

SAN DIEGO WEEKLY

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DECEMBER 24, 2003

Reader



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOE KLEIN



Above: Ocean Beach; top right: Hillcrest; bottom: La Jolla

Neighborhood

SMALL TOWNS OF SAN DIEGO

FALLBROOK

I often feel in downtown Fallbrook that I have walked through a door into the past, the door I have been looking for all my life. It happens at Jerry's Barber Shop most often. Jerry's is on the corner of Main and Alvarado, and I take five-

year-old Sam and three-year-old Hank there to have their bangs snipped into a straight, even line, to have the backs of their necks and the curves above their ears mown and clipped, to see their eyes once again, enormous and brown. They sit still in expectation of Dum Dums, small

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Next Week's Issue — Wednesday, December 31

LETTERS

We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader. You may phone them in by calling 619-235-3000, ext. 460; address them to Letters to the Editor, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803; fax them to 619-231-0489; or e-mail them to letters@SanDiegoReader.com via the Internet. Please include your name, address, and telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Scab Equality
In response to an article in your December 18 issue, "Stink Bomb," on page 43: I cannot believe you could place an article about a scab's perspective of this strike. And a story from someone who won't even disclose their name makes it even more unbelievable.

I have been on the strike line since day one, and in that time the only negative responses I have gotten are from the scabs that are working in my store and from those who drive by and shout at me to get a job. I have a job: the scabs have it. I can honestly tell you that I have not witnessed nor have I been a part of any negative responses to those that choose to shop at my store. I have worked at my job for 18 years with Albertsons, and never would I have voted for a strike if it only meant I would pay \$5 to \$15 a week for my health care.

Believe me, I am not as stupid or uneducated as those opposed to this strike think I am. I started from the bottom and worked my way up. I never went into this line of work expecting it to last a few years. I thought of it as a career. I don't want to defend myself in saying I deserve more than others out there. I am willing to pay as much as those in my salary range do for health care. But I do deserve to be treated with a lot more respect than my company has shown me.

And in closing, what am I supposed to call someone who knowingly took my job? I think "scab" is being way too kind. So those who are offended by that word, tell me, what do you want me to call you? An equal opportunity employee? We stopped being equal when you knowingly took my job for your own gain. I bet you would not have taken it if you had

to start from the bottom of the pay scale. As I did.
Robert Carlson
via e-mail

The author of the article was not "anonymous," as the byline noted. The author's name was withheld by request. — Editor

Lewd Preference
If the Troy Sisters had "Lolita"-upped their image, Elektra would not have dropped them ("Blurt," December 18). I much prefer to buy CDs from sexy little girls than the Indigo Girls Jr., as I imagine most men would. A good 60 percent of the appeal of seeing Jewel at the coffeehouses was her wonderful (and frequent) "pantie flashes." Ahhhhhh...those tiny skirts!
Harsh? Maybe. Truthful? You bet.
Alfred "Bastard" Huete
Spring Valley

Snotty Reply
Good for Sandra Dijkstra. ("City Lights," December 11).
For some time KPBS has been annoying me more than usual during pledge time by messing with my two favorite programs: *Now* with Bill Moyers and *Charlie Rose*. You usually have to stay up until 12:00 for Charlie Rose; 11:00 might be better, but they push it off till 1:00, which is just too, too late. And I can't find Bill.

So while they are hustling some imagined non-member with repetitious Ormans, they are disrespecting their members who look to them for programs that talk seriously and in depth about big world problems, something a democracy wants more of for an informed citizenry.

I thought Keith York's reply to Dijkstra was snotty. For my part, I have been giving less and less each year, because KPBS does less and less for me.

So Keith, good-bye and good luck. But I'd rather have you raise the bar on quality, and pardon the words, value intelligent discourse and inquiry, as in the good old days, when KPBS knew it was an alternative to mediocrity. Special, selective, and proud of it. High-minded on purpose. Then I can respect you more, and give again.

Brina-Rae Schuchman
via e-mail

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SAN DIEGO

DECEMBER 24, 2003

SANDIEGOREADER.COM

Reader

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Frozen Drama

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LETTERS

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We're Fed Up

I take issue with Bob Kittle's comments during a recent KPBS *Editor's Roundtable* discussion ("City Lights," December 11). The *Union-*

Tribune needs to catch up with the times and read their own letters-to-the-editor section. The people of San Diego are fed up with the Chargers' game playing at the expense of the taxpayers. We are fed up with secret meetings and behind-closed-door deals with special in-

terests. We San Diegians want a change in our city government so that it represents the citizens. The City Attorney's Office is arguably the most important elected position citywide, as it advises the City as to the legality of its policy positions. The only candidate in this race

that people can trust to follow the law is Mike Aguirre. Mike will put the people's interest ahead of the special interests, and he can be counted on to draft and enforce City contracts in a way that protects the taxpayers of San Diego.

I suggest the *Union-Tri-*

bune make an effort to treat this candidate who has proven his dedication to the people of San Diego as evenhandedly as the others in the race. Thank you for your consideration.

Kathryn Burton
Sorrento Hills

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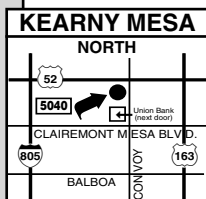
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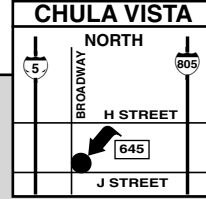
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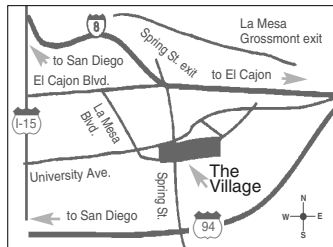
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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE

Illustration by Rick Geary



The research elves are off making some seasonal pocket money (money to have pockets put in their little tunics). They hire out for Christmas parties, which means Grandma spends most of December fluffing up felt and applying a curling iron to the toes of their shoes. Pa Alice took care of Christmas back in '84, when he put a lighted plastic Santa on the roof and decided to leave it there to save time in '85. It worked so well, he made it a tradition. And it's been a great landmark to use when giving folks directions to his big Fourth of July barbecues. So he's not scheduled to move from in front of the TV until after the Pro Bowl. Ma Alice is back at her annual task of trying to find out what, exactly, mincemeat is, and why anyone would put it in a pie. Guess that just leaves me to grapple with our traditional year-end quiz. We got a great deal on some used punch-card voting machines, so throw away the old pencil and paper, line up behind the police tape, and wait your turn in the booth.

1. I always find Matthew Alice damn fascinating and life-enriching. Believe me, personally and professionally, I wouldn't be where I am today without one particular question back in 1954 that literally changed my life. But if I'm forced to pick one fact from 2003 that meant the most to me, I'd have to say it was:
 - a. Attila the Hun parted his hair on the left.
 - b. Locally, each Girl Scout sells about 10,000 calories' worth of cookies.
 - c. Given today's firearm technology, if I'm standing on the moon, I can't shoot a guy who's on Pluto.
 - d. If I do shoot a guy on Pluto, I can't use a bone-marrow transplant to fool the DNA lab.
2. The TV show *America's Most Wanted* has helped lock up nearly 800 perps since it first went on the air. Among them are:
 - a. The Green River Killer.
 - b. Martha Stewart.
 - c. Mary Kate and Ashley.
 - d. Several actors who played the featured desperadoes in various AMW crime re-creations.
3. It's the end of an era! What monumental event in 2003 put a halt to many years of Matthew Alice fun at the expense of Hollywood?
 - a. Harrison Ford finally got his star on the Walk of Fame, ending a decade of confusion and speculation about how they'd distinguish it from the star they already have for silent-film star Harrison Ford.
 - b. The answer is a.
 - c. And after all that, they never did make new Harrison's different from old Harrison's.
4. Nothing is commoner than common knowledge. We prove this every week. Which of these bits of information are just damn fool nonsense that you Alicelanders believed until I set you straight?
 - a. NASA developed Tang.
 - b. If you fall asleep in the bathtub, you'll drown.
 - c. But at least your hair and nails continue to grow after you die.
 - d. Brown eggs are more nutritious than white eggs; mom said so, so it's true.
 - e. It's illegal to drive with no shoes on, but it's smart to walk around a recycling center with no shoes on.
 - f. Bra straps hold up boobs the way string holds up cheeses in an Italian deli.
 - g. Blue-eyed parents can't have a brown-eyed child.
 - h. Life is fair, and justice will triumph.
5. The cuisine elite must be stopped. Which is the most ridiculous dining-out concept discussed this year?
 - a. Hand-harvested, unscrubbed sea salt; \$40 a pound to make your vegetables taste as if the kitchen forgot to wash them.
 - b. Cotton candy: sugar and air, the newest "fun" dessert.

A searchable archive of past columns is available at SanDiegoReader.com

Got a question you need answered? Send an *email* to heymatt@cts.com or *fax* to 619-231-0498 or *mail* to Matthew Alice, c/o the Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186.

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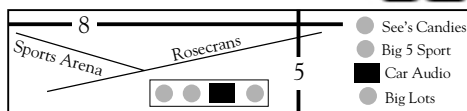
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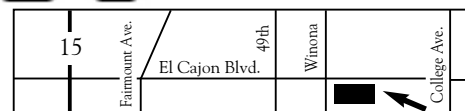
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SportingBox By Patrick Daugherty

Football Excitation. Fine Dining.

Metroplex sports fans are eagerly preparing themselves for the first competitive NFL and/or NCAA Division I football game played in San Diego this year. True, 2003 will be 51 weeks and six days gone by the time opening kickoff occurs, but that's a detail only a few will notice.

Some will complain that event organizers had to import both football teams in order to present San Diegans with their first competitive NFL and/or NCAA Division I football game of 2003. Well, so what. The origin of these teams is mere desk clutter, and besides, they are paid for their trouble. Here's the point: the contest *will* take place in San Diego, at Qualcomm Stadium. Indeed, next Tuesday's Holiday Bowl will feature two legitimate football teams: 5th-ranked Texas Longhorns and 14th-ranked Washington State Cougars.

Let me tell you, the hive is aflutter with anticipation. In order to gauge just how intense that excitement is, I've decided to poll San Diego's top chefs and ask them a question that will reveal everything we need to know about football excitation *and* fine dining, to wit: "If you were hosting a tailgate party in a very large parking lot as prelude to the first competitive NFL and/or NCAA Division I football game played in San Diego during the year 2003, what would you prepare?"

This is the question I put to seven celebrated chefs (or their spokespersons), all of whom are employed within El Cajon's tony Restaurant Row. First up is *The Best Chinese Restaurant*, on the 300 block of North Magnolia Avenue. A woman, I believe of Chinese origin, listens to my query and replies, "Who are you calling from? What is this regarding about, or what?"

Excellent questions. I'm talking to a pro. "What would your chef cook at a tailgate party?" Silence. "At a football game." Nothing. "The Holiday Bowl. Qualcomm Stadium. Tailgating. Transporting large mounds of food into a parking lot the size of Cleveland and then cooking it."

"Hmm." One handful of time goes by. "I think you could do buffalo hot wings." Now, I sense she's turned her head away from the phone. I hear her say to someone, "Hold on, I'm busy," then she moves on to another person and says, "Two for here? Eleven eighty-five," then finally returns to me. "I think you can do the buffalo hot wings is good."

"I've been back about a month. I worked here before, for about five years." Here is Calypso, which is doing business on the 900 block of Greenfield Drive. The person speaking is a woman named Dusty.

I inquire about Calypso's chef and his choice of tailgate bounty.

Dusty says, "Our chef is not here." "Okay. How about you? The Holiday Bowl is next Tuesday. If you were going to the game — or at least to the parking lot adjacent to the game — what would you cook?"

"I'd probably — depending on the people — do steaks."

This is good. "Let's say you've got 30 people to feed."

Dusty emphatically declares, "Hamburgers and hot dogs. BYOB."

Eddie says, "We don't have no chef." The speaker is Hispanic, and I make him to be in his late 20s or early 30s. Eddie is employed by the Cotija Taco Shop, the one on the 500 block of Jamacha Road.

"Are you the cook?" I ask. "This is just a taco shop, man. We sell burritos."

The man *is* grounded. "If you were tailgating at the Holiday Bowl with 20 friends, what would you cook?"

"Meat-and-cheese burrito. Put on a lot of cheese. Make it tasty with some beans and chips."

The vision does not sing. "How about a..."

"It's in a bowl, you know. It's a little snack rather than a whole meal. And some beer, for sure."

Okay. "If you were playing football, what position would you want to play?"

"Are you serious?" Not really, but now that I'm here, "Yeah."

"Defensive back, man."

Cindy, head waitress at the Country Comfort Restaurant, 1200 block of Avocado Avenue, says, "I like those hot links, the hot hot dogs." Cindy laughs agreeably. "And I'd have potato salad and macaroni salad and potato chips and plenty of tequila."

Country Waffles, 1200 block on East Main Street. "I don't know...hamburgers and hot dogs, I guess."

Downtown Café Bar & Grill, 100 block on East Main Street. "Linguini, shrimp linguini, pasta primavera, angel hair with chicken or..."

Tom, speaking in a thick, rich Irish brogue, says, "I've two cooks in the kitchen right now." This is Hooley's Irish Pub & Grill, on the 2900 block of Jamacha Road. Tom continues, "but to be honest with you, none of them speak English that well. My sous chef and my two line cooks are here tomorrow and they both speak perfect English."

"How about you? Do you cook?" "I'm Irish. We don't tailgate."

The Vegas Line

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Sunday					
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CINCINNATI	-330	7 1/2	41	Cleveland	+250
TENNESSEE	-330	6 1/2	41	Tampa Bay	+250
ATLANTA	-155	3	43 1/2	Jacksonville	+135
MIAMI	-175	4	37 1/2	NY Jets	+155
Dallas	-155	2 1/2	39	NEW ORLEANS	+135
KANSAS CITY	-450	10	45	Chicago	+325
Indianapolis	-330	7	44 1/2	HOUSTON	+250
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SHEEP AND GOATS

PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Denomination: Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Address: 6749 Tait Street, Linda Vista
858-268-4688

Year founded locally: 1946

Senior pastor: Reverend Rodger Gredvig

Congregation size: 80 members

Staff: 1 full-time, 1 part-time

Church school enrollment: 5

Annual budget: \$112,000

Weekly giving: \$2200

Singles program: no

Diversity: white

Dress: dressy casual to casual

Services: Sunday worship, 10:00 a.m.

Last Wednesday evening, Christmas shoppers swarming into and out of Mission Valley jammed Highways 8 and 163. I had time to think about an article I'd just read by a Yale professor about the evils of PowerPoint, Microsoft's glitzy "slide-ware" program. PowerPoint has migrated from boardrooms into school classrooms and many church services. PowerPoint, the professor wrote, is "smarmy and incoherent" and "disrupts, dominates, and trivializes content."

Peace Lutheran Church doesn't use PowerPoint.

"We're a small Missouri Synod Lutheran church on a cul-de-sac in Linda Vista," said Reverend Rodger Gredvig when describing his congregation to me.

Reverend Gredvig has served at Peace Lutheran for 21 years. He was born in northern Minnesota and came to Linda Vista as a baby. Peace Lutheran, he told me, was the first church he remembers seeing. By the time he was ten years old, he knew he wanted to enter the clergy.

"I was surprised when I got to Concordia Seminary and learned that a lot of the guys there had decided much later in life that they wanted to go to seminary. Many of them already had master's degrees when they'd decided. Some had been working on doctorates."

Last Wednesday, 40 of the 50-odd people who regularly attend Reverend Gredvig's Sunday-morning services weren't out Christmas shopping. They'd opted instead to spend their evening at Peace Lutheran's soup supper and Advent service. When I later complimented Reverend Gredvig on the turnout, he said, "We've gotten smaller over the years, and one of the results is that our remaining members take worship seriously. This church is their home."

Homey isn't a quality many churches desire nowadays. Peace Lutheran feels like the Lutheran churches Garrison Keillor evokes on *A Prairie Home Companion*. Peace Lutheran's members have decorated their church's modest interior with big Christmas wreaths. A hefty Christmas tree stands to the right of the altar. Last Wednesday night, the meaty, oniony aroma of homecooked soup drifted through the nave while the congregation, bundled in coats and sweaters, started the service by

singing "O Tannenbaum."

Reverend Gredvig introduced his sermon with a "dramatic reading" performed by two gentlemen dressed in choir robes. They were supposed to be Wise Men. Staring at photocopied sheets, the gentlemen read their lines with anxious earnestness. ("Surely this is the fulfillment of what the prophet Micah and the Jewish scriptures predicted." "Yes, a king of mighty significance born in the land of the Jews.") A chubby-cheeked toddler sitting across from me realized that one of the Wise Men was his father. He bolted down the center aisle waving his arms, "Dada! Dada!"

Reverend Gredvig told us that Lutheran tradition suggests, "without much evidence," that it was Martin Luther who initiated the custom of bringing a Christmas tree inside the home.

"It was the shape that inspired him, the way the tree points heavenward, pointing to the stars."

He went on to list the many significant stars that appear in the Hebrew Bible and New Testament, noting that the "star in the East"

heralded not only Jesus' birth, but the return of the Kingdom of God to earth.

"God knows that there are those who did not want to lift their eyes toward heaven and see the star. King Herod didn't. Herod was a tyrant who was ruthless to his people, and the image we have of him closely resembles what we know today of Saddam Hussein who was ultimately found cowering in a hole. It is God who has victory in the end."

Reverend Gredvig explained that for Christians, Advent was a time of repentance and preparation in anticipation of Jesus' return. Part of this preparation, he said, was sharing the Gospel with others, which could be done in simple ways like going with the church to sing Christmas carols in public, or volunteering for that Friday's dinner for families in the church's Head Start program. Such acts,

he said, "demonstrate that we, too, are still looking toward God's return with excitement and anticipation."

After the service, people lined up to introduce themselves to me and shake my hand and tell me how happy they were that I'd visited their church. When I caught up with Reverend Gredvig, I told him that in the dozens of non-liturgical churches I've visited, I'd never heard Christmas described as a time for repentance. He told me that this idea of "Prepare ye the way of the Lord" was built into the liturgical purpose of Advent, the need to ready one's soul for the Parousia, the Second Coming.

"I don't mean in any way to demean non-liturgical churches. But following the liturgical year has advantages. The way Advent works for me is that instead of being overwhelmed by the worldly aspects of Christmas, I reflect on God's pace and God's purposes. Christmas isn't a bunch of gifts we give to each other. The focus is God's gift to us."

— Abe Opincar



REVEREND RODGER GREDVIG

**Peace Lutheran Church
Linda Vista
★★★★**

Sermon

content★★★★

delivery★★★★

Liturgy

.....★★★★

Music

congregational★★★

choirno choir

Snacks

.....★★★★

Flowers

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Architecture

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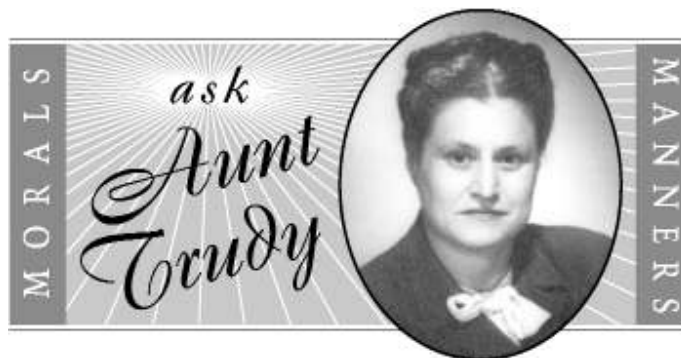
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Dear Aunt Trudy,

My sister has a son who just turned 12. This boy has his birthday one day before mine, so we often celebrate the two birthdays together as a family. Our other sister offered to bake the cake this year. A few days before we were getting together to celebrate, my sister who has the son — I'll call her Rachel — called my other sister, whom I'll call Jan, and said, "I know you're bringing the cake, and I know we're celebrating my son's birthday and Audrey's (that's me) birthday together, but whatever you do, don't put Audrey's name anywhere on the cake. The cake has to have only my son's name on it or he'll have a horrible fit, which will ruin the whole evening." Jan was surprised and displeased but did as she was asked. When I got to the joint birthday celebration, Jan apologized profusely for leaving my name off the cake and explained that it was at Rachel's insistence. I don't care so much about whether my name is on a birthday cake, but I was unpleasantly surprised that at 12 Rachel's son is so immature that he wouldn't be able to have his aunt's name next to his on a cake without having an attack about it. Doesn't 12 seem a little old for that kind of thing? And what do you think of his mother making such a request?

ANNOYED SAN CARLOS AUNTIE

Dear Annoyed,

Your story leaves a bad taste in my mouth. I think that a 12-year-old should definitely be familiar with the concept of sharing. He ought to be able to share billing on a birthday cake with his mother's sister. If your nephew has problems in this area, as his mother seems to think, then his parents would do well to work with him on learning to be generous, rather than protecting his selfishness from being challenged a little, which is what his mother did by censoring your name from appearing on the cake. In other words, when this mother pre-empts her son's having to deal with the fact that it's also his aunt's birthday, she's missing an opportunity to help teach him to consider others and to let them have a turn in the birthday limelight, too. You and your cake-bringing sister might have a chat with Rachel about this so that next year you can see your name written in icing right along with your nephew's. Hopefully he can start to learn to honor other people's birthdays in a gracious and loving way. He's missing out on the considerable joys of being happy for others. I think if you can't allow other people their moments in the sun and take pleasure in celebrating them, too, sometimes, you're leading a crippled life.

Dear Readers,

I received an avalanche of mail in response to

the letter from "Red-Eyed in Oceanside" who complained that their neighbor's dog was left alone for nearly 24 hours at a time. The poor hound was howling all night as a result. The letters below are typical of readers' feedback.

Dear Aunt Trudy,

I think that your suggestions to "Red-Eyed in Oceanside" assume that the dog's new owner has some compassion towards the animal. A note pointing out that the dog is unhappy in his owner's absence is unlikely to remedy the situation. In fact, it might result in the dog being set loose or being further abused. This dog is being abused by being locked up for such long stretches. Animal control needs to be called NOW!

LINDA VISTA CANINE
ADVOCATE

Dear Aunt Trudy,

I must say I am not in agreement at all with your response to "Red-Eyed..." Animal neglect can be just as damaging as animal abuse!! Dogs are pack animals and should only be adopted by people willing to include them as part of the family. They are not meant to be left alone all the time. It is not Red-Eyed's responsibility to confront her neighbor. Just like the TV commercials on child abuse say, "It's not always that easy to detect it." We really don't know what goes on behind closed doors with animals who can't help themselves or complain. I feel that confronting the neighbor might be a terrible mistake. He might take it out on the dog who he feels is now making his life more difficult. We don't really know what he might do. He could put a collar on the dog that shocks him when he barks and still leave him alone all day, hit the dog, or even remove his voice box. I would suggest Red-Eyed contact the Humane Society, who then could help her out with contacting the proper persons. Their number is 619-299-7012.

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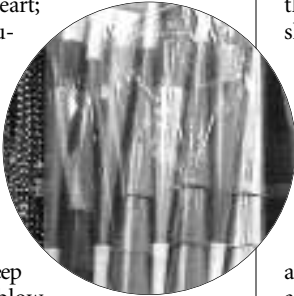
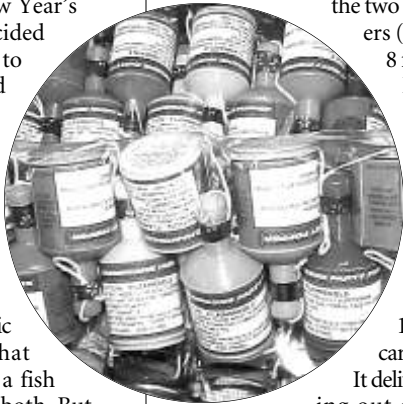
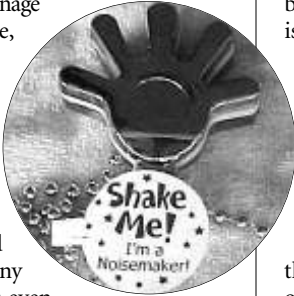
— EVE KELLY

When Jesus said, ‘Love thy neighbor,’ do you think He meant the ones next door?” That was my friend Allison, coming to the end of another horror story. What with the loud noise at night, the trash in her front yard, and the teenage garage-band practice, she has many occasions to practice charity. I tried to be sympathetic, but I’ve been luckier than she has. Jeanette, my closest neighbor, is possessed of an unceasingly sunny disposition, and has even gone so far as to sweep leaves from my driveway and haul my empty trash cans down my impossibly long driveway. And when I go out of town, she’s always ready to help with garden watering and mail collection.

Yesterday, she hand-delivered a personalized invitation to her New Year’s Eve party. As a thank-you, I decided to bring a bevy of noisemakers to add to the festivities. I scooped up as many as I could find around town, then headed over to my friend Bernice’s to conduct some tests and weed out the duds. We started with hand-held noisemakers from Party City and immediately scored with the pea-green hand-shaped Necklace Clacker (\$1.59). The ergonomic handle and strong clacking that sounded like the rapid beat of a fish flopping on a pier delighted us both. But the turquoise Necklace Whistle (\$99) flopped in another way — the tone was simply wimpy. The bell-shaped blue Party Clinker (\$.59) brought our smiles back; the high-pitched tones reminded us of clinking champagne flutes. Much better than the dull, hollow clunk from the neon green star-shaped version (\$.59). (All prices are from Party City unless otherwise noted.)

The next three were twirlers (\$.59-\$.89) in the shape of a flag, a rectangle, and a triangle. All sounded like a hoarse barking seal; the noise grated and the twirlers didn’t fully twirl without wrist-wearing effort. The last of the hand-helds, however, won a place in Bernice’s heart; she judged the circular tin rattle “tasteful, with a pleasant, inoffensive tinny clinking. Perfect for my 90-year-old grandmother — if she’s still awake at midnight.”

Then we took deep breaths and started blowing our hot air into the air-driven noisemakers. Doing our best tongue-flicking frog imitation, we puffed on three small blowouts from Party City — foil-covered (\$.99), prism-patterned (\$1.69), and diamond-patterned with feathers (\$1.79), all in packages of eight. Heavy blowing produced mediocre honks, but the feather-tip model was at least appealing to look at as it shot out and wrapped back up like a coiling serpent.



Clacking that sounded like the rapid beat of a fish flopping on a pier delighted us both.

We had better honks from the wide-body squawker blowout (\$2.39 for four). “This is the blowout of all blowouts,” laughed Bernice. “It’s got a drawn-out, meaty sound. And I like the way it rolls back slowly — like it’s bumbling its way home.” Our testing finished, we blew some more just for laughs — a good sign for a party favor.

Bernice grabbed two more packages: fancy fringed blowouts (\$1.37 for 8 at Wal-Mart) and multicolored spiral-patterned blowouts (\$1.69). Both had long, sleek blowpipes, which Bernice thought were “like holding a cigarette. It tucks away behind the ear, too. But it’s all for looks; they don’t make any noise. There’s no horn on the tip.” I wanted noise, so I broke out the balloon squawkers (\$1.79 for 6). The squawkers had horns; they were attached to a plastic tube with a balloon on the end. Our deepest balloon-blowing breaths were rewarded with satisfyingly long honks. “Now that’s party noise,” admired Bernice. Of the two foil-fringed squawkers (\$1.69 for 8, \$.97 for 8 from Wal-Mart), the Party City model gave a more substantial horn blast, but both revealed a fun pom-pom effect when shaken.

For the bigger-is-better crowd, I had picked up an 18-inch fringed golden cardboard horn (\$1.49). It delivered the goods, ringing out a high-toned toot. “That could be part of your party ensemble,” suggested Bernice. “You could wave it around like a baton.” A smaller (but just as expensive at \$1.49) horn, black with polka dots and silver fringe, just sounded tired by comparison. Lo and behold, it was the smaller black-with-silver-fringe number (\$.39) that matched up to the big boy. Out of breath, we turned to a squeeze-bottom horn (\$.99) and let its two-tone blare summon up the spirit of Harpo Marx. “It packs a lot of bang for a little squeeze,” said Bernice. “Good for old-timers or little kids.”

Our final preparations for making merry left us snowed under in confetti. Most of these party poppers were keepers. The ones shaped like champagne bottles (\$1.49 for 12 at Party City, \$.25 apiece at Babette Schwartz) popped their contents a full two feet into the air. The spring-loaded Super Party Poppers (\$2.99 for 3) shot large streamers or confetti a good six feet before they wafted to the floor, while inflate-and-pop confetti poppers (\$1.44 for 8 at Wal-Mart) pushed out tiny paper squares with a burst and a firm pop. Last of all, we teamed up for a go at the Holiday Crackers (\$9.99 for 8 or \$6.99 for 8 mini-crackers at Cost Plus) and Festive Crackers (\$12.99 for 8). Grabbing opposite ends of the gift-wrapped cylinders, we pulled and so produced a mild cracking. Inside, we found a paper party hat, a joke, and a trinket. I didn’t think the goods measured up to the expense. Bernice agreed. “Give me a balloon squawker or a horn over those any day,” she concluded. “I’ll be the life of the party.”

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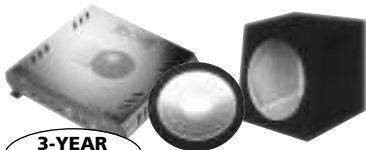


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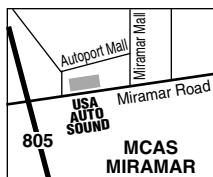
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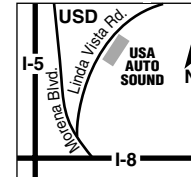
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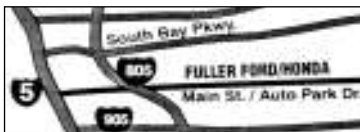
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Jerry's is an ordinary place, archetypal in its particulars. The benches and chairs in the waiting area are upholstered in vinyl, and it's old men, mostly, who sit waiting for their turn. The coffee table is strewn with fishing and golf magazines as worn as dollar bills. The plate-glass window casts the shadow of Jerry's name on our legs. The backward clock tells time in reverse. Combs float in Barbicide. Behind us, stretching the length of the wall in an attitude of leaping, is a blue sailfish as shiny and hard as the linoleum under our feet. "Please do not pet," a sign says.

The older customers tend to look at Sam and Hank and remember their own children, or themselves as children. Once, while Hank's hair was falling to the floor like down and Sam was waiting his turn, a man in glasses and an ironed short-sleeved shirt looked approvingly at him. He started to tell Sam and me about his childhood summers, about growing up on a farm in the Northwest, where he climbed trees and fished. Every morning, he said, he and his brothers and sisters would sit at the table for breakfast. His mother would bring bowls of steaming oatmeal to each place. No one could start, though, until his grandfather had sat down and blessed the meal. His grandfather was a Lutheran, and he blessed everything. He prayed and prayed, and the children watched the steam rise up, each wisp thin-

ner than the last. It had always stopped steaming before his grandfather stopped praying.

"My mother cut my hair with a bowl," he told Sam. "The same bowl we used for that oatmeal."

Outside the barbershop, the street is usually sunny. Cars stop for the light and move past us, windows down, arms resting on doors. As we wait I tend to think of what we'll do after the haircuts. We could eat at the soda fountain across the street, in what used to be a drug-store but is now the Café des Artistes and a gallery. We could walk another hundred yards and ask the librarian if there are any new books about the *Titanic*. If the gem-and-mineral museum is open, we could step into the back room and ask the curator to turn on the black light so that all the fluorescent rocks glow green, orange, and yellow. There's the Book Nook or Chubby Chix, which sells retro candy: Lemonheads, Neccos, and Charms. Slim pink bubble-gum cigarettes, the kind that leave powder on your fingertips.

But once Sam and Hank are both in barber's chairs, I'm in no hurry to leave. I watch them the way the man in the ironed shirt watched the steam of his oatmeal all those years ago, willing it to keep rising.

"Look down," Jerry says. "Now look up." Sam holds still, and Jerry slowly, carefully cuts a straight line. "Good," he says. "You're doing good."

Their blond hair mixes with

the gray hair on the floor and I hold myself still between two red vinyl chairs on Main Street, willing it to go on a little longer, for the backwards clock to go forward and the forward clock to go backwards, so that we are always right here.

— Laura McNeal

CLAIREMONT

Asked where I live in San Diego, I always say "beautiful Clairemont," because I'm a smartass and because it's the truth. I might qualify (place, not beauty) by adding "North Clairemont," to distinguish our geographical locale. North Clairemont is almost paradise: our home rides a large coyoted canyon where ocean breeze and coastal fog are as backyard-regular as hummingbirds and red-tailed hawks. I like its tranquillity, despite the nearby barking dog, whose owners we've all complained about. But that's the only rent in the carpet; otherwise, it's immensely democratic — to one Joe, a retirement villa; to another, a middle-class boondock.

I cross the street, get my neighbor Becky Newhouse, and we head to our local Starbucks. At 51, Newhouse is a lifelong Clairemontian, a part-time substitute teacher at Marston Middle School, and an irrepressible factotum whose cheerful voice can be heard charging Saturday driveway talk with, as my grandmother used to call it, "sunny optimism."

How might you define Clairemont? School-savvy Newhouse surprises me: "It's a forgotten com-

munity," she says. Clairemont is not "rich like La Jolla," which is "affluent enough for the school board to grant them autonomy." Not so on the mesa: "We don't have the money to be a charter school, Mr. Bersin." Though test scores are up, Newhouse struggles with a school system that no longer bonds the community. She figure-skates over her girlhood, when, after class, kids lolled their way through grassy lots to rec centers. Next-door kids were always buddies. Now Amber-alerted parents chauffeur children everywhere.

We chat, sip drinks; then Newhouse treads a new track. As one of San Diego's hubs, Clairemont is supremely accessible, lying between I-5 and I-805/163, south of San Clemente Canyon and north of Mission Valley; it's also supremely in-between. It's near to but not the beach; it's near to but not the condo-bracken of the Golden Triangle, the nerd-ridden campus of UCSD, the immigrant carnival of Kearny Mesa, the heat-seeking inlands. It's near to but not Pacific Beach, where summer trash festers in the streets and multiunit-apartment density feels earthquake-ready.

I wonder whether this in-between reality of our burb explains our relationship. After we gossip for 40 minutes about children and work and college and spouses and elderly parents (one of hers living, both of mine dead) and the block party we've never had, I ask, "Why is it that, despite having

Neighborhood

SMALL

lived across the street from each other for 13 years, we're still not good friends?"

"We may not be good friends," she says, "but we're good neighbors." Through the nagging rasp of the coffee grinder, the phrase pings with wisdom.

"And being 'good neighbors' means?"

"If a neighbor needed a friend, the neighbor would be there." I would too. It's indisputable.

Newhouse and I are close without my knowing it, without my having thought of closeness in just this way. Up on the mesa, the pickets of our illusionary fence widen once we admit we need each other, once we discover the purposeful in-between-ness of neighbors. That feels supremely Clairemont, a profound acquaintanceship we need elevate no higher than that.

— Thomas Larson

IMPERIAL BEACH

IB? My friend Mark nailed it the other night. We had fallen into conversation outside Cow-A-Bunga, the ice cream and coffee place at the entrance to IB's pier. It was getting dark. You could just see the teeth of the waves and hear them crack as they broke. "Right now," he said, "this could be the old IB. Empty beach, dusty streets, no sidewalks, nobody to say, 'Why's your dog not on a leash?' "

He talked about when they had a pod of killer whales coming to scratch their backs against the pier legs. Or when he and his buddies

FALLBROOK: *There's the Book Nook or Chubby Chix, which sells retro candy: Lemonheads, Neccos, and Charms.*



stole down into the Tijuana River sloughs in the half-light of dawn. "You'd see least terns take to wing when the tide started coming in. The whole flock'd be white one moment, then turn and they'd be all black. So beautiful. They looked like money falling out of the sky."

He was mourning something on the way to being lost, as if IB itself were on the endangered species list. And maybe he's right. The last rough-hewn, working-class, Midwestern beach town on the coast looks all primed to be

slicked up. The harbingers are the millionaires' houses that are starting to block off IB's oceanfront. How long before real money falls from the sky and low-rent, workaday IB is given the eviction notice?

IB has one protector: Tijuana River pollution. Just the thought of icky stuff in the ocean water after rains gives pause to La Jolla investors.

But that's IB. It's on the edge. To understand IB, you've got to approach it from the border. Walk up, follow the shoreline, a time-

honored illegal immigrants' route. It becomes tense, unpredictable, silent, threatening, especially around Boca Rio, the mouth of the Tijuana River. Folks wading across risk their lives, from the holes and currents and the *E. coli* in the water. Add to that the sudden battering of chopper rotors and Border Patrol four-wheel drives swooping in, and it can feel like a war zone.

Then, between one sand dune and the next, the beach transforms. Lovers wander past. Kids play. Families picnic. The First House in

Orthood

TOWNS OF SAN DIEGO



PHOTOGRAPHS BY SANDY HUEFAKER, JR.

CLAIREMONT: *Our home rides a large coyoted canyon where ocean breeze and coastal fog are as back-yard-regular as hummingbirds and red-tailed hawks.*



IMPERIAL BEACH: *You'll sit next to off-duty Customs and Border Patrol guys, nurses, teachers, actors, trailer-park retirees, long-bearded musicians, eccentrics, and even the odd millionaire.*

America appears, a condo thrusting toward the beach. It's the southernmost finger of IB, reaching down between the sloughs and the ocean. This place, IB, you realize, is a frontier town.

And you find the frontier people in Ye Olde Plank. It's been here on the beach since 1886. Sundays, the Plank crowd is a slice of real IBithans. At the horseshoe bar you'll sit next to off-duty Customs and Border Patrol guys, nurses, teachers, actors, trailer-park retirees, long-bearded musicians, eccentrics, and even the odd millionaire. But the flavor's set by surfers and retired enlisted Navy, here with spouses for Sunday brunch. Among them, ex-UDT/SEALs (guys who trained up the road in Coronado but wouldn't live there for a million bucks) can spin hair-raising yarns set in Asia and Central America.

And keeping them all in order was Babs. Sunday mornings, Babs cooked out on the beach-deck barbecue. The last time I was there, she handed me an eight-ounce steak, a five-egg omelet, home fries, and a Bloody Mary, all for around six bucks. She's just left, but the breakfast deal continues. Al, the owner, says he keeps the price low because most of his customers are friends, regulars, IB lifers. It's a club. Their cards, pictures, plaques cover the walls. Their puffer fish and diver's helmets dangle over the bar. And together they often do good works, like going down to Honduras and building a clinic, or helping each other out with medical bills.

Of course, there's no point in hiding IB's other sides. The place has had its share of vigilantes, scam artists, racists, and toughs. The pier in the old days was where deals went down. The beach was for bonfire-keg parties that could erupt into big, brawling fistfights. One zonked-out girl named Suzie appeared here and had her baby in the women's toilets. Later, someone threw her off the pier into the water, dead, murdered. It could be a rough, tough town.

And let's face it, planned it is not. Palm Avenue's the worst kind of strip. Just a wide road with miles of...what? Tire shops, fast-food franchises, car-repair joints. Yet it's also the home of two of my favorite

places: the Scoreboard, a bar where people rave about the once-a-month Maine lobster dinners, and Lydia's Mexican eatery, where Lydia Pimentel's 6 children, 26 grandchildren, and 44 great-grandchildren get everybody up and dancing, anything from line-dancing to merengue, ranchero, *quebradita*, and salsa in the evenings. *¡Qué noche!* My one big regret? The Pawn Shop has gone, retreated to Chula Vista. Ron Krasner helped me out of financial pickles many a time. What started as a voyage of fear and shame became a kind of social occasion. They'd get to recognize the Fender Strat I brought in. I'd even make stupid offers for the moose on their walls. But Ron kept me under a roof when no bank would look my way.

The truth is, IB's so uncool it's cool. Even the surfing is kind of far out. Its secret treasure is Boca Rio. The mouth of the Tijuana River has always had, by legend, two things: a wave that trips over a bump outside the river's entrance, and a friendly killer whale, Broken Fin, who's said to have hung around there on and off for years. There are a lot of jokes about first-timers spotting that bent-over fin and paddling like hell for shore.

That's exactly it. IB's on the edge, between America and no-man's-land. For sure, it's mellowed. Sand-castle-building contests have taken over from the boozy beach keg parties. And they've upgraded the pier's entrance with cute shops and eateries like Cow-A-Bunga. But that doesn't mean the IBithans have all been tamed.

"Want to come down to the sloughs, tonight?" said Mark to me that evening as we finished our ice creams. "Got a boat. I could take you all through. No telling what we'll see."

— Bill Manson

ROLANDO

A sense of humanity pervades this little community on San Diego's eastern fringe, a sense that beauty matters to the souls of all men, not just those who can afford La Jolla. Though the name Rolando has come to include everything between College Avenue to the west, El Cajon Boulevard to the north, the city of La Mesa to the

east, and University Avenue to the south, the original neighborhood is the eight to ten blocks centered around the four-way-stop intersection of Solita Avenue and Rolando Boulevard. Stamped on the sidewalk on the southwest corner is the name “G. R. Daley” and the date “8-27.”

I don’t know if Mr. Daley built just the sidewalks — the old style with a strip of dirt between the sidewalk and the street for grass or gardens — or if he built the streets and houses too. But the date seems right for this area. In 1927, the Great War had been won nine years earlier and the stock market was two years from crashing. While Europe still licked its wounds, American pride and sense of possibility soared. And I imagine that G. R. Daley and the other men who constructed Rolando wanted to build a neighborhood that reflected that new sense of national joy. If so, they succeeded.

They built ornate concrete gas lamps to illuminate the streets and sidewalks at night. They planted trees along the avenues to green up the neighborhood by day. As you enter from the north on Rolando Boulevard, towering silk oak trees 90 feet tall line both sides of the road. The men made the streets narrow for an intimate feel, with gentle curves that follow the natural contours of the landscape. They gave the streets Spanish names such as Aragon, Serrano, and Valencia. They built staircases that pedestrians could use to shortcut between streets. And they built small but picturesque houses that a veteran of the Great War would be proud to come home to.

Almost all of the houses in Rolando are less than 1500 square feet. Those that are larger have had additions that mar the quaint symmetry Mr. Daley and his cohorts crafted so carefully. They sit centered on modest-sized lots, evenly spaced from each other. Styles include Cape Cod, Spanish Colonial, French cottage, and a sort of Mediterranean bungalow. Smooth, hand-troweled exteriors are the rule, as opposed to rough, sprayed-on stucco. The houses are on raised foundations, not concrete slabs, and have hardwood floors and wood-framed windows. Even

today, the houses look fresh and inviting.

The pride that was put into building Rolando lives on today in its residents. Though you see few gardeners’ trucks parked at the curb, you see well-maintained gardens. Some are spectacular. I can think of only one house that has fallen into serious disrepair. On a recent tour through the neighborhood I saw a single “For Sale” sign. It’s a place people don’t want to leave.

— *Ernie Grimm*

PACIFIC BEACH

Once or twice a year, I try to walk all of Garnet Avenue between Mission Boulevard and Ingraham. I like to do it on the Saturday in early May when the PB Block Party is in full swing. Strolling down Garnet when it’s closed to cars and swollen with throngs of young men and women dressed in skimpy clothing who’ve gone through hell to find a parking space, I feel smug. I live a mile north of Crystal Pier, so I can walk or bicycle. I never have to worry about parking.

My complacency is fleeting. I moved to Pacific Beach in 1974, a 20-year-old from Chicago. Apartment-hunting, I’d been charmed by the bejeweled street names: Diamond, Tourmaline, Sapphire, Emerald, Felspar, Opal. No neighborhood I’d ever known in the Midwest had names like that. Behind the Vons, my husband and I found a large two-bedroom unit where the rent was \$185 a month. Some evenings we walked toward the beach on Diamond, returning along Garnet. Almost all the shops were closed at night back then. We passed few other pedestrians.

I don’t remember what year the changes began. At some point, a rock-and-roll club called Mom’s opened across Garnet from the New Seed. Diego’s, a huge Mexican restaurant and nightclub, started drawing crowds near the pier, and a comedy club appeared. My husband and I joked that Garnet Avenue was turning into the Boulevard Saint-Michel of San Diego. But we weren’t paying much attention to Garnet. We’d had our first baby and had moved from the apartment into a house near Bird Rock Elementary.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

ROLANDO: *I imagine that G. R. Daley and the other men who constructed Rolando wanted to build a neighborhood that reflected that new sense of national joy.*



PHOTOGRAPH BY SANDY HUFFAKER, JR.

PACIFIC BEACH: *So many boutiques have opened that girls now arrive in packs to spend their afternoons trolling for fashion finds.*

My timing seems off. When I was 20, PB was filled with middle-aged people whose kids

—*Jeannette De Wyze*

Before the newlyweds across the street went on their honeymoon, they asked me to keep an eye on their house. Yesterday, a neighbor two doors down, an elderly Mexican



Normal Heights

The lots in Normal Heights are small. Clearances between buildings are narrow. Our streets are narrow.

Eighteen different languages are spoken at Adams Elementary. In the late afternoon while

It's not quite heaven. A few weeks ago, late at night, Mexican teens gathered across the street, rap blaring from their car stereos. I stood on my porch and hollered,

We judgmental white people are growing in number here. The small house I bought two years ago has doubled in value. A block or so away on Meade Avenue, the owners of a two-bedroom, one-bath, 800-square-foot home have put it on the market for \$410,000. Rents have also increased. Over at the Normal Heights Community Planning Committee, well-intentioned activists fret that housing costs are driving immigrants and other low-income minorities from the neighborhood. Most of us, I think, would like to preserve the diversity we enjoy and admire. We're not

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I like to walk at night and think. I know by heart almost all the streets between Adams Avenue and El Cajon Boulevard, between I-805 and 15. I know which homes have pit bulls or rottweilers. I know which homes are prone to domestic disputes. I know which homes are strangely silent. I always feel safe. On almost every block I know someone by name.

— Abe Opincar

MISSION VALLEY

It's a difficult thing for a man to admit, but I'm going to have to come clean: I'm an unadventurous person. It's unfashionable, non-PC, and virtually ensures the end of any social life I might have, but it's time for me to admit it.

I'm dull.

I'm one of those people who love to eat



Mission Valley

in chain restaurants, who shop at big-box retailers, who get excited when a new outlet mall opens. I can *ooh* and *aah* over a review of a daring new Brazilian-Thai fusion restaurant

while I'm eating at KFC, and I've been known to check out online samples of hot new goth bands right before ordering the new Celine Dion CD.

So it's only natural

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT BURROUGHS



Southeast San Diego

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

that I'm drawn to Mission Valley.

If you placed all the malls and chain stores in the world end to end...but, hell, they already have, haven't they? Restaurants, bars, clothing stores, multi-multiplexes, all of them nationally known, with convenient parking, strewn along Friars Road like hookers lined up in front of a Navy base. I spent today running from mall to mall, from Fenton Marketplace to Rio Vista Center to Park in the Valley to Mission Valley Center

to Mission Valley West to Fashion Valley. I'm exhausted but high, as if I just ran the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon.

I'm not the only one. Based on the ever-present traffic, with more and more condos being built (and what are condos but the chain-store version of home ownership?), there's a whole population out there who not only worships at the shrine but wants to live next door.

Mission Valley during the day is for amateurs, though. Hit Ben-

nigan's or In Cahoots on a Friday night, say seven-thirty, and you'll see the valley at its wildest. Both Caminos Del Rio are packed, every parking lot is full, and every restaurant and bar has a line out the door. And for what? The same restaurants and bars are duplicated all over town. Why here?

It's the mating ritual of the urban heterosexual. Not a game I play, for assorted reasons, but certainly a popular one. You might not have to wait for a table at the T.G.I. Friday's in Rancho San Diego, but there won't be as many cute singles at the next table to flirt with either. There are enough happy hours in the valley to keep every man, woman, and child in San Diego County ecstatic for life.

In his 1991 book *Edge City*, Joel Garreau described places like

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LA JOLLA: *Some bloated examples of third-rate modern architecture up on the hill scream to be noticed.*

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Mission Valley is one big McDonald's — supersized. Now excuse me while I line up for my Happy Meal.

—Patrick Brassell

SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO

Although on any given day I don't usually come in contact with gangs, violence, or drugs, subconsciously I am aware that they are near, and I think that most people in Southeast San Diego are conscious of that fact. I still feel safe in the neighborhood though, because I know that as long as you mind your own business, you're fine. However, I try to avoid some places, such as the intersection of

Imperial and Euclid at night, and a few streets where I know drug dealing and gang activity occur. Theft is also a moderate concern. I almost learned this the hard way when I nearly had my backpack stolen at Martin Luther King Park by a small, innocent-looking woman who was pushing a stroller and walking her young son. This made me realize that I can never be too careful.

Despite the backpack incident, Martin Luther King Park is my favorite, and that's where the diversity of the area can be seen firsthand. It is not unusual to see Laotians, Mexicans, African-Americans, and Filipinos playing basketball in the recreation center, hitting tennis balls to each other on

the tennis courts, battling on the baseball fields, or swimming with each other in the pool.

It dawned on me just how diverse the area is the other day while I was riding the trolley. I saw a mother speaking Spanish to her kids, I saw two elderly women laughing and speaking Lao (I think), and of course there were people speaking English. In fact, many of my friends from my high school are from the Philippines, Mexico, and Eritrea.

Southeast San Diego may have some common inner-city problems, but I still feel a sense of community from the majority of the law-abiding citizens in the area. I'm glad to see the area being rebuilt and restored, which started with the Malcolm X Library a few

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years ago and now includes the new Elementary Institute of Science. More projects like these will continue to improve and help solve the problems that plague our neighborhood.

— Brian Lawless

LA JOLLA

Which La Jolla? Old La Jolla or New La Jolla?

The distinction is chronological, but also a matter of attitude. You can see the contrast along a few yards of Girard Avenue, in what used to be fondly called "the Village." D.G. Wills' bookstore is Old LJ, crowded, disorderly, friendly, and host to a gang of the owner's buddies who watch Monday night football there. The Pannikin, next door, has a charming shabbiness and an atmosphere of casual amateurism, along with coffee to dwell over at the outside tables. But then comes the cold, spotless Ferrari store, often proudly empty, but occasionally visited by sleek thirtysomethings who themselves look like Ferraris. That is New LJ.

The town's architecture shows the same division. Old LJ boasts a few beautiful buildings by Cliff May, William Templeton Johnson, and — along a glorious stretch of Prospect Street — Irving Gill. And there also remain some simple, perfectly proportioned cottages in the old-fashioned taste, although every day another one is smashed to bits by New LJ. New LJ means oversized mansions: Roman villas, medieval fortresses, Spanish haciendas, French chateaux, faux-Tudor country houses, pretentious dwellings by which the reigning plutocracy proclaims its right of descent from the ruling classes of earlier centuries. Some

We can't go without mentioning Newest La Jolla. This is the creation of real estate speculators, filling every available inch with drab, chintzy, identical townhouses and indepen-

We should not forget, though, that the Cross firmly belongs to Old La Jolla. It comes from the era during which there was a gentleman's agreement among realtors and property owners not to sell to people belonging to the wrong religion (and, of course, the wrong race). Like everything in America, Old La Jolla had its profound moral defects too.

DEL DIOS

No one's seen Hodgee lately. Some hoped that as Lake Hodges disappeared, the monster would have fewer places to hide. That one day they'd be watching the sunrise from their quiet porches and suddenly catch a glimpse of a dark, lizardish hump — snaky Hodgee undulat-

La Jolla is a shoreline and a mountain. Not a big mountain — only 822 feet of it, far shorter than the Empire State Building — but it is a lush beauty spot, the higher the lushier. There isn't much solitude left, for Mount Soledad has been built over from all directions. But on the side overlooking the Pacific, the narrow, winding streets, the thick foliage, the estates hidden behind elaborate grills, and the ever more stupendous views make a trip up the mountain an inspiring experience.

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La Jolla



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Del Dios



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Ocean Beach

ing through the water. At least it would provide something fun to talk about at the next town meeting or fire-station pancake breakfast. A Hodgee sighting would be a welcome break from the stress of dealing with the county water authority, building codes, lake-draining drought, arson fires, mud slides, shortcutting commuters, cars miss-

ing curves up on Del Dios Highway and tumbling into their back yards. And the newest influx of commuters who prefer \$2 million North County clone houses with a Rancho Santa Fe address on a sterile golf course to 70-year-old fishing cottages under hundred-year-old oaks. But now the lake's little more than a puddle, and

Hodgee's still nowhere to be seen. Maybe he's just had enough and moved on.

Every lake needs its own secretive monster, but Hodgee took his time making an appearance. About 1918, a year-round stream, a growing population, and a need for water begat the Lake Hodges Dam. The dam begat the lake, which of

course attracted fishermen. The town of Del Dios (population in the mid-hundreds) began as a cluster of getaway cottages for San Diego anglers. Off the beaten path. A hamlet you wouldn't know was there unless someone told you. Eventually weekenders became year-rounders. Poets, authors, artists, lawyers, retirees, die-hard hip-

pies who maybe fished, maybe not.

Hodgee surfaced in the 1970s with a sighting report in a local newsletter. The community welcomed the

amphibian; neighbors began recounting Hodgee sightings around the bar at the Del Dios Country Store. Disappearing cattle and hay bales were sure

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signs Hodgee had been around. For a TV interview, locals rigged up a compressor and air hose to create bubbles in the lake. On camera, they pointed to the bubbles and told the reporter that was where Hodgee usually slept. And if you don't believe in Hodgee, then you need to see his website.

It's not clear exactly who posted *hodgee.com*. Some outfit called the Lake Hodges Scientific Research Center, which traces Hodgee's pedigree back to local Indian legends. Of course you'll find the obligatory grainy photographs, unattributed quotes from highly placed sources, secret scientific investigations, and hush-hush attempts by government officials

to poison the lake fish and Hodgee with them. So the monster lives on in the digital age. Though it's still green, shady, secluded, these days you can't miss Del Dios. Blaring yellow signs on Del Dios Highway warn frustrated commuters that they can't turn left, can't roar down the hill and use dreamy, bucolic Lake Drive and Del Dios as a speedway shortcut home. Traffic backs up from Via Rancho Parkway to Rancho Santa Fe. The county water authority is about to burrow under the town with a huge pipeline from yet another new dam — because the population is growing, because we need water. It's time for Hodgee to visit again. The commu-

nity could use the encouragement.
— Linda Nevin

OCEAN BEACH

I'll take the charming anachronism over the "in thing" any day. Just give me the Flat Earth Society, Elizabethan countesses surfing the Internet, and long-

OCEAN BEACH: *If San Diego were the Beatles, then OB'd be George Harrison.*

haired hippies on Wall Street. Grant me Kodachromes and unicorns, abaci and handset phones, any obsolete history reawakened and made contemporary.

I'm a fan of the enclave and a champion of the underdog; my favorite color is black

sheep, and my favorite fashion's the ugly duckling. I want my pegs squared and my jewels to shine from roughs. I like my beauty difficult, on the principle that easy pleasures are for the intolerant. And when I see where America's headed today, I'm compelled to post some cau-

tionary notices: "Open up, fearful country, and embrace your differences!"

Some of San Diego is undeniably slouching off into the Sad, Great Homogenization, but some of SD's retro, some of it's rich, and some is "alternative." In short,

we San Diegans have still got options. And option number one, the angel of my appreciation, the element that bucks convention, San Diego's last true neighborhood and earthly connection, indeed, the soul of this good place, is Ocean Beach. If SD were the Beatles, then OB'd be George Harrison. In a garden, OB's the flower you didn't plant yourself, but you keep it when it pops up, the indigenous part, like a floral surprise among the vegetables.

I will tell you a parable about Ocean Beach, from an event that actually happened to me, one recent afternoon, a sunny midsummer Saturday in this summer community, when the beaches were almost full.

Ocean Beach bustled, lunchtime, people going, bright sandal-traffic, motorcycle-traffic, music from the boardwalk and Newport Avenue, the smells of ocean and asphalt and Hodad's and beer.

A late arriver, attempting to park, I found myself winding farther and farther from the choicest spots, far from the beach. It was a long time before I came upon a space big enough for me, fronting an abandoned building, but an elderly woman was standing in the lines, wearing a darkly flowered housedress and staring at the ground.

I honked once, politely, inching closer to the old woman and the spot. I smiled. But her face was furious, a

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— Geoff Bouvier

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came with amidst the sea of bodies. As you circle the stadium, a plethora of smells approaches your nostrils, from cow dung and dirt to delicious barbecue. The bright midday sun temporarily

blinds you, helping you realize you haven't applied nearly enough sunscreen. You can hear the announcer over the intercom from three streets away: the proceedings are about to commence. The cow-

boys enter the arena, some to take on bulls ten times their size, some just to make the audience laugh. Saddle up your horses and tighten your belt buckles — you're at the Lakeside Rodeo!

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PHOTOGRAPH BY SANDY HUFFAKER, JR.

Lakeside



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

Little Italy



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVE ALLEN

San Marcos

fill the streets like urban legends.

Due largely to the publicity from the rodeo, Lakeside has a reputation of being just another old-fashioned country town inhabited by a bunch of tobacco-chewing, horse-riding, "sheep-luvin'" hicks, not to mention being racist, perverted, and generally ignorant. But although the rodeo

might be the town's main attraction, Lakeside has more to offer.

The majority of Lakeside's large Catholic population gathers regularly at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, two blocks from El Capitan High School. Within a 200-yard radius of the sanctuary you can find yourself at Maplevue Baptist or the Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Every year the men from about 15 churches, from many

denominations, gather for the Steak-Out, where they can share fellowship, eat good

meat, and be men. Fragments of plastic knives often go flying as overly zealous (or overly muscular) gentlemen try to cut through their steaks only to find the knives too flimsy. The plastic tablecloth and squeaky folding chairs don't deter them. A bundle of volunteers helps to keep the food hot and tasty, the music sharp and melodious, the message

sharp and inspirational. Lakeside is more than just "Cow Pie High" and the rodeo. These men, along with their families, are out to make their community a better place.

— Greg Finley

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sideways, spots her pal. Redhead descends from SUV, looks back to lock (*beep-beep*), and long-legs a diagonal to Princess Pub's pint-swilling lads, who posture by stools and crowd under awnings. A lone drinker — he's a regular — stares and sips. Curbside tables fill; patrons pour past wrought-iron railing. Talk climbs to tones that make tomorrow's sore throats.

Columbia & Fir
Monday lunchtime

A bird's-eye view from an airliner's belly: it could be bugs. The trail of hardhats winds around scaffolding's undoing. Plastic sheets wave in the breeze, a toss-away curtain revealing the prize: just-painted walls — faded terra-cotta, milk-whipped eggs, burnished leather — multi-stories of new stucco made to look Old World. Seven white T-shirts wait for passing traffic, cross on the green light toward the food truck, laugh over their shoulders, slap dust off their hands.

India at Date & Fir
Saturday afternoon

Tourists gamble on the best bet: lines at Filippi's shout family; couples next door say "Table for two"; across the street, four-tops, two umbrellas, more strolling, much staring.

All menus speak Italian, but the real language is gesture. Waiting lists of the weary on the sidewalk's double-width lean on cement benches, pizza box aloft, admire hues of remaining views, scoop gelato.

The bay's sightlines compete with another condo's construction. Four stories, five stories: "...how high the moon?" Sinatra sings from a signpost.

Columbia & Date
Sunday morning

Church bells signal and the parking lot's full. Our Lady of the Rosary spills its contents — confections of white wedding gown and rose-petaled bridesmaid — down steps and onto street, where red-

vested weekday workers sweep the asphalt clean. Children shriek. Mothers shush. Fathers shake hands.

Will the day's brightness seem garish for that afternoon's funeral? Or will the

black suit-and-ties and dark, somber dresses just seem chic in contrast?

— Sue Greenberg

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Girl's head: "Work out here and you'll look like me."

Just beyond the glass partition, standing beside the weight machines, Trainer Man meets his first client of the day. Trainer Man: mid-50s, receding hair-line, firefighter mustache. He doesn't look like Ahnold, but he's toned and trim in his baggy black workout shorts and white T-shirt. Trainer Man makes small talk with Overdressed Senior Citizen Lady. The sun's not even up, and she's in full makeup regalia, white hair teased to within an inch of its long life. Overdressed Senior Citizen Lady wears a soft pink French terry workout suit. A matching pink bow perches in her

hair. Her manicured fingernails are exactly the same shade.

Past the weight machines, in the inner sanctum, the free-weight room, you'll find Popeye. Popeye is tall, his red hair swept up in a semi-pompadour. In his black sweatpants and sleeveless black T-shirt, Popeye grunts and sweats and trades stories with the other early-morning weightlifters. He lifts impossibly large stacks of weights. His massive biceps ripple underneath his shoulder tattoo as he says, "I woke the baby up this morning so I could play with him before I left the house." Something tells me Olive Oyl wasn't too pleased.

In the cardio room, rows of treadmills and

elliptical machines and stair climbers face the window. In the front row, Fatty and Skinny pump their arms and legs side by side. Housewives who talk incessantly about their kids and husbands, Fatty and Skinny seem more con-

MISSION HILLS: *Every newlywed couple should have such a love nest: oodles of style, worn around the edges, reasonable rent.*

cerned with working their jaws than their muscles. Blond and petite in powder blue capris and a white T-shirt, Skinny looks as if she might fit comfortably in a child's windup music box. Brunette Fatty sweats away in black side-striped work-

out pants and a green striped V-necked shirt, probably purchased in the Plus Size department at Wal-Mart.

Behind Fatty and Skinny, Heart Attack Man flails away on a treadmill. Clutching the front of the machine

with a deathlike grip, Heart Attack Man chews gum or talks to himself while running. His chest heaves. Sweat flies off his body. He seems ready at any moment to collapse in a heap and be hurled backward off the machine. When Heart

Attack Man's breathing grows especially labored, Fatty turns to Skinny. "Call 911," she whispers.

— Leslie Ryland

SOUTH MISSION HILLS

First the guy was dead, and then he was not, a significant detail that changed during the telling of the story. But dead or alive, said my neighbor Matt, there was a body in the vacant lot by the crack house down the street. The police were already there. The trash-strewn lot was Matt's dog's toilet, hence the reason he was in the weeds at first light. Blame it on the dog. "The cops said it was like a gang thing or something," Matt said, none too happy about

his discovery. "They said the dude got stabbed, like, by a rival gang or some shit, and left to die."

Reynard Way starts out as Goldfinch. It cuts down through a white clay canyon in South Mission Hills and eventually succumbs to the gravity of downtown and changes names again to State Street. Reynard Way is a speedway five days a week, a shortcut to the office or the airport or the freeway. Certain of the neighborhood's walls may be owned by gangs — taggers remind us of this with spray paint — but the canyon belongs to the birds. The racket of sparrows, scrub jays, hawks, and crows outside my window can hold its own

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"Sí," she says, smiling a smile so huge the gold fillings are showing. "*De su hijo. Sí.*" She walks back up to her porch. Then she turns

As State Street crosses

Adams. Reynard winds its way along a canyon floor, carrying you past close-set single-story homes that share space with small businesses and big apartment buildings, and there is the tendency to look up.

This is where I lived for a little over a year, in a fabulous two-bedroom Spanish guest

house just down the corrugated, bare cliff from the house proper. (Every newlywed couple should have such a love nest: oodles of style, worn around the edges, reasonable rent.) There have been improve-



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ments of late — vinyl windows and remodels in the apartments, the arrival of the Frame Maker shop (featuring the frames of Jerry Solomon) across from the 7-Eleven — but Reynard still has the slightly worn, oddly developed look I (fondly) remember.

A little beyond where I lived, the street climbs out of the canyon, levels off at a respectable elevation, and changes its name again (this time to Goldfinch), as if it needed a new identity at this altitude. Bigger lots, newer paint jobs, better-tended gardens. A few blocks more, and you pass the Mission Hills Shopping Center (now home to a real estate office, a salon, a café, and an astonishing antiques shop) and the tastefully small business

district before turning left on Fort Stockton and plunging into the moneyed heart of the neighborhood.

If La Jolla is our Beverly Hills, where ever-grander dreams inspire ever-glassier homes (“I need more view! Dammit, Scotty, you’ve got to give me more view!”), then Mission Hills is our Pasadena. Peter Mayle, in his book *French Lessons*, writes that France owes its “army of outstanding chefs” to the Revolution. When members of the aristocracy were beheaded, they lost interest in food, and their private chefs were forced to open restaurants for the masses. This may explain why there are relatively few restaurants in Mission Hills compared to, say, Hillcrest, just down Wash-



Mission Hills

PHOTOGRAPH BY SANDY HUFFAKER, JR.

ington. Driving along Fort Stockton, gazing at majestic manse after majestic manse, it’s easy to believe that here, the aristocracy never fell. (I used to imagine dinner table conversations before the airport went in: “Oh, Walter, it will be *such* an eyesore. And so noisy. Can’t you put a call through to somebody and get something done about that?”) And even if it’s not true, even if the only real difference

between the rich and us is money, it is easy to see that Mission Hills is our best neighborhood for housepeeking. That is, looking at houses simply for the pleasure of looking at houses.

Here, the \$1 million-plus (\$2 million, \$3 million...) homes are not hidden along hillsides or behind gates or hedges. Here, they stand forth proudly in resplendent, ungauddy grandeur, many two or more stories, one after

the other, a model community for the age of the renovated home and the personal castle. Which is not to accuse the neighborhood of homogeneity; the streets offer a fine mix of Craftsmen, American stucco giants, mid-century designer ranches, and outright Moderns. To see what I mean, drive to the corner of Sunset and Coutts, site of the Italianate mansion that gets my vote for the finest home in America’s finest city, and check out the surrounding built environment.

— Matthew Lickona

MISSION HILLS

The wheels of my red, slightly rusted Radio Flyer wagon rattled as they fought the pebbles for a place on the path-way. I sighed, exhaling

anxiety with every bump, the bumps blending into a low hum that would grow deeper as I loaded my wagon with basil, thyme, sage, succulents, lion’s tail, and whatever else caught my eye and captured my attention.

Anytime I’m near Mission Hills, instinct and habit combine to steer me toward the Mission Hills Nursery — San Diego’s oldest, says the sign; established in 1910. When I shop there, I feel more as if I’m out for a stroll; I never feel the tug of commerce, just the pull of overflowing beauty. The nursery is a little like a favorite and worthwhile book, offering the pleasure of the familiar and the delight of discovering something new every time. It is my garden away from my gar-

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den, with the added bonus that I may pick the flowers and then plant them at home.

During my time living in Mission Hills (and beyond) I began to think of the surrounding neighborhood sort of like a garden, or an exceptionally well-decorated yard. For a front lawn, the pretty space that makes a good first impression as you come up from Mission Valley, there was Presidio Park and the brick-fashioned Serra Cross. For the back lawn, where kids can run and play, I used Mission Hills Park, with its noble stands of eucalyptus and its curious row of gravestones in the back corner. Houses were my judiciously mixed flower beds. Craftsman homes were my African daisies, all

EL CAJON: *"I could look out the back door right now," says its manager, "and see tents and sleeping bags and coffeepots on a grassy spot between my building and the courthouse."*

grand and brilliant and up-front about it but also full of quiet details: purple veins in an orange petal on a daisy, a clever alcove or overhang on a house. Little Spanish gems lounged in more rounded, starker state, like succulents or cacti. And the modern homes were my exotics — fancy neutral grasses and outrageous blooms echoed by bleached woods and angular glass fronts.

Certain businesses became my useful garden — lively vegetables and herbs to make life more delicious. Maison en Provence remains my favorite home store, bold Provençal colors jumping from the linens and heady aromas wafting from the soaps — orange, lavender, sage, rosemary. Cut flowers I bought across

the street at Monet's Garden (since departed); next door, I munched croissants and strawberry crepes at A La Française. I left the neighborhood before Phil's Barbecue arrived, but now that it's there, my husband brings me back on gustatory pilgrimages.

Every garden has its weeds — a few overgrown '70s-awful apartment boxes, one or two prickly office complexes, a curiously unglorious church. But such errant growths are easy to overlook, especially as the houses sprout new coats of paint in ever more alluring combinations: gold-green with rust trim — amazing, it works. Another discovery, another delight, and perhaps another

item I'll take home with me.
— Deirdre Lickona

EL CAJON
Innocence of the 1950s variety still draws me once in a while to the Grinder sandwich shop on the corner of Second and Greenfield in El Cajon. Afterward, to conjure up memories of my father's sudden and unpredictable treats, I can drive across town for soft ice cream at one of the few Fosters Freezes remaining in San Diego County. And not long ago, after learning of the city's downtown car shows on summer Wednesday evenings, I revisited the hot rods I chased as a teenager while cruising a small-town main drag.

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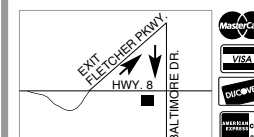
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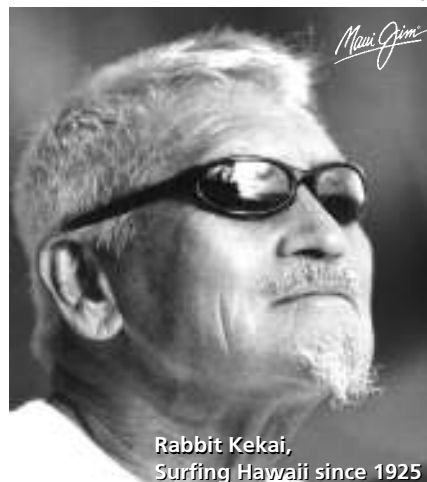
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Freeze on El Cajon Boulevard stands the regional headquarters of the Hells Angels, whose name for one of the hottest cities in the county is Hell Cajon. To the east, illusions of an idyllic time are further dispelled by the long stretch of Main Street, where the homeless and drug-addicted can be seen hanging out at most any time of day or night.

I learn that some good-willed business people have formed an association to rejuvenate the downtown area eastward from Main and Magnolia Avenue, El Cajon's historic ground zero, which has begun to feature sidewalk-café-style dining. Its brand-new restaurants, however, have to share storefront space with an old hanger-on, F Street Books.

As squatters suddenly began appearing on ranches in Cajon



El Cajon

Valley in the 1860s, so tent communities of homeless people are likely to pop up in various places in El Cajon today. One did recently behind the Gold Coast Apartments on Ballantyne Street. "I could look out the back door right now," says its manager, "and see tents and sleeping bags and coffee pots on a grassy spot between my building and the courthouse."

There seem to be 10,000 apartments in El Cajon; more than houses, anyway, says a resident who has lived

in the community since the early '50s. In the 1980s, city hall put a moratorium, still in effect, on building new apartment buildings. But low rents, relative to those in San Diego, have always been a magnet to the poor. Then some renters can't pay their bills and end up on the streets.

What to do about the homeless is the dominant civic issue that divides Cajonians (well, it beats Cajones) these days. East County Republicanism seems torn between Christian values and property values. So some citizens favor a proposal to



Poway

build a transitional-housing facility for the homeless at the Fabulous 7 Motel on East Main. But opponents have filed a lawsuit against it. One of their arguments is that the project will bring convicted felons into close proximity to the area's children.

In front of the Grand Bar, back toward downtown El Cajon, a righteous drunk fumes to me about the transitional-housing project. Especially exercised about the hookers who may go there, he blurts out, "Why don't they build them a whorehouse and get 'em off

the street that way?"

— Joe Deegan

POWAY

Poway: "The City in the Country." I was born and raised in Poway, and I can tell you that the slogan has never been accurate. At the time of Poway's incorporation in 1980, any passer-by could spend all day searching for a city. By now, the country is the elusive part.

Due to its split personality of both city and country, Poway exhibits interesting contradictions. Rusty pickup trucks share the road with BMWs and the resident Ferrari. Hicks and yuppies pick through fresh produce together. In addition to a Target and a Wal-Mart, there is a feed store, a stable, and random chickens. Housing ranges from mansions to mobile homes to the token homeless man.

The best way to describe Poway is in moments — both Kodak and daguerreotype. Five Christian

churches share a short stretch of road, their signs declaring the righteousness of each over the others. The nostalgic apparition of the old Applebee farmhouse stands alone in a barren field, a fading memory of Poway as it once was. I remember wading through Rattlesnake Creek in red rubber boots, collecting rocks and planks to build rickety bridges, enjoying the squelching mud, forests of reeds, and darting tadpoles.

Near the creek is the Poway Valley Riders Association arena and stables. Poway horseback riders create demand for a snaking network of horse trails, and their horses supply the perpetual peppering of droppings that adorn so many east Poway sidewalks. Due to rural residential zoning, people can keep horses in their back yards while leading an otherwise suburban lifestyle within stuccoed walls. East Poway is dominated by such people.

On the flip side, a nearly unchecked onslaught of tract houses provides the support necessary to maintain Poway's three Starbucks. These houses would be pleasant enough, were it not for their chillingly identical design. My friend Courtney remembers a man who stayed three minutes in her house before realizing that he actually lived two doors down.

Overlooking everyone is the land of the very rich, consisting of million-dollar dream houses, tennis courts, and automated gates. The gates are successful in keeping out alien vehicles, non-fence-climbers, and the mentally impaired.

Perhaps the best illustration of the contradictory nature of Poway is its treatment of the city mascot, the

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15% off first skin peel

La Jolla Spa M.D.
\$100 off laser hair removal

Philip Levy, O.D.
\$25 off eyeglasses

☎ Magic Tan
Free tan

Meridian Skin & Body Clinic
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Complete exam \$39

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☎ The New Look Salon & Day Spa
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New Tan
Free tan

☎ North Coast Medical Spa
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Pacific College of Oriental Medicine
Acupuncture: \$20

The Palm La Jolla Medical Spa
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Fitness Direct
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☎ Arthur Murray Dance Studio
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Atlas Tickets
Free delivery (\$10 savings)

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☎ Bridal Bazaar
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2 for 1 admission

Danny Amanda Dance
2 private lessons \$39

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Free visitor's pass

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Half-price tickets

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Top Cat Limousine
1 free hour

☎ UTC Transportation
Free Dom Perignon

Vertical Hold
2 for 1 introductory lesson

Poway Oak. Once a venerable living landmark, it was suffocated and killed by nearby road expansion, a most ironic demise. Other strange occurrences take place as well — a strangled duck made it into the crime log, a skateboarder jumped a flight of stairs and hit a horse.

Throughout the contradictions is a basic understanding that Poway will always have trees, numerous parks, and bare ridgelines. Of course, the parks range from simple baseball diamonds to campgrounds, and some hilltops have begun sprouting tracts.

Eventually, the “country” part of the Poway slogan will seem like a joke. You can no longer scoff, “It’s Poway” and leave your car unlocked, and many of the creeks are now

paved over. Perhaps the slogan will become “the City in the Suburb,” with a hardier mascot — a Starbucks or an SUV.

— Alana Firl

BORREGO SPRINGS

Ten Reasons Why You’d Have to Be Crazy to Live in Borrego Springs:

1. The average temperature in July is 107.
2. To paraphrase what Gertrude Stein once said of Oakland, there is no there there — no people (population: about 3000), no movie theater, no stoplight, no convenience store, no hospital, no home mail delivery, no McDonald’s. And not only are these things not there, but it’s a 50-mile ride over rough roads (to Brawley or Ramona) before you can get to them. This distance can prove daunting if you,

for example, run out of cigarettes late at night.

3. Flood insurance is mandatory. Borrego Springs is built on top of several drainage systems running out of the San Ysidro Mountains to the west of town, notably the one that drains Hellhole Canyon. My house, like most of the others in

BORREGO SPRINGS: *The average temperature in July is 107.*

Borrego Springs, is built in the 50-year floodplain. People visiting the area usually laugh when they hear that I’m required to own flood insurance, but they wouldn’t have been chuckling if they had been here during the ’70s, when Borrego experienced two 50-year floods within a single 3-year period,

one of which nearly wiped out the De Anza Country Club.

4. Earthquake insurance isn’t mandatory (because insurance companies don’t want to issue policies), but it should be because Borrego Springs is located smack-dab in the middle of one of the most active and violent fault

systems in the world. Thirty miles east of town, the San Andreas Fault and its relatives have down-dropped the structural depression around the Salton Sea some 20,000 feet (that’s four times deeper than the Grand Canyon, to put this in perspective); 30 miles north of town, the San Jacinto Fault system (California’s

most active and violent) has raised the awesome, mind-boggling Santa Rosa Mountains over a mile above sea level. That’s a 5½-mile total displacement in less than 50 miles. You figure it out.

5. Temperatures in Borrego Springs peaked this year over a two-day period in July at 119 and 118 — slightly above normal for summer highs, but high enough to render the “Yes, but it’s a dry heat” phrase irrelevant.

6. To get to Borrego Springs from San Diego normally requires a drive along S-22, which abruptly drops farther (nearly a vertical mile) faster (in less than 10 miles) than any other major roadway in America.

7. The average temperature in July is 107.
8. Cats, small dogs, and toddlers don’t last

long here (the howl of coyotes can be heard almost every night from my deck). However, my wife and I have discovered that the enormous scorpions who regularly show up in our house make wonderful pets (you can keep them inside an aquarium). Did you know that scorpions are from the same family as spiders? That mother scorpions bear their young live? That they can live up to 20 years? That they glow in the dark?

9. My house has actually declined in value since I bought it a decade ago.

10. The average temperature in July is 107.

Fifteen years after moving to San Diego County, my wife and I first drove down over the San Ysidro Mountains into the Borrego Valley in July 1990. We

RESEARCH STUDIES



Has Your Child Suffered a Traumatic Event ...

**... such as:
a car accident, an act of violence (either personally or as a witness), or any other traumatic situation?**

As a result of this traumatic event, is your child experiencing any of the following?

- Recurrent nightmares • Sleep problems • Reliving the traumatic event
- Avoidance of activities or people • Difficulty concentrating • Unrealistic fears or anxieties

If so, your child may be suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and could qualify to participate in a clinical research study being conducted by the Research Division of Psychiatric Centers at San Diego.

Participants must be between 6 and 17 years of age. If qualified to participate, your child will receive study-related medical evaluations, three therapy sessions, and study medication, all at no cost to you. Travel compensation is also provided.

For more information about this study, please call:

Psychiatric Centers at San Diego, Research Division
San Marcos: (760) 510-1734 or
Child & Adolescent Center: (858) 571-KIDS (5437)



Unable to ENJOY the Things You Used To?

You could be suffering from clinical depression...

Depression symptoms include:

- Feelings of sadness, worthlessness or guilt • Difficulty concentrating • Loss of interest or pleasure in activities
- Changes in appetite or weight • Sleeping too much or too little • Decreased energy

Volunteers are needed for a clinical depression research study.

This is a pharmaceutical company-sponsored study.

There is no cost to you. Travel compensation is provided.

Call us to see if you qualify.
877-FOR-INFO
(877-367-4636)

PCSD-Feighner Research Institute

have been full-time residents of Borrego Springs ever since.
— Larry McCaffery

BARRIO LOGAN

Just inside the entrance to El Mercadito Market, a dreamcatcher the size of a large gong dangles feathery tentacles toward the floor. In other neighborhoods, this yarn-threaded novelty might seem out of place in such a store, but here in Barrio Logan, it fits in with the lipsticks sold sans packaging, with the bin of red beans swallowing their clear scoop, with the modular piles of TVs waiting for repair at the back of the store. Across the aisle, brooms with neon plastic bristles spike out of a canister,

lighting a fuse of color that snakes through the surrounding blocks. It touches the art gallery across the street, circles a red umbrella used as a parasol, runs through the Dulceria Peninsular, where piñatas in the form of fish and monsters and misshapen cartoon characters hang from the ceiling like so many bright potted plants.

Across the trolley tracks, the color fuse tangles in great coils inside the warehouse that houses the farmer's market, where innumerable vendors peddle mangos and sweetbreads, Coke in glass bottles and shiny little girls' dresses, DVDs and hundreds of glittering gold crosses.

The spark reaches

BARRIO LOGAN: *Brooms with neon plastic bristles spike out of a canister, lighting a fuse of color that snakes through the surrounding blocks.*

its end in Chicano Park. Color explodes across the cement underbelly of the Coronado Bay Bridge, murals of Quetzalcoatl and the Mexican Revolution seeping into every empty space. San Diego muralist Victor Ochoa painted many of the murals; some were done by students. Chicano Park is a striking manifestation of a historically Mexican art form, a political and recreational space in one. Miguel Hidalgo and Pancho Villa smile out over Logan Avenue from the Mural Histórico.

Yet the paint on Barrio Logan's historic clapboard houses is fading. The community is almost entirely Hispanic, and incomes are low. César Chávez Elementary School feeds nearly half of its students free or reduced-

price lunches. Political battles abound: from combating corporate environmental abuses to protesting tighter security at the United States-Mexico border. As a result, in part, of ballpark construction, many residents are being forced out of the area; rents increased 41 percent in the first half of this year.

But Barrio Logan is a united community. Organizations like the Barrio Logan College Institute and Calaca Press foster group identity and political strength. Crime rates are much lower in Barrio Logan than in nearby Gaslamp or Lincoln Park. Still, wrought-iron bars curl over the windows of Chepina's Bridal Gowns.

Irritable Bowel Syndrome?

We are conducting a clinical research study for women who suffer from severe diarrhea-predominant Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, have suffered from severe diarrhea-predominant IBS symptoms for at least 6 months, and have failed conventional IBS therapy. All office visits, medical evaluations and investigational medications related to this study will be provided at no cost to patients.

For more information about this study, please contact:
Clinical Applications Laboratories
619-260-1012

Clinical Trial
recurrent genital herpes



Adult volunteers are needed for a research study of an approved medication to observe recurrent genital herpes outbreaks.

Qualified participants must be 18-65 years old and have had four or more outbreaks within the past year.

All study-related care (doctor visits, physical exams, laboratory tests, and study medication) is provided.

Participants will receive monetary compensation. For more information please call:

Genesis Center for Clinical Research
619.491.0490

Depression



If you are experiencing DEPRESSION but it has not impacted your SEXUAL FUNCTIONING, you may qualify to participate in a research study evaluating an investigational medication on the sexual functioning of individuals suffering from depression. Qualified volunteers will be compensated.

Optimum Health Services
619-667-4567



SCHIZOPHRENIA
SCHIZOAFFECTIVE

Do you have a **diagnosis** of
Schizophrenia or
Schizoaffective disorder?

If so, you may be eligible to participate in a research study evaluating an investigational medication. Study participants will receive compensation for time and travel.

For more information, please call
Optimum Health Services
619-667-4567

Schizophrenia,
Schizoaffective,
Bipolar Disorder,
Major Depression,
Alzheimer's or
Elderly Insomnia

Do you or anyone you know suffer from any of the above?

We may currently or in the future have research programs available where qualified candidates can receive investigational drugs for the conditions listed above and be compensated for time and travel.

You may qualify to receive an investigational drug while participating in a research study.

Optimum Health Services
For locations in
South County call: 619-667-4567
or for North County call: 760-631-3056

Naval Station that frames one end of Barrio Logan. To the south along the bayfront are various businesses, mostly in support of NASSCO, an oil-storage facility and trains, all effectively blocking any view of the bay. To the north, I-5 divides and isolates the community. The new Petco Park brackets the west side.

And at the heart is Chicano Park. When the tuna industry came into the area in 1932, Barrio Logan became a distinct ethnic/Mexican-American neighborhood. In 1963, with the construction of I-5, the community became even further isolated. In 1969 when the pillars of the Coronado Bay

Bridge were sunk into the heart of the barrio, it was again divided and the community begrudgingly accepted this. But in 1970, when a highway patrol station was about to be built, the people of Barrio Logan, such as Mike Amador and Salvador Torres, stood up and said *ya basta* (that is enough).

With the construction of the bridge, the community had been promised a small park, but when construction of a California Highway Patrol station was about to begin, the community rose up and created a human chain to stop the bulldozers. A park was promised, and a park was delivered. Barrio Logan became the symbolic center of the Chicano movement in San Diego.

The community of Barrio Logan fought for a health clinic, which is here today in part because of activists such as Laura Rodriquez, who started hosting tamale luncheons to raise funds. The Chicano Free Clinic is now called the Logan Heights Family Health Center.

The cry was "All the way to the bay." The

community wanted access to a waterfront park. It took ten years, but finally a bayside park was created, hidden behind trains and industry buildings, and wedged in between old tuna piers and the Tenth Avenue Marina.

toward the future.
— Daniel Muñoz Jr.

HILLCREST
I've been living in Hillcrest more or less continuously for the past 16 years. I say "more or less" because in 1998 a friend asked if I wanted

HILLCREST: *Divorcées like it because many of them are happy to leave the suburbs behind and start life anew in a more urban setting.*

Barrio Logan is a mixture of homes, markets, Mexican restaurants, and a lot of small businesses that are not exactly environmentally friendly. It is registered as one of the ten most polluted communities in California. And Perkins Elementary is probably the only elementary school that has monitors on its rooftops to collect and gauge pollution.

But the people love their community and continue to fight for it; they fight for their children, they fight to be recognized as a people. And just about every weekend you can see them in Chicano Park, celebrating their life and culture and looking

to move into his house in Del Mar, and since I had always wanted to live near the coast, I packed my belongings and moved. I lasted four months. While driving through Hillcrest one afternoon, I saw that the apartment I had vacated had been renovated and was up for rent again. I called my old landlord and moved back in. So much for change. I couldn't take the Del Mar suburban yuppie lifestyle, especially the endless bumper-to-bumper excursions along the I-5/805 merge.

I originally moved to Hillcrest in 1986, shortly after going through a divorce. While Hillcrest is well

RESEARCH STUDIES

ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER

Do you know someone 18-49 years of age who has Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder?

Symptoms of ADD/ADHD may include:

- Being easily distracted
- Often losing things or making careless mistakes
- Difficulty awaiting turn
- Interrupting or intruding on others
- Acting as if "driven by a motor"
- Difficulties sustaining attention

Medical physicians at UCSD are currently conducting a medical research study to evaluate an investigational, non-stimulant drug (atomoxetine hydrochloride) versus placebo (inactive medication) in adults with ADHD.

Medical and psychological evaluations and study drug will be provided at no cost. Eligible participants will also receive financial compensation.

For more information please call:

619-543-3697



UCSD Healthcare Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Medicine

Does Holiday Stress Mean... Herpes?

Recurrent genital herpes infection is a sexually transmitted disease that affects the lives of one in five Americans.

Medical Center for Clinical Research is seeking volunteers for a research study of an approved medication to treat recurrent genital herpes outbreaks. If you are between the ages of 18 and 65 and had four or more outbreaks within the past year, you may qualify to participate. Qualified volunteers will receive free study-related



care to include physical exam by a board-certified physician, laboratory tests, investigational medications, and compensation up to \$150 for time and travel.

For more information, please contact:

MEDICAL CENTER FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH

Anne at (619) 521-2884

CRYSTAL METH/ SPEED USERS

Opportunity to participate in an addiction research study funded by NIDA and UCLA. Experimental medications with outpatient drug counseling at no cost.

You will be compensated in vouchers for your participation.

For information call:
SOUTH BAY
TREATMENT CENTER
800-495-0001

Principal Investigator
Joseph Mawhinney, M.D.

Sleep Research



Do you normally sleep 6 hours or less a night and don't feel tired during the day?

OR

Do you normally sleep 9 hours or more a night in order to feel refreshed and ready to take on the day?

If you answered yes to one of these questions you may be eligible for a Sleep Research Study conducted by UCSD and the Naval Health Research Center.

We are looking for people who are:

- Native English speakers.
- Right-handed.
- Between the ages of 18 and 59.

Volunteers compensated financially.

For more information please contact... 619-553-8410

www.longshortsleepers.com



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVE ALLEN

Borrego Springs



PHOTOGRAPH BY SANDY HUFFAKER, JR.

Barrio Logan



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

Hillcrest

known as San Diego's gay community, two of its lesser-known distinctions are that it is a mecca for the divorced

and a haven for ex-New Yorkers. Since I was both, it seemed perfect for me. New Yorkers like it because it is San

Diego's only real walking community; from my house on First Avenue I can walk to bookstores, movies,

restaurants, supermarkets, boutiques, and San Diego's greatest concentration of coffee shops. Divorcées like it because

they are happy to leave the suburbs behind and start life anew in a more urban setting.

I've watched a great many changes take place in Hillcrest over the years. At this point in my life it's a neighborhood of ghosts. I've been through a few relationships there, and each had certain specific associations. One girlfriend and I used to love to eat at the Chicken Pie Shop on the corner of Robinson and Fifth, now a Starbucks. Every

time I sip a latte there I recall the distinctive smell of chicken pies and the classic '40s-style waitresses who served three-buck dinners. Across the street, in the middle of the block, is the ghost of Hammonds, one of San Diego's strangest stores. They sold things like shaving brushes, thimbles, fuses, ladies' compacts, and puzzles of all kinds. There's the ghost of Quel Fromage, San Diego's original coffee-house, on University

RESEARCH STUDIES



Creepy, Crawly Nighttime Legs

Is a creepy, crawly feeling in your legs keeping you up at night? If so, you could be suffering from Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS). If you are over 18 and are in general good health, you may qualify to try an investigational medication being studied for the possible treatment of RLS.

Every study conducted by HealthQuest is staffed by a team of skilled and experienced physicians and medical professionals trained to place your comfort and well-being first.

If you participate, there is no cost to you...instead:

- * You may receive up to \$1950 for your participation.
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- * No reports are made to employers, schools or insurance companies.



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www.hqtrials.com

San Diego • Los Angeles • Orange County

Depression can interfere with your life.

Have you tried Prozac®, Zoloft® or Celexa®? Do you still feel hopeless and continue to suffer from sadness, poor sleep, lack of concentration and motivation?

This research study, conducted by a well-known pharmaceutical company, allows you to try an investigational medication being studied for depression for a limited number of qualified participants.

If you participate, there is no cost to you...instead:

- * You receive up to \$800 for your participation.
- * You receive no-cost research study-related medication and medical care.
- * No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.



(858) 571-1188
www.hqtrials.com

San Diego • Los Angeles • Orange County

between Fifth and Sixth, and the ghost of the Guild Theater, now one of the area's ubiquitous trendy furniture stores.

One by one, the mom-and-pop businesses have given way to chains and high-rent retail outlets. Rite Aid, Starbucks, and the Gap have crowded out some of Hillcrest's unique charm. But some of the ghosts remain, like Pernicano's Casa di Baffi, the mysterious empty restaurant that occupies nearly a full city block between Fifth and Sixth. And the wonderful Hillcrest Stationers on Fourth and Robinson, which apparently survived the onslaughts of Office Depot and Staples by proudly pro-

claiming on its front sign: "A Pencil's a Pencil; the Difference Is Service."

Of course, Hillcrest has its downside. Rents and home prices have spiraled out of control. Parking is always a hassle, the streets are usually littered and dirty, and homelessness persists. When you live here for a while, the homeless become your neighbors, and I recognized these unfortunate souls, many of whom used to hang out in the stairwell of the old Thackeray Gallery on Third and Robinson but who have since been driven from that oasis since Ace Hardware turned it into the strangest apartment complex in the city. Let

me introduce some of these homeless folks; they're a part of Hillcrest — and many other San Diego neighborhoods — we don't much talk about:

Neighbors
Each day on the way to

DOWNTOWN: *She would pour herself her drink of choice — rum and Coke — light up a Marlboro, and breathe in the view.*

work
I pass the same homeless crowd —
the young man with a large crucifix
around his neck, pushing a shopping cart
packed with everything he has. Today he

points to a plastic Batman in the cart
and shows off his new haircut.
Near him, a hairy, ragged beast of a man
sits cross-legged on the sidewalk,
wrapped in the shards of a filthy blanket.

Most of the time he sits on the edge
of the bus-stop bench,
head bowed in his hands,
body hunched like a weeping Buddha, but
today
he's sitting on the side-

walk, staring at the sky.
Around the corner, though I haven't seen her yet, will be the old woman, who sleeps sitting up in a potted plant. She comes prepared each night
with a clean blanket and several bags of clothes, to find the
only patch of dirt for blocks,
a large half-barrel that holds a small tree between the stationery shop and the pharmacy.
When she sleeps late, the young who buy office supplies
and the old who buy medications pass her on their daily rounds.
Then there's the skinny woman with skin like

a saddle
who sips 7-Eleven coffee against a brick wall.
She's mostly wrapped in plastic, and sometimes she talks to passersby, but never asks for money, unlike the woman
with scabs on her face who sleeps in the doorway of an
abandoned restaurant and looks at you head-on with her
hand outstretched, palm filled with pennies and nickels.
Meet my neighbors; they're probably yours as well.
— Fred Moramarco

DOWNTOWN
A tarnished little plaque is embedded in the sidewalk at the corner of

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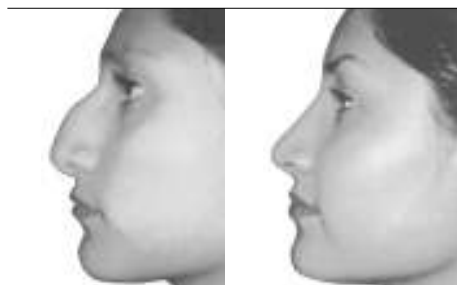
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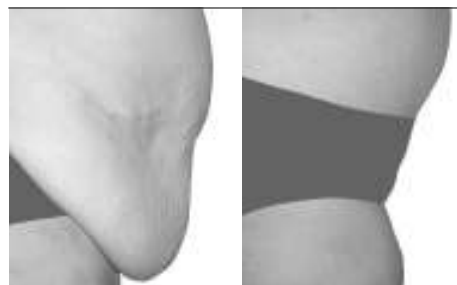
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Fifth Avenue and J Street. It bears a small legend: "Shirley Bernard, Gaslamp Pioneer." Thousands of extravagantly attired feet heading for bars, cafés, and various basement disco dens tromp across her name, not realizing it is there. She died in October 1992 at the age of 69, well before the explosive development that has overwhelmed her old neighborhood, transforming it from a once-charming historic district into something more resembling Canal Street in New Orleans during Mardi Gras. The formerly sleepy old harborside quarter has lost its harbor, which has been walled off by the

sprawling convention center, blocking the once-sweeping nighttime view of the bridge to Coronado and the twinkling hills of Tijuana beyond. The new Omni Hotel at the Park towers ominously nearby, limiting the neighborhood's sunlight.

Years ago, on hot summer nights, Shirley would climb onto the roof of her four-story Grand Pacific, the old fleabag hotel she had restored with her boyfriend Glen. She would pour herself her drink of choice — rum and Coke — light up a Marlboro, and breathe in the view. The only voices to be heard would filter up from



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVE ALLEN

Downtown

broken-down drunks coming out of the cramped dive bars farther up Fifth Avenue toward Market. That tranquillity is long gone, replaced by raw commerce.

The insides of historic buildings have been gutted and their legacies shredded, replaced by high-priced

designer versions of history. Tourists and conventioners crowd the sidewalks, marching into trendy "theme" restaurants with names like Gaslamp Strip Club and Acqua. Within a year, the lights of the new Padres baseball stadium will be turned up, flooding the neighborhood with garish

illumination and unchecked traffic congestion. Rum-and-Cokes have been replaced by flavored martinis favored by patrons who were born well after 1975, the year Shirley arrived from Rancho Santa Fe. Today's drunks are under 30 and drive Hummers. Their voices are much louder and they stay out later than the inebriates of old.

It's hard to know if Shirley would approve of what has become of the Gaslamp. Maybe she'd like it. After all, she was in the real estate business, a true capitalist, and she bought the hotel — for an outrageously low six figures — to make a

buck off the eventual rehabilitation of the neighborhood. She never contemplated moving in. That came later, in the late '70s, as then-mayor Pete Wilson and Ernest Hahn, the shopping-mall magnate from Hawthorne, sought to gain control of the quarter, with the expectation of leveling all but a few token historic structures.

Hahn, the developer of Horton Plaza, was stalling on his promised construction of the shopping center, declaring that he could not interest mall tenants while "bums were pissing in their shoes" just across the street in the Gaslamp Quarter. The

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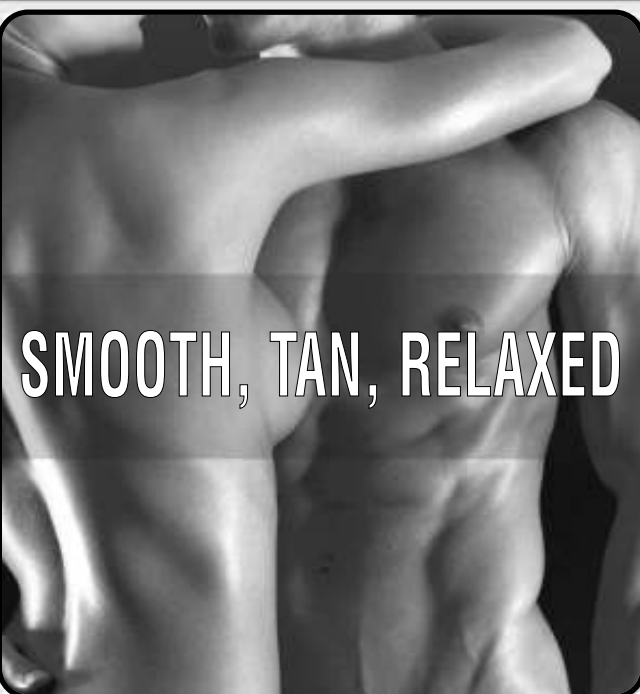
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solution, he said, was to use the city's power of condemnation to seize the old buildings, quickly demolish them, and turn the land over to big developers at prices to be subsidized by city taxpayers, just as Wilson had done for him and the Horton Plaza project.

But when his redevelopment czar, Gerald Trimble, declared war on the quarter in 1977, Shirley and her fellow Gaslamp property owners, mostly upper-middle-class small investor types from the suburbs — not your typical radicals by any means — surprised Wilson by fighting back. They formed the city's first "Project Area Com-

mittee" and invoked a state law requiring a "super majority" of the city council to approve a redevelopment project that the committee had rejected. Wilson lost the narrow vote, one of the rare defeats he encountered during his iron-fisted, decade-long domination of city hall. The wrecking ball of Trimble and Hahn was stayed.

After the battle was over, Shirley declared, "Let's get the bricks in the street," and a compliant city council obliged, initially dumping more than \$6 million of federal funds into installation of new brick sidewalks and wrought-iron light fixtures. More money fol-

lowed, as did favorable media attention. The *Tribune's* Neil Morgan adopted Shirley as one of his regulars and spent months hanging around the Grand Pacific, showering her with glowing mentions in his column.

BONITA: *No more do I hear the high yapping of foxes at midnight.*

The battle with Wilson turned out to be the high point of Shirley's relationship with the Gaslamp. She stayed for a while but eventually seemed to tire of the politics that were an ever-present part of the rehabilitation effort. She sold the Grand Pacific

and moved to a house in Golden Hill, which she restored. A chain smoker, she died of lung cancer. After she had passed from the scene, the city made another grab for power and this time succeeded in putting the area under

its redevelopment authority. By then, though, existing property owners were powerful enough to bar any future condemnation actions, forcing the city to deal fairly with them.

But that wasn't enough to save the Gaslamp from drown-

ing in its own success. The once-strict sign ordinances and design controls were ultimately abandoned, encouraging a honky-tonk culture to flourish. As the city packed more and more development into the area, it neglected issues such as parking and traffic control. The neighborhood's burgeoning popularity led to the construction of condominium projects affordable to only a slim slice of well-to-do residents, many of whom came from out of town to buy second homes they saw written up in the "Escapes" section of the *New York Times*. The middle-class property owners of yore took their profits and

departed the scene. What had started as a grassroots historic preservation effort led by live-in owners morphed into a corporate free-for-all, aided and abetted by a city council dependent on the campaign largesse of well-connected donors such as Padres owner John Moores.

Perhaps fittingly, an overbearing bust of Ernie Hahn commemorates his contribution to downtown development. A similar monument to his friend and beneficiary Pete Wilson is promised. Thanks to Shirley, at least the shell of San Diego's lost history remains in the Gaslamp. Her obscure little plaque at the bot-

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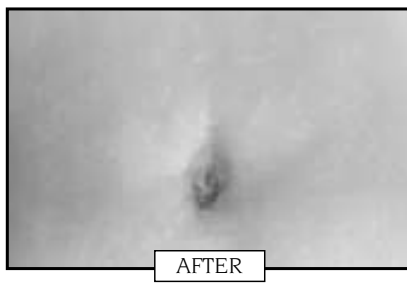
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tom of Fifth Avenue is the least she deserves.
— Matt Potter

BONITA

Bucolic Bonita first bloomed in my experience during a 1965 visit to the shallow valley scooped out across millennia by the Sweetwater River on its run to the Pacific. Even in the mid-'60s the lemon groves, lima bean fields, and dairy farms east of Chula Vista were fading memories. Subdivisions of homes on half-acre lots had been built where migrant workers had picked fruit and vegetables while farmers tended herds of Guernsey and Holstein. Still, the heart of the valley remained largely untouched, stretching eastward from the future route of I-805 to the Sweetwater Dam — a six-mile expanse of

water tank, the northern hills were still unsullied when I finally found myself in San Diego long enough to buy a house and settle down with my family. I've gotten to know Bonita much better since I moved in 17 years ago.

Million-dollar homes now clutter the water-tank hill. The valley center remains undeveloped, however, despoiled only by the county's misguided replacement of an enormous stand of tall bamboo with thin, runty bushes and trees "native to the area." This ecologically correct move destroyed a lot of habitat. No more do I hear the high yapping of foxes at midnight or see them scrambling over my back-yard fence in the glow of a ghost moon to feast on the fallen fruit of a mul-

CORONADO: *I loathed the town's conservative mentality and traditional values.*

mini-wilderness broken by two golf courses.

Even with the rough beast of development slouching ever east and south to be born, Bonita retained at least a semirural aspect: the half-acre lots had been zoned for two horses each; wide bridle paths coursed for miles between homes and through the brush, bamboo, palms, and weeping willows of the Sweetwater floodplain. Trails climbed high hills on both sides of the valley, untouched by bulldozer or backhoe.

The southern hills were first to go: Corky McMillin built large houses on lots decidedly not zoned for horses. Corky did retain bridle paths, but now where the paths crossed roadways, vehicles of a swelling population menaced horse and rider.

Except for a huge

berry tree. But as luck would have it, I still endure — as we all do who live in the valley — the god-awful stench of skunk, which is especially distressing for those of us with dogs.

A more pleasant Bonita odor is the light camphor smell of rain-washed eucalyptus along Sweetwater Road as it passes Rohr Park, where families congregate most weekends to grill carne asada, celebrate birthdays with piñatas, and just generally have one hell of a good time. The families often come from National City, Chula Vista, and points south.

Sweetwater Road also skirts the northern boundary of a three-mile jogging path that loops around the Chula Vista Golf Course to link up with the southern boundary along Bonita Road. Men and women, boys and girls,

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babies in strollers, Chicanos, gringos white and black, Japanese, Chinese, Filipinos, Vietnamese, and Lord knows what other ethnicities ply the route, some faster than others. Dogs and horses join the mix to add excitement.

Less appealing images sometimes intrude: a shrieking horse, its forelegs shattered by an inattentive or perhaps malicious driver; an occasional jogger struck down by an inattentive or perhaps malicious driver; a corpse dumped in a woodsy patch after a drug deal gone bad; stables and paddocks in the lee of Mount Miguel soon to be buried beneath tons of concrete as SR-125 moves inexorably toward the border; the chilling chatter (especially for a Vietnam vet) of a Border Patrol helo beating its midnight way over the valley with searchlight blazing.

But what the hell? Where else can you live with at least the illusion of leafy open space just 25 minutes from Horton Plaza? And you could be living in a



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

Bonita

Coronado Billy Box.
— *Bill Salisbury*

CORONADO

A well-known fact about Coronado is that it tends to sink a few inches each summer. The weight of tourists from inland cities, of college students returned home, of Navy families back for the Fourth of July — Orange Avenue becomes awash in beach

cruisers and sunburned shoulders every year when the summer season arrives. But somehow, even with the throngs of vacationers, Coronado holds on to its small-town feel. It's a place where neighbors bump into each other on Sundays at the park or at the Ferry Landing's farmer's market. You can't go to the grocery store without running into someone you



PHOTOGRAPH BY SANDY HUFFAKER, JR.

Coronado

know, whether it's the pharmacist, neighbor, or landscaper. This is what keeps Coronado quaint, what keeps real estate prices high, and why Navy families return here to retire. It's a beautiful gated community surrounded on nearly all sides by water.

But summer isn't Coronado's only season. Each Halloween Margarita Avenue dresses itself in cobwebs and

jack-o'-lanterns for costumed children. And Christmas pours down Orange Avenue with holiday floats iced with garlands and candy canes. This is when Coronado emerges from its pure patriotic summers as a small town full of families.

As a teenager full of angst, I loathed the town's conservative mentality and traditional values. Being the

West Coast's largest naval port brings a huge influx of military personnel, both enlisted and civilian. I always thought of Coronado as the town of white picket fences and American flags, of BMWs and Lexuses. Everyone here keeps up appearances, and with the Joneses. If you're a punk rocker there's plenty to rail against. I suppose that's why I'm always pleased to see spiky-haired teenagers dressed in studded black rags and sagging pants hanging out in front of Starbucks on the main street. Back in my day it was the Kensington Coffee Company on First Street. The funny thing is that these frustrated kids are Coronado's golden children, the truly privileged. Believe it or not, some of them graduate with honors and head off soon after to upper-crust schools like Stanford. The shock value of their dyed hair and piercings goes only so far. Once you meet their proud parents or see the cars they drive, you get an honest glimpse, if not into the nature of Coronado, at least into human nature in

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general.

A little older now, and after nearly seven years away, I'm able to see Coronado differently. There's something to be said about neighbors who still borrow sugar and bookstores whose clerks know your name. Like La Jolla and Del Mar, Coronado is the land of plenty, where presidents vacation and celebrities live. But beyond all that, beyond the consumerism and conservatism that once drove me mad as a teenager, Coronado is still just a sleepy town.

— Daniel Ridge

CHULA VISTA

Have you ever focused your camera so that you captured the beautiful and cut out the ugly? Seated at a wooden table, at sunset, with your glass of crisp chardonnay beaded with condensation and your Bob's by the Bay shrimp and cheese quesadilla melting before you, you might be inclined to forget that Chula Vista has garnered the unfortunate description of "the fifth-fastest-growing city in the United States." When a light wind simultaneously lifts your hair and romantically clangs the halyards against the masts, you might decide to live in the moment, let the pyrotechnics in the sky and in the wine have their way with you — because Chula Vista's bayfront is an insular gem.

The bayfront is bounded by three separate parks and encompasses two marinas. According to Dockmaster Ashe, it is the quietest and cleanest harbor and marina in San Diego. The only thing that might be better than sitting here with your food and your drinks and the fuzzy mallard babies milling around your feet would

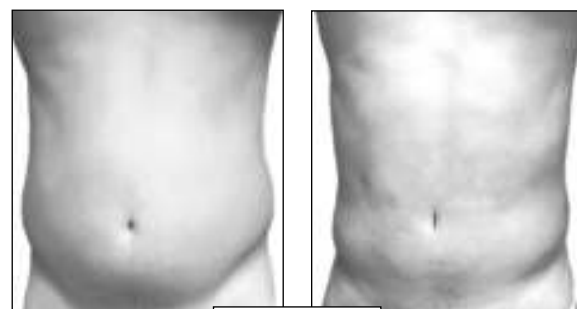
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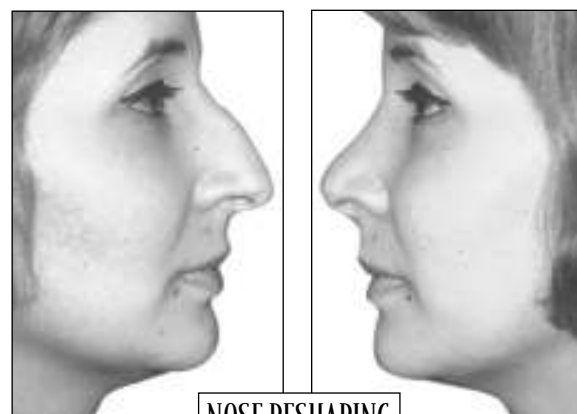
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PHOTOGRAPH BY SANDY HUFFAKER, JR.

Chula Vista



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Solana Beach



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

Point Loma

be to toast the sunset from your own yacht. About 10 percent of the boats moored in the two marinas have a live-aboard population. Although Mike Norton's wife tells him living aboard "feels like camping," he says, "It's a great life." Norton says live-aboards go out to sea only about once a month because it's work to transform your home into a ship, to put away your TV, to tend to your cats, and, if the trip is long, to stock up on

water and food. Normally, he says his wife and he take shorter trips, out around the bay or to Catalina Island, but last year they sailed for a leisurely 21 days to La Paz. Norton also says that the community of live-aboards is diverse, comprising doctors, lawyers, even the president of a turtle society. However, he warned me, don't get them talking about anchors — it's as if you're a Chevy person or a Ford person —

strong feelings about anchors.

The bayfront is replete with mythical creatures: green turtles, which everyone has heard of but few have seen, and the occasional sea horse, which Dockmaster Ashe swears to have seen. Mythical creatures also exist on the northern fringe of the bayfront at the Chula Vista Nature Center. In one aquarium, rainbow trout swim in their upstream disguise. According to

the director of the center, Dan Beintema, these rainbow trout, which were collected above the Sweetwater Dam, are genetically endowed to become steelhead trout but, like Clark Kent without a telephone booth, lacking saltwater they can never transform themselves. Another indigenous and magical creature displayed at the center is the ghostly moon jellyfish, which floats like an iridescent bloom against a purple

backlight.

But what is the angle of the camera cutting out? Swing south, just beyond the chil-

dren's play structures, and you will see the South Bay Power Plant, which the Environmental Health Coalition

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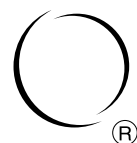
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claims "emits an average of more than a quarter ton of air pollutants into the community daily." And don't forget to snap the vacant lots behind the bayfront while they're still vacant. Approximately 300 acres owned by the Port Authority, 100 owned by out-of-town investors, and 30 owned by the City of Chula Vista are being studied now — convention centers, hotels, restaurants, office buildings, high-density, high-rise housing have been bandied about. What's to become of Chula Vista's insular gem?

— Susan Luzzaro

SOLANA BEACH

I discovered Solana Beach because of a pig — well, two pigs, actually — Sporky and Frances Bacon.

Frances (name variation because she was female) lived on the middle Barbara in Solana Beach. Before I met Frances, I didn't know that there are three Barbara Avenues in this town and that none of them connect.

Frances Bacon belonged to Linnea Dayton and her family. Sporky was my pig.

We (the pigs, Linnea, and I) went on a walk back in 1989 that started at North Rios, wound east through the San Elijo Lagoon Preserve, and eventually headed south, up through Holmwood Canyon. It was so beautiful, this piece of undeveloped land. We walked by a bench with a plaque thanking Gemma Parks for saving Holmwood Canyon from developers. I thank her every time I walk past.

When we went on this hike, Linnea and I were hoping we could pigsit for each other. I met Linnea because I wrote a how-to article for a computer graphics publication she edited.

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Eight years later, I ended up moving to Solana Beach, coincidentally within a block of her house (and perhaps more importantly, within walking distance of the Belly Up Tavern).

Twenty-five years ago, Linnea, along with Linda La Grange and Bobbie Hilton, started the alternative class that has become the Global Education program at the Skyline public school in Solana Beach. My seven- and ten-year-old children attend this program and have since kindergarten. I even ran for the school board (and lost) because I feel so beholden to these teachers. It is a breath of fresh air for people with inquisitive children — kids who want to participate in their own education and not have it force-fed to them. And for parents who want to participate as



Oceanside

well. My daughter learned her geometric solids in kindergarten. At the same time, she learned about the

domestication of wheat and the rise of Egypt, and the domestication of corn and the rise of the Aztecs — cultures



College Area

that share the pyramid as a focal point. Bobbie and Linda still teach at the school. My children live within blocks of their teachers. We regularly stop by their houses to say hi. That kind of stability, of *localness*, is very rare in growing urban communities. This is exactly why I moved here six years ago, after living ten years in La Costa (a community that's being raped by Carlsbad).

I always used to say that no house in Solana Beach is completely up to code. That endears me to a city. But with the recent gentrification driven by high housing prices, I've had to stop. Admittedly, Solana Beach is a town with a schism. Besides the wealthy influx, there's

the artistic community (some members have lived in Solana Beach for over 20 years), who helped install the big, voluptuous woman named Star (created by the late Niki de Saint Phalle and on loan for only a while longer) on the corner of Lomas Santa Fe and Cedros Avenue.

There's the developer posse, which can be seen throwing its weight around with the Gateway Hotel (and *muchos* condos!), which is being foisted upon the Solana Beach public. The developer is having private meetings with *important* locals to try to subdue the community. (If it were so good for the community, why would the meetings be private?)

But what makes Solana Beach interesting for me is not only the Hispanic history, which infuses the area with words of Spanish origin: Rios, Cedros, and Granados (rivers, cedars, and pomegranate trees), but that the town, because of these roots, has adopted the feeling of a *zócalo* — where people walk just to walk and to talk to friends and neighbors, and they don't rush to get anywhere in particular.

I moved here because the town has a beautiful view and was unpretentious. I worry about it becoming more affected as it goes upscale, but Linnea assures me a pig could still go on a walk in Solana Beach these days.

— Jennifer Ball

POINT LOMA

Point Loma's essence is found in a blur of military installations, dilapidated restaurants that have been around so long they are considered classy, million-dollar ocean-view homes, and lampposts placed directly in the middle of streets that virtually all

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dead-end in canyons or gullies.

The main arteries of Point Loma — Rosecrans, Nimitz, Chatsworth, Catalina — are well-traveled by Lexuses, BMWs, and Mercedes-Benzes. The neighborhood is home to judges, attorneys, and doctors, among other high rollers who have found their piece of heaven in the coastal suburb. Until the last decade, many elderly people inhabited the neighborhood. As they passed away, their houses were either left to family or purchased by other Point Loma residents. Portuguese immigrants used to call Point Loma home. After the collapse of the tuna industry in the '80s, many left, although some succeeding generations remain in the area beyond Nimitz dubbed "Tunaville."

From the mansions dotting Rosecrans to the secluded residences near Point Loma Nazarene University to the homes above Chatsworth in what realtors call the "affordable zone," most residents are standoffish, to say the least. There are no block parties or street fairs, nor many community events. Most community spirit lies within the activities of select groups, such as the Point Loma Optimists, who erect flags along Rosecrans each Sunday, and the Portuguese community, which hosts the annual Portuguese Festa Parade. The Point Loma philosophy is "you do your thing, and I'll do mine," an impersonal attitude among neighbors. The people of Point Loma will unite for certain causes, for they do not adjust well to change. Presently, the concern plaguing the community is the expected overcrowding and traffic congestion resulting from the development

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of the Naval Training Center for civilian use. If not for apprehensions over the NTC construction, the concern would be over airplane noise from Lindbergh Field. Without their various causes, it's doubtful that most Point Loma residents would have anything to say to each other.

— Mary Montgomery

OCEANSIDE

Eight years ago at 6:30 in the morning, if you surfed the beach breaks closest to downtown Oceanside, you'd see the underworld scurrying home like cockroaches getting back to the rocks. The crystal meth/prostitute element has been largely squeezed out for two reasons. For one, prices of homes west of I-5 have exploded. My house has tripled in value in the past decade. Brand-new townhomes near Coast Highway start at \$719,000, a startling change from two years ago. The other reason may have to do with Oceanside cops and their overzealous activity: in September homeless kids testified before the city council that police arrested and beat them just for being homeless.

I was born and raised in Oceanside and have had an office on Coast Highway for three years. My parents went to Oceanside High with children of Japanese-American farmers from the San Luis Rey Valley who were interned during World War II. Some of those families now sell produce at the downtown farmer's market Thursday mornings.

While housing values have skyrocketed, Oceanside's economy seems mired in a swamp of small-minded politics and semper fi inertia. Some businesses complain

that the chamber of commerce is more interested in local politics and collecting handouts from the city than in promoting business. Downtown Oceanside is still dominated by check-cashing joints, used-car lots, and military dry cleaners. The ubiquity of the Alberto's and Roberto's is underscored by the taco shop named 'To's. Four months ago a city council majority agreed to pay developer Doug Manchester \$2.2 million not to build an oceanfront hotel complex that had been nixed by the California Coastal Commission. Our city council also paid \$1 million-plus for an all-nude, 18-and-up Playgirl club, with hopes that the building would be leased by a high-end restaurant. One year later the building still sits vacant.

But resourceful businesspeople have popped up to bring in their own concept of a new Oceanside. Two doors from me, an out-of-business hubcap store is being replaced by a surfboard shop. A recording studio has

moved in. A Cuban restaurant has opened one block away, and six blocks down an attorney/businessman is attempting to bring live music to his Hill Street Café (Coast Highway was called Hill Street until ten years ago). A shop with hip-hop gear thrives, as do two stores with secondhand clothing for the hip.

At 60 years old, the Coronet full-service newsstand was one of the oldest businesses in Oceanside when it closed last August. (It opened three months after Camp Pendleton.) Longtime Oceanside businessman and native Jamaican Ras Charles, who bought the shop, already ran two reggae-oriented stores next to it: a Caribbean food store and a clothing/gift shop. His third Coast Highway business will be called Yard Records, dedicated to reggae, world beat, and gospel music. Its opening runs counter to the closing of music retail stores countywide.

The two largest downtown movie theaters tell two different stories. The Star is used occasionally for talent

shows and plays. The Crest Theater, a couple of blocks away (and which my grandfather helped build), has been occupied by a populist religious group that has also taken over adjacent offices and storefronts.

But many of my neighbors know that Oceanside is about contrast. As the city council swears it wants upscale nightlife attractions, the bowling alley prospers. And as housing prices boom, Coast Highway remains home to two RV-trailer parks and three mobile-home parks. The joke is that one of those — Miramar, at the north end of Tremont — offers its renters a better ocean view than any new multimillion-dollar high-rise ever will.

— Ken Leighton

COLLEGE AREA

As soon as you leave the SDSU district, where College Avenue collides with El Cajon Boulevard, libraries and frat houses give way to liquor stores, check-cashing places, 99-cent emporiums, and plenty more clear signposts that you've entered an urban, merchant-driven neighborhood. The Campus Drive-In Theater occupied that intersection from 1947 until it was torn down in 1983. You can still see its four-story-tall neon sign, a miniskirted majorette spinning her baton and wearing a full Indian headdress, behind the College Grove Shopping Center off Highway 94. The old drive-in lot currently houses yet another nondescript modular shopping center, where few stores outlive their first year's lease.

One rare long-standing retail landmark is the Subway sandwich shop near 63rd, which opened back in 1982, the East Coast company's first



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franchise in San Diego. Today, our city has more Subways than Roberto's/Alberto's/fill-in-the-blank-Berto's, but in a neighborhood where everything around it has changed, this original location maintains its mom-and-pop-hangout atmosphere, despite the newfangled bread machines and a Tol-stoy-dense menu that now takes up the entire back wall.

One shouldn't pull over or park in the proximity of women who stand around the bus stop in front of the AM/PM or who stroll up and down El Cajon Boulevard between the 92175 post office and 70th Street. It doesn't matter how you look or what you drive; you don't even have to make eye contact for the more aggressive entrepreneurs to walk right up to your passenger door and try to climb in. It's easy to fend off unwanted contact with a lady of the night (or of the morning, afternoon, or lunchtime). Simply point a little disposable camera at her, flash, and you'll hear the clip-pity-clopping of her high heels fading into the distance.

The huge Ralphs supermarket is open all night, and you'll often see furtive, undernourished-looking people there buying lighters, steel wool pads, and tire-pressure gauges they use to make crack pipes. Ralphs is the only place you can get such smoking necessities at night in this neighborhood, since 7-Eleven stopped selling Brillo pads and liquor stores quit carrying single-rose stems sealed in versatile glass tubes. The Laundromat on El Cajon near 70th has a public restroom that costs a quarter to use. At night, it's usually occupied by home-

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less or far-from-home people "renting" the bathroom and, most importantly, its lockable door, rare in this part of the city, often to make use of those Brillo pads, tire gauges, and butane lighters they just bought down the street at Ralphs.

— Jay Allen Sanford

ENCINITAS

While some towns form inland and grow toward the coast, the roots of Encinitas are coastal and its heart is beachside. This is where the core of the town is, where people and their families have lived for decades and grown up with their neighbors. These are the people who remember the days of bicycling to work, when there were no stop signs on Highway 101 and when newcom-

ENCINITAS: *Off Vulcan and Neptune, you can find a variety of residents including struggling artists, retired locals, wealthy singles, and comfortable surfer families.*

ers were immediately noticed, none of which are in the too-distant past. Things are not nearly the same, but needless to say they are still agreeable.

In spite of this laid-back atmosphere, there exists a strong sense of localism that is tied to a tightly knit surf community. Outsiders are viewed with misgivings and are not always welcome, often for reasons like traffic, both in and out of the water. Locals sometimes take some warming up to, as they become frustrated in dealing with the effects of an unstoppable tourist industry. Community events and street fairs are common west of the 5, and aside from the localism there is a calm, friendly, live-and-let-live vibe.

The greater La

Costa area, however, is a different story. Businesses like Target Greatland and a dominant LA Fitness center, as well as the all-too-familiar four-minute stoplights, are signs of recent growth. With seemingly every square acre of land either under construction or host to a tract home, La Costa has undoubtedly lost some of its unique appeal. Newer citizens enjoy the convenience of the shopping centers, with a gas station and a Starbucks on every corner, but many established locals miss the simpler hum of a town.

With this recent spurt of housing development in the rolling hills of back-yard Encinitas come the daily appearances of overly aggressive soccer moms in minivans and

their Beemer-driving, cell-phone-fiend husbands. There are neighborhoods in which people can live across the street from one another for years and never know each other's names, but there are also communities of closely bound, brownie-baking friends and families. Along the coast, off Vulcan and Neptune, you can find a variety of residents, including struggling artists, retired locals, wealthy singles, and comfortable surfer families.

Over the hill and just a few miles away, streets like these give way to the surprisingly busy thoroughfares of El Camino Real, Encinitas Boulevard, and Rancho Santa Fe Road. The latter winds into the back portion of

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Encinitas that borders Olivenhain and consists of well-spaced, large homes and a fair share of multimillion-dollar estates. Much more reserved than the colorful, often eccentric coastal profile, the estates mingle with respectable homes and working-class people who can contribute to an uptight atmosphere.

It is the typical small-town story: the world discovered Encinitas, and things will never go back to what they were before this place was washed, starched, and pressed by developers and suburbanites. The changes that have taken place in La Costa are undeniable proof that Encinitas has evolved from a little surf town. However, even with all of its stop signs and sight-seers, beachside Encinitas retains its soulful charm.

— Gabrielle Clifford

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LA MESA

The doctor says, "You're a few pounds overweight, your cholesterol's a bit scary, and your blood pressure..."

"Yeah, okay," I grumble. "So what's your prescription?"

"You could change your diet."

"Not for the better, I couldn't. My wife already suckered me into eating like a bird."

"Then..." He pauses so long, I imagine he'll say, "Get ready to die." But he says, "Exercise."

Before I have a chance to complain about my overbooked schedule or to argue that I already play golf and softball and take our baby for a walk most every day, he says, "Whatever you do, double it."

"Cool," I say, thinking that if Pam suggests I play too much golf I can give her a shocked look and say, "Doctor's orders."

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But she could argue that golf costs money and walking doesn't, and we live in La Mesa, arguably the best walking neighborhood east of I-5.

For serious hiking, Cowles Mountain is maybe ten minutes by car from our home, and for strolling, Lake Murray's even closer. But why drive at all when our part of La Mesa, which newcomers call "the Village," is surrounded by three pretty hills?

Suppose we start from the trolley stop at Spring Street and La Mesa Boulevard. Rather than take the boulevard with its countless antiques shops, we go east on Allison, make a left on Pine, the greenest and homiest of the cross streets that take us to University Avenue. After crossing University, we'll turn right and perhaps look down upon a game of Little League baseball or old-timers' softball before we make a left on Memorial Drive, into MacArthur Park. If we're lucky, as we pass Porter Hall, an AA meeting will be happening and we'll overhear a confession or testimonial. Then, using the second stairs on the right, we'll cut through the Community Center, pausing to glance at the seniors doing yoga or the tiny girls dancing, and pass the playground where moms chat while their kids hang precariously from the jungle gym. With an eye out for errant golf balls, we make a left and continue upward to the crest of the hill that overlooks the Sun Valley Golf Course clubhouse and the community swimming pool, and before the descent, we turn onto a paved path that leads us to a cul-de-sac and a modest but gracious neighborhood.

A few hundred yards along Porter Hill Terrace, we make a left and climb again on Tia Maria, go right on Tio Diego, and proceed to the top of Porter Hill, to peer southeast between houses across pleasant old La Mesa or

MIRA MESA: *I loved the smell of the*

lumpia and pansit their elders cooked at our recreation center on weekends.

to gaze north into the present and future, the megastores of Fletcher Parkway.

Back down the hill, we'll follow Randlett to La Mesa Boulevard. On our way back to the trolley, we'd better stop and strengthen ourselves with a chile releno at Mario's or *albóndigas* at Por Favor. But then, remembering that pesky doctor, we need to walk off those calories.

We go one block east of Spring to Palm Avenue and stride south to Pasadena Avenue, the road that meanders around Collier Park, and as we leave the park behind, we start wandering, our compass set to northeast and upward, until we reach the crest of Boulder Heights and perhaps find ourselves wondering why people even want houses big as cathedrals, or how many hundreds of gallons of gas a week a family with two Explorers, a Navigator, and a Hummer must use.

By the time we find our way back to the boulevard, we crave beer. We rationalize the indulgence by reminding ourselves that we've got one more hill to climb, and it's the toughest. The most aerobic. The fat burner.

So we stride west on the boulevard to Date Avenue, make a left, then a right on Lemon Avenue, plod up

a short hill, and make another left onto Alta, where we continue ever upward to the intersection of Alta and Fairview, where we look for the steps, a walker's trail between yards.

Olga, a fiery Russian prophet who lives

Atop the steps on Pasadena Avenue, we admire old houses and a mansion or two — Mount Nebo was an early haunt of La Mesa's prosperous. It's a good place to catch our breath and ponder some mysteries. Why is it, we wonder, that old mansions appear graceful, while new ones look obscene, or at least pretentious?

And why doesn't someone appear and offer us lemonade on one of the decks that overlook La Mesa, from Lake Murray to Mount Helix?

At Vista Drive, we go left, then make a right on Prospect and march on. The road has flattened out. We've climbed all we're going

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to. The road ends in a circle around some grand eucalyptus trees. We gaze west, from south to north, through sparkling air or smoggy haze, at the Pacific, from below the border to Del Mar, and congratulate ourselves for following doctor's orders.

— Ken Kuhlken

MIRA MESA

I've lived in Mira Mesa all but 6 of my 34 years. I watched it grow from a community with one gas station, one grocery store, and the main street, Mira Mesa Boulevard, ending at Parkdale. The boulevard now goes from the I-15, past Parkdale, through Sorrento Valley to the 805. I remember the ribbon-cutting ceremony, which we walked to, since we lived around the corner. The ten-year-olds I hung out with were mad that we would no longer be able to ride our bikes down the dirt road to the old abandoned ranch or the olive grove where we shot BB guns. Sometimes we'd get adventurous at night and ride through the fields up to the cemetery and tell ghost stories. We'd always leave with security chasing us.

When Challenger Junior High School was built across the street from my house, I was bummed to be losing my favorite canyon. It was a canyon where my friends and I played cowboys and Indians, caught lizards and king snakes, and watched fires rage. My older brother caught rattlesnakes by pressing a tree branch against their heads and pushing them into a box. He'd ride his Huffy bike home, laughing as it rattled. Eat your heart out, Crocodile Hunter!

When they started developing the land leading to Sorrento Val-



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ley, they found Indian artifacts. As when the school was built, development stopped while the area was excavated. My brother and I went out there hoping to get rich finding arrowheads, but all we found was a teenagers' fort with empty beer bottles, cigarettes, and a porno magazine (which our parents eventually discovered after we brought it back to our fort — which was, unfortunately, in our own back yard).

Mira Mesa High School was built in 1977. I graduated from it ten years later. We had close to a thousand kids in our graduating class because Scripps Ranch had yet to build its own high school. We had a lot of Asians, and Mira Mesa was often called Manila Mesa. I played basketball with the Filipino guys and



La Mesa

dated Filipinas. And I loved the smell of *lumpia* and *pansit*, which their elders cooked at our recreation center on weekends.

I read in the paper that there are Asian gangs in this area, although I don't see them. I do see their cars some nights, in a long caravan down the boulevard. They meet at In-N-Out Burger before heading off for illegal street races on Kearny Villa Road or in

Sorrento Valley. Although I don't see gang activity, I've been close to my share of violence. A guy I played basketball with, Tony Giles, was shot and killed at our rec center. At the same place 20 years later, my girlfriend's daughter had an underage friend who died there because of drugs. The library next to the rec center has become the Epicentre, which is a teen center and an all-age music venue. A new library



Mira Mesa

was built next door.

But there are so many things I love about Mira Mesa, like the House of Ice, which was fun in the summer, before we were old enough to drive to the rink at UTC. We have Lake Miramar, which we always fished at, although we never caught anything. Apparently somebody does, because the largest bass in San Diego was caught there in the late '70s. We are one of the few places

left that has a Farrell's — the old-fashioned ice cream parlor, with old-fashioned candies and a player piano.

We didn't have many celebrities in Mira Mesa. All through high school, I worked at the McDonald's, and it was a big thrill when sportscaster Ted Leitner or Padre Tony Gwynn came in for a Big Mac. Both lived in Scripps Ranch. On the subject of baseball players, 1989 MVP Kevin Mitchell was often in Mira Mesa, playing pickup basketball and baseball games. We've had a few Mira Mesa High alumni

make it into professional sports, including my high school teammate Ray Rowe — who had success at SDSU also. But the most famous athlete we had was Michael Pittman, who is now a running back for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

My stepdad delivered mail here for over 20 years (and it's how he met my mom, just like in the mailman jokes). On Halloween, we walked his route with him and racked up lots of candy. It's a middle-class neighborhood, with modest three-bedroom houses. My parents paid \$21,000 for their place on New Salem Street. My mom and stepdad paid \$46,000 for the three-bedroom, two-bath on Parkdale in 1977.

While I sit in an apartment in Mira Mesa, I long for the good ol' days. Especially for those house prices.

And some of that Halloween candy. ■
— Josh Board

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Extension 7010 Abdominoplasty

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- 2 Full v. mini v. liposuction
- 3 Surgery
- 4 Risks & side effects
- 5 Recovery



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Extension 7180 Laser Tattoo Removal

- 1 How does it work?
- 2 Who is a candidate?
- 3 Is it painful?
- 4 How much does it cost?
- 5 After the treatments



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Extension 7050 Weight Loss

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- 2 How much can I lose?
- 3 Body Mass Index (BMI)
- 4 Is the Atkins Diet safe?
- 5 Exercise: How much?



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Extension 7070 Botox

- 1 What is Botox?
- 2 Botox & wrinkles
- 3 Effects of Botox
- 4 How much does it cost?



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Extension 7060 Laser Vein/Rosacea Treatment

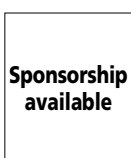
- 1 About our center
- 2 Causes of spider veins/rosacea
- 3 How lasers treat spider veins
- 4 Treatments
- 5 Appointments & costs



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Extension 7110 Collagen Injections

- 1 About collagen injections
- 2 Who can benefit?
- 3 Procedure
- 4 After the treatment
- 5 Other considerations



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Extension 7040 Breast Surgery

- 1 Breast augmentation
- 2 Silicone v. saline implants
- 3 Breast lift
- 4 Breast reduction
- 5 Male breast reduction



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Extension 7120 Permanent Makeup

- 1 Who can benefit?
- 2 Explanation of procedure
- 3 Corrective applications
- 4 Is it truly permanent?
- 5 Skin imperfection treatments



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Extension 7100 Cosmetic Dentistry

- 1 Stained & discolored teeth
- 2 Chipped & cracked teeth
- 3 Missing teeth/Bite dysfunction
- 4 Excessive or uneven gums
- 5 Old & unsightly fillings



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Extension 7150 Eyelid Surgery

- 1 What is blepharoplasty?
- 2 Will scars be noticeable?
- 3 Recovery period
- 4 Is laser used?
- 5 Alternatives



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Extension 7130 Photofacial

- 1 Aging skin
- 2 What is IPL Photofacial?
- 3 How it works
- 4 What to expect
- 5 Frequently asked questions



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Extension 7170 Electrolysis

- 1 Explanation of procedure
- 2 Cost of treatment
- 3 Is it painful?
- 4 How is skin affected?
- 5 How long does it last?



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Extension 7020 Face-Lift

- 1 Who can benefit?
- 2 Explanation of procedure
- 3 Alternate procedures
- 4 Side effects
- 5 After surgery



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Extension 7000 Rhinoplasty

- 1 Procedures
- 2 Nose "design" options
- 3 Risks & side effects
- 4 After surgery
- 5 Resumption of activities



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Extension 7190 Graft Hair Replacement

- 1 How does it work?
- 2 Who is a candidate?
- 3 Resuming activities
- 4 Cost of treatment
- 5 Treatment for women



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Extension 7080 Laser Eye Surgery

- 1 About LASIK
- 2 Who is a candidate?
- 3 Your eye exam
- 4 Surgery
- 5 After surgery



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Extension 7140 Spa Treatment

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- 2 Body massage
- 3 Spa packages
- 4 Computerized treatment
- 5 Microdermabrasion



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Extension 7200 Weight Loss Lap-Band Surgery

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- 2 Best candidates
- 3 Lap band v. gastric bypass
- 4 Risks & side effects
- 5 Recovery



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Extension 7090 Laser Hair Removal

- 1 About our center
- 2 How it works
- 3 Which laser is best?
- 4 Treatment
- 5 Appointments & costs



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Extension 7030 Tumescent Liposuction

- 1 How it works
- 2 Best candidates
- 3 Risks & side effects
- 4 After surgery
- 5 Your new figure



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LETTERS

continued from page 1

Wrong Service

Re: Peñasquitos Lutheran Church ("Sheep and Goats," December 11). Abe went to the wrong service! Eight and 9:30 are more animated. You would not think you were at the same church — please note the difference in attendance. At 8:00 you would see many hands raised in joyful praise and clapping to the music led by Pastor Greg and an ensemble of singers accompanied by guitars, drums, keyboard, piano, and other instruments. At 9:30 you would be surrounded by kids — children are a priority at PLC — the message and children's message would be the same, though.

Marjie Joramo
Member PLC
via e-mail

Historical Housing

In the December 11 "Picture Story," there is a photo of the Midway Post Office taken in 1972.

For your information, that photo shows another area of some historical interest. In the lower right-hand side is the first Navy housing project built of concrete. I think it is now called Gateway. I don't remember the original name. The units were two-story, with four two-floored apartments; the end ones were two-bedrooms, and the two center ones could be converted into one one-bedroom and one three-bedroom. It has been remodeled and updated and is still a desirable place to live.

That project, I believe, is the only one left of the many built in that area. All the area around Midway and what is now Sports Arena Boulevard was filled with housing for the military and "war workers."

My father, William DuCharme, U.S. Naval Medical Corps, was stationed at the U.S. Marine base across Barnett Avenue. Our family moved into the project while it was still under construction. I can't remember whether that was 1939 or 1940. Our unit was on Upshur Drive. Every morning, while eating breakfast, we watched the planes taking off from the adjacent airfield. (Those were the days before TV.) When Dad was transferred to Norfolk, Virginia, in 1942, we moved into another project that was under construction. One of the first Levitt built. But that's another story.

Lorraine Trup
Pacific Beach

John And Paul Might Disagree

I came across Mary Montgomery's little review while I was looking for coupons ("Hometown CDs," December 11). As to her cliché comments about repetitive lyrics: "Speaking words of wisdom / Let it be / Let it be, let it be / Let it be, let it be / Whisper words of wisdom /

Let it be." Artist: Beatles. Album: *Let It Be*. Song: "Let It Be" (Lennon, McCartney) 1970.

Perhaps John and Paul might disagree with Montgomery's assessment.

The real information on this CD [22 *Mountains*, Danielle Lo Presti and the Masses] is that the messages are powerful, the voice reaches into your soul, and the band is one of the best. Yes, this CD is different compared to the first; it has a little more hope in it. The song "22 Mountains" helps remind the listener that you can keep going, no matter what. This album gets me through my days dealing with corporate America when nothing else does.

Laura K. Sutherland
via e-mail

Fishless Fan

I especially enjoy "Tin Fork" columns. Mr. Bedford has what it takes. I quit reading the other food critic when she gave top rating to a restaurant at the Marriott in Del Mar in spite of its deafening acoustics and no tablecloths.

Whenever a *U-T* salesman accosts me, I tell him I don't have any fish to wrap. And then to really crap him out, I tell him they should have never lost Don Bauder!

Charlie Edmonds



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Calendar

Catastrophe Menu

Titanic New Year's Celebration

Maritza Corrales searches for the right word in English. "Authentic," she says. "We're going to raffle an authentic replica of the 'Heart of the Ocean' necklace. It looks like the one they used in the movie."

The movie, of course, is the overmilked, ever-schmaltzy *Titanic*. At the Hotel Calafia, where Corrales is sales manager, the necklace raffle is part of the Titanic New Year's Eve Celebration.

But "authentic replica" — it's an oxymoron. Maybe that's the point. Historical accuracy isn't.

Calafia has a year-round Titanic Room, decorated with movie props lent by Fox Studios.

LOCAL EVENTS

For New Year's Eve, Foxploration will lend them others,

including the prow of the ship. Vanessa Armanino, Foxploration's marketing manager, says, "That's the tip of the ship, where Leonardo tells Kate, 'I'm the king of the world,' or something. I think they're going to put it where people can take pictures posed on it. It's the actual one used during the filming. And we're also going to lend them two outfits, a tuxedo and a dress that was worn by Mrs. Astor."

Armanino means the actress who played Mrs. John Jacob Astor IV, the 19-year-old second wife of the richest man in the world. Mr. Astor was 29 years his new wife's senior. The couple had been traveling in Europe and Egypt to escape the scandal caused by the divorce of the first Mr. and Mrs. Astor and subsequent



From the movie *Titanic*

which one) will be worn by mannequins.

Corrales says some guests will come dressed in period clothing. "It's not an obligation, but if you wish to do so, you can. Some of the hostesses will be dressed like that, too."

Marjorie Cutter, owner of the Elite Costume House in Escondido, says, "We rent *Titanic* stuff. *My Fair Lady* is the same time period. It was just before the First World War. Women were still wearing long hobble skirts. That meant it was tight 'round the ankles, so they'd have to hobble along. High-neck blouses. Big hats. It's the transition to the flapper time. The men's evening wear would be white tie and tails. I have it all in stock."

As for footwear, says Cutter, "I don't do shoes or boots. They could get those in a lot of the regular shoe stores. The heels should be about two inches high, and they should have the straps across. The women also wore the little button-up ankle boots in those days."

Much has been made of the last meals served to the doomed passengers. Earlier this month, at the auction house

Sotheby's in London, a lunch menu from the real *Titanic* was sold for \$49,500. The size and weight of a postcard (and intended to be mailed as a souvenir), it was bought by a private museum in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where the ship was built. The menu wasn't recovered from the deep. It was given by *Titanic* senior officer Charles Lightoller to his wife before the luxury liner left Southampton, England. Lightoller survived the disaster; he was the last person to be taken aboard the rescue ship *Carpathia*.

In 1999, a collector from Houston, Texas, paid \$74,750 for a *Titanic* menu sold by Houston's Hart Galleries auction house. Edward Kamuda, founder and president of the Titanic Historical Society in Indian Orchard, Massachusetts, says it's a reproduction that his own society gave out to its members in the 1960s. They were printed in Pasadena. "People dip them in tea and write on them in charcoal, then try to pass them off," says Kamuda, who has been collecting Titanic stuff since 1952. (He lent some to Fox for the movie.)

The menu sold by Sotheby's, which Kamuda says is authentic, shows that the Astors and others in first class were served salmon, sweetbreads, roast chicken, spring lamb, and golden plover

on toast for that afternoon meal in April 1912. Calafia will have its own *Titanic*-inspired fare. Corrales recites: "Canapés, lemon sorbet, lettuce salad with balsamic vinaigrette, lobster with mousseline sauce, filet mignon 'Lili' with a wild-mushroom sauce and a Madeira wine reduction, mashed potatoes, carrots, French pastries."

Dinner will be served until 11:00 p.m. Live music begins at 10:00 p.m. and goes until 3:00 a.m. You can choose the dining room without the music and dancing if you prefer. The deaths of 1523 real people don't exactly inspire frivolity, do they? Corrales's reply: "That's why on the publicity we say there's a breathtaking ocean view, without the iceberg."

— Jeanne Schinto

"Titanic New Year's Eve Celebration at Calafia"
Wednesday, December 31,
7:00 p.m.–4:00 a.m.
Hotel Calafia
Km 35.5 Carretera Libre
Tijuana-Ensenada, Ensenada
\$44.95 per person
(includes dinner, no drinks except coffee and tea)
877-700-2093,
011-52-661-612-1581,
or www.hotel-calafia.com



Hotel Calafia, Rosarito

marriage of the second. They had booked passage on the *Titanic* back to New York, because the young Mrs. Astor had discovered she was pregnant. He drowned; she didn't. So did the Astors' three servants and their Airedale, Kitty.

"The dress is black with burgundy, a long evening gown," says Armanino. That and a tuxedo worn by one of the main characters (she doesn't know

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Calendar
LOCAL EVENTS

Events that are underlined occur after January 1, 2004.

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact

phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to **READER EVENTS**, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.

BAJA

Christmas Music performed by Stella Matutina Choir, Saturday, December 27, 8 p.m., at Café de la Opera (351 Calle 5a, Colonia Libertad). 011-52-664-607-3807. (TIJUANA)

GETAWAYS

Dancin' in the Street, New Year's Eve celebration on Avenida Revolución between First and Fourth Street kicks off at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31. Free. (TIJUANA)

Titanic New Year's Celebration planned at Hotel Calafia on Wednesday, December 31. The party includes actual props from the movie *Titanic*, courtesy of Foxploration, live music. \$45 U.S. Reservations: 877-700-2093. (ROSARITO BEACH)

OUTDOORS

The Christmas Evening Sky (evening of Thursday, December 25) will be highlighted by a picturesque conjunction between



Washington State Cougars vs. Texas Longhorns in the Holiday Bowl at Qualcomm Stadium, December 30 (see Sports)

the brilliant planet Venus and the slender crescent moon. Both ce-

lestial objects will be visible in the western sky for nearly three hours

after the sun sets.

See Native Flowers, Wildlife, and views during Black Mountain Open Space Park nature walk, Saturday, December 27, 9 a.m., at 12115 Black Mountain Road. Wear hiking boots, bring water. 858-538-8021. Free. (RANCHO PENASQUITOS)

Trekking the Refuges, view migratory waterfowl and wildflowers of South San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge during outing hosted by Chula Vista Nature Center, Saturday, December 27, 8:30 a.m. Free. Required reservations: 619-409-5903. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

New Year's Morning Walk, 12th annual walk in north Poway with Walkabout walkers, Thurs-

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day, January 1, 2004. Moderate-plus pace. Starts at 8:45 a.m. Meet in front of Rancho Bernardo Winery on Paseo del Verano. Free. 858-487-2833. (DOWNTOWN)

DANCE

Great Expectations play music for contradance with calling by Graham Hempel, Saturday, December 27, at Trinity United Methodist Church (3030 Thorn Street). Dancing begins at 8 p.m., following beginners' instruction at 7:45 p.m. Admission: \$6. Dress for Dickens dance and wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. (NORTH PARK)

International Folk Dancing, Saturday, December 27, 8 p.m., at Folk Dance Center (4569 30th Street). \$5. 858-638-1810. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)



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San Diego International Auto Show at Convention Center
December 31–January 4 (see Special)

The Nutty Time o' Year, California Ballet Company performs

with live orchestra Saturday and Sunday, December 27 and 28, at

Poway Center for Performing Arts (15498 Espola Road, at Titan Way). Tickets: \$29 to \$45. Performances at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Sunday. 858-560-6741. (POWAY)

Leaping Cossacks, snow flurries, dancers twirling and leaping — San Diego Ballet presents *The Nutcracker*, Saturday, December 27, 2:30 and 7:30 p.m., at East County Performing Arts Center (210 East Main Street). Tickets: \$27 general, \$17 for children. Reservations: 619-294-7378. (EL CAJON)

San Diego N Line Dancers host monthly dance socials with guest instructors and open dancing for all levels and ages, including

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Saturday, December 27, 6 to 10 p.m., in Recital Hall (2130 Pan American Plaza). \$3 to \$5. 619-522-0162. (BALBOA PARK)

FILM

Uncovered Documentary and Discussion scheduled by North County Forum for two Fridays: December 26 and January 2, 2004. *Uncovered: The Whole Truth*

About the Iraq War shows at Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (1600 Buena Vista Drive). 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. film showing, 8 p.m. discussion. Free. 760-758-2410. (VISTA)

"Himalaya" tells the story of a struggle for leadership between a village chief and a headstrong young caravaner. Subtitled. Screens Saturday, December 27, at 7 p.m., Taiwanese-American Community

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Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

Center (7170 Convoy Court). Free. 858-560-8884. (LINDA VISTA)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, currently screening in the IMAX theater: *Australia: Land Beyond Time*, *Coral Reef Adventure*, *Bugs!* Also, special holiday engagement of *Adrenaline Rush: The Science of Risk* screening Friday, December 26, through Sunday, January 4. Ticket prices and showtimes: 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

LECTURES

Uncovered Documentary and Discussion scheduled by North County Forum for two Fridays: December 26 and January 2, 2004. *Uncovered: The Whole Truth About the Iraq War* shows at Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (1600 Buena



Big Bay Balloon Parade on Harbor Drive, December 30 (see Special)

Vista Drive). 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. film showing, 8 p.m. discussion. Free. 760-758-2410. (VISTA)

"Four Hands Fantastique," piano duetists Barbara and Gerhard Suhrstedt perform music by composers Bizet, Debussy,

Fauré, and Ravel along with slides of paintings by Degas, Gauguin, Monet, and Renoir in performances on Tuesday, January 13, 2004, at San Diego Museum of Art.

These "Meet the Masters" lecture/concerts begin at 11 a.m.

(\$20 for nonmembers, or \$38 with lunch) and 6 p.m. (\$20 for nonmembers). Reservations: 619-696-1966. (BALBOA PARK)

Get Outside — And Enjoy It! Wilderness ethics, first aid, equipment, water filtration, nutrition, map and compass — all of these subjects and more covered when Sierra Club offers its annual "Wilderness Basics Courses." Classes continue for ten weeks, with lectures and outings.

The North County group offers courses every Tuesday, January 20 through March 23, 2004, 7 to 9:30 p.m., at San Pasqual High School (3300 Bear Valley Parkway). \$95. 760-728-8220. (ESCONDIDO)

Greater San Diego chapter offers course that also begins Tues-



Make a snowflake at The Magic Wand, December 30-31 (see For Kids)

day, January 27, 2004, 7 to 9:30 p.m., at Scottish Rite Masonic Temple (1895 Camino del Rio South). \$95. 858-272-9229. (MISSION VALLEY)

IN PERSON

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Whale Sharks and Marine Iguanas photo exhibition at Taiwanese American Community Center, December 28–January 31 (see Galleries)

cinema presented in Jacobs Theater at Museum of Photographic Arts. Performances take place on Saturday, December 27, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, December 28, at 2 p.m. Museum is located in the Casa de Balboa building (1649 El Prado). \$10. 619-238-7559. (BALBOA PARK)

From a Path to a Clearing, Mysterious Galaxy hosts two authors this weekend: Diana Francis (*Path of Fate*) on Saturday, December 27, and Brian Railsback (*The Darkest Clearing*) on Sunday, December 28. Both appearances are at 2:30 p.m., 7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. Free. 858-268-4747. (CLAIREMONT)

Peter Balakian reads from his latest book, *The Burning Tigris*, on Sunday, December 28, at St. John Garbed Armenian Church (4473 30th Street). Wine and cheese reception from 5:30 to 6:30 followed by the reading at 7 p.m. Balakian is also author of the compelling book *Black Dog of Fate*. Free. 619-989-2877. (NORTH PARK)

Sunset Poets Sets 2003 with open poetry reading on Sunday, December 28, 3 p.m., at Flying Bridge (1105 North Coast Highway). Free. 760-758-2410. (OCEANSIDE)

Vienna's Famed New Year's Concert is recreated in "Salute to Vienna," Thursday, January 1, 2004. Cast of over 75 professional musicians, singers, dancers. Performers include Austrian soprano Elisabeth Lang, Viennese tenor Alois Haselbacher, members of Hungarian National Ballet, Strauss Symphony of America led by Gerhard Track.

Events begin at 2:30 p.m. in Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. Tickets range from \$35 to \$75, available by calling 619-235-0804 and through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (DOWNTOWN)

"Edgar Allan Poe — Once Upon a Midnight" presented by John Astin, Saturday, January 10, 2004, 8 p.m., at Poway Center for Performing Arts (15498 Espola Road). The one-person play based on life of Poe

"blends the historical with the supernatural" to journey through Poe's imagination. Tickets: 858-748-0505. (POWAY)

Comedienne Vicky Lawrence entertains for one night only at the California Center for the Arts Concert Hall (340 North Escondido Boulevard) in *Vicky Lawrence and Mama: A Two-Woman Show*. Sunday, January 18, 2004, at 7 p.m. \$40-\$50. 760-839-4120. (ESCONDIDO)

Black Ambition Tour, immensely talented comic Chris

Rock performs Thursday, January 22, 2004, at Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street). Tickets: \$39.50 to \$59.50, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (DOWNTOWN)

SPORTS

Christmas Morning Ride planned by Sierra Club bicyclists, Thursday, December 25, rambling north through Mira Mesa and east of Rancho Santa Fe, returning down the coast. Rolling hills, peppy pace, about 30 miles. Meet at 8:45 a.m. in University City. Call 858-587-0272 for meeting place. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

Ice Skating Outdoors! The ice rink is open for skating daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. through Monday, January 19, 2004, at Horton Plaza (225 Broadway). Admission: \$6, skate rentals: \$2. 619-234-1031. (DOWNTOWN)

Leader's Choice, riders will decide the 35-mile route on Saturday, December 27, when Knickerbiker bicyclists meet at 9 a.m. at Mission Bay visitors' center north parking lot (East Mission Bay Drive and Clairemont Drive). 858-450-0373. (MISSION BAY)

The San Diego Sockers host Monterrey Fury, Saturday, December 27, 7 p.m., at San Diego Sports Arena. Tickets range from \$12 to \$25, available through Ticketmaster, 619-220-TIXS). Listen to the games on KSDO (1130 AM). (SPORTS ARENA)

The Season Draws to a Close for San Diego Chargers, who host the Oakland Raiders, Sunday, December 28, 1:15 p.m. Broadcast on CBS. Tickets: 877-CHARGERS.



New Year's Eve Bell-Ringing Ritual at Shelter Island, December 31 (see Special)

Gulls vs. Wranglers, San Diego Gulls host Las Vegas Wranglers at San Diego Sports Arena, Sunday, December 28, at 5:05 p.m. Tickets range from \$12 to \$25, available by calling 619-224-4625 x7. Games are broadcast on KSDO (AM 1130). (SPORTS ARENA)

Whale Watch by Kayak with Hike Bike San Diego (2246 Avenida de la Playa) on Sunday,

December 28. Tours leave at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. \$60. Reservations required, call 858-551-9510. (LA JOLLA)

Bumble Bee Seafoods 5K Run steps off Tuesday, December 30, at 9:50 a.m. Course follows much of the Big Bay Balloon Parade route, starting at Harbor Drive at the B Street Pier. \$25 to

participate, spectators free. 858-268-1250. (DOWNTOWN)

Holiday Bowl, Washington State University Cougars take on Texas Longhorns for 2003 Pacific Life Holiday Bowl, Tuesday, December 30, 5 p.m., in Qualcomm Stadium. Pregame show: 4:30 p.m. Tickets: \$50 to \$56, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (MISSION VALLEY)

New Year's Day Century Ride, join San Diego Bicycle Touring Society riders for journey through Camp Pendleton to San Clemente and back, Thursday, January 1, 2004. Riders gather at 7:45 a.m. at Doyle Park (8175 Regents Road at Nobel Drive). Bring money for lunch in San Clemente. 619-421-0325. (LA JOLLA)

New Year's Resolution 5K Run/Walk at 12 p.m. on Thursday, January 1, 2004. Retired Judge Roy Cazares will administer New Year's resolution oath to all participants. Music and refreshments following. Sunridge Park (Beechglenn Drive and East J Street). Free. 619-234-2003. (CHULA VISTA)

Smucker's Stars on Ice, 2004 cast members are joined by guest skaters Kristi Yamaguchi, Scott Hamilton, Oksana Baiul, Ekaterina Gordeeva, Paul Wylie, Kurt Browning in performance on Friday, January 16, 2004, 7:30 p.m., at San Diego Sports Arena. Tickets: \$27 to \$82, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (SPORTS ARENA)

2004 San Diego Marathon events are set for January 17 and 18. Races start and finish at Plaza Camino Real (at Highway 78 and I-5). Saturday: San Diego Competitive Mile at 8 a.m.; kids' marathon mile at 9:30 a.m.; All About Fitness Expo, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wedding Guide

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To place your ad in the Wedding Guide, call 619-255-8200.

Call 619-233-9797 and press the 4-digit extension (in bold type) of the topic or advertiser that interests you.

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

Sunday: marathon walk at 5:30 a.m.; early marathon start at 6:30 a.m.; half-marathon start 7 a.m.; marathon wheelchair start at 7:25 a.m.; marathon start at 7:30 a.m. 858-792-2900. (CARLSBAD)

SPECIAL

The Light Time of Year, organizers of Holiday of Lights at Del Mar Fairgrounds boast of "the largest...display of seasonal festive lights in San Diego," with holiday-themed displays on view through Sunday, January 4, 2004.

Hours are 5:30 to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; 5:30 to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Admission: \$11 per vehicle (up to five people), \$16 per vehicle with six or more people. Tickets available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). Information: 858-793-5555. (DEL MAR)

The 1915 Wood Lath Botanical Building is site for 17th annual poinsettia display through Wednesday, January 7, 2004. Nearly 300 poinsettia plants decorate the historic building, open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays through Wednesdays. Free. 619-239-0512 or 619-235-1100. (BALBOA PARK)

Festival of Lights at San Diego Wild Animal Park (15500 San Pasqual Valley Road), December 26-30. Snow hill for sliding, holiday crafts, face painting, caroling, more than 100,000 lights twinkling. Festival activities begin at 4 p.m., close at 8 p.m. Included with admission. 760-747-8702. (ESCONDIDO)

Garden of Lights, eighth annual event at Quail Botanical Gardens boasts gardens decorated with thousands of sparkling lights on plants and trees. Holiday Garden of Lights can be enjoyed December 26-28. Horse-drawn wagon rides, holiday music, children's activities, and food for sale. Gardens are located at 230 Quail Gardens Drive. Admission: \$5 for

Roam-O-Rama

A Guide to Unexpected San Diego and Beyond • By Jerry Schad

Centuries-old paths, forged by the footsteps of Native-Americans, crisscross the county. West of the desert, periodic fires and fast-growing chaparral have erased the obvious traces of most of these trails. Yet in the drier, more austere sections of the Anza-Borrego Desert, traces of Indian trails abound. It's not very difficult to locate them: Just put yourself in the shoes — or rather agave-fiber sandals — of a desert-dwelling Native-American in prehistoric times. Imagine how you would navigate from one valley or basin to another, over terrain bristling with cholla cactus and strewn with jagged rock. You'll very quickly be searching out the most expeditious, and least painful, route to your destination. Your choice may well coincide with a prehistoric pathway.

One such pathway penetrates a low



spot — now known as Alcoholic Pass — in the long, undulating ridge of Coyote Mountain. The mountain, squeezed between two parallel geologic faults, stands like a barrier between the broad, open mouth of Coyote Canyon, north of Borrego Springs, and the even broader expanse of Clark Valley to the east. Around the turn of the century, the Clark brothers, early cattlemen who homesteaded in Coyote Canyon, used this trail to transport some primitive well-drilling equipment to the site now known as Clark Well in Clark Valley. Near the top of the pass, the old Indian trail squeezed between two boulders so closely spaced that the burros had to be unpacked before going through.

The starting point for a hike up the old Alcoholic Pass trail can be found along the main Coyote Canyon dirt road, 2.5 miles north of the end of the pavement on DiGiorgio Road in Borrego Springs. A small sign indicates the start of the trail. Park in one of the roadside turnouts nearby. Look east to spy a steep ravine leading up toward the pass. The old Indian trail does not ascend this ravine directly but instead rises on the ridge immediately south of it. You'll find the base of the trail about 150 yards to the right (south) of the mouth of the ravine.

Once you're on the somewhat rough and rocky path, you gain altitude quickly. In a few spots, foot travel and erosion have worn the bed of the trail to a depth of two feet. The ever-widening, almost aerial, view of Coyote Canyon and the surrounding mountains behind you is impressive.



Ocotillo below Alcoholic Pass

Head for the pile of boulders at the top of the pass. There you'll catch sight of the massive wall of the Santa Rosa Mountains, east across Clark Valley. You've traveled just one mile from your car and gained some 650 feet of elevation. The remainder of the old Alcoholic Pass route goes east down along a sandy slope and eventually reaches Clark Valley's desolate floor.

nonmembers, free for those 5 and under; additional fees apply to some activities. 760-436-3036. (ENCINITAS)

The Pointe at Palomar, antique and collectible flea market, Sunday, December 28, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., in parking lot #9, just off Borden Road, on Palomar College campus. Free admission. 760-737-0009. (SAN MARCOS)

The U.S.A.'s Largest Balloon Parade? Port of San Diego Big Bay Balloon Parade, Tuesday, December 30. Floats, marching bands, and enormous balloons. Surfing icon Rob Machado serves as grand marshal. Parade begins at

10 a.m. on Harbor Drive (along the Embarcadero), proceeds to Seaport Village. Free. 619-283-5808. (DOWNTOWN)

San Diego International Auto Show takes place Wednesday, December 31, through Sunday, January 4, 2004. New models, preproduction vehicles and concept cars from over 30 manufacturers will be featured at the San Diego Convention Center (111 West Harbor Drive). Hours are Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday (Kids' Day), 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. \$10; \$5 for children 12 and under. 619-525-5000. (DOWNTOWN)

Year-End Bell-Ringing Ritual purges 108 frailties and passions experienced during the year, allowing for fresh new year. Experience the purge on Wednesday, December 31, at 11:30 p.m. as part of the annual Buddhist tradition. Shelter Island Friendship Bell is located at 1402 Shelter Island Drive. Dress warmly. Free. 619-527-7855. (SHELTER ISLAND)

New Year's Day Kite Fly hosted by San Diego Kite Club, with guests Dave and Susan Gomberg from Oregon, Thursday, January 1, 2004, 10 a.m. to dusk, at Mariner's Point. Potluck lunch (bring food to

share or monetary contribution), and one-, two-, and multi-line flying for all. Free. 619-546-4244. (MISSION BEACH)

FOR KIDS

"Magical, Musical Holiday" offered by comic ventriloquist Lynn Trimble, December 26-28. On December 31, Big Joe Productions performs *Jack and the Bean Stalk*.

Performances begin at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday through Friday; 11 a.m., 1, and 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Find theater

near Aerospace Center. Admission: \$3 for adults, \$2 for children under 12. 619-685-5990. (BALBOA PARK)

Take a Ride on the 1914 Pilot boat when the Maritime Museum hosts family day activities Sunday, December 28, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Children 12 and under admitted free, with activities including mini-boat races, raising sails, sea chantey sing-alongs, activities based on Antarctic exploration.

Children must be accompanied by an adult to enter for free. Find the museum at 1306 North Harbor Drive, along the Embarcadero. 619-234-9153. (DOWNTOWN)

Make a Snowflake of Your Own after examining these unique, intricate wonders of nature at the Magic Wand (Flower Hill Mall, 2670 Via de la Valle), Tuesday and Wednesday, December 30 and 31.

Kids three to five years old, 10 to 11 a.m.; kindergartners through third graders, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. \$18 per class. Registration: 858-755-9263. (DEL MAR)

Busytown, the hands-on, bilingual exhibit based on Richard Scarry's books and TV series comes to Reuben H. Fleet Science Center (1875 El Prado) January 31, 2004. Exhibit includes a grocery store, factory, shipyard, power plant and construction area for visitors aged 2 through 6 to explore, play and learn through May 9, 2004. Adults \$6.75, kids \$5.50. 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

MUSEUMS

(Art museums are listed in the Reader's Guide to Art.)

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READING

Snowbound



Robert Frost

What I don't like about where I live is that it doesn't snow. The other day I saw one of those glass balls that has a snowman in it; you shake the globe up and down, and "snow" falls. It is a piece of kitschy junk. It cost \$13.95. I bought it. I brought it home and put it in my bedroom. I get up in the morning and shake the globe and watch the snow drift and swirl down onto the rim of the snowman's little black top hat. I really miss snow. And now that it's December, I go to my bookshelves and search — in poems, novels, essays, short stories — for snowfalls, snowstorms, blizzards, icicles, sleigh rides, ice-skating.

The poem with snow in it that we all learned in school is Robert Frost's "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening." Even the title stirs memory.

Whose woods these are I think I know,
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

It is the poem that ends with that grim quatrain to which teach-

ers resorted to introduce us to the enigmatic element in poetry.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

The teacher always asked, "What do you suppose the poet intended with his mention of 'promises to keep?' " I didn't care then — and don't now — what Frost intended and am satisfied to say out loud to myself merely the title "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening." Those seven words start snow sifting through cold air, sticking on bare black boughs.

Frost's poem "The Onset," less well-known, offers a more closely observed snow that

...lets down as white
As may be in dark woods, and with a song
It shall not make again all winter long
Of hissing on the yet uncovered ground.

Easily as wonderful a Frost snow poem is his eight-line "Dust of Snow" whose first quatrain so quickly establishes its presence that words vanish and nothing remains but

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree.

Basho's *On Love and Barley* contains three haiku, the first of which "works" much like the Frost four lines — the words disappear, the world to which the words point, remains.

Snowy morning —
one crow

after another.

Come, let's go
snow-viewing
till we're buried.

Snow-whisk sweeping
this path,
forgets the snow.

This bit of snow-writing is not a poem, but it's written by a poet. Why we construe from his name an adjective that describes its object as "heroic — or, 'mock' heroic — and romantic" comes clear once more when we read what Lord Byron, on January 5, 1821, wrote in his journal:

Rose late — dull and drooping — the weather dripping and dense. Snow on the ground, and sirocco above in the sky, like yesterday. Roads up to the horse's belly, so that riding (at least for pleasure) is not very feasible. Read the conclusion, for the 50th time (I have read all W. Scott's novels at least 50 times), of the third series of *Tales of my Landlord* — grand work — Scotch.

Clock strikes — going out to make love. Somewhat perilous, but not disagreeable.

And, remember this, from T.S. Eliot's "The Wasteland"?

Winter kept us warm, covering
Earth in forgetful snow,

Wallace Stevens's "The Snow Man" is one of those killer poems that stalks you for years and finally one day hits you between the heart. Were I going to give the poem a title based upon the effect it has, I'd title it "Exit Wound."

One must have a mind of winter

and 1/3-scale train. Find the museum at 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue. 760-941-1791. (VISTA)

Bonita Museum and Cultural Center, "Teller Magi Festival" continues through December. The

museum highlights the history of the Sweetwater Valley from the mid-1800s, with historical photographs; artifacts, tools, and farming implements; the district's 1953 fire engine; and bound copies back

to the 1930s of the *Chula Vista Star News*. Find the museum at 4035 Bonita Road. 619-267-5141. (BONITA)

Campo Railroad Museum, showcasing more than 115 years of American railroad heritage and

development through static and operating exhibits, the museum includes cabooses, steam and diesel locomotives, track motor-cars, "Jim Crow" segregated passenger cars.

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94 at Forrest Gate Road. 619-465-7776. (CAMPO)

Chinese Historical Society and Museum, view artifacts from San Diego's Chinese and Chinese-American history, culture, and art.

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T.S. Eliot

To regard the frost and the boughs
Of the Pine-trees crusted with snow;

And have been cold a long time
To behold the junipers shagged with ice,
The spruces rough in the distant glitter

Of the January sun; and not to think
Of any misery in the sound of the wind,
In the sound of a few leaves,

Which is the sound of the land
Full of the same wind
That is blowing in the same bare place

For the listener, who listens in the snow,
And, nothing himself, beholds
Nothing that is not there and the nothing that is.

None of these is my favorite snow poem (although the Stevens comes close). That is reserved for Robert Penn Warren's "Function of Blizzard." Back when I lived where snow fell every winter, a friend and I, on the occasion of the year's first snow, would get together to recite this poem. I guess, really, we didn't "recite." We never learned the poem by heart, so we would take the book with us, outside, and stand on the street corner under lamplight and read the poem out loud together. Last week, standing at his window, he saw that snow was falling on the mountains. He called me and read:

God's goose, neck neatly wrung, is being plucked.
And night is blacker for the plethora
Of white feathers except when, in an air-tower beam,
Black feathers turn white as snow. Which is what they are.
And in the blind trajectory travelers scream toward silence.

Black ruins of arson in the Bronx are whitely
Redeemed. Poverty does not necessarily
Mean unhappiness. Can't you hear the creak of bed-slats
Or ghostly echo of childish laughter?
Bless Needle plunging into pinched vein.
Bless coverings-over, forgettings.

Bless snow, and chains beating undersides of fenders.
Bless insane sirens of the Fire Department
And Christmas whirl of alarm lights. Bless even
Three infants locked in a tenement of Harlem.
God's bosom is broad. Snow soon will cover the anguished ruin.

Bless snow! Bless God, Who must work under the hand of
Fate, who has no name. God does the best
He can, and sometimes lets snow whiten the world
As a promise — as now of mystic comfort to
The old physicist, a Jew, faith long since dead, who is getting

High-lonesome drunk by the frosted window of
The Oak Room bar in the Plaza. And bless me, even
With no glass in my hand, and far from New York, as I rise
From bed, feet bare, heart freezing, to stare out at
The whitening fields and forest, and wonder what

Item of the past I'd most like God to let
Snow fall on, keep falling on, and never

Melt, for I, like you, am only a man, after all.

It's difficult to know, after that, which so nearly says all there is to say about man and God and love *and* snow, what can follow. Joseph Wood Krutch in *The Twelve Seasons* suggests: "The snow itself is lonely or, if you prefer, self-sufficient. There is no other time when the whole world seems composed of one thing and one thing only."

For 20 years I've been reading and marking in my copy of Gaston Bachelard's *The Poetics of Space*. Bachelard meditates upon what he calls "praiseworthy space" — the closets, corners, cellars, and garrets that attract and focus the poetic imagination. In Chapter Two, "House and Universe," Bachelard "reads" houses and rooms "written" by writers.

Although at heart a city man, Baudelaire sensed the increased intimacy of a house when it is besieged by winter. In *Les paradis artificiels* (p. 280) he speaks of Thomas de Quincey's joy when, a prisoner of winter, he reads Kant, with the help of the idealism furnished by opium. The scene takes place in a cottage in Wales. "Isn't it true that a pleasant house makes winter more poetic, and doesn't winter add to the poetry of a house?"

Reading Baudelaire's passage, Bachelard suggests that we too are "swathed" in the blanket of winter."

And we feel warm *because* it is cold out-of-doors. Further on in this deep-winter "artificial Paradise," Baudelaire declares that dreamers like a severe winter. "Every year they ask the sky to send down as much snow, hail and frost as it can contain. What they really need are Canadian and Russian winters. Their own nests will be all the warmer, all the downier, all the better beloved." Like Edgar Allen Poe, a great dreamer of curtains, Baudelaire, in order to protect the winter-girt house from cold added "heavy draperies that hung down to the floor." Behind dark curtains, snow seems to be whiter. "Indeed, everything comes alive when contradictions accumulate."

Russians, of course, dependably produce paragraph after
(continued on page 76)

Current museum artifacts include a 1920s warlord's bed, exhibits on Chinese foot binding and Chinese-American veterans. The museum is in a building originally built in 1927 for the Chinese Mission. Adjacent to the building is an Asian garden with koi pond and waterfall. Find the museum at 404 Third Avenue (at J Street); 619-338-9888. (DOWNTOWN)

Chula Vista Heritage Museum the museum features glimpses of Chula Vista's past; exhibits feature lemon packing crate labels, photographs of downtown Chula Vista, doors and adobe blocks from the original *Star* newspaper building, and relics from the Otay Watch Company. Find the museum at 360 Third Avenue. For

further information, call 619-420-6916. (CHULA VISTA)

Creation Museum, a museum contrasting the evolution and creation world views is found at 10946 Woodside Avenue North. For more information, call 619-448-0900 x231. (SANTEE)

Gemological Institute of America Museum, unlike gemstones, which form deep within the Earth, organic gems are the products of living organisms, formed by biological processes. Organic gems such as amber, coral, ivory, jet, and pearls are showcased in "All-Natural, Organically Grown Gems from Plants and Animals," on view through April 2004. Exhibit includes a mastadon tusk (carbon dated at around 30,000 years).

"The Magical World of Ilya Schar," a collection of creations that resemble paintings but are composed solely of gem material, is also on display. Continues through April 2004.

Permanent exhibits include displays depicting science and art of gemstones and history, lore and cultural significance of jewelry. Find the GIA at 5345 Armada Drive. Required reservations: 800-421-7250 x 4116. (CARLSBAD)

George White and Anna Gunn Marston House, historic home sits on five acres of landscaped grounds with a formal English Romantic garden. Built for civic leader and department store founder George Marston and his family by San Diego architects William Hebbard and Irving Gill,

the Marston house design is in keeping with the early 20th-Century American Arts and Crafts period, emphasizing simplicity, function, and natural materials. The museum is located at 3525 Seventh Avenue; 619-298-3142. (HILLCREST)

House of Pacific Relations, International Cottages are open every Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. to present the history and traditions of 30 ethnic groups. Select cottages open on fourth Tuesday of the month, *Children Around the World* videos are shown in Hall of Nations, fourth Tuesday of every month. 619-538-4069. (BALBOA PARK)

J.A. Cooley Museum, an eclectic collection of items—including displays on phonographs, clocks,

electric trains, and 20 other types of collections — is featured at the museum. The current featured attraction is an "Industrial Product Collection," with examples of the historical progression of auto technology from 1886-1915, with "some classics and a concept car."

Find the museum at 4233 Park Boulevard. 619-296-3112. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Museum, housed in a historic building, the museum features five permanent galleries with artifacts, uniforms, vehicles, weapons, and photographs depicting Marine Corps history. The museum is located in Building 26 at MCRD, just inside Gate 4, off Pacific Highway. 619-524-6038. (MIDWAY)

Parsonage Museum of Lemon Grove, "Founding Parents: From the Kumeyaay to the Lee House" traces community history from the late Stone Age (12,000 B.C.) when the Kumeyaay first inhabited the area, to 1928 and the building of the H. Lee House. Exhibit includes murals, century-old woven baskets and pottery, fossils, pictographs, more. Continues through June 2004.

Concurrently, see "A Sea of Lemon Trees," showcasing the city's agricultural heyday, when millions of tons of fruit were harvested and shipped to the Midwest and Eastern U.S. Ongoing exhibits include "Gorgeous Bounty: Fruit Labels of the Golden State," "The Story of Lemon Grove," "The Parson's Study." Find the museum at

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Wallace Stevens

(continued from page 75)

paragraph of snow description. Chekhov's "Heartache" opens thus:

Evening twilight. Large flakes of wet snow are circling lazily about the street lamps which have just been lighted, settling in a thin soft layer on roofs, horses' backs, peoples' shoulders, caps. Iona Potapov, the cabby, is all white like a ghost. As hunched as a living body can be, he sits on the box without stirring. If a whole snowdrift were to fall on him, even then, perhaps he would not find it necessary to shake it off. His nag, too, is white and motionless.

From Chekhov's terrifying "An Attack of Nerves":

If one looked upwards into the darkness, the black background was all spangled with white, moving specks: it was snow falling. As the snowflakes came into the light they floated round lazily in the air like down, and still more lazily fell to the ground. The snowflakes whirled thickly round Vasilyev and hung upon his beard, his eyelashes, his eyebrows.... The cabmen, the horses, and the passersby were white.

One of the oddest snow scenes occurs in Tolstoy's *War and Peace*, during a snowy Christmas season. Natasha, Sonya, and Nikolai costume themselves in clothes of the opposite gender — Natasha as a hussar, Sonya a Circassian with burnt cork eyebrows and a mustache, Nikolai as an old lady in a farthingale. Nikolai wants

to go out in his troika and proposes a visit to a family who lives some four versts across the snow. Within minutes the group gathers in the troika — which is draped with harness bells — and are off.

Nikolai, in his old lady's dress over which he had belted his hussar's cloak, stood in the middle of the sledge, reins in hand.

It was so light that he could see the moonlight reflected in the metal of the harness and in the eyes of the startled horses....

Nikolai set off after the first troika; the other two noisily followed, their runners whining.... As they drove by the garden the shadows cast by the bare trees fell across the road obscuring the bright moonlight, but as soon as they had passed the fence, the still, snowy plain, all bathed in the radiance of the moon, sparkling like diamonds and with a bluish sheen, opened out before them....

Nikolai glanced at Sonya and bent down to look more closely into her face. A quite new, sweet face with black eyebrows and moustache — so near yet so remote in the moonlight — peeped up to him from her sable furs.

One of the classic cold-weather novels is Thomas Mann's *The Magic Mountain*, which suggests Hans Castrop's confinement in a tuberculosis sanitarium as analogy to Europe's post-World War I crisis:

[T]he winter came mildly on, at first no different from many a day they had seen in the height of summer. The wind had been two days in the south, the sun bore down, the valley seemed shrunken, the side walls at its mouth looked near and bald. Clouds came up, behind Piz Michel and Tinzenhorn, and drove north-eastwards. It rained heavily. Then the rain turned foul, a whitish-grey, mingled with snow-flakes — soon it was all snow, the valley was full of

flurry; it kept on and on, the temperature fell appreciably, so that the fallen snow could not quite melt, but lay covering the valley with a wet and threadbare white garment, against which showed black the pines on the slopes.

For seven days snow falls across Mann's valley. And then, this:

The world, this narrow, lofty, isolated world up here, looked now well wadded and upholstered indeed: no pillar or post but wore its whitecap; the steps up to the entrance of the Berghof had turned into an inclined plane; heavy cushions, in the drollest shapes, weighed down the branches of the Scotch firs — now and then one slid off and raised up a cloud of powdery white dust in its fall. Round about, the heights lay smothered in snow; their lower regions rugged with the evergreen growth, their upper parts, beyond the timber line, softly covered up to their many-shaped summits. The air was dark, the sun but a pallid apparition behind a veil. Yet a mild reflected brightness came from the snow, a milky gleam whose light became both landscape and human beings, even though these latter did show red noses under their white or gaily-colored woollen caps.

American author Cynthia Ozick, in Chapter Four of *The Messiah of Stockholm*, places Lars Andemening at night on foot in Stockholm.

There was a bitter wind now, lording it over the black one o'clock. The blackness went on throwing the snow into Lars's face, and he packed his scarf over his nose and mouth — how warm his breath was in the little cave this made! ... The spiraling flakes stuttered around him like Morse code. A smell of something roasting, what was that? Chimneys....

3185 Olive Street; 619-460-4353. (LEMON GROVE)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, retrospective exhibit "Reaching for the Stars: The Fleet's First 30 Years" documents the history of the Fleet. Each decade of the past 30 years is highlighted through graphics, photographs, and artifacts taking visitors on a visual journey of the center's accomplishments. Through Sunday, January 18, 2004.

Over 30 exhibits designed to demonstrate the fun side of science, math, and technology from the Exploratorium in San Francisco are on display in "ExploraZone 4," on exhibit through Monday, May 31, 2004. The exhibition's themes are forces and structures, light, and rotation.

"Memory" includes 38 interactive exhibits, artworks, and demonstrations exploring how memories are made, stored, retrieved, and forgotten (through

Sunday, December 7). Ongoing exhibitions include "Technovation," "About Faces," "Smoke and Mirrors," and "Skyscapes II." The permanent exhibitions present a variety of hands-on exhibits illustrating scientific principles. Explore the various methods of transmission and storage and retrieval of information, such as lasers, flashing lights, waveforms, and more. Journey "To Worlds Beyond" in the planetarium show. Films are shown daily in the IMAX theater. 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Automotive Museum, more than 80 automobiles and motorcycles from horseless carriages to future prototypes are included in the museum's permanent collection. Find the museum near the Starlight Bowl; 619-231-2886. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Hall of Champions, current exhibits include one built around photographs from *Sports*

Illustrated magazine, featuring 35 San Diegians who made the cover; "San Diego Ground Zero," "Bird Watching — Tony Hawk in Flight." The museum — dedicated to promoting, recognizing, and preserving athletic achievement — is located at 2131 Pan American Plaza. Call 619-234-2544 for information. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Historical Society Museum, through costumes and ephemera, the "Wedding Belles: Traditions and Attire" exhibition chronicles San Diego wedding fashions from the 1850s through the mid-20th Century. "Belles" showcases examples of the evolution and style and of "proper attire." Show includes an 1848 Viennese wedding dress to a tulle and lace garment from the 1950s. Through May 2004.

"From Blueprints to Buildings," an exhibit of San Diego architecture, traces this region's ar-

chitectural history from early Indian bark houses to modern and postmodern buildings. The exhibit showcases the most significant examples of various architectural styles and types of structures. See the historical artifacts, photographs, and ephemera through Sunday, February 15, 2004.

Also on view: "Filming San Diego: Hollywood's Backlot," through Thursday, December 9, 2004. The museum is located in the Casa de Balboa building; 619-232-6203. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Maritime Museum, visit the H.M.S. *Surprise* while the ship used in film *Master and Commander* is on exhibit through Tuesday, November 30, 2004. See artifacts, costumes, props used in making of the flick.

The museum features permanent exhibits documenting the history of San Diego's waterfront and the building of the West Coast

by sea, including exhibits concerning the old San Diego-Coronado ferryboats, the tuna fishing industry, and the military. The museum fleet consists of the 1863 bark *Star of India*, the 1898 San Francisco ferryboat *Berkeley*, and the 1904 Scottish steam yacht *Medea*. There are also nautical exhibits, ship carpenters, model building, ships in bottles, woodcarvers, and a complete research library.

The museum is located at 1306 North Harbor Drive, along the Embarcadero at the corner of North Harbor Drive and Ash Street; 619-234-9153. (DOWNTOWN)

San Diego Museum of Art, "Sculpture in Silk: Costumes from Japan's Noh Theater," offers opportunity to examine elegant designs and exquisite workmanship of layered costumes. Display includes more than 40 robes and accessories created

during Edo period (1601-1868), as well as 100 modern examples of Noh costumes created using Edo-period designs and techniques. Continues through Sunday, January 25, 2004.

"Partners of the Soul: African Art of the Baule" includes 45 objects from the UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History and private collectors. Show explores complex ways in which art functioned in Baule culture and society (Ivory Coast of West Africa) through a display of spirit spouse figures, portrait masks, miniature amulet figures, mouse oracles, wooden strikers. Through Sunday, January 4, 2004.

"The Later Mughals: Theaters of Power" presents more than 20 seldom-seen images telling the story of the waning of India's greatest dynasty. Through Sunday, January 25, 2004.

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Lord Byron

Under the screen of revolving flakes the steeples had the look of whirling Merlin hats.

A few years ago, I ran across Yasunari Kawabata's *Snow Country*. The Novel's translator writes in an introduction to the novel:

The west coast of the main island of Japan is probably for its latitude (roughly, from Cape Hatteras to New York, or from Spanish Morocco to Barcelona) the snowiest region in the world. From December to April or May only the railroads are open, and the snow in the mountains is sometimes as much as 15 feet deep.

Kawabata's descriptions of snow are some of the most satisfying I know, and I look forward to leaning against the bookcase and reading them aloud to myself until I feel the cold he writes climb up on me. Yet Kawabata's story of a man who can't love and the woman who loves him is so irredeemably sad that I'm never sure Kawabata's snow is worth the pain my memory of his characters' end causes me.

The earth lay white under the night sky.

The brightness of the snow was more intense, it seemed to be burning icily.

Presently, as the mountain chasms were far and near, high and low, the shadows in them began to deepen, and the sky was red over the snowy mountains, bathed now in but a wan light.

The snow on the distant mountains was soft and creamy, as if veiled in a faint smoke.

From the gray sky, framed by the window, the snow floated toward them in great flakes, like white peonies.

The cedars, under a thin coating of snow, rose sheer from the white ground to the sky, each cut off sharply from the rest.

When I want North American snow, I turn first to books set in the Midwest and then to my childhood books, to the Little House books. *Little House on the Prairie*, *Little House in the Big Woods*, *et al.* tell the story of Laura Ingalls Wilder's life. Born in 1867 in a log cabin at the edge of the Wisconsin Big Woods, Wilder from 1870-1889 traveled with her family by covered wagon through Kansas, Minnesota, and Dakota Territory. A section from Wilder's *The Long Winter* furnished me with material for what must have been my earliest childhood snow nightmares. A late fall snow-storm has hit the prairie. Cattle have taken shelter by the haystacks. Pa, concerned that the cattle will tear down the stacks, goes out to drive them off. Laura follows.

Outdoors the sun-glitter hurt her eyes. She breathed a deep breath of the tingling cold and squinted her eyes to look around her. The sky was hugely blue and all the land was blowing white. The straight, strong wind did not lift the snow, but drove it scudding across the prairie....

The cattle were standing in sunshine and shadow by the haystacks — red and brown and spotted cattle and one thin black one. They stood perfectly still, every head bowed down to the ground. The hairy red necks and brown necks all stretched down from bony-gaunt shoulders to monstrous, swollen white heads....

They did not seem like real cattle. They stood so terrible still. In the whole herd there was not the least movement. Only their breath-

ing sucked their hairy sides in between the rib bones and pushed them out again. ... Their legs were braced out, stiff and still. And where their heads should be, swollen white lumps seemed fast to the ground under the blowing snow.

On Laura's head the hair prickled up and a horror went down her backbone. ... Pa went on slowly against the wind. He walked up to the herd. Not one of the cattle moved.

Next, for midwestern winters, I like Willa Cather's *My Antonia* that has as its landscape the author's childhood home in Nebraska.

The first snowfall came early in December. I remember how the world looked from our sitting-room window as I dressed behind the stove that morning: the low sky was like a sheet of metal; the blond cornfields had faded out into ghostliness at last; the little pond was frozen under its stiff willow bushes. Big white flakes were whirling over everything and disappearing in the red grass....

The sky was brilliantly blue, and the sunlight on the glittering white stretches of prairie was almost blinding. As Antonia said, the whole world was changed by snow; we kept looking in vain for familiar landmarks. The deep arroyo through which Squaw Creek wound was now only a cleft between snowdrifts — very blue when one looked down into it.... The cold stung, and at the same time delighted one. My horse's breath rose like steam, and whenever we stopped he smoked all over. The cornfields got back a little of their color under the dazzling light, and stood the palest possible gold in the sun and snow. All about us the snow was crusted in shallow terraces, with tracings like ripple-marks at the edges, curly waves that were the actual impression of the stinging lash in the wind.

Winter comes down savagely over a little town on the prairie. ...

In the morning when I was fighting my way to school against

(continued on page 78)

San Diego Museum of Man, "The Turquoise Path/El Camino Turquesa: The Story of Turquoise in the Native American Southwest," on display through April 2004, focuses on historical, social, cultural, and economic implications of the age-old stone. Turquoise jewelry-making techniques documented, and pieces from the museum's extensive collections exhibited.

"Inuit: People of the Midnight Sun," continuing through April 2004, brings to life the *iliqqusiq* or "ways and habits" of the Inuit (previously known as Eskimo). Artifacts include tools for hunting and sewing, handmade games, clothing, masks, and kayaks, offering an in-depth look at aspects of modern and ancient Inuit culture.

"Efe: Archers of the Congo" examines one of the most enigmatic and little-known groups on the planet. The Efe are one of

about 12 pygmy tribes living in African rainforest. The more than 200 items include bows, arrows, quivers, wrist guards, hunting nets, musical instruments, utensils, and bark cloth paintings. Through summer 2004.

Ongoing exhibits: "Inquisition: Torture and Intolerance," focusing on reality of torture in world today, including an interactive video and stories of modern-day torture survivors. Collection features dozens of macabre devices gathered from throughout Europe, some extremely rare, primarily used from 1400s up to early 1800s. Pieces on display are originals, including an iron maiden, a guillotine, chain flails, a knee splitter, and more. Permanent anthropology exhibit "Footsteps through Time: Four Million Years of Human Evolution" features "more than a hundred touchable replicas of

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San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park commemorates the clash (on December 6, 1846) during the Mexican War between the U.S. Dragoons, bolstered by sailors and volunteers from San Diego, and California militia. Narrated slide-show screens throughout the day, telling the story of the war in Mexico and California. Self-guided tour recounts the events of the battle and profiles the leaders of the forces and also describes the lives of the Indians indigenous to the valley. The museum is found at 15808 San Pasqual Valley Road. 760-737-2201. (ESCONDIDO)

Valley Center History Museum, the museum features an educational exhibition centered around a

California grizzly bear, described as "the only one on view in San Diego." Also on view: model of an 1862 settler's cabin, collection of Indian baskets, and aerospace display. Find the museum at 29200 Cole Grade Road. 760-749-2993. (VALLEY CENTER)

Villa Montezuma, built in 1887 for internationally cele-

brated author and musician Jesse Shepard, serves as both a historical house museum and cultural center. Find the museum at 1925 K Street (at 20th Street). Call 619-239-2211 for more information. (SHERMAN HEIGHTS)

William Heath Davis House Museum, said to be the oldest surviving structure in the new town

area of downtown San Diego, the house is a well-preserved example of a pre-framed lumber "salt box" family home shipped from the East Coast to California by boat around Cape Horn in 1850. Find the museum at 410 Island Avenue (at Fourth Avenue); 619-233-4692. (GASLAMP QUARTER)

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READING

(continued from page 77)

the wind, I couldn't see anything but the road in front of me; but in the late afternoon, when I was coming home, the town looked bleak and desolate to me. The pale, cold light of the winter sunset did not beautify — it was like the light of truth itself. When the smoky clouds hung low in the west and the red sun went down behind them, leaving a pink flush on the snowy roofs and the blue drifts, then the wind sprang up afresh, with a kind of bitter song, as if it said: "This is reality, whether you like it or not. All those frivolities of summer, the light and shadow, the living mask of green that trembled over everything, they were lies, and this is what was underneath. This is the truth."

For contemporary no-nonsense New England snow, nobody beats Russell Banks, whose *Affliction* tells the story of Wade Whitehouse, a part-time policeman in a New Hampshire mill-town who goes on a violent rampage. In *Affliction* and his earlier *Continental Divide*, Banks writes of the dirty rust-belt snow that has driven more than one New Englander to California (although Banks's characters head for Florida).

Wade liked the way the river

looked in the new snow and milky early morning light. That is a tourist's idea of New Hampshire, he thought, with pine trees drooping over the water and snarls of icicle-laden birches clumped at the edges of eddies and pools, with large snow-covered boulders in the middle of the stream and dark-green water churning, swirling and splashing past and over them, raising a thick white crust of ice at the crest marks.

By the first week of October, whole long gray days passed without the temperature's rising above freezing, while the leaves, their colors dulled by the cold, tumbled from the trees and swirled in the autumn winds, and stalks and reeds clattered in the icy clasp of the marshes and ponds, and animals drew into their caves for a six months' sleep.

When the snows do come, it is as natural and as inescapable and in some sense as welcome as gravity. Starting long after midnight, a clear starry sky with a sickle of moon in the southeast fills slowly with low dark gray clouds, until the sky is covered from horizon to horizon and all the light seems to have been wiped from the valley, every dot of it, every pale reflection, every memory. The first scattered flakes drift almost accidentally down, as if spilled while carted by a high wind to somewhere east of here, to



Robert Penn Warren

the Maritimes or New Brunswick: a single hard dry flake, then several more, then a hundred, a thousand, too many to be seen as separate from one another anymore: until at last the snow is falling over the valley and the hills and lakes like a lacy soft eider-down billowing out and settling over the entire region, covering the trees, the rocks and ridges, the old stone walls, the fields and meadows behind the houses in town and out along Route 29, the roofs of the houses, barns and trailers, the tops of cars and trucks the roads, lanes, driveways and parking lots: covering and transforming everything in the last few moments of the night, so that when at dawn the day and the month truly begin, winter too will have arrived, returned, seeming never to have left....

The snow was coming down with fury, in white fists, and as he drove slowly through the stuff, Wade thought, I can't stand it anymore.

Mark Helprin's stories and novels' surfaces glitter and shimmer and shine with snow and ice. Perhaps no living writer, in English, does as well with plays of light over snow. In the prologue to *Winter's Tale*, he describes snow falling on New York City.

But the city is now obscured, as it often is, by the whitened mass in which it rests — rushing by us at unfathomable speed, crackling like wind in the mist, cold to the touch, glistening and unfolding, tumbling over itself like the steam of an engine or cotton spilling from a bale. Though the blind-



Anton Chekov

ing white web of ceaseless sound flows past mercilessly, the curtain is breaking ... it reveals amid the clouds a lake of air as smooth and clear as a mirror, the deep round eye of a white hurricane.

No Renaissance engine belching fire or hurtling stone could keep pace with even one white clap of a New York winter, and winter there clapped as endlessly as a paddlewheel on one of the big white boats slapping across the lake in seasons gone by. Battalions of arctic clouds droned down from the north to bomb the state with snow, to bleach it as white as young ivory, to mortar it with frost that would last from September to May.

A New York City friend who tells me she bought *Singapore: a Novel of the Bronx* by Joe Bernardini because she could not resist a novel about the Bronx written by someone named Joe Bernardini, pointed out to me Bernardini's snow scene as an example of nonromanticized urban snow:

In all fairness to the Bronx, snow is greeted with great cheers of delight. The smiles and laughter of this otherwise grim borough are few and far between, and I'd be remiss in not mentioning them when they do occur. The snowball fights we used to have in the lot constituted the happiest moments of my youth. I was deadly with a snowball. Single-handed I'd rout Leon and his cohorts from their hiding places and send them scurrying into the building. Then, anticipating their taunts from the hallway windows, my snowballs would



Leo Tolstoy

find the enemy as soon as their startled heads appeared. I recall throwing a snowball that landed wide of the mark. It struck the window of a recluse who was forever sitting with his nose pressed against the pane. He appeared to be staring straight at me, there was no way possible for him to overlook the snowball, and yet as the snowball approached and then struck his window he didn't budge an inch. Frightened out of my wits, I ran all the way up to Bainbridge and returned hours later when it was dark.

The light from the street lamp illumined his window and I saw that a piece of cardboard had been wedged against the opening and above the cardboard I was even able to make out the man's forehead and a few wisps of hair. He was sitting there with his nose pressed against the cardboard. Do you understand? Snow was falling on the Bronx. For several hours a clean, white blanket would cover the grime. Then dogs would yellow it with their pee and boots would riddle it with holes and soot belched from the incinerators would settle on its surface and it would turn to slush, and in contrast to the few white patches that remained, the Bronx would appear even grimmer than before. So snow meant nothing to him. It was still the Bronx.

For one more piece of gritty city snow, there is this from the collection of short stories *Between C & D*, *New Writing from the Lower East Side Fiction Magazine*, "The Fedora" by Catherine Texier:

Tonight I will look at the window and from the shapes of the steps in the snow I will try to guess who has been walking on the sidewalk. Then

I see him. His collar is turned up, his hat pushed down, his shoulders even more hunched than usual, his whole body contracted by bitter wind. His face is drowned in shadow, but his figure is clearly delineated against the pearl glimmer of the snow, the fedora smartly creased in the middle, it's outline sharper and sharper as he walks towards my house. I quickly move from the window and wait. I think, he wouldn't dare. But he does. Like a syncopated note dropped against the beat my buzzer rings. Once. Twice. A long interval, then a third time. And I sit, frozen, listening to the shrill, persistent pitch of the doorbell in the cold, abstract silence.

Reading Katherine Mansfield's journal entry for December 28, 1914, with its expanding exterior vision covered over with white, white, white, white heightens one's awareness of snow's potential as dramatic medium.

Snow has fallen, and everything is white.... I love to close my eyes a moment and think of the land outside, white under the mingled snow and moonlight — white trees, white fields — the heaps of stones by the roadside white — snow in the furrows.

Snow passages in fiction and poetry are splendid opportunities for writers to set up dazzling pictorial contrasts. Peter Handke's *The Afternoon of a Writer* offers this:

He switched off all the lights. Because of the snow and the reflection of the city in the clouds, it was light in all the rooms, a nocturnal light that made the objects in the rooms all the darker.

In another example of this use of snow for effects of visual contrast there is in Kawabata's novel a paragraph in which his emotionally frozen male character watches a geisha as she looks at herself in a mirror that reflects both her face and the snow outside the window.

The white in the depths of the mirror was the snow, and floating in the middle of it were the woman's bright red cheeks.

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An early scene in Banks’s *Affliction*, a deer hunt, is another passage in which snow’s whiteness and purity is used as a graphic contrast medium.

Slugs, pellets, balls made of aluminum lead, steel, rip into the body of the deer, crash through bone, penetrate and smash organs, rend muscle and sinew. Blood splashes into the air, across tree bark, stone, onto smooth white blankets of snow, where scarlet fades swiftly to pink. Black tongue lolls over blooded teeth, as if the mouth were a carnivore’s; huge brown eyes roll back, glassed over, opaque and dry; blood trickles from carbon-black nostrils, shit spits steaming into the snow; urine, entrails, blood, mucus spill from the animal’s body: as heavy-booted hunters rush across the frozen snow-covered ground to claim the kill.

Perhaps precisely because snow offers such a canvas on which to draw contrasts, mystery, suspense, thriller, and horror writers show a fondness for wintry settings. Offhand, these come to mind: Le Carre’s *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*, Ngaio Marsh’s *Death and the Dancing Footman*, Chesterton’s “The Invisible Man,” Michael Innes’s *Appleby’s End*, Jonathan Valin’s *Fire Lake*, Peter Straub’s *Ghost Story*, and closer to home, Chandler’s *Lady of the Lake*.

Martin Cruz Smith’s *Gorky Park* provides particularly vivid examples of the use of snow as a backdrop for violence. From the first pages, *Gorky Park* provides snowy death scenes. As bits of ice glimmer in the air, a chief investigator for the People’s Militia, Arkady Renko, strides through snow “to the telltale humps” in the center of a clearing.

There were three bodies. ...They lay peacefully, even artfully, under their thawing crust of ice, the center one on its back, hands folded as if for a religious funeral, the other two

turned, arms out under the ice like flanking emblems on embossed writing paper. They were wearing ice skates.

Toward *Gorky Park*’s end, a corpse is found (whose corpse it is I won’t tell you in case you haven’t read the book and want to).

Snow had settled deep on his shoulders and hat and in the cuff of his upraised hand. Stretched out dead in the snow at his feet were two large gray dogs. Arkady noticed that what protruded in a bundle from ____’s open coat were his entrails, pulled out and covered with snow. Snow obscured the two pink holes over his breasts. His face was totally white....

Arkady noticed that no more snow was falling; not a flake drifted down, not even from the over-heavy branches. There was a ceramic clarity to the scene.

In *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*, Hemingway’s Harry, a writer, is in Africa in “a pleasant camp under big trees against a hill, with good water.” He’d gotten a scratch on his leg. He forgot to put iodine on the scratch. The leg has become gangrenous. Laying on a canvas cot at the edge of the bush, Harry looks across “the heat shimmer of the plain.” He knows he’s going to die. “Now he would never write the things that he had saved to write until he knew enough to write them well.”

Snow was one of the things he’d saved to write, and Hemingway gives Harry a seven-paragraph riff that’s about the best snow anybody’s written. Paragraph three:

In Schrunz, on Christmas day, the snow was so bright it hurt your eyes when you looked out from the weinstube and saw every one coming home from church. That was where they walked up the sleigh-smoothed urine-yellowed road along the river with the steep pine hills, skis heavy on the shoulder, and

where they ran that great run down the glacier above the Madlener-haus, the snow as smooth to see as cake frosting and as light as powder and he remembered the noiseless rush the speed made as you dropped down like a bird.

In Nelson Algren’s *Notes from a Sea Diary, or, Hemingway All the Way*, Algren inveighed against critics who described Hemingways’s writing as “baby talk.” So that after I read snow paragraphs from *Kilimanjaro*, I am always tempted to echo the outburst Algren directed against those critics: “Call that baby talk!”

When I ask people what in literature they remember for its snow scenes, Dickens’s *A Christmas Carol* is spoken of, and Barry Lopez’s *Arctic Dreams*, Peter Matthiesen’s *The Snow Leopard*, John Irving’s *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, O.E. Rolvåg’s *Giants in the Earth*, and always Jack London. Not a few readers are reminded of Conrad Aiken’s haunting story “Silent Snow, Secret Snow” in which the snow is imaginary, the vision of a young boy’s disturbed mind. But almost no one doesn’t mention the conclusion of “The Dead,” the final story in James Joyce’s *Dubliners*.

Yes, the newspapers were right: snow was general all over Ireland. It was falling on every part of the dark central plain, on the treeless hills, falling softly upon the Bog of Allen and, farther westward, softly falling into the dark mutinous Shannon waves. It was falling, too, upon every part of the lonely churchyard on the hill where Michael Furey lay buried. It lay thickly drifted on the crooked crosses and headstones, on the spears of the little gate, on the barren thorns. His soul swooned slowly as he heard the snow falling faintly through the universe and faintly falling, like the descent of their last end, upon all the living and all the dead.

— Judith Moore

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No Headline Would Be Adequate

Chopin's songs are slight stuff.

Opera fanatics — but only they — know and love James McCourt's ornately extravagant novel *Mawrdew Czgowchwz*. The eponymous heroine (her name is pronounced "Mardu Gorgeous") is an Irish-Czech diva of superhuman talent and versatility. Her vocal range extends from C below middle C to A above high C (nearly four octaves), which makes her capable of singing anything written for the female operatic voice, from the lowest contralto to the highest coloratura soprano. Her repertoire encompasses Violetta, the Queen of the Night, Brünnhilde, Dalila, Mistress Quickly.... In *Il Trovatore*, she can sing both Leonora and Azucena; in *Aida*, both Aida and Amneris. Pressed to define her vocal type, she invents the word "*oltrano*."

Writing in the early '70s, McCourt cannot have known anything about Polish "contralto" Ewa Podleś, whose spectacular international career did not begin until a decade after that. He really was dreaming of a fantastically enhanced Maria Callas. But Podleś, who recently gave a thrilling recital for San Diego Opera (she was scheduled to come here last season but had to postpone because of an automobile accident), would be a good candidate for the rare oltrano designation. She too has a range of over three octaves. Her low notes, in a stentorian chest voice, sound like those of a baritone. She commands not only the contralto repertoire, but that of a dramatic mezzo-soprano. With a voice of tremendous power and weight, she nevertheless is entirely at home in music requiring the most agile coloratura, which

means that she can sing a large proportion of the higher-voice roles in Baroque opera and in Rossini. Add to this the fact that her voice is of ravishing richness, that she wields it with total technical mastery and intense expressiveness, and that her vocal acting is extraordinarily dramatic, and you have a singer who — Mawrdew Czgowchwz excepted — breaks

all the molds.

It's true that Podleś is unlikely to sing the Queen of the Night, but you can't have everything.

Her Sherwood Auditorium program offered a sampling of the repertoire in which she is supreme. The first half was devoted to the Baroque (two arias by Vivaldi) and Rossini (his dramatic cantata *Giovanna d'Arco*), in which she demonstrated fiery brilliance ("*Nel profondo cieco mondo*" from Vivaldi's *Orlando furioso*), poignant pathos ("*Sposa son disprezzata*" from the same composer's *Bajazet*), and the spectrum of rapidly shifting emotions (from pensive sadness to joyful, heroic resolution) with which Rossini characterizes Joan of Arc. In Orlando's aria, Podleś surely need not have feared comparison with the *castrati* who ordinarily (not always) would have sung such a role in the early 18th Century. A comparison with Marilyn Horne's famous recorded performance is more apt. Horne and Podleś are more or less equal in the dazzling precision of their *fioritura*, but there is nothing in Podleś's gorgeous (or should one say "czgowchwz"?) voice of the braying quality that was to become so prominent in Horne's later career (especially in the chest).

Expressively, Podleś has it all over Horne, who is satisfied with a cold, external perfection, while Podleś actually suggests a passionate human being caught up in a tumultuous crisis.

The Rossini cantata was recorded by Cecilia Bartoli in 1991, when the young Italian mezzo's voice was still fresh and she had not developed the unfortunate mannerisms and vocal flaws that have vitiated her singing in recent years (Bartoli will be appearing at the Civic Theatre later this

season, under the auspices of the La Jolla Music Society, at which time we will be able to hear whether she has overcome her difficulties). Twelve years ago, her *Joan* was an utterly delectable performance, full of warmth and spirit, and vocally a pleasure to listen to. Podleś's recent performance of the same work was similarly beautiful and similarly dramatic, although the Polish oltrano's voice, a much lusher and more ample instrument than Bartoli's, tended to impart to the 16-year-old girl from Domrémy a rather obtrusive maturity. Never mind. With singing of this quality, and with the emotions so true and affecting, no one in the audience could care whether Podleś sounded like Joan of Arc or Joan of Arc's mother.

In fact, however, when the nature of a later work on the program demanded a contrast between a young girl and her mother, Podleś had no difficulty in assuming two different personae and two different voices — and quite convincingly. After the intermission, she presented a selection of songs by her compatriot, Chopin, one of which is called *Piosnka litewska* ("A Lithuanian Song"). It is a dialogue between a mother and her daughter. The mother wants to know why the girl is returning home early in the morning, and the girl, in order to conceal her assignation with her lover, implausibly professes to have gone out to the well for water. Chopin's songs are slight stuff — but very charming, and artfully written for both the voice and piano. Podleś made the most of this one, impersonating the severe mother and the enamored daughter with such authenticity, in voice, gesture, and facial expression, that it was as if the audience were witness to two terrific singing actresses rather than just one.

They were also witness to some terrific piano playing by Ania Marchwinska, an exquisitely lovely young woman (Artur Rubinstein used to say that no one could match Polish women for beauty) who also happened to be Podleś's stepdaughter. In a recital by so imposing a singer, the accompanist tends to disappear from the audience's consciousness. But in this case, the two artists were superbly matched in both their strength and their subtlety; and Marchwinska made the listener acutely aware that it was Chopin, the incomparable author of waltzes and mazurkas, who had fashioned



Ewa Podleś

ILLUSTRATION BY CHARLES POWELL

Ewa Podleś, contralto; Ania Marchwinska, piano
Sherwood Auditorium (San Diego Opera)

Arias and songs by Vivaldi, Rossini, Chopin, and Rachmaninov

the keyboard component of these unpretentious and lighthearted songs.

Marchwinska was equally wonderful in the Rachmaninov songs that followed, which at the same time incited Podleś to some of her grandest singing of the evening. The Chopin songs had all been tender and humorous comments on young love, but the Rachmaninov selection ranged much more widely: the themes were not only love (happy, or painfully nostalgic, or hopeless and bitter) but also the vital arrival of Spring, the inevitable passing of everything in life, and the tragic anguish that Christ would feel if He were to see the shameful inhumanity of 19th-century Russia (*Khristos voskres!* — "Christ is risen!") — to a trenchant text by Dmitri Merezhkovski). Each of these songs, in Podleś's performance, was uniquely gripping, as though the diverse human passions embodied in the poetry and the music were concentrated by a mighty lens into a blindingly radiant point.

Nor was this a matter of generalized affects. Podleś may have an enormous voice and an enormous charisma, but her

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MODEL UPDATE

Happy Holidays!

22-year-old **Todd Scalia** from Del Mar just returned from a two-week shoot in Rome where he was photographed by **Bruce Weber** exclusively for **ABERCROMBIE & FITCH**.

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singing — particularly in the art-song section of her recital — gathered its immense cumulative force through the progressive addition of detail after detail, nuances of interpretation that exploited to the fullest the kaleidoscopic colors of that amazing instrument. In *Ona, kak polden’, khorosha* (“She is beautiful as noon”), the unrequited lover’s longing for his untouchable beloved is compared to the eternally splashing ocean’s love for the silent shore. The song ends with the word “*vliubleno*” (“in love”), the last syllable of which Podleś held for a long time, in her manly chest voice, and in a relentless crescendo — as though to represent in sound a love so intense and desperate that it is a threat. In contrast, the last line of the subsequent Rachmaninov song, *Vesennie vody* (“Spring waters”), shows us the dancing days of May crowding merrily after Spring, and here Podleś held the last note, on the word “*nei*” (“her” — that is, Spring), in the same way she had held the last note of “She is beautiful as noon,” except that this time it was in her brightest head voice, and pulsating with ecstatic joy.

Not many contraltos, or mezzos, or oltranos have a low chest tone or a high head tone of such vivid color; but what is most impressive about Podleś’s singing is that she knows how to make use of her stupendous natural endowment to achieve musical, dramatic, and poetic ends. To show once again that “range,” as applied to this magnificent singer, means a lot more than octaves, her encores — both by Rossini — began with heartbreaking despair (Isabella’s “*Cruda sorte*” from *L’Italiana in Algeri*) and then moved, with perfect ease, to frivolous nonchalance (the popular *Canzonetta spagnuola*, where the lover repeats his dolorous cry of “ay” to the most cheerful tune imaginable). ■

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

Events that are underlined occur after January 1, 2004.

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number (including area code), and a phone number for public information to **READER CLASSICAL MUSIC**, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.

Civic Organist Carol Williams performs in Spreckels Organ Pavil-

ion Sunday, December 28, at 2 p.m. Free. 619-702-8138. (BALBOA PARK)

Vienna’s Famed New Year’s Concert is recreated in “Salute to Vienna,” Thursday, January 1, 2004. Cast of over 75 professional musicians, singers, dancers. Performers include Austrian soprano Elisabeth Lang, Viennese tenor Alois Haselbacher, members of Hungarian National Ballet, Strauss Symphony of America led by Gerhard Track.

Events begin at 2:30 p.m. in Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. Tickets range from \$35 to \$75, available by calling 619-235-0804 and through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (DOWNTOWN)

“Four Hands Fantastique,” piano duetists Barbara and Gerhardt Suhrstedt perform music by composers Bizet, Debussy, Fauré, and Ravel along with slides of paintings by Degas, Gauguin, Monet, and Renoir in performances on Tuesday, January 13, 2004, at San Diego Museum of Art.

These “Meet the Masters” lecture/concerts begin at 11 a.m. (\$20 for nonmembers, or \$38 with lunch) and 6 p.m. (\$20 for nonmembers). Reservations: 619-696-1966. (BALBOA PARK)

Violin Virtuoso Itzhak Perlman in concert, Tuesday, January 13, 2004, at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Perlman’s latest release is *Classic Perlman: Rhapsody*, with chamber and symphonic music, as well as film themes. Tickets: \$60 to \$75. 800-988-4253. (ESCONDIDO)

ART LISTINGS

Events that are underlined occur after January 1, 2004.

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to **READER ART**, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.

GALLERIES

“Whale Sharks and Marine Iguanas,” exhibition by Eric Cheng showcasing nature photos from the Galapagos Islands opens with reception, Sunday, December 28, 3 p.m., at Taiwanese-American Community Center Gallery (7170 Convoy Court). Continues through Saturday, January 31, 2004. Free. 858-560-8884. (LINDA VISTA)

ART MUSEUMS

Mingei International Museum of Folk Art, useful and beautiful wooden objects — chairs, tables, benches, cabinets — are on view in “George Nakashima, Woodworker — A Retrospective.” The objects are exhibited along with paintings and drawings by Nakashima’s friend Ben Shahn. Closes Sunday, May 30, 2004.

“Origami Masterworks — Innovative Forms of the Art of Paper Folding,” on view through Sunday, February 8, 2004, includes more than 150 pieces by 42 artists from across the globe. Most of the objects were created by folding single sheets of paper to make geometrical forms, flowers, trees, people, masks, and a menagerie of animals.

“Mingei of Japan — The Legacy of Its Founders — Soetsu Yanagi, Shoji Hamada, and Kanjiro Kawai,” an exhibition of objects from the museum’s collection by known and unknown craftsmen from throughout Japan continues until January 25, 2004. Included: *tansu* (Japanese chests), pottery, calligraphy, woodblock prints, stencil work, kimono and other textiles, baskets, toys.

The Mingei is located on the square with the San Diego Museum of Art and the Timken Museum of Art. 619-239-0003. (BALBOA PARK)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown, Los Angeles artist Wendell Gladstone’s “Cerca Series” exhibit — through Sunday, January 18, 2004 — explores the interaction between abstract sculpture and figurative painting. His canvases hang behind stark minimalist sculptures, bringing the narrative content of the paintings into three dimensions, with an intentionally humorous approach.

“Recent Acquisitions for the Permanent Collection,” on display through Sunday, January 25, 2004, showcases new additions to the museum’s collection, acquired through “generosity and support of museum members during the last five years.”

Find the museum at 1001 Kettner Boulevard (at Broadway), directly across from the Santa Fe Railroad Depot, adjacent to the America Plaza trolley transfer station. 619-234-1001. (DOWNTOWN)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla, “Manny Farber: About Face” celebrates the life and work of one of San Diego’s most important visual artists, with work from the early 1960s to present. Farber has contributed to American cultural discourse for more than 50 years as both film and art critic and painter. Closes Sunday, January 4, 2004.

“Self-Help Graphics and Art: Building Community Through Art,” on display through Tues-

day, January 6, 2004, includes a group of monoprints exploring a wide range of imagery. The works explore “the limitations of print media and techniques.”

Find the museum at 700 Prospect Street. 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

Museum of Photographic Arts, “The Discerning Eye: Southern California Collects” celebrates 20 photography collectors to commemorate the museum’s 20th anniversary; show closes Saturday, January 3, 2004. Find the museum in the Casa de Balboa building, at 1649 El Prado; 619-238-7559. (BALBOA PARK)


Oceanside Museum of Art, 33 original artworks by 20 artists in a variety of media are showcased in “OMA Regional 3,” the third juried exhibition of regional artists hosted by the museum. Jury included Mark Quint, Reese Shaw, Tina Yapelli. Show closes Sunday, January 4, 2004. Find the mu-

seum at 704 Pier View Way; 760-721-2787. (OCEANSIDE)

Timken Museum of Art, “Portraiture in Paris Around 1800: Cooper Penrose by Jacques-Louis David” explores “the profound influence” of the French painter (1748-1825). The exhibit features works on loan from L.A. and New York, along with paintings from Paris-based collections “that have never before been seen in the United States.” Through Sunday, February 15, 2004.

For the 15th year, the 25-foot holiday tree is hung with thousands of ornaments hand-crafted by artist Elizabeth Schlappi and the late Florence Hord. View the adorned tree through Sunday, January 4, 2004.

Permanent collection includes European masters, 19th-Century American paintings, and Russian icons. 619-239-5548. (BALBOA PARK)



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San Diego Reader December 24, 2003 **81**

Calendar THEATER

THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

An American Christmas

In Lamb's Players' tenth annual "interactive Christmas feast," it's 1903 at the Hotel del Coronado: the Marshalls open their doors and celebrate "the Southwest's unique heritage" with a five-course gourmet meal. GRAND BALLROOM, HOTEL DEL CORONADO, 1500 ORANGE AVENUE, CORONADO, THROUGH DECEMBER 28; THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY AT 6:30 P.M. 619-437-0600.

Beehive

Those tall cans of AquaNet spray are back in the spotlight. As are the gigantic domes of hair, worn by the "Hives," in the Theatre in Old Town's reprise of its 1992 hit show. *Beehive* celebrates the women singers and "girl groups" of the 1960s. But if you caught only the first half hour, you'd swear something's amiss. The six talented performers parody every song and vocalist. As in melodrama they exaggerate gestures and tones, from

Lesley Gore to the Supremes (who break up before our eyes) and Patti LaBelle (who, when she sold her heart to the "Junkman," was far more serious than this!). Directed by Paula Kalustian, the production abandons its aura of overkill-silly as the '60s lose innocence. And the second half includes first-rate solos: especially Renae Mitchell as Aretha Franklin, Lisa Payton-Davis as Tina Turner, and Joy Yandell as Janis Joplin. The show captures some of the texture of the era. Jill K. Mesaros's costumes are a history lesson (the times weren't the only thing "a-changin'" back then; styles made 180-degree turns about every three years). Jasper Grant's four-piece band keeps the evening cruising. To the young, however, Nick Reid's set may require an explanation. Those big black round things all over the place? Phonograph records. The ones with big holes in the center were 45s. And for the generation of the '60s, they were minted currency.

Worth a try.

THE THEATRE IN OLD TOWN, 4040 TWIGGS STREET, OLD TOWN, THROUGH JANUARY 4; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AT 5:00 P.M. AND SUNDAY AT 3:00 P.M. 619-688-2494.

Chalk It Up To Murder

In H.I.T. Productions' dinner-theater mystery, a terrible fire scorched the Cactus Gulch schoolhouse eight years ago. The culprit just broke out of jail. FIRESIDE RESTAURANT, 439 WEST WASHINGTON, ESCONDIDO, OPEN-ENDED RUN; SATURDAY AT 7:00 P.M. 619-561-8673 OR 888-237-2751.



An American Christmas

A Christmas Carol

In the San Diego Rep's 28th annual version of the Dickens tale, Peter Van Norden's a fine Scrooge, lion enough to shake snowdrifts from Giulio Cesare Perrone's Victorian street scene, lamb enough for the giddy rebirth of Ebenezer's inner child. Director Todd Salovey has assembled a top-flight cast. And

thanks to Javier Velasco's joyous choreography, the stage often whirls like a kaleidoscope. As the Fezziwigs, Linda Libby and Paul James Kruse are so much fun the Rep could have a holiday spin-off, *A Fezziwig Christmas*. Shana Wride, Douglas Roberts, David Fenner, Jennifer Sheldon, Robert J. Townsend — all shine in multiple

roles (so many that one can only imagine the split-second changes of Perrone's splendid period costumes backstage — like a sale table at Nordstrom). Another highlight: Steve Gunderson's original music. Be it the lively "At the Fezziwig Ball" (belted for a grand slam by Linda Libby) or Tiny Tim's (Bibi Valderama) "Lost Shepherd," the

songs not only enrich the show, they should become part of the Rep's tradition.

Worth a try.

SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE, LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN, THROUGH DECEMBER 28; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-544-1000.

Crime Pay\$!

Mystery Cafe's newest interactive mystery comedy takes place at the Sahara Hotel in Vegas, where "the family" runs more than shows. "A real mob scene!" IMPERIAL HOUSE RESTAURANT, 505 KALMIA STREET, BANKER'S HILL, OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-544-1664.

Dysfunctional Family Theater

Misfit Productions "puts the fun back into dysfunction" with four one-acts, including *For Whom the Southern Bell Tolls*, Christopher Durang's parody of *The Glass Menagerie*. ADAMS AVENUE STUDIO OF THE ARTS, 2804 ADAMS AVENUE (AT IDAHO), NORMAL HEIGHTS, THROUGH JANUARY 3; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-584-3593.

Happy Ending

Community Actors Theatre presents Douglas Turner Ward's comedy about African-American domestic workers distraught over their employers' possible divorce. Henry Spencer directed. COMMUNITY ACTORS THEATRE, 2957 54TH STREET (CORNER OF 54TH AND COLLEGE GROVE DRIVE), OAK PARK, THROUGH DECEMBER 28; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 3:00 P.M. 619-264-3391.


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La Jolla Stage Company presents an original Christmas show about the festivities planned "for a small town we all know and love (wink, wink)." Tim Heitman directed.

LA JOLLA STAGE COMPANY, 7877 HERSCHEL AVENUE, LA JOLLA, THROUGH DECEMBER 28; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 858-459-7773.

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of Dr. Seuss's birthday and continuing its holiday tradition, the Globe Theatre stages its musical about the grumpy greenie. Jack O'Brien directed.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, SIMON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, BALBOA PARK, THROUGH DECEMBER 31; TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY AT 7:00 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. SUNDAY AT 5:30 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. NOTE: THE GLOBE OFFERS OTHER MATINEES. 619-239-2255.

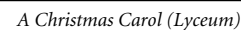
Dublin Square Irish Pub & Grille presents "San Diego's answer to the Celtic wave," an evening of contemporary and traditional Irish dancing, music, comedy, and song — and a three-course Irish dinner.

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The Culy Theater hosts “not-so-ordinary interactive dinner theater,” as Joey and Maria tie the knot.
DAVE AND BUSTER’S, 2931 CAMINO DEL RIO NORTH, MISSION VALLEY, AND

SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF PHOTO-
GRAPHIC ARTS, 1649 EL PRADO, BAL-
BOA PARK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27,
AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY, DECEM-
BER 28, AT 2:00 P.M. 858-495-0248.

"It's Christmas, and it's live!" The Harmonaires, a musical quartet from Dubuque, won a 1952 talent search. They'll sing a song on United Broadcasting Company's yuletide spectacular hosted by the "holiday heartthrob" Steve Fairfield (Cris O'Byron, a terrific pianist with a snazzy Vegas lounge wink, "and I mean it"). But a blizzard lays siege to the East Coast. Can the show go on with just Steve and the four amateurs? Wait. Steve just threw his back out. Wait. New York just blacked out. Lamb's Players' annual Christmas festival has become a popular Coronado tradition, and this year's script ranks among its best. Kerry Meads, who wrote "It's Christmas," heads an engaging cast as Lacy, a manger of wisdom amid the glitz and panic of Studio 22. The show's other star is Vanda Eggington, whose musical direction combines the familiar — "Let It Snow," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" — with her own compositions: among them the moving "Lord, How Shall I Meet You?" and the hip "Luke



Doo-Wop,” a street-sung version of the gospel. The long-ish script could use tightening, but it entertains throughout, and its message comes from an unexpected event.

Worth a try.

LAMB’S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVENUE, CORONADO, THROUGH DECEMBER 28; THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AT 4:30 P.M. AND SUNDAY AT 2:30 P.M. 619-437-0600.

Teatro Mascara Magica's 13th annual Christmas show tells the story

of shepherds going to Bethlehem and the attempts of Lucifer (who wants a “regime change”) and his minions to stop them. In this year’s version the shepherds are undocumented aliens led by a smarmy *pollero* to a country “where wealth abounds.” Max Branscomb’s always-funny script includes cameos by *Wayne’s World*, *Shrek*, and *The Terminator* (Lucifer disguised as our governor) pretending to be a low-rider. The shepherds make it to the manger, even though “dealing with devils” — Lucifer, Satan, and Moloch (John Padilla, Timothy Paul Evans, and Rhys Green, all

hilarious) — “was not part of our deal.” The show takes place outdoors, at the Lowell Davies Festival stage, on Anna Louizo’s majestic set for *Much Ado About Nothing*. But even though it has some sound and pacing problems, *La Pastorella*’s humor, sharp political satire, music, and infectious spirit are winners. One word to the wise: bring a blanket, ’cause baby, it’s cold outside.

Worth a try.

LOWELL DAVIES FESTIVAL STAGE, OLD GLOBE THEATRE, SIMON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, BALBOA PARK. THROUGH DECEMBER 28:

LAGUNA PLAYHOUSE, 606 LAGUNA CANYON ROAD, LAGUNA BEACH, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, THROUGH FEBRUARY 1; TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 949-497-2787.

Every Monday night, during summer, the Laguna Playhouse stages the popular “interactive adult catechism class,” taught by a sister from the old spare-not-the-rod school. The concept doesn’t sound like much. The sister is substituting for the regular teacher (it’s his poker night, don’t tell a soul). She used to have the job but was deemed too strict for contemporary students. And the class is just that, part of a course on Catholic doctrine. But the sister’s authoritarianism takes it to unforeseen places (you can hear cries of recognition from the audience, especially when sister brings out a hard ruler and taps her palm). The results, the two times I’ve seen the show: a. an almost nonstop evening of comedy; and b. a thought-provoking look at education, religion, and much more. The sister, it turns out, is not kidding. (Note: the Laguna Playhouse has extended the show’s run four times.)

LAGUNA PLAYHOUSE, 606 LAGUNA CANYON ROAD, LAGUNA BEACH, THROUGH JANUARY 26; MONDAY AT 7:30 P.M. 949-497-2787.

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National Comedy Theatre
ComedySportz changed its name, but its methods (and madness) remain the same. Improvisational comedy, making up funny stuff on the spot, is difficult enough. Years ago, however, Keith Johnstone thought it'd be more exciting if done competitively. He got the idea from pro wrestling ("where Terrible Turks mangled defrocked Priests, while mums and dads yelled insults and grannies waved their handbags"). National Comedy Theatre, an offshoot of Johnstone's TheatreSports (artistic director Gary Kramer says the two compare like "rugby and American football"), resembles an athletic event more than an improv. Teams wear uniforms and compete on ActroTurf. The night I caught the show, three San Diego comedians played a "challenge match" against players from the San Jose franchise. Using suggestions from the audience, they played "Emotional Sympathy," "Shakespeare," "Blind Line," and "Freeze Tag," with judges awarding points to the best scenes. Klunkers and groaners got booed; quick wit, rewarded (one of the most refreshing parts of the contest: people acknowledged failure, abundantly, then forgot it). It made for a lively, often quite



How the Grinch Stole Christmas

funny, evening. And Gary Kramer is one talented comedian.
Worth a try.
MARQUIS THEATER, 3717 INDIA STREET, MISSION HILLS, OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. AND 9:45 P.M. 619-295-4999.

Nick and Zita's Funny Fat Greek Wedding
Dillstar Productions presents an interactive Greek wedding, à la the movie.
CLARION BAY VIEW HOTEL, 660 K STREET, DOWNTOWN; OPEN-ENDED RUN. 800-944-5939.

the odiousness of comparisons used in this format, but San Diego Theatresports' "game show" is a hoot. The 90-minute evening offers different bits. The show I caught had "Team Sports" — two pairs of players competed, taking suggestions from the audience; and "Gorilla Theatre" — five directors invented scenes, using the other four as actors. The winner got a banana, the loser a "forfeit" (other formats include "Micetro" and "Improv Survivors"). Some attempts went nowhere (I repeat: improv is tough; I did it in my, as hindsight reveals, callow youth). Others made amazing twists and turns. The group makes the hits much more frequent than the misses. Their guru, Keith Johnstone, has written one of the few brilliant books (*Improv*) I've ever read about making theater. And they put his pearls to good use. Their motto: "Remember, when it's not funny, it's art."

Worth a try.
SWEDENBORGHIAN THEATRE, 1531 TYLER AVENUE, HILLCREST, FRIDAYS AT 8:00 P.M. 619-465-7469.

The Sopranos' Last Supper
Dillstar Productions presents an evening with the notorious Baritone family: "gambling, dinner, dancing, and good old mobster fun."
CLARION BAY VIEW HOTEL, 660 K STREET, DOWNTOWN, OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAY AT 7:30 P.M. 800-944-5639.

Story Theatre
In the '60s, Paul Sills made improvisational theater out of his mother's — Viola Spolin — theories. His *Story Theater*, a collection of Grimm Brothers and Aesop's fairy tales, played on Broadway in 1970. Once it settles in, which takes at least a half an hour performed at wall-cracking decibel levels, the North Coast Rep's re-re-telling captures some of the inventive flavor of the original (though it's doubtful Sills' version was so insistently ingratiating to its audience; the NCRT show *really* wants you to like it!!). David Ellenstein's stagings prefer the cute to the grim(m), but the performers — especially Fred Harlow as a host of harried males, the ad-libbing Randall Dodge (who does a good Governor Ah-nolt), and multi-talented Laura Bozanich (her mime of a randy dog's *the* highlight) — all communicate relish for the playful, free-lance style of the piece. *Story Theatre's* billed as a Christmas alternative. The woman sitting next to me said, "It's so dumb it's funny."
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Striking 12
New York-based GrooveLily calls itself a "rock band." But there's something odd about their perfor-

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“It’s Christmas, and It’s Alive!”

mance. Rock bands are usually dour and distant, as much attitude as music. When GrooveLily plays, the trio smiles. *Striking Twelve*, their glib holiday musical, wears one throughout. It’s New Year’s Eve day. A guy suffers from “seasonal affective disorder” (a.k.a. SAD). Can he escape his depression? Given the show’s don’t-worry-be-happy sitcom surety, the answer’s never in doubt (problems exist to be made fun of, then overcome; even the Little Match Girl gets a few yucks). The polished, classically trained group — Gene Lewin on drums, Valerie Vigoda on electric violin, Brendan Milburn on keyboard — have talent. But their slick story and lyrics are obviously calculated to en-

dear. I must report that the night I saw the show, the audience gave it a standing ovation. *Striking Twelve*’s light, nontraditional holiday fare, performed with a smile — and determined to prove that silver linings also come with clouds. CASSIUS CARTER CENTRE STAGE, SIMON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, BALBOA PARK, THROUGH DECEMBER 31; TUESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AT 10:00 P.M. AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-239-2255.

Triple Espresso: A Highly Caffeinated Comedy
Hugh Butternutt’s done his lounge act at the Triple Espresso Coffee-

house 20 years to the day. While patrons sip a house blend — “Grape,” “Scandinavian Blizzard,” or “Mokoko Cocoa Mocha” — Hugh plays ’70s tunes on the piano. He and his companions, here to celebrate Hugh’s anniversary, got stuck in the ’70s. The trio used to be Maxwell, Butternutt, and

Bean, a comedy group that never went far. They’re “losers,” they admit, but not “ordinary” ones. And, hey, their reunion could help them face searing issues from their mediocre pasts. A formulaic story line? Yep. Straight from *Forever Plaid*. There’s also the *Forever Plaid* problem: the three comedians are far too talented to play inept characters. One’s a whiz at the piano. Another’s a first-rate mime, and the third’s a crackerjack magician. The trio is so talented, when the plot has them complain of difficulties to overcome, you wish they’d quit trumping up the pseudo-drama and get on with this highly entertaining, if lightweight show. (Note: the original cast members have been replaced.)

Worth a try.
HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVENUE, GASLAMP QUARTER, OPEN-ENDED RUN; WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SATURDAY AT 5:00 AND 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 3:00 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M. 619-234-9583.

The Welk Musical Christmas
The Welk Resort Theatre presents Mary Lou Metzger and Cheryl Baxter’s “Thanks for the Memories” show, celebrating the centennial birthdays of Welk and Bob Hope. WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DRIVE, ESCONDIDO, THROUGH JANUARY 3; TUESDAY,



Striking 12

THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY, AT 1:45 P.M. 760-749-8501.

Will You Believe
Continuing its “Year of the San Diego Woman in Theater,” 6th @ Penn hosts an evening of mono-

logues by female playwrights that “charts the evolution of young women.” Leigh Scarritt directed. 6TH @ PENN, 3704 SIXTH AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH DECEMBER 30; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M., MONDAY AND TUESDAY AT 7:30 P.M. 619-688-9210.

THEATER DIRECTORY

Actors Alliance Of San Diego
3535 Adams Ave., North Park
(619) 640-3900 www.actorsalliance.com

Adams Avenue Studio of the Arts
2804 Adams Ave., Normal Heights
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Arts Tix
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(619) 497-5000 www.sandiegoperforms.com

Asian American Repertory Theatre
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Beacon Theatre
(760) 724-8218 www.beacontheatresd.com

California Center For The Arts
340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido
(760) 839-4100 www.artcenter.org

Centro Cultural De La Raza
2004 Park Blvd., Balboa Park
(619) 235-6135 www.centroraza.com

Christian Community Theater
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(619) 588-0206 www.cctcvt.org

Civic Theatre
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Clairemont Community Players
Holmes Elementary
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Community Actors Theatre
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(619) 264-3391 www.communityactorstheatre.com

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Diversionsary Theatre
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East County Performing Arts Center
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Eveoke Dance Theatre
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The Fallbrook Players
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The Fritz Theatre
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Full Circle Theatre Company
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Stagehouse Theatre, El Cajon
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The Hispanic Theatre Of San Diego
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(619) 561-8673 www.dinnertheater.net

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Iris Theater
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(619) 271-4144

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Mira Mesa Theatre Guild
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Vista
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The Muse Theatre
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(619) 544-1664 www.mysterycafe.net

National Comedy Theatre
3717 India St., Mission Hills
(619) 295-4999 www.nationalcomedy.com

New Village Arts Theatre
Carlsbad
(760) 439-3784 www.NewVillageArts.org

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San Diego State University
Don Powell Theatre
and Experimental Theater
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San Diego Theatresports
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(619) 465-7469 www.improvise.net

Scripps Ranch Theatre
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The Spreckels Theatre
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Sushi Performance & Visual Art
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The Theatre In Old Town
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(619) 688-2494 www.theatreinoldtown.com

Theatrx
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Torrey Pines High School Theatre
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Mandell Weiss Center
(858) 534-4574 www-theatre.ucsd.edu

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(619) 260-7934 www.sandiego.edu

Vantage Theatre
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(760) 749-3448 www.welkresort.com/sandiego

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MUSIC SCENE

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"They just lucked out,"

said Sulo King, talent buyer for Brick by Brick, about Al Guerra, host of 91X's locals-only *Loudspeaker*

provide free radio exposure to the shows he books. "He is really tuned into the local music scene," said Goldberg. "Because of his show, he knows what's going on in San Diego."

Guerra was previously not shy about flexing his cross-promotional muscle. He would play three-song sets of

blocks of his current client, Agent 51, since joining *Loudspeaker*. He does play singles from the band occasionally though. Guerra



PHOTOGRAPH BY DEREK PLANK.COM

LOUDSPEAKER HELPS GUERRA GO BELLY UP

did not respond to a request for comment.

Anya Marina, host of FM-94/9's local show (8-10 p.m. Sunday) is also a singer/songwriter/guitarist, but she has never played her own music on her show.

— Ken Leighton

Encinitas-based

Redsand, a clothing company co-founded by musician Jim Austin with

Robert Lusitana and Steve Timmons in 1985, has just been sold to the Perry Ellis sportswear company.

Redsand ("Our niche is dressier coastal wear," said Austin) distributes around the world and has 20 local employees.

Austin said he can't give out figures regarding the sale. "That all has to be hush-hush."

Perry Ellis, which is based in New York and Miami and has satellite offices in L.A., Irvine, and Oregon, will sell \$650 million in apparel and accessories this year.

Austin said talks with Perry Ellis were ongoing for about a year. "We were going to be partners, then at the last minute they changed their mind and wanted to buy us outright."

Austin said the sale was slowed due to negotiations over Redsand's in-house record label RedRoom Recordings. Last week RedRoom released its last album under Austin. The 12-song compilation *Happy Holidays from Your Good Pals at Redsand*, includes all-new Christmas songs written and performed by local artists like Reeve Oliver, the Truckee Brothers, Hedley,

Operatic, and Anya Marina. RedRoom turned heads in the surfwear industry this year by releasing one CD a month by San Diego artists like Bad Credit and fluf. RedRoom paid for recording, artwork,



PHOTOGRAPH BY RYAN LOVCO

AUSTIN MINES GOLD FROM REDSAND

manufacturing, and distribution of the free CDs. Each band was given 50 copies, and the rest of the 2000-plus run was distributed for free to media and others in the surfwear industry.

"They were adamant about wanting RedRoom," said Austin. "The sale of RedRoom had to be

negotiated separately."

"One of things I like about Redsand is its lifestyle positioning and its ties to music," said John Sabo, Perry Ellis's senior vice president, who oversaw the Redsand/RedRoom acquisition. "RedRoom did a lot to help promote up-and-coming San Diego bands. Now we want to do it on a national level."

Austin said the Christmas compilation is the first RedRoom release that will be sold. It is \$5 and available through e-mail (dev@redsand.com).

Meanwhile, Sabo said Redsand will still be looking for unsigned bands. He said RedRoom will not be "all tied up with pop-punk.... We want cutting-edge bands that are not part of one particular genre." RedRoom will be based in Irvine. For more info, go to www.redsand.com or call 877-4REDSAN.

Austin said he and his partners have not selected the name for their silk-screening business, which will remain at Coast Highway in Encinitas (without the Redsand shingle). Except for three key Redsand employees, who will relocate to Irvine,

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Calendar

MUSIC SCENE

blurt

continued

Austin said the rest of his employees will stay in Encinitas.

— Ken Leighton

"She told me how one of the guys in the band didn't have the 'right look' when he joined, so she had to take him out on a shopping spree."

Bassist Todd Griffiths said his first meeting with Double Clutch manager Cindy Surprenant reminded him of how another band was assembled. "I compared them to 'N Sync."

Griffiths met with Surprenant when she was looking to hire a road crew.

"She was telling me she put up all the money, that she sold her house to fund the band. I said, 'You have to be kidding me.'"

Cindy Surprenant says

she did indeed sell her home to launch the band Double Clutch. She estimates she has spent \$2000 a month for the last eight months to underwrite recording, equipment, and even living expenses for the band.

"[Lead singer] Drew [Lawton] left his old band Conniption. He wanted to keep going, and he asked me for help.... Drew formed the band with my assistance."

She says Double Clutch is "the biggest focus" of her management company, Stardom Enterprises. "As their management company, we do provide everything for them." That includes an 11-song CD, *Welcome to My World*. Surprenant says she



DOUBLE CLUTCH PERFECTS CUSSING

will also underwrite a U.S. tour that begins next month.

Surprenant works full time as an auditor during the day and expects to drop \$40,000 on Double Clutch in 2004. Surprenant says she

owns the name Double Clutch and that each member of the band has signed a contract with her, yet she bristles at the 'N Sync comparison.

"I don't see myself as [N Sync founder] Lou Pearlman.... This was Drew's dream. This is what Drew wanted to do."

Originally from Sacramento, Surprenant has been in San Diego for two and a half years. She said this is her first foray in the music business.

Griffiths, who now plays in the band Cellar Door, found her management style to be oppressive.

"She was telling her boys how to do interviews. That they are not supposed to bring up relations with girlfriends because fans are supposed to be attracted to them."

Surprenant responds, "Look, I would be doing what any management company or label would do with any band.... Bands can say one wrong thing, and it could hurt their career."

"She asked me how I felt about cussing," says Griffiths.

"She told me she wants to have the band have a hard image and to cuss onstage.... I went away saying this is such a joke.... I heard their music. It is all right, but there are several bands in San Diego who have a recording that is 20 times better. Why

put all this money into a new band when there are so many better bands that are already established...? Music takes time. It just can't be bought overnight."

Double Clutch appears at 7 p.m. January 3 at Soma with Pensive, Undershade, Mormon in the Middle, Edesin, and Legends Die. All ages, \$7 admission.

— Ken Leighton

"I just had a rugby team in England ask me if they could put my website name on their jerseys."

Jaime Muehlhausen of Vista would just as soon let his website, www.menwholooklikekennyrogers.com, go away.

"I put up a notice that said right now we're not accepting new photos. Even with that, I still get two to five photos a day. It's the website that just won't go away."

Muehlhausen launched it three years ago to spoof middle-aged men who cultivate Rogers's well-groomed country squire look. The site features over 1000 photos sent in from around the world.

He says the website nets him "\$60 or \$70 a month" from the sale of \$14 T-shirts. The T-shirts ask, "Have you seen Kenny?" next to eight photos of Rogers's lookalikes. Muehlhausen said he does not have to share profits with

the country star.

"I have a licensing agreement with Kenny himself. He thinks it's hilarious.... At his shows, if he spots somebody in the audience who looks like him, he will invite the guy onstage and then he'll mention the website."

Last month the site got another boost.

"CMT [Country Music Television] started airing a show on the top 40 trends in country music. Number 38 was Kenny Rogers's hair. One of the guys interviewed said, 'If you haven't seen the website...you should treat yourself.'"

Muehlhausen, who works



JAIME AND THE WEBSITE THAT WOULDN'T DIE

as a brand manager for Tony Hawk Inc. in Laguna Beach, says he would sell the site "if the right offer came along." He said he's just not as excited with it as he used to

be. "I've got a new baby."

Still, he says the site averages 2000 hits a day. "It's part of pop culture. One of my friends told me the site has become an answer in Trivial Pursuit.... People are constantly suggesting I should launch other sites based on people who look like Abe Vigoda or Michael Landon. The only one I seriously considered was menwholooklikejanetreno.com."

— Ken Leighton

"Man, those are some fine-looking chicks,"

the long-haired guy in torn jeans says outside 'Canes Friday, December 12. "Some hot-looking —"

"Don't say it, Joey," a woman smoking a cigarette says.

It's another tribute band night at 'Canes — Atomic Punks doing Van Halen and AC/DSHE, an all-female AC/DC act.

"Any chick onstage is hot," some guy who must be Joey's friend says. "No matter what the music is."

"But *these*," Joey says and laughs and shakes his head and hair.

"You're a pig," says the woman with a cig.

"What?"

"You know *what*."

My friend, who has joined me here at 'Canes, says, "What's with the all-female tribute bands lately? Any of you see the ones for Iron

PHOTOGRAPH BY SETH VENEZIA



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Calendar
MUSIC SCENEblurt
continued

Maiden and Black Sabbath?"

"What is it with tribute bands in general?" asks the woman with the smoke. "Doesn't anyone have talent anymore? Doesn't anyone play their own music anymore? Why be a mirror of famous rock stars?"

"It's like Baudrillard," my friend says, and everyone looks at him strangely. "You know," he mutters, "postmodernism and all that."

"The mirror is Borges," I tell my friend.

"If you don't like it," Joey says to cigarette gal, "why you here?"

She flicks her spent butt away. "I like looking at girls onstage too."

— Michael Hemmingson

"Bad Religion [singer]

Greg Graffin teaches at Cornell University. He was not one of your average piece-of-shit rocker guys with nothing else going on in his life except music. Kim Thayil of Soundgarden has a degree in philosophy. One of the guys in Rage Against the Machine went to Harvard....

The first band to break out of the San Diego scene was Lucy's Fur Coat, and they all went to college."

Kramer's Rule bassist Alex Ferguson says being in a band and having an education has its advantages. Three of the four members of Kramer's Rule have SDSU engineering degrees. All four have serious day jobs — two are civil engineers, one is an electrical engineer, and one is a nurse.

"We can buy our equipment, pay for studio time, and pay for our CDs. The downside is we can't just



PHOTOGRAPH BY RYAN LOYKO

THE HIGHLY EDUCATED KRAMER'S RULE

cut out and tour for 45 days and live off of Top Ramen."

The band's second CD, *From the Fall*, will be released on their own Stereo Press Records.

Ferguson notes that his El Paso hometown music

OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: GROSSMONT SHOPPING CENTER

JAY ALLEN SANFORD



scene — which produced Mars Volta, At the Drive-In, and Sparta — is more supportive. "San Diego is a very tough scene. It's very cliquy. If you're not part of the indier-than-thou crowd, it's hard to break in."

Kramer's Rule (www.kramersrule.com) appears 9 p.m. January 3 at Honeybee Hive downtown with Flood of Fury and Siva (from El Paso). No cover charge. Must be 21.

— Ken Leighton

Cookie "Chainsaw"

Randolph and Dave Rickards, KGB morning show personalities, have added a new cog in their 13th annual "Best Of" CD, *Puppets Are Clogging My Brain* — a nine-minute DVD with such characters as Lee "Hacksaw"

Hamilton, "Happy Hare" Martin, money man George Chamberlin, and KOGO sports studs Craig Elstin and Ben Higgins.

"There was one bit we dropped starring Abromowitz.... We had him sitting naked at his computer," said Rickards.

Proceeds benefit the D-S-C charities, which include the 12 Days of Christmas, a program that gives money to needy San Diegans whose stories are usually submitted either by themselves or friends. One recent recipient was a Navy man who was about to be deployed. He had just been given custody of his ten-year-old daughter and didn't feel he could leave. The Navy granted him an honorable discharge, but the release left him without an income. He was

forced to start selling personal belongings, including his bed. "One of our sponsors, Sleep Train, donated a new bed," says Rickards.

Puppets Are Clogging My Brain is on sale at all Good Guys stores for \$11.99 through January.

— Jill Underwood

Within days after Simon and Garfunkel

played Cox Arena November 15 (their first time in San Diego in 20 years), CD recordings of the show were already available on eBay. One seller offered a two-CD version of the show. Six bidders logged ten bids until the auction closed at \$53.

blink-182's original *Buddha* cassette appeared in 1994 on Filter Records, a handmade limited release

that was later reissued on the Kung Fu label in 1998. Though supposedly fewer than 50 copies of this tape are said to exist, the same seller auctioned two copies of it during the same week. This auctioneer is new to eBay with fewer than 25 completed transactions and two negative customer comments already posted. One complaint reads, "Sent \$\$\$\$ but he will not send CD.... He should be out of business." Despite this, the first *Buddha* cassette auctioned received 30 bids, closing at \$192.50, while the second copy sold for \$117.50.

— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS

Jennifer Ball (editor), Josh Board, Edwin Decker, Dave Good, Randy Hoffman, Ken Leighton, Ryan Loyko, Mary Montgomery, Derek Plank, Jay Allen Sanford

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At the next prompt, press the 3-digit code that is next to the performer you wish to hear. (Performers without codes currently do not have recordings.)

EXTENSION 4000

THIS WEEK'S CONCERTS

SATURDAY

The Funk Brothers with **Joan Osborne** and **Darius Rucker**: Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, December 27, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

Beth Hart [422]: Grand Cabaret, Saturday, December 27, 8 p.m., Pala Casino Resort, 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala. 760-510-4555 or 619-220-8497.

WEDNESDAY

Steve Poltz [815] and the **Rugburns** [263]: Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, December 31, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

"SOMA New Year's Eve" featuring **Taking Back Sunday**, **Me First & the Gimme Gimmes**, **Yellowcard**, **Sugarcult** [421], **Strung Out**, **Rufio** [411], **Rise Against**, **Avenged Sevenfold**, **Noise Ratchet** [241], **Early Times**, **Offset**, **Underminded** [272], **Buckfast Superbee** [119], and more: San Diego Sports Arena, Wednesday, December 31, 7 p.m., 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-224-4171 or 619-220-8497.

"New Year's Hoot" with **Guided by Voices** [120] and **Year of the Rabbit**: 4th & B, Wednesday, December 31, 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

The Dragons [115] and **Sin Sin 77**: The Casbah, Wednesday, December 31, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Kettner Boulevard, midtown. 619-220-8497 or 619-232-4355.

EXTENSION 4001

UPCOMING CONCERTS

JANUARY

Reverend Horton Heat [215] and **Split Lip Rayfield**: Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, January 1, 8:30 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

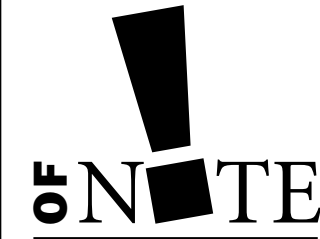
The Psychedelic Furs: Belly Up Tavern, Friday, January 2, 9:15 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

Macy Gray [911]: Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Saturday, January 3, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400 or 619-220-8497.

"Dave Matthews & Friends" with **Trey Anastasio**, **Brady Blade**, **Tony Hall**, **Ray Paczkowski**, **Tim Reynolds**, **Emmylou Harris**, and **Spyboy**: Cox Arena, Wednesday, January 14, 7 p.m., SDSU campus, College Area. 619-220-8497 or 619-594-0429.

The Temptations: Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre, Wednesday, January 14, 8 p.m., 5469 Casino Way, Dehesa. 619-445-6002, x1139.

Eric Johnson [458] and **Tony Furtado**: 4th & B, Wednesday,



BY DAVE GOOD

The documentary *Standing in the Shadows of Motown* spotlights a group of musicians who operated for much of their careers under a shroud of secrecy. Unofficially known as the **Funk Brothers**, for decades they propelled Motown with talent of a magnitude we'll not likely see again in this lifetime. The Funk Brothers are said to have played behind more hit records than the Beatles, Stones, the Beach Boys, and Elvis combined. Hype? Maybe. But then, some might call Motown a sweatshop and president Berry Gordy an unflinching boss man. Depending on which side of the microphone you lined up on, Motown's studios were either "Hitsville" or "The Snake Pit." Their bio says the Funk Brothers were

on call seven days a week and expected to churn out hit songs with regularity for around ten bucks per tune per man. They were a world-class studio band made up of dozens of sophisticated jazz players (who came and went over the years) and could play any mood. For Diana Ross, they laid back and let the lofty beauty of her voice carry. For the Temptations, they turned from brawn to ballads on a dime. And for Marvin Gaye, the Funk Brothers built storms of tension and punctuated them with horns that sounded like heat lightning. They were Berry Gordy's secret weapons. He knew what he had in them. No other label had their sound, and he kept them tied to his studio, denied their existence, and hired a separate band to tour.

The anonymous influence of the Funk Brothers reached far beyond Stax (with Booker T as their studio band), Tamla, and



FUNK BROTHERS

the British Invasion. There is probably no horn player working today who has not used phrasings and voicings that came to life on a Motown record.
Performing with **Joan Osborne** and **Darius Rucker**.

FUNK BROTHERS, Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, December 27, 8 p.m. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140. \$42.

Wanda Jackson [773]: East County Performing Arts Center, Sunday, January 18, 210 East Main Street, El Cajon. 619-440-2277.

Jordan Knight and **Jai-Da**: Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, January 21, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

Jay Farrar and **Canyon** [145]: Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, January 21, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

Maceo Parker [673]: Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, January 22, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

Lizz Wright: Mandeville Auditorium, Thursday, January 22, UCSD campus, La Jolla. 858-534-8497 or 619-220-8497.

Hank Williams III [775]: The Casbah, Friday, January 23, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Kettner Boulevard, midtown. 619-220-8497 or 619-232-4355.

Chris Hillman & Herb Pedersen: Normal Heights United Methodist Church, Saturday, January 24, 7:30 p.m., 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Hilary Duff: Cox Arena, Sunday, January 25, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-220-8497 or 619-594-0429.

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UPCOMING CONCERTS

“Big Night San Diego” with
Cracker [466], the Gin
Blossoms [604], Agent 51,

Wonka Bar, and Adam Webb:
Qualcomm Stadium, Saturday,
January 31, 9449 Friars Road, Mission
Valley. 800-457-4463.

Paco de Lucia: California Center for
the Arts, Saturday, January 31, 340 N.
Escondido Boulevard, Escondido.
800-988-4253 or 619-220-8497.

Travis: Spreckels Theatre, Saturday,
January 31, 121 Broadway,
downtown. 619-235-9500 or
619-220-8497.

The B-Side Players [649]: ‘Canes
Bar and Grill, Saturday, January 31,
8 p.m., 3105 Ocean Front Walk,

Mission Beach. 858-488-1780 or
619-220-8497.

FEBRUARY

Josh Groban: Copley Symphony
Hall, Monday, February 2, 1245
Seventh Avenue, downtown.
619-235-0804 or 619-220-8497.

B.B. King [927]: 4th & B, Tuesday,
February 3, 345 B Street, downtown.
619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

**The Preservation Hall Jazz
Band [707]:** East County Performing
Arts Center, Tuesday, February 3,
7:30 p.m., 210 East Main Street, El
Cajon. 619-440-2277.

Leahy: Mandeville Auditorium,
Wednesday, February 4, UCSD
campus, La Jolla. 858-534-8497 or
619-220-8497.

Olivia Newton-John: Pechanga
Theater, Sunday, February 8,
Pechanga Resort & Casino, 45000
Pechanga Parkway, Temecula.
888-732-4264.

Erykah Badu [931] and Floetry:
4th & B, Thursday, February 12, 345 B
Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or
619-220-8497.

Sting [431]: Copley Symphony Hall,
Friday, February 13, 1245 Seventh
Avenue, downtown. 619-235-0804 or
619-220-8497.

**Ralph Stanley & the Lonesome
River Band [784]:** East County
Performing Arts Center, Friday,
February 13, 210 East Main Street, El
Cajon. 619-440-2277.

Sara Evans: California Center for
the Arts, Friday, February 13, 340 N.
Escondido Boulevard, Escondido.
800-988-4253 or 619-220-8497.

**“San Diego Brazil Carnaval
2004”:** 4th & B, Saturday, February
14, 345 B Street, downtown.
619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

The Temptations: Pechanga
Theater, Sunday, February 15,
Pechanga Resort & Casino, 45000
Pechanga Parkway, Temecula.
888-732-4264.

Olivia Newton-John: East County
Performing Arts Center, Monday,
February 16, 210 East Main Street, El
Cajon. 619-440-2277.

“Bob Marley Day Festival”: San
Diego Sports Arena, Monday,
February 16, 3500 Sports Arena
Boulevard, San Diego. 619-224-4171
or 619-220-8497.

**Linkin Park, P.O.D.,
Hoobastank [440], and Story of
the Year:** Cox Arena, Tuesday,
February 17, SDSU campus, College
Area. 619-220-8497 or 619-594-0429.

Bette Midler: San Diego Sports
Arena, Wednesday, February 18, 3500
Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego.
619-224-4171 or 619-220-8497.

George Jones: East County
Performing Arts Center, Wednesday,
February 18, 210 East Main Street, El
Cajon. 619-440-2277.

The Kennedys: Normal Heights
United Methodist Church, Friday,
February 20, 7:30 p.m., 4650
Mansfield Street, Normal Heights.
619-303-8176.

Daryl Hall & John Oates [483]:
Pechanga Theater, Sunday, February
22, Pechanga Resort & Casino, 45000

Pechanga Parkway, Temecula.
888-732-4264.

Fais Do Do: Mandeville
Auditorium, Sunday, February 22,
UCSD campus, La Jolla. 858-534-8497
or 619-220-8497.

Jack Williams: Normal Heights
United Methodist Church, Sunday,
February 22, 7:30 p.m., 4650
Mansfield Street, Normal Heights.
619-303-8176.

Ellis Paul [819] and Vance Gilbert:
Normal Heights United Methodist
Church, Sunday, February 29,
7:30 p.m., 4650 Mansfield Street,
Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

MARCH

Britney Spears [603]: San Diego
Sports Arena, Tuesday, March 2,
7:30 p.m., 3500 Sports Arena
Boulevard, San Diego. 619-224-4171
or 619-220-8497.

**Big Head Todd & the
Monsters [417]:** 4th & B,
Wednesday, March 17, 345 B Street,
downtown. 619-231-4343 or
619-220-8497.

APRIL

Boney James [674]: Pechanga
Theater, Sunday, April 11, Pechanga
Resort & Casino, 45000 Pechanga
Parkway, Temecula. 888-732-4264.

Cheap Trick [486]: Sycuan Casino
Showcase Theatre, Thursday, April 22,
5469 Casino Way, Dehesa.
619-445-6002, x1139.

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\$25 before 10:30 \$35 after
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Presale @ Groove Tickets

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afterparty**
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\$4 Skyy Cosmos
& Appletinis
\$4 Mimosas

Jonathon Brae [Goodghost, UTN, Equinox, SD]
Blue 42 [Bigg Butt Productions, Equinox/CSU]
Logan Blue [DLE, SD, IV, UTN]
Deon Chen [Enigma Productions, IV]
Lee Landis [DLE, SD, Stanton]
Socal KC [DLE, SD]
Yusef [DIE, Paul Van Dyke Tour SF]

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Tony Knox • Pauly Kipling
Deon Chen • Beat Freak
Maris • Chris Devoy
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CAESAR SALAD
SEAFOOD CHOWDER

Third Course (choose one)

HERB CRUSTED SALMON
served with lemon cream sauce,
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PRIME RIB
choice cut, au jus, horseradish
cream sauce, garlic mashed
potatoes and sautéed vegetables

CHICKEN
marinated and grilled served with
wild mushroom burre blanc
sauce, long grain rice and
sautéed vegetables

PASTA PRIMAVERA
alfredo cream sauce and assorted
vegetables served over fettuccini
noodles with a side of garlic bread

Fourth course

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Fri.
12/26

Rockin'
Johnny White
presents
FUZZ-HUZZI
FOIL
MERCY VOX
JOHN MARTIN
HEADTRIP
SUPERSTAR

Sat.
12/27



ANTIPOP
AKA: DJ
LIAM HOWE
Paul Oakenfold's Antipop
(Virgin, Perfecto Records,
Ministry of Sound)



PIMPS

DJ SET

Support Djs: DJ STRESS,
ALI GHANAVI,
LUCID & MIKEY B

Fri.
1/2

**DIVIDED
BY ZERO**

3 Against 1

**TEN TWENTY KILL
DECOMPRESSION**

Sat.
1/3



CREEPING DEATH
(Metallica tribute)



ALICE UNCHAINED
(Alice in Chains tribute)

GISH
(Smashing Pumpkins tribute)

Fri.
1/9

M.C. FUNK
(Funk tribute)
**ALFRED HOWARD &
K23 ORCHESTRA**

Sat.
1/10

**WHICH
ONE'S PINK**
(Pink Floyd tribute)

LED-ZEPAGAIN
(Led Zeppelin tribute)

Sat.
1/17

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DIESELBOY**

Mon.
1/26

MUSHROOMHEAD

Wed.
1/28

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Calendar

BANDS

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Band Soundboard

619.233.9797

Press the the 4-digit extension above the category that interests you (for example, 4002 for alternative rock). At the next prompt, press the 3-digit code that is next to the performer you wish to hear. (Performers without codes currently do not have recordings.)

EXTENSION 4002

ALTERNATIVE

- The Album Leaf:** The Casbah
Antipop: 'Canes
Avenged Sevenfold: Soma
The Bad Apples: The Kensington Club
Bad Credit: Soma
Buckfast Superbee [119]: Soma
The Career Soldiers: Soma
Caution Children: The Kensington Club
Cheap Sex: Soma
Richard Cheese & Lounge Against the Machine: 'Canes
C.L.A.: The Casbah
Deadbolt [114]: The Kensington Club
Deafred & the Lot: Surf N'Saddle
Defiance: Soma
The Detroit Cobras: The Casbah
The Dirty Angels: Brick By Brick
The Displaced [104]: The Kensington Club
Donkey: Brick By Brick
Downspell: Dream Street

- The Dragons [115]:** The Casbah
Driverjake: Brick By Brick
Early Times: Soma
Exit 21: Soma
Foil: 'Canes
Fono: The Casbah
Forthrite: Soma
The Four Chambered Story: Epicentre
The Furious IV [107]: The Casbah
Fuzz Huzzi: 'Canes
Guided by Voices [120]: 4th & B
Headtrip Superstar: 'Canes
Heinous: Dream Street
His Irate Life: Dream Street
Invidia: Dream Street
Jenix: Soma
Jerry Joseph & the Jack Mormons: Blind Melons, Winstons
Jett: Soma
Larger Than Leon: Blarney Stone Pub
The Lower-Class Brats: Soma
Me First & the Gimme Gimmes: Soma
Mercy Vox: 'Canes
Mojo Nixon: The Casbah
Mower [239]: Blind Melons
Offset: Soma
Reeve Oliver: Soma
Operatic: The Casbah
Pilotram: The Casbah
Pointless: Soma
Rad: Brick By Brick
RCX: Epicentre
The Red Sky: Epicentre
The Republic of Letters: California Club
Rise Against: Soma
The Rugburns [263]: Belly Up Tavern
The Scotch Greens: The Casbah
The Shooters: Brick By Brick
Sin Sin 77: The Casbah
Slewfoot: Sham Rocks Shack
The Sneaker Pimps: 'Canes
Son of Jorel: Brick By Brick
Spell Toronto: Soma
Strung Out: Soma
Swan Dive: California Club
Taking Back Sunday: Soma
Tommy Homicide: Brick By Brick
The Transit War: Soma
1208: Soma

!

NOTE

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

While the old Motown house band known as the Funk Brothers is showcasing yesterday's Motor City sound for San Diego at the Belly Up, there's a wealth of new bands — the White Stripes, the Dirtbombs, the Von Bondies, the Sights — rocking the world with the new sound of young Detroit. The confusing thing about it is this: the new sound sounds a lot like the old sound.

At least the **Detroit Cobras** are up front about it: they play all covers, mostly of greasy, old R&B songs. Some of them, like the Marvellettes' "I'll Keep On Holding On," were originally recorded with the famously pristine Motown Records sound, but the Cobras give them the boozy treatment that makes them stand up next to rough-and-tumble numbers from the likes of Ike Turner, Otis Redding, and other soul shouters. Because of their set list, the Cobras run the risk of attacks on two fronts: from the purists who say their versions aren't as good as the originals and from the people who think that cover bands are somehow beneath them.

The truth is that great songwriters are rare and most bands would probably be better off playing other people's tunes. Most bands get around this by writing songs that sound like other people's songs. Isn't it more honest to give credit where credit is due? Plus, the Cobras do have one thing going for them: singer Rachel Nagy. With her smoky, sultry voice and looks to match, Nagy brings her own personality to other people's songs. On a good night (the Cobras can be inconsistent), Nagy proves that personality is all you



really need.

Starlite Desperation and the **Goregons** also perform.

DETROIT COBRAS, The Casbah, Tuesday, December 30, 8:30 p.m. 619-232-4355 or 619-220-8497. \$12.

- Underminded [272]:** Soma
Via Satellite: The Casbah
The Voids: Soma
Words Unspoken: Epicentre
Year of the Rabbit: 4th & B
Yellowcard: Soma

EXTENSION 4003

ROCK

- The Abuse [441]:** Dream Street
The Bartones: Tiki House
The Blazers: Tio Leo's Lounge
Brain Bucket: Winstons
BTO: Croce's Top Hat Bar and Grille
The Detroit Underground: Humphrey's
DJ Beer: Di-mond Jim's Nightclub
DJ Frances: Martini Ranch (Encinitas)
DJ Jalil: Martini Ranch (Encinitas)
DJ T: Di-mond Jim's Nightclub
DJ Tone Capone: Martini Ranch (Encinitas)
DJ Tony A: Martini Ranch (Encinitas)
Dogrockets: Dream Street

- The Electric Waste Band:** Winstons
The Evil Twins: Di-mond Jim's Nightclub
Friends for Heroes: Surf N'Saddle
The Funk Brothers: Belly Up Tavern
Dexter Grove: Blind Melons, Winstons
Happy Chichester: Hard Rock Cafe (La Jolla)
Harmony Road: McP's Irish Pub and Grill
Hera's Olive [461]: Dick's Last Resort
The Herd: El Cajon Grand Cocktail Lounge
The John Ingram Band: McP's Irish Pub and Grill
The CeeCee James Band: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub
Jiggawatt: Hennessy's Tavern (PB)
Kulturwar: Dream Street
Local Tourist: Boar Cross'n
Louis & Friends: JP's Pub
The Israel Maldonado Band: Winstons
John Martin: 'Canes
Billy Midnight [414]: The Ould Sod
The Millionaires [416]: The Kensington Club

- Nadro John:** Dick's Last Resort
Nemesis: Jolt'n Joe's (La Mesa)
The Neon Beat: The Kensington Club
Nite Hawk: Carvers
145th: Tiki House
One Theory: Dream Street
One-Sided Dice: Dream Street
Open 24 Hours: Dream Street
Joan Osborne: Belly Up Tavern
Private Domain [489]: Dick's Last Resort
Racing the Sun: Dream Street
R.O.K.: Second Wind (Santee)
Darius Rucker: Belly Up Tavern
Rufio [411]: Soma
Rule of Thumb: Moondoggies
The Sensations: Dirk's Niteclub
Serious Guise: Second Wind (San Carlos)
Shawn Smith: Hard Rock Cafe (La Jolla)
Sugarcult [421]: Soma
Undercover: Pal Joey's
Brian VanderArk: Hard Rock Cafe (La Jolla)
West of 5 [505]: The Kraken
Y3K: Cannibal Bar

EXTENSION 4004

POP / TOP 40

- B Natural:** Bahia Belle Cruise
Inside Out: Viejas Casino
Leviticus: La Valencia Hotel
Danny Lopez: The Butcher Shop
The Love Rangers: The Alley
Makai: Humphrey's, Viejas Casino
The New Breed Band: The Alley, Dick's Last Resort
Faith Page: The Westgate Hotel
Jack Pollack: Elario's Bistro & Sky Lounge
Peter Robberecht/Pianoman [622]: Dakota Grill and Spirits
The Superfreaks: Jimmy Love's

EXTENSION 4005

JAZZ / BIG BAND

- Agua Dulce [711]:** Winstons
The Archtones: Croce's Jazz Bar
The B-Side Players [649]: 'Canes

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The Ray Barrie Big Band: The German-American Societies

Blue Largo *[636]:* Patrick’s II

Ray Briz: Hotel del Coronado

John Cain *[703]:* Hotel del Coronado

The Jorge Camberos Quintet: Croce’s Jazz Bar

Gilbert Castellanos *[667]:* Onyx

The Gilbert Castellanos Quintet: Dizzy’s

The Cradit Union: Neimans Bar and Grill

Jo Dark: The German-American Societies

The David Patrone Quartet *[647]:* Croce’s Jazz Bar, Martini Ranch (Gaslamp)

Deejha & Friends: The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe

The Aubrey Fay Band: Redfields Lounge & Bistro

Fred Heath & the Slidewinders: Bayou Bar & Grill

Daniel Jackson: Hotel del Coronado

Barbara Jamerson: Hotel del Coronado

Lady Dottie & the Sliders: Bayou Bar & Grill

Tony Lasley: Hotel del Coronado

Joe Marillo *[645]:* Elario’s Bistro & Sky Lounge

Sean McVicker: Elario’s Bistro & Sky Lounge

Jerry Melnick: Rancho Bernardo Inn

The Shep Meyers Quartet *[660]:* Hotel del Coronado, Croce’s Jazz Bar

Mystique: Jimmy Love’s

Nostalgia: Kalahari Cafe

Orquesta Guayao: Sevilla

Sue Palmer *[641]:* Caffè Calabria

Primo: Croce’s Jazz Bar

Rick Ross: Elario’s Bistro & Sky Lounge

Dave Scott: Croce’s Jazz Bar

Jose Molina Serrano: Humphrey’s

Reggie Smith & Pressed for Time: Jimmy Love’s

Stellita: The Wyndham Emerald Plaza

Joe Tarrantino: The Wyndham Emerald Plaza

The Barry Allen Trio: Pasquale on Prospect

The Jaime Valle-Bob Magnusson Jazz Duo: Marriott Hotel

The Wings of Victory Orchestra: Viejas Casino

Patrick Randall *[632]:* Humphrey’s

Yavaz: Croce’s Jazz Bar

EXTENSION 4006

REGGAE / SKA

Maiz: Winstons

NZ Rough: Hennessey’s Tavern (PB)

Maxi Priest: Belly Up Tavern

The Tribe of Kings: Martini Ranch (Gaslamp)

Vegetation: Winstons

EXTENSION 4007

COUNTRY

The California Rangers: McCabe’s Beach Club

Chess Set: Don’s Cocktail Lounge

Coyote Moon: Renegade Inn

Emerald River: Magnolia Mulvaney’s

The Three Stooges: Princess Pub & Grille

EXTENSION 4008

ACOUSTIC / FOLK

The Biddy Bums: Lestat’s Coffeehouse

Steve Brewer: Blarney Stone Pub

Christy Bruneau: Kelly’s Pub

Joe Byrnes: Blarney Stone Pub

The Celtic Ensemble: Twigg’s Tea and Coffee Company

Annie Dru: Twigg’s Tea and Coffee Company

Evans: Kelly’s Pub

John Foltz: Miracles Cafe

4-Way Street: McP’s Irish Pub and Grill

Jenn Grinels: Blarney Stone Pub

The Hatchet Brothers: The Ould Sod, The Casbah

The Inside: Twigg’s Tea and Coffee Company

Jennifer Lindsay: Kelly’s Pub

Mesa Blue *[843]:* Princess Pub & Grille

Jim Moore: McP’s Irish Pub and Grill

Steve Poltz *[815]:* Belly Up Tavern

Tommy Price: Hennessey’s Tavern (Carlsbad)

Ron’s Garage: Dick’s Last Resort

Saba *[822]:* Twigg’s Tea and Coffee Company

Lisa Sanders *[893]:* Kelly’s Pub

3 Simple Words: Hennessey’s Tavern (PB)

Jose Sinatra & the Troy Dante Inferno *[861]:* Kelly’s Pub

Pete Thurston: Lestat’s Coffeehouse

Anna Troy: Twigg’s Tea and Coffee Company

Renata Youngblood: Lestat’s Coffeehouse

EXTENSION 4009

BLUES / SOUL

Big City Shaman: McP’s Irish Pub and Grill

Big Daddy & the Moneyshakers: The Gordon Biersch Brewery

Blue Four *[943]:* Patrick’s II

The Blues Brokers: Patrick’s II, The Kraken

Tommy Budd & Windy City *[957]:* Island Sports & Spirits

Charles Burton: The Kraken

Tomcat Courtney & the Blues Dusters *[932]:* Shooters Bar and Grill, Robbie’s Roadhouse, Bayou Bar & Grill

Fuzzy & the Bluesmen *[912]:* Croce’s Top Hat Bar and Grille

Robin Henkel *[914]:* Twigg’s Tea and Coffee Company

Red Lane: Patrick’s II

Kymerlee Maxine: Elario’s Bistro & Sky Lounge

The Nude Blues: Bahia Belle Cruise

Smoking Gun: O’Connell’s Pub and Nightclub

The Soul Revue: Jimmy Love’s

The Swinging Kings: Patrick’s II

EXTENSION 4010

EVERYTHING ELSE

Burnett Anderson: Cafe LaMaze

J.D. Boucharde *[985]:* Princess Pub & Grille

Sammy Dale Canonidado: Cafe LaMaze

Sandy Chappel: Cafe LaMaze

Julio de la Huerta: The Westgate Hotel

Vicki Eriqat: Edelweiss Restaurant

Kjell Holmes *[994]:* Edelweiss Restaurant

Gordon Kohl *[983]:* Edelweiss Restaurant

Barry Levich: La Valencia Hotel

Fran Loskota: The Westgate Hotel

Kippy Lee Scott: Hotel del Coronado

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Calendar CLUBS

DJ EVENTS

If you would like to include your DJ event, e-mail sellis@nethere.com or fax information to 619-881-2401 by 5:00 p.m., Friday, the week prior to publication. The listings are free.

Bottoms Up: Fridays, good vibes, house, breaks, drum 'n' bass, hip-hop. 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tivolis, corner of Sixth Avenue and Island Street, Gaslamp. 619-232-6754.

Brown Sugar: Fridays, black, white, Latino, and Asian get down to the urban sounds of DJ Myxzlplix; 21 and up. The Brass Rail, 3796 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-298-2233.

Cask 'N' Cleaver: Sundays, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., DJ Doctor Swing spins the best dance music from the '40s, '50s, and '60s. 3757 South Mission Road, Fallbrook. 760-451-8805.

Club '80s: Thursdays, DJs Bryan P, Muckley, and Adam Z spin '80s, new wave, synthpop, and new romantic. Shooterz, 3815 30th Street, San Diego. 619-574-0744. Information, 619-465-5827.

Club 911: Fridays and Saturdays, Top 40, hip-hop, house, and trance featuring "Goliath," a monster sound system. 18 and up. Red Mill Entertainment Complex, 1340 Broadway, El Cajon. Information, 619-441-1800.

Darkwave Garden: Wednesdays, the best of ethereal-electro-gothic-darkwave. Free entry. Kadan, 4696 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500. Information, 619-465-5827.

Dub Dynamite: Mondays, reggae in a dub style — roots, stepper, and UK with Kid Natty and Lionel Judah. No cover. Bar Dynamite, 1808 Washington Street, Mission Hills. 619-295-8743.

Fusion Young Adult Laser Dance Club: Fridays and Saturdays, DJ Dizzy D spins hip-hop and R&B; DJ battles feature underground hip-hop and B-boy showdown on the patio. Sunday, December 21, winter break throwdown. Thursday, December 25, Christmas all-night party. Wednesday, December 31, New Year's Eve jam 2004. High school and college students admitted. 775 Metcalf Street, Escondido. 760-741-9393.

Galileo 101: Fridays, DJ ALA spins soulful funky house, hip-hop, and R&B with weekly guests. Saturdays, *Xposed Saturdays* featuring DJs from around the globe. 100 Harbor Drive, Suite 101, downtown. 619-702-7101.

Heaven: Sundays, DJs Infinity, Golden Boy Mike, Garrett S., and more spin house, progressive, and trance. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. Club Montage, 2028 Hancock Street, midtown. 619-294-9590.

Hi-Fi: Every third Saturday of the month, the best in imports, '80s, and indie with DJs BCZAR!, Richard D, and guests. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. The Roseary Room, corner of Tenth and E Street (next to Pokez), downtown. 619-296-6789.

Locals Only: Tuesdays, '70s, '80s, and dance music, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. The Local, 1065 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-231-4447.

MixLab: Sundays, DJ Dex's eclectic "listening session": jazz 'n' abstract, alt hip-hop, downtempo sonics, future soul, and ultraglobal vibes. Starts at 8 p.m.; 21 and up. No cover. Candelas, 416 Third Avenue, downtown. 619-702-4455.

Moonoggies: Fridays, *The Red Room*, hip-hop, R&B, and Top 40 with DJs D-Skwiz and Enigma.



Album Name: *Tango with the Man* (2003)

Artist: The Displaced

Label: independently released

Songs: 1) The Lights in the Driveway 2) Straight X 3) Sugary Pile 4) Salt and Alcohol 5) Grizzled Greg 6) Gold Ties

Price/Where Available: www.thedisplaced.com for \$7

Band Members: Simon Mandel (vocals, guitar) and Jen Jansen (vocals, bass)

Extra Info: The Displaced play the Kensington Club (4079 Adams Boulevard) December 26 along with Caution Children and the Bad Apples; 10 p.m., 21 and up.

Website: www.thedisplaced.com

The sound of alternative/indie-rock duo the Displaced is minimalist. It's a darker, more haphazard sound, yet saturated with experimentation. Guitars drifting in and out mark each track,

as the pounding bass lines keep things from veering off course. The skittish vocals, especially on the part of Jen Jansen, carry both sensations of desire and disillusion.

Formed in Brooklyn,

Saturdays, *Saturday Night Mix*, hip-hop and R&B with DJs Enigma, Nick, and Big Dude. No cover. 909 Prospect Street, Suite 290 (upstairs), La Jolla. 858-454-9664.

New Year's Eve: Therapy, Underworld, Darkwave Garden, Club '80s and Fashion. Wednesday, December 31. Free entry. Kadan, 4696 30th Street, North Park.

619-640-2500. Information, 619-465-5827.

Plush Fridays: Room 1: Top 40, hip-hop, and R&B. Room 2: dancehall. Room 3: house, hard house, and progressive. Fridays, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Aubergine, 500 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-232-8100.

New York, in the summer of 2001, the Displaced relocated to San Diego, where they found inspiration for their second album. The concept of their sound is to explore "what it means to be moved, changed, or otherwise displaced in life," and the two do a good job of capturing that angst with a stripped-down production.

"Salt and Alcohol" warns, "*Your evil eye watches my bluff / you've already made it / but you're starting to hate it / sink it down / with salt and alcohol.*" Layered vocal harmonies prove to be the most attractive aspect of the pair's sound.

With edgy noise and male/female vocal textures that are ever so slightly tinged with poppy nuances, each song is almost an exact replica of the next. All tracks start out softly and rise from there until the group hits a



The Displaced

groove and gets stuck in it for the song's duration. It might be the artistic outlet the two have chosen, but switching things up might add a certain depth.

(To hear a sample from *Tango with the Man*, call 619-233-9797, wait for the prompt, then punch in ext. 4104.)

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD REVIEWED, PLEASE MAIL IT TO:

Jennifer Ball, Hometown CDs, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803

The Pompeii Room: Thursdays, DJ Stiffy spins dirty South, hip-hop, and reggae. Fridays, hip-hop, reggae, and alternative rock with Boy Toy Jesse. Saturdays, DJ Kool T spins hip-hop, R&B, reggae, and hot Latin jams. Wednesday, December 31, New Year's Eve jam 2004. 740 Nordahl Road, San Marcos. 760-737-5040.

Remix: Sundays, real hip-hop with DJs Mike Czech and Myxzlplix. No cover; 21 and up. Bar Dynamite, 1808 Washington Street, Mission Hills. 619-295-8743.

Sabbat: Saturdays, DJs Adam Atom, Dekay, Lance Boling, and weekly guest DJs. Dark electro, gothic, darkwave, industrial, and fetish. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Shooterz, 3815 30th Street, San Diego.

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HOLIDAY SHOW

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6-8 pm 8 pm-close

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Tuesday, Dec. 30 • 6:30 pm

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1/2 : **MYSTERY TRAIN**

1/3 : **BLUE ROCKIT** plus guest



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Calendar

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619-574-0744. Information, 619-743-1623.

Therapy: Industrial, EBM, electro, ethereal, gothic, and darkwave with DJs Bryan Pollard, DeKay, Creep, and guests. First Friday of every month at the Hollywood Star, 1320 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-232-2102. Remaining Fridays at the Flame, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., 3780 Park Boulevard, San Diego. 619-295-4163; 21 and up. Information, 619-465-5827.

Thrust: First Friday of the month. Two rooms, Club '80s upstairs, Club Therapy downstairs; 21 and up. Hollywood Star, 1320 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-232-2102. Information, 619-465-5827.

Transport: First and third Saturdays of the month, the best in Brit rock, indie, and electroclash with DJ Gabe Vega and guests. Whistle Stop, 2236 Fern Street (corner of 30th and Juniper), Golden Hill. 619-284-6784.

Underworld: Sundays, pre-'99 gothic and industrial. 21 and up. Free entry. Kadan, 4696 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500. Information, 619-465-5827.

Unleashed/Unlabeled: Every second Saturday of the month. DJ Joy spins alternative '80s inside; DJ Josh spins trance, lounge, and electronic outside. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Six Degrees, 3175 India Street, uptown. 619-296-6789.

Verb: Sundays, house, breaks, and hip-hop. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Blind Melons, 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-7844.

CLUBS BY AREA

If you wish to submit a listing, call 619-235-3000, ext. 405, night or day by 5 p.m. Friday, the week prior to publication. To send weekly or monthly schedules, fax to 760-788-1309 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the music section. Upcoming concerts, DJ events, or performances that are not at a club should be directed to 619-235-3000, ext. 261; e-mailed to sellis@nethere.com; or faxed to 619-881-2401.

NORTH COUNTY

The Alley, 421 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-434-1173. Friday and Saturday, *the Love Rangers*, Top 40/pop. Wednesday, *the New Breed Band*, pop.

Belly Up Tavern, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022. Friday, 9:15 p.m., *Maxi Priest*, reggae. Saturday, 8 p.m., *The Funk Brothers* with *Joan Osborne* and *Darius Rucker*, rock. Wednesday, 9 p.m., *Steve Poltz* and *the Rugburns*.

Boar Cross'n, 390 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-2989. Friday and Saturday, *Local Tourist*, classic rock.

The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe, Flower Hill Mall, I-5 at Via de la Valle, Del Mar. 858-755-3735. Friday, 8 p.m., *Deejha & Friends*, jazz.

The Calypso Cafe, 576 North Highway 101, Encinitas. 760-632-8252. Live blues and jazz nightly. Call club for information.

Carvers, 11940 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-566-2400. Saturday, *Nite Hawk*, classic rock.

Hennessey's Tavern (Carlsbad), 2777 Roosevelt Street, Carlsbad. 760-729-6951. Wednesday, *Tommy Price*, acoustic.

The Kraken, 2531 Old Highway 101, Cardiff. 760-436-6483. Friday, *Charles Burton*, blues. Saturday, *West of 5*, rock. Sunday, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Wednesday, *Blues Brokers*, blues.

Martini Ranch, 485 South Coast Highway (at D Street), Encinitas. 760-943-9101. Saturday, *DJ Tony A.* Monday, *DJ Jalil* and *DJ Tone Capone*, rock.

McCabe's Beach Club, 1145 South Tremont, Oceanside. 760-439-6646. Friday, *the California Rangers*, country.

Miracles Cafe, 1953 San Elijo Avenue, Cardiff. 760-943-7924. Friday, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *John Foltz*, acoustic folk/rock.

Neimans Bar and Grill, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4131. Thursday, 6:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m., *the Cradit Union*. Friday, 9:30 p.m., hip-hop. Saturday, 9:30 p.m., rock, hip-hop. Sunday, 9:30 p.m., *rock en español*. Monday, 8:30 p.m., swing.

Rancho Bernardo Inn, 17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-675-8500. El Bizcocho Restaurant: Friday, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.,



MUSIC ► Brazilian music, including the bossa nova, samba, and MPB (a popular Brazilian music)

SPECIAL NIGHTS ► on New Year's Eve, a three-course dinner with music and dancing, \$45

CLIENTELE ► happy hour and lunch is mostly businessmen; dinner has mostly couples and a few families; 80% Caucasian, 15%

Latino, 5% African-American

COVER ► none

HOURS ► Tuesday–Friday open for lunch, 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.; dinner, 5:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday dinner only, 5:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.

DRINKS ► happy hour 4:00–7:00 p.m. daily, which gets you a pitcher of margaritas for \$12 (regularly \$18) and \$2 beers and well drinks; on tap includes Sam Adams lager, Sierra

and Monday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Jerry Melnick*, jazz/variety piano.

Robbie's Roadhouse, 530 North Highway 101, Encinitas. 760-634-2365. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *Tomcat Courtney & the Blues Dusters*, blues.

Squid Joe's, 850 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-4996. Call club for information.

Surf N'Saddle, 123 West Plaza Street (Lomas Santa Fe and Highway 101), Solana Beach. 858-755-9474.

NightSpotting

PAMPAS ARGENTINE GRILL
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Kearny Mesa
858-278-5971
www.pampas.signon-sandiego.com

Nevada pale ale for \$3.50; Bud Light is \$3, and Guinness Dark (22 oz.) is \$4.50; bottles include Budweiser, Coors Light, Miller Lite, MGD, and O'Doul's, all for \$3; import bottles are Pacifico, Quilmes, Corona, Heineken, and Amstel Light, all for \$4; they have 14 Argentinean wines, as well as 4 Californian and 4 Chilean wines

FOOD ► dinners average \$19.95 (a lot of chicken dishes around

\$14.95); menu states their beef is "100% organic Angus Beef, free of hormones, steroids, and pesticides"; they also have "free-range poultry"

ACCESS ► between the I-805 and I-15 (1.5 miles west of I-15, and 2.5 miles from the stadium); large parking lot

DRESS ► casual, although many are dressed up because they are

coming from work; one guy was wearing shorts and a Hawaiian shirt

DANCE FLOOR ► none (but I'm told they will sometimes do the tango or tango lessons, and tables will be moved to make room)

FIRE EXITS ► four: the main entrance, two on the sides, and one from kitchen

BATHROOMS ► men's had one urinal and one stall; women's had two stalls (one without a locking latch) and one whole wall that was a mirror; a big ledge had flowers; both had sinks with old-fashioned hardware, liquid soap, paper towels, and were clean and graffiti-free

CAPACITY ► 125

SPECIAL AREAS ► three tables in front for smokers (surrounded by trees that afford privacy from cars in the parking lot)

FURNISHINGS ► walls are peach/orange and have a lot of pictures of Argentina; bull horns, animal skins, and spurs on walls; the walls facing Aero Drive are all

windows and have swag curtains over them; they also have a couple of wrought-iron lanterns on posts

DECIBEL LEVEL ► 89 when Marquinho Pagodinho and Rubinho Moreno played; last week 111 at Pancho Villa in Tijuana

QUOTABLE ► "This certainly isn't the place for vegetarians."

When my friend told me she loved this place, I didn't know what to expect. She said, "They play Brazilian music." The only thing that came to mind was "The Girl from Ipanema."

The food was great, but I laughed when the steak my date got was this round, tiny thing. She said it was delicious.

Only one older couple seemed attentive to the music, which came from a harpist. The wife said, "We come here once a month and love it. I'm still waiting for my husband to take me to Argentina though."

– Josh Board

'Canes, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780. Music is alternative/rock unless otherwise noted. Friday, *Fuzz Huzzi*, *Foil*, *Mercy Vox*, *John Martin*, and *Headtrip Superstar*. Saturday, *the Sneaker Pimps* and *Antipop*. Wednesday, *Richard Cheese & Lounge Against the Machine* and *the B-Side Players*.

Cannibal Bar, at the Catamaran Hotel, 3999 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach. 858-488-1081. Friday, live music. Wednesday, New Year's Eve, *Y3K*, classic rock.

Coaster Saloon, 744 Ventura Place, Mission Beach. 858-488-4437. Call club for information.

Dream Street, 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-8131. Wednesday, live acoustic. Friday, *One-Sided Dice*, *One Theory*, and *Kulturwar*, hard rock. Saturday, *Racing the Sun*, *RavenUs Lyric*, *Dogrockets*, and *Open 24 Hours*, rock. Wednesday, *Heinous*, *The Abuse*, *Downspell*, *Invidia*, and *His Irate Life*, metal.

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\$40 at the door \$10 additional for dinner

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This is a formal event – dress code will be enforced!

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21 & Up

Serving Dinner 5-10 pm Thurs.-Sun. For a detailed listing of events, menu & directions see www.galoka.com.

Thursday, December 25

CLOSED

"Hi-Grade Thursdays" with Tribe of Kings will resume January 1.

Friday, December 26

7:30- 9:30 pm

BRAZILIAN VOCALIST/GUITARIST

ANDY VILLAS-BOAS

Saturday, December 27

THE BLASE PROJECT

Upcoming:

1/1 DASH EYE (Tribe of Kings)

Opening night reception hosted by Galoka

1/2 SIX DEGREES RECORDS

Opening night reception hosted by Galoka

1/3 FORWARD FUNK

New Year's Party

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Saturday, December 27

Battle of the Bands Finals

featuring RCX • The Red Sky

Words Unspoken

Four Chambered Story

Friday, January 9

Crawlspace/1000 Knives present

Curl Up and Die • Bury Your Dead

Embrace Today

Premotions of War

With All Sincerity • Glasgow Smile

Friday, January 23

HOB presents

Shai Hulud • Over My Dead Body

With Honor • Still Crossed

Saturday, January 31

Battle of the Bands Finals

featuring Best Interest

Stripped Down Hollywood

Cue Dorian & more!

Thursday, February 12

HOB presents

Star Sailor • Tim Burgess

Saturday, February 14

HOB presents

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The Kensington Club

Friday, December 26

THE DISPLACED CAUTION CHILDREN

BAD APPLES

Saturday, December 27

NEON BEAT

Spinning '80s • No Cover

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2003

with

DEADBOLT

THE MILLIONAIRES

Saturday, January 3

MISSOURI LOVES COMPANY

BULLET TRAIN TO VEGAS

Friday, January 9

AGUA DULCE

Saturday, January 10

WATCH IT BURN

4079 Adams Ave.

next to the Ken Theatre

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Saturday, Dec. 27

NA CALIFAS PRE REVEILLON

(Pre-New Year's)

PARTY

Brazilian celebration featuring DJ MINO.

Henna tattoos by SIDNEY LOPES.

White clothes suggested.

Sunday, Dec. 28 • 7 pm

EARL THOMAS

Wednesday, Dec. 31

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 dreamstreetlive.com

Wednesday, December 24	ORPHANS' CHRISTMAS PARTY COME CELEBRATE WITH US! 8 PM - MIDNIGHT LIVE ACOUSTIC CHEAP DRINKS NO COVER	Thursday, January 1	HAIR OF THE DOG Early Metal Show SLEWFOOT 6 FT. DEATH TRAP DR. CHUNK RED WITH ENVY
Friday, December 26	Hard Rock ONE SIDED DICE ONE THEORY KULTURWAR	Friday, January 2	Rock SESSION UNGOVERNED STATE Guests TBA
Saturday, December 27	Rock RAVEN'S LYRIC RACING THE SUN DOGROCKETS OPEN 24 HOURS	January 9: Rock	DEFURIA THE HESH FLOOD THE SKY STELLAR
Every Tuesday	O.B. OPEN MIC No Cover • Drink Specials Raffle Prizes \$2 Buds • \$1.50 Kamis Sign up at 8 pm or e-mail: DreamStreetLive@hotmail.com	Upcoming	January 16: BATTLE OF THE BANDS 1ST ROUND A WALL TALL MIDGET DIRT BIKE TIM RALDO
Wednesday, December 31	NEW YEAR'S EVIL • Metal HEINOUS THE ABUSE DOWNSPELL INVIDIA "His Irate Life"		

BATTLE OF THE BANDS BOUT II
SIGN UP NOW! CALL OR STOP BY THE CLUB.

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 619-222-8131 or e-mail: DreamStreetLive@hotmail.com

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Thursday 12/25
Closed
Merry Christmas!

Friday 12/26
Homey's
Christmas Party

Saturday 12/27
NFL Football
Karma Pro Presents

Paradise

Top 40 – Hip-Hop
& '80s Disco
\$2 U-Call-Its
9-10:30 pm

Sunday 12/28
NFL Football
Direct TV Package –
All Games
Open at 9 am
Serving Breakfast

Every Tuesday
Project DJs
Hip-Hop and
Dance Hall
\$2 Drink Specials

Upcoming Events:
Wednesday 12/31
New Year's Eve Party!
Dance all night
\$10 cover

January:
PEPPER
Bredrin Daddys

Huge dance floor!
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**New Year's Eve
Dinner Party
Package**

\$130 per Couple includes 5 Course Meal,
Glass of Champagne and Club Entry.

Join **DJ GHOST** as he buries
Old Man Time - 2003 & brings in
Baby New Year - 2004!!

Private VIP Room Available.
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MERRY CHRISTMAS
Good Christmas Day

Friday Dec 26th
LEGENDARY DJ GHOST
See the Gaslamp's Most Mesmerizing
Light Show! Get Up On Stage!!
Some Lucky Women get to share the Stage with DJ Ghost!

Saturday Dec 27th
**THE WORLD FAMOUS
DISCO PIMPS**

Sunday Dec 28th
NFL FOOTBALL
\$2.75 Pints of Miller Lite
Doors Open 9:00 AM
Live music after game!
**LEE BROWN
PERSPECTIVE**
Dinner Jazz/R&B

Monday Dec 29th
**MONDAY NIGHT
FOOTBALL** \$4.50 Miller Lite
23 oz. U-KEEP-TH-FOOTBALL GLASS-GIVEAWAY
w/\$3.00 Refills JACK DANIELS \$4.00
HE-MAN/Frozen T-shirt contest!!!
Live music after game!
LEE BROWN PERSPECTIVE
Dinner Jazz/R&B

Tuesday Dec 30th
**LEE BROWN
PERSPECTIVE**
Dinner Jazz/R&B
9PM • NO COVER

Wednesday Dec 31st
**NEW YEAR'S
EVE PARTY**
with DJ Ghost!
See below for details!

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fri
12/26

Latin Comedy

sat
12/27

Mainstream Comedy

wed
12/31

1st Annual **FM94.9** New Year's Hoot
with

Guided by Voices



Year of the Rabbit Phantom Planet

and special guest Tomorrow's Son

wed
1/14

An evening
with

Eric Johnson

plus special guest
Tony Furtado



An evening of
acoustic guitar
and piano



thu
1/15

Jonny Lang



sun
1/18

Yago presents
Jamie B. & Mada Clothing

Live the Dream 3

Summer Fashion Show

fri
1/30

The Greyboy Allstars Reunion

featuring all original members:
Karl Denson, Robert Walter, Elgin
Park, Chris Stillwell & Zack Najor

sat
1/31

The Eastside Meets the
Doublewide Comedy Tour

featuring
Gary Owen
and
Gabriel Iglesias



tues
2/3

Blues Legend

B.B. King



thurs
2/12

ERYKAH BADU

with special guest FLOETRY

Produced in association with House of Blues Concerts



sat
2/14

2004 San Diego Brazil Carnaval

Cupid's Carnaval



wed
3/17

An evening with

BIG HEAD TODD & THE MONSTERS



Interested in renting out the VIP Lounge during one of our concerts or comedies? Contact Beth at 619-231-4343 or speialevents@4thandb.com.

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Calendar CLUBS

Elario's Bistro & Sky Lounge

(atop the Hotel La Jolla), 7955 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla. 858-459-0541. Music is blues/jazz unless otherwise noted. Friday, *Jack Pollack*, piano and vocals. Saturday, 8 pm to 11 pm, and Wednesday, 7 pm to 10 pm, *Rick Ross*, jazz piano, saxophone, and vocals. Tuesday, *Sean McVicker*, jazz.

Hard Rock Cafe (La Jolla), 909 Prospect Street, La Jolla. 858-456-7625. Saturday, *Na Califa's Pre Reveillon*, Brazilian music.

Hennessey's Tavern (PB), 4650 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach. 858-483-8847. Friday, *Jiggawatt*, rock. Saturday, *NZ Rough*, reggae. Tuesday, open mike. Wednesday, *3 Simple Words*, acoustic.

Il Forno Mediterranean Bistro, 909 Prospect Street (next to the Hard Rock Cafe), La Jolla. 858-459-5010. The Room: Call club for information.

La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street, La Jolla. 858-454-0771. Thursday, Sunday and Sunday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Barry Levich*, piano variety. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., *Leviticus*, pop, jazz.

Moondoggies, 832 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-6550. Friday, *Rule of Thumb*, rock.

Pacific Beach Bar & Grill, 860 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-272-7278. Call club for information.

Pasquale on Prospect, 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla. 858-509-8900. Friday, 9 p.m., *the Barry Allen Cohen Trio*, jazz.

Shooters Bar and Grill, Radisson Hotel, 3299 Holiday Court, La Jolla. 858-453-5500. Friday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Tomcat Courtney & the Blues Dusters*, blues.

Tiki House, 1152 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-273-9734. Friday, *145st*, rock. Saturday, *the Bartones*, rock. Sunday, Chris Kelly's open acoustic night.

Winstons, 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-6822. Friday, *Maiz*, reggae en español. Saturday, *Agua Dulce*, Latin groove. Sunday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., *Brain Bucket*, 8 p.m., *Jerry Joseph & the Jack Mormons* and *Dexter Grove*, rock. Monday, *Electric Waste Band*, classic rock. Tuesday, *the Israel Maldonado Band*, rock en

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DIRTY ANGELS
DONKEY • RAD**

Saturday, December 27

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Wednesday, January 7

THE NERVOUS • SWAY

Thursday, January 8

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SAN DIEGO

The Bahia Belle Cruise, the Bahia Hotel, 998 West Mission Bay Drive, Mission Bay. 858-539-7779. Departs 6:30 p.m. Friday, *B Natural*, pop. Saturday, *the Nude Blues*.

Blarney Stone Pub, 5617 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont. 858-279-2033. Friday and Saturday, *Joe Byrnes*, Irish folk. Sunday, open mike. Monday, *Jenn Grinels*, folk. Tuesday, Irish jam session. Wednesday, *Larger Than Leon*, alternative.

Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Avenue, Bay Park. 619-275-LIVE. Music is alternative/rock. Friday, *Driverjake*, *Dirty Angels*, *Donkey*, and *Rad*. Saturday, *Shooters*, *Tommy Homicide*, and *Son of Jorel*.

Caffe Calabria, 3933 30th Street, North Park. 619-291-1759. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., *Sue Palmer*, jazz.

California Club, 5522 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego. 619-287-2895. Saturday, *the Republic of Letters* and *Swan Dive*, alternative.

Club Kadan, 4696 30th Street, San Diego. 619-640-2500. Friday, *Broken Beat*. Sunday, 9 p.m., underworld/gothic/industrial. Monday, 9 pm.f., *the Sure Shot*, hip-hop.

Epicentre, 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa. 858-271-4000. Saturday, *RCX*, *The Red Sky*, *Words Unspoken*, and *Four Chambered Story*, alternative.

The Gordon Biersch Brewery, 5010 Mission Center Road, San Diego. 619-688-1120. Friday, *Big Daddy & the Moneyshakers*, blues.

Humphrey's, Half Moon Inn, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-224-3577. The Backstage Lounge: Friday, 9:30 p.m., *The Detroit Underground*, rock/soul. Saturday, *Makai*, pop. Sunday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Patrick Yandall*, jazz. Tuesday, *Jos Molina Serrano*, jazz.

JP's Pub, 10436 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Tierrasanta. 858-576-2509. Friday, 9 pm, *Louis & Friends*, classic rock.

Jolt'n Joe's, 8076 La Mesa Boulevard, La Mesa. 619-466-2591. Friday and Saturday, *Nemesis*, classic rock.

Kelly's Pub, 6344 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area. 619-286-0400. Friday, *Evans*, acoustic. Saturday, *Christy Bruneau*, *Jennifer Lindsay*, and *Lisa Sanders*, acoustic/folk. Tuesday, open mike. Wednesday, New Year's Eve, *Jose Sinatra & the Troy Dante Inferno*, alternative.

The Kensington Club, 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington. 619-284-2848. Music is alternative. Friday, *The Displaced*, *Caution Children*, and *Bad Apples*. Saturday, *Neon Beat*. Wednesday, New Year's Eve, *Deadbolt*, and *The Millionaires*, rock/alternative.

Lestat's Coffeehouse, 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-282-0437. Thursday, 9 p.m. to

O'CONNELL'S

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31
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The Superfreaks

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Marriott Hotel, 333 West Harbor Drive, San Diego. 619-230-8909. Molly's: Friday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *the Jaime Valle-Bob Magnusson Jazz Duo*.

O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub, 1310 Morena Boulevard, Bay Park. 619-276-5637. Friday, *the CeeCee James Band*, classic rock. Saturday, *Smoking Gun*, blues.

The Ould Sod, 3373 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-284-6594. Tuesday, Irish jam session. Wednesday, *the Hatchet Brothers*, folk.

Pal Joey's, 5147 Waring Road, Allied Gardens. 619-286-7873. Friday and Saturday, *Undercover*, classic rock.

Rosie O'Grady's, 3402 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-284-7666. Friday and Saturday, live rock and blues.

Second Wind, 8515 Navajo Road, San Carlos. 619-465-1730. Music starts at 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, *Serious Guise*, classic rock.

Sham Rocks Shack, 7059 El Cajon Boulevard (1/2 block east of 70th Street), College Area. 619-463-2263. Call club for information.

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MAIZ

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Sun. 12/28 9 am **SKINS & FINS** HEADQUARTERS
4-7 pm **CHRIS KELLY'S BRAIN BUCKET**
TONIGHT Special Event **JERRY JOSEPH and The Jack Mormons** & special guest **DEXTER GROVE**

Mon. 12/29 Deadheads Unite
ELECTRIC WASTE BAND

Tues. 12/30 Latin funk and soul
ISRAEL MALDONADO BAND

Wed. 12/31 New Year's Eve Reggae Bash with
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Sat. 12/27 National touring act
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Sun. 12/28 9 am **BEARS & BILLS FAN CLUBS GATHER**
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December 28

Macy Gray January 3
Jonny Lang January 15
Chris Rock January 22
Jimmy Buffett January 24
Hilary Duff January 25
Travis January 31
Josh Groban February 2
B.B. King February 3
Erykah Badu February 12
Sting February 13
Bob Marley Day Festival
 February 16

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Trey Anastasio, Tim Reynolds
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 January 14



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Metallica March 8
Sarah Brightman March 10

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"Stars On Ice" Jan. 16
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Washington State vs. Texas
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Martini Ranch, 528 F Street, downtown. 619-235-6100. Sunday, *the Tribe of Kings*, reggae. Wednesday, 9 p.m., *the David Patrone Quartet*, jazz.

Onyx, 852 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-235-6699. Tuesday, *Gilbert Castellanos*, Latin jazz.

Patrick's II, 428 F Street, downtown. 619-233-3077. Music is blues unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *Bayou Brothers*. Friday, *Nik Simon Band*. Saturday, *Family Style*. Sunday, *Tyler's Classic Rock*. Monday, *Red Lane Rocks*. Tuesday, *Mojo Rising*. Wednesday, *Aunt Kizzy's Boyz*.

Princess Pub & Grille, 1665 India Street, Little Italy/downtown. 619-702-3021. Saturday, *J.D. Boucharde*, piano. Wednesday, *Mesa Blue*, acoustic jazz, or *the Three Stooges*, country/rock.

Redfields Lounge, at Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego, One Market Place, downtown. 619-232-1234. Saturday, 9 p.m., *the Aubrey Fay Band*, jazz, R&B.

Sevilla, 555 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-5979. Tuesday, *Orquesta Guayao*, salsa. Wednesday, call club for information.

U.S. Grant Hotel, 326 Broadway, downtown. 619-232-3121. Lounge: Thursday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., also, Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. to midnight, pianist.

The Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Avenue, downtown. 619-238-1818. The Plaza Bar: Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m., *Fran Loskota*, piano and vocals. Sunday and Monday, *Julio de la Huerta*, guitar and vocals. Tuesday and Wednesday, *Faith Page*, piano and vocals.

The Wyndham Emerald Plaza, 400 West Broadway, downtown. 619-239-4500. The Sidebar Lounge: Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., *Joe Tarrantino*, jazz piano, solo. Friday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Stellita* and *Joe Tarrantino*, pop.



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The Butcher Shop, 556 Broadway, Chula Vista. 619-420-9440. Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, 8 pm to midnight, *Danny Lopez*, contemporary.

Cafe LaMaze, 1441 Highland Avenue, National City. 619-474-3222. Friday and Saturday, piano bar, featuring *Sandy Chappel*, *Sammy Canonizado*, and *Burnett Anderson*.

Club Caribe, 5080 Bonita Road, Bonita. Call club for information.

Di-mond Jim's Nightclub, 773 Third Avenue, Chula Vista. 619-585-7323. Thursday, *DJ T* and *DJ Beer*, rock. Friday and Saturday, *the Evil Twins*, rock.

Edelweiss Restaurant, 230 Third Avenue, Chula Vista. 619-426-5172. Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m., *Gordon Kohl*, *Kjell Holmes*, or *Vicki Eriqat*, European and ethnic accordion.

Hotel del Coronado, 1550 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-6611. Babcock & Story: Thursday, Sunday, and Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., also, Friday and Saturday, 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Tony Lasley*, Latin jazz. Friday and Saturday, 8:30 p.m., *Barbara Jamerson*, jazz.

Palm Court: Thursday through Sunday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Ray Briz*. Also, Sunday, noon to 4 p.m., *Joey West*. Monday through Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *John Cain*.

Prince of Wales: Thursday and Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *the Shep Meyers Quartet*. Friday through Sunday, and Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *Daniel Jackson*, jazz.

Crown Room: Thursday, noon to 7 p.m., *Kippy Lee Scott*, harpist.

Ballroom: Thursday, noon to 7 p.m., *Ray Briz*, pianist.

Island Sports & Spirits, 104 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-3456. Friday, *the Stiletto*s, rockabilly. Saturday, *Tommy Budd & Windy City*, blues.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill, 1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-5280. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Wednesday, *Jim Moore*. Friday, *4-Way Street*. Saturday, *Ron's Garage*. Tuesday, *Jackson & Sven*. Wednesday, *the Offbeats*, rock.

EAST COUNTY

Casa Picante, 10757 Woodside Avenue, Santee. 619-258-5557. Friday and Saturday, live rock.

Dirk's Niteclub, 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove. 619-469-6344. Friday and Saturday, *the Sensations*, classic rock.

Don's Cocktail Lounge, 13321 Business Highway 8, El Cajon. 619-443-2444. Friday and Saturday, *Chess Set*, country.



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El Cajon Grand Cocktail Lounge, 437 East Main Street, El Cajon. 619-444-0949. Saturday, 8 p.m., *the Herd*, rock.

The German-American Societies, 1017 South Mollison Avenue, El Cajon. 858-273-7283. Friday, 7:30 p.m., *the Ray Barrie 12-Piece Big Band* featuring *Jo Dark*.

Magnolia Mulvaney's, 8861 Magnolia Avenue, Santee. 619-448-8550. Friday and Saturday, live country music. Wednesday, *Emerald River*, country.

Renegade Inn, 14335 Olde Highway 80, (half mile east from Lake Jennings turnoff), Flynn Springs.

619-561-8105. Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, *Coyote Moon*, country.

Rix Bar & Grill, 7353 El Cajon Boulevard, La Mesa. 619-460-7499. Saturday and Wednesday, live '80s rock.

Second Wind, 8528 Magnolia Avenue, Santee. 619-596-8350. Friday and Saturday, *R.O.K.*, classic rock.

Viejas Casino, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine (off Interstate 8). 619-445-5400. Friday, 9 p.m., *Inside Out*, pop. Sunday, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., *the Wings of Victory Orchestra*, jazz. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m., *Makai*, pop rock.

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Best Food Bets of '03

In the past year or so, I've eaten at a lot of places (as you're well aware). One thing I've noticed is that San Diego seems to be finally en route to becoming a food destination. Here are some of the leaders of the revolution. While this isn't a standard "Best of..." list, these are my best bets of the year — a reprise of restaurants that did it right and dishes that piqued my palate.

One noticeable trend is toward local, free-range, and organic ingredients. It's not just that these foodstuffs are better for you — they also taste noticeably better. Many of our upper-crust restaurants had been cooking local/organic well before it was a trend, but among the new, more moderately priced restaurants that embrace the fresh-and-natural ethos are Meritage, Nectar, Region, Savory, and (in Baja) Manzanilla. You can even see the difference in retail markets. Trader Joe's, for instance, is carrying gently raised Niemann pork along with New Zealand and Aussie lamb chops, all at relatively mild prices. And for Thanksgiving, I picked up a fresh (never frozen) free-range turkey from Henry's Marketplace — miles better than the supermarket freebie gobblers.

Don't look to me for the more typical Oscars-style series of set categories climaxing with "Best Restaurant." The best restaurants and most talented chefs have their own distinctive culinary personalities. When you throw them into competition, you aren't just comparing apples and oranges, but piling on the pluots, kumquats, pomegranates, and papayas. No way I can choose just one — let a thousand flowers bloom, and bear a thousand fruits.

Seasons greetings and best wishes to you all. And now — the envelope, please:

CRAB CAKES OF THE YEAR:

Sally's on the Water (Manchester Grand Hyatt, One Market Square, Seaport Village, 619-687-6080). The elegantly simple crabcakes at Sally's are made of big hunks of Maryland blue crab-meat, just barely bound with mayo and coated with airy *panko* (Japanese bread crumbs). There's no heavy filler to gum them up. Now, *that's* a crab-cake! Runner up: Lobster-Crab Croquettes at Meritage (Lumberyard, 897 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-634-3350). The crispy exteriors and melting, gooey interiors call to mind



Jason Hoehn

the lush shellfish *quenelles* in lobster cream sauce of Southern France. *Ooh, la la, très riche.*

CLAM CHOWDER OF THE YEAR:

Charlie's by the Sea (2565 South Highway 101, Cardiff-by-the-Sea, 760-942-1300). It's probably the best dish at Charlie's, and compared to other clam chowders I've eaten on the West Coast (including San Francisco and Seattle), it comes closest to my glowing memories of the chowder at Boston's legendary Durgin Park. The rendition at Charlie's is rich and creamy, with no excess thickener. It includes a boatload of large clam meats, unpeeled new potato chunks, and best of all, bits of high-quality bacon for a true, smoky New England flavor.

BEST PUERTO NUEVO LOBSTER:

Malecón de Puerto Nuevo (yellow building at northwest edge of Puerto Nuevo, to the right of and downhill from the oceanfront street market; no phone). The chef-owner is a local fisherman who flies in the face of outworn Puerto Nuevo traditions. First, his lobsters are actually live (not frozen), so you get to meet 'em and eat 'em. Then instead of prefrying, they get a quick kill-and-grill treatment that leaves them wondrously tender. They come with real melted butter, outstanding



Jean-Marie Josselin

caught-that-morning ceviche (freshest you've ever tasted) or fish soup, tasty red rice, and outstanding smoky-sweet frijoles. This isn't just feeding the tourists — it's superb cooking!

BEST PUERTO NUEVO LOBSTER NORTH OF THE BORDER:

Zocalo (2444 San Diego Avenue, Old Town, 619-298-9840). The Lobster Santa Maria is made from monsters — one-and-a-half pounders and up. Yet they're moist and surprisingly tender for their size. Just like the ones at the best lobster joint in Puerto Nuevo (see above), they're not prefried but just split and grilled. Then come the ravishing garnishes: They're served with a mound of simple, luxurious avocado salsa on each half, alongside a ramekin of melted butter hauntingly seasoned with chile ancho.

LOBSTER BISQUE OF THE YEAR:

Nectar (Hotel Prava, 911 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp Quarter, 619-615-3146). San Diego is serious lobster bisque country, with fabulous versions at El Bizcocho, the Marine Room, and Thee Bungalow, among others. But the one that enchants me most is Chef Matthew Herter's fresh take on it at Nectar (review upcoming). Light but creamy and just loaded with chopped lobster meat, it has a play-



Bernard Guillas

ful, spicy kick that's just right, not too much. The killer touch is a toasted sourdough crouton laden with Maytag bleu cheese. Bisque and bleu cheese? It's a "Why didn't I think of that?" miracle match.

BEST LOBSTER ON WHEELS:

Lobster Lounge (619-890-0624). A lobster trapper at dawn and a cabbie at night, Doug Knapton delivers the goods — live local lobsters at a reasonable price. The one catch is, there's a minimum. The longer the trip from his live tank (in PB) to your house, the more you have to buy. Got an appetite? Got neighbors? Some of Doug's buddies dive for sea urchins, so if you're lucky enough to call at the right moment, you may add those little darlings to your menu, too. Also, Alaskan shipboard-frozen king salmon. Sashimi, anyone?

BEST MODERN MEXICAN FOOD IN ENSENADA:

Manzanilla (Riveroll 122, off Lopez Mateo, Ensenada, Mexico, 646-175-70-73; from U.S., start with prefix 011-52). This has to be the hippest spot in all of Baja, with a menu of creative "new Mexican" cuisine. It's not fussy or fancy but fresh, fresh, and fresh. Chefs Benito Molina and Solange Muris Evans use the pick of locally grown veggies, local seafood, juicy Sonora steaks, and a large wood grill heaped with burning mesquite (a flavor all by itself) to create highly original, sophisticated dinners. Go for the smoky seafood appetizer combo.

BEST BAYOU COOKING:

Sassafras (3667 India Street at Chambers, Mission Hills, 619-295-4745). Louisiana-born chef-owner Andre Bellard is the sole local source of authentic Cajun cooking. No overspiced "BAM!" here, just savory, earthy good eats. There's a dark and handsome gumbo sparked by house-made andouille sausage, dreamy-tender Oysters Bienville, and crisp-roasted Sassafras Chicken with a jambalaya-inspired stuffing. The new hit here is the sensational Cajun Turckducken, turkey meat wrapped around duck fillet wrapped around chicken, with an andouille-bread stuffing at the center. They serve it only at the restaurant's Thanksgiving dinner, but the rest of the holiday season, you can call to order a whole one (\$40) for take-home only.

REVIEW

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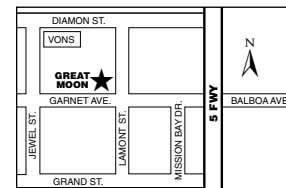
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RESTAURANTS

DEFINITIVE RENDITIONS OF SOUTHERN CLASSICS:

Trout Amandine at 150 Grand (150 Grand Street, Escondido, 760-738-6868); Deep-Fried Soft-Shell Crab at Gulf Coast Grill (4130 Park Boulevard, Hillcrest, 619-295-2244); Chicken-Fried Steak at Centre City Cafe (1680 S. Escondido Boulevard, Escondido, 760-489-6011); Brunswick Stew (a smoky version) at Big Jim's Old South BBQ (190 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-635-1166); and Mustard-Coated Catfish at Cafe Pacifica (2414 San Diego Avenue, Old Town, 619-291-6666) and Fifth and Hawthorne (515 Hawthorne Street at Fifth Avenue, Banker's Hill, 619-544-0940).

RAVIOLI OF THE YEAR:

White Chino Corn Agnolotti, Star of the Sea (1360 North Harbor Drive at Ash Street, Downtown, 619-232-7408). These plump, crescent-shaped small pasta pillows have skins rolled as thin as silk, stuffed with long-cooked, strained corn "milk," the sweet essence of the vegetable. Browned butter sauce, shaved truffles, and a waft of grated cheese complete the impeccable combination. Winner last year and forever: Braised short rib ravioli at Alfieri (Sheraton Harbor Island, West Tower, 1590 Harbor Island Drive, Har-

bor Island, 619-692-2778). Nearly transparent squares of pasta are overstuffed with falling-apart beef shreds, with a deep, slightly sweet flavor. They're coated in the braising-liquid demiglace, flecked with mushrooms and pearl onions, garnished with shredded fried scallions, and flanked by slabs of ciabatta crostini lightly slicked with melted Asiago cheese. A unique dish.

BEST CHEAP STEAK:

Turf Club (1116 25th Street at C Street, Golden Hill, 619-234-6363). You have to cook them yourself on the communal gas grill, and the only side dish is salad, but the USDA Choice steaks are fabulous. An oil-garlic marinade gives a big flavor boost. Last winter I did a comparison tasting between several affordable (under \$15) steakhouses. A winner for overall quality and yumminess at the price was Turf's rib eye. Running slightly ahead at the time was the mesquite-broiled USDA Prime sirloin at Fat City (2137 Pacific Highway, Downtown/Little Italy, 619-232-9303), but as soon as I raved about it in print, owner Tom Fat raised his prices.

DESSERTS OF THE YEAR:

Crème Brûlée Napoleon at Vivace (Four Seasons Aviara Resort, Aviara Parkway and Four Seasons Point, Carlsbad, 760-603-3773); Bavarese at Rosanna's (806 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-942-0738); and Grilled Pineapple

at California Cuisine (1027 University, Hillcrest, 619-543-0790). Eric Estrella is Vivace's star pastry chef. In his clever reinvention of crème brûlée he cuts the custard into small squares, layered horizontally; each piece has one crackly edge to provide the typical brûlée crunch. Saffron-marinated strawberries and basil syrup add complex, sophisticated flavors. Rosanna Martin's lighter-than-air Bavarese is a pyramid of trembling vanilla-mascarpone mousse topped with a thin slice of sponge cake, covered and surrounded by fresh berries in their own juices. At California Cuisine, pastry chef Laurel Huffnagel presents a slice of grilled pineapple in a daring thyme and pink peppercorn syrup, accompanied by large triangular buckwheat cookies — a mad array of tropical-Medieval flavors. Forget the parade of chocolate lava cakes and tiramisu. Here are sweets that earn their calories.

MOST ADVENTUROUS CHEF:

Bernard Guillas at the Marine Room (2000 Spindrift Road, La Jolla, 858-459-7222). Genius and maniac, Guillas is everywhere, and whenever he cooks, you're in for delightful shocks. For instance, a special of Tasmanian steelhead trout crusted with the subtle crunch of minced almonds and fennel pollen, touched with exotic lemon myrtle oil, arriving with a roasted Green Zebra heirloom tomato, fingerling potatoes, a fling of

huckleberries lightly sweetened with date sugar syrup, and an exquisite little pat of tamarind date butter. This is a busy, brilliant guy who mines the whole world for his flavors. You never know what you'll find on his menu, but it's sure to be elaborate and unprecedented.

RISING STAR CHEF (AND BEST RESTAURANT TURNAROUND):

Jason Hoehn at California Cuisine (1027 University, Hillcrest, 619-543-0790). With the departure of Chef Chris Walsh, Laurel line-chef Jason Hoehn arrived to bring a welcome consistency to the menu. A naturally gifted chef with a finely tuned palate and a brilliant instinct for texture, he turns out light, casual appetizers and complex, original entrées. Even when he cooks classics, Hoehn hones in on their essences, e.g., an intensely focused *cassoulet* that's free from any hint of "let's-clean-out-the-fridge" heftiness. I didn't hit a single clinker in my several meals here.

MOST MEMORABLE MEAL:

Tapenade (7612 Fay Avenue, La Jolla; 858-551-7500). A serious but leisurely meal at French-born chef Jean-Michel Diot's Tapenade tunes the palate so it can discover the very essence of every flavor. Some dishes (such as the signature *foie gras torchon* chilled terrine) are easily appealing, while others may be a little exigent — but with each intense dish, you relearn what the ingredients actually taste like, and how combinations can totally change their impact. When you encounter such a feast, you know that you're in the hands of a master.

BEST NEW ETHNIC RESTAURANT:

Hacienda de Vega (2608 South Escondido Blvd., Escondido, 760-738-9805). Living right on the border, most of us take Mexican food for granted and cleave to the familiar cheap border fare of tacos-fajitas-rellenos. Hacienda restores the dignity of real Mexican cuisine and provides a worthy (even palatial) setting. Chef-owner Patricia Vega hails from Mexico City and unveils a world of authentic flavors from the Mexican mainland, including a dozen

saucers you won't find elsewhere. Meanwhile, diners luxuriate at an Old California-style hacienda, with handsome dining rooms and a lush garden patio complete with a waterfall into a vast fountain. It's all beautiful — to the eyes and to the palate.

BEST NEW NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT:

Savory (267 N. El Camino Real, Encinitas, 760-634-5556). When this casual bistro opened in an Encinitas strip mall, it was welcomed by its neighbors with a fervor once reserved for Elvis or the Beatles. Here, chef-owner Pascal Vignau (formerly executive chef of Four Seasons Aviara) cooks up charming French/Mediterranean dishes. A Dungeness crab panna cotta fairly flies off the plate, and the Savory Mac and Cheese (and ham) is found on nearly every table. Fish are carefully cooked, and the chef looks to local farms for produce. The menu changes with the seasons, and the wine list is (gasp!) fun and affordable. Kiss Savory hello, lightly on both cheeks.

BEST NEW UPSCALE RESTAURANT:

Restaurant 808 (The Aventine, 8980 University Center Lane, University City, La Jolla, 858-552-1048). Hawaii is a state of natural fusion, its cuisine a cross-cultural free-for-all of flavors. Throw in a masterly French-trained chef, and you've got the potential for bliss in every bite. Chef Jean-Marie Josselin puts out a long (30-plus dishes) and entertaining menu that invariably makes your eyes bigger than your stomach. His appetizers are wildly varied; his soups are dramas. The entrées emphasize seafood, with each species accorded its own custom-made treatment. Eating here is like snorkeling at Hanauma Bay — you can't predict what you'll encounter, but every species will be tropically colorful.

RESTAURANT NECROLOGY:

There's no "best Vietnamese" above because every time I find one I really like, it closes: the Little Dragon in Pacific Beach was replaced by a branch of Cold Stone Creamery. Among the other restaurant-biz casu-

alties, Aquarella tried to bring upscale Mexican cooking to the Aventine, but, facing a wall of indifference, gave up and converted to yet another folksy Italian restaurant. Venerable sister-restaurant Fio's in the Gaslamp sold out to the Cohn Restaurant Group and will be replaced by a Polynesian lounge. Kalahari, the exciting South African eatery, was doing well but shut down due to an illness in the family. In Hillcrest, Deborah Helm closed her long-running Mixx and will spend more time tending to her Mission Cafes, while a few doors away, Savory has been replaced by a second branch of the more affordable Viet-fusion eatery Rice Jones. Tango Mango in the Gaslamp abandoned its former Argentine tilt, going to a standard border-Mex menu. It's still alive and cooking, if that's what you want to eat.

INTO THE FUTURE:

The year ended with a whirl of revolving chefs: Region, with Michael Stebner (formerly of 910) has just opened on the site of the former Mixx. Jason Knibb, a protégé of Trey Foshee, replaces Stebner at La Jolla's 910 Restaurant. Azzura Point and Dakota both have brand-new chefs. Fusionmeister Riko Bartolomei (formerly of 150 Grand and then Rice) will be opening his own place in Escondido this spring. The new owners of the Hotel Del, who have raised room prices ruthlessly, have made chef changes and imposed price hikes at their restaurants as well. That may be bad news, but some hot good news: In the Gaslamp, Bandar's sister-restaurant, the steakhouse Shiraz, is converting to a more adventurous Persian menu emphasizing authentic nightly specials served by no other local restaurant. Gringo's in PB upgraded several months ago when it spirited Chef Victor Jimenez away from Thee Bungalow, a move that indirectly induced the talented Derek Ridgeway to take full charge of the Third Corner, Bungalow's sister-restaurant. In Kearny Mesa, China Max is mounting a fresh challenge to the age-old dominance of Jasmine and Emerald in the field of stylish Hong Kong cooking. Stay tuned. I think we're in for an interesting ride. ■

New Year's Eve

Olé Madrid



Early Dinner Package: \$180 per couple

Dinner and Nightclub Admission
Live Flamenco Show
5-6:30 pm reservation surrenders table at 8 pm
Bottle of Moët el Chandon "White Star"
Four-Course Meal
Mixed Tapas Platter (per couple)
Ensalada Cenas or Caesar Salad
Lobster-Stuffed Salmon, Bacon-Wrapped Filet Mignon, or
Arroz à la Marinara
Tiramisu or Spanish Flan
Includes nightclub admission for entire evening, head-of-line re-entry all night.

New Year's Eve VIP Table Package: \$250 per couple

Dinner and Nightclub Admission
Live Flamenco Show
8:30-10 pm reservation reserves table until 2 am
Four-Course Meal plus Late-Night Snack
Mixed Tapas & Bruschetta
Baby Spinach Salad with Strawberries or Gazpacho
Lobster-Stuffed Salmon, Bacon-Wrapped Filet Mignon, or
Arroz à la Marinara
Tiramisu or Chocolate Decadence Cake
Midnight Snack of Pizza Marguerita or Chocolate-Dipped Strawberries
Bottle of Moët el Chandon "White Star"
Party Favors
Bottle Service Available
Includes nightclub admission for entire evening, head-of-line re-entry all night.

There will be two Flamenco Shows for each seating. DJ Rags upstairs spinning uptempo lounge from 10-11 pm, then hip-hop, dance, etc. until 2 am.
DJ Dale Dorsett spinning in the basement 10:30 pm-2 am.

Cover Charge from 8 pm • \$25 at the door, \$20 presale

(619) 557-0146 For Reservations

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per couple

*Includes Taxes & Gratuities.
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48 Hours prior to arrival.

Package Includes:

- One Night Accommodations
- 4-Course Dinner for 2 at Monterey Whaling Company
- New Year's Party (With Party Favors, Champagne Toast at Midnight and Dancing to our D.J.)
- Late Checkout New Year's Day (3 p.m.)

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Hilton

San Diego Mission Valley

Gassing Away

Now I've got three plates in front of me. "No shame, dude?" says Hank.

'My idea of the perfect Christmas?" says Hank. "Get the heck out of Dodge. Hightail it for the desert. Find me a bit of peace and quiet."

Half of me wants to agree with him. The other half yearns for all that warm and fuzzy stuff. Family, cakes, presents, hot punch, the laughter of people willing to hear a tired old joke for the 34th time because, well, it means you're still coming together. Sigh.

So in that spirit I'd had this crazy idea of taking Hank out for a, like, thank-you meal. The guy has a big heart. Without his wheels I would have been practically living on the bus this year.

We're sitting in Hank's car. "Okay. Gaslamp? Wherever. Your choice," I say.

"You're paying, right?"

"Right."

"Okay. No Gaslamp. This is the seasonal thing, right?"

"Right. Hanukkah, Eid, Kwanzaa, Christmas, solstice. Name it. Whatever."

"Then forget downtown. It's all office party people working overtime at being hap-hap-happy..."

He suddenly switches on and pulls out. "I know."

He heads for Mission Valley. He gets onto 8. "Where, dude, where?"

"Where Santa Claus came from, okay?"

Fifteen minutes later we arrive on West Main in El Cajon. He hauls into Sunshine Plaza.

"Ho-ho-ho," he says. At the door I see why.

"All You Can Eat Buffet, \$6.95."

Then it says "Authentic Greek cuisine."

"Uh, Santa...?"

We sweep into this blue-and-white room with blue flowers and blue tables, big white tiles on the floor, and a wall full of posters of Greek towns and ports. The buffet stretches along the far side. I mean, yes, it's your standard Greek thing. But what gives it a bit of an exotic feel is the classical music mixed with Greek tunes and the languages you hear buzzing around the tables. Group

of elderly ladies sits gassing away in what sounds like Russian. I hear Spanish from another table. Plus two women sound as though they could be from Ethiopia.

The waiter guy says eat now, pay later. Cool. We order iced teas (\$1.50, with refills) and head for the buffet. Oh, man. Seems like two dozen different chafing dishes filled with everything from gyros meat to spanakopita (Greek spinach pie) to moussaka (eggplant, potatoes, ground beef topped with a thick béchamel sauce) to dolmades (grape leaves wrapped around beef and rice), plus salad stuff and a separate dessert table.

I start off with soup. The choice is *fakée* (lentil) or *avgolemono* (lemon-chicken-rice). I go for *fakée*. There's nothing fake about it. It's great with pita bread. Hank's already filled his plate. He has discs of falafel (fried chickpea mixture), pickled cabbage, slices of gyros meat, chicken souvlaki (grilled lemon chicken) with *tzatziki* (a yogurt-and-cucumber-based sauce), and Greek olives.

My lentil soup's comforting. But pretty soon

I'm up and loading a whole sea of hummus, *tzatziki* sauce, more pita bread, and a greedy man's bunch of kalamata olives.

Hank raises his eyebrows. "Appetizer dish," I say. Oh, yes. That hummus, and those olives. Real. Tasty. I scoop it all up with pita bread; then I'm back at the food table. Fresh plate number two ("It's the law," Hank keeps reminding me). This time I tong in a big ol' green pepper stuffed with rice and meat, yellow rice, moussaka, a falafel cake, and for nice slashing green color, some tabbouleh, the parsley-and-couscous salad.

"I'm 18!" says the woman at the next table. "Again!" Katiya. It's her birthday. Okay, she's flipping 81 and 18. She's originally from the Ukraine. Her friends Olga, who migrated from Russia, Anna from the Ukraine, and Alisa, Armenian, are treating her to lunch. They always come here. "It feels European," says Olga. "The food, that music."

'Course, this isn't quite your traditional white Christmas, Russian style. "Our Christmas is January 7," Katiya says. "On Christmas Eve we'd be celebrating *Sochelnik*." Looks like the word *Sochelnik* comes from the food they'd eat, *sochivo*. "It's wheat with seeds, raisins, honey, and nuts." Sounds delish. "On Christmas Day," she says, "it'd be goose if you're lucky, or duck."

Across the way, these two gals with big, dark, beautiful eyes chat and chew away. Laila and Nasra. From Somalia. They're here because the fresh veggie dishes remind them of home cook-

ing. Next door, Jack and Maria chow down on salad and dolmades.

Guess I'd better try some of those dolmades. And that Greek roasted potato. Now I've got three plates in front of me. "No shame, dude?" says Hank. Uh, no. Specially with the tangy taste I'm getting from the dolmades leaves. That and the lemony sauce inside. It makes me wish I'd started with these.

Whew. I realize I never did get to the Greek chicken. I sit back.

Then I sit forward. "Hey. So Santa Claus? We're all wrong? He comes from here, not the North Pole?"

"No," says Hank. He points to the posters of Greece. "He comes from there. Santa Claus was Saint Nikolaos. Lived in — what was it? Lycia? Kind of Greek. Around 300 A.D."

"Turkey, dude. Lycia. Turkey."

"Now, but not then, dude."

"Whatever. So?"

"Well, the real guy helped the poor. Wore a red bishop's robe. The Russians kind of adopted him, Italians too, then the Germans, the Dutch. He got fatter. They took him to New York — New Amsterdam, right? We screwed up the pronunciation of Sinter Klaas, and that's it. We're celebrating in the right spot, my boy. Santa Claus. Guy spoke Greek! Cheers... Uh, hold it."

He puts his tea glass down. "Dessert. Cinnamon rice pudding, baklava, Jell-O... You coming or not?"

I'm on my feet. "Is the Pope Polish?" ■

The Place: Greek Town, 345 West Main Street, El Cajon (619-441-9708)

Type of Food: Greek buffet

Prices: All-you-can-eat lunch buffet, \$6.95 Monday to Friday, \$8.99 Saturday, Sunday; buffet dinner (seven days), \$8.99: items include gyros meat, spanakopita (Greek spinach pie), moussaka (eggplant, potatoes, ground beef, béchamel), dolmades (grape leaves wrapped around beef and rice), pastitsio (noodles, beef, béchamel), keftedes (meatballs), lemon-chicken-rice soup, baklava, rice pudding

Hours: 11:00 a.m. till 9:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday; 11:30 a.m. till 8:30 p.m., Sundays

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Buffet

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Naomi Wise, San Diego Reader

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Fat Times

“People knew his collection. That’s a very affluent area, and there are a lot of very sophisticated collectors there.”

It may be that you can often find Pamplemousse Grill chef Jeffrey Strauss in the restaurant’s private banquet room on a Sunday night, anchoring one end of a table stuffed with a dizzying array of cured meats, shrimp, crab claws, fresh-baked biscuits, cheeses, etc., joking with guests as he carves and serves up great slices of lamb. Then again, it may not. It is, after all, not every Sunday that the Pamplemousse plays host to a pre-auction tasting for the Zachys Holiday Wine Auction, which would later be held at Manhattan’s Restaurant Daniel. In fact, no restaurant anywhere has ever played host to a Zachys pre-auction tasting. This was the first for the wine-retailing giant, now concluding a dominant first year since it took over its own auctions, which it had formerly held in association with Christie’s.

Not that pre-auction tastings are a new idea; they are a venerable tradition attached to London wine auctions, says Zachys auctioneer Ursula Hermacinski. “They were very serious in the early days. Before every auction, they would take samples from the consigners so that bidders could ascertain the quality of a certain consignment.” While there was no guarantee, the samples could provide some clues to the conditions under which

the rest of the lot was cellared. If you saw low bottle fills and stained labels on the sample bottle of ’78 Lafite, you might suspect seepage from heat and so hesitate before spending your Christmas bonus on the ’45 Cheval Blanc.

But when the New York wine auction scene began to pick up in the mid-’90s, pre-auction tastings were less about ascertaining the quality and condition of the wine to be auctioned, says Hermacinski, “primarily because so many American consigners had ideal storage facilities.” Their cellars

were not simply basements; they were super-insulated, temperature- and humidity-controlled wine wombs. As a result, a pre-auction tasting usually “ended up being a cocktail party, a great opportunity for buyers to pay \$35 and have a taste of all these incredible wines.”

Eventually the traditional pre-auction tastings were scrapped altogether, and the parties shifted to the auctions themselves. “When we were Zachys-Christie’s, we had the auctions at the sale room,” she explains. “In the early days of the New York wine auctions — our first was in April of 1995 — we had standing room only. In ’95, ’96, every auction was a mini-party. We’d have dinners beforehand. They were really wonderful, fat times — no one was looking at budget

constraints in putting on those events.” But the bubble burst and the lean years set in. “Now you go to a Christie’s or Sotheby’s auction and they still sell \$2 million worth of wine, but there are eight people in the room. That’s how the auctions are in London; there’s no sizzle on the steak at all.” After the split with Christie’s, Zachys owner Don Zacharia “wasn’t going to accept that; his number one goal was to bring the excitement back, make it a party again. He said, ‘I want to relive the glory days.’”

One way to do that was to get the auction — and the party — out of the sale room and into a more festive milieu. “We could have gotten a room at a hotel or the Explorer’s Club on Park Avenue. But we thought of a restaurant. It’s not theater-style seating; you’re actually sitting at a table.” They approached chef Daniel Boulud, who agreed without hesitating. “We’ve got a coffee service going in the morning. At lunchtime, the restaurant offers a buffet, and almost everybody takes it, though we don’t stop selling. We offer a glass of champagne to everyone — that’s one of our trademarks. People can order wines off of Daniel’s list. They really relax. It goes from being the doldrums of a commercial wine auction to more of a charity wine auction feel.”

Adding luster to the festivities this year was the news that Rancho Santa Fe wine collector John McDonnell had decided to auction his 18,000-bottle collection through Zachys. The entire first day of this month’s holiday auction would be given over to clearing McDonnell’s cel-



Case of 1959 Chateau Lafite Rothschild

lar — 898 lots in all. Before the auction was held, Zacharia and company saw an opportunity to reach out to a new set of collectors who had previously proven auction-shy. Explains Hermacinski, “John McDonnell’s profile as a collector was significantly high in Rancho Santa Fe and the San Diego area. People knew his collection. That’s a very affluent area, and there are a lot of very sophisticated collectors there who have personal contacts at Zachys but who don’t buy at auction.”

The hook would be a modified pre-auction tasting held in Southern California and featuring wines from McDonnell’s cellar. “If you were doing a true pre-auction tasting, you would have had probably one bottle each of 30 different wines

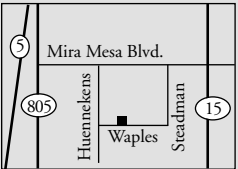


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4-course prix fixe menu.

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2000 Charmail	\$37.99	\$74.99	n/a	n/a	93	n/a
2000 Cheval Blanc	n/a	\$1250.00	n/a	n/a	98-	100
2000 Clerc Milon	\$54.99	\$139.99	\$315.00	n/a	92+	n/a
2000 Duhart Milon	\$34.99	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2000 Ducru Beaucaillou	\$129.99	\$249.99	\$725.00	n/a	94+	95
2000 Faugeres	\$44.99	\$99.99	n/a	\$529.99	91	91
2000 La Fleur Petrus	n/a	\$239.99	n/a	n/a	95	n/a
2000 Lagrange	\$54.99	n/a	\$329.99	n/a	93	93
2000 Leoville Barton	\$139.99	n/a	n/a	\$1999.99	97	n/a
2000 Leoville-Poyferre	\$99.99	n/a	\$569.99	n/a	95	n/a
2000 Lynch Bages	\$119.99	n/a	n/a	n/a	95+	96
2000 Montrose	n/a	n/a	\$549.99	\$1249.99	97	95
2000 Palmer	\$189.99	\$369.99	n/a	n/a	96	97
2000 Pape Clement	\$99.99	\$239.99	\$499.99	n/a	95	n/a
2000 Pavie	\$279.99	n/a	n/a	\$2899.99	100	n/a
2000 Pichon-Lalande	\$179.99	n/a	\$849.99	n/a	97	95
2000 Reignac	\$34.99	\$74.99	n/a	n/a	92	n/a
2000 Sociando Mallet	\$49.99	n/a	\$319.99	\$639.99	93	n/a
2000 Vieux Chateau Certan	\$184.99	\$359.99	n/a	n/a	95	95

so that people could go through and get an idea [of the cellar's quality]." That wasn't really necessary here, so three bottles each of six sample vintages were chosen to showcase the collection's range. McDonnell "was generous about the notion of giving up samples," says Hermacinski, and the evening at the Pamplemousse showed it. As they feasted on chef Strauss's spread, guests sipped their way through the six worthy wines, including '95 Chateau Haut Brion from Bordeaux, '96 Vosne Romanee "Les Suchots" from Burgundy, and a '60 Croft Vintage Port. And they got to hear the auction process explained by Ms. Hermacinski herself.

"The greatest question when you wonder about buying wine at auction is: 'How can you trust the wines when you don't know the source?' " she began. "We're here tonight to show you the source. Ask me; ask my colleague Christine Graham, who was there during the packing. And certainly ask John himself; he'll tell you where the wine came from." She then explained about absentee bidding, which is

basically the same as the procedure on eBay: you submit your maximum, and the auctioneer bids for you up to that maximum. "You can also bid by phone," she advised. "When you're on a phone bid, have your top price in mind, so you don't get caught up in a frenzy — because it really happens so quickly. It doesn't slow down until it's just you and one other bidder, so you can get swept away unless you know what you want to pay."

It was fair warning, but Hermacinski probably wasn't overly opposed to the notion of people getting "swept away." "We're selling 120 lots an hour. We start at 9:30 a.m. and we don't stop until 3:30 or so." Besides being necessary to get through nearly 900 lots, the speed helps build the excitement she needs to keep the bidding hot. "I've got 30 seconds to sell a lot, so it's got to be priced in such a way that people want to come to the party. Retail, you can put a price on it and sit until someone comes in and buys it." Once the bidder is in, it's up to Hermacinski to get the price up, and time pressure can be a boon. ■

RESTAURANT LISTINGS

*The Reader's Guide to Restaurants are recommended listings written by our reviewers (Ed Bedford, Ambrose Martin, Shari McCullough, Max Nash, Eleanor Widmer, Naomi Wise). Each issue contains only a fraction of nearly 500 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at SanDiegoReader.com. Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a mid-range entrée. **Inexpensive:** below \$10; **moderate:** \$10 to \$19; **expensive:** \$20 to \$24; **very expensive:** more than \$25. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.*

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IL POGGIONE 2000
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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

with honey butter, well-balanced slaw... Oh, just taste everything you can fit under your belt. Lunch/dinner daily, breakfast weekends. Low moderate. — *N.W. (10/01)*

Cafe 101 631 South Coast Highway 101, Oceanside, 760-722-5220. This is the oldest li'l eating establishment in Oceanside. Cooks have been flipping burgers here since 1928. The café is named after Route 101, the Pacific Highway. Old-timers remember when everyone from truck drivers to movie stars would stop for a bite before heading on to San Diego and Tijuana. Try the ABC (avocado, bacon, and cheese) Omelet, the 101 Original Cheeseburger with its "secret sauce," chicken fried steaks with eggs and, of course, the Great Depression dish: biscuits with gravy and home fries. Open daily, three meals until midnight. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (3/01)*

Cafe Sevilla Carlsbad 3050 Pio Pico (off Carlsbad Village Drive), Carlsbad, 760-730-7558. The atmosphere is cozy and pleasant. Dine upstairs for larger tables. Tapas and Spanish specialties of average competence. Music will warm your blood. Lunch Monday through Friday. Dinner nightly, to midnight Friday and Saturday. Moderate to expensive. — *E.W.*

The Encinitas Cafe 531 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-632-0919. This American café serves breakfast from opening to closing, with egg dishes, biscuits, and gravy for breakfast, sandwiches and salads for

lunch, and American entrées for dinner. Fast, excellent service. Open daily, three meals. Inexpensive. — *E.W.*

Kim's Restaurant 745 First Street, Lumberyard Shopping Center #103, Encinitas, 760-942-4816. Both Vietnamese and Chinese dishes are offered in a calm atmosphere with quick, pleasant service. The menu lists 265 items, including 18 Vietnamese house specialties, 28 seafood dishes, and a whopping 45 vegetarian/vegan dishes, many made with *seitan* (mock poultry). The seafood isn't necessarily fresh catch — some shellfish is evidently obtained frozen, scallops are phosphate-preserved, and the reasonably priced abalone dishes involve slightly chewy, rehydrated dried abalone from Asia. On the other hand, portions are enormous, and the cooking is careful and tasty, although some flavors have evidently been adapted to American palates and ingredients. Open Tuesday through Sunday, continuous service lunch and dinner; closed Monday. Moderate. — *N.W. (10/01)*

Meritage 897 South Coast Highway 101, Lumberyard Shopping Center, Encinitas, 760-634-3350. Chef-owner Susan Sbicca creates pristine California Cuisine here, highlighting fresh (and usually organic) local produce. A few pick hits are direct imports from her Sbicca down the coast — the irresistible lobster-crabmeat croquettes and lobster-shrimp bisque are pure Del Mar deluxe. But some simpler dishes cleverly complete themselves as you eat them — salmon served with peas and mushrooms on one side and a creamy sauce on the other creates a whole new sauce when you broach the fillet. A lemon-pistachio cake, too, changes as you cut it, the pieces crumbling into a berry coulis. It's a fun way to eat, engaging the mind along with the palate.

The setting is family-friendly (only well-mannered kids come here) with a handsome, airy dining room and charming patio. Wide-ranging wine list, plenty by the glass and even some half-bottles. No corkage on Tuesdays; Mondays and Wednesdays most bottles half price. Reservations advisable. Lunch and dinner daily, bar menu ongoing. Moderate to slightly expensive. — *N.W. (7/03)*

Palomar Airport Cafe 2162 Palomar Airport Road, Carlsbad, 760-438-9665. *Top Gun*, anyone? Chow down and choose views of planes like the 1935 Harvard, "The Texan," or the Life Flight choppers scrambling. Expect to see greats like Chuck Yeager or his buddy Lowell Williams, who still trains stunt pilots here. It's not gourmet, but it's down-to-earth solid nosh, with plenty of beer and spirits flowing. The café's sexy waitresses serve generous plate-loads of everything from breakfast burritos (scrambled eggs, onions, bell pepper, potatoes, cheese) to corned beef hash with eggs and spuds. Or lunchwiches with quirky plane names like Almost Famous Mustang Burger (open-faced with chili) or the B-29 (turkey, Swiss cheese, Ortega chilies "melted together on grilled sourdough"). Delish. Breakfast, lunch daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (8/03)*

Sakura Bana 1031 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-942-6414. One of the friendliest eateries in a friendly town, this is a sushi bar where everybody knows your name (or acts like they do). The chefs love to whip up special dishes for the many regulars at the counter, so if you're a newbie, keep an eye out for what your neighbors are eating. A blackboard lists the specials, guiding you to the day's freshest catch. Should you spot pompano on the list, get *two* orders — with two

orders (but not if you just order one), after you've consumed the delicate raw fillets, the chefs will deep-fry the skeleton to a lacy crunchiness. If you don't feel like sushi, there are several tables, and standard Japanese appetizers and entrées are available. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Moderate. — *N.W. (9/01)*

Sbicca American Bistro 215 15th Street, Del Mar, 858-481-1001. The roof garden has an unobstructed ocean view and is especially pleasant for very good American or Mexican breakfasts. Select simplest preparation for dinner: Chilean sea bass, salads, soups. Roasted half chicken best bet. Lunch Monday through Friday, dinner nightly. Brunch Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Moderate. — *E.W. (9/98)*

NORTH INLAND

DiCrescenzo's 11625 Duenda Road (off W. Bernardo Drive), Rancho Bernardo, 858-487-2776. This is a stand-in-line, order-at-the-counter, grab-a-table, listen-for-your-order-number kind of a place. If you're looking for pampering and atmosphere, this isn't gonna cut it. If you're wanting yummy Italian comfort food to eat in or take out, this the spot. The bread alone is worth a trip. Real, flaky, honest-to goodness French rolls complement pastas and salads or encase meatballs, eggplant parmesan, or deli meats. The meatballs, a DiCrescenzo family recipe, are unusually moist and tender, perfectly seasoned. The subs — especially Rocco's Imperial Sub — are packed with deli goodies and just enough Italian dressing. Thin crust pizzas are a popular treat. Open Monday

through Saturday, lunch to early dinner. Inexpensive. — *S.M. (10/03)*

Fish House Vera Cruz 360 Via Vera Cruz, San Marcos, 760-744-7346. This family-style restaurant serves seafood and fresh fish that changes daily. Simple but honest preparation, good value. Open daily for lunch and dinner (dinner menu is served from opening to closing on Sunday). Inexpensive to expensive. — *E.W.*

The French Market Grille 15717 Bernardo Heights Parkway, San Diego, 858-485-8055. Ambience is served in generous portions at this romantic establishment with elegant indoor dining or a charming garden setting. The wine list has over 50 selections, including several available by the glass, and the varied menu offers Gallic dishes of duck, lamb, fish, veal, frog legs, and more. Most dishes are served with the usual French cuisine sauces, but if you're dieting, they'll gladly omit sauce. Ingredients and execution of the entrées can be inconsistent (e.g., some nights the fish is overcooked or the meat is tough, other nights they're fine) but the crab-cake appetizer is always outstanding. Save room for dessert, especially the excellent crème brûlée. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *S.M. (11/03)*

Mille Fleurs 6009 Paseo Delicias, Rancho Santa Fe, 858-756-3085. One of the area's top destination restaurants, Bertrand Hug's beautiful room with beautiful food draws "the beautiful people" — Hollywood honchos, high-end high school graduation parties, and a steady influx of rarefied Rancho Santa Fe residents flaunting huge twinkling rocks. The daily-changing menu sports first-rate modern French cuisine (with a few German touches) by long-time chef Martin Woesle. Order at will — everything's flawless. The menu's most

exciting on weeknights, when crowds are sparser and the the kitchen has time to stretch. The wine list is fabulous but exorbitant even at the bottom. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Reservations a must. Very, very expensive. — *N.W. (5/01)*

Ming Court 12750 Carmel Country Road, Country Plaza Shopping Center, North City West (adjacent to Del Mar), 858-793-2933. "Elegance" describes the interior of this restaurant. Some unusual preparations are cilantro chicken, pungent shrimp, three-mushroom delight, tangerine beef, and items on the Ming Court specialty list. Service is first-rate. Open daily. Moderate. — *E.W.*

Rancho Valencia 5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe, 858-756-1123. The dining room and surrounding grounds are gorgeous, the meals beautifully prepared. Great place to take a guest to lunch. Best bets, fresh fish. All California cuisine dishes have Mediterranean influence. Open daily. Expensive. — *E.W.*

San Diego Artisan Bakers 1551 South Escondido Boulevard, Escondido, 760-740-5963. The grains are ground daily for this wonderful European-style bread. Every bread has dense consistency and an amazing crust. Among the best bets are the baguette, the sourdough with Greek olives, and the country sourdough. Recipes come from France, Italy, and Germany. Open Monday through Saturday. Inexpensive. — *E.W.*

Wine Sellar and Brasserie 9550 Waples Street #115, Mira Mesa, 858-450-9557. This is the sister restaurant to Laurel, and the food is a delight to the palate. Lunch on Saturday served by itself or in conjunction with the wine

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GOLD COAST

Cafe Zinc 132 South Cedros (at Loma Santa Fe), Solana Beach, 858-793-5436. The Rancho Santa Fe set like to hang out here in the garden patio with their Porsches at the curb and their shih tzus under the table (dogs are welcome). Even for non-doggie people, the California pepper trees and garden sculpture make this indoor-outdoor eatery a really pleasant kick-back place (which gets its name from the zinc-top bar inside). The menu, a mixture of Italian and vegetarian, offers dishes like frittata with cucumber salsa, and baked eggplant "pizzette" (personal-size pizza) with marinara, mozzarella, and Parmesan cheese. The vegetarian chili and the Zinc veggie burger (served on a La Brea bun) are tasty too. Open seven days, breakfast through late lunch. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (9/01)*

Le Bambou 2634 Del Mar Heights Road, Del Mar, 858-259-8138. Nouvelle Vietnamese cuisine is prepared here that's fresh, light, delicate. But the portions are small and two people should order three entrées for a satisfactory meal. Soups are outstanding and the imperial rolls, lemon grass chicken, soft-shelled crab, vegetarian rolls, and charbroiled pork do well here. The wine list includes 40 items. Fast service and aesthetic surroundings. Lunch Tuesday to Friday; dinner Tuesday to Sunday; closed Monday. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.W.*

Parioli Italian Bistro 647 South Coast Highway 101, Solana Beach, 858-755-2525. Italian dishes from every section of Italy are prepared with loving care in time-honored tradition. Specialties are risotto, ravioli, leg of lamb, duck breast, fresh fish. Charming atmosphere with fireplace. Open daily. Moderate. — *E.W.*

LA JOLLA

808 Restaurant The Aventine, 8980 University Center Lane, University City/Golden Triangle, 858-552-1048. Chef-owner Jean-Marie Josselin brings his Hawaiian-French fusion food from Kauai to The Aventine and it's a delight. The restaurant's ever-changing seasonal menu reads like a Frenchman's dream of happy tropics, and the decor looks the part — part glitz, part grass shack. The kitchen emphasizes superb fresh seafood, cooked up with tropical inspirations and rigorous Gallic technique. It's always an adventure. Try the lobster tempura, slow-roasted butterfish, or the scallop-crusting salmon when they're available. Full bar, heated patio. Dressy-casual; reservations strongly advised; reasonable valet parking. Dinner nightly. Expensive. — *N.W. (7/03)*

Azul La Jolla 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-9616. The unobstructed ocean view and opulent interior are glamorous. Cuisine is Mediterranean with California influence. Menus change daily. When available, try pan-seared scallops and the outstanding asparagus soup, not duplicated anywhere. Fresh fish and seafood. Moderate to expensive. — *E.W. (7/99)*

Fresh Seafood Restaurant 1044 Wall Street (at Herschel), La Jolla, 858-551-7575. The fare is mainly fishy and the room is truly dishy, with lots to look at — the open kitchen, floor-to-ceiling sculptures, street-patio scene, or the décolleté of the date dresses among the younger half of the crowd. The older half shows up in business suits, whatever their gender. Here you'll find that Chef Matthew Zappoli's seafood creations and lush sauces live up to the restaurant's name, although reined in enough to keep from scaring business-suited palates. Fish not your dish? Meats and poultry are of fine quality, too. Save room for the hazelnut mocha mousse cake, so sensual it should be X-rated. Good wine buys in Sauvignon Blancs and "interesting whites." Dinner reservations a must. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive. — *N.W. (7/03)*

Marrakesh 634 Pearl Street (at Draper), La Jolla, 858-454-2500. The North African fare of Morocco is like

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RESTAURANTS

no other in the world — influenced by Arab cuisines, but more intense and sheerly hedonistic. At our sole Moroccan restaurant, the fare is arranged into a nightly five-course prix fixe feast, with superb lentil soup (*harira*), a salad plate, *bastilla* (a chicken-filled filo pie), an entrée, and finally mint tea poured from on high to accompany almond baklava perfumed with orange-flower water. The setting and service are dra-

matic — tented ceilings, low banquette seating at carved round tables, belly-dancing interludes, servers in fezzes. (You're the Sheik of Araby.) A short list of entrées (a maximum of two choices per table, to be shared) features fine chicken (or lamb) with olives and preserved lemons; moist, fatless duck; lamb with couscous; and rather dry fish. On quiet weeknights, you can request the dreamy lamb with honey, an extravaganza that includes fruits, almonds, sesame, and cinnamon. Dinner nightly, reserve for weekends. Moderate. — *N.W.* (4/01)

Sky Room Top floor of La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street, La Jolla,

858-454-0771. The stunning ocean view offers three essentials for a memorable evening: privacy, intimacy, and the ability to talk without the interruption of noise. The food is a feast to the eyes as well as the palate. Best bets: abalone and scallop steak appetizer, the daily soup, diver scallops, and lobster. Dinner only, with two seatings on weekends. Very expensive. — *E.W.* (10/99)

Tapenade 7612 Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-551-7500. Surely one of the best restaurants in the county, you'll find superb, utterly assured French cooking by famed chef-owner Jean-Michel Diot. This is the modern style of French

cuisine, light and clean to let every ingredient shine, unmasked by heavy sauces. Each dish is perfect. Pork tenderloin, Muscovy duck, foie gras, and the fresh fish are small triumphs. Worth every penny. Expensive to very expensive. — *E.W.* (7/98)

Torreyana Grill Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines, 10950 Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, 858-450-4571. Best seafood buffet in city, served Friday nights, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. At least 21 items, most of them fresh seafood and fish plus New York-cut beef and chicken. Price is \$28.95, \$10.95 for children. Add \$10 for 1-1/4 pound fresh Maine lobster steamed to order. Excellent value for the money. Friday night only. Expensive. — *E.W.* (6/99)

Zenbu 7660 Fay Avenue (at Kline Street), La Jolla, 858-454-4540. It was a natural for fisherman-restaurateur Matt Rimel to open a sushi bar-fish house, featuring sparkling fresh catch, much of it from his own boats. Sashimi and the simpler sushi are better here than the big party rolls, which can be lunkish. Don't miss the sashimi of live local *uni* (sea urchin) served on its shell most weekends. Cooked fish entrées feature equally sparkling seafood, sometimes in almost goofily elaborate preparations. No reservations; 30-minute wait likely on weekends. Sushi bar is up a short staircase; dining room and patio tables are wheelchair accessible. Several vegetarian choices.

Full bar, good sake list. Dinner nightly. Upper moderate to expensive. — *N.W.* (6/01)

MISSION VALLEY & THE MESAS

Hideyoshi Japanese Restaurant 9340-B Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Hazard Village, Kearny Mesa, 858-569-9595. A delightful restaurant tucked away at the far end of a small shopping center. Fine sushi bar, and unusual appetizers. A feast named "Taiko special," for two or more, is worth ordering. Visually and gastronomically a treat. Lunch, Monday through Friday; dinner, Monday through Saturday; closed Sunday. Inexpensive to expensive. — *E.W.*

Korea House 4620 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-560-0080. Korea House offers floor seating or a table if you want to barbecue your own food. The menu offers fine "down-home" Korean food, such as traditional *mandoo* (beef) dumplings, *gaefang backban*, or raw crab, and *yookhwe*, a steak tartare worth risking. Make a meal from enormous appetizers like *gul bosam* (raw oysters, pork, and cabbage leaves). Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — *M.N.* (9/98)

Nijiya Market 3860 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-268-3821. If you're not willing to sacrifice quality for convenience when eating fast food, try this Japanese market in Kearny Mesa. Nijiya Market offers prepared box lunches, or *bento*, that are pretty to look at, appetizing, and a real bargain. I suggest, however, passing by Nijiya's steam trays and heat lamps and going straight to the coolers, where you'll find delicious chicken cutlets, fresh sushi, and chilled noodles, as well as dessert delicacies like sweet bread roll filled with sweet bean paste. Inexpensive. — *M.N.* (8/99)

Prego Hazard Center, 1370 Frazee Road (at Friars Road), Mission Valley, 619-294-4700. In a stylish North Italian restaurant set in a come-as-you-are mall, a million-dollar renovation at the turn of our century has turned down the noise level to match the pleasing, easy-going North Italian cooking. Good starters include the antipasto platter, sparkling salads, and yeasty, fresh-baked rosemary-garlic bread (actually a mini-pizza crust). Pastas (many featuring fresh seafood) are near-perfect, but risotto can be risky. Entrées are mainly simple grilled or rotisserie meats and fish, but the nightly specials are where chef Josh McGinnis gets to strut his stuff. Service is warm and well-informed. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Moderate (pastas) to expensive. — *N.W.* (4/01)

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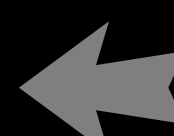
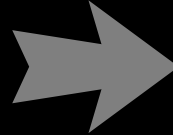
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www.ginzasushi-shanghairestaurant.com

Seau's Mission Valley Center mall, 1640 Camino del Rio North (next to Robinsons-May), Mission Valley, 619-291-7328. Footballer Junior Seau contributes more to San Diego than just sacks. His extravagant multivenue sports pub is major league fun — a real-life reincarnation of some 1960s McLuhanite media art show, with 70 video screens (ranging from large-normal to giant HDTV) running sportscasts and a professional DJ on high, periodically spinning cool sounds over muted talking heads. The menu offers mainstream “something for everyone” choices, including pizza, hefty but so-so burgers, some elementary sushi, all-American entrées, and Seau's family recipe of Samoan teriyaki “plate lunch.” Above all, there's pub grub. The chicken wings are pretty good, and you can get all three sauces (Buffalo, BBQ, and Asian) on one order. Perfect hangout for mismatched couples with one sports fan and one fashionista (the latter can head for Nordstrom and Saks discount outlets nearby). On game days, patrons are allowed just one game in the dining room (\$15 minimum), but you can linger from wake-up to closing on the patio or in the bar. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W.* (1/03)

Sheila's Cafe & Bakery 4577 Clairemont Drive (Wilson Plaza), Clairemont, 858-270-0251. A “Glatt Kosher,” a non-dairy Orthodox Jewish restaurant and bakery with a mission. Sheila was determined to create food observant Jews could eat without worrying — from Italian to Mexican to ribs to fried chicken to lactose-free cheese-cakes — and that everybody else wouldn't know was different. The result: a menu stretching from chicken soup with matzoh balls to standards like hamburgers and even Sunday prime rib dinners. You don't need a *yarmulke* to feel comfortable here, but it's comforting to know everything down to the least lettuce leaf has received extra-careful preparation. You'll find Sheila's breads and pastries at supermarkets all around town. Lunch and dinner Monday through Thursday, lunch Friday, dinner Sunday (closed Saturday, of course). Moderate to slightly expensive. — *E.B.* (11/01)

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or

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Entrée Course:

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Maine lobster tail and petite filet mignon, tarragon butter, béarnaise sauce.

Dover Sole

Stuffed with Maryland jumbo lump crab meat, served with saffron risotto.

Muscovy Duck

Green peppercorn sauce with sautéed apples and wild rice.

Filet of Beef (Certified Black Angus)

Morel mushroom demi-glace, garlic whipped potatoes.

New Zealand Rack of Lamb

Stilton potato gratin, oven-roasted tomatoes and rosemary demi-glace.

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THE BEACHES

Alfiere Sheraton Harbor Island, West Tower, 1590 Harbor Island Drive, Harbor Island, 619-692-2778. Sophisticated, deluxe Italian/Mediterranean cuisine takes center stage in a handsome, view-endowed dining room decorated in a “Venetian Carnival” theme. In a menu that follows the seasons, San Francisco-born Chef Antonio Friscia proves he's capable of brilliance. His thin-skinned ravioli stuffed with marinated braised short ribs shouldn't be missed, and his goose foie gras on *ciabatta crostini* is divinely playful. Traditional dishes take on new life, too: The house “antipasta” (of marinated vegetables and top-quality Italian deli meats) is everything you'd hope for, while house-made pesto gnocchi float off the plate. Some dishes are invariably less successful, but boredom will not be a problem — this is nothing like “hotel food.” The Italian/Californian wine list emphasizes lesser-known Italian reds. Daily, three meals. Upper moderate to expensive. — *N.W.* (5/02)

Baleen Paradise Point Resort, 1404 Vacation Road (off Ingraham Street), Mission Bay, 858-490-6363. Take a quick trip to chic Miami at the local branch of Florida's famed new resort restaurant. Whimsical tropical decor features a monkey motif (carved in the chandeliers, peeking from the paintings) and mambos play on the speakers. But the unlisted prices for chilled shellfish may make a monkey of you unless you ask before you buy. The menu features high-quality seafood and land creatures in refined renditions, including gorgeous lobster bisque, salmon with a clever hummus crust, herbed sea bass, and a hunk of free-range veal. Servers are charmers. The wine list is long and rather steep at the bottom end with better values farther up the range. Reservations recommended. Very expensive. — *N.W.* (12/00)

Cucina Fresca 1851 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-224-9470. OK, it's a cliché, but “bring your appetite,” really



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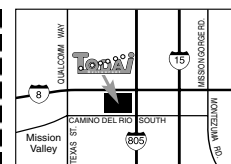
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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

applies here. We're talking northern Italian food, with southern Italian generosity. The family-run place has been open since 1990, but it feels more like 1890. Italian flags and murals, varnished wood, banknote collections, terra cotta floor tile, and very traditional dishes. All the usual suspects are here, like chicken Parmigiana, chicken marsala, veal florentine. But who cares? It's their old-fashioned size you'll love. Order, say, the "sausage and peppers" pasta. You'll be half-full from the delicious minestrone soup they toss in first. Then your pasta arrives — woah! A Sargasso Sea of linguini capped by large quantities of sliced, herby Italian sausage. But hey, this is OB. What's your hurry? Attack this thing slowly, man, one whip-lashing linguini at a time. Lunch, dinner. Moderate. — E.B. (2/03)

Humphrey's by the Bay 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island, 619-224-3577. Most diners at this resort/concert venue restaurant eat at the prix-fixe pre-show dinners because they guarantee good seats for the concerts at the next-door ampitheatre. They're missing the best food, which emerges once the music-mavens leave the premises. The kitchen features top-quality seafood, juicy meats, and prime steaks with lively, seasonal veggie garnishes. Reserve for show-nights or to snare a window table with a gorgeous marina view. Open daily breakfast through dinner; brunch buffet weekends. Reservations strongly advised. Pre-show prix fixe moderate, à la carte

high-moderate to expensive. — N.W. (11/01)

Kono's 704 Garnet Avenue (on the boardwalk), Pacific Beach, 858-483-1669. This inside-outside café is your prototypical California surfer hangout. It's cream and green with maroon canvas window canopies, red-painted make-believe shutters, and three surfboards sprouting through the roof. On weekends, lines of tourists come looking for their California fix. But Kono's is known among locals, too, for generous breakfasts. Check out their PBS: Pancakes, Bacon and Scrambled eggs. Or the breakfast sandwich with eggs, bacon, cheese, and tomato on a toasted English muffin. Or the CB Burger (chicken breast, green chili, and pica sauce). Best time: foggy mornings. Chow down on their patio on the pier while you enjoy a birds-eye view of surfers appearing out of the mists below. Breakfast and lunch daily. Inexpensive. — E.B. (10/00)

Mardi Gras Cafe 3185 Midway Drive (near Rosecrans and East Street, in mini-mall with a 7-11, across the street from Godfather Pizza), Loma Portal, 619-223-5501. The Creole cooking at this café/grocery, to eat in, take out, or have catered for your next party, is sound and tasty, if deliberately underseasoned (just add salt and hot sauce to taste). You can also buy the real and rare ingredients from the freezer, deli case, and grocery shelves, including Cajun *tasso* (spiced ham), *boudin blanc* (rice sausage) and crawfish sausage. Daily brunch through early dinner. No alcohol, everything available for takeout. Inexpensive. — N.W. (2/01)

Qwiigs Bar & Grill 5091 Santa Monica Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-1101. That name, Qwiigs? "Queeners Who Indulge In Great

Sports" refers to a bunch of surfers who surfed a Hawaiian spot named Queen's. And they could get away with culinary murder here if they wanted to — the beach, surf, pier, horizon, and sunset are such eye-candy you tend to auto-feed your mouth. But this brass-rail and varnished-wood upstairs eatery produces interesting food, featuring seafood from seared ahi to grilled mahi mahi to a substantial sushi bar. Some of their nicest surprises are in their simple plates, like a field greens salad, scrumptious with candied walnuts and chèvre cheese; or farfalle pasta with rock shrimp, goat cheese, roasted garlic, spinach, and cream; or a cheeky smoked turkey-brie-pepperoni sandwich. Also a good deal: pungent BBQ prime rib served on the bone on Mondays (other days as a sandwich). Fresh-est aperitif? Blackberry lemonade. Lunch and dinner daily, breakfast Saturday and Sunday. Moderate. — E.B. (11/03)

Sapporo Japanese Restaurant 5049 Newport Avenue (by the pier), Ocean Beach, 619-222-6686. It's small, but Sapporo has big deals, particularly the lunch specials that usually give you a miso soup, salad, and a combo such as chicken teriyaki and California rolls and white rice — all presented like a piece of performance art. Other specials include *yaki soba* (stir-fried sautéed chicken, vegetables, and noodles) and *Champon* noodle soup (*udon* noodles, scallops, shrimp, vegetables), and the value-packed Chicken Bowl — a big plate of sliced chicken, broccoli, other vegetables, and a swag of rice. Open seven days, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B. (9/01)

CENTRAL

SAN DIEGO

Huffman's Bar-B-Que 5039 Imperial Avenue (at Euclid Avenue), Chollas View, 619-264-3115. This café has a huge multigenerational following, some famous — check out their wall photos, in which Jesse Jackson and Muhammad Ali are just two — and some not so famous. The big draw is Huffman's fabulous Southern soul food. Try their gravy-smothered fried chicken served with collard greens, yellow peppers, red beans, rice, and white mopping-up bread, or their Louisiana Creole gumbo, thick with crab, shrimp, links, ham, and chicken. Other fine eats include the catfish sandwich and half-pound rib tips. Open daily, lunch and dinner, to 11 p.m. weekdays, 3 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/00)

Lao & Chinese Cuisine 4212 National Avenue, Logan Heights, 619-263-0914. This restaurant is a simple place, large and spare around Formica tables, that serves uncomplicated, home-style Lao cuisine. I highly recommend the *larb*, a spicy salad with poached minced beef, chicken, or pork and seasoned with lime juice, hot pepper, cilantro, onions, fresh mint, and ground toasted rice. This dish is earthy and wild, spectacular. Other tasty dishes include papaya pog-pog salad (papaya, chilis, and tomato), *tom yum* soup, and *pho* and *pad si-ew* noodle dishes. Inexpensive. — M.N. (2/99)

Nate's Deli 3120 Euclid Avenue, City Heights, 619-284-0206. This deli-café is in City Farmers' Nursery, the one with sheep, geese, Clyde the horse and a mini forest in the middle of town. The late Nate was the father of owner Bill Tall, and this deli was his dream. (Nate died just before opening.) Try appetizers like smoked salmon, or "Kishka," a spicy wrapped filling, hot with brown gravy, or the grilled chicken fillet salad. But really, sandwiches are "it" here, and huge, and you can choose your cheeses, breads, and condiments as the sandwich-making proceeds. Go for, say, beef bologna, pastrami, liverwurst, salami, or vegetarian, then take it out to the eatin' deck, and check out the

wild life. Town's a block and a world away. Breakfast to early dinner six days; closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.B. (9/03)

South Park Bar and Grill 1946 Fern Street, South Park/Golden Hill, 619-696-0096. A genuine American bistro, this loud, lively, very local watering hole started out serving savory comfort-food to an appreciative neighborhood patronage; now the whole city's flocking in. Chef Eric Wilburn learned his chops at Bradley Ogden's Lark Creek Inn; if he cooks "mom food," it's more than a cut above mom's. Appetizer/bar menu is mainly ordinary pub-grub (the fine crabcakes or red pepper hummus stand out from the pack); entrées get interesting, including indulgent "Stuffed Shrimp and Scallops Florentine," a juicy rib-eye steak, and a light-textured meat loaf with rather sweet BBQ sauce. Nightly specials are always worth a try. Considerate service, right down to the busses. Full bar, including international wines at easy prices. Park at edge of Gala lot. Dinner Tuesday through Saturday, bar menu weekends until midnight. Reservations only for parties of five or more, so expect a wait most nights. Upper moderate to expensive. — N.W. (7/03)

EAST COUNTY & STATE COLLEGE

Barnes Bar-B-Que 2625 Lemon Grove Avenue (at Cypress, tucked in the back of Liquor Mart Square), Lemon Grove, 619-462-9206. The sign on the window reads: "Soul Food: 99 cents"; inside is the homey solace of good cheer and excellent Memphis-style barbecue. Pork gets star billing: in a sandwich, it appears as tender chunks laced with smoke; on ribs, as luscious, multitextured strips slathered with sauce that balances sweet smoke, citrus tang and a mild, persistent spice. BBQ beans are a revelation, creamy yet substantial, swimming alongside rich bits of pork in a sauce that delivers a sweet molasses bite. Macaroni and

cheese is gooey and gummable, a mild counter to the murky, sour/salty greens. On Fridays, you can get Southern-fried catfish or red snapper, plus hush puppies. Inexpensive. — A.M. (2/01)

Cafe Zia 6686 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area, 619-337-3937. South Asia meets Mexico! Khaled Zia had the brilliant idea of combining tacos (or wraps or bagels) with chicken and South Asia's great gift to the world: chutney — mango chutney, papaya chutney, peach, apple, even a serrano chili pepper chutney. The combo works with them all. As soon as you smell the chicken strips hissing away on the grills, you're hooked. Then when they come smothered in peach or mango chutney, or cooling yogurt, along with sweet-sauced potatoes, what can you do? Do as half of San Diego State does: just say yes. Open daily. Inexpensive. — E.B. (12/01)

Charley's Famous Hamburgers and Kebobs 8312 Broadway (at Sweetwater Road), Lemon Grove, 619-460-2690. When you spot an old red-and-white gas station that looks like a café, don't hesitate. That's Charley's. The palm and ficus trees have replaced the gas pumps and a fountain now gurgles where the air hoses used to be. The menu is a long list of hamburgers, as well as hot dogs, sandwiches, and kebobs. Charley's sweet dough beef-and-onion sandwich is scrumptious. Mostly take-out, but you can dine out at their picnic tables under bougainvillea. Open daily, three meals. — E.B. (12/01)

D.Z. Akin's 6930 Alvarado Road, Alvarado Plaza, College Area, 619-265-0218. Surely the best Jewish delicatessen in San Diego. Soups are wonderful, and so are the 110 sandwiches, especially the corned beef. The *knishes* and chopped liver easily rival Mother's. Excellent breakfasts and outstanding, fully stocked bakery. Open daily, breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.W.

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immigrant community, in a strip-mall just south of Ross and Big Lots, you'll find an array of savory Eastern European dishes. They're nowhere as heavy as Nonna's — here they're done with the lightness of the Russian-French chef tradition, applied to specialties from Russia, Poland, and the Ukraine. Following classic Russian custom, there's a splendid choice of small, savory, and substantial salads (try the sensual Stolichny chicken-potato salad) and delightful appetizers, including airy crêpes with juicy (and affordable) red or black caviar. The outstanding main course is lamb shish kebab featuring tender marinated ribs cut from a rack. But don't look for borscht; it's not on the menu. Entrées come with a choice of starches; trust me, you want fries with that. Open daily, lunch and dinner (early dinner Sundays). Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W. (7/03)*

Rodeo Bar and Grill 10109 Maine Avenue, Lakeside, 619-390-7996. Agnes and Ildikor are the two blue-eyed Hungarian-born sisters who run this only-in-Lakeside institution. It's a low,

red, grapevine-covered onetime produce barn near the rodeo grounds. A dirt parking lot hides under the trees, and an old freezer door is the main entrance to the restaurant, which has decor straight out of Dodge City. The menu has two sides: the A-side features big steaks, while the B-side offers bargain-priced sandwiches like grilled barbecued beef or the Ponyburger, a flame-broiled quarter-pounder with steak fries, barbecue beans, and fixin's. On Thursday nights, the sisters' mom cooks one of her special Hungarian dishes, depending on what the customers have asked for — so get on down there and vote! Open until 1 a.m. (with karaoke) on weekends. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B. (10/00)*

FAR EAST

Kountry Kitchen 826 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-3200. Thank goodness the Kountry Kitchen's still around.

They still open at 5 a.m. for the farmers and anyone else who's up then. They still make their own sausages, and grind their own burger meat, too. The Italian Sausage Breakfast is truly delicious: a fat pale-brown sausage with a rich, sharp, livery flavor, along with eggs and hash browns. Up there, too, is the Cowpoke Country Special, a buttermilk short stack with eggs and sausages or bacon. Open daily, breakfast through early dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (5/02)*

La Casa Del Zorro Borrego Springs Drive (Rte. 73) (five miles south of Palm Canyon Drive at Yaqui Pass Road), Borrego Springs, 760-767-5523. La Casa Del Zorro is Borrego Springs' most renowned and ambitious restaurant, set in a deluxe resort five miles south of town. (Drive through the parking lots until you reach the fenced swimming pool; the restaurant's small, dimly marked door is just to the left.) The California Cuisine menu offers elaborate seafood appetizers (out here in the desert) and entrées with fine, subtle sauces, fresh veggies from nearer

the coast, and rather mild-flavored, exquisitely tender meats, evidently chosen to be gentle to the dentures of the duffers. Desserts are few and very sweet. Full bar; great (but pricey) wine list. Collared shirts and jackets required on men (they'll lend you a jacket if needed), dressy-casual wear on women. Open daily, continuously (in theory) from breakfast through dinner. Reserve for weekend evenings. Very expensive. — *N.W. (4/03)*

The Olde Homestead Fudge Factory The Center, 590 Palm Canyon Drive (north side of the street), Borrego Springs, 760-767-7782. The Fudge Factory's greatest dish is not what it's named for, and some of its pick hits aren't fudge, either. Of the 24 flavors of housemade fudge, barely a half dozen are available on any given day. The chocolate walnut is especially delicious, but the real masterpiece is the "date shake" — a cold quaff that's ambrosial on a hot afternoon. Then, too, a former pastry chef of the famed La Casa Del Zorro provides trays and trays of delicate pastries, and this is one

of the few spots in town with an espresso machine. Open 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — *N.W. (4/03)*

UPTOWN & OLD TOWN

Berta's Latin American Restaurant 3928 Twiggs Street (at Congress, diagonal to Rockin' Baja Lobster), Old Town, 619-295-2343. Sampling the whole range of little-known cuisines from Guatemala down to Patagonia, Berta's lengthy menu reads like a culinary "pick hits" list of each country's best flavors, typically rendered with expertise and verve. Some outstanding dishes include sweet-savory Chilean *pastel de choclo* (a casserole of beef, chicken, and corn pudding) from Berta's homeland, spicy ceviche and subtle *seco de cordero* (citrus-flavored lamb stew) from Peru, earthy Guatemalan *chilemal* (cilantro-

laden pork stew), aromatic beef curry from Trinidad, and a sensuous *vatapa* (seafood in coconut sauce) from Brazil's African-influenced Bahia coast. Vegetarians will find many meat-and-fowl-free options. Lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *N.W. (4/01)*

Brians' American Eatery 1451 Washington Street (near Lincoln Avenue), Hillcrest, 619-296-8268. Note the apostrophe: Not one but two Brians recently took over what had been Topsy's, a venerable coffeehouse/eatery for 40 years. They've done a good job of cleaning it up without gutting the fifties road-house character. It's open all night on weekends, and late night is quite a scene. But for a lot of people, breakfast is the thing. The Brians' 8-ounce charbroiled top sirloin steak with eggs and country potatoes is a great Saturday morning treat. Or the "Hey Ricky!!!" omelet with chorizo, avocado, green chilies, onions, and cheeses. Or ask for their off-menu breakfast special — it's always cheaper. Another good thing: You get a pitcher of iced lemon-water, and coffee comes

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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

by the Thermos-full. Three meals until 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; open 24 hours from early Friday morning until Sunday evening. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (10/02)*

Cable Car Cafe 1945 Adams Avenue, University Heights, 619-291-8607. A lot of San Diego history is tied to this place. For starters, a real Frisco-style cable car used to terminate near here from downtown. So did later electric trolleys at Trolley Barn Park across the road. Harvey Bentley's ostrich farm was here too — which explains the mural of ostrich characters inside. They say the first Cable Car Café opened on this spot in the 1920s. Today it's a happy little red-and-white corner joint offering honest American fare. Breakfast includes two eggs any style with potatoes and toast, or "make-your-own" three-egg omelets. Walk by late morning and your nose will lead you in — the owners roast their own beef with fresh garlic every day. One great result: the Cable Car cheese steak (sliced beef, grilled onions, and cheese on a hoagie roll). Or try the BBQ pork sandwich (with coleslaw, potato, or pasta salad). Open daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (6/02)*

Cafe Caspian Persian Eatery & Tearoom 4646 Park Boulevard (at Adams Avenue), University Heights, 619-298-2801. It's colorful, small, and intimate. This two-room café pulsates with multicolored cloths, midnight blue cushions, Aladdin-shaped pitchers and samovars. What you're eating is basically Persian health food — most Persian fare is healthy food anyway. Try the pomegranate soup, made of spinach with lentils, beans, wheat, and pomegranate juice, or the strawberry *tabouli* salad. Lamb is often a part of dishes. *Ghormeh sabzi* is a lamb stew. *Koufteh-Berenji* is a ball of basmati rice with lamb, eggs, onions, and plums. And don't forget tea. They have everything from Darjeeling and Caspian to Lapacho Bark, Black Peach, and, if you really need a boost, Temple of Heaven Gunpowder. Breakfast through earlyish dinner Tuesday to Saturday; breakfast and lunch only, Sundays. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (10/02)*

Crest Cafe 425 Robinson Avenue (at Fifth Avenue), Hillcrest, 619-295-2510. "Hearty Homemade Comfort Food" is the boast, and this small retro-deco café backs it up. Cecelia and her dad, Luis Moreno, took over this place back in

1985. Some staff have been here since the start. Loyal customers get their photos and names on an honor roll that fills one wall. Lots of lazy ceiling fans, long, hanging blue lights, and art. "Matisse in Morocco," Salvador Dali, Frida Kahlo. Consider momsy dishes like Sloppy Joes, honey-glazed pork chops, or the healthy Vegetable Steam Basket. And don't turn down their 11 different kinds of burgers, including the Fresh Salmon Burger, the OuiOui Burger ("aged bleu cheese crumbled under melted jack cheese") or the wicked, spicy Butter Burger (half a pound of lean ground beef stuffed with garlic, tarragon, basil, parsley butter, topped with cheese, garlic-paprika-cayenne-cumin mayo and more butter). Best of all, late hours: open 7 a.m. to midnight, seven days. Dinner at 11 is no problem. How rare is that in San Diego? Inexpensive. — *E.B. (5/02)*

Extraordinary Desserts 2929 Fifth Avenue, uptown, 619-294-7001. The desserts here do live up to the name, whether you gobble them on the spot on the patio of this charming café or buy them to take home. Owner Karen Krasne's pastries are created with strict French techniques with flavors inspired by the global reach of her travels, from the rice fields of Bali to the *souks* of Morocco. The white cakes are true food for angels — ethereal and not excessively sweet, vibrant with flavors of fresh ripe fruits — and some of the chocolate cakes (e.g., the "Caribe") follow suit, while others are rich and dense. Not your piece of cake? There are also tarts, cookies, chocolates, ice cream dishes, puddings, breakfast pastries, and fine teas and coffees, along with Krasne's own lines of honeys, jams, chutneys, syrups, and popcorn — plus a truly lovely assortment of international craft objects. Open for weekday breakfast, weekend brunch until late, closing at 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and at midnight on weekends. — *N.W. (5/02)*

Kazumi Sushi 3975 Fifth Avenue (at Washington Street), Suite 120, Hillcrest, 619-682-4054. A simple neighborhood sushi bar offering imaginative rolls, each one so distinctively seasoned that there's no need to mar the pretty fish-scapes with wasabi dip. The fish is super-fresh and includes salmon that Kazumi-san cold-smokes himself. For a family-style dinner, "The Ultimate Boat" (serving two or more) is an encyclopedia of Japanese specialties, a huge platter of sushi, *gyoza*, assorted appetizers, yakitori, teriyaki, and terrific tempura. Need comfort food? The tempura also graces the top of a satisfying bowl of *nabeyaki udon* (noodle

What the Chef Eats

CIDER-PORT BRAISED PORK SHANKS

BY CARLTON GREENAWALT

Executive Chef, 150 Grand, Escondido

When this dish arrives on the table people are shocked — "Oh, my God, this is gigantic." It looks huge and you think you can't get through it, but it's the bone that is really big. People love it. The first night we served it at the restaurant we sold out. Everybody I talked to loved it, and most finished the whole thing.

This is a recipe that is fun to do at home if you can find the pork shanks. You will not find this cut of meat in your normal grocery store. You can probably get them at a butcher shop. You might have better luck at a Mexican market. It's called *chamorro*. If you can't locate them, the recipe can

be adapted. You could use loin chops or tenderloin or picnic shoulder.

Juniper berries are difficult to find. They can be ordered online (*Penzeys.com*) or found at some higher-end grocery stores. If you can't find them, they can be left out. They're not absolutely essential for the dish.

Regarding crab apples, there are lots of little specialty apples available. You can probably find them at Whole Foods or Major Market. If you can't find crab apples, any good baking apple will do, like a Fuji or a Lady Fuji.

This is what the chef likes to eat, and I like this dish prepared using veal

stock. Chicken stock, *not* beef, can be substituted.

As a beverage, to match the apple flavor I would suggest a nice, full-bodied Merlot or a Cabernet. Something strong enough that can stand up to it.

HOW TO DO IT

Pork shanks: Heat oven to 350 degrees. Trim excess fat from pork shanks.

Season well with black pepper and kosher salt.

Heat oil in a large (12-quart) stockpot until smoking. Sear pork shanks in oil until well browned.

Remove shanks from pot. Reserve. Add onion,

carrot, celery, and garlic cloves to the pot. Cook about five minutes or until



light brown. Deglaze with port wine. Return pork shanks to pot. Add bay leaf, thyme, juniper berries, allspice berries, veal stock, and apple cider. Bring to a simmer. Cover with aluminum foil. Place in oven for one and a half to two hours. Remove shanks. Strain remaining liquid. Remove excess fat. Return shanks to the pot. Bring to a simmer. Reduce to sauce consistency.

Grits: Bring vegetable stock to a boil. Whisk in grits. Cook until soft and all liquid is absorbed,

soup) with an onion-sweet broth. With just a small staff of family members in the kitchen and house, expect a wait for food at busy times. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W. (10/00)*

The Mission North Park and City Bakery 2801-2805 University Avenue, North Park, 619-220-8992. The two winners are breakfasts and the adjoining bakery, especially for its Russian pecan bread and cinnamon rolls. Lunch and dinner offer California food

with Asian and Latino influences. Lots of items under \$10. Open daily, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.W. (7/98)*

The Parkhouse Eatery 4574 Park Boulevard, University Heights, 619-295-7275. A small house provides a charming setting for dining. The eclectic menu is prepared with average competence. You can make a meal from the list of appetizers. Open weekdays three meals, weekends for brunch

and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.W. (10/99)*

Picasso Spanish Restaurant 3923 Fourth Avenue (near University Avenue), Hillcrest, 619-294-3061. Interesting Spanish tapas and entrées are served in a small, modern, art-filled room that draws a casual neighborhood crowd. The regional style is Basque, from Northern Spain, but these aren't the tiny *pinxos* of that area — in fact, these bites are larger than usual, sized generously for two

eaters. Some top tapas include chicken-stuffed *empanadillas*, baby eels in garlic sauce, stuffed greenlip mussels, and an outstanding paella (available as both a tapa and entrée). A bargain-price bottomless pitcher of the house's workmanly sangria (made with Livingston Cellars Burgundy) is the patrons' favorite beverage. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner nightly. Moderate. — *N.W. (6/01)*

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What the Chef Eats

whisking constantly. Stir in rosemary, cheese, and butter. Season to taste.

Crab apples: Remove cores from crab apples. Cut into quarters. Toss apples in melted butter, black pepper, and kosher salt. Place in 350-degree oven. Roast until soft, about 20 minutes.

Swiss chard: Remove stems from leaves of Swiss chard. Tear into small pieces, about two inches across. Heat oil in pan until smoking. Add chard, shallots, and garlic. Stir until wilted. Add white

wine. Season to taste. Cook until tender.

Presentation: In a large serving bowl, place grits in the bottom. Place cooked chard on top of grits. Gently place pork shank on top of grits and chard. Tuck crab apple pieces around pork. Ladle sauce around.

INGREDIENTS

Pork Shanks:
4 pork shanks
Black pepper, to taste
Kosher salt, to taste
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 yellow onion, diced

1 peeled carrot, diced
2 celery sticks, diced
1/3 cup garlic cloves, peeled
1/2 cup ruby port wine
1 bay leaf
1 sprig thyme
1 tablespoon juniper berries
(omit if unavailable)
1 tablespoon allspice berries
4 cups good-quality veal stock
(or chicken stock)
4 cups apple cider

grated
1 tablespoon butter
Black pepper, to taste
Kosher salt, to taste

Crab apples:
4 crab apples
1 tablespoon melted butter
Black pepper, to taste
Kosher salt, to taste

Swiss chard:
1 bunch Swiss chard
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 tablespoon shallots, chopped
1 tablespoon garlic, chopped
1/4 cup dry white wine
Black pepper, to taste
Kosher salt, to taste

619-294-2800. For vegetarians on the go, Whole Foods’ prepared food section will feed you better — and faster — than any vegetarian restaurant in town. Outstanding selections include green chili and cheese polenta; Emerald Mushrooms salad or Rapid Dragon greens, both with a sweet surprise of raspberry jam; and, especially, their *farofa* salad, like American stuffing, but it’s couscous studded with almonds, fat raisins, thin strips of scrambled egg, and bits of carrot and bell pepper. Whole Foods’ vegetarian meals will tempt any meat-eater with their delicious originality. La Jolla branch at 8825 Villa La Jolla Drive,

619-642-6700. Inexpensive to moderate. — *M.N. (4/99)*

DOWNTOWN

Acqua Al 2 322 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-230-0382. Despite its monicker, this isn’t a seafood trattoria, but a near-fishless branch of a restaurant in Florence that won success by eschewing the standard Florentine menu while maintaining Tuscan purity of style. Chef-owner Martin Gonzales trained there and serves as charming host of the local outpost. Best bets are the vegetarian pasta and rice dishes

made with aromatic porcini mushrooms. The tasting of five pastas may sound tempting, but they’re chef’s choice — and he tends to choose the dull ones. “Tastings” of salads, cheeses, and desserts are also offered. Mains are mainly rather plain. Moderate (pasta) to expensive. — *N.W. (11/00)*

The Blarney Stone 510 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-233-8519. This handsome establishment, made of dark wood from the Emerald Isle, includes a large, good-looking separate dining room that opens when the dining public forms a critical mass, or around 8 p.m. Like most local Irish pubs, the menu is mainly American and gringo-Mex snack foods, including an “Irish

quesadilla” (corned beef and cheese on a flour tortilla). The three wannabe Celtic dishes are an indifferent corned beef and cabbage, “steak Kildare” (a tough, mushroom-smothered rib eye), and “fish and chips Liffey,” which aren’t noticeably different from, say, fish and chips “Thames” or “Afton” or even “Missouri.” Open daily. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W. (4/01)*

Buster’s Beach House and Longboard Bar 807 West Harbor Drive, East Plaza, Seaport Village, 619-233-4300. There really is a Buster, a surfer who traveled the world working in restaurants. Baja, Oahu, Fiji, Naples, Ocho Rios, Phuket — you name it, there’s a dish from each of

those waters, and every one of them ethnically incorrect. The menu’s actually an international anthology of surfer-bar grub — and like Waimea Bay’s waves, it has huge ups and downs. Skip the greasy “Short Board” pupu platter and risky daily fish special and go for the well-seasoned crab cakes, shark tacos, spicy “paella” (more like jambalaya), or pizza. The surfy, fun decor and breezy patio easily compensate for some of the spiciest service in town; a full bar offers a great beer list and decent umbrella drinks. To snag a patio table, reserve it and make sure they write it down. Three hours validated parking, kid-friendly, plenty for vegetarians. Open three meals daily. Prices cover the waterfront. — *N.W. (7/03)*

Croce’s Restaurant and Jazz Bar 802 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-233-4355. If you enjoy premises with doors open to the street and nightly jazz in the adjoining room, try Croce’s. The chef prepares excellent appetizers, pastas, salads, and entrées. Menus change seasonally. Outdoor as well as indoor seating. Nightly jazz. Dinner only. Moderate to expensive. — *E.W.*

Dakota Grill and Spirits 901 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-234-5554. First sign that you’ve arrived in chipotle/chile country: the toddler-sized cowboy boot on your table that serves as vase to a faux agave plant. This kind of cooking runs the risk of losing its focus in a multitude of ingredients, something Dakota does a decent job of avoiding. When everything works, it plays like comfort food with a kick. The seafood ravioli — spinach pasta stuffed with a blend of salmon, halibut, and swordfish planted atop wilted greens and topped with pickled jalapeno relish — melds into a pleasant whole. The blue cornmeal-crusted chicken salad, similarly well-conceived, is gussied up with crispy potato strings, tortilla rajas, and dried apricots that sweetly counter the blue cheese in the dressing. The apricot-whole grain mustard glaze on the pork prime rib makes sense, as do the giant, multiple-straw margaritas. Meat — sizable quantities of it — is usually well-prepared; sides may feel

cursorry. Moderate to expensive. — *A.M. (5/01)*

Deco’s 731 Fifth Avenue (between G and F), Gaslamp, 619-696-DECO. When the disco is not in session here, there’s surprisingly fine food in this vast, multiroom glamorama, stunningly done up like a Fred-and-Ginger 1930s ballroom. The eats are in a lightly adventurous California-Asian-Mediterranean mode featuring quality seafood handled with care and creativity; don’t miss the ethereal bread pudding for dessert. (The requisite sushi “party rolls” are merely okay.) Service is hip, smart, and kind. Best dining nights: disco-less Tuesday and Wednesday. Call ahead if you want to book an off-menu meal. No cover charge on disco nights for patrons who order dinner before 9 p.m.; no sneaks, shorts, or Ts if you’re clubbing. Serious wine list runs high; full bar. Happy hour Friday; dinner 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Very expensive, but somewhat affordable if you graze on appetizers. — *N.W. (7/03)*

The Field Irish Pub and Restaurant 544 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-232-9840. This spirited, colorful saloon, physically transported wholehog from the Ould Sod, offers delicious Irish music live most nights, and also attempts serious Irish cooking — with some successes. Try the lovely herb-rich Irish stew, or the boxty, potato crêpes rolled around your choice from a variety of fillings (salmon, beef, etc.). Or start the day here with a huge, carnivorous Irish breakfast. Open daily. Low moderate. — *N.W. (4/01)*

Harbor House 831 W. Harbor Drive, Seaport Village, 619-232-1141. The two-level building and the view of the harbor are major attractions. Fish and seafood predominate, but chicken, pasta, and steak are also available. The dining room seats 250, so don’t expect intimacy. Preparations are wholesome, but not original. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Moderate to expensive. — *E.W.*

Indigo Grill 1536 India Street, Little Italy, 619-234-6802. This second — and much grander — incarnation of Chef Deborah Scott’s Indigo Grill ex-

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San Diego Reader/December 24, 2003 125

pands her original Native American motif, with its focus on root vegetables, game, and roasted spices. Now, the Pacific Coastal cuisine takes in more coast than most, drawing upon ingredients and techniques from Alaska to Oaxaca. (The decor, dark and urban-primitive, follows the theme.) Unexpected combinations are a mainstay; a single dish, such as the seafood *mixto*, may span the entire distance, bringing together a multitude of flavors that work together to create a wondrous whole. Fine breads are made in-house, as are desserts (try the decadent, crispy-creamy plantain cheesecake *flautas*). The wine list includes interesting varietals like Mourvedre and Viognier. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly; closes early Sundays, but open until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Lunch: inexpensive to moderate; dinner: moderate to expensive. — *A.M.* (11/02)

Lou and Mickey's 224 Fifth Avenue (between K and L), Gaslamp, 619-237-4900. The onetime ornate Royale Brasserie across from the Convention Center finally had to bow to conventional tastes and simplify into a fifties-style steak-and-seafood house. Kings Seafood is still the owner, so the fish quality remains fine. The fare is simple, with minimal sauce or garnish; vegetables cost extra, coming in large portions but merely adequate preparations. Best dishes include “BBQ Shrimp, Manales’ Style,” a buttery, spicy New Orleans extravaganza (available as starter or entrée), and the huge,

juicy rib-eye “Cowboy Steak.” Valet parking at door. Wraparound heated dining patio. Noisy in dining room near bar; request “Nude Room” for quiet. For interesting wines at good prices, look into “Adventures” sections of the list. Dinner nightly, weekends until 11 p.m. Fish moderate, meats expensive. — *N.W.* (7/03)

Pokez Mexican Restaurant and Vegetarian Cuisine 947 E Street (at 10th Avenue), downtown, 619-702-7160. Rafael — his buddies call him Rafa — started this cool student/artist hangout years ago when he was 18. Lunchtime business people come here. Evenings, seems like it’s all Rafa’s friends: people from downtown, Golden Hill, City College. The food is mostly Mexican vegetarian (though he’s got meaty things like chicken or steak ranchero or sautéed chicken fajitas). Tip well: the servers volunteer and share the take from the gravy pot. Three meals weekdays; closes earlier on weekends. — *E.B.* (12/01)

Rice Hotel W, 421 B Street (at State), downtown, 619-398-3082. The W’s several amusing bars and lounges serve as a weekend amusement park for a spiffy singles crowd. Rice is there to feed them on Fusion-lite nibbles created by corporate chefs far away, emphasizing appetizers and desserts over entrées, as you’d expect. Cool, witty decor and a loud, nonstop pop soundtrack drive home the point: This is a scene. Reservations usually necessary for lunch or dinner. Pricey valet parking, but easy street parking weeknights. Three meals daily to 10:45 p.m. Upper moderate to very expensive. — *N.W.* (7/03)

Sadaf 828 Fifth Avenue (at E Street), Gaslamp, 619-338-0008. Vegetarian-friendly. Quiet and relaxed weeknights,

the room becomes an ear-splitting mob scene weekends (even before the restaurant goes disco at 9:30). The hearty but sophisticated Persian fare centers on well-marinated kebabs and herb-rich stews, served with various savory rice dishes. There’s excellent spinach *borani*, sieved yogurt relish with cucumbers, lamb chop kebabs, and a vibrant, sweet-sour *fesenjan* (pomegranate-walnut sauce with chicken). But the Gaslamp branch’s kitchen is wildly inconsistent, e.g., your *fesenjan* dumped on dry kebabs instead of mingling with simmered poultry. Desserts are always dreamy — try rosewater ice cream and/or pudding, or *bamieh*, a delicate ladyfinger soaked in (what else?) rosewater syrup. Moderate. — *N.W.* (12/00)

Shiraz 837 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-238-0203. Owned by the admirable Persian restaurant Bandar a couple of doors down, this restaurant offers nothing exotic — just steaks, chops, seafood, and roast chicken. Go for the steak — it’s USDA Prime, juicy and flavorful and reasonably priced. Creamy mashed potatoes and veggies come at no extra charge. Fish quality isn’t great; lobster tails (frozen from Australia) are safer. The nightly soup is where the Persian chef shines; don’t let the clueless waiter’s shrug dissuade you. An appetizer of creamed mushrooms makes a tasty side for meat, better than the “official” sauces. Other starters are mainly steakhouse standards, with airy fried calamari worth a try. California supermarket wines at ruthless markups; steep, skimpy beer list. Dinner nightly from 5 to 11 p.m. Moderate to expensive. — *N.W.* (7/03)

Vincenzo Ristorante Italiano 1702 India Street, Little Italy, 619-702-6181. The specialty at this

tourist favorite is Sicilian seafood. The cooking is competent, but the restaurant’s fishmonger settles for ordinary quality (as does the produce provider). The meat jobber does a better job, providing succulent lamb and veal that the chef grills expertly, and the Italian sausages (from Pete’s Meats, up the block) are the ziestiest in town. The restaurant’s hard-surfaced interior is so noisy you’ll hear every conversation but your own; reserve for the sidewalk patio for a quieter evening. Open lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Moderate. — *N.W.* (8/01)

SOUTH BAY & CORONADO

Azzura Point Loews Coronado Bay Resort, 4000 Coronado Bay Road (Silver Strand Boulevard), Coronado, 619-424-4477. The quietly luxurious dining room with a serene bayfront view is romantic and a bit dressy, but far from stuffy. It’s not just for tourists, but a lovely evening’s getaway for locals. The California-French cuisine emphasizes seasonal ingredients in slightly unexpected combinations, with especial ingenuity in the appetizers. Along with the six-course “chef’s menu,” there’s a reasonably priced five-course vegetarian menu showcasing fresh herbs grown in the resort’s garden. A good wine list at reasonable markups is strong on half-bottles. Free valet parking at the porte cochere of the main lobby. Dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Very expensive. — *N.W.* (11/01)

Bistro D’Asia 1301 Orange Avenue (at B Avenue), Coronado, 619-437-6677. The relaxing restaurant

attached to the hardy perennial “Lizard Lounge” serves gentled-down dishes from all over East Asia. Among the tastiest are delicate lemon shrimps, vegetarian “monk’s curry,” and ice creams from Mootown Creamery. Reserve for weekend dinners. Lunch/dinner daily. Moderate. — *N.W.* (12/01)

Bob’s on the Bay 570 Marina Parkway, Chula Vista Harbor, 619-476-0400. Big, breezy Bob’s, with its beautiful Bay view, seems to be the unofficial community center of Chula Vista. It’s a rambling building overlooking the Yacht Harbor where all sorts of folks pop in for a night off or a fun lunch. The food is serviceable American cuisine centered on steaks and seafood, but on Fridays and Saturdays the scene turns into a pretend-luau complete with Hawaiian band, hula dancers, a party atmosphere, and a few vaguely Polynesian dishes amid the standard mid-American buffet items. Full bar. Reservations advisable for luau nights and Sunday champagne brunch. Casual, family-friendly to the max. Breakfast and lunch buffets inexpensive; Sunday and dinner buffets moderate; à la carte expensive. — *N.W.* (7/03)

Cafe 1134 1134 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-437-1134. Rick Chapman has created a French café atmosphere with round Parisian tables and slat chairs outside and a balcony inside. Here Coronado’s arty types mix with admirals, CEOs, and SEALs. Big fat cups of tea are a favored drink. Breakfasts are mostly steamed eggs plus extras, such as the Americana with two steamed eggs, Swiss cheese and ham, a side of fruit and sliced baguette. Lunches are sandwiches (like curried tuna or brie con pesto) or salads (try the chicken). Best deal: the Combo

Special, a half sandwich and soup or salad. And there’s always an art exhibition going on inside. Open daily, three meals; service until midnight on weekends. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* (11/01)

Galley at the Marina 550 Marina Parkway, Chula Vista, 619-422-5714. This is a great place to relax, take in the view and decide which yacht you’re gonna buy when you win the lotto. It’s run by Fran Muncey, widow of Bill Muncey, San Diego’s greatest speedboat-racing champion. The tasty, bargain-priced Happy Hour specials (3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday) make a visit worth the trip west of I-5: try a 1/2-pound steerburger with French fries, chicken caesar salad with sourdough toast, or a filet mignon steak plate with steak fries. Next morning, catch the breakfast favorite: biscuits and sausage gravy with eggs. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* (11/00)

Miguel’s Cocina 1351 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-437-4237. Also 2912 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island, 619-224-2401. Cached inside the courtyard of a “Spanish Colonial” mini-mall, Miguel’s breezy trellised patio draws a dense dinner crowd from the nearby Del. The prime-time wait for a table may be worth it if you’re in a gringo-Mex mood, especially if you’ve got kids in tow. Although the cooking is blandly pleasant (even the guacamole is underseasoned), it’s surprisingly painstaking. Soups are built on fine stocks, salads can be vibrant, and seafood is treated so tenderly that the numerous shellfish-stuffed tortilla concoctions (shrimp enchiladas, lobster burritos) are positively luscious. Lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *N.W.* (9/00)

Point-Point Joint 916 East Eighth Street, National City, 619-474-2866.

Restaurant Coupons and Menus

SanDiegoReader.com

Restaurants listed without coupon offers have only menus online. Restaurants with • have multiple locations. See online menu or coupon for all locations.

Pacific Beach, Mission Beach & Ocean Beach

Atoll at the Catamaran Hotel
Bahia Café **Prime rib buffet \$16.95**
Brazil by the Bay
Broken Yolk **\$2 off breakfast or lunch**
Caffe Veloce **Free gelato**
Canes' Cantina **50% off entrée**
Chateau Orleans **2 for 1 entrée**
Coaster Saloon
Costa Brava **2 for 1 lunch tapas**
French Gourmet **50% off dinner**
Great Moon Buffet
Gringo's **20% off champagne brunch**
Hanaoka **20% off sushi & hand rolls**
Lahaina Beach House **Free breakfast**
Moondoggies P.B. **50% off lunch**
Ocean Beach Grille **Free appetizer with lunch**
Pacific Beach Bar & Grill
Saska's **2 for 1 entrée**
Surfside Sushi **1/2 price appetizer**
Taylor's Restaurant & Brewery **Free entrée**

La Jolla

Aurora Trattoria **Free dinner entrée**
Beach House Brewery **Free entrée**
Brockton Villa
Cafe Milano **Free tiramisu**
Cody's **Free breakfast or lunch entrée**
French Gourmet @ Elario's
Galoka **1/2 off bottle of wine**
Ginza-Sushi **Sushi dinner for 2 \$15.95•**
India Palace•
Marrakesh **10% off lunch**
Moondoggies LJ **Free appetizer**
Shelby's **\$15 off dinner entrée**
Su Casa **Free entrée**

Clairemont, University City, Miramar Road, Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch & Tierrasanta

Ashoka the Great **50% off lunch or dinner**
China Max **10% off any entrée**
Filling Station **Free appetizer**
Green Tea House **50% off exotic tea**
Pampas Argentine Grill **Free empanada**
Pride of Italy **Italian Feast for 2 \$19.95**
Rosie & Joe's Mexican **Free chips & salsa**
Sipz Fusion Café
Thai Time II & III **Free dessert•**

Downtown

Alambres **Free soup**
Alfiere **Free entrée**
Boathouse **2 for 1 lunch or brunch**
Dancing Dog Deli **\$1 off Egg Scrambles**
Field **Free dessert**
Fifth & Hawthorn **Free dessert**
Nectar
Nutter's
Olé Madrid **2 for 1 brunch**
Rockin' Baja **\$5 off Big Bucket for 2•**
Sevilla **\$10 off salsa dinner show for 2•**
Star of India **50% off entrée•**

Uptown & North Park

Abbey Café **2 for 1 Sunday brunch buffet**
Casa Sanchez **Free appetizer**
DiMille's
Lips **50% off dinner**
Lotus Thai **Early dinner special \$9.95**
Pizza Nova **\$5 off•**
Taste of Italy **1/2 off entrée•**

Midway, Old Town & Mission Valley

Berta's **New Year's Eve dinner for 2 \$65**
Harney Sushi **20% off entire bill**
Jump Tokyo Sushi House **20% off Happy Hour**
Old Town Mexican Cafe
Paradise Yogurt **Free topping**
Raw Mana **\$5 off hip hop sushi**
Seau's
Shanghai Chinese **\$1 off Mongolian BBQ**
Tio Leo's **Free dessert•**
Todai **10% off lunch or dinner**

North County

Americana **Wednesdays 1/2-price wine**
Axis Martini Bar/Restaurant **2 for 1 dinner entrée**
Calypso
El Callejon
Greek Village **Free saganaki**
Jay's Gourmet **15% off entire bill**
Le Petit Calypso **Free appetizer**
Mikko Japanese **50% off sushi**
Passage to India **50% off dinner•**
Squid Joe's
Taste of India **Dinner for 2 \$29.95**
Wild Note Cafe

East County & State College

Greek Town Buffet **50% off buffet**
Jamar Restaurant **Free 2-lb. burger**

South Bay & Coronado

Barbecue Pit **\$6.99 BBQ beef dinner**
L'Escale at Marriott **25% off entire bill**
Tamales Ancira **Free tamale**

You're in Little Manila here, heartland of San Diego's Filipino community. So the food has to be authentic. Your problem's going to be choosing. Dozens of dishes with mysterious meats and veggies. You can play safe and choose, say, chicken barbecue on a bamboo spit, chicken *adobo*, or *longaniza* sausage. But you should seek out less familiar choices, too. *Kare-kare* (yam, peanut butter sauce with beef and tripe) is delicious, and so is *dinuguan*, pork in pork blood, also known as "chocolate meat." Want healthy? There's *monggo* (mung beans) with bitter melon leaves, or point to a pile of split, deep-fried fish — *daing na bangus*, vinegar-soaked milk fish, said to be popular with old men with high blood pressure. Lunch, dinner seven days; breakfast Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (8/03)*

VFW 557 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-6917. You may have to get over the feeling you're intruding on a private club here, but boy, is it worth it! One, everybody has a story. Two, the "public is welcome" lunches are home-cooking at genuine Korean War prices. Mondays and Wednesdays it's burgers. Tuesdays and Thursdays are "Guess What?" days — typically, enchilada casserole, baked chicken or spaghetti, or a fried-rice dish that's full of good things. Two really tasty occasionals are liver with mashed potato and onions or chicken-fried steak with fried rice. First and third Friday nights of the month, outsiders are invited to join the weekly fish fry from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Check out the photos and memorabilia from wars fought from Siberia to Vietnam. Lunch weekdays. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (10/00)*

Zorbas Family Restaurant 100 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-422-8853. We haven't got to plate-breaking yet, but Greek dancing is alive and well at Zorba's on Fridays and Saturdays. That includes the *zembekikos*, where the dancer picks a glass of ouzo off the floor with his mouth and drinks it. The rest of the week? Families fill this place. They're here for the buffet, spooning up the *spanakopita* (spinach in deliciously flaky pastry), *dolmathes*, (ground beef and rice rolled in grape leaves), moussaka (eggplant, zucchini, and ground beef), and lamb. Try dividing your meal into three: first visit the salad section. Grab their real, strong-tasting olives, tabouli, hummus, onions, lettuce, and pita bread. Return for the heavies, the lamb and beef dishes. Then leave room for baklava and other desserts. It may not be the gourmet's method, but there's no better way to fill a belly. Lunch, dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (2/03)*

BAJA

From the United States use the prefix 011-52-664 when calling Tijuana; when calling in Tijuana use only the restaurant's seven-digit number.

Antojitos Del Pais 9750 Fraccionamiento America, Gobernador Balarezo (near Azteca Hotel), 686-2424. Hit at lunch hour, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and you'll find 22 waitresses and cooks serving you on the street,

stirring huge steaming pots of soup, foot-high clay pots simmering with frijoles, and dark-brown ceramic bowls of meat simmering on the flames. This isn't TJ, it's Central Mexico. Some great choices include *bistek ahumada* (smoked beef) or *costilla de res* (beef ribs), *pollo en mole*, *lengua de res* (ox tongue), and *carne de cerdo* (pork), all around \$3, including soup, dessert, and pleasant culture shock. Open 24/7 except from midnight on Sunday to 7 a.m. Monday. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/00)*

El Rincon Del Oso Location 47, Mercado Hidalgo, Calle Victoria, Río District, Tijuana. Eating goat is an acquired taste. This little market restaurant is a good place to start acquiring. It serves kid for breakfast that's surprisingly easy on the taste buds. The best part is scooping the juices and the meat into a hot corn tortilla, adding cilantro, lime, grated onions, and a splash of salsa, and chomping in. It's meaty, slightly rich, almost gamey, like deer or buffalo, except the juices round out that gamey aftertaste. Come early morning for the best kid and the best market scenes. Open seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/01)*

El Taco de Huitzilopochtli Calle Rosas 242, at Calle Valle Verde (Valley Verde Fracción), Ensenada, Baja, 646-174-2301. On weekend days, this plain, sprawling restaurant in a converted private house offers the authentic dishes of Texcoco, the Central Mexican heartland of Aztec cuisine. If you're looking for deliciously adventurous dining, pull up a chair. Here you can feast on sheep-brain quesadillas, marrowbone soup, or even the whole head — or the marinated, barbecued haunch — of a ram. Don't miss the deeply savory *birria de chivo* (goat stew) or the mysterious *huauzontles*, a nutty-tasting amaranth-like plant swathed in melted cheese and light tomato sauce. Finish with a shot (just one) of flavorful *pulque*, fermented cactus juice. Open only on Saturdays and Sundays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. To find it: Drive north on Reforma to its final streetlight, turn right onto Ambar, go two stop signs (many blocks), turn left at second stop sign, go one block, passing the school, and turn right for one block; look for large mural and sign on restaurant wall on the right. A single English-only menu makes the rounds; one staffer speaks some English. Inexpensive. — *N.W. (4/03)*

Fonda Roberto's La Sierra Motel, Old Road to Ensenada, Avenida Cuahutemoc #2800, Tijuana, 686-4687. Unusual regional specialties are found here. Beef tongue in sesame seed sauce, spicy shredded pork with artichoke seeds, two preparations of chicken, a half dozen of steak. Don't miss the soups or *chile en nogada*. Portions are small, so two people may order three entrées. Take Avenida Revolución all the way to Agua Caliente Blvd. At Calimax, make a right; go up two blocks and make a left. After one block, make another left. Roberto's is in the motel just after the road veers right. Closed Monday; open Tuesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.W.*

La Petite Cafe Avenida Constitución #720-Q, in Foreign Club Passage off Revolución between 3rd and 4th

(beside Maxim's), Tijuana, 688-2171. You're in a side eddy here from the storm of Revolución among Olmec sculptures, Aztec calendars, trees, and amazing quiet. It's standard *casera* (homestyle) food: Spanish chicken with rice and beans, pork chops in green sauce, red enchiladas, steak ranchero, liver-and-onion stew, *chicharrón* (crisp fried pork rind) in a red sauce, and of course *carne asada*, but cooked well and priced amazingly low. Check the generous five-item-plus-coffee breakfast special. All-day breakfast and lunches, seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (8/03)*

Loncheria La Poca Lucha Municipal Market, 105 Avenida Niños Héroes, Tijuana. Venturing to the far end of Tijuana's *Mercado Municipal* is like entering a scene from *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. Shafts of sun penetrate the dark of an incredible kitchen of great black iron stoves and giant steaming pots, and hoods gathering into black pipes that snake up and out through the roof. But what a welcome! As you walk through the *mercado*, ladies bounce up, enticing you away to their eateries. Hang in there till you reach *Loncheria La Poca Lucha*, "The Small Struggle Lunch Place." Ask for *carne de puerco* (pork), *chiles rellenos*, *bistek ranchero*, or *higado al gusto* (liver), all around \$3. *Pescado frito* (fried fish), *milanesa con papas* (veal with fries), *pollo frito* (fried chicken), and *carne asada* are slightly more. Price includes soup, steaming hot corn tortillas, and a soda. Open seven days, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/00)*

Salon Azteca Rosarito Beach Hotel, south end of Boulevard Juarez, Rosarito, 661-612-1111. This fabled old hotel's all-you-can-eat Sunday brunch buffet offers a great excuse to check out the gorgeous architecture and meet other travelers in town. To reach the buffet, go to the left behind the registration desk to the Salon Azteca, walk in, grab a plate, and start dishing up your breakfast from the long line of cafeteria-like bins filled with *gringo*, *gringo-Mex*, real Mexican (*menuado*), and international specialties. Expect to tip if you want something from the omelet or carving station. Next, plunk down at a table where a waiter will arrive to serve you juice and endless cups of decent coffee. Casual dress. Secure parking in hotel lot for a small extra

charge. Sundays only, 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Somewhat expensive for the area; Visa and MasterCard accepted. — *N.W. (4/03)*

Super Antojitos 1810 4th Street (between Constitución and Niños Heroes), Tijuana, 665-685-5070. Sr. Lechuga's restaurant has been around for 40 years, for good reason. Early mornings, people line up for breakfast. You enter a sort of heaven: arches, hidden lighting, glass chandeliers, even a statue of the Virgin Mary. The breakfast special, called *mole poblano*, includes two eggs, enchilada *de mole*, rice, beans, and bread or tortillas. The delicious *mole*, Sr. Lechuga's own, contains raisins, avocado, plantain, almonds, peanuts, thyme, and cilantro. Plus, you're drinking Sr. Lechuga's own coffee. He grows it down south. *Super antojitos* means super snacks, so search out the *pastes* — pastries stuffed with *mole*, cheese, or ground meat and potatoes. Also delicious: pork rind *gorditas*. Open daily, three meals. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (3/20)*

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Karl Strauss Brewery Restaurant 1157 Columbia Street, downtown, 619-234-2739. One-time Pabst brewmeister Karl Strauss heads his own brewery and a bunch of brewery restaurants bearing his name, so you can't help but be a little wary of an over-slick operation. But at least at downtown's ivy-covered brick drink and eatery, the food's honest, tasty, and sleek, not slick. And Karl's beers are still interesting. Go for honest-but-beautiful dishes like his "Hump Day" meatloaf (Wednesdays only), which comes looking like a Magic Mountain, or the grilled marinated eggplant sandwich on focaccia. Beer influence is everywhere. Filet mignon has an Amber Lager glaze. Ribs boast a Red Trolley Ale barbecue sauce. It can get pricey; try to hit happy hour. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. Other branches at 9675 Scranton Road, Sorrento Mesa, 858-587-2739; 5801 Armada Drive, Carlsbad, 760-431-2739; 1044 Wall Street, La Jolla, 858-551-2739. — *E.B. (11/03)*

The Living Room Coffeehouse 5900 El Cajon Boulevard (at 59th Street), College Area, 619-286-8434. With deep-draft couches, Persian carpets, pictures on the wall, chunky wooden tables, and a tree-shaded patio, this Swiss-owned café is a student hangout with a lively notice board, a rental computer, and good cheap breakfast food in huge quantities. Try "The Works" omelet, with bacon, ham, onions, tomatoes, pepper, cheese on top, potatoes, fruit, and bread. Open daily, three meals, until late at night. Inexpensive. Additional locations in Hillcrest, Old Town, Point Loma, and La Jolla. — *E.B. (10/00)*

The Original Pancake House 3906 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-565-1740. Starve yourself for eight hours, then come in here and order up an Apple Pancake — a foot-wide, batter-filled, five-egg paradise pelted with slices from two Granny Smith apples and baked till it puffs up like a golden mini-superdome. Cinnamon cinches it. The German Pancake, or its kid brother, the Dutch Baby, are good oven-baked alternatives, as is the really, really filling mushroom omelet, which comes with three pancakes. Oh, and the Eggs Michael: sausage patties and poached eggs lost somewhere under a mushroom-sherry sauce. The whole atmosphere — striped gold-and-cream wallpaper, dainty cups, shelves of ceramic dogs — feels like it's the Fifties and your granny took you here when you were five. OK, it's a nationwide franchise, but it's a comfy franchise, from Oregon. All-day breakfast only, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Inexpensive. Other locations at 14905 Pomerado Road, Poway, 858-679-0186; 160 South Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas, 760-943-1939; 435 South Melrose Drive, Vista, 760-758-3441. — *E.B. (4/02)*

Star Of India 1820 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-459-3355; also 3860 Valley Centre Drive, Del Mar, 858-792-1111; and 423 F Street, Gaslamp, 619-234-8000. It's the lunch buffet that can lead you by the nose into Indian (and here, specifically *Punjabi*) food. Pick among specialties like

vegetable *pakora* — a bunch of veggies dipped in chickpea batter and fried, or a nice mess of eggplant with potatoes, chicken curry *masala*, and maybe the first cooked spinach you ever loved, *palak paneer*. At the PB location, you sit under a sky-blue cupola. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B. (11/01)*

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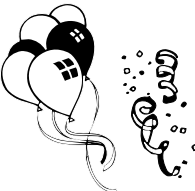
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Final Shipment

One kind of marvel takes away from the other.

An upturn under the Christmas tree:

Cold Mountain. Not the best Civil War film of the year, but there would be no justice, given only two to choose from, in calling it the worst. Top honors still go to *Gods and Generals*, the Spartan austerity of which,

in memory, looks even better alongside the plushness of the production here, the crane-happy camera, the spendthrift special effects, the “painterly” washes of color and “dynamic” compositions, the visual poetry and bombast, the chiselled and sanded faces of the A-list romantic leads, Nicole Kidman (with her Orientalized eyes) and Jude Law (blue lagoons). Many customers will feel they are getting more for their money in this one, and no doubt they are getting more money for their money. They will also be getting, by way of the prize-winning novel by Charles Frazier, spools and spools of storyline, strung out to a slight sag: back and forth in time, from the Siege of Petersburg in 1864 and its immediate aftermath, to the antebellum quietude of the North Carolina hills; and then, after the convergence of the two time

REVIEW

DUNCAN SHEPHERD

lines, back and forth in space only, from the eventful homeward trek of a wounded Confederate deserter, to the struggle of the womenfolk to keep the home fires burning. On both fronts, it's

the gentle sex who bear the heaviest burdens, particularly moral and philosophical ones: “[If] I had my way,

they'd take metal altogether out of this world, every gun, every blade.” No doubt, too, the film gains interest as a companion piece to director Anthony Minghella's earlier *English Patient*, in once again promoting personal priority over general cause, and the lover over the fighter. The large cast has plenty of interest of its own. Renée Zellweger, as an Erskine Caldwell — or even Al Capp — poor white trashy Southerner (strike up the fiddle and banjo), runs rings around Kidman's well-bred belle once she is let loose almost an hour into the film; and there are strong contributions from Eileen Atkins (a backwoods goatherd meticulously realized down to the dirt beneath her fingernails), Kathy Baker, James Gammon, Ray Winstone, Brendan Gleeson, Donald Sutherland, and Natalie Portman. But then again, the



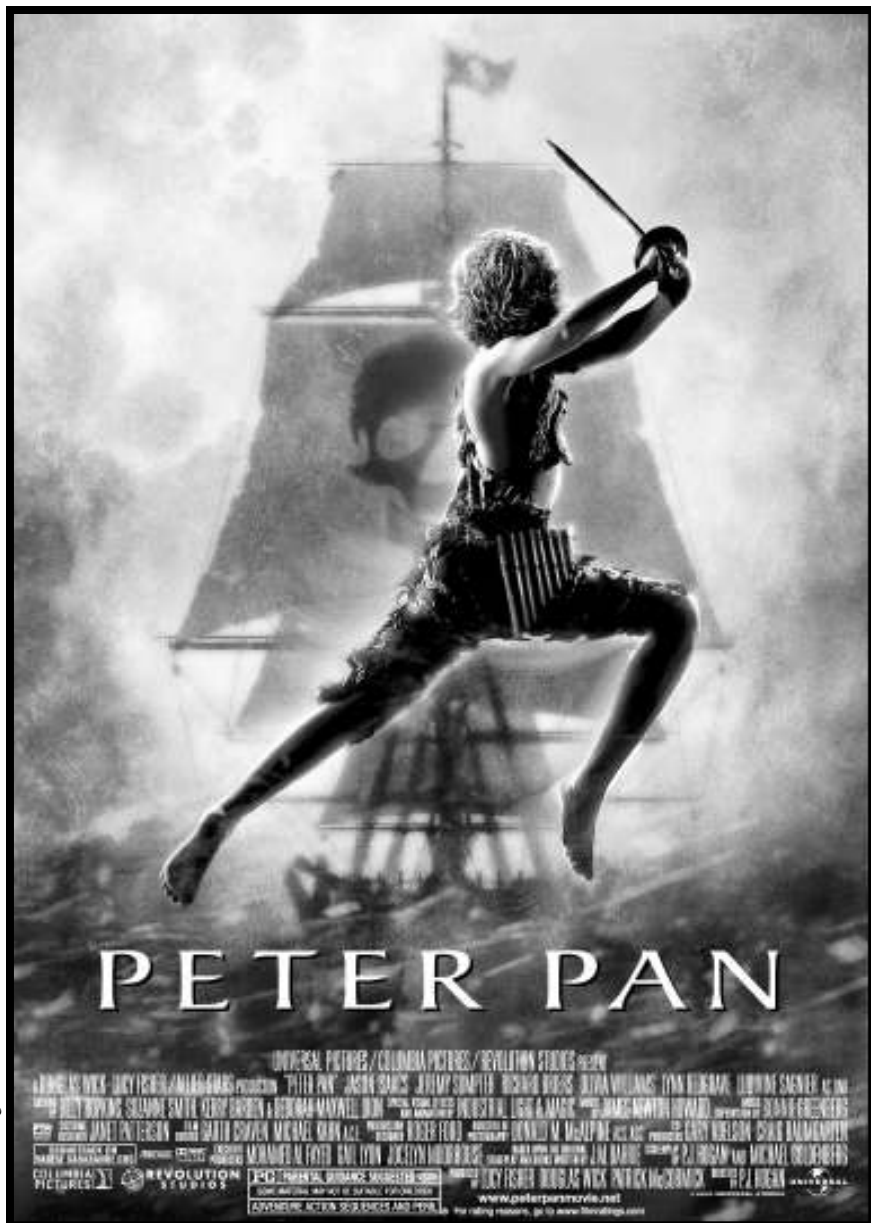
The Triplets of Belleville

cast also has Philip Seymour Hoffman and Giovanni Ribisi in it.

The Triplets of Belleville. A genuine novelty. A French cartoon by Sylvain Chomet, a *bande dessinée* in motion, and without any serious challengers the finest animated feature of the year, putting to shame the assembly-line products of American animation fac-

tories. (And no, I haven't forgotten *Finding Nemo*.) Even so, I can go only partway with it. The detachable introduction could perhaps be counted the finest animated short of the year, a retro Thirties black-and-white musical pastiche (complete with scratches on the emulsion for wear and tear), *faux*-Fleischer and semi-surrealist,

spotlighting a big-butt Josephine Baker in a bikini bottom of bananas and a big-headed Fred Astaire getting devoured by his own tap shoes. Then comes a simulated break in the film, and we realize we have been watching television — in a full-color animated world in a more up-to-date graphic style — in the home of a dumpling-



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shaped grandma, her bicycle-enthusiast adopted child, and their dog Bruno. The first half-hour is unflinchingly glorious, attaining a perfect tension between the routine of their daily life and the marvelousness of it in our eyes. Which is to say the marvelousness of it in the heightening, the distortion, the grotesquerie, the bizarrerie of the visual detail: e.g., the stomach-dragging Bruno dutifully waddling his way up a twisting staircase, right on schedule, to bark at every passing elevated train outside the bedroom window. And yet when three competitors in the Tour de France, including the now grown-up adopted child (calves the size of Popeye's forearms), are abducted in mid-race for unknown reasons by a pair of black rectangular gangsters and shipped across the Atlantic (beautifully drawn vessel, an axe blade balanced on its cutting edge) with grandma and dog in hot pursuit on a hydrocycle — when, in short, the routine is forsaken in favor of a fantastical adventure — the movie loses its moorings. All that heightening, that distortion, etc., piled atop a spongy base of whimsy, seem somehow less marvelous. One kind of marvel takes away from the other. And the bullets-flying climactic car chase is tiresome. Still, the wit and imagination never relent (Bruno finds new trains to bark at in the New World), and the whole of it is communicated with a clarity that renders words unnecessary. Or at any rate, unused. An unobtrusive poster of Jacques Tati's *M. Hulot's Holiday* pays proper homage in that regard.

Peter Pan. Well, it's better than *Hook*, anyhow. (And it's better than last Christmas's *Pinocchio*, too.) And it meets the need, if any, for a live-action version of J.M. Barrie's children's classic in state-of-the-art 21st-century technology. Or as the ad line puts it: "The timeless story as you've never seen it before," meaning, for example, that by means of *Forrest Gump*-ian magic we get to see, for the first time, Hook's stump. Jeremy Sumpter brings to the role of The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up a cracklingly adolescent voice, Ludivine Sagnier mugs like mad as Tinker Bell (but needn't speak), Rachel Hurd-Wood is a fresh face as Wendy, and Jason Isaacs — following the specifications of the original stage play — embodies both the timid Mr. Darling and the dastardly Capt. Hook to indecipherable Freudian purpose. (Is there not something vaguely vaginal about the CG crocodile whose gaping maw swallows Hook whole? — after having previously symbolically castrated him? Doesn't it almost compensate for the abandoned theatrical tradition of casting a woman as Peter?) Australian-born filmmaker P.J. Hogan, out of sight for the six years since *My Best Friend's Wedding*, has a surplus of energy, proficiency, resource, capital, and such, and a shortage only of taste. The aggregate effect is to make the story, for those who know it, feel very long: half an hour just to get to Never Land.

Big Fish. Big bore. Tim Burton, to inhibit erosion of his "fan base," needed to bounce back in a big way from the commercial conservatism of *Planet of the Apes*, and in Daniel Wallace's slender novel he has found a fund of peculiarity: the sententious and sentimental memoirs of an Alabama fabulist, none of whose tall tales and fish stories — literally tall in the case of a twelve-foot giant, literally fishy in the case of a freshwater Moby Dick known as The Beast — explains how the moles on his cheek and fore-

head vanished between the time he was Ewan McGregor and the time he was Albert Finney. (Helena Bonham Carter remains roughly the same age opposite each of them.) The narration-heavy narrative is inescapably bookish, demoting the director to an enslaved illustrator, much the same, come to that, as in *Planet*. And inasmuch as his come-and-go visual gifts have on this occasion mostly deserted him, there is not a lot to recommend it. The perilous parachute mission into a Red Chinese encampment in the middle of a variety show (ventriloquist for warm-up, Siamese twins for headliners) is funny, but not notably Burton-y.

House of Sand and Fog. The house in question, a modest bungalow within a stone's throw of the Pacific, has been inherited by a subsistence-level house-cleaner currently undergoing drug rehab, who gets evicted through a bureaucratic error and her own neglect to open her mail. It is then bought for a song at auction by a former Iranian colonel currently reduced to road repair in Northern California, who is simply looking to make a quick turn-around on the real-estate market after the construction of an ocean-view deck. A sticky situation, for sure, but the best-selling novel (thank you, Oprah) by Andre Dubus III doesn't seem to lend itself to playable scenes, with a meager handful of exceptions: the former occupant's self-injuring attempt to halt construction on the deck, her new boyfriend's attempt to intimidate the present occupant with his police uniform, and the latter's extreme expression of paternal love at the climax. The parallel construction, pingponging between the languorous sensuality of Jennifer Connelly and the rigid asceticism of Ben Kingsley, produces little tension and a bit of parallel corn: simultaneous sex scenes. Ponderously directed by a new name, Vadim Perelman; atmospherically photographed by an old hand, Roger Deakins.

The Barbarian Invasions. Writer-director Denys Arcand's follow-up to his *Decline of the American Empire*, albeit following along at too far a distance — seventeen years — to have much meaning for those who never bothered, through follow-up viewings, to commit the predecessor to memory. "Those," undeniably, would

include me. And nor will I be softened up, when the cast from the earlier film reassembles, by a repeated snippet from one of my favorite musical movements in all creation — the Musette from Handel's *Concerto grosso* op. 6, no. 6 — or by my sharing of the dying protagonist's youthful enthusiasm for Françoise Hardy (the wistful "L'Amitié" — "Friendship" — to ring down the curtain). It may be that this highbrow weepie — the accelerated

sunset of a self-described "sensual socialist," who bears a striking resemblance to Lon Chaney, Jr. — is as smart and sophisticated as advertised, but surely not cinematically. Even theatrically or literarily, the smartness and sophistication are apt to register as a bit precious, a bit unctuous, a bit ostentatious. And the plot mechanics of obtaining a private room on an unoccupied floor of the hospital, plus a sub-rosa supply of heroin in place of

the prescribed morphine, are a shade too smart and sophisticated for their own good. A millionaire in the family can make things easier on everyone, especially on a wily, weaselly script-writer. ■

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars

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and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews sorted alphabetically, by year of release and by rating, are available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

Bad Santa — Sick and twisted (and goddam proud of it) Christmas comedy by Terry Zwigoff, whose *Ghost World* instantaneously takes on the appearance of a fluke. It was the characters, even more clearly now than before, who “made” *Ghost World* — them, and their literary or quasi-literary creator, the graphic novelist Daniel Clowes. And although the director maintains his allegiance to misfits and marginals, it’s the characters who unmake *Bad Santa*. One of them is more than enough: a guzzling, cussing, lusty department-store Santa (Billy Bob Thornton) who puts up with the parade of grasping brats only so that he can crack the office safe on Christmas Eve, with the help of his dwarfish elf (Tony Cox), the brains of the operation. The wonder of it is that, whether wetting himself in the Santa chair or stumbling over the papier-mâché reindeer in an alcoholic fog, he can hold on to his job long enough to pull off the bigger job. A dose of half-apologetic pathos seeps into it in the form of a self-described “dipshit loser,” a bullied, runny-nosed fat boy (Brett Kelly) by the name of Thurman Merman, whose devotion to Saint Nick, either the Platonic ideal or this grotesquely flawed facsimile, brands him a borderline imbecile. The tenuous bond between the two (“It made me feel good about myself,” glows Santa after beating the boy’s teenage tormentor to a pulp) raises the emotional temperature only a degree or two: not enough to alter the one-joke monotony. Bernie Mac, Lauren Graham, John Ritter, Cloris Leachman. 2003.

● (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; HAZARD CENTER 7;



The Barbarian Invasions

LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Barbarian Invasions — Reviewed this issue. With Rémy Girard, Stephane Rousseau, Marie-Josée Croze, and Dorothée

Berryman; written and directed by Denys Arcand.

★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS, FROM 12/26)

Big Fish — Reviewed this issue. With Ewan McGregor, Albert Finney, Billy Crudup, Jessica Lange, and Helena Bonham Carter;

directed by Tim Burton.

★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; FROM 12/25)

Brother Bear — Pagan pietism, from the Disney animation studio, to do with a Northwest Indian lad who, in his anxiety to become a man, kills a bear and gets magically transformed into a bear himself, to see how the other half lives: blissed out on nature (the moose practice yoga) and communality and oneness — unless you’re unlucky enough to be a salmon, who count only as calories. More than merely

transformed, the Indian gets *converted*. (Gimme that New Age religion.) The agenda rather throttles the creativity. Songs by Phil Collins. Directed by Aaron Blaise and Robert Walker. 2003.

● (PALM PROMENADE 24; VOGUE)

The Cat in the Hat — The untested director Bo Welch, trained as a production designer, tries out the tested formula of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*: a sententious Dr. Seuss book, a sampling of voice-over recitations from the actual text (“Then something went bump. How that bump made them jump!”), and a major comedy star so impenetrably disguised in the title role that he might as well be doing nothing but dubbing. The major star in this instance is identified as Mike Myers, but if you were told that behind the cat suit, and behind the New Yawk accent, the camping, the burlesquing, was Nathan Lane, you’d be obliged to accept it without a murmur. Myers has occasion to do other accents as well, and the Scottish and Canadian are more recognizably him. The two-note falsetto laugh, on the other hand, might put you more in mind of Pee-wee Herman, helped along by the surrounding dollhouse townscape. Were it to put you in mind specifically of *Pee-wee’s Big Adventure*, you would then have a useful guideline to gauge what’s missing: originality, humanity, charm, modesty, innocence, things like that. With Alec Baldwin, Kelly Preston, Dakota Fanning, Spencer Breslin, and Sean Hayes. 2003.

● (CHULA VISTA 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT TROLLEY; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; VISTA VILLAGE)

Cheaper by the Dozen — Domestic comedy with Steve Martin, Bonnie Hunt, Hilary Duff, Tom Welling, and Piper Perabo, directed by Shawn Levy. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 12/25)

Cold Mountain — Reviewed this issue. With Nicole Kidman, Jude Law, and Renée

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determined to repair the damage, and toward that end dispatches his faithful assistant (Alida Valli, in symbolic dog-collar necklace) to cruise the streets and pick up compatible skin donors — a classic discreet screen lesbian. The naiveté of the vision — the replacement face is peeled off its owner in one piece and fitted onto the recipient like a rubber mask — only puts it in closer touch with the worlds of dreams and fairy tales. Unsurpassed black-and-white photography by the eminent Eugen Schüfftan, infusing perfectly natural and mundane settings with eldritch Expressionistic elements; haunting musical theme by Maurice Jarre, in melancholy waltz time; liberal sprinkling of the director’s unmistakable I.D. marks: the interior decorator’s eye for pattern and texture; birds; abused animals; the angelic Edith Scob as standard-bearer of innocence and virtue. Scob’s is a beautiful acting job from behind a stiff, smooth, blank mask (save for a brief period of post-surgical optimism), relying largely on the expressive devices of sculpture and dance rather than the full tool kit available to the average thespian. 1959. ★★★★★ (KEN, THROUGH 12/25)

Gothika — A whydunit, rather than whodunit, to do with a beautiful prison psychologist (Halle Berry) who is flabbergasted to wake up in a cell herself, with no memory of having chopped up her beefy husband three days earlier, and only a fragmentary memory of having swerved into



Cold Mountain

a ditch on the way home in order to avoid a bloody young blonde standing in the middle of the road and the midst of a downpour, and then bursting into flame at the touch of

a hand. The blonde, if she is in any sense “real,” can only be a ghost, and the psychologist and her colleagues do not believe in ghosts. But then: who fogged up the glass in her cell and finger-wrote the words “NOT ALONE” in the frost? And who carved that same message into her forearm in the shower room? (As unprurient a women-in-prison shower scene, incidentally, as you could ever wish to see, despite the participation in it of Halle Berry and Penelope Cruz.) The mounting sense of dread in the movie has little to do with any terrors that may await, and much to do with the perceived unlikelihood of a satisfactory wrap-up. (“I wouldn’t look for a real-world explanation,” we are warned. “It’s a dream. It’s a delusion.”) The sunglasses-indoors style of photography fosters no confidence in the filmmaker’s —

Mathieu Kassovitz’s — interest in elucidation, and indeed the predictable climax falls far short of satisfactory, being both over-obvious as far as it goes and incurious to go any farther. The appearances of the ghost, however, greatly enliven a grind-it-out plot in which the ghost proves to be all but gratuitous. Savor her for herself. With Robert Downey, Jr., Charles S. Dutton, John Carroll Lynch. 2003. ★ (OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18)

The Haunted Mansion — Mere months after *Pirates of the Caribbean*, the Disney studio guides us across New Orleans Square (seceded from Frontierland) for another Disneyland ride-turned-movie: a slender thread of storyline — “We have to break the curse!” — on which to hang the special-

effects baubles. (When do we make our way to It’s a Small, Small World?) Eddie Murphy, as a type-A real-estate agent in partnership with his wife, comes as close to a pop-eyed Mantan Moreland impersonation as contemporary sensibilities will allow. And as we learned from *The Human Stain*, the use of the word “spook” or “spooky” in any connection is here precluded. Too bad, because it would well suit Terence Stamp as the cadaverous butler with the cavernous eyes and the somnambulist gait. He alone alleviates some of the boredom between the CG effects, but none of the boredom of the effects themselves. With Marsha Thomason, Nathaniel Parker, Jennifer Tilly; directed by Rob Minkoff. 2003.

● (CHULA VISTA 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT TROLLEY; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Honey — No, not a dramatization of the Bobby Goldsboro tune. Rather, the big-screen coming-out party for TV’s Dark Angel, Jessica Abs — oops, Jessica Alba — as a nightclub bartender, record-store clerk, and hip-hop instructor who dreams of making it in music videos. First-time director Bille Woodruff, who has already made it in music videos, has not really raised his sights. Mekhi Phifer, Lil’ Romeo, Joy Bryant, David Moscow, Missy Elliott. 2003. ● (FASHION VALLEY 18; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16)

House of Sand and Fog — Reviewed this issue. With Jennifer Connelly, Ben Kingsley, and Ron Eldard; directed by Vadim Perelman. ★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; SAN MARCOS 18; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 12/26)

In America — The immigrant experience in Manhattan, more precisely the Sheridan Family experience, as revised and related by Irish filmmaker Jim Sheridan (*My Left Foot*, *In the Name of the Father*, etc.). Never a dull moment, it would seem; or anyway never a relaxed, a calm, a common, a mundane, a prosaic one; instead a gaudy parade of overheated vignettes such as would make

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House of Sand and Fog

late-period Fellini look like a strict neorealist. (E.g., the family’s first look at the lights of Times Square, to the nudging accompaniment of the Lovin’ Spoonful’s “Do You Believe in Magic?,” is more an effect of camera acrobatics than of carefully aimed shots.) The real-life sisters Sarah and Emma Bolger are delightful as the little girls of the family (“Don’t ‘little girl’ me! I’ve been carrying this family on my back for over a year!”). But Paddy Considine, the Jim figure, seems several storeys over the top as the unemployed head of the family, an aspiring stage actor. His diagnosed “problem” is that he shut down emotionally after the death of his son — “That’s why ya can’t get a job acting, Johnny, because ya can’t *feel* anything!” — and yet he acts offstage like an amalgam of Tim Roth and Gary Oldman: not bits and pieces of each of them, but the totality of *both*. He may not be able to feel, but man, can he ever express! The elder daughter, who believes she has inherited three wishes from her departed brother, addresses the problem touchingly with her third and final one. Samantha Morton, Djimon Hounsou. 2003.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN, FROM 12/25; FLOWER HILL 4, FROM 12/25; GROSSMONT TROLLEY, FROM 12/25; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE, FROM 12/25)

The Last Samurai — Tom Cruise as “one of the most decorated warriors this nation has ever known,” circa 1876, a tormented Civil War vet and Indian fighter who is hired as a mercenary to train the troops of the Japanese emperor to combat a renegade samurai, and who is then taken captive by his new enemy, learns their strange ways, masters in a few lessons their martial arts, and joins them in their hopeless fight against the forces of progress. In short, a sort of *Dances with Akitas*. This glossy, glamorizing, vulgar, overblown, pompous, and presumptuous epic is, in addition to all that, intermittently stimulating. The cornerstone Japanese theme of trampled tradition in the onrush of Westernization is knowledgeably handled. And Ken Watanabe cuts a fine figure as the hidebound samurai. In the last analysis, though, the sprawling, transpacific, two-and-a-half-hour war story is all about Tom. Even as he gives himself up to his fascination with the enemy (who

allow him to live only because of their fascination with *him*), it is the fascination itself, and not the objects of it, that rivets the camera: never mind what’s so fascinating, let’s fix our sights on who’s so fascinated. (Cruise’s head looks about to burst from the effort.) And despite his embrace of Bushido — his spiritual growth, his embodiment of the lost concept of

“honor” — he remains a bit of a dilettante and a poseur. (Where does his humility, his subservience, come into it?) In the larger view, despite the lip service paid to an alien and ancient culture, despite the stacking of the deck in that culture’s favor, the horning-in hero remains a sterling representative of the American imperialist, similar to the interlopers and appropriators in such

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cultural hybrids (highbrow and low) as *The Challenge*, *The Karate Kid*, *Ghost Dog*, *Bulletproof Monk*, and *Kill Bill*. The quest is ultimately not so much for his peace of mind as for his piece of the action. Timothy Spall, Tony Goldwyn, Billy Connolly; directed by Edward Zwick. 2003.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; ENCINITAS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GALAXY 6; GROSSMONT CENTER; HAZARD CENTER 7; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King — Peter Jackson grinds out the final 200 minutes: “Things are now in motion,” intones Gandalf, “that cannot be undone.” From this promontory, you can look back and see the immensity of the enterprise, indeed so immense — nine hours and two years — that you can barely remember whence you have come, or why. One measure of the immensity, over and above the increasing confusion, is the increasing dependence on the expeditious head shot, a time-saving mainstay of the made-for-TV quickie. Astoundingly enough, the filmmaker manages to crank up some excitement as the end approaches, or maybe it’s only some eager anticipation of

relief. Whatever it is, it gets discharged over the last hour and a half or so, when the movie seems to be forever on the verge of ending; and the twenty minutes or so after the conclusion of the hostilities amount to sheer torture. Even at that, there’s no time set aside to get back to Saruman for a reaction from the losers’ locker room. Or for that matter, no time for a pre-game pep talk or a halftime strategy adjustment, either: Christopher Lee is nowhere to be seen. Part Three certainly has its moments: the relay of the signal fires (“Hope is kindled”) across the mountain peaks is really quite thrilling (“And Rohan will answer”); and the giant spider Shelob is a skin-crawling special effect, though not more tingling, in another way, than fat Sam to the rescue. (With this, Sean Astin has his meatiest screen role after *Rudy*.) But the decisive battle is even more interminable than the one in Part Two, and more ruinously cartoonized through computer-generated imagery. Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen, Viggo Mortensen, Orlando Bloom, Liv Tyler, Cate Blanchett. 2003.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GROSSMONT CENTER; GROSSMONT TROLLEY; HAZARD CENTER 7; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

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possibly their grannies and grampies as well.
2003.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; HORTON
PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12)

Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World — The first screen incarnation of Lucky Jack Aubrey, hero of Patrick O'Brian's loved and admired series of historical adventure novels, captain of the British man-of-war, the HMS Surprise. This is preeminently a boys' story, and as pure and innocent a specimen as you are apt to find anymore, uncorrupted by concerns with democracy or demographics. (The closest you could find to it in the *oeuvre* of its director, Peter Weir, is the curdled Conradism of *The Mosquito Coast*.) There is an actual boy on view, a cherubic

curly-topped towhead, but of course boys of all ages want to choose their role models and hero figures from among grown men (as the towhead, for example, has chosen Lord Nelson). Girls have no place here at all. There is but one, brief, silent, almost spectral appearance by a female, a copper-skinned native on whom Lucky Jack allows his gaze to linger — gateway to another world — before he gets back to business. That business would encompass, among other things, the pursuit of a bigger and faster French privateer, the amputation, the flogging, the flagons of rum, the parrot on the shoulder, the typhoon, the man overboard, the seamen's superstitions (is there a "Jonah" among the crew? is the enemy a "phantom"?), the military stratagems (a makeshift raft, festooned with

lanterns, cut adrift as a decoy to throw off the trailing French ship in the dark), the naturalist interlude on the Galápagos (the flightless bird, the amphibian iguana), the Churchillian if not Shakespearean address to the troops on the eve of battle ("Though we be on the far side of the world, this ship is our home. This ship is England"), and most importantly, at the core of it all, the masculine camaraderie, especially that between the Captain and the ship's surgeon, Dr. Stephen Maturin, whose harmonious friendship, as well as harmonious violin-and-cello duets, sometimes must give way to the traditional testiness between the soldier and the scientist, the man of action and the man of intellect. Russell Crowe, Paul Bettany. 2003.

★★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA 15)

COSTA 6; PALM PROMENADE 24)

Modern Times — Charlie Chaplin's stubbornly delayed adjustment to sound moviemaking (solely for some stomach-growing sound effects and for a little ditty sung in gibberish) offers a slapstick treatment of the Expressionists' man-versus-machine anxieties. Doing this in 1936 is characteristic of Chaplin's foot-dragging throughout his career. A few of the "bits," such as the automatic feeding contraption, belong however in the Best-of-Chaplin anthologies. With Paulette Goddard.

★★★★ (KEN, 12/26 THROUGH 1/1)

Mona Lisa Smile — Julia Roberts, her two-ton ego, and her tapering tusklike head, in the part of a “forward-thinker” who

travels east from Oakland State to her dream job at Wellesley, there to impart Art History platitudes and feminist fundamentals to the future homemakers in the Class of '54, and to lock horns with the "traditionalists" who run the place. Nothing marks her as a woman ahead of her time so much as her express desire — already in the autumn of '53! — "to make a difference." (The contractually obligatory line, spoken to her without irony: "You're so perfect.") Directed by Mike Newell, who once upon a time directed *Dance with a Stranger*, the movie itself, in its characterization of the straw women and cardboard cutouts who aren't up to the heroine's speed, could scarcely be more backward and small-minded. Among the students, Maggie Gyllenhaal earns top marks; Julia Stiles and

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON

Parkway Plaza 18

405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456)
21 Grams (R) Fri.-Wed. (11:00, 1:55, 4:50)
 7:45, 10:40; **Bad Santa** (R) Thu. 7:20, 9:45;
 Fri.-Wed. (3:25, 5:50) 8:15; **Cheaper by the Dozen** (PG) Thu. (2:05, 4:35) 7:05, 9:45;
 Fri.-Wed. (11:35, 2:05, 4:35) 7:05, 9:45; **Cold Mountain** (R) Thu. (3:35) 7:00, 10:25;
 Fri.-Wed. (11:40, 3:05) 6:30, 7:00, 9:55, 10:25;
Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) Thu. (1:45, 4:00) 6:15; Fri.-Wed. (11:30, 1:45, 4:00) 6:15; **Elf** (PG) Thu. (2:05, 4:35) 7:10, 9:35;
 Fri.-Wed. (11:35, 2:05, 4:35); **Gothika** (R) Thu. 8:30, 10:55; Fri.-Wed. (1:00) 10:40; **The Haunted Mansion** (PG) Thu. (2:00, 4:30) 7:00, 9:30; Fri.-Wed. (11:30, 2:00, 4:30) 7:00;
Honey (PG-13) Thu. (2:10, 4:35); Fri.-Wed. 8:30, 10:55; **The Last Samurai** (R) Thu. (3:45) 7:00, 10:15; Fri.-Wed. (12:30, 3:45) 7:00, 10:15;
The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (PG-13) Thu. (2:40, 3:10, 3:40, 4:10) 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30; Fri.-Wed. (10:20, 10:50, 11:20, 11:50, 2:40, 3:10, 3:40, 4:10) 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30; **Love Don't Cost a Thing** (PG-13) Thu. (1:55, 4:30) 7:05, 9:40; Fri.-Wed. 7:05, 9:40; **Mona Lisa Smile** (PG-13) Thu. (1:50, 2:20, 4:40, 5:10) 7:30, 8:00, 10:20, 10:50;
 Fri.-Wed. (11:00, 1:50, 4:40) 7:30, 9:20, 10:20; **Paycheck** (PG-13) Thu. (2:10, 5:00) 7:55, 10:50; Fri.-Wed. (11:10, 2:10, 5:00) 7:55, 10:50;
Peter Pan (PG) Thu. (2:00, 4:45) 7:55, 10:20; Fri.-Wed. (10:45, 11:15, 1:30, 2:00, 4:15, 4:45) 7:35, 10:20; **Something's Gotta Give** (PG-13) Thu. (1:50, 4:40) 7:30, 10:20; Fri.-Wed. (11:00, 1:50, 4:40) 7:30, 10:20; **Stuck On You** (PG-13) Thu. (1:55, 4:45) 7:35, 10:25; Fri.-Wed. (11:05, 1:55, 4:45) 7:35, 10:25

LA MESA

Grossmont Center

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Cheaper by the Dozen (PG) Thu.-Wed.
 (11:30, 12:15, 1:50, 2:25) 4:15, 4:45, 7:45, 8:15,
 10:15; **Cold Mountain** (R) Thu. (12:00, 3:15)
 7:25, 10:30; Fri.-Wed. (12:00, 3:15) 7:25, 10:35;
The Last Samurai (R) Thu.-Wed. (11:50,
 3:20) 7:10, 10:20; **The Lord of the Rings: The
 Return of the King** (PG-13) Thu.-Wed.
 (11:00, 12:30, 3:00) 4:30, 7:00, 8:30, 11:00;
Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13) Thu.-Wed. (11:20,
 2:10) 5:10, 7:50, 10:40; **Paycheck** (PG-13)
 Thu.-Wed. (11:15, 1:55) 4:35, 7:15, 9:45; **Peter
 Pan** (PG) Thu.-Wed. (11:45, 2:20) 4:55, 7:30,
 9:35; **Something's Gotta Give** (PG-13)
 Thu.-Wed. (11:40, 2:30) 5:15, 8:00, 10:45

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21 Grams (R) Thu. (11:05, 1:45) 4:25, 7:05,
 9:45; **Bad Santa** (R) Thu. (11:20, 1:30, 3:50)
 7:15, 9:35; **Cheaper by the Dozen** (PG) Thu.
 (12:00, 2:30) 4:45, 7:00, 9:15; **Cold Mountain**
 (R) Thu. (11:00, 2:05) 5:10, 8:15; **Elf** (PG) Thu.
 (2:10) 7:30; **In America** (PG-13) Thu. (11:30,
 1:50) 4:40, 7:25, 9:55; **The Lord of the Rings:**
The Return of the King (PG-13) Thu. (11:45,
 3:45) 7:45; **Master and Commander: The Far**
Side of the World (PG-13) Thu. (11:10) 4:20,
 9:40; **Stuck on You** (PG-13) Thu. (11:50,
 2:20) 4:50, 7:20, 9:50

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Rancho San Diego 15
2951 Jamacha Road (619-660-3460)
Bad Santa (R) Thu.-Sun. 7:40, 10:10;
Cheaper by the Dozen (PG) Thu. (2:10, 4:45)
7:20, 10:05; Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:10, 4:45) 7:20,
10:05; **Cold Mountain** (R) Thu. (3:15) 6:45,

10:15; Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 3:15) 6:45, 10:15; **Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat** (PG) Thu. (2:30, 4:45); Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 12:10, 2:30, 4:45); **Elf** (PG) Thu. (2:05, 4:50); Fri.-Sun. (11:35, 2:05, 4:50); **The Haunted Mansion** (PG) Thu. (2:50, 5:10); Fri.-Sun. (10:05, 12:25, 2:50, 5:10); **Honey** (PG-13) Thu. (2:25, 4:55); Fri.-Sun. (11:55, 2:25, 4:55); **The Last Samurai** (R) Thu. (3:00) 6:35, 10:05; Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 3:00) 6:35, 10:05; **The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King** (PG-13) Thu. (3:10, 3:40, 4:10) 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 11:20; Fri.-Sun. (10:50, 11:20, 11:50, 3:10, 3:40, 4:10) 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 11:20; **Love Don't Cost**

a Thing (PG-13) Thu.-Sun. 7:20, 10:20; **Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World** (PG-13) Thu.-Sun. 7:30, 10:40; **Mona Lisa Smile** (PG-13) Thu. (2:00, 5:00) 7:55, 10:45; Fri.-Sun. (1:10, 2:00, 5:00) 7:55, 10:45; **Paycheck** (PG-13) Thu. (1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00; Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00; **Peter Pan** (PG) Thu. (1:10, 4:15) 7:05, 9:55; Fri.-Sun. (2:00, 1:10, 4:15) 7:05, 9:55; **Something's Gotta Give** (PG-13) Thu. (3:55) 7:10, 10:15; Fri.-Sun. (12:50, 3:55) 7:10, 10:15; **Stuck on You** (PG-13) Thu. (1:00, 4:30) 7:25, 10:25; Fri.-Sun. (10:10, 1:00, 4:30) 7:25, 10:25

SANTEE

Santee Drive In

The Haunted Mansion (PG) Thu. 6:30, 8:00, 9:35; **The Last Samurai** (R) Thu. 6:30, 9:20, 11:10

SOUTH BAY

CHULA VISTA

Chula Vista 10
Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)

Call theater for program information
Cold Mountain; Paycheck; Cheaper by the Dozen; Peter Pan; The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King; Something's Gotta Give; The Last Samurai; Honey; The Haunted Mansion; The Cat in the Hat

Palm Promenade 24

770 Demery Road, San Diego (858-558-2262)
Call theater for program information
Cold Mountain; Paycheck; Cheaper by the Dozen; Peter Pan; 21 Grams; The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King; Mona Lisa Smile; Something's Gotta Give; Stuck on You; Love Don't Cost a Thing; The Last Samurai; Honey; Bad Santa; The Haunted Mansion; The Cat in the Hat; Gothika; Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World; Brother Bear; Elf

Rancho Del Rey 16

East H Street at Tierra Del Rey (619-216-4707)
21 Grams (R) Fri.-Wed. (10:30, 1:30, 4:35)
 7:40, 10:45; **Bad Santa** (R) Thu. (1:45, 4:45)
 7:10, 9:30; Fri.-Wed. 7:20, 9:50; **Cheaper by the Dozen** (PG) Thu. (1:45, 4:20) 7:10, 9:40; Fri.-Wed. (11:00, 1:45, 4:20) 7:10, 9:40; **Cold Mountain** (R) Thu. (3:00) 7:05, 10:35; Fri.-Wed. (11:30, 3:00) 7:05, 10:35; **Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat** (PG) Thu. (1:55, 4:25) 7:15, 9:45; Fri.-Wed. (11:35, 1:55, 4:25); **Elf** (PG) Thu.-Wed. (11:25, 2:05, 4:45); **The Haunted Mansion** (PG) Thu. (1:40, 4:05); Fri.-Wed. (11:10, 1:40, 4:05); **Honey** (PG-13) Thu. 7:00, 9:45; Fri.-Wed. 7:10, 9:45; **The Last Samurai** (R) Thu. (2:25) 7:00, 10:30; Fri.-Wed. (11:00, 2:25) 7:00, 10:30; **The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King** (PG-13) Thu. (1:00, 2:40, 3:40, 4:10, 5:10) 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:30; Fri.-Wed. (10:20, 11:20, 11:50, 12:50, 2:40, 3:40, 4:10, 5:10) 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:30; **Love Don't Cost a Thing** (PG-13) Thu.-Wed. 7:35, 10:55; **Mona Lisa Smile** (PG-13) Thu. (2:00, 4:55) 7:45, 10:40; Fri.-Wed. (11:15, 2:00, 4:55) 7:45, 10:40; **Paycheck** (PG-13) Thu. (1:35, 4:30) 7:45, 10:40; Fri.-Wed. (10:35, 1:35, 4:30) 7:45, 10:45; **Peter Pan** (PG) Thu. (1:30, 4:15) 7:05, 10:00; Fri.-Wed. (10:30, 1:30, 4:15) 7:05, 10:00; **Something's Gotta Give** (PG-13) Thu. (1:35, 4:40) 7:50, 10:45; Fri.-Wed. (10:25, 1:35, 4:40) 7:50, 10:45; **Stuck On You** (PG-13) Thu. (2:30) 6:15, 9:25; Fri.-Wed. (11:05, 2:00, 5:00) 7:55, 10:50

Vogue

226 Third Avenue (619-425-1436)
Brother Bear (G) Thu. 12:30, 6:00; Fri.-Wed.
 12:15, 6:00; **Elf** (PG) Fri.-Wed. 2:00, 7:45;
Looney Tunes: Back In Action (PG) Thu.
 4:15, 9:45; **Timeline** (PG-13) Thu. 2:00, 7:45;
 Fri.-Wed. 3:45, 9:30

NATIONAL CITY

South Bay Drive In

2170 Coronado Ave., Imperial Beach
(619-423-2727)
Bad Santa (R) Thu. 9:38; **Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat** (PG) Thu. 9:24; **Elf** (PG) Thu. 9:53; **Honey** (PG-13) Thu. 7:30, 10:51; **Something's Gotta Give** (PG-13) Thu. 7:30, 11:35; **Stuck On You** (PG-13) Thu. 7:30, 11:18

NORTH ISLAND

BONSALL

Galaxy 6

Highway 76 and Mission Road (760-945-8784)
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Carmel Mountain

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Mountain Ranch (858-674-9770)
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1:20, 3:35) 7:35, 9:55; **Cold Mountain** (R)
Thu.-Tue. (11:55, 3:10) 7:00, 10:15; Wed.
(1:10) 4:30, 7:45; **Elf** (PG) Thu.-Tue. (11:00,
1:15); Wed. (11:00, 1:05); **In America** (PG-13)
Thu.-Tue. (11:35, 2:00) 4:25, 7:05, 9:35; Wed.

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**"ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR.
THIS MARVEL OF A MOVIE LIVES UP TO ITS
BUZZ AS AN OSCAR® CONTENDER..."**
PETER TRAVERS, ROLLING STONE

BIG FISH

BELIEVE IN MAGIC... AGAIN.

COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS A JINKS/COHEN COMPANY - ZANUCK COMPANY PRODUCTION OF A TIM BURTON FILM
"BIG FISH" EWAN MCGREGOR ALBERT FINNEY BILLY CRUDUP JESSICA LANGE HELENA BONHAM CARTER
ALISON LOHMAN ROBERT GUILLAUME MARION COTILLARD WITH STEVE BUSCEMI AND DANNY DEVITO
MUSIC BY DANNY ELFMAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ARNE L. SCHMIDT BASED ON THE NOVEL BY DANIEL WALLACE SCREENPLAY BY JOHN AUGUST
PRODUCED BY RICHARD D. ZANUCK BRUCE COHEN AND DAN JINKS DIRECTED BY TIM BURTON

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13
A FIGHT SCENE, SOME IMAGES OF
NUDITY AND A SUGGESTIVE REFERENCE

SOUNDTRACK INCLUDES "MAN OF THE HOUR" PERFORMED BY PEARL JAM

**LIMITED SAN DIEGO
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LANDMARK THEATRES
LA JOLLA VILLAGE
8879 Villa La Jolla Drive
619/819-0236

EDWARDS CINEMAS
MIRA MESA STADIUM 18
W. of I-15 on Mira Mesa Blvd.
800-FANDANGO #160

AMC
MISSION VALLEY 20
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858/558-2AMC

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Calendar

MOVIES

Kirsten Dunst earn dunce caps. With Dominic West, Marcia Gay Harden, Juliet Stevenson. 2003.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; HAZARD CENTER 7; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Mystic River — Clint Eastwood’s somber meditation on chance, fate, doom; scarred souls and endless repercussions; violence begetting violence. Just as *Unforgiven* was an act of penance for the body counts in his

Sergio Leone spaghetti Westerns as well as in his self-directed imitation Leones (*High Plains Drifter*, *The Outlaw Josey Wales*, *Pale Rider*), this can be viewed as an act of penance for the lone-wolf vigilantism of his Dirty Harry urban shoot-’em-ups: a kind of cleansed Harry. (There is no room here for Eastwood the actor, standing aside for the “liberal” casting of Sean Penn and Tim Robbins, and their highly emotional, tearful, unstoical, un-Eastwoody histrionics.) Although formulated as a murder mystery, it is not narrowly focussed on the investigation, but divides its time more or less evenly among three main characters, and expands continuously into the specific milieu, the complex personal relationships, the affected and ongoing lives, in fact life in general, life with a capital “L.” All throughout, it sustains a tone of lamentation, underscored by the churchy musical theme composed by Eastwood himself (albeit orchestrated by his trusted

collaborator, Lennie Niehaus). The retributive anger never supplants the sorrow; the release never comes. Admittedly, the outcome of the case depends upon a fortuitous coincidence that reeks of mystery-making for its own sake: a previously unrevealed second murder on the same night as the first. Yet the solution to the original murder is not overly tricky, is perhaps even overly obvious; and the mood of the moment in any case is not one of parlor games and “gotcha.” The honest — the aggrieved — the penitent — emotionalism of the film makes up for either the fortuitousness or the obviousness, as necessary. Kevin Bacon, Laurence Fishburne, Laura Linney, Marcia Gay Harden. 2003.

★★★★★ (HORTON PLAZA 14)

Paycheck — Science-fiction thriller with Ben Affleck, Uma Thurman, and Aaron Eckhart, directed by John Woo.

(CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 12/25)

Peter Pan — Reviewed this issue. With Jason Isaacs, Jeremy Sumpter, Rachel Hurd-Wood, Olivia Williams, and Lynn Redgrave; directed by P.J. Hogan.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA CAMINO REAL; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16;

SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 12/25)

Something’s Gotta Give — Wrinkly romance between Diane Keaton and Jack Nicholson, both of whom fudge a bit on their ages (she, when she estimates herself to be “almost” twenty years older than an explicit thirty-six-year-old; and he, when he holds up three fingers to indicate how far he is past sixty), but both of whom have resisted any surgical stretching of their skins to a trampoline tautness. The self-caricaturing stylization of the stars’ mannerisms, the luxury of their lifestyles (hers as “the most successful female playwright since — who? Lillian Hellman?” and his as the head of the second largest hip-hop record label), and the creaminess of the cinematography (Michael Ballhaus), all conspire to eat away at the purported humanness of the characters. In addition to which, the movie appears, beneath the

NORTH COASTAL

CARLSBAD

Plaza Cinemas 4
2385 Marron Road (760-729-7147)
Cheaper by the Dozen (PG) Thu. 12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 6:45; **The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King** (PG-13) Thu. 12:00, 3:55,

7:45; **Peter Pan** (PG) Thu. 12:25, 2:45, 5:05, 7:25; **Something’s Gotta Give** (PG-13) Thu. 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00

DEL MAR

Del Mar Highlands 8
El Camino Real at Del Mar Heights Road (858-646-9420)
Call theater for program information

(11:05, 1:25, 3:45) 7:30, 9:50; **The Last Samurai** (R) Thu.-Tue. (11:20, 3:00) 7:10, 10:25; Wed. (1:15) 4:45, 8:00; **The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King** (PG-13) Thu. 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30; Fri.-Tue. 12:00, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 10:30; Wed. 12:15, 2:15, 3:15, 4:15, 6:15, 7:15, 8:15; **Mona Lisa Smile** (PG-13) Thu.-Tue. (11:00, 1:50) 4:40, 7:25, 10:20; Wed. (12:40, 3:30) 6:45, 9:25; **Paycheck** (PG-13) Thu.-Tue. (11:45, 2:15) 4:55, 7:35, 10:25; Wed. (11:10, 1:50) 4:25, 7:00, 9:35; **Peter Pan** (PG) Thu.-Tue. (11:10, 1:45) 4:20, 7:20, 9:55; Wed. (11:00, 1:30, 3:55) 7:05, 9:40; **Something’s Gotta Give** (PG-13) Thu.-Tue. (11:15, 1:55) 4:45, 7:30, 10:15; Wed. (11:00, 1:45) 4:20, 6:55, 9:30; **Stuck On You** (PG-13) Thu.-Tue. (11:15, 1:55) 4:35, 7:15, 9:50; Wed. (11:10, 1:45) 4:20, 7:00, 9:35

POWAY

Poway 10
13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423)
Call theater for program information
Cold Mountain; **Paycheck**; **Cheaper by the Dozen**; **Peter Pan**; **The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King**; **Mona Lisa Smile**; **Something’s Gotta Give**; **Stuck on You**; **The Last Samurai**; **The Haunted Mansion**; **Elf**

SAN MARCOS

San Marcos 18
West San Marcos Boulevard at Old California Walk (760-471-3711)
21 Grams (R) Fri.-Tue. (10:20, 1:20, 4:10) 7:10, 10:10; **Bad Santa** (R) Thu.-Tue. 7:20, 9:45; **Brother Bear** (G) Fri.-Tue. (10:10); **Cheaper by the Dozen** (PG) Thu. (2:50, 5:10) 7:35, 9:55; Fri.-Tue. (10:00, 12:25, 2:50, 5:10) 7:35, 9:55; **Cold Mountain** (R) Thu. (3:30) 7:00, 7:55, 10:30, 11:10; Fri.-Tue. (12:00, 3:30) 7:00, 7:55, 10:30, 11:10; **Dr. Seuss’ The Cat in the Hat** (PG) Thu. (2:40, 5:00); Fri.-Tue. (12:20, 2:40, 5:00); **Elf** (PG) Thu. (1:35, 4:15) 7:35, 10:00; Fri.-Tue. (11:30, 2:05, 4:35); **The Haunted Mansion** (PG) Thu. (1:55, 4:25); Fri.-Tue. (10:35, 12:55, 3:20); **Honey** (PG-13) Thu. (2:05, 4:35) 7:05, 9:30; Fri.-Tue. 7:05, 9:30; **House of Sand and Fog** (R) Fri.-Tue. (10:30, 1:35, 4:40) 7:40, 10:40; **The Last Samurai** (R) Thu. (3:30) 7:05, 10:30; Fri.-Tue. (12:00, 3:30) 7:05, 10:30; **The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King** (PG-13) Thu. (2:40, 3:10, 3:40, 4:10) 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30; Fri.-Tue. (10:20, 10:50, 11:20, 11:50, 2:40, 3:10, 3:40, 4:10) 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 11:20; **Love Don’t Cost a Thing** (PG-13) Thu. (1:45, 4:30) 7:10; Fri.-Tue. (10:45); **Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World** (PG-13) Thu. 6:55, 10:10; Fri.-Tue. 6:00; **Mona Lisa Smile** (PG-13) Thu. (1:20, 4:15) 7:10, 9:40, 10:05; Fri.-Tue. (10:25, 1:20, 4:15) 7:10, 9:10, 10:05; **Paycheck** (PG-13) Thu. (2:00, 4:55) 7:45, 10:40; Fri.-Tue. (11:05, 2:00, 4:55) 7:45, 10:40; **Peter Pan** (PG) Thu. (1:10, 2:15, 4:05, 5:10) 6:55, 9:45; Fri.-Tue. (10:10, 11:30, 1:10, 2:15, 4:05, 5:10) 6:55, 9:45; **Something’s Gotta Give** (PG-13) Thu. (1:05, 4:10) 7:20, 10:20; Fri.-Tue. (10:05, 1:05, 4:10) 7:20, 10:20; **Stuck On You** (PG-13) Thu.-Tue. (1:40, 4:35) 7:25, 10:20

VISTA

Vista Village 15
Hwy. 78 at Vista Village Drive, Vista (760-945-7469)
Call theater for program information
Cold Mountain; **Paycheck**; **Cheaper by the Dozen**; **Peter Pan**; **House of Sand and Fog**; **The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King**; **Mona Lisa Smile**; **Something’s Gotta Give**; **Stuck on You**; **The Last Samurai**; **The Haunted Mansion**; **The Cat in the Hat**; **Elf**

2 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS

BEST ACTOR COMEDY Jack Nicholson BEST ACTRESS COMEDY Diane Keaton

“...writer-director Nancy Meyers has created the most entertaining comedy of the year.”
Jack Garner, ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT & CHRONICLE

“Nicholson is a treasure. Like great wine he just keeps getting better with age.”
Louis B. Hobson, THE CALGARY SUN

“Sharp, witty and deep-down funny, ‘Something’s Gotta Give’ is one of the best adult romantic comedies of the year – or the last few years, for that matter.”
Paul Clinton, CNN

“...‘Give’ gives Keaton her best role since 1977’s ‘Annie Hall’ won her an Oscar’...it may be the role of her career.”
Mike Clark, USA TODAY

“Jack Nicholson has never been so tender or heartfelt. His comic timing is a marvel.”
Mick LaSalle, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

“...just the two of them walking along the beach having a conversation is thrilling cinema in its own way.”
Richard Roeper, EBERT & ROEPER

WINNER
BROADCAST FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION
CRITICS CHOICE AWARD NOMINATION
BEST ACTRESS - DIANE KEATON

WINNER
NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW
Best Actress
DIANE KEATON

WINNER
WASHINGTON, D.C. FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION
NOMINATION
BEST ACTRESS - DIANE KEATON

Jack Nicholson Diane Keaton

A FILM BY NANCY MEYERS

Something’s Gotta Give

Keanu Reeves Frances McDormand Amanda Peet

COLUMBIA PICTURES AND WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENT A WAVERLY FILMS PRODUCTION A FILM BY NANCY MEYERS STARRING JACK NICHOLSON DIANE KEATON "SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE" KEANU REEVES FRANCES MCDORMAND AMANDA PEET JON FAVREAU MUSIC BY HANS ZIMMER PRODUCED BY BRUCE A. BLOCK WRITTEN, PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY NANCY MEYERS

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13
SEXUAL CONTENT, BRIEF NUDDY AND STRONG LANGUAGE

SOUNDTRACK INCLUDES RECORDINGS BY LOUIS ARMSTRONG STEVE TYRELL THE FLAMINGOS ASTRUDD GILBERTO

NOW PLAYING

PACIFIC THEATRES CARMEL MOUNTAIN 12 I-15 at Carmel Mountain Road 619/674-9770	AMC ENCINITAS 8 220 N. El Camino Real 760/942-5544	UNITED ARTISTS HORTON PLAZA 14 475 Horton Plaza 619/444-FILM #076	AMC MISSION VALLEY 20 I-8 Exit Mission Center Road 858/558-2AMC	ULTRASTAR POWAY Poway Road at Community 858/646-9423	SOUTH BAY DRIVE-IN 2170 Coronado Avenue 619/423-2727
ULTRASTAR CHULA VISTA Broadway Between H & I 619/338-4214	AMC FASHION VALLEY 18 Hwy. 163 at Friars Rd. West 858/558-2AMC	ULTRASTAR LA COSTA Corner of El Camino Real & Aviara/Alga 760/599-8221	REGAL CINEMAS OCEANSIDE CINEMA 16 Mission Ave @ Pacific Ave 800-FANDANGO #152	REGAL CINEMAS RANCHO DEL REY 16 East H Street & Tierra Del Rey 800-FANDANGO #126	REGAL TEMCULA STADIUM 15 40750 Winchester Road 909-FADANGO #167
PACIFIC THEATRES CINERAMA 6 University Avenue West of College 619/287-8990	PACIFIC THEATRES GROSSMONT CENTER STADIUM 10 Grossmont Shopping Center 619/465-7100	AMC LA JOLLA 12 I-5 at Nobel 858/558-2AMC	PALM PALM PROMENADE 24 805 & Palm Ave. 858/558-2AMC	EDWARDS CINEMAS RANCHO SAN DIEGO STADIUM CINEMA Hwy 94 at Campo 800-FANDANGO #132	PACIFIC THEATRES TOWN SQUARE STADIUM 14 Clairemont Dr. at Clairemont Mesa Blvd. 619/274-1234
ULTRASTAR DEL MAR HIGHLANDS El Camino Real/Del Mar Heights 858/646-9420	MAIDSTONE HAZARD CENTER 7 Friars Road & Highway 163 619/299-4500	EDWARDS CINEMAS MIRA MESA STADIUM 18 W. of I-15 on Mira Mesa Blvd. 800-FANDANGO #160	REGAL CINEMAS PARKWAY PLAZA 18 Parkway Plaza Mall 800-FANDANGO #131	EDWARDS CINEMAS SAN MARCOS STADIUM 18 1180 W. San Marcos Blvd. 800-FANDANGO #161	KRIKORIAN'S VISTA VILLAGE METROPLEX 15 25 Main St. 760/945-7469

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ENCINITAS

Encinitas 8
220 North El Camino Real (760-942-5544)
Cheaper by the Dozen (PG) Thu.-Sat. 12:20, 2:55, 5:25, 8:10, 10:45; Sun.-Wed. 12:20, 2:55, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35; **Cold Mountain** (R) Thu.-Wed. 12:15, 3:30, 7:05, 10:25; **The Last Samurai** (R) Thu.-Wed. 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15; **The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King** (PG-13) Thu.-Wed. 12:00, 4:15, 8:30; **Mona Lisa Smile** (PG-13) Thu.-Wed. 1:10, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10; **Paycheck** (PG-13) Thu.-Sat. 1:20, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40; Sun.-Wed. 1:20, 4:50, 7:45, 10:30; **Peter Pan** (PG) Thu.-Sat. 12:05, 2:50, 5:35, 8:15, 10:50; Sun.-Wed. 12:05, 2:50, 5:30, 8:05, 10:40; **Something’s Gotta Give** (PG-13) Thu.-Wed. 1:00, 4:00, 7:15, 10:20

La Paloma
471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-SHOW)
Lost In Translation (R) Thu. 6:40, 9:00

LA COSTA

La Costa 6
6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga) (760-599-8221)
Call theater for program information
Cheaper by the Dozen; **The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King**; **Mona Lisa Smile**; **Something’s Gotta Give**; **The Last Samurai**; **Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World**

OCEANSIDE

Mission Marketplace 13
College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-806-1790)
Bad Santa (R) Thu. 11:40, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45; **Dr. Seuss’ The Cat in the Hat** (PG) Thu. 1:20, 6:45; **Elf** (PG) Thu. 11:10, 1:45, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00; **The Haunted Mansion** (PG) Thu. 11:15, 1:30, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30; **Honey** (PG-13) Thu. 10:45, 4:00, 9:30; **The Last Samurai** (R) Thu. 11:00, 11:30, 2:45, 3:15, 6:30, 7:00, 10:00, 10:30; **The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King** (PG-13) Thu. 10:30, 11:00, 12:00, 3:00, 3:30, 4:30, 7:30, 8:00, 9:00; **Love Don’t Cost a Thing** (PG-13) Thu. 11:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10; **Something’s Gotta Give** (PG-13) Thu. 11:45, 3:00, 6:50, 10:15; **Stuck On You** (PG-13) Thu. 10:55, 12:45, 1:50, 3:45, 4:45, 6:45, 7:45, 9:45, 10:30

Oceanside 16
401 Mission Avenue (760-439-1733)
Call theater for program information
Cold Mountain; **Paycheck**; **Cheaper by the Dozen**; **Peter Pan**; **House of Sand and Fog**; **The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King**; **Mona Lisa Smile**; **Something’s Gotta Give**; **Stuck on You**; **Love Don’t Cost a Thing**; **The Last Samurai**; **Honey**; **Elf**; **The Cat in the Hat**; **Gothika**; **Bad Santa**; **The Haunted Mansion**

surface, to be as much about revenge as about romance: writer and director Nancy Meyers (*What Women Want*, a more telltale title than the all-purpose present one) opening up the whole older-man-younger-woman can of worms, giving the man a boudoir heart attack for starters (before he can consummate relations with his current companion, Amanda Peet, Keaton's daughter: consummation would have been altogether *too* wormy), giving the audience three separate shots of his heinie in a hospital dressing gown, giving the woman a tit-for-tat — or perhaps that ought to be tat-for-tit — younger suitor in the bargain (Nicholson's cardiologist, Keanu Reeves, fudging a bit himself as the aforementioned thirty-six-year-old), giving the man an earful to think about (a dinner-table diatribe by Keaton's sister, the anomalous Frances McDormand as a Columbia professor of Women's Studies), filling his eyes with nearly as many tears as the woman's. The sexual politicking and posturing do tend to get in the way of the comedy. But with that said, let it also be said that this is at all levels a polished and professional piece of work, and pleasant enough to sit through for the starry-eyed or the brown-nosed. 2003.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GROSSMONT CENTER; HAZARD CENTER 7; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

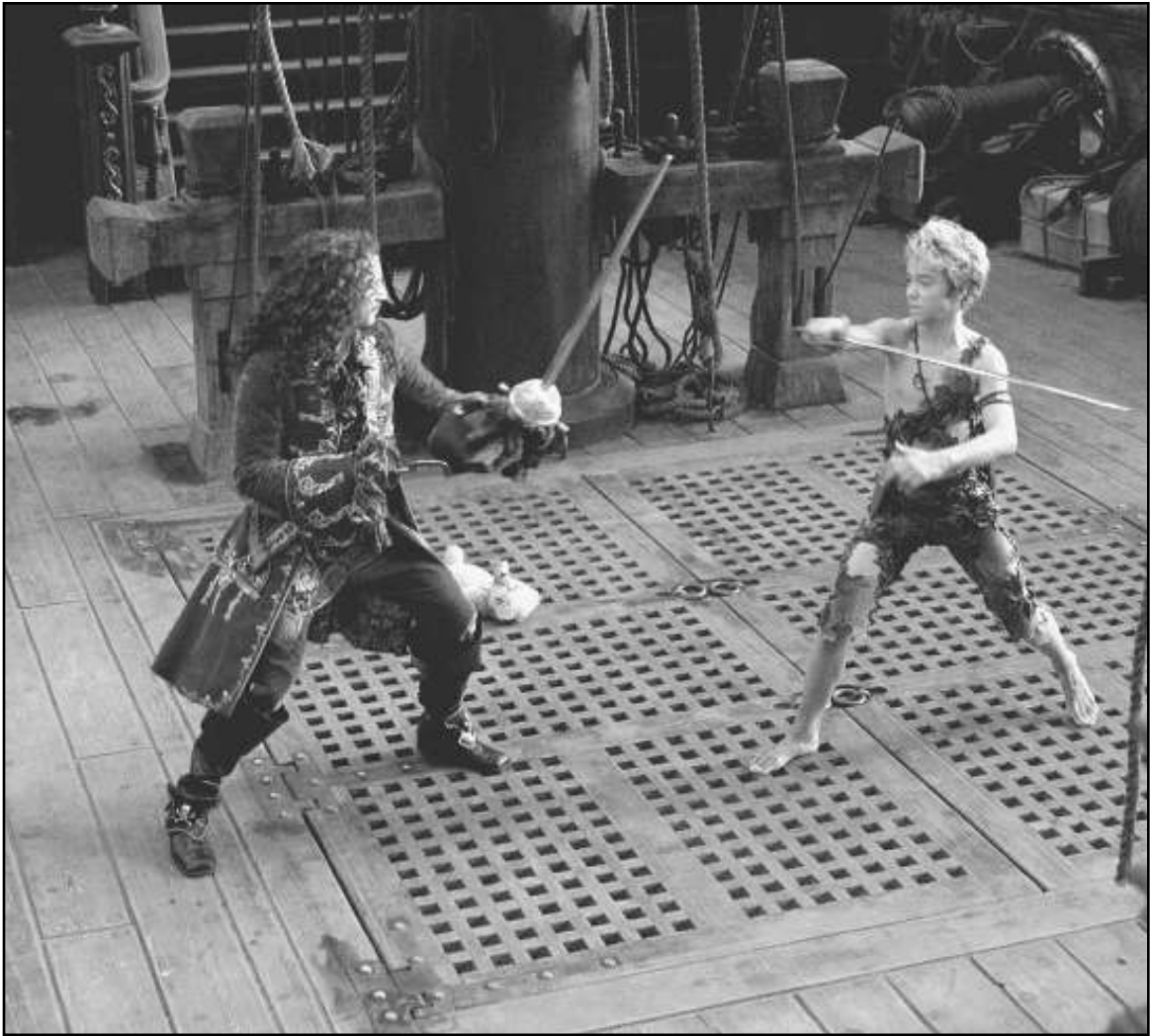
The Station Agent — The rare feature film to be built around a dwarf — a taciturn loner who moves into an abandoned train depot in a remote corner of New Jersey to get away from other people (“Hey, buddy, where’s Snow White?”), and who instead falls into a web of new relationships with an insatiably gregarious hot-dog vendor, a tormented female artist, an unmarried pregnant librarian, and a black schoolgirl. Modest, offbeat, a bit stiff and clunky, with a restrained and dignified central performance from Peter Dinklage, and a smattering of railroad knowledge. Patricia Clarkson, Bobby Cannavale, Michelle Williams, Raven Goodwin; written and directed by Tom McCarthy. 2003.

★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

Stuck on You — The inseparable Farrelly brothers, Peter and Bobby, do a comedy about joined-at-the-hip brothers, Greg Kinnear and Matt Damon (“We’re not Siamese”). The principal self-revelation to come out of this is something we already knew about them: their taste, if that word may be used in the vicinity of the Farrellys, for disability jokes. Gross-out, for the moment, is out; real wit was never in; inanity rides roughshod: one of the pair, in the afterglow of his one-man performance as Truman Capote in community theater, drags the other one to Hollywood, where he lands the male lead in a television courtroom series called *Honey and the Beaze*, opposite the temperamental Cher, as herself, who selects him for the job only in hopes of scuttling the show. (Meryl Streep likewise appears as herself, in a slightly more than cameo role, to prove she’s as good a sport as her *Silkwood* co-star.) If there are any laughs, or at least grimaces, they come from Seymour Cassel as a senile talent agent with his mind in the Fifties. The best to be said about the basic material is that it raises suspicions that in more disciplined hands it might have been skit-worthy. Eva Mendes, Wen Yann Shih. 2003.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Timeline — Time-travel tomfoolery, from a novel by Michael Crichton, wherein a team of archaeologists, together with three ex-Marines for security, are sent back to the 14th-century site they are currently



Peter Pan

excavating in the French countryside. What a treat for them! — if only they were not on a desperate rescue mission to bring back the head of the team (after finding one of his bifocal lenses in a sealed chamber unbreached for 650 years), and the “wormhole” through which they have squirmed were not going to close up in five and a half hours, and they were not caught between the crossed swords of the French and the English on the very day in history when Castle La Roque is slated to fall. The standard question — is history destined to repeat itself, or can it be rewritten? — is asked and answered, and the standard quota of mind-bogglers and brain-twisters is met and surpassed, and the dialogue delivers the standard snickers: “The past is where it’s at,” and “Trust me, we’re in 1357 France,” and “The only thing worse than dying here is living here,” and so forth. The slapdash

direction (Richard Donner), the lightweight cast (Paul Walker, Gerard Butler, Frances O'Connor, Neal McDonough, Billy Connolly), and the heavy-handed music (Brian Tyler) cannot detract from the silliness, and can sometimes augment it. Only the exchange of fireballs and flaming arrows across the night sky lifts the movie to a loftier level, and only momentarily. 2003.

★ (VOGUE)

To Be and To Have — Slow, tranquil, mildly austere, richly detailed, and well-

photographed documentary on a dedicated teacher, name of Georges Lopez, twenty years in a one-room schoolhouse in rural Auvergne, and now on the brink of retirement. You see real work being done, important work, imperturbably done. You see the surrounding countryside. You see the change of seasons. (There is one brief interview interlude outside the natural flow of life.) And you get to know several of the students, some better than others, ranging in age from three to eleven: little Jojo is a heart-stealer. You need patience, but in



Maitre Lopez you have an exemplary model.
Directed by Nicolas Philibert. 2002.
★★★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE, THROUGH 12/24)

The Triplets of Belleville — Reviewed
this issue. Written and directed by Sylvain
Chomet.
★★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS, FROM 12/26)

21 Grams — The first English-language feature from Mexican filmmaker Alejandro González Iñárritu brings together disparate characters by the same matchmaking method of his *Amores Perros*: by car accident. Benicio Del Toro, a born-again ex-con, runs over the husband and two daughters of Naomi Watts, and the husband's heart is transplanted anonymously into Sean Penn, a teacher of mathematics and probability, and therefore a deep appreciator of his good fortune, who tracks down and begins to court the widow without, so to speak, baring his chest. (The widow's reaction, when finally told, will echo that of the crap-detecting spectator: "How dare you!") It takes a while for all of this to come clear, inasmuch as the information is doled out in nonsequential fragments that leave it to the audience to arrange in order: a participatory form of storytelling. You eventually get your bearings, and the jumps between lifelines and time zones seem to diminish in distance, closing in toward a climax. Out of the jumble, a unifying point can be perceived: a shattered narrative for shattered lives, a kind of cinematic cubism which enables us to see the before and the after, side by side. To put every puzzle-piece into its proper place is not the principal task. Simply to observe that they belong to the same picture will suffice. The total experience might have been more satisfying if the picture *per se* were better to look at. Great pains have been taken to achieve a feeling of reality in the people and the places, yet the bloodless, bleached-out color and the shaky, earthquake camera are but fashionable affectations. Charlotte Gainsbourg, Melissa Leo, Clea DuVall. 2003.

★★ (GROSSMONT TROLLEY, FROM 12/26; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA 18, FROM 12/26; PALM PROMENADE 24, FROM 12/26; PARKWAY PLAZA 18, FROM 12/26; RANCHO DEL REY 16, FROM 12/26; SAN MARCOS 18, FROM 12/26)

HELP WANTED

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE. Cal Coast Mortgage Corporation is expanding its production team and hiring experienced Wholesale Account Executives. Candidates should have a minimum of 1 year industry experience and a solid funding record. Medical, dental, 401(k). Cal Coast has been San Diego's premier multi-state direct lender for over 27 years. Offering unbeatable service and a wide range of products including, A, A-, B, Portfolio, Jumbo, and Government; you can count on having your best years with us. For an immediate interview, fax resume to Aurora at 619-725-2664 or e-mail: aurora@calcoastmortgage.com. Visit us at: www.calcoastmortgage.com.

ACCOUNTANT needed. Also, Light Industrial, Electronic Assembler and Telemarketers. www.volt.com. VOLT Services Group, 858-578-0920.

ACCOUNTANTS. QuickBooks, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable. Immediate openings, long and short-term assignments. Work for East County's premier companies! EOE. jobs.Volt.com. Call VOLT today, 619-401-1524.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK. La Jolla. Immediate need. Entry level, 1-2 years Accounts Payable experience. Submit resume in Word format: 858-530-9806 or e-mail: sandiego@actadv.com.

ACTIVISM. Campaign jobs with Greenpeace and the Sierra Club. Protect our national forests and fight pollution. Career opportunities and benefits available. Call Dana, 619-297-5512.

ACTIVITY ASSISTANT/DRIVER, part time, Belmont Village at Sabre Springs is looking for a creative, motivated individual to assist in daily activities and outings for our Seniors. Knowledge of dementia a plus. Class B license preferred. Please send resume to 858-486-3540.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/Executive Assistant. Pay \$11-\$16. Must have experience. If you are interested, please contact us at our Poway Branch, 1260 Sabre Springs Parkway, #205. Phone 866-705-0828.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT for general contractor/architectural accent manufacturer, seeking full and part time employees in the following positions: Secretary/Accountant/Sales (must be proficient in Quick Books and MS Office Web Design), Graphic Artist (must be proficient in DreamWeaver, PhotoShop, Illustrator. C.A.D., Flash and be e-Bay savvy). Foam Installers, Masons, Drywall Finishers, Plasterers, Finish Carpenters, Sculptors/Artisans talented in any of the above fields. Please fax resume to 858-565-1556 or mail to 3089-C Clairemont Drive, #401, San Diego, CA, 92117.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT for Moffat Manor Corporation. Must be flexible, responsible, detail oriented, multi-tasking and computer literate. Full time. Call or fax resume: 619-303-9302.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. Poway area. Requirements: Sharp, experienced, strong Word, Excel and typing skills desired. Organized and detail-oriented applicants. \$13-\$15/hour, with benefits. Contact April, 858-578-4437.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/Receptionist. \$10-\$15/hour. Must have office experience. Downtown/La Jolla/Sorrento/Del Mar. Ultimate Staffing Services. Call 858-625-2025. Fax 858-625-2026. E-mail: laajolla@ultimategstaffing.com.

ADMINISTRATIVE. Needed: someone with 6 arms and 8 legs to help with rapidly expanding natural health clinic in La Jolla. www.jobmermaid.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. Full-time. Proficient in bookkeeping, QuickBooks Pro, Excel and Word. Must be very well organized with self-starting abilities. Apply in person: Bicycle Warehouse, 4650 Santa Fe Street, San Diego 92109. www.bicyclewarehouse.com.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT with at least 6 months experience answering phones, word processing, scheduling/calendar-ing. MSWord, Excel. Professional, excellent verbal and written communication skills. \$10-\$12/hour. Resume required. Remedy Staffing. Email to: carolsi@remedystaff.com; 619-702-0731 or sashar@remedystaff.com, 858-455-5204.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. Skin care clinic looking for full time, well-organized, some marketing skills, light phones/typing. Please fax attention: Cindy at 619-757-1478.

AGENTS/PROCESSORS: Earn \$3500/month helping the United States federal government file paid mortgage insurance refunds. No experience necessary, training provided. 858-492-8091.

AIDE, WEEKEND wanted for female in North County. Spanish speaking preferred in exchange for salary, and benefits. Call Merari: 1-888-811-8851.

AIDE, WEEKEND wanted for female in Carlsbad area 6-8 hours per day in exchange for salary and benefits. Call Julie: 760-293-0809.

APPOINTMENT SETTERS. We pay weekly, timely, honestly. Located in Miramar. Work Sunday-Thursday, 5pm-9pm. No selling. Call Rick 12-9pm Monday-Friday: 858-578-7914.

AQUARIUM TECHNICIANS. Service aquariums throughout San Diego County. Competitive pay rates, benefits. Health insurance when full time. Full or part time. www.westcoastaquarium.com. Fax resume: 858-571-0234. Call 858-571-3474.

ASSEMBLY, PRODUCTION, Machine Operator needed in the North County. Entry level with the ability to follow written and oral instructions in English. All shifts: 1st, 2nd, 3rd. Call Ultimate Staffing Services, 760-431-4333.

ASSEMBLY. Immediate openings in Oceanside! Production Workers for assembly of reverse osmosis (RO) water treatment units. Product assembly, inspect materials to assure proper quality standards and maintain documentation. Lift up to 45 pounds throughout the shift. Good math skills required. Must be able

to stand the entire shift. Drug test and criminal background check required. 1st, 2nd and 3rd shifts; \$7.70-\$8.80/hour. EOE. www.volt.com. Call VOLT today, 760-729-8916.

ASSEMBLY. Machine Operators, Soldering and Shipping and Receiving positions. Temporary and temp to hire. www.volt.com. Volt Services Group, 858-578-0920.

ASSISTANT /EXECUTIVE. Marketing, Sales, detail oriented. Multitasking individual; fast paced office (graphic/web design, plus). Full /Part time. Salary based on experience. Fax: 619-225-8760. In person Monday-Thursday 5-9pm, 3333 Midway Drive #206 (Sports Arena area).

ASSISTANT. Growing downtown company is looking for part-time assistant to work a minimum of 4 hours per day Monday-Friday. Responsibilities include database entry, research and routine tasks and errands. 2 years of office experience necessary along with a great sense of humor. Send resume to 101 Market Street #416, San Diego, CA 92101 or fax 619-231-8481.

AUDIT TAX SENIOR needed for downtown firm. Minimum 2 years experience in CPA firm. E-mail: jlambeth@westfinancialstaffing.com; call: 619-702-7301; or fax: 619-615-5389.

AUTO MECHANIC. Experienced, salary negotiable. Must know air conditioning and scanner. 619-938-0184.

BAKERS. Night shift. Experience preferred. Artisan breads. Good pay and benefits. Se habla espanol. Fax resume: 619-718-9533 or apply in person: Upper Crust, 1340 G Street, San Diego 92101.

BAKERY ASSISTANT. Experience required. Mornings, Monday-Friday. Wholesale bakery in Kearny Mesa. Call 858-571-0100.

BANKING. San Diego National Bank seeks qualified individuals for various banking positions in their Downtown, Central San Diego, East County, North County Offices. DOWNTOWN: Senior Vice President Commercial Real Estate, Senior Vice President Credit Administration, Vice President Real Estate Construction Lending, Commercial Leading Loan Assistant, Community Leading Loan Assistant, Branch Support Specialist, Compliance Officer, Operations Specialist; CENTRAL SAN DIEGO: Customer Service Supervisors, Relationship Bankers, Tellers; EAST COUNTY: Customer Service Supervisors, Relationship Bankers (New Accounts); NORTH COUNTY: Branch Support Specialist, Branch Manager, Assistant Branch Manager, Senior Relationship Bankers, Relationship Banker/Customer Service Representative. EOE/M/F/D/V. Visit www.sdnb.com for details and job qualifications. Send resume to: careers@sdnb.com; fax: 619-

744-2110; mail, Attention: Human Resources, 1420 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego, CA, 92101-4232.

BARISTAS. Part time. Searching for 2 motivated, friendly, honest morning people. Have fun, serve coffee and drink lattes. Carlsbad area. E-mail resumes betterbuzzcoffee@sbcglobal.net or call 760-929-0497.

BELL/FRONT DESK PERSON. Hotel La Jolla is seeking a full time, energetic, people person. \$7-\$9 per hour. Fax: 858-459-7649. E-mail: hr@hotellajolla.com.

BICYCLE MECHANIC. Full time. Experience necessary. Career position, not just a job! www.bicyclewarehouse.com. Apply in person: Bicycle Warehouse, 4650 Santa Fe Street, San Diego 92109.

BIKE CAB DRIVER. The tourists are here! Fresh air, sunshine! Lease the cab, keep the money. Male, female. Full/part time.

Driver's license. 641 17th Street. 619-595-0211.

BOAT RENTAL COMPANY. Seaforth Boat Rentals is hiring Boat Rental Manager/Assistant Manager positions. Must have customer service/supervisory experience. Advancement potential. Fax resume with salary history: 619-223-9588, or email: daveb@seaforthboatrental.com.

BODY AND SPA products, 25%-50% commissions. Sell body butters, spa scrubs, facial and makeup products direct from the Body Shop. \$185 initial investment. 760-591-0278. boscia1@adelphia.net.

BOOKKEEPER. Part time, 15-20 hours/week. Casual atmosphere. Pay commensurate with experience. Please call Eric at 760-632-5958.

BOOKKEEPERS, FULL CHARGE (3) positions available. Permanent/part time. Must know QuickBooks. E-mail: jlambeth@westfinancialstaffing.com; call: 619-702-7301; or fax: 619-615-5389.

CALL CENTER REPS We need 50(!) Outbound calling. \$8-\$11/hour plus bonuses. 6am-2:45pm. Fun work environment. Call to schedule interview: 858-784-3676.

CALL TAKERS. Greater San Diego Transportation Network is looking for full time Call Takers to work in 24/7 taxi call center. \$7.25 per hour or \$7.75 if bilingual in Spanish. Pre-employment physical, drug and background check. EOE/drug free workplace. You may apply in person, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, 639 13th Street or call 619-239-8061 x748.

CALLERS. Meals On Wheels is looking for the right people to do charity fund-raising in Old Town. \$7/hour to start. Part-time days or evenings. Apply at 2254 San Diego Avenue, #200. 619-260-6110.

CAREGIVER. Part time needed for 53-year-old female with MS. Incontinence care, transferring, cooking, cleaning, laundry, errands, assistance with medication. 858-274-4175.

CAREGIVER/COMPANION for busy male quad. Fun, as well as work, sharing interests in art, theater, politics. Good driving record a must! Experience in personal care preferred, but not required. Salary, room and board. Call for interview, 619-697-1806.

CAREGIVERS. Excellent pay. Flexible schedules. Serving San Diego since 1991. Affordable Home Care, Inc. 3900 5th Avenue, #140, San Diego, CA 92103, 619-297-8115; North County: 760-730-0323; East County: 619-443-0500.

CAREGIVERS. Live-ins/hourly. Cheerful, compassionate companions/HHAs/CNAs/Aides to assist seniors with light/full care. Experience required. Benefits. Age Advantage, 619-660-8881.

CAREGIVERS. Moffat Manor Corporation is looking for Direct Care Staff. Must be flexible and able to get fingerprint clearance. Full time/part time, benefits for full time. Overnight and split shifts. Call or fax resume: 619-303-9302.

CAREGIVERS. Cheerful, compassionate, experienced Aides to assist Seniors with light/full care. Full time/part time. Flexible schedules. \$10/hour to start. Located in Alpine. Fax resume Darlene 619-445-4755.

CAREGIVERS: Attentive Home Care has immediate assignments for Live-in Companions (\$100-\$115/day), CNAs, HHAs, Caregivers (\$10-\$11/hour). 3 years' experience required. Overtime for holidays. Apply in person 10am-3pm Tuesday-Thursday: 2333 1st Avenue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92101. Or call for an appointment: 619-231-0151 or 760-434-4393.

CAREGIVERS: Full time and part time positions. Flexible schedules. For assisted living and dementia residents. Provide direct resident care, assist with meals, housekeeping and activities. Experience preferred. To apply in person, take 15 to Poway Road East to Sabre Springs Parkway North to 13075 Evening Creek Drive South, San Diego, CA 92128; or fax resume to 858-486-3540. Belmont Village.

CAREGIVERS. Happy, smiling live-in caregivers needed to look after elderly in La Jolla. Top rates and benefits. Call 858-395-6767.

CASHIER/PARKING ATTENDANT. Full time—San Ysidro, Downtown, part time—Kearny Mesa, Hillcrest, Downtown and La Jolla. Shifts available all days and times. \$8 per hour. Please apply at www.sunsetparking.com or call 760-753-4004 x333.

CHILD CARE WORKER needed for adolescent residential treatment center located in Chula Vista. B.A. degree required in related field. Pay dependent on experience. Fax resume to Matt, 619-656-1429.

CHILD CARE WORKERS, overnight, needed in a residential group home located in Point Loma area. Full time, part time and weekends positions available. Very flexible schedules from 11pm-7am. Minimum requirement, A.A. degree. Residential experience preferred. Fax resume to attention: Rolanda, 619-523-0249 or mail to 3485 Kenyon Street, San Diego CA 92110.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT Counselors to work in a therapeutic setting with SED Children. \$9.50/hour. Merit raises, benefits. Fax New Alternatives, attention Dana, 619-421-7742.

CHILDCARE. New Year's Eve, my home. English only home. San Ysidro. December 31, noon to 2pm, January 1. \$100. 619-271-3877 or 619-865-4430.

CLASSROOM AIDES. Work with developmentally disabled children in a nonpublic school. Experience preferred. Allied Gardens, Chula Vista, Lakeside, Monday-Friday, 7:30am-1pm. \$8.14+/hour to start, depending on experience. EOE. www.vistahill.org. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax resume: 619-281-0453. Apply, weekdays, 9am-4pm: Stein Education Center, Attention: HR, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego CA 92120.

COMMUNITY TRAINING Specialist. \$8.38/hour to start, depending on experience. Assist developmentally disabled adults in the community. 32.5 hours/

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CLASSIFIED ADS HOLIDAY DEADLINE

The paid classified deadline for the next issue will be:
5 pm, Monday, December 29.

BUSINESS ADS

BUSINESSES include paid services or functions, rentals, and profit-making enterprises. For rates and discounts call (619) 235-8200.

DEADLINES: Call by Friday for early-placement discounts. Ads may be placed by phone using a credit card (619-235-8200)

or in person (1703 India Street, Downtown). Hours are 9am-5pm, Monday through Friday.

PLEASE NOTE: The *Reader* will not be financially responsible for failure to run an ad or for errors in an ad, except, if at fault, to the extent of the cost of the first insertion of the ad.

FREE ADS BY MAIL OR INTERNET

ONE FREE CLASSIFIED ad per week is available to private parties and nonprofit organizations that do not charge for their services.

MAIL: Ads must be printed clearly on 3x5 cards or postcards and are limited to 25 words. Additional words cost 60¢ each. Ads must arrive at our P.O. Box by 7am, Monday. Mail all ads to

Reader Free Classifieds, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186.

INTERNET: Free ads can also be placed online at SanDiegoReader.com. Free ads placed online appear *only* on the *Reader's* website. The deadline is 3pm Monday. See below for instructions on placing online ads that also appear in the paper.

\$8 ADS BY INTERNET, FAX OR IN PERSON




QUICK, EASY, AND CHEAP! \$8 ads are available to private parties only. Ads are limited to 25 words. Cash, check or credit cards are accepted. (Services, rentals, lessons or any other profit-making enterprises do not qualify for \$8 ads. See instructions for business ads above. Other rules apply to Roommates and Matches ads.)

BY INTERNET: Go to SanDiegoReader.com and click on the link to place an online classified ad. Fill out the form and remember to check the box for your preferred billing method.

BY FAX: Complete the form below, photocopy it, and then fax it to us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at (619) 233-7907. Payment is with Visa, Discover, or MasterCard.

IN PERSON: To place an ad with cash or check, fill out the form below and bring it to our office at 1703 India Street (at Date), Downtown.

will be edited. Refer to the Table of Contents to determine the classified category you want. If you are unsure, the appropriate category will be assigned. No cancellations accepted. No refunds.

NAME:		DAYTIME PHONE:	
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week. Benefits. Apply Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm: Stein Education Center, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego 92120. E-Mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax 619-281-0453. www.vistahill.org.

CONSTRUCTION. Tile Setters, Finish Carpenters, Electricians needed part and full time for home remodeling company. 8-10 years experience. Own tools/vehicle required. Call 619-291-1730/619-293-7102.

CONTROLLER needed with nonprofit experience. Never a fee to the applicant. E-mail: jlambeth@westfinancialstaffing.com; fax: 619-615-5389; or call: 619-702-7301.

COPY OPERATOR. Legal Reprographics, Inc., offers litigation photocopying, document imaging and graphics to law firms. We are seeking positive, energetic and detail-oriented individuals to join our team, 2nd and 3rd shift openings. Great benefits and growth opportunities available! Please fax resume to 619-234-0668 or visit our website at www.legalrepro.com.

COSMETOLOGY ASSISTANT. License required. High end hair salon. 30-35 hours per week. Prefer resume. Banker's Hill salon. Call for application, 619-595-0509.

COUNSELOR, Child Development. Full/part-time positions available in Point Loma area. B.A. degree in related (psychology) field preferred. Fax resume to attention: Robert, 619-523-0249 or mail: 3485 Kenyon Street, San Diego CA 92110.

COUNSELOR/CHILD CARE Worker. Work with SED children, ages 6-12, East County Rehabilitation Training Center. B.A. Degree/senior status required. Various full/part-time available. Training. Benefits. EOE. Fax resume: NAI#17, attention Kristi, 619-447-5386.

COUNTER ATTENDANTS and Managers. Subway Sandwiches. Full or part time. Day, evening shifts. Detail-oriented, good customer service skills. Competitive wages. Paid vacations. Apply in person. Mission Valley: 5608 Mission Center Road; 619-497-0971. Point Loma: 3760 Gaines Street (off I-8 at Rosecrans); 619-574-0906. La Jolla: 7514 Girard Avenue; 858-454-0357. Management applicants, fax resume to: 619-688-9291.

CREDIT ADMINISTRATION/SENIOR VP. San Diego National Bank seeks a qualified individual that possess these qualifications: B.S. Degree in Finance Business and Business Administration preferred. Three to five years' experience, at Senior Vice President level in Credit Administration, preferable with a large bank. Extensive, progressive managerial experience in credit policy, analysis and regulatory practice in, Real Estate, Commercial and SBA Lending. Excellent communication and presentation skills. Strong managerial skills. Team oriented. EOE/M/F/D/V. Send resume to: careers@sdna.com; fax: 619-744-2110; mail, Attention: Human Resources, 1420 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego, CA, 92101-4232.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPS. Security Customer Service. Immediate Placements! San Diego, Escondido, Temecula, Hemet. We invite you to apply with the largest, most respected security company in the world! County wide positions available: Security Management, Patrol Drivers, Security Customer Service Reps, Security Officers, and Security Receptionists. Up to \$12 per hour, Medical/Dental & 401(k), Paid vacation, excellent working environment, monetary incentives, Guard Card assistance, uniforms provided. EOE/drug free. Must have Guard Card for immediate placement. Locations in Escondido 760-746-7792, Temecula 909-676-3954, San Diego 619-641-0049.

CUSTOMER SERVICE— WINTER BREAK Work. Part-time work. Paid weekly. \$18 base/appointment. Customer service/sales. Flexible schedule. Fun work environment. 1-5 temp positions available as well as permanent. North County/La Jolla: 760-942-1223; San Diego: 619-583-5609; Chula Vista: 619-476-1354. www.workforstudents.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE. Great part-/full-time opportunity for detail-oriented individual with strong customer service and computer skills. Responsibilities: Run small office, handle sales and customer service calls, maintain database and perform varied clerical duties. Convenient Mission Valley location. Please call for more information: 858-279-9896.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPS. Friendly and courteous. San Marcos. Previous phone experience, sales a plus. Employee oriented company offers training/financial growth! \$10-\$13/hour, benefits. Rochelle, 760-480-0454.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPS. Advanced. Positive attitude. Professional, friendly, fast paced environment. Handle inbound calls, problem solving. Minimum 6 months call center experience. \$10-\$12/hour, depending on experience. 858-490-6470.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPS. Professionals with 2 years experience. Call center environment, bilingual a plus. Computer literate, friendly, reliable, able to troubleshoot customer issues. Mayra, 619-409-1401.

CUSTOMER SERVICE/REGISTER. The Learning Annex seeks a friendly, dependable individual for position in small, fun office taking registrations by phone and hosting classes. \$8/hour to start plus bonuses and free classes. Word, Excel, great customer service and multi-tasking are a must. Fax resume to 619-544-9734 or e-mail rickd@learningannex.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE, \$9-\$10/hourly, call center in and out positions. La Jolla/Sorrento Valley/Downtown/Mira Mesa. Ultimate Staffing Services. Call 858-625-2025. Fax 858-625-2026. E-mail: lajolla@ultimategstaffing.com.

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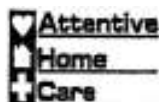
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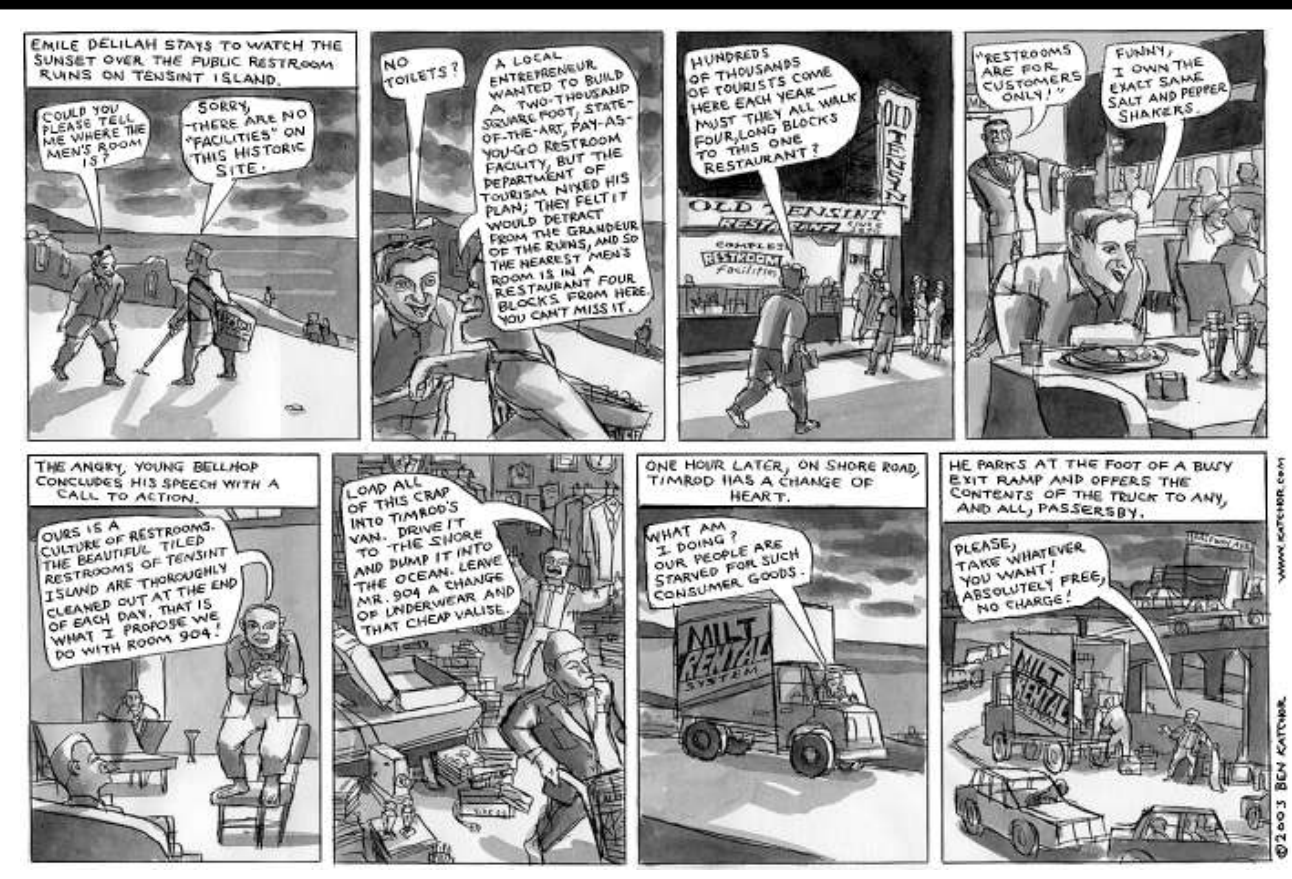
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EOE



HELP WANTED

CUSTOMER SERVICE. North County company is expanding its sales force/customer service team with highly qualified professionals. Candidates must pos-

sess the following traits: Can-do personality, problem solver, efficiency-minded thinker, professional verbal/written communicator, team player, passion for suc-

cess, thrive under pressure, detail oriented. Must know MAS 90/200, Goldmine, MS Office at high level of proficiency. E-mail resume and salary history to ordertoday@hotmail.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE SUPERVISOR. San Diego National Bank seeks qualified Customer Service Supervisors for their CENTRAL SAN DIEGO and EAST COUNTY locations. Qualifications: Highly motivated individual with exceptional communication and customer service skills. A minimum of one (1) year previous banking experience in addition to holding the position of Vault Teller for at least three (3) months. Cross-trained in New Accounts for a minimum of (3) months. A Strong knowledge of banking regulations, policies and procedures along with Back Office responsibilities, knowledge of rejects, RDI's, reports, etc. for a minimum of three (3) months. EOE/M/F/D/V. For more information and other positions visit www.sdnb.com. Send resume to careers@sdnb.com; fax: 619-744-2110; mail, Attention: Human Resources, 1420 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego, CA, 92101-4232.

CUSTOMER SERVICE. Sales/Telemarketing. Inbound/Outbound Representatives. Must have excellent phone skills. \$9-\$11/hour, depending on experience. Medical, dental, vision available after 8 hours of work. E-mail resume to carols@remedystaff.com or call 619-702-0731, or sasha@remedystaff.com, 858-455-5204.

CUSTOMER SERVICE. Top guns make \$1,000/week! Earn up to \$12/hour. AM/PM shifts. Full or part time. Paid training. Medical, dental. Call today, start today! Oceanside, 760-630-2323. San Diego, 619-687-0070.

CUSTOMER SERVICE. Part-time. Tropical Smoothie Cafe is looking for great team members, for our Harbor Drive location. Flexible hours, fast-paced fun environment, advancement opportunities Please call 619-884-7640.

CUSTOMER SERVICE. Ultimate Staffing currently has Customer Service call center openings in the Poway area. Ideal candidates must have a customer service background or office experience. First shift, Monday through Friday. If you are a proven customer service rep and enjoy customer interaction, Ultimate Staffing has the job for you! If interested, contact us in our Poway Branch, 12650 Sabre Springs Parkway, Suite 205. Phone: 866-705-0828.

DATA ENTRY. Full time. \$10-\$12/hour. 10,000 kph. Must have experience. Downtown/Mira Mesa/Sorrento Valley. Ul-

timite Staffing Services. Call 858-625-2025. Fax 858-625-2026. E-mail: laajolla@ultimatestaffing.com.

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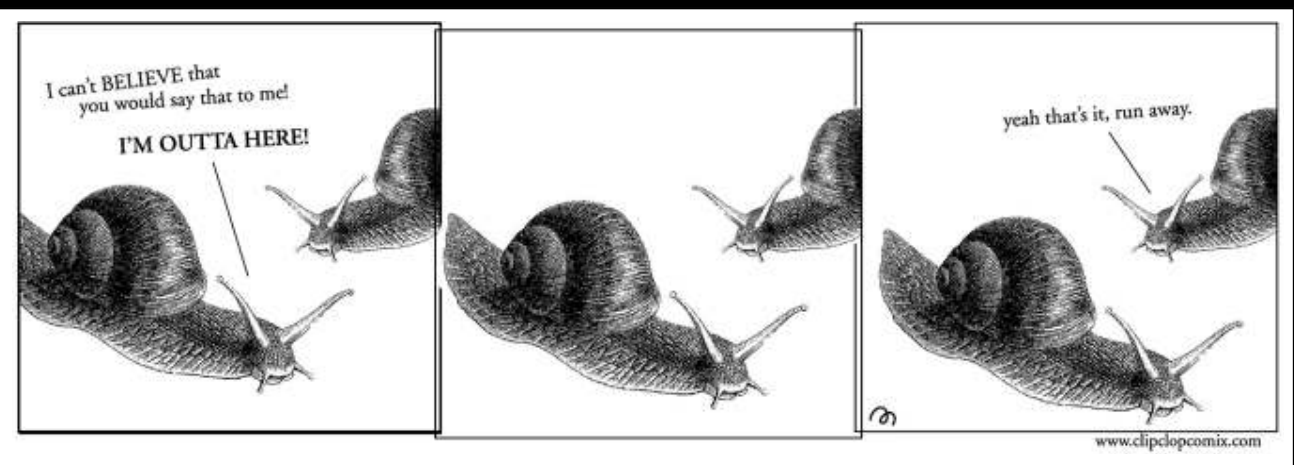
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MANUFACTURING. Leading plastic injections molding company in Oceanside. 12-hour shifts, 2 days on/2 days off; work every other weekend. Shift hours 7:30am-8pm and 7:30pm-8am. \$7.50-\$8/hour plus overtime (\$11.25-\$12/hour). EOE. www.volt.com. Call VOLT today! 760-729-8916.

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MARKETING RESEARCH. Phone Interviewers, outbound calling only. Westaff, 4411 Mercury Street #207, San Diego 92111. casandiego@westaff.com. Fax resume to 858-576-0121.

MARKETING RESEARCH ANALYST. Create Nielsen quantitative analysis/presentations using qualitative research tools. Create/execute on-air and on-site promotions for local/national accounts. Will create print promotional materials. Must have knowledge of Nielsen, TV Scan, Scarborough, CMR, R.L. Polk, Global Insights, Photoshop and other research/marketing tools. Extensive knowledge of Hispanic market, fluency in written/spoken Spanish required. BBA in marketing or equivalent. Fax resume: Entravision Communications, 858-715-2986, or e-mail: jmendoza@entravision.com.

MARKETING. \$500 weekly! We have immediate full-time openings in Sales and Marketing, Customer Service, Public Relations, and Project Management. No experience necessary. Will train. Call Leslie Baker at 858-495-0624.

MARKETING. Christmas rush! \$400-\$500 weekly to start! Promotional advertising company working with children's entertainment product has reached its busiest time of the year. Rapid advancement for motivated individuals. All positions permanent and full time. Will train in: Customer Service, Inventory Control, Sales and Marketing, Entry-level Marketing. Please call Molly Hamilton or Roxanne, 619-427-3708.

MARKETING. Want to work outside in La Jolla doing face to face marketing? Awesome black belt sales training! Natural health office. www.jobmermaid.com.

MECHANIC—DIESEL TRUCK. Dunbar Armored currently has an opening for a Diesel Truck Mechanic in our San Diego location. Must have own tools and a good driving record. Monday-Friday hours to be determined. We offer excellent benefits that include medical, 401(k) and paid vacation. For additional information, call: Sergio Fernandez, 619-238-1006, or fax resume to 323-235-0325.

MECHANICAL ASSEMBLERS, Material Operators, Forklift Operators and Data Entry Operators. Now accepting applications Monday, 12/29, Tuesday, 12/30 and 12/31, 8am-2pm and Friday, 1/2/04, 8am-noon: 8400 Miramar Road, #270, San Diego. Remedy Intelligent Staffing invites you to register for upcoming hiring season for these temporary positions. Mechanical Assemblers: 1st shift, \$8.50/hour. Material Operators: 1st and 2nd shifts, \$8.50/hour; 3rd shift, \$9.44/hour. Forklift Operators: 1st and 2nd shift, \$9-\$10.75/hour; 3rd shift, \$9.99-\$11.93/hour. Data Entry Operators: warehouse setting. Bring proof of right to work in the U.S., photo ID, 2 references. Pre-employment criminal background check and drug screening required. Call 858-635-3239. Temporary Technical/Supervisory positions only. Fax resume to 858-635-3236.

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REAL ESTATE/SENIOR VP (Commercial). San Diego National Bank seeks qualified individuals that possess these qualifications: B.S. Degree in a business-related field, business administration preferred. Ten or more years of experience, with progressively greater responsibilities in commercial real estate lending environment. Thorough understanding of loan underwriting and documentation for commercial real estate.

RECREATION ASSISTANT. Immediate full-time opening as a Teen Coordinator in youth recreation located at Murphy

SALES (INSIDE). North County pharmacy is seeking an inside telemarketing specialist with an aggressive style and excellent phone skills. Ability to gain rapport with clients a must. This individual will have high energy, be a self-starter and is motivated towards success. Fax resume: 888-552-6509.

ter closers from any industry welcome. No vacation ownership experience required. Professional sales training provided. Real estate license preferred, or earn 90% income while you work to attain California real estate license. Bilingual (English/Spanish) also encouraged to apply. Are you confident enough to apply? Fax re-

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A national telemarketing firm specializing in fundraising for the Democratic Party and charities is currently hiring telemarketers for its San Diego center.

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Earn \$150-\$250 Per Day + Daily Cash Spiffs!

Call Tracy Brown 9 am-5 pm:

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SALES REP for growing maintenance company. Part/full time. Side job. Work own hours/schedule. Competitive earning potential. Please call 619-654-1787.

SALES REPS. Are you getting paid what you are worth! TSI is recruiting new Client Marketing Representatives for our El Cajon branch office. Stop browsing for jobs! We will train you for a permanent, full time/part time positions in promotions with our national firm. We offer: paid training, benefits, excellent team environment, bonuses and management training program. Call Alan toll free for a personal interview, 888-587-7750.

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SALES TECHNICIANS. Need cash? Auto glass Sales Reps needed immediately. Full/part time available. \$300-\$600/week. Will train. Reliable transportation required. Izon Auto Glass, 619-606-2401.

SALES, INSIDE. Will your job be affected by the new National Registry? Homes.com has exciting business-to-business Inside Sales positions available today that will not be affected by the new law. We offer competitive base pay plus top commissions, daily cash spiff bonuses, complete benefits package, great work hours (7am-3:30pm) and an excellent work environment. Call today for an interview: 888-329-7576 x2703. Visit us at www.homes.com.

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SALES. \$500 weekly! We have immediate full-time openings in Sales and Marketing, Customer Service, Public Relations, and Project Management. No experience necessary. Will train. Call Leslie Baker at 858-495-0624.

SALES. BOW WOW EXTRA CASH! Super premium pet food company is looking for enthusiastic individuals to sell its dog food. Must be neat, reliable and able to articulate product information. Part time weekends. Call 800-939-7387 x331.

SALES. Cingular Wireless Authorized Agent. Immediate full-time openings. Must be self-motivated with positive attitude. \$24K-\$36K commission-based employment. Excellent health benefits and 401(k). Management positions also available. Mandatory and random drug testing. 760-804-7636 x218; fax 760-476-9847.

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SALES. Expanding financial services marketing company seeking representatives. Start part time, training provided. Call our office, 877-286-5339, leave message 24/7.

SALES. Full time, inbound, fast growing on-line computer hardware/printer company. Computer hardware experience. \$10-\$12/hour plus commission. Monday-Friday, 7am-4pm. Benefits, advancement opportunity. Resume: carlos@superwarehouse.com.

SALES. Join Avon today! Work with top-selling Avon representatives and build your business. \$10 starts you in a new career. Call toll free, Kathleen, 888-429-1253 or 619-429-1253.

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SALES. Wireless. Experienced salesperson needed for inside position at Premiere Wireless, San Diego's busiest wireless store. Commission plus salary. 619-203-7330.

SALES. Your new career in pre-need cemetery sales for a leader in the industry offers high-end income, generous commissions, job security, great benefits, paid training, company-generated leads, and much more. Stewart Enterprises, Inc. is looking for a few ambitious, professional individuals who are ready to join our winning team. Call Marilyn at 858-458-6564.

SALES. Z57, San Diego's largest web design firm is seeking Inside Sales Reps to start in January 2004. \$1500/month training base plus bonus. \$3000-\$6000/month possible. Visit www.z57.com for information and an employment application. 800-899-8148.

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SECURITY GUARDS. All shifts. Transit/Trolley, Manufacturing, Corporations, High Rise, and more. Heritage Security, call 1-800-679-0319. For Rancho

Bernardo, call 858-942-4714. www.heritagesecurity.com

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SECURITY OFFICERS, Rovers/Supervisors. Full/part time. High starting pay. Excellent benefits. Guard Card assistance/training. Drug/background. EOE. M/F/D/V. Apply: Weekdays, 9am-4pm, ACSS, 1620 Fifth Avenue, Suite 875, San Diego. 619-338-9360.

SECURITY OFFICERS. Join the Guardsmark Security team. Rancho Bernardo/Carlsbad offices. No experience necessary. \$8.25 per hour minimum to start, great benefits. 858-613-8990 or 760-431-7096.

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pass physical and drug screen, acceptable work history and background. Call 619-238-1006. Visit www.dunbararmored.com.

SECURITY. Immediate Placements! San Diego, Escondido, Temecula, Hemet. We invite you to apply with the largest, most respected security company in the world! County wide positions available: Security Management, Patrol Drivers, Security Customer Service Reps, Security Officers, and Security Receptionists. Up to \$12 per hour, Medical/Dental & 401(k), paid vacation, excellent working environment, monetary incentives, Guard Card assistance, uniforms provided. EOE/drug free. Must have Guard Card for immediate placement. Locations in Escondido 760-746-7792, Temecula 909-676-3954, San Diego 619-641-0049.

SECURITY. International Services, Inc. is one of the largest privately owned security providers in California with a variety of job opportunities and good benefits for armed and unarmed Security Officers. Current Guard Card preferred. Higher pay for PC832, 1st Aid/CPR and IAHS basic certification. Will train the right people for certifications. 5222 Balboa Avenue, Suite 22, San Diego, CA 92117. 858-278-4310.

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SENIOR MEDICAL BILLER. \$13-\$16. Must have experience. If you are looking to start a career, we have the job for you! In Poway, Rancho Bernardo, Scripps Ranch, Mira Mesa and Clairemont. 12650 Sabre Springs Parkway, #205. Phone 866-705-0828.

SHIPPING AND RECEIVING. Full time position. Mission Valley furniture and housewares store. Apply Hold-It! 1570 Camino De La Reina. or call Mike, 619-295-6660.

SOCIAL SERVICES. Classroom Aide positions working with developmentally disabled children in a nonpublic school. Experience preferred. EOE. Allied Gardens, Chula Vista or Lakeside. Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30am-1pm. \$8.14+/hour to start, depending on experience. www.vistahill.org. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax resume: 619-281-0453. Apply in person, weekdays, 9am-4pm, Stein Education Center, Attention: HR, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego CA 92120.

SOCIAL SERVICES. Coaches and Instructors for day program for adults with developmental disabilities in Lakeside. Full-time, Monday-Friday, no nights/weekends. Excellent benefits. Entry level also available. Unyeway, Inc. 619-562-6330.

SOCIAL SERVICES. Are you looking to gain experience with the developmentally disabled population? We are looking for reliable individuals to support DD adults in day program setting. Part-time or full-time Instructor or Job Coach positions. \$8.50-\$9.50/hour. Raises/bonuses for exceptional performance. Fax 619-440-3335. Phone 619-440-3300.

SOCIAL SERVICES. Program Instructors, full or part time. 6 bed group home, East County, working with developmentally disabled. \$7-\$9/hour. Benefits, raises, bonuses. Fax: 619-390-4388. Call 619-390-4277.

SOCIAL SERVICES. Employment Specialist. Providing job development, placement and on-the-job support for adults with developmental disabilities. Bachelor's or 3 years related experience. EOE. Fax resume and salary history to Janet, 858-549-8781.

SOCIAL SERVICES. Multiple employment opportunities with Supported/Independent Living agency working with persons with developmental disabilities. Live-in Personal Attendant for woman in Poway area, salary plus benefits, most weekends off. Weekend respite for man in Lakeside area, \$700/month plus benefits, one weekend off per month. Part-time/Full-time Supported-Living coach in San Diego and North County areas, flexible scheduling. EOE. Fax resume, 858-549-8663 or call Janet, 858-549-6200.

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STAFF ACCOUNTANTS. Mature, knowledgeable with QuickBooks, Great Plains a plus. E-mail: jlbath@

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TATTOO ARTIST. Experienced artist wanted for neighborhood tattoo shop in Hillcrest. Must have portfolio, references, be friendly, with some client base. Call Myke, 619-823-2825.

TAXI DRIVERS. Yellow Cab of Oceanside and Yellow Cab of San Diego are looking for people who like to drive and enjoy working with the public. Self-motivated. Pre-employment physical, drug and background checks. EOE. Drug-free workplace. To apply or for more information, 619-239-8061 x748.

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TEACHER needed for small school in Scripps Ranch to work with students with learning disabilities. California Special Education credential required. Please fax resume to 858-578-6058.

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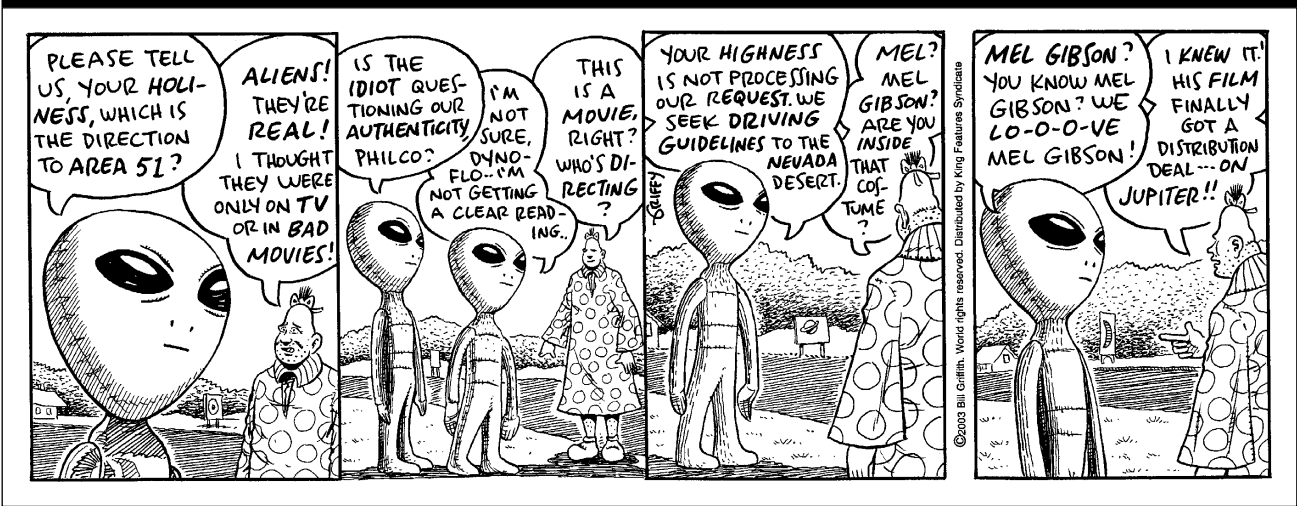
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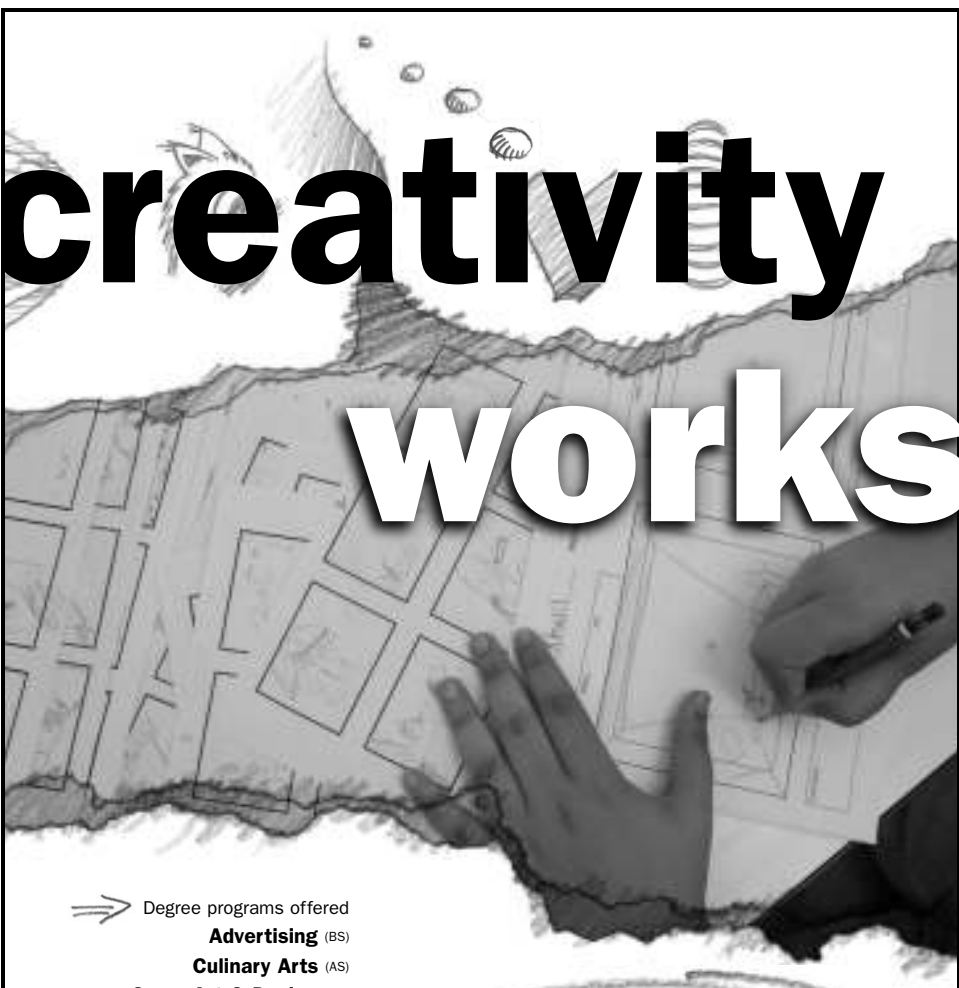
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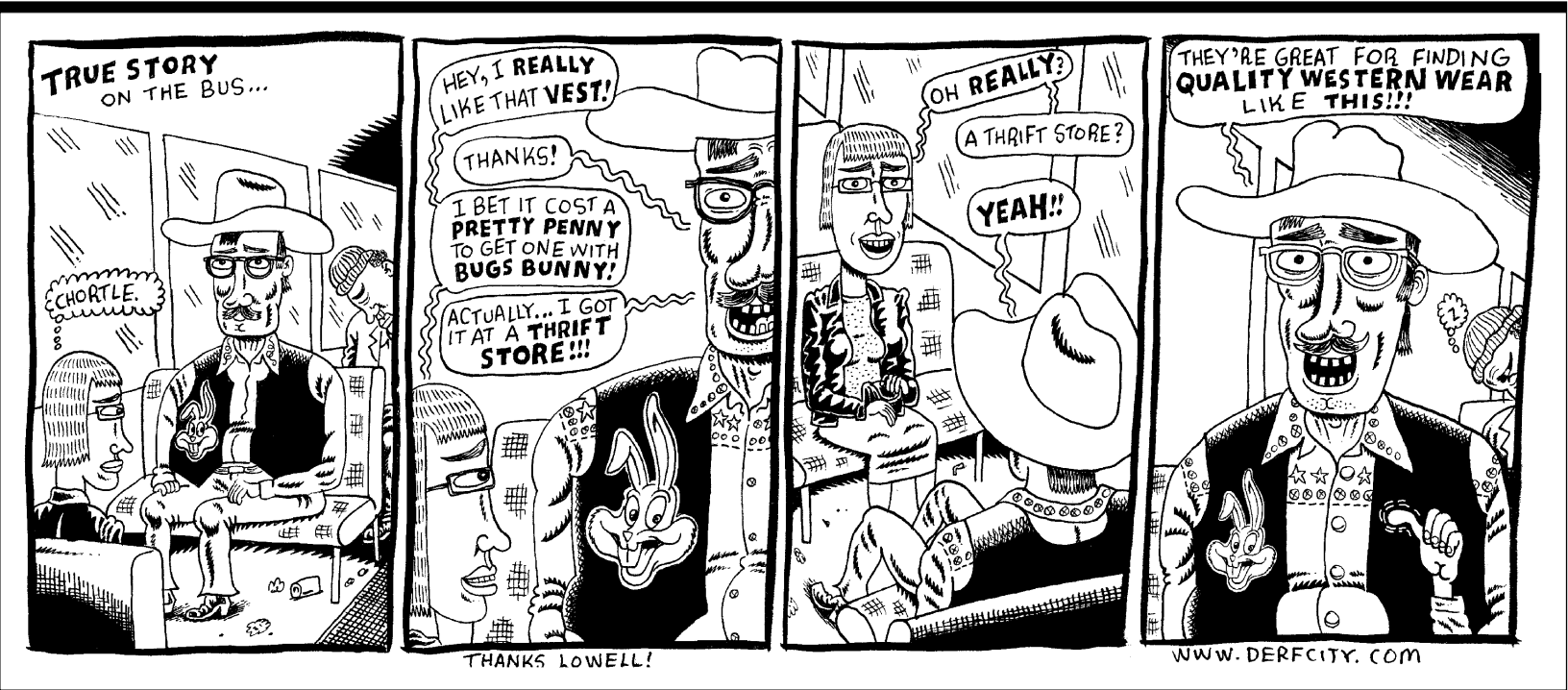


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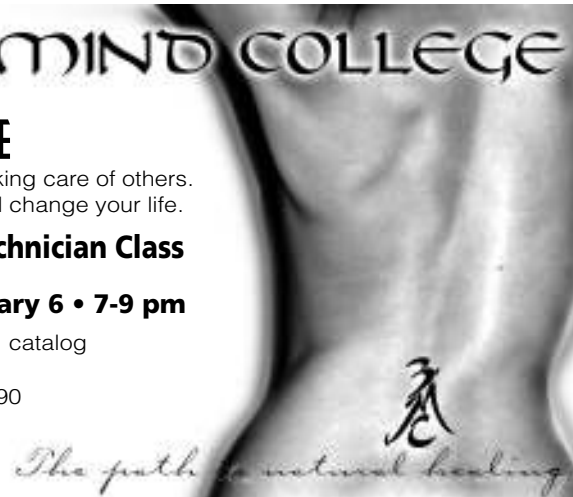
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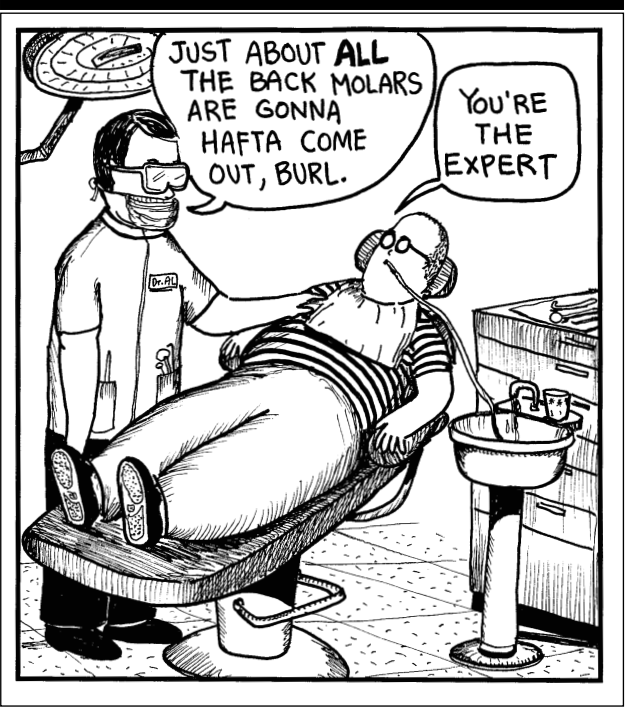
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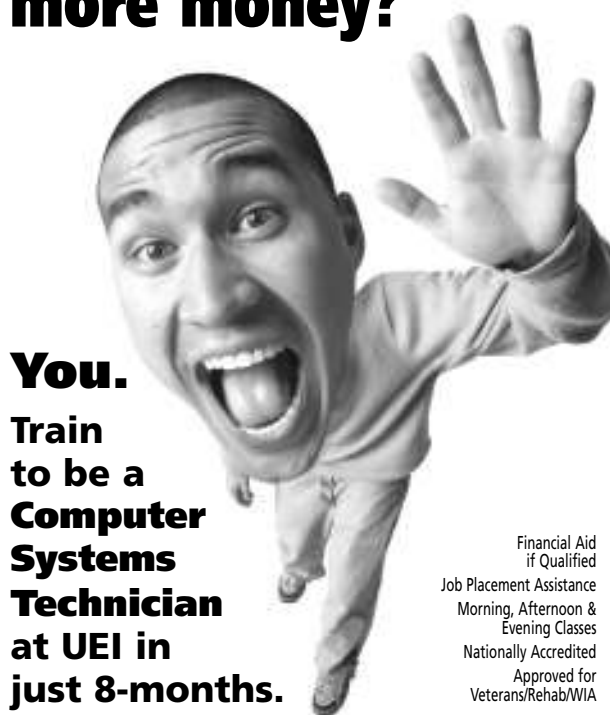
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Photograph from the San Diego Historical Society



Conrad Arnholt Smith in handcuffs, December 1, 1975. The federal government had charged Smith with embezzlement two years earlier; the SEC noticed he'd been shifting monies between his many business concerns, thereby hiding profits and making illegal loans. During his career, Smith owned or had a

piece of the United States National Bank, Westgate Hotel, the Padres, Yellow Cab, Air California, and others.

"Mr. San Diego" didn't spend Christmas of '75 in jail; he did no jail time until 1985, when he spent eight months in the county lockup.

— by Robert Mizrachi

agents. www.actorsworkshopstudios.com; 858-587-6666.

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AUDITIONS. Elderly men and women for original play, "When I Was Your Age." Call 619-647-4958.

AUDITIONS. Director Jeff Gastauer will audition actors for "Burkie," January 11-12, 7pm at OnStage Playhouse, 291 3rd Avenue, Chula Vista. Need 3 men (20-60) and 1 woman (30s). 619-422-7787.

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Irvin Jacobs

Physician

Del Mar

I have a recurring nightmare. It comes every couple months, and it's a nightmare with the same theme, although the details vary. The theme is wanting to try to solve something, an everyday problem from life and somehow being frustrated at every turn. The conditions are either impossible to overcome or I'm incompetent to do it. It might just be a simple household problem — trying to clean up a mess and the mess keeps multiplying and every effort to seize it, I lose track of it or lose the skill to do it. I think I've had these dreams for maybe 20 or more years. It's always a relief to wake up and realize that it was a dream. The message is a universal one: that we're all afraid that we don't have the skills to cope and no matter what we've accomplished, there's always that fear that we're going to lose it.



Michele Wisniewski

Educator

San Diego

I have this one where I just started this job waiting tables and the restaurant was two restaurants morphed into one with this underground passageway that connected the restaurants across the street from each other. I was waiting on tables in both restaurants, on both sides of the street. So I was running from one side of the street to the other, and everyone was getting pissed off. My manager was one of the people getting pissed at me, so he started chasing me around the restaurant with a frying pan. I hid behind a big sack of rice. Maybe the Freudian thing was that the rice was like a giant ball sack and I was hiding behind it to somehow reveal that by assimilating with the ball sack, it would put me in good favor with the manager.



Ona Sanders

Student

Pacific Beach

My last nightmare was about my roommate, or should I say, my ex-roommate. I was wearing a candy-striper outfit. I was still living with her in the dream, and she was cheating on some guy. She's the cheating type. What made it a nightmare was that my boyfriend slept in the same bed as my roommate, or actually slept with her. I woke up in a cold sweat. It was *that* weird.



Debra Doe Gonzalez

Sales Secretary

Chula Vista

I don't have any scary nightmares. I have dreams of falling, where I wake up confused. Falling off a building, or falling out of a car. I'm pregnant and dreamed that he's going to be a boy. I was changing him and I was, like, "Oh my gosh," and thought "Wow, it's gonna be a boy." It was weird and freaky. I found out two weeks later that it was going to be a boy. My husband also dreamed it was going to be a boy. I remember in the dream putting a little blanket over his you-know-what, so I wouldn't get sprayed in the face. I wasn't falling or anything because it was a good dream.



Matt Slouch

Web Master

Normal Heights

In my last nightmare, I was cleaning up a rather large chunk of my brain and some miscellaneous flesh that were laying in a pool of really thick blood. I was in some weird room that had walls of different colors, and the walls curved into a pool that was set into the ground. I knew that it was my brain. Then a yellow cat ran up and grabbed a chunk of brain. I was trying to stop it, but then I was, like, "Well, if he eats that part of the brain, then I won't have to dispose of that part of the evidence." I knew that people were coming and I had to dispose of it before anybody came by.



Lucero Mejia

Preschool Teacher

Tijuana

I guess it was, like, two days ago. It was like five dreams in one. It started in the mountains. I was with a bunch of friends and we were talking, but mostly arguing. In another part of the dream, I was being followed. I had the feeling that someone was behind me, even though nothing was there. I was surrounded by gray sky. I started walking faster, then I started running, and my legs kept getting heavier. Then I heard a big noise and then the next part of the dream, they were closing the border between the U.S and Mexico. I thought that I would never see my mother again. They were going to close the border, the same way that the Berlin Wall was closed: "No one goes in, no one goes out."

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RELATIONSHIP THERAPY for individuals, couples, and families. Office in Scripps-Miramar near I-15 and Miramar Road. Afternoons, evenings, Saturdays. Shirley Olsen, LMFT (MFC38824). 858-834-4080. www.lmft.com.

SHORT-TERM CONSULTATION and psychotherapy for professionals. \$125/therapy hour. Relationship concerns, stress, depression, panic/anxiety. Asian-American issues. Pacific Beach. Christine Moon Walker, PSY.D. (Lic-psy18474). 619-318-0574.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT GROUP has openings. Ongoing, supportive, insightful. Individual/couples counseling also available. Mary Obata MFT intern (IMF-37700); Supervisor, Lorna Christensen LCSW (LCS-9367). www.sandiegotherapists.com/obata.html. 619-220-4680.

Saturday. www.womenforsobriety.org or 858-549-3533.

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AURA HEALINGS. Tuesday healing night, 7-9pm, 2141 El Camino Real, Oceanside. Aura healings and chakra balancing. Earth and Sky Church, 760-631-7900.

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relationships. Call for meeting schedules. 619-222-1244.

DEBTORS ANONYMOUS. Do you have problems with debt, overspending, credit card use? There is a 12-step program that can help you! Call today, 619-525-3065.

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F.A.C.T.S. Our goal is to amend the three strikes law to apply to violent felonies only. Come to a F.A.C.T.S. meeting. 619-886-7446, malonerev@earthlink.net, www.facts1.com.

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MEDITATION: Free classes Mondays, 8am; Tuesdays, 7pm; Saturdays, 11:30am. Donations accepted, not required. Dharma Center, 5059 Newport Avenue, Suite 303, Ocean Beach. www.dharmacenter.com or 858-616-6308.

MEDIUM SEEKS donated space for free weekly meetings. Messages from deceased loved ones and angels, healing energy, entity removal, higher-self alignment. Leave message, 619-364-6647.

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PARENTS, FAMILIES and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). Find help, support, and understanding. Meetings: Hillcrest and Carlsbad. www.pflag.com or call for details, 619-579-7640.

RECOVERY GROUPS for men and women seeking freedom from addiction/ codependency. Fridays, 7pm, Celebrate Recovery, First Lutheran, 867 South Lincoln Avenue, El Cajon. 619-444-7444.

SEX and/or relationship problems? Out of control? You're not alone. Call Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, a 12-step fellowship. PO Box 3791, San Diego 92163. 619-685-7211.

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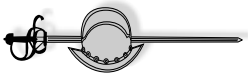
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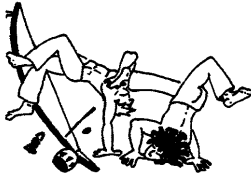
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No refunds. You may also purchase time at our office with cash or check only.

From this page, click on "Matches."

DEAR SANTA, please send me a nice gentleman for Christmas. Make my dreams come true. End my search. Young 70, lady. Adventurous. Life is great. (12/31) ☎90693

THANKS to St. Jude and all the deities for graces granted.

BLACK FEMALE IS HERE and dependable. If you are black or Hispanic and

SINGLES. New to San Diego singles scene. 31, female seeking other females, 30-35, to meet guys with and compare notes. Married women just don't understand. (1/7) ☎20259

SLENDER, ATTRACTIVE Brunette, youthful 50, ready to explore Europe, indefinite time! You are active, healthy lifestyle,

More Free Placement Options: Can't get online? Fill the form below and mail or fax it to us. If faxing, please photocopy first. Fax/mail deadline: 7 am, Saturday.



PRINT CLEARLY: First 25 words are FREE. \$1.20/additional word. Do not abbreviate words. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>
25/FREE	26	27	28	29	30

FREE AD DEADLINE: 7 am Saturday

Mail: Reader Matches, P.O. Box 85803,
San Diego, CA 92186 **Fax:** (619) 233-7907

Online: SanDiegoReader.com

LATE AD DEADLINE: 5 pm Tuesday

Fax: (619) 233-7907 **Phone:** (619) 235-8200

Walk-in: 1703 India St. (at Date St.) downtown

Matches ads are available for any 18+ single person who is seeking a sincere relationship with a member of the opposite sex. Ads containing explicit or implicit sexual/anatomical language will not be accepted. Ads in the "Shared Interests" category must list the primary interest as the first words; these ads will be sorted alphabetically. Either gender may be sought in "Shared Interests" ads; however, physical descriptions are not allowed. No last names, addresses or personal phone numbers will be permitted. No dating services, singles clubs or commercial businesses may advertise in this section. The San Diego *Reader* does not assume any liability for the content or reply to any Reader Matches advertisement. Advertiser assumes complete liability for content of, and all replies to, any advertisement or recorded message and for any claims made against the San Diego *Reader* as a result thereof. The advertiser agrees to indemnify and hold the San Diego *Reader* and its employees harmless from all costs, expenses (including all attorney fees), liabilities and damages resulting from or caused by the publication or recording placed by the advertiser or any reply to any such advertisement. By using Reader Matches, the advertiser agrees not to leave his/her telephone number, last name or address in his/her voice greeting message.

We must have the following information. Please print.

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☐ Shared interests ☐ Man seeking a woman

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TOTAL\$

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CATHOLIC, GREAT COOK, 50, look 38, medical field. Enjoy simple to eclectic, romantic, full figured, but worth your attention. Make me laugh! (1/7) ☎90708

BEAUTIFUL, SLIM BRUNETTE with up-beat, and pleasant personality. Seeking my very best friend for romance and TLC. 50-60 years old. A Libra would be nice. (1/7) ☎90718

I'M FUN, VERY PRETTY, blonde, 34. You: muscular, 30-38, Latino looking, home-owner. Both: great looks, outgoing, degreed, never want kids, into personal growth, holistic health. (12/31) ☎90690

NURSE, BEAUTIFUL, SHY, loving, 38, 5'7", 125lbs., professional, Asian. Seeking tall, educated, loving, passionate, supportive, sensitive, genuine man, 38-49, physically/mentally healthy, long-term relationship. (12/31) ☎90689

54, 5'2", HONEST, WARM, affectionate. Seeking someone to spend time with, 50+, easygoing man who enjoys life. I enjoy travel, dancing, cooking, sharing. (1/7) ☎90716

VOLUPTUOUS, DREADLOCKED beauty, free spirited, intellectual, perceptive, and sensual. Nice eyes, and smile. You are handsome, healthy, good spirited, and intelligent. Be kind, and generous. (1/7) ☎90717

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS is a cute, white guy to stand under the mistletoe with me. I am a pretty, black girl. (12/31) ☎90696

CUTE, FUN, SOCIAL, professional girl near the coast line looking for a fun, professional, good looking gentleman in great shape. (1/7) ☎90711

ASIAN, SWEET, SEXY, great smile, nice legs/figure, 5'3", 115lbs., healthcare professional, childless, homeowner. Seeking tall, fit, nonsmoker, financially stable, caucasian professional, 35-56. Let's explore. (12/31) ☎90700

LET'S STOP BUSH! Foxy, attractive, liberal, adventurous, compassionate/passionate, smart. Love life, nature, theatre. 5'6", 130lbs. Need 49+ together guy. Share life! E-mailers, leave phone#. (1/7) ☎90710

EXTRAORDINARY FIND, attractive Scottish redhead, 48, (mild herpes, otherwise healthy), fit, cute personality, stylish. Seeking tall, attractive, fit, independent, black, 45-50ish. Friendship, dating, possible romance. (1/7) ☎90707

SEXY, FUNNY, HONEST, kissable, very attractive, 50s, North County, blonde/green, homeowner. Seeking younger, secure nonsmoker, romantic, spiritual, fun homeowner, sincere. Merry Christmas! (12/31) ☎90685

3

Ways to Respond to

READER MATCHES ADS!

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No refunds. You may also purchase time at our office with cash or check only.

Send an e-mail

Matches ads are now on the Web. You may search them by specifying criteria such as age, ethnicity and nonsmoking. Respond to most ads by sending an anonymous e-mail for a nominal charge. You may also listen to intros online.

SanDiegoReader.com

From this page, click on "Matches."

SOS. NEED TEDDY BEAR to cuddle with, warm and caring, with good sense of humor. Interested in long-term monogamous relationship. (1/7) ☎90706

RECENTLY AVAILABLE, good looking, nice figure. Seeking 5'10"+, 58+ partner for verbal intimacy, sensual affections, travel, movies, long walks, dining out, and ready for TLC. (12/31) ☎90699

ATTRACTIVE, BLACK FEMALE, seeks romance and companionship, someone honest, monogamous, loves laughter. Must be nonsmoker, 35-55, race open. Friendship first, maybe more? Call soon. (12/31) ☎90701

SEEKING KIND, HONEST MAN, age 49-55. I enjoy movies, flea markets, cooking, animals. Good sense of humor a plus. (12/31) ☎90686

RADIANT, ATTRACTIVE, European educated, professional lady desires tall, handsome, passionate, sexy, artistic, successful gentleman to share romantic time together, and enjoy life to fullest, 43-55. (12/31) ☎90698

STOPI! SPECIAL LADY, widowed, looking for my special man. I'm 59, Caucasian, country attitude. Your: great personality, time, monogamous, 58+, smoker. Like lunches out, weekends, coffee and talks. (12/31) ☎90690

LOVER/BOYFRIEND WANTED by plus size brunette. Nonsmoker. Seeking long-term relationship. Very loving and sincere. Let's go for it, big boy! (12/31) ☎90687

ZEST FOR LIFE! Curvaceous, sexy, white, 44, seeking passionate, sensitive

man; share laughter, commitment, excitement, dreams. Captivating energy to invigorate your soul. Embrace the journey. (1/7) ☎90714

ASTUTE, 56, COLLEGE EDUCATED, energetic, in excellent physical and emotional health, nonsmoker/drugs, enjoy all the performing arts, travel. Seeking healthy man who likes women! (12/31) ☎90683

GRAB LIFE AND LET GO! Tall, pretty, very fit, sexy, slender, woman professional, 46, no issues or cats, wants monogamous, outdoor, athletic, happy man. (12/31) ☎90688

LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING. European, beautiful, happy individual, 57, slender, blonde, glamorous, genuine, warm. You: 58-62, attractive, romantic, great values, unusual. Let's go dancing, dining, laughing. (12/31) ☎90681

PRETTY TEACHER, blonde/blue, 41, 5'8", bikini looks, two teens home part-time (oldest at college). Seeking fun loving, successful Republican, nonsmoking, Christian male, 32-53. (12/31) ☎90694

TRUSTING, LASTING FRIEND wanted. Someone to count on, build relationship with, caring, support, authentic communication, time, fun, movies, etc. 57", attractive, 44, curvaceous, enthusiastic, healthy. (12/31) ☎90695

MATCHES

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

SHAKE IT LIKE A polaroid picture! White, 31, fit, educated, funny, career. Seeking Nubian queen for fun, nights out, conversation, laughs. Not average white boy. (1/7) ☎20285

SEEKING ASIAN YOUNG LADY: I am new in town. Caucasian male, professional. Looking for friendship, dating, possibly more. I am secure and have no baggage. (12/31) ☎20213

ITALIAN MAN, 40, 6'1", honest, sincere, enjoys movies, walks on beach, easygoing, home oriented. Seeking slender attractive woman for meaningful relationship. No drugs, smoking, games. (1/7) ☎20266

37, POOR, SHORT MAN. Romantic, passionate, like running, jogging, camping, hiking, creating, cooking. No drugs. Open minded, searching for serious relationship. Any age/race. (12/31) ☎20215

AMERICAN/ITALIAN, 49, 182lbs., athletic, professional seeking Filipina, 34-47, very attractive, athletic, biking, tennis, hiking, films, comedy clubs, metaphysics, for relationship. (1/7) ☎20255

ROMANTIC GUY, 35, handsome, successful, spiritual and music producer seeks cinderella (22-32) to fill the poetry of her heart and glass slipper of her dreams. (12/31) ☎20222

HEAVEN CAN WAIT and so can I. This 73 year old still enjoys dancing through this wonderful life. Join me the rest of the way. (1/7) ☎20256

YOUNG-LOOKING, TALL, handsome, healthy, very financially secure, retired, successful businessman, widower, homeowner. Seeking attractive, affectionate lady, 50-65. Dates, friendship, trips, fun, romance, dancing, laughs. (1/7) ☎20290

ULTIMATE BLACK MALE, intelligent, humorous, honest, sensual, enjoys movies, art, galleries, music. Seeks like interest, shapely, open minded, white

female, 37-47 for serious relationship. (12/31) ☎20216

ASIAN LADY DESIRED. White male, 44, healthy, fit, highly educated, 6', 200lbs., professional. Loves: music, ethnic foods, giving long back rubs, history, technology. (1/7) ☎20275

PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN. Teacher/performer, handsome, 6'1", 170lbs., 51, red/blue, swing dancer, bicycle racer, nonsmoker/drinker/drugs. Child free seeks someone with right chemistry/connection. (1/7) ☎20264

HAPPY CHANUKAH! Share my latke! 52, tall, seeks catless, nonheavy, nonsmoker, nonfootball, nonbaseball, morning person. (12/31) ☎20245

BEST FRIEND, LOVER, monogamous, caring, sharing, homebody, soft spoken, nature outings, city activities, social drinks, sports fan, current events, mid-westerner, mid-40's, condo owner, environmentalist, democrat. (12/31) ☎20226

NICE GUY LOOKING FOR nice girl, 25-35. Are you into exercise, gardening, cooking, arts, church and traveling? I could be the one for you! (1/7) ☎20274

HANDSOME, 52-YEAR OLD, Christian, hardworking man, seeks slim to medium, Christian lady to enjoy fellowship, and mountain view. (12/31) ☎20229

EBONY LADY BE MY GIFT from Santa. All I want is an attractive, honest, proportionate, nonmaterialistic lady, 35-45, under my tree. Me: tall, white, attractive. (1/7) ☎20252

GREAT PACKAGE, WARM, good looking, conscious, funny, healthy, successful, expressive, creative, nice guy. 50ish. Seeking attractive, sensitive, available soul mate, for monogamous, intimate, committed relationship. (12/31) ☎20244

ASIAN BEAUTY, 40-55, North County Coastal? Slim, loving, happy, financially stable, educated who wants a loving, physically fit, Robert Redford man (without the wrinkles). (1/7) ☎20273

Honest, Sincere, Communication

Single male, 53, black/hazel, sensitive, affectionate, faithful, enjoy movies, music, picnics, time for you, mysterious, challenging, unpredictable, confident, uncontrollable, thoughtful, secure, calm, humorous. (12/31) ☎20228

SEEKING ASIAN YOUNG LADY: I am new in town. Caucasian male, professional. Looking for friendship, dating, possibly more. I am secure and have no baggage. (1/7) ☎20281

ARE YOU ALOOF AND wanting or serious about having a relationship. I'm 45, black, average looks, self-supporting. Seeking 35-50 woman, race no issue. (12/31) ☎20220

OFFICER AND GENTLEMAN looks like Ernest Hemingway, visiting scholar, likes music, dancing, nature, dining, fast cars, sports, Vegas, travel, passion. Start the New Year right! (1/7) ☎20261

TWO GUYS LOOKING FOR two women under 45 years. Good sense of humor, responsible professionals, fit, intelligent, successful, sincere, nonsmokers. (1/7) ☎20287

Are You Lonely Tonight?

Are you about forty-somethingish, Christian, physically fit, financially responsible, childless, and ready to click with similar, yet older, mature, monogamous, smart male? (1/7) ☎20260

TALL, ATTRACTIVE, SLENDER, fit, 49, employed, debt free, witty, fun, open minded, loves dinner, shopping malls, walks, holding hands, hugs. Seeking attractive, romantic woman. (12/31) ☎20227

TALL, ATHLETIC, professional, 42, 6'1", brown/blue, healthy lifestyle seeking thick, athletic lady, 30-48 for biking, tennis, sailing, hiking, etc. Thick legs a plus! (1/7) ☎20254

HANDSOME, SEXY, SUCCESSFUL executive, 59, trim, 5'10", blonde, green eyes, clean, caring, considerate, romantic, seeks pretty lady, 40s+ for travel for happy, exciting committed relationship. (12/31) ☎20211

TALL, FIT, HANDSOME, confident, personable, fun loving, 45. Looking for that special lady for romantic, and lasting relationship. Passionate, affectionate, responsible. Healthy, slender, pretty. Nonsmoker. (1/7) ☎20289

ACTIVE, FIT, HUMOROUS, self-employed former hippie seeking responsible wild-woman. Anticipating intense intellectual, spiritual adventures. Enjoy walks on the beach, and saving the world. (12/31) ☎20221

46, WHITE MALE, Oceanside, seeking lady who enjoys hugs, kisses and have a man to love you the way you need and want. Call me. (1/7) ☎20251

HEY, I'M NEW IN TOWN. 6', 30, blue/brown, good looking, honest, funny. You: honest, sexy, reliable, funny, available for San Diego, movies, dancing, whatever? (1/7) ☎20284

BLACK,HANDSOME, 30, seeks serious, mature and honest woman for friendship and conversation, maybe more. Race open. 130-180lbs., under 40. Receptive to love, children, marriage. (1/7) ☎20270

SINGLE BLACK MALE seeking Latina or fair black female, let's take on 2004 together! (12/31) ☎20223

ATTRACTIVE, AFFLUENT, independent bachelor wishes to share life and beautiful home with 30-something female counterpart. Me: Caucasian, trim, childless. You: the same! North County. (1/7) ☎20267

HONESTY, TRADITIONAL values, lasting relationship. Professional, 50s, seeking nonsmoking, good-natured woman to enjoy weekend adventures, casual entertainment, travel, friends, good food, my cooking, life. (12/31) ☎20224

SEEKING SINCERE relationship. 54, good shape, healthy, enjoy movies, walks, dinners. Would like to meet for holidays, and develop relationship. Start the new year right. (12/31) ☎20237

JEWISH MAN, 59, seeks Jewish woman, 35-50, for friendship, possibly long-term relationship. Interests: Tennis, hiking, music, live theater. No children living at home. (12/31) ☎20232

BLACK MALE, 41, LOOKING for full figured, red haired, white woman to watch the sunset, conversations, music, dancing, honesty, long term relationship. Age between 35-55. (1/7) ☎20250

EMOTIONALLY AVAILABLE, 52, 6'4", sincere, secure, spiritual, sensuous, sensual, passionate, compassionate, well educated, open minded, creative

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- How to avoid rejection
- How to flirt successfully
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- How to appear safe
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6:30 event begins | 8:45 event begins

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160 San Diego Reader December 24, 2003

soul mate. Sailing, skiing, dining, dancing, candlelight romance. (1/7) 20268

SURFER, MUSICIAN, businessman, 5'9", 168lbs., blond hair, 36, attractive, athletic, divorced male. Seeking female for fun times, music, and possibly more. I'm a good dancer. (12/31) 20235

ASIAN MALE, PROFESSIONAL, athletic, easygoing, sincere. Seeking Asian female, 30-40, for friendship, dating, romance. Enjoy Asian culture, food, music. (12/31) 20233

TALL, ATTRACTIVE, romantic nonsmoker seeking serious relationship. Has brown eyes/hair, clean cut. Enjoys surfing, cycling, dancing, music. Seeking 21-34, without children. (1/7) 20272

DIVORCED, WHITE MALE, 65, 5'9", medium build, degreed professional, romantic, spontaneous, adventurous, enjoy movies, theater, fine dining. Seeking lady, 55-65, to enjoy San Diego lifestyle. (12/31) 20236

HORSES, COUNTRY LIFE, 53, handsome, homeowner, emotionally/financially secure. Seeking attractive counterpart for monogamous relationship. (12/31) 20230

YOU DON'T HAVE TO look like Twiggy. Warm, nice guy, employed, even-tempered, 6'2", 200lbs. Seeking 45+ lady, any height, for committed relationship, and fun. (1/7) 20288

SEEKING ASIAN BEAUTY, 30-50 by successful Caucasian, 48, handsome, sportive, fit, educated, affectionate, considerate, generous, kind and loving. I'll share everything with Ms. Right. Forever! (12/31) 20217

TALL, HANDSOME, HEALTHY, very fit, 42, clean cut, athletic, hunk, seeking beautiful, fit and trim nonsmoker under 40. Let's bike, tailgate, dine and gym together. (1/7) 20279

QUIET BAD BOY will make you smile. He's 35 with brown eyes, curly hair, Jewish brains and Spanish passion. Let's be friends and lovers. Call. (1/7) 20282

BE MY ONLY BAD HABIT. Be adventurous, nice, affectionate, slim, happy, wise, fun, frisky. Kids are great, I have none. Must like the beach. (1/7) 20271

LET'S LAUGH, LIVE, LOVE. Young, 57, La Costa professional, 5'9", sensitive, honest, successful, great sense humor, sensual, passionate, enjoys travel, sunsets, and appreciation for life. (1/7) 20265

FINE GENTLEMAN, good natured, outgoing, slim, 5'8". Seeks mature senior woman, 69 plus, joyful in spirit, aging gracefully. (1/7) 20247

WHITE MALE, 61, East County, slightly handicapped, no hiking. Seeking friendship with romance, home life, barbecues, quiet evenings filled with hugs. Interested? Race open. (1/7) 20263

GOOD-LOOKING, SMART, STABLE, successful, unencumbered, nice guy, approximately 6', 180lbs., 46. Seeking slender, single, highly educated, nurtur-

ing beauty, 35-43, for balanced, long-term relationship. (12/31) 20212

HANDSOME, FINANCIALY secure, white male, 40s, massage specialist seeks open minded lady needing intimacy and sensual affection, enjoys massage and values her privacy and independence. (12/31) 20214

GOOD LOOKING, GREAT CATCH, white male, 6'3", 225lbs., 41. Looking for princess for relationship. Best friends for adventures, road trips, cooking, romance, companionship. (12/31) 20242

SPIRITUAL, METAPHYSICAL, growth oriented, interested in holistic healing on all levels. Seeking intuitive, compassionate female of like mind for friendship/relationship of mutual support. 5'5". (1/7) 20280

80 YEARS YOUNG SEEKS Caucasian available female for dining out, movies, plays. Must be well-groomed, dressed. I am lovable even-tempered 43-year resident who treats a lady like a queen. (12/31) 20219

PLAYMATE WANTED. Want to have some fun this New Years? I'm tall, attractive, athletic, black, 40-something, searching for intimacy and fun. Prefer interracial dating. (1/7) 20269

DOWN TO EARTH, athletic, fit, humorous, wealthy/frugal, homeowner, love travel, hiking, camping, laughing, beach walks, biking, hugs. Seeking fit, nonsmoking female, under 40. (12/31) 20234

EAST COUNTY, RETIRED, 70, 5'6", likes travel, movies, walks, healthy, active, trim. Looking for quality time with nice lady. (1/7) 20276

54 YEARS OLD, BLOND, financially secure, retired. Enjoy good company, dining, music, movies. Look for long-term relationship if interested. Prefer Asian ladies. (12/31) 20218

WHAT EXPLAINS THE ATTRACTION of that sexy, older man, experienced and worldly? Tall, fit, early retired professional, 54, will satisfy your curiosity and desires. (12/31) 20243

BLACK MALE, 48, great physique, ambitious and charming musician with discerning sensibilities and a flair for the humorous. Seeking an emotionally free woman. Race open. (1/7) 20257

ASIAN LADY REQUESTED by gentleman, because you are honest, bright, slim, sensual, happy, jazz lover, a sense of humor. Please call me. Thank you. Ciao. (12/31) 20225

HILLBILLY, REDNECK, TALL, comedy, humor, two stepper, country, oldies, Marshall Tucker, Skynard. Seeking slender, country girl, or tomboy. Movies, barbecues, concerts, dancing, horses, romance. (1/7) 20286

DO YOU WANT TO DO something next weekend? Me too. I'm 39, 6', 180lbs., attractive, stable. Seeking nice looking, easygoing, steady friend. (12/31) 20238

LOTS TO OFFER, professional, balanced, unencumbered athletic, solvent, attractive, romantic, 53, homeowner,

spontaneous, midwest values, educated. Seeks compatible/chemical relationship with proportioned, outgoing woman. (1/7) 20248

SERIOUS, NO GAMES, ready for love! Well groomed, tall, black, 34, male, seeks serious Spanish or white, slim woman for real and true love down? (1/7) 20249

BE MY TICKET TO A wonderful time together. 54, Caucasian, humorous, caring, considerate, romantic. Let's spend some fun times together, maybe more. Call or e-mail. (1/7) 20283

TALL, INTELLIGENT, AUTHENTIC, affectionate, available guy, 40s. Enjoys movies, music, malls, books, conversation. Seeking connection, belonging, romance, passion, love with nonsmoking, best friend, partner, 30-50. (12/31) 20246

SURF, BLADES, BIKES, jogs, guitarist, restaurants, theater, movies, 37, 5'11", athletic build, spontaneous, North County coastal. You: athletic, quiet evenings at home, time to date. (12/31) 20239

ATTENTION LADIES. Are you fed up with all this personal ad nonsense? Well then, let's get married. Who wants to see Elvis? (12/31) 20240

TROPICAL FRUIT LOVER? 10 acre ranch, Bonita. Artist. Independent. Gardening. Fresh foods. Great cook. Tender care. Relaxation. Peaceful. Kind. Compassionate. Thoughtful. Giver. 40s. Easygoing. Happy. (1/7) 20258

TALL, SLENDER, FIT, 51, mannered, father, degreed, sincere, humorous seeks 40-50 lady, bright, trim, attractive, nonsmoker, inland North County for movies, dance, drives, warmth, tenderness. (1/7) 20253

LONELY OLD "GEEZER", widower, is looking for senior cute "chick", retired, without excess baggage, who loves music, cruises, tours, trips, for hugs, kisses, long relationship. (1/7) 20262

ROOMMATES

ALLIED GARDENS. \$700. Share 3 bedroom, 1 bath house. Washer/dryer, yard. Close to all, quiet street. Share utilities. Nonsmoker. Pet negotiable. E-mail, mnankervis@cox.net. 619-298-7444.

BAY HO/CLAIREMONT WEST. \$650, plus utilities. Master bedroom with French doors onto 128 square feet private deck. Nonsmoker. 858-494-3440.

BAY PARK. \$700/month plus 1/2 utilities. Full amenities. Bay view. Private entrance, private bathroom. Big room. 619-957-9333.

BAY PARK. \$750 includes utilities. Own room and bath in condo. Lots of amenities. Close to USD. Call Sara, 858-699-8471.

BAY PARK. \$675, 1/3 utilities. Share 4 bedroom, 2 bath house with 2 others. Laundry, off-street parking, yard, fantastic ocean view. Nonsmoker. Available immediately. 619-275-5506.

CARDIFF. \$500/month, \$500 deposit. Room available in 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Back yard, washer/dryer. Close to

everything. Call anytime, leave message, 760-753-4988.

CARDIFF. \$675, 1/2 utilities. Nonsmoking female or male, share 2 bedroom apartment. Have own bathroom, washer/dryer, fireplace, gym, pool. No pets. Available 1/15/04. Casey, 760-436-8411.

CARDIFF. Private bath, \$575/garden entrance, \$550, plus deposits. Community living with privacy. Vegetarian kitchen, organic garden, jacuzzi, laundry, distilled water, nonsmoker, no dogs. 760-753-0321.

CARDIFF/ENCINITAS. \$600 plus utilities. Female preferred. Rare, secluded, 2 acre, 4 bedroom, 3 bath, large patio, private balcony, jacuzzi. Share in housekeeping. Timothy, 760-634-9824.

CARLSBAD, SOUTH. \$650/month, utilities included. In beautiful Rancho Carillo. Large bedroom in new 3 bedroom townhouse. Cable Internet, pool, spa, washer/dryer. Nonsmoker preferred. Chris, 760-420-9385; 760-438-9911.

CARLSBAD. \$675, 1/3 utilities. Pool, spa, gated community, fireplace. Share 3 bedroom house. Close to beach. Cable included. Washer/dryer. No smoking. 619-279-3154.

CARLSBAD. \$550, share utilities. House. Freeway/beach close. Washer/dryer, hot tub, fenced front/backyard, fireplace, outside patio/barbecue. \$200 deposit. Available now. Tom, 619-235-2415, x25735.

CARLSBAD. \$825 plus security deposit, 1/2 utilities. Share beautiful 2 bedroom on bluff overlooking ocean. Newly remodeled, tile floors. All amenities. No smoking/pets. 760-802-3180.

CARLSBAD. \$480. Room for rent in beautiful house. Nice community. Washer/dryer included. No pets. 858-335-3965.

CARLSBAD/ENCINITAS. \$630, including utilities. Own bathroom. Washer/dryer. No pets, no smoking. Short lease possible. Available immediately. 760-635-3638.

CARMEL VALLEY/DEL MAR. \$795. Room for rent. New, sunny, quiet, clean 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Canyon view, washer/dryer, fireplace, balcony, cable, gym, pools, jacuzzis. Female only. No pets. Available 1/12/04. 858-755-8122.

CARMEL VALLEY/TORREY Highlands. \$650, 1/2 utilities, 1 bedroom; or 2 bedrooms, \$750, 1/2 utilities. Off Hwy. 56. New 4 bedroom townhome built 11/3. Private bath, 1/2 garage. matuza@prusd.com. Leave message, 858-720-7719.

CARMEL VALLEY. \$665, \$250 deposit. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, Archstone apartment. Female only. Washer/dryer, pool, spa, fitness center. Nonsmoking/pets. Available immediately. Shannon, 858-603-7614.

CHULA VISTA. \$650 includes utilities. Bedroom available. Phone and computer hookups. Jacuzzi. 4 bedroom house near I-805. Prefer no pets, no smoking, no drinking. 619-235-2415, x32550.

CLAIREMONT, NORTH. \$430 including \$30 utilities. First/last. Large, quiet 4-bedroom house on canyon. Large yard, washer/dryer, filtered water throughout house. Full kitchen privileges. Near Mesa College/transportation. Nonsmoking female preferred. 858-279-3479.

CLAIREMONT. \$600, 1/3 utilities. Share 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Hardwood floors, spa, washer/dryer, yard. Available now. 480-205-8662.

CLAIREMONT. Rooms available in 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. \$700 with unattached bathroom or \$800 for master bedroom with attached bathroom. Plus 1/2 utilities. Share with 1 male. Washer/dryer, garage. Cat negotiable. 619-339-8714.

CLAIREMONT. \$565/month. Share large 4 bedroom house with 2 roommates. Front and backyard, fireplace, washer/dryer, fully furnished. Call Ali, 858-337-7339; 619-235-2415, x15084.

CLAIREMONT. \$500/month includes utilities, cable Internet, full privileges, storage, laundry. Near Mesa, I-805, bus line. Have cat. 858-495-3225.

COLLEGE AREA. \$450/month, utilities included. Share bathroom. Large yard. 4 bedroom house. All amenities. Available now. Giovanni, 619-210-5724.

COLLEGE AREA. \$650. 2 roommates needed. Beautifully remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Near College/Adelaide. New carpet, tile, paint. Amenities. Fenced yard. Parking. Storage. Washer/dryer. 619-886-8007.

Call the free Roommate Hotline! 235-2415

Soon after advertisers place their ads, their spoken introductions go on the Roommate Hotline. This lets you **hear listings before they're printed in the Reader**. Call 24 hours/day & choose option two. Select listings by gender, price and area. Listings updated daily.

COLLEGE AREA. \$400 plus utilities, \$500 deposit. Large 3 bedroom, 1 bath house. Huge yard, garage, washer/dryer, dishwasher, jacuzzi. Male only. Available now. 619-269-9441.

COLLEGE AREA. \$595. Huge room! Private bath! Private slider to yard! Month-to-month lease. 619-301-4525.

COLLEGE AREA. Room in spacious condo. Washer/dryer, parking, walk to market. No smoking/pets. \$460. 619-337-7657.

COLLEGE AREA. \$400/month, 1/5 utilities, \$400 security deposit. 1 bedroom in 5 bedroom house, available 1/3/04. No smoking/pets. Males only. 619-235-2415, x30879.

COLLEGE AREA. \$500 plus utilities, \$400 deposit. Female nonsmoker to share nice 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, 2-story condo.

Washer/dryer, dishwasher. Available now. 619-347-9995.

COLLEGE AREA. \$550 and \$600. 2 rooms available 1/15/04. Female only. No smoking/pets. Jacuzzi, washer/dryer, huge yard. Clean, quiet. Near I-8/94. 858-337-7417.

DEL CERRO. \$500, \$350 deposit. Near SDSU. Share large 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Kitchen, fireplace, backyard, washer/dryer. Clean. Small pet OK. Heidi, 619-255-3055; 619-235-2415, x22368.

DEL MAR, WEST. \$575+. Clean/new furnished room with shared bath. Quiet, sunny, nonsmoking, remodeled home. Cable, laundry, kitchen, fireplace, housekeeper. Own phone line. 858-481-5312; 619-235-2415, x22436.

DEL MAR. \$550, 1/3 utilities, \$500 deposit. Furnished bedroom, 3 bedroom townhouse. Shared bathroom. Washer/dryer. Nonsmoking/pets. Near beach. Quiet area. Month to month. 619-235-2415, x10032.

DOWNTOWN. Penthouse. Walk to Gaslamp. Rent bedroom in 3 bedroom, 3 bath condo. Concierge, on-site security, gated entry, underground garage, 3 decks, granite countertop, stainless appliances, ocean views, 20' ceilings, swimming pool, jacuzzi. 619-501-0480, www.byrnonthunt.com.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. \$400, utilities included, \$200 deposit. Share bath. Washer, parking. No drinking, drugs, pets. 619-696-0381.

EASTLAKE, GREENS/Chula Vista. \$700/month, master bedroom plus garage. Bedroom, shared bath plus parking space, \$550. Bedroom, shared bath, street parking, \$450. Resort living, gated, golf, tennis, pools. 3 roommates, share 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath home. Nonsmoking. Cat OK. 619-318-4446.

EL CAJON. \$400, 1/3 water and electricity. Quiet 3 bedroom country house with mountain view, easy access to freeway, bus, shopping mall. Nonsmoker. Linda, 619-749-1116; 619-235-2415, x30427.

ENCINITAS. \$1000, 1/2 utilities, deposit. 2 rooms/own bath. One occupant wanted, share quiet 4 bedroom home with owner. Private bath, phone line, washer/dryer, housekeeper, satellite TV, DSL connection. No smoking/drugs/pets. Available. Sheri, 760-635-1554; 760-473-3087; sheriburk@msn.com.

ENCINITAS. \$750 plus utilities. Master bedroom/bath in 2 bedroom house. Huge yard. Possible dog. No drugs. Smoking outside only. Available immediately. Leah, 949-235-5723; 760-633-4200.

ENCINITAS. \$550 plus 1/3 utilities. Own bedroom/bath. Washer/dryer, garage, spa. Very nice apartment, clean, 1 mile to beach. Female preferred. 619-861-1195.

ENCINITAS. \$550, 1/4 utilities. Room in quiet, modern house in beautiful neighborhood. Washer/dryer, cable, kitchen privileges, phone line available. Deposit. Won't last long! 760-753-1686; 619-235-2415, x12093.

ENCINITAS. \$575, 1/2 utilities. Share 2 bedroom, 2 bath, spacious apartment. Easy parking, large pool and jacuzzi, relaxing. No smoking. 760-635-3600; 619-235-2415, x21023.

Place your Reader roommate ad *today* and get responses *tomorrow*!

Call (619) 235-2415 day or night.

For just \$20 per week, you receive:

- A 25-word printed ad in the *Reader*
- Use of a 24-hour voice mailbox service
- Placement on the Roommate Hotline

1. Pay with Visa, MasterCard, Discover, check or cash. The cost is \$20. No matter which payment option you choose, you must first call (619) 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. Your print ad may not describe you or the person you are seeking.

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
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21	22	23	24	25

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

MAILBOX NUMBER	SECURITY CODE
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5. To retrieve your messages call (619) 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.

6. The deadline for placing voice mail ads is Monday at 6 pm; however, print-only ads can be placed until Tuesday at 6 pm by calling (619) 235-8200. All voice mail ads will be placed on the Hotline within 24 hours. So call today! No cancellations accepted.

7. Renew your mailbox and ad if you don't need to make any changes in your ad copy or mailbox recording. Call (619) 235-2415 and choose the renewal option. You may renew your mailbox any time Thursday through 6 pm Monday.

8. Advertisers are responsible for checking their Roommate ads for accuracy and reporting errors by 6 pm Monday, following publication. Call (619) 235-8200.

Mail-in payment: Reader Roommate Line P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186

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

For questions regarding Roommate ads, call (619) 235-8200, x265.

ENCINITAS. \$595 plus utilities. Furnished (optional) bedroom in luxury, 2 bedroom condo. Own bath, parking. Pool, spa. Excellent location! No pets. Nonsmoking. References. 760-479-9759; 760-840-0649.

ENCINITAS/LEUCADIA. \$550, 1/2 utilities plus deposit. 2 bedroom, 2 bath available 1/1. Clean, quiet, nonsmoking, no pets. Please call days, 760-930-1709; evenings, 760-479-0249.

ESCONDIDO. \$540 plus deposit, includes utilities. Private bathroom, wood floors, laundry. Beautiful yard. House privileges. Peaceful. Exceptional. 1 person, no pets. Easy freeway access. 760-736-3580.

ESCONDIDO. \$575 plus 1/3 utilities. Large room with fireplace, furnished or unfurnished. Computer cable modem. Newly remodeled home with pool, jacuzzi. No smoking, no pets. 619-235-2415, x32746.

ESCONDIDO. \$650 plus. Spacious, clean, quiet home. Vaulted ceilings, mirrors, fireplace, central air, full privileges. Nonsmoking, pet negotiable. Virtual tour, <http://members.cox.net/pix4paxguy/>. 760-741-7949.

FASHION HILLS. \$500, includes utilities. Female roommate wanted to share house. Ocean view. Washer/dryer. Private, quiet cul-de-sac. No pets. Star 82, 858-565-7294.

FASHION VALLEY. City Scene condo. \$700. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Top floor with view. Dishwasher, washer/dryer, pool, jacuzzi, gym, security. Female only. No smoking, drugs, pets. Available now. 858-571-5477.

FASHION VALLEY. \$700/month, \$300 deposit. Share 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath town-home with owner. New complete remodel. Pool, jacuzzi, DSL, washer/dryer. Own bathroom. 650-520-0380; 619-235-2415, x17063.

FASHION VALLEY. \$575. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Dishwasher, washer/dryer, balcony, garage, heated olympic pool, jacuzzi, sauna, recreation room. Clean, quiet. Available now. 858-573-1944.

GOLDEN HILL. \$500/month. Small bedroom in beautiful Victorian home. Shared kitchen/downstairs. Centrally located downtown/Balboa Park. Wood floors, fireplace, garden. Nancy. 619-238-0789; 858-414-1773; 619-235-2415, x22046.

HILLCREST, CENTRAL. \$650, 1/2 utilities, deposit. Male preferred. Own bedroom/bathroom. Complete amenities. Condo style. Street parking. No pets. Available now. Ed. 619-788-2569 or 619-297-0963.

HILLCREST. \$695 plus 1/2 utilities, \$300 security deposit. 2 story condo. Own bathroom, garage, washer/dryer, great location. No smoking or drugs. Male preferred. 619-300-7329.

HILLCREST. \$795 plus utilities. 100% remodeled. Fantastic location. Male to share 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Laundry in unit. Greg. 858-405-4682.

HILLCREST. \$700. Share 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with male and 2 cats. No new pets. \$350 deposit. 619-269-4945.

IMPERIAL BEACH. \$475. Share large custom home, 4 bedroom, 3 bath. Big

room, backyard, laundry, kitchen privileges plus cable. Quiet, peaceful retreat. Female preferred. 619-429-8383.

IMPERIAL BEACH. \$500/each, 2 rooms available. Less than a mile to the beach. On a quiet street, new appliances and wood floors. Call 619-261-8668.

KENSINGTON. \$600, 1/2 utilities, deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, furnished view home, laundry, peaceful, clean. Nonsmoking/pets. Beautiful home, great vista of Mission Valley. 619-865-8866; 619-235-2415, x10428.

KENSINGTON/TALMADGE. \$575, 1/2 utilities. Cute, quiet 2 bedroom, 1 bath house, 1000 square feet, gated, newly renovated, dishwasher. Side courtyard, backyard. Prefer female. 619-582-0158; 619-235-2415, x14811.

LA JOLLA. \$505/month. 1 bedroom available in 3 bedroom house. Washer/dryer, parking, 2 blocks from Windansea. Available immediately! Call Monica, 760-917-1611.

LA JOLLA. \$600, 1/2 utilities. Near UCSD. Private, furnished bedroom. Pool, jacuzzi, exercise room. Cable, cable modem, desk, bed, dressers, more. 858-452-3060.

LA JOLLA/WINDANSEA. \$950. Share awesome beach house with 2 males. Huge living room, kitchen, ocean view decks, washer/dryer. Available now. warrensohn@yahoo.com.

LA JOLLA/WINDANSEA. beach. \$725 includes utilities. Fully furnished bedroom, shared bath. Private entrance in house. Quiet. Near UCSD. Nonsmoker, no pets. 858-459-3089; 619-235-2415, x12137.

LA MESA, WEST/SDSU. \$540. Share amazing house with view. Private bedroom, garage, laundry, fireplace, home theater, jacuzzi, air conditioning, garden and more. Available now. 619-235-2415, x17171.

LA MESA. \$650 with utilities. Master bedroom/private bath. Share 3 bedroom home with parking for 4. Balcony for each room, large patio and backyard, washer/dryer. Freeway and trolley access! Javier, 760-912-2491.

LA MESA. \$500 plus utilities. Female only. Room in 3 bedroom home with pool and jacuzzi. Shared bathroom. No smoking, no pets. 619-254-4129.

LA MESA. \$600 plus expenses. Large bedroom with view. Share remodeled house. Pool, spa, pool table, large screen HDTV. 619-460-2824.

LA MESA/SAN DIEGO. \$575, 1/2 utilities. Female preferred, share 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Near freeway, SDSU, Lake Murray. Laundry, parking. Nonsmoking/drugs. 858-349-1152.

LA MESA/SDSU. \$550, utilities, \$550 deposit. Townhome. Large master bedroom with Cowles Mountain view, attached bath. 2-car garage, washer/dryer, fireplace. 619-465-2967; 619-417-6735; 619-235-2415, x27489.

LEMON GROVE. \$500, 3 rooms available in 4 bedroom, 2 bath house. 1/4 utilities. Access to all. Quiet neighborhood, private drive. Females preferred. 619-469-4970.

LINDA VISTA/USD. \$485/month, \$150 deposit, \$35 utilities, except phone. Female only. Share house with shared bathroom. Nonsmoker/drugs. Near beaches, shopping, freeways. 858-560-6714; 619-235-2415, x29944.

MIRA MESA. \$525. Share large house. Master or single rooms available. Cable and phone in room. New carpet/bathroom. Quiet neighborhood, good location. 619-871-4582.

MIRA MESA. \$700 plus deposit. Room includes utilities, phone jack, cable, HBO, high-speed Internet, closet, storage, parking. Share great well furnished 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with male and female. 858-663-0010.

MIRA MESA. \$550 includes utilities for room. 3 miles from highways 15/163. Large home. Full washer/dryer, dishwasher, cable, spa, pool table, fireplace and 1 lovable dog. Have 3 rooms available. Kim, 619-203-2682.

MIRA MESA. \$500 plus deposit, includes utilities, cable, DSL, 3 females seek female roommate. Close to stores and bus line. Contact Diane at 858-537-9061.

MIRA MESA. \$650 includes utilities, \$150 deposit. Large house, master bedroom with bath. Available 1/1/04. Jeff, 619-301-2271.

MIRA MESA. \$485. Seeking female roommate. Large house, quiet, calm. Includes all utilities, cable TV, washer/dryer, community pool. No pets/smoking. 858-271-1035; 619-235-2415, x14789.

MIRA MESA. \$500/month, 1/3 utilities, \$500 deposit. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Includes laundry, garage, pool, jacuzzi, storage. 858-566-0070; 619-235-2415, x27507.

MISSION HILLS. \$575 includes cable, Internet, electricity, \$500 deposit. Female share 3 bedroom home with 2 women, dog. Nonsmoker, no drugs. Available January. 619-291-3861.

MISSION VALLEY. \$625 plus utilities. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, unfurnished, move-in January. Washer/dryer facilities, cable modem, gated, jacuzzi, pool, gym, parking. rfrey2@san.rr.com. 619-250-5542.

MISSION VALLEY. \$750, \$750 deposit. Seeking female roommate, share newly renovated, pool side, 2-story master bedroom/bath condo. River Run. New appliances, carpet, paint. 619-235-2415, x31249.

MISSION VALLEY. \$575, 1/3 utilities. Very spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Washer/dryer, pool, jacuzzi, tennis, parking. Nonsmoking female preferred. 619-280-6367.

NATIONAL CITY. \$500/month, \$150 deposit. Bedroom available in Tagalog/English speaking, nonsmoking house. Laundry on site, close to bus, utilities paid. Available now. 619-892-3483.

NORTH PARK. \$475, 1/2 utilities, deposit. Share large 2 bedroom apartment. Parking, washer/dryer. No pets. Available January. 619-546-4096.

NORTH PARK. \$650, \$500 deposit, 1/3 utilities, cable. Large, private room/bath, walk-in closet. New 3 bedroom condo. Phone and internet included. No pets/smoking. 619-253-2723.

NORTH PARK. \$525, 1/2 utilities, \$500 deposit. Quiet street, renovated complex. Available 1/1. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry. No smoking/drugs. Near Morley Field. 619-293-3236.

OCEAN BEACH/SUNSET CLIFFS. \$550 plus utilities. Ocean view, luxury home. Beach 2 blocks. Laundry, parking, fireplace, landscaped. No pets/smoking. 4811 Santa Cruz. 619-223-5092.

OCEAN BEACH. \$625, 1/3 utilities, deposit. 3 bedroom house, 1 room available. 1-1/2 bath. Washer/dryer, yard, patio, driveway. Beach 1 block, Newport 3 blocks. No pets. 619-223-1149.

OCEAN BEACH/POINT LOMA. \$750+. Spectacular ocean view home on cliffs. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. Washer/dryer, fireplace, garage, den, large yard. Maid, gardener. 619-218-5843.

OCEAN BEACH. \$650/month, \$600 deposit. Beach 3 blocks. Own bedroom/bathroom. Share spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath, apartment complex. Available now. No pets. 619-246-2151.

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OCEAN BEACH. \$600 plus utilities, \$600 deposit. Seeking roommate. Share 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment at Voltaire and Catalina. No pets. References required. Call 619-250-4970; 619-235-2415, x25433.

OCEAN BEACH/POINT LOMA. \$525. Room available 1/1 in 2 bedroom, 1 bath gated apartment. Near beaches, easy freeway access. Quiet complex. 619-379-4922.

OCEAN BEACH. \$625, 1/3 utilities. Large, sunny room in stylish, 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Ocean views. Waterfall, yard, organic garden, laundry, parking. nicasdreamin@cox.net. 619-675-1733.

OCEANSIDE. \$650 plus deposit, 1/2 utilities. Room for rent in 3 bedroom house. 1/2 garage available. Private, newly remodeled bath/bedroom. Community pool/jacuzzi. Near Mira Costa College and Camp Fendleton. Prefer female. Dog OK. 760-955-9432; 858-232-7201.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$675 includes all utilities/cable (TV/computer). Furnished room with

private bath. No pets. 3 month minimum stay. Prefer nonsmoking male. 858-270-9278.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$800. Perfect 2 bedroom, 1/2 block from beach. Furnished with new leather couches. Assigned parking. First/last months rent required. Call 619-251-2655.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$380/month plus deposit. Second floor. Share rooms. 4502 Cass at Garnet. Passport/ID required. Walk to beach, restaurants, pubs, entertainment. 858-274-4325.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$600/month, 1/2 utilities, 1/2 security. Roommate needed for 2 bedroom apartment. Bay view. 858-270-4534.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$850, utilities and deposit included. Washer/dryer, wireless high-speed Internet, ocean/bay views, fireplace, garage, parking. Master bedroom/bath/closet. 858-829-2990.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$650/month. Roommate wanted for 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Available 2/1/04. Male or female. Nice, gated complex located at 4451 Haines Street, #12. Please call Jon, 858-583-2169.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$575 and \$675. Great location. Bright rooms in 3 bedroom house on Hornblend. Available now. No smoking or drugs. 619-917-2109.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$750. Room for rent. Share bathroom with male. Washer/dryer, fireplace, dishwasher. Close to beach and bay. 858-344-4253.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$575. Available 1/1/04. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. On-site laundry, parking spot. 6 blocks to beach. Walk to everything. \$150 deposit. 858-270-4798.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$600, utilities included. Own room in 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Walk to beach. Laundry, garage. Available 1/1/04. Call 619-347-2426.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$900. Clean and new. Bedroom/bath in 2 bedroom, 2 bath on Mission Bay. Washer/dryer, parking, beautiful view. cmisrach@hotmail.com. 619-846-6666.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$740, low utilities. 1/3 acre estate. Beautifully remodeled. Large bedroom. Travertine bathroom. Orchards, swimming pool, Pacific/Mexico/fireworks views. Internet, cable. 619-750-2641.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$640, share utilities. Beach 10 blocks. Nice, big room in 2 bedroom complex. Everything brand new. \$1280 deposit includes last month's rent. 858-692-5122; 619-235-2415, x19963.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$550 plus utilities. Room in house. Private parking. Jacuzzi, cable, internet. Walk to beach and bay. Female preferred. No pets. Temporary OK. 858-405-7880.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$750. De Anza Resort. Female preferred. Large bedroom/private bath in spacious home. Pool, view, deck. References. Deposit. Gentle male dog OK. 619-548-8992.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$650, 1/2 utilities. 2 bedroom house close to bay and beach. Laundry, parking, DSL, satellite. No drugs, pets, smoking. Available now. 858-483-3586; 619-235-2415, x25530.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$750. Room with own private bath. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Bright, roomy. Will consider 2 people shar-

ing room. Available now. Pete, 858-273-5391; 619-235-2415, x29263.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$500/\$300. Nonsmoking female preferred for large bedroom, shared bath. Very nice, clean. On-site laundry. Close to it. Marcelo, 858-405-3057.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$650. Female wanted to share sunny, 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Large living room, dishwasher, laundry on site, 5 blocks to beach. Julie, 858-581-1224.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$800. Your own floor with private entrance and enormous bath. Beautiful home with bay view, washer/dryer, pool room. Bay 1 block. 858-272-5574; 619-235-2415, x20830.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$750. Furnished bedroom available in very clean 3 bedroom, 3 bath, beautiful townhouse. Short term only. Washer/dryer, fireplace. Nonsmoker. No pets. Available 1/1. 858-395-5124.

PARADISE HILLS. \$450/month. Private entry and bath. Nice view. 619-475-8659.

POINT LOMA. \$500. Female. Room in beautiful tennis club, 2-story townhouse. Pool, sauna, tennis, gym. Near beaches, easy freeway access. No pets. Kathleen, 619-223-6511; 619-235-2415, x27069.

RANCHO BERNARDO. \$550/month. Private entrance, air conditioning, cable and all utilities included. 858-487-4301.

RANCHO PENASQUITOS. \$625/month, 1/2 utilities, \$625 deposit. Female preferred. Large bedroom with bath in condo. Washer/dryer, dishwasher, central air, fireplace. Suzanne, 858-484-2292.

SAN MARCOS. \$550, utilities included. CSUSM/Palomar area. Share large, luxurious, sunny, bright home. Nonsmoker. Fireplace, jacuzzi. Garage available. No pets. 858-361-5500.

SAN MARCOS. \$460, utilities included. Home close to Palomar College and CSUSM. Off Twin Oaks. No drugs, alcohol or smoking. Call Tony, 760-715-1861; 619-235-2415, x31057.

SCRIPPS RANCH. \$500 plus utilities. Share 4 bedroom, 3 bath home. All amenities, pool table, jacuzzi, cable Internet. Quiet neighborhood. Available now. Susan, 858-586-9532; 858-254-4239.

SCRIPPS RANCH. \$575, includes housekeeper, utilities, cable. Bedroom in quiet townhome. Share bathroom, kitchen, laundry. Street parking. Convenient to freeway. Female only. Nonsmoking/pets. 858-566-3152.

SCRIPPS RANCH. \$700. Pets welcome! Female to share huge 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo with 1 other. Gorgeous, must see! Call Gail, 619-218-5827 or 858-653-4550.

SDSU AREA. \$550-\$600 includes all utilities. Rooms available in 4 bedroom condo. Internet, unlimited long distance phone, washer/dryer. Female preferred. 760-415-6883.

SERRA MESA. \$675, utilities included. 3 rooms available in large house with pool. Heart of Mission Valley. Near SDSU. No smoking, no drugs, no alcohol. 619-871-8315.

SERRA MESA. \$440 and \$450, 1/3 utilities. 2 rooms available. Large house near stadium. Call and leave a message at 858-243-1039.

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Re-facing 1/2 the cost. In about 3 days. Call for free estimates. Lic#819921. 619-260-3719.

CARPENTERS

Carpenter

Retired contractor. 30 years of experience with references. Small jobs OK. Credit cards accepted. Call for free estimate, 619-562-5481 or 619-985-8200.

CARPETS

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Tired of a parade of strangers in your house? No employees or subcontractors, bonded/insured. Thursday available. Call Ms. Martin, resclean2003@yahoo.com; 619-249-9154.

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UTC. \$645, 1/2 utilities plus deposit. Female to share 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Washer/dryer, fireplace, gated, underground parking. No pets/smoking. Available January. 619-850-0581.

UTC. \$850/month plus 1/2 utilities. Looking for nonsmoker to share my apartment. I have 1 cat and 1 dog. References. 505-239-1487.

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WANTED: Female nonsmoker seeking home or condo (own bath) to share in already es-tablished situation. Preferably in Del Mar or La Jolla. 858-793-7799.

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$125. Single garage with automatic opener. 4577 Bancroft. 619-281-0022.

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$125. Single garage with automatic opener. 4577 Bancroft. 619-281-0022.

PACIFIC BEACH OFFICE. \$754/month. 520 square feet. Off-street parking. Restroom in suite. Available mid-January. 4455 Lamont Street. 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH OFFICE. \$925. Office space in attractive building. Easy access location. Air conditioning, excellent parking. 2168 Bal-boa Avenue. Torrey Pines Property Manage-ment, 858-454-4200 x105.

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STORY MINUTE

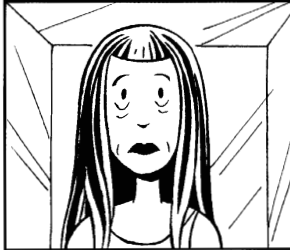
Story Minute © Carol Lay
"GIRL IN A BOX"
SHE MODELED PART-TIME
IN THE HOTEL'S DISPLAY BOX.



HE HIRED HER TO WORK FOR
HIM PRIVATELY AT HIS HOUSE.



ONE DAY SHE REALIZED
HOW LONELY SHE WAS.



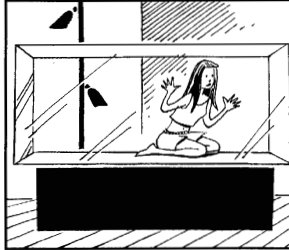
IT WAS SORT OF LIKE BEING
A GO-GO DANCER IN A CAGE.



THE WORK WAS SO EASY
SHE NEVER DID LOOK FOR
ANOTHER JOB.



AFTER ALL, SHE'D SPENT MOST
OF HER LIFE IN THE BOX.



PEOPLE WATCHED HER AND
SHE WATCHED THEM WHEN
THEY WEREN'T LOOKING.



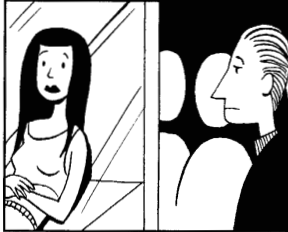
SHE WASN'T SUPPOSED TO
TALK TO HIM, WHICH SUITED
HER JUST FINE.



SHE GOT OUT AND SAT DOWN
TO BREAKFAST WITH THE MAN.



ONE MAN FELL IN LOVE WITH
HER, EVEN THOUGH SHE NEVER
LOOKED AT HIM.



THE MAN KEPT HER ON FOR
MANY YEARS, EVEN AFTER
SHE STARTED TO WRINKLE.



THAT RUINED EVERYTHING.



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AZALEA PARK. Newly remodeled, highly upgraded 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 4015 Poppy Place. Indoor washer/dryer setup. Wood floors, beautiful home, backs to Azalea park. Covered carport, secure storage. \$1,850/month plus 1 month secu-rity. Pets ok on approval. Available 01/01/04. Lease required. 619-318-4446/www.real-estatesandiego.com

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BANKER'S HILL. Live like Gatsby! \$675-\$1400. Furnished/unfurnished rooms, studios, 1 bedroom apartments. Available in unique reflection of Americana. Amenities: expanded cable, HBO, some private parking, storage units, planned common library, rooftop barbecue deck, laundry. City, harbor views. Utilities paid. No pets. 326 Juniper Street. 619-232-0153. Visit: www.sdreader.com/rent/2069.

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Last week's place: Trolley Auto Parts, 2966 Commercial Avenue, on the edge of Logan Heights. The 1968 black Rolls Royce hoisted high is one of two kept to be cannibalized "for Rolls Royce owners who can't afford new parts," according to one staffer. (Last week's winners: Paul M. Bowers, Carlos E. Casana, David Motte)

COLLEGE/TALMADGE. \$1000. Extremely Large, 1000 square feet, 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Newly decorated. Shelter patio. Controlled entry. Parking. 4546 52nd Street. 619-461-9415.

CORONADO. \$1675. 2 bedroom, 2 bath upstairs condo with new carpet and paint, gas fireplace, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer/dryer hookups, balcony and carport. Includes water, sewer, trash, 557 F Avenue. Available now. Agent, 619-956-0900.

CORONADO. 1/2 off first month's rent! \$1150. Spacious 2 bedroom apartment homes in beautiful Coronado! Community features laundry, parking and more! 143-1/2 D Avenue. 619-437-7125.

CROWN POINT. \$1450. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, new carpet/paint/dishwasher. Remodeled, perfect, 1-1/2 blocks to bay/park. Water, insurance, gardener paid. Sorry, no dogs. 1740-F Roosevelt/corner of Shasta. Call for appointment, 619-460-9710.

CROWN POINT/MISSION BAY. Come live at the beach! Spacious 2 bedroom, 2

bath, \$1465. Floorplans available. Swimming pool, laundry facilities, reserved parking, patio and balconies, new appliances. Close to beaches, entertainment and shopping. Cats OK! Casa Riviera Apartments, 3777 Haines Street. 619-226-3171.

CROWN POINT/PACIFIC BEACH. Beautifully remodeled 1 and 2 bedrooms from \$975. Ceiling fans, gated entry, laundry, barbecue. Peaceful. No pets. Agent, 858-483-2869.

CROWN POINT/MISSION BAY. Come live at the beach! Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1465. Floorplans available. Swimming pool, laundry facilities, reserved parking, patio and balconies, new appliances. Close to beaches, entertainment and shopping. Cats OK! Casa Riviera Apartments, 3777 Haines Street. 619-226-3171.

Q. Como se llama? Llama frequent this street scene where country meets town midweek. Hostel porch-bunnies get the best view.

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DEL MAR. \$1995. 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. 1-car attached garage. All appliances. Parklike setting. Pictures at www.ilovedelmar.com. Prudential California Realty. Alison, 858-755-8580 x9.

DEL MAR. \$1750. 2 bedroom, 1 bath garden apartment. Steps away from beach. Garage with opener. Laundry room. Storage. 136 9th Street. 619-838-1885.

DEL MAR. \$1295. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhome. Close to beach, park. Balcony, view. 1 parking. No pets. 12760 Via Cortina. Torrey Pines Property Management, 858-454-4209.

DEL MAR. 3 bedroom, 2 bath single-family detached home. \$3000, unfurnished. \$3500, furnished. Short or long term. Panoramic ocean views. 14004 Rue d'Antibes. Pictures at www.ilovedelmar.com. Prudential California Realty. Marie (Teri) Kohn, 858-755-8580 x2.

DEL MAR. Directly across from beach! 1 bedrooms with fully equipped kitchens, ceiling fans, private patio or balcony. Starting at \$1350. Great move-in special! Call for appointment, 858-755-1466.

DEL MAR/CARMEL VALLEY. Immaculate 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath condo. 2-car garage, washer/dryer, fireplace, pool, jacuzzi, tennis, yard, end unit. No smoking. \$1800. 760-420-3309.

DEL MAR/SOLANA BEACH. Coastal living! Live west of I-5 from as low as \$1165. Spacious 1, 2 or 3 bedroom floor plans. Swimming pool, tennis court and fitness center. Close to beaches, entertainment and shopping. Small pets welcome! Solana Highlands, 701 South Nardo. www.hgfenton.com, 1-877-443-4030. Visit: www.sdreader.com/rent/1057.

DEL MAR/SOLANA BEACH. Move-in specials! Pay no rent until January 1. From \$1129. Studios, lofts, 1, 2 bedrooms. Large floor plans. Dishwasher. Patio/balcony. Pool. Jacuzzi. Fitness center. Laundry. Garages available. Near freeway. Blocks to beach. Cat OK. Esprit Del Sol, 873 Stevens Avenue. 858-481-1155. www.sdreader.com/rent/1038.

DOWNTOWN \$1250. Brand new! View of Coronado Bridge/water! 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Gym, spa, clubhouse. Underground parking. Washer/dryer. 760-510-1399; 858-484-7009.

DOWNTOWN /GOLDEN HILL. \$1300. 2 bedroom, 1 bath Condo. Newly totally remodeled. New appliances. Washer/dryer. Fireplace, secure parking, pool, jacuzzi. Pets considered (deposit). 619-944-5478.

DOWNTOWN /GOLDEN HILL. \$1300. 2 bedroom, 1 bath Condo. Newly totally remodeled. New appliances. Washer/dryer. Fireplace, secure parking, pool, jacuzzi. Pets considered (deposit). 619-944-5478.

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DOWNTOWN, NORTH. \$1200. Top (3rd) floor, large 1 bedroom. Completely remodeled. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, new carpet. Private balcony. Coin laundry. Parking. Elevator. Entry intercom system. Views of downtown/harbor. Available now. 215 West Grape #12. 858-270-2071.

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DOWNTOWN. \$965. 10th floor studio apartment and high rise. Tennis courts, pool, gym, secured parking, market, salon, computer room. 6 month lease. 210-363-7980.

DOWNTOWN. The El Cortez lofts/1 bedrooms available. 1 bedrooms from \$1610, lofts from \$2655. Lofts feature 20-foot ceilings, great light. Large patio. 2 baths. Washer/dryer. Internet, satellite TV. Air conditioning. Fitness center. Pool. Spa. Night doorman. Underground parking. Pets welcome! 702 Ash Street. 619-338-8133. www.sdreader.com/rent/1029.

DOWNTOWN. Penthouse loft. \$1795. 1000 square feet. Ballpark views, vaulted ceilings. Heart of Gaslamp District, 4th and K. Pets allowed. A definite must see. 619-838-7908.

DOWNTOWN. In the heart of the Gaslamp, single rooms, share bath and kitchen. No smoking/pets. \$375/month including utilities and cable TV. 843 4th Avenue, Windsor Hotel, 619-231-2385.

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DOWNTOWN. 7th and C. Live/work. Trolley Lofts. \$1325/month. 1225 square feet. Oak floors, laundry room, heating/air conditioning, underground parking available. Shanna, 619-702-7222.

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DOWNTOWN. \$695. Studio. Stove, refrigerator, carpet, 500 square feet. All utilities. Laundry, street parking. No pets. Close to Balboa Park. 1758 6th Avenue #16. 619-298-7724.

DOWNTOWN. \$1850. Great view of the water. New 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath condo. Underground parking. 1240 India Street. Available 1/10/04. Sara, 858-405-9822; Liz, 858-344-0295.

DOWNTOWN. \$1895. Spacious (approximately 1350 square feet) 2 bedroom plus den, 2 bath condo with sweeping bay and city view, washer/dryer, 2 garage spaces. No smoke or pets. Agent, 619-260-1991.

DOWNTOWN. \$700. Studio. \$1000. 2 bedroom. Spectacular downtown views! Gated parking with remote entry. Laundry on premises. 1830 Market. No pets. Available now. 619-405-7368; 619-742-2100.

DOWNTOWN. \$1895. Porto Siena in Little Italy-1601 India Street. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, top floor, granite kitchen, large deck, city/bay views, and 2 parking. Greg Bernave, Downtown Specialist, 619-696-9835.

DOWNTOWN LITTLE ITALY. One bedroom, \$1795. Hardwood floors, spacious closets, parking. Available 3/1. Please write to: PO Box 23445, Honolulu, HI 96814.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. Call about our great move-in special! Remodeled top-floor studio. \$750 a month. Controlled access building. Cats OK. Laundry facilities. Most utilities paid. Ceiling fan, gas stove, microwave and refrigerator. Walk to City College, Gaslamp District. Call toll free: 1-866-807-3215. For information or visit www.pacificliving.com.

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DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. \$1395. Spacious apartment with 9-foot ceilings. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Great location; William Penn Building, corner of 5th and F. Central heat/air, all appliances, controlled entry, parking included. Ask about move-in special. Agent, 619-298-7232.

DOWNTOWN/EAST. \$1450. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house with 2-car garage, large yard, laundry, barbecue, remodeled kitchen, hardwood floors. No pets. Available now. 619-255-3678.

DOWNTOWN/BANKER'S HILL. Lovely, furnished studios! Weekly from \$210. 4 week special from \$720. Utilities paid. Cable color tv. Microwave. Refrigerator. Air conditioning. Heat. Private bath, shower. On-site laundry. Courtyards. Barbecue. Maid service. 24-hour staff. Convenient location. West Park Inn, 1840 Fourth Avenue. www.westparkinn.com, 619-236-1600. www.sdreader.com/rent/2037.

DOWNTOWN. Newly renovated rooms from \$160 per week with refrigerator, microwave and cable. 920 Beech Street, (9th and Beech). Call 619-234-1952.

DOWNTOWN/CORTEZ HILL. 180 degree city/bay view. 7th floor. 2 secure parking. 2 bedroom plus office, 2 bath, 1348 square feet. Appliances. \$2000. 760-436-1962.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. \$700 and up. Spacious studios. Utilities included. Laundry. Convenient location and 9th and Broadway. For appointment, call 619-235-9626 or 619-708-9313.

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DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. Great new community! 1 bedroom, \$1100-\$1150. Live/work flat, \$1299. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1399. 2 bedroom townhome, \$1549. Deposits \$500. City views! Storage. Secure. Underground parking. Huge windows. Laundry. Pets on approval. Military discounts. 900 F Street, corner of 9th and F. 619-233-4787. www.fstreetapts.com, www.sdreader.com/rent/2020.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. One month free! Newly renovated lofts! Harbor, city views! Office space/live/work lofts starting at \$1700. Air conditioning, maple cabinetry, 18'-25' ceilings. Water, sewer, trash included! Parking available. Pets on approval. Near shopping, restaurants, Seaport Village, Gaslamp, Horton Plaza. 433 "G" Street. 1-888-542-8950. www.sdreader.com/rent/2071.

DOWNTOWN/GOLDEN HILL. Nice big 1 bedroom duplex unit, panoramic views of downtown, Florida Canyon and park, private yard, gas heat. \$975. Available 1/15/04. 619-222-4071.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. Modern lofts, only for the truly urban at heart! Large new 1 bedrooms, \$1195-\$1295. High ceilings. Huge windows. Wood floors. Private roof deck with bay views. Euro kitchens. Washer/dryer. Pets OK. Highly desirable location! Near trolley, restaurants, shops. Moto Villas. Trey, 619-233-4118. www.sdllofts.com.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. \$1400/up. Beautiful brand-new and bright live/work lofts across from Horton Plaza. Hardwood floors. Huge windows. Small pet OK. Leasing now! 619-231-1333.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. Brand new 1 bedroom, 1.5 bath with large den/office/extra bedroom. 4th and J, balcony and bay windows on 4th Avenue. Washer/dryer, dishwasher, granite counters, walk-in closet, parking. \$1595. Must see! Ron, 619-921-3908; Marcel, 619-920-2545.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. From \$650. Private bath, cable TV, microwave, refrigerator. Utilities included. Secure, quiet, charming. Residential hotel with laundry. Near trolley/bus lines, blocks from harbor. On-site manager. Villa Caterina. 1654 Columbia Street. 619-232-3400.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. Prime location, corner of Ash/Union. Brand new modern 1 bedroom lofts, \$1300. Stainless steel appliances, 17-foot ceilings. Pets OK. 619-501-6731. www.thebillboardlofts.com.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. Fully furnished luxury lofts for corporate or month-to-month with magnificent bay views. \$1800/month to \$2500/month. Call 619-255-0526.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. Doma Complex. Brand new condo, 1300 square feet. 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. Granite counters, Berber carpets, stainless steel appliances, full size washer/dryer, balcony, 2 parking spaces. \$2195/month. Call Anthony, 619-750-3558.

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DOWNTOWN/MARINA DISTRICT. Up to 2 months free rent! From \$1280. Studios, lofts, 1, 2, 3 bedrooms units. Flexible lease terms. Gated entry/garage. Rooftop sun, barbecue deck. Business, computer center. Exercise facility. Washer/dryer. Granite countertops. Berber carpet. High speed Internet. www.101marketstreet.com, 101 Market Street. 888-658-7678. www.sdreader.com/rent/2026.

EAST SAN DIEGO. \$750. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Parking. Enter from alley. 4342 Altadena. Agent, 619-260-1368.

EASTLAKE, GREENS/Chula Vista. Gated, single family, 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home, garage. Resort living, golf, tennis, pools. Refrigerator, washer/dryer. Pet on approval. \$1750/month plus 1 month security. Short term ok. Available 1/15/04. 619-318-4446/www.real-estateinsandiego.com.

EASTLAKE. \$2100. 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath house. Lots of upgrades, cul-de-sac. Amenities, large yard, gardener, security monitoring included, 2-car garage. Available February 1. 619-216-2677.

EASTLAKE. \$1800. House. 3 bedroom plus loft, 2-1/2 bath, 2-car garage. Appliances including washer/dryer, air conditioning, fireplace, balcony, landscaped with gardener paid. No pets/smoking. 619-934-5418.

EL CAJON. Park Place. \$975, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, downstairs. \$1100, 2 bedroom, 2-1/4 bath townhome with attached garage. These apartment homes offer the luxury of spaciousness, lots of storage and an intimate atmosphere. The community is professionally managed and the on-site team prides themselves on excellent customer service. Also featured is off-street parking, a sparkling pool and laundry facilities. Close to business and shopping. You must visit us to believe it! Call 619-440-8501.

EL CAJON. \$850. Very bright and spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Reserved, off-street parking. Quiet community. On-site laundry. Barbecue area. 463 North 1st. 858-571-1970. www.sunriseliving.com.

EL CAJON. \$950. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Fresh paint, new carpeting. Recreation room. Barbecue area. Sparkling pool, relaxing spa. Laundry on site. Lush landscape. 501 Greenfield Drive. 619-441-9726.

LINDA VISTA. \$995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Private back patio overlooking valley. Quiet. Small complex. 1215 Hueneme. Please call, 619-857-1187.

EL CAJON. \$650-\$800. Move-in Special! 1 and 2 bedroom apartments available. Barbecue area, laundry, parking, ceiling fan, quiet and clean. 619-442-6878.

EL CAJON. \$850. Large, deluxe 2 bedroom. Amenities, pool, park like ground. Parking. 743 South Magnolia Avenue, El Cajon. Near town, shops, bus. 619-579-0174.

EL CAJON. 2 bedroom, 2 bath starting from \$950. Includes washer/dryer, pool, reserved parking. Talavera Apartments, 205 Beech Street. 619-590-8153 or 858-571-1970. www.sunriseliving.com.

EL CAJON. \$825. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Centrally located. Large common area. Monterey Apartments.

1005 North Mollison. 619-401-2404. www.sunriseliving.com.

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EL CAJON. \$695. 1 bedroom. \$825. 2 bedroom. Enjoy the barbecue and gurgling fountains in this quiet, gated community. No pets. Call 619-838-8088. www.thejohncollinscompany.com.

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EL CAJON. \$745. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, fully furnished, large, adorable upper unit, balcony, laundry, pool, dining room, cat OK. 294 Chambers Street. 619-698-6911.

EL CAJON. \$825. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Patio, spacious. \$200 off first month! Available now. 145 Taft Avenue. 619-334-1478.

EL CAJON. \$795. Deluxe 2 bedroom apartment, air conditioning, fans. New paint, carpet, appliances. Nice patio. Off-street parking. Laundry, quiet, gated. 619-579-6705; 619-925-7657.

EL CAJON. \$1500. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Yard, carport. SDGE, water, trash included. \$1500 deposit, \$25 credit check. No pets/smoking. References required. 619-447-3828.

EL CAJON. \$1250. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, all new interior and appliances, fireplace, pool, gym. Quiet complex. 619-222-2071.

EL CAJON. \$1425. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. New paint, fenced yard. Pets OK. Fee. Rent Ready, 858-505-4848.

EL CAJON. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Spa, 2-car detached garage. \$2,250. Agent, 619-294-8571.

ENCINITAS. \$2,995. New 4,200 square foot ocean view home. 4/5 bedrooms, 4-1/2 baths. Granite counters, hardwood floors, jacuzzi tub. 6-8 month lease. Available now. 542 Camino El Dorado. 619-444-4458.

ENCINITAS. \$1350-\$1390. 2 bedroom, 2 bath spacious townhomes. Washer/dryer included, assigned parking, fully equipped kitchens. 1 mile from Encinitas Beach, close to shopping, golfing, and I-5. 760-633-3382.

ENCINITAS. High on hill, fantastic surf and nightlight views. 1 bedroom cottage with workroom. Dog OK. \$1695. 760-753-4101.

ENCINITAS. New 3 bedroom, 4 bath, den, living room, great kitchen, 1 block to beach, 2 story, vaulted ceilings, double garage, gardening included. Sorry, no pets \$2595. 760-753-4101.

ENCINITAS. 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex with garage and huge yard, very clean. \$1395. 760-753-4101.

ENCINITAS. Newly remodeled, spacious 1 and 2 bedroom apartment homes. Pool,

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ENCINITAS. \$1975. Fire victims! 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath condo, plus den. 1938 square feet. 2-car garage. 3034 Via de Caballo. Available now! Agent. 858-755-1139. www.scuba-rentals.com.

ENCINITAS. \$300 Move-in special with 1 year lease! 2 bedrooms, \$1150. Cozy fire-place, sparkling pool, spa, laundry. No pets. 117 Rosebay. Agent. 760-436-1806.

ENCINITAS. \$1450. 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex. Garage, washer/dryer hookups, all other appliances, large yard. Trash paid. No pets. 1071 Aloha Dr. Lease. 760-815-4246.

ENCINITAS. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1195. New carpet, paint, drapes, appliances. Balcony, vaulted ceilings, skylights. Bright and airy. Garden setting. 1-1/2 blocks to beach. Close and easy access to shopping, freeway, Coaster. No pets. 760-929-1950.

ENCINITAS. \$1550 plus deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Fenced yard, laundry, carport, quiet street. Near beach. Pets considered. Available 1/1. 858-794-7682; 760-271-9000.

ENCINITAS. 2 bedroom with family room/3rd bedroom, 2 bath, 1100 square feet, 1 mile from Moonlight Beach, view from backyard. \$2000/month. 760-635-3431.

ESCONDIDO. \$850-\$880. \$100 deposit on approved credit! 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Washer/dryer in unit. Central air conditioning/heat. Full-size microwave. Walk-in closet. Full-sized patio/balcony. Gated. 760-747-5566.

ESCONDIDO. \$895 plus deposit/utilities. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Private setting, pool, laundry facilities, off-street parking, centrally located. Call Teresa for details, 760-839-0539.

ESCONDIDO. Alta Vista Luxury Apartment Community. We are currently leasing 2 bedroom apartments. Washer/dryer in every apartment. Garages available. Spectacular views! Complex is located high atop hillside overlooking everything. Accepting dogs/cats! Look at what we offer: www.sdreader.com/rent/2068. Call now for our specials! 760-796-7966.

ESCONDIDO. Condo for rent. Fully remodeled 2 bedroom, 1 bath, refrigerator, washer/dryer in unit. Vaulted ceiling, air conditioned. Beautiful, new! \$1200/month. John, 619-846-6557.

ESCONDIDO. \$900. Cute 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex with 1-car garage. Quiet. Small yard. 923 West 15th Avenue. Centre City Property Management, 619-296-6699.

FASHION HILLS. \$2150. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. New carpet and wood floors. View, 2-car garage. Community pool, spa, tennis. Close to all. 858-268-1999.

FASHION VALLEY. \$2395. Largest 3 bedroom, 3 bath townhouse! 2-car garage, laundry, completely remodeled. Tennis, pool. Available now! Call Steve 909-244-2345.

FASHION VALLEY. Presidio Place Condos. Luxury resort living with pools, spa, tennis, air conditioning, fireplace, laundry, elevators, parking underground, 24-hour gate attendants. 1 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, spacious 854 square feet. Lots of closets and garden views. \$1250/month. No pets. R.A. Properties, 619-298-5697.

FASHION VALLEY. \$1400. Large 1350-square-foot 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, top/corner unit, cathedral ceilings, view, fireplace, new appliances, pool. Call Rick Knight at PH Property, 619-491-0355.

FASHION VALLEY. Luxury 2 master bedrooms, 2 bath Condo. Furnished with antiques (also available unfurnished). Pool, gym, covered parking, balcony with view. Walk to mall! Pets ok! \$1,750 per month. 858-349-2638; hos7us@yahoo.com

FASHION VALLEY, WEST. \$1,100. Unfurnished apartment. Charming 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Spacious with fireplace. Near beach and trolley. Available 1/15. 619-298-8314; evenings/weekends, 760-942-4283.

FASHION VALLEY/USD. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, canyon view, quiet, new kitchen, underground parking, no smoking. \$1200. 619-253-9440.

FASHION VALLEY. \$945. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo. No pets. Walk-in closet. Underground parking. Carpet. Appliances. Balcony. Pool. 6304 Friars #341. Agent, 619-275-3455.

FASHION VALLEY/USD. \$1400. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. View of bay/Sea World. Walk to trolley. Carport. 5810 Riley Street #10. 619-220-8462.

FASHION VALLEY. \$1100 rent. \$500 deposit. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. No pets. At 1330 Eureka Street #26 and #31. 619-295-4467.

FASHION VALLEY/USD. \$1200 rent. \$500 deposit. 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Underground parking. No pets. At 5550 Mildred Street #15. 619-298-5820.

FASHION VALLEY. Upgraded 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. \$1400/month. First month rent \$800. Large bedroom closets, plus extra closet storage. All appliances, underground parking with storage box. Pets negotiable. 619-200-2933.

FASHION VALLEY/USD. \$1500. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, fireplace, coin laundry. Available 11/20. 5720 Lauretta. Del Sol Properties, Broker. 858-270-2071. www.delsolpm.com.

FASHION VALLEY. \$1250. Downstairs 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, fireplace. Pool, parking, coin laundry. Available 1/15. 6747 Friars Road. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Properties, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

FASHION VALLEY. \$1195. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, upper, new paint/appliances, off-street parking. Agent, 619-300-1020; 619-528-4200.

FASHION VALLEY. \$1250. Very large 1 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath apartment. All appliances. Fireplace. Air conditioning. Pool, jacuzzi, spa, fitness center. Garage.

THE READER PUZZLE

Across

- Makes others wait
- Have the deed to
- “About _____” (Hugh Grant movie)
- “Yer darn _____!”
- It’ll barely pass you
- “New” drink of the ’80s
- Who am I?
- Member of the first family
- “Wayne’s World” actress Carrere
- One way to ring
- “My So-Called Life” actor Jared
- Dream up
- “I’ve said _____ thousand times ...”
- Where am I going?
- Per _____ ad astra (Royal Canadian Air Force motto)
- Promote
- In one’s salad days
- N.Y.C. airport baggage letters
- Scatterbrained
- When repeated, a Hawaiian fish
- Novelists Ferber and O’Brien
- What is my function in this world?
- Silvery gray
- “Gunsmoke” star
- “Return of the Jedi” girl
- Annual theater award
- _____ Bo (exercise system)
- Packers’ and Panthers’ div.
- How do I know I exist?
- Bone below the elbow
- Airline once owned by Howard Hughes
- Kind of equation
- Emmy winner William H. _____
- Fenway squad, for short
- Pines

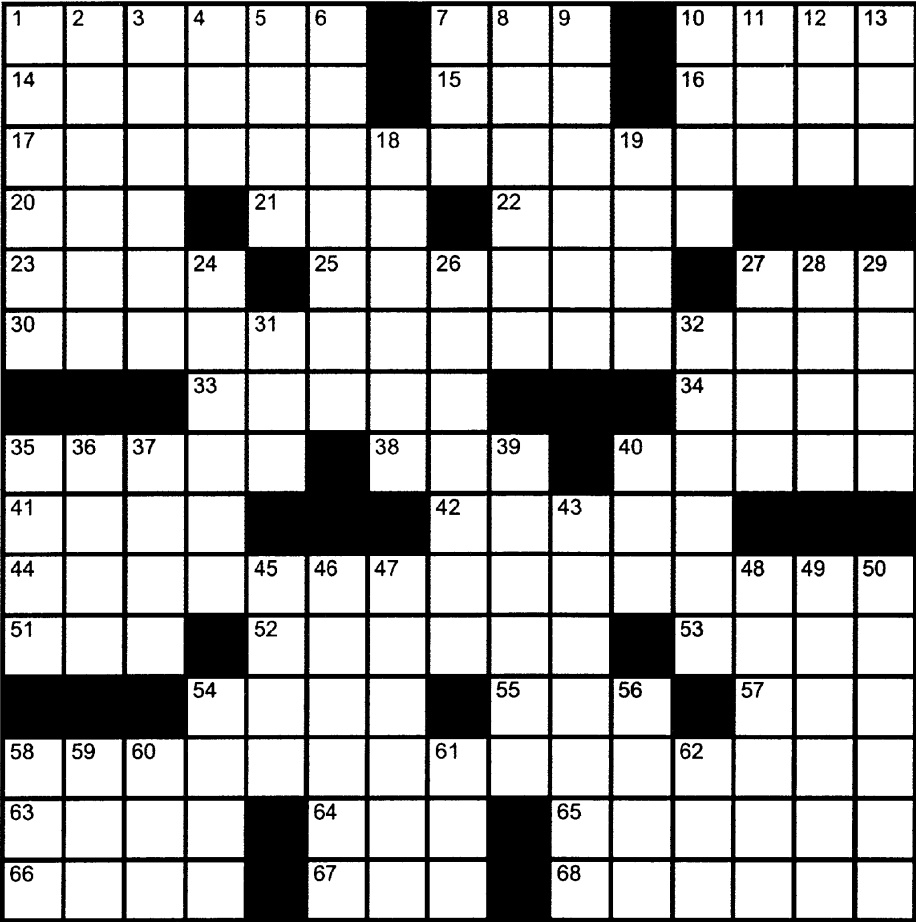
Down

- “... is fear _____”
- Follower of who or what
- Dance invitation response
- Scarfed down
- Windshield option
- Roped in
- Keats’s “Bards of Passion and of Mirth,” e.g.
- Charged
- In the vicinity of
- Big garden size
- Ghostly greeting
- Gives the go-ahead
- Word on an Ouija board
- Juicy gossip
- Line feeder

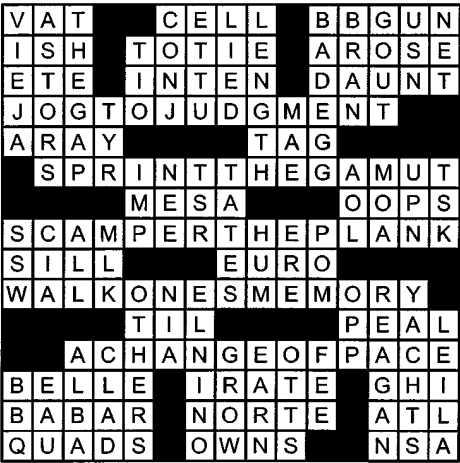
- Some Middle East residents
- Stand for knickknacks
- Duke Ellington’s “_____ It Bad and That Ain’t Good”
- Start of a conclusion
- Bar member: Abbr.
- Big: Abbr.
- Phrase in a playground argument
- Campy dance hit of 1979
- Dinghy pair
- “I think I goofed”
- Augments
- Newsman Rather
- How Fran Drescher usually speaks
- “The Jungle Book” star
- Perfume sampling spots
- Left and right, perhaps
- “Superstition” singer
- Oscar-nominated composer Danny
- Indy 500 cars
- One of a ’70s R&B group
- “Howards End” role
- “That’s delicious!”
- Suffix with schnozz
- Where Michael Jordan got his deg.
- Lisa Simpson plays it
- Granddaughter of Queen Victoria

RULES OF THE GAME

- The prize for solving the *Reader* Puzzle will be a *Reader* T-shirt.
- All entries in the *Reader* Puzzle contest must be received by the *Reader* by 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, five days following the issue date (Fax to 619-231-0489 or U.S. Mail to *Reader* Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803).
- All entries must be accompanied by your name and address.
- Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.
- In the event of disputes or ties, decisions of the judges will be final and arbitrary. We’ve only got five prizes each week to give away, so if there are more than five winners, we’ll have a lottery.
- All answers must be entered in the space allowed on the puzzle page. And please, no phone calls or trips to our office.
- One entry per person.



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Solution to and winners of the *Reader* Puzzle for 12/18/03.

Of the 55 entrants, 53 were correct. The winners are:

- Sherry Rockmaker, *San Diego*
- Morse, *San Diego*
- William Johns, *National City*
- C. Stott, *San Diego*
- R. Freund, *Poway*

Laundry. 6757 Friars Road. 858-598-1111 x193. www.utopiamanagement.com.

GOLDEN HILL. \$845. House. Squeaky clean! 1+ bedrooms. Gleaming hardwood floors. Stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer hookups. Gardener. 2 gated parking with night lighting. Nonsmoking. No pets. 619-297-6636.

GOLDEN HILL/SOUTH PARK. \$1075. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Recently remodeled, tiled living room; kitchen, hallway/bath. Freshly painted. Pool. On site laundry. 619-962-1887.

GOLDEN HILL/SOUTH PARK. 1 bedroom, 1 bath units in 1916 restored Craftsman. Great views, parking, wood floors, large lot. (4 available.) Prices: \$850, \$895, \$1195, \$1295. Also, one 2-car garage, \$195. Pets OK. 3154 B Street. 619-840-0071.

GOLDEN HILL SOUTH PARK. \$1050. 2 bedroom, 1 bath with lots of windows and light. Updated kitchen, bath, appliances. New light carpeting, ceiling fans. New laundry on site. Quiet, private 7-unit prop-

erty. Convenient to shops, bus, downtown, freeway access. Available 1/15. No pets. 3066 Hawthorn Street. Shown by appointment. R.A. Properties. 858-483-3989.

GOLDEN HILL. \$1525. Historic townhome (Gill). Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath, living room, with large private yard. Renovated. Washer/dryer. No pets. Location, charm, yard! 619-435-5767.

GOLDEN HILL/DOWNTOWN. Unique metropolitan setting offering comfort and convenience. 2 bedroom townhouse. Private balcony and view of downtown. Central air/heat. Washer/dryer hookups. Controlled access. Reserved covered parking. Dishwasher. Microwave. Great freeway access. Feline friendly. Golden Pacific, 1015 19th Street. www.pacificliving.com, Call toll free: 1-866-807-3215. www.sdreader.com/rent/2028.

GOLDEN HILL. Extra large studio, 1 and 2 bedrooms, start at \$775. Remodeled, new appliances, wood floors, pet friendly,

laundry, views. Move-in specials. 619-804-0115.

GOLDEN HILL. Contemporary 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Gated building, underground parking, all appliances, patio. Minutes to Downtown and freeways. \$1650. Available 2/10/04. 619-823-6340; mc142@cornell.edu.

GOLDEN HILL. \$1350. Charming 3 bedroom, 1 bath house. Large yard. Eat-in kitchen. Built-ins. Porch. New carpet/paint. Refrigerator. Stove. Washer/dryer hook-ups. Trident Pacific, 619-435-9442.

GOLDEN HILL. \$300 off, Move-In Bonus! 2528 C Street, #10. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, \$850. Available now. app@ajprop.com. A&J Property Management, 888-847-9978.

GOLDEN HILL/SOUTH PARK. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house, 1-car garage, washer/dryer hookups. Pets negotiable. Available December. 619-303-0229.

GOLDEN HILL. \$825. Large 1 bedrooms, downstairs and upstairs corner unit. Italian tile floors, on-site laundry, off-street

parking. Small pets OK. Available now. 1005 33rd Street. Contact Billy, 619-255-0524.

GOLDEN HILL. Beautiful 1 and 2 bedroom apartment homes starting at \$795. Gaslamp Manor, 2470 C Street. 619-702-5709; 619-665-5145.

GOLDEN HILL. \$795 junior 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$825, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Underground parking. On-site laundry. Gated community access. 2827 A Street. Call

Mark and Christina, 619-238-4350. 858-571-1970. Sunriseliving.com.

GOLDEN HILL/DOWNTOWN. Move-in special! \$1175, large 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath unit, \$1175 deposit. \$1200, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1200 deposit. Completely refurbished. All new flooring, appliances, light fixtures, paint and bathrooms. Has dishwasher and a balcony with views overlooking Downtown and Petco Park. Garage is available. No pets. Available now! Call Herb, 619-838-1595.

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GOLDEN HILL. \$1300. rent. \$1000 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Partially furnished, washer/dryer, all new appliances, pet considered with larger deposit. At 3374 A Street. 619-299-4034.

GOLDEN HILL. Large 1 bedroom and 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Parking, laundry, newly decorated, security, new appliances, dishwasher, microwave. 619-239-0408.

GOLDEN HILL. \$585. Studio in small complex near downtown. Great location. 1140 20th Street. Leasing Unlimited, 760-436-7273.

GOLDEN HILL. \$975. 2 bedroom apartment. All new interior, wood floors. Laundry, parking. 619-236-0008.

GOLDEN HILL. \$675. Studio in beautiful Victorian house. Utilities included. Nice breeze, plenty of parking on one-way street. Must see. 2475 G Street. 619-238-2710.

GOLDEN HILL. \$895. 2 bedroom, tropical setting, renovated unit with style, high efficiency new appliances, gated covered parking, laundry, cat OK, 30th and B Street. Karin, 760-749-8489 x2.

GOLDEN HILL. \$700 studio. Condo quality renovation. New kitchen, bathroom, appliances, air conditioning, ceiling fan. Laundry, gated, parking. Storage available. Pets. 2874 B Street. 619-778-6190.

GOLDEN HILL. \$850. 1 bedroom. Condo quality renovation. New kitchen, bathroom, appliances, air conditioning, ceiling fan. Laundry, gated, parking. Storage available. Pets. 2874 B Street. 619-778-6190.

GOLDEN HILL. \$1600. Huge contemporary 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Approximately 1600 square feet. Beautiful wood floors in great living and dining space. Built-ins with fireplace. Utilities included. 2930 C Street. 619-593-6263.

GOLDEN HILL. \$775. Secluded 1 bedroom in small building. Tiled kitchen with breakfast bar, new appliances. Huge yard with off-street parking. On-site washer, dryer. 2930 C Street. 619-559-5423.

GOLDEN HILL/SOUTH PARK. \$1200. Quiet, 2 bedroom, 1 bath fourplex. Newly remodeled kitchen. Roomy closets. Laundry room on site. Patio. 3120 Grape Street. 619-233-4182.

GOLDEN HILL. Upstairs 3 bedroom apartment with excellent view of city. Garage, deck, gated with all appliances. Call 619-440-3001.

GOLDEN HILL. Pet-friendly community! Charming property, 2 bedrooms, den, balcony. \$1095. Large fenced yard, coin laundry, walk-in closets, hardwood floors. Minutes from Downtown. 619-520-2844.

GOLDEN HILL. \$750. Downstairs. Huge 1 bedroom. Tiled kitchen and living room. Walk-in closet. Utilities included. Washer/dryer hook-ups. Off-street parking. Shared yard. Cat OK. Agent, 619-234-9553.

GOLDEN HILL. \$950. Huge early 1900s Victorian building. Renovated 1 bedroom with large office. Lots of windows. Large closet. Newly tiled bath. Refinished oak floors. Off-street parking. No pets. Agent, 619-234-9553.

GOLDEN HILL. \$945. Spanish charm. Manager position, \$100. 2 bedroom apartment. High coved ceilings. Oak floors. Ceiling fan. Gas appliances. Security gates. Laundry. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

GOLDEN HILL/DOWNTOWN. \$825. Clean! Victorian 1 bedroom. Gleaming hardwood floors. Nice Downtown view. Stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer. Nonsmoking. Pets welcome. Call 619-287-2993.

GOLDEN HILL. \$795. 1 bedroom. Beautiful courtyard, laundry, gated. Near Balboa Park. 1231 25th Street. 619-234-1995.

GOLDEN HILL. \$700. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, apartment. Very clean. Walk-in closet, off-street parking. Laundry facilities. No pets please. Available now. 619-698-6429.

HILLCREST. \$1450. 2 bedroom, appliances, air conditioning, fenced yard, washer/dryer hookups, garage, near all. 619-886-3146.

HILLCREST. \$950. Studio in Park View Towers. 3563 6th Avenue. Extra large designer studio with pool and off-street parking. Just completed a \$15K renovation. Ceramic tile, crown moldings, new appliances, ceiling fans, new windows

and carpet. 619-725-3642 or 619-298-5602.

HILLCREST. From \$795. Studios and 1 bedrooms in the heart of Hillcrest. Newly renovated to capture your distinguished taste, style. Controlled access. Hot tub. Barbecue, picnic area. Dedicated, efficient management. Don't miss out on Hillcrest living at its best! Near bus, shopping, freeways. Nightingale Apartments. EHO. 619-295-4351. www.sdreader.com/rent/2014.

HILLCREST. \$1800. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2-car garage. Lots of storage, vaulted ceiling, skylights, large kitchen, fireplace, washer/dryer. Bright and sunny. Victorian style five-unit building. Recent construction. Very private, in quiet secluded neighborhood, two blocks north of Mercy Hospital. Pets OK. 4203 Fifth Avenue. Norm, 619-295-0742.

HILLCREST. \$825, 1 bedroom, near the park. Refrigerator, stove, garbage disposal, coin laundry, off-street parking. No pets. 4659 North. 619-222-9463.

HILLCREST. Luxury condo living. \$1700/month. 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2-floor condo with washer/dryer, fireplace, dishwasher, and high-speed Internet access via DSL. Private bath in each bedroom. Centrally located with pool, jacuzzi and weight room in complex. Available 1/2004. 1 month deposit, credit check required. Call 619-542-0523.

HILLCREST. \$1375. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Near park. Spacious. Secured building. No pets. 619-543-9786.

HILLCREST. Like charm, convenience? See these San Francisco-style, spacious 1 bedroom apartments with hardwood floors, high ceilings, \$875. Studios \$675. Laundry/community room, controlled access, near all. Come home to historic Casa Grande at 1751 University Avenue. Cat accepted. Call 619-299-7727. See website: www.sdreader.com/rent/1015.

HILLCREST. \$850. Ask about special! Bright, upstairs corner unit, 1 bedroom. Newly remodeled. Hardwood floors, tile, new appliances, laundry. Cat OK. Nonsmoking. 4170 Park Boulevard #12. 619-299-4034.

HILLCREST. \$1200-\$1250 per month. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartments. Lower unit with fireplace, carpets, stove, ceiling fan. Immediate move-in. Walk to downtown. A must see. Call for appointment, 858-581-3918.

HILLCREST. Seniors from 62 years. \$875/up. 1 bedroom. Air conditioning. Gated parking. Intercom entry. Elevator. Patio. Cat OK. Villa Pacifica, 3630 Sixth Avenue. 619-294-3234.

HILLCREST. \$1325. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Washer/dryer included, vaulted ceilings and fireplace. An immaculate community with off-street parking close to medical facilities. 4119 Front Street. 858-571-1970. Sunriseliving.com.

HILLCREST. \$1250. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Ground floor with patio. Parking and laundry. Stop by 3968 Ninth Avenue. If interested call, 619-226-7368 x3.

HILLCREST. \$300 Move-In Special! Extra large studio, \$775. Full kitchen/bath, storage, garden window, laundry. Near all. No pets. 515 Pennsylvania. Agent. Gina, 619-231-2727 x215.

HILLCREST. Large studio, \$760. Quiet Banker's Hill location. Full kitchen, bath, bright, sunny, upstairs unit. Laundry and storage. 119 W. Walnut Avenue. No pets. 858-454-2803.

HILLCREST. \$1100. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath house. Deposit \$1000. Stove, refrigerator, hook-ups. Large fenced yard. Storage area. 3833 Herbert Street. 858-598-1111 x192. www.utopiamanagement.com.

HILLCREST. \$775. rent. \$500 deposit. 1 bedroom duplex. No pets, at 3855 First Avenue. 619-299-8515.

HILLCREST. \$895. 1 bedroom house, pet ok. Fenced yard. Bay and city view! Laundry room and extra room big enough for desk and chair. Stove, refrigerator. Water paid. Agent, 619-223-2524.

HILLCREST. \$1050, utilities paid! Charming 1 bedroom with fireplace, Craftsman-style built-ins, laundry on-site, gated. Walk to all. 3437 5th Avenue. Call 619-298-6104.

HILLCREST. \$950. Large 1 bedroom apartment in heart of Hillcrest. Great location. Walk to everything. Parking. Laun-

dry. Nonsmoking. Cat OK. 3780 5th Avenue. Frank, 619-295-4270.

HILLCREST. Great move-in specials! Reduced rates. 1 bedroom, \$975. 2 bedrooms, \$1475. Canyon/bay views! Clubhouse, gym, pool, sauna, air conditioning, dishwasher. Ceramic tile. Laundry. Microwave. Floor to ceiling windows. Covered parking. Locked bicycle storage. No pets. Park East Apartments. 111 West Pennsylvania. www.sdreader.com/rent/1006. 619-298-3225.

HILLCREST. \$875. Large 1 bedroom apartment. Near Mercy Hospital. Verticals. No pets. Available now. 4045 Eighth Avenue. 619-269-5879.

HILLCREST. Huge, bright 1 bedroom with garage. \$975. Newer carpet, paint, microwave, dishwasher, ice maker, separate storage closet on patio, mirrored closet doors. No smoking/pets. 4021 Richmond Street. 619-280-4693.

HILLCREST. \$925. 1 bedroom condo, top floor. New kitchen appliances. New windows/blinds. Security building. Pool, sauna, laundry. Cat OK. 1907 Robinson. Available 1/15/04. 619-692-4168.

HILLCREST. \$950. 1 bedroom. Air conditioning, microwave, carpet, laundry, barbecue, assigned parking. Near Scripps Hospital. No pets. Hillcrest Palms. 4077 Third Avenue. Agent, 619-298-7724.

HILLCREST. \$1095. Beautiful 2 bedroom. Completely remodeled with new carpet. Great location with common area. On-site laundry. Xlarent.com, 619-683-7638.

HILLCREST. Front studio unit with large closet space for \$725. 2nd floor unit. On-site laundry. 3939 7th Avenue. 858-492-8747. Available 12/31. Xlarent.com.

HILLCREST. \$1150. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, with balcony and canyon view. Laundry. Assigned parking. Pool. Pets negotiable with deposit. 4053 8th Avenue. 619-297-0269.

HILLCREST. \$925. Unfurnished, large 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. \$1125. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Garden view. Newly refurbished. Laundry facilities. Assigned parking. Convenient location. 619-980-6290.

HILLCREST. \$895-\$1100. 1 bedroom cottage, upper 2 bedroom. Attractive Spanish bungalow court, home-like interiors, charming built-ins. Walk nearby restaurants, shuttle. Available 1/3. 619-670-0624; 619-296-9418.

HILLCREST. \$875. 3588 First Avenue #3. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Private setting. Parking. Laundry in complex. Clean, well maintained. Cassidy, broker, 619-275-LIST.

HILLCREST. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs. Parking available. Laundry room. 3962 First Avenue, between Washington and University. Available 12/15. Boone Properties, 858-274-6856. 619-296-4572. www.sandiegorealestatemanagement.com

HILLCREST. \$825. Studio. Very large, separate kitchen, wood floors, vaulted ceiling, lots of charm. 619-962-1887.

HILLCREST. Cute, cozy studios, \$795. 1 bedroom, \$895. 2 bedrooms, \$1295-\$1375. In the heart of Hillcrest with canyon views, huge pool, laundry rooms, assigned parking, community barbecue. Near Mercy Hospital and bus. No dogs. Sleepy Hollow Apartments. 4201 Sixth Avenue. Centre City Property Management. Call manager, 619-298-1059.

HILLCREST. \$1995. Unique 3-level 3 bedroom, 3 bath house. Bonus rooms, sun decks, hookups, water paid. 1010 Essex. Centre City Property Management, 619-296-6699.

HILLCREST. Uptown! \$1550. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Upgrades! Washer/dryer, refrigerator included! 858-449-8333. www.twhmc.com

HILLCREST. \$925. Premium 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Balcony. Small, newer building. Perfect location. Available soon. Call for immediate appointment. Must see. 3999 Richmond Street. 619-299-8952.

HILLCREST. Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath unit in quiet, friendly building. Private entry, gas stove, laundry. Walk to park/shops. Available 1/1. \$975/month. 619-696-6611 or 619-990-4628.

HILLCREST. \$875. 1 bedroom. Small complex. No pets. Available now. Move-in special! 3626 First Avenue. Call 858-483-5111.

HILLCREST. \$775. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Pets OK on approval. Available 1/1. Parking, laundry, close to everything. 3969 Normal Street. www.geocities.com/normalapartments/. Brian, 858-442-7873.

HILLCREST. \$1295. 3 bedroom, 2 bath in gated 6-unit with detached garage. Tiled kitchen and bath. Dinning area. Laundry. Cat OK. Agent, 619-234-9553.

HILLCREST. \$825. Clean 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, pool, laundry, parking, gated entrance, no pets. 1810 Cypress. Agent, 619-295-6005.

HILLCREST. \$1200. 1 bedroom. Approximately 900-square-feet. Stove, refrigerator. Formal dining room. Garage. Hardwood floors. Entry system. Cat OK. Available 12/15. 1632 Upas. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Properties, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

HILLCREST. \$1300. Sunny, quiet 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, great location. Hardwood floors, laundry. Indoor cat welcome. Organic garden, fruit trees. Vermont/Pennsylvania. No smoking. 619-269-4843.

HILLCREST. \$795. 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Stove, refrigerator, coin laundry. Cat OK with additional deposit. Available 1/20. Deposit \$700. 3935 Centre Street. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Properties, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

HILLCREST. \$1095. Deluxe 2 bedroom, 2 bath, upper front unit, newer carpeting, large closets, extra storage, common laundry, parking. 4469 North Avenue/Meade. 619-982-0385.

HILLCREST. Studio, \$745. 1 bedroom, \$855. Great location in quiet area. Off-street parking, laundry. Cat OK. 4166 4th Avenue. 619-298-7868.

HILLCREST. \$695. Studio. Holiday special - \$300 off first month! Great area in quiet complex. Walk to shopping. 3685 7th Avenue. 619-692-1004.

HILLCREST. \$965. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Spanish style complex in heart of Hillcrest. Gated entry, laundry. 3936 8th Avenue. 619-298-2069.

HILLCREST. 1/2 off first month's rent! \$795-\$1225. Completely renovated studio and 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 2-story townhome in beautiful Hillcrest. Walk to Balboa Park, on-site laundry, dishwasher, and pool. 3650 Florida. 619-280-0888.

HILLCREST. 1/2 off first month's rent! \$795. Spacious studio in beautiful Hillcrest. Full kitchen, walk-in closet and much more! 3967 Centre Street. 619-299-4666.

HILLCREST. Move-in special! \$775. Studio apartment. Utilities included. Hardwood floors. Separate kitchenette. Small, quiet complex. Small pet OK. Great location. 3808-1/2 3rd Avenue. 858-598-1111. www.utopiamanagement.com.

HILLCREST. \$950. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Set in clean, quiet courtyard. Beautiful landscaping. 3718 Park Boulevard #3724. www.cethron.com; 619-295-1100.

HILLCREST. \$950. 2 bedroom, 1 bath lower unit. Beautiful, gated, quiet, and clean complex. Garage available for \$75 per month. Available 1/1/04. 3634 Park Boulevard. www.cethron.com; 619-295-1100.

HILLCREST. \$1075. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, charming upper unit. Coin laundry. Garage included. 3533 6th Avenue #9. www.cethron.com; 619-295-1100.

HILLCREST/NORTH PARK. Large 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath, remodeled condo. New appliances, washer/dryer, mirrored closet doors, spa, near downtown. 3651 Louisiana Street. \$1175. 619-549-2300.

HILLCREST/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom apartment Nature lover's delight, canyon view, large private patio, quiet neighborhood, 500 square feet, \$950. 4530-1/2 Maryland Street. 619-298-5066.

HILLCREST/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$775. Move in special! Large studio. Gas/electric included, built in 1920s. Quiet park-like setting. Hardwood floors. Laundry. Nonsmoking. 4554 North Avenue #2. 619-269-4314.

HILLCREST/MISSION HILLS. \$1150-\$1250. Very large (1200 square feet) 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Available 1/1/04. Quiet area. Walk to shops and restaurants. Balcony. Locked building with intercom. Laundry room on site and parking. 3836 Front Street, between University and Robinson. By appointment. Broker, 619-458-4599.

HILLCREST/MISSION HILLS. \$925. Extra large 1 bedroom, 800 square feet. Hospital area. Security building/elevator. Huge private balcony, Parking, laundry, quiet. 619-255-7649.

HILLCREST/MISSION HILLS. Studio and 1 bedroom. Small quiet complex. Laundry. Sorry, no pets. 619-296-2787.

HILLCREST/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$1305. Completely remodeled, 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Gourmet kitchen. All new washer/dryer, large patio yard, off-street parking, gated. Available 12/20/2003. No pets. 4650 Florida Street. 858-597-6100 x315.

HILLCREST/BANKER'S HILL. \$1100. Cozy 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Hardwood floors, new kitchen. Available immediately. 2155 First Avenue. 619-230-1234.

HILLCREST/UPTOWN. 2 bedrooms, \$1350. Great move-in specials! Great location. Elevator. Pool. Laundry. Lovely courtyard. Gym. Sauna. Barbecue. Off-street parking. No pets. Hillcrest Towers. 1030 Robinson Avenue. www.sdreader.com/rent/2066. 619-295-9673.

HILLCREST/UPTOWN. 1 bedrooms, \$910. Beautiful location beside lush canyon, end of a "No Through Street." Controlled access, elevator, pool, covered and off-street parking, poolside barbecue, recreation room with television/laundry room. Sorry, no pets permitted. Park View Apartments, 3700 Tenth Avenue. 619-298-6768.

HILLCREST/MISSION HILLS. Pets welcome. 1-4 bedrooms. \$750+. 100% pet-friendly rentals. Low fee with money back guarantee. Landlords list free. Listings available online. www.petrent.net.

HILLCREST/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. Pets OK. 2 bedroom, 2 bath spacious 2-story townhouse. Fully remodeled kitchen and bath. Attached garage and 1 assigned parking space. Cozy private patio. In-unit laundry. Fireplace. Close to all. \$1595. Call 619-297-7454; superflydolomite@cox.net.

HILLCREST/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$1050. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Beautiful, refurbished cottage. Quiet, secure. Hardwood, carpet, tile, newer appliances, hookups. Gardener/water paid. No dogs. 619-447-0360.

HILLCREST/MISSION HILLS. \$1245. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. 3782 First Avenue. \$1245. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, 3509 State Street. No dogs, please. 858-273-6429.

HILLCREST/NORTH PARK. \$650-\$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, centrally located, water paid. 760-746-3080, 760-807-2416.

HILLCREST/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$695. Studio. Holiday special-\$300 off first month! Great floorplan. Easy freeway access. 4124 Campus Avenue. 619-294-2871.

IMPERIAL BEACH. \$4600/month. Oceanfront penthouse. Best location, 2500 square feet, 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. Designer kitchen, formal dining and living room, laundry room, fireplace, den. Spectacular views from every window and wrap-around deck. Secured underground parking, elevator. 14 miles to downtown San Diego. Year lease. Available February 1. 858-551-4325.

IMPERIAL BEACH. \$1295. 2-story, 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. \$1495. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, fireplace, whitewater ocean view. Both have heated pool. 128 steps to beach. Lease. (Agent) Bill, 619-575-1674.

IMPERIAL BEACH. Large modern 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Secure parking, washer/dryer hookups, balcony. \$975; garage, extra \$50. 1070 Georgia Street. 619-454-6534.

IMPERIAL BEACH. \$895. Sunny 1 bedroom. Live at beach, steps to sand. Recently renovated, in small private complex, laundry, parking. 1003 Ocean Lane. Agent, 619-423-9632.

IMPERIAL BEACH. \$1999. Oceanfront penthouse. Best location. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Designer kitchen, washer/dryer in unit, fireplace, spectacular views from every window, 2-car double garage. Available now. Call John, 858-922-9552.

IMPERIAL BEACH. Beachfront. Furnished or Unfurnished. \$950, 1 bedroom, \$1450, 2 bedroom cottage with fenced yard on sand. Pet OK. 1060 Seacoast. 619-424-9233.

IMPERIAL BEACH. \$825-\$900. 1 and 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. New carpet. Off-street parking. Near beach. Laundry. No pets. Available now. 429 Palm Avenue. Agent, 619-426-3699; 619-585-8715.

KENSINGTON. \$2750. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, sunny Spanish home. Remodeled and updated. Hardwood and marble floors, jacuzzis, gas fireplace, vaulted ceilings with skylights. 5105 Canterbury Drive. 619-806-9017.

KENSINGTON, PARK. Largest 2 bedroom, 2 bath in town with office. All new, quiet tri-plex. Parking, laundry. \$1450

plus deposit. Available 12/21/03. Move in before Christmas! Richard, 619-255-0376.

KENSINGTON. \$750. 1 bedroom granny flat. Stove, refrigerator, new paint, newer carpet, quiet area, shared yard. Available now. Call 858-592-0207.

KENSINGTON. 1 bedroom condo. Brand new, gated building, off-street parking, air conditioning, laundry and manager on-site. \$1100 to \$975/month. Call 619-546-0621.

KENSINGTON. \$1495. Tudor house. 2 bedroom. Fireplace. Dining room. Hardwood floors. Washer/dryer. Refrigerator. French doors. Fenced yard. Available now. Truly charming. 4690 Biona Drive. 858-569-9390.

KENSINGTON/NORMAL HEIGHTS. Large 1 bedroom. New refrigerator, new paint, parking space, very clean, nice neighborhood, no pets. \$700. Call 619-584-0761.

KENSINGTON. \$1195. Very nice, large 2 bedroom, 2 bath with garage. Great location in the heart of the village. Walk-in closet, security gated. Must see. Available now! Move-in special \$500 off 1st month's rent O.A.C. 4101 Park Place #5. www.cethron.com; 619-295-1100.

LA COSTA. Townhome, 1308 square feet, with 2 master bedroom suites, 2-1/2 baths. Fireplace, air conditioning, 2-car garage, patio, pool, jacuzzi, tennis, gated. \$1750. 760-420-4204.

LA COSTA. \$1450. Large condo, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Washer/dryer, fireplace, deck with view, garage, pool, jacuzzi, tennis. Pets welcome. Jayne, 760-481-5235; 760-510-6953.

LA COSTA. \$2500. Luxury 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, 2461 square feet, 3 fireplaces, gardener, community pool and spa. West of I-5, near water. 760-730-1665.

LA COSTA/CARLSBAD. \$1500. 2 Master bedrooms, 2-1/2 bath, 2-story townhouse, double attached garage, washer/dryer, dishwasher, fireplace, deck, gated, pool, jacuzzi, tennis. 858-549-9822.

LA COSTA/CARLSBAD. \$1295. 2 bedroom, 2 bath view unit in beautiful newer complex above golf course. Washer/dryer. Air conditioning. Fireplace. Pool. Spa. No pets. Rental office open 7 days. 2385 Caringa Way. Manager, 760-431-7575.

LA JOLLA BOARDWALK condo. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Walk to UCSD, shopping, restaurants, theater. Clean, quiet, elegant. Fireplace, patio, appliances. Tennis, pool. \$1750. 858-457-2638.

LA JOLLA COLONY/UTC. \$1950. Beautiful newer Las Palmas townhome. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2-car garage. New washer, dryer, refrigerator included. Pool, spa, fireplace, patio. Walk to all. 858-442-5797; cdbray@cox.net.

LA JOLLA COVE Vintage, panoramic coastal views, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 1700 square feet, Fireplace, wood floors, 2-car garage, all appliances, gardener. \$3500. 858-486-7697.

LA JOLLA COVE. Amalfi Street vintage guesthouse studio. Panoramic coastal views, Murphy bed. Fireplace, 1-car garage, all appliances, private back street entrance. \$1750. 858-486-7697.

LA JOLLA SHORES. Large 1 bedroom. Off-street parking, laundry facility, 1 block to beach. \$1200/month plus security deposit. 858-456-7954.

LA JOLLA VILLAGE. Studio. Living room, bath, kitchen-appliances. Walk-in closet, dresser drawers/shelves, laundry. Walk to beach, bus, restaurants. \$1095-\$1375, includes utilities. 619-645-8082.

LA JOLLA VILLAGE. Charming studios from \$900. \$250 off first month's rent! Pool, laundry, elevator. Walk to La Jolla Cove. Dining and shops, nightlife. No pets. 7621 Eads Avenue. 858-459-8254, www.casalindaapartments.com.

LA JOLLA VILLAGE. \$1025. 1 bedroom, 1 bath in excellent location. Upper unit. Coin laundry. 1-car garage. No pets. 7427 Herschel. Open house Saturday 12/27, 1-2pm. Torrey Pines Property Management, 858-454-4209.

LA JOLLA. \$1350. 1 month free! Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Walk to UCSD, shops, park. Balcony. Garden window. No pets. 8849 Villa La Jolla Drive #11. 858-457-4509.

LA JOLLA. \$2100. Gorgeous oceanfront condo, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Patio, fireplace, covered parking, laundry on site. Beautiful ocean view! 760-720-1400 or 760-61

cluded. \$1800/month. Available 1/04. 619-654-9573.

LA JOLLA. \$1200. Furnished studio with ocean view, utilities included. \$1150. 1 bedroom. Pool. Steps to beach. Laundry. Parking. 6655 La Jolla Boulevard. 858-775-0387. 858-756-9941.

LA JOLLA. \$895. Studio condo. Murphy bed. Laundry room. Dishwasher. Parking space. Community pool. Patio. Storage. 8628-B Via Mallorca. McKee, 619-435-2700.

LA JOLLA. Big deals till 12/31. 1/2 block to ocean! Comfortable 1 bedrooms at \$1129 and up. Laundry/pool. No pets. 858-454-7509; 858-536-1900.

LA JOLLA. \$3100. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Ocean view. Some furniture available. Walk to Bird Rock village. Available 1/1/04. 5372 Chelsea Street. Boone Properties, 858-274-6856. www.sandiegorealestatemanagement.com.

LA JOLLA. \$1795. Near UCSD. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-car attached garage. Washer/dryer. Pets OK. 619-244-5789.

LA JOLLA. \$1250-\$1325. 2 bedroom, 2 bath in great location, close to beach and village. Laundry, parking. 525 Marine Street. Open house Saturday, 12/27, 10-11am. Torrey Pines Property Management, 858-454-4209.

LA JOLLA. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, great ocean views, \$1690. Laundry on site, underground parking. Available mid-January. Call 858-454-8857 x326.

LA JOLLA. \$950. Small 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Bird Rock area. Stove, refrigerator, microwave, garage. Coin laundry. Cat OK with additional deposit. Available 1/28. Deposit \$900. 415 Colima Street. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Properties, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

LA JOLLA. \$1175. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, coin laundry, garage. Available 1/10. Deposit \$1100. 6235 La Jolla Boulevard. 858-270-2071.

Del Sol Properties, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

LA JOLLA. \$1150. Spacious 1 bedroom, upper end unit/balcony, new appliances, pool/spa, fitness center, laundry. Minutes to UCSD, shopping, beaches. Available January. 858-414-0724.

LA JOLLA. \$3300. 3 bedroom, 1 bath house, hardwood floors. Pets OK. Close to beaches, village. Studio with separate entrance also available. 858-454-8857 x328.

LA JOLLA/UTC. Near campus, shopping center. Convenient to freeways. 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo/townhome, attached garage with full-sized washer/dryer. Pool, quiet. \$1500/month. Available 12/15. Heidi Dorman, agent, 858-459-0501 x231; 858-449-8015.

LA JOLLA/BIRDROCK. \$2750. Charming 2 bedroom, 2 bath house. Fireplace, washer/dryer, fenced backyard, carport garage ocean view 2 blocks to beach. 760-415-7882, 760-747-1474.

LA JOLLA/BIRDROCK. \$1850 plus security. Huge 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Laundry facility, underground parking. Walk to ocean and shops. 858-488-7863.

LA JOLLA/BIRD ROCK. \$1400, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$1475, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Panoramic ocean views. Balcony. Coin laundry. 2 parking. No pets. 5530 La Jolla Boulevard. Open house Saturday, 12/27, 11:30am-12:30pm. Torrey Pines Property Management, 858-454-4209.

LA JOLLA/UTC. Stylish Italian sophistication! Courtyards, 4 resort style pools, spas, sun decks. High tech fitness center. Full time activities director. \$1160-\$1995. Studios, 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms. Full size washer/dryer. The Villas of Renaissance, 5280 Fiore Terrace. Open daily until 6pm. 888-218-0377. rental-living.com, visit: www.sdreader.com/rent/1051.

LA JOLLA/UTC. Next to Hyatt. Furnished condo including washer/dryer. Underground parking. Gated community. Great location: close to freeways, UCSD, markets, gyms. \$1695. Call 619-885-9999.

LA JOLLA/UTC. \$2795. 4 bedroom, 2 bath townhome. 1472 square feet, appliances, 2-car patio carport. No smoking/pets. Near pool, park, picnic area. 619-422-8428.

LA JOLLA/UTC. \$1200. Large 1 bedroom condo, large walk-in closet, automatic garage, overlooking canyon, 2 blocks from UTC, 1/2 from bus. Utcrentals@aol.com, 858-578-3392.

LA JOLLA/UTC. \$1650+. Large 3 bedroom condos available now and on continual basis. Near UCSD and bus line. utcrentals@aol.com, 858-578-3392.

LA JOLLA/WINDANSEA. Two units available. \$890 studio. 1 bedroom \$975. Laundry on site, quiet building. Nonsmoking, no pets. 1-year lease. Manager, 858-395-9944.

LA JOLLA/WINDANSEA. \$1595. 1 bedroom apartment. Ocean view, garage, newly remodeled throughout! Laundry on site. Discount with 6-month lease. 858-692-6196.

LA JOLLA/WINDANSEA. \$1850. Townhouse. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. New carpet, fireplace, fenced yard, garage, washer/dryer. No pets/smoking. 2-unit complex. 619-261-5131; kndrew@yahoo.com.

LA MESA. \$200 off first month!-new tenants only. \$925-\$945/month, \$945 security. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Pool, parking, new ownership. 7629 Normal Avenue. 858-245-9747.

LA MESA. \$925 plus move-in special! Spacious 1 bedroom. Newly renovated community. Air conditioning. Patio/balcony. New appliances. Large closets. Berber carpet. Wood flooring. Fitness center. Pool. Spa. Saunas. Laundry. Near trolley, Grossmont Mall, SDSU, 32nd Street, Miramar. Cat friendly. Model open! Villas at La Mesa, 8515 Chloe Avenue. 619-460-7955. www.sdreader.com/rent/2054.

LA MESA. \$1095. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Walk-in closet, air conditioning, balcony. Cul-de-sac. Pool. Lease. No pets. 619-465-9849.

LA MESA. \$920. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Small quiet complex. Air conditioning, ceiling fans, balcony, on-site laundry, pool. 5065 Thorne Drive. Owner, 619-460-8011.

LA MESA. \$775. Quiet 1 bedroom. Upper unit, extra closet space, on-site laundry, off street parking. Walk to village, shopping. 8288 Orchard Avenue. 619-697-7841.

LA MESA. \$950. Charming 2 bedroom, 1 bath with large common yard. Garage. Move-in special! 1/2 off first month's rent! Call 858-571-1970.

LA MESA. \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Outstanding value. First month moves you in! Newly remodeled, hardwood floors, walk-in closet. Near SDSU. Available now. 4932 68th Street. Sunriseliving.com. 858-571-1970.

LA MESA. \$1250. Deposit \$500. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Large spacious unit. Pool. Laundry and parking on site. Close to shops and freeways. Available now. 8600 Lemon Avenue. Al and Rose, 619-466-1532.

LA MESA. \$990. Deposit \$500. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Spacious upstairs corner unit. Laundry and parking on site. Available now. 7656 Normal Street. Bob Cota Realty, 619-465-9934.

LA MESA. \$1100. Deposit \$500. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Spacious upstairs corner unit. Laundry and parking on site. Close to all. Available now. 3415 3rd Street. Glenna, 619-469-5010.

LA MESA. \$895. Deposit \$500. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Spacious downstairs corner unit by pool, saunas. Laundry on site. Close to all. Available 1/1. 4515 3rd Street. Glenna, 619-469-5010.

LA MESA. \$1875. 3 bedroom plus den, 2 bath house. Stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer, dishwasher, air conditioner. Pool, yard, balcony/patio. 6170 Broadmoor. 858-598-1111 x192. www.utoptiamanagement.com.

LA MESA. \$1100. 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom, stove, refrigerator, completely remodeled, washer/dryer hookups, garage, fenced

yard, near all. Pet negotiable. Section 8 ok. 6032 Nancy Drive. 619-698-6911.

LA MESA. \$995, deposit \$800. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Off-street parking, on-site laundry, stove, refrigerator. Quiet. 6004 Lake Murray Boulevard #B. 619-804-3325.

LA MESA. \$1350. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Upstairs. 1000 square feet plus. Carport. Air conditioning. End unit. 8761 Lake Murray Boulevard. Agent, 619-260-1368.

LA MESA. \$1350. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Garage; large, fenced yard, laundry, dishwasher, covered patio, security lights. Trash paid. Near lake/shops. No pets. 619-222-8181.

LA MESA. \$900. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath courtyard apartment. Top notch condition, great location. Laundry, parking. No pets. 3717 69th Street. Manager, 619-583-0575.

LA MESA. \$950 includes utilities. 1 bedroom and office luxury upper unit. Quiet, pool, laundry, off-street parking, storage. No dogs. Call for details. 619-462-6000.

LA MESA. 1 bedrooms from \$780. Air conditioning, balcony, on-site laundry, off street parking. 1 bedroom with garage \$850. 4751 Jessie Avenue. Owner, 619-460-8011.

LA MESA. 1 bedroom, \$920. 2 bedroom, \$1150. Move-in special! Resort-style living. Air conditioning. Dishwasher. Gym. Patio or balcony. Parking. Clubhouse, pool, spa, sauna. 8633 La Mesa Boulevard. www.sdreader.com/rent/1002. 619-462-1633.

LA MESA. Extra large 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Very nice! Second floor community pool, rec room. Washer dryer hookups, dishwasher, stove refrigerator, air conditioning, carport. 7780 Parkway Drive. No pets. 619-440-4607.

LA MESA. Meticulously remodeled apartments in a serene setting invite you into this full service community. Studio at \$750. 1 bedrooms at \$895. No pets. Call 619-884-7900. www.thejohncollinscompany.com.

LA MESA. Rent to own! 3 bedroom, 2 bath stove, refrigerator, \$30K down. No bank prequalify. Call for homes in other areas. Darren 858-243-4090.

LA MESA. Spacious and private 1 bedroom apartments. Some units feature: view, carport, balcony. Lush landscaping. Sparkling pool. Starting at \$750/month. 1/2 off first month's rent move in bonus with six month and one-year lease. Call for details. Pets welcome. Near SDSU and shopping center. Saranac Apartments, 619-469-4656.

LA MESA. Spacious 1 and 2 bedroom, air-conditioned apartment homes. Close to lovely parks and shopping centers. Enjoy quality, comfort and convenience at a price you can afford at Vista Amaya. Call us now at 619-697-3285. For photo, floor plans, map and directions, see website: www.sdreader.com/rent/1035.

LA MESA. Studios, \$715. Includes carport space and storage. Laundry. Pool. Gated community. No pets. 5365 Marengo Avenue. 619-698-7926.

LA MESA. Spacious 3 Bedroom, 1.5 bath. Pool, quiet upper end unit. Laundry and parking. 7632 A Sturgess Avenue. Call 619-461-2418 or 619-644-0009.

LA MESA/SDSU. 1 bedroom, \$865. Secluded hillside living, yet convenient to all. Air conditioning. Dishwashers. Disposals. Patios/barbecues. Exercise room. Laundry area. Clubhouse. Billiards. Gas barbecue. Heated pool. Spa. Sauna. Month-to-month lease available. Southridge Apartments. 7200 Saranac Street. www.sdreader.com/rent/1001. 619-462-1940.

LA MESA/VILLAGE. \$825. Extra Large 1 bedrooms, Air conditioning, near Henry's. Quiet, covered parking, laundry. 4620 4th Street. Available now. 619-444-4458.

LA MESA/CASA DE ORO. Special \$300 off! Best value for your dollar! Elegant, sculptured flower garden, fountains, gas lamps, park benches. Charming, New Orleans style community. From \$850. Spacious 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms/2 baths. Huge patios/balconies. Restricted access gate. Small pet OK. 3903 Conrad Drive. 619-462-1212. www.sdreader.com/rent/1017.

PET CENTRAL

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ADOPTME2000.COM is dedicated to helping homeless animals find loving homes. For pet adoptions, animals rescue group information, or to volunteer go to www.AdoptMe2000.com.

AQUARIUM SALE at Octopuss' Garden. 20H aquarium \$20; 29 for \$29; 40R \$40. Even a 60E is just \$60. Other tank specials also. Lots of healthy saltwater fish and beautiful corals. Protein skimmers. Lighting systems, pumps, decorations and supplies at low prices at Octopuss' Garden. Noon-9pm, 7 days. Call 858-576-7449.

AQUARIUM, never used, 285 gallons, custom, with all equipment, showroom quality. Will trade for 120-150 gallon. Divorce forces this drastic action. Russ, 619-526-3897.

AQUARIUMS AND PONDS! Freshwater/saltwater fish. Extensive reef animals. 9000 square feet. Low warehouse prices! Expertise not found in Southern California cookie-cutter corporate stores! Aquatic Warehouse. 5466 Complex Street #204, San Diego. Behind Superior Courthouse, off Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. Daily, 10am-7pm. Saturday, 10am-6pm. Sunday, 11am-6pm. 858-467-9297.

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CAGE, 5'Hx4'Wx15"D, great for reptiles/birds, etc., many doors, \$50. Elliot, 619-584-9224.

CAT ADOPTIONS. Lots of kittens! Spayed/neutered, combo tested, shots. 12/28/03, noon-4pm, PetPeople, 8843 Villa La Jolla Drive, La Jolla. 858-457-2036.

CAT. adult, loving. Free to good home without other pets. Declawed and spayed. New job keeps me away from home too much. 760-917-0023.

CATS dreaming of nice home. 18-month-old black girl, 2 calico sisters, 3 years old, year old Himalayan, declawed, beautiful blue eyes. Fixed, shots, leukemia/FIP negative. Donation. 619-236-0026.

CATS. Calico shorthaired female and fluffy solid gray male. Both fixed, both adults. Can have homes separately or together. \$15 each. Must leave message, 619-510-1125.

CORONADO ANIMAL SHELTER adoption website and rescue group information at www.AdoptMe2000.com, then click the Coronado Shelter link. For adoption or volunteer information, 619-435-8247.

DOG KENNEL, medium size, excellent condition, \$60. 619-660-0234.

DOG. Australian shepherd, 7 months old, female, spayed, black tricolor, exceptionally high IQ, sweet and loving. Cheap to active, caring family with big yard. Elderly owner cannot keep. 858-454-4704.

DOG. Crate and house trained. Wonderful with children. Inside/outside. Asking \$50. Loving home only. David, 858-277-7367.

DOG. Small terrier/basset mix, male, rescued off the streets, he now needs a good home. Good with cats and female dogs. 619-523-1224.

DOGS. FOCAS is a trusted name in pet adoptions. Call for information on a variety of wonderful rescued pets. Always altered, microchipped, vaccinated. Most \$100 donation. 619-685-3536.

DOGS. Full-grown pit bulls, friendly and playful. Come meet them. Free to loving home. 619-466-6992.

GROOMING EQUIPMENT. Slightly used. Master Blaster, Double K dryer, 36"x24" Edemco table, miscellaneous items. Best offer takes home. 619-284-5425.

GUINEA PIG. Comes with cage and all accessories. Really cute and friendly. Asking \$35 for all. David, 858-277-7367.

KITTEN ADOPTION. Saturday, 12/27, noon-3:30pm at Petco, 154 Encinitas Boulevard, Encinitas. 760-632-6600.



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KITTEN, Bengal Leopard. Better than TV. Awesome, the living room leopard. Very smart and sweet. Vista North. Bev, 760-724-9316.

KITTEN. Female, 8 weeks old, fluffy white with black tail and forehead, yellow eyes, purrs very easily. \$50 to loving home. Tom, 858-457-0867.

KITTEN. My name is Emily and I'm approximately 4-1/2 months old. I am so much fun, very loving, and always happy. I am a perfect little girl. 760-436-7345.

KITTEN. Tortie. 4 months old, she's short-haired and very busy but sweet. Leukemia/FIV negative, has most shots, spayed, flealess. Donation. 619-236-0026.

KITTENS. 1 male and 2 females, 6 weeks old, cute, looking for new, loving homes. 619-749-3106.


KITTENS/CATS need responsible, lifetime homes. Friendly, virus-tested, neutered, vaccinated, dewormed, deflea. Saturday and Sunday, 12/27-12/28.

Then this is the career for you. Seminars are help by-monthly. For a free packet or information, please visit our Web-site at www.PetSittingUniversity.com or call us at: 858-514-8832 x2 or e-mail us at: PetSitCo@san.rr.com.

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SNAKE. Ball python, 1 year old, friendly, in excellent health, \$50. Cage and accessories available, reasonable. 619-466-8827.

WANTED: Medium-size bird cage for 3 small parakeets. 619-985-2722.



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LAKE SIDE. Marilla Sundance Apartment homes located in scenic Lake Side. We offer spacious 2 bedroom, 2 full bath, approximately 935 square feet. From \$925. 1/2 month to 1 month free! Dogs/cats are welcome. Dog must be 40 pounds/less. Cats must be indoors. Two pet maximum. 619-561-2922. www.sdreader.com/rent/2024.

LAKE SIDE. \$200 off first month's rent. Large 3 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Newly renovated, in-unit washer/dryer, free dish satellite. Off-street parking, pet-friendly. \$1095. 619-405-3688.

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LEMON GROVE. \$750/month. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Recently remodeled, new paint, carpet, linoleum, blinds. Appliances. On-site laundry. Off-street parking. 619-280-2658.

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LEMON GROVE. 3 bedroom, 1 bath house. Large fenced yard, hardwood floors. Pets on approval. 2159 El Dora. \$1550. Call 619-269-6031.

LEMON GROVE. \$1450. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Fee. Rent Ready, 858-505-4848.

LEUCADIA. Guest House-New and custom. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Private entrance/yard. Washer/dryer, storage. DSL and Dish TV included. 300 feet to bluff. Hear the surf! No smoking/pets. Available 1/1/04. \$1,350. 760-942-2424.

LEUCADIA. \$800. Studio in triplex. 1 bath. No pets. 500 square feet. 261-C Hillcrest. Agent, 858-755-1139. www.scuba-rentals.com.

LINDA VISTA. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, \$845-\$945. Convenient location, fenced backyard, assigned parking. No pets. Office at 2451 Ulric Street. Please call for appointment at 858-278-3610.

LINDA VISTA. \$675. studio, utilities included. Laundry, gated parking. No pets. 2285 Ulric Street. Call Monday-Friday for appointment. 858-277-4213.

LINDA VISTA. Now renting! Beautiful senior garden community! 62 and up! Starting at \$675. Ask manager about our super move-in special! \$445 first month's rent. Spacious 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Patios. Recreation room and laundry on site. On call maintenance. Close to shopping/free-ways. No pets. 7720 Belden Street. www.sunriseliving.com, call now, 858-560-5707.

LINDA VISTA. \$895, deposit \$945. 2 bedroom, 1 bath remodeled downstairs unit. Laundry on site, street parking. Near USD. 5766 Lauretta Street. Available now. No pets! Coastal Choice Properties, 858-539-7433.

LINDA VISTA. \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Laundry on site. Clean patio. Pool, tennis courts, Near Mesa College. 8024 Linda Vista Road. 619-233-4182.

LINDA VISTA/MESA COLLEGE. 2 bedroom, 1 bath cozy home, completely remodeled, hardwood floors, washer/dryer, fenced yard. \$1300, utilities included. Available. 760-231-9802.

LOGAN HEIGHTS. \$775/month. Rehabilitated 1 bedroom apartment, Franklin Avenue. Se habla Espanol. 619-584-5900.

MIDDLETOWN. \$875. 1 bedroom. Holiday special -\$300 off first month! Walk to Little Italy and more! 2270 Union Street. 619-297-1483 x100.

MIRA MESA. \$1850. 4 bedroom, 2 bath house. Upgraded, remodeled, 1900 square feet, all appliances included, community pool/club. Small pet ok. Panda Realty, 858-748-8850.

MIRA MESA. \$1650. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, family room, living room, fireplace, 2-car garage, community pool, fenced yard. New carpet, tile and paint. 858-549-2918.

MIRA MESA. \$825, deposit \$800. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator, on-site laundry, off-street parking. 8767 Mira Mesa #3. 619-804-3325.

MIRA MESA. \$1395. 3 bedroom, 2 bath single story with double carport. Upgraded appliances, patio, fireplace. Carpets and new laminate flooring. Call today! 858-484-3694.

MIRA MESA/SORRENTO VALLEY. \$1050-\$1150. Newer 1 bedroom condo. Furnished or unfurnished. Nice carpet, has full appliances/amenities. Pets OK with deposit. Alex, 858-578-8090.

MIRA MESA/SORRENTO VALLEY. \$1275. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Ready to move in! Washer/dryer, covered parking space. Nice neighborhood. Pet OK with deposit. 619-244-4212.

MISSION BAY, EAST. \$775 rent. \$500 deposit. 1 bedroom. Close to I-5. 1450 Morena Boulevard. Available now. 619-276-8816.

MISSION BAY. \$775. Spacious studio with fantastic view of Mission Bay. Controlled access. Parking. Laundry. No pets. 2821 Morena Boulevard. Resident manager, 619-275-1352.

MISSION BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house, private deck, 2 parking spaces. 1 block to beach. \$1375/month. 755 Island Court. Available 1/10/04. David, 619-994-4850.

MISSION BEACH. \$1000. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Steps to sand, with jacuzzi and gas barbecue. New carpet and paint. Pet considered. Call 858-353-5555.

MISSION BEACH. Don't miss this one, beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath designer

condo, ocean and bay views, \$2395. Year round, steps to sand. Wood floors, marble fireplace, all appliances including washer/dryer, garage, no pets. 619-885-6560.

MISSION BEACH. \$1350. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Newly refurbished. Large remodeled patio. Washer/dryer available. Off-street parking. Near beach. Available 1/1/04-6/30/04. Call 619-743-3285.

MISSION BEACH. Large studio. All utilities paid. Steps to ocean. \$895. 619-234-7572.

MISSION BEACH. \$1475. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Hardwood, tile, remodeled. Second floor. Parking. Laundry. No smokers. 3314 Mission Boulevard, #4. Martha, 619-224-0985.

MISSION BEACH. \$1600. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Located in South Mission Beach on 814 Cohasset Court, bay side. Parking space, laundry, patio area with barbecue. Available January 1. Call 619-654-9302.

MISSION BEACH. \$855. Nice, remodeled 1 bedroom, 1 bath house. No pets. Bay-side. New carpet, appliances. Quiet. 817-1/2 Ormond Court. Available now. Agent, 619-275-3455.

MISSION BEACH. \$1595. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Steps to beach/bay. Private balcony, deck, bay view. Parking. No pets. Available early January. 3708 Bayside Lane. K & R Properties, 858-490-1600. www.kandrproperties.com.

MISSION BEACH. \$800. Studio. Close to beach. Parking. Laundry. 715 El Carmel. AMI Property Management. 619-697-6314.

MISSION BEACH. \$2500. 3 bedroom, 3 bath, view. Steps to ocean and bay. Dishwasher, laundry, balcony. Agent, 619-254-8703.

MISSION BEACH, SOUTH. \$975. 1 bedroom, 1 bath with garage. Year lease. Shared yard. Quiet court. No pets. 815 Dover Court. Available 1/15. www.cairnx.com, 858-490-1450.

MISSION BEACH, NORTH. \$2395. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Unfurnished. Great deal! Year-round. Share garage. Laundry. No pets. 3709 Oceanfront Walk. Cairncross Rentals, 858-490-1450. www.cairnx.com.

MISSION BEACH. \$2495. 3 bedroom, 3 bath townhouse. New carpet/paint. Attached garage. Washer/dryer. Unfurnished. Fireplace. Deck. 819 Isthmus Court. Cairncross Rentals, 858-490-1450. www.cairnx.com.

MISSION BEACH/Z, SOUTH. \$1100. Third-floor condo. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Garage. Year-round. No pets. 2990 Mission Boulevard. Cairncross Rentals, 858-490-1450. www.cairnx.com.

MISSION BEACH. \$995. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Furnished or unfurnished. Call 858-733-0770.

MISSION BEACH. \$1800/month. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Ocean views! Dishwasher, laundry. Available now. Agent, 619-296-1000.

MISSION BEACH. \$2600. Large 3 bedroom, 3 bath newer townhome. Washer/dryer, fireplace, deck, double garage. Located on quiet bayside court. Recently redecorated. 808 Monterey Court. 858-488-3539.

MISSION BEACH. \$875. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 block to bay, refrigerator, stove. Low fee. Free guest search at: www.sdrentals.com.

MISSION BEACH, SOUTH. \$925. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Stove, refrigerator. Coin laundry. Available 1/10. Deposit \$900. 731 Ensenada Court. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Properties, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

MISSION BEACH. We have several 2 bedroom apartments in Mission Beach, ranging from \$1295-\$1800 per month. Call for more information, Bill Luther Realty 858-488-1580.

MISSION HILLS, SOUTH. \$1250. Upper 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Terrace city view. Parking. Laundry. Near downtown/transportation. Lease. No pets/smoking. Columbia/Palm. 619-296-7902.

MISSION HILLS. \$1895. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath triplex. Beautiful Spanish style. Great views, laundry, 2-car garage. Fantastic neighborhood. No pets or smokers. 619-222-5729.

MISSION HILLS. \$1395. Beautiful hardwood floors. New deco bathroom. Charming 2 bedroom unit, in nonsmoking building, on very quiet street. Laundry room. No dogs please. 619-299-4769.

MISSION HILLS. Gorgeous new home near Little Italy, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-car, fantastic kitchen, split level, huge master, deck, quiet cul-de-sac, water view. \$2450. 619-804-6840; colleen@mysandiegoagent.com.

MISSION HILLS/HILLCREST. New apartment homes and lofts. 1 and 2 bedrooms. Underground gated parking. Crown moldings. Vaulted ceilings. Fireplaces. Walk-in closets. Full-size washer/dryer. High-speed Internet. Elevator, fitness center. Great location, near all! Lease. Cats welcome. Mission Hills Commons, 4021 Falcon Street. www.MissionHillsCommons.com, 1-866-579-6028. www.sdreader.com/rent/2032.

MISSION HILLS. \$997. 1 bedroom house. Some bay views. New paint, hardwood floors. 1 upgrade of your choice! Rustic, quiet area. Small pet OK. 760-943-9686.

MISSION HILLS, SOUTH. \$1600. Mint condition 2 bedroom, 1 bath. All appliances, attached garage with laundry, 2 view decks. Utilities included. 858-525-7543; 619-224-1114.

MISSION HILLS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New Berber carpet, dishwasher. 3695 Reynard Way, San Diego. \$1200. 619-683-2698; 619-804-1742.

MISSION HILLS, NORTH. \$1300. 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Approximately 600 square feet. Close to village. Lease required. 1224 West Arbor. Paula, Coldwell Banker, 619-574-5128.

MISSION HILLS. Move-in special! 1 and 2 bedrooms from \$1050-\$1175. Pool. On-site laundry. Off-street parking. Close to

downtown and shopping. 3505 Reynard. www.sunriseliving.com; 619-683-9239.

MISSION HILLS. \$1195. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Spectacular views, balconies, all amenities, off street parking, laundry, hardwood floors, no pets. 1864 Titus Street. 619-464-1652.

MISSION HILLS. \$1995. 2 bedroom, 2 bath house. 2-story, 2 fireplaces, wood floors, 1320-square-feet, washer/dryer. 4361 Hawk Street. McKee, 619-435-2700. www.mckeecompany.com.

MISSION HILLS. \$800. 1 bedroom, 1 bath house. Deposit \$600. Laundry on site. No pets. Available now. 3244 Reynard Way. 619-291-1711.

MISSION HILLS/HILLCREST. \$695. Large studio. Walk-in closets. On-site laundry. Full kitchen and bath. Great location. 3970 Goldfinch Street. Call Virginia 619-298-1763.

MISSION HILLS. \$1950. 3 bedroom, 1 bath plus detached space. Great neighborhood. Washer/dryer. Gardener. Hardwood floors. 1745 W. Montecito. Uptown Property Management, 619-297-7368.

MISSION HILLS. 1 bedroom apartment, \$650 upper unit with view of Downtown, adjacent to I-5. Clean. Central location. Off-street parking. 619-980-6290.

MISSION HILLS. \$625. Deposit \$600. Studio with stove and refrigerator. Off-street parking. 340 University Place #C. Call 619-804-3325.

MISSION HILLS. \$1225-\$1325. Two 2 bedroom units available. 1 with garage, small complex, hardwood floors, large yard, city view, laundry. Quiet street. No pets. Nonsmoking. Available now. 619-275-2681. Cell, 619-518-4116.

MISSION HILLS. \$750. Upper bright studio. Laundry room, pool, carport. Near market/bus. No pets please. 4039 Brant Street. Centre City Property Management, 619-296-6699.

MISSION HILLS. \$795. studio with garage, \$1150, large 1 bedroom with dining room/hardwood floors. Laundry room. No pets please. 4141 Ingalls. Centre City Property Management, 619-296-6699.

MISSION HILLS. \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, ground floor condo. Utility room for extra storage with 2 free washers and dryers. 1 block to bus, train and trolley. Available immediately. 3830 Kettner Blvd. 619-507-4172.

MISSION HILLS. \$875. 1 bedroom, 1 bath in newer controlled access building near UCSD Medical Center. Gated parking, laundry. No pets. 4022 Albatross. Resident manager, 619-293-0373.

MISSION HILLS. Brand-new, never lived in, 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhouse, garage, granite countertops, washer/dryer, patio, close to Downtown/USD/ballpark/airport. \$1995. 619-300-2663.

MISSION HILLS/HILLCREST. \$1595. 3 bedroom, 2 bath duplex, private like a house, 2 levels, balcony, 3767 Dove. No dogs. Available now. 858-272-3113, 619-295-1160.

MISSION HILLS. \$1395. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Quiet neighborhood location. New appliances, tile. Gated community. Laundry. Underground parking. Cat OK. Robert, 619-531-0826. www.flo.it.com.

MISSION HILLS. From \$950-\$995. Spacious 1 bedroom apartment. Balcony. Very modern, all appliances. Quiet neighborhood, on-site laundry. Underground garage parking. 619-287-7779. www.flo.it.com.

MISSION VALLEY. Condo. \$1800. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, top floor, view, balcony, upgraded, washer/dryer, fireplace, alarm, pool, spa, gym. Prime location. 619-297-4621.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1095+. 2 bedrooms with 1 and 2 baths. 1000-square-feet. Air conditioning, pool. Lease. Available now! No pets! 5360 Adobe Falls. 619-265-1645.

MISSION VALLEY/SDSU/San Carlos. Low \$350-\$450 deposits! From \$1270. 1, 2 bedrooms. Luxury gated community. Spectacular views! Lush landscaping. Sparkling pool, spa. Play center. Built-in computer niche. Large closets. Washer/dryer. Fitness, business centers. Garages available. Cat on approval. Canyon View Apartments, 7149 Navajo Road. 619-464-4144. www.sdreader.com/rent/2011.

MISSION VALLEY. 1 month free rent! \$99 deposit special! 1, 2 bedrooms from \$1125. Tennis courts. Lap pool, spa. Basketball court. Central air conditioning. Private patios/balconies. Fitness, recreation centers. Washer/dryer in units. Pets welcome. Available now! Club River Run, 10041 Rio San Diego Drive. 800-476-9561. www.sdreader.com/rent/2022.

MISSION VALLEY. \$99 deposit special! First month free rent! Starting from \$1538 for spacious 2 bedrooms. Patio/balcony. Air conditioning. Dishwasher. Microwave. Washer/dryer. Fireplace. Courtyard. Pool. Spa. Fitness center. Underground parking. Pets welcome. Close to trolley, shopping, restaurants. River Front, 750 Camino de la Reina. 800-476-9570. www.sdreader.com/rent/2072.

MISSION VALLEY. \$2350. 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath. Brand new! 3-story, 2-car attached garage. All appliances. Luxury pool, spa. Free month! 858-539-4403.

MISSION VALLEY. 1/2 off first month! 2 bedroom, 2 bath from \$1225. 3 bedroom, 2 bath from \$1600. Tropical ambience. Dishwasher. Microwave. Intercom. Pool. Spa. Sauna. Fitness center. Central air/heat. Balcony/patio. Garage, parking. Laundry. Cat OK. Mission Pacific, 4424 44th Street. Toll free: 1-866-813-5684. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/rent/1010.

MISSION VALLEY. \$985. Nice 2 bedroom condo in Friars Pointe. Downstairs, new carpeting, carport. Pool, spa, barbecues. Cat OK. 6354 Rancho Mission Road #501. Agent 619-469-7790.

MISSION VALLEY. \$920. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Lots of upgrades. Pool, tennis courts, exercise room. Close to trolley and stadium. Rancho Mission Villas. Agent, 619-284-9514.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1100. Large 1 bedroom condo with carport. Water included. Small pet OK with deposit. Ground floor with patio and fountain view. Available now. Free rent till 1/1/04. 619-583-7879.

MISSION VALLEY/USD. \$1700/month. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Patio, garage. Refrigerator, washer/dryer, dishwasher, microwave, club house, pool, spa. Available 12/1. 952-221-3346.

MISSION VALLEY. \$975. Large 1 bedroom, second floor patio/balcony. Laundry, parking, dishwasher, microwave, pool, tennis. Available December 15. Call 619-306-3111. 6009 Rancho Mission. redmclaugh@yahoo.com.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1150. 2 bedroom condo, pool, parking, spa, convenient location. New appliances, upgrades. Available now. 5938 Rancho Mission Road #127. 619-298-7220.

MISSION VALLEY/USD. Studios. \$700. Bright and airy. Private. Gated. Nonsmoking. No pets. 5411 Linda Vista Road (near Mildred Street). www.info101.net. 619-294-4376.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1300/month. 2 bedroom loft condo in Mission Verde. New paint/carpet. Vaulted ceilings. Great view, coin laundry, pool, spa, covered parking. 619-708-9233.

MISSION VALLEY, WEST. \$1350. Large condo, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace, washer/dryer, air conditioning, balcony, pool, spa, fitness center. Gated community, underground parking. Near shopping. 858-349-2492.

MISSION VALLEY. \$950 plus deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Patio, all amenities, parking, laundry facility. Peaceful setting. Walk to stadium. No pets. 858-459-7378.

MISSION VALLEY. \$800 Spacious studio. Small pet, Murphy bed, full kitchen, full bath, lots of closets and cabinets, balcony, pool, spa. Utilities, reserved parking. 619-840-1720.

MISSION VALLEY. High-end 3 bedroom, 2 bath with loft, 2 parking spaces, pool, spa, and gym, no smoking, no pet. \$2,950. Agent, 619-294-8571.

MORLEY FIELD. \$1100. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. 875 square feet. Carpet, ceiling fan, laundry hookups, garage, stove, refrigerator. No pets. 3181 Thorn Street. 619-298-7724.

MURRIETA/TEMECULA. \$1895. Beautiful, new single-level 4 bedroom, 2 bath. Fireplace, granite kitchen, large yard/patio. 1/1/04. 37793 Rushing Wind Court, Murrieta. Gardener included. Call, 619-392-7074.

NATIONAL CITY. \$950. 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Available now. \$1295. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Available January, 2004. Spacious, quiet complex. Washer/dryer hookups. Parking. Gated. No pets. 940 Palm Avenue. 619-336-0436.

NATIONAL CITY. \$695/month. 1 bedroom fully furnished. Low \$150 deposit. No SDG&E deposit or hookup required. 624 East 24th Street. Office open daily. 619-474-3787.

NATIONAL CITY. \$725-\$750. Large 1 bedroom, quiet, laundry on site, assigned parking. Gated complex. No pets. 315 East 30th. 858-483-5111.

NATIONAL CITY. \$995. 2 bedroom house. New paint, fenced yard. Pets OK. Fee. Rent Ready, 858-505-4848.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$900. 4476 32nd between Adams/Meade. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 4-unit building. Remodeled. Second floor. No laundry. 1 off-street parking. 619-992-9927.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$950. Newer, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, garage, parking space, air conditioning, Laundry room, security building. 4743 Hawley, near Adams Avenue. 760-796-7685.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$860. Near Adams. Lovely remodeled 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Appliances. 619-280-5177.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Near Kensington. \$985-\$1025. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with garage plus parking. Available 1/1/04. Huge deck and separate balcony. Washer, dryer hookups. Small, quiet complex. Locked gated with intercom. 4360 41st Street. By appointment. Broker, 619-548-4599.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$725. 1 bedroom, small complex with very pleasant courtyard, steps to central Normal Heights amenities, 1 parking. Small pet OK. 3268 Adams (behind 3260 Adams). 619-239-4846.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1195. 2 bedroom, 2 bath attached home, large rooms, private patio, new paint, carpets, appliances. Steps to central Normal Heights amenities. Small pet OK. 3266-B Adams (gate is beside 3266 Adams). 619-236-4846.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$700/\$900. 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. New carpet/paint. Range/refrigerator. Air conditioning. Off-street parking. No pets. For appointment, Mike 619-602-6361.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$750. Spacious 1 bedroom. Recently remodeled. Gated courtyard with pool. Laundry. Off-street parking. Near Adams. 4637 34th Street. Sandra, 619-563-1310.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$825. Heart of Antique Row. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath, hardwood floors, newer appliances, fully renovated. Unique upper unit. No dogs. 4672 Boundary Street. 619-325-3700.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1495. Quaint house 2 bedroom, 1 bath, quiet, nicely landscaped fenced yard, washer/dryer, country kitchen, refrigerator. Pets OK. 4860 Hawley. Call 619-822-5002.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1200. House. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Remodeled, hardwoods, 1-car garage, huge closets, laun-

dry, secure, fenced, park 1/2 block. Available now. No pets/smoking. Year lease. 619-994-5877.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1250. Pride of Normal Heights! Totally remodeled, extremely large 2 bedroom, 2 bath with 3 closets (one walk-in) plus linen closet and storage closet and pantry. Private fenced patio. Newer carpet and ceramic tile flooring, refrigerator, dishwasher and stove. Huge pool and jacuzzi. Off-street parking, laundry room. 1 block below Adams on Madison Avenue with easy access to I-805 and I-15. 858-695-1663.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Ask about move-in special! \$950, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$965, 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Deposit \$1000. Quiet, gated complex. Fireplace. Balcony. Dishwasher. Washer/dryer hookups. No pets. Good credit a must! 4638 Ohio Street. www.jesselproperties.com, 619-282-3583 or evenings and weekends, 619-255-8389.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$825-\$1100. Free December rent! 1 and 2 bedrooms available. Parking. Laundry on site. Storage. 4840 West Mountain View Drive. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$750. 1 bedroom apartment in a four-plex. Single car garage. 4737 West Mountain View. McKee, 619-435-2700. www.mckeecompany.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$750. 3030 Monroe #3 and #6. Large upper/lower 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry, new paint, new carpet, updated appliances, parking, lush tropical courtyard setting, no pets, no smoke. Agent, 619-685-3960.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$760. Large 1 bedroom. Downstairs. Air conditioning. Garden setting. Gated. Parking. Laundry. \$300 deposit. No pets. Available 12/31. 4730 32nd Street. 619-584-7790.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$695. Large studio apartment. Hardwood floors. Dishwasher. Private patio. Cat OK. Available approximately 1/9. 4982 Hawley Boulevard #B. K & R Properties, 858-490-1600. www.kandrproperties.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$760. 1 bedroom beauty in clean, quiet security building, north of Adams Avenue, with dining room, built-in bookcase, air conditioning, private parking, laundry room. Drive by 4765 West Mountain View Drive, then call 619-447-6556.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$950. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Small gated complex near Adams. Refurbished, including kitchen. Hardwood floors. Courtyard. Laundry on site. MG Realty. 619-229-0231.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$725. Spacious 1 bedroom. Fireplace, air conditioning, laundry. Off-street parking. No pets. 4525 Idaho Street. Agent, 619-298-7724.

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1095. 2 bedroom house, newly remodeled bath, tiled kitchen, newer carpet. 4365 Cherokee Avenue. Call 858-272-1234.

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$750. 1 bedroom. Spacious. Quiet, gated community. No dogs. 4530 40th Street. 619-284-8575.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$725. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Clean, quiet. Parking, gated, laundry. 4382 Utah Street #4. www.cethron.com; 619-295-1100.

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NORTH PARK. \$700. Quiet 1 bedroom courtyard cottage. Everything new waiting for you. Laundry on site. Garage available. Close to all. 3949-1/2 Louisiana Street. 619-697-6942.

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NORTH PARK. Cottage, \$750. 1/2 off first month's rent! Available now. Excellent condition. Cat OK. 4325 Utah Street. app@ajprop.com. A&J Property Management, 888-816-1933.

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NORTH PARK. \$995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Exquisite, extremely well-maintained. Newly remodeled. Dishwasher. Refrigerator and microwave. On-site laundry. Intercom access. No pets! Off-street parking. 4035 Utah. 858-571-1970. Sunriseliving.com.

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NORTH PARK. \$790. Nice 1 bedroom apartment in small, quiet complex. Upstairs, gated entry, skylights, balcony, storage. No pets. 4045 Mississippi Street. Agent, 619-469-7790.

NORTH PARK. \$750. Nice 1 bedroom apartment. Upstairs, newer carpet, blinds, stove. Off-street parking. Coin laundry. No pets. 4136 Iowa Street. Agent, 619-469-7790.

NORTH PARK. \$700, rent. \$500 deposit. 1 bedroom apartment. No pets. Open daily, 10am-5pm, at 4222 Alabama #7 and #15. 619-299-0951.

NORTH PARK, SOUTH. \$1385. 3 bedroom house, garage, workshop, fenced yard, pet ok. Very large with hardwood floors. Large formal dining room. Stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer hookups. Agent, no fee. 619-223-2524.

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NORTH PARK. \$725, rent. \$500 deposit. 1 bedroom cottage. 1 off-street parking spot. No pets. At 3986 Kansas Street. 619-299-8515.

NORTH PARK. \$625, rent. \$500 deposit. 1 bedroom duplex. Parking lot. No pets. At 3033 Monroe. 619-299-8515.

NORTH PARK. \$875 with garage. 3379 30th Street. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, beautiful courtyard, hardwood floors, tiled floors, laundry, no pets, no smoke. Agent, 619-685-3960.

NORTH PARK. \$950. 2 bedroom, 2 bath extra large apartment. Gated building, courtyard, upper, close to all. Available 1/1/04. 4245 34th Street. Call to see. John A. Reis and company, Inc. 858-272-1348.

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NORTH PARK. \$760. 1 bedroom beauty in clean, quiet security building, north of Adams Avenue, with dining room, built-in bookcase, air conditioning, private parking, laundry room. Drive by 4765 West Mountain View Drive, then call 619-447-6556.

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NORTH PARK/MORELY FIELD. \$995. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Intercom entry. Off-street parking for 2 cars. Laundry on site. 3711 Arnold Avenue. 619-298-7224.

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NORTH PARK. 1 and 2 bedrooms. Central location, new paint, laundry on site. \$925-\$1025. 3662 32nd Street. 619-683-9274.

NORTH PARK. \$1050. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet and paint. Tile kitchen, garage. 3332 31st Street. 619-683-9274.

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NORTH PARK. \$795. Deposit \$700. 1 bedroom, 1 bath with stove, refrigerator, microwave, dishwasher, underground parking. 3928 Illinois Street #305. 619-843-0796.

NORTH PARK. \$795. 1 bedroom, hardwood floors, new windows, balcony. 3975 Arizona. Call 858-272-1234.

NORTH PARK. \$700. Lower 1 bedroom. Laundry room, street parking. Near bus/market. No pets please. 4124 Texas Street. Centre City Property Management, 619-296-6699.

NORTH PARK. \$950. Cottage. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Hardwood floors. Fireplace. Private yard, 2 parking spaces. Small pet OK. Available 1/7. 3227-1/2 31st Street. 619-995-9995.

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NORTH PARK. \$925. 2 bedroom. Spacious apartment. Laundry room. Off-street parking. Cat OK. 4070 Texas. 619-299-3834.

NORTH PARK. \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. New paint, hardwood floors, garage. Situated in small, gated complex, laundry on-site. Available 1/2004. 4460 Utah Street #4468. www.cethron.com; 619-295-1100.

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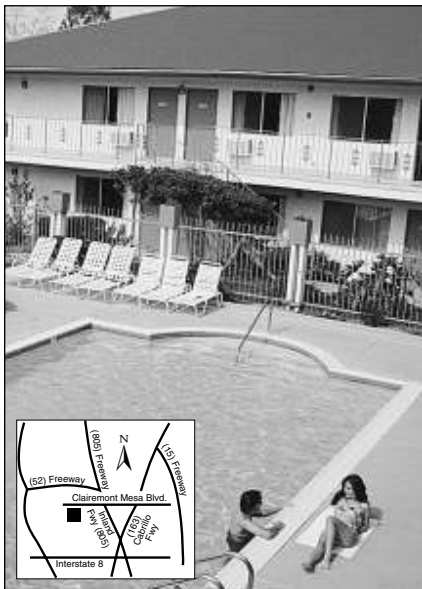
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OCEAN BEACH. \$1000. 1 bedroom apartment. Laundry. 1 parking. Yard and storage shed. No pets. Available now. 2422 Seaside Street. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

OCEAN BEACH. Oceanfront apartments. \$1450/month, cute 1 bedroom, huge patio on ocean bluff. Available now. \$1500, furnished, 1 bedroom. Available first week of January. Pets allowed. Parking. Laundry facility. Jacuzzi. 619-223-7977.

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OCEAN BEACH. \$700. Studio apartment. Steps to beach. Laundry on site. Basic utilities included. Parking. No pets. 2126 Abbott Street. K & R Properties, 858-490-1600. www.kandproperties.com.

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OCEAN BEACH. \$875. 1 bedroom plus. Downstairs apartment. Laundry. No pets! Blocks to beach. 4818 Muir Avenue. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or visit www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1150. 2 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs apartment near cliffs in south Ocean Beach. Laundry. No pets! 4915 Del Mar Avenue. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or visit www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

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OCEAN BEACH/SUNSET CLIFFS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo, 3 blocks to ocean with ocean views, granite countertops, crown moldings, no pets. \$1300/month. 619-523-5828.

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OCEAN BEACH. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Huge yard, 2 car garage. Ocean views. 951 Amiford. \$2,500/month plus deposit. Tami Fuller 619-226-8264.

OCEAN BEACH. \$900. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Pet OK. Refrigerator, stove. Low fee. Free guest search at: www.sdrentals.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$800. 1 block to ocean! Studio. Stove, refrigerator, laundry on premises, carpet. 2110 Bacon #6. 619-224-0009.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1150. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs apartment. Laundry. Few blocks to beach. No pets. 4869 Del Mar Avenue. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or visit www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex with private front deck. Parking. Laundry. Few blocks to beach. No pets. 5079 West Point Loma Blvd. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$850. 1 bedroom. Upstairs apartment. First block on beach. No pets. 2188 Abbott Street. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1150. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs apartment. Parking. Laundry. Few blocks to beach. No pets. 4930 Santa Monica #7. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1150. 2 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs apartments. First block on beach in South Ocean Beach with new carpet/vinyl and paint. Laundry. No pets. 4913 and 4915 Del Mar Avenue. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1150. 2 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs apartment near cliffs in South Ocean Beach. Laundry. No pets. 4915 Del Mar Avenue. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

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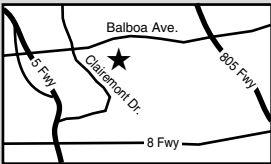
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OLD TOWN. \$3500, 4 bedroom, 3 bath house. Nice backyard. Gardener included. 2395 Juan Street. 619-640-7530.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1535. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Skylights. Vaulted ceilings. Deck. New paint/carpet. Quiet. clean. 3-unit property. Close to bay. 4050 Haines. 760-944-8816.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1600. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Upstairs. Remodeled kitchen. Barbecue. Hardwood floors. Fans. Fireplace. 2 parking spaces. Laundry. pbmike@connectnet.com or Mike, 858-270-7983.

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PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$2195. House. 3-1/2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Immaculate. Ocean 2 blocks. Newer appliances. Wood, carpet. Porch, patio. Laundry, parking, yard, gardener. No pets. 867 Missouri. 858-273-1948.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. 2 bedroom. \$1200. Second floor. Off-street parking. No pets. Laundry. Available 1/16. 4021 Lamont Street. Manager, 858-274-8351; 858-967-9966; e-mail: andrew@ohanafinance.com

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1095. 1 bedroom woodsy upstairs duplex. Nice carpets, fireplace, balcony with view, laundry. Must see! 4263 Haines Street. 858-272-1993.

PACIFIC BEACH. 1 and 2 bedroom apartments, 958 and 962-C Wilbur Avenue. Near beach. Stove, refrigerator, off-street parking. \$950 and \$1250. No pets. 619-275-2858.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1450. Sunny, quiet, upper 2 bedroom, bathroom. Near beach, garage, immaculate. Large closets, laundry. European kitchen. No pets. Nonsmoking. 1030-C Opai. 619-276-3911.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1150, 2 bedroom upstairs end unit. Quiet. Gated building. Laundry. Near bay/bike trail. 2618 Figueroa Boulevard. No dogs. Lease. 858-454-3841.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$2195. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Hardwood floors, gas stove, dishwasher. 2 blocks to ocean. 2 parking spaces. 5244 La Jolla Mesa Drive. 619-338-8138.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1850. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Available now! Fireplace, new Pergo flooring and carpet throughout. New vinyl windows throughout. Completely remodeled bathroom. New paint inside and outside. Large kitchen with dishwasher, gas stove, refrigerator. Garage with washer/dryer. Private fenced rear patio. Must see to appreciate! Located in prestigious North Pacific Beach. Walking distance to all including the beach. For more information, contact: 858-270-7833.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$795. 1 bedroom apartment. Hardwood floors. Walk to Mission Bay. Quiet. Laundry. Near I-5. Available 12/27. Cat OK. 3440 Del Rey Street. 619-222-9308.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2050. 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Off-street parking, new appliances, rehabbed building. No pets. Available mid-December. 4451 Haines Street. 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1250, deposit \$1300. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Nice downstairs end unit. Hardwood floors, laundry on site, street parking. 1570 Reed Street. Available now. No pets! Coastal Choice Properties, 858-539-7433.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1600. Stunning 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Sits on sand. Hardwood floors, fully upgraded, large balcony, bay view, parking, laundry, cat OK. 4007 Everts Street. K & R Properties, 858-490-1600. www.kandrproperties.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$975. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. New paint. Parking. Gated complex. Walk to bay. Laundry. No pets. 3895 Riviera Drive. K & R Properties. 858-490-1600. www.kandrproperties.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$850. Studio. Fully furnished. Microwave. Patio, parking. Cat OK. Available early January. 4038 Promontory Street. K & R Properties, 858-490-1600. www.kandrproperties.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2000. 2 bedroom, 2 bath house. Washer/dryer. Yard. Parking. Close to beach. Available approximately 1/12. 1404 Thomas Avenue. K & R Properties, 858-490-1600. www.kandrproperties.com.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$950. 1 bedroom, 1 bath ground floor apartment with garage space. Laundry on site. Available now. 3728 Ingraham Street. K & R Properties, 858-490-1600. www.kandrproperties.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1325. Large 2 bedroom, ground floor. Small complex, triplex. Near bay, quiet. Do not disturb tenants. Indoor cat ok with deposit. 425-A Noyes Street. Available 1/15. John A. Reis and Company, Inc., 858-272-1348.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1450. Large 2 bedroom rear apartment. Ground level, shared yard, 1-car garage included. Available 1/1/04. 1048 Turquoise. Call to see. John A. Reis and Company, Inc., 858-272-1348.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2800. 4 bedroom, 3 bath townhouse. Off-street parking. Laundry. Balcony. Across from bay. 3945 Gresham. 858-273-4820 or 619-203-6433.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$975. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Steps to bay, laundry on site. Quiet location. Available early January. 3925 Haines Street. K & R Properties. 858-490-1600. www.kandrproperties.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1475. 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Attached garage, laundry, fireplace. Near beach. Available now. 1070 Wilbur. 858-488-7111.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1175. 2 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs apartment. New carpet/vinyl. Parking. Laundry. Near shops, bay and restaurants! No pets! 1433 Grand Avenue #2. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or visit www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1050. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, refrigerator, dishwasher, community pool. Noyes Street. Agent, 619-692-4121.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1195. Upstairs 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Garage, laundry, jacuzzi, dishwasher, fireplace. Credit check required. Available mid-January. Move-in special: \$100 off first month's rent! 1770 Grand Avenue. 858-274-8644.

PACIFIC BEACH/LA JOLLA. \$2350. Charming spacious 3 bedroom duplex. Fireplace, appliances, laundry hook-ups, parking. Incredible outdoor patio, short stroll to best sandy beaches. 4981-1/2 Crystal. 858-272-9547.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1750. Charming 2 bedroom house. Private garage, laundry hookups. Appliances. Fenced yard. Steps to bay and park. 1733 La Playa. 858-272-9547.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1350. Roomy 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath apartment. All appliances. Walk-in closet. Private patio. Parking. Excellent central location. 1827B Missouri Street. 858-272-9547.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$975. Sunny, upstairs 1 bedroom duplex. Private garage. Appliances. Laundry. Close to bay and park. 3722 Ingraham. 858-272-9547.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large, clean, laundry, parking, gated. Near all. No pets. 247/ management! 619-276-5520.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1100. Remodeled 1 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Carport, storage, laundry, rooftop deck. 2 blocks bay. Small complex. Cat OK. Available now. 858-204-8116.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1395. 2 bedroom. All new. Prime upstairs laundry. Parking. No pets. Nonsmoking. Available now. Call 619-275-2681 or 619-518-4116.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$930. Deposit \$800. 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage-style, fenced yard, stove, refrigerator, blocks to beach. 2027 Grand Avenue. 619-804-3325.

PACIFIC BEACH/LA JOLLA. Pets welcome. 1-3 bedrooms. \$850+. 100% pet-friendly rentals. Low fee with money back guarantee. Landlords list free. Listings available online. www.petrent.net.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$915. Deposit \$800. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, stove, refrigerator, on-site laundry, off-street parking. 1 block from beach. 4751 Mission Blvd #7. 619-804-3325.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1025. Deposit \$900. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, off-street parking, on-site laundry, new carpet. Blocks to Mission Bay. 1480 Fortuna #2. 619-804-3325.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1400. Deposit \$1300. 2 bedroom 1 bath with stove, refrigerator, on-site laundry. Located 4402 Dawes, 4 blocks to ocean. 619-804-3325.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1295. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Off-street parking. Laundry. No pets. Nonsmoking. Must see! 2003 Emerald Street #4. 619-226-0393.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1150. 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Patio, parking, laundry. Close to all. Walk to bay. 4111-1/2 Ingraham Street. Pacific Crown Villas. 858-270-4674.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2200. Large 3 bedroom, 1 bath across from ocean. Views. Steps to beach. Laundry room. Available January 1. 760-634-1746 or 858-270-2407.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1395. Ocean view! 860 Missouri, Apartment D. Studio. 1-1/2 blocks to beach. Utilities included. Clean, well maintained. Cassidy, broker, 619-275-LIST.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1925. 946 Opal Street, #1. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhome. Off-street parking. Laundry in complex. Blocks to beach. Available 12/27. Cassidy, broker, 619-275-LIST.

PACIFIC BEACH. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment at 1025 Sapphire Street. \$945. Close to beach! Agent, 619-229-2440.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Garage, plus 1. Washer/dryer, refrigerator, oven, dishwasher. 3 blocks to bay. Available 12/15/03. \$1575/month, includes water/trash. Alan, 858-717-0446; albcoble@deltyme.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. One week free! 1 bedroom, upstairs. Laundry on site, 1 parking space. 619-435-7393 or 619-435-3830.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1495. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Beautifully remodeled, quiet, luxury apartment. Intercom entry, pleasant garden setting, heated pool. Imported tile, dishwasher. 1633 Diamond Street. By appointment. www.sandiegoapartments.com. Year lease. 858-272-4398.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$2600. Townhouse. Beautifully remodeled, trilevel, 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. View, 2-car garage, fireplace. No pets. Lease. 3972 Riviera. 619-518-1160; 619-421-6202.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1300. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Private front yard. Side yard for small pet. Parking for 2 cars. Central location. 2135 Grand Avenue. 619-260-0752.

PACIFIC BEACH. Big 1 and 2 bedrooms, \$895-\$1200. Dishwasher, laundry, parking. No pets. Available 1/12. Call 858-483-5094.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1550. 2 bedroom cottage, laundry, electric garage, 4 blocks to beach. Move in January 1. 4534 Dawes Street. Call 858-272-1312.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$895-\$925. Spacious 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 blocks to Crown Point Shores. Parking, pool, laundry. Very well-maintained property. 3883 Jewell Street. Resident manager, 858-272-0068.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs unit in very well-maintained complex. Great easy access location. Laundry, parking. No pets. 1919 Hornblend Street. Torrey Pines Property Management, 858-454-4209.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$950. 1 bedroom, 1 bath in small complex. Great location near Crown Point. Coin Laundry. 1 covered parking. 1811 Pacific Beach Drive. Torrey Pines Property Management, 858-454-4209.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1325. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upper unit in excellent location. One block to Henry's Market and Garnet shops. Coin laundry. No pets. 1236 Felspar. Torrey Pines Property Management, 858-454-4209.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath in small complex. Upper unit. No laundry or off-street parking. 1 car garage available. 2009 Thomas. Torrey Pines Property Management, 858-454-4209.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$900. Spacious 1 bedroom, 1 bath with pool, parking and laundry. No pets. Close to Crown Point Shores. 3860 Haines. Manager, 858-272-9635.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1300. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 2 blocks to Crown Point Shores. Parking, pool, laundry. Very well-maintained property. 3883 Jewell Street. Resident manager, 858-272-0068.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$775. 1 bedroom, 1 bath in garden setting. Easy access location. Pool, recreation room, laundry. No pets. 2710 Grand Avenue. Resident manager, 858-273-8657.

PACIFIC BEACH. Lease. \$1300/month. 2 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home plus bonus room. Deck, fenced yard. view. Gentle dog OK. Deposit plus references. 619-548-8992.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1195. Small 2 bedroom house with fenced rear yard. Gas appliances. Storage shed. Consider pet. 2660 Magnolia Avenue. Shore Management. 858-274-3500.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1495. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. 2 parking spaces. Gas appliances. New carpet and paint. Excellent condition. No pets. 1445 Chalcedony Street. Shore Management. 858-274-3500.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1375. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, garage. 1 of 3 quiet units behind 1852. Available 12/1. 1854 Chalcedony. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Properties, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1225. Upstairs 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator, coin laundry. Quiet building. Available 12/15. 1768 Thomas Avenue. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Properties, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1295. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher. Balcony. Coin laundry. Parking. Available 12/20. 2018 Reed Avenue. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Properties, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. Newly painted and landscaped building, laundry on site, minutes to beach, pets OK. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1325. Call 858-454-8857 x301.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1175. Large, upstairs 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator, vaulted ceiling. Coin laundry. Parking. Cat OK with additional deposit. Available 12/24. 2152-1/2 Reed. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Properties, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$895. Upstairs, large 1 bedroom. Stove, refrigerator. Coin laundry. Free basic cable TV. No pets. Available 12/20. 1768 Thomas. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Properties, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1395. Upstairs, large 2 bedroom; 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator, coin laundry. Parking. Balcony. Available 1/15. 1051 Diamond. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Properties, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$775. Studio with full kitchen. All utilities paid. Stove,

refrigerator, coin laundry. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 12/24. 5049 Cass. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Properties, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1200. 1 bedroom cottage. Stove, refrigerator. Wood floors, carport for 2 cars, small fenced area. Ask about pet. Available 1/17. 909 Law. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Properties, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$875. Downstairs 1 bedroom. Stove, refrigerator, gas fireplace. Coin laundry, parking, 7 blocks to ocean. No pets. Available 1/15. 1452 Grand. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Properties, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$875. Cute 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment in a garden setting with fireplace and small backyard. No pets. Street parking. IPMG, 760-967-4764.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, downstairs, quiet. Small complex. Close to beach. No pets. Available now. 2121 Thomas. Move-in special! Call 858-483-5111.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1325. 2 bedroom, 1,5 bath duplex near bay! Large eat-in kitchen, 2-car off-street parking. January occupancy. 1522 Reed. 619-997-8614.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$740, utilities paid. Studio. Refrigerator, stove. Low fee. Free guest search at: www.sdrentals.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Will consider small pet. Stove, dishwasher, microwave. Low fee. Free guest search at: www.sdrentals.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$699-\$750. Studio. Utilities included. Newly refurbished, laundry on site, parking. Available now! 3755 Ingraham Street. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

PACIFIC BEACH, Big deals till 12/31 for large studios. Parking, laundry, pool. No pets. 858-536-1900.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1575. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath condo by the bay with private patio and balcony. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer/dryer. Parking. Available 1/21. Deposit \$1500. 1311 La Palma Street. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Properties, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1750. 2 bedroom, 1 bath plus den. House. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer/dryer, garage and driveway. Yard. All utilities paid. Available 1/26. Deposit \$1700. 1934 Reed Avenue. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Properties, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Fully renovated. Great location with laundry facility and parking. \$1250. first month free! 1237 Hornblend. 858-270-5500.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$850/\$1395. Studio and 2 bedroom. Just steps to bay! Very spacious with parking and laundry facilities. 1327-1335 Pacific Beach Drive. 858-274-2894.

PACIFIC BEACH. Move-in special! \$1195. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Third floor unit in gated community, pool and barbecue area. 2266 Grand Avenue. www.utopiamanagement.com. 619-291-5555 x193.

PACIFIC BEACH. Charming 1 bedroom in garden community. On-site laundry and parking. \$895. 1468 Diamond. 858-270-5500.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1800. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 2-car garage. Washer/dryer, fireplace, jacuzzi tub. Bay 2 blocks. 3984 Lamont #5. 619-583-2679.

PACIFIC BEACH. Ask about move-in special! \$925. Outstanding 1 bedroom in warm garden setting, walk to bay. On-site parking. 1542-1/2 and 1546-1/2 Pacific Beach Drive. 858-270-5500.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1650. 2 bedroom, 1 bath and garage! Hardwood floors, near bay/Crown Point. Available now! 3769 Promontory Street. www.cethron.com; 619-295-1100.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1495. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Second floor, elevator, laundry, bay view/deck. Parking. Blocks to bay. 1740-E Roosevelt. Steve Richards Realty, 858-483-2844.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$950. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, 760 square feet, barbecues, patio, laundry room. 1838 Missouri. Steve Richards Realty, 858-483-2844.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1550. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house, carport, storage, gardener, laundry hook-ups. 1967 Felspar. Call agent 858-483-2844.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1200. 2 bedroom. Just 2 blocks to bay! Parking, on site laundry. Cat Okay. 2073-1/2 Oliver Street. Manager, 858-483-6190.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1295. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, second floor, 900 square feet, barbecue, patio, laundry room. 1828-1/2 Missouri. Steve Richards Realty, 858-483-2844.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1750 for 6 months. Steal this great 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhouse. Patio, new carpet, washer/dryer in unit, attached tandem garage. 3729 Promontory Street. www.cethron.com; 619-295-1100.

PACIFIC BEACH. Remodeled 2 bedroom, 2 full bath. Upstairs, very quiet. Refrigerator, dishwasher, new paint, laundry, 2 parking spaces. Available now. Move-in specials. 858-554-0400.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1295. \$100 off first month's rent! 2 bedroom near ocean and Tourmaline Surf Beach. Second-story unit, assigned off-street parking, laundry, dishwasher. Will consider cat. Drive by 1028-1/2 Sapphire. Rent plus \$600 moves you in. 858-344-0942.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$895, \$450 deposit. 1 bedroom with parking. No pets. 6-month minimum lease. 1541 Oliver Avenue. 858-483-3221.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1175. 2 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs apartment. New carpet/vinyl, parking laundry. Near shops, bay and restaurants! No pets. 1433 Grand Avenue #2. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$855 and up. Nice, bright and clean apartments in various Pacific Beach locations. Some close to beach and amenities. 1 bedroom from \$855 and up. 2 bedroom, 1 and 2 bath from \$1310 and up. Great value! Responsive management. Parking. Laundry. No pets. 858-483-3796.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1310. Nice, clean 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet, parking, laundry on premises. No pets. 858-274-1124.

PARADISE HILLS/BONITA, north. Move-in special! 1 and 2 bedrooms from \$925-\$1135. Beautiful gated community with pool, spa. Gated parking. Tennis courts. Fitness center and Fireplaces. Close to shopping, bus lines and more! www.sunriseliving.com. 2835 Alta View Drive. 619-267-2843.

PARADISE HILLS. \$1650. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house, 2-car garage, enclosed patio. 2735 Keen Drive. Agent, 619-423-9150.

POINT LOMA. \$500 off! Ask about manager special! 2 bedroom, 1 bath single-level homes, 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, 2-story townhomes from \$1220. Private patios, fenced yards available! 8 pools, spa, fitness center, volleyball, basketball courts. Pet friendly! Close to beaches, freeways, shopping. 888-777-1280 or lpa@american-assets.com. www.sdreader.com/rent/2082.

POINT LOMA/OCEAN BEACH. \$600. Room in luxury building. Panoramic ocean view. All amenities. Microwave, refrigerator, parking, laundry. Also, room plus sleeping loft available 1/1/04. 619-226-4010.

POINT LOMA. \$1100. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Balcony. Quiet street, dishwasher. No pets. Off street parking. 4467 Valeta #5. 619-225-2372; 858-488-4919; 619-297-5100.

POINT LOMA. 2 bedroom, 2 bath house with great view, hardwood floors, remodeled, large fireplace, large garden, deck faces harbor, garage. No pets. \$2300. 619-846-0214.

POINT LOMA. \$2200. 3 bedroom Spanish-style house, hardwood floors, large rooms, fireplace, basement with washer/dryer hookups, fenced backyard, off street parking, available 1/1/04. 3046 Fenelon Street. 619-222-0541.

POINT LOMA. From \$995. Beautifully appointed 1 and 2 bedroom apartment homes. Pool, spa, view deck, fitness center, media room, gated parking. Gorgeous gated community. 3950 Leland. 619-223-1390.

POINT LOMA. \$895 plus utilities, cable/internet. Guest quarters. Living/eating area bedroom, computer room, bathroom. New refrigerator. Furnished. Small enclosed yard, off-street parking. Near Sub Base, PLNU. Quiet. Nonsmoker. Available January 1 or before. 619-222-8489.

POINT LOMA. 2 weeks free rent move-in special! \$850, 1 bedroom. Very clean! New carpet and appliances. Pool. Select pets welcome. Garages available. Good credit a must! Monterey Apartments, 2551 Worden Street. 619-224-8806.

POINT LOMA. Million dollar view! Magnificent duplex. 2 bedroom, 2 bath unit, 2-car garage, \$2800. 1 bedroom unit, \$1400. Gardener. Gina, 619-231-2727.

POINT LOMA. Large, newly renovated apartments with private patios. 1 bedrooms at \$895. 2 bedrooms at \$1185. A must see, convenient to I-5 and I-8. No pets. Call 619-987-5700. www.thejohncollinscompany.com.

POINT LOMA. \$725. 1 bedroom, upper, new carpet, paint, laundry. Near downtown, Point Loma. Available 12/15. 2830 Keats Street #H. 619-222-9308.

POINT LOMA. \$1995. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath condo. Washer/dryer hook-ups, dishwasher, fireplace, community pool, garage. 2314 Caminito Recordo. McKee, 619-435-2700. www.mckeeccompany.com.

POINT LOMA. \$1300 rent. \$800 deposit. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Bay, ocean, Sea World view. 2 parking spots. Fireplace, microwave, balcony. No pets. 3823 Nipoma Place. 619-299-8515.

POINT LOMA. \$1195. 2 bedroom duplex, utilities paid. Cat ok, near Shelter Island. Garage, stove, refrigerator. Laundry hookups. Water /gardener paid. Agent, no fee. 619-223-2524.

POINT LOMA. \$750 rent. \$500 deposit. Upper 1 bedroom. No pets. At 1651 Scott Street. 619-299-8515.

POINT LOMA. \$2400. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Wooded area. Near Point Loma College. Yard. Pets on approval. 717 Silvergata. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

POINT LOMA. \$1500. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace, wet bar. Washer/dryer. Private balcony, gated underground parking, in village. Walk to Shelter Island. Call to see! 1312 Locust Street. Selected pets considered with deposit. Available 1/1/2004. John A. Reis and Company, Inc. 858-272-1348.

POINT LOMA. \$825 rent. \$500 deposit. 1 bedroom apartment. No pets. Open daily 10am-5pm at 2625 Camulos #5. 619-523-1453.

POINT LOMA. 1/2 off first month! Studios. \$725 and up with utilities. Pool, spa, laundry, business center, underground parking. Indoor cats OK. Near Shelter Island. The Pointe at La Playa, 1021 Scott Street. 619-223-2221.

POINT LOMA. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, bright sunny condo with balcony. Heated pool, tennis, gym, jacuzzi, security, reserved parking. Available 1/1. \$975/month. 619-523-4356.

POINT LOMA. 5 bedroom, 3 bath, Liberty Station. Available December 20th. Immaculate! For information, call Natalie at 619-221-1646.

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POINT LOMA. \$925, deposit \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, fireplace, vaulted ceiling, on-site laundry, underground parking. 2833 Cadiz #7. 619-223-0047.

POINT LOMA. \$1750. 3 bedroom house. Carpet, appliances, washer/dryer, fireplace, Gardener. Available now. No pets. 858-459-5123.

POINT LOMA. \$1050. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs. 1 parking space. Laundry on site. Small building. 1311 Evergreen Street. Available now. Boone Properties, 858-274-6856. www.sandiegorealestatemanagement.com.

POINT LOMA. Spacious 1 bedroom with garage, \$980. Pool, laundry, fitness room. No dogs, please. 2850 Adrian Street. Call 619-523-4325.

POINT LOMA. \$1675. Nonsmoking, no pets. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 garage/parking, laundry, appliances, balcony. Private, spacious. Fireplace, loft, storage. January. Chatsworth. Terrie, 619-223-8537.

POINT LOMA. \$995. 1 bedroom second floor unit in a beautiful gated community. Air conditioner, pool, tennis courts. On-site laundry. Holiday special! 858-598-1111 x193. www.utopiamanagement.com.

POINT LOMA. \$1195. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath at Point Loma Tennis Courts. Pool/spa, recreation room, volleyball and tennis courts. On-site laundry. 619-291-5555 x193. www.utopiamanagement.com.

POINT LOMA. \$1025 rent. \$500 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. New carpet. 1 off-street parking spot. No pets, at 2836 Avenida De Portugal (West of Shelter Island Drive). 619-299-8515.

POWAY. \$800. Deposit \$500. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Spacious unit. Laundry room and parking on site. Close to shops and freeways. Available 1/1. 12330 Ninth Street. Mary, 858-486-4834.

POWAY. Now available. Spacious 1 bedroom, 1 bath unit for \$890. 2 bedroom, 1 bath unit for \$990. Beautiful community with pool, spa. Laundry facility and close to shopping and more. www.sunriseliving.com. For more information, call 858-748-9092.

POWAY/SABRE SPRINGS. \$1200/month plus deposit. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Balcony, washer/dryer, refrigerator, microwave, covered parking, pool, spa. Available 1/1. Scott, 858-442-7268.

RANCHO BERNARDO. Move in in December, no rent until February. The Villas at Camino Bernardo, village estate nestled in a park-like setting offering: 1 bedrooms from \$1010. 2 bedroom from \$1245. Quality customer service. Heated pools/spa, tennis courts, easy freeway access. Near shopping/golf course. 1-866-578-6766. www.sdreader.com/rent/2085.

RANCHO BERNARDO. \$1300. Large, private 2 bedroom, 2 bath end unit condo. Newly remodeled. Patio, golf view, assigned parking, laundry. Club, pools. Water paid. 858-613-9243.

RANCHO BERNARDO. \$1650. December rent free! 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Gated community. Tennis courts, pool, washer/dryer, stove, refrigerator, garage, recreation area. 858-485-8588, x14.

RANCHO BERNARDO. \$560-\$899. Dove Canyon Apartments, a newly built affordable apartment community in San Diego, 1, 2, 3 bedroom apartments available. All electric kitchens. Accepting applications beginning 9am, Monday, December 8, 2003 for a limited time only. Apply by December 31, 2003 and receive 1 month free rent. Income and other restrictions apply. Section 8 welcome. Equal Housing Opportunity. For 24 hour application, please call 858-492-8577.

RANCHO BERNARDO. \$1600. Beautiful new, large, private 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo in 4S Ranch. Balcony, garage, all new appliances, tile floors, laundry. 858-204-8314.

RANCHO BERNARDO. \$2500. Unfurnished brand new 5 bedroom, 3 bath house. Gated community. Poway School District. Shopping center, park. Non-smokers/drugs. 2100 square feet. 858-248-1388.

RANCHO PENASQUITOS. \$1695. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. 1650 square feet. Lots of upgrades, gardener included. Pet ok. Panda Realty, 858-748-8850.

RANCHO PENASQUITOS. \$1995. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, single-story detached home. Remodeled, light, neutral. New kitchen appliances. Pictures at www.ilovedelmar.com. Alison Blake, 858-755-8580 x9.

RANCHO PENASQUITOS. \$995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Newer carpet/paint. Garage, pool. 619-347-4527; 619-528-4200.

RANCHO SAN DIEGO. \$1350. 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom condo, all appliances, dishwasher. Washer/dryer, pool, spa, ten-

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or fax for private
parties. See form
on page 138.

nis, balconies, view, carport. No pets. 2908 Alanwood Court. 619-698-6911.

ROLANDO. \$1550. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Garage. Washer/dryer. Gated community. 4165 Mandarin Terrace. 619-640-7530.

SABRE SPRINGS. \$1250. Upper bright 2 bedroom. Fireplace, air conditioning, pool. No pets please. 10905 Sabre Hill Drive. Centre City Property Management, 619-296-6699.

SABRE SPRINGS. La Cresta Townhome. \$1700. 2 bedrooms and loft (or 3 bedrooms), 2-1/2 baths, 2-car garage, all appliances, washer/dryer, fireplace, air conditioning, small backyard, pool, spa. 858-673-7319.

SAN CARLOS. \$1,895. 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. Fireplace, wood floors. Garden area, fire pit, big yard, pool with maintenance. No pets. Available now. 619-261-1884.

SAN CARLOS. 3 bedroom, 1.75 bath, fireplace, huge backyard, air conditioning, remodeled kitchen/bath, cul-de-sac, nonsmoking. \$1895. Available now! 619-255-3288.

SAN CARLOS. 2 bedroom, \$1250/up. Spacious rooms. Near golf. Pool. Spa. Air conditioning. Recreation room. Sauna. San Carlos Townhouse Apartments. 619-460-8343.

SAN CARLOS. \$1250. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Balcony with view, newer tiled bathrooms, pool/spa. Great for roommates! No pets. Available now. 619-807-8278.

SAN DIEGO, SOUTH BAY. \$1495. 1614 Donax Avenue. Cute 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Yard, parking. Agent, 619-685-3960.

SAN DIEGO, SOUTH. \$850. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$700. 1 bedroom. Clean, new carpet, tile, and blinds. Laundry room on premises. 2818 Clay Avenue. 619-233-4182.

SAN DIEGO. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment with garage and huge backyard. \$1,100/month, \$1,000 security deposit. No pets please. Call 619-795-3682.

SAN MARCOS. \$850. Holiday special, \$200 off 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Like new, view balcony. Extra storage. No pets. 228 North Las Flores Drive. 760-599-0989.

SAN MARCOS. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse. Attached garage, patio, pet ok. Refrigerator, dishwasher/washer included. Pool and playground. Available 1/15/04. 858-503-6920.

SAN MARCOS. \$1400. 2 bedroom, 2 bath upper-level, private end unit. Great westerly views, pool, spa, tennis court. Near CSUSM, Lake San Marcos. 760-599-9899.

SCRIPPS RANCH. Why would you live any place else? No more laundry room; washer/dryer included! 2 bedroom, 2 bath. \$1225 and up. \$500 deposit. Please ask for our move-in special. Cats welcome. Call now, 858-459-8036.

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SHERMAN HEIGHTS. \$800. 1 bedroom cottage. \$1200. 2 bedroom refurbished cottage. Street parking. Near bus/downtown. 2231 L Street. Centre City Property Management, 619-296-6699.

SHERMAN HEIGHTS/GOLDEN HILL. \$650. 1 bedrooms. Beautiful senior building. Gated building, underground parking. Near new ballpark. 2020 Island. See manager, #1. 619-584-5900.

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SOLANA BEACH. \$3500. Ocean view. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath cliffside condo. Fully remodeled and furnished (contemporary) includes: private jacuzzi, fireplace, private 2-car garage and storage. Private access to beach. Available immediately. 858-481-8709. simypearson@yahoo.com.

SOLANA BEACH. Charming 1 bedroom condo near beach/track. Light, airy, upstairs, vaulted ceilings, washer/dryer, garage. Year lease. No pets. Pool/Jacuzzi. \$1300. 760-230-1899.

SOLANA BEACH. \$2500. 3 bedroom, 2 bath nice house. Laundry, fireplace, dining, hardwood floors, covered patio, large yard, garage. Great neighborhood! Pets OK. References. 619-236-1836.

SOLANA BEACH. Studios. Location, location, location! Steps from the beach and Cedros Design District. Full kitchen and bath, breakfast bar, ceramic tile, patios, balconies. \$985/up. Terrific move-in special! Please call for appointment, 858-755-1466.

SOLANA BEACH. \$1900. 3 bedroom, 2 bath duplex. Pet OK. 1363 square feet. 2-car garage. 818 Viva Court. Agent, 858-755-1139, www.scuba-rentals.com.

SOLANA BEACH. \$1850. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath condo. Garage, appliances, washer/dryer, fireplace. No smoking/pets. 858-354-6032.

SOLANA BEACH. \$1200. Cottage style studio with lavish garden setting. Ceramic tile floor. Laundry. Off-street parking. Available now. 214-B North Cedros Avenue. 858-395-9942 or 858-756-9941.

SORRENTO VALLEY. 2-story home. Quiet cul-de-sac neighborhood. 3 bedroom plus office. 2.5 bath. 2-car garage. Fur-

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SORRENTO VALLEY. \$1700. 2 bedroom, 2-1/4 bath. Dishwasher, washer/dryer, air conditioning, private patio, fireplace. Parking. Amenities included. 7345 Calle Cristobal. Available now. K & R Properties, 858-490-1600. www.kandrproperties.com.

SOUTH PARK. \$775. Bright 1 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, yard, large kitchen, stove, refrigerator, on canyon, quiet, no pets/smoking. 858-279-4320.

SOUTH PARK/GOLDEN HILL. 2 bedroom cottage. Very cute. Great location! Hardwood floors, built-ins, breakfast nook, washer/dryer. 1912 Fern Street. Cat OK. \$1250. 619-379-2642.

SPRING VALLEY. New home! 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. Huge lot. Luxury gated community. 2800 square feet. 3-car garage, pool, gardener. Incredible view! Pets OK. \$2400/negotiable. 619-274-2977.

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SPRING VALLEY/RANCHO San Diego. \$2100/month. Beautiful 5 bedroom, 3 bath. Nice area with pool, tennis, basketball court. 619-670-6097.

SPRING VALLEY. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$975/month. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1150. Air conditioning, new carpet, new paint, upgrades throughout. Off-street assigned parking. Upstairs units. Gated or security camera. No dogs. 2 locations to choose from. Call 619-440-4607.

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SPRING VALLEY. \$1250. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. New paint, carpet, spa. Fee. Rent Ready, 858-505-4848.

TALMADGE. \$825. Move-in special! 1/2 off first month's rent! 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Pool. Gated community. On-site laundry. Off-street parking. 4555 51st Street. Call Alfredo at 619-583-0427. 858-571-1970, Sunriseliving.com.

TALMADGE. \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Hardwood floors. Laundry on site. Garage. Pets negotiable. \$750 deposit/ \$500 pet deposit. 4469 Euclid Avenue, at Monroe. Drive by first. 858-273-0344.

TALMADGE. \$995. 1 bedroom, 1 bath house. Available now. Gated, quiet, carport, patio, landscaped, all utilities included. 4630 Altadena Avenue. 858-245-4558.

TALMADGE. \$1595. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 car, laundry room, security alarm, hardwood floors, fenced yard. Tile kitchen and bath. Quiet neighborhood. Plenty of parking. 4579 50th Street. 619-269-0186; 619-696-6745.

TALMADGE. Move-in special, first month's rent moves you in! \$795. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Gated community. Immaculate. Beautiful landscaping. On-site laundry. Garage included. 4447 49th Street. 858-571-1970. Sunriseliving.com.

TALMADGE. \$1075. Modern, airy, upstairs 2 bedroom/2 bath in small, appealing building with new paint and refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, carpeting, balcony. Laundry facilities. 2 covered parking spaces. Perfect for roommates. On 49th Street above El Cajon Boulevard with easy access to I-8, Fairmount and SDSU. 858-695-1663.

TALMADGE. \$725. 1 bedroom, new carpet, new paint, new floors, new window coverings. Gated complex, assigned parking. 4424 51st. 858-483-5111.

TALMADGE. \$1650. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Charming home. Above canyon with views! Large fenced yard. No pets. 4589 Highland Avenue. Uptown Property Management, 619-297-7368.

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UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$825. Spacious 1 bedroom apartment in a small, quiet complex. Unit features newer appliances, ceramic tile countertops, new bathroom fixtures, new vinyl kitchen and bath. Bedroom has mirrored closet doors and ceiling fan. On-site laundry and off-street parking. Available 1/1/04. 4568 Idaho Street. 619-725-3648 or 619-846-6615.

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UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$725. Large 1 bedroom, upstairs, assigned parking, laundry on site, quiet. Available now. 4525 Kansas Street. 858-483-5111.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$995. 1548 Monroe Avenue. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. New paint and carpet, laundry. No pets. No smoking. Agent, 619-685-3960.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$775. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Air conditioning. Walk-in closets. Laundry. Assigned parking. Small pets OK. Available now. 2405 Adams Avenue. 619-297-0269.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

DECOS PRESENTS AN EVENING OF GREAT MUSIC, DANCING, & FOOD WITH JEFF BARRINGER & JOHNNY JOHNSON

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

SATURDAY nitelife

EVENTVIBE PRESENTS A SEDUCTIVE COMBINATION OF PEOPLE, MUSIC, DANCE, & DINING. JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF DANCE MUSIC INSPIRED BY THE CLUBS OF LOS ANGELES & SAN FRANCISCO. WITH RESIDENT DJs - **SERGIO, G*ROY & JEFF BARRINGER**

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Happy Holidays!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

Fridays @ Red Circle hosted by D*Town Productions / Hip Hop with djs: Chris Cuts & Freddie Fresh

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

"MYNT" Elegant lounge vibe

DJ's, Lounging, Dancing, Cocktails, and Bottle Service. Hosted by Greg, Tim, & Eventvibe.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST - NEW YEAR'S EVE!

ZXR PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS - CLUB DEVIATE - HOLIDAY SERIES

-Dual ultra hip martini bars fully stocked w/ 100 varieties of Vodkas

-Outside Patio / Chill Lounge Couches / 2 dance mirrored floors

-Very early arrival suggested... this will be a sold out event

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8TH - CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S DAY

RED DRAGON LOUNGE - HOSTED BY ROB ZOOMY OF ZXR & MARV OF SKYE AVENUE



RED CIRCLE Cafe

RED CIRCLE CAFE - 420 E STREET DOWNTOWN, SAN DIEGO 619.234.9211



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

new year's eve!

COME RING IN THE NEW YEAR THE ONLY WAY ON BROADWAY KNOWS HOW, BY THROWING THE BIGGEST PARTY WE POSSIBLY CAN! COMPLETE WITH ON BROADWAY'S FAMOUS RESIDENT DJ'S, INSATIABLE GO-GO DANCERS, AND SIGNATURE AMBIANCE, THIS IS ONE CELEBRATION YOU'LL WANT TO BE A PART OF.

PRESALE TICKETS ARE \$60 AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR RETRIEVAL AT ON BROADWAY'S WILL CALL AFTER 5:00 P.M. WITH THE PURCHASER'S CREDIT CARD AND VALID IDENTIFICATION ON THE NIGHT OF THE EVENT.

BLACK & WHITE BALL

THE ULTIMATE "BLACK OR WHITE" THEMED EVENT THIS NEW YEAR'S!
WEAR YOUR MOST AUDACIOUS BLACK OR WHITE OUTFITS.

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MARK THRASHER / SCOTT MARTIN
JOEY JIMENEZ / E-ROC

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

EVENTVIBE, A PROD, SPARKS & MINX, AND 3D ENT. PRESENTS

GLO

featuring: DJ REZA with resident djs:
Mark Thrasher, Scott Martin, Joey Jimenez, & X-ray

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

ptolamy productions & dj here presents **SATURDAYS @ ON BROADWAY**
real house music - real hip hop - real djs - chic - elegant - sexy - urban - upscale - intimate - super club

FEATURING: **SCOOTER** - main room / Tri-pod Productions - vault
Resident Djs: Lavelle Dupree, Donovan, Matt T Love, Joey Jimenez, Chris Cutz
Mark Thrasher, Scott Martin, Jon Sautter, Kevin Brown, Praddie Fresh, & X-ray

615 BROADWAY DOWNTOWN, SAN DIEGO 619.231.0011



EQUIPMENT. Early 1970s Kustom tuck and roll 1x15 bass amp, all original, \$250. Anvil case for 4x12 cabinet, \$200. DOD tuner, \$40. Hush IIB, \$40. 619-523-1169.

EQUIPMENT. Yamaha TX-802, \$170. Digitech Twin Tube GFX-1, \$150. Alesis Microlimiter, \$60. Alesis Microverb II, \$65. Roland MT-32, \$110. 858-453-3340.

FENDER. '65 twin, mint condition, 3 months new, never gigged, sweet all tube tone. Great Christmas gift! Paid \$1000, must sell, \$780/best. 760-815-7133.

FIREGLOW RICKENBACKER 330, near new, with case, \$1000. 10am-2pm, 619-285-1001.

FLUTE, Pearl, open hole, with silver head joint, off-set G and B foot joint, perfect condition, case and extras, \$600 firm. Todd, 619-337-1739.

FRENCH HORN, 3-valve Bb, with case, \$350. Violin and bow, Parrot, with case, \$150. Both like new. 760-480-9108.

FRENCH HORN, 3 valve, Bb, \$350. Violin and bow, Parrot, \$150. Both like new, with cases. Escondido, 760-480-9108.

GIBSON GUITAR SOURCE. Over 300 Gibson guitars in stock. Come and see why everyone's talking about Centre City Music, the only exclusive Gibson store in the USA. We guarantee better-than-big-store prices with small store attention to service. 1033 Sixth Avenue. 619-338-9033.

GUITAR CLEARANCE SALE! Happy holidays! Thanks for your support! Buy more guitars from us! Pay less! Great selection! "Free lifetime service." Ask around... Moonlight Music, 467 South Coast, Highway 101, Encinitas. 760-753-6697.

GUITAR HOLIDAY SALE! Acoustic and electric guitar packages on sale now! Great buys for the holidays! Come to Moze Guitars, located in the La Mesa Village. 619-698-1185.

GUITAR TRADER SALE: Fender Strat Pak from \$199-\$279— everything you need to start! Fender DG8S Solid Top Acoustic Package, \$199. Fender Gig Bags only \$1 with Fender Std Strat or Bass, \$349— 9 colors! Korg PXR4 Digital Multi-Track, now \$299. Guitar Trader, 7120 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard (behind Arby's). www.guitartrader.com. Call toll-free: 888-4-A-GUITAR (888-424-8482).

GUITAR, 1963 Fender Jazzmaster in amazing condition, B clay dot neck, L plate #00561, original Tolex case, white body refinish, \$1500. 760-731-0212.

GUITAR, Fender Stratocaster, Eric Clapton (Blackie), 1999, mint, tweed case, \$950. Fender amp, Performer 650, 100 watts, \$250. Both for \$1100. Leave message, 858-560-5983.

GUITAR. All you need! Art & Lutherie with Guild case, Boss tuner, On-Stage stand, Kyser capo, extra strings, great gift, \$450. Eren, 760-944-3650.

GUITAR. BLUE GUITAR. Christmas is here! Strat packs and acoustic packs are in stock. Stocking stuffers for every budget. Great selection of acoustics. 619-297-9136. www.theblueguitar.com

GUITARIST WANTED. 12 string player to do walking bass and boogie woogie. Forming jazzy acoustic blues group. I have vocals, originals, guitar licks. Jackson, 619-233-1454.

GUITARIST SOUGHT by established originals-only genuine rock band. No substances. Think Hendrix, Allman, Page, etc., but no clones. Accomplished/experienced only. 619-217-1242.

GUITARIST WANTED. MotherMael seeks extreme talent for heavy band with stage theatrics. Professional attitude, ability, presence a must. We have management/contacts. Serious only. 858-231-2747.

GUITARIST AND BASSIST with vocal ability seeking guitarist and drummer with same to play clubs, weddings, parties. No full timers. Have regular job. John, 619-258-1983.

GUITARIST SEEKS CHRISTIAN musicians to play in band. Influences include MXPX, Blink, Rancid, Perfect Circle, and Social Distortion. Call Walter, 760-473-8880.

GUITARIST, multi-instrumentalist seeking duo partner for oldies, blues, country, bluegrass, classic rock. Travel, play re-

sorts and music therapy at hospitals, etc. 619-766-0070.

GUITARIST. Reggae jazz/rock hip-hop guitarist available. CD/tour credits: Pato Banton; Phil Chen, Fully Fullwood, Majek Fashek, Tippa Irie, etc. Dale, 310-292-7532; reggaejazzguitar@hotmail.com.

GUITARS. Gibson Les Pauls. Custom, white with nickel hardware, \$1650. Standard tobacco burst duncan upgrades, \$1200. Very clean. Jackson SL-1, duncans, fireburst, \$650. Jack, 858-945-2011.

HARPS AND ACCESSORIES. New, used, rentals. Pedals and lever harps. Harp and piano lessons available. Mission Valley at Harp Haven and Music Studios. 619-294-7704.

HOME THEATER RECEIVER, Sony STR-DB1070, Dolby digital, DTS, 6.1-6x100 watts, high current, 35lbs., unused, new, in box, list price \$900, sell \$425. 619-579-2070.

INVESTOR WANTED for professional recording studios (two 3000 square-foot, high-end facilities), record label, and rehearsal studio. Serious inquiries only. Call Steve Steadham's SoundLab, 619-258-5515, 858-271-7755.

IRISH MUSICIANS. Looking for a few traditional instruments to round out Irish folk/rock band for March gigs. 619-281-5734.

KEYBOARD PLAYER (piano, B3) wanted for gigging, professional blues band. Must have own gear, transportation and great attitude. We have many gigs booked. Marc, 619-838-1664.

KEYBOARD PLAYER WANTED for rock en espanol alternative band. Styles: Mana, Cafe Tacuba, Caifanes, Coldplay, Soda Stereo. 619-895-2310.

LEAD GUITARIST NEEDED for alternative rock band with label, rehearsal space, album, ready to gig. Must be serious and experienced. Music samples in www.rentonband.com. 619-757-6021.

LEAD GUITARIST NEEDED for new, originals only, alternative/rock band in East County. Not a club band. Commitment necessary. Cindy, 619-588-0936.

MISCELLANEOUS. Double keyboard organ with built-in Leslie speaker, foot pedals, rhythm, manuals, 100 settings, \$175. Electric guitar, \$180. Keyboard stands, professional. 619-660-8491.

MOUNTAIN JAM. Acoustic musicians wanted for Mt. Laguna cafe opening soon. Unique opportunity for creative, imaginative players. 619-835-9385.

MULTITRACK RECORDER, PC includes: 300MHz CPU, 15GB HD, CardD+ and digital I/O boards, SBlive, Cakewalk Pro Audio 6.01, Sound Forge 5, speakers. \$450 firm. 619-218-7834.

MUSICIAN. Accomplished AOR/MOR rock singer, songwriter, guitarist, pro-

ducer recording 2nd album. Seeking musicians to complete band. Need drummer, bassist, lead guitar. Rob, 619-962-4779.

MUSICIANS WANTED. Ghosttown Productions looking for reggae/dance hall keyboardist and bassist. 5-string. Professionals only. Influences: Bob Marley, Buju Banton, etc. 619-258-5515.

MUSICIANS WANTED for eccentric brass band. Original charts, great conductor. Brass, flute, reeds, accordions, percussion. No audition. Mondays, 7pm, Golden Hill Recreation Center. 619-235-9756.

MUSICIANS WANTED. Banjo, guitar and piano to perform free in nursing homes, etc. 619-582-3257.

MUSICIANS WANTED. Wannabe rock stars (guitarists, pianists, singers, drummers), loving classic rock (Eagles, Beatles, Stones, etc.) wanted for fun, informal soft rock jams. Brian, 760-815-1097.

PIANO, Baldwin upright, 26x54x61, \$250. 858-581-6975.

PIANO, Baldwin, 44"H, blond oak, tuned, good shape. Possible truck for delivery. 619-390-5476.

PIANO, Kawai upright, excellent sound, mint condition, black finish, 1 owner. \$2300/best. Luis, 858-487-6694.

PIANOS WANTED! All pianos! Cash paid. Also quality furniture and antiques. 1 piece or houseful. Bonded. Licensed. Since 1965. Same day pickup. 1-800-840-4447.

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SINGER/SONGWRITER looking for band. Bass, drums, guitar needed. Coldplay, U2, Matchbox 20, Dashboard, Confessions influences. Mark, 760-717-0806.

SINGERS AND SONGWRITERS. Finish your demo! We'll create rhythm and instrumental tracks and record your best work. Take your songs to the next level. 619-523-6296.

SINGERS. Bass, vocal percussion, and high soprano needed for seriously focused a cappella ensemble Blue Funk. Commitment a must. North Park. Auditions, 619-246-6700.

SINGERS. Ladies of all ages wanted. Start the new year having fun singing a variety of songs in 4-part harmony. Mondays at 7pm in La Mesa. 619-464-3727.

SINGING LESSONS. Beginning-Professional. Approachable, patient instructor. Technique focus for all styles. Discounted 12 week course starts January. <http://lessons.EleanorEngland.com/> 1-800-206-4258.

SNARE DRUM, Gretsch 6"x14" brass with soft bag case, excellent condition, \$360. Tony, 619-227-0252.

SPEAKERS, Jensen 3200 series in 12"x26" cabinets, \$65/pair. 619-944-7340.

SPEAKERS, Altec Lansing Santana, 15" woofers, walnut cabinets, nice condition, \$200/best. 858-270-8721.

STEREO, digital receiver, CD changer/player, 3-head cassette deck, speaker stands, 15"H, speaker cables, other audio equipment. Moving sale, accepting offers. Merry Christmas. 619-449-1425.

STEREO, Nakamichi CR-3A cassette, paid \$795, sell \$299. Nakamichi BX-300 cassette, paid \$750, sell \$249. Bill, 760-942-3754.

TAMA, Stairclassic Performer EFX, 6 piece, 100% birch drum shell kit with hardware, professional kit in excellent condition. \$1200. Call Mayo for more information, 619-540-6077.

TICKETS, Travis, left orchestra, row H, seats 7 and 9. \$76, face value. 619-235-0000, x205.

VOCAL COACH. San Diego's touring and recording artists' choice for specialized vocal training. Now accepting students. Get good at Morris Music, 858-573-6721.

VOCALIST/FEMALE, top-notch professional, needed now for premier established showband The Fabulous Sensations. Many shows booked. Need superb pitch, range, stage presence. Auditions. 858-550-0484.

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VOICE LESSONS. Learn how to sing your favorite song(s). All ages/levels with the help of a local, professional artist. Call 619-741-3549.

WANTED: Nonelectric musicians to perform for community festival, May 1 and 2, 2004. Send demo cassette or CD to PO Box 532, Alpine 91903. 619-445-8352.

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WANTED: To be recorded on your home unit; to provide original songs/custom-write for performer; music-business saavy collaborator, mentor, partner; guitar pal. 619-291-7765.

WIN HARD ROCKIN' HOLIDAY TRIP For 2! Three nights at Florida Hard Rock Hotel plus backstage passes. Pick up your form at Guitar Trader, 7120 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard (behind Arby's). [www. GuitarTrader.com](http://www.GuitarTrader.com). Call toll-free: 888-4-A-GUITAR (888-424-8482).

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BOAT, 17' Bass Tracker Pro Tournament model, 60hp Tracker Johnson motor, tilt, new Motorguide trolling motor, Eagle electronics, like new, \$4400. Steve, 619-589-2107.

BOAT, Inflatable Zodiac, 12' long with center seat, in great shape and clean. Plastic hull, includes pump. \$450/best. Must sell. Jack, 858-945-2011.

DIVE SHOP CLOSING! Final days! Everything must go. Save up to 70% off wet-suits, regulators, dive computers, tank. New/used equipment. Camera and more. 858-270-9922.

GOLF CART, electric Kangaroo Caddy Kart with seat, timer, new battery and charger, 1-1/2 years old, \$750. Stop carrying those clubs. Let this cart do the work. 619-299-0181.

GOLF CLUBS, ladies set, very nice, with putter and bag, \$75. Men's set with bag, \$45. 760-434-2268.

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GOLF. 2003 Nike stand bag, Cougar R-80 Senciscor irons, 3-9, PW and SW, and Ping B-60, 35" putter. \$75. ken@kengina.com; 619-269-8063.

GOLF. Nike TM stand bag, received as gift. Used twice. Green, polypex, weather resistant nylon. \$45. ken@kengina.com; 619-269-8063.

GOLF. TaylorMade 21 degree "Rescue" with TT-Release iron, reshafted with Senciscor. \$55. ken@kengina.com; 619-269-8063.

HOBIE KAYAKS—CHRISTMAS Special, all models and colors, available for immediate delivery or layaway till Christmas. Gift Certificates available, too! Shop early for best choice. Fastlane Sailing Center, 619-222-0766. [www. fastlanesailing.com](http://www.fastlanesailing.com)

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LONGBOARD, 9' epoxy, durable hard board, good condition, no wax needed, ultra thin layer inset on top for grip. \$340.

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POOL TABLE, 8', accessories include ping-pong table top, cover, leather pockets, cues, wall rack, \$1100. Surfboards, pintails, 7'6", 7'4", \$255 each. All excellent condition. 858-874-2378.

SAILBOAT, fast, single sail, mini laser, 12', good for woman, youth, excellent condition, trailer, dolly, all equipment. \$700. 619-788-4639.

SCUBA GEAR WANTED. We buy regulators, tanks, BCs, and all your accessories. Cash or trade for other sports gear. Play It Again Sports. Pacific Beach, 858-490-0222; College Area, 619-667-9499. [www. playitagainsd.com](http://www.playitagainsd.com).

SKATEBOARD RAMP. \$450 or best offer. Call 760-730-3219.

SKIS, Rossignol 200cm with bindings, originally \$350, sell \$50. Wall hanger wood skis with cable bindings, \$20. Mountain bike, 18" frame, excellent components, \$125. 619-224-6947.

SKIS/BOOTS. Dynastar Cobra 170 skis with Salomon bindings. Nordica NS800 boots, size 8/8.5. Good condition. \$75/best. Pick up in Vista or Carlsbad, 760-598-1815.

SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL TEAM forming. Recruiting 10-15 people who want to play hard, and have fun in very competitive Gay league starting in March. Laurence, 619-299-9808; Eric, 619-851-3105.

SNOWBOARD, boots, bindings. Body Glove 159cm team carbon, \$160. Burton Ruler SL, 10-1/2, with Burton clip-in bindings, \$270. 1 hour of use, all perfect condition. 858-270-2157.

SNOWBOARDS WANTED. We buy snowboards, boots, bindings, clothing. We sell new and used gear. Trading your snowboard for 2004 products. Last season's gear blowout! 25-50% off. Play It Again Sports. Pacific Beach, 858-490-0222; College Area, 619-667-9499. [www. playitagainsd.com](http://www.playitagainsd.com).

SOFTBALL LEAGUE needs 1 complete or partial team for men's slo-pitch Sunday

league in North Park area. Leave message, 619-517-5791.

SOFTBALL TEAM needs a shortstop, left fielder, and 3rd baseman for men's slo-pitch. Leave message, 619-295-0385.

SURF SHOP SALE! Long boards form \$395. Full suits from \$89.95. All shorts 20% off. Limited to stock on hand. Leucadia Surfshop, 760-632-1010.

SURF SHOP— Unique, rare, oddball gift ideas: Hawaiiana, wind chimes, surf music CDs, hula clocks, Tiki stuff (must see). Grotto. 760-634-1920.

SURFBOARD AND WET SUIT, 6'10" pin-tail with leash, large short sleeve full suit, no leaks or tears. Ready to surf. \$150. 760-480-1320.

SURFBOARD, 7'10" egg by Coral Island, new, has removable fins, \$295. 760-439-8976.

SURFBOARDS WANTED! Get more cash for surfboards! Consignment/trade also. Skateboards, wetsuits, boogie boards. New and used for sale. Play It Again Sports. Pacific Beach, 858-490-0222. College Area, 619-667-9499. [www. playitagainsd.com](http://www.playitagainsd.com).

SURFBOARDS. 8' speed egg, excellent condition, \$375. 7'2" Rusty high-performance shortboard, excellent condition, \$325. 858-558-7369.

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LEAD STORY

— Municipal employee George Pavlovsky stalked through his shop in April, drunk, carrying a loaded sawed-off shotgun and looking for the two supervisors who had recently passed him up for promotion. As a result, he was fired by the city (Moncton, New Brunswick) and went to jail in November, but he said through his union (Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 51) that he wants his job back when he gets out, and the union has filed a wrongful-firing grievance on his behalf. Several of his colleagues are still on stress leave from witnessing the incident.

Latest Cutting-Edge Research

— Prof. Trevor Cox (University of Salford in England) and fellow acoustics researchers concluded that, contrary to prevailing wisdom, a duck’s quack does have an echo (September). ... Biologist Nette Levermann (Copenhagen’s Zoological Museum), whose team monitored 100 walrus near Greenland, concluded that the animals use their right flippers more than their left (October). ... An aerodynamics expert at Britain’s Open University, aided by an Oxford engineering student, designed and machine-tested a beer coaster to produce the ideal model and conditions for winning at the British pub game of coaster-flipping (November).

Questionable Judgments

— According to the arresting officer, Devikia Donise Garnett, 20, was calm when he stopped her for speeding in Hampton, Va., in November. However, after accepting the ticket, she lit out after the officer and slammed her car into the back of his cruiser. She accelerated and crashed into his car three more times. After the officer avoided her fifth pass, Garnett spun around and headed straight for him. He managed to pin her car before it struck his. — After Norm and Darlene Scott’s Montana farm burned in 1996, they collected \$75,000 from Mountain West Farm Bureau insurance but weren’t satisfied and demanded more, finally

getting another \$52,500 in 1999. However, they wanted still more money and sued the company, claiming it was dealing with them in bad faith. In November 2003, a jury in Helena not only rejected the claim for more money but found that it was the Scotts who had started the fire (a finding that probably never would have been made had the Scotts quietly accepted the first \$127,500). The statute of limitations prevents criminal charges against them, but the insurance company will sue to get its money back. — Toni Lynn Lycan, 44, in a shouting war with a downstairs neighbor over his loud music, stomped up and down on the floor, eventually breaking both her legs about four inches below the knee (Vancouver, Wash., October). ... Deer-hunter Jeffrey Souza slipped while building his tree stand and, dangling by his feet, broke both ankles (Lakeville, Mass., November).

Ironies

— In September, Rouse Co., a developer and landlord of shopping malls, acknowledged that it had somehow forgotten to renew the lease on its own headquarters in Columbia, Md., a blunder that will probably more than double its rent, perhaps costing as much as \$11 million. — In October, imprisoned child molester Kevin Kinder, 31, scheduled for a routine court hearing, was temporarily placed in a holding cell in Tampa, Fla., with 60 other prisoners, among them a 22-year-old man who recognized Kinder as the man who had molested him when he was 11. The man started punching Kinder and knocked out a tooth before he was restrained. — Recently Arrested on Sex Charges: The vice chairman of a Louisville, Ky., anti-pornography group (for patronizing a prostitute, November); a retired New Jersey superior court judge whose job was to administer Megan’s Law for Camden County (for possession of child pornography, August); and a politically conservative Richmond, Texas, radio-show host who is regularly critical of lax moral standards (for indecent exposure to a child, November).

Recurring Themes

— Once again in October, panic spread through some African cities about black-magic men who could, with a touch, make penises shrink or disappear. In alleged incidents in Khartoum, Sudan, and Banjul, Gambia, these sorcerers would shake men’s hands and then extort money in exchange for removing the evil spirits they had just incited. As word spread and fears heightened, vigilantes would chase down the suspected sorcerers and beat them up or kill them. Academics who study this folklore refer to the communities’ hysteria as “genital retraction syndrome.”

Least Competent Criminals

— James Perry, with four DUI arrests in Florida, feared rejection if he tried to get a driver’s license in his new home state of Connecticut and so pretended to be Robert Kowalski (the name of his neighbor in Florida), but a routine computer check revealed “Robert Kowalski” to be a Michigan sex offender, unregistered in Connecticut (Clinton, Conn., September). ... Mr. Chance Copp, 15, who was on probation for arson and who feared testing positive for marijuana, submitted the urine of a relative instead, only to find out later that that urine tested positive for cocaine (Chillicothe, Ohio, November).

Animal Rights Blues

— Following complaints about stray chickens, the city of Bartow, Fla., repealed a 1922 ordinance that made it illegal to kill, capture or “annoy” birds (August). ... The tenth annual cockroach races (and “tractor”-pull) were held at the Indiana State Fair in August, with separate events for American roaches (on an oval track) and the stronger Madagascar hissing cockroaches (on a straightaway). ... Among the less-publicized charges against the Russian oil giant Yukos (whose chairman, Russia’s richest man, was arrested in October) was that a farm it owns in Siberia was illegally allowing rabbits to mate “unsystematically.”

Alternate Universe

— About 40 percent of U.S. elementary schools have eliminated recess over the past 20 years so that schools could squeeze in more classroom time (according to a September story in the *New Times* of Broward-Palm Beach, Fla.). In addition to the problem of overweight students, Florida school psychologist Marvin Silverman referred to children’s “chemical need” for recess, pointing out that even psychiatric institutions give recess to help with “mood and movement.” A complicating factor is that in some schools, playground equipment has been removed because of safety concerns and fear of lawsuits.

Dignified Death

— Prominent author and filmmaker Timothy Treadwell, much of whose work was devoted to his love of brown bears and a campaign to make people more tolerant of them, was killed and partially eaten by bears in October near Kafia Bay, in southern Alaska. Treadwell carried no weapons in the wild and, according to friends, was unmoved by brown bears’ ferocity. He told one friend, “I would be honored to end up in bear scat.”

In the Past Month...

— “Thousands” rioted in Sierra Leone when a prominent pair of Nigerian dwarf comedians didn’t show up for a performance and promoters tried to substitute two local dwarfs (Free-town, Sierra Leone). ... A brother and sister who had thrown away a winning \$10.5 million Illinois Lotto ticket recovered it, only because their garbage had remained uncollected due to a nine-day sanitation workers’ strike (Chicago). ... Dog-Plus K-9 Water went on sale in Australia (for about \$2.10) in flavors like “bacon and beef” because, said the inventor, “dogs get bored with plain water.”

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to newsweird@aol.com

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BOULDER hybrid, women's 21-speed, grip shift, good condition, black, for someone 5', \$80. Cliff Hanger Freespirit,

10-speed, like new, lightly used, \$40. 619-295-1896.

GT TIMBERLINE. Great condition. 14.5" steel frame, dark metallic green, 21-speed, 2 extra knobby tires, new seat. \$83. 858-578-0442.

HI-TECHBIKES.COM. Merry Christmas to all and have we got some great deals! Save up to 50% on hi-end road bikes: Specialized, Litespeed, Merlin, Seven, Pinerello, Merckx, Moser, Carerra, Quintana Roo, Independent Fabrications, Kestrel and Look. 6162 Mission Gorge Road, suite G, behind Washington Mutual. 619-696-1311.

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miles, ridden twice, like new. Yellow. \$1500 new, Christmas deal \$1000. Encinitas. Tom, 760-944-7382

MONGOOSE HILLTOPPER hybrid, 7-speed, Shimano components, red, great condition, \$125. Dan, 760-439-7121.

MOUNTAIN BIKE, GT-STS-1, thermoplastic, 18", all new parts and components, new full XTR, stock, new condition, barely ridden, must sell, \$1700/best. Davizworld@cox.net or 619-749-3626.

UNIVEGA DS950, 1999, dual suspension, mountain bike, LXXt 27-speed, \$309/best. 2001 Diamondback X3, XT/XTR disc brakes, Mavic 223 wheels, \$675. Specialized, 2002, 24", children's, \$185. 858-232-7121.

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PACIFIC BEACH. Garage sale. 10am-1pm, Sunday, 12/28. Everything must go. Bed, couch, lamps, tables, pictures. 4250 Jewell Street (corner of Reed Street).

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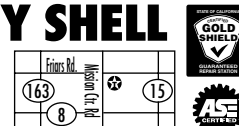
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DRIVEN

by KEN KUHLEN

Bill Meyer and his Vagabond Healy

Five years ago Bill and Nancy Meyer sold their home in Wilmington, near L.A., and moved to Mexico. Bill had to do something with his Austin Healy, so he left it with his son in Torrance. When his son put an addition on his house, Bill suggested to his daughter Mary and her husband Joe that they could hide it in the back yard of their La Mesa house. But this past August, Joe and Mary had a room addition built. Now it's parked in the street. Bill has run out of car sitters.

He doesn't want to give it up. It's not just an old car. It's a 1960 Austin Healy 3000.

"It was a California car," Bill says, "but I bought it in Minnesota, from a college student. He went to

the University of Minnesota. He was driving it across the mountains and he lost his gas cap, so he crammed a cotton rag in place of the cap, and it sucked into the gas tank and broke down into little hairlike fibers. From Colorado all the way to Minnesota he had to stop every 40 miles and clean out his electric carburetor. By the time he got there, he was awfully tired of the car. He was trying to sell it coughing and choking. I got a good price. It only had about 30,000 miles on it."

When Joe and Mary evicted the Healy from their yard, Bill tried to move it to Mexico. But the Mexican authorities objected. "They wouldn't let us bring it across because it didn't have license plates on it. They want a licensed vehicle with registration papers. Our DMV will license it, but not until I get insurance on it, which seems strange because it's not on the

road, it's on a trailer.

"But I learned that our DMV only demands insurance on a vehicle on the day it's being licensed. Next time we come up from Mexico, I'll buy a week's tourist insurance on the Healy, go down to the DMV and get it legal, and trailer it across the border. Then I'll finish the restoration. It's all there; it runs. My son tore all the sheet metal off it and had it sand-blasted. There's not a huge investment left to get it running. The engine's a straight six; it's 2850 cubic centimeters. I've never had the guts to take it over 90, but at 90 there was a lot left over.

"Once it's restored, I'll drive it around for a while and contemplate selling it. The market goes up and down. I missed the last bubble. In the late '80s, the Brits were buying them back, when their economy was good. Healys are like Porsches in that



--- **OWNER: BILL MEYER**
 --- **CAR: 1960 AUSTIN HEALY 3000**
 --- **BOUGHT: 1973, MINNESOTA**
 --- **PRICE: \$1200**
 --- **MILEAGE: 60,000**

most of them were sold in Southern California."

Some people restore old cars as investments, others look upon the effort as a hobby. Bill gives a simpler reason.

"It's mostly inertia. The car generally hasn't been in my face. I haven't had my hands on the wheel for at least 20 years, and my wife casts a fairly jaundiced eye on this whole adventure. So if I hadn't been able to store it with relatives, it probably would've been gone long ago."

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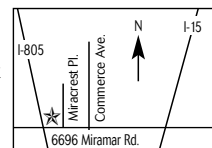
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T.G.I.F.

I truly love the place in which I live.

By John Brizzolara

This Friday (the one I'm writing about on a following Wednesday) I decided to take a night off. It is an indicator of just how agreeable my job is that not only did I not notice I had taken it off, but once I realized it, I could not allow it. It was only a matter of a few days and I was back playing catch-up on what I could not allow to go unremarked-upon.

The occasion that qualified in all ways as free time — doing exactly what I wanted to do as opposed to what I should do — involved meeting my girlfriend. (Do you see me forking little arcs in the air with two fingers of each hand?) She had just returned from two weeks in Paris and London. I wanted to hear all about it and was overdue for a conversation that did not involve football, belching, and the passing of gas: conversational par with the roommates. The restaurant was to be of her choosing.

Bless her, the considerate thing suggested the Old Spaghetti Factory. She knows my labors are for love and not lucre. But still, she was coming from Paris. I reminded myself that she was also coming from England, and cuisine-wise, of course, almost anything is an improvement.

Friday night in the Gaslamp District is a multi-acre parking proposition that invites comparison, somehow, with the working of a Rubik's Cube. Still, stomach-rumbling aside, it was a warm (even close) evening with tendrils of wayward fog dipping from the

faux gaslamps. Bicycle rickshaws plied their way through pedestrians and crawling traffic featuring an unusual number of limousines this night (homecoming dances, possibly?), and the air was rich — no, redolent, I say — with garlic and other spices, perfumes, carbon monoxide, and even incense.

After an attempted robbery, that is, a parking attendant attempting to charge us \$10 for maybe an hour (more than \$2 a meatball, I quickly calculated), we decided on another restaurant we both had previously enjoyed: Sanfillipo's on Fifth Avenue near Hillcrest. After laughing over the attempted gouging at the parking lot (it reminded us of New York), I received a gift of a paperback Graham Greene purchased on Charing Cross Road in London (not 84 Charing Cross Road, which she informed me is now a Pizza Hut). Luckily the restaurant is near Cape Cod Clutter, one of my favorite used-book stores in town. Still, but just barely, open. I made an emergency purchase of a Shirley Hazard novel; I had just heard her that morning described (by Anita Shreve on the *Today* show) as "the finest living writer in the English language," and so I was able to, pretty much on the spot, return the gesture.

Having eaten a very good dinner of antipasto and spaghetti, we had the immediate option of what was rumored to be an "immortal" bread pudding at a place up the block called the Hash House, or something from Extraordinary Desserts, also near to hand. More than adequately full for the moment, we decided to ogle the bookstores up the street between Robinson and University. On that block alone there are three excellent ones. Possibly after a good browse we would be ready for sweets.

As we cruised for poetry and prose, I realized that on some less than fully conscious level I was feeling a little defensive about taking this longtime intimate friend out for an evening on the town in such a provincial city by comparison to her recent visits overseas. It was a little odd and a little disappointing to realize that there is absolutely no reason for this sense of apology and hasn't been, really, for decades. Disappointing in the sense that I have more of a capacity for snobbery than I like to think.

I decided it is, in part, San Diego's fault after all. If a city can have character defects, then among San Diego's is, right next to a slim sense of humor about itself, a misguided inferiority complex. In the 30 years since I first laid eyes on this burg — sailing in from Santa Barbara en route to parts south and standing on the deck of a 48-foot ketch as we approached the Embarcadero, and thoroughly charmed — I was and remain periodically arrested by the realization that I truly love the place in which I live. This should surprise more than a few, since I also heartily enjoy grouching about San Diego and have no qualms about



The air was rich with garlic, perfumes, carbon monoxide, and even incense.

doing it in print.

I bought a 1962 mass-market edition of a novel written in '52 called *Burn, Witch, Burn!* This was another occasion for my lady friend to renew her alarm over my sanity and/or brain damage. It was also an occasion to call my friend Bill Richardson to see if he had a print of the old movie. ("Ah, yes. Based on the novel *Conjure Wife* by Fritz Leiber," he responded, "with Janet Blair. No, I don't have it. Not very good, you know.")

After a brief drive east on University, we shared a piece of chocolate cake and listened to an extremely skillful harpist at Claire de Lune. I couldn't believe my luck in finding this way offbeat novel and have such a friend to call up and stump about the movie; this is a rare order of pleasure. I could listen to tales of Europe with all my attention now, and how the British Museum is looking these days, and the price of *fromage* in the open-air markets of the Left Bank — and all with genuine enthusiasm. Peering past the rising steam of a French roast, I examined my companion for the first time in two weeks and offered a silent thanks for her friendship. I felt a real gratitude, among other things, to San Diego, where, 19 years ago, I met this woman. This sentiment is not a usual one for me, but had there been an I L*VE SAN DIEGO button or bumper sticker at the Claire de Lune, I'm certain I would have bought it.

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CHRYSLER VOYAGER LX, 2003, under 4K miles, lots of extras, Chrysler certified, 8/60 warranty from in service date. \$14,995. Vin-246916. Midway Jeep-Chrysler, Mission Valley, 877-526-5255; www.midwayjeep.com.

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FORD EXPLORER XLT, 1994, 4 door, all power, air conditioning, tow package, blue, V-6, automatic, 95K miles, tinted windows, runs great, \$4900/best. 858-483-9313.

FORD EXPLORER EDDIE BAUER, 1999, lots of extras. \$9995. Vin-A10315. Midway Jeep-Chrysler, 777 Camino del Rio South, Mission Valley, 877-526-5255; www.midwayjeep.com.

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EMPLOYMENT / CAREER TRAINING / BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Wish List

I have almost finished my Christmas shopping. I've ordered toys and books and magazines for my kids over the Internet. Jack and I have made a few clandestine trips to Costco. Some extended family members will be receiving notes that Jack and I have made a gift to charity in their names. As the holiday draws near, I was thinking about what I would get my kids if I could give them anything.

To Rebecca, my oldest, I would give the gift of compassion. Last week, I found out that Rebecca has been particularly cruel to a classmate. I was horrified and shocked and embarrassed. Rebecca has always been popular. She's exceptionally smart. She goes to a tiny private school

and has only 16 kids in her sixth-grade class. About half are girls. Still, there are cliques. I found out past week that Rebecca is the Queen Bee. For the past few years, she's been determining which girls were "in" and which were "out." The "out" girls stuck together and put up with Rebecca's lack of charity.

Until last week. During English class, Rebecca and her two best friends wrote an ugly song about the girl in their class that everyone picks on. They sang the song in front of the whole class. Everyone laughed. Except the girl. Her parents pulled her out of school. Jack and I met with the principal and Rebecca's teachers three times. Rebecca got suspended for two days. She had to write a letter of apology and a 500-word essay on Christian charity.

On the second day of Rebecca's suspension, I asked her, "What have you gotten out of this whole situation?"

"That I've been punished unjustly," Rebecca answered. "Other people were mean, too. Why am I getting all the blame?"

"Because you were the most mean. And the thing you should have gotten is that you were intentionally cruel to someone who used to be your best friend."

I wish that on Christmas morning Rebecca would open up a tiny golden box and compassion would fill her heart. Instead I'll keep a closer eye on what's going on at school and with her friends. And I'll pray.

To Angela, my second daughter, I would give a new set of genes. I would take away the

genetic code that makes her gain weight around her already ample middle regardless of what she eats. I would give her Jack's metabolism. My husband can eat whatever he wants whenever he wants and not gain weight.

Lately, Angela has begun complaining about her size. She is almost nine years old. She is less than five feet tall. She weighs exactly 100 pounds. Last Sunday as we got ready for church, Angela walked into my bedroom. "Nothing fits me," she said. Fat tears rolled down her round, brown cheeks. "I'm too fat."

"Oh, sweetie girl," I told Angela and gathered her into my arms. "God makes people all different sizes. I'm sure we can find something in your closet that will fit." We found a pink flowered dress. "That looks so pretty on you," I said as I zipped up the back.

"It's too baggy," Angela complained. "But you don't want it to be too tight." "I'm too fat," Angela said again.

"Angela, we all need to eat better," I told her. "After the first of the year, you can help me plan some menus. We'll figure out how to cook healthy things that taste good. And we'll go for bike rides and walks. It'll be fun."

"Okay," she wiped the remaining tears from her face.

I wish that on Christmas morning, Angela could untie the bow on a gift bag and watch all her extra weight melt away.

Lucy would get a new set of teeth. From the time she was a tiny baby, my middle child has sucked the first two fingers on her left hand. We

have pictures of Lucy when she was two months old. In those pictures, Lucy is sucking her fingers. Lucy is now seven. For the past three years, we've been bugging her to stop. "It's going to make your teeth stick out," Jack and I tell her.

"You're going to have to wear braces," the dentist tells her.

Last year, I took Lucy to the orthodontist. "Soon your baby teeth are going to fall out," the orthodontist said. "If you keep sucking your fingers, your adult teeth won't come in right."

Lucy keeps sucking. Her baby teeth have fallen out. Her adult teeth are coming in crooked. I wish Lucy could wake up Christmas morning with a beautiful, straight-toothed smile and her fingers nowhere near her mouth.

Johnny would get nicer sisters. Not that my girls aren't nice. They're just not especially nice to Johnny. When Johnny was born, the girls were too young to think he was cute. He was mostly an annoyance. He cried. He whined. He took my attention away from them. Although five and a half years have passed, Rebecca, Angela, and Lucy haven't really changed their opinion. They don't appreciate Johnny's Bionicles, his Legos, his Rescue Heroes. They don't appreciate how sweet he is or how much he loves them. I wish Johnny could wake up Christmas morning to three older sisters who adored him.

And Ben, who hates to take medicine, would get an exemption from ever being sick. Other than that, he's perfect.

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