Perfect Capture
Your “T.G.I.F.” story of December 2 was right on and solid. Brizzolara captured perfectly the stuff that goes down on 16th/17th and Commercial Street, especially the part about the laughter you hear in locked-down mental wards. A great short story.

Junior

Cruel Sweeps
The Reader of November 24 carried a cartoon about Mayor Murphy, the SDPD, and homeless people. The SDPD has failed to curb crime in the 92101 area, where their sole attention is directed at inhumanely hungry, homeless men, women, and children. No matter who is chief, the SDPD homeless sweeps keep going on. Luxury housing with HUD monies goes to the superwealthy in their condos. Old Baghdad doesn’t have any homeless persons on its streets because we are saving democracy for them with our own blood. Mayor Murphy and the city council are the finest that money can buy.

Art Salzberg

Downtown

Correction
The December 2 issue of the Reader contained the erroneous statement that Buddy Miles was the original drummer of the Jimi Hendrix Experience. Miles was the drummer of Hendrix’s subsequent band, Band of Gypsys.

Character Study
I’ve been so caught up in the recent elections, national and local, that I haven’t had time to respond to your provocative story about Karl Keller and the English Department at San Diego State (“Wild Nights,” October 21). I studied English at both Stanford University and at San Diego State in the ‘60s. Stanford had better ambiance, but the teaching at San Diego State in those blocky low-ceilinged classrooms was immeasurably better. I was thrilled to hear Kingsley Widmer quoted in your article about Karl Keller. Isn’t that handsome, literate man alive and gracing the English language? I still remember the way he paced toward the windows in his Philosophy of Literature class, looking to a distant corner of the ceiling as he made his incisive remarks.

Looking back — with Judith Moore’s assistance — I remember a collection of true characters who were English professors at State. For example, while I labored to write about Milton’s Paradise Lost during a final exam, I remember being interrupted by a voice blaring out of an intercom mounted near the ceiling — “This is God speaking.” It was Charles Culotta, our instructor, playing a prank on us. I loved Jay Gellens’s graduate Shakespeare seminar so much that I told my younger brother to take a class from him. Professors were allowed to smoke in class in those days. My brother told me that one day Gellens absentmindedly dropped a lit cigarette into a pocket in his tweed jacket. It continued to burn; he continued to lecture until one brave student spoke up, “Professor Gellens, I think your coat is on fire.”

Students in the ‘60s and early ‘70s were close to their professors at State in a way that is perhaps not possible now. I hear graduates of the departments of Religious Studies and Anthropology speak of their teachers as intimate friends who shaped their lives. I know that my poetry mentor, Rick DeMarinis, made the writer’s life irresistibly attractive. I am very grateful.

As a lover of poetry, I regularly read your “Poetry” feature. I was dismayed by Thomas Lux’s misogynistic poem published several months ago. The poem, which I’m paraphrasing, was like a recipe for a witch’s cauldron — mix two ounces of shame into a lard of despair, etc. The premise had a certain energy which intrigued me. Where was all this “rendering” going? Lux ended by making his goopy substance — which included...
Alleged rogues and scoundrels

It turns out that San Diego Unified schools chief Alan Bersin managed to have that cozy dinner with the district's three incoming board members last week after all. The locale was San Francisco's posh Postrio restaurant, where chefs Mitchell and Steven Rosenthal whip up high-priced gourmet fare. After incumbent board member John de Beck questioned the propriety of dining in private and suggested inviting along some reporters, he was dropped from the guest list and kept in the dark about the event. Bersin reportedly paid for the food, and the board members chipped in for their own wine ...

Larry Remer says things have gotten so bad that he needs contributions for a newly formed legal-defense fund. "From a business perspective, this '04 cycle is a complete loss," he told backers in a recent e-mail. "This cycle you could have shot a cannon off in my office and not worried about the true source of the contributions that Flaherty was concealing in her unlawful conduct."

Out of court

The campaign manager of county supervisor Ron Roberts's failed mayoral bid, Lisa Ross-Woolson, has cut a deal with the state's Fair Political Practices Commission to settle charges against her arising from 1997 city-council campaign in San Marcos and Perris. Ross-Woolson "participated in a money-laundering scheme executed by her friend and employer, Colin Flaherty, by making five campaign contributions on behalf of Flaherty without disclosing to the recipients of the contributions that Flaherty was the true source of the contributions," according to the FPPC. She "then compounded her unlawful conduct by making statements to Commission investigators, denying that she had been reimbursed for her campaign contributions.

Respondent had been engaged in a number of financial transactions with Flaherty during this time period. However, after re-examining the actual records regarding the reimbursements, Respondent recanted her prior statements, acknowledged that the reimbursements were for those campaign contributions, and cooperated in resolving this matter." According to the FPPC, Flaherty was laundering the money for Barratt American Homes. Under the settlement, set for approval at today's FPPC meeting in Sacramento, Ross-Woolson will pay a $7500 fine.

Dubious Entanglements

By Don Bauder

It's great to have an internationally recognized name — except when it gets dragged through the mud. Consider economist Arthur B. Laffer, a resident of Rancho Santa Fe. He is considered the father of supply-side economics. As a member of President Reagan's Economic Policy Board, he was recognized as the primary force behind the tax cuts of the 1980s. According to legend, the so-called supply-side revolution began in early 1974, in a Washington, D.C., restaurant, when Laffer sketched on a napkin what became known as the Laffer Curve. It postulated that as taxes rise, government revenue increases, but at a certain point, revenue decreases because taxes are so high that people don't work as hard. In March 29, 1999, Time Magazine cover story on "The Century's Greatest Minds," the Laffer Curve was cited as one of "a few of the advances that powered this extraordinary century."

Almost all economists stick to economics. Not Laffer. Through his La Jolla-based Laffer Associates, he invests in speculative companies. "I love this," he enthuses. His name gets used to tout these enterprises. But when they turn out to be stinkers, the Laffer name gets besmirched. He has not always used good judgment in such involvements.

In late November, entrepreneurs who had wooed investors into a now-bankrupt company decided to settle a lawsuit filed by investors who had plunked more than $3 million into the enterprise. The San Diego company, Qualmag, was attempting to develop a batteryless power supply capable of operating on static energy. The founder, Hassan Yarpezeshkan, had recruited a family of San Diego physicians — Darush Mohyi and Nasim, Hamid, and Majid Mani — to fund the venture. They are Iranians, as is Yarpezeshkan.

Yarpezeshkan has a track record. Earlier, he had sold a company to San Diego's Maxwell Technologies.

Laffer was recruited to join Qualmag's board. He got 450,000 shares for a penny apiece. Yarpezeshkan got his 26.5 million shares for two cents each. As is typical in such ventures, the pair would have raked in millions if the company had gone public and succeeded, as it told potential investors it was capable of doing.

After it was clear that the company would flop, theManis and Mohyi brought a superior-court suit against Yarpezeshkan, Laffer, Qualmag, and Qualmag's accounting firm, Matranga & Correa (which has since split up). The suit, handled by attorneys Vincent Bartolotta, Jr., and Karen Frostrom, charged fraud and deceit, negligent misrepresentation, securities fraud, and civil conspiracy, among other things.

A trial went on for eight weeks. On November 23, right after the jury announced it had reached a verdict, Laffer died in a plane crash in Washington, D.C. After the jury rendered its decision,Qualifier Corporation, of which Laffer was president, was liquidated. The False Claims Act had found that Laffer and Qualmag had intended to defraud the government through the sale of the now-bankrupt company. The lawsuit was settled in favor of the plaintiffs..."
Christmas Monster

By Joe Deegan

One time I wondered,” says Ana Valdivia (her maiden name), “with the hours my husband was putting in, if maybe he was having an affair. But we laughed when he said, I’d be too tired. Not that I’m interested, but only to let you know. Where would I find the time?”

I am sitting with Valdivia on her 51st birthday, three days after Thanksgiving. She has come from having lunch with her father and sisters. Her husband is working his management job at a Kearny Mesa retail store. He is lucky that today he had to be at work only by 10:00 a.m.

But he won’t get off until 11:30 tonight. And Valdivia will be there to pick him up. The couple has one car now that their older one was stolen in the company parking lot several years ago. Valdivia’s husband has been working in retail for over 40 years and as a manager for 30. “He started when he was a kid,” she says. “He hired me at the Whereshouse when he was a manager there. We’ve been married Kinko’s to make sale signs. The time he could leave became 9:30, then 11:00. At midnight I bundled up in the car because I didn’t want to go back to our place in Chula Vista. I fell asleep, fortunately, and when he got out, it was chairs and sleeping bags and blankets.

“You’ve never seen that?” asks Valdivia, who finds my surprise strange. “Every year there are a number of sales. Prices are marked down so low that I guess these people we’ve got our family and our house. You can’t ask for more than that. But it’s amazing how depressing things can get,” says Valdivia with a sigh and shoulders that suddenly sag, “how tired you can be, and how dragging it is on the day and, because he’s a familiar face, somebody decided to sit with us while we were eating,” she says, laughing. “The woman started him questions about what was on sale and whether he knew if the store had this or that. Be-

figure it’s too great an opportunity to miss. My sister-in-law went down to the San Ysidro outlet center on the same day, and she said it took her almost five hours to get into the lot and find a parking place.”

The whole period from Thanksgiving to the middle of January “is very hard to take,” says Valdivia. “I call it the Christmas monster. They’re constantly making sure everything gets restocked, sales signs are up, and so on. It goes until after new inventory comes in when the holiday season’s over. At that time they’re replacing and counting things. They want to verify that the numbers all square. Finally, I get to see my husband again, the guy I know instead of the robot.

“I know it sounds like I’m complaining, Still, I’m very glad my husband has his job. There is a roof over our heads; food is in the refrigerator and gas in the tank. And I am sitting with Valdivia in company dress, you need to not be rude. He’s such a sweet guy anyway, so he went ahead and gave her all the information. She was feeling pretty comfortable. I was waiting for her to start picking on his plate.

Last Christmas Eve Valdivia went with her husband to deliver a chair after-hours to customers in Poway. It had not arrived in the store on time from an Anaheim warehouse. “The people came down in a golf cart to let us through their guarded gate,” says Valdivia. “We drove up, and they came and took the chair out. The lady was very nice. She made us some cookies, which was very nice, and she gave me a big hug. The man was kind of cold, but he tipped my husband $20. We made it home about 11:30 that night — starving.”

I ask Valdivia why her husband doesn’t get out of retail.

“He does have lots of experience training people in customer service, and he’s beautiful with people. But at 56, to go out someplace else, the pickings are pretty slim.” Valdivia does not have complaints about his pay nor does she blame any particular ogres in the company for all the stress he goes through. “It’s the business,” she says. “All the companies do the same thing.”

“The day after Christmas is insane. The return lines are out the door and around the building. And on days like that, when I call him from the parking lot to get him out for continued on page 12
Dubious

continued from page 2
dict, the defendants and their insurance company decided to settle for $3.2 million, or the amount that the doctors had originally invested. The jury then came back with a judgment of only $2 million and also ruled in favor of the defendants in a cross-complaint against Hamid Mani for breach of contract. “It was academic, because it was already settled,” says Edward Chapin, who represented Yarpezhakan.

The suit charged that Yarpezhakan and Laffer made misrepresentations that induced the doctors to invest. In March of 2001, according to the suit, Laffer told the doctors that Qualmag had enough contracts to assure profitability in 2002, had no competitors, and would be a safe investment. Laffer repeated the alleged misrepresentations during 2001 and 2002, “filling the plaintiffs into a false sense of security,” the suit said. Laffer’s “prestige was one of the things that helped win them [the doctors] over,” says Bartolotta.

“I had not met them [the doctors] when they invested.” continued on page 6
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rejoins Laffer. “I was not a key person.” Among several things, Laffer says he never claimed that the company had enough contracts to be profitable in 2002.

“Dr. Laffer’s defense was that he did not make any of these misrepresentations, and the jury agreed with that,” says Chapin. He says company misrepresentations were few. Yarppezeshkan admitted that he was in error in stating that he had several patents. “He jumped the gun a couple of times on what was a patent pending. Other than that, the information that was related was accurate as far as we are concerned.”

Bartolotta strongly disagrees. Among many things, he says, company touts, including Laffer, overstated the company’s innovations and financial strength and neglected to state many risks of the investment. According to Bartolotta, defendants say they always stressed that the products were in development, and financial success was not guaranteed.

Qualmag’s former accounting firm of Matranga & Correia, charged with helping to develop false information used to recruit investors, was “essentially vindicated,” says the former firm’s attorney, Robert Semmer.

“I thought it [Qualmag] was a really good company,” says Laffer. “I am just amazed the suit wasn’t settled two years earlier. All the legal bills made no sense. This is not a crooked case. It is a sad case.”

But Laffer has been involved in some cases that turned out to be crooked. The most egregious was in 1990. Laffer was paid $5000 to tout an Orange County multilevel-marketing company named FundAmerica. He lauded it in a video presentation that lured people into the scheme. The idea was that members would get a discount on various products and services. But members would be paid to recruit other members — hence, it got to be known as the “Yuppie Pyramid.”

In spring of that year, I went to Laffer’s office to interview him.

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Dubious continued from page 4

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Lunch, he answers the phone, and I can hear screaming in the background," says Valdivia. "I've asked him, 'Are they screaming at you?' He said, 'Yes, I'll have to call you back later,' and hung up.

During a visit to a mall in Mission Valley, I ask clerks in Robinsons-May and Bed Bath & Beyond how customers treat them. They said...

Interview FundAmerica's head, Robert T. Edwards. He used the word "pyramid" to describe the enterprise. I began doing research on Edwards. The San Diego office of the attorney general was doing the same. Then I had quadruple bypass surgery. I was in the early recovery stages when I learned that the state of Florida charged FundAmerica with operating an illegal pyramid scheme. I went back to the story. Laffer immediately resigned, saying he had been betrayed.

Florida announced that there was an active warrant for Edwards's arrest in England. Scotland Yard had been looking for him. Edwards had earlier run pyramids in Canada and Australia, said Florida prosecutors. Shortly, Texas and California declared that FundAmerica was an illegal, endless-chain pyramid. The company went into bankruptcy. Investors eventually got $13 million as a result of a securities/racketeering lawsuit.

In the 1990s, Laffer invested in a pizza chain named Mountain Mike's. He got in through Blaine Quick of Rancho Santa Fe. Another investor was former San Diegan Richard Silberman, a friend of Quick's. In 1990, Silberman had been convicted of helping launder $300,000 from a government agent posing as a front for Colombian drug traffickers. After getting out of prison in 1993, Silberman invested and also put two children of Susan Golding — his former spouse and then San Diego mayor — into the deal. Other investors included Seth Flam and Dr. Sol Lizerbram of FPA Medical Management, a onetime Wall Street darling that later plunged gloriously into bankruptcy. Mountain Mike's was sold to a company named Jreck and then into another fast-food chain with acute dyspepsia named Ultimate Franchise Systems. "Jreck was a wreck," laughed Laffer at the time.

On March 4, 2002, Forbes magazine ran a lengthy investigative story with this opening paragraph: "How do respectable names like Deloitte & Touche and Arthur Laffer get tangled up with a seedy outfit like Casmyn Corp?" The company mined for gold in such places as Zambia and Zimbabwe. Deloitte was the accounting firm. Laffer was on the board, along with the late Baron Edmond de Rothschild. The baron "was the one who told me these guys were great," says Laffer. "He had a huge estate outside of London."

However, as Forbes related, the company collapsed in scandal, and the chief executive officer vanished. "I got out. I complained that it was not managed in a proper fashion," says Laffer. "I am involved in tons of things [including] investing in emerging companies," says Laffer. "Some have problems. Indeed. And those problems have not helped Laffer's reputation."

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San Diego Reader December 9, 2004
that many customers do get irritable, but most of them remain polite. One woman, however, said an obviously perturbed man made her nervous with his glares. It caused her to start putting his purchase into another customer’s bag. “He called me a stupid bitch,” she said, “and stormed off without me getting it into a bag at all.”

But Christmas season gives a financial boost to many part-time retail employees. A clerk in Robinsons-May told me she’s happy with an extra 17 hours she has gotten on the floor this year. She gets only 20 hours per week during the rest of the year. “Managers and assistant managers — the upper level — get hit hardest,” according to Valdivia. “If you’re on salary, they own you and can keep you at the store for as long as they want.” She says her husband was on salary at the Wherehouse for 25 years. “The fact that now the Wherehouse has to close a lot of stores in the San Diego area is just deserts,” she adds. “They were very nasty to their management. In Las Vegas they’ve been taken to court for requiring management to do carpentry and painting, things out of the job description.”

“I thought they were going to fire me,” says Valdivia. “He still puts in long hours, but usually at this time of year only. They do pay year-end bonuses based on profits. But when they have big sales, the profits stay low, and so do the bonuses.”

Valdivia relishes the thought of being on the other end of Christmas business. “I would love to go shopping with my husband and pick things out together. It’s not going to happen until after he retires, if the business doesn’t kill him first,” she says, “When Christmas comes now, I don’t even want to go into stores. I tell everybody, ‘I’ll buy you guys dinner.’ I’m not into gifts anymore. And I got so frustrated that I had to do something for me. So I used fireplace tongs — I’m that short — to hang lights. I turn them on every night.”

“This year I’m taking the bull by the horns,” says Valdivia, “and getting a little more involved with my church, because they go Christmas caroling and have such a positive attitude about it all. But people in malls are off the deep end. You talk about the Christmas spirit; if you want to see the Christmas spirit that’s out there, try to find a parking space at the mall and accidentally cut someone off. There are so many worse things going on in this world to get upset about than somebody squeezing into a parking place you anticipated getting into. The way people treat each other is amazing, and it’s all so they can get their stuff, get it wrapped, give it to someone else, and say, ‘Look at me. Aren’t I great? I love you. Here.’”

I ask how many times she’s gotten to spend her birthday with her husband. A long pause follows as tears well up in Valdivia’s brown eyes. Then she laughs loudly and says, “I think it was five years ago.”

“Last year,” she says, “I threw my own 50th birthday party at a restaurant. It fell on Black Friday. Both my family and his family came. At 1 o’clock in the morning, he came into the bar. It was a little anticlimactic, but it was great to see that he still wanted to catch it. Normally he’s so beat up that he’ll call and say, ‘Honey, I’ll see you at home.’”

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Hi Matt:
I was out golfing on a sunny day and I noticed my eyes have these little marks in them, like you’re looking through a microscope at little amoebas. They move around but don’t change shape. The doctor says it’s normal. But I’m not one who gets good information from doctors. What are they, and do you think UFOs or ghosts can be explained by these eye amoebas?

— Putting and Pondering, Clairemont

Grandma Alice recently developed an eye thing shaped like Mickey Mouse. It morphs into a four-leafed clover occasionally, but mostly it’s Mickey. We’re sure it’s a corporate curse — payback for years of dissing Disney. And we’re always amazed at the number of sane but cheap people who present their ailing parts via e-mail to me and the ives for diagnosis. Ma Alice is conducting a feasibility study of hosting our own medical insurance PayPal system. If someone goes to the doctor’s office, gets an answer, and still insists on turning to Matthew Alice Wisdomporium and Collision Repair, well, it’s obviously a trend we can’t buck.

So you were suspicious of Doc when he/she said your eye amoebas are (probably) harmless globs of congealed vitreous humor. Known in the trade, to insiders with special technical expertise, as floaters. Were you hoping for some deadly diagnosis to help explain your bad putting? Sorry. No can help. Consider this. On its way to your retina, light passes through the liquid that fills the spheres that are your sparkly eyeballs. As we pass from youthhood to, um, say, middle-lateish grownuphood...as we start to get not young anymore what is I’m trying to say...things on the outside wrinkle up and some things on the inside thicken up. Like the liquid in our eyeballs. Clumps of the stuff (amoeba shaped, Micky shaped, whatever shaped) sail around and essentially cast shadows on our retinas. Bright light makes them more noticeable. This is the most common and harmless explanation for eye amoebas; but these clumps can sometimes signal potential tears in the retina. So if you have floaters, point them out to your doctor first, then write to us.

Dear Matthew Alice:
I remember hearing on the news once that in one of those Southern states some men had been charged with attempted murder for hiring a hit man to kill a judge. The hit man was a voodoo practitioner who was supposed to kill the judge by sticking pins into doll or whatever it is that voodooists do. I never heard anything further about this case. I had looked forward to extensive media coverage. Can you find out what happened in this case?

— CC, Vista

Another great moment in litigation. It all started early in 1989, when a Mississippi circuit court judge sentenced John Ivy to 40 years in the state pen at Parchman for robbery. That gave John plenty of time to devise the perfect revenge.

John’s brother Leroy happened to know the judge’s housekeeper, so they set up a three-way phone call with the lady and asked her to get a picture of her boss and a lock of his hair. The Ivys’ plan was to send these to a voodoo practitioner in New Orleans, who would then use the articles to put a curse on the judge. To no one’s surprise (except the Ivys, apparently), the housekeeper alerted the judge, then set up a rendezvous with Leroy, handed over the goods, and the Tupelo police snapped the cuffs on him. Both brothers were charged with conspiracy to murder.

Leroy’s attorney claimed it was a waste of taxpayers’ money to prosecute someone for soliciting a death by voodoo. The DA countered by saying the Ivys’ plan was no different from hiring a hit man who couldn’t shoot straight; it’s not the efficacy of the method, it’s the intent of the plotters that matters in conspiracy. The law was on the side of the state. According to the DA, the ivy’s voodoo plan was a waste of taxpayers’ money.

When the Ivys’ voodoo practitioner went to the judge with a coven of voodooists to perform a ritual, the Tupelo police nabbed them all. The Ivys were sentenced to 40 years apiece. The judge sentenced John Ivy to 40 years in the state pen at Parchman for robbery. That gave John plenty of time to devise the perfect revenge.

Matthew Alice:
I see more and more potatoes for sale these days that have green in the skin. I thought these were poisonous, so why are they left on the shelves?

— M. Weldon, National City

A bin of green spuds might be disquieting but not cause for an all-points toxic-waste alert. When potatoes are exposed to light (and cold), chlorophyll and an alkaloid, solanine, collect below the skin. It means the taters have languished for a while under less than ideal conditions. Solanine in quantity is unhealthy, but at worst, Dr. Doctor says, you’ll be left with a bitter, sharp, peppery taste in your mouth and maybe a little nausea. According to a potato specialist at UC-Davis, one potato hybrid that did not turn green when exposed to light was deemed unsuitable for the popular market. One less indicator for the consumer of a long-stored spud, was the reasoning. Green-skinned potatoes are legal to sell; peel them before you cook them and you’ll never know the difference.

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

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One Of A Kind

When it comes to football, high schools in California are separated by size: the largest high schools compete in Division I, the smallest in Division IV.

Next Tuesday at Qualcomm Stadium, San Diego area high schools will play their championship games. The Division IV game kicks off at 10:00 a.m., followed by Division III finalists, on to the Division II championship, finishing with Division I at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are 11 bucks. Bring lots of toys, food, drink, cellular phones, music, perhaps a cot, blankets, pillows, and one or two TVs.

I am partial to Division IV football because on that level, it’s still pure sport. This year’s Division IV championship game features — from Blythe, California — the Palo Verde High School Yellowjackets (930 students and 10-1) going up against San Diego’s own, the Santa Fe Christian Eagles (340 students and 11-1).

Santa Fe Christian’s head coach is an unusual man. I think — and would bet a paycheck — there’s not another like him coaching football at any high school in the United States. Meet Brian Sipe, Grossmont High School alumnus, San Diego State quarterback. “I was there in ’69, ’70, and ’71, then I was drafted by the Cleveland Browns and played professionally for 14 years.”

I should mention, since he didn’t, that Sipe was the NFL’s MVP in 1980. A real-deal star.

We talked Sunday night. I wanted to know, with that résumé, how he came to coach Division IV football.

“When I retired from football I fell into a partnership with an architect and a contractor, and we started designing and building homes here in San Diego. Been doing that happily for 15 years, still am. I thought I’d put football completely behind me, I didn’t know; God threw me a curve ball.”

“My daughter was in school over there. I had to look at the sport through different eyes when I became a coach. But I call all the offensive plays, and I run the game. So, in some respects, during the game, I feel like I’m still quarter-backing. I’m not the guy who’s passing the ball, but I’m calling all the plays, evaluating the defenses and orchestrating things. I love that.

“In terms of coaching, high school is a different game. By the time you get to be a pro athlete, everyone comes out of the same mold, or they wouldn’t be there. But high school, some kid will be 5’7”, 135 pounds as a freshman, and you have no idea what he’s going to look like four years later.

“Tell the boys if they’re not getting play time they’re hurting the team. It’s their job to fight for play time. The more boys who contribute, the better chance we have to win.

“They’re [Palo Verde] an unknown to us. This will be a great game. I drove down to El Centro with some of my coaches and watched them beat Horizon. I was impressed with what I saw. They’ve got a great group of supporters. It was a real happening for them. I know they’ll turn out for that game in Qualcomm.

“The other thing I want to tell you, whether it’s Palo Verde or Santa Fe Christian, this is the pinnacle of sports for most of these boys. I can assure you, when the players are introduced and run out onto that field, in their minds that stadium is full and it’s the Super Bowl. They’ve got that big scoreboard lit up, instant replay, their names are up there, television — oh, man, it’s a high schooler’s dream.”

The Vegas Line

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<tr>
<td>TENNESSEE</td>
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<td>52 ½</td>
<td>Kansas City</td>
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The Sporting Box solicits your comments via the Internet: sportbox@ix.netcom.com.
No one wants to hear about your ex

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In Reform Judaism there is no one doctrine. It is up to the individual to make this decision to what he or she believes. Individual choice is the hallmark of Reform Judaism,” Rabbi Martin Lawson told me.

The roots of Reform Judaism are traced to the Enlightenment in the 1800s. As Jews were given access to public schools, the Torah was viewed under modern interpretation and criticism. Traditional clothing, circumcision, keeping kosher, and other Jewish laws no longer governed how Reform Judaism expressed its beliefs.

“There is a movement to bring many of those traditional elements back into the service. The old style of Reform was trying to assimilate and become part of the American community and not be too Jewish. Today, there is a reexamination of these old traditional patterns,” said Rabbi Lawson. “At our services, you will find many people wearing a tallit or kepaḥ.”

At the Shabbat service attended, two-thirds of the men chose to wear a kepaḥ, also called a yarmulke. Yarmules are provided for visitors at the entrance to the sanctuary. The kepaḥ or yarmulke is a skullcap worn on the head during religious prayers and services. Orthodox Jewish males wear a yarmulke at all times. A tallit, also pronounced tallüss, is a rectangular-shaped prayer shawl worn for prayers.

We are not wearing them for the same reason as an Orthodox Jew would, but we are reinvesting them with new meaning,” explained Lawson. “Wearing these items is about people finding meaning on their own. People look back and examine the ancient texts and try to bring new meaning to these rituals.”

She asked Rabbi Lawson about the differences between Reform and Orthodox Judaism. “One of the differences with Orthodox Jews is the status of women,” Lawson replied. “Men and women sit together in a Reform congregation. In an Orthodox congregation, they are separated. The separation boils down to women menstruating. In the Orthodox tradition, a woman is unclean during that time when she has her period. You don’t want to walk around and ask every woman, ‘Do you have your period today?’ So they make follow-ups. Torics and gas-permeable extra.

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Dear Saffron,

Our friend Paul’s wife ran off and abandoned him and their two kids. After a while she came back and they got divorced and then she left for good. Paul was so depressed by the breakup that he couldn’t bring himself to deal with it. He didn’t even get a lawyer, though his wife sure did, and she got a big settlement out of him — fat monthly checks for alimony and child support. Paul just hung his head and didn’t contest anything. A big chunk of what Paul is paying in alimony was supposedly going to pay his ex-wife’s rent. He has the kids half the time and she has them the other half.

Paul just found out from his kids that his ex has been living with another man almost from the moment they got divorced. She lied in court saying she was planning to live alone and she’s been lying ever since. She swore the kids to secrecy, but of course little kids can’t keep secrets.

Paul’s friend all think he should drag his ex-wife’s sorry butt back into court and make her tell the judge the truth. Then maybe the settlement could be renegotiated so he isn’t getting ripped off so bad. She’s got both him and her boyfriend paying her rent! Is that fair? What can we do to get our friend to make the kids’ college educations.”

You could tell him she’s been living with another man almost from the moment they got divorced. She lied in court saying she was planning to live alone and she’s been lying ever since. She swore the kids to secrecy, but of course little kids can’t keep secrets.

Paul confronted her and she admitted she’s been pretending she was living alone when in fact she moved into her boyfriend’s apartment a while ago. Paul is still in a weird funk. When he found out he’d been had, he got pissed but he still won’t do a thing about it. His friends all think he should drag his ex-wife’s sorry butt back into court and make her tell the judge the truth. Then maybe the settlement could be renegotiated so he isn’t getting ripped off so bad. She’s got both him and her boyfriend paying her rent! Is that fair? What can we do to get our friend to wake up and do something about this stupid situation?

THE UNITED PALS OF PAUL

Dear United Pals,

Paul will wake up when he’s ready. This could be soon, in a year, or never. You can offer to help him find a great cheap lawyer (if there is such a thing). An appeal to his fatherly instincts might work: “Look, Paul, I’ve got some money to help you out. I’m sure you could use it to help your kids’ college educations.”

You can tell him he seems paralyzed and you want him to go see a shrink so that he can snap out of it and begin to live again. But none of this will happen until Paul clears the fog from his brain and melts the icicles in his heart and decides to act. Hang in there with him and keep trying.

Dear Saffron,

I have a two-year-old and four-year-old twins, and she told him it gives me valuable time for myself after I put the kids to bed on nights she takes my husband out. I might get a little “me” time then, but it’s not worth it. For the next three days I have to listen to my husband and my mother whine (separately) about what a lousy time they had. I don’t wish to hurt Mom’s feelings, but I do want the invitations to stop. I’m sick of hearing them both complain. Advice?

BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE IN CARDIFF

Dear Between,

You have choices. You could tell Mom that your bro told you about her sweet scheme to let you have some quiet time (and you’re so touched!), but unfortunately the plan has backfired. It’s more work, not less, for you when the kids’ dad is out for the night since he’s not there to help you herd the troops into bed so you’d appreciate it if she went to ball games with other friends. Or ask your husband to say he’s sorry but he’s getting too busy to go to games with her. Maybe they’d both be relieved.

Or, if you’re the kind of woman who likes to take it on (if there is such a thing). An appeal to his fatherly instincts might work: “Look, Paul, I’ve got some money to help you out. I’m sure you could use it to help your kids’ college educations.”

You can tell him he seems paralyzed and you want him to go see a shrink so that he can snap out of it and begin to live again. But none of this will happen until Paul clears the fog from his brain and melts the icicles in his heart and decides to act. Hang in there with him and keep trying.

Dear Saffron,

My husband and my mother rub each other the wrong way, though neither of them would admit it. They’re civil to each other — they don’t get into fights — but they do not enjoy each other’s company and disagree on almost everything. I get stuck in the middle. A few months ago my mother started inviting my husband to sporting events. She’s a widow and loves to attend Padres games, Chargers games, and Aztecs games. My husband feels he has to accept these invitations but doesn’t have any fun. I could not figure out why my mother was suddenly keen on going to games with him. My brother finally told me that she thinks she’s doing me a favor! I have a two-year-old and four-year-old twins, and she told him it gives me valuable time for myself after I put the kids to bed on nights she takes my husband out. I might get a little “me” time then, but it’s not worth it. For the next three days I have to listen to my husband and my mother whine (separately) about what a lousy time they had. I don’t wish to hurt Mom’s feelings, but I do want the invitations to stop. I’m sick of hearing them both complain. Advice?

Write to Saffron c/o the San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 8503, San Diego CA 92112-5802; call her at 619-235-3000 ext. 413; or e-mail to saffron@sdreader.com
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## DRAMATIC ARTS

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<td>Acting For Non-Majors</td>
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<td>DRAM105</td>
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<td>ECON121</td>
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<td>ART110</td>
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<td>ART110F</td>
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## TRAVEL AND TOURISM

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<td>Travel To Europe And Africa</td>
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operation out of her living room and into donated items.”

I learned fairly quickly though was that following the anthrax scare, you could no longer send a package or a letter addressed to no one. I really have nobody, and I’m going back over there. I don’t think I’ll make it back this time, but it really doesn’t matter because nobody would even notice.’ That really got to me. And I started thinking, what is it that gives somebody the courage and the strength to get through the horrors of war. It occurred to me that it is really a belief that someone cares about them and wants them to get home. So I felt that I had to do something to show the troops that people cared about them. Being a mother, my first thought was, ‘Oh I have to send food and warmth and just words of encouragement.’ What I sent, I’d include a letter saying, ‘If you know somebody cares about them and wants them to get home. So I felt that I had to do something to show the troops that people cared about them. Being a mother, my first thought was, ‘Oh I have to send food and warmth and just words of encouragement.’ What I sent, I’d include a letter saying, ‘If you know

BestBuys

Eve Kelly

Every year at Christmas my kids are bombarded with store advertisements and commercials. Though I can’t do much about the marketing machine, I can counterbalance it by sending the marketing monster by encouraging my children to do charitable deeds. In the past, we’ve delivered meals around downtown to homeless people, the kids popped homemade cards into each bag. They work around the house to make a few dollars to send to poor families in Haiti and buy Christmas gifts to send to an orphanage in Tijuana. This year I decided the Kellys would send Christmas cheer to soldiers away from home during the holidays.

My search led me to Carolyn Blashek, founder of Operation Gratitude. After September 11th, I tried to join the military myself, but I was way too old,” explained Blashek. “Still, I wanted in some way to show support for the military, but I discovered there are very few ways of doing that as a civilian. I started volunteering at our local USO, and one day I met a soldier who was going back over to the war zone. He said to me, ‘You know, I just buried my mother, my wife left me years ago, and my only child died as an infant. I really have nobody, and I’m going back over there. I don’t think I’ll make it back this time, but it really doesn’t matter because nobody would even notice.’ That really got to me. And I started thinking, what is it that gives somebody the courage and the strength to get through the horrors of war. It occurred to me that it is really a belief that someone cares about them and wants them to get home. So I felt that I had to do something to show the troops that people cared about them. Being a mother, my first thought was, ‘Oh I have to send food and warmth and just words of encouragement.’ What I sent, I’d include a letter saying, ‘If you know somebody cares about them and wants them to get home. So I felt that I had to do something to show the troops that people cared about them. Being a mother, my first thought was, ‘Oh I have to send food and warmth and just words of encouragement.’ What I sent, I’d include a letter saying, ‘If you know

Now I had to actually have a specific name and address to send it to. I didn’t know anybody personally, so I started networking and got a few names. I sent my first few packages on the day the war broke out in Iraq. In every package I sent, I’d include a letter saying, ‘If you know anyone else who would like to receive one, please e-mail me.’ And slowly it just mushroomed. At the same time, people all over the community wanted to do something to show support and there were these massive collection drives. But they didn’t know what to do with all of it. There was no place to give it to. So within a few weeks of the war breaking out, my living room was filled with donated items.

In August 2003, Blashek moved the operation out of her living room and into the local USO, and for their first holiday drive, over Veteran’s Day weekend, they sent out 7000 packages. Over the next summer, “Our Patriotic Drive” kicked off over the Memorial Day weekend to get packages to the troops for July 4th. We sent out almost 13,000 packages. Now we are in our second holiday drive and we have already sent out over 18,000 packages. My hope is to do at least another 7,000 to 10,000 by the end of the year.”

Where do you ship to?

“We will send to anyone who is in a deployment situation,” she replied. “We go to Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, Korea, Guantamano Bay, ships throughout the Gulf. The majority of the names now are given to us by command leaders in the field.”

BLASHEK: “No pornography, no pork products, because it is a Muslim country; no alcohol and no overtly religious materials.”

Judging from thank-you notes, Blashek says recipients who receive the packages “are struck by the fact that they are receiving stuff from total strangers, that people who don’t know them are taking the time out of their schedules, taking money out of their pockets to make an effort to say thank you. Some of the most moving letters we receive are when somebody writes that they had been on a very difficult mission, gone for a few days. When they came back to their tent, just drained, and wondering how they were going to face the next day, and they looked and there was an Operation Gratitude package on their cot and it just totally perks them up.”

What goods do they want?

“Individually packaged snack foods that are easily pocketed: beef jerky, trail mix, dried fruit, or energy bars. Only commercially packaged foods can be sent. Also entertainment items: DVDs, CDs, decks of cards, phone cards, little handheld games. During the holidays, we try to send several holiday cards for them to be able to send back to their loved ones.”

“Blashek doesn’t send books or magazines because of their weight, but “we like to send comic books. We also send Beanie Babies, either for the troops to keep for fun or for them to give to the local kids as a way of establishing a rapport.”

What can’t you send?

“No pornography, no pork products, because it is a Muslim country; no alcohol and no overtly religious materials,” answered Blashek. She also discourages toiletries because “they’re heavy, the troops can get them there, and they are not that fun.”

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“Blashek says the troops often write back to the kids.

Donations and letters sent to Blashek, which must be unwrapped and not stamped, can be sent to 16444 Refugio Road, Encino, California 91436. More information can be obtained at www.operationgratitude.com.
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$69 Installed

$79 Installed

$139 Installed

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**BACK WHEN**

In the Reader

**Thirty Years Ago**

RESTIFF DE LA BRETONNE: We find his Utopia to be redundant. The inconsistencies would cause the system to fail. One can’t operate a Utopia which allows for the free run of passions but calls for high moral standards. We feel the Utopias of Huxley, Orwell, and Wells to be more operative and worthwhile of our consideration; why do you trouble yourself with him? Any more questions? Dan and Richard.

— CLASSIFIEDS, Jean Navarro, December 12, 1974

**Twenty-Five Years Ago**

“Apocalypse At Last,” Duncan Shepherd’s long-awaited review, which appeared in the November 29 Reader, once again demonstrates his clannish and misinformed view of American film. *Apocalypse Now* is unquestionably the best American film of 1979 and the most powerful film yet to deal with the Vietnam War. It is also one of the classic war films of this century. I am not alone in this opinion; several national publications and state publications have also stated as much. Shepherd’s view undercuts the four years of labor and $30 million put into the film, as if this automatically disqualifies it from proper consideration.

— LETTERS: “APOCALIPS,” Tom Condelles, December 13, 1979

**Twenty Years Ago**

I had experienced many of them in my eleven-year history of life, but I knew there was something beyond these gestures of love which I witnessed each day. I began to study how the famous ones did it on television. Romeo and Juliet, Rhett Butler and Scarlett O’Hara, and Mike and Carol Brady. They did it with such elegance, passion. Romeo and Juliet, Rhett Butler and Scarlett O’Hara, and Mike and Carol Brady. They did it with such elegance, passion. All of mine had lacked any sense of dignity. They were short, meaningless pecks that seemed to only come my way when the bottle did. So began the search for my first real kiss. I’m in the sixth grade now and practically a grown man. I attend Montgomery Middle School, which is my only source to this intriguing being, known as the female. School opens, and I find myself attracted to this girl named Beth. Within a few weeks I ask her “to go with me.”

— “A FIRST KISS,” Kevin Alexander, December 13, 1984

**Fifteen Years Ago**

He stands almost alone, a man accused by his colleagues of greed, opportunism, and selfishness. But National City councilman Fred Pruitt is letting the innuendos roll off his back. “Nothing could be further from the truth,” he says, “it’s very, very sad.” Pruitt has been accused of hogging the city council’s car. The automobile in question, a brown 1985 Chevrolet Caprice, was bought by the city for all the councilmen to use. But Pruitt has had the car for almost two months, according to a front-page story in a local newspaper. The councilman says he has a valid explanation, but it hasn’t satisfied his critics on the council.

— CITY LIGHTS: “DON’T BOGART THAT CAR,” Broa Canlon, December 14, 1989

**Ten Years Ago**

Here’s the truth about what I eat when I’m home and under pressure to meet writing deadlines: bread and chocolates. If I don’t have exquisite samples of these in my house, I grow insecure and anxious. Chocolates are in every room, but breads are lined up on my kitchen counter, as many as four varieties at once.

— CALENDAR: “DOUGH-FIEND ROUNDPUP,” Eleanor Widmer, December 8, 1994

**Five Years Ago**

San Diego’s own Bill Silva, who rose to fame and fortune beginning in 1979 when he was a UCSD student promoting campus concerts, has just bought a $1.9 million house in the Hollywood Hills from Dr. 1. Lee Bosley, a hair-transplant doctor, reports the L.A. Times. The 3500-square-foot house, built in 1972, features three bedrooms, two fireplaces, and a pool. Silva unloaded his company, Bill Silva Presents, in 1998 to Universal Studios. This week’s Times story reported Silva’s age to be 40. But back in September 1998, the Union-Tribune’s Burt Stiff reported that Silva was turning 40, celebrated with a lavish three-day birthday party bash that included food trucked in from Wolfgang Puck and a television performance by Jewel.

— CITY LIGHTS: “FOREVER 40,” Matt Potter, December 9, 1999
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Marcy called to invite me to her friend Ashley's birthday party in Clairemont, she told me that if the Diablos showed up, things could get wild. Now, sometimes “wild” isn’t a bad thing. If it’s “girls going wild” — fine. If it’s somebody with an Uzi — not fine. I asked what a Diablo was. I was told it was a motorcycle gang that Ashley's father is in.

I looked for my old Harley-Davidson T-shirt to wear, but couldn’t find it. Oh, well. It wasn’t until I was on my way off of Genesee, there was nowhere to park. With at least a hundred people at the party, cars were everywhere. The curbs were all rounded and the driveways were narrow. It was hard to see if I was parking in front of a driveway or not. So I drove about a mile down the street until I found a spot I could be sure of.

When I got to this place, the crowd was all in their early 20s and all different races. Of the 100 people, each one was holding either a beer, a cell phone, or a cigarette. Some had all three. The back yard was large enough for everyone, but there was no place to sit. Before the party started we ran out of beer. I asked my friend Ashley if she could go to the store but she replied, “Good idea. It’s a shame to waste alcohol. There are starving kids in China who are starving. We'll turn into a bird bath.”

There was a DJ named Greg. Marcy said he was a friend and that he had given her $50 to pass out shots. He was mostly spinning reggae tunes, but occasionally, people would dance in front of the DJ. One time I heard somebody hit the concrete. I looked over and it was Ashley. Someone said, “She’s drunk.” It was the understatement of the night.

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<th>Car Audio Heaven’s Christmas Sale!</th>
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<td><strong>8199 CLAIREMONT MESA BLVD., (858) 505-9099</strong></td>
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<td><strong>3713-D ROSECRANS ST., (619) 574-0770</strong></td>
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<td><strong>4951 EL CAJON BLVD., (619) 287-4422</strong></td>
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*Most cars. May require extra parts and labor.*
someone.’’

There was a point when the party did get quiet. Someone was yelling and everyone stopped to listen. He said, “Who has a black Cadillac? It’s blocking someone’s driveway.” The woman I was talking to asked, “Is that your Cadillac?” I replied, “I didn’t drive the Caddy tonight. I brought the Benz.”

As the crowd got drunker, a few fights almost started. I saw one guy push another and then say, “You should get a damn personality!” I have no idea what that meant, but the guy who he pushed walked away.

A muscular guy was walking around with his fists clenched. I was told he always looks for fights when he’s been drinking. I wondered why big guys want to fight when they drink. Are there ever guys who look like Woody Allen who drink too much and then want to mix it up with somebody?

One guy was urinating by two cars parked in the back yard. I guess it would’ve been too long a walk from the back yard inside to the bathroom. Although one girl at the party had the perfect setup. Her bedroom window faced the back yard, so she’d just pop the screen off and throw her pack of cigarettes into her room. Other times, she’d pop the screen and grab something she needed from her room.

I was talking to one of the other roommates. I thought she was the same age as the rest, but was surprised to find she was older. I asked, “How do you know Ashley?” She said, “Oh, I used to change her diapers when she was a baby. I was her babysitter for years. Then I got pregnant with her father.” I was shocked to hear this. She continued, “My son is over there.” She pointed to a kid who looked to be about 15. She told me she had recently moved back in. Then she introduced me to the boy’s father, who was also the Diabolo. He was a tall, good-looking biker. (Note to self: find out if there’s a reason that all bikers have mustaches.)

One drunk guy who I thought would be trouble turned out to be really nice. Although, half the time, I didn’t know what he was talking about. He was a muscular Italian who wanted to talk about the Chargers. But when I said something about how well Drew Brees was playing, or the previous week’s win, he started rambling without making sense. I asked him for matches for my cigar, and he gave me some that had a bail-bond joint, though.”

“No. My brother is in the joint,” a guy said. “Can’t I go to the front of the line?” Surprisingly, everyone let him. He then said, “All these people like me.” The rest of the night, his friends made fun of him for saying that. An angry drunk guy would walk by and they’d say, “See if that guy likes you.”

Andy told me his girlfriend worked at a hotel, and that made him nervous. His explanation made little sense and required a lot of yelling. He then wondered why big guys who drink too much and look like Woody Allen want to fight when they’ve been drinking. I wondered what the fascination is with the variety of ways to have alcohol poured into your mouth. Just drinking it yourself isn’t enough. You need somebody to pour it. I’m sure the day will come when I’ll go to a party and people will be sitting in their cars with a crazy straw that’s 50 feet long, going directly into a keg in the living room. It will be like drive-in movies.

I never did see them do the beer bong. But as more people showed up, they crowded around the ice luge and watched the beer going down, like dominoes falling. It was the hit of the party. One guy said to me, “Some of these drunk guys that want to fight, we should bet them they can’t punch through the ice block. You know they’ll try it, and break their hand. It’ll be funny.” Someone else said, “Nah, they’ll just knock it over. Or they’ll want to punch you instead.”

There was a group of six people I had a blast talking with. The guy looked like a shorter Magic Johnson. (By the way, for Lea, who called my voice mail to complain about my description of African-Americans...I try to describe things at the party: maybe that’s the beer, the food, or what the people look like. I don’t see how that’s offensive.)

The guy’s name was Andy. He was surprised that, after he’d paid $5 to get a cup for the keg, the line was so long. He said, “Can’t I go to the front of the line?” Surprisingly, everyone let him. He then said, “All these people like me.”

The rest of the night, his friends made fun of him for saying that. An angry drunk guy would walk by and they’d say, “See if that guy likes you.”

Andy told me his girlfriend worked at a hotel, and that made him nervous. His explanation made little sense and required a lot of yelling. He then wondered why big guys who drink too much and look like Woody Allen want to fight when they’ve been drinking. I wondered what the fascination is with the variety of ways to have alcohol poured into your mouth. Just drinking it yourself isn’t enough. You need somebody to pour it.
sense. Something about her being attractive, and guys hitting on her, and the hotel having rooms available.

One of the women in this group had some funny things to say about the election. I laughed when she said, “If it wasn’t for Jon Stewart and The Daily Show, I wouldn’t have even voted.”

She ended up leaving at around 11:30, saying she had to prepare a baby shower in the morning, which included her going to Target to buy baby supplies for a game in which the women would have to guess the prices.

There was a cute couple who had been dating for seven years. They seemed to have so much in common. Both loved the Lakers and they liked the same music and movies. She wanted to write screenplays, so she and I talked a little about that. She knew one of the directors of The Simpsons. I told her I had written an episode that was a takeoff on A Christmas Carol, where the boss, Mr. Burns, was Scrooge. She said, “They have 22 writers and they don’t take scripts.” She talked about an episode she had written. It sounded funny, but the problem was that the main character was the one that Phil Hartman voiced. When Hartman was murdered by his wife, the show retired that character.

At around midnight there was a mass exodus. I wondered if people were afraid of turning into pumpkins. But a more logical explanation came from Marcy. She said, “We ran out of beer. There were three kegs. I think Ashley went for some more beer earlier, but that’s gone too.”

Andy and I got into a long discussion about the FCC. I found it surprising that he was a fan of Howard Stern, who routinely makes fun of African-Americans. He said, “Man, I’m half Mexican, half black. In school, everyone would always say stuff about me. I never cared. It was all funny.”

They told me they were going to Peter D’s bar on Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. I told them I might stop by after this party. Then I talked to Marcy for a little bit and found out she hosts karaoke over at Peter D’s.

I took a few pictures and then headed out. As I started walking down the dark street, a mile from my car, I saw a guy carrying a six-pack of beer. I said, “That will be gone within one minute of you walking in there.” He dropped the six-pack and then dropped his backpack. I thought he wanted to fight me, but couldn’t figure out why. He looked at me for a second. I looked him in the eye. He quickly started to open his backpack. I wondered if he was going to get a weapon. I also wondered why I was there standing there watching him. I said, “What are you doing?” He said, “You told me my beer would disappear. So I’m going to hide it in my backpack.” He stuffed it in the backpack and headed toward the party.

Crash your party? Call 619-235-3000 x421 and leave an invitation for Josh Board.
Turkey Day Away

By Barbarella

It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich.
— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Can you pass the gravy?" I waited patiently to fill my face with all kinds of Thanksgiving Day goodness. So far, everything on the table looked fairly innocuous — stuffing, mashed potatoes, canned jellied cranberries, green beans, and broccoli. David handed me the silver serving dish, supposedly filled with the flavorful sauce that lubricates throatfuls of taters and turkey. But when I looked at its contents, I furrowed my brow and blinked my eyes repeatedly, hoping to correct my color vision. Could the gravy really be orange? My eyes darted quickly to each of the nine other faces in my attempt to determine if this was an isolated hallucination. It looked like I was alone.

On the few occasions my family members were unable to spend that fourth Thursday of November with each other, we still celebrated together the following week. Because her daughters were domestically challenged, Mom always cooked alone on the big day. That is, until Faye married Sean, who has become our family’s new culinary genius. Sean has since taken over the bulk of the holiday meal, wowing us with his creations — given that he’s the only one in the family who goes around the table “Romancing the Bird,” to help our cause.

As the turkey was being carved, it dawned on me how quiet everyone was. My family is LOUD. My sisters and I tend to talk at the same time, over and under each other’s words, spouting off fragments of ideas that we never fail to comprehend.

Meanwhile, our significant others share knowing glances and occasionally try to get a word in edgewise (does not happen much). At Mom’s house (the usual location of the feast), the Twilight Zone marathon blazes in the background as we flit between the living room and the kitchen, chattering, tasting, and laughing. Mom will kick off the meal by sharing what she’s thankful for, and this continues around the table. Tears often flow as the realization of how lucky we are fully engulfs each of us — it’s an emotional time, and no one holds back.

This dinner was an exercise in restraint. David’s brother, Dana, said grace. He used the word “Lord” a lot, which is a sure way to make me uncomfortable and annoyed (I’m a recovering Catholic). Robi suggested we go around the table with David’s family. She kept blocking it out of her memory, convincing herself I’d never told her, regardless of how many times I repeated it. So each time the subject was brought up, she relived her shock and I repeated the words that seemed to calm her best: “It’s either Thanksgiving or Christmas.” After this, her face would relax into a smile and she’d tell me, “Have fun!” The same thing worked with my sisters — given the choice, there’s no contest. Christmas wins, hands down.

David’s siblings and parents would all be together for the first time in two years. This was hard for me to imagine — I don’t sneeze without calling one of my sisters or a parent, and two weeks without seeing them is pushing it. My mother (a New York Italian) and my father (a New York Irishman) brought us up with a strong sense of family love and loyalty. We truly believe our family is better. This sentiment was captured best by my late cousin Jeffrey, who confided to me, “When I’m dating a woman, things go fine until she meets my family. Once they meet the family, they’re suddenly talking about ‘marriage’ and ‘the future,’ and you know why? Because they want in.” This seemed perfectly logical to us.

David’s parents are Hungarian. His mother is a direct descendant from Hungarian aristocracy; she is polite, well-mannered, reserved, neu-rotic, and sounds like Zsa Zsa Gabor. His father is outspoken and opinionated, choosing mostly to discuss politics and the latest updates from Fox News. The Hungarians play bridge several times a week and entertain frequently for their many friends and family members who want a place to stay when visiting the island. Out of respect for them, and at David’s request, I restrain myself from being the “me” I am around everyone else; I pretend I am a refined young lady with no opinions whatsoever.

Sitting at the elongated dining table and watching the orange gravy for any unexpected movement, I silently picked at my turkey. This year, David’s gourmet predilections would go head to head with the family tradition of dry white meat. The Hungarians were reluctant to brine the feather head with the family tradition of dry white meat. They know why? Because they want in.” This seemed perfectly logical to us.

After the show, we convinced Eniko (David’s mom) to make the stuffing without actually “stuffing” it into the bird (where it would harbor bacteria and slow the cooking time by hours). The first thing Robi (David’s dad) said in response to our suggestions was “We’ve been doing this for 15 years! Why change it? It works!” David whispered in my ear, “Yeah, and it’s been dry each year.” After discussions, explanations, and scientific diagrams, the Hungarians were not interested in brining the bird themselves, but they said they wouldn’t stop us if we carried out the moisture-enhancing act for them before Robi threw it on the grill.

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and give thanks, as my family does, but the others nixed it. I hardly said a word throughout dinner. For a while, I kept count of how many perfect opportunities arose and were lost for me to make very funny, though crass, remarks. I stopped counting at six, so as not to become depressed over the missed chances to display my quick wit. I’d had said any one of the things I had thought to say, this crowd would have been appalled, maybe even disgusted, by the family’s matrix of manners. Later, in hushed whispers, the girls (whose world had clearly been shaken by the bizarre “potato incident”) admitted they no longer knew what to expect from Mama. Potato rolling goes hand in hand with bun tossing at my mother’s table. The turkey was moist (hooray!), the stuffing contained mushrooms (yuck), the dinner was tasty enough, and it offered a break from all things sausage, sour cream, egg, and paprika, the staples of a Hungarian home. But while looking at the fancy decorations, minding my table manners, and listening to conversations on topics that did not interest me, I missed my family. A lot. And I knew they missed me just as much. I was suddenly grateful that despite our differences, despite the fact that I have always been the proverbial black sheep, my family makes me feel like I belong. For that, I am thankful.

The highlight of our holiday meal occurred when, in a brief moment of insanity, David’s mother rolled a small, round potato across the table to one of the children in response to its request to “Pass the potatoes, please.” Everyone sat frozen in stunned disbelief at the breach of etiquette demonstrated by the family’s matrix of manners. Later, in hushed whispers, the girls (whose world had clearly been shaken by the bizarre “potato incident”) admitted they no longer knew what to expect from Mama. Potato rolling goes hand in hand with bun tossing at my mother’s table. The turkey was moist (hooray!), the stuffing contained mushrooms (yuck), the dinner was tasty enough, and it offered a break from all things sausage, sour cream, egg, and paprika, the staples of a Hungarian home. But while looking at the fancy decorations, minding my table manners, and listening to conversations on topics that did not interest me, I missed my family. A lot. And I knew they missed me just as much. I was suddenly grateful that despite our differences, despite the fact that I have always been the proverbial black sheep, my family makes me feel like I belong. For that, I am thankful.
Why buses are better than planes, part one. Flying to El Paso, my plane (ironically, an Airbus) began emitting strange high-frequency blips and unexplainable static from various locations above the passengers’ heads. After an air-mile or two, many of us wondered aloud what the unsettling sounds might be. Now, I admit this could happen likewise on a bus, but onboard a bus, such an experience would not conjure images of plunging fiery death. (Of course, such logic applies to the inherent difference between a bus ride’s bumpiness and a plane ride’s turbulence as well.)

Why buses are better than planes, part two. Buses thread directly through the landscape, bringing the mountains, plains, and valleys of this land our land right to us. Planes rise haughtily above it all, vast distances, promoting detached indifference.

Why buses are better than planes, part three. You can see the guy (or gal) who’s taking you places onboard a bus. He (or she) is not some disaffected, disembodied voice.

Why buses are better than planes, part four. Can you claim that you’ve visited a state if all you’ve done is flown over it? If I’d never been to New Mexico, and then I bused through it, I would definitely be able to count New Mexico among the states I’d been to, even if I never got off the bus. But does a state’s airspace count as that state? I think not.

* * *

El Paso and San Diego, on paper at least, are rather similar. Both border Mexico and have foreign sister cities to the south. Both share the varied and abutting topographies of mountains and deserts. Like S.D., E.P. is a military town, with Fort Bliss, an Army base, occupying the northeast. Both cities have zoos and trolley systems and nearby wineries and owe their early expansion to the original railway systems of the 19th-century American Southwest. Spanish explorers arrived at both of these places in the 1500s. And because my plan for this article, explicitly stated, was to write a portrayal of what it’s like to take a long ride on a bus, I had needed to find a good place to fly to and to bus back from. El Paso to San Diego seemed an excellent expedition.

Preparing for my El Paso sojourn and 806-mile bus trip home — purchasing tickets, doing research, scribbling notes — I’d come across an opportune news article in the sports pages proclaiming that El Paso was in fact the Sweatiest City in the United States. Some scientist had determined that the combination of high temperatures (93 degrees average in summer) and high humidity (70 percent average) in El Paso caused the residents to produce over a liter of sweat apiece every 60 minutes. The article went on to note how the people of El Paso could fill a swimming pool with sweat in just four hours.

I’d inhaled sincerely, thought a long moment, removed the now-superfluous-seeming deodorant from my list of Things to Pack, and scribbled instead a little note, a reminder. “Breathe around El Pasoans less deeply.” When in El Paso…

* * *

Flying into El Paso, you notice the typical Southwestern terrain spreading beneath you: a lot of rocky brown (and rather beautiful) nothing, and then, suddenly, a city plopped there. After I landed, I experienced one of the dualities of El Paso, Texas, desert city: mellow, easy, air-conditioned indoors, and then, the moment you step outside, your lungs get crushed right out of you. Breathing 100 hot, wet degrees.

Most of the other dualities of El Paso straddle the fact that it’s a border town. And not just a border town, but a double border town. South El Paso touches the Mexican state of...
Chihuahua, and west El Paso adjoins the American state of New Mexico. El Paso also borders a bygone time. There is no edge of El Paso that doesn’t touch something very different from El Paso, a diagnosis that might account for either maddening schizophrenia or a certain charm. Whatever El Paso is, in its heart, it is also Mexico, New Mexico, and Texas, with a dose of old western thrown in.

Whatever El Paso is, I was there for all of 20 hours, 8 of which I slept. Anything I tell you about the heart of El Paso is part fancy, part hearsay, and part inference. You may take my words with a spoonful of salsa, if you wish. I can, however, list a few of the peculiarities I noticed.

Most of El Paso’s city buses have no advertisements on them, which is surprising and refreshing in this age of the sellout. One sign city buses do sport, however, next to the image of the cigarette with a line through it, is a picture of a handgun with a line through it.

El Paso boasts the world’s largest outlet for boots.

Walking around, I counted at least ten images of a steer’s horned head.

Downtown, I visited a shooter’s supply.
store.
From the upper windows of my hotel, anyone with half-good eyes could see the wrinkling geometry of two giant flags, unfurled among the pavement and the concrete, not far away: one starred for the state of Texas, the other colored for the country of Mexico.
Gas in El Paso started around $1.89.

* * *
After I checked into my downtown hotel, I set out to do what I knew I had to do while I was in El Paso. I had to have a drink at the mythical Rosa’s Cantina.
Because when it came to El Paso, there was only one thing I had known for a long time. That old song.
“Out in the West Texas town of El Paso / I fell in love with a Mexican girl. / Nighttime would find me in Rosa’s Cantina…”

The story runs that the real cantina inspired Marty Robbins to write his tale of love fought for and love lost on the old Western frontier. So I found a taxi driver, and I asked him to take me over to Rosa’s.

Past the abandoned steel mills and brown rocky hills, a $12 cab ride outside of El Paso

JANE LIKENED A BUS TO A ROLLING INSANE ASYLUM.
“AND A LONG BUS TRIP MAKES YOU LOOK LIKE A HOBO OR A BAG PERSON,” she said. “I MEAN, I DON’T USUALLY LOOK LIKE THIS, OKAY?”

proper, Rosa’s Cantina shared a dead strip of hot, paved road with a Laundromat, a Mexican restaurant, and a liquor store. Across the street, two railroad tracks and the undeveloped ruggedness of New Mexico beyond.
Rosa’s Cantina itself looked hopelessly dilapidated, a crumbling stone façade with one-no-frills-white-and-red sign above the door. Coming inside out of the heat and sun, I couldn’t see much at first in Rosa’s, and all I could hear was the thumping rattle of an old air conditioner. There was a TV on in the back of the room and some lights in the ceiling turned on really low, by which I could sketch out the red-felt pool table, the wraparound bar, and the 20 or so tables with red-and-white checkered plastic cloths.

The paneled walls were lined, under protective chicken wire, with images of the Mexican-flavored Old West (stagecoaches, bullfights, Indians, and the like), and also by not-protected beer advertisements and sports imagery. Among the decorative touches hung the likenesses of three celebrities: Marty Robbins, John Wayne, and Secretariat. By the door, a “Felony Notice” warned against the possession of licensed or
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unlicensed weapons.

I ordered a can of Coke ($1), no glass, and asked to see the menu. It was three in the afternoon when I arrived, and besides the bartender (whose name, of course, was Rosie), I was the only one there. Rosa’s served lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. The fare — a price-fixed meal of Mexican and American delights ranging from tostadas and tacos to meat loaf — was offered for $4.75. And they didn’t sell hard liquor at Rosa’s, just soda, wine, and beer. American beers cost $1.75 and imports were $2.25. By imports, they meant Tecate and Negra Modelo.

There was a jukebox at Rosa’s Cantina, and aside from Marty Robbins, there was some Johnny Paycheck, Stevie Ray Vaughan, George Strait, Willie Nelson, and ZZ Top among the dozens of Latin discs. There were also offerings by the Doors, Pink Floyd, and Fats Domino. I could almost picture what it would be like to party in Rosa’s Cantina, late into the Texas night.

But I couldn’t figure out how Marty Robbins had ever gathered the idea for a song from this quaint place. True, the hill in the song behind Rosa’s, where the hero makes his daring escape, had been redesigned as a monstrous overpass for Interstate 10. But Rosie told me everything else was the same, and it wasn’t much. I guess one feller’s dive bar is another’s inspiration.

* * *

In the spirit of comparison, I decided a few hours before dusk to test the ease of an El Paso border crossing.
Six times since I’ve lived in San Diego, I’ve been through San Ysidro — three times into Tijuana and three times coming back — and it has never taken me less than a damn long time to return. But over in El Paso, the man at the airport, the cab-drivers, the woman at the hotel, all of them told me that Ciudad Juárez was El Paso’s sister city, a claim I’ve seldom heard echoed regarding San Diego and Tijuana. Surely, then, passage between the two had to be considerably more trouble free.

So I left my hotel walking downtown through what was becoming a bearable heat. Mostly Hispanic families lined the streets, families out shopping for mangoes and knockoff Louis Vuittons, folks commuting homeward from work. The shop-keepers were taking in wares and preparing to pull down grates as all of downtown El Paso started closing up.

In a few minutes, I got to the Santa Fe Street bridge on the bottom center edge of downtown (think the distance from Horton Plaza to the convention center). On our side of the bridge, a tiny Mexican-looking woman, who doled change to those who needed it, operated an old-fashioned turnstile. I sidled to the back of a modest line of mostly Mexicans, all ages. We had to pay the little lady 35 cents, for which we were given a blue generic ticket, which then had to be passed to a Mexican-looking man who stood ten feet away and collected tickets. That was it. Like at a carnival. Just a two-minute line, a turnstile, and a bridge between Mexico and me.

As I started up the low-walled sidewalk, over the vaulting, concrete, six-laned expanse of Santa Fe Street bridge, my cell phone read 4:42. Below, railroad tracks and boxcars and the concrete-lined winding of the choked and polluted Rio Grande. I descended the far curve of the bridge, stepped onto foreign land, and noted the time: 4:50. Only eight minutes to cross. About the same as at San Ysidro.

In Mexico, I pirouetted on the charming old cobbled road, a road that was as good as the day it was laid, and as I did, I tried to take a look around. But I was accosted on every side. Children selling T-shirts; adults hocking knickknacks; a woman holding up a money can, her other hand lifting a pant leg to show me hideous bruises and scars; hustling drivers of nearby roadside cabs. The buildings, mostly bars and motels,
right there at the crossing to the richest country in the world, were terribly run-down. It was a sad mayhem.

Across the two lanes of what had become Juárez Street was another turnstile revolving back toward the United States, a turnstile with no line at all. Of course, in light of the competitive American spirit, the cost for U.S. entry was less than the cost to get to Mexico, just 25 cents. However, the money-taker was no old lady; a badged man in a uniform collected my quarter.

I walked the bridge again, mostly alone this time, and experienced that old U.S. hospitality: a building devoted to my safe reentry. A building housing customs offices, customs officials, the obligatory turnstiles, and conveyor belts leading through X-ray machines. One of the officers near the conveyor belts quietly demanded identification and asked a few questions. Late afternoon, midweek, summer month, and the line to get into the United States of America consisted of a single suitcase-bearing Mexican woman in front of me. The moments I waited, I noticed dust and faint music descending through the high-windowed room.

Eight more minutes. Home in the time it had taken me to go.

* * *

They were mopping the El Paso bus station floors when I arrived at 9:00 a.m. The moment the greenish tiles dried, they looked dirty again. None of the screens for departures or arrivals worked at all. Announcements blared over the speakers in a monotone, crackling, too loud and garbled to understand. The building itself was small, perhaps 2000 square feet, and its space was partitioned into a ticket desk and departure area. There were 100 or so people there, a cross section of American humanity angled in the various postures of waiting. The客户服务 office, such as it was, sat empty. I wondered where my bus would be arriving, and when. The three bus officials I found and questioned were either brusque or obviously, visibly bored. Not one of them was the least bit helpful. Eventually, a fourth person with a badge informed me that my bus would leave from Gate 5 (out of 6), but it needed maintenance, and so it would arrive 30 minutes late. “Great,” I thought sarcastically. “Great way to start.”

* * *

To me, a bus seems unwieldy, much like its alternate name, motor-coach: awkward, strange, not of its place. A bus’s high face, wide and flattened like a sperm whale’s, overhangs the pavement implacably. When buses turn, they give impressions of straight angles.
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The current state of the bus industry in this country is troubled. There are quite a few regional and charter bus lines, but only Greyhound is trying to make money by serving the whole country with noncharter operations. Greyhound boasts that it provides service to 2500 destinations in the United States and 1100 in Canada. Yet its chief executive, Stephen E. Goreman, cites multiple reasons for...
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problems: tough competition (from airlines and those who prefer personal auto travel), high operational costs, driver-recruitment issues, and shrinking ridership. In *Bus Ride* magazine, Gorman is quoted as saying, “Beginning in the summer of 2001, Greyhound passenger levels declined along with revenues. With the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, this revenue and passenger decline accelerated and created an additional burden for the company in the form of unprecedented cost increases for insurance and security. In 2003, Greyhound faced the crisis and took short-term actions in order to provide time for development of a long-term solution.” Greyhound tried to stabilize its business by increasing prices on longer trips, canceling an order for 200 buses, and cutting about 20 percent of its management and supervisory employees. The changes will also bring about 150 layoffs and the elimination of nearly 100 buses from the company’s fleet.

The numbers reveal that Greyhound, which has been in operation for 90 years, hasn’t been a profitable company in over two decades. Last year, Greyhound hired Gorman, whose résumé includes stints as executive vice president of Northwest Airlines and Krispy Kreme, with the expressed directive to turn things around. My contact at Greyhound, a spokesperson named Kim Plaskett, told me that the plan is to invest money back into the company but that this would involve capital that Greyhound doesn’t have. “We have to start somewhere,” she said. “Profit is the first goal. And transforming the network to focus on shorter routes is the crux of that.”

From what I saw and heard, though, the real problem with the bus industry is the people they hire and the training those people receive. Yes, the buses are often delayed and the stations are ramshackle and filthy, but that wouldn’t be so bad if courteous, well-rested, knowledgeable, and available customer-service representatives staffed the stations and the buses.

Small rays of fortune shone upon me not only when my bus was ready for departure a mere 20 minutes late but when I climbed the steps and turned to my left and realized! Yes! I would get my own seat. (I think the most critical contingency when it...
comes to long trips on public transportation is whether you have to share your immediate personal space with a stranger. The power to put my elbow anywhere on the armrest and the capacity to stretch my legs sideways, lounging across an aisle seat and window seat; these things become paramount."

* * *

The passengers on a bus enter into a kind of unspoken covenant. You might say they watch each other’s backs. If it’s time to leave, the passengers on a bus will pipe up with “We’re not all here.” And “There’s someone missing…that woman with the green pullover.” When I swatted a renegade migrating mosquito at 70 mph out somewhere in Arizona, I felt as if I were saving those onboard from an epidemic, at least from needless blood loss. My companions on Greyhound Bus 2355 included a family from San Diego.
Tennessee, a mother and her son, a lesbian couple who slept on each other’s shoulders mostly, and close to 20 lone travelers who read, talked, slept, and listened to music through their headphones. Of the 55 seats on the bus, only 26 were taken. Most of the folks onboard were headed to Tucson, Los Angeles, or Sacramento. No one was from El Paso.

Among the fares, one grizzled, unshaven, bespectacled, 50-year-old black man in a gray sweatshirt, “Jack” (not his real name), had been on the bus since Fort Worth, already a 12-hour ride. Jack was renting an apartment in downtown San Diego, but he was also buying a house in Fort Worth, where his wife was a nurse. Once a Marine, Jack was now a supervisor at an insulation company in San Diego. His two kids were grown.

The reason Jack bought a house in Fort Worth, a 2400-square-foot home for which he paid $100,000, was to own property, build equity, and have a tax write-off. For the next ten years, Jack planned to commute between San Diego and Texas. Military couples get used to such long-distance arrangements, seeing each other once or twice a month. Jack said that he usually flew, but he was taking the bus this time to relax his mind and meditate. He said he took the bus about twice a year, usually to Las Vegas. “I prefer the bus to a car because if you’re tired and you’re driving, you have to pay attention.”

Jack’s plan for the ride, besides sleeping, was to listen to the radio on his headphones, but he couldn’t get reception. Besides the headphones, Jack had brought only the clothes on his back for the 26-hour trip. “I like to get away from the hustle and the bustle and just relax, get away from the everyday.” You know, you see so much. ‘Hey, buddy, you got a dollar? You got a quarter?’ You know, you see that type of ordeal, and that’s a normal, everyday life. But sometimes you just need to get away from all that, to

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rest and let it go, to relax.”

Later, Jack told me, “I’m on vacation now; I’ve got time. If I wanted to get home earlier, I’d take a plane. But now I’ve got a longer time frame. I need to get home but at the same time get away from it all. The bus is perfect for that.” When I asked Jack about what I perceived as a lack of supplies, he told me that he didn’t bring snacks or food on the trip because the bus was going to stop at “just about every fast-food place between here and San Diego.” He wondered if Greyhound and McDonald’s didn’t have “some kind of a hookup or something.”

Across the aisle and two seats up, a dark-haired woman named Bernie Sharp, 37, curled and cuddled with her girlfriend, Veronica. The two had been together for four years and lived in San Diego’s North County. Sharp told me she was a maintenance engineer for a Motel 6 in Ocean-side. I asked her about her heritage (American Indian?), but she told me she wasn’t sure because she was adopted.

She and Veronica were two of the eight folks who got on the bus when I did. They were driving a friend to Houston, but they got tired and took a break in El Paso. Then the woman they were driving decided to drive the rest of the way alone, so Bernie and Veronica headed home on the bus. Sharp’s family owned a 4000-acre ranch in Tonopah, Nevada. She rode the bus from Oceanside to Nevada often because it was inexpensive and convenient. Her most exciting bus story involved her grandmother’s .25 handgun. She had to throw the heirloom in the trash on the way back from Nevada because she was afraid her bus was going to be searched. This was in the days immediately following September 11.

Sharp also took a city bus to and from work. She’d done this ever since her old car had broken down. “I like the scenery on the bus. Especially here, now, in Texas: all the old buildings and the history. I like the mountains and the plains. I like scenery. I also hate driving through traffic and worrying about the hassles of driving and traffic. It’s good to get rid of that stress, but I do like to have my own car because then I have more control and more convenience. I’d like to be able to stop whenever I want to.” For a long trip, Sharp brings lots of water and snacks. She and Veronica were curled up under their big black blanket most of the time.

There were a couple of colorful characters on the bus with us. Kenny Rogers, 39, lived in Los Angeles, had five kids and a sixth on the
way, and when I met him he was finishing a modern odyssey: 6000 miles in 6 weeks, all on Greyhound buses. Los Angeles to Miami (82½ hours), then Miami to Chattanooga (18½ hours), and now Chattanooga to L.A. (58 hours). Ten states and 48 stops; 14 hours of layovers.

By now, I thought, Kenny Rogers (and yes, that was his real name) had to be half crazy and half bus expert. Even before I approached Rogers to talk to him, I’d heard him talking. For hours he’d been the loudest voice on the bus. He was one of those people who, when he wasn’t “using” his sunglasses, he was still wearing them, on his forehead, an inch or two above his eyes. The whole time I listened to him talk, I wondered what he was keeping himself up. “The bus is a great place to meet people and gain personal experience,” Rogers said. “It’s either relaxing and enjoyable or just plain boring. But I think seeing things and meeting people is what life’s all about, and there isn’t a much better place to see lots of things and meet lots of people than on the bus.”

Rogers paid $443 to be driven across the country twice. He estimated that he’d talk to 25 to 30 drivers in that span. Rogers’s favorite subject of conversation (judging by what I’d overheard for quite some time) seemed to be politics. I’d call Rogers the kind of person who watches a lot of news and pays attention to the issues around him. And then he formulates his own opinions, which he tells to anyone whether or not they’re listening.

When it came to bus politics, Rogers was full of ideas. “I think they need more ghostsiders in the bus system. A ghostsider is someone who works for the company but rides undercover and writes reports on drivers and stations.” Rogers thought Greyhound needed more ghostsiders because the customer service was terrible. “And yet they seem surprised that they’re losing passengers,” he said. “My experience this time was bad enough that I’ll shop around for a better bus line next time.”

Twice on our trip from El Paso to San Diego, I overheard Rogers asking for official forms to file a customer complaint. One time, it wasn’t even bus related. “Can I see your manager?” he asked loudly in a New Mexico McDonald’s. Then he glared at the petulant girl behind the counter and told her, “You shouldn’t talk to people that way.” And Rogers also made a bit of a scene at the bus station in Tucson, Arizona, after a bus employee had been “short and unhelpful and inconsiderate” with him. “Did you hear me trying to file that complaint in Tucson?” he asked me. “I needed a pen with the form they gave me, and they..."
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“One of this, okay?” She laughed and said, “I mean, I don’t usually look like a hobo or a bag person, ” makes you look like a rolling insane asylum.”

She paused for effect.

“Then I was my first long bus ride,” she said. “I mean, I didn’t even work!” He laughed. “That says it all.” I couldn’t figure out whether Rogers was annoying or entertaining. In the end, his enthusiastic good humor and quick intelligence did seem to save him, somewhat.

Sitting behind Rogers for a good part of the trip was a forty-something woman who didn’t want to give me her name. “Jane” was traveling from Lexington, Kentucky, to Los Angeles. She was a day behind schedule because of a bus breakdown, and she told me a shocking tale about “disgustingly rude” and bitter bus-line employees. “Did you see that nice old lady who was sitting up front before?” Jane asked me. (I had seen the woman she was talking about. She was probably 80 years old and seemed sweet.)

“Carefully, she had her luggage specially tagged because it had medication in it or something that she really needed. And you know what?” She paused for effect.

“They lost it! She transferred with me in Dallas and they put her important luggage on the wrong bus.”

Jane herself had undergone one three-hour delay and one four-hour delay and witnessed a dramatic drug bust in the Dallas bus station. She’d also watched her bus drive away without her because Greyhound had decided to reschedule her route. “That was harrowing because they didn’t explain anything to us. No one was there to give us any information. We didn’t know that another bus was on the way for us (albeit four hours later), and everyone I asked just brushed me off and made me feel stupid.”

I started to feel extraordinarily lucky about losing only 20 minutes in El Paso. Jane likened a bus to a rolling insane asylum. “And a long bus trip makes you look like a hobo or a bag person,” she said. “I mean, I don’t usually look like this, okay?” She laughed half-cynically. “This was my first long bus trip,” she said. “And I hated it. I’ll never do it again.”

** For the first half of my voyage from El Paso, our busman was one John Faries. ("Busman,"

by the way, is the title of one who drives a bus.) Kenny Rogers would later tell me that of the nearly 30 drivers he’d seen on his trip, Faries by far was best.

Faries, who was 60, chatted amiably with the folks seated behind him. He listened and commented and pointed out sights along the way. Faries also issued a tongue-in-cheek policy against yawning, due to the fact that it’s highly contagious. But for the most part, Faries told busman stories.

**”Once there was this car, swerving all over its lane, trying to pass me, then not trying to pass, swerving, then coming up to pass me again, and the whole time I wondered if it was going to hit me or veer off the road.”

Faries’s gravelly voice had a smile built into it.

“And then finally it pulls alongside, and there’s this lady, okay, and she’s talking on her cell phone with her left hand, taking notes with her right hand, and steering with her left hand.”

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At 1:35, near the Arizona border, it started to rain. Hard. Fat drops popped and sizzled on the windshield. It’s one
of my favorite natural sights, rain advancing across great Western distances. Vertical wispy cloud lines, blackish gray, descending in curtains or sheets out of dark thunderheads. They really do look like curtains or sheets.

* * *

Something about the uniformity of the scenery, the rhythm of the road, the tilting seats, sheer boredom, and air conditioning blowing on your ankles — bus rides promote naps. I stole four snoozes in 14 hours. By my calculations, at any given moment, the 26 of us (or 27, including the constantly conscious Faries) were about 30 percent alert. It's a lucky wonder that no one was a snorer. (Or else the bus-hum drowned such frequencies.)

* * *

We passed into Arizona at 2:10 MST.

* * *

In Tucson, we stopped for 45 minutes and changed pilots. Our trip was ultimately a tale of two busmen. After affable, talkative Faries, then we got Ted. Just Ted.

Ted wouldn't give me his last name, wouldn't talk to me or the nice old ladies in the front row, wouldn't entertain the idea of an interview, and exhorted the lot of us to "turn your stereos down." (No one on the bus had a stereo, as far as I knew.)

When I introduced myself, Ted told me that he was "in no mood." I'd say Ted was one of the most impatient people in whose hands I have ever knowingly placed my life. "I don't have to talk to you at all." From Tucson to San Diego, I kept expecting Ted to honk or say a word. Not unless you have written authorization. I don't have to talk to you at all." From Tucson to San Diego, I kept expecting Ted to honk at other drivers and flip his own international symbol of goodwill.

* * *

The bus station in Tucson was on the fringes downtown was a tiny cluster of buildings, only three of which were higher than eight stories. It was dry and hot, even after rain, which anyway just evaporated. The cost of gas there was $1.91.

* * *

A bus quandary: Why do they carpet the walls of buses? What good is a carpeted wall?

* * *

By now we were halfway home, outside Phoenix somewhere, and sure enough old Ted had had two arguments: one with the bus door, which popped open inexplicably at 70 mph, and one with the driver of a VW bus who swerved in front of us. We fellow passengers (all grown quiet, like good schoolchildren) had taken to stealing amused looks...
at each other after Ted’s antics. Deep down, we knew that we were hurtling along in a beaten piece of metal with Ted at the helm, so we figured we shouldn’t piss Ted off.

I could see in the mirror — the only one Ted used to keep an eye on us — that Ted had a mustache. Just a mustache. He was the only one on the bus with just a mustache. I thought he might be the only person I’d seen in recent memory who sported a mustache solo. I’m not sure if it’s nowadays to cultivate solo. I’m not sure if it’s as passé as I think it is.

Next stop, Gila Bend, much more of a bend in the road than an actual town. There was a sign along the highway that said, “Welcome to Gila Bend. Home of 1,700 friendly people and 5 old crabs.” Gas cost $1.96.

We stepped at what appeared to be (surely some kind of highway-side illusion) the only three eating options in town: McDonald’s, Taco Bell, and Love’s Mini-Mart. In the gigantic parking lot, good old Ted approached me and apologized for his earlier demeanor. “I’m sorry I reacted that way to you,” he said. “You just caught me at a bad time.” Of course, by now I’d been writing about Ted behind his back, literally and figuratively, so I was going to have to feel bad if he turned out to be a nice guy. “I’m always kind of on edge about journalists on the bus,” he said. “They’re usually very critical about Greyhound.” (With good reason, based on what I’d seen and the stories I’d heard.)

I nodded and chatted and forced a few smiles. (Note: it’s easy to force a smile in sunny 100-degree heat because your face is already scrunched up.) And finally, I shook Ted’s hand and said, “No hard feelings.” But I wasn’t about to erase what I’d written.

On the road again, Ted warmed up some. He talked for a while with the lady in the first row, too quiet over the bus’s hum for me to hear. And happily, everyone else followed Ted’s lead, as a buzz of conversations sprung up. “I love the smell of cut alfalfa.” “Only five hours to go.” “Those are F-16s.” “Smarty Jones was just amazing.” “Why are you wearing a sweater?” “I can’t wait to wake up in my own bed.” “Mommy, what’s a Yuma?”

Sunset — especially in the Arizona desert, over distant mountains — is a beautiful sight. Quiet, solemn, pristine purple light. I’ve wished again and again that our sky could be that color all day, instead of its usual loud blue. Twilight seems grown-up and protective, without the overeager crudeness of the feisty, youthful, well-meaning sun.

Last stop, Yuma, Arizona. Gas $1.92. Sunset over the mountains, heat lying down for the day. Pink clouds, purple sky, sleepy town. The whole of Yuma looked prefab, jerry-built, thrown up hastily around hot noons. We stayed in Yuma for ten minutes, long enough for me to stretch my legs and brush my teeth. One thing I noticed about water taps in the desert: they have different temperatures from water taps everywhere else — Hot, and Fantastically Hot. After two days — one in El Paso and one on the bus — I was getting somewhat used to it, but generally I hate brushing my teeth with anything but cool water.

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

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• You receive up to $1300 depending on your level of involvement.
• You receive no-cost study-related medication and study-related medical care.
• No reports are made to employers, schools or insurance companies.

San Diego • Los Angeles • Glendale • Anaheim

(858) 571-1188
www.cctrials.com

Finding Answers Together – Since 1982

Trouble getting a good night’s sleep because of painful knees or hips?

If you have been diagnosed with osteoarthritis of the hips and/or knees, wake up at night in pain and are otherwise in good health, we may have a clinical trial that’s right for you. California Clinical Trials has been selected to study a once-a-day medication currently approved for the treatment of chronic moderate to severe pain in order to see how treating pain can improve the quality of sleep in osteoarthritis patients suffering from painful hips and/or knees.

Every study conducted by California Clinical Trials 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:
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(858) 571-1188
www.cctrials.com

Finding Answers Together – Since 1982

Restless sleeper? Wake up tired? Chronic problems falling and/or staying asleep? If your sleep is not normal, you may qualify to try an investigational medication being studied for the possible treatment of Insomnia.

Qualified participants:
• Will receive up to $2150 for time and travel.
• Receive no-cost study-related medication and study-related medical care.
• No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.
OH NO!!!!!
...Not another CANKER SORE in my mouth!!!!!

If you get canker sores in your mouth (1 in 5 adults get them) you know what I’m talking about...yuk! If you’ve never had one, you’ve probably never heard of them and don’t know what they are. If you are presently suffering from an episode of oral canker sores or get them frequently, this 2-week investigational clinical study of an oral gel for the relief of symptoms caused by canker sores may be for you!

To qualify:
1. Male or female, 12 years of age or older, with a history of canker sores lasting at least 4 days
2. Current episode less than 16 hours in duration
3. Not had recent dental work or allergies to prior gum gels

Participants receive:
1. Exam and consultation with a board-certified physician
2. Study-related medication
3. Compensation

Interested? Call:
MEDICAL CENTER FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH
(619) 521-2830
Mission Valley/Santee
William Koltun, M.D. Robert Semo, M.D.

And now, as the colors fell away from the sky, it was time for the stretch run, three hours on mostly California highways home. Three hours blissfully (or boringly) uneventful, marked only by the clogging and unclogging of my altitude-addled ears. I read a little to the sound of the motor-hum under an overhead light. Noticed that our windshield had spackled itself with thick blips of bug guts. I felt patient, in a way that makes me want to say that I felt patient for the first time in my life.

A metaphor found me then, as I perceived that night-darkness is darker from inside a bus. You don’t get the continuity of seeing a sign or lights approaching before they slide too quickly by. It’s just darkness and blur, darkness and blur. And that rushing suddenness — and my patience as I let it go by me through the big window — that experience, felt like an image for my life. I didn’t even catch the exact moment when we passed into my hometown’s long-awaited city limits.

The sky is FALLING!
The sky is FALLING!

• Are you always worried or anticipating the worst?
• Do people call you a "worry-wart"?
• Are you tense, nervous, and unable to relax?
• Do your worries or tension keep you up at night?

ANXIETY can wreak havoc on your job and relationships. If this sounds like you.......You may qualify for a Clinical Research Study of an investigational medication for GENERALIZED ANXIETY DISORDER.

Qualified volunteers will receive study-related medical care at no cost and will be compensated for their time and travel.

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

Lack of sleep is not a fact of getting older

INSOMNIA is a serious condition. People with insomnia often experience:
• Difficulty falling asleep
• Waking up frequently during the night and trouble returning to sleep
• Waking up too early in the morning
• Unrefreshing sleep

If you or someone you love is suffering from insomnia, and is aged 65 or older, you may be interested in learning about a research study of an investigational medication for insomnia.

For more information about this study, please contact:
OHS
Oceanside: 760-631-3056
La Mesa: 619-667-4567

Schizophrenia research study

The schizophrenia research study. Men and Women between 18 and 55 years old are needed to participate in a clinical research study for the investigational use of a marketed drug in the treatment of schizophrenia. Volunteers must be diagnosed with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder and must be able to consent to participation in a clinical study before beginning any study-related activities. All office visits, medical evaluations, and study medications related to this study will be provided at no cost to patients.

For more information about this study, please contact:
OHS
Oceanside: 760-631-3056
North County 760-631-3056
OHS
San Diego 619-667-4567

OHS
Optimum Health Services

Optimum Health Services

Optimum Health Services

Optimum Health Services

Schizophrenia or Schizoaffective disorder?

You may be qualified to participate in a research study evaluating an investigational medication for Schizophrenia. Qualified volunteers will receive investigational medication, study-related physical exams, and compensation.

For more information, please call:
Optimum Health Services 619-667-4567
WHY BOYS FEEL THE NEED

M y two best friends and I huddled under our sleeping bags in search of something to occupy our minds on a Friday evening. There were a total of zero good shows on TV. We skimmed through magazines such as Teen People and Seventeen, though our combined age wasn’t much more than 17. My friends were each 7 years old and I was 6 when the topic of sex came up. Looking through these magazines — though we didn’t acknowledge it — we became, well, interested.

After discovering surprising new information, curiosity led the three of us back downstairs where we watched shows on MTV that we were disinterested in an hour earlier. MTV, notorious for its explicit images and sexual content, contributed half of my sexual knowledge. I think the topic of sex surfaced at a reasonable age; that night, we did not become overly fascinated by what we saw on TV. As a child, my parents and I never discussed sex much (though they were open to questions). We had “the talk” about how and why men and women reproduce, but they never spoke in much detail.

Of course, since I was six, I’ve learned more. My senior high school friends give me first-hand details and let me know the consequences — both good and bad — of sex. Magazines such as Teen People conduct an annual sex survey, revealing gender and age-based statistics. MTV has reached the peak of its provocative content and is now beginning to include benevolent and age-based statistics. MTV has reached the peak of its provocative content and is now beginning to include benevolent sexual content and age-based statistics.

Be aware — that night, we did not become overly fascinated by what we saw on TV. As a child, my parents and I never discussed sex much (though they were open to questions). We had “the talk” about how and why men and women reproduce, but they never spoke in much detail.

I HID THE BOOK ON MY SHELF WHEN I WAS DONE AND AVOIDED IT UNLESS MY FRIENDS CAME OVER AND WANTED TO GIGGLE.

Frustrated with Yeast Infections?

Tired of using messy creams? Now you have an alternative to creams and suppositories.

We are conducting a clinical research trial comparing an investigational oral medication to an FDA-approved medication for the treatment of vaginal yeast infections.

We are seeking FEMALE VOLUNTEERS:
• At least 12 years of age
• Experiencing vaginal itching, burning or irritation
• Not pregnant or lactating

Qualified study participants will receive compensation for time and travel, study-related medical care, and study medication at no cost.

To see if you qualify, please call (858) 505-8672 or visit us online at www.womenwellness.net/research for more information about this study.

Research Studies

Are You Diabetic?

Has Pain Moved Into Your Life??

Tingling • Burning • Sharp Pain • Numbness

These symptoms felt in your legs, feet, arms, or hands may indicate that you have diabetic neuropathy, a painful condition that results from nerve damage. We are conducting a research study of an investigational medication for pain associated with diabetic neuropathy. All related care, including physical exams, laboratory tests, and study medication and/or placebo, is provided at no charge to participants. Eligible participants will be compensated for time and travel.

Call Luci or Laura at:
858-455-5463 or reach us by e-mail at: cns@cts.com

Center for Neurologic Study
9850 Genesee Ave., Suite 320, La Jolla, CA 92037
Visit our website at: csonline.org

Remember learning about sex from my mom. I thought it was disgusting. I could not imagine why people would do this. The only reason I could come up with was to have another cool kid like myself — procreation. My mom basically kept it at this: two people that love each other and get married could have sex and have a baby.

I remember when I was about eight, after hearing about sex, my mom took me to Bookstar to buy a few books. She showed me a book that I still have today called Where Did I Come From? When we were buying the book, I remember feeling uncomfortable. I could not figure out why my mother insisted that I have such a book. In the store, I felt like all the adults were watching me. I was embarrassed to be seen with the book. The book, however, was kid-oriented, so I took a look at it when I got home. It talked about why people want to have babies and why people partake in sex. It also stated that it was all meant for adults. I hid the book on my shelf when I was done and avoided it unless my friends came over and wanted to giggle.

In junior high, the frequent sex-education classes taught about sex organs and how to practice safe sex. I figured I knew it all and so did my classmates. I don’t know why everyone thought they knew about...
Ladies:
Are you experiencing itching, burning, irritation commonly associated with a yeast infection? If so, you may qualify to participate in a clinical research study. Study participants will receive at no cost: a physical exam, study-related laboratory tests including a Pap smear, and investigational medication.

Contact Tina De La Rosa at Dr. Drosman’s office at the GENESIS CENTER FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH 619-542-0560 for additional information.

Chronic Schizophrenia Research Study
If you or someone you care about suffers from any combination of the following symptoms, please call SYNERGY RESEARCH at: 888-619-7272 to find out more information on an investigational medication study.

- Intense periods of irritability or anxiety for a few hours to a few days at a time
- Ongoing fear of abandonment
- History of unstable interpersonal relationships
- Persistent self-image problems
- Impulsivity in any of the following areas: spending, substance abuse, eating and sexual activity
- Almost constant feelings of emptiness
- Difficulty controlling your feelings of anger and fits of temper

Please call: 888-619-7272 to get more information and to arrange an appointment. Transportation assistance is available.

Do You Have Upper Stomach Discomfort?
If you often suffer from:
- Nausea
- Indigestion
- Bloating
- Stomach pain
- Vomiting
- Feeling full shortly after meals

you may be eligible to participate in a study of an investigational new drug for the treatment of functional dyspepsia.

For more information, please contact:
Medical Associates Research Group
858-277-5678
Compensation provided.

Earn Money While You Sleep.
You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study for an investigational sleep medication. Participants will be compensated. Call the number below to see if you qualify.

You may be eligible if you are:
- 18 years of age or older;
- In good health;
- NOT pregnant or nursing;
- NOT on sleep medication or being treated for any sleep disorders including excessive snoring and sleep apnea.

Call 1-877-92-SLEEP today to enroll!
PACIFIC SLEEP MEDICINE SERVICES
discussed or the difficulties of abstinence. When I transferred to a public high school, the education continued with condoms on bananas and graphic pictures of STDs horrifying enough for every 15-year-old boy in the room to take that vow of abstinence endorsed by Father Joe.

Media was a huge source of information about sex and the relationship between man and woman. My mother always shielded my sister and I from television that held the possibility of broadcasting sex in any form different from what was in the books she had read to us; that didn't stop us from watching what we wanted when she wasn't around. I remember watching movies at friends' houses, soaking up all of the images I saw of the hero whisking away the heroine to his bedroom, tent, medieval fortress, yacht, whatever...and not quite understanding what was going on but retaining the information. I received an amount of sex education from teen magazines, which always contained articles about sex. These were easy to get ahold of under the guise of fashion. Example: “No way, Mom, we don’t read those sections. I just want to check out the article about making your own jeans.”

Compared to most girls my age, I could have had a worse conglomeration of ideas about sex floating around in my head. Trying to shelter a youth from the world of sex is a bad idea because it makes them afraid for no reason. A word to parents: let kids be kids, and they won’t grow up too fast. If you trust them, they’ll learn to trust themselves, and if you don’t pass on your fears to them, you’ll have a lot less to worry about.

— Gabrielle Clifford, La Costa Canyon H.S.

Got Heartburn?
You could qualify for a new clinical research study of an FDA-approved medication if you meet the following criteria:

- Aged 18 to 75
- Have a history of heartburn for 6 months or more
- Have moderate or severe heartburn at least 3 days per week
- Have heartburn symptoms that are relieved by antacid use

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact:
Andrea or Donna at 619-260-1012 to see if you are eligible.
Study medication, examinations, and procedures will be provided to qualified study volunteers at no charge.

Do you have trouble falling or staying asleep?

Pacific Sleep Medicine Services is participating in a national research study of individuals who regularly have trouble falling asleep or waking, and are unable to get back to sleep.

Qualified participants receive up to $855 for time and travel.

Study related care is provided at no charge, including a physical exam and investigational medication.

Interested participants must be:
- 18 - 64 years of age
- Diagnosis of chronic primary insomnia for at least 3 months
- Sleep between 3 - 6.5 hours per night

For more information, call (toll-free)

Pacific Sleep Medicine Services
1-877-92-SLEEP
1-877-927-5337

DRUG PROBLEM?
(Pain Pills, Heroin, OxyContin, Vicodin, Morphine)

All Services Are Confidential
No interruption of your work, school or family obligations. Helping you get your life back to normal is our goal!

- Medication
- Counseling
- Detox
- Medical Examination
- Drug Testing
- Pregnancy Testing

FREE Drug Consultation
With mention of Reader ad.
Free consultation with a professional counselor.

A Division of

CRC HEALTH CORPORATION

El Cajon Treatment Center
234 N. Magnolia Ave., El Cajon
619-579-8373

Capalina Clinic
1560 Capalina St., San Marcos
760-744-2104

Home Avenue Clinic
3940 Home Ave., San Diego
619-262-8000

Third Avenue Clinic
1161 Third Ave., Chula Vista
619-498-8260

Fashion Valley Clinic
7020 Friars Rd., San Diego
619-718-9890

www.crcotp.com
**Medical Marijuana Evaluations**

In September 2003, the San Diego City Council passed law enforcement guidelines stating “a patient must obtain a written recommendation...from a physician practicing within San Diego County.” For more info visit www.sandiego.gov/communityservices/medicalmarijuana.

Protect yourself under California state law. Call to learn how you may qualify from a medical doctor with 20 years experience in San Diego.

Robert F. Sterner, Jr., M.D.
Harvard 1978/UCLA 1982
Call 24 Hours: 619-442-4215
www.antiagingarts.com

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**Wish You Could Release Your Worries?**

Are you consumed with excessive worry, nervousness, tension or fear? Do you feel "on edge" and unable to relax? Do you have trouble sleeping or frequent crying spells? Is your personal and professional life suffering?

If you have felt this way for 6 months or more, or have been diagnosed with Generalized Anxiety Disorder, you may qualify for a CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY.

Affiliated Research Institute in San Diego is evaluating an investigational medication for Generalized Anxiety Disorder. Participants will receive confidential study-related medical care at no cost.

For more information or to schedule an interview to see if you qualify, please contact:

(619) 688-6565
www.antiagingarts.com

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**ADHD??**

**Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder**

Children between the ages of 6 and 12 experiencing any of the following symptoms most of the time may be eligible to participate in our research study. All research-related care is provided at no cost to those who qualify.

**Symptoms of ADHD:**
- Talks and fidgets excessively?
- Difficulty organizing tasks?
- Difficulty sustaining attention?
- Easily distracted?
- Forgets and misplaces things?

**Provided for qualified participants:**
- Assessment & diagnosis
- Physical examinations
- Study medication
- Comprehensive lab analysis
- Compensation for time/travel

We are now studying an investigational medication that may help children with ADHD. All research-related care is provided at no cost to those who qualify. Participants will be compensated for time and travel.

**If interested, please call:**
San Diego/Oceanside
619-667-4567
619-667-4557
760-631-3056

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**RESEARCH STUDIES**

**Are you at risk for developing Type 2 Diabetes?**

Are you concerned about developing Type 2 Diabetes due to a family history, high blood sugar, or being overweight?

Have you ever been told that you are at an increased risk for developing Type 2 Diabetes?

Dr. Mudaliar at the VA Medical Center in La Jolla is currently screening patients for the ACTOS NOW study. This study looks at an investigational use of the drug Pioglitazone to determine if the drug can prevent or delay the development of Type 2 Diabetes.

Subjects who qualify will receive:
- Study-related medical care by board-certified physicians
- Counseling with a certified diabetes educator
- Compensation up to $600

If interested, please call Alana Clark at (858) 552-8585, ext. 2884.

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**Medical Marijuana Evaluations**

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grade. Every fifth-grader had to take a class to learn about sex. I don't remember the name of the course, though. We all sat there and watched in amazement and some of us probably felt disgust at what would be happening to our bodies in the future. I remember that some of the kids were immature about it.

I don't think I was too young to learn about sex and everything related to it because we were going to go through the changes in the next year or two, so we might as well have learned it in the fifth grade, before the changes took place, than in sixth, seventh, or eighth grade, when the changes had already started.

During the fifth grade my mother also got me a book called The Period Book to learn about growing up. Don't be fooled by the title, though. The Period Book had information about everything from puberty to "the birds and the bees." I felt so embarrassed reading that book; even more so when my mom talked to me about it.

I also learned some of the details from watching television. In some of the sitcoms I used to watch, there would be an episode where the main character was going through puberty and his or her parents talked to the character about it. When I would watch MTV I learned, too.

— Holly Benderman, Mission Bay H.S.

Are you one of the millions of people who won't sleep tonight?

INSOMNIA is a serious condition. People with insomnia often experience:

• Difficulty falling asleep
• Waking up frequently during the night and trouble returning to sleep
• Waking up too early in the morning
• Unrefreshing sleep

If you or someone you love is suffering from insomnia, and between the ages of 18 and 64, you may be interested in learning about a research study of an investigational medication for insomnia.

Please contact:

OHS
Optimum Health Services

La Mesa 619-667-4567
North County 760-631-3056

Call:
Medical Center for Clinical Research
619-521-3186

Research Study on DEPRESSION

Do you suffer from these symptoms?

• Difficulty concentrating/remembering
• Difficulty sleeping/eating
• Fatigue/loss of interest
• Persistent sadness/depression

The UCSD Psychopharmacology Research Initiatives, Center of Excellence, is conducting an investigational drug research study on major depression.

Participants will be compensated. For more information and to find out how you can participate, call:

619-725-3527

EASILY DISTRACTED, FORGETFUL, FIDGETY OR IMPULSIVE?
WORRIED ABOUT YOUR DRINKING?

Call Tobie or Cheryl for more information:
(858) 784-7325
Department of Neuropharmacology

Heavy Drinkers Not Seeking Treatment

Earn compensation for completing a 4-visit laboratory study of situations associated with drinking.

This program does involve medications.

Call Tobie or Cheryl for more information:
(858) 784-7325
Department of Neuropharmacology

ADHD and ALCOHOL ABUSE DISORDER

Research Participants Needed

Medical researchers at UCSD are currently conducting a clinical research study to evaluate an investigational, non-stimulant drug vs. placebo (sugar pill) in adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Alcohol Abuse. The purpose of the study is to see if this investigational drug reduces alcohol use.

NO COST for medical and psychological evaluations and study drug. Financial compensation will be given to eligible participants. Must be at least 21 years of age.

Contact UCSD Department of Psychiatry:
619-543-3697

If you or someone you love is suffering from insomnia, and between the ages of 18 and 64, you may be interested in learning about a research study of an investigational medication for insomnia.

You will receive at no cost:
1) Study-related labs, Pap smear, investigational medication
2) Compensation up to $100
3) Study-related exam by a board-certified OB/Gyn

If you or someone you know suffers from bipolar disorder, you may qualify to participate in a research study evaluating an investigational medication associated with yeast infections.

C R Y S T A L  M E T H / S P E E D  U S E R S

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.

Heavy Drinkers Not Seeking Treatment

Earn compensation for completing a 4-visit laboratory study of situations associated with drinking.

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Contact UCSD Department of Psychiatry:
619-543-3697

Save This Advertisement!!!
...for your next YEAST INFECTION

Burning ... itching ... irritation

If you have symptoms commonly associated with vaginal yeast infections – itching, burning, or irritation - or you get yeast infections occasionally. KEEP THIS AD! A clinical research study is underway to evaluate an investigational medication associated with yeast infections.

You will receive at no cost:
1) Study-related exam by a board-certified OB/Gyn
2) Study-related labs, Pap smear, investigational medication
3) Compensation up to $100

Call:
Medical Center for Clinical Research
619-521-3186

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• Difficulty concentrating/remembering
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NO COST for medical and psychological evaluations and study drug. Financial compensation will be given to eligible participants. Must be at least 21 years of age.

Contact UCSD Department of Psychiatry:
619-543-3697
M y roommate was from Iran, and we lived together in Dellplain Hall at Syracuse University in the pre-Khomeni days of the mid-’70s. I was a new transfer student. I had found my room and started unpacking when the door was flung open and people rushed in, gesturing wildly and shouting at each other in a language that was strange and incomprehensible to me. They didn’t seem to notice me.

Silence descended and eyes turned toward me. A tall, dark-haired man walked toward me. “THIS,” he said, “is my beloved sister SHIRREEN. You will be her roommate.” The crowd parted to reveal a petite, dark-haired girl who regarded me with skepticism. Her brother continued his oration, telling me Shirreen was from “a very well-known family” in Iran, and it was his sworn duty to protect her during her time at Syracuse.

Shirreen had not yet uttered a word. I felt somewhat befuddled. Did she speak English? Was this entire crew of strangers also going to be sharing the room? Was I allowed to address her directly, or did I have to speak through her sworn protector? Eventually, her brother explained Shirreen had never been away from home and was being allowed to attend school in the U.S. only because her brother was already a student at Syracuse. The group of people were various friends and relatives who had accompanied Shirreen to the U.S., and they would not be sharing the room with us. Shirreen still had not spoken.

A formidable argument suddenly engulfed the group. Everyone began to wave arms and shout. I wasn’t sure what to do. I wanted to finish my unpacking. I wanted aspirin for my headache. I wanted to go home.

Once again, silence fell. All turned toward me again. Her brother spoke. “My SISTER is very religious. We are trying to decide which direction is east, where Mecca lies, for her prayers. Do you know?” Not wanting to be rude and wishing to end this debate, I pointed toward the door. Everyone smiled and nodded. For the next four months, five times a day, Shirreen would unroll her prayer mat on the narrow strip of floor between our beds and pray loudly in the direction of Mecca. I never had the heart to tell her she was praying due north, toward Buffalo.

Within a few weeks, I had learned more about my new roommate. She’d led a sheltered and pampered life in Iran. She’d had servants, and domestic chores were beneath her dignity. As her roommate, it was my duty to pick up the slack — and anything else she might discard on the floor. Any complaints of the unfairness of this arrangement were addressed by a visit from her brother, who stressed Shirreen’s delicate nature.

Although she spoke English fluently, she found it a coarse language and suggested I learn Farsi. She promised to take me home to Iran so I might see the proper way to live. “Not like in the hovels you Americans call home.”

Her father was a high-placed associate of the Shah. Shirreen felt the Shah was God on earth. Since this was before his overthrow, he was on television frequently. Each time he appeared, Shirreen let out a piercing shriek and dropped to her knees before the screen and kissed the Shah’s image.

SHIRRENN LET OUT A PIERCING SHRIEK AND DROPPED TO HER KNEES BEFORE THE SCREEN AND KISSED THE SHAH’S IMAGE.

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the screen and kissed the Shah’s image. This little quirk seemed minor in light of Shirreen’s larger quirks — until the night she insisted I also pay homage to the electronic Shah. When I declined, she started to sob uncontrollably, saying I had no idea how homesick she was and that the least I could do was respect her cultural values.

Perhaps it was guilt instilled by that incident that led me to agree to accompany her to Niagara Falls. One bright, chilly morning Shirreen, her friend Lydia, my friend Jim, and I set out in Shirreen’s rental car for Niagara Falls.

When we arrived at the falls, Shirreen was disappointed. The falls weren’t what she expected. But suddenly she brightened; perhaps the falls were inferior here on the U.S. side of the border. Yes, she was sure, that was it — the falls would be better on the Canadian side. Jim and I were game, and Lydia followed Shirreen’s lead in all matters. So we hopped into the car and sped across the bridge to Canada.

Shirreen liked the Canadian side. The day started to hold promise. We were having a good time together. In my magnanimous mood, I spent my last $10 buying Shirreen a goofy Niagara Falls T-shirt. She seemed pleased and put it on immediately. Then it was time to head back to Syracuse and midterms.

As we approached the border checkpoint, Shirreen and Lydia began muttering in Farsi. Jim and I sat oblivious in the backseat, tired and happy, watching the rain that had started to fall. Suddenly, Shirreen pulled the car to the side of the bridge and stopped. “I can go no farther,” she announced. “Why not?” I asked. Lydia turned and looked at us with woeful eyes. “We did not bring our passports. They will not let us back into the U.S. without them!”

Jim and I could not believe it. How, we asked, could they have sped off to Canada, knowing they didn’t have passports with them? This seemed to galvanize Shirreen into action. “It is no problem,” she said, “I will handle this. They will let me in.” Shirreen started the car toward the checkpoint. Jim suggested Shirreen and Lydia not say anything to the border agent — keep their mouths shut and no one would be wiser.

But when we pulled up to the border agent, Shirreen rolled down her window, smiled at the agent, and said in her obviously non-American accent, “You MUST let me in! I am an American! See — I HAVE AMERICAN EXPRESS CARD!”

The agent ordered us to pull over to the customs office. Shirreen smiled politely and then gunned the engine and made a break for it. Several customs agents sprang into pursuit. The chase was over quickly. In her haste,
Shirreen inadvertently drove the car up onto a parking median, where it stalled out. We were surrounded by uniformed agents and, as Jim pointed out, lest Shirreen get more escape brainstorming, they had GUNS, guns POINTED at us. We were escorted into the office. Shirreen and Lydia were taken to a different room and Jim and I placed in a room that looked like an interrogation cell. I wasn’t too nervous yet. I figured that no one would mistake me or Jim, with our blond hair and blue eyes, as Iranian nationals.

Then the door opened. In walked the meanest, toughest, scariest female customs agent. Jim said, “Officer, this is easy to explain. See —”

“You’re in a LOT of trouble, BUB!” She screamed, pointing her clawlike nails at Jim. “You could be sent to jail for AIDING illegal immigrants!” After several hours trying to convince officials WE were American citizens, we were released out into the rain with Shirreen and Lydia. Shirreen and Lydia had cut a deal. We would all return to Canada and Shirreen would get her brother to bring their passports from Syracuse. All was fine until we arrived back in Canada. Shirreen drove to a beautiful hotel, parked the car, and turned and looked at Jim and me. “Of course,” she said, “you do not expect to stay here with us… You will have to find your own accommodations.” Our protests that we had no money to pay fell on deaf ears as Shirreen, still wearing that goofy T-shirt, waltzed into the lobby, American Express card in hand.

Jim remembered he had a friend near Buffalo. We called collect, and the friend drove to Canada and picked us up. We entered the U.S. without incident and borrowed money from Jim’s friend to take a bus back to Syracuse.

Shirreen’s brother brought the passports to Canada, and Shirreen and Lydia returned to Syracuse in the rental car. Shirreen and I finished the semester as rather stony roommates, and then I found a nice apartment near town with another roommate.

I’ve often wondered what became of Shirreen and her associates. The Iranian Revolution occurred the following year, and the last I heard, Shirreen and her brother had returned to Iran shortly before the U.S. Embassy was captured.

Carolyn Z. Lawrence

“This is not a normal dinner in our house,” says Tammy as she begins assembling beef stroganoff. “I’m usually eating over a pot of mac and cheese after I feed my daughter, eating the ends of her hot dogs. We don’t do anything elaborate.”

The ingredients are already prepped, waiting in stainless steel bowls for the cooking to begin. Melting butter pools at the bottom of a Wearever nonstick saucier, and Tammy dumps in sliced mushrooms and onions laced with a generous quantity of chopped garlic — far more than the Betty Crocker Pasta Cookbook she is working from demands. The cookbook is “courtesy of the mother-in-law. She’s given us a lot of cookbooks; I don’t know if she’s trying to tell us something. But I can’t compete with her, and she knows that. I’m not a super chef, but I do okay. I’m sort of a Thanksgiving chef — once a year, I’ll do everything.”

“The one thing I do cook at least once a month are these creamy enchiladas. I got the recipe from, I think it was Pregnancy magazine or something — an article about how to cook healthy. It was a reduced-fat version, but I just replaced all the low-fat things with full-fat things, and it’s really good. The rest of the time, my husband is grilling or I’m throwing something together at the very last possible minute.”

Or going out. “We eat out an awful lot,” says Tammy’s husband Patrick. “We get a lot of Mexican food — fish tacos at South Beach.”

“I like New York Giant Pizza,” adds Tammy. “We went down to the Third Corner — the new thing from the owner of Thee Bungalow — to celebrate when Tammy got the National Endowment for the Arts grant this year. It was really nice.” Usually, though, “If we’re going to spend a lot of money, we’ll try to go downtown and make a night of it, rather than walking down the street in our flip-flops.” (Tammy and Patrick are residents of Ocean Beach; Third Corner is just down the street.) Downtown has the retro-fabulous Italian red-sauce chain Buca di Beppo. “It’s a terrible commercial indulgence and super-overindulgence, period,” according to Patrick, but the couple are big fans anyway. Downtown also has Donovan’s steakhouse, along with Morton’s, Prime 10, and Ruth’s Chris. “We’re big steak eaters,” says Patrick. “By far, Fleming’s is the best.”

Tonight’s meat is thin slices of top loin sirloin. “I used to make it all the time in Seattle,” says Tammy, “but I don’t remember what I used to do. I probably wasn’t even doing it right; I didn’t have a recipe. I just did it.” She browns the strips of beef, then sets them simmering in beef stock. In this Betty Crocker version, she notes, “there are so few spices. Worcestershire sauce and salt — not even pepper. I put pepper on the beef.” Tammy is not a slave to recipes. When she does Thanksgiving, she does without them, whether from her mother-in-law’s cookbook offerings or from magazines — except when it comes to the turkey. “I use Martha Stewart’s turkey recipe. She used cheesecloth and melted butter and white wine. You soak the cheesecloth and then cover the...
bird with it. Then you cook it until the cheesecloth is black and take it off. It’s the moistest turkey — it’s really, really good.

Thanksgiving is a long-standing tradition for Tammy and Patrick, if not exactly a family tradition. “We’ve thrown Thanksgiving every year since we’ve been together — 10 or 11 years,” says Tammy. “It’s gotten bigger and bigger, and it’s gone from Stove Top to real stuffing.” The couple started out hosting “people who you do Thanksgiving for because they aren’t going home,” says Patrick. Now, there are “people flying in just to have Thanksgiving with you. We’ve had people from Seattle, Los Angeles, Arizona, back East.”

“And our family. But no grown-ups are allowed. Our sisters will come.” It may be just as well for the old folks — healthwise, anyway. “When Patrick’s father was still alive, reports Tammy, “his mother would not let me make mashed potatoes. She was afraid I’d kill everybody, harden their arteries instantly. I boil a five-pound bag of potatoes, add a stick of butter, a package of cream cheese, a pint of sour cream, and salt and pepper. It’s so good.”

“What made our parents really upset,” adds Patrick, “is that all of a sudden, our siblings are saying, ‘Well, we don’t want to be here. We want to be where they are.’” The exclusion of grown-ups at Thanksgiving is done to preserve the tradition’s character — gathering in those wandering peers who, for whatever reason, end up not resting in the bosom of their own parents’ homes come that most familial of holidays. It is not a knock at Patrick’s or Tammy’s parents, all of whom live in Flagstaff. The distance is ideal — nearby but not next door. (“Not that that would be terrible, but...” muses Tammy.) And that ideal distance helped make San Diego the couple’s destination when it came time to escape the rain of Seattle after Tammy finished her Masters of Fine Arts work at the University of Washington.

“It was just another awful rainy day in Seattle,” she recalls, “and we went to a restaurant and had lunch and went home and pulled...
open the atlas and said, "Any-
where but here. We've too far
from family, too cold, too
whatever." I said, "I'd move
to San Diego. It's nice down
there,' even though I was
hesitant about the whole
Southern California thing."
Tammy hails from Vermont,
another coldly place, and she
harbored the classic Yankee
suspicion of excessive sun-
shine and comfort. Still, she
wanted out of Seattle.
"We talked about going back
East," says Patrick.
"There's a good writers'
community in D.C. and a
good theater community"—
Patrick works as a direc-
tor/managing director. "Then
my father got sick, and I
spent a lot of time going
back and forth to Phoenix
for three or four months. After
he passed away, we thought it
was sort of neces-
sary to be near Mom."
"And my parents had
just left Vermont and moved
to Flagstaff," says Tammy.
"It's nice that our families are
a day's drive away. We can
get there, and they can come
out here."
"Tammy's whole out-
look at the time was, 'It
doesn't matter where I live; I
am a writer,'" continues
Patrick. "I need an urban
area where there were lots
of people. I didn't want to do
L.A.: I wasn't ready for the
whole industry-game thing.
San Diego was nice because
I could just go up to L.A., do
something, and come back.
San Francisco was like Seat-
tle — still too far away."

While Tammy was visiting
family, Patrick came
down and scouted the city
with his mother. "I did a lot of
research about cool places
to live, and they kept talk-
ing about how Pacific Beach
was really hip. My mother
and I went out to Pacific
Beach one night, and neither
of us are terribly fuddy-
duddy, but we felt that it
would be like living in a
dorm. Later, we were driv-
ing around, and we missed
an exit on the freeway, and
we ended up in Ocean Beach."
"Everything we had
read about O.R. said that it
was all hippies," says Tammy,
"and that was the last thing
either of us wanted. But
once we got here, we fell in
love. I'm from a really small
town, and he's from the city,
and this is our comprome-
sis — it's like our little
town within the city. Espe-
cially now that I have the
girls, I'm always out walk-
ing. I love being able to
go down to Newport and
know the pizza guy." The couple
found an apartment on
Lotus Street. "Some friends
flew down from Seattle and
helped us move in."
"I was more pessimistic
about the SoCal thing —
he was born in L.A. and
grew up in Phoenix. But
now, I'm probably the one
who's more in love with San
Diego. I moved around
so much after college; it's the
first place where I’ve let
myself put down roots. We've
made a lot of really close
friends in the neighborhood
and outside the neighbor-
hood. Friends we met before
we had kids or anything like
that. If we were to move
now — you meet people
based on your common
interests." And, to some
extent, based upon your
common family status.

"We have a group of
friends that we were really
close to at Northern Ari-
 zona University," explains
Patrick. "They've all moved
out here together. So we’ve
got this kidless group." Now
that Patrick and Tammy
have children, "moving any-
where else, however excit-
ting the change would be in
terms of either job or atmo-

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sphere,” would make forming a kidless circle difficult.

“The prospect of Mommy and Me groups really...” begins Tammy, in a tone mixed with wariness and horror.

“We've got all this wonderful Mommy and Me stuff to do at our daughter's school,” cuts in Patrick, “and I don’t think Tammy's taken part in any of them. It’s just a different — when you don’t need to network and make friends and build a community around yourself, you don’t tend to.”

However deep their O.B. roots, the arrival of the girls — Kiki, now two and a half, and Esme, just six months — nearly drove them from the beach. “We've had a lot of friends who have had to leave the beach area in order to find something that’s more conducive,” says Tammy. “We have friends who just bought a house in Alpine, which is so far away.”

“And other friends who just bought a house in Temecula,” adds Patrick. “We never see them. They just had a baby, and nobody goes to visit them or anything.”

“They’re the ones who went to the moon,” I offer. “Exactly. It’s terrible.”

They didn’t want to leave, but they couldn’t afford to buy on the beach, so they started working their way inland. They found a fixer in North Park that charmed them, but, says Patrick, “It was on one of those sort of long, endless North Park streets. Tammy was hemming and hawing about leaving the neighborhood. We did all our pre-qual stuff and then updated it — and updated it. The realtor was calling and saying, ‘I don’t know why I'm calling you anymore, because you're not going to buy a house.’”

“I'm here all the time,” says Tammy. “I'm in the house a lot. I just had visions of these tiny houses with two kids and no place to walk.”

They thought about following friends up to the suburbs of Carmel Valley, but O.B. had spoiled them for anything else. They were driving back from the North Park house when they saw the For Rent sign on their current home, a turn-of-the-century bungalow backing up onto Robb Field. The backyard belonged to the tenant living in the converted boathouse out back — “I guess the bay used to come all the way up here,” observes Tammy — but there was room in front for kids to play. And Robb Field's spacious green swaths were just over the fence. “We called immediately,” says Patrick. “We tried to buy it, but they wouldn't sell it. It's been in their family for generations. We decided that space meant more than ownership right now. We figured we could wait until the market crashes to buy.”

A year later, they’re almost out of boxes. “Unpacking with kids is ridiculous,” says Tammy. “But not unpacking is dangerous. Kiki's coming up to me with stuff and saying, ‘What's this, Mommy? Oh, that's a knife!’”

The kitchen, as in many old houses, is in the back and leads out to a raised deck that takes in the view — Robb Field, Mount Soledad, the Sea World Tower, Mission Bay Yacht Club. Patrick tells me that “every evening at ten before ten during the summer, Sea World lets off this amazing fireworks dis-

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play. All our friends want to come over for the Fourth of July, because we get Sea World, La Jolla, and Pacific Beach."

Inside, the kitchen — like the rest of the house — is painted what Tammy calls "rental white." "We begged them to let us paint," she says. "I did murals in Kiki’s room. But I think they got the sense that we weren’t going to stay here for five years. If I owned the place, I would strip all the woodwork — the living and dining rooms feature five-foot-high, staggered-depth plank wainscoting — “and rip up the carpets. But it’s all right.” The rest of the kitchen matches the rental white’s muted tone: the floor is mocha-swirly vinyl, the cabinets are cream, and the counter is leather-brown Formica. Tammy sets out crackers and cheese on the small wooden table situated beneath the pass-through to the dining room.

Hugging the wall next to the table is a handpainted stool; the bright paint contrasts with the surroundings. Around its upper rim are the opening lines of the Five Stairsteps’ "Ooh Child": "Ooh-oo child, things are gonna get easier/ Ooh-oo child, things’ll get brighter." Tammy painted the stool for Patrick to sit upon while he brews beer, a hobby. The lyrics were taken from their wedding song. ("I’ve gotten better at painting furniture," says Tammy, and it’s true. Later, she shows me a toy chest in the children’s playroom decorated with her spot-on copy of an illustration from Guess How Much I Love You?!

If Tammy had listened to her father, she might have met Patrick sooner than she did. Just before she left for graduate school in Flagstaff, her mother and father attended a business conference in Orlando. There, they met a couple whose children were already at Northern Arizona University. "My parents drove out with me; I was 23, and it was the first time I had ever left Vermont. When we got out there, my dad said, ‘You have to call these people. I said, ‘I’m not calling these people. There’s nothing more pathetic than calling and saying, ‘My dad said to call you.’ "

A year later, she met Patrick at a bar; they had friends in common. It wasn’t until her parents were preparing to visit that she told them about her new boyfriend, who turned out to be the person she was supposed to call.

Patrick picks up the story. "So that year, the Phoenix Suns were in the NBA finals against the Chicago Bulls, and game seven was played on Father’s Day. We had this big barbecue. My parents were already there, visiting from Phoenix, and her parents show up from Vermont. The two fathers met — ‘Hey! Whassup? How you doing?’ — and they were
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job with a director in Seattle who went on to work with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. He thought about attending an M.F.A. program at Yale. The school wanted him, “and it’s always thrilling to be told that you’re wanted by people of that stature.” He loved New Haven. “But they don’t fund you until your third year, no matter who you are. I talked with Tammy, and we knew that we wanted to have a family, and we wanted another baby kind of right away, just to be done with it.” “And I didn’t want to have to be working full-time while he was in graduate school,” concludes Tammy. “We had already suffered through financing my graduate-school experience,” says Tammy. “They had an M.A. writing program at NAU, but they didn’t have an M.F.A. program.” For that, she went to the University of Washington. “A creative writing program buys you time to write, and it buys you people who will listen to your work.”

For Tammy, getting the M.F.A. was not a golden idyll. “It was so nasty and competitive. The teachers were great writers but not necessarily great at teaching. I had some who were good, but they were busy. They were doing book tours, the things you do when you’re a successful writer. I teach a writing course at the UCSD Extension Program, and I had a student ask me, ‘Would you recommend an M.F.A. program?’” Tammy had to admit that her own degree didn’t even help her get an agent’s attention. “I sent a cover letter, and she wrote back saying, ‘Please send your first 50 pages.’” She got them, and she wrote to say, “I don’t know where this came from, but I’d like to see the rest of it.” She didn’t remember the cover letter; I could have been anybody, with any background. She’s hesitant to dismiss the worth of an M.F.A. altogether; “It’s just a shame there’s so much debt associated with it.”

As she says, the program does give time to write—in her case, a thesis/novel that snagged her an agent. “She was never able to sell it, but I wrote Breathing Water”—her first published novel—“while the agent was trying to sell it.” Still, that first effort was a finished work, and so it rated a bottle of champagne in celebration. She still has the cork—one of five mounted in a shadowbox on the wall in her office. Each is inscribed with the date of the manuscript’s completion. “I always try to finish a book on an interesting date. The first is 9/6/96. The second, 3/28/98, was my grandfather’s birthday. That was Breathing Water, and my grandfather figured into the book a lot. Then 1/9/99 and 2/22/00” — Nearer than the Sky and Undressing the Moon.”

“The last one was last fall, but that won’t see the light of day. Esme was due, and I was trying to finish quickly—hoping that something would happen financially before she was born, which is never a good way to write. I sent it off to my agent knowing that it wasn’t quite up to par. She’s a good reader and an honest critic, and she said, ‘This should not be your next book.’ I found out I was getting the NEA grant, and

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then the next day, she wrote back. I had never felt so simultaneously elated and deflated. “Why did it fail?” she says — the years taken off to start a family had left her rusty. And before, “I was able to sit for six, seven hours a day, and that just doesn’t happen anymore. I’m lucky if I get half an hour at night. I love my teaching because we do free writing in class. We do 40 minutes of writing in a three-hour class, and I’m thinking, ‘This is all I’m getting this week.’ ”

Other factors, beyond the mere dulling of the writing habit, may have worked against the manuscript. The story was her first set outside Vermont, a conscious attempt to break what was becoming a pattern for her books. It was also her first in which the main character was male — inspired by the “one weird middle-aged white guy in an orange vest” who always seemed to be involved in the search for a missing child. “It was sort of, ‘Who are you? What would compel someone to become involved in the search?’ ”

But both Patrick and her agent agreed that he was too passive, that too much happened without his causing it.

The killing stroke, however, may have been simply that it was not a likely hit.
“There’s a weird thing — the breakout book for an author. With three books published, it’s kind of like the next one has to be the one that’s going to make my career. As a rule, that’s the way it happens: if you’re a midlist author and it doesn’t happen by your third or fourth book, it probably won’t happen. And it gets harder and harder to get things published if you’re not making big sales. Literary fiction is not something that publishing companies spend a lot of time marketing. If they can make their money back, that’s great.”

The office — “We share it, but he doesn’t really do much in here,” says Tammy — is packed into a small room with big windows off the dining room. A poster of Audrey Hepburn in Breakfast at Tiffany’s hangs just inside the entrance, but after that, just about everything is bookish. What Tammy calls her revising doll sits atop a shelf, to be taken down and set beside the computer during the tedious process of rewriting. Besides the corks, open sections of wall display a shadowbox of butterflies — a hobby of one of the characters in Breathing Water — and a poster advertising a speech given at Northern Arizona by Toni Morrison, one of Tammy’s favorite authors. Two framed book jackets from Tammy’s own novels, a gift from Patrick, await hanging.

Sheer burgundy curtains cover the windows; bookshelves cover most of everything else. The books are arranged alphabetically and separated according to hardcover and paperback. The collection is mostly novels — the poetry and teaching books are in the narrow, glass-door secretary where Tammy writes. She

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purchased it on Newport with money left her by her grandmother. The Agatha Christie is Patrick’s; most of Tammy’s books are more contemporary. John Irving, Barbara Kingsolver, Alice Hoffman, Toni Morrison, A.M. Homes, Donna Tatt, Paul Auster. Moby Dick makes an appearance, as does Edith Wharton, and Paul Auster. “I think that was a gift,” says Tammy. “But it was writing life. ”

“Does Edith Wharton, and Paul Auster. “I think that was a gift,” says Tammy. “But it was writing life. ”

After books, typewriters take up the most amount of space. A late-teens Remington; a Skywriter from the ‘50s, built to fit on an airplane tray table; an electric that she wrote on as a child. She stands to inherit a typewriter from each of her deceased grandfathers, one of whom was “writing letters on it to me right up until the day he passed away.” For whimsy, the collection boasts a bright yellow Tony’s Tutor Typer.

Patrick’s public collection sits on a built-in shelf next to the fireplace in the house’s long living room, its rental white spike with purple curtains and couch. Glass vials in a rack, each containing a quantity of dirt. “The older sister of a colleague of mine went to Egypt, and she asked, ‘What do you want me to get you?’ I said, ‘I don’t know — get me dirt from Africa. I want the earth.’ or something stupid like that. She comes back with this dirt and says, ‘I got this from the entrance into the second Great Pyramid.’ I thought, ‘Wow, that’s very cool.’” He began requesting more. “This demure little white woman” brought him soil from the notorious island prison off the coast of South Africa. A neighbor brought some from “a monster climb in Peru. And a friend of mine who’d been to Africa pulled out a sandwich bag at a party and plopped it on my kitchen counter.” Inside? Soil from Kilimanjaro. “Word spread. I’ve probably got three times what’s on display.”

There is a method to the rest of the stuff on the fireplace shelves. Art books share space with craft and parenting magazines. Above that are religion, philosophy, and politics. Kahil Gibran up against The Gnostic Gospels, with Hegel, Heidegger, and Richard McBrien’s Orthodoxism close by. “To me, religion and politics are all the same,” explains Tammy. Both Patrick and Tammy were raised Catholic. Neither is religious today. “We had a big talk with my mother after the oldest one was born,” says Patrick. “We said, ‘We’re not doing the baptizing thing.’ She was like, ‘Oh...all right. Okay, Are you sure that’s wise?’ Yes, it’ll be fine.’ Okay...all right’. And now our daughter goes to a Jewish preschool — although after being raised Catholic, the Jewish tradition makes a lot more sense than a lot of other things in the world. Our favorite story is that she kept talking about the holidays. We thought, ‘How does she know about that?’ She was talking about Fridays — Chilulah-day at school.”

The old habits die hard, however. Tammy: “We told Kiki the Easter Bunny would only come through our neighbor’s garden this year — we celebrated the Easter Bunny and Passover simultaneously.”

“The poor kid,” sighs Patrick. “Her first three years

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1-hr. Facial, includes 15-minute Head and Neck Acupressure
$125 (reg. $150) Exp. 12/31/04

1/2-hr. Reflexology (Foot Massage) • Myotonology Face-Lift
$145 (reg. $180) Exp. 12/31/04

1-hr. La Hot Stone Massage • 1/2-hr. Reflexology (Foot Massage)
$70 (reg. $85) Exp. 12/31/04

1-hr. Stress Relief Back Treatment, 1/2-hr. Reflexology (Foot Massage), 1/2-hr. Head and Neck Acupressure
$120 (reg. $150) Exp. 12/31/04

1-hr. Reflexology (Foot Massage) • Myotherapy Face-Lift
$165 (reg. $195) Exp. 12/31/04

1/2-hr. Reflexology (Foot Massage) • Myotonology Face-Lift
$145 (reg. $180) Exp. 12/31/04

1/2-hr. Reflexology (Foot Massage) • Myotherapy Face-Lift
$145 (reg. $180) Exp. 12/31/04

1/2-hr. Reflexology (Foot Massage) • Myotherapy Face-Lift
$145 (reg. $180) Exp. 12/31/04

1-hr. Head and Neck Acupressure, 1/2-hr. Express Facial, Spa Pedicure and Manicure.
$170 per person or all share (reg. $195) Exp. 12/31/04

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Undressing the Moon is about one of the poor people, while the themes are heavy enough, the language is light and, in places, lyrical, full of deft description. Glass — broken, found, colored, illumined — is everywhere: as metaphor, as symbol, in descriptions, and in fact. “That’s the poet in me. That refrain that keeps coming back.” She thinks it her best book in terms of its narrative structure and language but admits that she’s “not into plot,” and there’s a lot of strife and hardship there that you don’t hear about. There are people who are middle class, and then there are the poor people.”

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“People meet me sometimes and say, ‘You’re so happy and...well-adjusted,’“ Tammy explains. “I say, ‘Well, this is fiction.’”

Now she is into a new novel. The character is male again, but this time, he is back in Vermont. “It’s a story that I’ve wanted to tell for a long, long time. I think I was waiting until I was ready to write it. Now I’m ready.”

— Matthew Lickona
all negativity — into what? Lipstick! “Now go out and kiss the world,” he urged the reader. Right! Cherchez la femme. Women as the well-known cause of all woe — such as bombs dropping over Baghdad, 100,000 Iraqi civilians killed, and so on. Not unless that’s Condoleezza Rice’s lipstick you’re talking about.

Reader, let’s have less of Mr. Luc’s embittered poetry.

Your November 4 cover, “Funeral Blues,” was appropriate for two days after a national election in which the people voted and Diedbold elected. The one bright spot in the nightmare was the election of Donna Frye as mayor of San Diego. This made headlines around the nation. An ex—San Diegans mailed me a page from the November 5 issue of the Billings, Montana, Gazette with the headline “Surfer likely next mayor of San Diego.”

Now San Diego is the new Florida. It’s not enough for America’s Finest City to be headlined as “Enron by the Bay” in the New York Times for its pension-underfunding scandal, but the only councilperson who had the ovaries to vote against business as usual at City Hall is having her election jerked out from under her by a judge in a manner reminiscent of the 2000 Supreme Court gambit. I’ve come up with a quick fix for San Diego’s pension problem. Let’s let Alex Spanos, multimillionaire owner of the Chargers, fully fund the pension plan. After all — in a travesty of capitalism where usually it’s the entrepreneur who takes the risk and reaps the profit — Spanos let the city of San Diego assume the expense of a new stadium while he fielded decades of disappointing football teams and lollled on his estate in Stockton profiting from his risk-free ticket guarantee. Donna Frye’s dog is named Diogenes. I think we need to quit looking for an honest man at City Hall and let the people’s will go forward to install an honest woman.

Linda Brown
Encinitas

If a poem I write fails to be understood by a reader, then

I believe the failure, the responsibility, is mine. It’s pointless to try to explain or paraphrase what I was trying to do in “Render, Render.” I will say its intentions are affirmative, celebratory, with not a peep of the embittered. I’ll admit to being dismayed sometimes (though not in this poem!) but embittered: nope. My life is too filled with blessings. — Tom Luc

Cuff Slays Leno
Was watching the Tonight Show with Jay Leno last night (November 29). On Mondays he does a thing called “Headlines,” where people send in miscellaneous dumb ads/miscellaneous things from papers/whatever that is just a little weird or funny. Last night he did one from a paper — didn’t say what one, but he said, “This is from the ‘Off the Cuff’ section of a paper.” It looked a lot like the Reader, how you have the pics of the people on top, then their quote below, then the rest of the page. About a guy who prefers a girl who can read as opposed to one who has BIG JUGS! And it cracked him up! Was it from the Reader?

Ward Elliott
Clairemont Mesa

Yes. The column appeared November 11. — Editor

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We are lucky that he failed," says Leslie Klinger of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. "He had a practice as an ophthalmologist in Portsmouth. Then he moved to London where he didn’t get any business. With a lot of time on his hands, he turned to writing stories and eventually realized he could make money that way.

Doyle and his friend Rudyard Kipling each made more money than any other writer of their day. The Sherlock Holmes stories were the most profitable, but Doyle didn’t think much of them. They even became a burden to him. "And that’s why he killed Holmes off in the falls of Reichenbach," says Klinger.

Doyle wrote other works that he considered more serious literature. But they are little known in comparison with the famous detective stories, which have spawned over 200 films and have turned Sherlock Holmes into a character regularly appearing on Sesame Street.

On Saturday, December 11, Leslie S. Klinger, who practices law full-time in Los Angeles, will appear at D.G. Wills Books in La Jolla to discuss and autograph the first two volumes of his work The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes. The books contain 56 short stories in which Holmes is the main character. Each book has 1000 literary, biographical, or cultural annotations and, together, 700 photographs from the magazines in which the stories first appeared. The third volume in the work is to cover the longer Holmes stories and will come out a year from now.

According to Klinger, Doyle credited his focus on crime scene details to medical school professor Joseph Bell, who taught students to search the bodies of their patients for clues to their maladies. "Today," he says, "students of forensics read the Sherlock Holmes stories, not as textbooks, but for the fundamental approach of their science, which Doyle greatly influenced. For instance, he invented the plaster casts they use to gather evidence."

Klinger calls the Holmes stories "deep psychological tales" of good and evil that derive popularity especially from the traits of their heroes. "Holmes is this strong, independent character who knows everything," says Klinger, "and Watson the loyal friend we’d all like in our lives."

True to his cultural roots, Doyle tells his stories with no hint of sex. "The attitude was that sex is dirty and does not belong in books," says Klinger. "Sherlock Holmes is the perfect gentleman. But Doyle also wrote a few horror novels such as The Parasite, which hints at the dark side with focus on a kind of vampiric psychic power.

"The Holmes stories occasionally do have a sexual tension involving twisted love affairs," adds Klinger. Late in his life, Doyle became interested in the plights of women in marriages to abusive husbands. He became active in the National Divorce Reform Union in England. The Adventure of the Abbey Grange is a story Doyle wrote about a man who loves a woman married to "an alcoholic beast. The lover kills the husband," says Klinger, "and then Doyle lets him off by having Watson, whom Holmes calls representative of a good English jury, declare the killer to be a fine person."

The one extant interview with Doyle on film (he died in 1930) shows him talking for most of the time about spiritualism, which was popular in England and America in the 1920s. So many people had lost loved ones in World War I and wanted to contact them again," explains Klinger. "Doyle became a spokesman for that movement, though he always did have an interest in psychic phenomena. And he lost his own wife and son."

Critics complained that Doyle was much too credulous and that his spiritualist convictions grew only out of grief over losing his son in the war. When two girls turned up with photos they purported showed fairies, Doyle declared them legitimate. "But he was greatly embarrassed," says Klinger, "after the girls later confessed it was a hoax.

"At one point," according to Klinger, "Harry Houdini and Doyle became close friends. It was an odd relationship; Houdini was always trying to show evidence that spiritualism was false. Doyle argued his own case, and the friendship eventually broke down."

Doyle has his character Professor Challenger of The Lost World convert to spiritualism. Yet in The Land of Mist, Challenger says, "There seems to me to be absolutely no limit to the inanity of the human race. Homo sapiens! Homo idioticus! Who do they pray to — the ghosts?" And Sherlock Holmes says in The Adventures of the Sussex Vampire, "This world is big enough for us. No ghosts need apply." When pressed about these sentiments, according to Klinger, Doyle replied, "Don’t confuse the puppet with the master."

— Joe Deegan

Booksigning: The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes by Leslie Klinger
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Ballet del Noroeste de México presents The Nutcracker, at 6 p.m., Friday through Sunday, December 10-12, at Tijuana Cultural Center (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Rio). 011-52-664-684-0182. (Tijuana)

*Posada and Women Artisans in Ensenada,* excursion sponsored by San Diego Natural History Museum on Saturday, December 11, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Participants visit studios to meet artists and see works in progress; enjoy traditional Mexican posada with candlelight processions, music, dancing. Mexican food. $89 fee includes food, bus transportation. Registration: 619-255-0203. (Ensenada)

Elgy Guerra performs in concert December 11, 9 p.m., at Multikulti, Bujazán Theater (Avenida Constitución). 011-52-664-680-2631. (Tijuana)

Hike to San Diego County’s High Places to take advantage of December’s characteristic clear air. From spots such as Stonewall Peak in Cayucamas Ranch State Park, Wooded Hilltop Garnet Park in the Laguna Mountains Recreation Area, and Boucher Hill at Palomar Mountain State Park, vistas stretching a hundred miles across the Pacific Ocean and/or desert interior are not uncommon at this time of year. If your vantage point includes a view of the ocean, look for the dark profiles of Santa Catalina and San Clemente islands, lying northwest and west of San Diego respectively.

Liquidambar Trees, or sweetgum, are frequently deciduous trees growing front yards, parks, and campuses throughout the San Diego area, have been putting on a good show for the past month. The maplike leaves of some varieties have turned from green to purple to red; the leaves of other varieties have faded to a golden yellow. Other varieties will hold on to their leaves until the New Year. More will regain their foliage by late February.

Gathering Around Sunset (around 5:30 p.m.) on east side of Mission Trails Regional Park, members of San Diego Astronomy Association will host a planetarium tour narrative (weather permitting, around 10 p.m.) on east side of Kumeyaay Campground, Mission Trails Regional Park. Directions, reservations: 619-338-9888. (Kumeyaay)

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Search for Santa’s Reindeer — and More when naturalist Dorothy Klitzing leads moderate, 3.5-mile walk in Daley Ranch on Saturday, December 11. Adventure starts at 3 p.m. in main parking lot on La Honda Drive. Requested reservations: 760-839-4680. Free.

Identify Wildlife Tracks when San Diego Tracking Team hosts beginning and intermediate tracking walks, Saturday, December 11, 8 a.m., in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. To reach Adobe Ranch House, take Canyonside Park Drive off Black Mountain Road, follow signs to ranch house; 858-513-0359. Free. 

December’s Exceptional Tidal Events: On Sunday, December 12, the tide reaches +7.2 feet at 3:54 p.m. On Monday, December 13, the tide reaches a level of +7.2 feet at 9:21 a.m. and falls to -1.8 feet at 4:43 p.m. Visit a gently shelving beach, such as Coronado’s, in the middle of the day to watch the water gradually recede with almost every breaker.

Winter in the Chaparral, Rick Halber leads hike for Anza-Borrego Institute in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park on Sunday, December 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Trip starts with discussion of chaparral’s relationship to fire; continues with drive to various sites to observe different types of chaparral. Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, wear hiking boots. Easy hiking. $45. Reservations: 760-682-7200.

Observe Nature Restoring Itself in San Diego Audubon Society’s Silverwood Sanctuary, which was burned during last autumn’s fires. Guided walks offered at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Sundays by reservation only (619-682-7200). The sanctuary is located at 13003 Wildcat Canyon Road (five miles from Ashwood-Mapleview turn). Free. 

Explore “Ravishing Rancho Santa Fe” when Walkabout adventurers head out on Sunday, December 12. Moderate-plus seven-mile walk starts at 8:30 a.m. in front of Inn at Rancho Santa Fe (at foot of Paseo Delicias). 619-231-7463. Free. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

Focus on Shorebirds when Audubon Society Fledgling Birders head out to San Elijo Lagoon on Monday, December 13, 8 to 11 a.m. Bring scope, water. Easy hiking. Directions: 619-280-7710. Free. (SOLANA BEACH)

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Escape to the Natural Beauty of Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve, with secluded native plant communities such as oak riparian, oak woodland, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral. The 750-acre open space park features ten miles of trails, primitive picnic areas, mountain viewing points. The reserve is found on Harmony Grove Road near Elfin Forest, open daily from 8 a.m. until around one half-hour before sunset. 760-632-4212. (ELFIN FOREST)

Gino Lizardi weaves stories from past with developments of future.
**Rising starkly behind the San Fernando and Crescenta valley communities of Sylmar, San Fernando, Sunland, and Tujunga, the western ridges of the San Gabriel Mountains have a lean and hungry look. Yet there is a gentler, more hidden side to these mountains, too. That’s what you’ll discover at Trail Canyon, where riparian glens and pocket forests of oak squeeze between chapped arid canyon walls punctuated by arid rock outcrops.

At intervals during this likely wet winter to come, Trail Canyon’s normally infrequent flow may become a torrent. After tumbling through miles of rock-bound constrictions and sliding across several moderate inclines, the water enters the lip of a precipice. There the bubbly mixture momentarily attains weightlessness during a free-fall of about 30 feet. If you can manage to ignore the vastly smaller scale of this spectacle, you might imagine yourself in Yosemite Valley during spring runoff.

The falls in Trail Canyon are easy to approach, except during the most intense flooding, when the several floods you must cross on the way may be dangerously deep.

From the football community of Sunland, off Interstate-210, take either Oro Vista Avenue or Mt. Gleason Avenue north to Big Tujunga Canyon Road, and turn right. Some 5 miles up Big Tujunga Canyon, on the left (mile 2.0 according to highway mile markers), look for the dirt road turnoff for the Trail Canyon trailhead. Turn left (north) on that dirt road, drive 0.2 mile up to a fork, go right, and descend 0.2 mile to an oak-shaded parking area on the right, just above Trail Canyon’s crest. A National Park Service Adventure Pass is needed for parking there.

Continue up the same road on foot, passing a few cabins and losing the creek to the first sight. This very-deteriorated road lines on to follow an east tributary for the first time, a double back, contours around a ridge, and drops into Trail Canyon again (0.6 mile). The road ends there, and you continue up canyon on a footpath. The path climbs to the banks for 0.5 mile, crossing the stream several times, and then climbs the west wall to avoid a narrow, chocked section of the canyon. The falls come into view as you round a sharp bend about 1.5 miles from the parking area.

Although many people have obviously done so, it’s difficult and dangerous to slide down from the trail to the base of the falls. The falls can also be reached by bushwhacking up the canyon from the point where the trail begins its ascent of the west wall. Those sensitive to poison oak might think twice about stepping off the trail.

Past the falls, Trail Canyon Trail continues upstream to cozy Tom Lucas Trail Camp (four miles from the trailhead) and onward to a junction with the Condor Peak Trail. Ambitious hikers and backpackers can set their sights on a significant high point, Condor Peak, straightway reached by means of a short, steep scramble west from the Condor Peak Trail. One or more of the Channel Islands, floating above the coastal haze or smog, are frequently seen from Condor Peak's windswept summit.
LECTURES

Explore “Past in Reverse” during gallery talks on Thursday, December 9 (9 p.m.), and Sunday, December 12, 2 p.m., at San Diego Museum of Art. Included in regular admission.

“An Phirimne” (Irish for “the truth”) is an Irish organization composed of family members of victims of British occupation. Representatives Sharon Pickering and Bernice Swift will examine “collusion issues between unionist death squads and British security forces” on Saturday, December 11, 3 p.m., at Lestat’s Coffeehouse (3343 Adams Avenue). Donation: 951-377-6319. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

“Discover Your Animal Spirit Guides” when third-generation psychic Rebecca Bloom presents workshop for Cadent Cross Institute on Saturday, December 11, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Sleepy Hollow Clubhouse (4201 Sixth Avenue). $30 fee includes materials. Required reservation: 619-660-8614. (HILLCREST)

The Essay “The Roots of War” and chapters 16 and 17 of Capitalism: The Unknown Ideal by Ayn Rand provide fodder when Objectivist Discussion Group meets on Sunday, December 12, 6 p.m., at Claire de Lune Coffeehouse (2006 University Avenue). Free. Bring your own text. 619-291-5754. (NORTH PARK)

“How to Do 15-Minute Astrology Readings” revealed when professional astrologer Keith Burke presents workshop for Cadent Cross Institute on Sunday, December 12, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Sleepy Hollow Clubhouse (4201 Sixth Avenue). Some working knowledge of astrology is required. $35. Registration: 619-299-2897. (HILLCREST)

“How to Grow Your Own Medicine” presented by “an expert on indoor gardening” when Americans for Safe Access gather for “medical marijuana informational meeting” on Tuesday, December 14, 7 p.m., at Twigs Tea and Coffee (4950 Park Boulevard). Free. 619-992-8082. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

Japanese-Style Holiday Flower Arrangements displayed during Ikebana International meeting on Wednesday, December 15, 10 a.m., room 101 of Casa del Prado. 760-728-3586. Free. (EL CAJON)

The United States 100 Years from Now — Scenarios” presented on Wednesday, December 15, 7 p.m., at Living Room Coffeehouse (417 University Avenue). Free. 619-295-7911. (HILLCREST)

IN PERSON

Professor Fred Mora-marco, co-editor of The Poetry of Men’s Lives and co-author of Italian Pride: 101 Reasons to Be Proud You’re American, signs and discusses his books

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A “Christmas Spectacular” is presented on Friday, December 10, 7:30 p.m., at Torrey Pines Christian Church (8250 La Jolla Scenic Drive North). Program includes West Coast Radio Theater episodes of “The Pickwickers,” “Bob and Ray,” and “A Christmas Carol,” as well as performances from Torrey Pines Opera Theatre offering Christmas favorites and light opera. Tickets: $10 general, $8 for those under 12. 858-597-9377. (LA Jolla)

San Diego Poetry Guild Fall Reading Series features poets Jennifer K. Dick and Stephen-Paul Martin on Friday, December 10, 7 p.m., at Factory School (1916 Madison Avenue). Reading followed by discussion, reception. Free. 619-644-8545. (GUILD HEIGHTS)

You’re invited to a Christmas Celebration with author Christopher Moore (The Slapstick Universe) on Friday, December 10, 7 p.m., at Mysterious Galaxy Books (7531 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard; 858-584-2477). Free. (CLAREMONT)

The “Decay and Decadence” Issue of the Pacific Review is commemorated with readings by nine contributors on Friday, December 10, 7 p.m., at D.G. Wills Books (7414 Girard Avenue). Free. 858-459-1600. (LA Jolla)

Songwriters’ Concert on Friday, December 10, showcases students playing songs they composed in songwriting class. Instrumental and vocal renditions of music from various eras and in various styles presented. Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in Miramar College Theatre (One Barnard Drive). $10. 760-799-4560.

Ever Seen a Guilti? It’s described as a double-necked instrument with 14 strings! You will when Acoustic Eidolon performs for San Diego Folk Heritage on Saturday, December 11, 7:30 p.m., at San Diego United Methodist Church (1790 Calle Magdalena). $15. 858-566-4040. (ENCINITAS)

The Gay Men’s Chorus of San Diego performs Saturday, December 11, 7-4:55 p.m. (following reception at 7 p.m.), at Star Theatre (402 North Coast Highway). $10. 619-435-5568. (OCEAN BEACH)


“The Circus of Misconceptions,” described as a “multi-media arts event” with circus performers, paintings, photographs, video installations, is Saturday, December 11, 7 p.m., at North Park Dell and Grill (3832 30th Street). Free. 619-350-7834. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)


Fourth Annual Hawaiian Music “Stick” Davis and Rick Lomion — presents San Diego, December 11, 8 p.m., at Ramada Inn and Conference Center (5550 Kearny Mesa Road). Guests include Hookena, Halau Halau o Na Alii and Taupona Tickets: $35 in advance, $40 at door. Reservations: 619-426-1953. (LINDA VISTA)

“Classic Kwanzaa Poems: New and Selected” read from by poet JohnneteRia Nelson when African American Writers and Artists Inc. host Kwanzaa celebration for all ages on Saturday, December 11, 6-7 p.m., at City Heights Park and Recreation Center (4380 Lands). Free. 619-434-4425. (CITY HEIGHTS)

“Wonder of the Season,” holiday show presented by California Note Catchers women’s barbershop chorus, On Q, Mavrix, along with readings and instrumental music, Saturday, December 11, 4 p.m., at 8460 Lemon Avenue. $7. 619-464-3727. (LA JAYNA)

Author Linda Pynaker signs Make It Happen and offers 15-minute healing energy sessions on Saturday, December 11, noon to 4 p.m., at Sacred Pathway Bookstore (305 Carlbad Village Drive, suite 107). Free. 760-729-2434. (CARLSBAD)

“West Side Story” presented by the C-Bad Drama Club on December 11 and 12 at Carlbad Village Theatre (2822 State Street). These youth production performances start at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, 3:30 p.m. on Sunday. 760-729-9556. (CARLSBAD)

Christmas Concert by Notables choir group on Saturday, December 11, 7 p.m., at St. Columba Church Hall (3327 Glenbrook Drive). Offering: 619-582-4349. (SERRA MESA)

St. Mark’s Christmas Program is Sunday, December 12, 7 p.m., at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church (3092 Clairemont Drive). Music by Hallelujah Choir, Joyful Noise, Peace Ringers. Offering. 858-773-2287. (La Jolla)

“Harmony for Christmas” offered by 60-voice Palomar Pacific Music Men on Sunday, December 12, 4 p.m., at San Marcos Community Center (3 Kaw Civic Drive). Also on program: The Baker’s Dozen, Chapter Quarters, Woodland Park Middle School Chorus. $10 general, $12 reserved. 760-744-9000. (SAN MARCOS)

The San Diego Harmony Ringers perform on five octaves of Schillermerich handbells and three- and a-half octaves of Malmark Choir instruments. Receptions are Sunday, December 12, 2 p.m., in Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library (1775 Dove Lane). 760-662-2026. (LA JAYNA)

A “Truly Strange Musical Encounter” promised when Arrington de Duyn of (Old Time Revival) improvises with Cat Lamb, Didgeridoo, Skaters, Bill Whaley, offer on Sunday, December 12, 5:30 p.m., at 4862 Voltaire Street. $5. 619-692-0942. (OCEAN BEACH)

“Sounds of the Season” offered by Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Diego choir with da 9 @ 9. Signs-up at 8 p.m. Open readings 8:15 to 9:30 p.m. Free. 619-298-0161. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

The Fourth Annual All-Talent Show and contest on Monday, December 13, 6 p.m., in Turf-Rentine Room at Eccentric Lib- er (239 South 4th Avenue). 760-839-4566. (ESCONDIDO)
A Seasonal Program on Bells planned by Short Attention Span Chamber Music Series on Wednesday, December 15, 7:30 p.m., at Borders Books and Music (1072 Camino del Rio North). 619-295-2291. (MISSION VALLEY)

“Hillbilly Christmas Carol,” experience Dickens in bluegrass style during concerts Thursday through Saturday, December 16-18, at 8 p.m. each night, at South Bay Pentecostal Church (395 D Street). $10. 619-585-0600. (OCEANO VIEW)

Winter Highlights Concert offered by Palomar Concert Band on Thursday, December 16, 8 p.m., in Howard Brubeck Theatre at Palomar College (1140 West Mission Road). Concert honors memory of vintage radio broadcast with music of David Shaffer. $12. 760-735-9366. (SAN MARCOS)

**SPATIAL**

San Diego Gulls host Alaska Aces for series with ice hockey play Thursday, December 9, Saturday, December 11 (7:05 p.m.); and Sunday, December 12 (5:05 p.m.). The Long Beach Ice Dogs arrive for match on Wednesday, December 15, 7:05 p.m. Tickets range from $12 to $25, available by calling 619-234-4625. (SPORTS ARENA)

Bicycle from Carlsbad to Horton Plaza and enjoy the tailwinds with Knickerbockers on Saturday, December 11. The 40-mile ride for intermedium rides starts at Carlsbad Poinsettia Coaster station at 8:30 a.m. Riders ride south along coast, lunch at St. Troper near Horton Plaza, return to Carlsbad via 10:05 p.m. Coaster from Santa Fe station (arriving at Poinsettia station at 1:30 p.m.). Bring money for Coaster fare. Food: 760-603-9351. (CARLSBAD, DOWNTOWN)

Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis, the 5K walk/run/benefitting Arthritis Foundation is Saturday, December 11, west end of Presidents Way. The 5K starts at 8 a.m., one-mile “Paws for a Cause” Rudolph Run/Walk at 9:15 a.m. 858-492-1090. (BAY PARK)

Whale Watching by Kayak, hosted by Hike Bike Kayak San Diego, Saturday and Sunday, December 11 and 12, at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., off La Jolla Shores. $65 fee includes water, snacks, required equipment. Reservations: 858-551-9310. (LA Jolla)

ISF, Inland High School Surf Team Competition #3 takes place December 11 and 12 on south side of Oceanside Pier. Competition starts at 7 a.m. both days, concluding at 4 p.m. on Saturday, 3 p.m. on Sunday. Free for spectators. 760-551-1450. (ENCANTO)

A Holiday Tennis Party is planned on Saturday, December 11, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Mountain View Sports and Racquet Club (6401 Skyline Drive). Games, contests, tennis tips, clinic, workout, round-robin play. Free. You may bring dusk to share at potluck, $5 gift for gift bag. 619-221-5746 or 760-809-8437. (ENCANTO)

Bring a New, Unwrapped Toy to donate for Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign during USO’s seventh annual 8k/5k run and walk at Marine Corps Air Station on Saturday, December 11, 8 a.m. 619-235-6503. (MIMMAR)

“Dreams Come True: Battle Royal Teddy Bear Drive for Children’s Hospital,” presented by Southern California Alliance of Wrestling, Saturday, December 11, at La Mesa Indoor Soccer Arena (9856 Murray Drive). Doors open at 6 p.m., bell time at 7:15 p.m. Admission: $6 general, $3 children, or bring a teddy bear and get in free. 760-758-1388 or 619-379-9153. (LA MESA)

San Diego Chargers host Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Qualcomm Stadium on Sunday, December 12, 1:15 p.m. Tickets for future games: 877-CHARGERS. (MISSION VALLEY)

**Fantasy on Ice**, the county’s “only outside ice rink” is open for skating daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. through Monday, January 17, 2005, at Horton Square (225 Broadway). $10. 619-234-1031. Closed on Christmas. (DOWNTOWN)

Take an Oath to exercise during Southbay New Year’s Resolution Run, Friday, December 31. Meet at Southridge Park (corner of Paseo del Rey and East 1 Street) at noon to be sworn in by retired judge Roy Canares. Free. 619-482-4790. (SAN MARCOS)

**BORREGO SPRINGS**

**SPECIAL**

A Family of Huichol Indians from the Sierra Madre Occidental in Mexican state of Jalisco demonstrates beading techniques Tuesday through Saturday (December 18), 1 to 4 p.m., in Mingei International’s library (155 West Presidents Way). 760-735-3555 or 760-735-9866. (ENCANTO)

Celebrate Fiesta Guadalupana during exhibit and sale of handmade, lead-free Mexican ceramics...
opening with reception on Thursday, December 9, 6 to 9 p.m., at Institute of the Americas (1011 North Torrey Pines Road). Photographs by David Alanmian on display. Show continues through Wednesday, December 22 (weekdays, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). Free. Requested reservations: 858-453-5560. (LA JOLLA)

Garden of Lights, ninth annual event at Quail Botanical Gardens boasts gardens decorated with 90,000-plus sparkling lights on plants and trees. Holiday Garden of Lights can be enjoyed December 10-12, December 16-23, December 26-30. Horse-drawn wagon rides, nutcracker display, marshmallow roasting, holiday music, children’s activities, and food for sale. Visit live reindeer on Saturday, December 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m. Sunday, December 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gardens are located at 250 Quail Gardens Drive. Admission: $6 for nonmembers, $2 for those 3-12. 760-436-3036. (ENCINITAS)

International Gem and Jewelry Show, December 10-12, at Del Mar Fairgrounds. $9 general admission, $7 for seniors (ages 60 and older). Tuesday, December 14, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday, December 15, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday, December 16, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. 619-685-1726. (DEL MAR)

“Abola Holiday” is theme for 54th annual Escondido Junior Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade, Saturday, December 11. The parade steps off at 9:30 a.m. at Escondido High School and proceeds south along Broadway to Grape Day Park. 760-743-0717. (ESCONDIDO)

Holiday Jazz and Blues Festival, Saturday, December 11, noon to 11 p.m., at Seventh Avenue and Market Street. Jazz, blues, Christmas music, choirs, cooking, holiday trinkets, food. Free. 619-683-7215. (DOWNTOWN)

Holiday Parades North and South, Calexico Christmas parade on Saturday, December 11, starting at 10 a.m. on 2nd Street in downtown area. Organizers expect over 100 entries and floats from U.S. and Mexico. 760-357-1166. (CALEXICO)

“A Critter Christmas” is theme for 33rd annual San Diego Bay Parade of Lights, Sunday, December 12 (and December 19). Parades begin at 5:30 p.m. at Shelter Island, passing Harbor Island, Seaport Village, Marina Park, across bay to Coronado, ending near Navy carrier turning basin. Free. (SAN DIEGO)

Take a Holiday “Tea Tour” through Victorian era and learn customs and practices of historic era through performance of Kandie Carle (a.k.a. the Victorian Lady), Saturday, December 11, 1 p.m., at Westgate Hotel (1053 Second Avenue). $75. Reservations: 619-357-3650. (DOWNTOWN)

Celebrate National Day of the Horse with rope-dancing, music, gun-spinning Wild West entertainment by “cowgirl entertainer,” musician, singer songwriter Judy Taylor on Sunday, December 12, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Kenner Ranch (7350 Mission Park Road). Farrier demonstrations, horse-petting, pony rides. $5. 619-473-5681. (JULIAN)

Enjoy Mother Holly when Weaver’s Tales perform through Sunday, December 12, at Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater. Next up: Toy Store, by comic ventriloquist Lynn Trimble, December 15-19. Performances begin at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m., 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Theater located near Aerospace Museum. Admission: $3 for adults, $2 for children under 12. 619-683-5990. (BALBOA PARK)

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Mr. and Mrs. Claus and the Grinch will be on hand for reading and performance of How the Grinch Stole Christmas! on Saturday, December 11, noon, at Barnes and Noble Bookstore (1040 North El Camino Real). 760-943-8408. Free. (ENCINITAS)

Snowman Storytime featuring Raymond Briggs’s story The Snowman starts at 7 p.m. on Saturday, December 11, at Borders Books and Music (1905 Calle Barcelona). Treats, craft. Free. 760-479-0242. (LA COSTA)

Event repeats on Sunday, December 12, 3 p.m., at Borders Books and Music located at 11140 Rancho Carmel Drive. 858-618-1814. Free. (CARML MOUNTAIN)

Choo Choo! The Chula Vista Live Steam Club provides train rides, noon to 3 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, December 11 and 12, at Rohr Park (14548 Sweetwater Road). Duration: 25 cents. 619-421-5227. Children under 48” must be accompanied by an adult. (CHULA VISTA)

“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!” The play, adapted for stage by Barbara Robinson from her book, is presented by San Diego Junior Theatre, December 11-19. Performances begin at 2 and 4 p.m. Fridays through Sundays at Theatre on Third (209 3rd Avenue, at Davidson Street). All ages. Tickets: $9 or $12 adults, $7 or $10 seniors and children 13 and under. 619-239-8355. (SAN DIEGO)

Make Holiday Gifts for Wildlife to munch on in the garden, Saturday, December 11, 1 p.m., at Escondido Children’s Museum (in studio 1 at California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 348 North Escondido Boulevard). $5. 760-233-7755. (ESCONDIDO)

Santa Trains, Miller Creek train trips in a Pullman car from 1920s, with visit by Santa Claus, reading of Polar Express, Saturday and Sunday, December 11 and 12 (and December 18 and 19). Trains leave Campo depot at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Suggested reservations, fees, directions: 619-465-7776. (CARPA)

Fly Alaska Seltzer Rockets when San Diego Aerospace Museum hosts Family Day workshops, Saturday, December 11, at 12:30, 1:30, and 2:30 p.m. (sessions last 45 minutes). Included in paid admission. Reservations: 619-234-8291 x19. (SAN DIEGO)

Create Collage and Assemblage Art using mixed media — emphasizing use of textures, colors, and patterns — on Saturday, December 11, during Family Open Studio in conjunction with “The 2004 Can-Non Art Gallery Invitational.” Events run 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in courtyard at Carlsbad City Library (1773 Dove Lane). Free. Materials, workspace provided. 760-434-2904 or 760-602-2021. All ages. 858-268-4747. (CARLSD)

“StellaRum” Author Janell Canton — whose books include Crickwong, Verde, others — signs her latest, Pin突如, Sunday, December 12, 130 p.m., at Mysterious Galaxy Books (7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard). Free. 858-266-4747. (CLAIRMONT)

“The Wonderful World of Water,” Ms. Frizzle and the Magic School Bus lead adventures on Sunday, December 12, 11:45 a.m. and 1:45 p.m., at San Diego Natural History Museum. Included in regular museum admission. 619-232-3821 x203. (BALBOA PARK)

The Children’s Picture Book, Tibetan Tales for Little Buddhas, signed by author Naomi C. Rose on Sunday, December 12, 1:30 p.m., at Open Door Books (4761 Cass Street). Free. 858-270-8642. (ENCINITAS)

Public Radio’s “From the Top” hosted by Christopher Riley tapes before live audience in UCSD’s Mandeville Auditorium on Sunday, December 12, 3 p.m., hosted by La Jolla Chamber Music Society. Program showcases “the nation’s most exceptional pre-college-age classical musicians.” Tickets: $10 children, $20 or $35 for adults. 858-459-3728, ext. 13 (LA JOLLA)

All Aboard for Holiday Fun, San Diego Model Railroad Museum is decked out for holidays and offering a family day fun on Sunday, December 12, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Railroad arts and crafts. Admission is free for those under 15, $5 for everyone else. The museum is located downstairs in the Casa de Balboa building. 619-696-0199. (BALBOA PARK)

Make a Ship-in-a-Bottle during family day events on Sunday, December 19, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Maritime Museum of San Diego (1306 North Harbor Drive, at Ash Street). Materials provided. Regular admission for adults; kids 12 and under free (with adult). (GUY HOPKINS)

MUSEUMS

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

Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum, the museum locates, collects, documents, and preserves historical gas-, steam-, and horse-powered equipment related to agriculture and the general development of America. The collection is made up of equipment used in lumbering, mining, oil-drilling, and construction industries. Blacksmith and wheelwright shop, country kitchen and parlor, steam-operated saw mill, and 1/3-scale train. Find the museum at 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue. 760-941-1791. (OCEANSIDE)

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UP TO 35 MPG!
Chinese Historical Society and Museum, view artifacts from San Diego’s Chinese and Chinese-American history, culture, and art. Current museum artifacts include a 1920s warlord’s bed, exhibits on Chinese folkbuilding 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.

The Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Extension showcases “Jade from the Past,” a collection of over 100 nephrite jade sculptures, from antelopes to animal and plant designs, on exhibit through March, 2005. Also on view: “Cloisonné: A Perfect Fusion,” with over 35 pieces of animal forms and domestic objects. Find the museum at 404 Third Avenue. For further information, call 619-420-6916. (CHUIA VISTA)

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. (CHULAVISTA)

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. (CHULA VISTA)

Institutional Museum, permanent exhibits include displays depicting science and art of gemstones and history, lore and cultural significance of jewel. Find the GIA at 5345 Armada Drive. Required reservations: 800-421-7250 x 4116. (CHULA VISTA)

RIDE THE TANGIER EXPRESS!
December 11, 12, 18 & 19
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11:30 & 2:30 Sat & Sun.
Reading of The Polar Express
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(No reservations required.)

Pacific Southwest Railway Museum
619-465-PSRM • Visit us at www.psrsm.org

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 501, just inside Gate 4, off Pacific Highway. 619-524-6038. (MIDWAY)

Parsonage Museum of Lemon Grove, "From the Kumeyaay to the Teregazas: Art Across Time," on view through March 2005, honors Lemon Grove’s "founding parents." Kumeyaay are depicted in large wall murals and photographs in the museum’s atrium. Please contact Kathleen Strzelecki and Janne LaValle. Exhibit includes clothing typical of late Stone Age, fossils, utilitarian gourds, items created by members of Teregazas family. Companion exhibit traces three decades of modern Lemon Grove history, beginning in 1892. Find the museum at 3185 Olive Street, 619-460-4333. (LEMON GROVE)

Roden H. Fleet Science Center, "Exploration Zone," on view through June 5, 2005, explores "what you think you see." The 38 exhibits use visual perception, touch, language, magnetism to test visitor’s senses and abilities. Exhibit includes "Hop Nightmares," "Cheesecake Cat," "Black Sand," "Speech Dissector." Ongoing exhibitions include a "Kid City" (designed for preschoolers), "Technovation," "About Faces," "TryScence," and "Skylapse 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. (MIDWAY)

San Diego Archaeological Center, "The Harris Site Exhibit: San Diego’s Place in the Past" showcases traditional Kumeyaay objects complementing artifacts excavated from site, which has yielded important information about prehistory of West. Exhibit continues through January 2005. The museum is dedicated to "curation of archaeological projects.

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POEMS BY AMY LOWELL

The Blue Scarf
Pale, with the blue of high zeniths, shimmered over with silver, brocaded
In smooth, running patterns, a soft stuff, with dark knotted fringes, it lies there,
Warm from a woman’s soft shoulders, and my fingers close on it, caressing
Where it is, the woman who wore it! The scent of her fingers and drugs me!
A languor, fire-shodded, runs through me, and I crush the scarf down onto my face,
And grip in the warmth and the blueness, and my eyes swim in cool-tinted hazures.
Around me are columns of marble, and a dispensed, sun-slicked pavement.
Rose-leaves blow and putter against it. Below the stone steps a lute tinkles.
A jar of green jade throws its shadow half over the floor. A big-bellied frog leaps through the sunlight and plops in the gold-bubbled water of a basin,
Sink in the black and white marble. The west wind has lifted a scarf
On the seat close beside me, the blue of it is a violent outrage of colour.
She draws it more closely about her, and it ripples beneath her slanting
Her kisses are sharp buds of fire; and I burn back against her,
Her slight stirring.

Chi’und Kan
By Li T’ai-Po
When the hair of your Unworthy One first began to cover her forehead,
She picked flowers and played in front of the door.
Then you, my Lover, came riding a bamboo horse.

Summer Rain
All night our room was outer-walled with rain.
Drops fell and flattened on the tin roof,
And the slats of the shutters danced and glittered.


San Diego Automotive Museum, “Odeonmobile: Farewell to a Classic,” on display through Tuesday, January 25, 2005, offers a sampling of cars from the Brass Age through the Rocket era and beyond. Parent company General Motors shut the company down in the spring. Cars on display include a 1962 Curved Duvh, two of the 88s (from 1949, 1957), 1969 Hurst Olds, 1970 442 W-30 convertible. More than 80 automobiles and motorcycles from horsepower 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, “Shades of Greatness” is a 35-piece art exhibit on loan from Negro League Baseball Museum in Kansas City, highlighting history, lessons of Negro League baseball. Exhibit includes paintings, statues, other works. Additional exhibits include “World’s Largest Collection of Olympic Medals,” featuring medals from as early as 1896. The museum — dedicated to promoting, recognizing, and preserving athletic achievement — is located at 2131 Pan American Plaza. 619-234-2344. (Balboa Park)

San Diego Historical Society Museum, “From Blueprints to Buildings,” an exhibit of San Diego architecture, traces this region’s architectural 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 December.

Romp! Children Discover Balboa Park” focuses on why Balboa Park exists, examines the monumental buildings created to showcase the West.” Historic film footage allows visitors to tour the Ford Building as it existed in 1935 and see displays and machinery that were there.

The museum is located in the Casa de Balboa building, 619-232-6203. (Balboa Park)

San Diego Maritime Museum, 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. The H.M.S. Surprise, used in film Master and Commander, is permanently on exhibit. See artifacts, costumes, props used in making of the flick. There are also nautical exhibits, and sharing them with the public. Find center at 16668 San Pasqual Valley Road; 760-291-0370. (Escalante)

San Diego Natural History Museum, “World’s Largest Collection of Olympic Medals,” featuring medals from as early as 1896. The museum — dedicated to promoting, recognizing, and preserving athletic achievement — is located at 2131 Pan American Plaza. 619-234-2344. (Balboa Park)

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Amy Lowell: Selected Poems

Edited and Selected with an Introduction by Honor Moore
Library of America, 2004; 156 pages; $20

FROM THE DUST JACKET: A cigar-smoking proponent of freeverse modernism in open rebellion against her distinguished Boston lineage, Amy Lowell (1874–1925) cut an indelible public figure. But in the words of editor Honor Moore, “What strikes the modern reader is not the sophistication of Lowell’s feminist or antiracist stances, but the hard audacity of her eroticism.”

Lowell was at the center of a group of pioneering modernists who, in an era convulsed by change, rejected musty Victorian standards and wrote poems of bracing immediacy. This new selection captures her full formal range: the “cadenced” verse of her Imagist masterpieces, her experiments in “polyphonic prose,” her narrative poetry, and her adaptations from classic Chinese. It gives a fresh sense of the passion and energy of her work.

“Hard and clear, never blurred nor indefinite,” these were certain one of the most powerful things about Amy Lowell’s work, that she’s out. Extraordinary.

Moore’s new selection and introduction reaffirm Lowell’s “Inuit: People of the Midnight Sun,” through Sunday, January 9, 2005, showcases ways and habits of the Inuit from migration to present day. Exhibit examines close ties and cultural exchanges among circumpolar peoples spanning four countries, including Yupik, Inupiat, Aleu of Alaska, Inuit of Russia, Canada, and Greenland.

permanent anthology exhibits “Footsteps through Time: Four Million Years of Human Evolution” features “more than a hundred touchable replicas of early humans, primates, and futuristic cyborgs (part human, part machine).” 619-239-2001.

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UFE has been available in the U.S. for nearly 10 years. Isn’t it time you learn more about it?

What Every Woman Should Know About Uterine Fibroids

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UFE has been available in the U.S. for nearly 10 years. Isn’t it time you learn more about it?

What Every Woman Should Know About Uterine Fibroids

Speakers: Ross A. Christensen, M.D., Catharine H. Marshall, M.D., and Ingrid Shepkin, L.Ac.
Thursday, December 16 – 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Scripps Mende Well Being Center
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(Above Coryell’s Restaurant – UTC Shopping Center)
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Get on with your life. Without surgery.
Ms. Moore agreed — the James’ novel was not particularly kind to its female characters. I asked, “How did you go about making the choices of the Lowell poems?”

“First of all, I read the entire complete poems, which is about 550 pages, double-columned. I got them Xeroxed; the type was quite small, so I got it Xeroxed larger. Then I read and read and read.”

“We were surprised by what you found!”

“I was more and more intrigued. The more I read, the deeper I got into it. Then I made an initial selection, and then I was told that there were a particular number of pages that one was allotted. I’d made certain decisions. I’d decided not to excerpt anything. I decided that since it was a book for a general audience, I would stick with the poems that were enthralling. My job wasn’t to represent anything but her most enthralling work. There’s a lot of it. I included her Chinese poetry translations because I decided that the Chinese poetry had a great influence on her.”

“Wasn’t Chinese poetry important to many poets in Lowell’s day?”

“Yes, it was, and I was interested that she had her version of The River Merchant’s Wife (see page 95, the poem “Ch’ang Kan”), and I was also infuriated because there is an anthology, which I admire, called The New Directions Anthology of Classical Chinese Poetry. I think, and the introduction just divides Amy Lowell. So I wanted to represent her in that way also.”

“It’s amazing to note how many women poets are published, as opposed to even off their engagement (in 1897 when Lowell was 23), Lowell resolved to lose weight. Ms. Moore wrote, “She resolved to make herself marriageable, taking a three-month cruise up the Nile with two friends, a chauffeur, and a maid. The aim was weight loss; the method, Egyptian heat and Dr. Willard Banting’s fashionable diet of asparagus and tomatoes.”

“Ms. Moore said, about the diet, “Isn’t that awful? One of my grandmothers, my Moore grandmother, used always to say when she was on a diet, I’m Banting.” For years I couldn’t find the source of that. I looked it up on the Internet and found that it was Willard Banting. And then five months later, I’m in the Amy Lowell, and suddenly there it is again.”

“What do you think that Ezra Pound made of Lowell?”

“Well, from what I can gather, he liked her at first, and even included her in his first anthology, but when she became powerful, he became threatened. And I think what else went on with Amy Lowell was a lot of class hostility.”

“Did you read poetry as a child?”

“Well, there’s a baby picture of me holding A Child’s Garden of Verses. But I think that my earliest exposure was because my father was a clergyman, so I went to church all the time. So, I grew up on the King James version.”

“What was Robert Lowell’s familial relationship to Amy?”

“A distant cousin. It’s probably in Frank Bidart’s Lowell biography what the exact relationship was. I think that it’s something like her parents and his grandparents were second or third cousins, but I don’t know exactly. I did once. “Beautiful poems. Beautiful poems that you can understand. Beautiful poems that speak directly to the reader.”

“ Exactly. She was very self-conscious about that. She wanted to make an American poetic idiom that did not owe anything — she wanted to escape from the formal strictures of English poetry.”

“I didn’t realize,” I said, “that Lowell had written about Keats.”

“Yes. He was her guy. I keep thinking that she does owe something to Keats.”

“Again, as with Lowell, it’s that vernacular quality.”

“Exactly.” — Judith Moore
**Methodist Church (700 D Avenue—December 19, at St. Paul’s United Hopkins Drive); and on Sunday, Diego Museum of Art; on Monday’s “Christmas Oratorio” by Camille Saint-Saëns, Christmas carols “both familiar and new.” 858-793-5531. Offering. (A JULIA)

Seagate Sundays, holiday music from many countries and every era offered when Westwind Brass performs on Sunday, December 12, 2 p.m., at Neurosciences Institute (1040 John Hopkins Drive). Tickets: $20 general, $10 seniors and military, $10 for children, free for those five and younger. Reservations: 866-436-8744. (A JULIA)

Public Radio’s “From the Top” hosted by Christopher Riley tapes before live audience in UCSD’s Mandeville Auditorium on Sunday, December 12, 2 p.m., at La Jolla Chamber Music Society. Program showcases “the nation’s premier pre-college age classical musicians.” Tickets: $10 children, $20 or $35 for adults. 858-459-3728. (A JULIA)

Soulful Celebration Promised when “Quince Jones’s Handel’s Messiah” performed at 3 and 7 p.m. Sunday, December 12, at Saint Paul’s Cathedral (2728 Sixth Avenue—Donation: $25. 619-298-7261. (MIDTW)

Holiday Chamber Music performed by soprano Juliette Singlet on Sunday, December 12, 3 p.m., at Point Loma Nazarene University (3900 Lomaland Drive). Singer joined by Beth Ross-Buckley (flute), Bill Clemens (cello), Cory Geller joined by Beth Ross-Buckley (flute), Bill Clemens (cello), Cory Geller (flute), Rosemary Pfister and chorus perform Vivaldi’s “Gloria!” performed at 3 and 7 p.m. Sunday, December 12, 3 p.m., at La Jolla Presbyterian Church (320 Date Street, La Jolla). Tickets: $25; $18 seniors, $10 children. Reservations: 885-654-7123. (A JULIA)

Feast of Lights, Westminster Choir and soloists perform Rutter’s “Magnificat,” Fantasia on Christmas Carols” by Vaughan-Williams, three choral arrangements by New Dawn Singers on December 12 and 13, at First Presbyterian Church (320 Date Street, at Fourth Avenue). Concerts at 7 p.m. on Sunday, 3:30 p.m. on Monday. Offering. 619-222-7533. (DOWNTOWN)

“Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols” presented on Sunday, December 12, 7 p.m., by adult and children’s choirs at St. Michael’s by-the-Sea Episcopal Church (2773 Carroll Boulevard). 760-729-8901. Offering. (CARLSBRO)

“Glorious Praise,” Christmas choir concert on Sunday, December 12, includes selections from Bach’s “Gloria,” traditional carols, holiday favorites. Concert starts at 4 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (923 Balboa Drive). Over 60 performers, including handbell ringers, singers, dancers and instrumentalists. 760-753-1026. (ENCINITAS)

Organ Concert, civic organist Carol Williams performs in Sprechels Organ Pavilion, Sunday, December 12, 2 p.m. Free. 619-782-8138. (BALboa PARK)

Winter Concert of Classical Music from Renaissance and baroque periods, along with flamenco selections and works by Leonard Bernstein, on tap when Mesa College Guitar Ensemble performs Wednesday, December 15, 6:30 p.m., at Clairemont Community Center (2920 South Clairemont Boulevard). Free. 858-581-9935. (CLAIREMONT)

Bring on Handel’s “Messiah!” The San Diego Chamber Orchestra and Y’s “Gloria” Choir perform the 70-minute Christmas portion of this holiday favorite on Thursday, December 16, at Saint Paul’s Cathedral (2728 Sixth Avenue). Shortened version also performed on Friday, December 17, at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church (120 Stevens Avenue); and Saturday, December 18, at St. James by-the-Sea (743 Prospect Street). These concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. (MIDDLETOWN, SOLANA BEACH, LA JOLLA)

**Worldwide Recall**

Merk & Co., the maker of the prescription drug Vioxx, has issued a worldwide recall because the drug may cause heart attacks and strokes. If you’ve taken Vioxx within the last three years and suffered a heart attack, stroke, cloting/emboli, stomach bleeding, meningitis, or other injury, it may be the result of taking the prescription drug Vioxx. If you or someone you know has had a stroke or heart attack after taking Vioxx, please call our office at:

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**(May vary by area)****
Events that are underlined occur after December 16.

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 at reader art, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186. Or fax to 619-831-2810. You may also submit information online at Sandiegoculture.com by clicking on the events section.

Galleries

Artist: Windre Markess whose art range from "photomontage to sculpture to playwriting," exhibits her work at Vista Village Gallery (137 Main Street) through January 6, 2005. Reception: Friday, December 11, 5:30 p.m. Free 760-414-9391. (North Park)


"Scale-Diversity-Ambition" — group exhibition featuring art by MFA students at San Diego State University begins with reception on Saturday, December 11, 7 p.m., at Art Produce Gallery (3139 University Avenue). Closes Sunday, January 9, 2005. 619-271-1933. (North Park)

Photographic Pioneer Charles Cranmer will be on hand for an opening reception of exhibit on Saturday, December 11, 5:30 p.m., at Odeoer Gallery (Studio 172, 444 South Cedros Avenue). Show include works by photographers Alton Shaw, Pat O’Villa, other local artists. 858-720-1121. Through December. (Selinana beach)

"Let Them Go Nakaed Awhile... At least the Kids," part of the "Stories of Faith: Religion and Diversity in San Diego" program, opens with reception for the eleven participating artists on Sunday, December 12, 1 p.m., at Earl and Birdie Taylor Library (4275 Cass Street). Artists were invited to create contemporary alteras reflecting their own spiritual beliefs. Show closes Sunday, January 30, 2005. 858-581-9934. (Pacific beach)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla, "JoAnn Tanzer — Architectural Enamels," exhibit includes beadwork created by the noted Austin and Andrea Gore-Wilson. Exhibition is accompanied by series of photographs of work is featured in a separate section. (La Jolla)

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Museum of Photographic Art, "Jeff Bridges — Pictures" represents 30 years of photographic practice by the compelling actor. The included photographs "act as Bridges personal and professional diary, with actors, directors, and crew appearing as equal participants in the task of making movies." Enjoy these images of "people at work" through Sunday, March 13, 2005. (La Jolla)

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"San Diego Annual Holiday Tradition Featuring the PACEM Choir and four critically acclaimed soloists Choose from the complete oratorio or the 70-minute Christmas portion. Inspiring to all faiths! December 16 St. Paul's Cathedral near downtown San Diego 7:30 pm December 17 Solana Beach Presbyterian Church 7:30 pm December 18 St. James by-the-Sea Church La Jolla 7:30 pm *December 19 California Center for the Arts Escondido 2 & 7 pm Another sure sellout! Call now to order your seats: 858-350-0290 x7 or e-mail: tickets@sdcoc.org or www.sdcoc.org

ART LISTSING

Museum of Photographic Art, "Jeff Bridges — Pictures" represents 30 years of photographic practice by the compelling actor. The included photographs "act as Bridges personal and professional diary, with actors, directors, and crew appearing as equal participants in the task of making movies." Enjoy these images of "people at work" through Sunday, March 13, 2005. (La Jolla)

"Taste in Asian Art" includes "some of the most significant works" in the museum's collection. Exhibition features new and rarely exhibited works, along with well-known pieces. Closes Sunday, May 1, 2005. (La Jolla)

"Human Presence: Works from the Museum's Collection," one of the artist's three major paintings based on Edmund Spenser's 16th-century epic poem "The Faerie Queen." The exhibition includes preparatory drawings for the paintings, related engravings, and graphic works. West (1738-1820) occupies a significant place in both American and British art histories. Permanent collection includes European masters, 19th-Century American paintings, and Russian icons. 619-239-5548. (Balboa Park)

"Elemental Art of the Indonesian Art," by Lois Yampolsky began her career as a printer and engraver in Mexico, 2005. Yampolsky's Mexico," also on exhibit. "Come FALL out of an ocean, stories of Faith: Religion and Diversity," permanent collection, opens with reception for the eleven participating artists on Sunday, December 11, 5:30 p.m., at Odeon Gallery (Studio 172, 444 South Cedros Avenue). Show include works by photographers Alton Shaw, Pat O’Villa, other local artists. 858-720-1121. Through December. (Selinana beach)

"Let Them Go Nakaed Awhile... At least the Kids," part of the "Stories of Faith: Religion and Diversity in San Diego" program, opens with reception for the eleven participating artists on Sunday, December 12, 1 p.m., at Earl and Birdie Taylor Library (4275 Cass Street). Artists were invited to create contemporary alteras reflecting their own spiritual beliefs. Show closes Sunday, January 30, 2005. 858-581-9934. (Pacific beach)

Doug Childs, a good friend of the family, is a Cuyama firefighter who had watched the home he and his wife spent years building go up in flames. He checked other damage to the neighborhood. At the Thursday debriefing he told Scott and the Kinneys that the Kinney property was "a pile of ash."

"My boys were afraid I’d freak out when they told me, but instead it was somewhat of a relief."

Homeless twice over, the family feared they’d also have to leave the Julian area, "this special place, where we’ve raised these wonderful sons.”

Instead, they will rebuild. "I hear horror stories every day about problems with insurance companies, but ours, USAA Insurance, has been nothing but great! We feel very lucky in so many ways."

"Oh, and don’t tell anyone...but before? Our property was surrounded by trees. Now we’ve got an awesome view of the Cuyama Valley!"

The Kinneys have also found a new performing space, the Julian Town Hall. Plans for a 2005 season are under way. The first three performances are fundraisers for Julian Pathways, a nonprofit group instrumental in aiding families after the fire including, says Deborah, "the Kinneys."

Doing an interview, having to look back, wasn’t easy for Kinney, who’d much rather go forward. “For many months it’s been hard for people to drive to Julian. Hard to see the damage. Everything a burnt forest. So much loss — just too emotional. But guess what? The recent rains are like a miracle! Things are growing back!"
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A Christmas Carol

San Diego Rep’s 29th annual holiday production has a new twist. Douglas Droppa has trimmed its original script to 90 minutes, no intermission. All the familiar scenes remain — the Fezziwig Ball, Tiny Tim, the ghost of Jacob Marley, and, yes, the Grinch. The compression makes everything more immediate, even more urbane. The Castles, in fact, amazes: they can act, dance, and sing — even the elf! Peter Van Norden’s crusty Scrooge has grown from last year. Now he’s a three-ring circus in a one-ring tent, more funny and deeper than before. Javier Valdeno’s choreography brings with grace and life, and the design elements evolve London on a snowy Christmas Eve, 1843.

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the singers are so talented they could hit the road, right now, and land high-paying gigs. They could, but they’re headed to Broadway instead. If each were a separate “season,” Christian Hoff’s tough-talking Tommy DiVito would be winter. Daniel Reichard’s gentle Bob Gaudio would be summer (especially when we learn that “Oh What a Night” commemorates his first sex). J. Robert Spencer’s Nick Massi would be autumn, and Frankie Valli would be spring, since his voice explodes with the freshness of something brand new. David Norona plays Valli so well that on opening night, when he sang “My Eyes Adored You,” in the audience the real Valli sprang to his feet, pounding his hands and, so it seemed to the crowd who soon stood with him, passing the torch. (Note: The La Jolla Playhouse has extended the run of this production three times.)

Critic’s pick.

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, MANDELL WEISS THEATRE, MANDELL WEISS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, UCSD, THROUGH JANUARY 16; TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 858-550-1010.

Jesus Hopped the A Train

Angel Cruz thought he had a unique way to deprogram his friend Joey. He’d shoot Reverend Kim — Joey’s cult leader who claims to be the Son of God — “in the ass.” Teach both a lesson. Complications arose, the Rev. died, and now Joey’s at Rikers Island, where he spends his one hour of daylight in a cage next to Lucius Jenkins, the famous serial killer who has since found God and tries to program agnostic Angel with religion. Ironies fly fast and heavy in Stephen Adly Guirgis’s gritty, anguished drama. And though he can proselytize like the newest of converts (the play’s based on his attempt to deprogram a close friend), and doesn’t always know when he’s made a point, Guirgis is unafraid to raise some of the most crucial questions of our time. At Lynx Performance’s new space, darkness surrounds actors and audience. Shadows predominate. And pain. Although the supporting cast does mostly one-note work, director Al Germani’s leads forge intense, sustained efforts: DeAnna Driscoll as Mary Jane, a lawyer with justice-hunger; Max Broadnax as Lucius, the “Black Plague” killer who talks like a saint; and Jeremiah Maestas as Angel, who moves at the speed of sound, but is only spinning his wheels.

Worth a try.

LYNX PERFORMANCE THEATRE SPACE, 2653-R ARIANE DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, THROUGH DECEMBER 12; FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-280-2641.

Kimberly Akimbo

One of 2004’s best productions is back! Delicia Turner Sonnenberg’s Moxie Theatre is restaging a show that could have run for months. Kimberly’s “akimbo” because she’s aging 4 1/2 times faster than “normal.” She’s 16 going on 78. People with her progeria-like condition die around 16. But then again, David Lindsey-Abaire’s crazy-wise comedy asks, what is normal? Is it merely an antiquated concept? In Sonnenberg’s treatment, the characters drive the play, propelled by rampant denial (what goes unsaid about Kimberly’s condition lurks beneath every line). The director lets the jokes, and they are legion, fall wherever. She emphasizes an akimbo family that, the playwright would argue, is the family of man. Everyone in the terrific cast combines the human with the gonzo: Matt Scott’s juiced Buddy; Liv Kellgren’s tough Debra (who steals a mailbox); Jason Connors poor, bedraggled Jeff — is his life an

Now Playing!

Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

Directed by Jack O’Brien

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Lamb's Festival of Christmas: Northern Lights

This year, Lamb’s Players’ popular holiday show is set in 1962. Three generations of Batters change the location of their Christmas celebration. Deborah Gilmore Smyth directed.

LAMB’S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 OS ANGELES AVE., CORONADO, TRAVEL THROUGH DECEMBER 26; TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M. AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 760-438-6280.

North Coast Repertory Theatre

North Coast Repertory Theatre presents the popular comedy-lace piece, in which a sister explains it all, then makes sure you get it. JIM ONSTAGE REPERTORY THEATRE, 9870 LOMAS SANTA FE PLAZA, LOMAS BEACH, THROUGH JANUARY 2; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 760-481-1055.

Little Shop of Horrors

The show continues its run of this popular show several times. It is an “interactive adult catechism” class, taught by a sister from the old-fashioned school. The concept doesn’t sound like much. The sister is substituting (it’s the regular teacher’s ploy) and does a spin. She used to teach but was deemed too strict for contemporary students. And that’s when she decided that part of a course in Catholic doctrine. But the sister’s au-thoritarianism takes it too far (the audience must recognize from the audience, especially when sister brings out a hard ruler and tugs hot palms). The results, the two times I’ve seen the show: the plot of an evening of almost nonstop comedy, and it’s a thought-provoking look at sibling rivalry, to put it lightly. The sister, it turns out, is not kidding. (Note: The Laguna Playhouse has ex-hibited a work with essentially the same title.)

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7:30 P.M. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 760-481-1055.

The Lion in Winter

Linda Castro gives an honest, moving performance of Elizabeth, her heart, and her ex-husband, Richard, the King. Both sang a variety of roles, and they were exemplary. Both sang a variety of roles, and they were exemplary. Both sang a variety of roles, and they were exemplary. Both sang a variety of roles, and they were exemplary. Both sang a variety of roles, and they were exemplary. Both sang a variety of roles, and they were exemplary. Both sang a variety of roles, and they were exemplary. Both sang a variety of roles, and they were exemplary.

SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 760-438-6280.

The Sanildants Diaries

For 12 performances only, Cypres Theatre presents the Sanildants Diaries. "Each performance is a tour-inspiring production of the Howard Ashman and Alan Menken’s musical about a courtier from outer space for whom people are “plant food.” Jerry Zaks directed.

San Diego Civic Theatre, 202 C STREET, DOWNTOWN, THROUGH DECEMBER 22; THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY AT 7:30 P.M. 760-524-1100.

The Wild Parrot Players

The Wild Parrot Players presents “a soul-stirring, uplifting celebration of Christmas play with music.”

COMMUNITY ACTORS THEATRE, 2957 5TH STREET (CORNER OF 54TH AND COLLEGE GROVE DRIVE), SAN DIEGO, THROUGH DECEMBER 19; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 760-440-5060.

Starlight Musical Theatre

245 South Pacific St., La Jolla, through December 30; Thursday through Sunday at 8:00 P.M., Saturday at 2:00 P.M. 760-438-6280.

Theatre Potters

North Coast Repertory Theatre presents the popular comedy-lace piece, in which a sister explains it all, then makes sure you get it. JIM ONSTAGE REPERTORY THEATRE, 9870 LOMAS SANTA FE PLAZA, LOMAS BEACH, THROUGH JANUARY 2; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 760-481-1055.

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“We didn’t get paid anything and we had no one from the Warped Tour crew to help us,” explained Underminded guitarist/vocalist Nick Martin about his band’s experience on this summer’s Warped Tour. They had to set up and tear down a 20-foot-wide, 16-foot-deep, and three-foot-tall stage at each date on the cross-country, 50-date, eight-week tour.

“At the beginning it took us six to seven hours to set it up and the same amount of time to break it down. After we learned how to do it, it took an hour and a half to two hours.”

Martin said he and his band mates had to start building the stage every day about 6 a.m. Tear down, he said was at 11 p.m. or midnight.

“The first date of the tour was in Houston. It got fully rained out, so that date was cancelled. We were out there trying to dodge thunder and lightning. We had to go put this huge tarp over the stage when it rained.”

Martin said there were three big stages and three smaller stages at each Warped Tour stop. The Smartpunk stage, the one they had to set up, was the largest of the three smaller stages.

“Our manager heard that Smartpunk was sponsoring its own stage and they were looking for a band that would help them out with the stage. Smartpunk is an Internet company that sells underground and independent CDs. We told him we were totally down to do it. We wanted to do everything we could to help the band.”

He said Underminded got to play each day on the stage it built, but the band got screwed in the beginning because it was always the first of nine bands. “We would just get finished setting up the stage, and we’d have five minutes to get our amps on stage. We were exhausted by time we had to go on.”

That arrangement led to friction between the band and Smartpunk. “We went through a little bit of guff. But three weeks into the tour, we got better time slots.”

Martin said he has no regrets. “It was definitely worth it, just being able to play for over 1000 kids a day. We got to play some cities it is hard to play on regular tours. It was also good for us because a lot of the other bands would give us the time of day. They respected what we were doing. We stayed in contact with a lot of those bands who have since hooked us up with some shows.”

Martin said he hopes Smartpunk will invite them back on some of the dates on the 2005 Warped Tour. Will they set up the stage this time?

“Hell no. You can’t talk us into that again.”

Underminded appears New Year’s Eve at Soma with Atreyu, As I Lay Dying, Bleeding Through, Terror, Throwdown, Before Today, Yesterday’s Rising, My American Heart, and Stranger’s Six. Doors open at 6 p.m., all ages, $19 admission.

—Ken Leighton

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Bedrock

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FOZZY FILMS LOCALLY WITH BIG BRO WINNER

The actual amputee is played by Eddie McGee, a native New Yorker known for being the first-season Big Brother. "In real life, Eddie is the furthest thing from being handicapped. For example, between takes on the set, he would hop over a four-foot wall like it was nothing. Pretty much everyone was in awe of this dude by the end of the day. The general opinion was that he may only have one leg, but he has eight balls.... For example, he had to do several takes where he would pull himself across the gravel roof of this ten-story building, crawl right up to the edge, pause, and then hop up on his leg only inches away from the edge. That move, by the way, made many of us almost nauseous because of the danger. It was genuinely frightening. In a straight-up bar fight, I'd have my money on him over just about anyone."

—Jay Allen Sanford

Lou’s Records

manager Tony Vic’s name has been bantered about by radio insiders as a possible addition to KPBS’s These Days (heard weekday mornings). Doug Myrland, KPBS general manager, and Vic would not comment on that rumor on the record. Vic appeared at least once a month as a regular guest on KPBS’s The Lounge and played cuts from his huge personal record collection. The Lounge was cancelled two weeks ago.

—Ken Leighton

Jefferson Jay is getting a master’s degree in history from San Diego State (he says his thesis will be on “mass media interpretations of Haight Ashbury during 1967”), but he’ll be singing songs and playing the guitar at the Synergy Art Foundation’s “Second Annual Art Extravaganza” this Saturday at the Fire House Museum in Little Italy. There will be an exhibition and sale by fire artist survivors (from last year’s fires) and from Baja Norte artists. A live auction is set for 3:30 p.m. Jay will sing songs from his new CD, Great Story, the first release from Sweet Information Records, which came out in July of this year, and includes local singer Jane Lui (formerly of Jason and Jane) and drummer Carles Vasquez (who, according to Jay, played with Frank Sinatra from 1961 to 1965). Lyrics from Great Story include these from “Running Out of Time” (perhaps too applicable for fire victims, not?):

I was swimming down the barrel of a fish, of a throat, of a circus, of a highway.

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Now we’re walking and we’re running, and we’re singing and we’re sunning, all in the name of some forgotten blame.

Admission is $10, and the event starts at 2 p.m. at the corner of Columbia and Cedar. For more information, or to preview the art, visit www.synergiafoundation.org.

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“...their land to AM/PM and Krispy Kreme...” said Norm Leggio, owner of Blue Meanie Records. Because of this, Leggio maintains there’s a lot less parking for the Sports Arena than there used to be. “People had to park all the way down the street past Tower Records.”

Leggio, who also cohosts the all-metal Another State of Mind Sunday nights on Rock 105.3, was miffed at the lack of parking for the sold-out “Rock Before Christmas” show presented by his station. More than 14,000 turned out to see Metallica and Godsmack on the night before Thanksgiving. It was the first time the Sports Arena had hosted such a well-attended show since the new Krispy Kreme, Arco AM/PM, and Chili’s were built on land previously used for Sports Arena parking.

According to Ernie Hahn, Sports Arena general manager, the Sports Arena parking lot used to hold 4000 cars. Now he says that count is down to 3300. Those three businesses were opened between late 2002 and March of this year. “We only have a concert with that many people once

FOZZY FILMS LOCALLY WITH Big Bro Winner

The actual amputee is played by Eddie McGee, a native New Yorker known for being the first-season Big Brother. "In real life, Eddie is the furthest thing from being handicapped. For example, between takes on the set, he would hop over a four-foot wall like it was nothing. Pretty much everyone was in awe of this dude by the end of the day. The general opinion was that he may only have one leg, but he has eight balls.... For example, he had to do several takes where he would pull himself across the gravel roof of this ten-story building, crawl right up to the edge, pause, and then hop up on his leg only inches away from the edge. That move, by the way, made many of us almost nauseous because of the danger. It was genuinely frightening. In a straight-up bar fight, I’d have my money on him over just about anyone."

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“Racist hate music is being distributed to your brothers and sisters and children in schools in San Diego,” writes Eddie Phanichkul in a November 19 post at Sandiegoblog.com, but there’s no clear evidence that this is the case. Panzerfaust Records’ Project Schoolyard USA is a sampler CD of white supremacist music that the Newport, Minnesota, label produces. Bands with names like Vincelnd Warriors, Aggressive Force, Youngland, and Brutal

Hahn said he worked out an arrangement with the adjacent SAIC building to handle overflow parking, but that the Target center across the street would not oblige. Hahn said he did not hear of any cars getting towed at the Metallica show. “For having 14,000, we handled it pretty good.”

Meanwhile an ad hoc committee formed by city councilman Michael Zucchet handled it pretty good.”

But in its theater-in-the-round configuration, which came up with the idea that the hall should be razed and replaced with something bigger, the committee maintains that the hall is not the best use of the Sports Arena property that it be torn down. The committee maintains that the hall would not oblige. Hahn said he did not hear of any cars getting towed at the Metallica show. “For having 14,000, we handled it pretty good.”

Meantime an ad hoc committee formed by city councilman Michael Zucchet came up with the idea that the best use of the Sports Arena property is that it be torn down. The committee maintains that the hall should be razed and replaced by condos and more stores. —Ken Leighton

A Smooth Jazz Christmas
Dave Koz
Brian Culbertson
Norman Brown
Patti Austin

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New Years Eve
Times Square West - 2004 - Party & Ball Drop
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Bobby Caldwell
Friday - February 11 - 8 p.m. - 4th & B

Pat Metheny Group
Saturday - March 5 - 2005 - 8 p.m. - Spreckels Theater

www.jazzconcerts.com

San Diego Reader • December 9, 2004

THE CD FOR PEOPLE WITH BIG EGOS AND SMALL BRAINS

Attack are used to recruit Aryan converts. MSNBC.com reported that the CD has been showing up in Riverside and San Diego County high schools, although no schools were mentioned by name, and no other local media has picked up the story. There have been no incident reports filed with either the San Diego Police Department or the Anti-Defamation League.

I contacted Panzerfaust producer/owner Byron Calvert and asked him which San Diego schools the CD had been distributed to. He replied, “I don’t know which particular schools in your area they might have been passed out in. We’ve just been boxing them up and taking them to the P.O. in truckloads.”

—Michael Hemmingson

According to a website based in Punjab, India (www.onlypunjab.com), drummer Billy Ray (formerly of the Ike Turner’s band the Ike Turner Camp) has joined beach bar locals Tubby. “Tubby’s music is an eclectic amalgamation of funk, rock, ska, world music, and attitude. The shows bring in, depending upon the venue, 50–5000 people. The band’s set list is 99 percent original music with at least one cover tune thrown in for good measure. The band has been together for four years and has amassed a healthy following in the San Diego area…Currently the band is working on its second release and expanding its territory to include the western region of the country.” Tubby plays tonight at Longboards on Garnet Avenue.

—Jay Allen Sanford

After local band Cage played adjacent gigs with Germany’s Scorpions at the Universal Amphitheater November 26, a Los Angeles zine reported, “Singer Sean Peck does his best to channel Rob Halford, even shaving his head and sporting a properly Satanic goatee, but his vocal chops are hampered by an inability to hold a note without wavering like Laura Petrie bemoaning ‘Rob!’ The songs from last year’s Darker Than Black CD (their third), in the context of the Scorpions gig [Cage played an outdoor stage close to the Amphitheater], seemed well suited to the evening due to their Germanic bombast and brevity. Like David Hasselhoff, Germans love Cage. The German rag Heavy Odor placed Darker Than Black at number one on their Soundcheck chart list for March 2003, ahead of more established acts like Anthrax, Krokus, and Biohazard. This proves once again that Germany is, historically and today, a country which cannot be trusted to back the right horse.”

—Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS
Jennifer Ball (editor), Josh Board, Edwin Decker, Dave Good, Michael Hemmingson, Randy Hoffman, Ken Leighton, Ryan Loyko, Mary Montgomery, Derek Plank, Jay Allen Sanford

A Smooth Jazz Christmas
Dave Koz
Brian Culbertson
Norman Brown
Patti Austin

Tuesday - December 21 - 8 p.m. - Symphony Hall

New Years Eve
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The Hank Show

“He made me a replica of Hank’s suit...the white suit with black musical notes.”

“I’ve been the Singing Cowboy of Rawhide Ranch for eight years now,” says Cowboy Jack Johnson. “That’s a dude ranch in Bonita—it’s been there since the ‘60s, with Old West facades and stages...kids learn how to take care of and ride horses and stuff. Then, at the big campfire, I sing a bunch of cowboy standards and tell stories about the Old West. I do that most every Saturday night, whenever I’m not booked with one of my band projects.”

The longtime San Diegan (since 1968) is also the originator and lead performer of “The Hank Show,” which he calls “a re-creation, not a tribute, of the music of Hank Williams, Sr. We’ve been doing it about six years now, with hits from the width of his career. He recorded from ’47 to ’53 and we play the songs in chronological order. The band wears vintage smile-pocket Western shirts with hats and ties and we all play instruments accurate to that era.” Johnson strums guitar while his bandmates use the same style hollow-bodied electric guitar, steel guitar, fiddle, and upright bass preferred by their Sr. inspirations. “My ‘Hank suit’ was made for me by one of the same guys who dressed ZZ Top, among others and he was one of the guys at Nudies Rodeo Tailors [who dressed ZZ Top, among others] and he made me a replica of Hank’s suit...the white suit with black musical notes.”

Johnson formed another “re-creation” last year called “Band in Black,” featuring the music of Hank Williams, Sr. We’ve been the Singing Cowboy of Rawhide Ranch for eight years now,” says Cowboy Jack Johnson. “That’s a dude ranch in Bonita—located at Club Rio 4079 Adams Ave. (619) 472-2400 Open 8 pm-2 am food all night!” Johnson formed another “re-creation” last year called “Band in Black,” featuring the music of Hank Williams, Sr. We’ve been the Singing Cowboy of Rawhide Ranch for eight years now,” says Cowboy Jack Johnson. “That’s a dude ranch in Bonita...kids learn how to take care of and ride horses and stuff. Then, at the big campfire, I sing a bunch of cowboy standards and tell stories about the Old West. I do that most every Saturday night, whenever I’m not booked with one of my band projects.”

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Press the the 4-digit extension above the category that interests you (for example, 4000 for this week’s concerts). 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

THURSDAY
Bobby “Blue” Bland (R&B): 4th & B, Thursday, December 9, 7:30 p.m., 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

FRIDAY
Paul Anka (60s): Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre, Friday, December 10, 8 p.m., 5469 Casino Way, Delhua. 619-650-3380.

Pedro the Lion (2000s): The Casbah, Friday, December 10, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Kettner Boulevard, midtown. 619-220-8497 or 619-233-4355.

SATURDAY
Mike Watt (1980s): Goodbye, Blue Monday, with Republic of Letters; The Casbah, Saturday, December 11, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Kettner Boulevard, midtown. 619-220-8497 or 619-233-4355.

Burrito Deluxe: Acoustic Music San Diego, Saturday, December 11, 7:30 p.m., 4650 Manhasset Street, Normal Heights. Information: 619-303-8176.

Charles McPherson & His Quintet featuring Gilbert Castellanos (60s): The Funk Brothers; The Casbah, Saturday, December 11, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., 143 Seventh Avenue (between J and K), downtown. 858-270-7467.

SUNDAY
The Funk Brothers: Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, December 12, 7 p.m., 140 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

Joe Arthur (50s): The Epicentre. Sunday, December 12, 8 p.m., 4650 Manhasset Street, Normal Heights. Information: 619-303-8176.

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San Diego Reader December 9, 2004 113
Was Not Was: Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, December 26, 7:30 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8410.

Joe Satriani (4093): 6:30 B, Tuesday, December 28, 8 p.m., 459 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

Oomami (278): Slow Motion Reign: Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, December 26, and Thursday, December 27, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8410.

Fishbone (177): Cans Bar and Grill, Thursday, December 30, 8 p.m., 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780 or 619-220-8497.

Steve Poltz & the Rugburns (2683): Belly Up Tavern, Friday, December 31, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8410.

Atreyus, As I Lay Dying, Bleeding Through, and seven more: SOMA, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780 or 619-220-8497.

JANUARY

Gomez: Belly Up Tavern, Friday, January 14, and Saturday, January 15, 9:30 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8410.

Keller Williams: 4th & B, Saturday, January 15, 8 p.m., 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

Jay Farrar: Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, January 19, 7 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8410.

Dionne Warwick (647): Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre, Thursday, January 20, 8 p.m., 5469 Casino Way, Dehesa. 619-659-3380.

The Steve Morse Band (228) and the Dixie Dregs: Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre, Friday, January 21, 8 p.m., 5469 Casino Way, Dehesa. 619-659-3380.

The Choirs: California Center for the Arts, 4th & B, Saturday, January 22, 8 p.m., 340 N. Escondido Boulevard, Escondido. 800-988-4253 or 619-220-8497.

The Robert Cray Band (947): California Center for the Arts, Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre, Friday, January 20, 8 p.m., 5469 Casino Way, Dehesa. 619-659-3380.

The Steve Morse Band (228) and the Dixie Dregs: Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre, Friday, January 21, 8 p.m., 5469 Casino Way, Dehesa. 619-659-3380.

FEBRUARY

Dave Alvin (818): Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, February 5, 9:30 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8410.

The Derek Trucks Band (908): Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, February 9, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8410.

Steve Earle & the Dukes and Allison Moorer (783): Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, February 11, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8410.

Bright Eyes (242): Spreckels Theatre, Friday, February 11, 121 Broadway, downtown. 619-235-9500 or 619-220-8497.

Bobby Caldwell (405): 4th & B, Friday, February 11, 8 p.m., 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

MARCH

B.B. King (902): 4th & B, Tuesday, March 1, 8 p.m., 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

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Band Soundboard 619.233.9797

Press 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

Agent Orange (1983) Blind Melons
The Asylum Street Spankers: The Casbah
The Big City Rock: 'Canes
The Black Sheep Freest: Epicentre
Bunky (254): The Casbah
Clay Colton: Tom Giblin’s Irish Pub & Restaurant
Concrete Blonde: Belly Up Tavern
Cortical: 'Canes
Counter Strike: Epicentre
Crimson Letter: 'Canes
The Dazzlewell: The Casbah
Dehra Dunn: 'Canes
Delancey: 'Canes
Dishwalla: 'Canes
The Dog + Pony Show: Soma
Down with Leo: 'Canes
D.O.S.: Blind Melons
Earnest: The Casbah
Eclipse: 'Canes
Endride: Squid Joe’s
Erase the Day: 'Canes
Eye-a-Mon: Brick By Brick
Frog’s Breath: Epicentre
Goodbye, Blue Monday: The Casbah
The Great Northern: The Casbah
Headtrip Superstar: Epicentre
Hoodstock: Dreamstreet
I.D.Z.: Blind Melons
Itt: Winstons
Jimmy Eat World: 6th & B
Karat: The Casbah
Mike Keneally (398): Belly Up Tavern
Lesora: 'Canes
Louie XIV: 4th & B
The Lymbic System: Winstons
Margin of Error: Epicentre
The Mickey’s: 'Canes
The Mildas Touch: 'Canes
Money Shot: Blind Melons
Myconaut: Blind Melons
The Nervous: 'Canes
Next Morning: Squid Joe’s
On the One: Winstons
Optimally Yours: The Casbah
Orko the Sycotic Alien: Brick By Brick
Pedro the Lion (223): The Casbah
Phoenix: 'Canes
The Pinheads: Blind Melons
Pleaseassure: The Casbah
Pocket Fox: Winstons
Police Woman: Epicentre
The Republic of Letters: The Casbah
The Roots of Orchie: The Casbah
Scribe Saya: Brick By Brick
Serious Issues: Shm Rocks Shack
Snow Patrol: 6th & B
Struck by Silence: Epicentre
Suckerfish: Blind Melons
Ten Twenty Kill: 'Canes
This Holiday Life (145): The Casbah
The Travel Agents: The Kraken
Twenty Miles South: Winstons
20 Year Fix: Blind Melons
Unthank: Epicentre
Velvet Tongue: 'Canes
Mike Watt & the Secondmen: 'Canes
Winstons
The Jesus and Mary Chain: The Casbah
Winstons
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NO COVER BEFORE 10PM! NO COVER AFTER 2AM!
**FESTIVAL SCHEDULE**

EXTENSION 4004

**POP / TOP 40**

- B Natural: Bahia Belle Cruise
- Jesse Davies: Buen Giro Restaurant
- The Disco Pimpas: 5thh Qtr.
- The Flock of 80’s: Henry’s Pub
- The Bob Lenz Band: The Flying Bridge

**BANDS**

- Elliot Louis: Bahia Hotel
- The Love Rangers: The Alley
- Rick Lyon: The Imperial House
- The New Breed Band: Dick’s Last Resort
- Northstar: McP’s Irish Pub and Grill
- Jack Pollock: El Yucateco’s Bistro & Sky Lounge
- The Rat Pack: La Scala
- Dean Paul Ratzman: T.D. Hays Bar & Restaurant
- Rising Star: Humphrey’s

- Peter Robberecht/Pianoman (622): Dakota Grill and Spirits
- Richard Samuel: The Calypso Cafe
- Superfunk Fantasy: Jimmy Love’s

**EXTENSION 4005**

**JAZZ / BIG BAND**

- The Afro/Cuban Jazz Ensemble: Dizzy’s
- The High Society Jazz Band: Tio Leo’s Lounge
- High Stakes: The Metaphor Coffeehouse
- The Madjazz Improvisation Ensemble: Dizzy’s
- The Sam Johnson Jazz Trio: The Wyndham Emerald Plaza
- Jump Jones: Neiman’s Bar and Grill
- Just For Fun: The Metaphor Coffeehouse
- Tony Lasley: Hotel del Coronado
- Mark Lesman: Coyote Bar and Grill
- Barry Levich: La Valencia Hotel
- The Joe Marillo Quartet: Buon Giorno Restaurant
- Masterpiece: Jimmy Love’s
- The Charles McPherson Quintet: Dizzy’s
- Jerry Mahick: The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, Rancho Bernardo
- The Mesa College Big Band: Dizzy’s
- The Shop Meyers Quartet (660): Hotel del Coronado, Casa’s Jazz Bar

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December 10, 11 & 12

Our Messiah performances, the best in San Diego, feature world class orchestral playing, spectacular soloists and the magnificent San Diego Master Chorale.

JULIUS WAGNER, CONDUCTOR
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SAN DIEGO MASTER CHORALE

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HOLIDAY POPS ROCKS!
December 17, 18 & 19*

Great Holiday Fun for the entire family!

MATTHEW GABBERT, CONDUCTOR

*Dec. 19 is our FAMILY FESTIVAL of Holiday Pops Rocks! The program is one hour and is perfect for families with younger children. It will feature a $30 FAMILY PRICE which includes tickets for up to 2 adults and 4 children.

San Diego Reader December 9, 2004
Online Club Coupons!

The following nightclubs have valuable coupons in the Music Section of the Reader’s website.

Blind Melons 2 for 1 cover
Brick By Brick 2 for 1 admission
Club Caribe $5 off cover
Club Montage No cover
Croc’s Free cover with dinner
4th & B 2 free comedy tickets
Jolt ’N’ Joe’s Free hour of pool
Longshot Saloon $2 off cover
McCabe’s Beach Club $2 off admission
Patricks II 2 for 1 cover
Sandbar Happy-hour priced round
Second Wind Navajo No cover
6MinuteMatch.com $5 off event
Squid Joe’s $2 off pitcher of beer
Tio Leo’s Lounge $1 off club admission
Zodiak Hookah Lounge $2 off premium blend

SanDiegoReader.com
DJ EVENTS

If you would like to include your DJ event, e-mail info@bighometimes.com for information at 619-881-2401 by 1:00 p.m., Friday, the week prior to publication. The listings are free.

Accent: Saturdays, deep soulful house and disco with Al, Brian, Cabalici, and Mikeryton. La Cantina, 355 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-236-1808.

Air Conditioned: Thursdays, Lounge with DJ Craig. Fridays, old school, funk, and disco with DJ Mr. MixMaster. Saturdays, electronic funk with DJ Steam. Tuesdays, Veya, DJs SK and Seesiq spin hard salsa, mambos, and boogaloo. Wednesdays, Rockboxx, ‘60s and ‘70s rock with DJs Atars, Sergio, and Jr. MixMaster. 4673 30th Street, University Hills. 619-501-9817.


Bad: Second and fourth Wednesday of the month, hip-hop, urban soul, and Latin night with DJ Rick La Voz. South Park. 619-284-6784.

Bistro: Fridays, DJ Lenny spins hip-hop, R&B, and retro. 740 Nordahl Road, San Marcos. 760-737-5040.

Blackstone and Atari: The Whistle Stop Bar, 2236 Fern Street, South Park. 619-284-6784.

Booty Basement: Fourth Saturday of the month, hip-hop, ‘80s, and soul with DJs Rob, Bad, and Dimitri. 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. The Whistle Stop Bar, 2236 Fern Street, South Park. 619-284-6784.

The Boulevard: Thursdays, Club Boulevard, hip-hop and house with DJs Marc Thrasher and Vaz. Saturdays, Metropolis, hip-hop, reggae, and house, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. 925 W. San Marcos Boulevard, San Marcos. 760-510-0004.

Church of Noise: Second and fourth Monday of the month, new noise mixed with alternative rock classics. Hosted by DJ Mr. Hyde. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. Kadan, 4606 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500.

Club ‘80s: Thursdays, the best of the ‘80s with DJs Bryan Pollard and Brian Anderson. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. Shooterz, 3815 30th Street, North Park. 619-574-0744.

Club ‘70s: Sundays, the best of the ‘70s, glitz, glamour, and punk with DJs B.P., Morgan Young, and Sidkidy. Shooterz, 3815 30th Street, North Park. 619-574-0744.


Deep: Thursdays, dance ´n´ bass and jungle music with DJs Walkrawer, Probolok-Cause, and Lafal. 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. The Rhythm Lounge, 3048 Midway Drive, Midway. 619-224-4835.


Fusion Young Adult Laser Dance Clubs: Fridays and Saturdays, DJ Dizzy D spins hip-hop, house, and reggae. 775 Matthews Street, Escondido. 760-741-9393.

G101 Lounge: Fridays and Saturdays, two rooms of fresh beats and atmosphere. 100 Harbor Drive, Suite 101, downtown. 619-702-7101.

Hands on Wax: Thursdays, hip-hop, and downtempo with DJs SK and Sesqui spin hard salsa, house, and militant beats with DJs Bryan Pollard and Brian Anderson. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. Bar Dynamite, 4606 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500.

MixLab: Thursdays, DJ Dex spins an eclectic listening session: alternative hip-hop, urban soul, and Latin grooves. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. No cover. Candiles, 414 Third Avenue, downtown. 619-502-4455.

Muse: Fridays, hip-hop with DJ Lenny. Saturdays, old school and hip-hop with DJ Rick La Voz. Sundays, Reggae Night with DJs Nicos and Josh. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. 2511 Sweetwater Road, National City. 619-475-7141.


> hometown CDs

By Mark Dukeminier

Album Name: Wear Yourself Worn (2004)
Label: self-released
Price/Where Available: www.deadlinefriday.com for $12
Band Members: Bill Coomes (drums and vocals), Jim Diez (guitar and vocals), Claudio Gutierrez (percussion), Earl Schreyer (bass), Mike Spurgat (guitar and vocals)
Extra Info: Deadline Friday plays Friday, December 31, 2004 (New Year’s Eve), Blind Melons; show starts at 10 p.m., free
Website: www.deadlinefriday.com

On first listen, those expecting the excitement of fast country or the kind of lengthy folk that breaks into a raging rocker will be disappointed. There are no intricate instrumentalists that showcase the band’s skills; portions of their sound wander into back-up band territory.

Hands on Wax: Thursdays, house, hip-hop, and downtempo with DJs SK, Matsu, and Dylan Jones; live percussion by Kem. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Surf ’N’ Saddle, 123 West Plaza Street (Lomas Santa Fe and Highway 101), Solana Beach. 858-755-9474.

MixLab: Thursdays, DJ Dex spins an eclectic listening session: alternative hip-hop, urban soul, and Latin grooves. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. No cover. Candiles, 414 Third Avenue, downtown. 619-502-4455.

Muse: Fridays, hip-hop with DJ Lenny. Saturdays, old school and hip-hop with DJ Rick La Voz. Sundays, Reggae Night with DJs Nicos and Josh. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. 2511 Sweetwater Road, National City. 619-472-4440.

One Nation: Second Saturday of the month, bowling remixes, ‘80s classics, and hip-hop with DJs Bart Blackstone and Stets. The Whistle Stop Bar, 2236 Fern Street, South Park. 619-284-6784.

Plum Loco Saloon: Thursdays, Latin Night with DJ Rick La Voz.

Three-part vocal harmonies from Jim Diez, Mike Spurgat, and Bill Coomes provide the foundation. The guitar work from Diez and Spurgat is the highlight of the album. An airy chord structure in “Sweet Breathin’ Thing” blends pop sensibilities with the resilience of tradition, but for the most part Deadline Friday sticks to the standards. A majority of the album is mellow acoustics with a bluegrass feel.

Tepid lyrics are propped up by a trifecta of vocals. ‘How quickly the blue skies turn to gray.’ And another: ‘You were so innocent but I was the jook / you said that you loved me / lord knows I love you.’ This song ends with the weak, ‘Your alibis tell the truth, why can’t you?’ While the temptation to stop the disc right here is stronger than ever, muddling on pays off at the end with the guys loosening up, hitting on tiny bits of something good.

(To hear a sample of ‘Wear Yourself Worn, call 619-233-9797, wait for the prompt, then punch in ext. 4404.)

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD REVIEWED, PLEASE MAIL IT TO: Jennifer Ball, Hometown CDs, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92116-5803.

Sabbat: Saturdays, DJs Adam Atom, Dekay, Liquid Grey, and guests. Dark electro, gothic, and darkwave. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Gato Loco, 634 Broadway, downtown. 619-344-1609.

Super Hit: Sundays, two rooms of reggae and dancehall with Rashy, Dubs Eye, and KOF. Aubergine, 500 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-232-8100.

Therapy: Fridays, industrial, gothic, and darkwave. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. Shooterz, 3815 30th Street, North Park. 619-574-0744.


Transport: First and third Saturdays of the month, Brit rock, indie, and electroclash with DJ Gabe Vega and guests. The Whistle Stop, 2236 Fern Street (corner of 30th and Juniper), Golden Hill. 619-284-6784.

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 Lynne Houts at 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.

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 Lynne Houts at 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.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the Love Rangers, Top 40/pop.

Belly Up Tavern, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

San Diego Reader December 9, 2004

123

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Tuesdays • 9 pm
$2 PACRICO • $3.50 JÄGERS
$2 IMPERIALS • 1/2-PRICE APPS

Wednesday, Dec. 15
Reserved seating & dinner packages available.

“Stepping Feet”
(Dave Matthews Tribute)

DJ D-SKWIZ
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An evening with
TAINTED LOVE
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(Dave Matthews Tribute)

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(early Van Halen tribute)

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(all-female tribute to Led Zeppelin)

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**TONIGHT! THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9**

**Jumpstart**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10**

9:30 PM-1:30 AM  
**DISCO & DANCE**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11**

9:30 PM-1:30 AM  
**LATIN ROCK**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 8-12 AM**  
**SMOOTH JAZZ WITH KELLY COLE**

**THE ONLY PLACE TO BE ON SUNDAY NIGHT!!!**

**Reel To Real**

**DJ JOHN PHILLIPS**

**MON., DEC. 13**

Chet Cannon's  
Blue Monday

**TUES., DEC. 14**

**JAZZ & DANCE**

** Quiet Storm**

**WED., DEC. 15**

**A TRIBUTE TO THE SUPREMES**

**The Corvelles**

**UPCOMING SHOWS**

**THURSDAY, DEC. 30**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE EVE**

**70S FUNKMASTERS**

**Slave**

**FRIDAY, JAN. 7**

**MAINSTREAM JAZZ**

**PHENOM QUARTET**

**TICKETS ON SALE AT TICKETMASTER AND HUMPHREY'S TICKET OFFICE**

Reserved seating available with dinner in the restaurant

**Calendar**

**CLUBS**

Music is rock/pop/alternative.  
Thursday, 8 p.m., Concrete Blonde  
Sunday, 7 p.m., the Funk Brothers  
Wednesday, 8 p.m., Mike Kennelly.

The Blvd., 925 West San Marcos Boulevard, San Marcos. 760-510-0004.  
Thursday, hip-hop/R&B. Friday, 9 p.m., Advanced/Visas; rock. Saturday, call club for information.  
Sunday, 9 p.m., Duke; Monday, 10 p.m., local bands.  
Wednesday, country music.

Boar Cross'n, 490 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-2989. Friday and Saturday, Local Tunes; classic rock.

The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe, Rizzo Hall Mall, 204 at Via del Valle, Del Mar. 858-735-3373. Friday, 8 p.m., Earl Thomas, blues.

Borders Books and Music, 1905 Calle Barcelona, Carlsbad. 760-479-0242. Friday, 8 p.m., the Divine School of Guitar Quartet, classical guitar.

Borders Books and Music, 11100 Rancho Carmel Drive, Carmel Mountain. 858-618-1814. Saturday, 8 p.m., Curtis Peoples/ acoustic.

Bub's Whiskey Dive, 301 Pier View Way, Oceanside. 760-757-BUBS. Saturday, the Christian Hasting Band; rock.


Saturday, the Kyle Jester Blues Show. Super. 9 p.m., Richard Serrato, piano. Monday, the Flounders, jazz. Tuesday, Jack Tempch in, folk. Wednesday, Cocktail Groove, acid jazz.

Cavers, 11940 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-566-2400. Friday, Layla, classic rock. Saturday, Steve Warning, rock.

Coyote Bar and Grill, 600 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4695. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., the Rhythmatix, classic rock. Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Fish or the Seafood, rock. Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., the Swingers' Kings, blues. Sunday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Mark Esmen, jazz. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Benny and his rock.

The Flying Bridge, 1105 North Coast Highway, Oceanside. 760-722-1151. Friday and Saturday, the Bob Lenz Band; contemporary.

Hennessey's Tavern (Carlsbad), 2777 Roosevelt Street, Carlsbad. 760-728-6951. Saturday, Mother Funk.

The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, 5951 Limes del Caso, Rancho Santa Fe. 858-766-1131. Thursday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Jerry Maldonado, jazz/variety piano.

Jay's Gourmet Pizza and Seafood Restaurant, 1103 South Highway 101, Cardiff by the Sea. 634-3333. Saturday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Free Air, acoustic pop/rock.


The Longshoth Saloon, 443 Grand Avenue, San Marcos. 760-744-8576. Call club for information.

Marriott Hotel, 11900 El Camino Real, Del Mar. 858-369-6032. Thursday, The Robert Miller Band; classic rock.

Marriott Hotel, 11900 El Camino Real, Del Mar. 858-369-6032. Arterra Lounge. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., Mike Lipson, jazz/pop standards/variety pianist.

Martin Ranch, 485 South Coast Highway (at D Street), Encinitas. 760-943-9301. Friday, live music. Wednesday, reggae.

Mas Fina Cantina, 2780 State Street, Carlsbad. 760-434-3497. Thursday, the Kyle Jester Blues Show. Wednesday, 8 p.m., Mike Gardner, acoustic rock.

McCabe's Beach Club, 1145 South Tremont, Oceanside. 760-439-6646. Friday, 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., the California Farmers, country.

The Metaphor Coffeehouse, 238 East Second Avenue, Escondido. 760-489-8990. Thursday and Monday, live Dixieland music. Friday, Acoustic Empire Saturday, High Stakes, swing Tuesday, Just for Fun, Wednesday, open mic.

Neims Bar and Grill, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-728-6331. Monday, 9 p.m. to 11 p.m., Jump Jones/jazz/rock and roll.

North Bar Sports & Spirits, 20 West El Norte Parkway, Escondido. 760-480-8228. Thursday, 6 p.m., Mike Gardner acoustic rock.

The Pine Hills Lodge, 2960 La Ponsada Way, Julian. 760-736-1100. Saturday, 8:30 p.m., The Hawk Show, vintage country.

Pounders, 125 West Grand Avenue, Escondido. 760-739-2288. Wednesday, 9 p.m., the Blank Rome, classic rock.

Rancho Bernardo Inn, 17590 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-675-8500. El Bucosho Restaurant. Friday, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., and Monday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Jerry Maldonado, jazz/variety piano.

Scalin, 3591 Via de la Valle, Del Mar. 858-269-9944. Thursday/Bar Saturday, live jazz. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., Jericho, American and Brazilian jazz.

Squid Joe's, 150 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-4896. Thursday, 9 p.m., Next Morning, alternative rock. Friday, 9 p.m., Endre, alternative. Saturday, hip-hop.

Surf N'Saddle, 123 West Plaza Street (Comas Santa Fe Highway 101), Solana Beach. 858-755-9474. Friday and Saturday, livemusic, alternative. Thursday, open mic.

Tom Giblin's Irish Pub & Restaurant, 800 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-728-7234. Friday and Wednesday, 9 p.m., Beholdare, Irish folk. Saturday, traditional Irish music.

**To Dance**

Music is rock/rock. **Monday, 9 p.m.**

the Stakes Coop, 2777 Roosevelt Street, Carlsbad. 760-439-6951. Monday, 9:30 p.m., Jerry Maldonado, jazz/variety piano.

**The Daily Grind**

Music is country/soul. **Monday, 9 p.m.**

the Hank Show, 2780 State Street, Carlsbad. 760-434-3497. Thursday, the Kyle Jester Blues Show. Tuesday, 8 p.m., Mike Gardner, acoustic rock.

**The Metaphor Coffeehouse**

Music is country. **Thursday, 6 p.m.**

the California Farmers, country. **Friday, 4:30 p.m.**

to 9 p.m., the California Farmers, country.

**The Pine Hills Lodge**

Music is country. **Saturday, 8:30 p.m.**

The Hawk Show, vintage country.
**SAN DIEGO**

**Albie's Beef Inn**, 1201 Hotel Circle South, San Diego. 619-291-1193. Friday and Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. All entertainment is cover. Parking is $3 per car. Dance shows are 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. (10 goes on late). It's a popular weekend destination for locals. 

**CasaBlanca**, 1101 Prospect Street, Point Loma, 619-224-3577. Thursday, 8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., and Saturday, 8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Call for information.


**La Valencia Hotel**, 1101 Ocean Boulevard, Pacific Beach. 858-488-1274. Call for information.

**The Gordon Biersch Brewery**, 2451 Dog + Pony Show, Cortical, Wither, Red Fox Steakhouse, and the Bert Torres Band, 2441 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-224-3277. Thursday, 8:30 p.m., Jammers/country/folk/rock classic.

**The Imperial House**, 655 Karlins Street, San Diego. 619-234-3523. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Live music every night, including Monday and Wednesday.

**J & J's Restaurant and Lounge**, 2777 University Avenue, La Jolla. 858-486-3777. Thursday, 9:30 p.m., to 12:30 a.m., and Friday, 8 p.m. to midnight. The Imperial House specializes in seafood and live music. 

**J & J's Restaurant and Lounge**, 2777 University Avenue, La Jolla. 858-486-3777. Thursday, 9:30 p.m., to 12:30 a.m., and Friday, 8 p.m. to midnight. The Imperial House specializes in seafood and live music. 

**MAX'S**, 648 45th Street, Ocean Beach. 858-483-7097. Saturday, 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, 9:00 p.m. Call for information.

**THURSDAY • DECEMBER 23**

**The Sushi Bistro**, 1101 Prospect Street, Point Loma, 619-224-2272. Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday, 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Call for information.

**The ViewMaster**, 1046 Clairmont Mesa Boulevard, Tamarac, 858-578-2509. Live for Christmas.

**The Wedgewood Cafe**, 853 Hornblower Street, Pacific Beach. 858-490-8800. Friday, 8 p.m., all night. The Ghost Town Rockers, roots/dixieland/reggae.

**The Wall**, 435 3rd Avenue, Ocean Beach. 858-483-0771. Monday, and 5:30 p.m., to 10:00 p.m. Call for information.

**The Whiskey Cake**, 1101 Ocean Boulevard, Pacific Beach. 858-486-7077. Monday, 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Call for information.

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**The Whiskey Cake**, 1101 Ocean Boulevard, Pacific Beach. 858-486-7077. Monday, 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Call for information.
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Tio Leo’s Lounge, 3362 Napa Street (at Morena Boulevard), Bay Park, 619-542-1822. Thursday, Hot Red Light, rockabilly. Friday, the Javy Show, rock. Saturday, the Fremont Music Monday, swing. Tuesday, yestesday, Wednesday, December 7, 7 p.m., High Society Jazz Band.

Tutto Mare, 4865 Executive Drive, La Jolla (Golden Triangle). 858-597-2188. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Happy Valley/Vallejo Marmaris Jazz Quartet.


DOWNTOWN

4th & B, 845 B Street, downtown. 619-231-0264. Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Bobby Blue’s Band, Shane Dogfights and Bible Code Sunday, 8 p.m., Jimmy Eat World, SnowPants, and Louise XIV, alternative.

5th and Otr, (formerly Bueller’s). 600 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-234-3040. Saturday, the David Patrone Quartet.

Blarney Stone Pub, 562 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-8719. Friday, street performance. Saturday, 9:30 p.m., Bag and a Half, Latin/rock. Saturday, 10 p.m., Bill McGee, Bobby Bluebland, Shane Dwight.

Hotstar, 6th Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-239-5818. Improvisation Ensemble. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, the Jaime Valle/Bob Ernst NightShift. Friday, the Shep Meyers NightShift. Saturday, the Hellstar/600 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 5th/Quarter.

Music is jazz unless otherwise noted. Call club for information.

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CALL ME ALICE • LYLAH

Wednesday, December 15

THOMAS LEE • MATT SILVIA

SVEN-ERIK SEAHOLM

MICHAEL TIERNAN

Xmas Benefit for EYE-A-MON

NIHILISTIC

EXP

Wednesday, December 26

“Listen Local Acoustic Alliance”

FM REVOLVER • TALL

BROKEN FOUNDATION • TETAY

Friday, December 31

New Year’s Eve Bash

DATE CHANGE

BRICK BY BRICK

BrickbyBrick.com • (619)275-LIVE • 21 and up with ID

Friday, December 10

IN RUIN

NIHILISTIC

VEGGAN TEMPLE

BOMB NECK EXECUTION

Saturday, December 11

“S.D. Guitar Guru”

BRET ELLIS

EXP

(Jimi Hendrix Tribute)

Drink specials and giveaways

Tuesday, December 14

“Listen Local Acoustic Alliance”

SHELON FLICK • L. TURTLE

THOMAS LEW • MATT SILVA

SCOTT WILSON • MARCIA CLAIRE

SVEN-GRIK SEAHOLM

MICHAEL TIERNAN

PETE THURSTON • LISA SANDERS

CHRISTOPHER DALE • ZACH GOODE

Wednesday, December 15

Xmas Bash at the Hotstar

St. Vincent de Paul Village

HEAVING GROOVES

STRANGER

LATANYA Lockett Band

ORKO THE SYCOTIC ALIEN

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THE BLOODSUIT

Thursday, December 16

120 Guitar Guys • 120 Catski

12th Floor Dance Center & the 99 Bar

(20 Anniversary)

911 Halibrand

123 Baroque Night

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Friday, December 17

“Fright Night”

LED ZEPAGAIN

(Original ’70s Tribute)

DEEPER PURPLE

Saturday, December 18

Knuckles Entertainment presents BROTHERHOOD

FLAWLESS • STUCK MODE

BORN TONIGHT • FUZZ HUZZI

Sunday, December 19

TOPS FOR TOTS

“Xmas Chaos III”

THE EMPIRE STATE • VIII FRAUD

HYDE • DJ SOBIR

Monday, December 20

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GRANDVIEW

FIRST TIME FALLING

Tuesday, December 28

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AUDREY SURFACE

JOEY BOWEN • ITAI

STEPH JOHNSON

MATT MALERUS

NATIVE MENDOZA

SAM BYBEE

MARK DECERBO

Friday, December 31

New Year’s Eve Bash

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Tuesday, December 26

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Sunday • 7 pm

“The Best of San Diego”

Thursday, December 15

619-234-4355. Friday, Freydr’s/Six Degrees. Saturday, Aguas Dukas, Latin jazz.

Dakota Grill and Spirits, 901 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-231-5750. Thursday and Friday, closed. Saturday, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Blues on the Boulevard. Saturday, Agua Dukas, Latin jazz.

Dizzy’s, 447 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-231-5754. Thursday, 7:30 p.m., the Cellas College Big Band, jazz. Friday, 8 p.m., Paul Safenfeld, Pete Supreme, and Kevin Krieger, jazz. Saturday, the Charles McPherson Quintet. Sunday, 7 p.m., the Afro-Cuban Jazz Ensemble and the Jazz Improvisation Ensemble.

**GS-Georges on Fifth.** 835 Fifth Avenue (between E & F Streets), downtown. 619-702-0444. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 7 p.m., Tom Barabas, pianist.

**Jimmy Love’s.** 672 Fifth Avenue (corner of Fifth and G), downtown. 619-593-0125. Thursday and Sunday, Mauzeraynzes, jazz/R&B. Friday and Saturday, 9:45 p.m., Superfunk Fantasy, disco/Top 40. Monday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Reggie Smith & Poured for Time, jazz. Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Mytime, jazz, funk, R&B. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., the Soul Revue, Top 40. **The Latin Room.** 160 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-237-7800. Call club for information.

**Martini Ranch.** 528 F Street, downtown. 619-235-6100. Sunday, reggae/dancehall/hip-hop/R&B. Wednesday, 9 p.m., the David Patrone Quartet, jazz. **Patrick’s II.** 428 F Street, downtown. 619-233-3077. Music is blues unless otherwise noted. Thursday, the Blues Brothers, Friday, Soul DJs; Saturday, Michele Landeen & Blue Street, Monday, J.J. Slyde. Tuesday, Jacqueline & the Latin Brokers, Wednesday, the Blues Brothers.

**Princess Pub & Grill.** 1665 India Street, Little Italy/downtown. 619-702-3021. Tuesday, J.D. Beachcomber, piano.

**Redfields Lounge.** at Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego, One Market Place, downtown. 619-232-1234. Friday, 9 p.m., the David Patrone Quartet, jazz. Saturday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Blue Aces, blues.


**Sevilla.** 515 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-5979. Thursday, Primo, salsa/Latin jazz. Tuesday, Rico Tumbao, salsa.

**The Westgate Hotel.** 1055 Second Avenue, downtown. 619-238-1818. The Soul Revue, Top 40.

**The Latin Room.** 160 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-237-7800. Call club for information.

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Calendar

**CLUBS**

Cafe LaMaze, 1441 Highland Avenue, National City 619-474-3222. Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m. to midnight, Sandy Chapell and Sammy Cochrane (Charlies Blues).  
Club Caribe, 1401 Bonita Road, Bonita. 619-472-2400. Thursday, live reggae band, Friday, salsa/mariachi/bachata/reggaeton.  
Coronado Island Marriott (formerly La Meridiana), 2080 Second Street, Coronado. 619-435-3000. Saturday, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., the James Valley Jazz Quartet.  
Di-mond Jim’s Nightclub, 773 Third Avenue, Chula Vista 619-585-7323. Friday and Saturday, Mike Torroti, classic rock.  
Edelweiss Restaurant, 230 Third Avenue, Chula Vista 619-426-3772. Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m., Gordon Kahl, KefHole, or Yvke Enges, European and ethnic accordion.  
Galley at the Marina, 550 Marina Parkway, Chula Vista 619-426-3771. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., folklife, acoustic originals/covers.  
Hotel del Coronado, 1550 Orange Avenue, Coronado 619-435-6611. Balbock & Story, Thursday and Sunday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., also, Friday and Saturday, 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Tony Laday Latin jazz, Friday and Saturday, 8:30 p.m., Barbara Jameson and Joe Tarantino, jazz. Tuesday and Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Robert Werth, guitarist.  
Palm Court, Thursday through Sunday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Ray Brice, also, Sunday, noon to 4 p.m., Joey West.  
Prince of Wales, Thursday and Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., the Shop Meyers Quartet, Friday through Sunday, and Tuesday, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., Daniel Jackson, jazz.  
Crown Room, Thursday, noon to 3:30 p.m., Tony Herzog, 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., R&B.  

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ADULT NIGHT 7:30-10:30 PM  
ADULT LEARN-TO-SKATE CLINIC $4  
Conventional Quad & Blade • Every Tuesday 7:30-7:15 pm or Adult Skate Clinic & Session $8 or Adult Session Only $6

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$2 for 1  
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Valid Tuesday, December 14, 2004.  

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 ORIGINALS  
 Mike Ruggirello Presents

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Dance contest every week!  
Lafayette  
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 Tommy Price & The Stilettos  
‘50s, ‘60s & Contemporary R&B, Swing

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BILLY WATSON SHOW

FRIDAY, DEC. 10  
LOS TRES SAPOS

SATURDAY, DEC. 11  
KYLE JESTER  
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COCKTAIL GROOVE

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to 7 pm, Kippy Lou Scottcharpent.
Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., John Cain.
Ballroom, Thursday, noon to
7 p.m., Ray Brit.

ISLAND SPORTS & SPIRITS, 104
Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-485-
3456. Friday, the Brother Blood Blue
Band. Saturday, the Jackass 3, rock.

McP’s Irish Pub and Grill, 1107
Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-485-
5280. Thursday, Sweet Blue Onion,
Monday, A商店 Wear, pop rock.
Saturday, the Stilettos, rockabilly.
Sunday, Jim Moore, acoustic. Monday,
Don’t Get Acoustic,Tuesday, Gary
Rich, folk. Wednesday, Gene Warrar,
Irish folk.

STUDIO E ST., 636 E Street, Chula
Vista. 619-622-8000. Friday, hip-
hop/R&B. Saturday, salsa/merengue/regga/cumbia.

EAST COUNTY
Borders Books and Music, 159
Parkway Plaza, El Cajon. 619-595-
5119. Saturday, 7 p.m., Michael Pextel,
alternative.

Dirk’s Niteclub, 7662 Broadway,
Lemon Grove. 619-469-6344 Friday
and Saturday, T777, classic rock.

Don’s Cocktail Lounge, 13321
Business Highway 8, El Cajon.619-
443-2444. Friday and Saturday, Ten-
Tunnel Highway, country.

Fannio’s, 9143 Campo Road, Spring
Valley. 619-698-2204 Friday, Jef City,
rock. Saturday, Jack City rock.
Wednesday, Big Slim, blues.

The German American Societies,
1017 South Mission Avenue, El Cajon.
619-273-7280. Friday, 7-30 p.m.,
the pop-rock, 12-Pocket Band featuring
Jo Dark.

Monroe’s Cafe, 7404 University
Avenue, La Mesa. 619-465-
7100 Friday, the B-3 Four, jazz/blues.
Saturday, Jo Dark.

Mr. Joey’s Cantina, 9570 Murray
Drive, La Mesa. 619-466-2522 Friday,
live rock band. Saturday, 9 p.m.,
Les Reyes del Ritmo, Latin.

Renegade Inn, 14535 Old Highway 80 (half mile east from
Lake Jennings turnout), Flyn Springs.
619-691-8105. Friday and Saturday,
the Merchants of Moonshine, country.

Second Wind, 5828 Magnolia
Avenue, San Diego. 619-396-8530 Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m.,
Serious Goose, classic rock. Wednesday, the Stilettos, rockabilly.

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Turning Leaf

A week before Thanksgiving, New Leaf Restaurant in the Hilton Gaslamp was not a happening place. Free of the clamor of the convention crowd, it felt more like a refuge for those of us who think that restaurants should be seen and not heard. Odds are it will stay quiet until New Year’s. During this season, it’s a great spot to cool your heels, clear your head, or catch up on the news with your holiday visitors. The food is pleasing, and the ambiance is all about ease.

A cheerful Christmas tree adorns the lobby. Designed by local artist Chris Gray, it’s covered with laminated “leaves” decorated by schoolchildren. In the comfortable lounge, a few steps from the dining room, we found folks actually lounging — making new friends belly-up to the bar, or sinking into leather chairs to chat with old friends. Everybody was dressed to the threes — polos, tees, jeans or elastic-waist slacks. The restaurant was furnished with the same chairs, high-backed banquettes, and spacious tables as the lounge, and offers similar views of lighted lawns, passing trolleys, and the Convention Center; the best prospect was of flames shooting up at an outdoor patio (an al fresco continuation of the lounge), where a foursome was dining at one of several tables warmed by a waist-high gas fireplace. It doesn’t take anything special to commandeer that cozy space for cocktails, appetizers, dinner, or post-theater liaisons. If there’s a vacant table, it’s yours.

The fare is all-American comfort food, filtered through a multi-ethnic California viewpoint that takes in Mexican, Asian, and Mediterranean flavors. The appetizer list is meeter than most Cal menus. Choices include Kobe beef sliders with Brie, skirt-steak skewers, and artichoke hearts with beef tendarloin, along with the same crab cakes and shrimp cocktail of Mediterranean flavors. The appetizer list is ordered through a multi-ethnic California.

On the lighter side, pan-seared sea scallops are a splendid start. Purchased fresh from a small-scale local seafood purveyor, they proved that there are still sweet dry-pack scallops coming from New England waters — if you know how to shop for them. Crisply browned, well-flavored from New England waters — if you know that there are still sweet dry-pack scallops coming from New England waters — if you know that there are still sweet dry-pack scallops coming from New England waters — if you know that there are still sweet dry-pack scallops coming from New England waters — if you know where to shop for them. Crisply browned, well-flavored from New England waters — if you know that there are still sweet dry-pack scallops coming from New England waters — if you know where to shop for them.

Continuation of the appetizer list is ordered through a multi-ethnic California.

Tomato bruschetta is indubitably a favorite season starter. Here it was served with feta cheese, toasted pine nuts, slivered basil, and a squeeze of lime. It was a sweet-tart, creamy delight. We could have told her that monkfish (a modest substitute for swordfish) doesn’t taste like lobster, but has a lobster-like texture (not in) puff-pastry shells. The night I tried it, the seasonings were unfocused and the saffron. Avoid the other lightweight starter,

Continuation of the appetizer list is ordered through a multi-ethnic California.

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Dryness, this time incurable, also curses a dinner entre of crab-stuffed chicken, which arrives as roulades of boneless breast, each wrapped around a pocket of baby spinach, tomato, and wisps of desiccated crabmeat. The chicken pieces rest on a yolk-yellow saffron cream sauce that tastes strongly of saffron — and only saffron. Accompanying are logs of firm polenta. They look appetizing, with handsome blistering on the surface and visible subcutaneous snips of green onion, and it’s a pity to realize that their flavor is as neutral as naked tofu. The polenta is made in-house. A New York cheesecake was superb, with a nutty granola crust rolled thin enough to crunch, but without Birkenstockish “crunchiness.” The tall filling was airy and moist. That evening, the cake was glazed with raspberry syrup, which I found superfluous but many people might like.

When New Leaf was new, the opening menu featured seasonal local ingredients, but the restaurant’s businessman clientele doesn’t like change, and the menu was solidified by the restaurant’s businessman. A New York cheesecake was superb, with a nutty granola crust rolled thin enough to crunch, but without Birkenstockish “crunchiness.” The tall filling was airy and moist. That evening, the cake was glazed with raspberry syrup, which I found superfluous but many people might like.

For the past 13 months, San Diego native Hannes Cavin (formerly of Dakota Grill) has headed New Leaf’s kitchen, where he remade the bill of fare to its current image. By the time you read this, he’ll have moved to Pacific Coast Grill in Solana Beach, but his menu and cooking style will remain here for at least several months while his sous-chefs run the kitchen.
Meat Poet

“I try to avoid healthy food. What’s the point of eating stuff you hate?”

Ted mumbles.

“Who said that?”

“Ogden Nash,”

Carnivore’s idea of nirvana!” I say.

“Down to a T.”

“You mean T-bone, right?”

Ted swings his minivan onto 101. This is his territory these days. North County, Encinitas. We haven’t crossed paths for years, but I see the man’s still an unrepentant carnivore. “I try to avoid healthy food,” he says.

“What’s the point of eating stuff you hate?”

The maddening thing about Ted is that he always comes in bright-eyed, cherry-checked, and yeah, spouting his poet du jour.

“‘What’s the point of eating stuff you hate?’

Ted murmurs.

“Who said that?”

“Ogden.”

“Ogden.”

“That where you’re taking me, a coffee place?”

“Ogden?”

Ted forks up the last of his baklava. He licks his lips.

“Candy is dandy,” he burbles, “but liquor is quicker.”

“Ogden?”

“Ogden.”

I go for the kofte plate.

“How about a salad for you?” Julie says to Ted.

“No salad,” Ted says.

“What if I made you a grilled chicken salad, with gyro meat too? Same price. $6.99.”

“Oh, what the hell.”

What Ted gets is this giant bed of greens laden with gyro meat and grilled chicken chunks. Mine is a skewer of tightly packed ground meat on a pile of rice pilaf with a Turkish salad on the side. We’re talking both, we both get. We both get pots of yogurty tzadziki sauce.

My kofte is moist and garlicky and delicious. The Turkish salad is traditional. “We call it çoban salata,” Julie says. She pronounces it “kobon.” “It means shepherd’s salad. That’s how it is in the countryside. In the mornings the wife will pile tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, some parsley, oil, and lemon into her husband’s bag, and around lunchtime, out with his floc, he will cut them all up and eat it together. That’s his meal.”

Her mom says, “We make our own yogurt. We call the yogurt you drink ayran ($1.50). Moon drink. ‘Ay’ means ‘moon.’ Here, try this.”

She hands us a small sample glass with white stuff inside. Ted takes one whiff and hands it to me. I have a taste. Oh wow. Nothing sweet about this. Slightly salty, slightly spoiled-milk taste, and you know what? I like it.

“Drink some of this every day, your stomach will thank you,” says Sevgi.

She’s about to pick up Ted’s plate. “But your salad!” she protests. Ted has eaten all the meat, and not touched one twig of lettuce. “I get my vitamins at the health store,” he says.

We end up splitting a baklava ($2.25). It’s different than the Greek or Lebanese version, Sevgi says. “We don’t use honey or rose water. We use our secret recipe.” A second later she splits. “Okay, it’s sugar, lemon, and water.”

The little logs have chopped pistachio nuts on top and walnuts inside. Sweet, but not too sweet, and not all sticky and gloppy. “Course now I have to have the Turkish coffee ($2.00), medium-sweet. Ted goes me one better and orders a glass of Turkish tea. No milk, no sugar.”

We’re down twenty bucks. But it’s worth it. Sevgi brings both drinks on a brass tray. My coffee is served in a beautiful little decorated Turkish cup and saucer. Sevgi (her name means “love”) says that, traditionally, Turkish men in the bubble-bubble smoking houses would drink it black, but put a sugar cube tucked into their cheek, and filter the coffee through it.

“Oh, and you can bring your own wine in the evenings, and soon we hope to have a license for Turkish wines and beers.”

Ted forks up the last of his baklava. He licks his lips.

“Candy is dandy,” he burbles, “but liquor is quicker.”

“Ogden?”

7

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Extravaganza

“I was going to be a pseudo-lab-and-cellar guy. I thought, ‘I’ll get to see all the different aspects.’”

Before 1976, says Jon McPherson, the only winery in Texas was Val Verde, down in Uvalde. There had been others, some of them dating back to the 19th century, but none survived past the ‘50s. Then, in the early 70s, two professors at Texas Tech — horticulturist Bob Reed and chemist Clint McPherson — got the idea that “they could grow grapes on the panhandle. They put in a little experimental vineyard, and the next thing you know, other guys were asking, ‘What if we grew grapes? Could we make money at it?’ If you have a winery to buy the fruit, sure. “So they cooked up the idea to grow grapes and build a winery, and the Texas wine industry was born.” Specifically, Llano Estacado Winery, Llano’s cellar rat? Clint McPherson’s son Jon. By 1985, McPherson the Younger was ready to make a career out of wine, but not Texas wine. “I moved to California, because I wanted to make a career out of wine, and the Texas wine industry was born.” Specifically, Llano Estacado Winery. Llano’s cellar rat? Clint McPherson’s son Jon. By 1985, McPherson the Younger was ready to make a career out of wine, but not Texas wine. “I moved to California, because I wanted to get into sparkling wine production. I interviewed with several houses and got offered jobs with Piper Sonoma and Culbertson,” then based in Fallbrook. “Piper was bigger, and I was going to be a pseudo-lab-and-cellar guy. I thought, ‘Culbertson is so small; it’s going to be hands-on. I’ll get to see all the different aspects.’” He went with Culbertson. “I don’t know if I chose poorly or not. There’s a huge difference between Northern California and Southern California with respect to what people say and think and feel about all of it. Sparkling wine is a very tough market. If you’re not French, you can’t drive the price on the high side, and if you’re not Napa or Sonoma, you’re not going to be mechanized much anyway.” McPherson stuck it out down south, and continued to work at the winery through its move to Temecula and its name-management change to Thornton. But as the years went by, the winery’s sparkling production lost ground to its still wines. And Temecula, if it didn’t quite go to sleep, seemed to get a little drowsy. “This valley had been producing wine for going on 40 years, and we’re still no different than we were 25 years ago. That’s sort of a sad commentary. I’ve seen Temecula grow and change, but we’re still not on people’s lips when you start talking about wine. Amador was nothing; now, you say ‘Amador,’ and people automatically say, ‘Oh yeah, Zinfandel.’ Paso Robles — that was nothing until the last 10 years, and that’s grown. What happened to us? We just kind of got forgotten.” The perception grew that Temecula was content with its relative anonymity, happy to sell to tourists in the tasting rooms and leave the marketing to other regions.

Recent years, however, brought rumblings of change. A third wave of wineries cropped up, including Palumbo Family Vineyards, a winery considered turning it into a “sort of hiking and camping destination.” Then, continues McPherson, “I got the idea to plant grapes. In the mid-’90s, he planted 140 acres of Cabernet, Merlot, Syrah, and Sangiovese. He had solicited Callaway, and he had contracts with them to buy his fruit. In 2000, his first year of production, he sold to them.” But when Callaway went coastal, “they cut loose most everybody here in Temecula that was growing grapes for them. So there was Jim, with 140 acres coming into production and nothing to do with it.”

What to do? If you have the means — and Carter did — the easy solution is to build a winery of your own to process your fruit. But Carter resolved to go further. According to McPherson, “He cooked up this whole idea: I’m going to build a resort, I’m going to put in villas, I’m going to have a restaurant and a spa. I’m going to make this a total destination, and it’s going to revolve around my wine and my vineyards.” So was born the idea for South Coast Winery Resort & Spa. Even with sufficient funds, starting a winery takes time. So Carter went to McPherson at Thornton and asked him to buy the Agua Tibia grapes. “We already had contracts out,” recalls McPherson. “But Carter said, ‘You’ve got to see my vineyards,’ so I went out. I was blown away. I saw them and thought, ‘What would have possessed you to think you could plant vineyards here!’ But that’s what he did; they’re all at 2300-2300 feet of elevation. We’re at about 1200 feet here in the valley.”

The elevation — together with the combination of soil, drainage, topography, etc. — made for a grape-growing climate unlike anything McPherson had found in Southern California. He custom crushed some Cabernet for Carter in ’91, and was amazed at what he had to work with. “He brought it in at 25 Brix,” a measure of its sugar content. McPherson had found in Southern California.

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1 $0 off all beers all day!
All games available
Must present ad.
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simple appetizers and side dishes are mainly more successful than the fancy choices. Diners include house-made soup or salad. Burgers include weeknight twilight dinners, weeknight prix fixe dinner for two, and à la carte dishes. The menu also is a loop upward from standard fare. San Diego offers authentic Mexican cuisine cooked in the sophisticated manner of Mexico City, but the food isn’t memorable. You’ll find an array of fresh and interesting appetizers along with a wide variety of choices featuring creative, delicious dishes. Each dish is seasoned to the optimum spiciness for its own flavor. Here is the list of restaurants with * multiple locations:

- **Pacific Beach, Mission Beach & Ocean Beach**
  - Atoll at the Catamaran Hotel
  - Broken Yolk $2 off breakfast or lunch
  - Casa Cantina $50 off entrée
  - Chateau Orleans 2 for 1 entrée
  - Costa Brava Free tapas for lunch
  - French Gourmet $50 off dinner
  - Great Moon Buffet
  - Gringo’s $2 off weekend breakfast
  - Jetties Cafe Free appetizer
  - Lahaina Beach House Free breakfast
  - Moondoggies 50% off lunch
  - Ocean Beach Grille Free appetizer
  - Pacific Beach Bar & Grill 2 for 1 entrée
  - Sasha’s 2 for 1 entrée
  - Sushi Grille Free appetizer
  - Taylor’s Restaurant & Brewery 50% off entrée
  - Tony Roma’s All-you-can-eat ribs $19.99

- **Downtown & Point Loma**
  - Acqua Al 2 Sampler dinner & wine $14
  - Alambres Freesoup
  - Assaggio Gourmet dinner, wine $49.95/couple
  - Capacabana Brazilian Steakhouse 50% off buffet
  - Dancing Dog Deli $1 off Egg Scrambles
  - Fifth & Hawthorn Free dessert
  - Humphrey’s Market St. Bar & Grill Free appetizer
  - Nectar RA Sushi
  - Rock Bottom Sevilla Flamenco dinner show for 2 $27
  - Star of India 50% off dinner or lunch
  - Sumo Sushi
  - Sushi Tacos Free entrée

- **La Jolla**
  - Beach House Brewery Free lunch or dinner
  - Brockton Villa 50% off dinner
  - Caffe Grille Free appetizer
  - Coby’s 50% off breakfast or lunch
  - Galloja 1/2 off bottle of wine
  - Ginza-Sushi Sushi dinner for 2 $15.95
  - Lar! 10% off lunch
  - Moondoggies 1/2-price dinner or lunch
  - Pasta Delight 50 cents off a smoothie
  - Pizza Bella 3-course dinner/dine $29.95 for 2
  - Seacoast Chinese $1 off Mongolian BBQ
  - Sushi 4 $20 off sushi
  - Thai Town Free appetizer
  - Tio Leo’s Dinner combos $8.50 each
  - Tgi Friday’s 1/2-price dinner

- **North County**
  - Calypso Friars Folly $5 off wine class
  - Creek Village Free sanga
  - Jay’s Comfort Food & Wine Free entrée
  - La Petite Cafe Free appetizer
  - Mas Fini Cantina 50% off lunch
  - Miki Japanese 50% off sushi
  - Pacific Inn 2 medium pizzas $13.99
  - Pride of India 50% off dinner
  - Rainforest Cafe Free dessert

- **San Diego**
  - La Jolla 1250 Prospect, La Jolla, LDA 5, 845-4636. The unobstructed ocean view and opulent interior are glamorous. Cuisine is Mediterranean with California influences. Mains change daily. When available, try pan-scalloped sea bass and the outstanding aperitif soup, not duplicated anywhere. Fresh fish and seafood. Moderate to expensive.
  - Early dinner special $10.95
  - Early dinner special $10.95
  - Early dinner special $10.95
  - Early dinner special $10.95
  - Early dinner special $10.95

- **Uptown & North Park**
  - Casa Sanchez Free appetizer
  - Harar Ethiopian Sampler for 2 $16.99
  - India House Free entrée
  - Lipp’s $2 off entrée
  - Lotus Thai Early dinner special $10.95
  - Rudford’s $2 off entrée
  - San Diego’s $10 off lunch
  - South Bay & Coronado
  - El Dorado 50% off entrée
  - Hacienda del Patron $1 bottle of house wine
  - Lai Thai 50% off entrée
  - Off the Wall $2 off entrée

- **South Bay & Coronado**
  - Pacific Beach, Mission Beach & Ocean Beach
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  - Chateau Orleans 2 for 1 entrée
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  - Mas Fini Cantina 50% off lunch
  - Miki Japanese 50% off sushi
  - Pacific Inn 2 medium pizzas $13.99
  - Pride of India 50% off dinner
  - Rainforest Cafe Free dessert

See online menu or coupon for all locations.
MISSION VALLEY & THE MESPAS

Boo Cho Korean Barbecue 7905 Engineer Road (a block east of Convoy), Kearny Mesa, 858-850-2380. What sets Boo Cho apart from other Korean bars because it uses wood charcoal rather than gas. (This is a form of cooking — proving easier to control as well as lending more flavor.) The galbi (short ribs) here are outstanding, with tender meat and a subtle, sweet marinade, and the ha mui jang (mixed seaweed pancake) is moist and light. And as all Korean restaurants, with any dinner you receive numerous small plates of relishes and vegetables (called pam chan), lending a multitude of flavors to the meal. But since Korean dinners are traditionally served all at once, if you want a first course soup or appetizer, order it separately, and when it arrives, order your main course. Table rolls on the sizzling cast-iron grill, sipping hot sake, the smell of grilled beef, grilled onions, and fresh garlic in the air. The “Korean BBQ” marinated short ribs (tong galbi) or thick Shimabara slices of sliced (beef galbi). You’ll enjoy all the accompanying dishes that make the meal, like crunchy stir-fried radish cakes, creamy, sour beef stew, green tomato sauce, slow-cooked potatoes with soy sauce and jalapeño peppers. Feeling adventurous? Go for the goat meat hot pot or slow Korean spark tattar (yakitori). This is unusual, delicious, half-casual food. — N.W. (10/24)

China Max 4689 Convoy Street (at Engineer), Kearny Mesa, 858-850-3333. The decor is plain and bright, and the sound level, but this is a major resource for authentic Hong Kong cooking — creative and multilingual, Diners through the refined wizardry of the genuine Cantonese master chefs. Among the special choices here are a sophisticated dumpling dinner featuring a sizzling cast-iron grill, sipping hot sake, the smell of grilled beef, grilled onions, and fresh garlic in the air. The “Korean BBQ” marinated short ribs (tong galbi) or thick Shimabara slices of sliced (beef galbi). You’ll enjoy all the accompanying dishes that make the meal, like crunchy stir-fried radish cakes, creamy, sour beef stew, green tomato sauce, slow-cooked potatoes with soy sauce and jalapeño peppers. Feeling adventurous? Go for the goat meat hot pot or slow Korean spark tattar (yakitori). This is unusual, delicious, half-casual food. — N.W. (10/24)

Soul B.B.Q. 4344 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-850-8700. This Korean restaurant offers superb seasonal dinners before sitting down to a 24-karat Yolk Cafe 1451 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-728-4011 (9225). Breakfasters love this place for these reasons: its sizzling, 24 different egg omelets (which you can split with your partner, no extra charge), and the challenge of omelet (24). This restaurant inside Sweden’s seafood company founder Judd Boulder is playing the new York Cafe “Special” comes stuffed with a mound of mushrooms, onions, cheese, chilis, plus home fries and biscuits. You can down it in an hour, pay just $1.98 — you’ve got business. If you can’t, you’ll row you — pay around $17. My advice: split a 4-omeg. — E.B. (12/04)

The Fishery 9454 Casa Street, Pacific Beach, 858-727-9985. Pacific Shellfish Seafood Company founder Jud Bowerman is on the new York Cafe as a commercial fisherman. He doesn’t fish anymore, but he does everything else — supplying product to top-tier restaurants, retailing gift items to hungry shoppers, and serving patrons who want to dine in amid the icy-blue walls and fresh vegetable plate (raw carrot sticks, fresh garlic in the air. Try the “Korean BBQ” marinated short ribs (tong galbi) or thick Shimabara slices of sliced (beef galbi). You’ll enjoy all the accompanying dishes that make the meal, like crunchy stir-fried radish cakes, creamy, sour beef stew, green tomato sauce, slow-cooked potatoes with soy sauce and jalapeño peppers. Feeling adventurous? Go for the goat meat hot pot or slow Korean spark tattar (yakitori). This is unusual, delicious, half-casual food. — N.W. (10/24)

The Thorny 2014 Grand Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-273-9921. A great place to take your kids after a morning at the beach. This relaxing restaurant, owned by a true-blue Aussie, offers the menu here is 95% authentic Hong Kong — the Road Kill (grilled chicken breast with picc gala sauce and cheese “runn out” in the air. Try the “Korean BBQ” marinated short ribs (tong galbi) or thick Shimabara slices of sliced (beef galbi). You’ll enjoy all the accompanying dishes that make the meal, like crunchy stir-fried radish cakes, creamy, sour beef stew, green tomato sauce, slow-cooked potatoes with soy sauce and jalapeño peppers. Feeling adventurous? Go for the goat meat hot pot or slow Korean spark tattar (yakitori). This is unusual, delicious, half-casual food. — N.W. (10/24)

China Max 4689 Convoy Street (at Engineer), Kearny Mesa, 858-850-3333. The decor is plain and bright, and the sound level, but this is a major resource for authentic Hong Kong cooking — creative and multilingual, Diners through the refined wizardry of the genuine Cantonese master chefs. Among the special choices here are a sophisticated dumpling dinner featuring a sizzling cast-iron grill, sipping hot sake, the smell of grilled beef, grilled onions, and fresh garlic in the air. The “Korean BBQ” marinated short ribs (tong galbi) or thick Shimabara slices of sliced (beef galbi). You’ll enjoy all the accompanying dishes that make the meal, like crunchy stir-fried radish cakes, creamy, sour beef stew, green tomato sauce, slow-cooked potatoes with soy sauce and jalapeño peppers. Feeling adventurous? Go for the goat meat hot pot or slow Korean spark tattar (yakitori). This is unusual, delicious, half-casual food. — N.W. (10/24)

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San Diego, CA (12/04)

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*An instant neighborhood success, this large, cheerful sushi bar and dinner house also offers Japanese and Korean entrées, including teppanyaki (cooked in the kitchen, not at the table), Korean bibimbap, and excellent beef teriyaki of gently grilled prime beef. Sushi highlights include lemon ahi, rich garlic tuna, and a “Crazy Boy” roll spicy enough to douse your palate from the presence of imitation crab meat. Free parking lot (off-peak).

Special kids’ menu available. Lunch and dinner daily. Sushi prices lower than most; entrées inexpensive to moderate.

**Lamont Street Grill**
4445 Lamont Street (between Grand and Garnet), Pacific Beach, 858-270-3066. PB’s most romantic restaurant serves California comfort food, punctuated by bold and sometimes strange Mexi/Asian/Cajun flavors, in a rambling converted residence with several rooms and levels. Dinner comes with soup or salad, and many entrees are served over mush-

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Sham Rocks Shack Bar & Grill 70193 Cajon Boulevard (at 70th Street), El Cajon, CA 92021-6228. It has the feel of a pub: nice solid-wood furniture, pool tables, dart boards, big open kitchen in back. Most of all, people know each other. As for the food—yes, there’s a little bit of Ireland, like the corned beef and cabbage, but mostly it’s nutritious and tasty. The Tosti Tempura Special Roll takes battered shrimp and wraps it around the usual wasabi cream, which is then filled with just-cooked whitefish and a host of garnishes—an exotic yet homey-fried fish alternative. The Johnny Roll shows its tops at its most tender, but watch out for spotlight-hogging sweet cream cheese. The simpler sushi can vary—a brilliant, translucent slice of tuna o’ffish, cheddar, daikon. Japanese entries are also available. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B. (4/04)

Village Garden Restaurant and Bakery 3884 La Mesa Boulevard, La Mesa, 619-456-1900. The Garden is part of what makes La Mesa Village great. Its vine-covered garden patio is wonderful on warm evenings. The decor inside is that of a kind grandma’s, lots of green and brown, with flower-shape lamps sprouting out of overgrown fans and brass vases with curtains between the door. The turkey, avoacado and bacon sandwich on dark square bread, or the toasted tuna sandwich with cranberry chutney and a little bit of everything — Half-sandwich available. Other places the owner’s arty (she painted the whim-sical tabletops and plays the hammer dulcimer) and she has a resident lady. Half-sandwich available. Other places the owner’s arty (she painted the whimsical tabletops and plays the hammer dulcimer) and she has a resident lady. She’s serious. She has won lots of prizes for his BBQ sauce, using a chili pepper he grows-grows-grows — Nobody else has. There are three sculptures. The “for the Volcano” — style place with a fountain tower gur-elling in the center is Paipa’s. Pay the woman. Now decide: a little of this, or a little of that. The huge salad bar is sur-rounded by a grouping of U-shaped tables laden with everything from pad ‘n’ shrimp to baked cod to Certified Black Angus prime rib. Keep coming back. Love them from throwing away this stuff. End with, say, strawberry cheesecake and coffee. Unlike the other suckers, you’ve gotten a return on your money. Moderate. — E.B. (10/00)

Brians’ American Eatery 1451 Washington Street (near Lincoln), Hillcrest, 619-235-8147, Balboa Avenue (off Convoy), Kearny Mesa. Note the apostrophe: Not one but two Brians have taken over what had been Toppy’s, a venerable cafe, coffeehouse/eatery for 40 years. They’ve done a good job of cleaning it up without getting the fifties roadside-church house. 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’ sauce char- broiled top sirloin steak with eggs and country potatoes is a great Saturday morning treat. Or the “Hey Ricky!!”, an omelet with chorinos, avocado, green onions, and cheese. Then there’s that off- menus special-breakfast — it’s al-so—super. Another good thing: You can get a pitcher of iced lemon-water, and coffee comes by the Thermos-full. Three meals together till 10 p.m, 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. Monday through Thursday, open 24 hours from early Fri-day morning until Sunday evening. In-expensive. — E.B. (10/02)

Free Prime Rib Birthday Dinner Wednesday, Dec. 15 If you were born in December, show your ID (or Westside Reader) on the 15th to get a free Prime Rib Dinner on us! Begins at 5 p.m. Reservations, purchase and photo ID required. Not valid with any other offer. Merry Happy Christmas Dinner Please call for reservations.

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Prime Rib $9.95 Purchase required

UPTOWN & OLD TOWN

Bomba Bombay Cuisine Of India 3973 Fifth Avenue (between University and Washington), Hillcrest, 619-288-3153. We’re talking northern India here, right? That means lots of a little, or a little of a little. The Brians’ 8-ounce char-broiled top sirloin steak with eggs and country potatoes is a great Saturday morning treat. Or the “Hey Ricky!!”, an omelet with chorinos, avocado, green onions, and cheese. Then there’s that off- menus special-breakfast — it’s also—super. Another good thing: You can get a pitcher of iced lemon-water, and coffee comes by the Thermos-full. Three meals together till 10 p.m, 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. Monday through Thursday, open 24 hours from early Friday morning until Sunday evening. Inexpensive. — E.B. (10/02)

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El Agave
2030 San Diego Avenue (at Old Town Avenue), Old Town, 619-220-5662. Reservations recommended. Wheelchair access difficult (steep ramp). You’ll find upscale, unusual Mexican specialties in an intimate Spanish-style dining room or on a small heated balcony. The menu celebrates three great pre-Hispanic cuisines — Aztec, Mayan, Nahua — with discreet adventures of France, Spain, and Italy. (It’s the history of Mexico on a plate.) Among the highlights are the five-different Oaxacan mole (plus a sixth from Chiapas), Yucatan-style red chile, local sea bass in tangy jamaica (hibiscus) sauce, a unique appetizer, fajitas carne encebollada, eggs of blue corn masa topped with a sort of “mushrooms” that grow on corn cobs. (In English it’s called “corn smut,” but it tastes much nicer than that sounds.) The bar stocks over 600 tequilas and makes a food-friendly, on-the-rocks margarita with fresh fruit juices. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — M.N. (2/01)

El Zarape
4642 Park Boulevard, University Heights, 619-692-1652. This stylish little Mexican restaurant on a tonny stretch of Park Boulevard is proof that not all taco shop food is equal. Try a shredded beef or chicken taco or tostada and you’ll know what we mean, with their generous mounds of juicy, slow-cooked meat. Many enjoy their unusual scallop/burritos, vegetarian potato-filled burritos and rolled taco, and well-prepared soups. We go for the street food. El Zarape is dependable, serving Mexican with solid, homemade, handmade flavor. Three meals daily. Inexpensive. — M.N. (10/99)

The Gathering
902 W. Washington Street (at Goldfinch), Mission Hills, 619-260-0400. Be prepared for surprises: the owner/bartender is a professional magician who occasionally enjoys entertaining his diners and baths shows with appearing amateurs during Happy Hours Thursday through Sunday. This neighborhood favorite is comfortable with a Churrasco atmosphere at the bar. Live jazz on Friday nights. Open daily, three meals, including Sunday brunch. Inexpensive. — E.B. (2/00)

Parallel 33
741 W. Washington Street (at Hawk), Mission Hills, 619-260-0033. Southern China, Pakistan, Algeria, Morocco, or et cetera — are all on the 33rd parallel. This ethos-blend restaurant in Mission Hills is a hit for6shrewd, thoughtful creativity. It’s not just “fusion food.” Try the sweetbreads and ali appetizer. Entrees like grilled salmon atop lobster labneh or sea bass sauced with sake lees show that chef Amiko Gubbins, of Café Japengo fame, knows what she’s doing. Dinner Monday through Saturday. Moderate to expensive. — M.N. (1999)

Shakespeare Pub & Grille
3701 India Street (at Washington), South Mission Hills, 619-269-0230. Probably the most convincing English pub in town. The Bard’s brew-house boasts bare-board floors, diamond lead-glass windows, and authentic Brits sitting around the bar quaffing ale from their own pewter mugs. Pub grub is bluff and plain-spoken. Shepherd’s pie, hangers and mash, ploughman’s plate (the pickled onions and cheese, Scotch egg, and Bramston pickle make it the real thing) — all are great with a pint of rich English beer, say a Buddington’s Pub Ale. Sunday’s roast beef dinner is worth dragging yourself out of bed for, too. The pub includes a shop that sells British goods. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — E.B. (9/01)

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HAPPY HOUR 4-7 PM MON-THU.

14316 Orange Avenue (at La Mirada Blvd), Corona
619-435-2122. This bright, bistro next door to the Lamb’s Players Theatre looks far too expensive, but it’s not.

Mario’s Goya’s Ferry Landing, 1201 First Street #20, Coronado, 619-435-1225. The food, the music, the view — are we outside Althom? Is this the Argentario Hotel? This inside-outside Greek café is located at the water’s edge, and the heated patio has a spectacular view of San Diego, the bay, and the boat traffic. At sunset, sip on their excellent Greek wine (cheaper than their California), watch the sun set, and the city abaixo in gold. The prices keep Spiro’s popular with the locals as well as tourists. Try the moussaka (eggplant casserole) or the souvlaki, marinated in tzaziki sauce, served with tomatoes, onions, and pita bread. Open seven days until 8 p.m. Inexpensive. — J.B. (12/00)

Tango Grille Argentine Steak House
635 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-420-0384. Fabulous and enjoy the most authentic Argentine parilla (mixed grill) in town at this charming, warmly decorated bistro about two minutes from the Chula Vista Shopping Center. Fine, smoky wood-grilled Colorado beef appears in several unusual cuts (including succulent steak-cut short ribs). You can choose from two different mixed grilled (sized for one or two), the finest with conventional meats, the other — the more adventurous — includes organ meats and blood sausage. For starters, there are brilliantly seasoned mini-emporiums of amazing lightness, as well as several interesting salads. Those not in a grilled-meat mood can opt for numerous pastas (including a big, meaty lasagna) or the ubiquitous empanada (beef or chicken puff) of the pampas. Portions are more than generous, and so are the flavors. Low/moderate. — N.W. (4/02)

Baja

From the United States use the pre-fix 011-52-664 when calling Tijuana; when calling in Tijuana use only the restaurant’s seven-digit number.

Cafe Frances La Bella Claude Cafe Calle 15#08-11, 2nd Ave (next to Residencial), Tijuana, 600-3415. Maybe’t’s no surprise the most French-like restaurant of all in Tijuana. La Bella Claude, named after the owner’s daughter, looks far too expensive, but it’s not. Inside it’s a light and airy place, full of beautifully varnished wood, almost like a ship’s saloon, with little Eiffel towers

Medieval market atmosphere? Definitely. 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Thursdays only Inexpensive. — J.B. (10/04)

L’Escale Coronado Marriott Oceanfront Resort, 2000 Second Street, Coronado, 619-435-3000. Probably the best Mexican restaurant in town. Serving “Port of Call” (Portuguese) dishes to the taste buds too. For “Northern Mediterranean cuisine with Californian flair,” read lots of pasta, fish, salads, sandwiches. Try the grilled salmon mousse salad with its richly sauced fish, crunchy green beans, red potatoes, strong olives, and rosemary-flavored bean. Entrées like grilled chicken and mushrooms in parmesan cream with penne pasta are safe enough. Or bone-in fillet mignon with black pepper zinfandel sauce. But for sheer architecture, check out the tuna salad sandwich wrapped in lavosh; three vertical Armenian bread bands, angle-sliced to reveal interiors of tuna and greenery. Eat on the pool and bay-surrounded patio if you can. Breakfast, lunch, dinner. Moderate to expensive. — J.B. (2/03)

Rhinecher 1106 Orange Avenue (at La Mirada Blvd), Coronado, 619-435-2122. This bright, bistro next door to the Lamb’s Players Theatre draws pre-theatre crowds as well as locals — and that may be a problem, since the melodious service doesn’t always even after the players have departed. Perhaps that’s why there are few appetizer choices (as though to discourage diners from spending extra time at the table). You may even be charged a “split plate” fee for sharing a first course despite ordering individual entrees. Meat and fish choices are simply prepared with generic veggie accompaniments. Why, ingredients of ordinary quality and

For starters, there are brilliantly seasoned mini-emporiums of amazing lightness, as well as several interesting salads. Those not in a grilled-meat mood can opt for numerous pastas (including a big, meaty lasagna) or the ubiquitous empanada (beef or chicken puff) of the pampas. Portions are more than generous, and so are the flavors. Low/moderate. — N.W. (4/02)

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Free All-You-Can-Eat Sushi Dinner for 2

Bring us any picture, cartoon or drawing of a sumo and receive a small sake on the house. Whoever brings in the sumo will like the best! We’ll offer all-you-can-eat sushi dinner for two on the house (dine-in only).

San Diego Reader December 16, 2004 413

Sushi till midnight Friday & Saturday!

1041 4th Avenue, Downtown • 619-233-3389
on 4th between Broadway and C
Chicken tortilla soup is an excellent idea for an entrée or side dish, especially for the holidays. It’s hearty enough to be a meal. I’m not a chef — I’m a restaurant operator — so this recipe came together through trial and error. I was trying to come up with something original because we are not a cookie-cutter kind of place. I wanted something that was different, bold, and hearty. It took a couple of weeks, and we finally hit it. It’s a little spicy, and our customers love it. We are selling it in jars to take home. It’s very easy to make and the ingredients are accessible. The spices required can be found at any market. If I were serving this as an entrée, I would have a glass of wine with it. Chardonnay or Cabernet will work, but since I’m a Cabernet drinker, I would serve an Anabelia Cabernet, or a Steven Bannus — both are easy drinking and would go great with the soup.

**How to Do It**
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Bake chicken breasts for 25 minutes. (Meanwhile, start the soup.) Cool, skin, shred, and season chicken with chile powder and then reserve. Puree the olive oil, green pepper, and onion in a blender. Combine all ingredients except the shredded chicken, and simmer uncovered for 45 minutes. Add the chicken and simmer until heated. Serve in large bowls topped with crisp crumbled tortilla chips and grated cheese. We try it with shredded pepper jack and cheddar cheese. This recipe serves 12 to 15 generously.

**Ingredients**
2 chicken breasts
1 tablespoon chicken stock (Chef Merito)
1 tablespoon olive oil
½ cup green bell pepper, diced
1 small onion, diced
2-ounce boxes 99 percent fat-free chicken broth
1 tablespoon paprika
2½ tablespoons Louisiana-style hot sauce (such as Louisiana brand)
2 tablespoons seasoning salt (Trade Winds)
1 tablespoon ground black pepper
1 diced tomato
5 stems fresh cilantro, finely chopped
1 cup cooked white rice
Crisp tortilla chips and grated cheese (e.g., jack or pepper jack, cheddar), garnished as desired

**Nutritional Information**
Calories: 312
Fat: 12g
Sodium: 2,310mg
Carbohydrates: 12g
Protein: 32g
Best Laid Plans

It is sobering to contemplate how much culture can pass you by when you’re shut up in movie theaters.

These things happen in the life of a film critic. He has determined from his screening schedule that if he catches the first of two scheduled screenings of Ocean’s Twelve he will have enough grist to fill up the hole on the week of December 10, and he can skip the screening of Blade Trinity (or Blade: Trinity, according to preference), which might otherwise fall on his radar. He must keep up as well timeliness in film criticism (as in all other areas of journalism) has evolved from a simple virtue into a skill that he must master if he wants to be taken seriously. Especially if the novice has no great expectations anyway, than to attend a screening of any he has no great expectations.

This, the third installment in the god-awful series about the preening and posturing vampire-hunter out of Marvel Comics, would not be worth discussing if not for dire need. I could take a page out of the Manohla Dargis playbook and use the occasion to expiate on the vampire genre in general (where it’s been, where it’s headed), or on the acting career of Wesley Snipes (where it’s been, where it’s headed), yet the occasion, to be blunt about it, is not one to rise to; it is one to sink to. The previous installment in the series at least had the curiosity of a slumming director (where it’s been, where it’s headed) of the Italian art-house variety, Guillermo del Toro at the helm. He, in the meantime, has taken his slumming elsewhere (Hellboy), leaving the scriptwriter of the first two installments, David S. Goyer, to assume command. If so gifted a filmmaker and so strong a personality as Guillermo del Toro could make no (or little) difference, a novice will have no (or little) chance. Especially if the novice has been the man writing these god-awful scripts.

The present one literally digs up the original Dracula (in Iraq, to be exact, “about six months ago”), now going by the name of Drake and looking rather like a skinhead soccer hooligan (Dominic Purcell), when he isn’t shape-shifting into a gargoylate Lucifer. (“You shouldn’t have woken me,” he grumbles Drac or Drake, with some prescience.) His minions, digging him up to be the fulfillment in their “final solution” (world domination, no less), have successfully set up their nemesis, Blade, to kill a human being by mistake. “Staked you with silver. Why aren’t you ash?” he muses over the body that stubbornly refuses to disintegrate as a dozen others have done in the teeth of his special arsenal of anti-vampire gun, whip, samurai sword, hallogen headlight, etc. Not only have they got him in a pile with Alexander, Christmas with the Kranks, and others, but timeliness in film criticism (as in all other areas of journalism) has evolved from a simple virtue into a total mania, and he must keep up as best he can. So, all right, then. Ocean’s Twelve and Blade Trinity. A couple of mass-audience sequels opening in the same week; two peas in a pod; a topic.

Deadline to enter is Friday, December 10, at 1:00 pm. Limit one entry per person. No purchase necessary.

Opens nationwide Wednesday, December 22.
they have got him to do it on video-tape, plastered his picture on the cover of Weekly World News, turned public opinion against him, and turned him securely behind bars.

Luckily for Blade, in desperate need of rescue, an independent team of swagging, swashbuckling vampire-hunters, calling themselves the Night Stalkers (“We were going to go with the Care Bears, but that was taken”), have emerged under the leadership of an aneurism Kick-Ass Chick (Jessica Biel) who has her own arsenal of vampi- res-to-ashes weapons: switchblade boots, silver-tipped arrows, laser sleuths, etc. This turns out to be the daughter of Blade’s personal weapons manufacturer, whereby played by Kris Kristofferson, who gets killed for the shipment of imagination. The box-office will call the tune. Certainly there still remains, after three movies, the unanswered question of who does Blade’s hair.

For filler, I had belatedly to go where I had no intention of going: to The Spongebob Squarepants Movie. Somehow I had completely missed out on the “phenomenon” of the Nickelodeon TV cartoon show, brain-child of writer and director Stephen Hillenburg, which I understand appeals to all ages and intelligences. (I mean understand that it appeals, I don’t mean I understand why it appeals.) It is rather sobering, to say the least, to contemplate how much culture can pass you by when you’re shut up in movie theaters. Like many another transplant from television, Spongebob offers the prerequisite modern-isms: a deferred initiation — or, in keeping with the subversion motif, a bap- tism — but it does not provide him a means of comparison, a standard of the typical, an adequate background. After a campy musical number with a crew of live-action pirates (singing an infernal tune! I can’t get it out of my head), we pile into a movie theater, in the company of the pirates, to watch the cartoon we thought we had come to watch in the first place. There, we are introduced to the ocean-floor com- munity of Bikini Bottom; to the title character who looks as much like a block of Swiss cheese as like an O-Cel-O sponge (the rectangular rants, something like a step-in flower box, do not identify him either way); to his starfish pal, Patrick; to his boss, Eugene Krabs, owner of the Krusty Krab eatery, home of the Krabby Patty; and to the latter’s environment, a world of plankton who runs the unsuccessful Chum Bucket and steals the secret recipe for the Krabby Patty, along with the crown of King Nerp- tune (exposing his bald spot and fragile ego), and frames the crab for the crime. It’s up to Spongebob, the Krusty Krab fry-cook who covets the position of manager in the newly opened Krusty Krab 2, to set things right. Is he more for the job, or is he just a kid who likes to blow bubbles and eat ice cream? A live-action David Hassel- hoff comes to the rescue in a campy climax that balances the campy prologue.

All of this is apt to sound viable enough in sum up, but a given actual art- work, on the other hand, when you get down to brass tacks, is willfully primitive, knowingly naive, or, without the equivocation of just plain lousy, and the voices are almost unanimously annoying. A newcomer to the terrain might be struck by the number of phallic shapes on parade: Phallic heads, phallic snouts, phallic appendages. The phallic eyes of the crab are even more in summary. The actual art- work (La Jolla Village)


(NEW YORK TIMES)

ASSASSINO SERIO — Comic serial-killer mystery from Mexico, with Jesus Ochoa, Rafael Alonzo, and Santiago Segura, directed by Antonio Urrutia.

PARKS CENTER 7, 12/10 THROUGH 10))

being Julia — Annette Bening takes to the role of a wading diva of the London stage, ca. 1838, like a staring loon to a raw steak. Her range of expression is most impressive, neither suffering the attentions of a young admirer in an elevator or rising to the challenge of an ingenue on the stage, and to the extent any actress has any excess. The backstages antics of amorous alliances and betrayals do not amount to much here, I am afraid. Based on the Somerset Maugham novella, Theatre. With Jeremy Irons, Shaun Evans, Lucy Punch, Brackley Wood, Juliet Stevenson, Maury Chaykin, Michael Gambon, written by Donald Harwood, directed by Istvan Szabo. 2004.

(LA VILLA ZONE)

Birth — The sophomore effort of director Jonathan Glazer, after his auspicious debut with 28 Days Later, is nothing if not ambitious: a reincarnation mystery wherein a somber little ten-year-old (Cameron Bright, the little cup-pom) is shown up at the gate of a newly engaged widow (Nicole Kidman in a Peter Pan haircut) to inform her that he is her recent husband. A couple of generations earlier, such a starting point might have led to a race faxe in the tradition of Thorne Smith’s The Red Peril; that was then; this is now. When the jealous fiancé takes he half-pint rival over his knee to paddle his behind, it isn’t for laughs; it’s in

2004.

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Duncan Shepherd. Reviews are indicated by one to five stars and by the black spot. Unrated movies are for new viewers. Thousands of past reviews are alphabetically, by year of release and by rating, are available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

After the Sunset — Bluestone heist thriller (a branded DVD of To Catch a Thief establishes a standard of comparison) about a couple of high-twelvethieves in smug retirement in the Islands. “Now the challenge is to find joy in simple things.” But then the third of the priceless Napoleon Diamonds, of which our couple has already stolen the other two, and the recipe for a beloved fried man. Pierce Brosnan flirts with homophobic jokes, and Salma Hayek models several acres of copper skin along with several square inches of skimpy. Woody Harrelson, Don Cheadle, Naomi Harris, directed by Brett Ramer. 2004.


LAS VEGAS TIMES

For rating reasons, go to www.villageplayhouse.com/for村村民 for Village Playhouse reviews. A JERRY WENTWORTH/SECTION EIGHT presentation. GEORGE CLOONEY, BRAD PITT, MATT DAMON, CATHARINE ZETA-JONES, ANDY GARCIA, DON CHEADLE, BERNIE MAC = JULIA ROBERTS

The Machinist —

(NEW YORK TIMES)

CHRISTIAN BALE’S
63-POUND WEIGHT LOSS
MAKES THE MACHINIST
ONE OF THE FIVE MOVIES TO WATCH FOR BEST ACTOR 2004 AT THE OSCARS

CHRISTIAN BALE
"tightens the screws of suspense!"

How Do You Wake Up From A Nightmare If You’re Not Asleep?

OCEAN’S TWELVE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

HOW MANY YEARS AGO WERE YOU WHEN YOU WATCHED:

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HOW MANY YEARS AGO WERE YOU WHEN YOU WATCHED:
sputtering response to the breath-stopping episode in which the tiny tyke flies down and joins the full-bloom woman in her bathtub. There’s no knowing whether the farcical approach would have worked, then or now, but it’s certainly that the strenuous-for-now New Age wonderment (what modern woman, especially with a fiancé as dumb as Danny Huston, could resist so transcendent a knock?) is the wrong one. And the working-out of the plot serves only to invalidate the treatment. It’s almost as if no one had trouble to read the script all the way to the end. A number of serious actors, including Anne Heche, Peter Stormare, Arika Howard, Alison Elliott, Celia Seymour, Ted Levine, and Lauren Bacall, are left looking pretty foolish. But there’s no fun in it for anybody. The musical score by Alexandre Desplat, all by itself, would see to that, administering the aural equivalent of a Chinese water torture, with the flutes, the harps, the horns taking turns attacking our fortitude. 2004. • GASP & lam

Blade Trinity — Reviewed this issue. With Wesley Snipes, Jessica Biel, Ryan Reynolds, Parker Posey, and Dominic Purcell, written and directed by David S. Goyer. • CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GASP & lam 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; GROSSMONT TROLLEY; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 18; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POMAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SOUTH BAY DRIVE PL; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE

Bridge Jones: The Edge of Reason — A case of ill-advised expansionism, not so much (or not just) in the sense of Renée Zellweger packing the pounds back on (without polishing up her English accent), but in the sense of a modestly profitable corner cookie store occupying itself as the next Midsomer Granta. It’s well within the realm of reason that life, for Helen Fielding’s self-deprecating heroine, does not run smoothly. Though it’s too late by then to return to reason, it’s never too late to return to convention: a climactic crosstown dash (staple of romantic comedies) in three distinct stages, to four different pop songs. The new director, Kieran Kirkman, is a more experienced hand than Sharon Maguire on the first film, but the experiences have tended to be sullying ones: Used People and To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar. Like her predecessor, she provides a feminine touch only to the extent that the proverbial bull in the china shop might well be a cow. Some of the uniformly anemic images are strangely grainy into the bargain, as if sections of long shots or medium shots had been marked off and blown up into closer shots. Colin Firth and Hugh Grant — the rock and the hard-on — have come back to do their respective things, with half a heart each. Jacinda Barrett, Jim Broadbent, Gemma Jones. 2004. • CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GASP & lam 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 18; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE

Christmas with the Kranks — Holiday comedy, adapted from an anonymous novel by John Grisham (The Firm, The Client, The Chamber, The Rainmaker, The Racketeer, The Christmas with the Kranks, The Racketeer, The Christmas with the Kranks) about a suburban couple who opt, after their only offspring has flown the coop, to return to Christmas tradition and resist the social pressures of their neighbors. A promising premise, unfilled in the early stages and broken to bits once the offering announces her return to the coop with a Persian fiancé. One tradition upheld from the start, ripe to be bucked, is that of the annual Tim Allen Christmas film. He has one scene, at least, that Chaplin could have been proud of, had Chaplin lived in the age of Botox: trying to eat fruit cocktail with immovable mandibles. And the sight of the middle-aged Jamie Lee Curtis in an itty-bitty bikini arouses admiration for her courage, if it arouses nothing else. With Dan Aykroyd, M. Emmet Walsh, Julie Gonzalo; directed by Joe Roth. 2004. • CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GASP & lam 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; GROSSMONT TROLLEY; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 18; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POMAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SOUTH BAY DRIVE PL; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE

Closer — Recklessly urbane Mike Nichols character piece, prone to be seen as a long-distance companion to his Carnal Knowledge in its dirty talk and its romantic disillusion. The quartet of players — two American females, a stripper (but of course) and a portrait photographer, and two British males, an obituarist and a dermatologist — align and realign over an extended period of time. (The title is presumably to be pronounced with a soft s, a synonym of “teaser,” not a hard s, synonym of Mariano Rivera.) A lot of important events transpire off-screen — in between scenes, in the blink of an eye — and it would not be amiss to say that the most interesting parts of the film are the skirts. Nor would it be amiss to point out that these are common devices in theater, where indeed the film originated. While the...
La Dolce Vita — Federico Fellini’s diagnosis of what ails the modern world. It is not a short list. It is, rather, a long-winded discourse that sooner or later touches on nearly everyone’s favorite vice. At least one of the subjects covered — the Roman paparazzi — is pinned down definitively. For the rest, this vulgar, energetic, and often over-extended monologue is a handy summary of the moral laxities of the Jet Set Age. With Marcello Mastroianni, Anouk Aimee, and Anita Ekberg. 1960.

Facing Windows — Italian women’s film, from Turkish-horn filmmaker Ferzan Ozpetek, filtered through the sensibility of a woman. It is the story of a discontented wife, a disengaged accountant in a Roman chicken factory and a moonlighting pastry chef too old (at thirty) to start anew as an apprentice baker, with a shiftless husband currently on the night shift, and an attractive housekeeper/neighbor (looking a bit like a young Rosanno Brazzi, especially around the night shift, and an attractive bespectacled young Rosanno Brazzi, especially around the night shift, and an attractive bespectacled

Finding Neverland — Academic exercise, adapted from an unremarkable theater piece entitled The Man Who Was Peter Pan, that purports to show how the playwright J.M. Barrie sculpted the glorified statue of Peter Pan from the soft clay of his real-life relationship with a widow and her four boys. (Albeit a platonic relationship, both with the widow and — intriguing though it may be to believe otherwise — with the boys. There have also been questions of how you spend time with those boys, and why?)

The usefulness of this exercise is rather diminished by the insistence, for Dramatic Purposes, that Barrie’s stroke of inspiration was somehow a bolt from the blue: thus the concealment of the playwright’s prior success on the stage, the indifference to such outside literary influences as R.L. Stevenson (Treasure Island) and W.S. Gilbert (The Pirates of Penzance), the obliviousness to the prevailing child-worship afoot in England at the time, the denial of the pandering, daring fashionability of the theme, and the preposterous pretense that it would constitute some sort of insight or revelation, as opposed to self-evident truisms, that the play’s subtitle, “The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up,” applies equally to its author as to its hero. (In real life, what’s more, the widow was not even a widow.)

Johnny Depp summons up a decent Scottish accent to accomplish an indelible snarl. And Kate Winslet is her usual tower of strength and Winona Ryder, who also wrote and directed, as the most impassive sadbuck this side of Dustin Hoffman in The Graduate: impassive amidst the surrounding panic of a plane-crash dream scene; impassive in the senatorium ambience of his bedroom, lying motionless on his back and listening to the news of his mother’s death in a phone message from his father; impassive in the face of abuse from customers in his moonlighting job as a waiter at a Vietnamese restaurant. (Hard to picture him being as impassive in his other job: actor.) There turns out to be a medical, a religious, a political, a personal, a medical, a religious, a personal reasoning of the nonstop assaults on the hero’s, or the viewer’s, sensitivity: the excessive vibrato of a Jewish funeral singer in a gravestone rendition of “Once, Twice, Three Times A Lady,” the knight-in-armour at the breakfast table, the guide dog who humps the hero’s leg in the doctor’s waiting room, the backyard pet cemetery. It goes on and on like that, an endless parade of embarrrassments and bizarrities. The real, the external reason for this onslaught of oddities, photographed with a Diane Arbus-like bluntness, might be sought in the filmmaker’s commonplace desire to be Wes Anderson. Another way to say the same thing, in broader terms, would be the filmmaker’s dread of being dull and ordinary, notwithstanding his ostensible concern for ordinary people in a dull New Jersey suburb. The anticipation of the next little kink, the next little quick, takes the place of story interest or character interest, a poor inducement to stay in your seat.

The Incredibles — A Pixar computer cartoon about a married-with-child team of superheroes in enforced retirement under the Superhero Relocation Program. The breaking of superheroes has long since progressed beyond a mere trend into a full-blown state of cultural decadence, but there’s no particular reason to hold it against the film’s lack of an all-star cast of the usual variety. The topography of the volcanic island that serves as the archipelago’s lair is well rendered, and the imitation-007 musical score hits a high note for a while, but the film’s problems are many and varied.

The Grudge — A remake of a Japanese film, Ju-On: The Grudge, which was not much good to begin with. Perhaps, there, a better-than-usual rationale for a remake, especially because the same man occupies the director’s chair, Takashi Shimizu, a second chance to get it right. No change, either, in the Tokyo locale, albeit repnamed with such Western invasives as Sarah Michelle Gellar (boning up on a Japanese phrase book), Clea DuVall, K.Deer Strickland, and Bill Pullman. The rudimentary haunted-house premise (a curse on all ye who enter here) permits little development — a fact underscored by the backward jumps in time — but permits nonstop games of hide-and-seek and peekaboo with a tag team of malvolent spirits. If the game-playing is slicker the second time around, that’s precisely what’s wanted when you’re pulling a series of fast ones. The means are still modest, and the frights honest. Best of them: the police detective, alone in his office, watching a surveillance tape of an inkky shadow that pools in an empty hallway,solidifies into a female form, and advances straight toward the camera — or is it toward the TV screen?

Garden State — Small-screen actor Zach Braff, who also wrote and directed, as the most impassive sadbuck this side of Dustin Hoffman in The Graduate: impassive amidst the surrounding panic of a plane-crash dream scene; impassive in the senatorium ambience of his bedroom, lying motionless on his back and listening to the news of his mother’s death in a phone message from his father; impassive in the face of abuse from customers in his moonlighting job as a waiter at a Vietnamese restaurant. (Hard to picture him being as impassive in his other job: actor.) There turns out to be a medical, a religious, a political, a personal, a medical, a religious, a personal reasoning of the nonstop assaults on the hero’s, or the viewer’s, sensitivity: the excessive vibrato of a Jewish funeral singer in a gravestone rendition of “Once, Twice, Three Times A Lady,” the knight-in-armour at the breakfast table, the guide dog who humps the hero’s leg in the doctor’s waiting room, the backyard pet cemetery. It goes on and on like that, an endless parade of embarrrassments and bizarrities. The real, the external reason for this onslaught of oddities, photographed with a Diane Arbus-like bluntness, might be sought in the filmmaker’s commonplace desire to be Wes Anderson. Another way to say the same thing, in broader terms, would be the filmmaker’s dread of being dull and ordinary, notwithstanding his ostensible concern for ordinary people in a dull New Jersey suburb. The anticipation of the next little kink, the next little quick, takes the place of story interest or character interest, a poor inducement to stay in your seat.
right at the outset and at intervals throughout — of Kinsey submitting to the same sexual-history interview he administered to thousands of others, but even with that, it takes a long time to get him from the study of gall wasps to the study of human sexuality. (The lesson learned from the insects — the individuality of every creature in the species — carries over to humans as well, with striking rhetorical effect, particularly in a checkboard montage of talking heads dotting the U.S. map.) A great deal of chronological ground is gone over, in mostly cursory fashion, and without many signposts as to where exactly we are and what’s going on in the world at large. It’s clear enough, all the same, that we’re in a sexual Dark Age and that Kinsey, notwithstanding his unpertussing bow tie and crew cut, is our Prometheus. His experimentation on himself (“I punctured my foreskin…It didn’t give me any pleasure”), including a go at homosexuality and experimentation on himself (“I punctured my foreskin…It didn’t give me any pleasure”), including a go at homosexuality and against a relentless salvo of blinding

right at the outset and at intervals throughout — of Kinsey submitting to the same sexual-history interview he administered to thousands of others, but even with that, it takes a long time to get him from the study of gall wasps to the study of human sexuality. (The lesson learned from the insects — the individuality of every creature in the species — carries over to humans as well, with striking rhetorical effect, particularly in a checkboard montage of talking heads dotting the U.S. map.) A great deal of chronological ground is gone over, in mostly cursory fashion, and without many signposts as to where exactly we are and what’s going on in the world at large. It’s clear enough, all the same, that we’re in a sexual Dark Age and that Kinsey, notwithstanding his unpertussing bow tie and crew cut, is our Prometheus. His experimentation on himself (“I punctured my foreskin…It didn’t give me any pleasure”), including a go at homosexuality and experimentation on himself (“I punctured my foreskin…It didn’t give me any pleasure”), including a go at homosexuality and
snowflakes, the train making across an ice-covered track; the red-brick Victorian architecture of the Pole — but these, without exception, are significantly liberating from the cartoon universe, an economically financially exploitable one. (Robin Williams in Aladdin; Eddie Murphy in The Nutty Professor; the bear named Squeaky in Finding Nemo—name your own.) But Hank’s voice, in a handful of other roles besides those that are truly indelible to our memory as though he alone were reading the Van Allsburg text for auditors, has been sufficiently diagnosed or electronically altered to be no more than a minimal distraction.

**I.C.M. MOUNTAIN; CHELSEA VISTA 10; THE MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; VILLAGE 10; Santee 18; CLAIREMONT 12; ENCINITAS 10; MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; fashion show in which the fabrically exploitable, blindly adolescent boy, taking after the white weather he calls home, while his mother stands by in silence and lets him figure it out on his own. At two and a half hours, the movie takes our goodness for this high-action visual marvel (otherwise known as the Genius of Soul), and the fact that he passed away in the same year in which the movie was released only tightens the emotional screws. The routine execution: grossly gratuitous, misfitting, marital infidelities, drug abuse, backstage discord among band members, etc., hope to be considered the rock star’s — or more broadly, by the customary blackmail of True Story. Does this book, if read by the living, check the trademark manners — the rock motion whether walking or singing, the self-hug, the twenty-four-tooth grin — but it’s a distraction — a disruption in the cartoon universe, an economically financially exploitable one. (Robin Williams in Aladdin; Eddie Murphy in The Nutty Professor; the bear named Squeaky in Finding Nemo—name your own.) But Hank’s voice, in a handful of other roles besides those that are truly indelible to our memory as though he alone were reading the Van Allsburg text for auditors, has been sufficiently diagnosed or electronically altered to be no more than a minimal distraction.

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surface, like a leaf on a pond. With Kerry
Twelve (Ken, 12/10 Through 16)
Serena, herself, namely a chocolate-munching has-
(R) Fri.-Sat. (10:15, 11:10, 12:15, 1:15, 2:15, 3:15, 4:15, 5:15, 6:15, 7:15, 8:15, 9:15), Mon.-Thu. (12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00), Christmas with the Kranks (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20); Sun.-Thu. 10:00 (12:15, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00), Ocean's Twelve (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:25, 2:25, 4:25, 6:25, 8:25, 10:25); Tue.-Wed. 2:10, 7:35, 10:05, 12:25, 2:55, 5:35, 7:35, 10:25, Thu.-Fri. (10:00, 12:05, 2:35, 5:35, 7:35, 10:25), Ray (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 12:15, 2:15, 4:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15); Mon.-Thu. (12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00), The Polar Express (G) Mon.-Fri. (10:05, 12:35, 2:35, 5:35, 7:35, 10:25), Tar.-Wed. 2:15, 7:15, 10:15, 12:15, 2:15, 5:15, 7:15, 10:15, Thu.-Fri. (10:00, 12:05, 2:35, 5:35, 7:35, 10:25), The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 9:40)
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MOVIES

discerning framing, however, de-emphasize the famous derrière — the center of the universe is not just that! — and it falls to a different, fuller-figured gal to protest, if only as a diversion, “Stop looks!” at my ass.” The muddily photographic, to say the least, doomed to cast a pall over what is — or was — an overt fairy tale. With Susan Sarandon, Stanley Tucci, Richard Jenkins, Lisa Ann Walter. 2004.

Shark Tale — Subaqueous computer animation, cf. Finding Nemo’s Suckers Treasure. Not only is the plasticky animation done by computer, but also the plotting, scripting, casting, everything. We have here, plugged in as variables in the formula, hip-hop fish (voice, and lips, of Will Smith), Mafia sharks (voice and facial mole of Robert De Niro), a temperamental blowfish (voice and eyebrows of Martin Scorsese), Rastafarian jellyfish (Ziggy Marley, Doug E. Doug), and so on. One of the younger sharks (Jack Black) is “different,” specifically vegetarian (read “offliminate”), symbolically whatever you please. Pop-culture references are rife: the sharks hum to themselves the theme from Jews, etc. Wordplay is compulsory and compulsive: shell phones, prawn shop, Coral-Cola. As long as the box-office receipts persist, there is no reason for the manufacture of these things to slow down or stop. With the voices, also, of Renee Zellweger and Angelina Jolie; directed by Bob Bergmann, Vicky Jenson, and Rob Letterman. 2004.

Sideways — The bare outline would look like a hundred other buddy comedies: two old friends from college, an ex-soap opera actor and a would-be novelist, take off for an ostensible round of golfing and wine-tasting in an attempt to reconnect. They decide that their scale, as in a montage of their scale, as in a montage of giddiness can be recaptured at any instant — an automatic shortcut to parody) as well as their scale, as in a montage of searching montage had it not lost sight of the target of parody and turned into a triple-X lovemaking montage. The obsession with homosexual oral sex is no less off-base. And petty talk is not wit. And vomit, even at free- lance force and swimming-pool volume, is no funnier from a puppet than from any other creature. And despite the mandate of journalistic balance or satirical indictment, it hardly constitutes a lampoon of Hollywood liberals (poor likenesses of Alec Baldwin, Sean Penn, Tim Robbins, Susan Sarandon, et al.) to conspire them into apologists, and even armed security guards, for North Korea’s Kim Jong Il (his speech infected with Elmer Fuddisms), and then to blow their heads off one by one. The trailers, needing to point out, did not have any of that sort of stuff. Which leads to the speculation that maybe the movie would have been better off, in a five-minute Saturday Night Live spot or somewhere, as a make-believe trailer for a non-existent movie. Maybe it was never really such a good idea for a movie after all. 2004.

What the Bleep Do We Know? — Essentially an old-fashioned courtroom film presented (at a price) in theaters: a team of scientists, scholars, and hucksters, grounded in quantum physics, take turns explaining how the brain shapes reality. Illustrated with scenes from computer cartoons on a par with TV ads for household cleaners, explaining how the brain shapes reality. Its interesting material, but it’s not movie. See Alain Resnais’s Mon Oncle d’Amérique for a better model. Directed by William Arntz, Betsy Chasse, Mark Vicent. 2004.

Team America: World Police — The idea — as gleaned from the trailers on television and in theaters — of an anti-terrorist action film with marionettes, and animatronic faces for their closeups, seemed a good one: a hipper Thunderbirds. But just because a filmmaker — Trey Parker, in partnership with his South Park collaborator, Matt Stone — has one good idea does not mean that others will follow. And yet the entire opening sequence, of the elite American commandos unit in a firefight with Middle Eastern terrorists on the streets of Paris, has much to say about Hollywood action films (the puppets, otherwise known as “distancing devices,” provide an automatic shortcut to parody) as well as about the jingoes mentality of shot-first-and-aim-later. Too, the minutely detailed miniature sets are invariably fun. And an air of giddiness can be recaptured at any instant by the hekyk movement of the puppets, as when disco-dancing in celebration of a commando victory; or by their scale, as in a montage of D.C. monuments to a country-rock song entitled “Freedom Isn’t Free,” with a soul-searching marionette standing no taller than the headlights at Arlington National Cemetery. Too often, and for too long, at a time, however, the movie gets stuck in adolescence. The lovemaking montage might have been as giddy as the soul-searching montage had it not lost sight of the target of parody and turned into a triple-X lovemaking montage. The obsession with homosexual oral sex is no less off-base. And petty talk is not wit. And vomit, even at free-lance force and swimming-pool volume, is no funnier from a puppet than from any other creature. And despite the mandate of journalistic balance or satirical indictment, it hardly constitutes a lampoon of Hollywood liberals (poor likenesses of Alec Baldwin, Sean Penn, Tim Robbins, Susan Sarandon, et al.) to conspire them into apologists, and even armed security guards, for North Korea’s Kim Jong Il (his speech infected with Elmer Fuddisms), and then to blow their heads off one by one. The trailers, needing to point out, did not have any of that sort of stuff. Which leads to the speculation that maybe the movie would have been better off, in a five-minute Saturday Night Live spot or somewhere, as a make-believe trailer for a non-existent movie. Maybe it was never really such a good idea for a movie after all. 2004.

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**DATA ENTRY OPERATORS.** Typing 34 wpm needed. Various office positions. E-mail access a must! Ability to multitask and have 5-star service philosophy, seeks male and/or female. Must have guard card for immediate placement. Apply today, call 1-800-690-CART (2278).

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BILINGUdAL INTERVIEWERS. Spanish and English. 10-20% sales. Marketing research. To $120/hour plus benefits. Full time, part time, AM/FM (one weekend day/month). Good communication and people skills. Type 20-30wpm. Apply weekdays, 10am-3pm. Direct response in Research, 6043 Aero Drive, San Diego, 92123. Job line: 619-575-7277.


TYPING II DIABETES. Are you concerned about developing Type 2 Diabetes due to a family history? High blood sugar or being overweight? Have you ever been told that you are at an increased risk for developing Type 2 Diabetes? Dr. Mustard at the VA Medical Center in La Jolla is currently interviewing people for a new study. The study looks at an investigational drug, Pioglitazone to help prevent or delay the development of Type 2 Diabetes. Subjects who qualify will receive: Study-related care by board of certified physicians, counselors with a Certified Diabetes Educator, and dietary monitoring by an R.D. Call Alma Clark at 858-552-8585 x4844.


RESTAURANT. Front, back of house positions. Full and part-time positions available. Apply in person Monday-Friday, 9am-10am. 6200 Girard Ave., La Jolla, 619-233-1815. Fax résumé to 619-235-0515.

RESTAURANT POSITIONS. Food, beverages, front and back of house positions. Full and part-time positions available. Apply in person Monday-Friday, 9am-10am. 6200 Girard Ave., La Jolla, 619-233-1815. Fax résumé to 619-235-0515.

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EMPLOYMENT / RETAIL

CUSTOMER SERVICE/CLERK. F, Steel Corporation is seeking Customer Service Clerks for retail stores throughout San Diego County. Must be friendly, outgoing, and able to work as a team. Experience in retail or Food Service is required. Apply in person only at 204 University Avenue, La Jolla. Resume/Drop off résumé to phone call when available.

RETAIL SALES ASSOCIATE. F, Butler’s Bakeshop. Butler’s Bakeshop, located in beautiful Solana Beach design district furnishes fine furniture, accessories, and gifts to discerning clients. Full and part-time positions available. Apply in person Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm. 2404 Loring Street, San Diego, 92110. Phone: 619-751-9243. Fax: 619-751-9245. Email: info@butlersbakeshop.com.

RETAIL SALES ASSOCIATE. F, Russel’s Coffee Shop. Russel’s Coffee Shop is one of the best coffee shops in the Pacific Beach area. Presently recruiting for Part Time (15-25 hours per week) position. Must be friendly, outgoing and enjoy working with the public. Apply in person only at 2004 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. Resume/Drop off résumé to phone call when available.

RETAIL SALESMAN, F, Furniture Galleries. Presently recruiting for Part Time (15-25 hours per week) position. Must be friendly, outgoing and enjoy working with the public. Apply in person only at 2004 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. Resume/Drop off résumé to phone call when available.

RETAIL SALESMAN, F, Value City Furniture. We are presently recruiting for Part Time (15-25 hours per week) position. Must be friendly, outgoing and enjoy working with the public. Apply in person only at 2004 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. Resume/Drop off résumé to phone call when available.

RETAIL SALESMAN, F, Russel’s Coffee Shop. Russel’s Coffee Shop is one of the best coffee shops in the Pacific Beach area. Presently recruiting for Part Time (15-25 hours per week) position. Must be friendly, outgoing and enjoy working with the public. Apply in person only at 2004 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. Resume/Drop off résumé to phone call when available.

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Koch Industries, Inc. is the second-largest privately held company in North America according to Forbes. Koch Membrane Systems is one of the leading companies in membrane filtration systems. With state-of-the-art technology developed by some of the finest minds in the country, Koch is seeking highly motivated, high-energy individuals who want to become active participants in the drive to be a world-class company. We are hiring for the following positions located at our manufacturing plant in Santee, CA.

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New Alternatives of San Diego County is seeking Child Development Counselors to work in a therapeutic setting with SD children. Work with clients referred by the Departments of Social Services and Probation. Counselors are responsible for the implementation of individual treatment plans and developing behavioral modification programs in addition to direct care and supervision of clients. Bachelor’s degree in Social Services required. Entry-level position starting at $32,400. Retail sales and promotions. Benefits after 90 days, medical, and dental. 24-hour fitness membership.

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Homes.com has business-to-business inside sales positions available in our Sorrento Valley office.

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- Customer Service Rep: Uniform for the care of our patients. Daycare in San Diego. E-mail: ets@bakea-n.com.
- Customer Service: Staff Support Team Mem-bers for patient with developmental dis-abilities in supported living arrange-ments. Paid roommates positions, weekend and evening hours. $17.50/hour. (3230 Foundation, 760-241-4761). EEO.
- Citation Processing Clerk: Part-time, $8 plus benefits. Sorrento Valley. Data processing, quality assurance, Word, Excel Outlook. E-mail: reply@repcic.com. Must be able to work 10-20 hours a week. Apply. E-mail resume to reps@repcic.com.
- Claiming: Experienced clerks to collect on delinquently credited accounts. Applying for previous collection experience. Position pays $18/hour plus benefits. Must have own transportation, Good driving record and liability insurance. No experience necessary. Apply in person. 858-958-2029. E-mail: recla@flowriders.com to schedule an interview.
- Comic Artists: Local publisher. Call Tom Welling for details. E-mail: tomwelling@sanphone.com. Typical duties: 1615 Ninth Avenue, Suite 3. San Diego, CA 92101.
- Corrections Officer: The GEO Group provides leading private prison and detention management solutions. San Diego seeks qualified Corrections Officers for positions in the San Diego County Jail. Special Core Course and 1 year of experience. Full time, $12/hour. Other opportunities available. Must have valid California driver’s license. Call 619-549-3456.
- Customer Service/Dispatcher: Customer Service Rep/Distributor for a construction company in San Bernadino. Dispatcher, administration, sales and Accouting Payables/Accounts Receivable. 2-3 years experience required. Timp 411-496-0000. Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm.
- Dancers: San Diego Regtich in search of male dancers. $75 per 2 hours plus tips. Call 858-355-2045. Interview on Monday of Tuesday of each week.
- Dispatcher: Serving experienced clerks to collect on delinquently credited accounts. Applying for previous collection experience. Position pays $18/hour plus benefits. Must have own transportation, Good driving record and liability insurance. No experience necessary. Apply in person. 858-958-2029. E-mail: recla@flowriders.com to schedule an interview.
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- Customer Service: Staff Support Team Members for patient with developmental disabilities in supported living arrangements. Paid roommates positions, weekend and evening hours. $17.50/hour. (3230 Foundation, 760-241-4761). EEO.
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- Comic Artists: Locally published comic book. Position to work on an independent company. Must have valid California driver’s license. Call 619-549-3456.
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SECURITY GUARD, F Street Corporation is seeking Security Guards, with experience. Part/Fulltime. Must be able to work evening or night shifts. Application available at the office. 619-641-1240, 6160 Mission Gorge Road, Suite 10.

SECURITY, Alcatraz Enterprises, Inc., is seeking responsible, high-energy Security Guards to protect our self-storage properties throughout San Diego. Must have guard card. 619-585-5042, 11680 Mission Gorge Road.

SECURITY: Responsibilities: Honor guard, security, checking identification, directing traffic, crowd control. Requires high school diploma and 1-year experience at school or government facility. Must have a reliable car. Call 619-340-4890.

SECURITY: Responsibilities: Guarding and monitoring personnel and property. Protecting the life and property of our customers. Must have a valid California Guard Card, college tuition reimbursement, matching 401(k), paid vacation, genuine career opportunities. Guaranties is the world’s largest employer of former FBI agents! For San Diego, Guardmark, 5333 Mission Center Road, Suite 300, San Diego, CA 92108. For Carlsbad and Tamarac, Guaranties, Inc., 760-729-8916, 90245. eanla@aeonet.com.

SECURITY OFFICER, F Street Corporation is seeking a Security Officer with a proven background in the security field. Must have reliable transportation. Call 619-338-9360. San Diego County. Competitive wages.


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San Diego - Friday, December 3, 2004
Who's worse: yuppies or hippies?

Who's worse: yuppies or hippies? I don't think the term exactly fits. I've been called a hippie before just because I got long hair, but I have good hygiene so I'm not sure if the title exactly fits.

Yuppies are worse than hippies. They're too concerned about money and material possessions. I'm down with hippies because they want a good time. Unfortunately, I'm friends with more yuppies than hippies and it's just a different mentality. I think it comes down to where I'm from. I'm from a small town in northern California called Grass Valley and there are definitely more hippies there. I'm sure I've been called a hippie before just because I got long hair, but I have good hygiene so I'm not sure if the title exactly fits.

Yuppies blow. I think hippies may be worse. Most of them think they have these counter-culture ideas, but so many hippies become yuppies that hippies have become a phase in a lot of people's lives. It's nice to pretend that their brand of idealism can overcome, but it's a delusion; all of these products that say they're organic aren't really organic. As far as fashion, tie-dye went out 50 years ago. I dated a hippie and it wasn't good. He was flighty; he changed his mind and was very unstable. Boys that tend to be yuppies or more preppy know what they want and know how to go about getting it.

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THE READER PUZZLE

Across
1. Apothecary’s measure
2. Gated community
3. "Even ____, speak ___
4. Faro player
5. With 48- Across, she designed the outfits of the Philadelphia Eagles cheerleaders
6. "Titanic" soundtrack track
7. Peter, Paul and Mary, e.g.
8. "When the ____, there’s that"
9. Sound from an avian
10. "What the ____, stands for in ___"
11. "____, there, done that"
12. Water at the mouth
13. Books that get "cooked"
14. "Dee-fense!", e.g.
15. Raging party!
16. Big sizes, briefly
17. Stays fresh
18. Estimator’s phrase
19. Mayor
20. "Awards are not a ______-ficial"
21. Pop
22. Give the cook the night off
23. Musical staff symbol
24. "____ old farm"
25. Playwright Fugard
26. Hair, machinery pioneer
27. Rows coming back
28. Not-so-bright comics canine
29. Waters at the mouth
30. A ______ of years
31. "____ there, done that"
32. "Dee-fense!", e.g.
33. ABANDON YOUR ACTING FEARS!
34. "____, there, done that"
35. Pap
36. "____ there, done that"
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RULES OF THE GAME
1. The price for solving the Reader Puzzle will be a Reader T-shirt.
2. Eight entries to the Reader Puzzle contest must be received by the Reader by 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 17, at the Mission Valley Resort, 400 W. Mission Gorge Place, San Diego, CA 92122. Each entry costs $125. Make checks payable to Reader PUZZLE, and mail to: Reader PUZZLE, 400 W. Mission Gorge Place, San Diego, CA 92122.
3. All entries must be accompanied by your name, address and phone number.
4. Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.
5. In the event of disputes or ties, decisions of the judges will be final and binding.
6. We’ve only got five prizes each week to give away, so if there are more than five winners, we’ll pick the 5.
7. Free consultations. Also an annual gift certificate of $250 to the winner of the Reader PUZZLE.
8. Windows allow for the solution page.
9. All winners must be entered in the space allowed on the puzzle page. And please, no calls or trips to our office.
10. One entry per person.

Solution to and winners of the Reader Puzzle for 12/2/04.

Of the 89 entries, 83 were correct.
The winners are:

1. Bruce Bell, San Diego
2. Len Guariento, San Diego
3. Ben Rear, San Diego
4. Maricia Westhouseing, Escondido
5. Patrick Walsh, San Diego

Very short, very funny. Call Art at 619-458-0518.

VOCABULARY

1. Bruce Bell, San Diego
2. Len Guariento, San Diego
3. Ben Rear, San Diego
4. Maricia Westhouseing, Escondido
5. Patrick Walsh, San Diego

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CROSSDRESSER/TRANSGENDERED? Are you or someone you know a crossdresser or transgender? Meet people who understand. Free support group in Encinitas. Call 760-525-7673.

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
Also on SanDiegoReader.com
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.
2. Your 25-word ad must fit this form and be ready to dictate when requested. You will have one minute of recording time. Begin with the neighborhood, then describe the property and list the rent.
3. Your print ad may not describe or portray the person you are seeking.
4. To provide online viewers of your ad with a map of your location, we need cross-streets and zip code:

   NEAREST CROSS-STREETS
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   4. 20
   5. 15
   6. 10
   7. 5
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   22. 14
   23. 15
   24. 16
   25. 17

5. The system dictates a mailbox number and security code:

   MAILBOX NUMBER
   SECURITY CODE

6. To retrieve your messages call (619) 235-2415. Messages are erased after you hear them, so have pen and paper ready.
7. Your mailbox will expire at midnight Wednesday, six days after publication.
8. Renew your mailbox and ad if you don’t want 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.
9. 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 92196

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

For questions regarding Roommate ads, call (619) 235-8200.
Call the Free Roommate Hotline! 235-2415

Soon after advertisers place their ads, their spoken introductions go on the Hotline. This lets you hear listings before they're listed, so you don't miss a chance to hear. Call 24 hours/day & choose option two. Select listings by gender, pets, and area. Listings updated daily.

**FIND A ROOMMATE**


- **DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY.** $600, 1/2 utilities. Large room in 3 bedroom townhouse.washer/dryer, internet, cable/DSL, parking, all amenities. Available now. Mary, 619-394-8535.

- **DOWNTOWN, MARINA DISTRICT.** $450/month plus deposit. Share bedroom in 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Cat OK. 619-898-8878.

- **DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY.** $750, includes utilities. Beautiful spacious home, washer/dryer, 1/1 mile to work. Mary, 619-754-3982.


**LA JOLLA COLONY.** $750, includes utilities, 1/2 utilities. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, furnished, share kitchen privileges. Available now. Karen, 619-588-2324.


**LA JOLLA.** $950, includes utilities. Female roommate wanted to share 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry privileges, washer/dryer, underground parking. Available now. Sue, 619-588-2324.

**LA JOLLA.** $950/month plus deposit. Share bedroom in 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Cat OK. 619-898-8878.

**LA JOLLA, MIRAMAR BEACH.** $1500, includes utilities. Female roommate wanted to share 2 bedroom 2 bath. Utilities included. Available now. Mary, 619-394-8535.

**LA JOLLA.** $1800, includes utilities. Female roommate wanted to share 2 bedroom 2 bath. Utilities included. Available now. Mary, 619-394-8535.


- **LA MESA.** $400/month plus deposit. Share bedroom in 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Cat OK. 619-898-8878.

- **LA MESA.** $500/month plus deposit. Share bedroom in 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Cat OK. 619-898-8878.

- **LA MESA.** $600/month plus deposit. Share bedroom in 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Cat OK. 619-898-8878.


**LA MESA.** $750, includes utilities. Female roommate wanted to share 2 bedroom 2 bath. Utilities included. Available now. Mary, 619-394-8535.

**LA MESA.** $950, includes utilities. Female roommate wanted to share 2 bedroom 2 bath. Utilities included. Available now. Mary, 619-394-8535.
MISSION VALLEY/SSU. $750. Room for rent, all utilities and recreational facilities included. Ocean view. Remodeled. 15221 Topanga St., La Mesa. Next to Friends. Call for details. 619-460-4474.


MISSION HILLS. 3-Bedroom, 2-bath townhome with fireplace, 2-car garage. Private backyard. $595. First and last month deposit, utilities extra. 619-562-4278.

MISSION HILLS. Beautiful all-time favorite, private room with en-suite bath, balcony. $600. Pets OK. Available after 7pm. Call Joanne now. 619-460-3101.

MISSION HILLS. 3-bedroom, 2-bath house. $700. Pets OK. Call 619-460-3290.

MISSION HILLS. Another lovely home. $600. Pets OK. Call 619-460-3368.


MISSION HILLS. 3-1/2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, gardener, maid, garage, fireplace. $780. New carpet, security, fireplace, in-line sewer camera. 15 years in business. Lic-407230. BBB. 858-270-2142.

MISSION HILLS. 3/4 bedroom, 2-bath, gardener, maid, garage, fireplace. $780. New carpet, security, fireplace, in-line sewer camera. 15 years in business. Lic-407230. BBB. 858-270-2142.


MISSION HILLS. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. $675. Pets OK. Utilities included. First and last month deposit, references. 619-235-2415, x21188.

MISSION HILLS. 1-1/2 bedroom, 1 bath near SDSU. $600. Utilities included, own bathroom. Remodeled. Excellent location. 619-235-2415, x2237.

MISSION HILLS. Cozy room, 1 bath available in 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Available 1/1. 619-836-8376.

MISSION HILLS. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 5 blocks from SDSU, $350 per month plus utilities. 619-235-2415, x21188.

MISSION HILLS. Cozy room, 1 bath available in 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Available 1/1. 619-836-8376.

MISSION HILLS. 3-1/2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath apartment. 1/2 utilities. Available now. 619-235-2415, x18375.

MISSION HILLS. 2-1/2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath apartment. 1/2 utilities. Available now. 619-235-2415, x18375.

MISSION HILLS. 3-1/2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath apartment. 1/2 utilities. Available now. 619-235-2415, x18375.

MISSION HILLS. Cozy room, 1 bath available in 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Available 1/1. 619-836-8376.

MISSION HILLS. 3/4 bedroom, 2-bath, gardener, maid, garage, fireplace. $780. New carpet, security, fireplace, in-line sewer camera. 15 years in business. Lic-407230. BBB. 858-270-2142.

MISSION HILLS. 2-1/2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath apartment. 1/2 utilities. Available now. 619-235-2415, x18375.


MISSION HILLS. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. $700. House is next to SDSU, near SDCC, easy freeway access. 619-460-0380.

MISSION HILLS. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. $700. House is next to SDSU, near SDCC, easy freeway access. 619-460-0380.

MISSION HILLS. 2nd floor. Huge 2 story, 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath. Furnished, near UCSD, on campus view. Very sunny site. Great place. great area. Walking distance to university. 619-239-1037.

MISSION HILLS. 1-1/2 bedroom, 1 bath. $700. In walking distance to SDSU. washer/dryer. Nonsmoker. Available 1/1. 2283; 619-235-2415, x21188.

MISSION HILLS. Cozy room, 1 bath available in 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Available 1/1. 619-836-8376.

MISSION HILLS. Cozy room, 1 bath available in 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Available 1/1. 619-836-8376.

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MISSION HILLS. Cozy room, 1 bath available in 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Available 1/1. 619-836-8376.
December 9, 2004
Reader
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hood. Miramar College close. 858-922-
kitchen, washer/dryer. No smoking, no
large backyard, quiet neighbor-
land Road condo. Large bedroom,
Quiet, clean furnished bedroom/bath.
pets. 619-337-1330.

SAN CARLOS/LA MESA.
2415, x23287.
619-466-9985.
available if needed for $950. Looking for
pets. 858-587-6669.
5700.

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**Family room. Large kitchen. Fireplace. 2 bath. Remodeled, new appliances, parking. Section 8 OK. 4225 Central Avenue.** 858-597-6100, x321.

**La Mesa.** 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Large yard with gardener. Close to all. 4843 Eastlake Drive. Available now. 619-461-1411.


**Mission Beach.** 1 bedroom. House by 2nd floor garage. $1400. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house, garage. Year lease. 619-367-6071.


NORTH PARK. $360/1500. 1 bedroom/1 bath apartment. 619-236-0113.
NORTH PARK. 926 square feet. Garage. Washer/dryer. $1275. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, $1295. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. $1300. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, $1125. 1 bedroom, 1 bath house, $1200. 2 bedroom house. $1450, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, $1650. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. $1950, 3 bedroom, 2 bath.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. $1676. Beautiful 2 bedroom, 1 bath house, 3600 square feet. 5040 Voltaire. 619-491-0355.
NORMAL HEIGHTS. $1395. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1850 square feet, washer/dryer, refrigerator, dishwasher, garage, fireplace, bonus room and great views. 9720 Domer. 619-607-7287.
NORMAL HEIGHTS. $1700. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 1951 Felspar Street. 619-222-4837 x14 or 619-858-6710.
NORMAL HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Backhouse with separate entrance, 1200 square feet, washer/dryer, refrigerator, dishwasher, garage, fireplace, bonus room and great views. 9720 Domer. 619-607-7287.
NORMAL HEIGHTS. $1500. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1850 square feet, washer/dryer, refrigerator, dishwasher, garage, fireplace, bonus room and great views. 3849 John Adams. 619-255-4163.
NORMAL HEIGHTS. $1450. 2 bedroom plus 1 bath plus 1/2 bath. Laundry. $1300. Studio. 1 bath. 600 square feet, washer/dryer, refrigerator, dishwasher, garage, fireplace, bonus room and great views. 9720 Domer. 619-607-7287.
NORMAL HEIGHTS. $1500. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Beautiful 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 800 square feet, bathroom, kitchen, and patio. 1623 38th Street. 619-522-0588.
NORMAL HEIGHTS. $1300. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 1150 square feet, washer/dryer, refrigerator, dishwasher, garage, fireplace, bonus room and great views. 9720 Domer. 619-607-7287.
NORMAL HEIGHTS. $1300. 2 bedroom plus 1 bath. 1280 square feet. 1930s-style kitchen, hardwood floors, washer/dryer hook-ups, parking, close to all. Avail. now. 3061 West Adams. 619-286-0148.
NORMAL HEIGHTS. $1295. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Family room. Large balcony/patio. Close to all. Avail. now. 619-650-8131.
NORMAL HEIGHTS. $1200. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large balcony/patio. Close to all. Avail. now. 619-650-8131.
NORMAL HEIGHTS. $1195. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Beautifully decorated, 2 blocks to beach. 1642 19th Street. 619-522-0588.
NORMAL HEIGHTS. $1150. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 2-car garage, large yard, garage, fireplace, washer/dryer, refrigerator, dishwasher, garage, fireplace, bonus room and great views. 9720 Domer. 619-607-7287.
NORMAL HEIGHTS. $1100. Unfurnished 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-car garage, fireplace, bonus room and great views. 9720 Domer. 619-607-7287.
NORMAL HEIGHTS. $990. Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 750 square feet, washer/dryer, refrigerator, dishwasher, garage, fireplace, bonus room and great views. 9720 Domer. 619-607-7287.

516 square feet. 2-car garage. Fenced yard.washer/dryer. New paint and more! Located in a friendly community with pool and on-site management. 1/2-month free rent. 2311 Fourth Street. Agent, 619-697-6314.

760-706-2886.


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1845, the school was San Diego’s first. — by Robert Mizrahi

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www.chiakinnbodyandmakeup.com

Please check our website for descriptions and prices of other services.


DOWNTOWN/READER $1595 1 bedroom, 1 bath, $1595. New! Downtown/Gaslamp Quarter, 2109 India Street. Open to huge terrace with amazing city views. $500 deposit, includes 1st month’s rent. Pet OK. 619-484-6540.


DOWNTOWN/READER $1350 1 bedroom, 1 bath, $925. New! Downtown/Vegetarian, 1415 8th Avenue. Open to late move-ins! 619-579-0174.

DOWNTOWN/READER $1850 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, $2395. New! Downtown/Vegetarian, 1240 India Street. $500 off 1st month! 619-645-7680.


DOWNTOWN/READER $1395 1 bedroom, 1 bath, $1725. 2 bedrooms from $1375. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, $1195. 2nd bedroom, 1 bath, $1195! Fresh paint, new carpeting. New! Downtown/Gaslamp Quarter, 210 South Broadway. OPEN TO SAME DAY! 619-298-2017.


DOWNTOWN/READER $1100 2 bedrooms, 2 bath, $1725. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, $1195. 2nd bedroom, 1 bath, $1195! Fresh paint, new carpeting. New! Downtown/Gaslamp Quarter, 210 South Broadway. OPEN TO SAME DAY! 619-298-2017.

DOWNTOWN/READER $1100 1 bedroom, 1 bath, $1725. 2 bedrooms from $1375. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, $1195. 2nd bedroom, 1 bath, $1195! Fresh paint, new carpeting. New! Downtown/Gaslamp Quarter, 210 South Broadway. OPEN TO SAME DAY! 619-298-2017.

DOWNTOWN/READER $1100 1 bedroom, 1 bath, $1725. 2 bedrooms from $1375. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, $1195. 2nd bedroom, 1 bath, $1195! Fresh paint, new carpeting. New! Downtown/Gaslamp Quarter, 210 South Broadway. OPEN TO SAME DAY! 619-298-2017.

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December 9, 2004

LA JOLLA, 850 $925, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 1/2 bath townhouse. New paint, carpet, reserved covered parking. $1095. 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage-style apartment. 1 American Heritage Properties, 858-695-1500.

LA MESA, 1575 $890, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove refrigerator, private enclosed patio. 1200 $1195, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 level, top floor unit in 2-story building. $1575. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove refrigerator, private enclosed patio. 1200

LA JOLLA/UTC, 1600. 2 bedrooms at $1795. Stunning 3 bedroom 2 bath, 1 level, top floor unit in 2-story building. $2200. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Stove, refrigerator, gas fireplace, in courtyard setting. Excellent condition. 1 year lease. No pets. 858-278-7330.

LA MESA, 5519 Lake Murray Boulevard. For pricing, contact Colonial Apartments, 4757 Jessie Avenue, LAKESIDE. 858-561-0711.

LA MESA, 3150. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. New paint, carpet, kitchen/dining/living room, walk to beach. Pets OK. Affordable housing income requirement. 1 year lease. No pets. 858-454-1900.

LINDA VISTA, 3262 Ashford Street. 858-490-1600, 3285 Ulric Street. Call Monday-Friday for showing. 760-632-1755.

MISSION BEACH, 1717 Vulcan Avenue. Studio, ground floor, Pool/jacuzzi, barbecue, steps to sand, all appliances, parking garage, appliances, kitchen/dining/living room, walk to beach. Pets OK. 4954 Comanche Drive. 858-539-0927 or 760-539-0927.

MISSION BEACH, 1333 Brunner Street. Move-in special! Call for an appointment! 3150. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 level, top floor unit in 2-story building. Shared parking/courtyard. Quiet. 619-865-3637.


MISSION BEACH, 619-469-3072. Cat OK. 4954 Comanche Drive. 858-454-0157.


MISSION BEACH, 4406 Whipple. Drive by and call. Agent, 619-469-3072. Located on bayside of Island Court. Drive to 11/2 Island Court. Dry storage, covered parking. No pets allowed. 760-539-0927 or 760-539-0928.


**SLOW WAVE**

**MISSION VALLEY**

**3 Bedroom Apartments**

- Large 1-bedroom apartment with fireplace, washer/dryer, heat/air. 5 pools. 7 spas. 5 tennis courts. 3283 Mission Village. 6am-8pm. 619-297-3000.
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- $1850. Great 3 bedroom/2 bath apartment. 283-2144.
- $2000. 2 bed, 2 bath. La Paloma Apartments. 3911 Dove St. 619-297-2288.
- $2200. Beautiful, walk-up, upper floor 3 bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace, heat/air. 5 pools. 7 spas. 5 tennis courts. 2243 Cameo Circle. 619-521-1901; 619-461-9415.
- $2225. 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Secure, 2 car garage, 3 fireplaces, 2700 square feet, 2-car garage, 3 fireplaces. 2700 Juniper Drive. 619-297-3000.
- $2325. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, fireplace, heat/air. 5 pools. 7 spas. 5 tennis courts. 2243 Cameo Circle. 619-521-1901; 619-461-9415.
- $2350. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Washer/dryer, self-cleaning oven, fireplace, private patio. $2450. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. 1/2 block off Adams in Pacific Beach. White collar pets allowed. 14th and Dawes in Pacific Beach. 619-224-9800.
- $2500. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Walk to park across street. Moven apartments. 1943 Coyote Valley Road. 673-4601.
- $2850. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Walk to park across street. Moven apartments. 1943 Coyote Valley Road. 673-4601.
- $3300. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 1/2 mile from Pollack. 3911 Dove St. 619-297-2288.
- $3600. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 1/2 mile from Pollack. 3911 Dove St. 619-297-2288.

**MISSION HEIGHTS**

- $695. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, parking, walk to 30th Street/Chalmers. 619-295-7113.
- $700. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1/2 block off Adams. 9417/2nd Avenue. 619-267-6499.
- $700. One bed, one bath. 619-236-9904.
- $700. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 1/2 block off 30th Street/Chalmers. 9417/2nd Avenue. 619-267-6499.
- $800. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, fireplace, heat/air. 5 pools. 7 spas. 5 tennis courts. 2243 Cameo Circle. 619-521-1901; 619-461-9415.
- $800. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 619-236-9904.
- $800. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 1/2 mile from Pollack. 3911 Dove St. 619-297-2288.
- $800. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 6354 Rancho Mission Road #501. Agent, 619-267-6499.
- $800. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 1/2 block off Adams. 9417/2nd Avenue. 619-267-6499.
- $825. One bedroom, one bath. 1/2 mile from Pollack. 3911 Dove St. 619-297-2288.
- $835. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 619-236-9904.
- $835. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 1/2 mile from Pollack. 3911 Dove St. 619-297-2288.
- $850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1/2 mile from Pollack. 3911 Dove St. 619-297-2288.
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**Rents**

**UP TO 3 WEEKS’ FREE RENT!**

**Brand-New Downtown/Little Italy!**

**Features:**
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E-mail: portaditalia@hsccommunities.com

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<thead>
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<th>1 bedrooms from ’1218</th>
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<th>2 bedrooms from ’1615</th>
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**Better Than Apartments ... Stylish Townhomes**

**Up to 2 Months Free!**

- Near Gaslamp, Horton Plaza & More!
- 3 & 3 Level Floor Plans
- Designer Features, Central Heat & A/C
- Full-Size Washer/Dryer
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**1 Bedroom Townhomes from $1630**

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- Military Discounts
- Managed Pricing Program Available.

Call for more information.

**www.forestcity.net**

**Office hours:** Mon.-Fri. 9-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5
I have seen this condition before, Monsieur Porzo. Swollen red nose, red heat of color in the face, the black rings around the eyes. I am afraid you soon will be dead unless you begin costly radiation treatments at once.

I know it is hard for you to accept, but I have a guilt plaque. You must trust me.

DOWNTOWN/Gaslamp Lofts Urban Penthouse Living! City/Harbor Views! Up to 2 Months Free!

**Amenities include:**
- Open, loft-style floor plans from $1600-$3000
- 700-1500 square feet
- Reduced deposits
- Handicap accessible
- Brazilian cherrywood floors
- New kitchen, ceramic tile, granite countertops
- Walk-in closets*
- Air conditioning
- Cable/high-speed Internet ready
- Bay views
- Balcony

**Features and Amenities:**
- Near Petco Park, Gaslamp, Horton Plaza
- Rooftop terrace with BBQ’s, views of Coronado, Petco Park, skyline, bay
- Controlled-access entry
- Underground parking
- Washer/dryer in all homes
- Microwave • Private patio or balcony
- Air conditioning
- High-speed Internet • Landscaped courtyard
- Fully equipped fitness center • Pets welcome**
- 5-7 convenient access and close to trolley
- Garage parking available • Pets welcome
- Near Horton Plaza, Petco Park, restaurants, Seaport Village

**Select units.**

**Units Available:**
- 315 4th Avenue
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  - 619-221-9989
  - E-mail: rlowery@cimgroup.com
  - www.entrada453.com
  - Call toll-free: 1-866-584-9147

**AMENITIES INCLUDE:**
- Rooftop decks with BBQ
- Laundry on every floor
- Parking available
- Most pets allowed • **Pets start at $950/month**

**Up to 1 month free with 12-month lease!**

*December 9, 2004*
Elegant & Classic
Brand-New in Mission Valley!
BRAND-NEW, GATED, LUXURY 1, 2 & 3 BEDROOMS FROM $1475 & LOFT UNITS FROM $1685 AVAILABLE NOW!

AMENITIES & FEATURES:
• Pool • Spa • Barbecues • Fountains • Private patio/balcony
• Garage available/assigned parking • Computer niche • Storage
• Pantry • Washer/dryer in each unit • All new GE appliances including microwave, dishwasher, refrigerator • Fireplaces(select units) • Large walk-in closets
• Granite countertops • Select units with island kitchens • Internet access (high-speed)
• Pets welcome • Pool/mountain views available • State-of-the-art cardio fitness center
• Business center • Clubhouse, media center, pool table • Near San Diego Trolley stop, movie theaters, shopping malls, Qualcomm Stadium & Fenton Marketplace

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Huge 1 & 2 Bedrooms from $750!

Low Deposits from $550!

• New upgraded interiors
• Spacious floor plans
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• Sun deck with barbecue

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Studies, 1 & 2 bedrooms starting at $665, $795 & $1450

• Olympic-size heated pool
• 1, 2 & 3 bedrooms
• 2 weight rooms
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Rental

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858-273-3401

NO DEPOSIT • UP TO $900 OFF!

1, 2, 3 bedrooms
$950-1150

Pets welcome:
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fitness room
business room
tennis
heated pool/spa
convenient parking

24-hour fitness center

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Live Above Mission Bay!

Studies from $750!

• Studios, 1 & 2 bedrooms
• Ocean breezes • Covered parking
• Minutes to beach, bay, restaurants & shopping!
• Walking distance to Costco
• Newly remodeled
• Heated pool and spa
• Gas barbecues & picnic area
• 24-hour fitness center

Lush landscaping

Cats welcome

Ask About Our Move-in Special
I don't quite know what to say, I... woke up and realized that I had slept and... the capacity to survive on land.

by Scott Matthews ©2004
- BBQ & Picnic Area with City Views
- Heated Pool, Spa, Gym, Elevators
- Ocean and Bay Views (select units)

Saturday & Sunday
December 11 & 12
12-3 pm
Open House

A new concept in apartment living in La Jolla/UTC
Call appointment today!

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Studio $760
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- Floor-to-Ceiling Windows

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- Subterranean Parking
- Spiral Staircases*
- Cathedral Ceilings*
- Spiral Staircases*
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- Central Air Conditioning

- Beautiful, Peaceful La Mesa
- Fitness Center, Clubhouse
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- Senior Center
- Subterranean Parking
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- Cathedral Ceilings*
- Spiral Staircases*
- Outdoor Jacuzzi
- Central Air Conditioning

PACIFIC BEACH. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 850 square feet. Parking, laundry on site. 1851 Parkside #4, 619-275-8850.

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PACIFIC BEACH. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. 1200 square feet, deposit $1195. Wireless Internet, underground parking. 1900 square feet with view. $925. Good size, 1 bed-

1 bath. 750 square feet, 1 bath, patio, parking, 750 square feet, deposit $740. 1845 Hornblende, 858-483-3534; www.cal-prop.com.
PACIFIC BEACH. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 700 square feet, 1 bath condo with view. 1775 Diamond Street #33, 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.
PACIFIC BEACH. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 900 square feet, 1 bath, patio, 9-month lease. Available 12/16. 1468 Missouri Street 858-483-3534.
PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. 985 square feet with view. $995. Cute 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 750 square feet, deposit $795. 1872 Diamond. 858-483-3534; www.cal-prop.com.
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PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedrooms from $1045 1 bedrooms from $895

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- Floor-to-Ceiling Windows

- Senior Center
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Available Now! 1 Bedrooms from $981 2 Bedrooms from $1333

**Quiet & Peaceful Apartment Homes**

**18/18, 700 sq. ft. $800/month**

**Features**
- Large, open floor plans
- Gourmet kitchens with tile, stainless steel appliances (dishwasher, disposal)
- Large bedrooms
- Master bedrooms have private bathrooms
- Large closets
- Gated complex with controlled entry
- Onsite laundry room
- Close to shopping center and parks

**Amenities**
- Outdoor swimming pool
- Onsite fitness center
- 24-hour emergency maintenance
- Covered parking

**Conveniently located near UTC, Ocean Beach, Miramar and South Bay.**

**Lease Term:** 12 months

**Security Deposit:** $100

**Rental Application:**
- Online application: www.pacificbeachparks.com
- In person at our office

**Contact:**
- Office: 619-455-0007
- Fax: 619-277-2537
- Email: info@pacificbeachparks.com

**Available**
- Immediately

****1 Bedroom 1 Bath**
- $981/month
  - 700 square feet
  - Includes water/trash
  - Available 1/10/05
  - Resident referral $100
  - Pets OK

**2 Bedroom 2 Bath**
- $1333/month
  - 1030 square feet
  - Includes water/trash
  - Available 1/10/05
  - Resident referral $100
  - Pets OK

---

**Rentals**

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**Contact:**
- Office: 619-455-0007
- Fax: 619-277-2537
- Email: info@pacificbeachparks.com

**Available**
- Immediately

****1 Bedroom 1 Bath**
- $981/month
  - 700 square feet
  - Includes water/trash
  - Available 1/10/05
  - Resident referral $100
  - Pets OK

**2 Bedroom 2 Bath**
- $1333/month
  - 1030 square feet
  - Includes water/trash
  - Available 1/10/05
  - Resident referral $100
  - Pets OK

---

**Rentals**

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**Quiet & Peaceful Apartment Homes**

**18/18, 700 sq. ft. $800/month**

**Features**
- Large, open floor plans
- Gourmet kitchens with tile, stainless steel appliances (dishwasher, disposal)
- Large bedrooms
- Master bedrooms have private bathrooms
- Large closets
- Gated complex with controlled entry
- Onsite laundry room
- Close to shopping center and parks

**Amenities**
- Outdoor swimming pool
- Onsite fitness center
- 24-hour emergency maintenance
- Covered parking

**Conveniently located near UTC, Ocean Beach, Miramar and South Bay.**

**Lease Term:** 12 months

**Security Deposit:** $100

**Rental Application:**
- Online application: www.pacificbeachparks.com
- In person at our office

**Contact:**
- Office: 619-455-0007
- Fax: 619-277-2537
- Email: info@pacificbeachparks.com

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San Carlos, $795. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 786-4704.

San Carlos/Lake Murray, $725. 2 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to shopping, good location, unit, pool, laundry. 619-239-5334.

San Carlos, $850. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 786-4704.

San Diego, $1,190. 2 bedrooms. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-284-7787.

San Diego, $1,195. 2 bedrooms. 1 bath. Close to beach, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-284-7787.

San Diego, $1,750. 3 bedrooms. 2 baths. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-284-7787.

South Bay, $785. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $850. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $895. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $950. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

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South Bay, $1,000. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $1,050. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $1,075. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $1,100. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $1,150. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $1,190. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $1,200. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $1,295. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $1,345. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $1,395. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $1,425. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $1,450. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

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South Bay, $1,500. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $1,550. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $1,695. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $1,750. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

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South Bay, $1,900. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $1,950. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $2,000. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $2,030. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $2,050. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $2,075. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $2,125. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $2,195. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $2,225. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.

South Bay, $2,250. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach, complex, unit, pool, laundry, parking. 619-655-8789.
We sell your home for a low set fee.

Homes of the Week:

**Allied Gardens Home**
- 3 bed/1.5 bath, 1123 square feet. Close to park.
- 619-282-4663
- www.helpusell.com/distinctivehomes

**Terraicanta Condo!!!**
- 4 bed/2.5 bath, completely refurbished, new landscaping. Won’t last! $350,000-$625,000

**University Heights!**
- 2 bed/2 bath, Spanish style, completely refurbished. New landscaping. Won’t last! $575,000-$625,000

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CALL FOR DETAILS: 1-888-643-1527 ext. 9015
Per month. Price based on 1st loan amount of $232,000
5.5% APR of 5.61%, OAC & C A DRE #0119360

**Mission Valley**
- 2 Bedroom Condo
- Awesome location
- Own it with $1,870 PER MONTH including HOA fees + OAC

**OWN FOR LESS THAN RENT!**
**WITH ZERO DOWN**

- **Real Estate**
- **Houses**
- **Mission Valley**
- **2 Bedroom Condo**
- **Awesome location**
- **Own it with $1,870 PER MONTH including HOA fees + OAC**

**CALL FOR DETAILS: 1-888-643-1527 ext. 9015**

**Homes of the Week:**

**Clairemont Townhome!**
- 3 bed/3 bath, large lot. Beautiful home in Serra Mesa. $530,000

**Remodeled La Mesa Home!**
- Large detached 3 bed/2 bath. Large lot. Beautiful home in La Mesa. $399,000

**5 Minutes to All Freeways!**
- 4 bed/2.5 bath, large lot. Beautiful home in Serra Mesa. $530,000

**Distinctive Homes**
- 10330 Friars Rd., San Diego
- 619-282-4663

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In it, you’ll discover...
- Tips on finding a home and getting the best home mortgage rates
- How to make a strong “cash offer” – even if you’re getting a loan
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- The 5 questions to ask your mortgage lender... before you sign anything
- How to get a “good deal” in today’s market

These insider tips may surprise you – even shock you!

See new listings at: 4HomesInSanDiego.com

**Address**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Bedroom(s)/Bathrooms</th>
<th>Price Sold</th>
<th>Saved Seller</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>537 Overwood Terrace</td>
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<tr>
<td>6386 Rancho Mission Rd. #14</td>
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<td>4423 Colwood Lane College area</td>
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<td>433 Inkopin St.</td>
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<td>2746 Brighton Court #2</td>
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<td>$480,000</td>
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<td>6305 Walford Ave. La Mesa</td>
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<td>$535,000</td>
<td>$14,835</td>
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<tr>
<td>5358 Chales Pl. Oak Park</td>
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<td>2715 Melrose St. National City</td>
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<td>911 Clover Dr.</td>
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<td>8048 Citro San Diego</td>
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WITH ZERO DOWN

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**We’ll Sell Your Home for Only $4,995!**
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We give you a chance. We’ll sell your home and save you money!...guaranteed!

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condo. 2 bedroom, 2 bath in great complex. Pool and club house. Own it for $1860/month with zero down. $270,000-$275,000. 619-787-9551.

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pool, spa, and gym facilities! This is your chance to have your own home with amazing views, pool, spa, and gym facilities! This is your chance to have your own home with amazing views, $15,000 down. Call agent, Elizabeth, at 619-286-5813.

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**LA JOLLA**

619-286-5813.

**UTC AREA**

619-286-5813.

**TEMECULA**

414-6563; 01152-664182-9100.

**EMERSON**

414-6563; 01152-664182-9100.

**TODAY**

619-286-5813.

**RENO**

619-286-5813.

**LA JOLLA**

619-286-5813.

**HUNTINGTON BEACH**

619-375-0088. Cadre #01183960.

**TEMECULA**

414-6563; 01152-664182-9100.

**BOCA RATON**

619-375-0088. Cadre #01183960.

**FELTON**

619-375-0088. Cadre #01183960.

**SONOMA**

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**TODAY**

619-286-5813.

**RENO**

619-286-5813.
**Guitars**
- **Ovation Custom Legendfaces**, $650. Thin black body, gold finish, high gloss. Star classical, yin, yang.
- **Yamaha**, $699.

**Violins**
- **Antonio Stradivari model**, excellent condition, $999.

**Piano**
- **Yamaha PSS-798 multitrack**, $279.

**Recording Gear**
- **NATURAL HEADRECORDER**, $2950. 96KHz Firewire Interfaces, for progressive rock band. Mostly covers such as Rush, Grateful Dead, and other instruments. Will pay well for violins.

**Keyboardists**
- **SONGWRITERS**, needed. Professionals only. 619-277-1000.

**Drummers**
- **BAND FOR HIRE WANTED.** Female front, L7, Bikini Kill, Jawbreaker. Experienced with a great attitude. 619-720-1836.

**Keyboards/Electric Pianos**
- **Yamaha ProEx IV** and **Hammond**.

**Singers**
- **Male singer wanted by a new funk band.** Must be dedicated, multitalented, with a full band sound. 858-613-1172.

**Vocalists**
- **NEED FOR HORN BLOWERS.** Cee-Lo style, tons of heart, rap/rock style, tons of lyrics, tons of style. 619-540-5827.

**Musicians**

**Live Music Performers**
- **MUSICIANS FOR HIRE.** Female front, L7, Bikini Kill, Jawbreaker. Experienced with a great attitude. 619-720-1836.

**Publicity**
- **BANDS.** Need help? Let the team work for you. Professional gigs, recording, pop variety, and digital multitrack recording and mastering. Neotek Elite, Neumann, Summit, and more. 619-747-1125.

**Recording and Mastering**
- **RECORD AND MASTER AT BLITZ STUDIO.** Includes engineer/musician that cares about your project. Songwriting and arranging for your CD or album. 619-747-1125.

**Recording Equipment**
- **For your studio.** Includes quality amp repair, restoration and valve upgrades. Provides quality amp repair, restoration and valve upgrades. 619-540-5827.

**Transportation**
- **Touring Band.** Female front, L7, Bikini Kill, Jawbreaker. Experienced with a great attitude. 619-720-1836.

**Miscellaneous**
- **Many more items at our shop.** Call us at 619-540-5827 for more information.

**For Sale**

**MUSICIANS WANTED.**
- **MUSICIANS WANTED.** Requires violins, keyboard, guitar, piano, and drum set. Romance, La Jolla, 92037. 858-459-3375.

**Vocals/Lead Singer**
- **Bassist/Drummer.**
- **Singer/Songwriter.**

**Singer**
- **Male singer wanted by a new funk band.** Must be dedicated, multitalented, with a full band sound. 619-540-5827.

**Vocalists**
- **Vocalist/Frontman positions** available in San Diego. Must have stage presence. Auditions. Leave message, 858-550-0444.

**Vocalists**
- **JUSTICE LOOKING FOR keyboardist or lead vocalist.** Must: Be natural, have stage presence. Call Left Coast, 858-278-7888.

**Vocalists**
- **Vocalist/Frontman positions** available in San Diego. Must have stage presence. Auditions. Leave message, 858-550-0444.

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Car Covers • Dash Covers • Floor Mats • Baby Bugs • Slipcovers • Hawaiian Print

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**Dell 3100C**  1.44MB floppy disk, parallel, sound card. Email: keyboard, mouse, $50. 1-800-251-1322.

**LENOVO IDEAPAD Z500**: Windows 2000, XP, Excellent condition. $100. 1-888-203-1322.

**HP LASER PRINTER**: With USB cable. 1500 pages. Works well. 1-800-251-1322.

**LENOVO IDEAPAD Y500**: Windows 2000, XP, Excellent condition. $100. 1-888-203-1322.

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**San Diego Reader** has hundreds of classified garage sales. Free ads can also be placed online!

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Portsmouth Ave. Sale: Sat. 12-6pm. 1036-1040 Harney St. 828-3346.

**BANKER'S BELL**

Sale: Sat. 9am-1pm. 22747 La Reina, Chula Vista. 619-571-1382.

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

CLAIREMONT. 12/11, 7am-11am. Toys, children’s items, gifts, raffle, bake sale. 619-291-5313.

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**FREEDOM TRANSPORTATION**

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**GEORGIA PENSACOLA**

SALE. Sun., 12/11. 10am. Many items including clothing, home accessories and tools. Some items at low prices. 619-561-1643.

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**HILLCREST**

Holiday crafts and gifts. 11am-4pm. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 3455 2nd Ave. (Mission Valley). 619-291-5187.

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**La MESA**


**La MESA**


**LAKEHURST**

Sale: Sat. 11am-3pm. 1221 W. Kalmia, Carlsbad. 760-637-3731.

**LAKEHURST**

Sale: Sat. 11am-3pm. 1221 W. Kalmia, Carlsbad. 760-637-3731.

**NEW GROVE**

Sale: Sat. 11am-4pm. 2943 Old Quarry Rd. 829-6784.

**NEW GROVE**

Sale: Sat. 11am-4pm. 2943 Old Quarry Rd. 829-6784.

**STUDENT HOUSE**

Sale: Sat. 11am-4pm. 2943 Old Quarry Rd. 829-6784.

**STUDENT HOUSE**

Sale: Sat. 11am-4pm. 2943 Old Quarry Rd. 829-6784.

**TURKEY DAY**

Sale: Sat. 11am-3pm. 5980 Mission Gorge Rd. 619-580-1254.

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Sale: Sat. 11am-3pm. 5980 Mission Gorge Rd. 619-580-1254.

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Sale: Sat. 11am-3pm. 5980 Mission Gorge Rd. 619-580-1254.

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Sale: Sat. 11am-3pm. 5980 Mission Gorge Rd. 619-580-1254.
**Classified Ads**

**Appliances**
- HEATER. 619-425-8713.
- Washer/dryer (Maytag), for $250. Please call 619-287-3402.
- Refrigerator, hardly used, paid $700, must sell ASAP, with all accessories, $450. 858-456-0909.
- Refrigerator, side, gold, $40. 760-717-5253.
- Directv System, About 5 years old, working fine. Will take $125. 760-294-4505.
- Bed $10 A Discount for You! Queen $199 Cal King Pillowtop $249. 858-460-5905.

**Electronics**
- 30K • 60K • 90K SERVICE SPECIAL $59
- Solaris, 5 year warranty. Includes new filter, up to 6 quarts. Most cars. 3753/5/619-546-4008.

**Furniture**
## Lead Story

"Anal-wart researcher" heads Popular Science magazine’s second annual November list of the worst jobs in science (visual inspection being the only way to detect anal cancer from the human papillomavirus). However, "wart parasitologists" can be just as challenging, especially for anyone studying the Dravinochusa midwifery, which can grow in humans to a length of three feet and then must be removed carefully after its thousands of offspring burst through the skin. Other contributors to "spoon squeezer" for the study of viral infections; a Lyme-disease "tick attractor" (who must sing, to keep bears away, while trolling in the woods); and "monitors" at warm-climate landfills (where garbage has been reduced to steam, liquid condensates).

### Majority Rules

Perhaps the strangest election result this year was in Orange County, Calif., where a school-board seat went not to the favored establishment candidate but to an unknown, Steve Rocco, who never campaigned or appeared in public. (He did tell a friend after the election that he would appear at the board meeting on Dec. 9.) Among the little information known about him: His candidacy registration included one page of "densely typed text cut and pasted together, and filled with rambling prose" (according to the Los Angeles Times); and over several years ago, Rocco hosted a 17-stage interview series on public-access TV while wearing dark glasses.

### Suspictions Confirmed

In November, four University of Memphis basketball players who share an apartment on campus reported a break-in. Items missing (according to the police report obtained by WPTV-TV) included $600 worth of shoes, $400 of custom-made shirts, $600 of trousers, and $400 of mink coats.

### More Scenes of the Surreal

(1) The September nomination of Michael Medved was an example of how the media’s mindless and transparently opportunistic love affair with the Left can be inordinately insidious. The agency, with its previous success in shoplifting a $2.13 package of bacon from a Langley, Va., grocery store, (2) While demonstrations about Iraq usually either support the troops or criticize U.S. involvement, a group of porn-video actresses staged an idiotic protest in August in Los Angeles, denouncing the U.S. military for offering breast implants to female soldiers (as a way to help keep combat surgeons sharp for battle-related plastic surgery). One sign, "Honk if you love natural breasts." Questionable Judgments

- Asking for Trouble from the Spirits: Kenneth Rabalais, 19, was charged with desecrating a grave in a suburb of New Orleans after opening the crypt of a young relative, believing that other relatives had buried "tribute" money and drugs to help ease the deceased’s transition to the afterworld. (Apparantly, the deceased left un-troubled.)
- In Hawaii, Wal-Mart opened a store in October despite warnings that it had been built on an ancient grave site. The remains of 44 bodies turned up during construction. Wal-Mart said it is protecting the remains while it seeks state approval to reburied them.
- Colin Hanks, a co-starred drug dealer serving time in Peru Prison in California, filed a lawsuit in October, asking the equivalent of about $5,000,000 because of an improper rectal exam (responsible, 54, for the state) performed on him by a given by a prison physician. Dr. Alexander MacFarlane said he was forced to use, as lubricant, milk from a bowl of porridge because that was all the prison had on hand.

Oops!

- In August, a pilot circling over Forest Grove, Ore., reached out the window to scatter the cremated ashes of a man over the Mountain View Memorial Gardens, but the four-pound bag slipped out of his hand, eventually crashing through the roof of a parked car, where the cremated ashes fell.

### Recent Unpleasantness

- Three of these four things happened recently. ...• Replace pads or shoes• Inspect wheel cylinders• Replace master cylinder & fluid wheel, rear• Check and adjust rear axle• Install new spark plugs• Change engine oil & filter• Inspect all belts & hoses• Adjust idle to factory specs• Inspect suspension springs• Lubricate chassis$29.95

WHEEL ALIGNMENT

From Most cars.

- Inspect shocks, struts, steering, suspension, & tires.

WHEEL ALIGNMENT

$39.95

- Inspect shocks, struts, steering, suspension, & tires.

- 4-Wheel $49.95

- Only with appointment. Includes FREE tire rotation.

- Oil & filter change. Top off all fluids. Brake inspection. Most cars.

- 1 year/12,000 mile warranty. Includes semi-metallic pads.

- Includes.

- 1 year/12,000 mile warranty. Includes semi-metallic pads.

- $129.95

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### Automotive

**California Oil & Gas Station**

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**Foreign & Domestic**

- Full Maintenance & Repair Service
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- Major Service 30K/60K/90K

- Major service as low as $139.95

- Major service includes oil change, transmission fluid, fuel filter, spark plugs, maintenance tune-up, charge, check oil pressure, check engine oil & filter, rear brake inspection, clean & adjust rear brake, 4-wheel alignment, check all belts, brake adjustment, check fuel filter, inspect differential.

- Transmission flush as low as $69.95

- Includes transmission fluid, filter, fuel filter, spark plugs, maintenance tune-up, charge, check all belts, brake adjustment, check fuel filter, inspect differential.

- Oil change as low as $11.95

- Includes oil change, transmission fluid, fuel filter, spark plugs, maintenance tune-up, charge, check all belts, brake adjustment, check fuel filter, inspect differential.

- Attractive, lifetime frame, down pillows, leather. Brand new in original plastic wrap. 858-945-4902.

- Couch and loveseat leather. Brand new in original plastic wrap. As low as $200. Must be sold for $350.

- Leather sofa sleeper, mint condition, $85. Call 858-558-6402.


- Couch and loveseat leather. Brand new in original plastic wrap. As low as $200. Must be sold for $350.

- Leather sofa sleeper, mint condition, $85. Call 858-558-6402.

**DISTURBING THE PEACE**

**Location:** 777 East San Ysidro Boulevard  
**Time/Date:** 11:40 p.m. on 11/14/04

**Officer’s Investigation:** I responded to a radio call regarding an intoxicated person at the McDonald’s Restaurant. Upon arrival, I spoke with Victor L., a security guard. L. told me he asked Dave C. (the suspect) to leave several times. C. responded by saying that he hated everyone in uniform. C. also said, “I will kick your ass.”

I also spoke to Alfredo J., a Brinks security guard. J. told me that C. got in the way as J. was trying to fill up the ATM machine. J. asked C. to move several times. C. refused to move away. C. was preventing J. from doing his work.

I saw that C. had an unkempt appearance. He also had red, bloodshot eyes. Upon speaking with C., I smelled the odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from his breath. I placed C. under arrest for being drunk in public.

**Investigation:** A 30-year-old female had her purse snatched while in the parking lot of the Grossmont Shopping Center. The victim and her 28-year-old sister were standing in the parking lot, in the area of Barnes & Noble bookstore, next to her car. They watched as a white car drove by their location. The car returned, and as it drove by the two sisters, a passenger hung out the right side of the car and grabbed the victim’s purse. The purse was hanging from the victim’s shoulder. The victim was not injured. The suspect was able to write down the license plate number of the suspect’s vehicle.

Detective Andrew Golecmbiewski and Detective Greg Runge, along with two State parole agents, located the suspect’s vehicle in the 600 block of Goschel Street, San Diego. The suspect, Ade W., 24, entered the vehicle and later returned to his residence, where he fled on foot. The foot chase ended when officers from the SDPD, who had responded to assist, took Ade W. into custody.

Ade W. was on parole for attempted murder and was arrested for parole violation.

**PURSE SNATCH**

**Location:** 5500 Grumman Center Drive, La Mesa  
**Time/Date:** 10:05 p.m. on 11/16/04

**Investigation:** A 30-year-old female had her purse snatched while in the parking lot of the Grumman Center. The victim and her 28-year-old sister were standing in the parking lot, in the area of Barnes & Noble bookstore, next to her car. They watched as a white car drove by their location. The car returned, and as it drove by the two sisters, a passenger hung out the right side of the car and grabbed the victim’s purse. The purse was hanging from the victim’s shoulder. The victim was not injured. The suspect was able to write down the license plate number of the suspect’s vehicle.

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**STABBING**

**Location:** 7500 Gibraltar Street, Carlsbad  
**Time/Date:** 9:32 p.m. on 11/18/04

**Report:** Investigation revealed that an unwanted acquaintance came to the Gibraltar Street home and caused a disturbance. The two residents of the home told the acquaintance to leave. The acquaintance left but returned approximately 20 minutes later and forced entry into the home by kicking in the front door. An altercation took place in front of the house with the acquaintance battering the two residents. The acquaintance was described as being out of control and irrational, as well as physically overpowering.

One of the residents reported that he had stabbed the acquaintance once in the torso with a kitchen knife to protect himself and his roommate. The resident who did the stabbing then went into the house and called police. All parties were present when the police arrived. The stabbing victim was transported to Scripps La Jolla where he underwent surgery for his wound. He is expected to survive.

**ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON**

**Location:** 1000 G Street, East Village  
**Time/Date:** 2:45 a.m. on 11/21/04

**Officer’s Investigation:** T.T. was hit in the head with a brick by the suspect during a fight in the street. T. was agitated and it was difficult to get a complete statement from him. T. told me that tonight was his birthday. He said he had been celebrating and had gone down the street to the “friend to friend” halfway house, looking for a girl he knew. He said he ran into “Joey” down there, whom he knew from the street. He said he was upset with “Joey” because “Joey” had been talking bad about him to people on the street. He also told me that he was upset because “Joey” had been telling everyone that he was Samoan.

T. said he told “Joey” to stop telling everyone he was Samoan and that they had argued in front of the halfway house. T. said that they had started to fight, and that “Joey” had picked up a brick and had hit him once in the head with it. He said that “Joey” then ran.

T. was taken to the hospital for treatment. The suspect was not located.

**BATTERY ON PEACE OFFICER**

**Location:** 450Euclid Avenue  
**Time/Date:** 1:38 p.m. on 11/14/04

**Investigation:** I responded to a battery on a Transit Officer at the Euclid Trolley Station. Upon my arrival, I could see another Transit Officer was restraining Owen M. (the suspect) against the trolley wall in handcuffs. M. was not making any sense when he spoke. M. used profanity and words like “goonicide.” A records check on M. found that he had a misdemeanor warrant ($5,000).

**Victim’s Statement:** I was riding the trolley from 47th Street eastbound checking fares, ensuring everyone had paid for the trolley. At about 1:30 p.m., I asked M. for his fare. M. mumbled something [and] did not show me proof of payment. When the trolley reached the Euclid station, I asked M. to step off. M. rushed and grabbed me, causing me to lose my balance. I fell off the trolley door exit with him on top of me. I fought with him on the yellow platform. During the struggle, I was able to gain control and handcuff him.

— Michael Hemmingson
Auto Coupons at SanDiegoReader.com

**Miscellaneous for Sale**

SanDiegoReader.com has hundreds of classified ads not printed here. Free ads can also be placed online!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Miramar Radiator</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Morena Test Only</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Oil Change</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Full Service Oil Change</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Smog Check Only</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Complete Front Brake Job</strong></td>
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SanDiegoReader.com offers a wide variety of services and products. Whether you need a new tire or a complete brake job, we have the right service for you. For more information, visit our website or contact us today.
The ghosts of girlfriends past haunted my Friday night.

I looked up to see if the band was ready to begin when I saw her.

This was another, later ex-girlfriend, one who had done a sadistic rumble on my heart, put my emotions into a Cousinshit, hit frappé, and sat back with gleam in bed with guys with names like Gunner and Sledge.

When the sweat cooled on the back of my neck and forehead, I realized I could not stay, I could not avoid her in the small establishment, and I could not play at "good-natured-old-friends" and "How about that wacky relationship, eh?"

The ghosts of girlfriends past haunted my Friday night that was to be — as Iglesias and Crossfire had phrased it — "In loving memory of Stevie Ray Vaughan."

The appearance of the second girlfriend was typical of her ability to ruin anything.

I walked toward Fifth Avenue and wondered if I'd weep again. I didn't think so. After all, it was history — a long time ago, and I now had emotional scar tissue like Bonds. II, however, I did weep, it would not be for the loss of a brilliant bluesman.

He is in a better place after all, with countless other young musical prodigies God has assembled for the true of heart who earn the ticket price to heaven.
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24-hour Internet fax or for private parties. See form on page 133.

Cincinnati, Ohio on 12 Nov 1999.

MOTORCycles

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AUGUST 20-22, 2004
San Diego Auto Show
San Diego Convention Center
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ATTENTION, WANTED, Motorcycles, motorcycle parts, or motorcycles in good condition. Call 619-270-8763.


BRANDY-DAVISON, Factory hot, high performance, custom engine, everything in place, all in excellent condition. 619-696-7320.

HARLEY-DAVIDSON, Factory hot, high performance, custom engine, everything in place, all in excellent condition. 619-696-7320.

HONDA MAGNA VF750, 1985, Blueprint, etc. 21,000 miles, 1985 motorcycle, 619-270-8763.

HONDA MAGNA VF750, 1985, Blueprint, etc. 21,000 miles, 1985 motorcycle, 619-270-8763.

KAWASAKI KE 175, 1981, 14K miles, garage kept and in excellent condition. 619-270-8763.

HARLEY-DAVIDSON, Factory hot, high performance, custom engine, everything in place, all in excellent condition. 619-696-7320.

HONDA MAGNA VF750, 1985, Blueprint, etc. 21,000 miles, 1985 motorcycle, 619-270-8763.

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HONDA MAGNA VF750, 1985, Blueprint, etc. 21,000 miles, 1985 motorcycle, 619-270-8763.
I tell Mike Holaday my first car was a '55 Chevy, like his.

He says, “It was my first car too. I got it when I was 13. My father had been going to a client’s home in Del Mar for a couple of years and had seen the car sitting there. And I had been saving up money for a car, so he approached the owner one day. The man said, ‘The car’s not for sale. It belongs to my son, and he’s coming back from Vietnam.’"

“Was this long after the war?”

“Yes, my dad says, ‘Okay, I’ll check back.’ And he did, and the man finally sold it to us. The man’s son had been killed or something in Vietnam. ‘I guess his son was a surfer, because the Chevy was all packed with beach sand. It was in rough shape. It had been sitting 10 or 15 years. We bought it for $600, all my paper-route and lawn mowing money.”

“During high school my father and I worked on it together. Then I moved out of the house and started working on it on my own. There was a long period of time when it sat, when my interests were just in life and growing up. But I never sold the Chevy. It was always in the back of my mind.”

“I ask, ‘What have you done to it?’

“I had an ’80 Camaro front clip put onto it, and — ”

“I confess I don’t know what ‘front clip’ means.

Mike tells me, ‘They cut the frame off at the firewall, and they grafted on the front end of a Camaro, and then I put the original front fenders and the hood and everything back on. It’s safer now, with disc brakes and power steering, and I can get parts, brake pads, ball joints, whatever I need, at any Kragen Auto Zone. I’ve done some bodywork, had it painted, redone the interior, riveted it. I put in a small Chevy 355 engine with the air blower, so it’s probably 420 or 430 horsepower. The transmission I put in is in a Muncie four-speed standard.”

“Do you race?”

“I ask, ‘Back when it wasn’t so dangerous I did a lot of street racing. But I’m married now; I have a child. I haven’t done any street racing for about five years. And I haven’t been to the drag races yet, though I intend to. Right now, I’m afraid of breaking the stock rear end if I launch too hard, because the motor is that powerful. To finance the motor, I sold another car I owned, a Camaro. I sold it for $5600, and I spent that and an additional $800 or so on the Chevy motor.”

“You’ve got a ’73 motorcycle?”

“Yeah. Horsepower’s not cheap. In some ways I wish I had been more conservative and used some of the money on a postretirement rear end and some other stuff. But I asked myself if I could afford to do this in the future, I knew I had a baby coming, and I figured there was no way the wife would let me buy a supercharger instead of diapers. “So I spent all that on the motor while I still had the chance.”

To suggest future “Driven” stories, e-mail ken@kenkuhlken.net.
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"HEY, I'M GOING TO COME GET YOU. You can help me move our new TV," my cousin Joe informed me over a crackling cell phone connection.

"What?" I asked through static. "What kind of TV do you need two people to carry?"

"Actually, Jeremy's already here."

Even though his "old" 27-inch flat screen was in perfect condition, he was getting a new larger set, which apparently required three young men to lift. We backed the old TV directly into front of the door to Sears and dropped the tall gate. Jeremy emerged from the store holding the rearview mirrors of Technicolor receipts and waving someone through the store. "That's it. Just to the left a little. Okay. The truck's right here."

That can't be it, I thought. It's too damn big. It won't even fit through the door — front door to Sears, for cryin' out loud. That must be a refrigerator for someone else...

My doubts were put to rest when Joe sprang from the tall gate to help the sales clerk free the monstrously from its cardboard confines and tug the TV through the door. The four of us then hoisted it from its cart and shoved it into the pickup bed, "Good lord, I'm going to get a hernia," I grunted.

"Hey," my cousin responded. "You want to watch a lifelike American Choppper? Then shut it."

After several attempts to get it through the front door of their mobile home, we sat on the porch and started drawing up plans with a rusty nail. My fingers had been smashed into the door jam on the first few tries, so we were brainstorming new ways to get in. "I'll cut this wall out with a Sawzall," my cousin frantically offered.

"No, no," I had to remain cool or this would be ugly. "This isn't even your trailer, you know."

"I know, I know," he replied. "But if you don't do it, we'll have to move it up to the second story."

I winced at the thought of Joe and I doing that with a three-ton TV. "No, no," I had to remain cool or this would be ugly. "This isn't even your trailer, you know."
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