (I prefer "Gelding" — if computers, roll them together, and you have the most repulsive, dishonest, malignant actions of malevolence in the Southwest. What do they have in common? They are all Republicans, and that brings to mind a bumper sticker seen

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Reader

SAN DIEGO'S WEEKLY



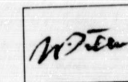
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CITY LIGHTS

CITY LIGHTS

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Press passes The National Journal took a few swipes at the Union-Tribune in its *Convention Daily*. In an article titled "A Congenial Local Press," the Journal said the U-T "has strayed too far from its [Republican] political traditions." GOP delegates reading the paper "will feel comfortable, as if on familiar ground," while critical journalists "may feel less cordial." The Journal pointed out that when network officials had his doubts. "They were skin to the guests at a wailing squawking about the size of the church." The hometown paper looked on the bright side, noting cynically that "our convention center's limited acreage also can make for a more intimate gathering." A few days later the U-T returned to the "beat the press" story, the Journal said. "The piece was pegged to what GOP delegates 'perceived' about those people — the leftist-liberal national news media."

Ring of silver What did Helen Copley's gift of at least \$500,000 to the conven. on host committee buy her? Among other things, the exclusive right to hawk souvenirs during Bob Dole's arrival rally Sunday at Embarcadero Marina Park. A sprinkling of booths across the green, each displaying big San Diego Union-Tribune banners, offered for sale T-shirts (\$14), baseball caps (\$14), golf shirts (\$19), and assorted other merchandise, all emblazoned with Copley's "Very Important Party" cartoon elephant. Outlaw Printing did the work, while Copley gets a percentage, according to a marketer with the local firm. How much? She wouldn't say, other than it's "a little something." The most popular item: The elephant on rollerblades, wearing a Union-Tribune T-shirt. The marketer said the golf shirts were originally priced at \$38, but were marked down to \$19. "We want to sell them," she said. The caps were made in Thailand.

Unconventional stuff Computers in the AT&T media room were stuck on the giant tico's official GOP convention page on the Internet's World Wide Web. Media fanners who called up another Web page soon found their work undone by watchdog AT&T staffers... The Union-Tribune took out a big billboard on southbound Interstate 5, just past the green, welcoming the Republican National Convention. On the other side of the billboard, facing northbound traffic, is an ad for Marlboro cigarettes... Public parking lots at Balboa Park were off-limits to the public each day this week beginning at 4:00 p.m. to make room for private convention-related parties, most of them paid for by special interests... Mission Beach merchants last Sunday afternoon were grumbling that the huge beach parking lot on the corner of West Mission Bay Drive and Mission Boulevard, reserved for the California Republican Party's \$96-a-head beach party, was mostly vacant. "It was the slowest day we had all summer," said Ray Hanel of Hanel's Action Sports Center.

Now that's service The moment veteran CBS news anchor Don Butler stepped off the executive jet that brought him to San Diego Sunday he was met by two heavy-set network execs who ceremoniously draped him with convention credentials. Lesser media types had to wait in line at the downtown Marriott and pick them up themselves... Following Butler's jet at the private Jetair terminal, former vice president Dan Quayle and his wife, Marilyn. Spurring the limo waiting on the tarmac, they walked to the gate, waving to the small crowd on the terminal's second-floor restaurant deck... Seen at Helen Copley's media party: PBS's Margaret Warner, an ex-CNN staff writer and once close pal of Copley ex-husband Dick Siskerman, convicted felon and ex-husband of actress Susan Sarandon.

Contributor: Thomas K. Arnold

The Reader offers \$25 for new tips published in this column. Call our voice mail at 255-3000, ext. 440, fax your tip to 255-3096, or e-mail crowe@electriccity.com.



Hong Kong Chow

Commonly Drunk

By John Brizzolara

It's getting toward cocktail hour, and you're hoarse now from shouting "Dole! Dole! Dole!" or "Kemp! Kemp! Kemp!" It's three weeks. So you leave the convention floor a little early and wonder where there's a good bar nearby. You think out of the convention center about 4:00 p.m., looking at your watch as though you're late for an appointment, not in search of a gin mill. But where to go? The first good bar closest to the convents... center is a step across the tracks at the end of the Gaslamp Quarter. Baja Brewing Company, beneath the black and golden arches looming over Fifth Avenue... "GAS AMP HEARTS: The Historic Heart of San Diego." It would be hard to miss.

Lucky for you, it's happy hour from 4:00 to 7:00. The house is featuring Elephant Ale while the cops are in town. The floor reeks. A conservative beer brewed with the ONLY clear wheywater. Inside, it looks like an old airplane hangar. The ceiling is high, arched, and support slow-turning, green metal fans. The bar is long, with a dozen to 15 bartenders. Eight decks (small, high-standing cocktail tables for two) perch across from the stools. The bartender is a red-headed knockout, you discover her name is Diane Nelson. She describes the other beers on tap.

Acapulco Gold. La Brea Negra. Juan Pablos Secret Ale. Agave Light, and Sangria Ale. You learn that Baja Brewing also has the largest tequila selection in town. You look for

Sweet & Sour mix. You're ready for some of that straight tequila, though. You could, Diane Nelson points out, order a shot of Jose Cuervo Reserva de Familia, but it's 12 bucks a pop. You point to a bottle of Herradura Gold and order a Juan Pablos Ale for a chaser. The Herradura is \$5.50 for a shot and kicks as nicely. The ale is very good, not free tacos, chips, good salsa, and black frijoles. Some of this stuff is too spicy and it's all lukewarm, but it's tasty and it's free.

You want to see the sights in San Diego and have another drink. Someone told you about the Top of the Hour. The highest cocktail lounge in San Diego is located on the 40th floor of the only building in the

city that looks like a monster cheese grater or electric razor. The bar has a panoramic window that offers all the sights to see in San Diego at the same time. You're getting tired of the price of a Manhattan.

You can see it all, even Mexico. There Mount Soledad, the San Diego-Coronado La Jolla Bridge, the Embarcadero, the airport, Dana Point, a good six or seven miles of Interstate 5. You're sitting in a room that looks like a 19th-century gentleman's club, mauve and forest green wallpaper with faux cherry wainscoting, green maple cocktail table, two copper, cino-colored, imitation leather, wing-backed chairs and magnificent velvet seats.

Your Manhattan arrives, something's wrong with it. You discover it's made with brandy 7, which is not brandy no matter what the 25-year-old bartender says. It tastes like cough syrup and costs, like six bucks. You buy an attractive woman sitting alone a vodka martini. It's made with Smirnoff. Bill comes to \$11.50. Parking is \$5. You tip a miserly \$2—but that Manhattan sucked.

The bar has only five stools, but you don't come up here to drink at the bar, you suppose. Well, maybe if you just gotta have that shot of Remy Martin Louis XIII at \$90 a pop—and hey, you might if you don't want one of their cocktail specialties, for instance, a

continued on page 9

CITY LIGHTS

CITY LIGHTS

CITY LIGHTS



City Commissioner Harry Mathis at the U-T party

Copley's Party Politics

By Thomas K. Arnold

It was closed to the public, and was supposed to welcome the working press who came to cover the Republican National Convention. But San Diego Union-Tribune publisher Helen K. Copley's night. Outside the gates, members of the Newspaper Guild, who haven't had a cost-of-living increase in five years, handed out leaflets and buttons that said, "The Guild Ticket: Raise and Respect in '96." Meanwhile, Union-Tribune reporters assigned to cover the party grumbled that while their boss spent up to \$2 million to entertain reporters from all over the globe, she wouldn't ante up a

few extra dollars to pay them overtime.

Helen Copley, according to sources inside the party, made her grand entrance aboard a golf cart used to shuttle older partygoers from the entrance to the tip of the peninsula, which commands a spectacular view of San Diego Harbor. Nattily dressed in a navy blue suit, Copley spent the remainder of the evening in a fenced-off VIP area referred to by U-T staffers as the "royal zone." Security was almost as tight as Bob Dole's. "No one was allowed to get near Helen," one staffer says. "People were asked

to leave when they stood near the fence."

Throughout the evening, the staffer says, Copley "sat with her back to the party, while various dignitaries came and spoke to her. Marmon and Masourian (VX.com) were there, [U-T] editor Karin Winer sat with Helen, and even Bill Kelleher was back there—I guess they pitched things up."

The governor and his wife showed up to say hello to Copley, too, despite strained relationships that saw the normally supportive U-Flash out at Wilson during his abortive presidential run for breaking his re-



City Manager Jack McGraw and wife Anne U-T party

election campaign promise to stay put. Also cowering around the royal zone was U-T society columnist Bart Stiff, in a dark blazer and pink shirt. Copley's son, was also at the party. But he didn't spend much time in the royal zone, the staffer says. "He was down by the concert area, at the very end of the peninsula, dancing to Brian Setzer," the rockabilly star who provided the evening's entertainment.

Monday, August 12

AT&T sponsored a golf tournament at the Torrey Pines Golf Course in La Jolla.

Browning-Ferris Industries sponsored "A Day at the Races" at the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club.

Northeast Airlines and VISA teamed up for a "Party '96" at Fourth & B.

Croce's Top Hat Bar and Grill in downtown hosted a "Good Dole" honoring Senator Dan Nickles of Oklahoma, sponsored by a slew of corporate heavyweights, including Chevron, Teaco, Citgo, and National Mining.

Tuesday, August 13

Sederhold Public Affairs Consulting sponsored "A Salute to the House Commerce Committee" aboard the Berkeley, part of the Maritime

continued on page 10

Affairs of the Lobby

By Thomas K. Arnold

Special interest money has been flowing into San Diego all week, in the form of lavish parties, receptions, and golf tournaments for GOP delegates, elected officials, and assorted power brokers. And the master calendar put out by the Republican National Committee doesn't begin to tell the full story.

Ever since a gala welcoming party for all 55 state and territorial delegations at the San Diego Zoo was scrapped last May, GOP officials said individual parties for each delegation would be held at the homes of local Republicans.

Not true. On Sunday night alone, the Ohio delegation was treated to a lavish affair at the House of Charm in Balboa Park that was sponsored (and financed) by a bevy of big corporations, including LTV Steel,

Mart discount stores.

The master calendar had no mention of the fact that Eli Lilly and Co., the Indianapolis pharmaceutical giant that has

The first was RNC chairman Haley Barbour's party, for the press, at the Hotel del Coronado on Friday evening, August 9. The drug company pinched no dollars, as the buffet menu included mahi mahi, an assortment of pastas, a roasted pepper medley, and make-your-own dessert bar.

Two days later, on Sunday morning, Eli Lilly again put on a shindig that was conspicuously absent from the master calendar. This one was a catered brunch on the patio of the downtown Marriott honoring the Arizona, Colorado, Indiana, and Texas delegations.

There's no telling how many other parties are being sponsored by big money spe-

cial interests—at least, not until the convention's over. But the master calendar, despite its incompleteness, provides some insight.

House of Charm bash for Ohio delegation

Long been at odds with the Clinton White House—and Democrats in general—are long testing periods for new

AUG 19 1996

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Continued from page 19

to the darkness? You ask someone the band's name, and you can't quite hear what it is, but they are, you are told, local. Two women are serving drinks: a blond angel-like vision named Dawn and a diabolically sexy brunette named Kim.

The jukebox is full of great stuff you've never heard of; the dancers don't pause while the band is on break, but kind of hump-tango each other to Pat Benatar and the Powerless playing "Lover's Rumba." You move your shoulders to the music and drink over to a space by the cocktail station. As you wink at

Kim, you trip on the leg of a stool, but a guy next to you catches you. It's three deep at the bar, but the service is great. All 15 barstools are filled, of course. The backbar is brick and wood with a shelf of old books above the bottles. A green neon shamrock — a Bud sign — is fixed in

the center of the backbar overhead. A library-green triple light fixture illuminates the women working the taps and speed racks. Ceiling fans keep the room marginally cool and spin cigarette smoke into airborne eddies of carbonized nicotine. You light up by matches whose green glow

cover reads, "Patrice's II Jazz Blues Boogie Rock Ballerney and more." Everyone's scarfing popcorn from the machine in the corner like it's caviar. You order a shot of Caervo Gold for \$2.75 and then notice they offer Guinness on tap for \$3. You order that to chase the tequila. The next day you will

realize this is the chemical equivalent of eating hot chili topped with chocolate ice cream and 3-in-1 oil as you lurch over the porcelain bar for now, you're having a blast. You dance with a babe with the band (still can't remember their name — Dick Ghastly & the Fuzzy Penguins? Something like that), and they're good. You usually don't go for this kind of ghetto stuff — it scares you — but maybe you've been missing something.

The room is filling up; you can't move on the dance floor. You need some air.

You're still walking okay, but you have no idea where you're going. The sun's gone down but leaves a lovely glow against the clouds. You smile and think about moving out here. Lovely town, lovely.

You find yourself in front of the Club Naba, 650 Sixth Avenue. What follows for the rest of the evening is sketchy. You remember seeing the sign in front of the Club Naba, "Beer and Sake," and you think that would be a wonderful idea. Why, it's been ages. You remember the Japanese lanterns over the backbar, the lack of pool balls, the leathery-faced mumsa-san behind the bar who wouldn't tell you her name.

The sake warmed you, but you couldn't really taste it; you can't feel your tongue — or anything else for that matter except a love for all humanity. You had drinks for everyone and play the jukebox. Two rows of selections are written in Japanese, the rest are mostly Country & Western songs by Charlie Pride, Patsy Cline, and Johnny Cash. Your vision is blurring as you make a selection at random. "The Family Man," maybe by Charlie Pride, you're not sure. You sing along drunk, only your arms around two strangers who've accepted your drinks.

When the song is over, you slur. "You gentlemen must be unemployed working-class Americans down on your luck, eh? Well, we're going to fix all that."

One man looks up at you and says slowly, toothlessly, but with dignity, "We prefer the term... fixed-income locals."

It is unclear how you arrive at the Hong Kong Club, Broadway between 10th and 11th, but it is huge. Probably 50 barstools. Beautiful (you're pretty sure) Asian women, Chinese and Filipino, behind the bar. The place is full. Tonight the customers look like they're from the convention. You find a seat next to a man named Lemmy Bodeaux. Lemmy has 68 years old, a jazz violinist and guitarist, a former engineer and farrier, and one-time reporter for the *Chicago Sun Times*. You take this in, but not really. "What kind of music?" Lemmy Bodeaux asks. He explains French and Jewish.

"Frensh?" you bark with

Continued on page 18

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CITY LIGHTS CITY LIGHTS CITY LIGHTS CITY LIGHTS CITY LIGHTS

continued from page 12
laughter and slap him on the back. Lenny joins you, laughing as you say, "You don't look Jewish." You're having so much fun.

Doris, the Chinese woman in a tight, high-necked Susie Wong dress, takes your money. You have a taste of the Wild

Turkey, wash it back with some Bud, and she reappears. "You ready for 'mother'?"

"Ah, no, no. Not yet." Either she or one of the compact, voluptuous, dark-skinned girls from the Philippines will approach you every 60 seconds to suggest another drink.

One of the little vixens is dancing suggestively behind the bar. One patron calls out in a gravel and vodka-washed voice, "Shake it but don't break it, honey! It's already cracked!" A chorus of guffaws spreads the 100-foot length of the bar like a wave.

You notice a Buddha near the cash register. You notice the four women serving drinks, and as you squint at their watch, covering one eye with your hand, you notice the house clock is 15 minutes fast. You look around at the two pool tables and realize that

Lenny has been talking to you. "Look at that bouncer. He couldn't bounce shit. I'm an old farmer and I could kick his ass in a minute. I may look old, but I still ride a Harley. I live across the street at the hotel on 10th. I'm gonna head on home, but I'm gonna stop for a drink

downstairs. Wanna come? This place is gettin' on my nerves." You agree dizzily and walk across the street to the Chee Chee Club at 929 Broadway. Dangerous-looking characters loiter at the bus stop directly in front of the club. You weave your way past them and enter a room with two pool tables, two electronic dart-board games, and a Simpson's pinball machine. You sit at one of 15 or so bar stools — no commentators here either — and notice the tiles on the bar, magenta and beige or something. You're introduced to a large man, balding at the crown, but with a pleasant smile. Terry, the bartender. He hands you a card. "I work at the Chee Chee Club, and I love it!"

Next to you is a guy wearing a sleeveless T-shirt, tattoos you can't quite make out on his left arm, his hair slicked back. He looks tough, maybe mean too. Next to him is a very large, pretty black woman with small, white-hoop earrings. Lenny is furiously writing something on a cocktail napkin.

You introduce yourself to the hard-looking guy, and he couldn't be nicer. His name is Kerry, he's 49. He introduces the woman next to him as Linda. "She's my significant other," he says. She smiles, says hello, and you realize she's a man. "You wouldn't believe Linda's 60 would you?" Kerry asks.

"No, no." You're weaving on your barstool, blinking, smiling gaseously. "I would not believe it."

Terry leans over and says, "This is San Diego's oldest gay bar. It's been here since 1943, but openly gay since 1970. As if to demonstrate his point, a guy walks in the front door and bee lines for the women's room before coming out and ordering a drink.

You have a bourbon and soda served in an old-fashioned, Coca Cola-type glass. "Here," Lenny hands you the cocktail napkin. "I'm a bit of a poet too. This is for you."

The napkin reads: "Like all I've treasured through the years / Take all my hopes and all my fears / Just leave to me a dream, or two, / It won't take many to see me through — Lenny Bedones."

"That's beautiful, man," and you begin to weep.

A 6'7" apparition in a shoulder-length silver wig approaches you and says, "I'm Desiree. We'd better get you a cab home. Where's your hotel?"

You nod as best you can and manage to form the name of the five-star hotel near the center of town. You wave your pills, say goodbye to your new friends, and allow yourself to be escorted to your temporary home in San Diego.



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—A.J. Pappas, owner, Valentino's



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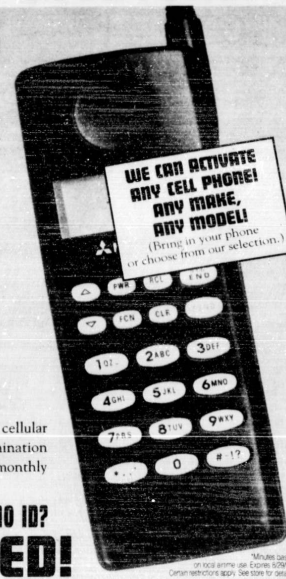
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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP



Matt: Okay, what's the deal with John Tesh? Why would they pick him to do commentary for Olympic gymnastics? Does he know anything about the sport? Any sport? He's been the topic of discussion for days in the office. —Brentano, San Diego

The phenomenon that is Tesh began his spiritual journey as a CBS network sports reporter from 1981 to '85, though he was no specialist in gymnastics. He lettered in soccer, lacrosse, and track in high school, for what that's worth. But now that the Olympic Games are just one more television product, milking the patriotism and pathos under the broadcasting cash cow, his goofy, dramatic, style and name recognition probably count for more. Good accompaniment to all those claustrophobic, zoom shots of eyeballs and sweat. And what's a contemporary icon without a Web site? Satisfy your Tesh-dream at <http://www.tesh.com>, where you can "feel like a real rooster" with a Tesh cap or Tesh jacket from the "Tesh Merchandise" link. He'll serenade you at "Tesh Times" if you have a rippin' modem and the proper shareware. Send gushy e-mail at "Tesh Talk." "Tesh Tour" is his concert schedule. Reveal how Tesh music has changed your life and you could win free tickets. If they're for Anaheim Stadium and you happen to live in Boc-a-Raton, well, that's your problem, they say. A Tesh T-shirt would make the trip. Live mellow and prosper.

Dear Matthew Alice: My friend Billy seems to think that if he flicks his high beams on and off, he can trigger a sensor on traffic lights and cause the light to turn green. He thinks the sensor registers the number of headlights of vehicles and that his flicking his lights tricks the sensor into thinking there are more vehicles there than there are. —John Rambo, Normal Heights

Dear Matthew Alice: My boyfriend claims traffic lights can be changed by the pulse through a remote-control device. I've also heard that signal lights can be changed by turning car headlights on and off rapidly. I think it's all bogus. —O.E. Pepper, the Net

I am curious about some apparatus appearing on traffic signals around town. These appear to be cylinders with a protruding tube. I've told these are photo radar devices and that only those intersections with antennae visible at least one corner are the real ones, the rest are jokes. —O.E. Pepper, the Net

Dear Matthew Alice: Many of the traffic lights around town have small projections that look like cameras [and] may be monitoring speed and those dorks who try to beat the yellow or run the red. —John Carlisle, Sharp Rees-Stealy Urgent Care

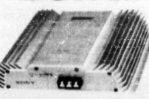
Obviously this question needs some urgent care too. The Big Brother-ish tubes and antennae are part of the Opticon signal override system that allows ambulances and fire engines to maneuver safely through traffic. Police don't have them because one of their calls are potential life-and-death matters, and a patrol car is more maneuverable than bulky emergency vehicles. The driver flips a switch to activate a strobe on the front of the vehicle, which flashes at a specific high frequency; the tubes read the strobe and switch the light to car hold the light on green. It can control lights for many blocks if there are no visual obstructions between the strobe and the tubes. Yeah, yeah, I know. You have a friend who knows somebody who has actually changed the lights green by pulling up to an intersection and flashing his headlights. Well, tell the fool to pull up to a controlled intersection, blow his horn three times, spit out the window, then turn on his windshield wiper full blast. I guarantee you the light will turn green. The fool has tripped the road-surface sensor, telling the traffic light a car is waiting for a green. This cause effect stuff is pretty tricky.

Dear Matthew Alice: This showed up on our company e-mail — timely, considering your response to the question [about the potential danger of inhaling a fart]. "A terrible diet and a room with no ventilation are blamed for the death of a man who was killed by his own gas. His diet had consisted primarily of beans and cabbage. It appears that the man died in his sleep from breathing from the poisonous cloud that was hanging over his bed. The man was shut up in his near airtight bedroom. He was a big man with a huge capacity for creating [his deadly gas]." These of the rescue workers got sick and one was hospitalized. —Mike Farrell, Carlisle

And before there was a sick, this twaddle was faxed from office to office. Before that, snail mailed. The natural history of an urban legend. We really want to believe 'em, even though we know they're pretty improbable. Methane makes up only a small part, and only about a third of the population has the right intestinal flora to produce methane. True, farts have exploded during surgery involving electrocautery, but I still say that nobody ever died from inhaling 'em. But truth has little to do with urban legends. Or e-mail, for that matter.

Got a question you need answered? Get it straight from the hip. Write to: Matthew Alice, c/o the Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92166-5803, or fax your questions to 231-0479, or e-mail to matmail@aol.com via the Internet.

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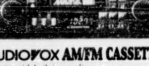
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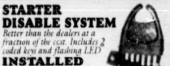
ALPINE DETACHABLE FACE
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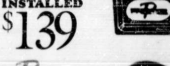
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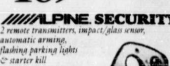
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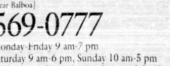
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It's time. I've got my cigar. I've got my fedora. I'm stepping out to Del Mar for thoroughbred racing action. To begin, I choose the preferred parking area, and ring up four bucks. I exit my vehicle, waddle up to the clubhouse, and along the way stop by Duke's booth to purchase, for three bucks, his picks for today's races. "Your Paddock is a Valued Trust," says Mr. Duke. At the next booth I acquire Today's Racing Digest ("New Paddock Profiles, New Thoroughbred Ratings") for \$3.95. Armed now, I decide to spring for the clubhouse seating, which is six bucks. Shortly I discover that the six bucks only gets me into the clubhouse betting parlor. To see the race course one must sneak past security guards stationed at every ramp. I sigh heavily, sneaking past security guards is the story of my life.

Not that I particularly care about the horses. The beats run around an oval track one time, leave, then more horses appear, and those horses run around an oval track one time. So setting up base camp in the betting lobby is no hardship, except for confronting Americans dressed in summer leisurewear, which I find intensely frightening. One man, dressed in a blue and orange Hawaiian shirt, is talking on a cell phone, reading the odds of the next race. Now he writes down bets and hands little sheets of paper to his partner, who scurries to a betting cage.

I tip toe out to the grandstand, lean on the steel rail next to Bill Arlington, from Pacific Beach. Bill's got a pasty face, black hair and mustache, wears a blood-red sports shirt. I inquire, "How do you figure which horse to bet?"

I study the racing form because there's no emotion involved. This way, you don't become attached to the animal, you just read the facts on what the horse has run. It's all you need.

"Does that actually work?"

"Sure it does. Some races you can't bet because too many of the horses are equal. You've got to look for a value."

I study Arlington's form, ask, "What do you mean by value?"

"For example, see that horse right there, number 11?" Arlington points to his racing form. "He's won almost \$18,000 in his career. He finished second in his last two races. He ran those races at 2-to-1 and 3-to-1. Look at the other horses in the field. They've won \$1,000, \$2,000, \$400, \$3,000. Nothing, nothing, nothing, and \$3,000. Number 11 is a value play today because he's 9-to-2. He's got a lot of racing experience. Look at the other horses. They've had no races to speak of. So why

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Odds of Finding Bill Arlington the Next Time You Go to the Track	Odds
Del Mar	500 to 1
Santa Anita	1,000 to 1
Hollywood	5,000 to 1
Bay Meadows	10,000 to 1

years. I like to gamble, I like figuring the odds, and I like to watch the horses run. It's a hobby and a pastime. But I have a rule: I never bet short-price horses, and I never bet every race."

"What is a short-price horse?"

"A horse that's 8-to-5 or 7-to-5. You've got to have the odds. There are 12 horses in this race, right?"

"Right."

"The minimum price I'll take in this race is 8-to-1, unless there's a horse in there that I think is a value at less than 8-to-1. The only horse in there that's a value is that number 11 horse. I'm going to go bet him."

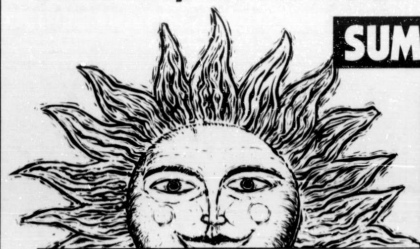
"I'll go with you." We descend into the betting parlor. I stand in line behind Arlington, hit the window with 30 seconds to spare, tell the clerk as if I do this every day, "Number 11 to win," and turn over \$20 bucks.

"And they're off." I hear the race announcer begin his chant. I can't understand one word of it. I bump around the betting lobby and find a television monitor in time to see the pack come down the stretch. Gads, number 11 is in the lead! Whoopie! Come on! Atta boy! I lift one arm to do an enthusiastic bunny hop. Fabulous, bingo, he won, beloved number 11 nailed that old raskin to the wall! I wait for the official results to print, then excitedly collect \$106 bucks. There are good tidings in Madville tonight.

The Sporting Box solicits your comments via Compuserve:74610-2700; the Internet: sportbox@ix.netcom.com fax to the Reader: 231-0189; or mail to: Reader, P.O. Box 55803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803

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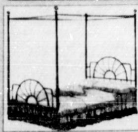


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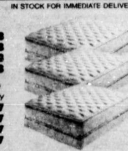


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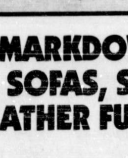
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parallel to the beach, they could get out easily.

When I swim, I breathe on my right side, and all I can see going south are the waves coming toward me, usually above me. I have to lift my head more than I would in a pool so I don't get a mouthful of water. And I have to raise my arms higher to get them out over the swells. Sometimes a strand of kelp washes over me. The sloshing is loud in my ears, as is the noise of my exhaling under water. Someone would have to really yell for me to hear them. At times I am lifted up high enough to see the Coronado Islands

"I was up in the north tower which is by far the most dangerous part of the beach. And this day we had the hugest waves and it never stopped. One person after another got sucked out."

in the distance, but mostly it seems I am in a trough. Sometimes

Every five minutes or so I lift my head to make sure I am aiming at the last building of the Coronado Towers. Usually I have been swimming farther out to sea and I correct myself. I concentrate

The sand glitters in the sun. That reminds me of what Mike Neil said were the two most common questions asked by visitors.

One: Is there gold in the sand? How come it glitters? Two: Are those sharks out there? First answer, the sand has a lot of iron pyrite, fool's gold. Second answer, those are dolphins. The dolphin is big and has a fin on its back, and to an absolute beginner it looks like a shark. Sometimes dolphins come close to the beach. I decide that if I see one, I'll probably explode.

MIKE NEIL TALKS ABOUT LIFEGUARDING AS A CHESS GAME. Instead of sitting and waiting for bad luck to happen, the guards constantly anticipate what will happen in the next few seconds and try to move to a location before they are needed.

“Our beach doesn’t pack up like L.A. does,” Neil told me. This lets the trucks drive through the crowd more easily. “These guards have to be smart. You’re not thinking about what happens now, you’re thinking about what happens five minutes from now.”

Tom Grall, a 33-year-old lieutenant who began guarding at Coronado in 1989, often has the job of standing in the central tower, watching the beach.

"Our job is a forecasting type thing," he said. "We're always wondering what will happen next. The danger lies where the breakers are, that ribbon of surf. Most beach-goers look at the horizon."

Not me. I watch that narrow band of rip." That is why one often hears lifeguards in their trucks saying over their P.A. systems, "We'd like you to move 100 yards down the beach toward

Dave Carpenter, a 29-year-old senior guard, who started at Coronado in 1990, also spoke about how much of their job was predicting what might come next.

"Sure it's a chess match. Even when it's calm, there's a chance

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of a person running out, diving, and snapping his neck. It can happen in a heartbeat, even if you have a full staff. The last thing I want on my watch is to lose someone. It'd haunt me all my life. That's true of all of us. What scares me most is passive drowning. Someone intoxicated will swim out, get tired, and sink without trying to struggle. There's no warning sign at all. You look away, look back and he's gone.

"We all have an incredible respect for the ocean that the people who come here just can't know. Our job is preventative guarding, to keep the people away from the rips. We use the P.A. We try to avoid a situation before it occurs. The chess game: mother nature on one side of the board and you're on the other. And you ask, When's she going to try to take my knight, my little group of swimmers?"

Carpenter, who has just received his master of fine arts in the film school at the University of Southern California, worries that this will be his last summer guarding. He plans to get married in August and has film projects in the fall.

"I'm going to miss guarding terribly. What guarding has done for me is to give me an incredible sense of confidence. You learn how to act. As a guard, you literally make a difference. With these hands and this body, you can actually save somebody. It will always be with me. All of a sudden you go from 0 to 320 percent. In the truck, the guy driving is on the P.A. and the radio. The guy next to him is in the wet seat. He's the bullet. You reach back, you grab the tube, you grab your fins, and you go. You punch through the wave, looking for your victim."



Stinger victim

he was still way the hell out there. I went on and on. Anyway, I finally got him. We saved lives that day.

At 1 swim, I am aware that Mike Neil in the main tower occasionally looks at me through his glasses, and I try to make sure that my stroke is regular and that my reach goes to the full extent of my arms. Long distance swimming is a form of violent meditation. The same movement repeated over and over. One thought of swimming as made up of many movements—arms flailing, legs

Over the years, Carpenter has had many jobs. He worked for Sea World for two years where, he says, he still holds the record for the longest narrative on dolphins. He worked as a killer whale trainer for nine months and a dolphin trainer for eight months. He worked with an entomologist collecting spiders. He has worked as a gardener, oyster shucker, and bartender. He has busied tables and worked construction. When not lifeguarding, he works at Bay Books in Coronado. But lifeguarding is what he has liked most.

"I like the mutual respect everyone has for one another, and you get great adrenaline rushes from lifeguarding. You get someone who is sure they're going die, who's terrified. One day we had a really large swell, and I was up in the north tower which is by far the most dangerous part of the beach. And this day we had the biggest waves, and it never stopped. One person after another got sucked out. And at sunset, in the golden glare, it was hard to see. These surfers were in trouble. Six people out in the rip. They were way the heck out there. I punched through the wave after this guy. Every time I looked,

kicking—but actually it is one repeated rotation. The roaring in the ears blots out the world. The darkness goes down and down. Sometimes the depths beneath you can seem like your unconscious mind. Things are moving down there. That's where the great silence lies, that where one's death is hidden. I kick my feet faster and try counting my strokes. In a 50-meter pool, about 60 strokes will get me to the end. I count to 60, then 60 again, then 60 again, then check to see how far I have gone.

Rip currents are only part of the guard's concerns. All day long they transport stingray victims to the central tower. "Once we had 13 of them lined up with their feet in buckets," said Mike Neil. "That's the most I've seen."

There are also neck injuries. "Sometimes a wave will dump a guy on his head," said Neil, "especially if he has double-overhead surf. Or he'll dive in shallow water. They get this little pain in the back of their neck, which can end up paralyzing them. It's called a Hangman's fracture, a

"The best thing for a jellyfish sting is Adolph's meat tenderizer."

compressed third to fifth vertebrae. So we package them, put them on a backboard with a cervical collar, and the ambulance picks them up.

"And the surfers get hurt. One guy had a special board with a point that we call a gun. They move really fast. This guy got hit by the tip of his gun. Popped it through his hip and blew his tooth."

On the beach itself, the guards have to deal with thefts, burns, fights, broken glass in the sand, and lost children. And they have to deal with state nudity laws. Neil told me that occasionally in front of the Del Coronado in late summer, European tourists will divorce further than California laws permit.

"We seem to get a lot of Italian ladies who like to take their tops off," said Mike Neil, "but they are getting better about not doing it."

The law states that the bottom part of a woman's bikini must be large enough to conceal the "natal cleft."

"Can you see me going up to a woman?" said Neil. "No way." "Excuse me, madam, your natal cleft is showing?" "No way."

If someone refuses to obey a lifeguard, the guard can call the Coronado police, who might give the person a ticket. "Still has changed in my 40 years at the beach," said Neil. "Most of these women have tattoos."

Jay Scheckman, a 32-year-old guard who has worked at the

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beach since 1988, was impressed by the tattoos. "Damn, I don't even know any women who don't have any tattoos any more."

Tom Graft discussed a few of the more popular difficulties. "One time we had to venturate a dog. It's hard. The mouthpiece isn't designed for a dog's muzzle. We've had to rescue dogs from the rip currents. You get to watch out for their claws. They try to climb right up you. Another time there was a guy up on the rocks on Ocean Boulevard manhandling into the oncoming traffic. We had to put a stop to that. And the planes can be a problem. During the Graft War, a huge transport came so close to the tower that I stood on the balcony wondering if it would be better to jump north or south."

Tom Graft talks fast and almost nonstop. He begins a sentence, shoots through two-thirds of it, drops it, begins a new sentence, shoots through two-thirds of it, drops it and begins a new sentence. He juggles sentences like a circus clown juggles Indian clubs. Sometimes he has four or five sentences going at once. Just when I think he has forgotten one of his sentences, he puts it back into circulation. One time he didn't finish one of his sentences until three days later. He had been telling me how the captain of one of the big boats that fish for anchovies had decided to chase the Aranea when the lifeguard had gone out to tell him to stay more than 500 feet away from the line of surf.

"The captain took off after him," Graft told me, "and he chased him back and forth parallel to the beach, and then you remember I was telling you about that guy who was showing women his private parts with a mirror.... A day three days later, 'He didn't catch the Aranea, of course, I was afraid he was going to haul off with a shotgun and shoot one of the sponsors, those things that look like ponies.' I don't remember what happened to the fellow with the mirror. 'He had a weird little smile.'"



A swimmer is pulled from a Coronado rip current.

"Sometimes we get jellyfish," said Mike Neil. "But not many. The best thing for a jellyfish sting is Adolph's meat tenderizer. And sometimes we get sea urchins. Their spines can break off in your foot. The best thing is to soak your foot in urine. It breaks down the calcium. I had a surfing buddy who stepped on a sea urchin and soaked his foot in his urine. I asked him if he wanted a contribution, but he didn't."

WHEN I SWIM PAST THE ROCKS, IT FEELS LIKE I'M swimming faster and more easily. Instead of turning around, I continue down to the first tall building of the Coronado Shores, another several hundred yards. I'm pleased with myself. I'm stronger than I had thought. Showing off. I do a flip turn and start back. Immediately, I realize my mistake. It wasn't that I was

swimming well; rather, I was swimming with the current. Now, as I swim against the current, I hardly make headway. In fact, I swim slowly. I'm carried backward. I swim 100 strokes and I remain by the rocks. I swim another 100 strokes and barely seem to advance. The comical, red roof of the Del lies directly off my right, reminding me of the chase across that roof in the movie. The Swimmer. I takes ten minutes to get past the hotel. Beneath the water is shallower, though I am more than 100 yards from the line of surf. At one point it seems about five feet deep. I keep seeing stragglers. They loved in the warm water off shore. As I swim over them, they panic and flutter away, more like birds than fish, in little clouds of sand. I scare 12 stragglers, or perhaps just one straggly 12 times.

THERE IS A STRONG FAMILY RESEMBLANCE among the lifeguards, as if they were brothers or at least cousins. They are extremely muscular, tanned, athletic, and handsome. Most are blond. Several had water polo scholastic. They surf, scuba-diver, rock-climb, bike, and run. Jay Sheckman took fourth place in the Catalina Paddle several years ago, paddling a 12-foot, 22-pound surfboard 32 miles. When he was done, he slept for two days. He won the 20-mile Bay-to-Bay race in 1993.

Tom Graft swims in the 12-mile summer race around Coronado. He came in fourth or fifth a year or so ago without training. He plans to do it again this year. "I'm going to dedicate the race to one of my sons," he said. Graft's sons are aged two and five.

And each summer they all participate in the Private Olympics for lifeguards, usually held in July at the Silver Strand beach but it has also been held at Coronado. More than 100 participants divide into about 20 relay teams and compete in paddleboard races.

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and races, swims, as well as more complicated tasks like finding a victim somewhere at sea. It ends with a boat race.

"It gets crazy," said Grall. "When we had it here, we added a 50-meter underwater relay at the pool. Swimmers went into oxygen deprivation and started aspirating. They'd be floating down at the end of the pool, and we'd have to ventilate them. Instead of relay boats, I'd bought these rubber darters. We dragged one guy out of the pool and slapped the oxygen on him. He's lying on his back unconscious with his dagger sticking out of his trunk. A guy on his team ran up, snatched it, and jumped in the water. Didn't even ask about his buddy, that's how pumped up they were. They," I said, "someone's going to get killed here." Sometimes I see one of these guys around town. They shout, "Hey, Grall, we going to have the Resuscitator Relay again this year?"

Not all the lifeguards dedicate their free time to athletics. Dave Carpenter surfs, but he also collects insects. In his apartment he has shadowboxes with butterflies that he collected in Guatemala. "My favorite insects are beetles. Maybe it's a man thing. You know, tanks."

He also has two eight-inch scorpions and nine tarantulas. "I've got a King Baboon tarantula. They're about 12 inches across. They're ferocious. Their hind legs look like they have fuzzy slippers on them. The slightest disturbance and it'll rear back, hiss and show its fangs. I find a subtle beauty in them. They can crush the skulls of mice but I feed mine crickets. I hate to give them mice; they're mammals. Let them fight it out between them."

Captain Mike Neil belongs to a group of middle-aged surfers who call themselves the Fraternity of Aging Raging Tube Surfers.

otherwise known as the old FARTS. They make surfing trips to Scorpion Bay in Baja, where they camp, surf, and dig fossils from the cliff face. "We got a great friendship between us. We're the type of guys that look at the knives, the bats. There's nothing we wouldn't do for one another. We go down there, leave civilization for a while, get cleaned, then come back again."

But as a teacher of six sections of advanced placement English, Neil is also a passionate reader, and the camaraderie that he sees among the cowboys in Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove* is what he also finds among his surfing gang. Neil, who has two daughters in college, also paints and writes poetry. Here is a stanza from one of his poems on Baja.

Wading out into waist deep water
At the river mouth,
Casting crocodiles for Halibut or Corvina.
Big ones.
Some barely fit in the cooler.
Just fishing on cobblesome bays
Feeling like early man.
No one on the beach for at least ten miles.
Sea tomatoes and dolphin carcasses
Scattered here and there.
No beach, clean up here.
Just gulls, pelicans and terns
And endless miles of sea and sand.

ONCE I SWIM PAST THE SANDBAR, THE CURRENT RELAXES
its grip. I pass the blue lifeguard tower near the hotel. Mostly I
can't see the beach, but I can see the star pines and palm along

Ocean Boulevard and the red roofs of the houses. My mouth
feels salty and I wonder if people swim with tentacles.

I'm now adjacent to the area that surfers have recently baptized "Dead Larry's," the Tudor home of the late Larry Lawrence, the Hotel Dier's owner. I make a tall pine, then concentrate on reaching it.

When a wave lifts me up, I can see the beach and swimmers and boogie boarders standing in the surf. They seem far away. It's much rougher swimming back, and I have to swing my arms higher out of the water. When I reach the central tower, I get stuck again. Every time I look I'm ready in the same place I picked my stroke. Staring down into the water, I think of what I need to do with my life, what I will do tomorrow and the next day, how I will have to move from one house in one city to a house in another city, I begin to think about money and where it will come from, debts paid out, money coming in. When I look again, I am past the central tower.

IF SUMMER FOR THE LIFEGUARDS IS A TIME OF RUSH, fellowship, and high anxiety, winter at the beach is a time of quiet.

"The radio chatter drives you crazy in the summer," said Mike Neil. "And driving through the crowd is exhausting. You ask people to move, and if you aren't extremely polite, it takes twice as long. But in the winter you get philosophical. I stand in the tower and think about poems. The waves come a lot closer to the tower in the winter. One year they were hitting all around it. We had to sandbag it, then it got condemned."

"You play games in the winter," said Dave Carpenter. "You see how long you can drive the truck without stopping. Or you play the heat game. You close the truck windows and turn on the

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Herman had his first business when he was 8 — a newsstand in front of a movie theater. He left high school and took over an appliance store when he was 16. If he's learned from books, he's learned from the street in equal measure, and his disjunct parts make

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the same downtown area — St. Vincent de Paul, San Diego Rescue Mission, and the Neil Good Day Center, operated by the Alpha Project for the Homeless. "The homeless are avid readers, and I've got to be here at least twice a week," says The Neil Good Day Center is a drop-in resource for the homeless named after a gay activist that people adored. It's run by Robert McElroy. He has my complete admiration and respect. His concepts are very simple: you detox somebody, let them know you care enough about them, you train them to get a job, and you work within the community to get those jobs up and running. And that's what the man does."

The homeless shelter is crowded, but it does not sweat misery — it's well run, lively, and clean. "Hello, I'm Herman the book man," Herman's on.

A young man a third Herman's age and twice his size puts his face in Herman's and says, "I don't believe you carried any Olympic torch." He thinks he's giving Herman a hard time. When Herman asks his name, the guy says, "Bullshit."

Herman's face cranes up to an inch of the other guy's. He backs good-naturedly. "Is Bullshit your first name or a Bullshit?"

The other dude backs off with "My middle name," but he's wearing a loser's grin.

People approach Herman and make specific requests, especially for sci-fi. A weathered blond with a smashed-in face takes Winnie the Pooh out of his knapsack and shows it to a man reading a newspaper. Nearly everyone is settled in with a book. "I guess I'm the ultimate recycler," Herman says. "He's homeless, he's on the street, he's lower than whale shit, but you bring him something to read, and the vibes, man — I love them, I thrive on them."

Later I ask Robert M. Elroy to describe the effect of Herman's program on the Neil Good Day Center. "For this facility, Herman is a godsend. He went on vacation once. We ran out of books, and the morale of the whole place ran down. You can see it on the streets; because of Herman, people are sitting around with a book instead of a 40-ounce. He busts his butt. And he doesn't just dump boxes of books here. Herman gives from his heart. He knows everyone by first name, and he asks individuals if they have a special order. He'll put out-of-pocket to buy things and, once they're

Frederman is the epitome of an angel in the flesh. He's Jewish and I'm Christian, and we meet at the middle. He inspires me: "Ever / time I want to quit, he makes me want to stay."

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MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (UPI) — A group of residents in the Minneapolis area have filed a lawsuit with the U.S. District Court in Minneapolis, claiming that the city's housing policy is discriminatory against people of color.

The lawsuit, filed by the Minneapolis Housing Rights Project, alleges that the city's housing policy is discriminatory against people of color, and that the city has failed to take steps to eliminate the discriminatory practices.

The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court in Minneapolis, and is the latest in a series of lawsuits filed by the Minneapolis Housing Rights Project against the city of Minneapolis.

The lawsuit is part of a larger effort by the Minneapolis Housing Rights Project to eliminate discriminatory housing practices in Minneapolis, and to ensure that all people have equal access to housing.

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HERMAN AND I SET DOWN about 600 books next to D Building at the downtown campus. I was the one who was keyed into his constituents: he's always looking for simple books because so many people have trouble using their second language. He also scouts out books in Spanish and Italian, and he's always buying as fast as I can and as hard as I can," he explains as we walk down the street. "The last year, I've given the art and graphic art department a complete library." Herman had been working at the library for years, waiting for the right school to place them. He's also given libraries to the music and drama departments at UC.

He recognizes a homeless boy and calls to him, "I want that book." He picks up a book titled *Whatchua need for that hat?* "People who know Herman start packing through the lot of books," he says. "I've seen books that were raised behind the Iron Curtain, and they've left everything behind. I've seen books from Romania said, 'I had this book in my home and I couldn't take it.' Her eyes lit up, and you could see her heart. Every book was a treasure, and you could see the delight she had

Herman has an unshakable belief in the power of a book to do good. I was taught as a child that when I dropped a book with God's name in it, I should kiss it. How would I know if a book contained God's name? I was instructed to kiss it anyway, just to be on the safe side. This reverence for books I associate with the Jewish culture I was raised in, and it is no surprise that Herman is also Jewish, that he also comes from a home where books were honored. I do not kiss books anymore — some I love, some I hate — but Herman has convinced me of the value of his program and his love for the people who use it.

I've learned to count on the loving and caring people of San Diego. If anybody wants to contribute a couple of bucks, or even a couple of books, or even donations of books, if somebody owns a gas station and said, 'Herman, you can come in and gas up once a week.' Have some books? Bring them in. I'll be glad to see you go out and schlep them.

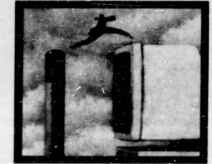
'Last time I was at a jail in Chula Vista, one of the guys said he'd like to have something by Shakespeare, say, *I*, I found *Shakespeare*. But the book was hardcover, and you can't have hardcover inside. I said, 'Here's your Shakespeare,' and I've his face full. Say, 'Oh, that's all right. I'll rip the cover off the book.' 'Now you've got a softcover book, nobody can take it away from you.' I destroyed the book, but it was more important for him to say, 'Shakespeare is here for me.''

Herman Ivin can be reached at 582-4188.

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The Father Spoke, the Demons Dined, the Son Has Come and You've Been Left Behind

THIRTY-ONE YEARS AGO I ASKED JESUS TO COME

into my heart — for the first time, I was seven. It was at Harbison Canyon Community Church, next to the fire station, down the hill from Crest, and up the hill from the Swallows. East County's mudcat colony. The small white building contained a dozen dark wooden pews. On the backs were hymnal holders and small, round, rubber-lined holes for communion glasses, from which I drank unsweetened Welch's grape juice. No wine here, this was a Bible-believing church. After Communion I liked the insides of many glasses to get every available drop of the symbolic blood of Christ.

I don't remember what the pastor said that Sunday morning, but I raised my hand to publicly profess that Jesus had knocked at the door of my heart and I had opened it. There would be no Hell for me. For the next two decades I repeated a similar prayer whenever I doubted my salvation.

In 1963 we moved to North Park, a few blocks from Saint Augustine High School where Catholic

friends and I played basketball after school. My family attended Scott Memorial Baptist Church (SMBC), at the corner of Oregon and Madison, pastored by Dr. Tim LaHaye, who became a well-known evangelical writer. Scott was a big church, with a crowdlike reputation. It seated four, maybe five hundred people.

My earliest memory of SMBC is after the Six-Day War. We watched a movie showing Israel's decisive victory, complete with explosions, tanks, aircraft, soldiers, and vivid narration. LaHaye told us God guided the bombs of His chosen people. LaHaye often used current events, headline theology it's sometimes called, to prove that biblical prophecy was being fulfilled during our lifetime. The return of Christ, he told us, could happen at any moment. I believed him.

Once or twice a year I was sure the Rapture was imminent, that I would literally be snatched into the sky to be with Christ. Prophecies in the books of Revelation and Daniel took place on the nightly news. The Soviet Union was a world power, Israel had become a nation, the European Com-

mon Market corresponded to the ten horns of the beast, and China could field a 200 million-man army at Armageddon. In high school we saw movies like *A Distant Thunder* that depicted the horrors unbelievers will endure during the Great Tribulation, when God will judge the earth with plagues, earthquakes, wars, and famine. After such a movie I asked Jesus into my heart again, just to be sure.

My biggest fear about the Rapture was that Christ would not take me with him because I never truly meant my prayers for salvation or because I had unknowingly committed the unpardonable sin, blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. My next biggest fear was that Christ would return before I married, before I experienced sex.

When I was 12 I began attending SMBC's junior high school. In addition to a typical academic schedule, I went to daily chapel services and Bible classes. One morning before school my seventh-grade girlfriend, who read her Bible and prayed regularly, opened my Bible about halfway and asked me to read the first couple of

verses. The song of songs, which is Solomon's. Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth. For thy love is better than wine.

What? My Bible and Sunday-school teachers had never discussed the Song of Solomon. It was hard to believe mouth kissing was in the Bible. I still have this image of innocent, pious Lisa, whom I never did get around to kissing, reading through the Old Testament and coming upon a book that mentioned kissing and breasts. I jokingly somewhat hopefully, quoted another verse to her: "All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable." I stopped at the word profitable and emphasized it. Surely these verses showed we had permission for more than sweaty pulp fiction. That night I read the entire book. All I learn about sex was that it was wrong. I hoped I could marry someone who wanted to do this bad thing as much as I did, but I was unsure how I could find out before marriage. Once we were mar-



The author as teacher at Christian High School (1980-81).



The author: Harbison Canyon (1964), North Park (1968), and at graduation from Liberty Baptist College (1981).



ried, I reasoned, it would be easy to accomplish this sinful act without anyone's knowing. In church I heard about lust and all it was responsible for: adultery, fornication, and pornography. Pastors emphasized sexual sin, not righteousness. In high school, positive aspects of sex were mentioned, but speakers still stressed its dangers. A popular youth speaker talked about waiting until marriage and how far we should go before our blissful wedding nights.

I avoided PJ to escape his questions. I didn't dislike him. I respected him immensely but felt intimidated because I didn't meet his high standards. I lacked the discipline to rise early to read my Bible and pray. Aside from my father, no man influenced me more. I was more afraid of PJ than God. In many ways, for me, PJ was God. A transparency and genuineness about PJ softened his harsh, often abrasive personality. His sense of humor and candor at times seemed almost contrary to his rigid spirituality. One time after a youth-group activity he told us to make sure we had all our belongings. Then he said, "I end up taking all this stuff home: T-shirts, shoes, women's panties — they don't even it." Another time he asked a friend of mine what his "Do It in the Dirt" T-shirt meant. Robert turned to show him the motorcycle on the back. "It's about riding motorcycles. You know, motorcycles," PJ said. "When I see that I only think of one thing

fuck." Hearing that word from PJ was for us like a Catholic hearing it from the pope. Often our youth group went witnessing in pairs. Armed with our Bibles, surveys, and tracts, we approached people in parks, at the beach, or in their homes. I hated it. I was nervous and self-conscious. Though usually polite, most people did not want to talk and quickly sent us on our way. I felt inferior and abnormal. I was horrified the day PJ chose me to be his partner: insignificant me with the second incarnation of God. We rode to his home, he kept his hands on the horizontal steering wheel and stared ahead. He said nothing for several uncomfortable seconds. I was 16, he was early 40s. "Are you scared?" he asked. I was petrified, but I didn't want him to know. I was sure he enjoyed this, that anything he could

do for God was fun and easy, but I couldn't lie either. A man like PJ would know; God would tell him. "Yes," I said, ashamed of my fear. "Me too," he said. Summer Servants was a nine-week spiritual boot camp. We got up early, ran, read books, and memorized scripture. We traveled to Utah to witness to Mormons, spent a week in Mexico ministering to locals, worked at camps, knocked on doors, preached on street corners, sang in rest homes, did yardwork for older people, led Bible studies, and ate everything on our plates. PJ believed if we could eat everything on our plates now, when we became missionaries we would not trust the locals by not eating what they cooked (or didn't) for us. Summer Servants, SS to the initiated, transformed me. Existence became a serious endeavor. Girls and sports mattered only if they could be reconciled with my burgeoning relationship with

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Sweden. After many scientific studies, Banta was developed by Vita Source with the assistance of the U.S. Government. After extensive testing with amazing results, Banta was made available to the public. The ingredients of Banta are proven to burn fat, decrease appetite, and increase lean muscle mass.

Gary F. Santa Barbara, California, stated: "I lost 11 pounds within three weeks. I feel much better and more energetic."

Thomas S., a Pharmacist from San Diego wrote, "I started Banta weighing 215 pounds and lost 20 pounds in 10 weeks. I'm now 195 inches in all the right places."

In an interview with the Vice-President of the American Dietetic Association, she said as about their wonderful Vita has been so positive and overwhelming, we guarantee Banta to work. The only difficulty we have is keeping our stores in stock. It is available in all major health food stores including:

Saxon Drugs / San Diego	273-8010
4240 La Jolla Village Drive	
16773 Barmouth Ln.	451-0511
16525 Garnet Ave.	
7593 Jackson Ave.	273-7810
10000 La Jolla Village Drive	
10000 La Jolla Village Drive	566-2020
3232 Rosecrans St.	222-0434
200 University Ave.	263-1919
645 San Juan St.	
1380 S. 43rd St.	263-1919

or have your favorite Pharmacist order it for you.

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Saxon Drugs / San Diego	273-8010
46777 Barrington / L.A.	451-0511
1652 Garnet Ave.	273-7810
790 Jackson / San Diego	524-1111
1500 Wilshire / Santa Mabel	566-2020
3272 Rosecrans / San	222-0434
200 University Ave.	281-1111
645 Santa Monica	393-1111
1380 S. 43rd St.	263-1919

and if you have a favorite Pharmacist or store, we will be glad to help you.

Q. Did you see any other people in the room?

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Sports Equipment

10

PRICES & SELECTION ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

Whoever sets out to impose a certain faith on someone else by the sword is seeking first to convince himself. (Miguel de Unamuno, *The Agony of Christianity*)

...where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (2 Cor. 3:17, official Bible verse of Liberty Baptist College)

I felt fortunate that of all the religions and beliefs in the world, I was born into the correct one.

Attending Liberty was like being in another country. Some students addressed others by name only if they preceded it with "brother" or "sister." Two Michigan girls told my best friend and me that their father would not allow them to date boys from California. Many

knee. Freshmen and sophomores could not have cars and could only double-date. The administration outlawed movies, alcohol, dancing, and secular music as well as many forms of Christian music (i.e., Keith Green, Randy Stonehill). I attended chapel three days a week and church on Sunday mornings, evenings, and Wednesday nights. I took Bible classes in addition to meeting general education requirements and participating in football and track programs.

Falwell, or Dr. J. as students sometimes called him, often visited the locker room before football games to talk, pray, and shake hands. In 1979, when I won the 100 and 200 meters at the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) track-and-field championships, Falwell had me on his television program. Whenever Dr. J. saw me jogging, he swerved his four-wheel-drive vehicle at me, honking and waving. I felt important being around a national figure who had been a part of

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— 100 —

42 J. L. Loefer, Jr.

1997

Initially, Bible Belt preaching shocked and intrigued me.

In April 1977, J. Harold Smith preached a sermon enti-

This was a revival service, something we had at least once

church service she was in a car accident. Her mother was thrown

now it's too late. I'm going to Hell." The car burst into flames.

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San Diego: Kauler August 15, 1936 **43**

"Yes."
"Does this have anything to do with wanting to get married? I know our singles department is not big, and you might meet more people in a larger group."

"No. That's not the reason," I replied.
The meeting ended quickly. They did not allow me to stay while they discussed my situation and made their decision.

But to stand in the midst of this... whole marvelous uncertainty and rich ambiguity of existence without questioning, without trembling with the craving and the rapture of such questioning... that is what I feel to be contemptible. (Frederick Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*)

The board denied my request. If I had answered "yes" to the marriage question, they might have let me go elsewhere. I think what bothered them was that

a church they found meaningful, I did not. The irony is that they heard answers about Christ breaking the law on the Sabbath and telling the Pharisees the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. Blind adherence to rules is easier than using common sense to make an exception. A year later the rule changed.

I resigned my position as track coach and teacher of general science and Bible in the spring of 1985, moved to South Lake Tahoe, worked part time or not at all, skied, wrote, and read Pascal, Camus, Dostoevsky, Conrad, Melville, Dickinson, Boethius, A Kempis, and the Bible. For most of my life the Bible had influenced how I viewed other books; now those books affected my ideas about the Bible, Christianity and God.

In early 1986 I mused, "It's mysterious. It's not as easy as a lot of people make it out to be. I like that. I like the paradoxes and the mysteries, because if

there weren't paradoxes and mysteries, our God would not be a very awesome God."
I left Tahoe a year later and returned to San Diego. I have not attended church regularly since.

For many years it embarrassed me to mention I had

The Bible is beautiful and horrifying, like life itself.

attended LBC: I was relieved when the name changed from Liberty Baptist College to Liberty University. At least on resumes it would look respectable. My liberal arts education was essentially nonexistent. I had not been required to read one classic or contemporary novel or one work of philosophy. I hear it has changed. The 1993 catalog offered minors in art and philosophy. I am curious to know how philosophy is treated now. Is there true inquiry,

or are philosophers who disagree with Liberty's doctrinal position denounced for their ignorance and refusal to see the truth? I guess inquiry possible in such an environment!

My biggest complaint concerning myself as I look back on my years in evangelical Christianity is that I thought I had the truth like no one else did, that we were right and everyone else wrong. The only appropriate response were those that could be answered correctly. It is difficult to describe my environment from reading ghost books, in addition to the Bible, and having the freedom to accept or reject ideas.

The Bible is beautiful and horrifying, like life itself. It is filled with wonderful metaphors, exquisite advice, and wild stories with powerful and ambiguous meanings. The mystery and wonder, however, are often lost in an evangelical world due to strict literal interpretations and an absolute certainty about meaning that stifles common sense and intellectual integrity.

"How few are shaken in their opinions, or have the grace to confess it?" William Hazlitt asked in his essay "Belief, Whether Voluntary." I believe it was grace, that magnificent biblical concept, that allowed me to be shaken in the first place. Why did that grace come? What if I had not read about Narnia? If I had been allowed to stay at CJS, what would I read today? These are unanswerable, and to me, sobering questions.

In his classic, *Varieties of Religious Experience*, William James wrote, "The wisest of critics is an altering being, subject to the better insight of the morrow." I continue to have strong beliefs, but now I may be persuaded of something else in the future. There is liberty when we have freedom to follow thoughts and ideas wherever they lead us, discarding those that do not work, keeping those that do, but always searching, examining, and being mindful of the reality close around and within us.

Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

And this we shall do, if God permits. (Hebrews 6:1-2) — Glen Draeger

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LETTERS

continued from page 1
around town — "The road to hell is paved with Republicans." This week, alas, San Diego must serve as gateway for this "hell," the mayor et al. are Satan's succubus.

Bob Learning
University Heights

ASHAMED AT READER

It's really disconcerting to me when a paper that's supposed to be objective intentionally tries to slander the GOP right on the front page in calling our city a "City of Shame" (August 8). I think you guys are just doing it for the publicity. I'm just really ashamed that a San Diego weekly paper would come out and publicly disgrace its own city. I'm a registered Democrat, and I still think it's disgusting. As a reporter and as a reporting paper you should be objective and you shouldn't make the city that you're in look bad, and I just think it reflects on what a poor job the editor and the assistant editors are doing. I don't really expect this to get printed in the paper, because you aren't objective and you're not fair to the people of San Diego.

Mike Catanzo
La Jolla

Happy With Shame

The entire August 8 issue of the *Reader* should win the Pulitzer Prize this year ("San Diego, City of Shame"), San Diego's history is "rich" in deed with the curious behavior of its leading — and often venal — citizens.

To make the edition more complete, however, you should have included Councilman Udo's Martin's smoking crack and the Bob Spaulding and Susan Bray affair that cost us \$100,000 in hard money which former city manager John Lockwood used to keep from the council.

But then, if you included every scandal, we'd never finish reading the August 8 issue, or we'd run out of paper! Congratulations to all the fine writers.

Alfred C. Stroblin
La Jolla

Other Agendas

The current *Reader* has an article about Dr. Sharon Stroud and Bill Mitchell: "The Old Couple of San Diego Society," August 8). Perhaps your reporter should have consulted other sources. Sometimes expenses have other agendas.

Dr. Stroud has not been meeting in a hall near the Holiday Inn. Her congregation met at the Holiday Inn for a short time, much more recently at the Hana Hotel. But, for your future information, Dr. Stroud is head minister at the prestigious Santa Anna Church and school in Arcadia and has been since May of this year.

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Further, Dr. Stroud is an inspiring motivational speaker as well as a fine spiritual leader. Mr. Mitchell was right about one point. A year ago on July 29th the birthday party that he attended was also attended by more than 500 people, her followers to speak.

Maria Mather
La Mesa

Surprising Negatives Concentration
I was a little bit surprised at your concentration on all the negatives that San Diego has had in the last 15 years, especially with the anniversary of the terrible San Ysidro massacre that happened 12 years ago.

George Nolas
San Diego

Not Shameful Enough
I was waiting to see how much you would say about the "City of Shame" issue. I hope you said it all. I was hoping you would say it all. I was hoping you would say it all.

Two Many Painful Memories
Your article, "Buddy Blue," was a very touching and moving piece. It brought back so many memories for me. I hope you said it all. I was hoping you would say it all.

of the people you mention, who were at one time very instrumental in our community and helped build this city to what it is today. But you did not mention the good they did. Then, the joy that the baseball players brought us in our only time we ever went to a World Series, but, no, just the slander which happens in every city, only worse than San Diego. Your article makes San Diego sound like Chicago in the days of Al Capone.

Frank Sheffield
Kearny Mesa

Two-Headed Monster
If this USA of ours is only a short step from the Calafia of the play — from the onslaught of plague and incestuous rule — that tragedy cannot be sufficiently represented by referencing it alongside that of 5th-century Greece. I think the tragedy of the San Ysidro massacre is a tragedy that is not a tragedy.

Carlene Baustia
Spring Valley

Crook Innards
Speaking from the perspective of a 40-year participant in the justice system, I must say, exclusively, I was impressed by Jon Farr's piece on drugs in prison. "What Do You Do Now When You Want to Get High?" August 11. I hope your readers were more skeptical of the stories and pronouncements of the principals than Farr apparently was. Of course, Kelly boys may have been the genuine article, changed forever and a part in amongst the rubble, but the percentages are against it. Criminals are driven to get over on everyone, friend, foe, and sociopath alike. Some of their energy is directed to violence, and they are dedicated to getting away with something, at some scale. Many who have experienced the incarceration of a true criminal personality may never know they have been the victims of a pretentious, dramatic, cruel, sweet, and smooth-talking confidence operator. And there is no time limit on the setup. It's kind of a matter of definition, like that old saw, "If his lips are moving, he's lying."

Country Dick Was My Friend
I read with interest, Bud Blue's commentary on the August 1 edition of the Reader "Buddy Blue". Buddy is exploring Country Dick Montana's death by self-promoting, and that's what Country Dick was all about. Country Dick was a man and an others. When I go to one and others.

packing house. Even Anity, for whom I have respect and admiration, is being taken for a ride much of the time. Count on it.

Frank Sheffield
Kearny Mesa

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get as much mileage out of it as you can. "Country Dick was a pragmatic, self-promoter, and unashamed about it. That was part of his charm."

Country Dick may not have wanted a "gold-plated pedestal," but as much as Buddy prides himself on his "honesty" and calling it as he sees it, sometimes brutal honesty is inappropriate when someone has suddenly, tragically died. Country Dick has legions of fans and friends who loved the beer-guzzling party animal, and revered that side of him, but Dan McLain also has a family, and in particular, parents who love him as their son, and raised him as a God-fearing Christian. When faced with the task of eulogizing Dan McLain, Buddy Blue forgot that eulogies are for the living. He chose to be brutally honest about some of Dan's past choices, even though it offended and deeply hurt members of Dan's immediate family. Honesty with no conscience or consideration in the face of grave tragedy is questionable, and certainly this kind of brutal honesty and name calling was in very poor taste.

As for the people who "maybe bought Country Dick a beer once," and now think they are his best friends, that was the magic of Country Dick. He could drink a beer with you or throw a beer on you, and make you feel like he was your best pal. He wanted to be a friend to the people in the crowd, and it was this charisma and magnetism that made strangers carry him from the stage to the bar and back again, high above their heads, time after time after time.

It is not a crime for people to love Country Dick and even brag about their friendships with him. We all treasure moments when we spent time with him, staggered to the bar together with his big arm around our shoulders. A heart is not judged by how much you love, but by how much you are loved by others. Country Dick was greatly loved. And if strangers and audience members want to say "Country Dick was my friend," they're right. Country Dick was their friend. He reached out to all of us and made us feel special, important and fun.

There is no official book of rules on how to act when someone dies. Americans are in the dark when it comes to dealing with issues like death and sex. Maybe that's why so many people overreact when caught with the unknown. But I hope when I die, and when Buddy Blue dies, that we are remembered for the good sides of us — the artistic, loving sides. I don't want my funeral to resemble what a wild, dirty party I have been in my past, and I hope Buddy's family will be able to read that kind of trash during their time of mourning. And I hope that I will be loved as much as Country Dick Montana is

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loved, and remembered.
Candy Kane
Encinitas

Didn't Pan Or Daman

The film *Lamerica* was shown recently at the Ken Cinema for one whole week (August 1-7). Prior to its showing in San Diego, it was reviewed at length, in glowing words, by some of the nation's leading press organs. Your film critic, Duncan Shepherd, also reviewed it, but barely (Movie Guide, August 1). He said what he had to say in one brief paragraph. Mind you, he didn't pan it or damn it. In a few well-chosen words, he put a positive face on it. It was a flattering critique of the Italian film.

Which raises the first question in my mind. Since he found it to be a worthy work, why didn't he give it normal coverage, space? Why did

he not go into some detail on a film that he called "informative," has "expressive locates and faces" and boasts "a polished and precise cinematic technique?"

Which raises a second and still more puzzling question. Didn't such a film deserve more than a single-star rating? Couldn't he—shouldn't he—have been more liberal, more charitable, and given it if not top rating, at least several little stars?

Peter B. Pritti
North Park

Five Tacos Per Dollar

To the restaurant reviewer who paid 50 cents for a taco in Tijuana ("Tin Fork," August 1): I have a bridge for sale...

real cheap! All subtlety aside, you got screwed! Unless the peso has skyrocketed a few thousand

percent in the three weeks since I've been there, you can get tacos five for a dollar on the way to Revolution.
James Patterson
Hillcrest

Birch Control And Albright

I'd like to know what Anne Albright is doing in the *Reader*. I do not see what her column has to do with the tone of the magazine. No one is interested in a woman who cannot or will not use birth control.

Gloria Hochman
University City

Albright Unfair

Anne Albright's critique of the Murray Callan Swim School ("Kid Stuff," August 1) unfairly depicted the swim program there as merely an expensive opportunity to bore your children. It is anything but that. My first child has been a student there for more

than a year. In that time she has learned to swim across the pool, to dive in and retrieve toys from the bottom of the pool, and, most importantly, she has been helped to develop self-confidence, self-discipline, and to experience a sense of accomplishment, all while having fun. She did not learn these things after one lesson.

The highly trained, skilled instructors at Murray Callan have only the child's best interests in mind. They gradually guide them toward overcoming their fear of the water. Ms. Albright's child expressed a fear of having water on her face; therefore, to submerge her into a pool on her first lesson would have been irresponsible on the part of the instructor as well as detrimental to the child's future swimming experiences.

I would encourage any parents interested in having their child begin swim instruction

to look at the program at Murray Callan with an open mind. I personally cannot say enough positive things about our experiences there. And as to the cut of the program, I can only ask, how much is your child's safety and well-being worth?

Susan Hubert-Abbott
Terra Vista

Such A Good Article

We just read the "Farm in the Valley" article on the front page of the *Reader* (July 25). We thought it was such a good article—we enjoyed it so much, and the way that Tom Lux wrote it. We want to thank you for such a wonderful article. Of course, we're the family the article was about! It's just so special to us.

Lani Verboom

Shoddy Abe Opincar

Abe Opincar wrote an article on the Billy Meier case called "Keep Your Little Green

Hands to Yourself" ("Highlights," July 25). There was only one truthful statement Abe made in this article and that is, "Mr. Moosbrugger is a very close personal friend of Edward 'Billy' Meier." Abe never did his research. If he had, he would have understood that the Billy Meier case is not about the "Little Greys."

In fact, the Pleadians are an entirely different group. They do not have gray skin and big black eyes. The media have been bombarding us with the little gray aliens with big black eyes, which is where Abe probably got his material for the article. The Pleadians do go around planet Earth doing rectal exams. The contacts with Billy have been very different. Of course, Abe wouldn't know that because he didn't take the time to find out. That would have been too much like work.

Abe said, "Again and again

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absolutely have testified to the Space Brothers' feminist desire for nonconventional sex play that involved alien probes being inserted into terrified human bottom-holes. Humanity is paying a very high price for poor parenting skills on distant planets. America is paying a high price for shoddy reporting. Treud taught us that too-early toilet training leads to anal fixation, which paves the way for many unpleasant habits later in life, and sadism being only one of them. If alien parents, wherever and whoever they are, would only stop trying to force their children to use the toilet—or whatever it is they use—before they are ready for it, we on earth could all sleep better at night. This sounds like self-protection to me. Maybe Abe is talking about his early childhood experiences.

Abe says, "Which is why I'm none too keen on Guido Moosbrugger. Mr. Moosbrugger is a very close personal friend of Edward 'Billy' Meier (the only thing Abe got right), and since the mid-1970s both these Swiss men have been fraternizing with alien visitors from the Pleiades star cluster." If Abe got his facts straight, he would have known that Mr. Moosbrugger has never fraternized with the alien visitors. Billy is the only contact. But Abe doesn't know that because he didn't bother to find out. Abe says, "Together, Moosbrugger and Meier have gone on many special 'flight demonstrations' with the Pleiadians in their 'beam ships', and God only knows what went on during these joy rides (I think we have a pretty good idea of just what went on)." Abe, for your information, Mr. Moosbrugger has never said that he has gone on a space ride, but you wouldn't know that because you didn't bother to find out. By the way, we had several people attend the seminar after reading the hatchet job Abe did on the Billy Meier case. One man said, "I came because the *Reader* criticized it. Smart man!"

Whatever you paid Abe Opincar for this article, you paid him far too much.

If you print this letter—which I don't think you will, but if you do—please send me a copy because I don't live in San Diego.

Jo Marie Johnson
Bellflower

Ludicrous Abe Opincar

I am appalled at the lack of character and taste on the part of the author who wrote "Keep Your Little Green Hands to Yourself" in the July 25 issue ("Highlights"). He makes allegations about the "Billy" Meier UFO case that are totally untrue, misquoting, confuted, and downright surprising. I am thoroughly disgusted that this kind of material is being published in the *Calendar*.

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Isn't this section supposed to promote local upcoming events?

He attempts to connect the "Billy" Meier case to the media hype of ET abductions, which, in reality, could not be more unrelated. Furthermore, he goes so far as to insinuate that the Pseudians/Pseudians who Meier reports contacts with are performing animal sex with abductees. This is absolutely ridiculous and has no credibility whatsoever. He then goes on to bash Guido Moosbrugger, the visiting speaker about which the author is supposed to be reporting, claiming that he is a "right-winged Swiss. The author's ignorance here is just laughable because had he done his homework, he would know that Mr. Moosbrugger was born in Austria and now resides in Germany. The article continues with more allusions of obscenities performed on "joy rides" in UFOs and finishes with a morose commentary on health-care systems and the illegal immigrant situation in California.

I honestly cannot imagine what inspired Abe Oppenar to write such a ludicrous article and what inspired the editor to put it to print. It is a worthless

piece of trash that deserves to be used to wipe that part of human anatomy with which the author seems to be obsessed. It is a shame that a full-page coverage article with a nice photo spread had to be bastardized by vindictive and ruthless words full of lies, untruths, and allegations.

I attended the lecture by Guido Moosbrugger and found it to be very well presented and informative. I have been studying the case since 1991 and urge anyone who wishes to learn more about the "Billy" Meier case to check out the official Web site at www.billymeier.com.

Scott Whitney
Ocean Beach

A press release for the lecture describes Guido Moosbrugger as "Meier's closest Swiss associate." — Editor

Grays/Space Brothers Mix-up
On the earth world on which we live, there are many different religions, different life-styles, and many different ideas ("Highlights," July 25). There would be no way one could look at any individual

and say that individual is the same as another.

It is a small, narrow mind that looks at the universe as a whole, that houses so many different galaxies, planets, and stars, and thinks that all life forms are the same. Just like earth has so many different peoples, so does the universe have many different so-called aliens throughout its infinite beauty. The one thing you can be assured of is that the term "Space Brothers" does not apply to a negative race of individuals that you speak of in your article. Call the "grays" and others what you will, but "Space Brothers" is applied to highly intelligent, spiritual human beings that look very much like ourselves. The main thing they practice, to whom ever they meet, is the sharing of light and love.

Their advanced knowledge will help us in the future to solve many of our present-day problems, not just environmental and technical problems but problems which are actually within ourselves. For those open-minded people, the future of the earth world is positive and progressive. The Space Brothers' debut will be

the year 2001, opening the door to a new and glorious spiritual renaissance for all mankind to share. Truly a day of days!

No remember, when one stands in front of a mirror, the reflection one sees is only part of a much bigger picture of life. Narrow-mindedness is like a plow horse in the middle of a 1000-acre field, wearing blinders on both eyes, he only sees the row in front of him.

The real Space Brothers I refer to are part of that big picture for the positive future of all mankind. Look up not in fear, but with an open mind!

William Proctor
Student
Unarius Academy of Science
El Cajon

Harsh Duncan

Somebody named Bob can't understand why people get emotional about Duncan Shepherd's film reviews (Letters, August 1). "Why ever challenge a critic?" asks this clever cop. (I'm guessing from the single name, style, and thought content that the letter was written by a talking dog.) "Hopefully, we the pub-

lic can form our own opinions on such matters."

This is a novel contribution to the ongoing dialogue about your controversial film review. Why should we worry about what Shepherd thinks? All we have to do is read his column and then go to the theater and see the film for ourselves! But if we are going to do that, why read Shepherd's column in the first place? Are we supposed to be reading him *post facto* to see if he agrees with us?

It seems to me that people read movie reviews because they're trying to figure out whether a movie is worth seeing. That's exactly the problem with Duncan Shepherd. Judging from his column in the August 1 Reader and his mini-reviews of every feature playing in San Diego, there isn't a single one worth seeing. This is a harsh critic.

What if I just want to go see a movie? I'm not looking for a masterpiece every time. I go to the theater. I would assume that if a critic uses a five-star (100-point) rating system, then one star would mean "terrible" and five would mean "fantastic." A movie

would have to get three stars to be just okay — and the par-

amorous Mr. Shepherd has not handed out more than two stars since that kinky fiasco faded from the local screens.

Shepherd has even invented a "black dot" (some thing like Blind Pew used in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*) to express an even lower opinion than that indicated by a single star or no star at all. In fact, he seems to have a seven-stage rating system. It goes like this:

Big Dot — He hates the director or the principal actor.

No star at all — Siskel & Ebert gave it two thumbs up.

• — Entertaining, but after all, it's only an American major studio production.

•• — Generally reserved for films like *Citizen Kane*.

••• — That'll be the day!

•••• — Never happen!

••••• — His girlfriend liked it.

The Reader needs to keep Shepherd to antagonize, amaze, and bewilder people and to get a backup critic to tell people what movies they might wish enjoy going to see.

Bill Delaney
Hillcrest

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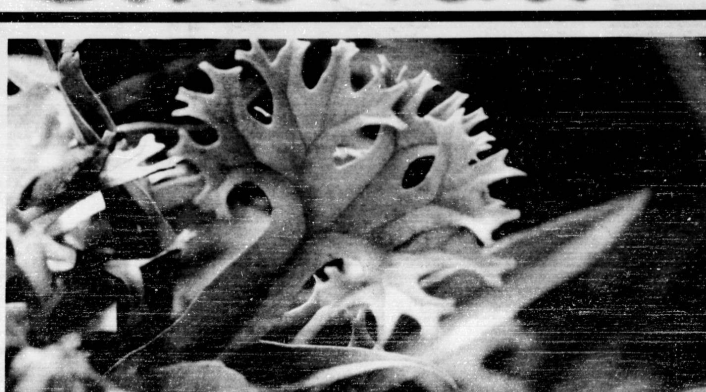
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Calendar



The Amazing Swimming Fern

Fern Show and Sale in Balboa Park

asked Bob Halley, "What exactly differentiates a fern from other plants?"

We were in his Pacific Beach backyard surrounded by creeping and hanging ferns. He rubbed his chin and said, "Well, most plants have seeds. Ferns have spores, which are different from seeds in that they're almost microscopic, and they produce a tiny plant called prothallus, which contains a male and female organism. The male actually swims across the prothallus and mates with the female."

"Also, all ferns have a crawler — common name, fiddlehead." He shows me one that rises out of a stubby tree fern. A stalk with branches that gradually unfold; it looks like an ornamental walking stick. It looks like a paddy bird.

In the clearing amidst hundreds of ferns, sitting in the shade of *Hemitelia pinnatifida*, I wonder who's the boss here, the ferns or the people. Sure, the ferns are peaceful now, but what if Folk falls to pacify them with water and nitrogen supplements? I imagine *Platanus* — also "toughness" — growing their way through the streets of Pacific Beach en route to the battle for Sea World.

Before considering my vision hyperbole, visit the San Diego Fern Society's 18th annual public show this weekend. "Why is it," I asked Bob, "that the only two big fern shows are here in a desert environment?"

He said, "Hmmm. I wonder."

I suspected it could be that Southern California holds the world's highest percentage of people both wacky and affluent enough to devote themselves to cultivating such creatures as the Mexican towel fern that hangs in a pot and looks like carrot greens, or the palmlike, eight-foot tree fern, or the lacy-looking Boston fern.

"Well," Bob speculated, "Southern California is a fairly good fern environment. Because of the temperature range, we can grow some of the hardy ferns that generally require a winter layer of snow, and at the same time we can grow some tropicals. But many ferns require more moisture, so they have to be in terrariums or glass houses."

The Fern Society expects about 150 entries in 24 divisions. There are several divisions for ferns with fronds less than a foot long, others for those with fronds one to three feet long, still others for the big ones.

Bob commented, "You'd think that all of the genus *Blatium* would be

together, all of the *Adiantum* — also "maidenhair" — together, all the *Davallia* together. But our size system works better because of the psychology of judges, who otherwise tend toward the largest."

Besides frequent lectures on fern-care topics such as environment, planting, mixes, watering, feeding, and pest control, visitors can quiz Fern Society members, who will make themselves known by wearing "Ask Me" badges. For bookmakers, gamblers, and those who need a bit of competition while recovering from the Olympics, the Fern Society will provide contests, awarding prizes for Best in the Show, Best *Platanus*, Most Unusual, and People's Choice, for which every visitor is asked to vote.

Would be fern people can start their collection in the patio outside the show room, where the society offers environmentally suitable ferns at bargain prices, \$2 and up.

Halley became a fern person because of his son. "He joined the society first, and it was a way for us to have a joint interest. Then, as an engineer who likes to take on challenges, I became quite interested in trying to grow from spore. Most people buy from nurseries, who buy from the growers. I find the work with spores challenging. And I'm

amazed by the variety of ferns. From tree ferns 60 feet tall to tiny things that grow on logs to the *Asplenium* that grows in water — it goes through its entire life floating in the backwaters of streams and lakes."

Now, Bob spends about two hours a day watering, pruning, reporting, "Because we live on hardpan, I don't grow anything in the ground. When one gets sickly, I move it to a different pot, different soil, and try to bring it back. I enjoy trying to grow something that doesn't normally grow here. A lot of the members try to outmaneuver nature. My current pride and joy is the *Cyathea zosterifolia*, a tree fern from the mountains of New Guinea."

— Ken Kuhlman

**San Diego Fern Society
18th Annual Fern Show and Sale
Saturday, August 17
12:30 to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 18,
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Plant registration, Friday,
August 16, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Free admission; public entries
are welcome.**

**The San Diego Fern Society meets
on the third Thursday of each
month in room 101 of the Casa del
Prado. Open to the public. For
more information, call 583-9551.**

San Diego Fern Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

The San Diego Swing Dance Club meets in the Elks Lodge at 2720 Fourth Avenue, Midtown, for dance instruction and dancing every Friday night from 7 to 11 p.m. and Sunday from 3 to 6 p.m. Intermediate lessons are held Friday from 7:45 p.m. beginning lessons are held Sunday from 3 to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 or \$3 if there is a live band. For more information, call 282-1755.

And Around You Go, dance to the music of Continental Drifters and the calling of Graham Hempel at the New England-style contra and square dance on Friday, August 16, at 8 p.m. Newcomers are welcome to the event (beginner's workshop at 7:45 p.m.) held at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 4000 Thoreau Street, in North Park. Wear soft-soled shoes. Admission is \$5. For additional information, call 273-5353.

The 1996 International Dance Festival, this festival features the Balboa Park Performing Arts Center, the Royal Scottish Dance Company, the Lucha Libre, the Pasacal Players, Performing Arts Company, and the

Blue Lotus Midland Dancers on Saturday, August 17, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, August 18, at 2 p.m. Admission is free both days, and both events are held at the Casa del Prado Theater in Balboa Park. Call 469-4099 or 479-8015 for more information.

Celebrate Dance Festival, this two-week festival (August 18-31) of free dance events takes place in Balboa Park and is sponsored by the Twelve Dance Theatre and Balboa Park. Call 238-1153 for information.

Events for the week of August 18-23 include a collective dance improv on Sunday, meet at the fly pond at 8 p.m.; a dance parade through the park on Monday at 6 p.m., followed by a live drumming circle, meet at the Laurel Street bridge; Tuesday, enjoy open stage day at the fountain by the Reuben H. Fleet Space Center at 1 p.m.; Wednesday the San Diego Danceworks performs at the fountain at 1 p.m.; and Thursday, August 22, the City Ballet performs at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion at 8 p.m.

Solo Dancing, open sessions are held every Monday beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Mission Hills Golf and Country Club, 4070 Jackson Street, Mission Hills, and every Friday beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Old

Cardiff Church, 230 Birmingham Drive, Cardiff. Admission is by donation. Free. Call 295-9677 for more information.

Seventh Annual Sunset Cinema Film Festival, this free, all-movie festival runs through Saturday, August 31. It begins in north county with the "land version" of the series and concludes in the southern part of the county with the "floating cinema" — a new projection movie screen mounted on a barge — playing to an audience seated on the shore.

Tuesday, August 15, see *Jurassic Park* (1993), starring Linda Stern, Sam Neill, and Jeff Goldblum. An animated movie picture surprise is presented on Friday, August 16. Both of these films can be seen at the Lake Poway Recreation Area in Poway (14444 Lake Poway Road).

The festival moves to Bonita Cove (2581 Quinta Court) in Mission Bay Park for a salute to Tom Hanks, August 20 through August 22. See *Big* (1988) on Tuesday, *Forrest Gump* (1994) on Wednesday, and *Apollo 13* (1995) on Thursday. All films are rated G or PG, carry Southwestern concerns, and feature family-friendly themes.

Catch this classic tonight, Thursday, August 15, through Saturday, August 17, at 8:30 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.). Admission is \$5. For more information, call 295-4231.

FILM

Best of the Little New Movies the season at the Garden Cabaret (4040 Goldfield Street, Mission Hills) continues with Tennessee Williams' heated drama *On a Hot Summer Night* (1959), featuring Elizabeth Taylor and Paul Newman. This 1958 film, directed by Richard Brooks, concerns a wealthy Southern family frustrated by greed and lust.

Catch this classic tonight, Thursday, August 15, through Saturday, August 17, at 8:30 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.). Admission is \$5. For more information, call 295-4231.

A Blast from the Past, Buster Keaton's comedy, *The General*, is shown at the Poway Center for the Performing Arts, accompanied by Robert Israel and the International Chamber Players orchestra. See it on Sunday, August 18, at 4 p.m., at 15408 Euclid Road in Poway. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for children. For additional information, call 748-0500.

Shanghai in the 1930s is brought to life in *Zhang Yimou's Shanghai Trail* (1995). An ingenious country lad is brought to the big city by his uncle to work for a gangster boss. See this film at the San Diego Public Library, 820 E. Street, downtown on Sunday, August 18, at 2 p.m. Free. Japanese with English subtitles. Call 463-0391 for more information.

The Immense Pleasure of a Kiss in the Adaptor (1992) by Canadian filmmaker Adam Egger. A bored insurance adjuster gets involved with a rich couple and their bizarre sexual role-playing fantasies. See this film at the San Diego Public Library, 820 E. Street, downtown on Monday, August 19, at 6 p.m. Free. Call 463-0391 for more information.

The Watergate Cover-up is re-created by Robert Redford, Dustin Hoffman, and Jason Robards in *Alan J. Pakula's* 1976 film, *All the President's Men*.

See this film on August 21 at the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego. "American Reflections Through Film," series, which continues every Wednesday, ending through September 13, 40 minutes, 11:30 p.m. at the Museum of Contemporary Art, La Jolla (700 Prospect Street). General admission is \$4; members, seniors, students, and children are \$3. For more information, call 234-1001.

Reuben H. Fleet Space Theater, What up-and-coming star gets 40 seconds of screen time in *The Blue 6 1/2 Minutes in Jurassic Park*, 40 minutes in *Jurassic Park*, 40 minutes in *Grease*, and 17 minutes in *Toy Story* Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, and Tim Allen.

The newest IMAX film, *Great Effects* answers just what questions with backstage looks at the making of the Star Wars trilogy, *Independence Day*, *Jurassic Park*, and *Kiss of the Dragon*.

There's never been a better time to add up and come out to Sycuan. Bring this ad in for an additional entry into our Cash Stampede drawings.

The Summer Cash Stampede Monday - Thursday Nights Beginning August 12th.

See this film on August 21 at the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego. "American Reflections Through Film," series, which continues every Wednesday, ending through September 13, 40 minutes, 11:30 p.m. at the Museum of Contemporary Art, La Jolla (700 Prospect Street). General admission is \$4; members, seniors, students, and children are \$3. For more information, call 234-1001.

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Celebrate the world's oceans, both their diversity and their importance to life on Earth, in *The Living Sea*. IMAX camera take viewers to locations over and under the surface of the ocean, including scenes of surfing in Hawaii, a Coast Guard cutter rescue operation, and sea creatures.

For ticket prices and showtimes, call 238-1233. The theater is found in Balboa Park.

LECTURES

You Are Getting Very Sleepy, Marlene delivers a free lecture entitled "The Zone Made Easy" at Herla and Aquino 2860 Santa Fe Drive in Solana Beach. Hear it at 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 15. Registration is required for this free lecture; 298-3962.

Mathematicians as Nonpareils, Cyber Institutions, find out what this means tonight, Thursday, August 15, at the Numaia discussion group's meeting. This week's facilitator is Ben Hahn.

The Thursday forum meets Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. in the lounge of the First Unitarian Universalist Church (4190 Front Street in Hillcrest) for a discussion after the group leader makes a short presentation. Free. For more information, call 222-9477.

Using the PC Program Deep Space 3.0 to Control Amateur Telescope, If this lecture sounds interesting, be at Grayson Boehm Lecture Hall at the Reuben H. Fleet Space Theater and Science Center in Balboa Park on Friday, August 16, at 7:30 p.m. Free. For more information, call 238-1233 x106.

Hunter Safety Education Courses sponsored by Ducks Unlimited continue on an ongoing basis throughout the year, with the next class scheduled for Saturday, August 17, from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., in building 17W at MCRI. The classes are taught by four sportsmen who are determined to eliminate gun accidents. Curriculum covers gun safety, gun handling, archery, black powder safety, game and bird identification, and more.

The series is approved by the State of California Department of Fish and Game. Bring a sack lunch, rest pad, and a number two pencil. The fee is \$10 for reservations and further information, call 238-1233. Do not bring firearms to class.

Basic Composting, meet at the compost demonstration site in the southwest corner of the parking lot at Quail Botanical Gardens (2300 Quail Botanical Drive) for a morning of composting. The seminars take place the first and third Saturday of every month at 11 a.m., including August 17. Free with price of admission to the gardens.

Locate the gardens in Encinitas, from 1.5 miles to Encinitas Boulevard exit one 1/2 mile to Quail Gardens Drive, turn left. The entrance to the gardens is 1/4 mile ahead to the left. General admission is \$5; children aged 5-12 are \$1.50; 5 and under are free. For more information, call 436-3036.

Behind the Scenes, Director Liner-Dino De Vito takes participants behind the aquarist scenes during the class at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. From Sea to See, Take the class, turn left. The entrance to the gardens is 1/4 mile ahead to the left. General admission is \$5; children aged 5-12 are \$1.50; 5 and under are free. For more information, call 436-3036.

Just the Facts, "Sharks — the Facts" is a presentation on the mysterious of sharks given by Dr. Jeffrey

Find your seat among the moon and stars

SUNSET CINEMA FILM FESTIVAL A FREE open-air movie festival, continues tonight through Saturday, August 31. 31. Cox Communications and Night & Day.

The San Diego Union-Tribune's weekly entertainment guide, welcome you and your family to this delightful festival. Pack a picnic, blanket, and beach chair and don't forget to bring the kids. Each evening's festival begins at 6 p.m. with live entertainment and giveaways. The cartoon short and feature film roll at 8 p.m. Arrive early for a great seat among your friends, the moon, and the stars!

FREE MOVIE FUN for the FAMILY

LAKE POWAY RECREATION AREA / POWAY

THURSDAY, AUG. 15
FRIDAY, AUG. 16
Disney "Animated" Classic

MISSION BAY/SCOTTA COVE (ACROSS FROM THE BARRIO VIEJO)

TUESDAY, AUG. 20
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 21
THURSDAY, AUG. 22
Salute to TOM HANKS

EMBARCADERO MARKET PARK (NORTH AVENUE/SPRING STREET)

SATURDAY, AUG. 24
Disney "Animated" Classic

SUNDAY, AUG. 25
MONDAY, AUG. 26
Disney "Animated" Classic

TUESDAY, AUG. 27
Disney "Animated" Classic

TIDE LANE PARK / CORONADO

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 28
THURSDAY, AUG. 29
FRIDAY, AUG. 30
SATURDAY, AUG. 31

Salute to Gene Kelly "Singin' in the Rain" "Four Weddings and a Funeral" "The Wizard of Oz"

"Bated Breath" not suitable for children. An Andrew Friedberg production. The movie is rated R. Content may offend some viewers and the movie is a sequel to a movie from the same series. See below movie description.

COX COMMUNICATIONS

For more information, call THE SUNSET CINEMA FILM FESTIVAL HOTLINE 619/293-2159

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America's best political humorist
August 22-24
Sensational
NUDE COFFEE
Crazy, rude, nutty, wacky, hot, all-female comedy group
August 29-31
San Diego's own
RUSS T. NAIL
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For reservations and information
Call 535-7635
BAHIA 998 W. Mission Bay Drive
HOTEL LA SAN DIEGO

Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

Graham in conjunction with "Shark Discovery Days" at the Stephen Birch Aquarium Museum at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Take the class in the aquarium classroom of the museum on Sunday, August 18, at 11 a.m. or 2 p.m.

The lecture is included with admission: \$6.50 general; seniors, \$5.50 and students, \$4.50. The museum is located at 2800 Expedition Way (off North Torrey Pines Road), south of La Jolla Village Drive in La Jolla. For more information and the required reservations, call 534-4194.

And the Race Is On. Professor Harlan Lewis of SDSU gives "The Race to Election Day: Comparing the Candidates and the Parties" at the humanist discussion, politics, and program held at 6:15 p.m. on the third Sunday of every month, August 18 included.

The program starts at 7:30 p.m., after the potluck in the Common Room of the First Unitarian Universalist Church (1400 Front Street in Hillcrest). Free bring a dish for us if attending the potluck. For more information, call 222-9477.

Corral, Mamel, Piasero, and Boudia. These 19th-century French landscape painters are the topic of David D. Smith's insight gallery talk at the San Diego Museum of Art on Sunday, August 18, at noon. Smith repeats the discussion on Tuesday, August 20, at noon.

Insight gallery talks are informal discussions of works from the museum's permanent collection and are included with admission to the museum. Hours 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Find the museum in Balboa Park. Call for information, 232-7941.

Artspoke. The Museum of Photographic Arts (MoPA) presents a panel discussion about "The Role of Art in Politics" in conjunction with the current exhibit, "Republicanism in San Diego," on Sunday, August 18, at 7 p.m. Panels include Richard Bohn, Victoria Hamilton, Helen Mayer Harrison, Newton Harrison, Alan Kayser, and Robert Posen. MoPA curator Diana Gascón moderates the discussion.

Here the panelists in the Thornton Theater, next door to MoPA, at the Casa de Balboa, Balboa Park. Admission is \$1 for MoPA members, \$4 for students and seniors, and \$6 for general admission. 239-5262.

Raptor Day is a program featuring some of the birds of prey at the Chula Vista Nature Center, all of the birds

and hawks in the program are non-releasable due to injuries. On Sunday, August 18, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., bird crew volunteers present another edition of the program. It is included in the cost of admission.

For more information, call 422-2431. Admission is \$3.50 for general, \$2.50 for seniors, \$1 for children between 6 and 17. The center is located at E Street and Bay Boulevard, just west of I-5 in Chula Vista.

The Humane Fellowship of San Diego meets at 10 a.m. on Sundays at the intersection Gallery, 4247 Park Boulevard at the junction of Park and El Camino Boulevard in University Heights. This week, August 18, Robert Boone delivers "A Comparative Viewpoint on Humankind." Free, 231-8337.

Ethnobotany—the study of human uses of plants, such as for medicinal purposes and building structures. Monday, August 19, at 9 a.m., Don McGraw gives "An Introduction to Ethnobotany and Economic Botany." He'll walk participants through the Quail Botanical Garden explaining which plants have a wide variety of uses.

The cost is \$10 for garden members, \$12 for nonmembers. Registration is required, 436-3036. Locate the garden in Encinitas. From I-5 take the Encinitas Boulevard exit east 1/2 mile to Quail Gardens Drive, turn

left. The entrance to the garden is 1/4 mile ahead to the left.

Bangkok, Singapore, Bali, and Hong Kong. Find out about "Traveling the Orient" during a presentation by Ruth Ann Levanon Tuesday, August 20, at 7 p.m. at the Rancho Bernardo Community Recreation Center (18444 Via Bernardo Drive in Rancho Bernardo). The meeting is free, but reservations are required. Call 485-6635.

The Xi Guo (West River) Valley, high in the mountains outside Xian in the northern Sichuan Province of China, hosts such rarities as blue sheep, golden monkeys, snow leopards, ibex, and giant pandas. The Chinese, Mongol, an extremely rare, indigenous pheasant also calls this region home. David R. Klinger, curator and ornithologist at the San Diego Zoo, hosts a slide presentation and lecture about these birds and his efforts to ensure their survival.

This free lecture is sponsored by Advertiser (1610) Maranatha Canyon Road in Grantville, 283-2343 on Tuesday, August 20, at 7 p.m. He repeats the show at the Advertiser (1610) in Solana Beach, 143 San Carlos Avenue, 755-2623 on Wednesday, August 21, at 7 p.m.

Don't Tiptoe But Enter. Don York explains "All You Ever Wanted to

Know about Cruising," at Inland Travel (1012 Grand Avenue in Pacific Beach) on Tuesday, August 20, at 7 p.m. Free. Reservations required, 272-8147.

Starting Over. Reverend Jeanette Koel facilitates the "How to Pack up Your Emotional Baggage and Leave It Behind" workshop at the North County Church of Religious Rejuvenation on Tuesday, August 20, at 7 p.m. The church can be found at 2210 Encinitas Boulevard, suite O, in Encinitas. The class costs \$10. Call 436-0279 for more information.

Never Get Lost Again. Join Bill Luckin for a look at the essentials of orienteering at the REI store at 5556 Copley Drive in Claremont, on Wednesday, August 21, at 7 p.m. Need information? Call 279-4400. Free.

IN PERSON

Much Aho about Something, poet and novelist Marie Chapin Jordan reads her poetry tonight, Thursday, August 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Bookworks in the Pioneer Field Center at 2670 Via de la Valle in San Mateo. Free. Needest thou info? Dial 753-3735.

Bob Dole Uses Up Conventions in Old Town. Political satire comedy

troupe Gross National Product, vs. its San Diego for the Republican National Convention. Expect some wack to the minute sketches, top-notch political impersonations, and much more-inspired improv. CND runs each day's convention headlines in the evening's punch line through Sunday, August 18.

Performances are Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m. All shows are \$19.96, and tickets may be purchased at the box office at 4040 Twigg Street in Old Town, or by calling 688-1474.

The Bestard Son of Gingham and Linenbush? Comedian Jeff Wayne performs his one-man comedy show, *Big Daddy's Barbershop* (B.D.B.B.), at a White Male, at the Comedy Store, 1930 Pearl Street in La Jolla, through Sunday, August 18. For tickets prices and showtimes, call 438-1676.

Twilight Tunes. The 1996 Twilight in the Park concert series continues tonight, Thursday, August 15, with a performance by the California State Jazz Band. Hear the Swingmen on Tuesday, August 20, and the San Diego Horns on Wednesday, August 21. All of the programs begin at 7:15 p.m. at the Spectacle Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park. For more information on these free events,

Gilbert and Sullivan Set Sail on the Star of India. Thursday through Sunday, August 15 and 17. See the San Diego Comic Opera perform *The Best of Britain and Finland* on the decks of the oldest active ship in the world located at 1492 North Harbor Drive in downtown.

This show repeats Thursday through Saturday, August 22 and 24, and again Thursday through Saturday, August 29. Nightly performances are slated for 6 and 8 p.m. Admission is \$20, those over 60 and under 12 are \$14. Call for tickets, 234-0555.

The Truth Hurts. Author Ronald Cooper reads and signs his latest book, *Truth Hurts*, on Thursday, August 15, at 7 p.m. Find him at the Bookstore, at 1029 University Avenue in Hillcrest. Free. Call 297-4171 for more information.

Sidestepping Comedy. Political comedy. Will Durant headlines at the Balboa Hotel's Comedy 100 tonight, Thursday, August 15, through Saturday, August 17. Shows start at 8 p.m. on Thursday, and 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The Balboa Hotel is located at 808 West Mission Bay Drive in Mission Beach. The cover charge is \$10. For reservations, call 488-0872.

Fallbrook's 11th Annual Concert on the Green is scheduled to take place on Friday, August 16, at the Grand Tradition. Headlining the year is the Champagne Lull from Lawrence Walk, Robert Linn. One of this year's shows are Billie Holiday and the Band and the Tone Band. Gates open at 4:30 p.m., and the music starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets at the door are \$15. To get to the Grand Tradition, take I-5 to Mission Road and Fallbrook to the lane and go right. It is at the end of the lane. For more information, call 728-5946.

Griegrich the Meowse. Marlene Grogan will read to children for the Speaker of the House. Next time, she'll be remembered in the press and public, in the novel *Meowse* by Marlene Grogan. She'll be at the Bookstore, 1029 University Avenue in Hillcrest, 297-4171. Free.

One Little Step at a Time. In *The Park*, Laurie Rich Jones provides advice to lead readers through the steps of defining and fulfilling a mission. Learn to create a mission for work and for life with the author Friday, August 16, at 7 p.m. at the Barnes and Noble in Hazard Center, 7610 Hazard Center Way in Mission Valley. Free. For more information, call 220-0175.

Brewell's Flight with Gravel is translated to harp music by Geoffrey Adams at DGVille Bookstore (7461 Grand Avenue in La Jolla) on Friday, August 16, at 8 p.m. A \$5 donation is suggested, 456-1800.

Caribbea TIGP Jazz in the Park continues the outdoor evening concert series at the Ladbroke Art Gallery Studio (4048 Bona Drive) in Kensington. The event takes place on Friday, August 16, with the Bill Mager Blues Band performing Chicago-style blues from 6 to 8 p.m. at Calaveras Hills Park (2997 Glas-

gow). Free. Bring blankets, chairs, and picnic. Call 434-2904 for information.

Public Poetry Night, Convention Party, and Open Reading. Featuring Steve Kavel, Larry Brown, Chris Vanney, Leroy Quintana, and Joe Minich at 7 p.m. on Friday, August 16, Hickey's Place Books is situated at 7882 La Mesa Boulevard in La Mesa. Free. Call 466-5947 for information.

The Peter Puppington Quartet performs mellow music while visitors view classical calligraphy, nature photography, and peaceful paintings at the Ladbroke Art Gallery Studio (4048 Bona Drive) in Kensington. The event takes place on Friday, August 16, at 5:30 p.m. The studio is open Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Call 861-0082 for more information.

Blackbird Pilot and Aviation Author Brian Bluff presents two lectures and slide shows at the San Diego Aerospace Museum on Friday and Saturday, August 16 and 17, at 2 p.m. Locate the museum at 2001 Pan American Plaza in Balboa Park. The presentation is included with admission to the museum. \$6 general, \$5 seniors, \$3 ages 6-17, and free for children under 6 and active military. Call 234-8570 for more information.

The Antigone Live on Long after the Smokers Have Gone, Gerard Pereira is a practicing San Diego physician who has been collecting antique tobacco advertising for years. His picture book of tobacco artifacts chronicles Tobacco Advertising: *The Great Seduction*. The author signs and discusses his book on Saturday, August 17, at 1 p.m. at the Barnes and Noble in Hazard Center, 7610 Hazard Center Way in Mission Valley. Free. For more information, call 220-0175.

Publishing Laws. Attorney and literary agent Brian Kellher visits Hickey's Place Books (7882 La Mesa Boulevard in La Mesa) on Saturday, August 17, at 7 p.m., to speak about publishing law. Free. Call 466-5947 for information.

That Old Jazz Music continues at the Town of Last summer concert series in the Chula Vista Center on Sunday, August 17, from 4 to 6 p.m., with a performance by Rime Tropical. The shopping center is located at 555 Broadway in Chula Vista, call 427-4700 for more information. Free.

"A Portrait in Brown." This poetry reading, by the African American Writers and Artists Inc. of San Diego, given tribute to Barbara Brown. The reading is scheduled for August 17, at

2 p.m., at the Porter-Troupe Gallery, 301 Spruce Street in Uptown. Admission is free. Call 291-9098 for more information.

Classic New Orleans-Style Jazz is performed by the Big Easy Jazz Band as part of a Discovered celebration at the Quail Inn in Lakes San Marcos. Hear the foremost of swing, blues, and modern jazz from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, August 17, at 1025 La Bodega Drive. Admission is \$4. Call 942-3026 for more information.

Author, Poet, and Activist Sonia Sanchez is the featured speaker for an evening of poetry and jazz at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 17, at the Briar Court Hotel (1055 First Avenue at Broadway) in downtown. Musical guests 100% Groove are included in the \$8 admission fee. For more information, call 230-5395.

"Licence, or, Three Weeks of the Condonor" is the sketch comedy planned by Loose Lips Comedy at 11 p.m. on Saturday, August 17, at the First Theater (420 Third Avenue in downtown). Admission is \$6. This show repeats Saturday, August 17. Call 233-7505 or 564-3114 for more information.

"K" Company 2nd U.S. Cavalry will be camped in Heritage Park (at the corner of Juan and Harney Streets in Old Town) from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 17. Set mainly for the year 1876, during the three-pronged expedition against the Sioux at Little Bighorn, the group is outfitted with the exact type of period equipment and clothing that was used and worn during that time. Admission and parking are free. Call 694-3030 for additional information.

Author, Poet, and Activist Sonia Sanchez is the featured speaker for an evening of poetry and jazz at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 17, at the Briar Court Hotel (1055 First Avenue at Broadway) in downtown. Musical guests 100% Groove are included in the \$8 admission fee. For more information, call 230-5395.

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Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

lawn of the international cottages located near the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park. For more information about the programs, call 856-0672.

All Vehicles Welcome, Corvett Requested. The San Diego Stadium Auto Swap holds its monthly car swap in the San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium on Sunday, August 14, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This month the show highlights the American Corvettes, the Corvett. General admission is \$5; kids under 12 are free. For more information, call 444-9142.

FOR KIDS

Children's Museum/Museo de los Niños. The museum located at 200 West Island Avenue is downtown and open free to the public through Wednesday, August 21.

The interactive exhibit "I'll Be President" continues through the November elections. Visitors explore the role of president of the United States and watch a 20-minute documentary of children describing what they would do if they were President.

See the international photography exhibition "Microscopos: The Hidden Art of High Technology." Also enjoy the "Big Phone Family Phone Booth" and a variety of interactive, touch-screen games, including electronic finger and toe painting. Other exhibitions include "The Book Shop," "USA Stories, Ask Me If I Can," "Virtual Hoops," "Cora & Ranshous," the "Imagery Theater," and "Calculus Culture."

Craft-making classes include "Wood Marbles" on Friday, August 16, at 4 a.m.; "Paper Mache Bows" on Saturday, August 17, at 2 p.m.; and "President's Mosaic Chair" on Sunday, August 18, at 1 p.m. Expect a nominal fee for materials. Reserve a seat by calling 233-8752.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, and 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday. (Admission is usually \$5 for persons two and older, \$3 for senior citizens and children two and under are free.) Call 233-8752 for program and exhibition information.

Ship Slides Away. The Puppet Express presents Ship Slides Away on Thursday and Friday, August 13 and 14, at 10 and 11:30 a.m., and on Saturday and Sunday, August 17 and 18, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, August 17 and 18. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for children over two years old, free for those under.

Next week, the Puppetettes

THE LAST DON



Mario Puzo

time work. First as a New York City civil service public relations administrator and later as an editor and writer for *Male* magazine. During these years he kept writing — *The Dark Arena* (1953) and *The Fortune Pilgrim* (1964), both titles received critical acclaim but neither nudged anywhere near a bestseller list. Puzo once told a *Time* magazine interviewer that shortly after his first novel's publication, "I had a severe gallbladder attack. I had to take a cab to the Veterans Administration Hospital on 23rd Street, got out and fell into the gutter. There I was lying there thinking, here I am, a published writer and I am dying like a dog. That's what I decided I would be rich and famous." What made Puzo rich and famous was *The Godfather*, published in 1969 the year before Puzo turned 50. To date, the book has sold 21 million copies and inspired three films.

The Last Don. Random House, 1996. \$25.95, 496 pages.
Type: Fiction.
Place: Long Island, Las Vegas, Los Angeles.
Time: 1963-Present.

The Gerschwitz (the name taken from Puzo's mother's maiden name) is a mob family determined to go straight — in high finance, Vegas and Hollywood. The world's crooked — dirty cops, dirty-dealing movie producers — that the bad-guys who would turn-good don't have a chance. *The Last Don*, Puzo's seventh novel, reads as if he had fun writing it, if only for the chance to score with people who outwitted him in Vegas and Hollywood.

On the afternoon that we talked, Puzo was ensconced in Bungalow Seven at the Beverly Hills Hotel. We introduced ourselves. "I'm Mario," he said, adding, "I'm hard of hearing. So you'll have to speak up. Just yell at me!" William Targ, who retired in 1979 as editor in chief of *Furman* after 45 years as a book editor, edited 18 books by Art Buchwald, the English-language versions of Simone de Beauvoir's books, Nelson Aldrich's later books, and Patti Smith's first. But Targ was perhaps best known outside publishing for buying *The Godfather* for a \$5000 advance. I asked Mr. Puzo how he came to meet Targ.

America presents a special game series, Wednesday, August 21, the Grey Seal Puppeteer performs Balboa Puppets, Thursday, August 22, the Alchemilla Puppeteer gives Puppets, Music, and the Unspooled and Friday, August 23, Grand Canada shows us Under the Grapes. Shows times for the game series are 10 a.m. and noon. Admission is \$4 for kids, \$6 for adults. Catch the puppet shows in the Main Hatchback Puppet Theater, located near the American Center in Balboa Park. For more information, call 685-5045.

READING

"There was a guy, my memory's going, so I forgot his name, who I replaced at the magazine [*Male*] who was a fan of *The Fortune Pilgrim*, and he'd gone to work for Putnam. He insisted on taking me up to Putnam to meet Targ and make a pitch about selling him *The Godfather*. Targ was the editor in chief at that time, and he listened to my story, and then he gave me a contract to write the book."

Was Putnam surprised at how well the book did? "I think we were all surprised. When I was finished and Fawcett had 410 grand for paperback rights to it... I think it took everyone by surprise." Someone had told me that Puzo was a great fan of the late Nelson Aldrich. I asked Mr. Puzo if during the six years he edited and wrote for *Male* he ever bought any of the stories that Aldrich regularly turned out for men's magazines. "No, no," he said. "Our stories were very lowbrow, very blue collar, straight-out adventure stories. I wrote dozens and dozens and dozens of them. For me, it was a miracle. I got 400 bucks a story, fiction or nonfiction, and it would take me one or two days to write them, you know, so it was like enormous money back in those days. So I felt like I was rich. I had five kids. There's nothing like desperation to make you work. I would never have been able to write *The Godfather* had I not worked on that magazine. They made me very professional, they made me work."

He learned, too, he said, "to write for the reader. Those stories were written very expressly to please the reader... thing fancy. Straight as an arrow, they were."

I asked how, after *The Godfather*'s success, money initially changed his life. "Well, it wasn't until two years after *The Godfather* that I realized I could buy books. I was going to the library, for two years afterwards, when I had plenty of money. But the idea of paying money for a book was so foreign to me, because you could walk into a library and get a book for free. So it was like a revelation that I didn't have to go to the library, that I could walk into a bookstore and get any book I wanted when I wanted it. I didn't have to go to the library. That's the way it changed it."

One of *The Last Don*'s principal characters is a writer — Ernest Vail, who's been cheated by his Hollywood employers. I asked Mr. Puzo if he weren't using Vail as something of a mouthpiece to express his own dissatisfaction with movie makers. Mr. Puzo allowed as how Vail and he did have somewhat in common. "I had to sue twice in the movie business to get my money. But Vail, he was great fun to write. I didn't want to make him seem like a hero, you know, because it seemed like preaching, so I made him a pain in the ass. I didn't want to make him seem like one of those preachers from the *Craves of Wrath*."

This was the first time Mr. Puzo had ever sent on a book to write. What he made of it? "I guess it works, because the book is selling like crazy. I am actually having a good time, I'm enjoying myself. I am. I don't know whether I'd enjoy myself the second time, though."

— Judith Moss

AGAINST ELEGIES

for Catherine Arthur and Melvin Dixon

James has cancer. Catherine has cancer. Melvin has AIDS. Whom will I call, and get no answer? My old friends, my new friends who are old, or older, sicker, sicker, like pills with meals or after dinner. Arthritis scourges them. But irremediable night is farther away from them, they seem to hold it at bay better than the young, middle-aged whom something, or another something, kills before the chapter's finished, the play staged. The curtains stay down when the light fades.

Morose, unanswerable, the list of thirty- and forty-year-old suicides (friends' lovers, friends' daughters) insists in its lengthening something's wrong. The sixty-five-year-olds are splendid, ying with each other in work hours and wit. They bring their generosity along, setting the table, or not giving a shit. How well, or how eccentrically, they dress! Their anecdotes are to the point, or wide enough to make room for discrepancies. But their children are dying.

Natalie died by gas in Montepuez. In San Francisco, Ralph died of lung cancer, AIDS years later. Lew wrote to me, Lew, who, at forty-five, expected to be dead of drink, who, ten years on, wasn't, died, survived a gentle, bright, impatient younger man. (Chiche: he falls in love with younger men.) Natalie's father came, and Natalie, as if he never had been there, was gone. Michele closed up their house (where she was born). She shrouded every glass inside

— mirrors, photographs — with sheets, as Lews do, though she's not a Lew. James knows, he thinks, as much as he wants to. He hasn't seen a doctor since November. They made the diagnosis in July. Catherine is back in radiotherapy. Her schoolboy haircut, prematurely gray, now frames a face aging with other numbers: "stage two," "stage three" mean more than "fifty-one" and mean, precisely, nothing, which is why she stares at nothing: lawn chair, stone, bird, leaf, brusquely turns off the news.

I hope they will be sixty in ten years and know I used their names as flares in a polluted atmosphere, as private reasons where reason obtains no quarter. Children in the streets will die in grandfathers' good wars. Pregnant women with AIDS, schoolgirls, crack whores, die faster than men do, in more pain, as more likely, play acting, men men to die alone. And our statistics, on the day I meet the lump in my breast, you phone the doctor to see if your test results came?

The earth-black woman in the bed beside Lidia on the AIDS floor — deaf, and blind. I want to know if, no, how, she died. The husband, who'd stopped visiting, returned! He brought the little box, those nursery school smiles taped on the walls! She traced her name on Lidia's face when one of them needed something. She learned some Braille that week. Most of the time, she slept. Nobody knew the baby's HIV status. Steeping, awed, she wept. And I left her name behind.

And Lidia, where's she who got her act so clean of rum and Salem Filters and cocaine after her passing husband passed it on? As soon as she knew she phoned and told her mother she had AIDS but no, she wouldn't come back to San Juan.

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For every person there are a million gratuitous deaths from hunger, all-African mass murders, small wars, the old diseases and the new. Who dies well? The privilege of asking doesn't have to do with age. For most of us no question what our deaths, our lives, mean. At the end, Catherine will know what the knew, and James will, and Melvin, and I, in no one's stories, as we are.

By Marilyn Hacker from *Winter* Nurell, W.W. Norton, 1996; republished by permission of W.W. Norton. And our statistics, on the day I meet the lump in my breast, you phone the doctor to see if your test results came?

Marilyn Hacker, born in New York City in 1941, is author of seven volumes of poems and winner of the National Book Award as well as many other prizes. Hacker's poems have been praised for their technical virtuosity, their forthright feminist, political activity, and unabashed eroticism. Hacker lives in New York City.

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runner to our own cursive script — began to dom-



William Shakespeare

Anti-Stradfordians also jump on the "careless" quality of Shakespeare's penmanship. They overlook the obvious: Shakespeare died April 23, 1616. He signed the last document in his life with his

Okay. But did *that* hand write *those* plays? It did. I have a star witness to prove it. I won't even

Jonson loved to poke fun at his friend. Shakespeare purchased a coat of arms on October 20, 1596, making his family members of the English nobility.

Francis Bacon, Christopher Marlowe, or Edward De Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford — the usual

"we're just savage shotheads in the

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"He was the ambassador of the guitar," says East County guitarist D.R. Auten. He speaks of Marcel Dadi, who was aboard TWA Flight 800 July 17th. The internationally acclaimed guitarist had

get there. And he said, 'You get on a plane and fly over.' Auten had just restarted his career after a decade-long hiatus. "We connected really quickly," says Auten. "Dadi was going to take personal

Memorial shows for Dadi are in the planning stages, but Auten has a personal tribute planned. Dadi gave Auten a bottle of wine after one of last year's French shows. "Marcel said, 'When you drink it, think of me.' I haven't opened it yet. I'll open it at the right time," Auten adds. "Maybe with Chet."

Calendar MUSIC SCENE

blurt THE INSIDE TRACK

recently been honored at the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville and was returning to France. His remains were recovered July 28th and taken to Israel for an Orthodox burial. "Every year, [Dadi] would take five players from the U.S. to Europe," says Auten. In 1995 Auten was one of the chosen. He'd been spotted by Dadi the year before at a music convention where he was playing in the Taylor Guitars booth. (Auten is an employee of the El Cajon guitar maker.)

"He walked up to me and said, 'Would you like to play in France?'" says Auten. "I had no idea who he was, so I said, 'I don't know who I'd

interest in my career. We became close friends." Dadi was also close to Chet Atkins (honored as best man at Dadi's wedding), who soon learned of Auten's playing. The French finger-style player became a Taylor endorser last year, spreading word through Europe of the acoustics regarded by trade magazines as the best in the world. Auten is continuing work on the fifth of his eight-album project, all recorded in the past year. Two Auten-penned tracks are on the *Guitar Firefly* compilation currently in the top 20 on *Billboard's* New Age chart.

"JENNY" was the popular cry recently at the Horton Plaza Sam Goody record store. For two hours, Jenny McCarthy, hostess of MTV's *Single* Out—the '90s *Dating Game*—was there signing her name on *Single* Out videos and *Surfin' Safari* CDs. The video and McCarthy's compilation disc of familiar surf tunes conveniently retailed at Sam Goody for \$12.99 each.

Ms. McCarthy wore a low-cut halter top and had her hair done up in a beehive. She sat at a folding table, signed autographs, smiled for photos, and kept the line moving—quickly, compared to her wild-girl TV persona (she did nothing to indicate her glory of being *Playboy's* 1994 Playmate of the Year). Several hundred people (about 80 percent males) formed a line that snaked out to Fourth Avenue. After having their moment with McCarthy, approximately 75 people

gathered behind the security ropes to gawk. Here's what one said:

(teen-aged boy): Jenny, I want to get with you.

(man, mid-20s): That line ain't worth her. I'm gonna go eat.

(man, early 20s): Look, she's signing his cat. Man, I'm going to go out and break my leg and come back. His friend, also 20s: I got something else I'd like her to sign.

JENNY: (young boy in Chargers T-shirt): She sure is pretty, though, Mom. (his mother, late 30s, sighing): Yeah.

(male teen): Make sure you waste a roll. (his buddy, with camera): I did, I did. (first teen): Get more. (second): I'll get another roll at Long's [Drugs].

(blonde ponytailed store employee): I don't want to be an ass, but we got to keep people away from this area. (male teen): Why?

(employee): 'Cause this is the way they're going to bring her out. (male teen 2): She's hailing! (employee): Soon. (male teen 3): That's not good. We just got here. (male employee, 40s, to a

teen-aged boy): I told you before. You got to buy a CD or a video to get an autograph.

—P.D.

Corporate rock may suck, however... "Our firm has some exclusive contracts with some Fortune 500 companies that have asked us to pick out [local-music] talent," says Bill Berman, a law clerk from William Turley and Associates, says his firm has been dabbling in entertainment law for the last two years.

"Our law firm was just able to secure a large contract with U.S. Tobacco, which has 'Skool Music' under them," says Berman. "Skool Music has contracted with us to put Bullet Proof Buddha out on a college-university tour of the Western United States."

Berman says the band leaves San Diego October 4 for a 21-date tour of states, including California, Oregon,

the band in Kearny Mesa's Signature Studios this month to record an EP.

"Skool has traditionally been sponsoring the middle-America, central-America country and western [music]," says Berman, noting that last year Skool put the Charlie Daniels Band on the road. "Skool is now leaning toward targeting the college-alternative scene."

"You're going to see a lot of projects coming out of San Diego and our office."

"They have no responsibilities [after the tour is done]," says Berman. He says the band has the option to walk with the "several thousand dollars" they'll earn over 30 days, but that's not part of the master plan. "Our next level is to take it and turn it into a major label."



BULLET PROOF BUDDHA

Washington, Idaho, Colorado, Nevada, and Arizona. Bullet Proof Buddha will have a van, a sound man, a hotel every night, and "everything from our food to our laundry to equipment upgrades," says bassist Kenny Hood. The deal also landed

Bullet Proof Buddha (formed about nine months ago) is not bothered by the notion of cutting lawyers in on possible future record sales.

"It's pretty much new for this band," says guitarist Gabe Caceres. "But we've all been jamming for 10 to 12 years in other bands, so we're really not afraid of anything. Before we signed anything, everybody had a friend who

music."

"Our ultimate goal," says Caceres, "is to get a record deal so we'll have enough money to do a full-length CD. We're broke."

—R.M.

Have the Rughubans gone punk? "The trio's the way to go now," says Rughburn Steve Poltz. He and drummer Jeff "Stinky" Aalech didn't have much choice but



JOHN CASTRO, JEFF AALECH, STEVE POLTZ

was a lawyer and [got a] second opinion on the [contract]."

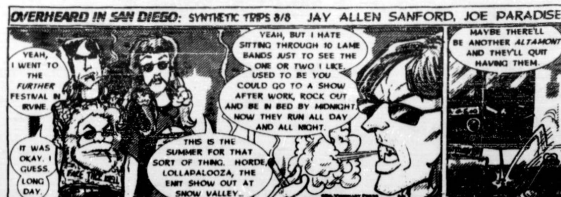
Will band members chew tobacco or do anything else they'd rather not do as part of this deal?

"They're not requiring us to endorse their product by any means," says vocalist Chad Critch. "They're not asking us during intermission to take a wad of Skool and hand it out to people. Basically, what they're doing is providing the means for us to go out and play our

to find a new direction since bassist Gregory Page left in February and lead guitarist Rod Driscoll quit two months ago. Nowadays Poltz plays electric and acoustic guitar, along with lead vocals.

"The first couple shows were really hard," says Poltz. "I'd never even really played electric much." Toward filling the vacancies created by Page and Driscoll, the band auditioned eight musicians before taking in "bayer John Castro."

(from the land of casinos).



says Poltz. "I was the first one they tried out," says Castro, who played guitar for Vegas-based bands he describes as "heavy rock/post punk."

Sampson's Army and a Lesser God. True to his roots, Castro introduced himself to fans at the Rughubans' sold-out August 1 Reddy Up show by diving into the crowd.

"I moved out here in November, and a friend of mine—Devon in Creedle—knew the Rughubans," says Castro. "He called up, and I said, 'Who the fuck are the Rughubans?' He said, 'This goofy band, so we practiced. We just clicked and it worked. I went on the road with three complete strangers, and now we're best friends.'"

The Rughubans have four

more albums to go to fulfill their contract with Priority Records. Poltz says they plan on heading into the studio—a house in Mendocino—in October, where they expect to spend about three weeks recording their second.

Poltz says he's considering producer Michael Bloom for the job. Bloom produced the *Third Eye* album for Led Zeppelin, besides having worked with Suicidal Tendencies and Madonna (he produced *Like a Prayer*). A title for the disc hasn't yet been decided, but the band has a stockpile to choose from. "We just recorded 50 songs in demos," says Poltz. "It's a different band now. We don't have a lot of long guitar solos. It's more concise."

"It's a power trio," says Castro. "It's a complete rhythm-oriented band. Steve's songs stand on their own, whereas before the lead guitar could drown out the lyrics."

—K.C.

"At a buck thirty-nine, you're a 34-ounce bottle," you're not going to find a better beer," says Hamfild fan Maria Vasquez about Trader Joe's Australian Stout. As the annual San Diego Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade made its way down University Avenue in Hillcrest recently, Hamfilds San Pedro (vocals), Stephanie Johnson (guitar), and Mark Schlosser (drummer), entertained shoppers at the grand opening of Trader Joe's in the

Uptown shopping center. Hamfild, known for their lyrics that touch on local issues such as gang violence and the rigidity of the educational system, was fired up to spread their philosophy. A crowd of fans from Hamfild's gigs at Tuba Man and McDuff's waited in the parking lot, taking swigs from brown-bagged bottles and eating sesame cracker samples. Others in attendance included checkers and grocery baggers on break from Ralphs.

"I wish we could get bands to play at our store," one of them said. "Ralphs is a bigger name. I'm sure we could draw Rocker from the Crypt or Rust to play on our bill." After dealing with unruly sound equipment, Hamfild strummed into

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blurt
continued

"Baja Concrete," a song penned by Pediac, about the plight of the immigrant laborer.

Curious shoppers pulled their carts up to listen. Parade spectators, including a pair of drag queens in black wigs and torn stockings, were lured over by Pediac's haunting French horn on the David Byrne composition "Thirty Old Town." One queen said to the other, "I find this haunting thing a refreshing break from that tired old parade!" Shoppers stopping in for a jar of pasta sauce heard Johnson rip through "22 Ashwood and Mapleaves." "It's a song about the trolley ride from Lakeside to National City," said Pediac.

"Sounds dreadful!" shouted the tallest of the drag duo, who stared for the duration of the show. The band dedicated a cover of Jonathan Richman's "Corner Store" to Trader Joe's everywhere. A homeless man who had been among the spectators joined the band on harmonica for a final open jam session. "I think it was one of their best shows ever," said Vasquez, burping loudly. "Yowza!" —P.S.

Contributors: Kristen Collier, Philip Dandy, Robert Mizuchi, Pat Sherman

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The Music Man behind Local Jingles

Billy Thompson has been around San Diego for more than a decade. Of this 45-year-old musician, it's hard to say he's been a part of the fingers, with Joey Harris (of the Beat Farmers) and Paul Karamaki (of Comanche Moon), before moving on to start the Mighty Penguins in 1988. The band included drummer Paul Kimbarow, Bruce Donnelly on keyboards, and bassist Kevin Hennessy. Personnel occasionally changed, but the Penguins were a staple of blue venues in town for years. They released the *Cout of Many Colors* in 1992. The recording contained originals and covered creatively about and challenging rock, pop, and blues pieces like Paul Butterfield's "The Boogie Woogie."

few songs," says Thompson. "He really liked our rhythm section. Then he just sat back down in the corner and smoked his pipe while he listened."

Thompson is seated at the bar at Johnny Luke's at Fourth and G in the Gaslamp. It is a Monday night. Tourists are eating dinner.

Thompson will get onstage in an hour or so with Kimbrow, saxophonist Bob Carr, and Dave Curtis, while he is "jamming about playing with keyboard James Rudy" (original player on Bobby Blue Bland's *Further On Up the Road*). Thompson spots a man walking on Fourth. "Hey, that's Rudy's brother?" He explains that Rudy's brother is a drummer who "lives just over here," he indicates the corner. "He's a real nice guy," he adds, shaking his head, and sipping coffee.

The Penguins appeared sporadically in San Diego after the release, seldom advertised, and (in recent years) they seemed to have disappeared. Billy Thompson then began to gig under his own name at clubs and coffeehouses around town. Then for months he was hard to find. You would have to had look in L.A., at the House of Blues; or in Montana, where he was playing with Little Milton; or B.B. King's Blues Club in Memphis, where he played with Albert King shortly before King's death.

"[Albert King] got up and sang with us for a

few songs," says Thompson. "He really liked our flymen action. Then he just sat back down in the corner and smoked his pipe while he listened."

Thompson is seated at the bar at Johnny Luke's at Fourth and G in the Gaslamp. It is a Monday night. Tourists are eating dinner.

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Thompson discusses his CD in progress. He is thinking of the title *Tangerine Sky*, a song on that album. "I've just done all the pre-production. I won't say it's totally crude, but I've got some-what-crude demos. I do it in my garage." Thompson's garage is in La Jolla. I listen to the demos right there at the bar with a Walkman on my head. I hear "Tangerine Sky" and "Downsizing." Crude is not the word that comes to mind as I invent the "Barstool Dance." "Tangerine Sky" is the best blues mood piece I've heard since

19-11

"Driftin' and Driftin'." It's actually a better song. And "Downsizing," which features Rob Whitlock from the jazz Crusaders, should be the official

You have probably heard Thompson's work. He is the music man behind local jingles for Lee White Toyota, Heller Ford Suzuki, and the demo for the Barona Casino theme you hear Kenny Rogers croaking. He also records national radio and television commercials. Between keeping busy with projects such as these and sharing the stage with blues legends everywhere, why does he bother playing joints like Johnny Love's and Blind Melon's?

"I need the money. That Barona Casino thing I made like \$125. Kenny Rogers comes in, reduces it, and makes, like, 500 grand or whatever," Thompson laughs.

"Well, Larry 'Arkansas' Davis, Bruce Willis... Bruce Willis!"

"Yeah, at his club in Ketchum, Idaho. He's a nice guy, a pretty good player. He plays standard blues numbers, but changes the lyrics and stuff. That's all right," Thompson shrugs.

If Thompson became nationally popular and

denly and could live anywhere, would he remain in San Diego?

"Yeah, I love where I live, but as far as it being any kind of music mecca, I don't know that it's that. You've got a lot of [musicians] meandering down from L.A. who are sick of the scene up there. And you've got a lot of people on the periphery [of San Diego] who are major players. San Diego could become a major scene, but it's a minute, because it's still not

"I think the problem with a lot of venues here in San Diego is that a lot of these places are like after-thoughts in terms of acoustics and ventilation," says Thompson. The Belly Up is a cool place, though I haven't

played there for a while. I just concentrate now on the production of the CD, and I worry less and less about these local gigs. I make two, three, four, maybe five times the money on the road that I make in town. So it's not even worth my time. If I did these clubs three, four times a week, I'd probably feel like making pipe bombs and going to the Olympics. But I'm not a quitter."

Thompson says this Monday-night gig differs from a normal gig in that "we have to do a few more covers, play at a lower volume. You have to play a little ball with the club owners. If I were doing Blind Melon's, I could go in there and

play all originals. Tonight we'll probably do Ray Charles's 'Unchain My Heart,' and then maybe 'Ooh We Baby' — I forgot who did that — and some easy stuff like 'She Caught the Katy.' A few things like that."

"We have to do a few more covers, play a little ball with the club owners."

When it is mentioned that Taj Mahal made that last song famous, Thompson says that he will be sharing a stage with Mahal at downtown's Street Scene next month. "I know

where Taj got his stuff," Thompson laughs. I nod and quote my childhood friend Franky "The Melon" Cantalupo who said, "You gotta know where to steal."

Thompson's first set in-

do a few more
y a little ball
ub owners."

cludes the above-mentioned songs. If "playing ball" with the club owner is something he doesn't enjoy doing, Thompson fools everyone. By the third song, crew-cutted kids are hop-

ping in their chairs, and their grandparents are bobbing their gray manes, smiling and chewing.

By the second set the diners are pretty much gone and Thompson cranks it up a little, announces an Isaac Hayes song, and someone at the bar shouts, "Play 'Shaft!' " Dave Curtis leans into the microphone and says, "You can't make me "

Thompson is more relaxed than he was years ago with the Penguins, say, at Mandolin Wind (on University Avenue), when he seemed to be working too hard, straining, frowning over the fretboard. It always sounded great — Thompson can be relied upon to play guitar passages that would never

occur to most players—but he always looked as if he didn't think so. This Monday night, Billy Thompson is smiling, making it look easy, his voice as soulful as ever, still gritty at times, but not always so desperate. He has found and conveys the "fun" in the blues, a point some people miss, associating the blues with "bummers"—*Lawdy lawdy, woke up dis mawmin' my baby was gone...ain't got no money 'n my dawg dead*. Thompson jokingly refers to himself as "a musical soldier of misfortune." This is funny when you consider he lives in La Jolla, and you can sit back and say, "Well, how blue can he be?" ■

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Mixable, and Mike O'Connell mixing weekly. House, techno, and groove. Thursdays, 1011 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 497-4368.

555 Club: 110 San Antonio, Hwy 163

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Treads: 110 Redwood Sound and 110

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House, Monday, the Flame, 1700 Park Boulevard, Hillcrest, 295-4165.

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Mixable, and Mike O'Connell mixing weekly. House, techno, and groove. Thursdays, 1011 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 497-4368.

555 Club: 110 San Antonio, Hwy 163

Underground, hip-house, and house. Wednesdays, 555 Fourth Avenue, downtown.

Treads: 110 Redwood Sound and 110

Reggae dance hall and African. Saturdays, Ray's Martini, 3641 Madison Avenue, North Heights, 244-4442.

G-Fence: 110 Mark F. Quirk, Hwy 163

House, Monday, the Flame, 1700 Park Boulevard, Hillcrest, 295-4165.

Organic: 110 Vista and 110 North

House, techno, and hip-hop. New York style. Fridays and Saturdays, 1901 Center Street, Kearney Mesa, 371-7881.

Entropy: 110 New Pages, 110 South

Pop, rock, and funk. Tuesdays, 110 South, San Diego, 444-4444.

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By Judy Herskoff

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FRIDAY Sept 6, 1996 Street Scene '96

CHAKA KHAN
"REGGAE MADNESS"
STARRING MAXI PRIEST AND SHAGGY

MORRIS DAY & THE TIME
ZAPP featuring ROGER TAJ MAHAL BAND
MARCIA BALL

ROOMFUL OF BLUES
THE BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA featuring CLARENCE FOUNTAIN

JAZZ PASSENGERS with DEBORAH HARRY

FLORA PURIN & AIRTO featuring JOSE NETO

ANGELIQUE KIDJO

W 1 IS featuring HAROLD BROWN, HOWARD SCOTT & B.B. DICKERSON

C.J. CHENIER & THE RED HOT LOUISIANA BAND - GOLDFISH

SUGAR BLUE

BATEKE BATEKE

GUITAR SHORTY

B SHARP QUARTET

LOS STRAITJACKETS

NOVAMENCO

PHAZZ - ALPHABET SOUP

BANG!!! featuring DAVE WAKELING OF GENERAL PUBLIC and THE ENGLISH BEAT

BILLY THOMPSON OF THE MIGHTY PENGUINS

BRAZILIAN CARNAVAL featuring SOL E MAR & RENNI FLORES plus JOSIAS DOS SANTOS & SAMBRASIL LULA & AFRO BRAZIL AND SUPERSONIC SAMBA SCHOOL

ERES OF PASSAGE

BOMANI

DRUM & DANCE ENSEMBLE

WITH THE TALL SPIRITS

ERIC REED QUARTET

COMMON SENSE

BILL HAGEE BLUES BAND

TAUNBU INTERNATIONAL ENSEMBLE

RICARDO LENOY & MAKINA LOCA

JIMMY THACKERY & THE DRIVERS

NOVAMENCO - WHAT IT IS

THE BODEANS
BRIAN SETZER ORCHESTRA featuring BRIAN SETZER & HIS 17 PIECE ROCKIN' BIG BAND

TEXAS TORNADOS

PATO BANTON & THE REGGAE REVOLUTION

THE GAP BAND

BEAUSELEIL avec MICHAEL DOUCET

ALLIGATOR RECORDS 25th ANNIVERSARY featuring LUTHER ALLISON, CHARLIE NUSSELLWHITE, C.J. CHENIER

THE RED HOT LOUISIANA BAND and LITTLE CHARLIE & THE NIGHTCATS

CONFUNKSHUN

THE IGUANAS

JAZZ PASSENGERS with DEBORAH HARRY

G.J./BROTHERS JOHNSON

PAUL CEBAR & THE MILWAUKEEANS

CHUBBY CARRIER & HIS BAYOU SWAMP BAND

ALEJANDRO ESCOBEDO

ZULU SPEAR

GENO DELAFOSE

ERIC REED QUARTET

COMMON SENSE

BILL HAGEE BLUES BAND

TAUNBU INTERNATIONAL ENSEMBLE

RICARDO LENOY & MAKINA LOCA

JIMMY THACKERY & THE DRIVERS

NOVAMENCO - WHAT IT IS



Food & Music Festival
in the Gaslamp Quarter
September 6, 7 & 8

11 stages over 20 blocks, featuring Funk, Reggae, Ska, Blues, Rock, Jazz, Zydeco, Gospel and much more

B SIDE PLAYERS - BUGS HENDERSON

BRAZILIAN CARNAVAL featuring BRAZIL TROPICAL with LUIZA MARQUES, SAMBALA SAMBA BAND, MEJA NOITE and THE MIDNIGHT DRUMS & SUPERSONIC SAMBA SCHOOL

ERES OF PASSAGE BOMANI DRUM & DANCE ENSEMBLE with THE TALL SPIRITS

FRIDAY, SEPT 6 5pm - Midnight (121 & UP)

SATURDAY, SEPT 7 4pm - Midnight (121 & UP)

SUNDAY, SEPT 8 1pm - 7pm (All Ages)

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

FRIDAY: \$22 ADVANCE
SATURDAY: \$25 DAY OF SHOW
\$40 FRIDAY & SATURDAY PACKAGE

SUNDAY: \$15 ADVANCE
ONLY: \$18 DAY OF SHOW
12 & UNDER - FREE

All children under 12 must be accompanied by a paying adult

GET ADVANCE TICKETS & 2 DAY PACKAGES AT THE STREET SCENE BOX OFFICE UNTIL SEPT 5, 363 5TH AVE, STE 200 CORNER OF 5TH & J ST. IN THE GASLAMP QUARTER

SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE ARTISTS: BUY FROM TICKETMASTER & STREET SCENE OUTLETS ONLY!

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NO RE-ENTRY

STREET SCENE INFORMATION
619/268-9025

SPECIAL! SUNDAY Sept 8 All Ages

presented by The San Diego Union Tribune

QUEEN IDA & HER ZYDECO BAND
BUCK O NINE
SPACEHOG
SELECTOR

The Musicians formerly known as THE SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

THE REVEREND HORTON HEAT
BLIND PIG RECORDS
GUITAR SLINGER
COCO MONTA
JIMMY THACKERY & THE DRIVERS
AND TOMMY CASTRO

DELTA BLUES featuring ROBERT JR.

LOCKWOOD DUO, ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD HART, & COREY HARRIS

CHUBBY CARRIER & HIS BAYOU SWAMP BAND

RICARDO LENOY & MAKINA LOCA

GENO DELAFOSE

SOUND OF ABUNDANCE

GOLDFISH

OMEGA PSI PHI

SOL E MAR

HARARE

BARAKA

SARIRI

BURNING BRIDGES & THE TALL SPIRITS

PARANUE CAPOEIRA with VELY BAHIA

FERN STREET CIRCUS

SPINNING WHEEL PUPPETS

THE STARLIGHTS

THE BONANI DRUMMERS & THE TALL SPIRITS

LINDA VISTA SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH INSPIRATIONAL CHOIR

SPONSORS

The San Diego Union-Tribune.

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CO AIR WALK

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100.1

100.7

101.1

101.5

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HOT FRI, SAT & SUN DESTINATION Extreme

ESPN'S DESTINATION EXTREME ROLLS INTO STREET SCENE

ESPN'S DESTINATION EXTREME - ESPN's newest extreme sports venture - will bring the world's premier athletes from today's cutting edge sports to Street Scene for three days of awesome athletics.

The sports featured at ESPN's Destination Extreme are:

AGGRESSIVE INLINE SKATING Halfpipe/Street Course

SKATEBOARDING Halfpipe/Street Course

BICYCLE FREESTYLE Halfpipe/Street Course/Flatland

PROCS SCHEDULED TO COMPETE: INCLUDE ARLO EISENBERG, TONY HAWK AND MATT HOFFMAN.

STREET SCENE DEBUT! Sunday will be fun, fun, fun for children attending their first "Scene" with mom and dad.

The Union-Tribune International KIDS STAGE Presents:

Baraka - Multi-ethnic drum and dance ensemble. Harare - South African music and dance group. Sarin - Latin American traditional folk musicians, and Fern Street Circus.

Sunday Kids' Quarter

LOADS OF FUN WORKSHOPS
TWO BIG AFTERNOON PARADES

TICKET ORDER FORM

Make check payable to Street Scene 363 5th Ave., Ste 200, San Diego, CA 92101. Include self-addressed stamped envelope. Orders postmarked after Sept. 1st will be held at WILL CALL.

	# TICKETS	COST	TOTAL
FRIDAY Sept. 6 (121 & UP)		\$22	\$
SATURDAY Sept. 7 (121 & UP)		\$22	\$
FRI. & SAT. PKG. Sept. 6 & 7 (21 & UP)		\$40	\$
SUNDAY Sept. 8 (ALL AGES) 12 yrs & Under FREE		\$15	\$
All children under 12 must be accompanied by a paying adult			
NAME	TOTAL \$		
ADDRESS			
CITY/STATE/ZIP			
PHONE DAY	EVE		
VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MC <input type="checkbox"/> AM EX <input type="checkbox"/> DISCOVER <input type="checkbox"/> EXP <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
SIGNATURE			

Calendar

MUSIC SCENE

Mano Live Restaurant, 11655 Suite C, Torrance Blvd., Rancho Berrardo, 107-9000. Friday, 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm. *Richard Martinez*, classical guitar.

Paper Book Cafe, 1676 Main Street, Sonoma, 789-9194. Friday, 6 pm to 9 pm. *Marty Ward*, jazz.

Pizzeria Pub and Grill, 1001 West San Marcos Boulevard #105, San Marcos, 444-6782. Thursday, the *O'Brien Brothers*, Irish rock.

The Quail Inn Lakeside Lounge, 101 La Brea Drive, Lake San Marcos, 744-2483. Saturday, 8 pm to 9 pm. *the Big Easy Jazz Band*, (Thousand Oaks).

The Roosters, 735 Roosters Drive, Carlsbad, 931-1122. Friday, 8 pm to 10 pm. *Steve Nevada*, country.

Roasting Plant Coffee Co., 3870 Valley Center Drive (Carmel Valley Road exit), San Jose, 755-6777. Friday, 8:30 pm to 10:30 pm. *Fred Hernandez*, classical guitar. Saturday, 8:30 pm to 10:30 pm. *Tom Pinks*, jazz.

The Rockin' Reel Lounge, 244 South Harbor Drive, Oceanside, 734-2252. Friday and Saturday, 8:30 pm to 12:30 am. *Pete Wickard*, acoustic.

Rockin' Sports Bar and Grill, 2216 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, 757-1123. All performances are 8:30 pm to 11:30 pm. Friday, the *Mississippi Mudhoppers*, blues. Saturday, *Joe Blues*, soul.

Ruby Restaurant, 517 First Street, Encinitas, 436-3001. Friday, *Ray Hernandez*, jazz. Saturday, *Golden and 10 Lanes*, classical.

San Luis Rey Dancers, 11474 Golf Club Drive, Rancho, 738-3762. Thursday, 8:30 pm, and Saturday, 7:30 pm. *Paul Smith and the Gully Gully Big Band*. Friday, 6:30 pm. *Red Lane Blues*. Sunday, 7:30 pm. *John Brown*, swing. Monday, 7:30 pm. *Red Lane Blues*.

The San Marcos Mission Inn, 902 East Mission Road, San Marcos, 471-4779. Friday and Saturday, 9 pm. *Night Hawk*, rock and roll.

The Smoother Cafe, 3878 Carlsbad Boulevard, Carlsbad, 739-3170. Thursday, 8 pm to midnight. *Jimenez, Rojas*. Friday and Saturday, 9 pm to 1 am. *the Moss*, rock and roll. Sunday, 8 pm to 10 pm. *the King Pin Blues*. Monday, *Peter Sings*. Wednesday, 8 pm to midnight. *the Flat Out Lanes*, rock and roll.

Seaside, 3790 Via de la Valle, Del Mar, 239-9944. Wednesday through Saturday, *John Seaside*, contemporary.

Shawley's, 401 First Street, Encinitas, 436-7387. Friday, 5 pm to 8 pm. *Todd McFarlane*, rock and roll. 9 pm. *the Red Motor Blues Band*. Saturday, the *Hammerhead Band*, rock and roll.

SoCal Yacht Club, 123 West Plaza Street (Lomas Santa Fe and Highway 101), San Diego, 755-9414. Thursday, Friday, and Monday, *Kevin Burns*, rock and roll. Saturday, *Max Burns*, rock and roll. Wednesday, 10 pm, rock and roll.

Tadpole Cantina, 211 North Coast Highway, Oceanside, 433-4866. Friday, 8 pm. *Scallions of Aztec*. *Dominator*, *Gil*, and *Myers*. Saturday, 8 pm. *Helen and the Hotties*, the *Concheros*, the *Barbers*, and *Red Hot*.

The Surfside Bar and Grill, 1014 West Vacation Road, Mission Bay (in the San Diego Fitness Center), 444-6782. Thursday, 7 pm to 11 pm. *Chet Stern*, blues. Friday, 8 pm to midnight. *Donny*, rock and roll. Saturday, 1 pm to 5 pm. *the Banana Republics*, reggae. 8 pm to midnight. *Private Dancers*, rock and roll. Sunday, 1 pm to 5 pm. *the Banana Republics*, reggae. 8 pm to 11 pm. *Peter Fingers*, blues. Wednesday, 7 pm to 11 pm. *the Hot Heads*, rock and roll.

Blind Melons, 710 Canyon Avenue, Pacific Beach, 481-3444. Thursday, *Rockin' acoustic*, rock and roll. Friday, the *Wine Monkey Orchestra*.

Beaches

The Prospect Street (corner of Fay and Prospect), La Jolla, 434-6186. Thursday and Saturday, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. *John Lee*, jazz, *Cherish and Blues*, and *suba*. Friday and Saturday, 9:30 pm to 1 am. *Arane and Company*, Latin and Brazilian jazz.



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Free Live Music.

\$2.00 Pints of Karl Strauss Beers & Premium Wells

Aug. 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. *Donny*, rock and roll. *Cherish and Blues*, and *suba*. *Arane and Company*, Latin and Brazilian jazz.

CRAMER'S

32575 RANCHO CALIFORNIA ROAD, TEMECULA, CALIFORNIA

Box Office: (909) 699-3021

Gourmet Supper Packages and General Admission Seats on 52 seats.

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RIPPINGTONS

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Sunday, September 8, 4 p.m.

DAVID BENOIT

Sunday, September 15, 4 p.m.

PETER WHITE

RICK BRAUN

Sunday, September 22, 4 p.m.

SPECIAL GUEST

Sunday, September 29, 4 p.m.

KEIKO MATSUI

SLIM MAN

Sunday, October 6, 4 p.m.

DAVE KOZ

Saturday, October 19, 7 p.m.

Sunday, October 20, 4 p.m.

THORNTON WINERY

32575 RANCHO CALIFORNIA ROAD, TEMECULA, CALIFORNIA

Box Office: (909) 699-3021

Gourmet Supper Packages and General Admission Seats on 52 seats.

Buffalo Joe's

SATURDAY AUGUST 17

New Orleans-style parading, *Joey*, and *Malone*.

Thursdays

Buffalo Back High

Drifts, Shoppers, Beef Ribs & Buffalo Wings

House \$5 Domestic Wines

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

Hot Chicken Stew

Lighten up, some blues

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

Whitney Connell & the Tone Kings

12-14 pm. \$5 Domestic Beers. \$10-12 pm. \$10-12 pm. \$10-12 pm.

MONDAY, AUGUST 20

BLUE ROCKIT

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21

Groove Night - **Dodecaphonic**

12-14 pm. \$5 Domestic Beers. \$10-12 pm. \$10-12 pm.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22

Joyful Boiz

12-14 pm. \$5 Domestic Beers. \$10-12 pm. \$10-12 pm.

UPCOMING: AUGUST 30

Wise Monkey Orchestra

12-14 pm. \$5 Domestic Beers. \$10-12 pm. \$10-12 pm.

DINING • DANCING

Live Night Menu • 15 seats on Deck • Happy Hour Monday-Friday 4-7 pm

600 FIFTH AVENUE • GASLAMP • 236-1616

Sunday, August 18

QUIET STORM

7 pm-11 pm

Hosted by Gene Harris, KFM

Monday & Tuesday August 19 & 20

QUIET STORM

8:30 pm-12 midnight

Monday Happy Hour

Roast Beef Sandwiches \$2.25

16-oz. Pete's Wicked Summer Brew

Tuesday Happy Hour

Shrimp & Wontons 75¢

12-14 pm. \$5 Domestic Beers. \$10-12 pm. \$10-12 pm.

Wednesday Happy Hour

Spicy Chicken Wings \$2.25

16-oz. Samuel Adams

Thursday Happy Hour

Nacho Bar with all the fixin's \$2.25

16-oz. Warner Oregon Hefeweizen

Friday Happy Hour

Spicy Chicken Wings \$2.25

16-oz. Karl Strauss Amber Lager

Saturday Happy Hour

1/2 price Hors d'Oeuvres \$2.25

16-oz. Red Hook ESB

Entertainment Hotline 523-1010

2241 Shelter Island Dr. 224-3577

MIKE RORAH Thursday-Saturday 9 pm-close

Every Monday-Saturday 4:30 pm-7:30 pm

Giant Margarita (16 oz.) with Gold Shooter \$2.50

Fruit Margarita (16 oz.) with Gold Shooter \$2.75

WANTED

CHICKS & DUDES THAT HATE JÄGERMEISTER TO TRY

CALIFORNIA SURFERS

ON THE ROCKS

California Surfers Recipe

Jägermeister, Pineapple Juice & Coconut. Blend with Ice.

You won't believe it's Jägermeister. It tastes sooo good!

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Appearing at Brick By Brick August 24

dig

DEFENDERS OF THE UNIVERSE 12.99 CD CASSETTE 7.99

FREE Dig T-shirt with purchase. While supplies last

DEFENDERS OF THE UNIVERSE featuring "Whose Side You On?"

Radioactive Online: <http://radioactive.net>

As Heard on 9IX

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TOWER

RECORDS • VIDEO • BOOKS

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SHOP BY PHONE

San Diego Reader August 15, 1996

TAXXI

Thursday, August 15 boogie knights presents
KNIGHT FEVER

Friday, August 16 the first ladies of funk at disco
MOTHER LUV

Saturday, August 17
GOLF FISH

Wednesday, August 21 Brazilian samba
night with
SAMBRASIL
Brazilian bikini and lingerie fashion show

Upcoming events
Thursday, August 22
boogie knights presents **TONIGHT FEVER**
Friday, August 23 **MOTHER LUV**
Saturday, August 24 **GREYBOY ALLSTARS**

1025 prospect street la jolla 551-5930

Down town is a mess! **CARNIVAL BAR** Join us at the beach!

TONIGHT!
FISH AND THE SEAWEEDS
"A Tribute to Jerry Garcia"

Friday, August 16

ROCKOLA NO COVER BEFORE 8 PM

Saturday, August 17
LUIZA MARQUES & BRAZIL TROPICAL

BRAZIL SUMMERFEST '96

FASHION SHOW BY FERNANDA GUEDES
CAPOEIRA SHOW WITH ELIAS FONSECA

Sunday, August 18
AMERICA'S FINEST CITY WEEK
HAPPY HOUR AND DANCE 6 to 10 pm

Aug. 21: SOUL PERSUADERS
Aug. 22: GREYBOY ALLSTARS
Aug. 24: COMMON SENSE

Aug. 30:
THE STEELY DAMNED
CATAMARAN
3999 MISSION BOULEVARD • 539-8650

Calendar MUSIC SCENE

Victor's Grill and Bar, 2702 North Mission Bay Drive, Mission Bay 400-3880. Friday, 8 pm to 11 pm, Len Baines and the Midnight Players, blues.

Winebar's Beach Club, 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 222-6822. Thursday, 5 pm to 8:30 pm, the Jamminers, and 9:30 pm, Catnip and Sal Power, reggae. Friday, 5 pm to 8:30 pm, Bessie, reggae, and 9:30 pm, Jerry Ramey, reggae. Saturday, 5 pm to 8:30 pm, Bessie, reggae, and 9:30 pm, Under Doud, reggae. Sunday, 5 pm to 8:30 pm, Bessie, reggae, and 9:30 pm, Under Doud, reggae. Tuesday, the City Boy Allstars, and jazz. Wednesday, 5 pm to 8:30 pm, the Last Exit Band, rock, and 9:30 pm, the B-side Players, jazz.

Zanibar Coffee Bar and Gallery, 978 Garner Avenue, Pacific Beach, 275-4762. Thursday, 8:30 pm, Bessie, reggae. Friday, 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm, the Last Exit Band, rock, and 9:30 pm, the B-side Players, jazz.

The Gathering Bar and Gallery, 8013 Goldhawk Street, San Diego, 260-0400. Friday, 8:30 pm to 10:30 pm, a Second Wave, contemporary rock. Saturday, 8:30 pm to 10:30 pm, and Sunday, 11 am, David Hoffman, acoustic.

Humphrey's Half Moon Inn, 2241 Ocean Island Drive, Shelter Island, 224-3577. The Casablanca Lounge. Thursday and Friday, 5 pm to 8:30 pm, Andy Thompson, and 9 pm to 11 pm, Mike Rank. Saturday, 5 pm to 8:30 pm, Andy Thompson, and 9 pm to 11 pm, Mike Rank. Sunday, 5 pm to 8:30 pm, Andy Thompson, and 9 pm to 11 pm, Mike Rank.

Blaze by Bink, 1100 Breaux Avenue, Bar Park, 275-1375. All bands perform on a rotating basis. Thursday, 11 A.M. the Pops and Bar Cat. Friday, 11 A.M. the Pops and Bar Cat. Saturday, 11 A.M. the Pops and Bar Cat. Sunday, 11 A.M. the Pops and Bar Cat.

Java de Paradiso, 7341 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 261-0417. Friday, 5 pm, Smiling Doves, and 8 pm, Wild Cat. Saturday, 5 pm to 8 pm, Kelly Wilson, acoustic, and 9 pm, Joe Brown, acoustic.

Jawhar Garden Cafe, 7062 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 261-0417. Sunday, 4 pm to 6 pm, Fred Bonifazi and George Simola, classical guitar.

Julius II, 6083 El Cajon Boulevard, corner of El Cajon and College, 228-5196. Saturday, 7 pm to 10 pm, Michael Hunter, acoustic.

Karl Street, 2625 Scenic Road, San Diego, 539-2779. Sunday, 5 pm to 8 pm, the 800 Martin Blues Band, blues.

Kelly's Old Town Pub, 2222 San Diego Avenue, Old Town, 534-6761. All performances begin at 9 pm. Friday, Whitey Carroll and the Four Kings, blues. Saturday, Dave Gump, OK, blues.

Kirklands, 3221 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 261-0417. Thursday, 8 pm, the 800 Martin Blues Band, blues. Friday, the 800 Martin Blues Band, blues. Saturday, the 800 Martin Blues Band, blues. Sunday, the 800 Martin Blues Band, blues.

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Friday, 8 pm to midnight, the Jaguars, rock and roll. Saturday, 8 pm to midnight, the Jaguars, rock and roll.

David's Place, 3766 10th Avenue, Hillcrest, 294-8800. All performances are 8 pm to 11 pm. Friday and Saturday, 8 pm, the 800 Martin Blues Band, blues. Sunday, 8 pm, the 800 Martin Blues Band, blues.

El Twilio, 8223 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 566-5882. Saturday, 8 pm to 11:30 pm, the 800 Martin Blues Band, blues.

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FREE HAPPY HOUR BUFFET
SUNDAY-FRIDAY • 4-7 PM
\$2.25 PINTS & PREMIUM WELLS

Microbrews
Largest Tequila Selection

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AUG 15 - BILL HARRIS & FRIENDS
AUG 16 - BEDBREAKERS
AUG 17 - BLUECASTERS
AUG 18 - GAYMA D.S. BLUES JAM

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Winston's
Live Reggae, Blues, Rock & Country
7 nights a week

1991 Best of Year
\$19.99
Thursday, August 15
Lomax
Catnip Sol Power
Friday, August 16
Jerry Ramey's Power Thud
Saturday, August 17
Bonello
Urban Dread
Sunday, August 18
Hot Chicken Stew
Monday, August 19
Electric Waste Band
Tuesday, August 20
Greyboy Allstars
Wednesday, August 21
Last Exit Band
Thursday, August 22
B-Side Players
Friday, August 23
Greyboy Allstars
Saturday, August 24
Last Exit Band
Sunday, August 25
B-Side Players

GO BAREFOOTIN'!

Wed. Aug. 31 THE HOT HEADS 7 pm
Fri. Aug. 23 BUILT OUT 8 pm
Sat. Aug. 24 GUMBO YA YA 8 pm
Coming Soon! MUSICFEST '96 Sunday, Sept. 1 2 bands 3 dance floors

This weekend is gonna be **HOT**

Friday, August 16
IMPACT 8 pm
Saturday, August 17
BANANA REPUBLICANS 1 pm
PRIVATE DOMAIN 6 pm
Sunday, August 18
BANANA REPUBLICANS 1 pm
POLYESTER EXPRESS 7 pm

BAREFOOT FREE PARKING
1404 W. Vacation Rd.
San Diego • 274-4630
SAN DIEGO PRINCESS

YOU'VE JUST ENTERED
The SALE ZONE

SAVE ON SONY BLANK TAPE!
WITH A SPECIAL MUSIC CASH OFFER

LIX 90 FOUR PACK
CASH OFFER
7.99

V-120 FOUR PACK
CASH OFFER
8.99

CD-R PRO 74 FIVE PACK
8.99

CD-R PRO 180 FIVE PACK
9.99

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LA JOLLA
8607 Villa La Jolla Drive • (619) 462-0566
COLLEGE AREA
2405 El Cajon Blvd. • (619) 287-1420
EL CAJON
858 Fletcher Parkway • (619) 579-0701

OPEN 8AM TO MIDNIGHT EVERYDAY! SALE ENDS 8/26/96

SPORTS ARENA
3601 Sports Arena Blvd. • (619) 224-3233
LA JOLLA
8607 Villa La Jolla Drive • (619) 462-0566
COLLEGE AREA
2405 El Cajon Blvd. • (619) 287-1420
EL CAJON
858 Fletcher Parkway • (619) 579-0701

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TOWER RECORDS • VIDEO • BOOKS

Samples

12.99 CD
CASSETTE 7.99

CUTPOST
Their Latest Album Features
"The Lost Children (A Slow Motion Crash)"
"Did You Ever Look So Nice"

With Special Guests

THE WHY STORE

Their Self-Titled Album Features
"LACK OF WATER"
"FATHER"

12.99 CD
CASSETTE 7.99

APPEARING AT SOLANA BEACH ON AUGUST 18TH.

TOWER RECORDS • VIDEO • BOOKS

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3601 Sports Arena Blvd. • (619) 224-3233
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8607 Villa La Jolla Drive • (619) 462-0566
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EL CAJON
858 Fletcher Parkway • (619) 579-0701

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AUG 1996

Calendar MUSIC SCENE

alternative rock. Thursday.
The Masters: King C. and Laid in
Pug. Saturday, the Grapes of Wrath.
Hemelick. Truck is automatic and
Jazz's Nasty. Sunday, Count Prophet.
Rene Nasty. The Little Women, and
the Experience. Monday, Shepherd and
Run for Your Fucking Life. Wednesday
and Thursday, the Experience. Friday, the
Experience. Saturday, the Experience.
and Sunday, the Experience.

The Waterfront. 2044 E. 10th
Avenue, downtown. 222-9606. All
performances begin at 9 p.m. Friday,
the Experience. Saturday, the Experience.
Sunday, the Experience.

The Wild Side Club. 427 Fourth
Avenue, downtown. 239-4600.
Thursday through Saturday, 9 p.m. to
midnight. The Experience. Sunday, 9 p.m.
to 1:30 p.m. The Experience.

The Worthington Lounge. 1 Market
Place, downtown (inside the Hart
Regency). 232-1234. Friday, 8:30 p.m.
to 12:30 a.m. Saturday, 9 p.m. to 12:30
a.m. Sunday, 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

The Wyndham Emerald Plaza. 400
West Broadway, downtown. 234-1777.
Friday, the Experience. Saturday, the
Experience. Sunday, the Experience.

The Yacht Club. San Diego Marriott
Hotel, 321 West Harbor Drive,
downtown. 234-1599. All
performances are 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Friday, the Experience. Saturday, the
Experience. Sunday, the Experience.

South Bay/Coronado
The Regal Bar. 720 Utah Lake Road,
Chula Vista. 421-0003. Thursday,
8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Friday, 8 p.m. to
12:30 a.m. Saturday, 8 p.m. to 12:30
a.m. Sunday, 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

The Boulder Shop. 516 Broadway,
Chula Vista. 421-0003. Wednesday
through Saturday, 9 p.m. to midnight.
Sunday, 9 p.m. to midnight.

Cafe Luminous. 1460 Highland Avenue,
National City. 474-2222. Friday and
Saturday, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday,
8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Monday, 8 p.m. to 1
a.m. Tuesday, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Cocky Corral. 1001 Orange
Avenue, Coronado. 435-4661.
Friday, 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Saturday,
8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Sunday, 8 p.m. to
12:30 a.m.

The Country Club. 1121 Third Street,
Chula Vista. 421-0003. Thursday,
8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Friday, 8 p.m. to
12:30 a.m. Saturday, 8 p.m. to 12:30
a.m. Sunday, 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Calendar MUSIC SCENE

Discotheque. 773 Third
Avenue, Chula Vista. 421-0003.
Thursday through Sunday, 8 p.m. to
12:30 a.m.

The Dunes Coffee House. 247
Third Avenue, Chula Vista. 421-0003.
Friday, 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Saturday,
8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Sunday, 8 p.m. to
12:30 a.m.

Hotel del Coronado. 1350 Orange
Avenue, Coronado. 435-4661. Ocean
Terrace Lounge. Thursday, 9 p.m. to
1:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m. to
1:30 a.m. Sunday, 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

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National City. 474-2222. Friday and
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12:30 a.m. Saturday, 8 p.m. to 12:30
a.m. Sunday, 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.



Amber, August 15, 1994

Friday, 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Saturday,
8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Sunday, 8 p.m. to
12:30 a.m.

East County
Bullwinkle. 1110 Westside Avenue,
San Marcos. 362-8411. Thursday,
8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Friday, 8 p.m. to
12:30 a.m. Saturday, 8 p.m. to 12:30
a.m. Sunday, 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Blue Haven. 618 E. 10th, Chula
Vista. 421-0003. Friday, 8 p.m. to 12:30
a.m. Saturday, 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
Sunday, 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill. 1107
Orange Avenue, Coronado. 435-4280.
Thursday, the Experience. Friday, the
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Sunday, the Experience.

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Orange Avenue, Coronado. 435-4280.
Thursday, the Experience. Friday, the
Experience. Saturday, the Experience.
Sunday, the Experience.

Friday, 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Saturday,
8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Sunday, 8 p.m. to
12:30 a.m.

Joe N. Andy's Hole in the Wall. 8144
La Mesa Boulevard, La Mesa. 594-8004.
Friday, 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Saturday,
8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Sunday, 8 p.m. to
12:30 a.m.

Magnum Maloney's. 5061
Magnolia Avenue, San Marcos. 449-8700.
Thursday through Sunday, 8 p.m. to 12:30
a.m.

Nature Inn. 1286 Robinson Drive,
La Mesa. 594-8004. Friday and
Saturday, 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Sunday,
8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

On the Line. 916 Camp Road,
Spring Valley. 466-8411. All
performances are 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Friday, the Experience. Saturday, the
Experience. Sunday, the Experience.

PT's Country Connection. 1013
Broadway, La Mesa. 441-7411. All
performances are 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Friday, the Experience. Saturday, the
Experience. Sunday, the Experience.

Pine Valley House. 2084 E. 10th,
Highway 90, Pine Valley. 474-8700.
Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. to 12:30
a.m. Sunday, 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Remedy Inn. 1433 15th,
Highway 90, La Mesa. 441-7411. All
performances are 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Friday, the Experience. Saturday, the
Experience. Sunday, the Experience.

San Diego Country Club. 11500
Highway 90, San Diego. 441-7411. All
performances are 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Friday, the Experience. Saturday, the
Experience. Sunday, the Experience.

The German American Club. 1157
South Main, San Diego. 441-7411. All
performances are 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Friday, the Experience. Saturday, the
Experience. Sunday, the Experience.

The Irish Pub. 1157 South Main,
San Diego. 441-7411. All
performances are 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Friday, the Experience. Saturday, the
Experience. Sunday, the Experience.

Valley Casino and Tuff Club. 106
Highway 90, La Mesa. 441-7411. All
performances are 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Friday, the Experience. Saturday, the
Experience. Sunday, the Experience.

William Road. 1157 South Main,
San Diego. 441-7411. All
performances are 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
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William Road. 1157 South Main,
San Diego. 441-7411. All
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An Apathetic Eye

The unyieldingness of the interpretation comes to seem like the Prison of Personality.

The comeback of Robert Altman continues to be over. How far back he may have come, or for that matter how far away he had ever gone, is open to debate. How long he was back, on the other hand, is open and shut. In a generous estimate, although the comeback always seemed more a triumph of publicity than of actual artistry, it lasted all of two movies. *The Player* and *Short Cuts*. And not even a closing parade of stark-naked fashion models could keep it going through *Ready to Wear*. In order, however, to verify that it now was well and truly over, we needed to see his new *Kansas City*, a light snooze through the subjects of race, crime, politics, and jazz in said city in the middle Thirties.

To summarize it in such terms is to make it sound more ambitious than it honestly is. The period recreation — the array of automobiles, clothes, storefronts, train depots, gas station, etc. — is all that anyone could temperately demand. But the enervated subjects are dangled very

loosely and precariously from the shakiest of plot hooks: the kidnapping at gunpoint of a local politician's wife by an impostor manicurist desperate for leverage with which to retrieve her larcenous boyfriend from the clutches of black gangsters. The boyfriend's commission of a crime in

blackface has caused his captors to ponder his suitable punishment — at some leisure. The lack of suspense could kill you.

The flashback construction puts up a thin illusion of complexity where none exists: the flashbacks fit into a very small time-frame, and they run out of information to impart long before the finish. The next dawn brings a new day of nothing but present tense.

There is a lot going on around town. It's Election Day, and the marathon jam session at the Hey Hey Club — an advertised "battle of jazz" — shows no signs of breaking up. Yet, even though it could be argued that the dueling saxophones of Lester Young and Coleman Hawkins (no less) provide

Calendar MOVIES



Kansas City

the "dramatic" highlight of the movie, these events never amount to much. They're just backdrop. Scenery. Window dressing.

And few of the members of Altman's customarily large cast amount to much either. Steve Buscemi, who seems these days to have a part in ev-

ery third movie, vouches for the hipness of the enterprise by his merest presence. The admirable Jane Adams and Brooke Smith, though they bring a certain credit to Altman for recruiting them in the first place, seldom seem, certainly would describe his recent screen career. In his current role he is

man repertory player of longest standing (*Countdown*, *That Cold Day in the Park*, *Brewster McCloud*). And it's nice to see Harry Belafonte so soon again after the nugatory *White Man's Burden*. His name here, seldom seen, certainly would describe his recent screen career. In his current role he is

to the contrary *Often Seen*, but underwritten — except for a nicely told racial joke — too profoundly and painfully true to merit a laugh.

The primary focus of the movie, in any case, is on the personal interplay — more discordant but less dramatic than the battle of the sexes, *Pies vs. Beans* — between the brittle, clipped, tightly wound, Harlow-worshipping kidnapper and her slurry, daffled, opium-nipping hostage, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Miranda Richardson, respectively, have their meager share of amusing moments, and Leigh in particular grows on you. She would need to. Completely en-

gaged in mannerism — securely strapped into her *Hudsoner* Proxy time machine — she is a sure fire irritant at the start. But the unyieldingness of the interpretation comes to seem at length like the Prison of Personality. The ruthless choices she makes as an actress effectively remove all choice from the character. The latter cannot be other than she is, or other than Leigh has decided she is. Any suggestion of sympathy she earns, however, she earns on her own. Altman's

laiback, lazy, laissez-faire camera technique is much more at one with the Richardson character. The eye of apathy. This curiously unengaged style — at odds also, incidentally, with the furious energy of *Thirties jazz*, *rod jazz*, *swing jazz* — works well if the end, making the brutal abruptness of the outcome seem all the more startling. That's a small paragon, though, for enduring a crucible of monotony.

Emma fills a need, if far from a void. As long as the movie market place caters to the adolescent of all ages, there will always be a premium on "alternatives." This one, the third Jane Austen adaptation to pop up within the space of a year (not counting the loose *Clueless*, which in any event falls just outside that space), is not, to compare apples to apples, a strong alternative to *Persuasion* and to *Sense and Sensibility*, especially the second of those. The parallels and overlaps between these three are sufficient to confer honorary fanfare even on non-readers and never-heard-of-hers. There is all the usual jockeying among all the usual com-

petitors in the matrimonial sweepstakes. You the viewer, thanks in part to the clarifying and simplifying effects of pictures, and the even clearer and simpler effects of actors, can always make out the proper pairings straightaway. And because it's Miss Austen (never married in life, for all her matchmaking on paper), you can be confident by now that it will all sort itself out accordingly.

In a word, it "delivers," in every bit as predictable a way as a Schwarzenegger action thriller. Or in a few other words, it meets but never exceeds expectations — with only the solitary exception of a shocking visitation of unprovoked cruelty on a harmless chatterbox by the otherwise high-minded heroine. For the amount of time spent first in feeling and then in analyzing the impropriety of this polite society no-no, this is a re-

markable scene (and remarkably well played by the piteously wounded Sophie Thompson, sister of Emma Thompson). And it is no less remarkable in the context of this particular movie than in the context of movies in general. Part of the trouble, everywhere else in the narrative, is that writer-director Douglas McGrath (collaborator with Woody Allen on the script of *Bullets over Broadway*, an ominous sign) seeks out the laugh with complete lack of patience and discretion. Reducing Jane Austen to a laugh-jerkier is a graver affront than any committed by her misguided characters.

Jeremy Northam, an unstuffy Mr. Knightley, and much more palatable than his Alan Rickman counterpart in *Sense and Sensibility*, seems to be the only male cast member who does not view his job as that

of making fun of his character. (McGrath manages to make fun of him without need of assistance, circling the camera around to reveal the stately man behind him as he utters the line, "I just want to stay here, where it's cozy.") To be sure, with the meddling and self-deluding Emma (Gwyneth Paltrow, she of two expressions, eyebrows up and eyebrows down), the mindlessly malleable Harriet (Toni Collette), the bullying and self-promoting Mrs. Elton (Juliet Stevenson, a bang-up performance, as far as it goes), et al., there is much to be made fun of. But the cumulative impression is of steady superficiality, uncommitment, uninvolvedness, separateness. It's easy for the modern man or woman to feel distant from, more precisely superior to, the punctilious social slave of the early 1800s, and McGrath eagerly takes the easy way.

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AUG 1996

San Diego Reader August 15, 1986 109

The Mandarin pork chops remain the best dessert in the city.

REVIEW
ELEANOR WIDMER

what concerned about the appetizers and the

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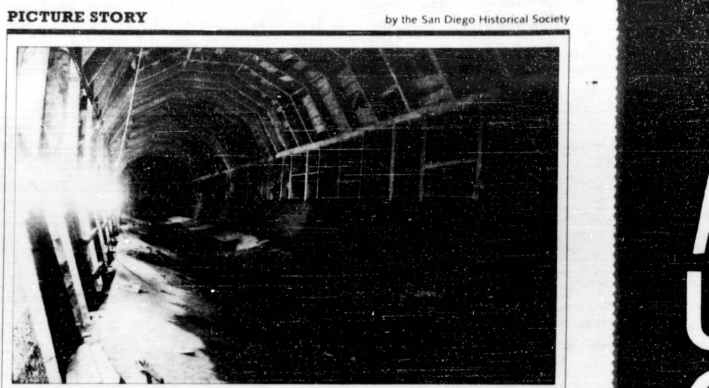
Transforming lives through the art of touch

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6507 PARK BLVD

San Diego, CA 92114

APPROVED BY THE AMTA AND AOTA



PICTURE STORY

by the San Diego Historical Society

Inside the El Capitan Dam, circa 1934. Chances are this shored-up passageway with a trickle of water running along its bed is the El Capitan "diversion tunnel"; it was designed to channel any running water around the site while initial excavation work was done on the actual dam. During the summer months, the El Capitan streambed was dry, allowing simultaneous work on both the diversion tunnel and the dam foundation.

From the San Diego Historical Society, Photograph Collection

IS SEX MORE IMPORTANT than you want it to be? For more information, call 444-4444.

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OVERWEIGHT? FREE CLASSES to help you lose weight. For more information, call 444-4444.

OVERWEIGHT? FREE CLASSES to help you lose weight. For more information, call 444-4444.

OVERWEIGHT? FREE CLASSES to help you lose weight. For more information, call 444-4444.

OVERWEIGHT? FREE CLASSES to help you lose weight. For more information, call 444-4444.

S.O.U.L. MATE WANTED: 5'10", double, brown hair, glasses, athletic, playful, fun, honest, caring, marriage-minded man, 38 to 45, living, looking for a woman, 35 to 45, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

REPRESENTATIVE: 24-year-old, charming, confident, energetic, ambitious, and outgoing, looking for a professional (21-30), call me at (619) 451-1000.

LOVE TALKING: Looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

PRETTY MEDICAL, ROMANTIC: Looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

BEAUTY AND BRAIN: Looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

Wanted: Gentleman: Looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

WEST COAST MOM: Looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

SEXY, ATTRACTIVE, ROMANTIC: Looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

Extremely Attractive: Looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

AWESOME A SINGLE AD: Looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

SMILE WHITE FEMALE: Looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

GOUGEON ASIAN PROFESSIONAL: Looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

Exuberant, Clever: Looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

DELIGHTFUL, GOOD-LOOKING: Looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

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HOW TO RESPOND TO PHONE MATCHES

1-900-844-6282
\$14/minute, \$1.99 first minute (18+ only)

OUTSIDE SAN DIEGO COUNTY:
Call 1-900-454-3370 \$1.99/minute (18+ only)

BLOCKED 960# ACCESS?
Use your credit card. Call 935-8900 M-F 8:30am-5pm

EXTREMELY ATTRACTIVE: 40, 5'10", double, brown hair, glasses, athletic, playful, fun, honest, caring, marriage-minded man, 38 to 45, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

Gal For All Seasons! Looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

PROFESSIONAL: 38, 5'10", double, brown hair, glasses, athletic, playful, fun, honest, caring, marriage-minded man, 38 to 45, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

Be Happy Don't Worry! Looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

EXOTIC BEAUTY: 40, 5'10", double, brown hair, glasses, athletic, playful, fun, honest, caring, marriage-minded man, 38 to 45, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

Sweet, Sexy, Sophisticated: Looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

Team Player Wanted: Looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

Let's Explore Life: Looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

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YOU'RE SINGLE. WE'RE FREE. WHY WAIT?

Introducing **Reader PHONE MATCHES**, a great place to meet San Diego singles.

You are provided with a free personal matching ad in the *Reader Classifieds*. You also receive a free "voice mailbox"—a phone service that allows you to record and receive messages from any touch-tone phone.

NEED A PLAYMATE: For my dog and me, looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

No Burle No Shamus: Looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

VERY ATTRACTIVE BLACK: Looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

Ask for What I Want! Looking for a man, 30 to 40, living, looking for a woman, 30 to 40, living, looking for a man, call me at (619) 451-1000.

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SINGLE? CHRISTIAN?

Interested in meeting other quality Christian singles? Describe a wife or husband here.

Equal Yoked

We assist singles in finding other quality Christian singles! Describe a wife or husband here.

Equal Yoked Christian Introductions

Since 1986, hundreds of Equal Yoked members have found their perfect match.

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Gay in spirit and in the spirit of the times. Join our community.

WIN A DINNER FOR TWO

San Diego Reader's Choice Award.

San Diego Reader's Choice Award

Call 276-2240

FREE AD DEADLINE: 7 am Saturday

Mail: Reader Phone Matches, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186. **Fax:** 233-7907

LATE AD DEADLINE: 6 pm Tuesday
(Must include \$20 service fee.)
Fax: 233-7907. **Phone:** 235-8200
Walk-in: 1703 India St. (at Date St.) downtown

Phone Matches' Voice Mailbox

Headlines	\$12 each line	FREE
First 25 words of printed ad		FREE
Additional words	\$1.20 each	
Late fee/walk-in fee (for ads received after free deadline)	\$20	
TOTAL		

NO cancellations. No refunds. Make check or money order payable to San Diego Reader. To order using Visa, MasterCard or Discover, please fill out the following:

Card number _____
Expiration date _____
Signature _____

Choose One: ☐ Woman seeking a man ☐ Man seeking a woman

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Use your credit card. Call 235-8200 M-F 8:30am-5pm.

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ROMANTIC, ATTRACTIVE, very young...
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ATTRACTIVE, 42, 6'00", smart...
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SERVICE

STRAIGHT FRONT TEETH
 without "braces"

Don't be embarrassed by braces. Your front teeth can be straightened in as few as 6 to 12 months with... **REMOVABLE ORTHODONTICS designed for adults**

► Social life not interrupted ► High comfort level ► Insurance accepted
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Smile designed by **Dr. Raymond Moga**
 Cosmetic and Family Dentistry
 3774 Cleveland Drive, San Diego
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LEANFAST
 A MEDICAL GROUP

Stuart R. Kramer, M.D.
 BOARD-CERTIFIED
 ENDOCRINOLOGIST

When overweight patients take Phentermine and Fenfluramine in combination, the medication increases metabolism, decrease appetite and lower the weight-set point. Any imbalance in these areas is the major reason for failing to lose weight and/or keep it off. Dr. Kramer is especially qualified to treat patients for medical weight loss. He has expertise in treating patients who have experienced heart disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes (including glucose intolerance), degenerative joint disease and other related athletic diseases.

LEANFAST
 A MEDICAL GROUP

Easygoing Teddy Bear

ACTIVE, ATTRACTIVE, 35, 5'10", brown hair, blue eyes, fit, energetic, outgoing, fun, loves to travel, enjoys sports, especially basketball and tennis. Looking for a great date. Call 333-1111.

ACTIVE, ATTRACTIVE, 35, 5'10", brown hair, blue eyes, fit, energetic, outgoing, fun, loves to travel, enjoys sports, especially basketball and tennis. Looking for a great date. Call 333-1111.

PROFESSIONAL DENTAL GROUP OF LA JOLLA
 Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

New Patient Offer \$39
 Includes: Exam, X-ray, Cleaning, Filling, Crown, Bridge, Implant, etc.

CROWNS \$299 (CAPS)
 (NO PRE-PAYMENT)
 OFFER EXPIRES 8/20/96

Christine Tracy G. Castro, D.M.D.
 9339 Genesee Ave., Suite 210 • 552-1244

PAMPER YOURSELF!
 INTRODUCTORY OFFER

\$59
 (5500 value)

Includes: Facial, Massage, Hair, Nails, etc.

CALL NOW 488-2261

PAMPER YOURSELF!
 INTRODUCTORY OFFER

\$59
 (5500 value)

Includes: Facial, Massage, Hair, Nails, etc.

CALL NOW 488-2261

PROFESSIONAL DENTAL GROUP OF LA JOLLA
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Easygoing Teddy Bear

ACTIVE, ATTRACTIVE, 35, 5'10", brown hair, blue eyes, fit, energetic, outgoing, fun, loves to travel, enjoys sports, especially basketball and tennis. Looking for a great date. Call 333-1111.

ACTIVE, ATTRACTIVE, 35, 5'10", brown hair, blue eyes, fit, energetic, outgoing, fun, loves to travel, enjoys sports, especially basketball and tennis. Looking for a great date. Call 333-1111.

Place your Reader roommate ad today and get responses tomorrow!

Call 235-2415
 day or night.

1. Pay with Visa, MasterCard, Discover, check or cash. The cost is \$16. No matter which payment option you choose, you must first call 235-2415 to place your ad.

2. Write your 25-word Roommate ad on the following worksheet and be ready to dictate it when requested. You will have one minute of recording time. Begin with the neighborhood, then describe the property and list the rent. After dictating 25 words for your printed ad, continue to further describe your available roommate situation. When you are finished recording, press 2.

3. To retrieve your messages call 235-2415. You may get responses on the Hotline before your ad is printed, so call frequently. Messages are erased after you hear them, so have pen and paper ready. Your mailbox will expire at midnight Wednesday, six days after publication.

4. The system dictates a mailbox number and security code.

5. Renew your mailbox and if you don't need to make any changes in your ad copy or mailbox recording. Call 235-2415 and choose the renewal option. You may renew your mailbox any time Thursday through 6 pm Monday.

6. Advertisers are responsible for checking their Roommate ads for accuracy and reporting errors by 6 pm Monday, following publication. Call 235-8200.

Mail-in payment: Reader Roommate Line P.O. Box 88603, San Diego, CA 92186

Walk-in payment: 1703 India (at Date), Downtown San Diego

For questions regarding Roommate ads, call 235-8200, x265.

1996

Well... Johnny Lemonhead, it's been quite a while since I've seen your giant, spappy, yellow, misshapen head around these parts.

Whoo. I'm sorry John. That was a little harsh.

Your giant, misshapen head actually looks kind of firm and pink now that I look at it.

Well, I guess I should be going. I'll see you around here sometime.

I'll see you around here sometime.

MAX CANNON

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SERVICES

FREE ELECTROLYSIS

15 MIN. PAID, 15 MIN. FREE, FIRST VISIT.

Removal of Facial Hair. Cheapest available treatment. Single session complete results and no return visits.

CAROL MULLIS, R.N., R.E.T.
2907 Canyon Blvd., Suite 202
CITY DENVER 294-7333

AMERICAN
ELECTROLYTIC
INSTITUTE
OF DENVER

PERM \$24⁹⁵

15 MIN. PAID, 15 MIN. FREE, FIRST VISIT.

Removal of Facial Hair. Cheapest available treatment. Single session complete results and no return visits.

CAROL MULLIS, R.N., R.E.T.
2907 Canyon Blvd., Suite 202
CITY DENVER 294-7333

AMERICAN
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INSTITUTE
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ACUPRESSURE

15 MIN. PAID, 15 MIN. FREE, FIRST VISIT.

Removal of Facial Hair. Cheapest available treatment. Single session complete results and no return visits.

CAROL MULLIS, R.N., R.E.T.
2907 Canyon Blvd., Suite 202
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AMERICAN
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FREE Bath

15 MIN. PAID, 15 MIN. FREE, FIRST VISIT.

Removal of Facial Hair. Cheapest available treatment. Single session complete results and no return visits.

CAROL MULLIS, R.N., R.E.T.
2907 Canyon Blvd., Suite 202
CITY DENVER 294-7333

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1911 SUMMIT DR.
743-1767
MON-SAT 10 AM-10 PM
SUN 11 AM-6 PM

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• Outstanding warrants
• Tickets • DUL and more
• Immediate service
• Payment available • Affordable fees

John A. Delvis
3030 Alameda, Suite 100
DENVER, CO 80202
297-9751

FREE
NO-NEEDLE
ELECTROLYSIS
Permanent hair removal
Highly effective, no needles!
No pain, infections, scars or redness
15 MINUTES
FREE
No purchase or trial fee. 15-minute first trial.
WAXING ALSO AVAILABLE
465-6161
Call for a free consultation
or for a demo at the Harvard Center
1000 Boylston Street, 1st Floor

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24-HOUR PHONE OR FAX FOR PRIVATE PARTIES. USE FORM ON PAGE 123

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MAKE THE SHORT DRIVE FOR HUGE SAVINGS ON THE BIGGEST NAMES IN MUSIC

Hermes Music

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