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2. Donna Frye
3. Mike Aguirre
4. Alex Spanos
5. Ralph Inzunza
6. Michael Zucchet
7. Charles Lewis
8. Ed Ryan
9. Ron Roberts
10. Peter Q. Davis
11. John Moores
12. Mike Uberuaga
13. Bruce Herring
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16. John Kern

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Pity Sandwich

San Diego Reader

January 6, 2005

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letterS

We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader.

Phone them in at 619-235-3000, ext. 460; address them to Letters to the Editor, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186; fax them to 619-231-0489; or e-mail them to letters@SanDiegoReader.com.

Include your name, address, and telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Sneer Bubbles

In advance of San Diego’s most recent mayoral race, I would have said that the best of the feasible outcomes would have been the election of Donna Frye; now I am compelled to admit that the appointment of Frye would be the worst feasible outcome. With such an appoint-...
Friends in high places  He’s been an aide to Democratic ex-congressman Lionel Van Deel in, top lieutenant for one-time Republican city councilman Uvaldo Martinez, local functionary for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, and executive director of Democratic ex-governor Gray Davis’s Commission of the Californias. In between, he’s been entangled in the long-ago city hall credit card—spending scandal that got Martinez booted from office; later he got caught up in North County political consultant Colin Flaherty’s campaign—money-laundering case. His name is Rudy Murillo, but unlike his close friend Flaherty—who has reportedly yet to pay the $76,000 fine levied against him in that matter by the state’s Fair Political Practices Commission — the worst thing Murillo’s ever been charged with is failure to pay $846 in parking fees and fines during his years at city hall. Murillo left his state job after Davis was booted from office by the recall. He soon signed up with the San Diego State University Foundation, where he said last summer he was trying to line up a grant from a major foundation to pay for an educational development program for some of Tijuana’s maquiladora plants. Now Murillo, a close buddy of Democratic Party insider and Davis ex–chief-of-staff Lynn Schenk, herself currently picking up $99,000 a year as a member of the state’s Medical Assistance Commission, has moved on to yet another state-sponsored venue: Scripps Institution of Oceanography, where he has become director of the state-sponsored venue: Scripps Institution of Oceanography, where he has become director of the state-sponsored venue: Scripps Institution of Oceanography, where he has become director of the state-sponsored venue: Scripps Institution of Oceanography, where he has become director of the state-sponsored venue: Scripps Institution of

Caitlin Rother

12, with a 1200-word story under the bylines of

come. The campaign began on Sunday, December

Watery grave The demise in the great tsunami of Poorn Jensen, grandson of Thai king Bhumipol Adulyadej, brought a torrent of local press coverage last week. On Wednesday, the Los Angeles Times described the dead 21-year-old as the son of “Princess Ubolratana and her ex-husband, Peter Jensen of San Diego.” The prince’s father was said to be “a locally prominent businessman” who “was involved in several high-profile ventures, including a gold-mining business in Northern California and companies in the water sales market.” The U-T followed the next day, playing up Poorn’s battle with autism and his parents’ marital discord. Neither paper went around to mentioning Peter’s infamous connection to Dick Silberman, the felon and Democratic financier once married to former San Diego GOP Mayor Susan Golding. Before he was sent to prison for money laundering, Silberman was chairman and CEO of Yuba Natural Resources, an outfit that Silberman claimed would make millions dredging for gold on the Yuba River north of Sacramento. Investors included all the likely San Diego suspects of the era, including J. David Dominelli, later convicted of swindling millions from unwary investors; and M. Larry Lawrence, the late Hotel Del Coronado mogul whose body was relocated from Arlington National Cemetery after it was revealed he’d lied about his war record. Jensen was featured in an October 1985 Forbes story as saying, “You can pun dog shit out here and find gold. There’s gold everywhere.” A skeptical Forbes described Siberman’s ties to Las Vegas Allen Gliek, whose company was involved in the Kansas City Mafia, and has been fingerprinted in the movie Casino, and suggested investors eschew Yuba stock. Jensen took over after Silberman’s fall and the money-losing venture morphed into a water-rights-sales company. But by 2000, the Sacramento Bee reported, the company’s stock had collapsed to 35 cents a share, and Jensen had thrown in the towel: “Trying to do a water deal is like trying to align 20 planets at the same time.”

M. Larry Lawrence

Dick Silberman

Friends in high places: Colin Flaherty, top lieutenant for onetime Republican city councilman Uvaldo Martinez. The paper has run about how decrepit the once-mighty Qualcomm Stadium has purportedly become. The station is run by San Diego State, which plays its football games at Qualcomm and gets hefty financial backing from new stadium boosters. On New Year’s Day, a U-T editorial followed up, calling the existing stadium “leaky, creepy, and crumbling.”

When the Union-Tribune gets that old special-interest bit in its mouth, it seldom lets go. Witness the recent spate of stories circulating at Scripps. “He worked closely with Con...
I Had to Stop Drinking Liquids

By Suzanne Deal

It turns out after seven years of employment that I’m a volunteer special education teacher for the San Diego Unified School District. What a surprise. I’ve been sick four days this month (a virus and laryngitis) and forgot to pick up the pay stub for my automatic deposit on Friday. On Saturday morning I called my bank to find out the total deposited in my checking account — 33 cents.

I’m pretty sure that’s earned interest, but I could be wrong. So I either made 33 cents or nothing for working ten hours a day, including Saturdays, for the month of September. I’ve never complained before about the pay I receive as a teacher, but I’m going to have to speak out now. Thirty-three cents is not enough to cover the amount of money I spend to set up my classroom! It’s very expensive to meet the aesthetic demands of the Blueprint for Student Success, so I’m asking for a raise or for a larger supply budget.

Here are the facts: each teacher received a box of supplies the first day of school and a case of copy paper. My supply box contained eight dry-erase markers, four boxes of pencils, four dozen erasers, four chart markers, writing journals, and lined paper. That’s all of the supplies I get until further notice. At a staff meeting, we were told to barter supplies with other teachers. I have a vial of white board cleaner coming to me for my bartending skills. I went through every cabinet in my new classroom to see what supplies I needed. I had no individual dry-erase boards, one pair of scissors, one container of glue, no paintbrushes, no paint, one stapler, no tape, a broken cell phone, four containers of broken Crayons, one box of used Crayola markers, one package of sentence-strip paper, one large lined pad of newspaper to make charts, and a couple of reams of colored construction paper. I also have an expensive presentation station still in the original box, a digital video camera, and a brand-new laptop computer. I am allowed 3000 copies on the good copy machine with paper over the next four months. The first week of school the copy machine had no paper and there was no laminating material on site.

Now, in order to teach Interactive Writing (don’t ask), I need individual dry-erase boards and markers for each child in my classroom. Dry-erase markers are $13.18 each. The dry-erase boards are $2.95 each. Add tape, staples, mounting adhesive, ink pads, stickers, and other materials I need to have in the classroom and the total came to $250. Then, extras like colored pencils, markers, folders, file folders, hanging folders, and rubber stamps added another $100. For science materials I spent $20. We used to have a great science program (Full Option Science System — FOSS) with materials at each school site, but apparently word got out that teachers could not be trusted to choose the correct units (even though the kits are clearly labeled by grade level and contain videos demonstrating how to teach each unit).

In an effort to improve time.) So if I want to teach science at other than the assigned mystery dates, I have to buy my own supplies. I’ve also spent $50 on photocopying and laminating.

We were also told that we need to teach math modules on the district timeline or the principal would be “mad” at us. Unfortunately, there is no money to purchase math workbooks or teacher’s editions for anyone who doesn’t have the materials. Since half of the teachers at our school site were switched to a different grade level and classroom in an effort to “improve” test scores, there are at least several teachers per grade level who don’t have the materials they need to teach math. We were told to talk to other teachers to see if we could find the books, workbooks, and teacher’s materials we need. Or we could find a teacher who teaches math at a different time and borrow her books. Our new vice principal is working on setting up a better system for keeping track of materials, but none was in place when he arrived. I was able to pick through discarded materials for enough used math workbooks for my students, but I don’t have any teacher’s materials. Some of the books have pages ripped out or filled in, so when the photocopying machine is working, I have to copy the worksheets so that I have enough.

The staff developer (who doesn’t work with children) met with me the second week of school to ask me what materials I needed. I made a list for her. I said I needed money to buy workbooks for my students. She said there was no money to purchase workbooks, but I could spend $350 for books for my classroom library. Since my class was changed from fourth and fifth grade to second and third grade, I spent $800 of my own money at thrift stores (the Salvation Army rules) on a classroom library over the summer. I told her I didn’t need library books. She said that was all I could spend the money on. End of discussion.

And speaking of libraries, phone service and a functional library by October, but it hasn’t happened yet. The teacher aide who works in the library has to check out the books by hand, I have a cell phone but no charger for my classroom use. We also have three staff bathrooms that lock automatically after use so that we have to go to the office to get the one extra key to go to the bathroom (once someone forgets to lock them open).
Deliberate ignorance

continued from page 2

such revenues could be predicted.

The most prominent red flag was the interest rate. The city was selling $169 million of insured, AAA-rated tax-free bonds at an interest rate of 7.66 percent — a staggering two or three percentage points higher than the rate on a similar bond in those days. Indeed, 7.66 percent was the equivalent of a yield on a municipal junk bond — very low-rated, uninsured, highly speculative municipal bond, such as for a project to turn sewage sludge into chocolate ice cream.

At the time, and to this day, some attorneys who were involved in thetransaction insist that the high interest rate was a result of lawsuits against the project. Should suits succeed, the bonds could become tax-exempt. But this argument doesn’t wash because by 1997, the bonds could become taxable. Even though the bonds were insured, they could only be sold to rich, so-called “sophisticated” investors, probably institutions and heeled individuals got those bonds, says Donna Frye, the only councilmember to vote against the bonds’ issuance. “What was being said [in council] didn’t seem to match what I was reading in the binders and binders of documents.”

Did Merrill Lynch or the bond insurer, Ambac Assurance, discover the pension falsehoods back then? “It’s possible,” says attorney Stanley Zubel, noting that the insurer could sue to recover its funds in case of default. “Why would they charge such a large premium [high interest rate] if they knew there was gold in the back room?”

The city isn’t talking. Ambac won’t say if it knew of the pension disclosure problems because it had signed a confidentiality agreement with Major League Baseball. Merrill Lynch says it relied on the information provided by the city. Mistake. Although the bonds came out in February 2002, the city said that as of June 30, 2000, the pension system was 97.3 percent funded and the deficit was only $69 million. “It’s now more than $1 billion.” Why didn’t the city give the numbers for mid-2001? “This is the game the city and pension system always play,” says Diann Shipione, whistle-blowing member of the pension board. “They dial back to the best numbers they can find in the past and give those numbers with an unstated suggestion that those numbers remain current, knowing they are completely fictional.”

A dubious superior-court action cleared the way for the bonds. In 1998, when voters were told explicitly how the ballpark would pay for itself, the city gave itself some slight wiggle room. The Padres could “fine-tune” the mix of buildings. But in late 2001, law professor Robert Simmons filed a suit noting that the team had been reeling from 66 percent of its obligation to build office complexes and 33 percent of its pledge to build retail space. The Campbell 1000-room Campbell Shipyard hotel — and other hotels — had not been financed. This was hardly fine-tune, it was bait-and-switch, argued Simmons. In late 2001, city council had approved a proposal to permit most of the real estate to be condominiums, lofts, and townhomes — not what had been promised. But property-tax revenue from housing of any kind is always offset by infrastructure costs. This would be particularly true for subsidized condos in the ballpark district. There wouldn’t be a chance the project could pay for itself — if there ever was one. Simmons’s argument was unanswerable, so the city didn’t answer it. The suit was filed in early December of 2001. The city simply went to court and demanded that it had to be adjudicated — in the city’s favor — by January 30 of 2002, or the project would die and Major League Baseball would leave San Diego. There was no documentation to back up this claim. Nonetheless, Judge Frederic Link gave the city what it wanted, when it wanted it. Simmons was not given the standard time to prepare for the suit and take testimony or depositions.

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Deliberate ignorance continued from page 4

“Deliberate ignorance.” Says Zubel, who represented Simmons.

“The Simmons case was ordered to trial knowing that there was no time for the plaintiff to prepare. That case was expedited based on the politics of the moment.”

In many observers’ opinions, any probe of San Diego’s pattern of under-the-table dealings must extend to superior court. Zubel has another case that the appellate court has twice sent back for retrial. Filing for his client Harvey Furgatch in 2000, Zubel challenged a 1999 deal in which within a month, the value of a parking lot zoomed from $14 million to $21 million — the exact gap the city needed to complete its ballpark-financing package. The first superior-court judge threw it out, claiming that Zubel should have sued the city as well as the port district. The appeals court sent it back. A second judge threw it out, claiming Zubel should have also sued the state lands commission. The appeals court sent that one back, too, with specific instructions on what the next superior court judge has to do to handle the case equitably. It will be tried again in four months.

“Our local public officials are treating the business of government as if it were their private business,” says Zubel. “You can’t treat the public treasury like your own personal checkbook.”

Scott Barnett, former head of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association, recalls that in 1998, as the city headed for a ballpark vote, he wanted something done about the structural, or realistic, deficit of $40 million a year. He suggested a spending freeze. But he was thumbed down: if spending were frozen, how could the voters be told that there was lots of money for a ballpark? “There was almost a conspiracy of deliberate ignorance between the manager and the city council. The council basically said, ‘We don’t want to know,’” says Barnett. To balance the books, the city sold assets, diverted money from sewer and water funds to the general fund, neglected infrastructure and maintenance of safety equipment, and escalated the borrowing of money from the pension system.

Some of this activity is still going on. Barnett is not convinced that Mayor Dick Murphy is in on the conspiracy of secrecy. “I think he is absolutely ignorant of how bad finances are. Which is worse? Being venal or ignorant? In his case, it’s mostly ignorance.”

And what is the ballpark costing? Barnett thinks annual tax revenues from district development come to only $5 million. Debt service is $18 million. Therefore, the ballpark is costing $13 million a year and will drain the city of $10 million a year in perpetuity, even if more hotels are built. Former councilmember Bruce Henderson thinks the annual ballpark cost could be above $30 million, considering opportunity cost, or where the money might have been spent advantageously.
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wait in line to use the nurse's bathroom. There's some sort of complicated procedure to get the locks fixed through Proposition MM that no one has figured out how to navigate. I spent my 15-minute break the first week of school trying to locate an unlocked bathroom. I had to stop drinking liquids. Then I got a black-market bathroom key to the bungalow bathroom and was able to cut bathroom breaks to 10 minutes rather than 15. I asked a locksmith how difficult it would be to fix the locks, and he said maybe five minutes. I asked him to accept a 33-cent payment to fix our locks — my entire earnings for the month of September — but he said it would jeopardize his license, so he couldn't accept the job.

I'm going to have to check with the teachers' union to see if, as a volunteer teacher, I need to attend any more stupid development — I mean, staff development because I'd rather spend the four hours a month of this wasted time planning lessons for my students and cleaning my classroom. I'm not going to say anything about the out-of-town writing consultant who came to our school to train the staff on Writer's Workshop at $115 per substitute teacher, times four hours a month of this instruction calendar, so I know a little bit about writing and the writing process on my own dime.

I'm also not going to mention that the custodians don't do recess duty.) I'm also not going to mention that the counseling staff doesn't get enough time to address the needs of the children at our site. (I sent a note with a student to the office twice asking for assistance for a traumatized child and got no response. My aide called in sick that day, and no substitute showed up.) The principal did have time to observe my class the same day. Instructional calibration is an important aspect of the Bersinista regime. Practical assistance in any form is not. I spent a week putting up “Mitz Lee for School Board” signs. On Halloween day, I stood on a corner outside the stadium before the Chargers/Raiders game waving the signs and yelling, “Go, Chargers!” I had to do something to relieve the frustration of being asked daily to spin straw into gold — and, by the way, get your own straw.

P.S. I finally got paid, three weeks late, after a heroic effort by our school secretary. Now I can afford to buy pencils! I’ve been doing the happy dance since the school-board election. I’m giddy with joy...
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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE

Dear MattAl:

Longtime listener, first-time caller. Me and my cohorts were messing around with the age-old mystery of how many times a sheet of paper can be folded. We got as high as eight folds. What is the magical number? Do the paper density and size matter? And finally, why is there a limited amount of folding?

— Rob, the net

The elves decided this would be a perfect begin-the-year question, since everybody’s got a ton of foldable stuff around, everything from wrapping paper to old tamale corn hucks. A few days ago, the elves started folding stuff in half to see if they couldn’t beat eight. Most of the time, they couldn’t beat seven. But once they were through, the trash looked very tidy, what with all the neatly creased and stacked failed experiments. Grandma plans to make this an Alice family tradition.

It has been an old assumption that for whatever reason, eight was the maximum number of folds that could be made in a piece of paper, folding it in half repeatedly. This seemed to hold true whether the paper was folded each time along its length or the folds were alternated along the length and the width. No one demonstrated that the rule of folds was not true until a few years ago when a high school math teacher gave the assignment to his class: Fold a piece of paper 12 times.

An annoyingly bright girl with the unpromising name of Britney — Britney Gallivan — presented Teach with a four-inch-by-four-inch piece of microscopically thin gold leaf painstakingly folded 12 times. Clever, but gold leaf isn’t paper, he observed. But Britney was on the right track. She considered the thickness of a particular piece of paper relative to the width of the sheet, chewed awhile on her pencil eraser, and came up with a formula that would predict how wide a piece of paper would have to be, given its thickness, to be folded N times along its length. There’s more to it than this, but in part, it’s based on the idea that if on fold number one, you end up with double the original paper thickness and only half its original width. On fold number two, you have four times the original thickness and one fourth of the original width. If you continue to double one and halve the other, very quickly a sheet of ordinary notebook paper or a newspaper sheet is in an unfoldable lump.

Britney managed to find an industrial-sized roll of toilet paper 4000 feet long. According to her formula, this was the length of the sheet she would need if she were to fold the tissue lengthwise 12 times. She and her parents unraveled the paper along a half in a shopping mall and started measuring and folding. And dang it if it didn’t work. She even wrote a booklet detailing the math logic in her experiment and came up with a second equation for predicting the number of alternating length-width folds for a given sheet. We can only assume Britney got an A that semester. Grandma’s still trying to track down her source for the TP, and the elves sure want to know what it would be used for besides cracking math myths.

Heymatt:

Clockwise, beginning with the car farthest to the right of all others, one at a time. What is so difficult about that? Apparently, roughly half of the drivers in San Diego (according to my informal, one-person survey) don’t understand four-way-stop choreography. Maybe you can enlighten them.

— LP, Hillcrest

Bzzzzzzzzzz!! Awaww, so sorry, LP. But we have a lovely parting gift and the full truth, if that’s any consolation. And by the way, we do agree that the four-way stop is the instrument of the devil. Unfortunately Section 21800c of the state vehicle code assumes we arrive at these ugly vortexes just two cars at a time. Obviously no legislators have driven in Hillcrest lately. Anyway, here’s all the state has to say about the situation. “When two vehicles enter an intersection from different highways at the same time and the intersection is controlled from all directions by stop signs, the driver of the vehicle on the left shall yield the right-of-way to the vehicle on his or her immediate right.” (N.B.: This doesn’t apply at T-intersections.) Operative words here, “at the same time.” In fact, the vehicle that arrives first at the stop line should be granted the right of way by all other stoppers. After that the right-of-way goes counterclockwise around the intersection.

Apprently this works in theory and in Sacramento. Realistically, there are enough holes in the law to garage a monster truck. First of all, the monster truck wouldn’t bother to stop for the sign, no matter when he arrived at the intersection, throwing all rules out the window. And even if everyone agreed that all four cars arrived at their respective stop lines at exactly the same moment, legally that would mean each driver would yield to the driver on the right, round and round in endless circles. Until somebody caught in the traffic buildup behind them broke the stalemate in some rude and painful way.

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I’ve stepped out of the darkened cave — or, more precisely, have exited the animal den known in another life as my living room, to stroll in fresh air and reconnect my chakras with living things. This adventure is a result of this morning’s discovery that my living room seemed to be congested with — I’ll say it out loud: food droppings. Bits and pieces of pizza, hamburger, bacon, T-bone steak, egg yolks, breadcrumbs, potato chips, turkey bones, pork ribs, plus several to many organic items I do not, at present, recognize. Remnants of the above spoiled the gray living room rug like snow dusting Mt. Helix. The droppings probably went unnoticed for a time due to the thick overlay of food wrappers, newspapers, magazines, dishware, dirty clothes (mostly socks and shirts), assorted containers (glass, plastic, and metal) used to hold liquids. There appeared to be evidence of alcohol consumption. Finally, there were very a large number of popcorn kernels.

The indoor sludge heap is due entirely to 26 college-football bowl games and 32 NFL games that were played over the course of 12 days.

It gets harder every year.

I have, long ago, lost track of my football bets and will have to rely upon those who lost to pay up and those who won to contact me. This is a perilous way to begin 2005.

On the other hand, on the happy side of the street, this appears to be a providential moment to jot down a few New Year’s sports resolutions.

Resolution number one: I will find a way to like Marty Schottenheimer.

Well, this one won’t last 48 hours. Unlike those who bowed and bootlicked before the Schottenheimer as soon as the Chargers started winning, I have remained steadfast. I didn’t like him when he was 4 and 12, and I don’t like him today, when he’s 12 and 4.

At bottom, excessive, soul-suffocating caution is what I hold against Marty. Caution is unbecoming in life, ugly in sports, and a crime in the NFL. Take Sunday’s game. Sure, other playoff-bound teams were holding out their stars — the star quarterback, the franchise player hurt before the playoffs begin.

But Marty held out an entire squad: Drew Brees, LaDainian Tomlinson, Randall Godfrey, Eric Brees, LaDainian Tomlinson, Randall Godfrey, Eric Parker, Tim Dwight, Antonio Gates, Keenan McCardell, Lorenzo Neal, and Jamal Williams. The equipment manager was on the bubble.

The droppings probably went unnoticed for a time due to the thick overlay of food wrappers, newspapers, magazines, dishware, dirty clothes (mostly socks and shirts), assorted containers (glass, plastic, and metal) used to hold liquids. There appeared to be evidence of alcohol consumption. Finally, there were very a large number of popcorn kernels.

I’ve dropped the ball on women’s sports lately. This noncoverage, unintended or not, as it illustrates the predicament of women’s sports. It’s hard for the movement to get traction when someone like me, a general-interest sports writer who is on their side, has to make a resolution to write about their games.

I like women’s tennis better than men’s tennis. I like women’s track-and-field and women’s soccer and women’s golf. I find women’s basketball, football, and baseball to be an acquired taste. Unhappily, those sports are where media, fans, money, and fame congregate.

Resolution number three: I will not write a National Hockey League is Dead column. This one, I’ll keep.

Resolution number four: More baseball and more NASCAR. Another keeper.

Resolution number five: I will watch televised sporting events all the way through to the end even if I have no money on the game. I’ll give this one week.

Resolution number six: Give steroids a rest. I’ve been writing about steroids, always implicating Barry Bonds, for over two years. The rest of the media have finally caught up. They can take if from here. May well keep this one, at least until something goes to trial.

Resolution number seven: More Tijuana and Baja sports. They’ve got minor-league pro football and baseball down there. They’ve got offroad racing headlined by the Baja 500 and Baja 1000, bullfighting, greyhound racing, the always-ignored jai alai, golf, paintball, pro wrestling, pro boxing, any kind of fishing, any kind of boating, camping, snowboarding, diving, bicycling, surfing, running, tennis, hunting, legal sports betting, and, if you really feel you have to, snowboarding.

Sounds fabulous. And then one thinks of the border and remembers that the Bush administration is in the process of hiring 30,000 additional border agents. One thinks of the towering paranoia and mindless swagger one encounters when interacting with newly empowered homeland security personnel. One wonders if that joint let off in the back seat 15 years ago is still there. One wonders if there is a traffic warrant, a 1987 ticket for jaywalking in Atlanta, Georgia, lurking in some distant crime-stopper’s computer database.

Everything is accessible to everyone now, and everything is a salable offense. Hm. Perhaps this resolution would be better placed next year.

Just kidding. Sort of.

Finally, if there’s a sport you love, send me an e-mail and tell me about it. Maybe we can find a place for it here.
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SHEEP AND GOATS PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Federal agent John Parish entered the room with local Internal Revenue Service territory managers. The casual meeting was off-site during the holiday season. “Merry Christmas,” Parish greeted his coworkers. Parish’s supervisor corrected him, “It’s Happy Holidays, not Merry Christmas.”

“Many (Christians) are tired of being politically correct,” said Parish. “People are saying I’m not going to be PC anymore. This is my holiday. It’s Merry Christmas, not Happy Holidays or Season’s Greetings.”

I spoke with Parish, a San Diego IRS group leader (a supervisor over a team of IRS agents), about being a Christian and working for the federal government. “Anything (Christians) do regarding our faith we have to do on our own time and outside of the work environment,” said Parish. “There is confusion on what I can or cannot do at work as it relates to my faith. I always need to think about how far I can go without getting in trouble.

“I inside my work area, keep a Bible because it is an enclosed office. However, for those who are in cubicles, anything that is deemed offensive has to be removed,” said Parish. A Christian with a cross in his work area can be asked to remove it.

“There are more restrictions at work than there should be,” said Parish. “I think expressing my faith should be allowable. For example, if I speak with a fellow employee who is having a personal crisis, I want to pray with him. If he is open to praying with me, I have to go to coffee, so it is our personal free time,” Parish said his desire is to be able to pray with coworkers in the office.

“From my Christian perspective, my work is not the end, but the people I am working with are the end,” said Parish. “I have specific tasks and duties to accomplish during the day, but above all of these, I consider the individual needs of the people I work with.”

Outside of work, Parish is a deacon at Canyon View Christian Fellowship in Tierrasanta. As a deacon, Parish prays with people every Sunday. During the week, he leads a Sexual Relations Wholeness support group for “people who struggle with issues of homosexuality and lesbianism.” He teaches a Living Waters program on Sunday. During the week, they study the Bible, talk about each other’s lives, and pray together.

I asked Lee if he ever felt persecuted for being involved in CFIRE or for his beliefs. “I can’t say I’ve been persecuted. The only negative reaction I know about is people talking about my faith. I know that there are other people who question the validity of CFIRE. They do not believe we should be able to exist.” Lee views his work as secondary to his faith. As a Christian, he says the conversion of non-believers to Jesus Christ is more important. “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes,” Lee recited to me part of Romans 1:16. Lee looks to speak about his faith in conversations. “People often ask what I did over the weekend,” Lee said. “Because I’m so involved at my church, Calvary Chapel San Diego, it is easy to discuss what I believe.” Lee emphasized that he does this while honoring the guidelines of the federal government.

Even with the restrictions of speaking about religion, Christian leaders are encouraging people to a higher integration of faith within the workplace. Reverend Billy Graham said, “I believe one of the next great moves of God is going to be through the believers in the workplace.” Graham’s son, Franklin, said, “God has begun an evangelism movement in the workplace that has the potential to transform our society as we know it.”

— Drew E. Goodman
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Dear Saffron,

My eldest son will be having his bar mitzvah in February. About 200 people are invited. I felt obligated to invite the two people who work in the same department as me, as well as the CEO of our company (who hired me in the first place). It seemed right to invite these people because I work closely with them and I figured they might hear about the event since I had to make phone calls about it at work when making the arrangements. I didn’t want them to feel left out. Our company is now doing some downsizing and has let my whole department go, so my two coworkers and I (as well as others who work in different departments) will be out of a job come the first of the year. The CEO apologized to me and said she had no choice. She also said that she would not be coming to the bar mitzvah now, as she realized I’d issued the invitation based on a work relationship that will no longer exist come the time of the event. I thought that was very sensitive of her. One of my coworkers said essentially the same thing.

The other coworker I’d invited, though, a very young woman, doesn’t seem to have gotten the idea that it might be graceful for her not to come to the bar mitzvah now that we won’t be coworkers anymore. My wife thinks I should uninvite this woman, since circumstances have changed. I’m not sure how to do this. This is a perfectly nice woman who I like well enough and I don’t want to upset her. How do I retract the invitation? It seems awkward. She’s been talking about how much she’s looking forward to coming and meeting my family.

CORPORATE JOE IN O.B.

Dear Joe,

Very sorry to hear that you lost your job. There’s a lot of that going around lately. Here’s hoping you find another position you like even better real soon. I’m not a fan of disinviting people after you’ve already asked them to a party — unless they’ve done something really heinous. In my view, taking back an invitation is a measure to be used only in social emergencies. This doesn’t feel like such an extreme situation to me. If you’ve no bad feelings toward this woman, and she hasn’t misbehaved, why not let her come to the celebration as planned? You’ll hardly notice her in the teeming crowd you’ve invited. I’m afraid I don’t see the need to punish her for the downsizing, which is not her fault, by rescinding the invitation. If you talk to your wife maybe she’ll come around to the realization that this woman’s presence isn’t going to hurt anyone, and since she was already invited the generous thing to do would be to allow her to come and make her feel welcome.

Hi Saffron,

I like your column, but disagree with a recent issue’s advice. “Luke of La Jolla” acted oddly toward a friend who asked to borrow his laptop. He was really adamant about not wanting to let anyone else use it, even for a few moments. I agree he could have handled this in a less off-putting fashion. But it’s really not a generosity issue. People keep their bank accounts, bills, investment information, and employment information on their computers — as well as photos and personal correspondence. I have all that kind of stuff on mine. I wouldn’t feel comfortable giving someone access to my laptop either, unless I was sitting next to the person and could be sure that they were only using a Web browser to access their e-mail. The best way to avoid this issue: Bring your laptop everywhere you want to, but don’t turn it on in front of others with whom you don’t want to share. You can then beg off by saying the battery’s low, or some other excuse. It’s kind of rude to use a cell phone or other personal device when you’re in the company of friends anyway. I realize it may appear selfish to others, but some things you just don’t share — laptops should fall into the same category as hairbrushes, mascara, and husbands. I wonder if anyone else will write in to agree with me?

C. Z. FROM NATIONAL CITY

Dear Saffron,

Luke has very good reasons not to let his friends check their e-mail on his laptop. They are called viruses, worms, and other malevolent downloads. It is not an act of friendship to ask someone to open up their valuable equipment to e-mail when he (or she) doesn’t know where that e-mail has been or where it is coming from. Luke is smart to be cautious.

D.L. FROM NORMAL HEIGHTS

Write to Saffron c/o the San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803; call her at 619-235-3000 ext. 413; fax her at 619-881-2401; or e-mail to saffron@sddreader.com
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Margaret is the signature cocktail of the Kelly household. As hot days turn to warm evenings from April until Halloween or so, we often sit with friends on the deck, slurping down the slushy, limey drinks. Patrick sometimes puts his collection of traditional *ranchera* on the stove before we hit the green plastic chaise lounges, just to heighten the experience. But the ice cream is just a bit chilly to serve our friends at our parties during these winter months. Not that we haven’t tried. When he walked around the living room with a tray full of margaritas during our tree-trimming party last month, the response from our sweater-clad guests was pretty wintry. “More for me,” Patrick gallantly cracked at each raised hand of refusal, but I could see the poor man was hurt and confused. A wife just knows these things. I decided that Patrick was too good a man to suffer such humiliation again, and I resolved to come up with our signature Kelly wintertime cocktail.

The first call went out to Beverages & More in La Mesa. “People tend to come in looking for mulling spices to use with wine at this time of year,” explained assistant manager Mark Milutin. “Mix the spices with your wine, like a Burgundy, and simmer. Then serve it warm. The four-ounce tin of spices costs $3.99.”

“If you want some ideas other than cocktails,” Milutin continued, “almost all of your microbreweries will make a seasonal beer for Christmas time. They tend to be darker, heavier styles of beer. They try to give them a little chocolaty or hazelnutty flavor. Sierra Nevada’s Celebration Ale [$7.49 for a six-pack at Beverages & More] is one of the more popular beers.”

Beer is not my thing, though Patrick will slug one down now and then. And I wanted to find a drink that would warm the heart, something we both could enjoy during cold winter evenings by the fire. My search continued, leading me to Chris Bates, bartender at Laurel. “Nobody ever really asks us for a hot toddy,” she answered. “I make them for myself, with the lemon and the honey in it. It cures you right up. There is another one that I do that is a lemonade. I use fresh lemon, water, honey, a sprinkle of cayenne pepper, and your choice of alcohol. I use brandy.”

The next cold patient in the Kelly household was going to get the Jessup Toddy, I thought. In the meantime I still needed another wintertime party drink. I’d feel a bit odd serving Depression-era cold remedies to my guests.

The following day, I popped into Mona Lisa Italian Grocery Store and Deli in Little Italy to pick up a mortadella and salami sub. As I waited to check out, my eyes wandered to the liquors and liqueurs on a shelf near the checkout stand, and they fixed on the hand-some bottles of clear grappa. “What’s grappa?” I asked the salesman.

“It’s a distilled grape liquor, like brandy,” he answered. “Very strong, but smooth. They make it up in Northern Italy where it’s cold. I’ll really warm you up.”

I matched up a bottle of Alexander Grappi [$24.99 for 750 ml] and headed home for a taste. Patrick loved it. “It’s clearing my sinuses passages and there is a warmth spreading down my throat, radiating into my chest cavity,” I can imagine drinking this on a cold winter’s night in the Italian alps and then charging out into the snow to make snow angels,” he laughed.

While Patrick was pleased, the drink was too strong for me. I shaved the bottle for the man and continued looking. Chris Bates, bartender at Mister A’s in Banker’s Hill, came through with a few home run ideas. “A lot of people like a Hot Apple Pie this time of year,” he offered. “It is a hot cider, with some Tuaca [$12.99 for 375 ml at Beverages & More] and a cinnamon stick. Tuaca is an Italian liqueur, which is citrusy with a hint of vanilla in it. Another drink people often ask for this time of year are the hot toddies.” (I knew it!) “But most people go for the typical coffee drinks. A regular Irish Coffee with either Jameson’s Irish Whiskey [$24.99 for 750 ml at Beverages & More] or Bushmills Irish Whiskey [$30.99 for 1.75 liters at Beverages & More], with coffee added to it.”

Some people want a Nutty Irishman. This could be the signature Kelly winter drink, I thought. The name certainly fit. “That is a coffee drink with Bailey’s [$14.99 for 750 ml at Beverages & More] and Frangelico in it,” Bates explained. “Some people will add a cube of sugar to that; it depends on a person’s preference.”

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*“I can imagine drinking this on a cold winter’s night in the Italian alps and then charging out into the snow to make snow angels.”* - Eve Kelly

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<td>331 Rosecrans St., Ste. A</td>
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<td>Lemon Grove</td>
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**In the Reader**

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— "1974 IN REVIEW," January 9, 1973

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**Back When**

**In the Reader**

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**Twenty-Five Years Ago**

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‘J\text{ulia}’ was always one of my favorite Beatles ballads. Now it would be one of my favorite party people. She called to invite me to her Pee Wee Herman party. I refrained from making a joke about him in the movie theater and listened as she explained that they often have theme parties at her complex in Pacific Beach. She said, “The last one was Hulk Hogan. That was fun. Before that, it was a Cad-dyshack/country club theme.”

When I pulled onto Chalcedony, I wasn’t surprised by how hard it was to park. This was P.B. on a Saturday night. I didn’t realize, though, that every other house would be having a party. It was December, and my statistics on partying (it’s a colorful pie chart that looks like the crap in USA Today) indicate that December has more parties than any other month. My goal was to leave the Pee Wee party with enough time to hit the others.

The problem was, when I crashed the party directly across the street, I was the one who almost crashed the party directly across the street, I was the one who almost got hit. We’ll get to that later.

I pulled out a white dress shirt and a red bow tie I had. When I worked in radio, some company in Carlsbad once gave us all this crazy clothing: socks that were tie-dyed and a red bow tie that had little red lights around it. I think I wore it to one Christmas party years ago and thought it was too goofy to ever wear again. It had sat in a drawer ever since. Yet another reason why I say you should save everything. You never know when you’ll need it again.

It didn’t occur to me that I’d also have to get a battery, but there was no turning back now. I already had the thing strapped around my neck as I headed into Sav-On.

When I walked into the party I saw one of the hosts handing out T-shirts with various Pee Wee phrases painted on the front. One said, “I know what you are, but what am I?”

Another had “Take a picture. It’ll last longer.” I saw one that said, “Large Marge sent me.” And there was a fourth that I never caught a glimpse of.

The ladies living here had also made red bow ties, which looked funny when people pinned them onto their T-shirts.

There was a lot of hip-hop and dance music playing, but I was surprised I never once heard Pee Wee’s dance song, “Tequila.” There was tequila to drink, though. They had a couple of kegs and a few bottles. One guy walked in with a six-pack.

And when he and his friends were leaving 20 minutes later, I heard him complain that he wouldn’t leave without taking his beer. He walked out to the street carrying his three cans.

There was a big-screen TV, and I asked Julia why one of Pee Wee’s movies wasn’t going. She said, “We just didn’t have the time to get any of the videos.” I said, “Well, what did you have for the Hulk Hogan party?” She said, “On the patio, where everyone smokes, we had signs made up. One said, ‘Hulkster in the House.’ Another talked about what would happen to you if you made too much noise. We didn’t want to upset our neighbors. We also had his cassette playing. He actually did a record, and we found cassettes of it in a 99 Cent Store.”

I also noticed there were no Pee Wee Herman dolls. When he first got arrested, they were all pulled off the market. People were placing ads in the newspaper selling them for upwards of $100. It always surprises me that people pay these types of prices. Do they still have the Talking Elmos and Cabbage Patch Kids that sold for so much? I bet they’re probably worth $5 today.

Speaking of Cabbage Patch Kids, let me comment on Julia’s dimples. They were so cute, on the top of her cheeks. I’ve never seen that before. She said, “I look like a Cabbage Patch doll, I know.”

Other people didn’t like being told anything about their looks. I went onto the patio for a cigar, and another guy was smoking a stogie. He told a girl she looked like Neve Campbell. That gal got mad, which we couldn’t figure out, since most people find Campbell attractive. I told him about the time I told a woman she looked like Samuel L. Jackson. She was attractive, but I just meant that she looked as if she could be his sister. I didn’t get a chance to explain that as she walked away angry.

Every time a woman walked onto the patio, we would discuss who she looked like, to see if she would get mad. One red-haired girl we said looked like Julianne Moore. She liked that. The Neve Campbell girl said, “Hey, wait a second. Are you that guy from the Reader?” About a year ago, you wrote about this party with a really skanky girl. Do you remember that?” I laughed, thinking that describes about half
the parties I attend. I said, in an attempt to be funny, “Why? Was that you?” She said, “No. It was my mom.” A few people were silent. A few people laughed. This gal then lit up a joint and toked away. When she was finished, she lit one another. I went inside and talked to some people on the couch. When I walked back out half an hour later, she was smoking pot out of a pipe. I asked if I could take her picture. She said, “Are you crazy? Not while I’m smoking this. You can take a picture if it doesn’t show my face.” I clicked a few. She wanted to see them, so sure I didn’t show her face. She said, “Oh damn! People will recognize my belt. Ah, so what.

I noticed another guy was taking pictures with his digital camera. I asked why, and he said, “Do you know what romp.com is? They take photos of college girls and create a video game where you try to score with them.”

“I did that with Julia’s 25th birthday. I laughed. This gal then lit up a joint. She said, “I had one girlfriend that never wanted to have sex. It was horrible. My woman now is really sexually active. It’s great.”

He looked into the kitchen window and said something to his woman. I asked Julia if she could bring me a margarita, which she kindly did.

We talked about her job. A few of the younger people in the crowd talked about not knowing what they wanted to do with their lives. Some were still in school. Others just had part-time jobs. One guy told me, “As long as I have enough money to pay the rent and go surfing, who wants a damn nine-to-five job?” He reminded me of Jeff Spicoli from Fast Times at Ridgemont High.

It was 12:30 in the morning, and I decided to go to the party directly across the street. It was in a nice three-story house, and I saw a well-dressed couple leaving. Maybe there’d be more food than the variety of chips at Pee Wee’s Playhouse.

I asked a guy at the gate if I could crash the party. When I told him who I was, he said, “I’ve read that column. I was going to invite you to a party I had when I lived in Oceanside.” I didn’t realize that within minutes I’d come close to getting my ass kicked. But, we’ll go into that in the next issue. (Hey, I ended with a cliffhanger. How cool is that? I can’t believe I got away with it.)

I decided to turn the stereo on and blend in with the crowd. Two of the younger people in the room looked at me and said, “It’s about time you showed your face.” I asked, “What was that you?” She said, “No. This girl was just trying to be funny, “Why?” It was obvious that I was out of place. I said, “Please, I’m just a reporter.” She said, “Why?” I asked, “Why?” She said, “I’m smoking this. You can take a picture if it doesn’t show my face.” I clicked a few. She wanted to see them, so sure I didn’t show her face.

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San Diego
January 6, 2005

**S R I L A N K A**
**T S U N A M I**
**R E L I E F F U N D**

The Sri Lankan community in San Diego is raising funds to send assistance to the tsunami victims in Sri Lanka. Many of us have lost friends and relatives and we would like to do everything possible to provide assistance. Meanwhile, there have been numerous people in the U.S. who have contacted us and asked how they could help and where they should send funds. The Sri Lankan community in San Diego has just opened a bank account where you can donate directly.

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**Florida Heights** Unit #9 (4225 Florida St., North Park) Upstairs spacious 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom. In-unit washer/dryer. Maple cabinets, granite counters, vinyl windows, mahogany entry doors, great walking area. *No down, 5-year fixed.*
**$255,990**
**$1,035.70 per month.**

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**$239,990**
**$970.96 per month.**

**Florida Heights** Unit #8 (4225 Florida St., North Park) Upstairs spacious 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom. In-unit washer/dryer. Maple cabinets, granite counters, vinyl windows, mahogany entry doors, great walking area. *No down, 5-year fixed.*
**$239,990**
**$970.96 per month.**

**Florida Heights** Unit #9 (4225 Florida St., North Park) Upstairs spacious 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom. In-unit washer/dryer. Maple cabinets, granite counters, vinyl windows, mahogany entry doors, great walking area. *No down, 5-year fixed.*
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Diva Claus

I, on the other hand, thrive on the chaos. My face glowed in the reflection of Jane’s eyes, which lit up as she gazed upon the contents of the teal Tiffany’s & Co. boxes.

Karen: “Grace, it’s Christmas, for goodness sake. Think about the baby Jesus, up in that tower, letting his hair down so that the three wise men can climb up and spin the dreidel and see if there are six more weeks of winter.”

— Will & Grace

No, I am not going shopping with you,” said my friend Ollie in his gruffest voice. “Absolutely not.” I remained silent, contemplating my options. I did not want to brave the psycho Christmas shoppers at Fashion Valley alone; I needed to persuade Ollie to join me. This was the year my thoughtfulness would blow them all away, and obtaining the necessary gifts required backup.

“I’ll pick you up around nine.” I said matter-of-factly. How could Ollie argue with that? My master plan was set in motion. I hadn’t looked forward to Christmas this much since I was a child; this year, I was excited to give rather than to get. As kids, my sister Jenny and I would stay awake at night, wondering aloud if Santa would bring us everything we’d asked for. We were never disappointed.

Later, I found out that an overly generous “Santa” (known as “Mom” for the remaining 364 days of the year) helped put Dad into debt each December, or what he has described as “a horrible maelstrom of debt, which went further down and down, until it was overpowering, overwhelming, out-of-control, fucking crazy.” The financial stress did nothing to enhance Dad’s holiday spirit, and getting everything we wanted did nothing to expand our ability to appreciate our good fortune.

I like to think that even though we were quick to toss aside our new toys aside in search of the next colorful wrapped box, we knew how lucky we were. Despite our abundance, we sensed that at one time in the incomprehensible past our parents had each experienced what it is to lack. Along the way, we learned not to take things for granted, and though we would most likely achieve our wishes and dreams, we should not expect either to pull up in a limo.

This year, I wanted to be Santa. I collected Ollie right on time, and after kvetching for a bit, saying things like, “Can’t we just get from the car to the store without having to encounter the flotsam and jetsam of Western society?” he resigned himself to the role of a proper “shopper’s assistant” — adopting a mostly neutral attitude with a pinch of cheer. With three days to go before Christmas Eve, I was shocked (and relieved) to find the parking lot near empty; we had beaten the mob by minutes and had to act fast.

The Apple Store was first on my list. Jenny is back in school, working hard for high grades and making plans for her future career — she is a “shopper’s assistant” — adopting a mostly neutral attitude with a pinch of cheer. With three days to go before Christmas Eve, I was shocked (and relieved) to find the parking lot near empty; we had beaten the mob by minutes and had to act fast.

The Apple Store was first on my list. Jenny is back in school, working hard for high grades and making plans for her future career — she needed a laptop, and my family agreed to chip in for the 14-inch iBook G4. I refused to “consider the benefits of an extended warranty,” and we escaped the overcrowded Apple Store before I became so irritable that I slapped around the more noxious of my fellow shoppers.

Next, I marched Ollie to Tiffany & Co. to find a gift for Jane, my eldest sister. Jane is what I call a Nordstrom Mommy; her baby is as stylish as she is: they tool around in a fur-lined stroller for those long days of shopping for the latest fashions. Only the finest jewelry is such a woman. Tiffany was packed. I had to put my name on a list and wait half an hour to be helped. Ollie, with his large, fully tattooed muscles, carried my growing stash of gifts as he helped me peer through glass cases for the perfect gift for my sister. While doing this, I came upon the most fabulous ring I’d seen in months.

“Do not buy yourself something here,” Ollie said, as I eyed the ring. “Remember how much you’ve spent so far? You can’t get that; I won’t let you shop for yourself before you’ve finished shopping for everyone else.” He actually thought his scolding was working until I told the saleslady to add the ring to my purchase of Jane’s set of earrings and necklace. Ollie looked at me disapprovingly, but when I forked over the payment in cash, he said, “That’s pretty rock and roll.”

With that, we acquiesced, eager to put space between ourselves and the hordes of people who began to fill the mall from one end to the other.

My other gifts did not require a visit to the mall. This year, Faye and her family celebrated their first Christmas at home, with their own tree and two boys — Liam, almost three and just old enough to get the idea of presents, and Brian, too young to do anything but smile, fuss, and poop. In honor of this occasion, my family spent Christmas Eve at Faye’s. Sean, my brother-in-law, prepared our dinner (as is custom with any of my sisters: the men do the cooking). After
the meal, we gathered in the living room. I had insisted that they open my gift that night, rather than waiting for Christmas morning, because I had gotten them something for their home.

When they lifted from a small box the intricate, glass-adorned elephant ornament from India, they placed it on the tree, gave me a hug and a kiss, and smiled at the object while David stuck outside to fetch the real gift. When he stepped back inside with the large wrapped present, they could tell by the box's shape and size that this was most likely a framed picture. But they would never have guessed that they'd be receiving one of David's limited-edition photographs. Upon seeing the photo, entitled New Moon, Sean said, “You really shouldn't have.” Faye said, “We are not worthy.” But we did. And they are. The next morning, Faye told me that after everyone left, she and Sean sat by the image with a glass of wine and stared in awe and excitement.

Spending time with my family can be torture for David. He enjoys everyone’s company, conversation, and humor, just not at the same time. Two days and nights of our frenzied celebration was a little much for him. He almost passed out as we opened presents and threw the tree, gave me a hug and a kiss, and reverted to hysteria. The rest of us teared up through the hubbub, I called to my slave to open my door, and then started the car like never before. “On Corolla, on Hill Street, on the 805 freeway, to the 15, to David’s, to where I will stay!” And while facing north, I glanced in the mirror, and said to the city, “I’ll see you on Easter!”

“Jesus Christ!” so many times I thought his atheism had been cured. He’s been in a state of decomposition ever since, refusing even to watch Kids in the Hall on DVD (one of the gifts he gave me), because he can’t handle the noise of it. Poor thing. In this instance, he is the flower.

I, on the other hand, thrive on the chaos. My face glowed in the reflection of Jane’s eyes, which lit up as she gazed upon the contents of the teal Tiffany & Co. boxes. Dad loved his new CD Walkman (perfect for listening to the books on CD he gets at the library), and Mom will have fun being pampered with me at an upscale La Jolla spa.

After presents, games, and our traditional dinner of Mom’s chicken cutlet Parmigiana and lasagna, I decided to spare David a session of Frantic Trivial Pursuit and packed up my booty (literally, a car full of gifts). But that’s not what mattered. Outside, with my cheeks rosy from the cool night air, my eyes twinkling in a satisfied stare, I called to my slave to open my door, and then started the car like never before. “On Corolla, on Hill Street, on the 805 freeway, to the 15, to David’s, to where I will stay!” And while facing north, I glanced in the mirror, and said to the city, “I’ll see you on Easter!”
OF ALL THE BAD THINGS SAID ABOUT DICK MURPHY before 2004, he was never thought to have been a crook. If the word “corruption” was ever associated with his name, it was a small-c kind of corruption: a small favor done for a friend, a redevelopment subsidy approved because it would help the old neighborhood, the benefit of the doubt given to city council colleagues who might have gotten just a bit too chummy with a Mafia-linked strip club owner from Las Vegas.

But as the year went on, as the financial clouds darkened around City Hall and city investigators analyzed computer disks using sophisticated software in an effort to retrieve the data that had been erased by persons unknown, there were second thoughts. How could Murphy have made such a mess of it? How long could his defense based on ignorance hold up?

As 2005 dawned, nobody, let alone Murphy himself, yet knew the answer.

Two thousand four was supposed to be the year the lid came off San Diego’s City Hall, and in some ways expectations were met. Donna Frye was elected mayor, perhaps. Mike Aguirre, the chronic electoral loser whose legal battles against taxpayer subsidies for Chargers owner Alex Spanos were once regarded as ludicrously quixotic, took over as city attorney. But for Dick Murphy, no matter what the ultimate outcome of his fight to keep his tenuous hold on city government, his political future seemed to have gone into irreversible meltdown.

The year began with three city councilmembers under federal indictment. All three faced trial for wire fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud; two were also charged with extortion. The indictments arose out of the Cheetahs strip club scandal that had broken seven months before in the spring of 2003. The charges, which involved campaign contributions by representatives of Cheetahs owner Mike Galardi of Las Vegas to Ralph Inzunza, Michael Zacchetti, and Charles Lewis, allegedly in exchange for their efforts to water down the city’s ban on strippers touching their patrons, had not implicated Murphy. Lewis, 37, would not live to see a trial; he died in August of an esophageal hemorrhage that the county medical examiner concluded was caused by cirrhosis.

But in his January State of the City speech, the mayor leapt to the defense of the trio, singling them out for praise for backing his agenda and allowing them to remain in honorific positions such as deputy mayor, a move that many saw as unnecessary and even unseemly for a man who had been on the state bench.

“As a former Superior Court judge, let me remind everybody that in America people are presumed innocent until proven guilty,” Murphy said shortly after FBI agents swooped down on city council offices in the May 2003 raid that resulted in the indictments. “This is just an investigation. We must await the outcome of the U.S. attorney’s investigation before conclusions can be drawn.”

The first sign of the big trouble to come in the new year of 2004 arrived the second week of January when an investigation by a television reporter led to the resignation of Roger Talamantez, head of the city-owned San Diego Data Processing Corp. Talamantez, who made $235,975, had been caught spending thousands of the corporation’s dollars on bottles of wine and tequila shooters at employee parties.

Then, a week after Talamantez’s departure, city auditor Ed Ryan, a small, nondescript man who drove a racy sports car, quit without explanation. Murphy, ever solicitous of the status quo, issued a curious statement in which he vouched for Ryan’s integrity. “This was at his ini-
Murphy’s brave if unconvincing façade was shattered less than two weeks later when Phil LaVelle of the Union-Tribune reported that the FBI, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the U.S. Attorney’s Office had launched an investigation of the city’s finances.

A day after that story broke, Murphy called a news conference in his 11th-floor City Hall offices to say he “welcomed” news of the investigation that an FBI spokeswoman had just confirmed was under way. “I want to assure the public that we will take the same calm, deliberate, effective action to resolve this matter as we have with other problems,” he told the gathered reporters.

It was just the beginning of Murphy’s long, slow political nightmare.

The mayor had once been expected to easily defeat his two main challengers in his March reelection bid, county supervisor Ron Roberts and port commissioner Peter Q. Davis. Roberts was widely viewed as a has-been member of downtown’s old-boy network and crony of Padres owner John Moores. Widely unpopular, Roberts retained a deathlike grip on his supervisory seat by virtue of his incumbency and the county’s lack of term limits. Davis, a retired banker and onetime Murphy campaign contributor, was seen as a political lightweight who was wasting part of his substantial fortune in a futile effort to promote his candidacy.

But the very fact that Davis had the audacity to enter the race seemed to spook the mayor, who called his erstwhile friend “Brutus” and privately vowed that he would eventually wreak political revenge against Davis, whom he had appointed to the port commission. Murphy grew even more nervous as both Davis and Roberts began gaining momentum against him.
problems with the pension system and the city’s credit rating,” the mayor said in a written statement. “We need a strong, decisive manager to work through these extremely important financial issues.” Roberts, who had previously called for Uberuaga’s ouster, used the occasion to step up his attacks on Murphy. “There are elected officials that need to be held accountable, also,” he said.

The federal investigation turned into a dragnet. The Securities and Exchange Commission was looking into whether the city had failed to properly disclose negative financial information to the public, and the FBI was said to be probing alleged corruption of the city council and other city officials. Transcripts of thousands of hours of wiretaps of city phone lines, originally initiated during the Cheetahs investigation, were being reviewed.

The investigation dragged on through spring and summer and into the fall, producing only nebulous, if tantalizing, rumors linking Murphy and various high-ranking city bureaucrats including former auditor Ryan, deputy city manager Bruce Herring, and Uberuaga to a litany of financial crimes, ranging from bad bookkeeping to embezzlement. No indictments were forthcoming, but the lack of specifics seemed only to feed the frenzy of speculation about the mayor’s fate.

Meanwhile, the city’s outside auditor, KPMG, refused to deliver its final audit of the city’s finances for 2003. The firm’s bombshell disclosure in November 2003 that it would not proceed with the legally required audit until the city had investigated “likely illegal acts” had triggered the crises in the first place; each month that went by without delivery of the document further destroyed the mayor’s credibility.

Murphy struggled to staunch the bleeding by hiring a series of consultants and lawyers who, he promised, would get to the bottom of the mess. The Texas law firm of Vinson & Elkins was retained at a cost of over $2.6 million to represent the city as the Securities and Exchange Commission sent a team from Washington to scour its books for wrongdoing. The lawyers came up with a 288-page report that, while carefully placing no individual blame or naming names, made it clear that the city had gone out of its way to hide bad financial news. That the firm’s previous clients included Enron did not go unnoticed by the media.

Murphy and the city council had in 2003 created a nine-member “pension reform committee” that was supposed to review stock market losses at the city’s retirement system and come up with painless ways to bail out the troubled plan. Murphy named his campaign treasurer, accountant April Boling, to its chairmanship.

Boling, who was president of the San Diego Taxpayers Association, a pro-business lobby, was also campaign treasurer for dozens of other local politicians, as well as the county Republican Central Com-
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Murphy refused to be interviewed by the Times; his second-in-command, onetime Evening Tribune reporter John Kern, told the paper that the fall in the stock market, cutbacks in state aid, and even the wildfires of 2003 had been largely responsible for the difficulties. It was the same mantra the mayor had been using since the pension fund troubles broke into the open back in 2003. “The fundamental fact of the city and its finances is that it can meet its obligations, and we are working through the issues as carefully and methodically and expeditiously as we possibly can,” the story added that Kern had “acknowledged inadvertent ‘errors’ in the city’s recent financial statements” but said there were no illegalities.

On the last day of September, the broadening scandal finally brought city councilwoman Donna Frye into the race for mayor as a write-in-candidate. “It’s hard to explain sometimes when the public becomes very, very frustrated. Sort of like a big wave riding over the ocean, and it just keeps building and building and building momentum,” she told reporters.

Frye, a 52-year-old Democrat with a knack for ingratiating herself with reporters, was not as unlike a mayoral candidate as she was described in the glowing national media accounts that followed her entry into the race. An environmentalist who started Surfers Tired of Pollution (STOP), Frye was a savvy campaigner and a public relations expert who turned to powerful advantage the way opponents regularly underestimated her. In some ways, her early political career mirrored that of Roger Hedgecock, who as a surfing young lawyer and coastal development opponent in the 1970s built a solid following among liberal-leaning middle- and upper-class voters angered by urban sprawl and the Union-Tribune’s pro-growth editorial slant.

Unlike Republican Hedgecock, who was elected county supervisor and then mayor before being brought down in 1985 by charges of money laundering, Frye kept her ego in check and did not seem tempted by the greed that ultimately doomed the fallen mayor.

In the summer of 1996, she turned up at the front doors of the Republican National Convention, being held at the downtown convention center, to denounce the city’s chronic sewage problem. “Rarely a day goes by that I don’t hear at least two instances of surfers getting sick from ocean pollution,” Frye, as always identified as a “surfer,” told the Washington Times.

When Imperial Beach Republican congressman Brian Bilbray — himself a surfer who had ridden the bad-water issue into office — voted to revise the Clean Water Act against the wishes of environmentalists, Frye called a news conference at Harry’s Surf Shop, which she owned with her husband, champion surfer Harry “Skip” Frye. She was standing beside a toilet featuring Bilbray’s effigy stuck inside.

When she ran for city council in the spring of 2001, Frye showcased her image as an outsider and played up her eagerness to seek support from other than the usual circle of downtown power brokers and the Union-Tribune. She also spoke freely of her recovery from alcoholism and described gritty personal traumas such as the savage beating she said she had
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January 6, 2005

...endured at the hands of her first husband.

Afraid that Frye might oppose its favored development plans, such as the downtown ballpark and a new taxpayer-financed Chargers stadium in Mission Valley, the Union-Tribune, as expected, endorsed Steve Danon, a GOP operative working for county supervisor Ron Roberts. “Her penchant for opposing vital projects because of flaws she so often finds in them is cause for concern,” the UT-opined. “Our worry is that she might become an impediment to progress, rather than a problem-solver committed to getting things accomplished.”

Once elected, Frye continued to benefit from a popular perception that she was a naive surfer who lacked into office, a maverick who, unlike her city council colleagues, was unafraid to tangle with the Copley-owned Union-Tribune and its monied friends in the downtown business establishment.

In the years since the fall of Hedgecock, who laundered thousands of dollars into his 1983 election bid from Del Mar investment swindler J. David Dominelli, San Diego campaigns had become even more expensive, and thus, in the eyes of many, far more corrupt. In Hedgecock’s era, candidates had been limited to accepting $250 maximum from individual contributors, with both corporations and unions banned from giving. As later revealed in a guilty plea entered by Hedgecock’s political consultant, Tom Shepard, Dominelli circumvented the limit by paying Shepard directly with a $360,000 cash “investment” in his consulting business.

The intervening years had done nothing to make San Diego politics any clearer. As the city grew, the costs of campaigning grew dramatically. With so much money sloshing around, a new tier of lawyers and accountants emerged to discover loopholes in the law for funneling even more cash to the candidates. To critics, the loopholes were nothing more than blatant violations of the law. They argued that sharp lawyer-finance, whose handlers had poured a radio talk show shortly after Frye declared for the mayor’s job. Murphy, whose handlers had counted on the unpopularity of Roberts to get their man through to reelection, was a perplexing figure.

When he beat Roberts to gain office in 2000, Murphy presented himself as a reformer who would skeptical-ly review the pension underfunding mess he had inherited from his predecessor Susan Golding.

“No downtown ballpark deal—that drains the city treasury like the Chargers ticket guarantee,” Murphy promised the voters in his 2000 ballot statement. But ex-judge Murphy pushed through the Padres ballpark deal that Golding had made with...
team owner John Moores, despite clear evidence that it gave away hundreds of millions of tax dollars and development rights at a time when the city’s pension fund was coming unglaed and basic needs like street repair were going unmet. He compounded the public skepticism when his aide John Kern was caught in May 2002 meeting behind closed doors with Chargers president Dean Spanos to plot the construction of a new football stadium.

Perhaps most critically, the new mayor failed to clean the bureaucratic mess to develop — Mur- city's growing financial blameworthy for allowing the Ryan — whom many ring and city auditor Ed de deputy manager Bruce Heraga and lieutenants such as manager Michael Uberu- ing. Instead of ousting city house left to him by Gold- clean the bureaucratic the new mayor failed to ball stadium.

Perhaps most critically, the new mayor failed to clean the bureaucratic house left to him by Gold- ing. Instead of ousting city manager Michael Uberu- aga and lieutenants such as deputy manager Bruce Her- ring and city auditor Ed Ryan — whom many blamed for allowing the city’s growing financial mess to develop — Mur- phy gave them all a pat on the back and praised their performance. Was he in de- nial? Maybe he was just too nice a guy.

But in contrast with his public reputation, the pri- vate Murphy, like many of his city council colleagues, often seemed prickly, de- fensive, and insecure. He was a miserable public speaker and told stale anec- dotes. At cocktail parties, he whined about unfair news- paper coverage. During the city council inaugural cer- monies in December 2004, Murphy’s council colleague Scott Peters, whom the mayor had endorsed for re- election, told the astonished audience: “Sometimes he is too conservative, and he can be boring.”

Some also thought he was not very smart and re- lied too much on his mer- curial aide John Kern, a for- mer reporter and Republi- can political consultant who had close ties to the city’s fi- refighters union, one of several labor-related special interests for which Kern had worked before joining the mayor’s staff.

Kern remained the close friend of Ron Saathoff, head of the International Association of Firefighters Local 1-45. A member of the pension fund’s board of trustees, Saathoff was a lightning rod for controversy. Unlike the AFL- cio’s San Diego-Imperial County Labor Council, which switched its endor- dorsement from Murphy to Democrat Prey after she entered the race, the fi- refighters stuck with Murphy and spent at least $50,000 on his behalf.

Kern’s other clients had included actor Clint East- wood, who was elected mayor of Carmel, and the Bicycle Club, a giant card room in Bellflower that had been seized by federal mar- shals in a drug money laun- dering case. “John knows intuitively, 90 percent of the time, exactly what I would do,” Murphy was quoted as saying shortly after taking office in 2001, “and there- fore, he can speak for me because he usually knows where I would be.”

Kern had a reputation for a flash-point temper,
and his abrupt and unexplained firing of Murphy’s first press secretary, Elena Cristo

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work, along with Vortmann’s warning, was quickly forgotten and Murphy lost yet another opportunity to avert the coming disaster. Kern’s application last month to the retirement board to be allowed to participate in a lucrative deferred retirement option only fed suspicions that Murphy had been in Kern’s pocket all along.

The mayor’s approach to campaign ethics also had two faces. During the 2000 campaign he duelled with his opponent Ron Roberts over their respective approaches to setting up an ethics commission. The ethics issue had come to dominate the campaign due to the case of Valerie Stallings, a city councilwoman who had been forced to resign after she was caught receiving financial favors from Padres owner John Moores at the same time she was voting to approve taxpayer subsidies for his baseball stadium and surrounding real estate development.

Once in office, Murphy set up the Ethics Commission as promised but diluted its effect by appointing to its board Charles La Bella, a former U.S. prosecutor who had been retained by Moores to help him avoid federal charges arising from the Stallings matter. The county grand jury, in March 2003, criticized his appointment, saying, “The grand jury finds that the commission in its present form might find it difficult to handle existing and potential conflicts of interest of both commission members as well as its staff.”

The League of Women Voters and others — including civic watchdog Mel Shapiro, who accused the commission of going easy on campaign money launderers — made similar allegations. Murphy defended his appointee. “In my opinion, the Ethics Commission has had an exemplary record of accomplishment during its first year,” he told the Union-Tribune. “While the grand jury recommendations are well-meaning, I would be reluctant to tinker with something that has worked so well.”

But it was Murphy’s own campaign ethics, along with those of April Boling, his ever-loyal campaign treasurer, that began to humble the most skepticism, no more so than in October 2004 as the three-way campaign between the mayor, Roberts, and Frye drew to a close. Polls showed that Frye had closed the gap between herself and her two opponents and that her once seemingly hopeless write-in drive might be poised for a historic victory.

On the final weekend of the campaign, a hit piece against Frye from a group calling itself the Coalition to Keep San Diego Working arrived in the mailboxes of voters from La Jolla to Otay Mesa. It featured an unflattering photo of Frye along with the charge that she had voted against city funding for children’s programs. “Call Councilwoman Frye and tell her she should support San Diego’s children,” urged the mailer, which provided Frye’s office phone number.

The strategy resembled that of a campaign mounted by supporters of San Diego Unified School District superintendent Alan Bersin against then–school board incumbent Frances Zimmerman in 2000. Even the catch phrase was similar: “Tell Fran Zimmerman to stop voting against back-to-basics school reform.” Much of the money behind that effort came from Padres owner Moores and his partner Malin Burnham, who were also six-figure contributors to the county’s GOP central committee.

As in the Zimmerman case, the anti-Frye mailers did not actually urge a vote against her. The coalition’s lawyer insisted that it didn’t have to reveal who paid for the hit piece, at least not until sometime after the election. The committee’s treasurer? Murphy stalwart April Boling. Murphy did not disavow the mailer. Instead, he simply remained silent. But Boling said he was not responsible for it. The coalition donors have thus far remained a mystery, and a complaint filed by La Jollan Ian Towbridge, who first blew the whistle on the city’s data processing scandal, remains pending before the city’s Ethics Commission.

It wasn’t the first time Boling was involved in a campaign. During the 2000 election he dueled with campaign ethics also had two faces. During the 2000 campaign he duelled with his opponent Ron Roberts over their respective approaches to setting up an ethics commission. The ethics issue had come to dominate the campaign due to the case of Valerie Stallings, a city councilwoman who had been forced to resign after she was caught receiving financial favors from Padres owner John Moores at the same time she was voting to approve taxpayer subsidies for his baseball stadium and surrounding real estate development.

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San Diego Reader January 6, 2005 43
### The Environment

**DESTRUCTIVE INDULGENCE**

Seventeen-year-old Minna Abassi, a junior at Grossmont High, listens to music and hangs out with friends in her spare time. After school, she wants to work with nonprofit organizations.

**What are you doing to “save the planet”?** I helped start the Sierra Club at Helix High School, which is an environmentalist club. I recycle, but usually only when it is convenient.

**What is the biggest waste of resources in the U.S.?** Water. The majority of people in the U.S. don’t seem to conserve water very well. You always see the commercials about conserving water when you are taking a shower and brushing your teeth, but I don’t know of anyone who actually does that.

**What is the biggest waste of resources in San Diego?** Gasoline. People in San Diego tend to drive their cars everywhere instead of walking, riding their bike, carpooling, or taking public transportation; people take their own separate cars everywhere.

**Do you know of any families that hang laundry on a clothesline?** Yeah. My family does when it is a sunny day, but there are some days that aren’t suitable for hang-drying clothes in.

**Why do you think more people don’t hang laundry to dry?** “It is so much more convenient just to throw clothing from the washer straight into the adjacent dryer.”

**In how many years will there be solar-powered cars?** “I really couldn’t say. Any guess I could make would be completely uneducated.”

**Why do you think we don’t yet have solar-powered cars?** “The technology would be too expensive at first, so the market for solar-powered cars wouldn’t be that large. Carmakers seem to be interested mostly in making money. If not very many people are going to buy solar-powered cars, why invest in creating them?”

**Do either one of your parents drive an eight-cylinder SUV?** “No. I would go crazy if my parents bought one. Unless you are using one for work, which most people don’t, it is totally a destructive indulgence.”

**Can citizens trust the U.S. government to take care of the environment?** “No...at least not the current administration. They seem to be more preoccupied with restricting the rights of same-sex couples and starting wars with other countries to do much of anything else.”

**How has the government taken steps to preserve precious environments throughout the country?** “There are national parks and other preserved wild lands throughout the country, which cannot be touched by lumber or development companies.”

**How has the government neglected the environment?** “While there are preserved natural habitats, there aren’t nearly enough [for] all the many different wild animals that live in the U.S. There are too many forests that have been clear-cut and never rebuilt.”

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be prominent in 20 or so years."

"Why do you think we don't yet have solar-powered cars? The technology probably isn't up to par, and gas cars are a better value. People in general are set in their ways. Plus, have you seen solar-powered cars? They look ridiculous, and the aesthetic appeal of cars is a major selling point."

Do either one of your parents drive an eight-cylinder SUV? "My family does not own one, and I don't see how they are practical for normal use."

Can citizens trust the U.S. government to take care of the environment? "I think we can trust the system.... This requires the commitment of the people."

How has the government taken steps to preserve precious environments? "I don't know of anything, really."

Do you think it's worthwhile to allow oil-drilling in wildlife preserves? "It seems like things are looking in this direction, and I just think it's wrong. There are wildlife preserves for a reason, and they need to remain untouched."

Have you ever volunteered your time toward an environmental cause? "I'm lame; I never have. But I think the environmental movement is one that can be difficult to get involved in. I mean, it's difficult to make progress, and there are already people out there doing the dirty work."

Nicole, a senior at West Hills High School, would like to be a nonprofit event organizer after she graduates. "I love to plan events and then see them happen," she says.

What are you doing to "save the planet"? "Besides yelling at my friends when they litter? I am involved in this group at school called the mentor program. Our goal is to raise environmental awareness and promote earth-friendly habits by teaching younger children about science. We..."

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What is the biggest waste of resources in San Diego? “Water. We also use this in great abundance and inefficiently.”

Do you know of any families that hang laundry on a clothesline? “I knew someone who used to...I don’t know if they still do or not.”

Why do you think more people don’t hang laundry to dry? “It takes a long time; most people don’t have the patience to wait. Dryers are a lot more convenient, and that is what everything is all about, convenience.”

In how many years will there be solar-powered cars? “Hopefully soon. I think the technology is there and I think we have the right people to do it, but no one wants to. Our resources haven’t run out yet so the urgency is not felt by most people.”

Do either one of your parents drive an eight-cylinder SUV? “Yes, my mommy. I think they are very impractical — at least for us. There are only a couple reasons as to why someone would own a car like that. First, if you have a lot of kids and you need to drive them around. Then you would need the space for them and their stuff — but I mean a lot of kids because I own a little car and I can fit a lot of stuff in it. The other reason I can think of is to tow something, such as a camper or something similar. My parents bought their SUV supposedly because we own a tent-trailer, but really I think it was because my mom got a good deal for it.”

Can citizens trust the U.S. government to take care of the environment? “No, I mean I wish I could remain optimistic and say, ‘of course!’ but I can’t. They have already shown that they won’t do anything to change the current state of things, and I don’t see much hope in the future.”

How has the government taken steps to preserve precious environments? “They have done some things to protect our environment. They have set aside wildlife preserves and national forests and passed environmental friendly acts in Congress.”

How has the government neglected the environment? “They neglect to respond to many of the challenges we will face in the future. Global warming is happening right now and although we may not see huge effects right now, next month, or even next year, we will see them in the future.”

Do you think it’s worthwhile to allow oil-drilling in wildlife preserves? “No, absolutely not. I think the wildlife preserves should remain untouched. Just because human greed and neglect has led us to look to our preserves for resources does not mean we should use them. They were set aside for a reason and they should remain separate. We should look for alternate sources and new ideas as to where our fuel can come from.”

elix High sophomore Robert Burton, enjoys writing, reading, and art. He’s unsure about what he’d like to do for a living.

What are you doing to “save the planet”? “I clip the plastic rings that hold soda. I am very indiscriminate with my trash, though. I do litter sometimes.”

What do you think is the biggest waste of resources in the U.S.? “I don’t know if oil is really being wasted, but I know there is a limited supply and we use so much of it.”

What do you think is the biggest waste of resources in San Diego? “San Diego wastes resources like the rest of the country, but specifically I think we overuse air-conditioning and other energies.”

Do you know anyone who hangs laundry to dry? “I don’t really know anyone who hangs laundry; I live in an apartment complex. I don’t really think people consider the positive aspects of hanging clothes to dry.”

When do you think solar-powered cars will be more prominent? “I think it’s a profitable endeavor...probably within the next ten years. A lot of the technology isn’t that great yet, and it’s not so economical yet.”

Does your family own an eight-cylinder SUV? Do you think they are practical? “My family did own a large eight-cylinder vehicle. Its necessity depends on its use. My dad used it to carry tools for a job, so it was very practical. I wouldn’t imagine it would be so for a..."
Can you trust the government to protect the environment?

“Definitely not, now with Republicans in office. The president is for drilling in Alaska, which I am really against. We need an administration that is pro-environment.”

Amanda Ramirez, a senior at Helix Charter High school, likes to read or sleep in her spare time. For a career, she says, “I am thinking of becoming a history teacher at the high school level.”

What are you doing to “save the planet”? “I throw away trash and make an effort to not litter in public places.”

What is the biggest waste of resources in the U.S.? “Probably oil. I say that because it’s all over the news. It might not be the biggest waste, but at least it’s the one most highly publicized.”

What’s the biggest waste of resources in San Diego? “I’d say oil again. I mean, two bucks for a gallon of gas — that’s kind of obvious.”

Do you know any families who hang their laundry? “Yeah, I know of some families, I don’t think they hang all of it, though, just certain items and when the weather permits.”

In how many years will we have solar-powered cars? “I really don’t know right now. I hear they are kind of impractical because they have a lot of kinks that need to get worked out. Maybe 10 or 15 years?”

Do either one of your parents own an eight-cylinder SUV? “No. My dad has a six-cylinder 1995 Ford Explorer, but nothing too hard-core. Although I think the six-cylinder cars can be so time. It has to do with how it’s used, and I’m sure my family could function just fine with a standard-sized car.”

Can you trust the government to protect the environment? “Definitely not, now with Republicans in office. The president is for drilling in Alaska, which I am really against. We need an administration that is pro-environment.”

How has the government neglected the environment? “They pretty much let logging companies do as they please, and urban sprawl is getting out of hand. These are two very serious issues that I do not believe are being addressed as they should be.”

Do you think it’s worthwhile to allow oil-drilling on wildlife preserves? “Definitely not. Those animals already have a very limited amount of land in the first place, so taking up more space with oil rigs — in addition the noise it is going to create — will just drive the animals away. Plus, there is the possibility of an oil spill. It’s just a bad idea any way you look at it.”

Have you ever volunteered your time toward an environmental cause? “I would like to get involved, but my time is already so limited. Maybe if I felt more strongly toward an environmental cause I would make time.”

—Scott Reed, Helix Charter High School
LIFE WITH A BLISS-KITTEN

H
er name was Dorothy. Not “Dot,” Dorothy.

Just like in The Wizard of Oz, except that everything besides her name was different.

I had a three-bedroom house in Contra Costa County back in 1979, which might have been a pretty smart investment if you overlook that I had to bring in a roommate to make mortgage. My first attempt at the landlord game was a bank teller who turned out to be one of those neo-Nazis. I’m not kidding. After he unpacked his stuff, he announced that he intended to run a concentration camp one day and perform all sorts of unspeakable acts against those he deemed undesirable. This guy was a little weird, to say the least. Without going into his story, let me say that even if one overlooked the obvious problems of living with a goose-stepping, latter-day Eichmann, his story, let me say that even if one overlooked the obvious problems of living with a goose-stepping, latter-day Eichmann, I’m not kidding; if someone told me she was a space alien and came from a planet where everyone had hair that was made out of something much softer and shinier than anything we have here on Earth, I wouldn’t have dismissed the thought out of hand. You could say I was smitten. And when I looked in her eyes, I saw they had absolutely, positively no interest in me, whatsoever. None.

This was before every beach bunny was jumping to aerobics classes. Dorothy, though, had one of those bodies that was simply perfect. No matter which way she turned or bent, every single inch of her tanned flesh looked like it belonged to one of the girls in a Vargas cartoon. She had shoulder-length, straight brown hair, which doesn't sound very dramatic, but like every other physical quality about her, it was just… perfect.

I kind of helped him decide to move out. It was the right thing to do.

Then Dorothy answered my ad in the paper. When she called on the phone, she said that my “NO NAZIS” caveat had intrigued her. Her voice intrigued me. I’m telling the truth when I tell you that I’ve never called one of those “1-900” numbers for phone sex, but I can understand how some losers get suckered into it. She had one of those voices, a soft, throaty monotone like you hear in the movies when some starlet is doing a parody of a femme fatale. But with Dorothy, it was real.

It is clear to me now that from the very beginning I wasn’t being very rational. I was lonely. I wanted the woman to match the voice, and I wanted her to fall madly in love with me as soon as our eyes met. I invited her over to look at the house.

The woman matched the voice, and I fell madly in love with her as soon as our eyes met. The reader will note the slight variance between fantasy and reality… sometimes life is hard.

This was before every beach bunny was jumping to aerobics classes. Dorothy, though, had one of those bodies that was simply perfect. No matter which way she turned or bent, every single inch of her tanned flesh looked like it belonged to one of the girls in a Vargas cartoon. She had shoulder-length, straight brown hair, which doesn't sound very dramatic, but like every other physical quality about her, it was just… perfect.

I’m not the kind of guy who carries on conversations that would make for good shampoo and conditioner commercials, but I’m not kidding; if someone told me she was a space alien and came from a planet where everyone had hair that was made out of something much softer and shinier than anything we have here on Earth, I wouldn’t have dismissed the thought out of hand. You could say I was smitten. And when I looked in her eyes, I saw they had absolutely, positively no interest in me, whatsoever. None.

Zip. Zero to the extreme. But in the fashion of men who enjoyed everything she said. I also knocked $100 off the rent. Not everything that seems like the right thing to do is the right thing to do.

I helped her move in. The first clue that things were not good was when she unpacked her collection of photographs in frames. There were about 30 of them. Most of them were of bald-headed dudes wearing robes and beads. I told her I was real spiritual also. “I just knew it,” she said. “Nothing happens by accident.” Boy, did I agree with that. You bet the cosmos brought us together. “Sorry, I’mfresh out of incense, but go ahead and light the couch on fire, if you like; that foam rubber smolders real good…”

So the first week, she rearranged all the furniture in the house. Actually, “furniture”
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doesn’t quite describe it all. She rearranged all the matter in the house and the garage. Then she put up some mirrors opposite the windows and doors, as well as some mirrored sun-catchers. She explained there were astral spirit beings that would be coming and going a lot, as they had been for eons, and if I didn’t have all the dense matter lined up properly and use mirrors to compensate for deviations in cosmic polarity brought about by unbalanced photon streams, I would piss off the little spooks, which I had apparently already done, and why hadn’t I noticed! My efforts to joke around it elicited cold disgust, so I quickly reversed tack and let her know I was going to defer to her in all matters pertaining to other dimensions. I mean, after all, nothing is a coincidence, and we were certainly brought together for something…”

I was getting real good at letting those deep and mystical-sounding hints drop out here and there. She was as good at remaining incomprehensibly aloof and adroit at avoiding all my subtle invitations for an “even closer” relationship.

I think her father was rich. Her standard uniform was a loose-fitting tank top and running shorts. She had the most uncanny ability of looking like she was always posing for a 1960s soft-porn magazine. Fabric was always either clinging or drooping in such a way as to provide maximum distraction without actually exposing those precious few inches of flesh that are crucial to reproduction or breast-feeding.

When she was around, I was always in a physical and emotional state that celebrated passion over reason. So I acted like it made perfect sense to me that we played tapes on the stereo… for hours… that were nothing but chants by Buddhist monks living in Idaho. I agreed with her that I had also often thought of the earth as the nucleus of a helium atom, and that the moon was an electron, and that we were in a state of political and economic turmoil because everyone knows a helium atom needs two electrons, and that accounts for our general contempt for our patriarchal mythology and our general contempt for the Earth Mother, not to mention a lot of the preservatives showing up in cereal boxes. All of this would have been cured if we only had one more negatively charged valence particle that so happened to weigh about 60 trillion tons and was made out of green cheese.

Mind you, nothing stayed the same. The situation with the mirrors and the little spirit men, which were frightfully important the first week, lasted about a month. The mirrors came down, and pictures of some Bhagwan look-alike took their places. I made a sarcastic comment about the polarity of the photon streams no longer being important, and she gave me one of those looks that told me I had regressed about two past lives in my quest to plumb the depths of her yin consciousness. I could have kicked myself right in my own root chakra.

No matter. The Bhagwan wannabe only lasted about one mortgage payment. He was replaced by two weeks of militant vegetarianism, which was followed by nightly meditations where we tried to contact the mind of a cotton T-shirt, which was followed by two days of primal screams, which was followed in some order or other by sacred bongo drums, prayers to Zoroaster, fondling holy beads (that looked a lot like regular beads), tantric writing (I don’t want to talk about it), and some charming trick where we both spent no less than 90 minutes each evening with mouthfuls of water that we weren’t allowed to swallow. The whole time I was making a complete buffoon out of myself by going along with whatever loopy-tune spiritual quest she wanted. If she wanted something, I was going to embody it. You bet.

Never mind that I had completely given up on dating, reading, working out, or any other pursuit that didn’t rhyme with “Dorothy.”

Enter the plot twist. We had “the talk.”

She’d never showed any interest in coming to my bedroom. One fine day I was leaving the bathroom, which is attached to the master bedroom, and I was delighted to see her standing in the doorway to my most holy of holy places.

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had finished my time in front of the mirror, streaking my face with sacred ashes. She gave me the “that-was-last-week” look, with which I’d gotten too familiar over the previous six months. No matter, though. By this time I was pretty well desensitized to looking like an idiot, so I didn’t wash them off. If I hit my face with water, I might wake up. Not only had she entered into my personal shrine, she took my heart. Dorothy, on the other hand, was a different story. She didn’t exactly break my heart. Dorothy’s eyes for me was the Sailor materialized in front of her and told her to go to bed with me.

“A lot of the stuff I’ve done here has been pretty dumb.” I was too cool. I played it off like it was no big deal. “But we have other things to talk about. You remember when I first moved in, we talked about how you were real open-minded?” I remembered nothing of the kind, but I was ready to rekindle the spirit of the ’60s, where she and I could intertwine our temples and slip off to Nirvana, at least until the next eclipse. I assumed her that I was a veritable poster boy for the next civil-rights march they hold at Woodstock.

“You know, Yari is the sweetest person I know, and I have no doubt that you two are going to fall in love with each other, but I want to ask your permission before Yari comes, and it becomes the three of us.”

“Yari is from a different cultural background. Yari says that’s a problem for some people.” I laughed. Hey, I was the guy that advertised for “no Nazis.” Images of a multicolored threesome right from the pages of a men’s magazine were now dazing four inches in front of my face. I told her that if she thought Yari belonged with us, I couldn’t imagine it being anything but perfect. After all, nothing happened by accident. I reached to put my arm around her (and maybe fall backward together?) as she was popping up to bound out the door. Once again, like the bar of soap in the shower, she was hard to grab.

“Yari” (no apparent last name) looked like he was a Rasta-man from Jamaica, but his accent was nowhere near Jamaican. I assumed he was Ethiopian or something like that. If there is any good part to the story, it is that Yari and I didn’t “fall in love” with each other. He showed me about as much interest as he would a cockroach, which didn’t exactly break my heart. Dorothy, on the other hand, was a different matter altogether. The sparkling look of fascination that I never saw in Dorothy’s eyes for me was now there for Yari. He was her new guru. I first tried to believe it was going to be a teacher-chela relationship, but when she carried his wicker suitcase to her bedroom, I very casually locked myself in my bathroom and threw up for 20 minutes.

When I came out they were wearing different clothes and were walking out the front door together. Yari had already assumed his standard position when walking with Dorothy, where he followed close by her side, continually patting her buttocks as if the contact between his hand and her behind were part of some life-support system... for somebody or other. I mean, he did that all the time.

Or so it seemed.

So we became one big happy family. Yari was the new master of ceremonies for things cosmic. The trappings were different, but the theme was the same. Another week, another chapter in “Can You Top This?” A lot of the time, Yari wanted to give lectures to his new disciples. He would prop himself up on cushions on the couch, and Dorothy and I would listen intently nearby. Dorothy would watch him with rapt attention and blatant adoration. I would watch him with disbelief. Disbelief in Yari, disbelief in everything he was saying, and especially disbelief that Dorothy was going to throw her perfect body away on this es-

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capee from a commercial advertisement for Zig Zag rolling papers. He didn’t work. He didn’t even do dishes or wash clothes. I was hoping that if I toughed it out long enough without antagonizing Dorothy, Yari would wander out in the traffic one day and have an out-of-body experience. I couldn’t shake this sense that if I stuck by Dorothy long enough, she’d come around.

So we were a family. You bet. After a fashion, Yari’s monologues got repetitious, and I think they bored even him. So we started watching television together. This is when I started catching on that things were more screwed up than I had suspected. The week that The Exorcist was on, Yari became an expert on demons and possession. This lasted about two weeks. The climax to this adventure was the cleansing with smoke and cranberry juice that Yari did on the third bedroom, which had apparently become a recreation room for some winged things with horns from the dark side. No problem.

We watched one of those ridiculous science fiction movies from the ’50s that were in black-and-white, and for the next three weeks, Yari was an expert on UFOs and space aliens… with whom he’d had considerable contact. I’m not making this up; for the entire week after we watched The Bridge Over the River Kwai, that silly bastard was marching around the house whistling the stupid British marching song. If I ever so much as hinted to Dorothy that I wasn’t completely enchanted with Yari, she’d go nutso and accuse me of everything from being jealous (moi?) to “not being willing to face the truth within, which Yari was here to teach.” After all, nothing happens by accident. Yari was here because I needed him. My spirit was calling out to him, and the universe provided him. The woeful dearth of

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.

OHS Optimum Health Services
San Diego 619-667-4567
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San Diego Reader January 6, 2005 53

Type 2 Diabetes Research

Dr. Vanita Aroda and her associates at the VA Medical Center in San Diego are currently seeking participants for a Research Study for an investigational drug for the treatment of Type 2 Diabetes. If you have Type 2 Diabetes and are currently on an oral anti-diabetic drug, you may be eligible to participate in this study.

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Interested participants must be:
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- Sleep between 3 - 6.5 hours per night

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involve medications.

Possibly one of the biggest moments of the “Yari Occupation” was when we were having a conversation about New Jersey, and for some reason Yari had to pipe up like he’s an expert on New Jersey. On this one occasion, I was too tired to be polite, and I challenged his knowledge on New Jersey.

“Mon, you must be to knowing, I was borned and weaned in New Jersey.” So I told him I thought he was Ethiopian, and he tells me he’s an American. So I ask him about the accent, and he said he got it “traveling.” It gets better. He couldn’t speak any languages other than English, but he had this accent that sounded like he could have been a cab driver in Washington, D.C.

And to Dorothy, this made perfect sense.

“Mon, you must be to understanding, I have been to the peaks of wisdom, and I speak with the accent of those who live there.”

I’m not making this up.

So I sold the house. I’m not making this up. I lost everything I put down, and I didn’t care. The week it went up on the market, Yari and Dorothy moved out without saying goodbye. They didn’t have to.

Dorothy, who previously manifested nothing in her eyes for me, started to show unabashed contempt. I was rejecting her Christ and was therefore damned and unclean. All my efforts to become what she wanted were a total failure.

"I learned I can hold a mouthful of water for 90 minutes without swallowing."

— M.R. Shevock

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**Research Studies**

**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:

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**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:

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Department of Neuropharmacology
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**The One-Legged Professional Firefighter**

*He goes by both.* Whether “Buddy,” the two-syllable synonym for pal, or the more mature-sounding “Bud,” the single-syllable term for what is young and unfinished, both fit. Bud McElroy, at 39, seems easygoing and uncomplicated. He likes to talk about having fun. He smiles a lot. And if he heard himself described as a complex man — maybe even a driven one — he’d laugh. “Who, me?” he’d ask.

Except for two years of missionary work and a stint in the service, McElroy has always lived in Chula Vista, in the same house he now shares with his wife and four children. Years ago it was brown; now it’s painted gray with white trim. McElroy did some brick work out back, sank a flagpole into the front yard, and hoisted the American flag. Inside, the house is comfortable and unassuming. The living room is a jumble of fall-into-it furniture. On the hearth, a green parakeet named Paulie breaks into song. His twittering high notes scissor the air and bounce off the wall on which hang World War II memorabilia, replica portions of the American flag with blue and gold stars. The code, he explains, was devised during the Civil War. Sixty years ago, the flags were set in windows to indicate, according to the number of stars, how many in that household were serving in the military. A blue star accounted for those who were living, gold was for the dead.

McElroy transferred to night school in his senior year at Montgomery High School. He’d found a day job delivering furniture and was saving money to go on his mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. For two years after graduation he walked door-to-door delivering the Mormon vision of hope and redemption through parts of Colorado and the New England states. Next he enlisted in the Marines and served six years, then went on to the Army Reserves. He later signed up for active duty and was in Berlin in 1989 when the wall came down. Reenlisting in the Army Reserves, he continues to give a weekend every month and a couple of weeks each year.

In 1990, McElroy joined the Federal Fire Department of San Diego. With his one-day-on/one-day-off schedule, he uses his free time to speak to young people about the dangers of drugs (“It’s your future, why blow it?”). Otherwise he might be filling orders for the custom-made surfboards he designs and makes in his garage. He has hobbies — like collecting wartime memorabilia — he makes time for his kids, and he’s a faithful member of his church. A moderate Republican, he talks about going into politics one day. And he might. Since September 25, 1993, McElroy has worked hard to keep his options open. That day — the most important one of his life — he came close to collecting his gold star.

“I’d done some professional off-road racing and was preparing for ‘Baja 1000,’ a thousand-mile run, with a shake-down session.”

Neighbors and friends had traveled the 90 miles to the desert with McElroy and his wife. Tina McElroy, dark-haired and perky, was all smiles. It was her birthday and she was excited. McElroy was feeling the grip of adrenaline that always hit before a race. He’d never driven the Plaster City series before. The race offered ideal conditions to learn how smoothly his transmission ran, if his suspension was spongy, whether there was sloppy play in the steering.

Tina settled in with friends at the start/finish line. A hubbub of activity surrounded the pit crews and race officials. Bob Hines (known as “Radio Bob” to his fans) was...
doing radio dispatch under a B.F. Goodrich banner. The sky over the Yuma Desert was cloudless, a bleached blue that rose high and endless.

Racers went six times around a 30-mile loop. McElroy was counting upon his map-man, 70-year-old Ed McClain, to keep him on track. Their aluminum-bodied, tubular-framed “Class 9” car was painted white with red and-blue stripes. It was funnel-nosed. The engine was in the rear.

Every 30 seconds, the green flag came down: they were ninth out of the line. Shifting easily, his foot on the gas, McElroy whipped past one car after another. Number 999, their car, was running well. One lap and McElroy was up to third place. Halfway through the second loop, just as he was ready to pass the second man, the car stalled and lost all power. McElroy rolled as far as he could, pulled the brake, and got out. Hugging the side of the car, he edged around to the rear. Ed McClain stayed put, belted in the passenger seat. Cars roared past. There was no wind that day. The dust that the cars kicked up hung low.

Bill Hernquist saw neither the man nor the car when he hit them. The impact was so great that, inside the car, Ed McClain was knocked out cold.

“‘This was after he nailed me,’ said McElroy. ‘I went flying 50 feet and hit the ground. Everything went black.’”

McElroy is 5’8.” Women call him cute. This has as much to do with his boyish style as his youthful looks. (His head of graying hair looks premature.) His features fold easily into a smile. Like his laugh, his grins are various; now it is over-bright; he’s a guy who has told his story before. “You wanna know why everything went black?” He laughs. “Because I landed on my stomach with my face in a pile of dirt.”

Desert dirt, so fine that it had the consistency of flour. McElroy rolled over and looked up. “And I see that I’m back on the race course. I get to my knees, and I’m trying to stand, because, you can understand, I want out of there…”

He was in shock and didn’t know his right leg, between the knee and foot, was in pieces. By now Bill Hernquist had jumped out of his car and run over. Hernquist, chunky in his dark racing suit, stood over him.

“Bud! Stop! You can’t get up!”

“You kiddin’ me?” McElroy looked up at him. He remembers squinting at the sunlight. Hernquist was a silhouette against blue sky while Bud, struggling to stand, was a floundering figure in a red racing suit. “I’m not getting run over twice in one day!” he shouted.

But McElroy had seen the alarmed expression in his friend’s eyes. Regaining consciousness, Ed McClain staggered free from their car. The transmission and rear tire had been torn away and wrapped around the front.

“Bud!” cried the map-man. “Your leg!”

The skin was split up to the knee, muscle and flesh gone from the bone. Dan Anderson rushed over. Known as “Rescue Dan” for his long-time service as a

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volunteer on the rescue team, he was already talking to radio dispatch, calling for a medical evacuation immediately. By now a dozen men were on the scene. McElroy was losing a lot of blood. Anderson handed over his radio and knelt beside the racer.

"I'm going to have to tourniquet that leg." "Below the knee!" McElroy shouted. When a tourniquet is tied, everything below the pressure point is deprived of blood and likely to be sacrificed. McElroy knew this. "Make sure and put it below the knee!"

"Radio Bob" told Anderson he'd made contact with the Medivac people; they wanted somebody on the scene to authorize the pickup. "Otherwise, they aren't coming."

McElroy overheard and said to tell them there was a firefighter here who says there's a guy in trouble and they need to get to him quick. McElroy was, of course, the firefighter, and he was the guy.

A few men diverted the run, with racers forced to detour some 15 yards; others were watching Anderson with McElroy; some were checking their watches and looking up at the desert sky. Would the "Life-Flight" copter make it in time?

Twenty miles away, Tina was told of the accident but not of its seriousness. "Here's the funny part," McElroy recalls, laughing. "Somebody used a board to shade me from the sun because it's so hot out there but the sun is beating down on my leg and that's what's getting hot. And I mean really hot."

Sheared to the bone, the flesh was raw and bleeding. Unshaded, his leg was on fire.

By the time the copter set down, grit rising in an angry skirt, McElroy was lying in a blackish puddle of his own blood. His blood pressure read 38 over 0 (a normal reading is 110 over 70). Firefighters know their blood type. He murmured that his was A-negative; then, as they shunted him onto a backboard and into the copter, he sent a last message to his wife. He'd broken his leg, he said, and was going to have it fixed.

Somewhere in flight or at the UCSD Trauma Center in San Diego, the medical team cut away his nylon racing suit and discovered his femur protruding from his upper thigh. They stuck IVs in his groin and neck, then fed four units of blood directly into the arteries that went to his heart.

"I looked like a 50-50 ice cream bar, half-vanilla, half-chocolate." He laughed again. His right side was black and blue; when he first got hit, McElroy fell onto his right side then slapped down hard against the hood of Hernquist's car before being sent flying.

He was in surgery for 14 hours, in the critical care unit for three days, and at the trauma center itself for ten days.

Every effort was made to save the leg. As one surgeon explained, he could keep it, but two to three years of reconstructive surgery would be required, using the muscles from his stomach and back. In the end, he would still have a "slap foot." The alternative, it was explained, was amputation, and he'd be walking in three months. Three years versus three months. It was, he said, an easy call.

"Go ahead," he told them. "Cut it off."

Surgery took place at Kaiser Permanente. Amputees are likely to have the date of their surgery engraved on their minds. McElroy was quick to name the date of the accident as well as when he got his first prosthetic limb (January 15, 1994), yet he cannot name the date of his amputation.

A flash of green and Paulie, flitting from one side of his cage to the other, breaks into song.

"It was somewhere in
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the first week of October, but it wasn’t a big deal.”

Following surgery, he was fixed with a morphine drip to medicate himself. As soon as his mind cleared, he stopped taking the morphine; he didn’t want to get hooked. He was treated with other pain medication. Depression is a familiar emotional response to amputation, but McElroy claims he had none. He was having too much fun to feel low, he said. Just before a nurse came in to take his temperature, he’d stick ice in his mouth and throw the reading off.

“Stupid stuff like that, but I was having a ball.”

That is, until he’d get hit with a pain so intense he could only double over. It was as if someone were stabbing him. These were his severed nerve endings. Later, as the pain receded, he’d feel like his foot was on ice or stuck in a bucket. He still gets phantom sensations on occasion. He'd feel a cramp in the arch of his foot that is no longer there.

On October 25, exactly one month after the accident, he was wheeled out of Kaiser Permanente Hospital. Plastic surgeons grafted skin onto his leg. He was fitted for his prosthesis and in mid-January stood up on two legs. His stump felt tender.

“I knew I was on two legs. I was glad I was standing. But the muscles had to get accustomed to an artificial device. I’d call it a ‘sweet’ hurt, because I knew the pain would go away.”

At home he started pushing himself right away. That was when he painted the house and laid brick. He kept busy.

“Something like that happens, and you realize how precious life is. I wanted to live it to the fullest.”

(On the second anniversary of losing his leg, McElroy participated in a three-person triathlon sponsored by the Navy SEALs. One member of his team, an above-knee amputee, swam the mile; a woman with a below-the-knee amputation ran the 13-mile leg of the race; McElroy biked 56 miles.)

McElroy went on 911-phone dispatch at the 32nd Street station. Firefighters who have suffered heart attacks or have backs “blown out” are certified to return to work on the written recommendation of one doctor through the occupational health office. When he walked across the parking lot and into the Federal Fire Department offices at the Naval Training Center, McElroy had in hand the written approval of three prosthetists and two doctors.

In the office, the desk calendar read March 24, 1994.

Rosie Robinson was behind her desk. A brown-skinned, middle-aged woman, she looked up and smiled broadly.

“Well, McElroy! You look great! Why, I can’t even tell you had an accident. Which leg is it?”

“It was my left.”

“Oh, really!” She eyed the left leg.”Well, you’d sure never know.”

“I was only having a little fun with you, Rosie. Actually it’s my right.”

“McElroy, now which one is it?”

“My right, honest!” He lifted the cuff of his pants to show the prosthesis built from carbon fiber and titanium, with a VSP-flex foot and an acrylic black composite plastic sheath.

Civil Service employees are processed through the Occupational Health Office on North Island. Rosie suggested that McElroy make an appointment. Just then he spotted his chief passing down the hallway.

“Hey, Chief!”

The man stepped inside the office. “So you’re back, McElroy.” They shook hands.

“Chief, I’m back and
I’m ready to work.”

The chief explained to McElroy that the department had never had a person like him on staff before.

“I think we’re going to want you to take an agility test and maybe see a doctor.” McElroy had his papers in hand. “Chief, I’ve already been to Occupational Health, and they didn’t find anything wrong.”

McElroy says the chief still pointed his finger at McElroy and yelled, “I don’t give a damn what your doctors are telling you. I’m telling you what I want! You’re different, and you’re better off you’ll be.”

McElroy remembers hearing the distant drone of airplanes cutting across the sky. He remembers Rosie was silent at her desk. All complaints about discrimination pass through Rosie’s office, which she’d decorated with images of African pride and Christian devotion. For the first time, McElroy says, he understood what it meant to be disabled. But it was a definition others were imposing on him. He wondered: was he being discriminated against?

McElroy made an appointment to see Frank Golbransen, the orthopedic surgeon at UCSD. Once a top Army surgeon, the big ruddy Swede specialized in amputations. Golbransen passed him. As for the agility test, he’d already taken the test to get his job back.

He knew of no one who had to take the test a second time. But the chief was clear.
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The Federal Fire Service requires that all applicants for firefighting take the Physical Agilities Test. McElroy says some of the tests involved hoisting a fully charged (filled with water) 11” hose across his shoulders, running up to a 6-foot wall, tossing the hose over the wall, then climbing the wall and picking up the hose. Other challenges included carrying the charged hose while running toward and climbing a 30-foot ladder; while walking across a 10-foot-long, 6-inch-wide balance beam; and while running through a series of rubber tires.

In March, after an absence of more than six months, McElroy returned to the firehouse. In April he received medical approval to return to firefighting. In May he passed his first agility test. Now a fire room was set up for his second test.

McElroy remembers the asphalt was blistering hot on North Island that June afternoon. He wore his full firefighter gear with breathing apparatus and an oxygen tank on his back. He was carrying a two-inch fully charged hose (with one gallon of water weighing eight pounds, the hose weighed hundreds of pounds). He approached the building for what is called an “initial attack.”

McElroy says several fire officials were watching from a distance: a battalion chief, an assistant chief, a representative from the union (the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local No. F-33), and an engine captain who served as a proctor.

Who’s going in with me?” McElroy says, looking around.

Carrying the hose, he went into the building darkened to approximate a smoke-filled room (called “the black room”).

“I found the ‘victim,’ ” McElroy says he called out. “What do you want me to do?”

The “victim,” a dummy, had been hidden inside the room. In this test, the firefighter was expected to locate it and bring it out. The proctor, he said, told him to bring it out.

“What about the hose?”

“So bring that out too.”

He did it — and more.
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He “laddered” a building—usually a two-man job—pulling a 35-foot extension ladder off a truck and setting it up against a building.

He passed this second test (and with it was returned to active, full-time service). He also filed an EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity) complaint in which he argued that he’d been discriminated against. But federal employees, he learned, are not covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The judge threw his complaint out.

The next year, 1996, the Lions Clubs of San Diego voted McElroy Firefighter of the Year. He was also the country’s first one-legged professional firefighter as well as the only one-legged Infantry soldier in the Army Reserves.

“McElroy is so great.” Officer Peggy Anderson coordinates the DARE program (Drug Awareness, Resistance, and Education) run by the San Diego Police Department. Sixth graders are told the hazards of drug use. McElroy, a longtime volunteer for the program, is one of their most sought-after speakers.

“He stands up in front of these kids and their parents, and he tells them they can do anything they want, if they want. And they believe him.”

Anderson, blonde and petite in her police officer’s gear, recalled one woman who had been badly burned when she was young.

“She was at the DARE graduation with her son and heard McElroy speak. She was crying when she told me that afterwards she bought a pair of shorts and wore them. She was dealing with her feelings of shame about her legs. McElroy had helped to change her life.”

The work is important and reflects well on the department, says McElroy; that’s why he does it. But because he has been ordered to use his personal time when he speaks at DARE events, he feels he’s being penalized for his contribution.

Officer Anderson and others have sent letters of appreciation to the department. Letters of this sort routinely pass across the chief’s desk, where they’re affixed with an endorsement letter.

“But some of the letters,” said McElroy, “get to me after an eight-month delay. Sometimes there’s no endorsement letter. People tell me they’ve written letters, and sometimes I don’t get them.”

McElroy likes to say that being disabled means an inability to do what you were able to do before. He hasn’t found that to be true yet. Then he’ll lift his trouser cuff and expose the black sheath of his prosthetic limb. “But I know what it’s like to be black and to be discriminated against.”

The same year he was voted firefighter of the year, he requested promotion to engineer. He was denied. McElroy applied again and a third time. He was not invited to interview on either occasion.

Firemen who seek promotion are now required to hold the EMT (emergency medical technician) certificate. The chief sent word to the department that he wanted his people certified. McElroy was scheduled to take the first class offered, but a scheduling conflict with his Army Reserves weekends forced him to cancel.

McElroy says he was awaiting a reschedule when he learned that no more classes were being offered. Now to get certified (which entails enrollment in a three-credit, full semester’s class at a local junior college), he will have to pay for it himself and use his own time.

“I refused because by now it’s a matter of principle.” For two years the chief said new classes would be arranged for those who wanted to get certified. “I’m still waiting,” McElroy said.

In March, a 60 Minutes segment ran about people with disabilities. In it a priest with one arm said he’d found that people were often terrified of his disability. “Just looking at me,” he said, “having me around, reminded them that the world is an uncertain place. I scare them to death.”

Over the mantel in his living room, McElroy has hung a picture of Christ, white-robed and kneeling in the Garden of Gethsemane, deep in prayer, his hands are clenched as he looks up at a black night sky. The biblical account of this moment,
found in Matthew 26:39, reads, "And He went a little further, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will but as Thou wilt."

Twenty years ago, when he was serving as a Mormon missionary, McElroy wrote in his Bible, "If it’s to be, it’s up to me." He believes that today and shared his thoughts with his DARE audience at a recent speech he gave for students at Del Mar Hills Elementary School.

“We are explorers on this earth,” he said. “And we must never stop being explorers. If I had stopped, I would not have been able to open up new possibilities for others like myself...”

He laughs as he describes his speech that day, how he ended (as always) by asking for volunteers. He was wearing his “turn-outs,” the baggy trousers and jacket and boots firefighters wear. Underneath he wore his uniform.

“Now, no one knows about the amputation,” he says. “So I’m getting help out of my turn-outs — the jacket and trousers — while I’m talking about what I’ve been able to do, ‘Firefighter of the Year,’ and so forth. Then I ask for someone from the audience to help me take off my left boot. Always the left boot first. Somebody helps, and I get that off. Now, I’m still talking about being an explorer when that shoe comes off, and then I ask for help with my right shoe.

“Another kid comes up and he’s pulling and pulling on my right boot...”

And while he is struggling with the boot, McElroy secretly releases the leg.

“Not just the boot but the foot comes flying off, and the kid, he’s just standing there!” McElroy laughs. “...and if I had stopped being an explorer,” he always finishes while standing on one leg, “nobody would have ever thought somebody like me would be here today.”

In his cage, Paulie the green parakeet breaks into song.

— Jangchup Phelgyal

This story first appeared in the Reader on October 7, 1999
He opened his eyes, shut his eyes, saw only the thin sky stretched across to protect him. Slowly the split would occur, the sky draw back, and he would see what he never doubted lay behind advance upon him with the speed of a million winds...the roar of nothingness the spirit hears as it approaches the abyss and leans over.

— The Sheltering Sky, Paul Bowles

Boyer’s and Bailey’s bodies lay quiet in the sun; time hadn’t passed for muscles to stiffen, and limbs were still limp. Bailey — six or seven holes in his neck and torso — had gurgled “Dad” from his knees before he’d dropped. Boyer had uttered nothing.

Heat was sticky and reeked of raw death, so ponchos were brought and wrapped ‘round each to smother the mess; to beams robbed from splintered trees the lumpy cocoons were roped and hoisted dangling between reluctant shoulders. Evacuation began.

Four carriers manned each beam — two in front, two in back — and had to negotiate a descending trail. Their loads swayed back and forth awkwardly like deer carcasses. The carriers at the front of the beams had it toughest — dead weight’s always heavy — but downhill put it all on them. They stumbled over dips and bumps, tripped on rocks and roots, smashed their faces on branches, and sweated in the vaporous heat.

At one point a carrier slipped and his partner behind tripped backward; the beam fell hard against the partner’s shoulder, pinning something soft between — Boyer’s head. Pushing in revulsion, he thought of hamburger until he felt the ooze squeezing through his fingers drip on his face.

“...lasagna?”
“Chicken or lasagna?”
“Neither.”

She brings another drink and I look west over the wing at the remains of day; then scribble...’You’re back with the bodies,’ friend said; and he’s right. Perhaps it’s time to address the issue — if all goes as planned, there are people alive at this moment who I will soon encounter dead...

Finishing my drink and chewing the cubes and wondering at the approaching glow of San Diego, I think of the transience of life and its most unsettled wonder — when?

In a run-down house on Josselyn Avenue near East Oneida Street in Chula Vista, the bodies of Armando and Luis lay stinking in their own blood like day-old roadkill.

Deputy Medical Examiner Dr. John Eisele (forensic pathologist) and one M.E. investigator work behind homicide detectives and complete reports. No signs of struggle, but cause of death is pretty apparent: stucco of blood and gray matter is spattered across a wall.

One body lies on top of the other, both on backs, both faces up — if “faces” they can be called: 9mm slugs at close range pulverize facial bones and turn brain to pulp. Eisele and investigator — wearing rubber gloves and distant expressions — inspect and utter in primitive aphorism:

...entrance wounds in the face...at least two in immediate range...covered with blood, can’t tell...three exit wounds in the back of the head — Um...there’s three holes immediately behind his head...down on the baseboard, essentially — Um...nother hole about five feet up...above and to the right...has some hair on it...so...that’s one gone through a head...

Many hours after any regrets, a contracted crew of two arrives for pickup and delivery. Uniformed like carpet cleaners, they busy themselves tying plastic bags over the hands.

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now stiff as claws, the feet still shod, the heads turned fat as puffers. Then the fully dressed bodies themselves — cold inside their own crusted fluids — are picked up and moved like full canoes wobbling across some old river and passing into darkness...zipped...locked...sealed.

* * *
Office of the Medical Examiner — 5555 Overland Avenue, Building 14 — sits near a Taco Bell, just outside the barbed chain-link fence surrounding the rest of S.D. County Operations. Presenting a prefab and pebbled facade in the shape of an L, its appearance implies no crossing of the Styx. Neither does a step through the front door.

It is eight a.m. (half a day after Chula Vista). Assembled at a table in the Conference Room are four forensic pathologists (plus one in training) and three technical specialists (toxicologist, investigator, autopsy assistant). On the walls hang certificates and plaques and photo-recognition, including the fiery image of PSA Flight 182 "screaming" in blue sky. Investigator Calvin ("Cal") Vine slides me a piece of paper and whispers, "Here's the morning menu."

"Um...there's a bullet beneath the shoulder —" Dr. Eisele explains "— so we thought we had it figured out with one of the bullets hitting the wall and bouncing out. And maybe two came out one hole, you know...the exits were grouped."

Dr. Blackbourne (head of the table and opposite Cal) nods. Somebody else clicks a pen. Dr. Davis (who looks like John-Boy Walton) speaks in a Tennessee accent: "Whether it's related or not, but...that case from Chula Vista that I did a week or so ago...um...the police said...it's a 35-year-old German..." — more spies. — working on some kind of...says here 'Exchange Visitor's Facilita-
tive Staff.' Anyway, he'd use cyanide — " — wouldn't you know he'd use cyanide — " — basic...working on some kind of...says here 'Ex-
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They could not resuscitate him. “Apparently anything that makes you a driving risk is reportable by the doctor. But how many people have angina and are driving all over town?”

“Or can’t see?” adds Davis. “When I was in ophthalmology clinic I was stunned. It’s just incredible the number of people who couldn’t see. They’d say, ‘You gotta hurry up ‘cause I’m double-parked.’”

Dr. Leena K. Jariwala is an East Indian woman no more than five feet tall. From time to time she has made indiscernible soft comments in an accented voice.

“Sixteen-years-old Cambodian student here in the United States since 1983 and living with his family. Fourteenth March the decedent had been a passenger in a Jeep stopped in traffic near mid-span on the Coronado Bay Bridge and the vehicle contained several young persons who related he had been a passenger in the water last night. “”Two off the bridge in one day... unusual —”

— boy jumped a while ago —”

— doesn’t help to get stuck in traffic —”

— in the right lane....”

— You’re going to do the homicides, John?” asks Swalwell.

“He’s ninety o’-clock, Dr. Eisele?” asks the autopsy assistant. “You want me to call? Make sure?”

“They’re probably on their way.”

“Prob’ly leavin’ the donut shop.”

Each step was a struggle for balance. A bloody slime on his hands had made the beam slippery, and flies had begun swirling and striking like mosquitoes at his eyes and mouth and anywhere the slime had smeared. And the poncho intensified heat and accelerated decomposition until the odor of something freshly gutted had pervaded into something more liquid-like and sulphurous that coated his tongue and lined his nostrils. “God! he’s rotting inside!” Then the rope securing Boyer’s head came untied and the meat hit the floor — and everyone turned ‘round swearing as the one smeared

*   *   *

He jumped out of the vehicle and jumped over the rail to the rail and looked into the water for the decedent, who was found seven days later... unusual —”

in the water for the decedent, who was found seven days later... unusual —”

... as the Jeep came to a stop, the decedent said, ‘Now you will never see me again...’

They couldn’t see. They’d say, ‘You gotta hurry up ‘cause I’m double-parked.’”

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When I was in ophthalmology clinic I was stunned. It’s just incredible the number of people who couldn’t see. They’d say, ‘You gotta hurry up ‘cause I’m double-parked.’”

Dr. Eisele shares a similar case. “Forty-one-year-old executive, divorced and severely depressed as a result of it. Car found abandoned one day... unusual —”

in the water for the decedent, who was found seven days later... unusual —”

in the water for the decedent, who was found seven days later... unusual —”

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*   *   *

Jariwala reads verbatim, staring straight ahead. “I found Dr. Sarosy and his staff. Wonderful people!!”

— Patty S., El Cajon

“I found Dr. Sarosy and his team to be the most professional and warm, compassionate people. Thank you, everyone!”

— Carmen P., San Diego

— Patty S., El Cajon

“I found Dr. Sarosy and his team to be the most professional and warm, compassionate people. Thank you, everyone!”

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— Patty S., El Cajon

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— Carmen P., San Diego

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Cal just said: "Everything's sitter around lookin' at each other, waitin' for somebody to die. Isn't that terrible?"

...all day been here grossin' myself out with books. Cal says: 'Very, very seldom do we get nothing... but NOTHING is exactly what we got — YOU'RE WELCOME! San Diegans...

...feel ambivalent 'cause of just what it is I'm waiting around here to see happen. Can you grasp? For me to see what I want — SOMEBODY has to die. Isn't that terrible?'

I follow Mauger's big frame out the door. "...somebody drove..."

"We don't know. Talked to the parents one night. Why people don't re-turn their seat... " Mauger grunts, squeezing behind the wheel. "...somebody drove this thing today."

"This a boating accident?"

"We don't know. Talled to the parents one night. When that arm and some other piece floated up, they swore, by God, it was their son. And they adamantly insisted that they be allowed to come to our office and have a look. And they were... But there were no tattoos or anything."

"He had no tattoos?"

"Nothing on the arm, nothing that..."

"I mean, their son?"

"Yeah..."

I wonder where we're going, exactly. "Where we're going is one of the finer restaurants in the area insofar as scenic view. When the ocean gets real rough, the waves bounce against the glass of the dining room. You're not from this area, are you?"

I aside briefly about a distant place near some glaciated peaks. "That's a ways away," he says. "What's in our office that tickles your fancy?"

It's hard to explain, but I try. "I know what you mean. The idea of just sitting around waiting for somebody to die isn't the job you'd, like, say, get up in the morning and go, 'Hot dam! It's Tuesday, what a beautiful day!' This is work. And you don't work unless it's a death. It can be very tragic, really tear your —"

A white van with satellite antenna merges into traffic. "Hope television isn't nada..."

"Oh."

...keep at bay on the fringe. Mauger.

Members of a fancy wedding reception crowd the darkened windows behind us. An officer approaches us. "Is that a death?" "Yes."

...laser reception crowd the hall. "Some people are lookin' everywher..."

...one of the finer restaurants we're going to. Mauger...

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“Coroner’s here”— and orders a crew for pickup. Mauger reaches into his bag of tools — “Guess I’ll take the picture now”— walks ten paces and focuses on the clump of cardboard. Click.

Now I notice the crawling things and dancing flies...broken femur shafts...chunk of vertebral column...rotting meat.

Pretty people in jogging suits try to get close. Looking “official”(coat,tie, proper shades) and acting the part (“Go around, please... Tryin’ to keep this area clear, ma’am’’), I am inevitably stalked by a woman reminding me of Barbara Walters.

“I’m not here officially, ma’am...”

She sniffs a “scoop” and succeeds in “squeezing” a few “tidbits” from my lips as camera crews zoom on pickup and delivery while the wad of flesh and bone is rolled into the zippered white bag.

Throwing his gear and slamming the trunk, Mauger escapes a last reporter and grunts himself back into the car.

“She’s a very pushy lady,” he says. “Get a kick out of watchin’ these people where there is somethin’ newsworthy,” he chuckles, “way they muscle each other. Their tricks are unlimited. Few of us interview. Guess I can’t really say why, except I don’t need any publicity.”

As we pull out, I note the removal crew’s van (like the car we’re in) is unmarked. “All our vehicles are low-profile, and that’s what I like.”

Mauger is not by nature aloof; returning over back roads and avoiding rush-hour traffic, he is at ease sharing his world at work. How’s his rapport, I ask, with homicide detectives?

“You know, at one time we used to be a big group of friends. They never rotated, and stability in our office was unbelievable. Every time you went to a homicide scene it was almost like a reunion — Hi, Bill; Hi, Everett — tease each other. Sometimes humor’s expressed. Now I go to a homicide and I feel like the stranger in town. Weird.”

But part of an investigator’s business, he explains, is to know when (and when not) homicide needs to be involved. “Had one last week I sweat bullets over. We f-
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Thoughts are washed down with a Coors Light at top of Horton Plaza. I’d left word for night-shift investigator Robert Engle to call my hotel if anything happens. Still, I had to eat. Barman sets a basket of hot buffalo wings beside my change. On the big screen Michigan scores a three-pointer and a drunk bellows. I finish the wings and wipe the sticky red stuff off my fingers. Time to leave. Driving up First Avenue, I glimpse the illuminated body of an airliner descend soundlessly from nowhere and vanish like some ghost ship loaded full of snatched lives. I could sense someone had died. Back in my room, I see the phone light pulsing like a heart.

Eight a.m., next day.

“I think this is the same number of that arm and leg,” Dr. Davis says, holding Mauger’s report. “So I presume that this is more parts.”

“This must be the torso on the news last night.”

“Is there a head?”

“Newspaper just said torso.”

“Pretty hard to identify a torso,” says Dr. Blackbourne.

“How has the mom called yet?”

“Mom...” says Dr. Super. “The torso’s mom!”

“The arm ‘n’ leg’s mom.”

“Her missing son’s car was found in La Jolla.”

“The leg looked like it had a propeller mark,” Davis adds, “but if predators are pulling the body apart or whatever —”

“— he’s coming back in parts.”

Blackbourne rubs his cheek. “It’s unusual for the way bodies float. Usually their extremities are down, and propellers going over the top —”

“— aren’t dicing ‘em up like sushi.”

“No. Unless he’s actually swimming. If he’s got his arm and leg out when a boat’s crossing —”

“— or boat hits you first...”

“Exactly. Forget about normal orientations, you’re tumbling underneath the keel.”

A moment passes. Dr. Blackbourne’s hands and fingers are locked together like a church, the tip of his steeple slowly tapping his stand.”

Obesity is a terrible disease. Sometimes it hurts to move. In addition to the anguish of trying to exist in a weight obsessed culture, the health risks associated with morbid obesity are staggering—diabetes, arthritis, certain cancers, cholesterol and high blood pressure, serious heart and lung problems, heartburn and reflux. I know the pain, the frustration, the despair of obesity. I lived in fear for my life and my future. I prayed that somehow the burden of morbid obesity could be lifted from my body and my spirit. The decision to have surgery changed my life forever.

I’m now in control of what I eat instead of food controlling me. Dr. Wittgrove performed the first laparoscopic bypass in the world and has since helped thousands just like me. If you are 100 pounds or more overweight, he and his team of bariatric experts can help you regain your first laparoscopic bypass in the world and has since helped thousands just like me. If you are I’m now in control of what I eat instead of food controlling me. Dr. Wittgrove performed the first laparoscopic bypass in the world and has since helped thousands just like me. If you are 100 pounds or more overweight, he and his team of bariatric experts can help you regain your first laparoscopic bypass in the world and has since helped thousands just like me. If you are 100 pounds or more overweight, he and his team of bariatric experts can help you regain your first laparoscopic bypass in the world and has since helped thousands just like me. If you are 100 pounds or more overweight, he and his team of bariatric experts can help you regain your
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Lips. Then he looks to Davis, who holds, I know, Engle’s report.

“Okay, Dr. Davis.”

“This person is a 29-year-old Hispanic woman and homemaker. She and her boyfriend were driving along Orange Avenue in San Diego about ten o’clock last night when at the 4500 block a 1988 Jeep Cherokee shot out of an alley and collided with the driver’s side of their car. The jeep was stolen. The force of the collision knocked the driver’s seat and the driver — her boyfriend — backwards into the rear compartment and the decedent was thrown across the seat of the driver’s side and her head impacted the front of the jeep. The driver of the Jeep fled the scene, and the officer said it looked as if both victims were wearing their seat belts. She went to Mercy Hospital and lived for about one hour.”

“How’s he?”

Gregory G. Davis, MD, looks so young it’s hard to believe he’s a real doctor. Here, however, his official title is “Fellow” — the designation given candidates in their final year (atop four years’ medical school and five more pathology residency) of education required to be a forensic pathologist. Davis is 31.

“This is where we all split, go to our respective offices, think for a few minutes, do whatever it is we need to do to get ready, and then wander back and do our autopsies.”

His youth and conviction are my access. In the others I sense an immunity to my presence. An autopsy assistant dressed in blue surgical garb approaches Davis with a question. Davis replies, “I’ll do him first, if that’s all right with you. And then the other one, I guess, in the stinky room.” Assistant leaves. Stinky room? I ask.

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but some of them go for years. And what will happen is the bacteria can seed and start growing on that valve. So now you’ve got this one valve with this big mass on it, and it doesn’t function very effectively. That’s a vegetation.

That’s not the technical term, is it?

“Well, most people are probably familiar with endocarditis, but for us ‘vegetations’ is a technical term. See, pathology is a visual field: we look at things, we describe things, and then we give them names. And to recognize things and to be able to talk to one another about it, we liken it to whatever we can. Something might look like moss, for example, so it’s called a vegetation. And other parts of the body are in some way related to food, like, ‘chocolate cyst’ — it has the coloring and consistency of chocolate. And a lot of food is also meat; it looks like what we eat.”

Davis says he realized early in his training that he wasn’t cut out for traditional medicine. “I was particularly frustrated by patients who would come to me and say, ‘I’ve got this diabetes and I’d really like to get rid of it.’ And then I’d say, ‘Well, lose 20 pounds and start exercising and chances are you’ll be completely cured.’ They’d say, ‘Oh, no, I can’t do that.’ Some people can handle that. I didn’t care for it. But I liked the lab. I liked that branch of medicine. And in pathology I enjoyed doing autopsies. However, I didn’t think I’d enjoy the medical examiner’s office.

Before that first day, you know, I thought child-abuse cases and such would be too disturbing. They aren’t. It’s still sad. And on days when we have those cases, it’s quieter in the back than what it usually is. And the idea that somebody, yesterday, was alive and walking, that today they’re dead, the brevity of life — I think of that every time I do an autopsy. And yet I can handle that. Can’t handle the patient who won’t heed common sense, for some reason, but I can handle that. Like these two guys I have today — they are my patients. And they do exactly what I tell ‘em to.”

*   *   *

“Kennedy’s autopsy was not
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“As you heard, an arm and a leg washed up on La Jolla Shores ten days ago — that was all. And the arm and the leg had been in the water long enough that the fingerprints were mostly gone. So we didn’t have a lot to go on as far as identification — can’t tell whether it’s male or female on the basis of an arm or a leg. When they get tumbled in the surf, the sand grinds them just as sandpaper would.”

Davis manipulates the shattered bones and skinless muscles into an approximation of original arrangement. “This is someone’s pelvis,” he explains. “Here: this is the sacrum, your tailbone...and these are your femurs, the thigh bones. And they’ve been broken, of course. If you actually run your hand over the edges...”

“I touch it —”

“The end is jagged but smooth. I don’t think they bled in the water long enough that the skin was torn. It’s been tumbled in the water long enough that it’s been sanded smooth. I don’t think they were cut.”

Nobody saved him up? “Probably not.” If bones are fractured and fish nibble, then the legs could fall off?

“Exactly. Once you die, you’re fodder. And they don’t just casually eat. Sharks wouldn’t be interested in this, but predators tug and pull apart and take their piece home with ‘em. So that would happen to this person as well.”

I recognize that the lumbar section of the spinal column is scarcely connected by a few strands of tissue. Davis starts to put it together. “So this goes...and see, it’s actually attached — no, this is anterior, it’s going to sit up here like this...there: that’s him. The way he’s supposed to be. If it is a him.”

Can you tell by the pelvis if it’s male or female? “Yes, you can. If you’re good. I haven’t had much experience in that yet. But the male pelvis is narrower, a female larger. So...you put this back together...that...is pretty narrow. A female’s tends to lay out more like...” he spreads...
the disarticulated pelvic bones...that: kind of like a bowl, see? You could cup something in that; whereas with a male — like this, see — it's just going to slide off. Actually, we're missing part of the pelvis. The front part. But it still seems to me that that's narrow. I really think this is a male.

Long ago, I too wanted to be a doctor; and in that world I participated in the dissection of two cadavers. Eager to convey my knowledge, I ask, "Where's the greater trochanter?"

"Ah, if you put your thumb in here...

(And, like Jack Horner—)

"...you can feel it. Feel that knot?"

Yeah.

"That's it... But the thing that we need to do — since we just found this and really don't know what's goin' on — is look for any injuries that we would really understand, like a gunshot wound. Or make sure there is no bullet buried in all this tissue. The best way to do that is to take an X-ray. The detectives are going to come in a little bit and take some photographs. They'll do an abbreviated workup, not what they usually do. They don't know that it was a homicide, but they would make the head to wash up a week later with bullet holes in it."

"Nausea. You'll throw up a hundred times a day. You'll crap all over yourself, you'll piss all over yourself, you can't even get out of bed, you don't care... you don't care. You can't eat. You can't swallow anything, because you have mouth sores so bad. It's just constant, constant... misery. And there were a couple times I was questioning, 'Do I want to continue? This is bullshit. This is really bullshit.' And I thought about..."

Frank Barnhart — MEO's intern supervising toxicologist — has twice survived lymphoma and toxicology — has twice stopped at that point and said, 'Okay, it's negative.' Instead we said, 'You know, there's some reason why that first screen reaction was slightly pink.'

A doctor from the East Coast brought his female companion out here a couple years ago for a high school reunion. Early one morning he places a 911 call, after having sex with his girlfriend got up, went into the bathroom, and boom — collapsed. We send investi-gators, and they can't find a cause of death. Maybe some arrhythmia, something congenital — must be, 'cause she's young.

"Well, the pathologist orders a total toxicology — a general toxicology screen — which is the most comprehensive thing we do. And what was interesting is that essentially the whole toxicology panel was negative, except the screen for chloral hydrate — the old 'mickey' they used to slip in drinks back in the '30s and '40s. It's a sedative, hypnotic, but not used much any-

more. It was still in our panel. But then, even though we got a slight reaction for that, when we did the con-firmatory reaction for TCE — by-product of chloral hydrate — it was negative. We could've just stopped at that point and said, 'Okay, it's negative.' Instead we said, 'You know, there's some reason why that first screen reaction was slightly pink.'

"And to make a long story short, that led to one of our toxicologists doing some more work with that sample on the gas chromatographic. And he determined that there was chloral hydrate present. We ended up tak-ing the blood and the brain and the lung and all these different matrices, and we demonstrated not only the amount but qualitatively — there was in fact chloral hydrate present. Ultimately there was a full-scale investigation that ended with this guy, this doc-

tor, being convicted of murder of his girlfriend — in-tending to render her unconscious and rape her — with a rag of chloral hydrate stuck in her face."

Dead babies. One after the other — white one, black one, brown ones — flash on the wall. Dr. Brian D. Blackbourne (San Diego County's Medical Examiner) shares his slides.

"Ten-month-old, perfectly healthy baby... baby... if chubby's healthy, it's very healthy — not a mark on him, not a scratch, not a nostril... we could autopsies that kid for a hundred years and not de-
termine the cause of death. Cause of death is determined in the investigation. Child was found face down on a couch that'd been covered with plast-
ic for protection and had ap-
parently asphyxiated from the plastic."

"The fire hazard: those bags from the cleaners fre-
cently collect on the floor of a clothes closet..."

Click... (oh, my God)

"This little boy was four years old and he'd gotten a good spanking for playing with matches so the next time he wants to play with matches — he hides in mother's closet. It burns his fingers and he drops it on these things on the floor... the flames advanced so fast the mother couldn't even get into the bedroom."

Click...

"Baby drowns in bath-tub, ten-month-old. Children under two years of age should never be left unat-tended in a bath, even for a few moments. It only takes a split second for a baby with water in his lungs. The baby may be revived, but damage to the lungs is so severe the child may die later on. We have a bunch of these, and usually it's the telephone rings or sometimes the front doorbell. What's even worse..."

Click...(ah, Jesus)

"...is when they turn on the hot water. A mother of five children — a five-year-old, a four-year-old, a three-year-old, and the two ten-month-old twins — finds that she needs to get some-
ing from the grocery store that's just a block down the street. What does she do? She puts the twins in the playpen in the house; the other three kids are playing in the yard.
She goes out and blocks the front door with a chair, tells the three kids, ‘Don’t go in the house, don’t play with the twins.’ Simple instructions. What’s the five-year-old do? He goes in the house and decides to give the twins a bath. Right? So, he puts them in the tub and turns on the water and they start to scream. And in his five-year-old mind, he doesn’t know why. You know, all his neurons aren’t connected yet. But he does remember that Mother told him, ‘If anything happens when I’m not home, go next door and get the neighbor.’ So he runs next door, gets the neighbor. ‘So he runs to say, ‘What is an autopsy?’ See? Well, pathology is that part of the large field of medicine that deals with the diagnosis of disease. Most pathologists work in a hospital where they examine tissue removed in surgery — to diagnose, say, whether it’s cancer or not — and they perform autopsies on persons who die in the hospital of natural disease. ‘Forensic pathology is a sub-specialty of that. And it deals very explicitly with the medical examiner’s office, where — utilizing autopsy techniques, laboratory techniques, X-ray, the history brought in by the investigators, the clinical chemistry of these different things — we bring them all together to determine the cause of a person’s death and the circumstances surrounding it. Because we also fill out the death certificate, and we’re the ones who specify the manner — whether that be homicide, suicide, accident, natural, or undetermined.”

“Forensics,” he explains, “is a rather broad word with many uses. My definition — I might as well give it to you — whenever I go to court they ask, ‘What is pathology? What is forensic pathology? What is an autopsy?’ See? Well, pathology is that part of the large field of medicine that deals with the diagnosis of disease. Most pathologists work in a hospital where they examine tissue removed in surgery — to diagnose, say, whether it’s cancer or not — and they perform autopsies on persons who die in the hospital of natural disease. ‘Forensic pathology is a sub-specialty of that. And it deals very explicitly with the medical examiner’s office, where — utilizing autopsy techniques, laboratory techniques, X-ray, the history brought in by the investigators, the clinical chemistry of these different things — we bring them all together to determine the cause of a person’s death and the circumstances surrounding it. Because we also fill out the death certificate, and we’re the ones who specify the manner — whether that be homicide, suicide, accident, natural, or undetermined.”

“Now, autopsy is an examination. Note: examination — it’s the key word — both external and internal examination of the body of a deceased person for the purpose of documenting natural disease, documenting injuries, and determining the cause of that person’s death. Now, notice that I’ve not used the term dissection, which is what lay people think that ‘autopsy’ is a dissection. The dissection is incidental to our making the internal examination. And that is a major hurdle to understanding what an autopsy is. Lay people get hung up on the dissection and don’t see that this is a medical procedure. We’re examining the...”
It's a subtle point, particularly when it comes to matters of what an autopsy is. It's a point that Dr. Jariwala speaks about in his work with cadavers. He discusses how it's not the dissection itself that he does, but rather the understanding of the higher intellectual point of what an autopsy is. And you know why? Because it needs a very special type of person to put up with such a task. It's not the dissection — it's the understanding of the intellectual point of what an autopsy is.

"People should be given special consideration who work in this place. If you should go by minutes and hours the county pays, none of us would be working here in this place, I, as a medical doctor, would be making three times more than I am now. Easy. But it's something I chose to do. Everybody you talk to seems to worry about, you know, that we're dealing with death. We never get any recognition," she laughs, sort of. "Oh, 'You're a doctor that's diagnosed cancer!' We don't get any kind of that feedback. We're talking about death. Nobody is going to say, 'Outstanding autopsy on my son.' That just doesn't happen.

"Sometimes they even become hysterical and try to attack. Real cases here. Sometimes they come and they want to kill you for telling, for giving this news. Oh, yeah. You never anticipate how they gonna react. Even on the phone. 'You cut his dead body! You cut my son! My three-month-old! We don't want even a single scratch and you cut my baby!' How could you do that? Because there is such a denial to accept that kid is dead. Very difficult for them to accept the death of this little kid."

It is difficult, I wonder, when little ones come in dead from abuse — scalded or whatever — to contain one's emotions. Especially with children. You do. You don't wanna be, but psychologically you do. When you see so much trauma on the child, you wonder how did somebody — especially sexual assault with three-month and half-month — how possibly could somebody do this? What did he gain by doing this? How did he do it? Why did he do it? That bothers me more.

"And then, when you go and testify and they have a prima suspect, you would never believe this is the person who did this? He doesn't look any different than me and you. Yeah. That's shocking. This guy did that? This type of people, you sit with them in the restaurant, you are in the movie next to this guy, you talk to them. You never know. That bothers me. We leave our kids with the baby sitter, you leave them in the school with the teachers, Who can you trust?

"So you can't take anything home. If you do, you will never get married, never have children, you never drive," she laughs. "Never work, never drink, never eat. I mean: hypertension, obesity, diabetes, suicides, homicides, drive-by shootings. You won't do anything in this life. When I leave this place, I don't take anything home except my paycheck.

Three hours to catch a plane, I join the "whole crew" — doctors, chemists, technicians, investigators, secretaries — jammed (as many as possible) inside the Conference Room. The table is spread with an array of home cooking in honor of an office lady retiring. Even those on their day off — Mauger, for one — have dropped by to say their goodbyes. Except for one autopsy assistant still in his "blues," this might be anybody's melancholy reunion.

Due to the "lousy budget problem" (I'd heard quite a bit about that), retirements are no longer replaced. Office staff has reduced by two, one pathologist just packed his bags, supervisors Vine and Barrhart combined do the work of four, 'the Back' is now closed after midnight (in spite of San Diego County's ever-increasing "unnatural" death count) — thus, the tone of this banquet seems less picnic than requiem. The "gone" are just that...gone.

Balancing a plated plate on my knees, a chicken drumstick in hand, I sit beside Investigator David B. Lodge and take a wild guess: "You Army or Navy?"

"Navy," he says. "Hospital corpsman."

"— like Cal. Workin' for Shootin' Affairs in Vietnam. Yeah. Cal was tellin' me about ya, said you were on his ship. Had some pretty serious injuries." Yeah.

"Well, war is very horrible. It's no two ways about it. I'd seen a number of dead bodies before, you know, I ever had this job. So it wasn't new. Although, to be honest with ya, there's no comparison to between the wartime situation 'n what you see out in these streets. I mean, there's some comparison, but usually you're dealin' with relatively fresh bodies in a combat situation. Since I been in this job, you see guys just basically shattered, their entire body just spread all over the highway. That's really what it amounts to."

I point to the picture-plaque of doomed PSA Flight 182 and ask Lodge if he was here for that.

"Oh, yeah. I'd only been here about six months."

How was this small office able to handle all those bodies?

"Oh, we had a lot of help. Police department was on there, Red Cross, guys from the Navy, Explorer Scouts, probly mortuaries pitched in and helped us out. All kinds o' people from the inner city — manager and everybody else got involved. It certainly wasn't just a one-shop operation. And o' course had the fire department out there too. A lot of the job was basically gettin' the junk and trash off the body so we could get to the body. Or the parts. Lot of it, 'course, just collecting pieces. They were — God — lot o' pieces all over the place. I had to climb on roofs there to get the pieces they wanted. At first the fire department was helping us with that. Then I guess they decided they, well, couldn't take it anymore. So..."

...you got to do it. "So I got to do it."

— Ray Westberg

This story originally ran in the Reader on August 11, 1994
**LETTERS**
*continued from page 1*

others might recognize the other needs Smith cites. After all, enough people clamored for a ballpark to make it a reality. Why can’t the same happen for theaters?

Kristina Meek
via e-mail

**Diva Hope**

I was just looking at this week’s Reader (Decem-ber 30), and I noticed that there’s no “Diary of a Diva” or “Crasher” in it, and I was, like, oh, I hope it’s not gone. I’m sure it’s not — maybe this is just a special issue without them. But I certainly hope that when I pick up next week’s Reader that I’ll find both of my favorite Reader columnists in there.

Krista Bruce

**Ridiculous Spelling**

This concerns Jay Allen Sanford’s cartoon in “Blurt” of the December 30 Reader. His cartoons are funny, but for Pete’s sake, why don’t some of you people check his spelling and punctuation? Some of it is ridiculous. I’m talking about two things in the cartoon for this issue. In the last panel, “If only all drunks planned ahead like you,” he has planned, which is one syllable, hyphenated: plan- ned at the second of the second line and then next at the third line. That would be pronounced planned, and we haven’t spoken English like that since the Middle Ages. Planned has been one syllable for several centuries. In the second panel, he has b u n - on one line and ted on the next line. You don’t hyphenate b u n -; you hyphenate it as b u n -ed. It’s the past participle of bun-; in verbs like that, that’s the way you hyphenate them. And the other one, planned, you don’t hyphenate at all; it’s only one syllable.

Name Withheld

**Unethical Sheep**

Several weeks ago (Novem-ber 24), your editor of “Sheep and Goats,” Drew Goodman-son, visited our evening ser-vices, Vertex (First Baptist Church, Coronado). While his article in your paper was fairly presented, we were unaware that (1) he is a pas-tor himself and (2) he would take that information, plus off-the-record information, and post it on another website and recommend that people not attend our church (see www.sandiegochurches.org).

I find it highly unethical that you would hire a pastor to judge churches with his own church as the standard. Also, I find it highly unethical that he would take information gained by rep-re-senting you and then post it on his website, where his own church gets the highest rating.

Larry Hamblen
Pastor
First Baptist Church, Coronado

Drew Goodmanson responds: I raised these same concerns when I first was approached by the Reader to write church reviews. My hope is to offer an educated perspective because I am an elder at a church. As you said, my article in the paper was fairly presented. If I misrepresent a church, I’ll encourage people to write letters to correct any false rep-re-sentation I make. As for www.sandiegochurches.org, I believe we’ve resolved this since you and I have spoken.

The reviews on this site are done by a group of pastors who view the Bible, not our churches, as the standard.

**Positive Flight**

I would like to thank Matt Potter for raising public awareness about Fly into the Future, a recent publication of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, in his November 24, 2004, “City Lights” column. Distributed in local newspapers throughout the San Diego region and in the terminals at San Diego International Airport, the publication is designed to educate and in-form the public about the region’s long-term air trans-portation needs. The airport authority has received many positive responses from readers of Fly into the Future; many have submitted questions to gain further information about the impor-tant issues it covers.

Less than two years from now, in November 2006, San Diego County voters will weigh in on one of the most important issues in the county’s history: the airport site selection ballot measure. The Fly into the Future publication is part of a comprehensive approach by the airport authority to provide open and thorough communication of useful information so the voting public can make a well-in- formed decision in 2006. Other public education and outreach initiatives include quarterly aviation education forums, a speakers’ bureau, and the airport site selection website at www.san.org.

I would like to clarify an issue regarding my salary raised by Mr. Potter in his column. He wrote that the airport authority board gave me a performance bonus “in closed session.” In fact, at the September 2004 public meeting of the airport authority board, the board discussed my work performance in closed session and then returned to open session for a board motion and approval of my bonus. This is in accordance with California state open meet- ings laws, as spelled out in the Brown Act.

Thella F. Bowens
President/CEO
San Diego County Regional Airport Authority

**Offensive Items**

I just read “Crasher” about the Hanukkah party (De-cember 16), and I counted at least five offensive items.

I usually enjoy this column, but if making fun of reli-gion is what he’s resorted to writing about, I’ll discon-tinue reading.

Judith Carlstad

**Column Discomfort**

I would like to comment on “T.G.I.F.,” December 16. The column width is uncomfortable to read. The first column on the left is an inch and three-quarters wide, which is comfortable to read. But then the next column is three and five-eighths inches wide, which is very uncomfort-able to read. It’s hard to track all the way across from the left end to the right end. Then the last col-umn is also three and five-eighths. A book has a line that’s maybe five and a half inches wide, but I think the difference is the book has a larger type. It’s not difficult to read a long line in a book because the print is bigger. Interesting article, but I don’t care for the layout.

Name Withheld

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CABARET DANCES The San Diego Museum of Art hosts choreographers, including Jean Isaacs, who turns Bizet’s Carmen into Car Men (and the Women Who Love Them). See DANCE, page 89

THE MALE INTELLECT: AN OXYMORON Theatre in Old Town invests in an extended run with a multi-character comedy starring Robert Dubac. Previews tonight, opens tomorrow, continues...indefinitely. See THEATER, page 102

JANET COOLING, SDSU professor of art, picks up her brush and shows her talent. “Painting Like Dolly Parton,” opens tonight with a reception at Simayspace @ ACI (Art College International).” See GALLERIES, page 98

BORREGO TO THE SALTON SEA Two bicycle rides (50K is flat, 100K rolls) depart at 8:30 a.m., 7:30 a.m. registration. Imagine the contrasting topography. See SPORTS, page 92

LEMON GROVE HISTORIC SITE TOUR The self-guided tour offers five addresses, five architectural styles. See SPECIAL, page 92

TORMÉ SINGS TORMÉ “Second-generation talent can be hit or miss. You can hit yourself if you miss this one.” (New York Times) Now you know: Steve March Tormé sings his dad’s songs at the East County Performing Arts Center. See IN PERSON, page 91

SAN DIEGO BOAT SHOW It’s on water, it’s on land. It’s the closest you’ll get to a yacht in your lifetime. Ends today. See SPECIAL, page 92


TALL SHIPS The procession starts at 1:00 p.m. on San Diego Bay as Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain meet the Lynx. See SPECIAL, page 92

CHINESE CULTURAL GARDENS Eric Gronborg, founding member of the San Diego Horticultural Society, talks about his trips to Asia’s gardens at the next meeting. See LECTURES, page 90

Best Bets Calendar January 6–12

Local Events page 85 | Art Museums & Galleries page 97 | Classical Music page 99
Theater page 100 | Pop Music page 104 | Restaurants page 126 | Movies page 137
She Left Her Hair In the Bushes

Trail Guides Training

When Bill Howell and Judy Alvarez team up to take visitors on hikes in Mission Trails Regional Park, they have the group look on the path for stink beetle butts. That allows Howell to talk about the grasshopper mouse, the only mammal that can stand getting near the bug. The mouse attacks from the front, according to Howell, biting the stink beetle’s head off and shoving its butt into the ground. Its rear end buried, the beetle cannot release the foul-smelling ooze for which it is infamous.

On the trail, Alvarez explains to hikers that the Kumeyaay people, who are native to what is now San Diego County, believe that if a woman does not get a ritual chin tattoo before she dies, during the afterlife she will wander the earth with her butt raised like the stink beetle’s. Alvarez learned of the belief from Florence Shipek’s edition of the autobiography of Kumeyaay woman Delfina Cuero (1900–1972).

Howell and Alvarez instruct volunteers in a training course for unpaid trail guide recruits given each winter by the city of San Diego’s Mission Trails Regional Park. No experience is required of participants. This year the classes will take place on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings for ten weeks starting January 8. They will cover the Mission Trails region’s history, geology, botany, zoology, and ecology.

With over 6000 acres, according to park ranger Luanne Barrett, Mission Trails Regional Park is the largest open-space urban park in the continental United States. Formerly Camp Elliot, the World War II Marine Corps training center, the park is located on both sides of the San Diego River between the Fortuna Peaks to the north and Kwaay Paay Mountain (next to Cowles Mountain) to the south. “The river,” says Barrett, “carved its path out of the area between the mountains.” She names five distinct habitats present in the park, grasslands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, riparian waterway, and oak woodlands. The park has 24 hiking trails and 40 to 50 active trail guides. “Our guides are everything from biologists to grandmothers,” says Barrett. Cut into the rocks at two sites by the river are “depressions three inches deep and six inches long, where the Kumeyaay ground their acorns as far back as 10,000 years,” says Barrett. Spanish missionaries left their own traces in the area with the Old Mission Dam and a six-mile flume that carried the water to the San Diego Mission. The dam is now a California historical landmark.

The 2003 Cedar Fire destroyed nearly 60 percent of Mission Trails Park on the Tierrasanta side. “But as dramatic as the fire damage was,” says Barrett, “the recovery is equally dramatic. And the river stopped it from spreading south.” The vegetation in the burn areas is lush again, she says, and the wildlife is back, including a healthy deer population, plenty of foxes and raccoons, and an occasional golden eagle.

I ask trainer Howell what distinguishes a riparian streamside environment. “Lots of willow, sycamore, and cottonwood trees,” he says. A paved loop from the visitors center and observatory in Mission Trails Park takes hikers along the San Diego River and back. “But you can’t cover the whole length of river in the park on account of thick brush and lots of poison oak on its banks,” explains Howell.

The chaparral in the park is likely to be noteworthy this year, according to Howell, especially if the weather continues to be wet. “With all the attention we give to sequoias and redwoods in this state, it’s rare to celebrate chaparral, which looks drab most of the year. But the hills are already starting to lavendar up with ceanothus, or California lilac, though it’s not a true lilac and half of them are white.”

Howell notes that Mission Trails is home to an endangered species of lizard called the orange-throated whiptail. But another endangered species, San Diego ragweed, which is found in grasslands east of the park’s Kumeyaay Campground, amuses him. “It’s a cousin of western ragweed,” says Howell, “which loves human mucous membranes, causing lots of allergies.”

Dodder, or witch’s hair, is plentiful in the park. An orange parasite on other plants, it doesn’t photosynthesize, says Howell, and sinks its roots into other plants instead of the ground. Its origins, according to Kumeyaay legend, go back to a woman who failed in her assignment to guard an encampment. As she ran away in fear, some of her hair was snagged in the bushes.

When Mission Trails opened in the early 1990s, observes Howell, modern-day Kumeyaays named the mountain to its south Kwaay Paay, meaning “the chief.” “In another ceremony,” he says, “they blessed the building of the visitors center. And it came in under budget. But they did not bless the building of Kumeyaay Campground, which went over budget. Make of that what you will,” says Howell.

— Joe Deegan

Volunteer Trail Guides Training
Mission Trails Regional Park
Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings
January 8 to March 19
One Father Junípero Serra Trail
(off Mission Gorge Road, near Jackson)
Cost: Free
Info: 619-668-3279 or www.mtrp.org
Events that are underlined occur after January 13.

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER EVENTS, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.

BAJA

“Tres Tres Tigris” — reading and signing of new book by Amara Caballero, Mariana Martinez, and Teresa Lopez on Thursday, January 6, 7 p.m., at Tiijuanua Cultural Center (Paseo de los Heroes on the events section. TIJUANA) (TIJUANA)

Events that are underlined occur after January 13.
A Guide to Unexpected San Diego and Beyond • By Jerry Schad

Winding its way upward onto a ridge of the San Gabriel Mountains, San Olene Fire Road leads to a spectacular viewpoint overlooking the San Gabriel Valley and much of the Los Angeles Basin. The unpaved road climbs 3.5 miles at an almost steady 6 per cent grade — a bit tedious at walking pace; perhaps better for running or mountain biking. On clear days, the scenery is uniformly pleasant, especially after winter storms have dusted the surrounding summits with snow. Edging along north-facing slopes much of the way, the road twists and turns through stands of mature chaparral and mini-groves of bay laurel and maple. Best of all, you’re likely to meet no one at all beyond the first hairpin.

The route is also suited for a late-afternoon or early-evening stroll. From the ridgestop you can catch the sunset, watch the city lights turn on, then return by the light of a three-quarter or full moon (January 19–20 or February 17–18). Remember, however, that a vehicle gate below the trailhead parking area closes at 10 p.m. daily, so make sure you return on time.

You begin walking at Chantry Flat, a popular staging area for trails in the so-called Front Range of the San Gabriel Mountains, above the San Gabriel Valley communities of Sierra Madre and Arcadia. To get there from Interstate 210, follow San Anita Avenue north past the last subdivision at the foot of the mountains. You pass a vehicle gate (open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.) and continue north on Santa Anita Canyon Road several miles to reach the parking lots at Chantry Flat. Be sure to post the requisite National Forest Adventure Pass (available for purchase at the ranger station or concession here) on your car.

Route finding for the hike can be a bit tedious at walking pace; perhaps better for running or mountain biking. On clear days, the scenery is uniformly pleasant, especially after winter storms have dusted the surrounding summits with snow. Edging along north-facing slopes much of the way, the road twists and turns through stands of mature chaparral and mini-groves of bay laurel and maple. Best of all, you’re likely to meet no one at all beyond the first hairpin.

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the moon will grow in thickness, and the interval of time between sunset and moonset will increase by about an hour a day.

Hear the Story of Balboa Park’s Creation during Time Traveler Tours, offered Wednesdays through Sundays, 11 a.m.; $15. Reservations: 619-291-9825. (BALBOA PARK)

DANCE


Twelfth Annual Nations of San Diego International Dance Festival spotlights ethnic dances, January 7-16, in UCSD’s Mandeville Auditorium (9500 Gilman Drive).

Twelve dance troupes with more than 250 dancers and musicians featured in live performances. Curtain rises at 8 p.m. on January 7, 8, 14, and 15, with 2 p.m. matinees on January 9 and 16. Evenings: 8-15, $12 for matinees. 619-230-8623. (LA JOLLA)

Contradance, Graham Hempel calls, Old Twine String Band makes music for dance on Friday, January 7, 8:45 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church (3030 Thorn Street). Beginner’s workshop at 7:45 p.m., 6 p.m. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8558. (NORTH PARK)

Country Line Dance Lessons offered by Oldham Dance instructors, with live music by Sneekriff, on Friday, January 7, 6:30 to 10 p.m., at Bonita Golf Club (5540 Sweetwater Road). Free. 619-267-1103. (SOUTHEAST)

Swing Dance at the Hop Spot, the Modern Jazz Majestics provide music for dancing on Saturday, January 8, 9 p.m. to midnight, at Veterans Museum (2115 Park Boulevard). Dance lesson: 8 p.m.; $15. 619-347-9408. (SOLENOID)

Latin and Ballroom Dance Party on Saturday, January 8, at Pattie Wells Dancecenter Center (1255 West Morena Boulevard). Dancing for singles and couples of all ages. DJ plays for dancing, 7:30 to 10 p.m., West Coast swing lesson at 8 p.m. 619-275-3533. Admission is $7; first time free. (BAY PARK)

Learn Modern Square Dancing withBufie ‘n’ Bonita Square Dance Club at beginner’s class, Sunday, January 9, 6 to 7:45 p.m., in room 207 of Casa del Prado. First class is free, $4 thereafter. Partners not required. 619-469-4865. Open enrollment continues January 16, 23. (BALBOA PARK)

West African Dance Workshop led by Oscar Camara of Guinea, west Africa, with live drumming on Sunday, January 9, 1:30 to 3 p.m., at Magdalena Ecke YMCA (200 San Onofre Road); $15. 760-942-9927. (ENCINITAS)

Keep on Trockin’, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo — the all-male comic ballet company combining technical skill and comic sensibility — pound the boards on Friday, January 14, 8 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (540 North Escondido Boulevard). Tickets: $40, $50, 800-988-4253. (ESCONDIDO)

FILM

See Amnesia by Gabriele Salvoadores when this film set on Spanish island of Ibiza screens in Italian with English subtitles on a take on Carmen theme with opera arias, jazz scoring of Bizet’s opera; works by guest choreographers Yolande Sneath, Gabriel Masson, Jeffrey Gerodias. Performances begin at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, 6 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets: $20 general, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). Information: 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)
“Fire on the Mountain” chronicles death of 14 firefighters on Storm King Mountain, Colorado, in 1989, film was inspired by journalist John Maclean’s book on the incident. Fire on the Mountain screens in conjunction with “Earth, Wind, and Wildfire,” a PBS documentary examining the death of 14 firefighters on Storm King Mountain, Colorado, in 1989. Maclean will discuss his life at Yaquitepec on Friday, January 8, 7 p.m. at The Universalist Church (4190 Front Street). Free. 619-255-0203. (BALBOA PARK)

“The Oil Field: Behind the War on Terror,” film examines “link between oil interests and current U.S. military interventions,” with footage shot over four-month period in Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. Documented following by discussion when “Mat-
**Chado — The Way of Tea,** tea ceremony demonstrations led by Urascente Ayako Soejima on Tuesday, January 11, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Japanese Friendship Garden. Included in regular admission. 619-232-2721. [JAPAN GARDEN]

**A Woman Changed: O’Keefe in the 1930s,** art critic and journalist Hunter Drohojowska-Philp explores the pivotal decade in O’Keefe’s life during Modern Masters programs at San Diego Museum of Art on Tuesday, January 11. Talk is drawn from her latest book, *Full Bloom: The Art and Life of Georgia O’Keefe.* Lectures begin at 11 a.m. ($25 for nonmembers, $38 with lunch) and 6 p.m. ($20 for nonmembers). Reservations: 619-696-1986. [S.M.O.A.

**Computer-Oriented Genealogy Group** of North San Diego County Genealogical Society gathers to hear Mary Van Osdol speak on “The Master Genealogist” computer program on Tuesday, January 11, 11 a.m., in Carlsbad City Council Chambers (1200 Carlisd Village Drive), 760-744-7530. Free. [CARLSBAD]

**New York Times** Environmental Reporter Andrew Revkin presents “The Daily Planet: A Journey from the Amazon to the Arctic in Search of Sustainability” on Tuesday, January 11, 3 p.m. at Birch Aquarium-Museum (2300 Expedition Way). Revkin will discuss and sign his book *The Burning Season: The Murder of Chico Mendes and the Fight for the Amazon Rain Forest.* Included in regular admission ($10 general). 858-534-3624.

**Wilderness Basics Course** with lectures and field trips offered by Sierra Club for 47th year, beginning on Tuesday, January 11, 7 p.m., at Scottish Rite Masonic Temple (1895 Camino del Rio South). Subjects include wilderness ethics, first aid, equipment, water filtration, nutrition, map and compass. $105. 858-272-9229. [MISSION VALLEY]

**Conservative and Liberal — Today’s Definitions** explored on Wednesday, January 12, 11 a.m. at Living Room Coffeehouse (1417 University Avenue). Free. 619-285-7911. [HILLSDREST]

**Beyond the Property Line: Housing, City, and Territory** is theme for ongoing “Dialogues in Architecture” series. Robert Somol, Andrea Skorepa, and Keith Pezzoli speak on Thursday, January 13, 7:30 p.m., at Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street). Free. 858-454-5872. [LA JOLLA]

**Line and Color** provide subject when European art history expert Chris Zook leads tours of San Diego Museum of Art’s collection of 19th- and early 20th-Century European art during gallery talks on Thursday, January 13 (6 p.m.), and Sunday, January 16, 2 p.m., at San Diego Museum of Art, included in regular admission. 619-696-1986. [S.M.O.A.]

**Architect** Thomas Pheifer speaks for series co-hosted by Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego and American Institute of Architects, Thursday, January 13, 7 p.m. at museum, 700 Prospect Street. Tickets: $7 general (includes gallery admission). 619-232-0109. [LA JOLLA]

**“Life on the Real Gilligan’s Island”** revealed when San Diego State University professor Pat Albott discusses “natural disasters and the reality of reality TV” on Thursday, January 13, 7 p.m., at San Diego Natural History Museum; 12 Reservations: 619-255-0203. [S.M.O.A.]

**IN PERSON**

**Kruel Summer,** described as a “surrealistic satire skewering the military, religion, and homophobia” presented by MiraRayn Dance! January 6-9 at St. Cecilia’s Playhouse (1620 Sixth Avenue). “Vulgarity, profanity, sexual situations, and violence”—for mature audiences. Curtain rises at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, 3 p.m. on Sunday. 820. 619-255-8436. [SLENDER]

**World Beat Drumming and Dance** with Daruma, guest dancer Melahia’s “Afro-Belly” and belly-dancer Shalumar, Thursday, January 13, 6 p.m., at Claire de Lune Coffeehouse (2906 University Avenue); 5. 619-685-9645. [S.M.O.A.]

**An Evening in Downtown Vista,** featuring the Marty Grebb All-Star Review and Steve White, is slated for Friday, January 17, in Avo Playhouse (303 Main Street). Performances begin at 5 and 8 p.m. Tickets: $5, $17, $20. 760-414-3690.

**Mary McLeod Bethune: The Dream Maker** is presented by Community Actors Theatre youth department, January 7-16. See the tale of Bethune’s life story at 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, 3 p.m. matinees on Sundays, at Community Actors Theatre (2957 54th Street). Tickets: $7 general; $6 for seniors, military, students, disabled; free for those under 6. 619-264-3391. [COLLEGE GROVE]

**The First and Only Person to Climb Mount Everest** with a prosthetic leg is Nawang Sherpa, who will be on hand at local REI stores on January 7 and 8; programs include a one-hour film with footage from Lukla to summit. Meet Sherpa on Friday at 7 p.m. at REI (3556 Capire Drive, 858-279-4400) and on Saturday, 4 p.m., at REI Encinitas (1590 Luecadia Boulevard, 760-944-9020. Donation: $10, benefiting Vows Darshan Secondary School in Taping, Nepal. [KEVIN M-ray MESA ENCINITAS]

**The Tale Glee Club** presents concert on Friday, January 7, 7:30 p.m. in Crill Performance Hall at Point Loma Nazarene University (3800 Lomandado Drive). Program promises “broad and eclectic range of great choral music,” from 18th-Century fugues by William Billings to contemporary compositions by Libby Larsen, Morten Lauridsen, newly commissioned work by Pulitzer Prize-winning Dominick Argento, folk songs, spirituals, college songs. Tickets: $15 general. 619-281-3356. [POINT LOMA]

**Broadway! Big-Band Years** — starring Robin Skye, Alfred Boe, and the Curtain Up Orchestra — is offered Saturday, January 8, 7 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Program includes highlights from *Guys and Dolls, Son* in the Rain, Anything Goes, South Pacific, Gypsy, 42nd Street. Tickets: $37, 847-988-4253. [ESCONDIDO]

**Where to Hike, Bike, and Camp** revealed when Tom Leech and Jack Farnan sign Outdoors San Diego on Saturday, January 8, 2 p.m., at Borders Books and Music (159 Fletcher Parkway; 619-593-5119). The duo also plans an appearance on Tuesday, January 11, 7 p.m., at Borders Books and Music (1980 Calle Barcelon (760) 479-0242. Free. [EL CAJON, LA COSTA]

**Torme Sings Torme,** accompanied by a big band, Steve March Tormé appears in concert singing classic tunes on Saturday, January 8, 7:30 p.m., at East County Performing Arts Center (210 East Main Street); $28, $39. 619-440-2277. [EL CAJON]

**Playing Traditional, Contemporary Bluegrass,** the Virtual Bluegrassers perform for San Diego Folk Heritage on Saturday, January 8, 7 p.m., in Temple’s Hall in Old Poway Park (1414 Midland Road). $15. Reservations: 858-566-4040. [POWAY]

After Ray at Night, head to event with art by Cynthia Cola, music by Jay Guerra, and poetry by Jhymie and Tomas on Saturday, January 8, 6 p.m., at Cafe Calibria (3933 30th Street). Free. 619-291-1759. [NORTH PARK]

**Praise and Gospel Music** promised when Brad Kittelsen presents concert on Sunday, January 9, 4 p.m., at North Coast United Methodist Church (1501 Kelly Street). Meal follows concert; $4.50. Requested reservations: 760-439-4099. [SOUTH OCEANSIDE]

**When Classical Meets Jazz** presented by Marian Liebowitz (clarinet) and Richard Thompson (piano) for mini-concert at noon on Monday, January 10, at Lyceum Theatre in Horton Plaza. Free. Bring your lunch. 858-454-5872. [DOWNTOWN]

**The Comedy Grill** presents stand-up comedy by Mitch Finkgold, Mark Serrittena, Lamont Ferguson on Monday, January 10, 8 p.m., at Rosie and Joe’s Grill and Camp (1986 Armstrong Street). No cover. 858-550-8088. [KEVIN MESA]

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**LARGEST CLIMBING GYM IN S. CALIFORNIA.**
Lively Vocals and Traditional Instruments: January 7, 8 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Tickets $46. 760-988-4253. (ESCONDIDO)

Gregarion Chat, Renaissance Motets, Folk Music, jazz, pop, all promised when male vocal ensemble Cantus takes stage on Sunday, January 23, 7 p.m., at San Diego Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Tickets $30. 800-988-4253. (ESCONDIDO)


Performance Artist, Poet, Writer, Marian Lauterman takes stage on Saturday, January 29, 8 p.m., in UCSD’s Mandeville Auditorium. Tickets $36 general, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (LA JOLLA)

The Best in Hawaiian Slack Mountain Boys present their classic acoustic folk music on Monday, January 31, 7:30 p.m., at La Paloma Theatre (471 South Coast Highway 101). Tickets $24.50 in advance, $27.50 at door. 760-436-5774. (ENCINITAS)

SPECIAL

The 17th Annual San Diego Boat Show, featuring in-water and on-land displays, boating lessons, seminars, kids’ activities, boats and luxury yachts to peruse. January 6-9, at San Diego Convention Center and Marriott Marina. Show hours: noon to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. (Marina portion closes at 6 p.m. each night.) Admission: $9 general; $4 children (under six free). 858-274-9924. (DOWNTOWN)

Tsunami Relief Fund Wine Tasting presented by San Diego’s Plaza Hotel (7611 Fay Avenue), January 7 and 8. Sample “overlooked red wines, white wines, and more than two Portuguese reds of Touriga Nacional variety,” others; $20. Proceeds from event matched by Jonathan’s, Plaza’s sister restaurants. Hours: 4 to 7 p.m. Friday; 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday. 858-459-2677. (LA JOLLA)

Linda’s 55th Teddy Bear, Doll, and Antique Toy Show and Sale, January 8 and 9, at Scottish Rite Masonic Temple. (1995 Camino del Rio South). Over 200 dealers on hand; identification, repair consultations. Show hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday; $5. 760-434-7444. (OCEANSIDE)

Psychic Fair and metaphysical conference at Alexandra’s Book Store, Saturday and Sunday, January 8 and 9, noon to 6 p.m. Tarot, palmistry, numerology, and more; other psychic arts featured; $20 per reading. The shop is located at 3543 Midway Drive, suite G, 619-298-3422. (SPORTS AREA)


New Year Native Plant Sale offered on Sunday, January 9, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Coastal Sage Gardening (3685 Voltair Street). 619-223-5229 (POINT LOMA)

Stamp Collecting Show, stamp and cover dealers offer wares, Sunday, January 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the San Diego Home & Garden Show, 630 Kearny Mesa Road. Free. 619-469-1037. (Kearny Mesa)

How to Pursue Happiness? Montimer J. Adler’s Aristotle for Everybody on Monday, January 10, 7 p.m., at Living Room Coffee Theatre (1147 University Avenue). Free, bring your own text. 619-291-3754. (MILLERSTED)

Behind-the-Scenes Tours offered at Mission San Luis Rey on a selection of Mondays, including January 10, 10:30 p.m. Tours include buildings, grounds, dis- cussion of history of California mission system; $6. Mission San Luis Rey, 4050 Mission Avenue. 760-757-3651 (OCEANSIDE)

“The Jacobelines” — described as “children’s images from Pic- casso” presented by PiArt at Ros- ario de Buena Vista (1609 In- dia Street). Reception for artists: Tuesday, January 11, 5 p.m. Show continues through February. 760-809-5823. (LITTLE ITALY)

Take a Taste of 18th-Century Shipboard Life when Hawaiian music and dance replicate tall ship’s 122-foot brig Lady Washington, and 122-foot topsail schooner Lynx visit the Maritime Museum January 10-12. Tall ships’ parade feat- ures these historic windjammers and more starts at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, January 12; best viewing from Shelter Island, Harbor Is- land, along north Embarcadero. Tours offered 4 to 6 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. on weekends. Tours included in regular Maritime Mu-
seum admission: $8 general, $6 for seniors and those 13-17; $5 for kids 6 to 12, free for those 5 and under.

Battle-reenactment sailings
January 15-17 and January 22-23 ($50 for adults, $25 for children).
Reservations and information: 800-200-5239. Find the museum at 1306 North Harbor Drive (at Ash Street).

Home Sweet Home,” exhibitions of gingerbread houses created by local artists are on view through Friday, January 14, in the 2nd East at San Diego Lindbergh Field. Free. 619-277-0132.

Witness the Gray Whale Migration
during outings hosted by Birch Aquarium and San Diego Harbor Excursions, through Thursday, March 31. Scopps naturalists and assistants are on hand during cruises to search for the whales, on their way to lagoons in Baja California to calf. Fee: $25 for adults, $15 for those 4-12. Registration: 619-234-4111.

FOR KIDS

Performances begin at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m., 1, and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Theater located near Aerospace Museum. Admission: $3 for adults, $2 for children under 12. 619-685-5990. (BALBOA PARK)

Head to Grover’s Corner when Thornton Wilder’s Pulitzer Prize-winning “Our Town” is presented by San Diego Junior Theatre, January 7-23, in Casa del Prado Theater. Classic play is recommended for those 12 and older. Curtain rises at 7 p.m. on Fridays, 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Performance on January 22 is ASL interpreted. Tickets: $9 to $12 per person. Save on weekend tickets through Ticketmaster (619-220-7469). (SAN DIEGO)

The Science of Blacksmilching illuminated when modern blacksmiths in Grape Day Park explain their work on Saturday, January 8, 1 p.m., for guests of Escondido Children’s Museum (in studio 1 at California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard); $5. 760-233-7755. (ESCONDIDO)

Choo Choo! The Chula Vista Live Steam Club provides train rides, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, January 8 and 9, at Rohr Park (4538 Sweetwater Road). Donation: 50 cents. 619-421-5277. Children under 48" must be accompanied by an adult. (CHULA VISTA)

What’s It Like to Be a Whale Baby? Find out during class, Saturday, January 8, 9:30 a.m., at Birch Aquarium-Museum. Kids explore relationships between mother and calf, what babies eat, and how fast they grow. $25. (SAN DIEGO)

Wildflower Seeds provide subject for “Botany for Kids” class on Sunday, January 9, 11 a.m., at Coastal Sage Gardening (3683 Valuerie Street); $7.50. Registration: 619-223-5229. (POINT LOMA)

Make Paper Airplanes and prepare the “extensive paper airplane book collection” when San Diego Aerospace Museum hosts Family Day workshops, Saturday, January 8, 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)

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Chicago Center for the Arts, Escondido, when Thornton Wilder’s Pulitzer Prize-winning “Our Town” is presented by San Diego Junior Theatre, January 7-23, in Casa del Prado Theater. Classic play is recommended for those 12 and older. Curtain rises at 7 p.m. on Fridays, 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Performance on January 22 is ASL interpreted. Tickets: $9 to $12 per person. Save on weekend tickets through Ticketmaster (619-220-7469). (SAN DIEGO)

The Science of Blacksmilching illuminated when modern blacksmiths in Grape Day Park explain their work on Saturday, January 8, 1 p.m., for guests of Escondido Children’s Museum (in studio 1 at California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard); $5. 760-233-7755. (ESCONDIDO)

Choo Choo! The Chula Vista Live Steam Club provides train rides, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, January 8 and 9, at Rohr Park (4538 Sweetwater Road). Donation: 50 cents. 619-421-5277. Children under 48" must be accompanied by an adult. (CHULA VISTA)

What’s It Like to Be a Whale Baby? Find out during class, Saturday, January 8, 9:30 a.m., at Birch Aquarium-Museum. Kids explore relationships between mother and calf, what babies eat, and how fast they grow. $25. (SAN DIEGO)

Wildflower Seeds provide subject for “Botany for Kids” class on Sunday, January 9, 11 a.m., at Coastal Sage Gardening (3683 Valuerie Street); $7.50. Registration: 619-223-5229. (POINT LOMA)

Make Paper Airplanes and prepare the “extensive paper airplane book collection” when San Diego Aerospace Museum hosts Family Day workshops, Saturday, January 8, 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)

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POEM IN THE MANNER OF VLADIMIR MAYAKOVSKY

Like a giant in slippers reading the morning news of an event that hasn’t yet happened I wear my robe of authority like the majestic girth of a great detective my job to puzzle out how we got to this stalemate with its tragic inevitability can I retrieve the moves the sacrifice of a pawn to support the bishop’s attack? My backbone is my flute: the words fly from my mouth like people jumping off a bridge in flames and in the city of my heart so I cannot sing O mother forgive me — David Lehman

The Kenyon Review, New Series, Volume XXVI Number 2, Spring 2004

J.A. Cooley Museum, an eclectic collection of items — including displays on phonographs, clocks, electric trains, and 20 other types of collections — is featured at the museum. The current featured attraction is an "Industrial Product Collection," with examples of the historical progression of auto technology from 1886-1915, with "some classics and a concept car." Find the museum at 4233 Park Boulevard: 619-296-3112. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Leon Carrillo Ranch Historic Park, old adobe buildings were once vacation retreat and working ranch of actor Leon Carrillo. Tours on Saturdays (11 a.m., 1 p.m.) and Sundays (noon, 2 p.m.). Find Rancho de los Quiotes at 6200 Flying LC, Lane. Free: 760-476-1042. (CARLSBAD)

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 36 at MCCD, just inside Gate 4, off Pacific Highway. 619-524-6038. (MCRD)

Parsonage Museum of Lemon Grove, "From the Kumeya to 2005," 2005. Also on view: "Cloisonné: A Permanent Collection," with over 35 nephrite jade sculptures, from amulets to animal and plant designs. The museum is located at 3525 Seventh Avenue: 619-298-3142. (PIHLSD)

House of Pacific Relations, International Cottages are open every Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. to present the history and traditions of 30 ethnic groups. Select cottages open on Saturdays (11 a.m., 1 p.m.) and Sundays (noon, 2 p.m.). Find Rancho de los Quiotes at 6200 Flying LC, Lane. Free: 760-476-1042. (CARLSBAD)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, "Explorzon 5," on view through Sunday, June 5, explores "what you think you see." The 3D exhibits use virtual perception, thought, language, magnetism to test viewer’s senses and abilities. Exhibits include "Hoop Nightmares," "Chester’s Cat," "Black Sand," "Speech Dissector." Ongoing exhibitions include "Kid City" (designed for preschoolers), "Technovation," "About Faces," "TryScience," and "Skylapses 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. 619-238-1253. (BALBOA PARK)

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. The museum is dedicated to "creation of archaeological projects and sharing them with the public." Find them at 1666 San Pasquale Valley Road; 629-291-0731. (ENCINITAS)

San Diego Automotive Museum, "Oldsmobile Farewell to a Classic," on display through Tuesday, January 27, 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. Can also display on a 1920 Curved Dash, two of the 88s (1949, 1957), 1969 Hunt Ods, 1970 442 W-30 convertible. More than 80 automobiles and motorcycles from horseless carriages to future prototypes are in-

LOCAL EVENTS

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Patricia J. Williams

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 2151 Pan American Plaza, 619-234-2344. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Historical Society Museum, "Romp! Children Discover Balboa Park" focuses on why Balboa Park exists, examines the cover Balboa Park" focuses on why African-Americans’ lives in 19th- and early-20th-century Boston, the city where Ms. Williams was reared. "Few people," I said, “have so much documentation of their family as do you." 

“It’s partly,” Ms. Williams said, “because my godmother died and left me an apartment full of letters and documents. I couldn’t even put it all in the book, but I got some musing. This book is the musing upon how fortunate I was to have this older generation’s influence. I could move from where I am to where my mother was, to where my great-grandmother was, to figure out a rationale for the paths that led back forward in time to where I am.”

The professor writes about her family and her family’s friends’ educations.

“Every major challenge on behalf of constitutional rights,” she said, “every civil rights advance — not just for blacks, but all people in this country, of the 20th Century — has been around education. It has been begging, screaming, suing, chaining, clawing our way into grammar schools, high schools, graduate schools, colleges, universities. So the theme of education goes through this book. And since I wrote my book, Bill Cosby expressed his concern about black youth becoming too anti-intellectual. But I think actually his critique was one of American culture at large being genuinely anti-intellectual. Blacks become the scapegoat for that, but this is a genuinely anti-intellectual moment in our history.”

“I do think that there’s an unconscious way in which..." (continued on page 96)
You were permanently nicknamed. The honorifics of Mr. or Ms. or 'Your Honour,' or Doctor, are so absent from that community that people actually ended up making them part of their first name and insisting upon it by baptizing their children with the honorific. As a way of subverting the disrespect.

The acquisition of last names, after the Civil War, was a process, in many cases, of ditching last names, which were the names of owners. Malcolm X is understood to be the first person to examine the question of one's 'slave name.' But after the Civil War, people were very aware of their last name. They buried them and took on new names and moved across the country where they couldn’t be found. They acquired new names, naming themselves after the liberator, Lincoln, and after Jefferson and Washington, or other iconic figures in American history. These names didn’t actually reflect relationships. That's why there are so many black 'Washingtons' and black 'Jeffersons,' and for that matter, black 'Jacksons.' I think every freighted refugee nation has its own version of that. It was interesting when The Boston Globe described John Kerry's forefathers who changed their names, or when you think of the days prior to the Holocaust when in certain parts of Europe was dangerous for Jews and Jews changed their names to Christianize them in some way.

I think that people do that; it’s a human thing to do. We don’t have an historic perspective on it. It’s not part of written history. It is, I think, much more prevalent than one usually knows because it is being lost, which is another reason I started writing this down.

"Race has never been about color per se; it's not about genealogy. It's about social strictures and it's always been malleable."

"What are your students at Columbia like?"

"Columbia is so expensive that they’re largely very privileged. It’s an urban campus; it’s a very international campus; it’s also a very diverse campus. That’s one of the most diverse schools in the Ivy League because of its location of the oral history that I fear from all over the world, all over the country, all races, nationalities, and certainly probably a greater cross-section of a religious mix than most universities."

"When African-Americans talk among another one, do you all talk about this business with the one drop of blood' — 'A single drop of black blood is sufficient to assure membership in the black race.'"

"No, I think white people and Dinesh D’Souza, among other titles that are favored by conservative thinkers, of Lett— too Young Conservative must be talking about it full-time, but black people, generally, don’t talk about it. It’s interesting to me to read ways in which it’s represented, and again I think that this is more of an issue of the ‘thinner tank’ mentality, where they say, ‘But you’re not really black. Anybody who thinks of themselves as black. Well, then, you’re just following the one drop of blood.’"

But that really has not been in fashion since perhaps my grandmothers or even before.

In another book I wrote about a woman of my great-aunt's age, who was older than my mother, who is almost 90 at this point. I wrote about an encounter she had with a white Southern woman, who’d come up from Mississippi and moved to Boston. Her summary of racism in the North was that it was just so much worse because that’s where one really just racist against everybody.

"Whereas in the South, she said, ‘They don’t even give you any credit for your white blood.’ I think that’s the dark underside of it. You shouldn’t have it both ways, but you know what I mean. I think that’s what I find so offensive about people who keep saying, ‘Oh, well, you’re just insinuating about the one drop rule — you’re really white and nobody would consider you black."

"I suggested that media car-

"Yet there were social cate-

"I said, ‘It’s true, though. Black were slaves were bred. And the breeders were open about it.’"

"Somebody can write about day-to-day things about house-

"It’s exotica-fied there. In other contexts I have written about being in France where I wrote about the exoticism. I liked being in France precisely because it was so different from what I was remaindered to. That’s the thing, the exoticism.

"When you look at that his-

"‘What in the world is your pres-

"I think that’s the dark underside; it’s always been malleable.

"Yes, the commonplace. That’s why I kept talking about Oprah, because she really did, in some ways, open up the notion that, yeah, you can be a little over-weight and you can be a little of this and you can be a little of that — and it’s okay. You’re just normal. You don’t have to be spectacularly beautiful — you just go. I keep thinking of her as significant in her protection of a space to be banal.
Rough Energy

West models the Knight’s armored body into a buckling, twisted pose.

Contemporary art is such a free-for-all zone, with endless varieties of media and content — installation, performance, video, body art, earth art, clothing art, car art — that it’s bracing to be reminded of a time when controversy turned on whether portraiture or landscape or history painting was in ascendance. In colonial America, where one could become the premier artist of the age in a particular genre, such things mattered. Early 18th Century English and colonial art was made up mostly of landscapes, conversation groups, and portraits sought after by increasing numbers of successful merchants and administrators. So it showed some daring when Benjamin West (1738–1820) asserted his presence as a history painter. To West, a native Pennsylvanian who showed prodigious gifts in his youth, the big picture came quite naturally.

Benjamin West (1738–1820) asserted his presence as a history painter. To West, a native Pennsylvanian who showed prodigious gifts in his youth, the big picture came quite naturally. His American ingenuity is said to have charmed his Italian hosts when West commented that the Apollo Belvedere in the Vatican reminded him of a Mohawk warrior. In 1763, returning from Italy to America, West stopped over in London, and there he stayed, to make his career and fortune, for nearly 60 years.

West specialized in busily populated action scenes based on historical events or derived from epic poems, more popular then than now, like scenes based on historical events or derived from career and fortune, for nearly 60 years. Over in London, and there he stayed, to make his career and fortune, for nearly 60 years.

West specialized in busily populated action scenes based on historical events or derived from epic poems, more popular then than now, like Ludovico Ariosto’s Orlando Furioso and Torquato Tasso’s Jerusalem Liberated. Another 3-year Italian sojourn in the early 1760s consolidated his technical gifts and provided him with grandiose subjects to stoke his ambition. His American ingenuity is said to have charmed his Italian hosts when West commented that the Apollo Belvedere in the Vatican reminded him of a Mohawk warrior. In 1763, returning from Italy to America, West stopped over in London, and there he stayed, to make his career and fortune, for nearly 60 years.

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in the exhibition. If you like looseness, rough energy, the gestural, and the undogmatic in your art, Minimalism — even if you understand its principles — might seem overintellectualized, lock-jawed, and bland. Its rigor is sometimes daunting. Gene Davis’s stripe painting, Blue Sound, presents broad identically sized bands of color — puce, cobalt blue, felt green, chartreuse — that create intense pressure along the picture surface (and on your optic nerve).

In a picture from Frank Stella’s “protractor series,” a big canvas shaped as the series title indicates and congested with austere curving bars of color, the shape — so deceptively referential or, in Minimalist lingo, “relational” — is pounded into meaninglessness by the straight-jacketed color scheme. What you see is what you see. If you think you see a protractor, the picture hijacks your presumption.

Two stacked and tiered structures of like-sized cubes by Sol LeWitt — these, too, like so many in the show are Ron Davis’s U-Slab C, a picture in polyester resin where gorgeous, acidic browns and reds look baked into shape; a Tony Smith sculpture, The Snake Is Out, which shows a muscular sculptural integrity that pushes voluminous steel planes up from the ground into space; and a stoic but mysterious picture by Roman Opalla, a white-on-white canvas that plays a kind of optical hide-and-seek with the viewer. From 20 feet away one sees a homogenized color field; from 5 feet away one perceives ribbony textures that, on closer view, reveal streams of numbers in graduated degrees of opacity covering the picture surface, phasing in and out of our vision. The picture, as I view it anyway, doesn’t isolate itself from us as a “specific object.” It pulls us into an archaeological of looking that makes us witnesses to an eroded, vanishing language.
Oceanides Museum of Art, 45 contemporary quilts selected from over 600 entries are included in “Quilt Vision 2006,” a juried international exhibition. Jurors were Liz Axford, Michael W. Monroe, Jane Sauer. Find the museum at 704 First View Way; 760-721-2787. Continues through Sunday, January 16. (ORANGE COUNTY)

San Diego Museum of Art, “Paint in Reverse: Contemporary Art of East Asia,” showcases “cutting-edge artists working in a diversity of media...who use contemporary approaches to reflect their respective cultural and artistic backgrounds.” Each artist’s work is featured in a separate section while accompanying wall texts articulate how the artist is responding to historical precedents. Continues through Sunday, March 6.

“Tastes in Asian Art” includes “some of the most significant works” in the museum’s collection. Exhibit features new and rarely exhibited works, along with well-known pieces. Closes Sunday, May 1.


“Visions of the Great Goddess: The Divine Female in South Asian Art,” focuses on cultural and artistic significance of goddess imagery in South Asia in paintings from Edwin Binney 3rd Collection. Works feature Devi, the “Great Goddess” or the “First Cause of Things” in four aspects — as a great power, a bestower of fortune, a beloved, and a human saint. Continues through Sunday, March 13. Concurrently, there’s a small display of related sculptures from South India, including a newly acquired Chola-period bronze of Goddess Devi. Explore aspects of “the Golden Age of Dutch culture” through “rarely exhibited and relatively unknown medium of domestic tiles” in “Seventeenth-Century Dutch Tiles from the Museum’s Collection,” on view through Sunday, January 9. Show focuses on history of tile making, its use, pictorial sources. For further information, call 619-232-7931. (BALboa PARK)

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

Events that are underlined occur after January 13.

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday of the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the events, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number (including area code), and a phone number for public information to READER CLASSICAL MUSIC, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186. Or fax to 619-831-2401. You may also submit information online at sandiegoreader.com by clicking on the events section.

“Diverse French Composers and Favorite Romantic Gems” presented by pianist Scott Pratt for First Thursday Concert on January 6, 7 p.m., in Escondido Li- brary’s Terramor Room (239 South Kalmia Street). Listen for music by Debussy, Poulenc, Satie, Chopin, and Liszt. Free. 760-839-4129. (ESCONDIDO)

The Yale Glee Club presents concert on Friday, January 7, 7:30 p.m., in Grill Performance Hall at Point Loma Nazarene University (3900 Lomaland Drive). Program promises “broad and eclectic range of great choral music,” from 18th-century fugues by William Billings to contemporary compositions by Libby Larsen, Morten Lauridsen, and commissioned work by Pulitzer Prize- winner Dominick Argento, folk songs, spirituals, college songs. Tickets: $15 general. 619-281-3356. (POINT LOMA)

Violin Virtuoso Itzhak Perlman in recital hosted by San Diego Symphony on Sunday, January 9, 7 p.m., in Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street). Perlman is joined by pianist Janet Guggenheim. Tickets: $25 to $75. Reservations: 619-235-0004. (DOWNTOWN)


Old Masters in Music and Art, baroque trio sonatas and solos presented by Musica Fortuna on Sunday, January 9, 2 p.m., at San Diego Museum of Art. Included in museum admission. 619-696-1966. (BALboa PARK)

Works by Donizetti, Uhl, Barber, Mozart, Brahms, and Debussy promised when Mary Lou Rector (soprano), Janet Mathews (viola), and Ilana Mysior (piano) perform in concert on Sunday, January 9, 2:30 p.m., for San Diego Public Library concert series. Find library at 820 E Street, 619-236-5810. Donation. (DOWNTOWN)

Organ Concert by civic organist Carol Williams in Spreckels Organ Pavilion on Sunday, January 9, 2 p.m. Free. 619-702-8183. (BALboa PARK)

When Classical Meets Jazz” presented by Marian Liebowitz (clarinet) and Richard Thompson (piano) for mini-concert at noon on Monday, January 10, at Lyceum Theatre in Horton Plaza. Free. Bring your lunch. 858-454-5872. (DOWNTOWN)

CONCERTS

Classical Masterworks: A program of fascinating concerti by Clarke, Marcello, Vivaldi, Mozart and Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No. 2). Monday, January 17 Sherwood Auditorium La Jolla

Tuesday, January 18 Fairbanks Ranch Country Club Rancho Santa Fe

Friday, January 21 St. Paul’s Cathedral Downtown San Diego

All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. Call now to order your seats: 858-550-0290 x7 or e-mail: tickets@sdcoc.org www.sdcoc.org

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~ New York Times

Don’t miss this special appearance of Jung-Ho Pak, former music director, San Diego Symphony, and current music director, New Haven Symphony. Guest soloists: Susan Barrett, oboe; David Washburn, trumpet; and Suzanne Kennedy, piccolo.
Final Purge
The play’s a monster. Every cast member must deliver or it drags. And all did.

Since last year was the best for theater in at least a decade, it’s earned two Year in Review columns. We not only had excellent productions, but the overall level of quality, from smaller houses to big touring musicals at the Civic, was consistently solid. In 2004, the bar got raised.

It’s a good thing that the San Diego Theater Critics Circle will give multiple awards in a category — the ceremony’s January 24. How do you choose between, say, the La Jolla Playhouse’s Jersey Boys and the Old Globe’s Dirty Rotten Scoundrels? Both brand-name musicals — as different as apples and crayons — were great, and already in great shape when they opened here. Now both are Broadway bound. Forgive my territorial chauvinism, but each would win the annual award for a musical in whatever city they premiered.

And how to choose among individual performances — by the same performer? Blunt and brassy, in Diversionary’s Fit to be Tied; Jill Drexler was a knockout as Nessa, a Mother From Hell whose short runs must close before word of mouth can build. The Backyard/New Village Arts co-production of Sam Shepard’s Lie of the Mind’s a case in point. The play’s a monster. Every cast member must deliver or it drags. And all did, in a prime example of ensemble acting few got to see because scheduling conflicts shut it down.

When the critics voted for the awards, one question we asked was: ten years from now, what will you remember most about 2004? There aren’t categories for some recollections. In Jersey Boys, for example, not only did the male leads sing like the Four Seasons, but every person onstage could play a musical instrument. And nobody faked guitar by just strumming bar chords either; all played well — even if “enhanced” by the live band (as, ahem, were the vocalists!). Like the origin of the Four Seasons’ music, which began on the streets and moved inside, Jersey Boys became a movable concert, groups reconfiguring at different venues. I don’t think I’ve seen this before, and won’t forget it soon.

Ten years from now more sets will probably behave like David Rockwell’s for Scoundrels. But today, it sets the standard for a fluid, living design. Everything moved. Objects rolled, flew down, and leapt into place so quickly there were no breaks for scene changes. Actors would walk offstage from, say, an exterior of the Riviera. At the same time — and in the same space — others would enter the garden of a palatial Mediterranean estate or the lobby of a posh hotel.

That set was something else. Imagine Rubik’s cube inventing a ten-dimensional cube. The myriad reconfigurations were as choreographed as Jerry Mitchell’s dance numbers, and done so well they were easy to take for granted: sure, sets just swap into place faster than you can say HOW'D THEY DO THAT?

Gregg Barnes’s expressive costumes for Scoundrels, from elegant evening wear to unmitigated schlock, defined character and mood with textbook accuracy. But what Barnes did in the Globe’s Lucky Duck, as the Old Man tells Ross in...
Andersen’s “Ugly Duckling,” former knowings.”

The Scottish play, “hath trifled

and others, always struck me as

Sure they were over the
top — imagine people-sized
quins. Sure they were over the

Poultry decked in Vegas glitz.

and tear! And what about the

Jean-Paul.

the military. Ask at the box

Saturday at 8:00 P.M. Sunday at

Friday and Saturday at 8:00 P.M.

at 7:00 P.M.

and art, and lovers who terrify each

Laughter been as-

and eventually clog the stage.

that come from, and lead
to, nowhere. Imagine the weird

and ruffled petticoats, with the line

between the two blurred. And

and (re)acting, but the em-
phasis is on the word and, as in all
Greek drama, on an unfolding story
at once hair-on-fire irrational and as

Ceaseless pyrotechnical effects

awfully high maintenance.

In Kansas we ain’t. Too bad the

mystery comedy takes place at the

Salura Hotel in Vegas, where “the

family” runs more than shows. “A
real mob scene!”

For shows running January 7

runs more than shows. “A
real mob scene!”

the musical begins, a cataclysm

sembled in one script. Before

appeals for laughter been as-

rarely have so many shameless

rivers that come from, and lead
to, nowhere. Imagine the weird

and ruffled petticoats, with the line

between the two blurred. And

and eventually clog the stage.

Instead, the actors treat the text as if

ished work or choices set in granite.

freshing. There’s no attempt at pol-

tumes, and (re)acting, but the em-
phasis is on the word and, as in all
Greek drama, on an unfolding story
at once hair-on-fire irrational and as

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freshing. There’s no attempt at pol-

tumes, and (re)acting, but the em-
phasis is on the word and, as in all
Greek drama, on an unfolding story
at once hair-on-fire irrational and as
Irish Step Dancing
Dublin Square Irish Pub and Grille presents “San Diego’s answer to the Celtic wave,” an evening of contemporary and traditional Irish dancing, music, and song.

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Jersey Boys
This wonderful new musical isn’t just a nostalgic greatest hits of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons event. It tells the stories behind the songs, many of which the group would rather forget. In the process, it explores parallel dreams: the temporary and traditional Irish “Celtic wave,” an evening of comedy, making up funny stuff on the spot, is difficult enough. Years ago, however, Keith Johnstone thought it’d be more exciting if done competitively. He got the idea from pro wrestling (“Where Terri-
ble Turks mangled defrocked priests, while mums and dadi-
yelled insults and grannies waved their handbags”). National Com-
edy Theatre, an offshoot of John-
ston’s TheatraSports (artistic di-
rector Gary Kramer says the two
ranch hands and their best laid
scapes. George Flint directed.
EIGHTH PLEASURE, 3704 SIXTH AV-
ENUE, MIIICREST, FRIDAY, JANUARY 14,
THROUGH FEBRUARY 20; THURSDAY
THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M.
619-688-8210.

Oklahoma!
Broadway/San Diego hosts a tour-
ing production of the great musi-
cal, adapted from Cameron Mack-
tintosh’s staging at the Royal
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SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 202 C
STREET, DOWNTOWN, TUESDAY, JAN-
UARY 12, THROUGH JANUARY 16; TUES-
DAY AND THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M.,
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On the Mountain
South Coast Repertory Theatre presents the world premiere of Christopher Shinn’s drama about Sarah: after a turbulent affair with a rock star/ suicide, a new man’s entered her life. Mark Rucker di-
rected.
SOUTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE,
SEGERSTROM STAGE, 655 TOWN CEN-
TER DRIVE, COSTA MESA, FRIDAY, JAN-
UARY 7, THROUGH JANUARY 23, TUES-
DAY, 8 P.M.; SATURDAY, 5 P.M. AND 8
P.M.; SUNDAY, 2 P.M. AND 5 P.M.; 619-688-2494.

Little Shop of Horrors
Howard Ashman and Alan Menken’s “musical horror com-
edy” gets a local staging, starring Renar Mitchell and Lisa Payton, with Charles W. Patmon as the voice of Audrey II.

GASLAMP THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA,
DOWNTOWN, TUESDAY, JANUARY 11,
THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M.
619-233-5979.

Brooks Atkinson’s answer to the
voice of Audrey II.

THE PERFORMING ARTS, UCSD,
THEATRE, MANDELL WEISS CENTER FOR
THE ARTS, 4010 10TH AVENUE, HILLCRES,
THROUGH FRIDAY, AND SUNDAY, AT
2:00 P.M. 619-570-1100.

The Male Intellectual: An
Oxymoron?
Author/actor Robert Dubac plays five different characters in order to answer the question, “What do
women want?”

THE PLAYHOUSE, 1000 10TH AVENUE,
DOWNTOWN, OPEN ENDED RUN, THURSDAY
THROUGH SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M., MATINEE
SATURDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-550-1010.

National Comedy Theatre
ComedySportz changed its name, but its methods (and madness) re-
maintain the same. Improvisational comedy, making up funny stuff on
the spot, is difficult enough. Years ago, however, Keith Johnstone thought it’d be more exciting if done competitively. He got the idea from pro wrestling (“Where Terri-
ble Turks mangled defrocked priests, while mums and dadi-
yelled insults and grannies waved their handbags”). National Com-
edy Theatre, an offshoot of John-
ston’s TheatraSports (artistic di-
rector Gary Kramer says the two
coquery like “rugby and American football”), resembles an athletic

Jan 6 - Mar 27, 2005
Forever Plaid is the smash hit musical that’s been praised by the New York Times as “Letter Perfect” and the
Los Angeles Times as “Sheer Musical Bliss.”

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A new Tijuana music venue called Voodoo House opened three months ago. It is booked by Mario Velasco, a longtime promoter who moved up to Tijuana to run the Voodoo House with partner Pedro Galas Hernandez Garcia, a Tijuana attorney. So far the Voodoo House has hosted hardcore American bands Life or Death and Strangulation and Mexican bands Konorteno (ska/cumbia) and Golden Gloves (hardcore), among others.

Although Velasco says his Voodoo House would probably not draw the same caliber of acts that Iguana’s could have drawn (Iguana’s, which existed from 1989 to ‘93, was a well-known Tijuana club that held 1000 and was open to all ages) because Voodoo House only holds 400.

According to Velasco, Tijuana “could do a lot better” as a concert destination point. I pointed out that the new owners of El Foro, located at the remodeled Jai Alai Palace, also brought up Iguana’s when they opened in 2003. El Foro has not clicked with American promoters, agents, or artists.

“The owners [of El Foro] have money, but they are not into the music,” said Velasco. Velasco said the Voodoo House has since hosted ten live shows, which drew crowds from 50 to 200. He said admission has been $2 to $10.

Velasco said he traded Ensenada for Tijuana for two reasons. “In Ensenada there are too many people into drugs. They [fans who attend live music shows] are into ice and crack more than they are into the gig.”

He suggests the newly installed PRI political regime in Tijuana is more pro-music than those in PAN-controlled Ensenada.

“They want a profit for everything. You have to pay for permits, and then they want 20 percent of the door. In July I brought in a metal band from Miami called Dark Faith [to play Ensenada]. We had permits and everything. On the day of the show they canceled us, even though we weren’t serving alcohol. I left Ensenada.”

“I would like to bring in Sepultura this summer. That was the last band I saw at Iguana’s. We can put another 1000 people in our patio.”

Velasco said his website is voodothj@yahoo.com. Anarchus and Cacofonia (from Mexico City) appear tomorrow, Friday, January 7, with Intestinal Strangulation (from L.A.); 9 p.m., $8 admission, all ages.

— Ken Leighton

Local clothing company Silk World Productions is attracting media scrutiny over its new line of “Silk Kids” baby clothes. Selling for around...
No callus too thick.

It’s not as though a man needs another reason to work with his hands. But consider this: The hard-won layer of calluses on a man’s hand puts a thermal barrier between the heat from his hand and his cold beer. When a man lives the High Life, this natural koozy comes free with every Miller Time.
A waterproof iPod case manufactured by a local company, the SV Mini, gets a poor review from the Modesto Bee (12-27-04):

"The folks at San Diego-based H2O Audio have come out with a sealed waterproof housing that they claim will make your iPod mini a little more robust and water. The reviewer who tested the unit says, "I tried the unit underwater, thanks to the hot tub at my local health club. I sat in warm water for about 20 minutes with the SV Mini unit holding the iPod mini submerged about half the time. I dried off and checked the iPod to see if it needed the same. Unfortunately, it did. The unit wasn’t soaked by any means, but there were three or four large drops’ worth of water on the Apple unit. My verdict…waterproof at minimal depths for a very short period of time: not."

— Jay Allen Sanford

After putting out No Cover magazine for seven years, Mark Rasmussen suspended publication of his free all-music magazine in July. Now No Cover is back with a new format (all glossy), a price ($2.99), and a new focus (half music, half action sports).

“We actually have two covers. On one side it’s the action sports cover. If you turn it over, it’s our music cover. Unwritten Law is on our first music cover. Oceanside-based snowboarder Jon Schurke is on the other side.”

The first issue of the new No Cover also has interviews with Atreyu and Shadows Fall. The new issue hit newsstands in 7-Eleven and Modesto Bee the day after he and his staff were suspended publication of his magazine competitor on the cover of a recent issue of Face magazine and on the company website. The firm’s recently formed music division has announced upcoming 2005 CD releases by San Diego bands Divided & Suspended, and Ollie Pop.

“We used to publish 30,000 copies. We are starting now with 10,000.”

Rasmussen said even though the July issue had 64 pages versus the current 32 pages, “This one costs us a lot more to put out.”

Although he said the new No Cover is distributed in 1200 outlets throughout California, he eventually wants it to go national. “We weren’t losing money, but it didn’t make sense to move forward when the music advertising dollars weren’t there. The goal has always been to have No Cover become a full-color, glossy

NO COVER GOES 2 COVER BECAUSE YOU CAN’T DOWNLOAD SKATEBOARDS national publication distributed on newstands. You are never going to be a national publication if you stay a free zinc.”

— Ken Leighton

“My back’s still killing me,” says jazz wind instrumentalist Chris Klich, “but I managed to mow the lawn today.”

“What happened to your

We were only with them for ten months. They let us use their office space and their trucks, and in exchange we helped get the word out about them.” Regarding SpinRecords.com’s founder Wayne Irving, Rasmussen said, “It was like he completely disappeared.”

He said his biggest magazine competitor on the music side might be Alternative Press, which is based in Cleveland. “I remember seeing the first issue of Alternative Press in the mid-80s. I’m from Cleveland. Our first issue looks just like their first issue.”

Rasmussen suggested that his magazine’s action sports competitors include Thrasher, Transworld, and Surfer.

“This is the only publication that goes for both music and action sports. That’s our niche we’re carving. And besides, there are some advertisers who can’t afford Transworld but who can afford us.”

Rasmussen also owns his own label, Whiskey Records. “We just signed [L.A. band] Victory Within and local hip-hop artist DNA-1.”

— Ken Leighton
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back?” “Threw it out… and rather than getting better, as it usually does, it’s gotten progressively worse, to the point where I’m pretty crippled.” “Is this affecting your ability to play?” Klich plays saxophone, flute, and clarinet, and he resides in La Mesa.

“I’ve spent all of my time either playing a gig or lying on the floor doing the stretches that always used to return me to health. I have a doctor’s appointment, and he’ll probably wind up giving me a shot of cortisone, so that should help.” “What were you doing? How did this happen?” “Hanging Christmas lights,” he says. Klich is getting a master’s in jazz theory from San Diego State. “I’ll get it officially after I play my master’s recital on April 15.” The Chris Klich Jazz Quintet’s next show will be Sunday, January 16, from 5-8 p.m. at the Coyote Bar and Grill, 300 Carlisbad Village Drive, Carlsbad.

— Michael Hemmingson

In an article at CNN.com entitled “The Best Albums You Didn’t Hear,” Pinkish’s Summer in Abaddon is called “quite possibly the most intriguing album recorded in 2004. The San Diego duo has stepped beyond its early atmospheric experimentation and created a modern rock masterpiece filled with somber melodies and angelic grooves. Rob Crow and Armistead Burwell Smith IV share songwriting duties, and their unique blend of influences and styles creates a cohesive pop song, creating a rich texture of sounds that reward upon each listen. If you’re looking for a modern rock masterpiece, this is it.”

— Jay Allen Sanford

Before As I Lay Dying played Las Vegas venue The Joint December 28, an area periodical wrote, “Tim Lambesis, vocalist for rising metalcore act As I Lay Dying… has watched bands that were once underground darlings soften their edge to become a thrash caricature… Songs like ‘Forever’ reveal an emotional dynamic that explain the surge in interest for the band, though it never expected it to reach the numbers it did.”

Las Vegas Mercury, 12-22-04 — Jay Allen Sanford

According to an aversion.com CD review, “Two-thirds of the San Diego–based pop rockers Reeve Oliver (get it?) [‘revolver’] met while working at Sea World, which would be just a cute, icebreaking story for their band, isn’t it? Let’s hear something ballsy or at least impolite — forget loud or rocking — resulting in a wimpy, featherweight sound that could make the tame Switchfoot sound like AC/DC. Come to think of it, a contract with the majors can’t be far behind.”

— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS

Jennifer Ball (editor), Josh Board, Edwin Decker, Dave Good, Michael Hemmingson, Randy Hoffman, Ken Loughmire, Brian Leyke, Mary Montgomery, Derek Plank, Jay Allen Sanford

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to VEGAS
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THURSDAY • JANUARY 13
THE AFTER PARTY
AUTOLUX
THE NERVOUS RETURN

THE LOCUST

San Diego Reader January 6, 2005 109
Local Pyle

“Area bands are seeing a renaissance in all the attention they’re getting.”

I just sort of dropped off the face of the earth since I got fired,” says former 91X DJ Tim Pyles. After hosting the local band showcase Loudspeaker for nearly six years (the show was extant before his inclusion), Pyles was let go in October after a dispute with his bosses over off-time use of a company vehicle.

On December 1, Pyles underwent knee surgery, paid for in part by a benefit held December 27 at the Casbah. “I got injured body surfing last summer. I got pulled over on top of a wave and got slammed to the beach. After I lost my job, I’m paying for everything out of pocket…I kept up my insurance, but everything’s still real expensive.”

Pyles says, “I’m hoping to get back into the industry somehow — if there’s any station in San Diego that wants to cover local music. Area bands are seeing a renaissance in all the attention they’re getting, even more than what happened in the ’80s. Of course, what you see locally may not be the business world works. I relate to the anxieties: Trump] but, in my reality, he was the guy who fired me. Oh, and I consider The Simpsons and Family Guy to be reality shows."

MUSIC OVERPLAYED ON LOCAL RADIO?

1. “Getting fired.”
2. “Speaking clearly.”
3. “I’m getting real tired of anything by Jack Johnson.”
4. “Hoobastank — they’re killing ‘The Reason’ by playing it all the time.”
5. “I got injured body surfing last summer. I got pulled over on top of a wave and got slammed to the beach. After I lost my job, I’m paying for everything out of pocket…I kept up my insurance, but everything’s still real expensive.”

Local bands are seeing a renaissance in all the attention they’re getting. Pinback: 91X and 94.9 are both playing them, and giving them their first major exposure. Two San Diego radio stations are fighting over ‘80s. Of course, what you see locally may not necessarily reflect nationwide tastes and playlists. Two San Diego radio stations are fighting over Pinback: 91X and 94.9 are both playing them, and both want to take claim for ‘breaking’ them and giving them their first major exposure. There’s a lot happening with Louis XIV — they were just signed to Atlantic, and 91X is playing the heck out of them.

Pyles still watches the area scene closely and for a time wrote a music column for (now defunct) Fahrenheit magazine. “I’ve had the worst luck with employers this year.” He currently presents a monthly “Local Pyle” band showcase at the Casbah, the next one scheduled for February.

LOCAL BANDS DESTINED FOR FAME?

1. Louis XIV (“The stars have aligned for them, and they’re getting all the breaks.”)
2. Scarlet Symphony (“Led Zeppelin classic rock with a punk groove.”)
3. Tristan Prettyman (“She represents the small local female rocker scene.”)
4. Hot Snakes (“Anything the Swami touches!”)
5. Pinback (“They have more commercial radio viability than, say, the Album Leaf.”)

CURRENT FAVORITE BANDS?

1. Razorlight (“They have a great Brit-pop mod sound.”)
2. Tegan and Sara (“Two lesbian sisters with really cool songs.”)
3. The Music (“They mix rock with Chemical Brothers sound effects.”)
4. Franz Ferdinand (“Represents the best of the post-punk era.”)
5. Hot Snakes (“Minor chords have never sounded so pretty.”)

FAVORITE REALITY SHOW?

The Apprentice: “You can learn a lot about how the business world works. I relate to the anxieties: It’s the same whether you’re in a boardroom or a meeting with your boss…like, I never felt comfortable talking to Jim Richards [director of FM programming for Clear Channel’s San Diego operations] at 91X. He wasn’t as intimidating [as Trump] but, in my reality, he was the guy who fired me. Oh, and I consider The Simpsons and Family Guy to be reality shows.”

HARDEST THING ABOUT BEING A DJ?

1. “Speaking clearly.”
2. “Getting fired.”

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EXTENSION 4000

THIS WEEK'S CONCERTS

FRIDAY

Eddie Benitez & La Fuente: Dixie's, Friday, January 7, 7 p.m., 344 Seventh Avenue (between I and K), downtown. 619-233-9797 or 619-220-8497.

SATURDAY

"Tormé sings Tormé": Balboa Theatre, Saturday, January 8, 7:30 p.m., 1410 East Broadway. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

EXTENSION 4001

UPCOMING CONCERTS

JANUARY

Mos Def: 6th & B, Friday, January 14, 345 B Street, downtown. 619-233-9797 or 619-220-8497.

Rocket from the Crypt: 2377, Deadbolt (114), and Spacehorse: The Casbah, Friday, January 14, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Kettner Boulevard, midtown. 619-220-8497 or 619-232-4355.

AI Kooper: Acoustic Music San Diego, Friday, January 14, 7:30 p.m., 4650 Manchester Street, Normal Heights. Information, 619-303-8176.

Gomez: Belly Up Tavern, Friday, January 14, and Saturday, January 15, 9:15 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-488-1780.

The Kottonmouth Kings: 29th, King Spada, and Micah: 29th, 'Canes Bar and Grill, Saturday, January 15, 8 p.m., 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780 or 619-232-4355.

Keller Williams: 4th & B, Saturday, January 15, 9 p.m., 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

Arcade Fire: The Casbah, Monday, January 17, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Kettner Boulevard, downtown. 619-220-8497 or 619-232-4355.

Jay Farrar: Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, January 19, 7 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-488-1780.


Dionne Warwick: 497, Sycuan Casino Resort, Thursday, January 20, 8 p.m., 5469 Casino Way, Dehesa. 619-659-3380.

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Friday, February 11th at 7:00 & 9:30 PM
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  - Free Dance Lessons
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  - 9-10 PM CCOMPLIMENTARY
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  - DANCE LESSONS
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MARCH

B.B. King (939): 6th & B, Tuesday, March 1, 6 p.m., 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

The Jonny Lang Acoustic Band: 4th & B, Friday, March 4, 9 p.m., 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

The Pat Metheny Group: 4th & B, Saturday, March 5, 9 p.m., 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

G. Love & Special Sauce: 4th & B, Saturday, March 5, 9 p.m., 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

O.A.R.: “Cane’s Bar and Grill, Tuesday, March 8, 8-10 p.m., 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780 or 619-220-8497.

Chris Cagle: California Center for the Arts, Thursday, March 10, 8 p.m., 340 N. Evacuado Boulevard, Escondido. 800-988-4253 or 619-220-8497.

The Music: “Cane’s Bar and Grill, Monday, March 13, 8-10 p.m., 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780 or 619-220-8497.

Big Head Todd & the Monsters (475): 4th & B, Thursday, March 17, 9 p.m., 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

Mary Black (475): California Center for the Arts, Saturday, March 19, 9 p.m., 340 N. Evacuado Boulevard, Escondido. 800-988-4253 or 619-220-8497.

Reverend Horton Heat: 2/26

“Cane’s Bar and Grill, Saturday, March 19, 8 p.m., 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780 or 619-220-8497.

Midway Cove (475): Coors Amphitheatre, Tuesday, March 22, 7-10 p.m., 2550 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600 or 619-220-8497.

Handsome Boy Modeling School: Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, March 29, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

Adeep at the Wheel: Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, March 30, 7 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

UPCOMING SHOWS:

2/12 DARK STAR ORCHESTRA • 2/13 MARCIA BALL • 2/19 MADONNA

2002 SUPER DIAMOND • 3/29 HANDSOME BOY MODELING SCHOOL (Rescheduled date. Tickets for January date will be honored at this show.) • 3/20 ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL

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Online Club Coupons!

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

San Diego Reader, January 6, 2005
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Saturday, Jan. 29
Tickets available at: 4th & B, Brick by Brick

The Love Rangers: The Alley

Rick Lyon: The Imperial House

The New Breed Band: Dick’s Last Revenge

The Pelicans: Viscio Casino

The Pier Group: Trestles Garden Grill

Jack Pollack: Elario’s Bistro & Sky Lounge

The Rat Pack: La Scala

Dean Paul Ratzman: T.D. Hays Bar & Restaurant, Buero Solei

Peter Robbererecht/Pianosman: #222: Dakota Grill and Spirits

EXTENSION 4005

Agua Dulce: (714) Winslows

The Archetypes: Croce’s Jazz Bar

The B Side Players: (649) Bella Up Tavern

The Ray Barrie Big Band: The German-American Societies, Viejas Casino

Eddie Benitez & La Puente: Don’s

Blue Largo: (665) Patrick’s II

The Sacha Roustros Quartet: Paquito on Prospect, Aurora Tastoria

The Jorge Camberos Quintet: Croce’s Jazz Bar

Sammy Canoizalade: Cafe LaMaze

Sandy Chappell: Cafe LaMaze

Jo Dark: The German-American Societies

The David Patrone Quartet: (617) Croce’s Jazz Bar, Redfield’s Lounge & Bistro, Martinis Ranch (Gastropub)

Dejha Marie: Croce’s Cabaret

Fuerte: The Calypso Cafe

Hall & Leighton: Aurora Tastoria

The High Society Jazz Band: Tio Ley’s Lounge

Barry Levitch: La Valencia Hotel

Israel Maldonado: Winslows

The Joe Marillo Quartet: Buon Grano Restaurant

Masterpieces: Jimmy Love’s

Jerry Melnick: The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, Rancho Bernardo Inn

The Shop Meyers Quartet: (665) Croce’s Jazz Bar

Mystique: Jimmy Love’s

Sue Palmer: (649) Croce’s Cabaret

Ben Powell: Tomiko Bar & Grill

Primo: Croce’s Top Hat Bar and Grill, Belly Up Tavern

Rick Ross: La Valencia Hotel

Sambajazz: Scalin Restaurant

The San Diego Concert Jazz Band: The InnSuites

Dave Scott: Croce’s Jazz Bar

Sharon Shiffley: Cafe Calabria

Reggie Smith & Pressed for Time: Jimmy Love’s

The Soul Revue: Jimmy Love’s

The Jaime Villa Jazz Quartet: Coronado Island Marriott

The Jaime Villa/Bob Magnussen Jazz Quartet: Postino Mesa

Jason Weber: Humphrey’s

Yacar: Croce’s Jazz Bar

EXTENSION 4006

REGGAE / SKA

Common Sense: (760) Winslows

Crucial: Winslows

Kumbadaw: Blind Melons

Semai & Fululaba: (747) The Calypso Cafe

The Tribe of Kings: Martini Ranch (Gastropub)

Vagilation: Blind Melons

EXTENSION 4007

COUNTRY

The Bestard Sons of Johnny Cash: (783) Belly Up Tavern

Colice Ridge: Don’s Cocktail Lounge

The California Rangers: McCabe’s Beach Club

Southbound Johnny: Renegade Inn

Working Class Cowboy: Belly Up Tavern

The Celtic Ensemble: Twigg Tea and Coffee Company

The Cowboy Problem: Diary’s

Tony Cummings: Blaney Stone Pub

Dave’s Son: Twigg Tea and Coffee Company

Kim DiVincenzo: Twigg Tea and Coffee Company

Jim Earp: Borders Books & Music (El Cajon)

Will Edwards: (847) Twigg Tea and Coffee Company

Ted Rohr: Twigg Tea and Coffee Company

Alex Esther: Twigg Tea and Coffee Company, Lestat’s Coffeehouse

4-Way Street: McP’s Irish Pub and Grill

Ron Franklin: Lestat’s Coffeehouse

Free Air: Jay’s Gourmet Pizza & Seafood Restaurant

Grandpadre: Lestat’s Coffeehouse

Jack the Original: Cafes

Just John & the Dude: Twigg Tea and Coffee Company

B. Lawrence Keyes: Borders Books & Music (Mission Valley)

Greg Laswell: Lestat’s Coffeehouse

Brehon Law: Tom Giblin’s Irish Pub & Restaurant

Jimmy Lewis: Tiki House

Sean McVicker: Trestles Garden Grill

Tim Mudd: Lestat’s Coffeehouse

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

I’ve never met Greg Laswell, so I don’t know what he’s like as a person. I just know he has moved on from the breakup of his band, Shillglen, into a promising solo career and producer. His self-released solo album Good Movie received a San Diego Music Award. He’s booked a lot of shows recently, including several nights at Lestat’s and Java Joe’s. Until recently, he ran an interesting record store at Fashion Valley. He’s even taken up drumming (with Matt Curreri and the X-Friends). He’s talented, he’s good-looking, he apparently has a lot of friends and admirers, and he makes a living playing and recording music. Sounds like a go-getter to me. But listen to his songs and you hear loneliness and self-doubt. In a melancholy, piano-based number called “Through Toledo,” he sings of driving to San Francisco because “She thinks that I’ve already gone.” And, again, in the rocker “Bright Ideas,” he sings, “You may say I’m not here.” Instead of these exercises in low self-esteem, Laswell could be boasting about his bright future. I don’t presume to know why he doesn’t. But music is one of the few areas in human endeavor where shyness, introversion, moodiness, and emotional immaturity can be thought of as professional strengths. That’s not to say that Laswell is showing his wounded side solely out of commercial considerations, to gain indie cred, or just to get laid. Everyone has feelings of vulnerability. We’re lucky to have people like Laswell, who have the talent and the self-confidence to sing about their self-doubt.

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DJ EVENTS

If you would like to include your DJ event, e-mail sellis@nethere.com or fax information to 619-881-2481 by 5:00 p.m. Friday, the week prior to publication. The listings are free.

Air Conditioned: DJ events with climate controlled environment.

Club 80s: Thursdays, the best of the ’80s with DJs Bryan Pollard and Brian Anderson. 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. and up. Shooters, 3813 30th Street, North Park. 619-374-0774.

Therapy: Fridays, industrial, goth, and darkwave. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. and up. Shooters, 3813 30th Street, North Park. 619-374-0774.

Transport: First and third Saturdays of the month. Beat rock, indie, and electroclash with DJ Gate Vega and guests. The Whistle Stop, 2236 Fern Street (corner of 30th and Juniper), Golden Hill. 619-264-8194.

Club by Area

If you wish to submit a listing, call 619-235-3000, ext. 261, e-mailed to sellis@nethere.com; 619-235-3000, ext. 4840. Call, 7:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., Monday through Saturday.

DJ Events & DJ

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**Compass**, (Carlsbad), 760-729-6951. Friday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Tonga Room. Live music. Saturday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Tonga Room. Live music. Sunday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Tonga Room. Live music.

**Coyote Bar and Grill**, 3633 South 300 Highway (at D Street), Encinitas. 760-438-8160. Friday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Live Music. Saturday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Live Music. Sunday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Live Music.

**Mikklesen’s Tavern**, 6951 Linea del Cielo, Rancho Santa Fe. 858-756-1131. Thursday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Live jazz. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Northstar, classic rock.

**Hennessey’s Tavern** (Carlsbad), 2777 Roosevelt Street, Carlsbad. 760-434-3497. Thursday, 8 p.m., the Kyle James Blues Show. Wednesday, 8 p.m., Mike Gardner, acoustic rock.

**Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad**. 760-729-4695. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Live music. Wednesday, reggae.

**Bordertown**, Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., 10 p.m., 760-489-8890. Thursday and Monday, live Disorder music. Friday, the Lighthouse Jam, alternative rock.

**Free Air**, 258 East Second Avenue, Escondido. 760-480-8228. Thursday, 6 p.m., Mike Gardner, acoustic rock.

**Mitchell & Double Down**, 11966 El Camino Real, Suite 208, La Costa. 760-439-8863. Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Live music. Friday, the Kicks, classic rock.

**Mas Fina Cantina**, 2475 Main Street, Ramona. 760-383-4683. Friday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Live music. Saturday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Live music. Sunday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Live music.

**The Metaphor Coffeehouse**, Monterey Bay Canners, 1125 North Harbor Drive, Oceanside. 760-480-8869. Thursday and Monday, live Disorder music. Friday, the Lighthouse Jam, alternative rock.

**The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe**, 6646. Friday, 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Live music. Saturday, 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Live music. Flipper, pop rock.

**La Costa Coffee Roasting Co.**, 6951 El Camino Real, Suite 208, La Costa. 760-438-8160. Friday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., David Allen, acoustic and acoustic original rock/blues.

**Longshot Saloon**, 443 Grand Avenue, San Marcos. 760-744-8576. Friday, Mellow and Fun, alternative rock. Saturday, Left rock.

**Marriott Hotel**, 11966 El Camino Real, Del Mar. 858-369-6032. Thursday, 8 p.m., the Kyle James Blues Show. Wednesday, 8 p.m., Mike Gardner, acoustic rock.

**Mike’s Beach Club**, 1145 South Tremont, Oceanside. 760-419-6640. Friday, 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., the California Rangers, country.

**California Rangers**, 3080. Friday, 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., the California Rangers, country.

**Ray Lipson**, Thursday, 8 p.m., the Kyle James Blues Show. Wednesday, 8 p.m., Mike Gardner, acoustic rock.

**Rancho Bernardo Inn**, Mike Gardner, 760-489-8890. Thursday and Monday, live Disorder music. Friday, the Lighthouse Jam, alternative rock.

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BECHEES

Aurora Trattoria, 1025 Prospect Street #250, La Jolla. 858-551-8504. Thursday, 4 p.m. to 11 p.m., Half & Lightning, jazz. Saturday, the Samba Jazz Queen, Latin jazz.

Bahlia Hotel, 998 West Mission Bay Drive, Mission Beach. 858-488-0551. Tangerine, Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m. to midnight, Mike, contemporary piano/vocals.

Blind Melons, 710 Garden Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-7844. Thursday, Sixth Day, rock. Friday, Shuggie Wages and Muletrack, rock. Saturday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Brother Love, pop. 8:30 p.m., Kopitar and Koumbadassou, reggae. Sunday, A’Vita, Funk and Wine, alternative rock. Monday, open mike. Tuesday, No Such East and Fat Camp, rock. Wednesday, Silver Side, melodic hard rock.


Chateau Orleans, 926 Torqueuse Street, Pacific Beach. 858-488-0744. Thursday and Friday, Trendt Courtney & the Blues Zwairs, blues.

Dreamstreet, 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-8133. Fraydi, Meat Shop, Thursday. Throttle & Bootstrapper, MagNet.

Elario’s Bistro & Sky Lounge, (the Hotel La Jolla), 7935 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla. 858-459-0504. Music is blues/jazz unless otherwise noted. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., also, Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m. to 11 p.m., Jack Poole, contemporary.

Hard Rock Cafe (La Jolla), 909 Prospect Street, La Jolla. 858-483-7625. Friday and Saturday, call for club information.

Hennessey’s Tavern (PB), 4650 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach. 858-483-8847. Friday, Something Else, rock. Saturday, Compass, rock. Wednesday, Cathryn Brooks, acoustic/folk.

Javanican, 4350 Cass Street, Pacific Beach. 858-483-8035. Thursday, Daniel Orihla of the Ghost Town Beckers, roots folk reggae.

La Scala, 1101 Scott Street, Point Loma. 619-224-2522. Thursday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., the Rat Pack, American classics. Sunday, 7:30 p.m., Salvador & Co., opera.

La Valencia Hotel, 1332 Prospect Street, La Jolla. 858-454-0771. Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., Barry Lewis, jazz. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., and Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., Rock Ross, jazz.

Pascale on Prospect, 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla. 858-459-0722. Friday, the Sacha Burtles Quartet, jazz.

T.D. Hay’s Bar & Restaurant, 4313 Ocean Boulevard, Pacific Beach. 858-233-6840. Thursday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Donn Paul Ratzman, American classics.

Tiki House, 1525 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-273-9734. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, The Angry Samoans, punk.

Sweet Energy, 760 Prospect Street, La Jolla. 858-231-3181. Saturday, live music, reggae.

THE UNDERGROUND

Comedy is rock/alternative. Thursday, Uncle Jesse, Varoula, Jack the Original, and Flick. Friday, Atomic Punk, Zapparella, and Dr. Chuck. Saturday, call for club information. Sunday, live bands, call for club information. Wednesday, Fear of Falling, Sleeford, the Order, and Enze the Day.

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SAN DIEGO

Albie’s Beef Inn, 1201 Hotel Circle South, San Diego. 619-281-1203. Friday and Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, 7 p.m., David Timothy Smith.

The Bahia Belle Cruise, the Bahia Bella, 998 West Mission Bay Drive, Mission Bay. 858-539-7779. Departs 6:30 p.m. Friday. B.Third National prop. Saturday, the NuDE Blues.

Blarney Stone Pub, 1617 Ballon Avenue, Clairemont. 858-279-2033. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Tony Commons, Irish folk. Wednesday, Larger Than Love or Bad Credit, rock.


Brick by Brick, 1130 Boundary Avenue, Bar. 619-275-LIVE. Friday, Molea Cab, Malachi Cryer, Montreal, and much more!

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Caffe Calabria, 393 30th Street, North Park. 619-293-1759
Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Fat Palmers, Shane Shaddock, and Dwight Marie, boogie-woogie/jazz
The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, 9015 Mira Mesa Boulevard, San Diego. 858-695-0001. Friday, 8–9 p.m., Erik champagne, soft alternative rock.

Epicentre, 8405 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa. 581-271-4000. Saturday, 8 p.m., the Symphony Case, Vaiavimu, Schrader, and Radio Duty, alternative rock.

Etta’s Place, 6179 University Avenue (at College and University), 619-582-6730. Thursday, 8 p.m. to midnight, the Stumpie Jam, classic rock.

Henry’s Pub, 618 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-238-2380. Thursday, the Flock of 80’s pop rock. Tuesday, the Stelten, rock/indie

Hot Monkey Love Cafe’, 1296 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego. 619-582-5906. Friday, 8 p.m., the Makeover Boys and the Staggers’ 6th, rock

Humphrey’s, Half Moon Inn, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-228-3557. Friday, 9:30 p.m., Melai, Latin rock. Saturday, 9:30 p.m., the Detroit Underground, Motown/dance, 11 p.m., Gary U.S. Bonds, Sunday, 9 p.m. to midnight, Jason Weber, jazz. Monday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Island Breeze, Wednesday, 9:30 p.m., Quinn, reggae/soul

The Imperial House, 105 Kalima Street, San Diego. 619-234-3925
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 7-10 p.m. or 11:30 p.m., Rick Lyon, pop standards/Top 40/variety

The Inn Suites, 2223 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego. 619-296-2101. Wednesday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., with a special appearance with the San Diego Concert Jazz Band


Jamar’s Restaurant and Lounge, 1177 University Avenue, La Mesa. 619-469-7777. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, the Bert Torres Band Sunday, contemporary music

The Kensington Club, 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington, 619-284-2840. Friday, the After Party, the Displaced, and the Buzzkill Romanticos

The Musician, 9422 University Avenue, La Mesa. 619-699-8080. Saturday, Sunday, 5-9 p.m., Live music and DJs

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 13
MASTERPIECE
6:15-10:45 PM
FRIDAY, JANUARY 14
X-Cel
9:45 PM-1:30 AM
SATURDAY, JANUARY 15
ROZ & THE WRECKING CREW
9:45 PM-1:30 AM

The Kensington Club, Friday, Saturday, Jamar’s Restaurant and Boulevard, Tierrasanta. 858-576-2509. Concert Jazz Band. Wednesday, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., Island Breeze. Wednesday, 9:30 p.m., Quinn, reggae/soul

Saturday, January 15
THE VIEWMASTERS
THE DISTILLERS
SCARLET SYMPHONY
4079 Adams Ave.
not in the town
284-2848

SUNSETS
JEZABEL
THE MAKOUT BOYS
the Detroit Underground
10436 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, San Diego. 619-296-2100. Friday, January 14
the After Party, the Makeout Boys classic rock.

and Codie Adam, Saturday, Tea Taylor and B.D.G. Monday, Collide and Call Me Alice

X-Cel, Saturday, January 12
THE AFTER PARTY
THE DISPLACED
BUZZKILL ROMANTICOS
Saturday, January 8
STARBURST THEORIE
JEZABEL
SUNSETS & LANDSCAPES
Friday, January 14
Jabbie End Party
CHINESE TELEPHONE
MEXICO CITY ROLLERS
CRASHKILLSFOUR
Saturday, January 15
THE VIEWMASTERS
THE DISTILLERS
SCARLET SYMPHONY
Friday, January 21
Trewises Garden Grill, 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego. 619-980-5017. Thursday through Saturday, 4-8:30 p.m. Live music, acoustic/folk.

NightSpots

 примечания

The Casbah, 500 4th Avenue, downtown. 619-232-3377. Monday, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., the Siers Brothers; Wednesday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., the Siers Brothers. Music is 70th Street), College Area. 619-463-4000. Live music, rock, reggae/dancehall, hip-hop.

Tutu with Tawny, 3505 University Avenue, San Diego. 619-276-5637. Saturday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., the Siers Brothers. Music is 70th Street), College Area. 619-463-4000. Live music, rock, reggae/dancehall, hip-hop.

DOWNTOWN
Blamey Stone Pub, 306 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-8519. Friday through Sunday, and Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., the Siers Brothers. Music is 70th Street), College Area. 619-463-4000. Live music, rock, reggae/dancehall, hip-hop.

CROCE’S Top Hat Bar and Grille, 502 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-4535. Friday, 9 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Siers Brothers. Music is 70th Street), College Area. 619-463-4000. Live music, rock, reggae/dancehall, hip-hop.

Good Intention, 619-233-4355. DJ & Dancing All Night

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La Jolla (Golden Triangle area). 619-296-0616. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Tim Mudd, alternative. Saturday, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Tim Mudd, alternative. Music is 70th Street), College Area. 619-463-4000. Live music, rock, reggae/dancehall, hip-hop.

Croce’s Jazz Bar, 502 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-4535. All music is jazz unless otherwise noted. Thursday, the David Patrone Quartet; Friday, the Archtones; Saturday, the Archtones; Sunday, the Archtones. Music is 70th Street), College Area. 619-463-4000. Live music, rock, reggae/dancehall, hip-hop.


Caribe Nightclub, 718 Ventura Place

O’Connell’s

21 and up with ID UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

THURSDAYS 8 PM
HIP-HOP, FUNK AND ROCK with DJ Jamiine

THURSDAYS 8 PM
Casa A Ture KARAOKE with Leslie Myers

PLAYOFF MANIA
Free food and specials during football playoffs!

Caribe Nightclub, 718 Ventura Place

THURSDAYS 8 PM
Casa A Ture KARAOKE with Leslie Myers

PLAYOFF MANIA
Free food and specials during football playoffs!

POLL - FOOTBALL - KARAOKE
3150 MORDAN BLVD. - 619-276-8527

South Bay’s #1 Caribbean Restaurant

DJs, 4347 Street, downtown. 619-231-6143. Call club for information.

Sgeorges on Fifth, 835 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-702-2444. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, Tim Mudd, alternative. Music is 70th Street), College Area. 619-463-4000. Live music, rock, reggae/dancehall, hip-hop.

Jimmy Love’s, 672 Fifth Avenue (corner of Fifth and G), downtown. 619-236-1618. Saturday, the Dive Pops.

Dizzy’s, 434 Seventh Avenue, downtown. 619-270-7676. Friday, 8 p.m., Eddie Benitez & La Fuente, Latin jazz. Saturday, 8 p.m., Kerby Hart and the Coyote Problem, acoustic.

Ringo’s, 554 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-239-3818. Live music by Ralph Tague, Irish fusion.

South Bay’s #1 Caribbean Restaurant


G-Sgeorges on Fifth, 835 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-702-2444. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, Tim Mudd, alternative. Music is 70th Street), College Area. 619-463-4000. Live music, rock, reggae/dancehall, hip-hop.


Martini Ranch, 528 F Street, downtown. 619-231-6000. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, call club for information. Saturday, reggae/lasall/hip-hop/R&B. Wednesday, 9 p.m., the David Patrone Quartet; jazz. Music is 70th Street), College Area. 619-463-4000. Live music, rock, reggae/dancehall, hip-hop.

Patrick’s II, 428 F Street, downtown. 619-233-8077. Music is blues unless otherwise noted. Thursday, the NK Soul Band. Friday, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., the Lovers, rockabilly. Saturday, Sun Dogs. Sunday, J.J. Style. Monday, live music, surf bands.

Ten Bar, 6720 Lafayette Street, La Mesa Springs Shopping Center

Music is 70th Street), College Area. 619-463-4000. Live music, rock, reggae/dancehall, hip-hop.


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Contemporary Asian Film Festival

SDMA and the Museum of Photographic Arts (MoPA) collaborate on a three-part film series highlighting contemporary, cutting-edge Asian film directors.

January 13

Springtime in a Small Town
“One of the best films of the year.” Time Magazine

January 20

Millennium Mambo

January 27

Dolls

Screenings will take place Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. at MoPA
Tickets: $7 members, $10 nonmembers, $8 students

SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART
1450 EL PRADO, BALBOA PARK, WWW.SDMART.ORG
I spent all last summer without a lick of barbecue crossing my lips. So by late fall, the craving for the taste of smoke reached a crisis. I began a quest for new “Qs” and found two of them. (Actually three, but the chef/owner of Willy’s BBQ in Mount Hope had health problems that forced him to shut down his BBQ shack. I wish him well.)

When I go out for “Q,” I’m looking for something very different than open-flame grilling (whether the flames are fueled by charcoal, gas, or electricity). I seek Southern-style smoked barbecue, because “Q” is fundamentally a Southern art. There are great schools of it up north in Kansas City, Chicago, and Oakland, true, but these were created largely by southern emigrants and their offspring. The art is most often brought to its peak by African-Americans, but anyone can play — so long as they play by the rules. And the first rule is that smoke comes before fire.

“The tasting of barbecue is a precise affair involving an assessment not merely of quality but also of authenticity,” writes food-footballer Lolis Eric Elie, editor of the fine new essay collection Cornbread Nation 2: The United States of Barbecue (Southern Folkways Association, University of North Carolina Press). “While it is possible to enjoy tender, well-seasoned meat bathed in barbecue sauce, I make a distinction between good food and good barbecue. Good barbecue must be smoked over hardwood or charcoal, and the flavor of that fuel must penetrate the meat…And barbecue should be tender. Merely placed in close proximity to a fork, brisket and pork shoulder should yield with little additional effort. Ribs should separate from the bone without excessive pulling and tugging. The difficulty is cooking the meat long enough to attain this degree of tenderness and smokiness without drying it out.”

The second issue for me lies in the flavors added to the meat, since meat by itself isn’t all that interesting. Stopping on barbecue sauce as a marinade before smoking is a sure sign of inauthenticity, and a near-certain route to a nasty layer of charred sugar before testing. Slopping on barbecue sauce as a marinade to the meat, since meat by itself isn’t all that interesting, would probably meet Lolis Elie’s standards, and emphatically meet mine: Big Jim’s in Encinitas, and Barnes Bar-B-Que in Lemon Grove. Those are the ones to beat, but both are in out-of-the-way communities. Hence the search for more centrally located “Q.”

San Diego County has two barbecues that would probably meet Lolis Elie’s standards, and emphatically meet mine: Big Jim’s in Encinitas, and Barnes Bar-B-Que in Lemon Grove. Those are the ones to beat, but both are in out-of-the-way communities. Hence the search for more centrally located “Q.”

Lightnin’ Jack’s is in the outdoor food court of a multiplex theater in a vast mall in Clairemont. It sits next to a Greek place called Dino’s. Both are owned by Dino and Edna Zane. He’s Greek, she’s Californian. Their barbecue joint isn’t a joint, but clean and cute and a little self-conscious, with black-and-white Western-themed pictures on the walls and 30 inside seats. Outside, some 60 more seats are arranged around umbrella-shaded tables. Some chairs, inside and out, are barstools with metal “saddles.” I feared spinal torture, but the saddles curve comfortably around the anatomy, even if your headquarters are past their lissome youth.

My ideal barbecue, a vegetarian — not a vegan — could make a great “Q” meal from sides and desserts without a bite of animal protein. I spent all last summer without a lick of barbecue crossing my lips. So by late fall, the craving for the taste of smoke reached a crisis. I began a quest for new “Qs” and found two of them. (Actually three, but the chef/owner of Willy’s BBQ in Mount Hope had health problems that forced him to shut down his BBQ shack. I wish him well.)

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Jack Dupree or if it’s merely a made-up name that sounded cool.

The staff are young and friendly. They did, however, give the peach cobbler that I paid for to somebody whose takout order was larger, so I never tasted the premier dessert. You gotta watch that stuff.

Hidden inside the kitchen, Jack’s lays claim to a Texas-style pit smoker burning hickory wood. The meats that emerge aren’t the smokiest, but they’re tasty. The pork ribs are tender and moist, and the brisket carries enough smoke flavor to pass muster in Texas. The beef ribs are on the tough and chewy side. The chicken (I opted for dark meat) is tender but tastes fast-grilled over flame, rather than slow-smoked. The Texas-style sauce is a sweet-tangy tomato blend with Liquid Smoke to ac-cenuate the wood flavors. It’s ordinary but enjoyable.

In a pulled-pork sandwich, a barbecue specialty of Memphis, the pork needed more pulling — the pieces were chunky, not shredded. The meat comes, as it should, on a burger bun with coleslaw piled on top. The peppy slaw, however, substitutes showers of sugar for the calmer sweetness of grated carrot more typical of Mem-phis’s best.

Fried catfish is another op-tion. There’s a saffy spice mix in the creamy coating, outweighing moist cat that tastes as if it was raised in clean water. I prefer the catfish plate to the sandwich, because the latter comes drenched in so much Louisiana-style hot sauce you’d be hard-pressed to guess what’s under the h-h-hot.

Among the sides, steak-cut fries are tasty in the usual way. Potato salad has skin-on new potatoes with a fluffly texture and no hint of the South in the seasonings. Sweet-potato fries are greaseless and charming. The hush puppies are light-textured and oniony, with a delayed whump of hot pepper; it hits as you swallow. Other choices include fried okra, jalapeno poppers, onion rings, baked beans, and mac’n’ cheese.

Next day, I headed to Pacific Beach, where another new Q called Sticker Fingers is home to the only known smoker in the PB area. Since it opened last spring, the owners have changed the spelling of the first name — maybe the Rolling Stones were claiming copyright violation.

The bright room has a hand-ful of tables, big windows, Mexican folk art, and chile posters. Outside, there’s a wooden patio with a few more tables and an oil-drum smoker, which is where the meats are cooked. The chef, Sonny Choudod, presides at the counter. I asked him about his odd acc-ent. “I’m an Egyptian Jew from Mexico City, where I ran bars and nightclubs,” he said. “Then the crime there got so bad — I actually had friends who were kidnapped — I decided to get out and learn to cook. I spent two years studying at culinary school in Israel and working in hotel kitchens there. That’s probably why I sound like a combination of Spanish and Middle Eastern.” His mother has been living in La Jolla for 20 years, so he decided to move to the San Diego area.

After cooking at several local restaurants, including the pan-Latin cuisine at the Gaslamp’s (now extinct) Tango Mango, he attempted to make a go of a similar nuevo Mexicano restaurant in PB. “The more people came in to eat, the more money I lost, because I needed to hire more people,” he said. After traveling in the South and eating barbeque all over Texas, he coveted the space to a barbecue. A local friend, a former barbecue chef, taught him the basic recipes. His business partner, New Englan-ders Wes Slack, now does most of the cooking from Sonny’s “recipe book,” while Sonny works the front of the house and the financial side.

I tried the largest combo plate with a quarter-rack of ribs, pulled pork, and chicken. The meats are smoked over hickory-wood chunks, the best of all barbecue woods because the smoke is sweet-tasting. The pork ribs are tender to the bone. (Sonny swears they’re not par-boiled or pressure-cooked, just smoked and then grilled to re-heat and crisp them.) The brisket is shredsly and smoky, and the chicken is reasonably tender and even smokier. Unfortunately, under the smoke, the poultry tastes like those family-size bags of cardboard legs — it’s hopeless even when well-cooked. Since I last ate there, a smoked turkey leg has become a popular addition to the menu.

The meats are rubbed with an array of sweet and spicy sauces blended: I found the flavors one-dimen-sional, and the barbecue sauce is a basic model, with tomato up front, not much chicken, and minimal bass back-up. It needs more something — mo-lasses? Worcestershire? Liquid Smoke? — anything except more tomato. Above all, I wish for “medium” and “hot” op-tions, like the kind they offer up in Oakland, because the default version is bland.

Given that you’re not getting a Memphis-style sauce, the pulled-pork spans is decent. Choose the potato-bread ham-burger bun (not the French roll, which is too thick for this dish). The meat comes topped with a terrific coleslaw, combining crisp red and white cabbage, car-rot, tangerine, and celery seed. It’s the most complex and authen-tic flavor combination in the house. My one quibble is that lean meat isn’t what you want when you’re getting a tray-ditional good-and-greasy Memphis sandwich.

I also tried the BBQ wings, which are marinated and grilled in the house barbecue sauce; the taste is similar to KFC’s version. The Louisiana “hot” links are mild but fla-vorful, like a Creole take on kielbasa. Potato salad features skin-on red spuds with a dressing of mashed egg yolk, mayo, and chopped pickle. The flavor is slightly sour, but not quite Southern — it lacks mustardy piquancy. Baked beans taste genuinely baked and are pleasant but not riveting. They beg for a scoop of Liquid Smoke (and maybe some chopped smoked pork) to seduce them out of Boston and into the land of Diane “Q.”

The house-salads are options for your side dishes, and they’re good. I tried romaine hearts with a Caesar dressing, which boasted in the joy of tasted anchovies. The kitchen was out of sweet-potato pie but did offer alternates. The brownie is light, caky, and co-cos-based. The cheesecake is weighty and so rich that every bite demands consumption. I’m not quite

The smoky meats and sauces from both barbe- cues later went into a homemade Brunswick Stew. The Virginia-Kentucky ver-sions of that American classic involve squirrel (or rabbit, if that’s what you’re cooking). The Georgia version uses leftover barbecue, including chicken. I chose to march through Geor-gia en route to the stove. Now that the stew’s done cooking and I’m done writing, I’m go-ing to eat.
Manhood Challenge

“It became a catering business. Soon, she couldn’t fit it all into our kitchen.”

S educed by the smoke. That’s the long and short of it. I mean, a guy’s innocently putting one foot in front of another, trying to do something right in his life, when he walks into a fog. A super-delicious fog, mind you, a tangy, grilled, meaty fog of smoke. It billows down the sidewalk. Then the wind shifts and blows it sideways across Broadway toward the Chula Vista Center. Ah. Now I see where it’s coming from. Two blackened, cut-in-half 44-gallon drums sitting on a trolley above the sidewalk. Here on H Street, a real live outdoor barbecue pit! A guy with tongs lifts flaps of meat, and the wind blows it into a fog. A super-delicious fog, mind you, a ‘flame on’ sensation for the cornbread.

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“Hey, good hat,” says the guy who’d been turning the ribs at the grill. Zarak. He’s behind the counter now. “Ready to order?”

I tip my straw hat back to check the wall menu, aware that I’m spending chair money here. The hot link, beef, and rib-tip sandwiches are cheapest: $5.75. The BBQ chicken sandwich is $6.00, the BBQ tri-tip $7.00. All come with chips or a small side, like potato salad, macaroni salad, coleslaw, baked beans, candied yams, collard greens, or kernel corn.

But then how can you bypass those ribs cooking outside? Here we’re talking $7–$9. Quarter chicken and two (pork) ribs are $8.75 with cornbread and two small sides (everything a dollar more for dinner but comes with medium sides). A hot link and two ribs goes for $7.75, ribs or rib-tip for $8.00, BBQ or teriyaki, half-chicken $7.00, and the “triple play” (tri-tip, rib and chicken) is $10.25. They even have lasagna for $7.25.

“Better hurry. ‘Uh, what’s the tri-tip?’ I ask. ‘Sliced steak with its own marinade, cooked on the grill.’ “And how much for, like, a slab of ribs? The whole slab.”

“It’s $23.50.”

“OK. Half a slab?”

“That’s $14.50.”

“One rib!”

Zarak doesn’t blink. “Will set you back $2.50. Or, you’ve got the daily specials.”

He points to a chart on the counter I hadn’t noticed. Today, Thursday, is “rib-tip dinner.” Aha. It includes two medium (not small) sides plus cornbread. Seven bucks, not eight.

“Then the wind shifts and blows it into a fog. A super-delicious fog, mind you, a ‘flame on’ sensation for the cornbread. I chomp into my rib-tips and savor that sauce. It billows down the sidewalk.

“Those were the time he does, he disappears in a cloud. It’s a challenge to manhood more than anything else, so I say ’hot’ and get a can of soda ($1.25) and head for a table in the sunny corner. Then, oh wow, The ribs and the cornbread come in a poly styrene box, with each side in its own separate pot. There must be a dozen chunky rib-tips. The barbecue sauce is sweet, tangy, but not too sharp. Friendly, but peppery hot. Thank goodness for the cornbread.

“I come into my ribs and savor that sauce. One or two of the tips are a little chewy, but the whole meal is a deal. Dec-icious, you might say. And oh, that cornbread. So fresh and crunchy.

“We make it here from scratch every morning,” says this guy Kashif. KC, everyone calls him. KC, everyone calls him.

“Like the sauce normal or hot?”

“Sliced steak with its own marinade, cooked on the grill.”

“Like the sauce normal or hot?”

“Sliced steak with its own marinade, cooked on the grill.”

“Sliced steak with its own marinade, cooked on the grill. Zarak has closed down the pit for the afternoon. I’m stuffed. Bloated. Outside, the skies are clear. Across the road, somewhere, is a chair I can’t afford. Maybe…Yeah. I’ll just bring her a rack of ribs. And a bunch of La-Z-Boy brochures. That should cover the bases, right?”

“That’s just my cousins. We’re all family here. Always talking, arguing, having a good time.”

Can’t believe I haven’t noticed this place before. KC says his parents, Lance and Robin, opened up in 2001. “Eleven years ago, my mom started making cakes at home,” he says. “It became a catering business. Soon, she couldn’t fit it all into our kitchen. They decided to find another location, and my dad said, ‘Well, why don’t we make it a barbecue takeout while we’re about it?’ So they went looking, and the Lord blessed us with this place.”

A car parks right outside the window. “That’s my mom,” says KC. And soon Robin’s in, joining us at the table. “It was difficult at first,” she says, “but we got a lot of support from family, friends, and our church — the New Creation Church at Alta Dena. And God. He gave Lance a vision for this business. As a foundation for creating a family legacy.”

We chat on. Nephews, Zarak, Lamarr, and others join in every now and then. I end up buying one of Robin’s sweet-potato-cream cheesecakes ($1.50). It makes a nice ending. Man, I’m stuffed. Blasted. Outside, the skies are clear. Zarak has closed down the pit for the afternoon. Across the road, somewhere, is a chair I can’t afford. So maybe…Yeah. I’ll just bring her a rack of ribs. And a bunch of La-Z-Boy brochures. That should cover the bases, right? ■

The Place: Cocon’s Catering © BBQ, 573 H Street, Chula Vista, 619-585-7072

Type of Food: BBQ

Prices: Hot link, beef or rib-tip sandwich (with chips or small side, e.g. candied yams, collard greens), $5.75; BBQ chicken sandwich, $6.00; BBQ tri-tip sandwich, $7.00; quarter chicken and two (pork) ribs, with cornbread and two (small) sides, $7.75; ribs or rib-tips, $8.00. BBQ or teriyaki half-chicken $7.00, and the “triple play” (tri-tip, rib and chicken) is $10.25. They even have lasagna for $7.25.

hours: 11:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m., Tuesday—Thursday; 8:00 p.m., Friday, Saturday; 5:00 p.m., Sundays

Buses: 701, 702, 703, 704, 707, 709

Nearest Bus Stop: Right outside, and across H Street near Broadway

LUNCH & DINNER

45 kinds of sushi • 18 different hot food stations including beef, chicken and pork

20 selections of salad • sashimi • fresh salmon • shrimp tempura • green lip mussels

Japanese noodle soup • fresh seasonal fruit • 20 delicious French-style desserts

and much, much more!

BARBECUE GRILL

Your selections custom-grilled for you.

ADDITIONAL DINNER ITEMS

lobster • jumbo & cocktail shrimp • snow crab legs • scallops & oysters on the half-shell • clam steamer

LUNCH Mon.–Fri. • 12.95 • Weekends & Holidays • 14.95

DINNER Mon.–Thurs. • 22.95 • Fri. – Sun. & Holidays • 23.95

10% OFF MONDAY–THURSDAY

Lunch or dinner. With this ad. Expires 1/20/05. Not valid on holidays or with any other offers.

2828 Camino del Rio South 619-299-8996

www.todaisandiego.com

Children 5 feet & under

50% OFF

or more

from adult price

Seniors Over 65

20 selections of salad • sashimi • fresh salmon • shrimp tempura • green lip mussels

Japanese noodle soup • fresh seasonal fruit • 20 delicious French-style desserts

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Lunch or dinner. With this ad. Expires 1/20/05. Not valid on holidays or with any other offers.

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www.todaisandiego.com

Children 5 feet & under

50% OFF

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20 selections of salad • sashimi • fresh salmon • shrimp tempura • green lip mussels

Japanese noodle soup • fresh seasonal fruit • 20 delicious French-style desserts

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BARBECUE GRILL

Your selections custom-grilled for you.

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lobster • jumbo & cocktail shrimp • snow crab legs • scallops & oysters on the half-shell • clam steamer

LUNCH Mon.–Fri. • 12.95 • Weekends & Holidays • 14.95

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10% OFF MONDAY–THURSDAY

Lunch or dinner. With this ad. Expires 1/20/05. Not valid on holidays or with any other offers.
I was drinking these great bottles and saying to my wife, ‘This is out of control!’”

In 1991, Detroit native Thomas Arvid backed-packed across Europe with his girlfriend Vanessa. There, he says, “I was able to see artists working in the street. Later on in the day, I’d find them down by the square or the piers selling their paintings. I said, ‘They’re making a living doing that. That’s what I want to do.’” So, without bothering about formal instruction, “I just decided to sit in my basement and paint.”

The basement sat below the streets of Atlanta, and in 1995 Arvid climbed the stairs and started painting in public, at the city’s Tu Tu Tango café. He began a series of paintings depicting what he thought of as American icons — red American icons. “I was painting Converse high-top tennis shoes, Radio Flyer wagons, and crushed Coke cans, and wine just fell into that list of ‘things that are red.’” (It is surely hopeful news for the domestic wine industry when a casual drinker in Atlanta thinks of wine as any kind of red thing.)

Continues Arvid, “I started painting wine the way that I saw it: on a table, being shared. People fell in love with the paintings; they were buying them as I was working on them.” One client gave him a bottle of Silver Oak and a bottle of Stag’s Leap Cask 23, saying, “Thomas, you’ve got to paint with in Napa. They sold all six overnight. I got a special bottle of wine, then there’s fantasyland.”

Experience has been one of the secrets to his considerable success. Before Arvid closed his commission list — he’s booked for the next four years — there’s a special bottle of wine, then there’s fantasyland. (The same goes for glassware; though Arvid loves the giant Reidel Sommelier glasses, he usually works with “more comfortable glasses, really mid-plane of the-road.”)

People connecting to his work through personal experience has been one of the secrets to his considerable success. Before Arvid closed his commission list — he’s booked for the next four years or so — he noticed a pattern in his clients. “People don’t have the personal experience; they don’t connect with it. There’s a special bottle of wine, then there’s fantasyland.”

Love Wine? Tastings in the Brasserie!

Our Saturday tastings in the WineSellar & Brasserie include six world-class wines chosen as a part of an instructive theme. Guests have a chance to compare and evaluate these carefully chosen wines and judge for themselves. Discounts on the wines served are offered in the wine shop on the day of the tastings. Lunch to complement the wines for only $9.50 additional. Seating from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Call for reservations.

January 8
The Masters of Merlot: Bordeaux's Right Bank versus California’s North Coast ’14

January 15
The Spanish Armada ’18

January 22
The Wines of Santa Barbara County ’22

January 29
The Wines of the Great Northwest ’20

Wednesday Tastings in the WineSellar

The WineSellar & Brasserie also offers a kids very special Wednesday evening wine tastings from 5-7:30 pm. These events include wines from some of our favorite producers.

January 12
Melville Vineyards

January 19
Michaud Vineyards

January 26
Piedmont’s Tenuta Carretia

February 2
Seghesio Family Vineyards

Call 619-239-2222 for reservations. Visit our website for all the details: www.WineSellar.com

Cabernet Paint

“I was drinking these great bottles and saying to my wife, ‘This is out of control!’”

I was drinking these great bottles and saying to my wife, ‘This is out of control!’ This is what wine is supposed to taste like!” Suddenly, Arvid became a less casual drinker; he had fallen in love with Napa Valley Cabernet. Less suddenly, he became a much more serious painter of wine. “The paintings start to sell and you keep on trying to add a wine painting to your series, and someone keeps buying it, and you start to forget about your icon series. You think, ‘Hey, does anybody else paint wine like this?’ I looked up winepaintings.com on the Internet, and there was nothing registered. I didn’t know how to register, but I had somebody do it for me. I was thinking, This is weird.”

He decided to put his work — close-up, casual in tone, larger than life, and photorealistic — up against the wine painters of Napa. But when he arrived in the Valley in the late ’90s, he found the battlefield deserted. “Everybody in Napa painted vineyard scenes and clusters of grapes. I thought, ‘Nobody else is doing what I’m doing.’ I delivered six paintings to the first gallery I worked with in Napa. They sold all six overnight. I got a call the next day: ‘Hire somebody to mow your lawn. Hire somebody to clean your kitchen.’” Arvid had arrived.

He kept at the painting-in-public. “People responded to it. They were just, like, ‘This is so cool.’ I can’t believe you did that in two hours. Can I just buy it the way it is?” But now, instead of a café, he set up his easel inside a restaurant that was playing host to a Silver Oak wine dinner. “It turned out to be a huge success. They had this visual entertainment — me working over in the corner. People would see me walk in with a big blank canvas. I’d do a very rough sketch, capturing the areas of where things needed to be. Then I started blocking in the positive and negative spaces. A wine dinner lasts about four hours, so that gave me a good block of time. I made sure I had a glass of wine next to me, and I worked pretty aggressively.”

The method was far different from the technique he uses at home. There, he works to restage an image he has picked up from “collecting wine and being around it. I try to get the same feeling or movement I experienced. Then I photograph it, I work from multiple photographs, because there are different planes of focus that you need.”

But the restaurant environment had this advantage: “It let people see an artist at work.” The process became his publicity. “I was able to sell paintings, and I was able to meet the rep for Silver Oak. He invited me to do other dinners for him; I was drinking great wine and working with a captive audience.” For the past five years he has attended Silver Oak’s semi-annual release parties, beginning a new Silver Oak-themed work each time.

Besides Silver Oak, his paintings often involve Napa Cabernets such as Opus One, Beringer Private Reserve, Far Niente, Diamond Creek, and Flora Springs, with occasional detours into Bordeaux and Champagne. “It’s a personal choice,” he says, “I tend to favor the California-style wines, that Napa Valley style. So that’s what I paint — ‘paint what you know.’” Labels like Silver Oak are examples of what Arvid calls “special bottles” — not the stuff most people drink every night, but not cult wines such as Colgin or Bryant Family either. “I tend to try to stay within the realms of reality. I’ve had those wines, but I don’t tend to paint them. People don’t have the personal experience; they don’t connect with it. There’s a special bottle of wine, then there’s fantasyland.”

The same goes for glassware; though Arvid loves the giant Reidel Sommelier glasses, he usually works with “more comfortable glasses, really mid-plane of the-road.” People connecting to his work through personal experience has been one of the secrets to his considerable success. Before Arvid closed his commission list — he’s booked for the next four years or so — he noticed a pattern in his clients. “People usually followed the work a little bit in a gallery and then decided, ‘We want one of his originals.’”
They would say, “I drink this bottle of wine, and this one is my wife’s favorite. If you could put these two bottles in the painting with two glasses being shared, it would speak of our life.” Then they left it up to me to put together the composition.”

And however special the bottle, however personal the experience he was depicting, the appeal proved near-universal. People connected with the subject. “Forgetting the painting — just the image of wine,” comments Arvid. “If you see a bottle of wine on the counter…when somebody says, ‘Hey, why don’t you have a glass of wine with me?’ the relaxation level rises. It means you’re going to stay another 15 minutes and hang out with your friend. You sit down, you relax. That’s what I feel is happening within my work. It’s not just how you paint it, but what you paint. It’s the story, what you’re trying to project to people.”

**Restaurant coupons and anus**

Restaurant listings without coupon offers have only menus online. Restaurants with * have multiple locations. See online menu or coupon for all locations.

**Uptown & North Park**

- Harra’s Ethiopian Sampler for 2 $16.99
- India Palace Free appetizer
- Lijo’s 50% off dinner
- Medgrass Free appetizer
- Rafa’s 126 West Grand
- Sanfilippo’s Large pizza $11.95
- Taste of Italy Free Oreo cheesecake*
- Taste of Szechuan 50% off entree
- Thai Grill

- East County & State College
  - Chef Tony Mediterranean Cuisine 50% off entree
  - CinCity Chili
  - Greek Town Buffet 50% off buffet
  - Jump Tokyo Japanese dinners weeknights; slightly expensive à la carte on weekends.

- South Bay & Coronado
  - Hacienda del Patron $10 bottle of house wine
  - Ly Pho 50% off entree
  - Monterey’s $5 off check
  - Trattoria Noci/Trattoria Free dinner

- East County & State College
  - Chef Tony Mediterranean Cuisine 50% off entree
  - CinCity Chili
  - Greek Town Buffet 50% off buffet
  - Jump Tokyo Japanese dinners weeknights; slightly expensive à la carte on weekends.

- South Bay & Coronado
  - Hacienda del Patron $10 bottle of house wine
  - Ly Pho 50% off entree
  - Monterey’s $5 off check
  - Trattoria Noci/Trattoria Free dinner
same strip mall as Ashoka the Great, this family-friendly café features the savory vegetarian cuisine of South India. It's distinctly different from the standard North Indian menus, centering on numerous varieties of stuffed pancakes — from thin, crisp (and irresistible) cripe-like dosas stuffed with vegetable curry to lacy rice-fLOUR appams drenched in coconut milk to hefty, fluffi-TA like uttams. (Try the latter with the delicious, not-too-spicy chile-onion stuffing.) PuFFY popp-Hand and lami-nated rice are spec-tacular. Order your dishes in the se-quence you like to eat them — that’s usu-ally how they come out of the kitchen. And don’t expect hovering “Raj”-style service — it’s just not the Tamil way. Seasoning is generally mild, to accommodate kiddies; spicy sauces are on the table. No alcohol. Open Tues-day through Sunday with buffet lunches, and a la carte dinners. Inexpensive. — N.W. (1/03)

Mekhi Japanese Restaurant

9823 Carroll Canyon Road, Scripps Ranch, 858-239-9966. You’ll find a first-rate sushi bar tucked away in this tiny shopping center. The fresh yellowtail, scallops in spicy sauce (bonito), or the spe-cial order of baked salmon roll are all wonder-ful. Fifty-three items appear on the sushi list, all prepared by a master chef. The cooked combination plates are also fine. If you sit at the sushi bar, you may be disappointed because chairs, not stools, are used and you can’t watch the chef. If you’re in the area, don’t miss this one. Open daily, continuous service, lunch and dinner, Sunday, dinner only. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.W.

Nobu Japanese Restaurant

155 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar Plaza, Del Mar, 858-239-9966. Patrons fre-quent call this establishment the New York Stock Exchange because of its high energy, young crowd, and exciting atmosphere. Good dishes include south-western-style tapas and spit-rotasted items. Sunday brunch & a la carte. This place is always crowded. Open daily. Moderate to expensive. — E.W.

Tony’s JalcaL

621 Valley Avenue (be-tween Genevieve Street and Juanita Street), Eden Gardens, Solana Beach, 858-755-2274. Come here at night, when the mysterious low mud-brick arches with the stained glass windows make you think Old Mexico, when the Del Mar rac-ing bar makes you think 1930s Hol-lywood, and the dining patio, under the 100-year-old chinaberry tree, looks straight out of Guadalajara. Back in 1946, Tony Gonzales’s wife Catalina started preparing food for fellow Mexican work-ers. Since then, everybody from Liz Tay-lor to L. Edgar Hoover has passed through these portals. Try the “La Colo-nia” combination of just about anything with rice and beans. Turkey meat is big here, and the (real) crib spicassala in a corn tortilla is delicious too. Cheapest: probably chicken strips with French fries. And “JalcaL” It means “dusk.” Open seven days, but with a gap between lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — E.R. (10/02)

LA JOLLA

Brookton Villa

1255 Coast Boulevard, La Jolla, 858-454-7393. Pretty and ro-mantic, this sprawling cottage perches above La Jolla Cove and offers lani-ted terraces as well as semi-enclosed tables indoors to admire the views. The culi-nary masterpiece is “Coast Toast,” invented for breakfast but now served all day — it’s the French toast of your happiest dreams, fluffy and airy with a lovely or-ange-flavor. (And the coffee is excellent.) Lunchtime features sandwiches on fla-vorful Bread & Cie bread while dinner-taps to San Diego international-scul-
Pancakes. While you're waiting, they also make pretty much everything on the menu. Our favorite: the avocado, California beauty pageant out of town, and the woman is its queen. Blame her for the Fern. Big Kitchen, voted to the "fruits of the sea" and industrial. The same Sicilian family still runs it.

Hand-made mole sauce. Try anything with lobster or calamari steak. — in fact, all the seafood here is pristine. Try, even, an açaí smoothie with beef — it's stewed, not ground. And sample something with the house-made mole sauce of a different ingredient. Actually, try anything. (Well, the chicken breast is as dry here as everywhere else. Try anything else.)

Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — E.W.


Fairouz Cafe And Gallery, 3166 Midway Drive, Loma Portal, 619-224-0308. Seek out this family-owned and -operated restaurant for wonderful Lebanese and Greek food. The owner, a noted artist, displays his paintings on the dining room walls. The extensive menu offers excellent lamb, stuffed grape leaves, and a wide selection of exotic vegetarian meals. Cozy all-you-can-eat-buffet available at lunch or dinner in addition to the regular menu. Given 2 hours, this cafe will prepare an astonishing Lebanese feast at low cost. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — E.W.
name=Cal Ripken Jr. and then some come for both: the stuffed cabbage roll (with ground beef and rice inside) is a glowing red ball with ma- rown, oniony, sweet-and-sour raisin sauce to die for, set off by green parsley and red, yellow, and green lamps. Delicious! Our pastrami sandwich includes brisket and beef brisket. But City Del is a less strictly Je- shish have been on their breakfast buffet since 1943. They serve gringo food. And it York-style eatery. Wait staff are good- humored, and the Seeburg Wurliz- Maria's mural comes at you in a Stetson, and bright orange slices. Scandalously-

bered wood beams — all top-shelf
dark-wood chandeliers, the padded-
weathered wood beams — all top-shelf

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BANDAR FINE PERSIAN CUISINE - 825 8th Avenue
The Persians menu offers just a “pick hits” of popular dishes from this scintillating cuisine, but the cooking is first rate, featuring fine ingredients prepared with care, skill, and healthfulness. The superb lamb-and-rice stuffed grape leaves are vibrant with fresh herbs. The “Bandar Special” entree combo lets you choose any two kebabs (chicken, game beef, or lamb), beautifully marinated and cooked to order. Entrees feature rice with pomegranate and saffron spiced, with spiked with tangy barberries, sour cherries, or lentils and dates. The list of Persian dishes now includes Persian tea cream, a rose-scented exotic treat. Open daily for lunch (limited menu) and dinner. Moderate. — N.W. (10/4)

YOROZU JAPANESE CAFE - 560 5th Avenue
This hibachi is in a handsome building that was once a hangout of West Egg. New 40s news beats Victorian décor and amusing art form. Formerly Roger’s on Fifth, it was owned by former mayor-fidon Roger Hedgecock; now Roger’s rebranded and left it to his partner George Harrington. It’s still wildly popular with connoisseurs. The menu offers Prime and ultra-Prime steaks (and roast beef on weekends), seafood appetizers (“lobster Martini,” filet mignon with truffle sauce), and filet mignon strew with truffle sauce (“tom woods mushroom,” a mild and juicy black fungal delicacy), with more regional entrees here is the chef who used to cook at Tiuna’s revered Cam Asian restaurant. A couple can easily make a meal of a few shared appetizers. At 10 p.m. weekends, the place does close, with cover charge (16’s checked). Open nightly for dinner, appetizer menu until 2 a.m. on weekends. Moderate to expensive. — N.W. (10/4)

Morton’s of Chicago - 285 1st Street (between Second and Third), Gaslamp, 619-689-1369. This famous Chicago steakhouse is swanky, in a manly way: dark, subtly luxurious, and lush. You can go to Morton’s for its great steak. Their Nebraska beef is aged and marinated over mesquite charcoal and grilled to your specifications. You can get one a-and-a-half or three-pound porterhouse, which will be juicy, marbled with flavorful fat. You can also get fish at Morton’s. Morton’s also gets its salmon fillets from the fork and is moist, sweet, buttery. The pricey à la carte sides are better than are Morton’s. The Godiva Hot Chocolate Cake is exceptional. But go to Morton’s for dinner. Expensive. — M.N. (9/9)

Nags’ Bar and Grill - 501 West Broadway, downtown, 619-233-9533. Nags Nolikas comes from Egypt, via Paris. Before he took over the lease at the stall Koll Bar & Eatery, he specialized in creating a sidewalk patio slip-dub on Broadway. He’s open a pin. For the first time you can eat, drink, and be social near Nags’ Bar and Grill. It’s nothing like scarfing lunch while you watch lawyers, tourists, and office workers hurrying by in the morning sun. Lunch or dinner, start off with his homemade soups, but the must-eat is his Spicy Santa Fe Chicken Salad — the magic in the cranberry and Gorgonzola. Also great: BBQ chicken pizza. Lunch and dinner, Monday through Friday. Inexpensive. — E.B. (10/1)

SOUTH BAY & CORONADO

Crown City Grille - 926 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-3822. If you thought San Diego didn’t have any eateries that could compete with those in caters, think again — the area czars with buzzy joints, pizza joints, rice joints, and burger joints. Yet this new behemoth is doing fine. It could really be the hash variety, but mainly it’s that they’ve got the burger basic right. The bun’s gone, the meat is a little bit too thick, with the ble cheese blend, the taste is too die for. Owners Daren and Jason Evans say the public’s always part pation, part New York cut. Also, the jalapeno-bacon cheeseburger is excellent, the Chippa- style hot dog with “sport peppers” is hot and spicy, and the Italian cold fish and chips is generously portioned and tasty. Plus, beer and wine. Breakfast, lunch, dinner. Inexpensive — E.B. (10/4)

George’s On Fifth - 1500 North Harbor Drive, Coronado, 619-239-5818. The entire pub is hand-crafted in Waterford, shipped here, and it’s still wildly popular with the regulars and has just a “pick hits” of popular dishes from this scintillating cuisine, but the cooking is first rate, featuring fine ingredients prepared with care, skill, and healthfulness. The superb lamb-and-rice stuffed grape leaves are vibrant with fresh herbs. The “Bandar Special” entree combo lets you choose any two kebabs (chicken, game beef, or lamb), beautifully marinated and cooked to order. Entrees feature rice with pomegranate and saffron spiced, with spiked with tangy barberries, sour cherries, or lentils and dates. The list of Persian dishes now includes Persian tea cream, a rose-scented exotic treat. Open daily for lunch (limited menu) and dinner. Moderate. — N.W. (10/4)

HILLCREST

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For more details, please visit the restaurant’s official website or call the restaurant directly. Enjoy your meal!
What the Chef Eats

ABBIE'S BARBECUED PINTO BEANS
by ATHERNA SLEHMON
Owner/Chef, Abbie's Real Texas BBQ

I'm a rice person. Rice and beans are my favorite things to eat. I mix them up and eat them together.

Anybody can make this recipe. It's an easy recipe, and it's one of our best sellers at the restaurant. We've been serving this dish for the past 16 years. You can just put all the ingredients together and do things you have to do for two hours. When you come back, stir them, and you're ready to eat.

You can use your favorite bottled barbecue sauce, preferably one that has a smoky flavor. We are not going to give away the recipe for our sauce because it's our secret. Beer and soda are good beverages to serve with this dish.

HOW TO DO IT
Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Mix together the onion, bell pepper, barbecue sauce, chili powder, and salt and let sit. Rinse the pinto beans thoroughly and place beans in large covered baking dish. Bake for 2 to 2½ hours. Remove from oven and stir in the sauce mixture. Serve immediately.

This recipe serves 8 to 10 as a side dish.

INGREDIENTS
¼ an onion, chopped
¼ of a green pepper, chopped
¼ cup barbecue sauce
2 tablespoons chili powder
2 tablespoons salt
1 pound of pinto beans
6 cups of water

The dish includes a plashing of Collard greens served in a hollister bread loaf, and an absolutely fabulous corn bread and cabbage plate, with tender, thick slices surrounding cabbage so young and sweet it ought to be candied. Good soups, too. Daytime, try the hearty (and then some!) Irish meat-fest breakfast. Open daily, standard pub hours. Inexpensive to love moderate.

— N.W. (401)

From the United States use the prefix 011-52-664 when calling Tijuana; 011-52-664 when calling Ensenada, 646-178-2814. For those who come back, stir them, and you're ready to eat. You can use your favorite bottled barbecue sauce, preferably one that has a smoky flavor. We are not going to give away the recipe for our sauce because it's our secret. Beer and soda are good beverages to serve with this dish.

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— N.W. (401)
Cream of the Cream

Fiction films will always be freer than documentaries to tell the truth.

Retracing my steps, I have stumbled upon a subjective new measurement for an unexciting year of movies. There was exactly one new release in 2004 — I am almost shocked at the realization — that I went back to see for a second time, surely an all-time low. It cannot get much lower.

That lone one, by all rights, must top my list of the top films. Spartan was simply the most fun I had at the movies all year — without it, I might have forgotten that moviegoing and fun were compatible — and I sat through it again within a week of the first viewing. The second viewing raised more questions than it laid to rest; and the explicit fairy-tale underpinnings (the Midas myth, the curse-come-true, the trail of bread crumbs in the forest, the all-seeing crystal ball, etc.) do not give the film a free pass to gloss over the logic of its connections. More accurately, the trouble with the connections seems to be not so much their logic as their speed, and certainly the breakneck pace and snappy dialogue are more than a fair exchange for a little illogic here and there. The scene in which the special-ops hero scours the lair where the President’s daughter is held hostage, sees that she is about to be moved, and makes a snap decision to snatch her on the spot, ahead of schedule, was my most pulse-quicking experience in a theater last year. (Not excluding Chloë Sevigny’s blow job in The Brown Bunny.) All told, David Mamet’s best work since Homicide, and all fun aside, a political statement of scorching rhetoric. The fact that I am not seeing it on other critics’ lists only tightens my embrace.

Moving on in order of preference: I might have thought about sitting through Millennium Mambo a second time had Madstone Theatres not turned out the lights on their entire operation, nationwide, three days into the film’s guaranteed first week at Hazard Center. Technically, it had already had a local showing two years earlier in the San Diego International Film Festival, when I was busy gallivanting around Italy. Because I missed it then, and because I am hard up now, I cannot forgo the chance to commemorate the first local theatrical run, no matter how aborted, of any film by Hou Hsiao-hsien, one of the world’s foremost living filmmakers. I could say something more about the serenity and sublimity of his image, or about the subtlety of a narrative method that communicates so much meaning with so little plot, but the sad truth is that Hou has never really become part of the conversation around here. Shortly after the lights got turned out on Madstone at the start of June, another switch was flicked off on Scott Marks’s film series at the Museum of Photographic Arts, putting an end to the germinating plans for a Hou retrospective. Little wonder if I entered an autumnal mood in early summer.

I could entertain no thoughts, either, of a return trip to Lugares Comunes (trans., Common Ground), having caught it on the last day of the San Diego Latino Film Festival, during a break in the action of the NCAA basketball tournament. Directed by Adolfo Arista-rain, from a novel by Lorenzo Arista-rain, the film is a leisurely, mel-lifluous, bubblingly verbal, river-of-life affair about an aging Argentinian Lefty, forced into retirement in the country’s depressed economy as a Professor of Literature, who then has an opportunity to practice what he has
preached in his rustic new life as a cul-
tivator of lavender. Not on the basis of
this alone, the Latino festival ap-
tears to have edged into the lead over
our numberless other festivals. Some
of its offerings receive an encore in the
valuable monthly series, Cinema en Tu Idioma, which continues at
Hazard Center even in the post-Mad-
stone tenancy. Lugares Comunes, alas,
has not been one of these.

Mike Leigh’s Vera Drake does create a
completely convincing, completely
unanimously appreciated characteriza-
tion. Impeccable though the set decora-
tion may be, and as unobtrusive and
undis
ruptive as the camerawork assuredly
is, the principal credit for the illusion
must go to the ensemble cast: one
stop-shop for the year’s award actings.
Lead actress: Imelda Staunton. Lead ac-
tor: Philip Davis. Supporting actress:
Essie Davis. Supporting actor: Eddie
Jones. Assistant director: John Gall.

I’ll Sleep When I’m Dead

Michael Moore’s anti-Bush ad,
undoubtedly one of the more
notable contributions to the politi-
cal conversation this year. Whether
or not its status was damaged by the
widespread nitpicking of events of
11/2, its status had already
become a foregone conclusion, the triumph of
the Kerry campaign. Whether
it is a second time.

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Duncan Shepherd. 
Priorities are indicated by one to five stars
and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated
movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of
past reviews sorted alphabetically, by year of
release and by rating, are available online at
SanDiegoReader.com.

Alexander — The Great, that is. Not
great movie, mind you, just great Alexander. The
movie, on the other hand, is a hamburing,
three-hour uncannically realistic
prologue, in which his mother terrorizes
his days as a young lad to the end of
days as a young man — or more concretely,
from a child actor who’s a pretty fair look-
lke, to pick a mild word: the handshake
illustrations of his personal eccentricities
during the war; and a whole host of
over his misuse of government funds
inquisitorial panels, first the Hollywood
 Scouts, then the Senate
Beverly Hills, breaking numerous bones;
desperate, but also the more modish (post-
decalcomania) — An Almodóvar
paella

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Calendar

MOVIES

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews sorted alphabetically, by year of release and by rating, are available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

Alexander — The Great, that is. Not great movie, mind you, just great Alexander. The movie, on the other hand, is a hamburing, three-hour uncannically realistic prologue, in which his mother terrorizes his days as a young lad to the end of his days as a young man — or more concretely, from a child actor who’s a pretty fair look- alike, and Irish-accented, souped-up, for the star of the show, a bleakened-blond Colin Farrell — while his mother, Angelina Jolie, rounding her in’s some vague Mediterraneen tongue, doesn’t age a day. The movie, in all other respects, exposes himself as pretty much a fraud of a filmmaker. Oh, he may shower the hero with rose petals upon his triumphant entry into a computer-generated Babylon, and he may scare up a barm of wriggling and shimming consonances, and he may marshal some trick photography for the battle scenes: time-traveled slow-motion, of course, but also the more modish (post-Private Ryan) sort of jerky and jumpy motion, and a totally bloodshot screen

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MICHAEL KEATON

WHITE NOISE

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COSTUME DESIGNED BY MICHAEL S. BOLTON
PRODUCTION DESIGNED BY NICK ARTHURS
EDITED BY CHRIS SEAGER BSC
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY STEPHEN HEGYESI MONS BROOKSNORM WAITTSCOTT NIEMEYER
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS PAUL BROOKS
PRODUCED BY SHAWN WILLIAMSON
WRITTEN BY NIA LL JOHNSON
DIRECTED BY GEOFFREY SAX

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AMC
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858/558-2AMC

Pacific Theatres
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Pacific Theatres
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at Pacific Coast Hwy
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AMC
PALM PROMENADE 24
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Regal Cinemas
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Johnson & Fletcher
800/FANDANGO #131

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East H St & Tierra Del Rey
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style possibly more suited to a biography of Vic Damone or Al Martin. The objection, voiced on the set of an autobiographical film within the film, “He’s too old to play this part,” will not be answered by the rhetorical question, “How can you be too old to play yourself?” You can’t even pretend to play “yourself” if you are really Kevin Spacey and not Bobby Darin, and you are ubiquitous eight years older than Darin at the end of his life, never mind when he was recording “Mack the Knife” or courting Sandra Dee. (Katie Boosworth, who wound up recalling that actress in Blue Crush and Win a Date with Ted Hamilton, fails to measure self-emotion trying to turn her hoof into the actual glass slipper.) Spacey does manage to win some sympathy — no small feat — for Nolan’s final move of taking his alter ego into the mustached, sideburned, wigged, and politically involved Joel-Darlin of the late ’40s (a sudden cousin to Bob Dylan), perhaps partly because his physical resemblance is closer at that point. But at all levels, it seems the conscious of contemplating not the life and legacy of Bobby Darin but the chauvin of Kevin Spacey. Not without interest or wit: John Goodman, Bob Hoskins, Brenda Blethyn, Caroline Aaron. 2004.

**PARKWAY PLAZA: GALLIPOLI 18; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24**

**Birth —** The sophomore effort of director Jonathan Glazer, after his auspicious début with Sexy Beast, is nothing if not a conceit: a reinvenation mystery where a somber event of ten years before (Cameron Bright’s, the little creep of Gollum) shows up at the doorstep of a newly engaged widow (Nicole Kidman in a Peter Pan hairdo) to inform her that her husband is a monster. A couple of generations earlier, such a starting point might have led to a racy face in the tradition of Thorne Smith. But that was; then is now. When the jealous fiancé has his half pint rival over his knee to paddle his behind, it’s no laugh: it’s in spluttering response to the breath-stopping realism in the tiny tyke’s voice and joins the full-bloom woman in her bathroom. There’s no knowing whether the farcical approach would have worked, then or now, but it’s a certainty that the striven-for note of New Age wonderment (what one had troubled to read the script all the way through) for note of New Age wonderment (what one had troubled to read the script all the way through) is now, but it’s a certainty that the striven-for note of New Age wonderment (what one had troubled to read the script all the way through) is now, but it’s a certainty that the striven-for note of New Age wonderment (what one had troubled to read the script all the way through) is now, but it’s a certainty that the striven-for note of New Age wonderment (what one had troubled to read the script all the way through) is now, but it’s a certainty that the striven-for note of New Age wonderment (what one had troubled to read the script all the way through) is now, but it’s a certainty that the striven-for note of New Age wonderment (what one had troubled to read the script all the way 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The tweaking of superheroes has long since gone over, in mostly cursory fashion, and without many signposts as to how we are to sort the strands of evidence, most tellingly a momentary crack in the façade of the flinty father and a final testimony from Lynn Redgrave (a presumed to be in the palm of the filmmaker’s hand, there is a falling-off in those departments. Always, the splendor of the settings — the birch forest, the bamboo grove, the flower meadow, the red and yellow tapetum of autumn leaves, the climactic snowstorm — overpowers the whimsicality of the action. (The weapons for which the rebels are named are not just “flying” daggers; they’re “smart” daggers, changing direction in midflight like guided missiles.) To put it a different way, the variety of the settings overpowers the repetitiveness of the action. With Takeshi Kaneshiro and Andy Lau. 2004.

The Incredibles — Pixar computer cartoon about a married-with-children team of superheroes in enforced retirement under the Superhero Relocation Program. The tweaking 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 this little tag-along. The topography of the volcanic island that serves as the archivist’s lair is well rendered, and the imitation-007 musical score hits a high number of right notes. With the voices of Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter, Samuel L. Jackson, and Jason Lee, written and directed by Brad Bird. 2004.

Lemony Snicket’s A Series of Unfortunate Events — An amalgam of three of Daniel Handler’s children’s books under the pen name of Lemony Snicket (Jimmy Cricket’s what a moniker!), impressively impersonated in voice and in silhouette by Jude Law. The setting is an amalgam as well: Charles Addams Gothic and Edward Gorey Edwardiana infiltrated with modern conveniences such as cars with telephones, and verbal anachronisms such as “This place could use a little TLC.” The grand total, the small sum, is a sort of mock-Dickens to do with three orphaned siblings and their nefarious guardian, Count Olaf (Jim Carrey, piling two additional excessive pride in its trendy conventionality and its stunt opposition to forces long since decimated. With Liam Aiken, Emily Browning, Timothy Spall, Billy Connolly, and Meryl Streep, directed by Brad Silberling. 2004.

Kitchen Stories — Wry and dry comedy about a team of Swedish efficiency experts who descend upon a Norwegian village to study scientifically the kitchen habits of bachelors. The observers are perched on a high chair in an out-of-the-way corner of the room, under strict instructions never to interact with their subjects. But the old truism proves true: the presence of an observer alters the behavior of the observed. Barriers crumble; ice melts; a bond forms; the comic edge is dulled. Engagingly underplayed, at all stages of development, by Tomas Norstrom and Jochem Calmeyer. Directed by Best Hamer. 2005.

Kinsey — Heavy-footed biopic on the controversial American urologist Alfred Kinsey (Liam Neeson, suppressing his Irish accent into something not quite American and not quite British, but adrift somewhere in the ocean between). Writer-director Bill Condon apparently felt it was vital to establish his subject’s upbringing under a puritanical father (“Electricity has made possible the degrading picture show”), yet it’s unapparent why he needed four puritanical father (“Electricity has made possible the degrading picture show”), yet it’s unapparent why he needed four
Meet the Fockers — Twenty-five, thirty years earlier, a cast of Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman, and Barbra Streisand were the talk of San Diego. Nowadays they — or at any rate Hoffman and Streisand — pickpock for the sequel to Meet the Parents, in which the Fockers, the touchy-freesty, looey-gooey parents of the groom-to-be — are just riding the coat-horses of Dear World. The Monty Pythonaries — Mythologizing buffs on the critical year of 1952 in the life of Che Guevara, before he was Che, when he still was just a med student called “Ernesto,” embarking with his bichemist best friend on a road trip from his native Argentina, up the entire west coast of Mexico, and eventually to the back of an “aged, leery 1939 Norton 500,” nicknamed “The Mighty One.” The movie reveals a journey that didn’t quite come out in Chile, but the journey continues on-foot: a doofyly, mildly darting narrative that, in the end, is indeed vomit-inducing. With Gael Garcia Bernal and Rodrigo De la Serna, directed by Walter Salles. 2004.

•** MARCO, MIRA (11:25, 1:35) ● NATIONAL TREASURE — juvenile adventure years also could have lasted into the 21st century. This film’s legendary booty of the Knights Templar, entrusted to the Masons, and squirreled away by the Redcoats. With Jon Voight, Harvey Keitel, and Michael Douglas, directed by Walter Salles. 2004.

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flowers, candles, linen smoke-and-mirrors, under the direction of Joel Schumacher: an overstuffed and suffocating bore. (More boredom, moreover, becomes outright exhaustion in the cinema corner where the romantic hero, with his right eyebrow, is being amazed at a handful of visual effects can match the little slip of a thing who goes by the name of Emmy Rossum, with her right waveform hair, her pillow lips, her perpetually surprised eyebrows. If she made a few fans with "The Phantom of the Opera," and "The Day After Tomorrow," she should hereafter make a few slaves. Broadway musical star Patrick Warburton, meanwhile, follows, having his impressive screen debut as Travis in "The Alamo," proves to be strangely blind in his own domain. And Gerard Butler in "The Phantom," an uncharismatic Angel of Music (a nice alias of the Phantom), but at least his habitual nosey eyebrows and chin, get down the din. Miranda Richardson, Minnie Driver. 2004.

**ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GASKILL 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 5; L.J.; 22; MFA 16; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROVENCE 24; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE**

**The Polar Express** — Neither an addition to the polar opposite, but a middling addition to the holiday repertoire: computerized illustrations of the Chris Van Allsburg children’s book about a little boy already too old to believe in Santa ("This is your crucial year"), snatched out of his bed on Christmas Eve for a faith- restoring journey (the North Pole—believing or vice versa? (The answer to the explicit question, "Could this be nothing but a dream?" is a No!"

The fundamental animation technique of drawing on top of live-action figures — as in Ralph Bakshi’s version of "The Lord of the Rings," for example — is nothing new, but it has never looked quite like this: a mobile billboard or magazine ad of Charlie’s thickness of cake frosting, giving the image a velvety, fuzzy, punchy-peachy feel. Filmmaker Miller Hidalgo, who did foment a revolution in animation in "Who Framed Roger Rabbit," does not now appear likely to resemble it: they’ll look back on "The Polar Express as the breakthrough." There are some marvelous sights on parade — the ghostly first appearance of the choo-choo out of a clearing cloud of steam and swirling snow; the wind-borne vehicle that returns to the ideas to hurl a relay of pack of wolves, an anemic snowball rolling, etc., the perilous slope over the top of the rails, against a relentless salvo of blinding snowflakes, the train snaking across an ice-covered river, reappeared from the architecture of the Pole — but these, without exception, are figures liberated from the live actors. They are free-hand animation. The recognizable face of Tom Hanks, behind a walrus mustache and half-moon glasses, in the part of the train conductor and chief protagonist, silvered out for childhood credulity, is something of a distraction — insertion in the action universe — in the same way that an overly recognizable voice can be a distraction (Ray Liotta’s “Hello, how are you?” in "True Story," Steve Zissou in "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou" (R) Fri. (1:00), 4:05, 7:05, 10:05, 10:10, Meet the Fockers (PG) Fri-Thur. (1:00), 4:05, 7:05, 10:05, 10:10, National Treasure (PG-13) Fri-Thur. 2:15, 5:15, 8:15, 10:15; Tuesday (PG-13) Fri-Thur. 1:15, 4:25, 7:15, 10:30; The Polar Express (PG) Fri-Thur. (1:30, 2:50, 5:10); San Diego (Friday 1:10, 4:20); White Noise (PG) Fri-Thur. 1:10, 2:30, 5:20, 7:45, 10:15

SANTEE

San Diego Drive

19900 Waddell Avenue (619-448-7477)
Blade Trinity; Darkness: Meet the Fockers; Ocean’s Twelve

SOUTH BAY

**CHULA VISTA**

**Chula Vista 10**

Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)
Blade Trinity; Fat Albert; Ocean’s Twelve

**Imperial Beach**

South Bay Drive in 215 E. Mulholland Dr. (619-454-2277)
Chrysanthemum; Meet the Fockers; National Treasure; Spanglish

**Carlsbad**

San Diego (Friday 1:10, 4:20)
The Incredibles; National Treasure

**North San Diego**

Carmel Mountain (8120 Carmel Mountain Road 858-674-9770)
Call theater for program information

**ENCINITAS**

Encinitas 8

1200 El Camino Real (at Avana/Alga)
(760-599-6222)

Events (PG) Fri-Thur. (12:45, 3:00, 3:45, 4:10) 7:00, 8:30, 10:30; Meeting (PG) Fri-Thur. (12:45, 3:00, 3:45, 4:10) 7:00, 8:30, 10:30; Meeting (PG) Fri-Thur. (12:15, 1:00, 2:15, 3:15, 4:30, 5:15) 7:30, 8:30, 10:30; National Treasure (PG-13) Fri-Thur. 12:15, 2:15, 4:30, 5:15, 7:30, 10:30; Ocean’s Twelve (PG-13) Fri-Thur. 12:15, 2:15, 4:30, 5:15, 7:30, 9:30, 11:15; The Polar Express (G) Fri-Thur. 12:15, 2:15, 4:30, 5:15, 7:30, 10:30

**San Marcos 18**

110 West San Marcos (6120 Mission Valley Road 858-460-9428)
Call theater for program information

**SOUTH BAY**

**ESCONDIDO**

Escondido 16

215 S. Valley Parkway (760-591-0119)
Call theater for program information

**FALLBROOK**

Galaxy 6

125 S. Mission Valley Road (760-496-8784)
The Aviator (PG) Fri-Thur. 3:30, 10:30, Sat. 10:30; Fat Albert (PG-13) Fri-Thur. 1:15, 4:30, 7:15, 10:15; Meet the Fockers (PG) Fri-Thur. 10:15, 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30; National Treasure (PG-13) Fri-Thur. 12:15, 2:15, 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 10:15; Observe and Devour (PG-13) Fri-Thur. 12:15, 2:15, 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 10:15; The Polar Express (G) Fri-Thur. 12:15, 2:15, 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 10:15; Spanglish (PG-13) Fri-Thur. 12:15, 2:15, 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 10:15; White Noise (PG) Fri-Thur. 12:15, 4:30, 7:15, 10:15

**FAT ALBERT**

Fat Albert (PG-13) Fri-Thur. 10:15, 12:30, 3:30, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15; Flight of the Phoenix (PG) Fri-Thur. 7:45, 10:15, 12:30, 3:30, 5:15, 7:45; Spanglish (PG-13) Fri-Thur. 12:15, 2:15, 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15; White Noise (PG) Fri-Thur. 12:15, 4:30, 7:15, 10:15

**NORTHERN INLAND**

**CARMEL MOUNTAIN**

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**SAN DIEGO**

**SAN MARCOS 18**

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**CARLSBAD**

Plaza Camino Real

2383 Camino Real (760-729-7469)
Encinitas 8

**ENCINITAS**

**MISSION VALLEY**

White Noise

**LA COSTA**

La Costa 6

9841 El Camino Real (at Avana/Alga)
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**OCEANSIDE**

Oceanside 16

401 Mission Avenue (760-439-7373)
Call theater for program information
Spanglish — Heart-on-sleeve comedy from James L. Brooks, told in the form of an admissions essay to Princeton University, a document that must, by the end, have stretched to 60,000 words. It has, in the pattern of a Well-Made Sitcom if not a 19th-century Realist Novel, a set of characters and relationships in a socially "relevant" milieu: a master chef fearful of the effect of a four-star review on his cozy little neighborhood restaurant, his high-strung, motormouthed, hardbodied wife, who requires domestic help now that she has been downsized into a full-time mom and part-time adulteress; her bibulous live-in mother, a former jazz singer; an adolescent daughter with a weight problem less burdensome than her mother’s jabbing reminders of it; a younger brother who you often forget is in the movie; and a beautiful Mexican housekeeper who knows no English and has a beautiful pseudo-daughter of her own. Naturally, Brooks being Brooks, there are occasional scraps of observation and sensitivity: e.g., the maid’s daughter of her own. Naturally, Brooks’s unimpeachable maid and romantic rival, attractive atmosphere to begin with, it’s both unfair and unwise to allow her also to be less attractive physically than her unassailable maid and romantic rival, Paz Vega, who appears ready to steal a few roles from Penelope Cruz. In the result, what’s supposed to be a bitter-sweet ending turns strictly bitter. Cloria Leachman, Sarah Steele, Shellie Bruce. 2004. 

The Spongebob Squarepants Movie — Big-screen blowup of the Nickelodeon TV cartoon show, brain-child of writer-director Stephen Hillenburg. After a campy musical prologue with some live-action pirates, we are introduced to the ocean-floor community of Bikini Bottom; the crab for the crime. It’s up to Spongebob, the Krusty Krab’s fry-cook, who covers the position of manager in the newly opened Krusty Krab 2, to set things right. He has enough for the job, or is he just a kid who likes to blow bubbles and eat ice cream? A live-action David Hasselhoff comes to the rescue in a campy climax that balances the campy prologue. All of this is apt to sound viable enough in summary. The actual artwork, on the other hand, is willfully primitive, knowingly naive, or, without the equivocation, 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 smiles, phallic appendages. The phallic eyes of the crab are even covered, on and off, with roll-down condom-like eyelids (of that’s the proper crustacean word). Such a newcomer may, even so, have a hard time convincing himself that this constitutes an appeal to the adult. The same may be said of the self-conscious mysticizing: the quest motif, the growth motif, the delivery motif. Even that, in the aftermath of Star Wars, has become kids’ stuff. No doubt there’s a creative touch or two, possibly three: the sandwich car, one or two of the sea monsters. The rest is not quite all the way to appealing, but it’s moister than amusing. 2004. 

Hotel Rwanda — Matthew W. Perry's vision of a novel by Sebatian Japrisot, a name firmly entrenched in the mystery and suspense genres. The Sleeping-Car Murders, The Lady in the Car with Glasses and a Go, One Deadly Summer, others. This one is plainly in the grips of a greater ambition, a WWII-period romance about a tru-flying, polio-crippled cutie (Audrey Tautou), pounding the truss of her soul mate (Gaspard Uillier) who vanished on the front lines at the quintessentially named bunker of Bongo Cepuscelle. So, there’s still a mystery element in it, and even a professional detective (not one to inspire much confidence), but the overwhelming feeling of the thing is expansively, unconstrainedly "novelistic," with scraps of information gathered willy-nilly from different time zones and a narrator to fill in the gaps. Neither the set composition — giant faces floating in front of a blurred background on a convex canvas — nor the monochromatic, buttscrotch color manages to redeem the film as cinematic. (Though the first shot, of a broken Christ hanging from a cross by one hand, is a grabber.) The scrambled structure never quite enables you to believe in the Great Love or to follow the train of detection. And the winking tall tale tone disengages you to the point of uninterest. Jean-Pierre Becker, Dominique Benetter, Jodie Foster. 2004. 

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- FOOD SERVICE WORKERS
  - 35.26/hr.

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San Diego

Waters/Services. part time. Wesley Palms Retirement Community employs Dining Room Servers to work in a beautiful new facility. 3-5 hours a week. 3845 North Torrey Pines Road, San Diego, 92122. Call 858-642-1301.

EMPLOYMENT

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Seeking successful, truthful, generous, attractive, fit, non-smoker. (1/19) 338021.

Attraction, 57, petite, widower, into dancing, outdoorsy type, 40s, into walking, movies, cooking, fun. (1/19) 338234.

Pretty and petite, 47, seeks a down-to-earth, open, prefer tall, nonsmoker, 35-40, serious only reply please. (1/19) 338273.

Let’s talk, I seek a caring, intelligent, fit, attractive, successful businessman, emotionally available. (1/19) 338308.

ATTRACTIVE, PETITE, 47, attractive white female, tall, slender, 57-59, green, honest, personal, fun-loving. (1/19) 338310.

ATTRACTIVE FILIPINO WIDOW, 55, seeks long-term relationship, serious only reply please. (1/19) 338382.

AFFECTIONATE, OUTDOORSY, non-smoker, 50+, seeks tall, unencumbered Jewish, into fitness, hiking. (1/19) 338406.

AFFECTIONATE, OUTDOORSY, non-smoker, 50+, seeks tall, unencumbered Jewish, into fitness, hiking. (1/19) 338482.

AFFECTIONATE, OUTDOORSY, non-smoker, 50+, seeks tall, unencumbered Jewish, into fitness, hiking. (1/19) 338547.

**FEMALE SEEKERS**

 Nice, average girl. Friendship, balance, romantic, non-smoking, non-drinking, no baggage. (1/12) 337861.

 BOLD, Accomplished, (com)passionate, no baggage. (1/12) 337961.

 Beautiful heart, great mind, an average girl. Friendship, balance, romantic, non-smoking, no baggage. (1/12) 338006.

 Gorgeous, passionate, no baggage. (1/12) 338029.

 Seeking successful, truthful, generous, attractive, fit, non-smoker. (1/19) 338021.

 Seeking successful, truthful, generous, attractive, fit, non-smoker. (1/19) 338021.

 BLACK FEMALE SEeks a companion of any race to share fun times with. (1/19) 338074.

 BLACK FEMALE SEeks a companion of any race to share fun times with. (1/19) 338074.

 BLACK FEMALE SEEKS a companion of any race to share fun times with. (1/19) 338074.

 Homebody, 40ish woman who wishes it wasn’t 50. (1/19) 338116.

 No game playing, please. (1/19) 338212.

 Looking for a secure status relationship. I believe in true love and closeness. (1/19) 338234.

 I seek a down-to-earth, open, prefer tall, nonsmoker, 35-40, serious only reply please. (1/19) 338273.

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AVERAGE JOE NEEDS JANE
friendship, fun activities, possible romance and emotionally healthy. Looking for soul mate. I'm committed to be a great husband and take action towards my desires. I love music, dancing, sailing, snow kites, laughing out loud, fast cars, being a kid. I'm hopeless about a great husband or dad. I'm available, open and peaceful. If you expect that you don't have to call to the phone (17)

Use your credit card
No 900 access? Call anytime day or night to purchase a call of billing and charge it to your Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express... for as little as $1.25 per minute.

Call 1-800-360-9456 24 hours
No refund. You may also purchase at our office with cash or check only.

Send an e-mail
Messages are now on the Web. You may search by specifying criteria such as age, ethnicity and nonsmoking. Respond to ads by sending an anonymous e-mail for a nominal charge. You may also listen to intros.

SanDiegoReader.com on "Matchmaker."
Call the free Roommate Hotline! 235-2415

Soon after advertisers place their ads, their spoken introductions go on the Roommate Hotline. This lets you hear and respond to all ads they've printed in the Reader. Call 24 hours/day & choose option two. Select listings by gender, price and area. Listings updated daily.

Call (619) 235-2415
day or night.

Mail-in payment: Reader Roommate Line P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186
Walk-in payment: 1703 India (at Date), Downtown San Diego

For questions regarding Roommate ads, call (619) 235-8200.

Mail-in payment: Reader Roommate Line P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186
Walk-in payment: 1703 India (at Date), Downtown San Diego

For questions regarding Roommate ads, call (619) 235-8200.
Drugs/smoking. Pool, spa, tennis court, near freeways, non-smoker/drugs. 619-LA JOLLA.


Clean, quiet, swimming pool, jacuzzi, ESPONDIO. $600, 1/2 utilities. Own bed-

Find a job, San Diego Employment, 1404 S. 30th St., 2nd floor. San Diego, 858-350-8181. 10 AM to 4 PM Mon-Fri. $10 off with this ad. 619-322-8026.

Licensed and insured. $10 off with this ad. I will clean, top to bottom. My own supplies. 858-292-9090. 

Licensed and insured. $10 off with this ad. I will clean, top to bottom. My own supplies. 858-292-9090. 


Newly remodeled 2 bedroom/1 bath in 2 room house. 2 blocks to Beach, 2 miles to ocean. $700, plus utilities. 858-828-2636.

Steps to the bay. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, PACIFIC BEACH. $775/month, plus deposit. Share 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhouse. Female preferred. Available immediately. 619-795-9518; 619-298-2553.

Clean, quiet, swimming pool, jacuzzi, ESPONDIO. $600, 1/2 utilities. Own bed-

Clean, quiet, swimming pool, jacuzzi, ESPONDIO. $600, 1/2 utilities. Own bed-

Clean 2 bedroom apartment to share. 1 floor from beach. No smoking/pets. Washer/dryer, community pool. No parking, maid, garbage. 619-397-1393.

Design, landscaping, plastering (exten-

Accounting, tax preparation. 15 years experience. 619-234-3314. 858-270-5346.


Remove tree stumps, remove uprooted tree roots, cut and remove trees in any condition. USA Certified Arborists. Free estimates. 619-595-9900.

$600, 1/2 utilities. Own bed-

$600, 1/2 utilities. Own bed-

Design, landscaping, plastering (exten-

Accounting, tax preparation. 15 years experience. 619-234-3314. 858-270-5346.

### Services

- **Baths:** All private. Includes kitchen privileges.
- **BEDROOMS:**
  - 2 bedroom, 1 bath.
  - 3 bedroom, 2 bath.
  - 4 bedroom, 3 bath.
- **BATHROOMS:**
  - 2 bath.
  - 3 bath.
  - 4 bath.
- **BASICS:**
  - Washer/dryer.
  - Refrigerator.
  - Oven.
  - Air conditioning.
- **ADDITIONAL FEATURES:**
  - Fireplace.
  - Pool.
  - Spa.
  - Jacuzzi.
  - Laundry.
  - Hardwood floors.
  - Garage.
  - Terrace.
  - Garden.
  - Yard.
  - Patio.
  - Crosswalk.
  - Video security.
  - Pet friendly.
  - Fenced yard.
  - Off-street parking.
  - Garage.
  - Carport.
  - Courtyard.
  - Carport.
  - Kitchens.
  - Dining/family room.
  - Kitchen.
  - Breakfast nook.
  - Guest bathroom.
  - Master bathroom.
  - Second bathroom.
  - Third bathroom.
  - 1/2 bathroom.
  - Powder room.
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NORTH PARK.


PACIFIC BEACH.

$1550. 4 bedroom, 2 bath. 2-car garage, 1200 square feet, $1600. Washer/dryer. Pets OK. Available now! Agent, 619-234-9553.

POWAY.


PACIFIC BEACH.

$1747 Hornblend #A. Cute, spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Garage, large yard, 2 stories. Close to wall carpet, laundry hookups. First/deposit required now. Call 619-227-5221.

PACIFIC BEACH.

$1650. 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Washer/dryer, hardwood floors, yard, 2 story, nice neighborhood. 3776 Lakeview Avenue. Small pets OK. 619-665-4690.

PACIFICO BEACH.

$2175. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 5 blocks to beach bay. Year lease. 4668 Lotus. $1600. 619-270-1573.

PACIFIC BEACH.


POINSETTIA.


PACIFIC BEACH.


MISSION BEACH.


MISSION BEACH.

$2275. 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 2 car garage, large yard. 3 block from ocean. Washer/dryer, refrigerator, air conditioner, wall carpet, laundry hookups. Pets OK. Available now! Agent, 619-234-9553.

MISSION BEACH.

$1600. 3 bed, 2 bath, 2 car garage with washer/parking in garage, private room and great location! Blocks from ocean. Save $100 per month with this special! 619-392-4555 x193, www.missionbeachproperty.com.

MISSION BEACH.


MISSION BEACH.


MISSION BEACH.

$1995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 1-1/2 bath. 858-597-6100 x321. 3943 Sequoia. 858-597-6100 x321.

MISSION BEACH.

$1825. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 2-car garage. Washer/dryer. No pets/smoking. 858-232-6644.

MISSION BEACH.

$1550. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 2-car garage. Fireplace, washer/dryer, parking. 1384 1/2 E. Grand Ave. 858-274-5371.

MISSION BEACH.


MISSION BEACH.

$1775. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator, wall carpet, laundry hookups. Fireplace, washer/dryer, garage, large yard. 3431 Arizona Street. 619-728-7287.

MISSION BEACH.


MISSION BEACH.


MIRALOU.

$1382. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 5 steps to ocean. 2362 or 619-688-1631. 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath house. Close to beach, 1- story. 3125 Carleton Street. Nearly oceanfront view. Cassidy, broker, 619-647-1573.

MIRA MESA.

$1800. 4 bedroom, 2 bath. 2-car garage, large yard. Very private. Pets negotiable. By appointment only! 1360 Avenida Del Norte. 619-234-9553.

MIRA MESA.

$1600. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 story, nice neighborhood. 3776 Lakeview Avenue. Small pets OK. 619-665-4690.

MIRA MESA.


MIRA MESA.


MIRA MESA.

$1027 E. Grand Ave.

For Rent

$1525. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Hardwood floors, fireplace, wall carpet, laundry hookups. First/deposit required now. Call 619-227-5221.


Cove. 760-942-2597.


For more info, visit www.baypark.html 619-276-4528.

A Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhome. 1-car garage, 2 blocks to beach. Light, bright and clean. Garage. 619-405-7200.

Now renting! Studio and 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartments. $400 deposit. 619-370-7103.


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Fat & Cellulite Reduction

No Surgery • No Injections • FDA Approved

DERMOSONIC™
Ultrasound Anti-Cellulite System
Reverse cellulite in 4-6 weeks

SWEDISH MIRACLE™
Body Wrap radically detoxifying + Lose 5-15”, not water

AIRBRUSH TANNING FLORIDA™
San Diego's Best Spray Tan
No streaks, no odor, no booth.

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"Studies show that people who use hypnosis to lose weight, lose more and keep it off longer than people who don’t. I’m walking, taking proof those studies are correct!"

— Gina Fox, after losing 200 lbs.
Luxury lofts. Month-to-month furnished or deposits $300-$400. Floor to ceiling windows. 619-885-8003. DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY.


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DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP.

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HILLCREST/University Heights, $975. Bright, cheerful 2nd floor, 1 bed/1 bath. 1 blocks from San Diego State University. Lot size 1000 sq ft. Rare find! Ltd. avail. 619-493-5372.


HILLCREST/University Heights, $1075. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 1 blocks from San Diego State University. Lot size 1000 sq ft. Rare find! Ltd. avil. 619-493-5372.

HILLCREST/University Heights, $1075. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 1 blocks from San Diego State University. Lot size 1000 sq ft. Rare find! Ltd. avil. 619-493-5372.


HILLCREST/University Heights, $1200. Large new 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2.5 car garage. Beautifully landscaped Backyard! 619-323-8087.

HILLCREST/University Heights, $1250. 2 blocks from Hillcrest High School. Unfurnished 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Short walk to 10 min walk to SDSU campus. Resort landscaping. 619-295-7580.


HILLCREST/University Heights, $1300. 1 bedroom, 1 bath + office. South of us DEUTSCHER PARK! 619-869-8696.


HILLCREST/University Heights, $1400. 2 bedroom, 1 bath + office. South of us DEUTSCHER PARK! 619-869-8696.

HILLCREST/University Heights, $1425. 1 bedroom, 1 bath + office. South of us DEUTSCHER PARK! 619-869-8696.

KENSINGTON. KENSINGTON. KENSINGTON.
IMPERIAL BEACH. Now. 4118 Adams Avenue #4. www.
No pets. $500 deposit. 4598 39th Street.
Very large, clean, quiet, laundry on site.
Very nice, quiet 1 and 2 bedroom.
LA JOLLA. Studio. Amazing location 1 block
to beach in heart of Village on Prospect
Kitchen with appliances. Walk-to-everything.
Includes cable. 4412 41st Street. 619-251-
LA JOLLA. Studio. Located in 
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LA JOLLA. Studio. Quiet, sun-filled suite
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3rd floor. 619-239-7485.
LA JOLLA. Studio, 1 bedroom. New
building. Washer/dryer included. Apartment
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No pets. $500 deposit. 4598 39th Street.
Hardwood floors. Very nice! Available
November 1st. 858-552-3618.
LA JOLLA. Studio. 1...
LA MESA, 71150. 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Large enclosed patio, gas fireplace, vaulted ceilings, air conditioning. Call Nina, 619-437-2393.


MISSION BEACH, 92127. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Two blocks from beach/bay. New carpet, private patio. 3630 Bayside Lane. 619-888-2217.

MISSION BEACH, 92127. 2 bed., 2 bath. Great condo, ocean view. Quiet. 619-469-3072.


MISSION BEACH. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. 1 bedroom. 2 bath. Close to I-5. 1450 Morena Boulevard. Call Agent, 619-440-4607.

MISSION BEACH. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach. 810 El Carmel Place. Penny Reynolds, 619-275-3455.


MISSION BEACH. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach. 3665 Mission Valley Road. Agent, 619-275-3455.

MISSION BEACH. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach. 3665 Mission Valley Road. Agent, 619-275-3455.

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MISSION BEACH. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Close to beach. 3665 Mission Valley Road. Agent, 619-275-3455.
1 Bedroom

- Rent: From $1495
- Location: 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 977-1025 square feet. Unfurnished. 619-778-8888.

2 Bedroom

- Rent: From $2395

3 Bedroom

- Rent: From $2995

Tip: Check with your employer about their employee rental program.
NORTH PARK, 1 bedroom. Newly rehabbed, small 2 bedroom, 1 bath. $750. 3906 Mississippi Street. Pets negotiable. Call 619-293-4794.

NORTH PARK, 1 bedroom. Newly rehabbed, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. $795. 1150 Louisiana Street. Second floor apartment. Large windows, off-street parking, walk to everything. Cat OK. 619-226-5900.


NORTH PARK, 1 bedroom. Newly renovated, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. $850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, $995. Quiet complex, located near Ocean Beach, walk to beach. No pets/smoking. 619-283-2184.

NORTH PARK, 1 bedroom. Move-in special, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Gorgeous, recently remodeled unit. Large windows, Off-street parking. Contact Frank at 619-921-8518.

NORTH PARK, 1 bedroom. Newly rehabilitated, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. $950. 1 bed/1 bath. Brand new, owner occupied, off-street parking, ready to move in! 619-299-9897.


NORTH PARK, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, quiet, comfortable, spacious, newly remodeled. 4050 El Cajon Boulevard. 619-297-8632.

NORTH PARK, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, quiet, comfortable, spacious, newly remodeled. 4050 El Cajon Boulevard. 619-297-8632.

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NORTH PARK, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, quiet, comfortable, spacious, newly remodeled. 4050 El Cajon Boulevard. 619-297-8632.


PACIFIC BEACH NORTH. $2350. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 2 blocks to the beach. New kitchen, dishwasher, heat. No pets. Available 12/15/05. 4058 Mithridates #5. Agent, 619-275-3455.
APARTMENT HOMES AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE MOVE-IN!

- **PACIFIC BEACH**: 800 North Pacific Beach. Spacious, viewy, 2 bedrooms. Pets OK. Available now. 619-227-3842.
- **BERKLEY HILLS**: 5101–5112 Locust Street. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, garage, parking, laundry. Available now. 619-221-2898.
- **PACIFIC BEACH**: $950/month includes trash/water/gas. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 2545 Colina Street #2. 858-531-5500.
- **SAN DIEGO**: 619-322-2888.
- **SOUTH PARK**: 5529-5537 21st Street. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1245 Balboa. 619-702-5000.
- **SAN CARLOS**: 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1075. Quiet, nice, clean, 1 bedroom up-stairs. Near golf. Air. Recreation. 858-583-5894.
- **SAN DIEGO**: 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1300 square feet. Parking under unit. Mission Trails. 619-227-3066.
- **PACIFIC BEACH**: $900/month includes trash/water. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1551 Ocean. 858-531-5036.
- **SAN DIEGO**: 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1075. Quiet, nice, clean, 1 bedroom up-stairs. Near golf. Air. Recreation. 858-400-8435.
- **PACIFIC BEACH**: $950/month includes trash/water/gas. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 2545 Colina Street #2. 858-531-5500.
- **SOUTH PARK**: 5529-5537 21st Street. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1245 Balboa. 619-702-5000.
REAL ESTATE

Don’t Let High Commissions Take a Bite Out of Your Home’s Equity!

We’ll Sell Your Home for Only $4,995! (Paid at closing)

See these listings at: 4HomesInSanDiego.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Bedrooms/Bathrooms</th>
<th>Square</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Footage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4444 W. Point Loma Blvd. #119</td>
<td>Ocean Beach</td>
<td>1 bedroom/1 bath</td>
<td>725 sq ft.</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>300 square feet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>810 Safford Ave</td>
<td>Spring Valley</td>
<td>3 bedroom/2.5 bath</td>
<td>1757 sq ft.</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>1,757 square feet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1304 Nazion Ave</td>
<td>Chula Vista</td>
<td>4 bedroom/2 bath</td>
<td>1500 sq ft.</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>1,500 square feet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11907 Via Paloma</td>
<td>El Cajon</td>
<td>5 bedroom/2.5 bath</td>
<td>2560 sq ft.</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>2,560 square feet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2214 Monaghan Ct</td>
<td>Spring Valley</td>
<td>4 bedroom/3 bath</td>
<td>2369 sq ft.</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>2,369 square feet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17780 Sherbrooke St</td>
<td>South Bay Terrains</td>
<td>4 bedroom/2 bath</td>
<td>2037 sq ft.</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>2,037 square feet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>706 Av Hacienda</td>
<td>Ramona</td>
<td>3 bedroom/2 bath</td>
<td>1711 sq ft.</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>1,711 square feet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15999 S. Woodson Dr.</td>
<td>Rancho Penasquitos</td>
<td>5 bedroom</td>
<td>3479 sq ft.</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>3,479 square feet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Give us a chance. We’ll sell your home and save you money...guaranteed! *(619) 303-6800 4HomesInSanDiego.com

*Savings based on comparison to 6% commission. 6% used for comparison purposes only. All commissions are negotiable. © Copyright 2003, Assist-2-Sell, Inc.
$8 CLASSIFIEDS!

NEW YEAR'S BLOWOUT!

Aria Acoustic Pak

Includes 5 Godin Guitars.
Pickups, Guitar Stand, and Instructional DVD

$125

(While supplies last.)

Aria Strat Pak

Includes 2 Fender Guitars.
Pickups, Guitar Stand, and Instructional DVD

$149

(While supplies last.)

NEW YEAR CLEARANCE!

Fender USA Tele

$250.

We beat any advertised price.

Real Guitar

858-578-4828.

10% OFF

Any bass, guitar or PA cabinets.

With this ad Expires 1/27/05

The most LOW END & POWER on the market!!

Come visit our new showroom!

1954 Kellogg Ave., Carlsbad
92010. 9-5, M-F

760-929-0547.

www.bassonsound.com
**MUSICIANS WANTED**

**GUITARIST and bassist wanted for serious cover and originals project. Foo Fighters, Funk-Thing, acoustic/electric.**

- **Call for auditions:** 858-654-8290.

**DRUMMER NEEDED.**

- **Creative and motivated artistically. Call for audition:** 858-304-2305.

**FLUTIST/VIOLINIST WANTED.**

- **For established punk/reggae jazz/rock hip-hop band.**

**BASS GUITARIST WANTED.**

- **Versatile, experienced, versatile individual wanted for cutting edge unit.**

**KEYBOARDIST WANTED.**

- **Seeking mature players. Ty, eclectic/attractive look, positive energy. Be involved and be serious.**

**TECHNICIANS NEEDED.**

- **For large sound systems.**

**ATTENTION: MUSICIANS!**

- **Please contact:** ddeaton25@yahoo.com.

**PLACE FREE ONLINE ADS**

- **Visit: www.imnotabigail.com.**

- **Thousands of classified ads not printed here!**
MUSIC

PLACE FREE ONLINE ADS with photos at El DoradoHillsLife.com. Also see our website.

AMP REPAIR: Planet 918 Amps provides all types of repair - modification. Choices for best performance and excellent customer service. 619-890-7493.

AMP REPAIR/FABRICATION. Factory authorized service. We buy and recondition working audio gear and musical instruments. San Diego Sound and Music Repair. 619-542-3500.


ATTENTION AREAS. Listenings and open auditions. Artiste development, producing, engineering, video, and web. Contact: Reveal Creative, 619-258-2525.


RECORD and MASTER at BLUZ-TRAX 64-track ProTools, 24-track ADAT, SGM2, ACO, Creative environment, local CD packages. 10-hour block: $350. 619-265-1087.


RECORD AT AMPERSAND STUDIO. 11-track ProTools facility. Large tracking room, iso/pace and gated parking. $250 hour including engineer. Booking fee, call 619-890-7493.


RECORD AT RGB: Producing, arranging AM/FM band production, great sound! Limited run mixes, large copy run mastering. $1000-1,450. 619-704-2518.


RECORD AT ADDERSTUDIOS: Two studio rooms, lounge and gated parking. $25/hour. 95.


RECORD AT ENVIRONMENTAL-QUALITY: Studio. 2 hours block: $249. 619-529-4543.


RECORD AT GRYB: Producing, arranging AM/FM band production, great sound! Limited run mixes, large copy run mastering. $1000-1,450. 619-704-2518.


SAN DIEGO

CALL FOR PRICES, BRANDS & OTHER SIZES:

61 GT MTXK 1 MTXK 0.30
1570131 MTXK 0.31 $99
1570134 FF DODGE 0.34 $62
1570205 FF DODGE 0.40 $89
1570206 FF DODGE 0.45 $105
1570207 FF DODGE 0.55 $150
1570208 FF DODGE 0.75 $234
1570209 FF DODGE 1$299
1570210 FF DODGE 1.5 $378
1570211 FF DODGE 2 $444
Change manual oil. 619-242-9951.


Brake Job Special $49.95

Starting at Front or rear. Semimetallic slightly higher. Includes brake pads or shoes, calipers, rotors, or drums, and hardware. Free towing, Next day delivery. 619-453-2008.

Complete Clutch $179.95


Engine Diagnostic $38

Starting at Inspect water pump, timing belt, air filter, oil filter, fuel filter, and ATF fluid levels. Check all fluid levels, all belts, and all electrical system.

FREE TOWING & SHUTTLE 10-mile radius.

15% OFF LABOR FOR Senior Citizen, Student, and Military (Excluding Specials)

Ask about our complimentary vehicle pickup and delivery.
**Antiques & Collectibles**

**PLACE FREE ONLINE ADS** with photos at SandiegoReader.com. Also see thousands of classified ads not printed here!

**PLACEMENT & COSTS**
- **$10** 10% off 15% off.
- **$20** (unframed).
- **$25** (framed).
- **$30** (framed).
- **$35** 25% off.
- **$40** (framed).
- **$45** 30% off.
- **$50** (framed).
- **$55** 40% off.
- **$60** (framed).
- **$65** 50% off.
- **$70** (framed).
- **$75** 60% off.
- **$80** (framed).
- **$85** 70% off.
- **$90** (framed).
- **$95** 80% off.
- **$100** (framed).
- **$105** 90% off.
- **$110** (framed).
- **$115** 100% off.

**ORDERING & PAYMENT**
- Please mail check or money order or pay with credit card.
- Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express.
- Use our credit card option at SandiegoReader.com.

**IMPORTANT**
- Ads expire 30 days after publication.
- **$10** and up.
- **$10** and up.

**RE-ORDER**
- For a small fee, you can re-order ads for another 30 days. Contact 619-293-9469.

**LEGAL NOTICES**
- For legal notices, you must pay $50. For a small fee, you can re-order ads for another 30 days. Contact 619-293-9469.

**FREE ITEMS**
- Items will be listed for free in the "Free Items" section. Items not claimed will be offered at a reduced price.

**CONTACTS**
- SandiegoReader.com is the best way to get in touch with advertisers. You can also call 619-293-9469.

**CLASSIFIED WANTED/TRADE**
- Place your classified ads at SandiegoReader.com.

**Antiques & Collectibles**

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- **$60** (framed).
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**CLASSIFIED WANTED/TRADE**
- Place your classified ads at SandiegoReader.com.
TRANSMISSION OR ENGINE PROBLEM?  Major or Minor — Not Sure?!

FREE 21-point Diagnostic by our ‘Drivability Experts’  $150 OFF Transmission Rebuild through 1/13/05
* FREE Roadside Assistance  ©  FREE Shuttle Service
* FREE Towing with Major Repair  * Military and Senior Discounts

30K/60K/90K SERVICE
30K  $99*  Service
4-cyl.
• Replace air filter
• Check tire pressure
• Fluid leak check
• Inspect brakes
• Check & adjust tire rotation

60K  $99*  Service
4-cyl.
• Replace oil filter
• Check fluid levels
• Inspect vehicle emissions system

90K  $199*  Service
4-cyl.
• Replace air filter
• Inspect & replace spark plugs
• Check brake pads
• Check undercarriage

NATIONWIDE WARRANTY AVAILABLE

WE ACCEPT Wright Express & Voyager Fleet Cards

FREE TOWING 10-mile radius  FREE MAJOR, 20-mile radius
OFFERS EXPIRE 1/20/05.

HANMI AUTO CENTER
7639 Carroll Rd., Ste. A
(858) 635-2211

APPLIANCES
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PLANNERS: Transpose and organize your pantry, order your free energy saver, stove, water heater $135 each. Tupperware, Larry’s Appliance Pick-Up and Delivery, Repairs. Free door service. 619-291-5313.

CALFALCON commercial tarpaulin. T-tap services. Call for delivery. 619-291-5313


REFRIGERATOR, Large, beach day in box. Tootsie, grilling features, $25. 619-586-5022.

Furniture, multiple items. $20. $25 each, no more than 6, in box. 619-586-5022.


REFRIGERATOR, 25 cu ft, test one side,缺少 dispersion, dark blue.

We speak Japanese to your car!

At Japanese Auto Tech we specialize in Japanese vehicles exclusively. This will save you both time and money because we have the expertise to diagnose and repair your vehicle quickly and economically. We also use genuine factory parts, when possible, to make sure your car or truck runs just like new.

Brakes
FREE BRAKE INSPECTION
• Front or rear.
Includes labor, new parts and service parts available.
Machine rotors or drums. Inspect calipers, hydraulic, seats, rotors or drums. Most cars $78.95.

Fuel Injection Service
Complete 2-step process
• Clean & Inject
• Values • Pivots 
• Improves gas mileage and performance.
Most cars $29.95.

Complete Axle
Replacing differential before Bay Break. Most cars $89.

FREE Bumper-to-Bumper Inspection
Inspect all major components of your car. With coupon.

Quality, Affordable Auto Service
Call About Our Transmission Rebuild Specials

Smog Check $15
FREE RECHECK Free store item. Also includes front wheel alignment and $3 transfer fee. Most cars. 320S, V6s, trucks and trailers included. Smog diagnosis/repaire available.

Transmission Rebuilds
30K  $99*  Service
4-cyl.
• Refresh clutch plates
• Inspect fluid pressure

60K  $99*  Service
4-cyl.
• Inspect all major components
• Inspect clutch operation

90K  $199*  Service
4-cyl.
• Inspect all major components
• Inspect fluid pressure

Alignment Inspection $129
• FREE Towing
San Diego
MIRAMAR
• Suspension inspection
• Radiator service
• Oil and filter change
• Replace spark plugs
30K/60K/90K I
Smog Check
A service
RSC diagnostics/repairs available.

We Accept Wright Express & Voyager Fleet Cards

We are here for you!

Fluid Leaking? FREE LEAK CHECK!

Japanese Auto Tech
6696 Miramar Rd. (near I-805) • San Diego • 858-546-8363

Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5, Sat. 8-3. Please call for appointment so we may better serve you. Limited time offer – call details. Most cars. Not valid with any other discounts.

Japanese Auto Tech

Import & Domestic
Specializing in European Vehicles
Free pick-up & delivery.

HANMI AUTO CENTER
7639 Carroll Road, Ste. A
(858) 635-2211

Japanese Auto Tech
6696 Miramar Rd. (near I-805) • San Diego • 858-546-8363

Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5, Sat. 8-3. Please call for appointment so we may better serve you. Limited time offer – call details. Most cars. Not valid with any other discounts.

FREE TOWING

International Service

FREE TOWING

Unlimited Mileage Warranty! Call for details.

WARRANTY!

*SHOCKS & STRUTS
• FREE SUSPENSION
Call for special price!

ENGINE REBUILD

†Unlimited Mileage Warranty

With repair. Call for details.

4-cyl.

AC SERVICE

• INSTALL new plug
• Install new plug
• Replace engine
• Check & adjust air filter
• Install new plug
• Rotate tires • Inspect brake system & adjust brakes • Replenish all fluids

JAPANESE ENGINE REPLACEMENT

†Limited warranty

COOLING SYSTEM WATER PUMP

• Replace coolant

TIMING BELT

• Change timing belt

• Install new plugs
• Replace engine oil

JAPANESE ENGINE REPLACEMENT

†Limited warranty

TIMING BELT

• Install new plugs
• Replace engine oil

With repair. Call for details.

7030 Carroll Rd.
858-455-5440 • 800-208-4722
Near Miramar Road

*All offers must cars. Parts extra. Expires 1/3/05. MasterCard/Visa / Discover

Engine Rebuild starting at $750*.

MIRAMAR
(858) 552-8484
6690 Miramar Rd. #6
San Diego

SPORTS ARENA/ PT. LOMA
(619) 523-1222
2904 Lytton St. • San Diego

We speak Japanese to your car!

12-Month/12,000 Mile Complete Warranty. 40% Parts & Labor.

JAPANESE AUTO TECH

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Specializing in European Vehicles
Free pick-up & delivery.

HANMI AUTO CENTER
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Japanese Auto Tech
6696 Miramar Rd. (near I-805) • San Diego • 858-546-8363

We speak Japanese to your car!

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We speak Japanese to your car!
$8 CLASSIFIEDS!

**Electronics**

PLACE FREE ONLINE ADS with photos at StandfordEstate.com. Also see thousands of additional ads on craigslist.org, ebay.com, facebook.com, or other classified websites.

**Direct**

- **WASHING MACHINE** - Used Kenmore Gas clothes washer - $100. **VACUUM CLEANER** - Oreck, used - $50.
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- **Oven Combo** - Used - $150.
- **Oven Hood** - Used - $80. **Oven Combo** - Used - $150.
- **Oven** - Used - $300. **Range Hood** - Used - $200.
- **Oven** - Used - $150.
- **Oven** - Used - $300.
- **Oven** - Used - $150.
- **Oven** - Used - $300.
- **Oven** - Used - $150.
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**FURNITURE**


**AUTOMOTIVE**

MISSION VALLEY SHELL
30K/60K/90K
• Drain & refill cooling system
• Tighten belts
• Ignition & timing
• Rotate & balance tires

MISSION CTR. RD
30K/60K/90K
• Shocks • Struts • Tires • Alignment • Balance • Smog And More

**SMOG CHECK $11.95**

Offering consumer program assistance. With coupon only. Plus $8.25 for certificate and $5 transfer fee. Retest fee when repair is completed. VIP service, 2 machines. No appointment necessary. Most 4-cyl. cars only.

**OIL CHANGE**

With free brake and 32-point inspection. Most 4-cyl. cars. Plus $2.50 disposal fee.

**TRANSMISSION FLUSH**

Complete flush of the entire system. Most 4-cyl., V6, V8.

**BRAKE SPECIAL**

Most 4-cyl. cars. Front or rear. Install new pads or shoes. Most cars against our drive.

**ENGINE FLUSH**

Complete flush of the entire system. Up to 5 quarts Castrol oil change and filter.

**COMPUTERIZED 4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT**

Most 4-cyl. cars. Extra charge on extra trim.

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**KENTWOOD IN-DASH 7-INCH AM/FM/CD/DVD PLAYER**

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NO INTEREST OR NO PAYMENTS FOR 1 YEAR OAC

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**INCLUDES:**
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WIRELESS REMOTE CONTROL!

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Open every day: Mon.-Thurs. 10 am-7 pm • Fri. 10 am-9 pm • Sat. 9 am-7 pm

*Can must be in factory condition and some cars may require additional labor and parts such as kits. Homestead, plug, o-rings, cables, which is an add-on cost. Prices reflect cash discounts. Quantity is limited to stock on hand. Rain checks available by request for any out-of-stock items. All merchandise comes with dealer warranty. No dealers, please. First-come, first-served install, complete. Standard installations only. With-in-store purchase. We are not responsible for in-store.**
LEAD STORY
University of Florida professor Thomas DeMarce revealed in December that he has constructed a primitive “brain” (“live computation device”) out of 25,000 rat neurons and has taught it to maneuver an F-22 fighter jet in a straight trajectory. The brain had to be “taught,” he said, because at first the plane kept crashing. DeMarce said an organic brain is potentially much more flexible than even the highest-tech computer. The National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health are funding his work as models for controlling otherwise-risky unmanned aircraft and for developing epilepsy-fighting drugs.

Scenes of the Surreal
(1) Following an October workers’ compensation fine levied against an Australia’s outback after a cowboy fell off a horse and hit his head, the losing ranch owner said he would get all their wranglers to wear helmets instead of cowboy hats. (2) In November, the school district in Spurger, Texas, ended its decades-old homecoming week reverse-roles day (in which girls dress as boys and vice versa) after one parent complained that the tradition promoted a homosexual lifestyle; in its place, the school urged kids to dress in military camouflage.

Chutzpah!
(1) In July, Winnetka, Ill., investment pro- moter Charles Harris made a last-ditch effort to get his clients’ support, hoping they would not cooperate with authorities who were about to arrest him for fraud. Harris sent each a DVD in which he begged them to give his investments more time, but federal agents, after arresting Harris in September, said Harris probably shot that DVD from the Caribbean Sea on the 62-foot yacht he had bought with clients’ money. (2) In Cleveland, Tenn., Rob Smitty gained media attention in November after donating a kidney to a stranger, hoping the selfless act would make his action in November after donating a kidney to a stranger, hoping the selfless act would make his action in November after donating a kidney to a stranger, hoping the selfless act would make his action in November after donating a kidney to a stranger, hoping the selfless act would make his action in November after donating a kidney to a stranger, hoping the selfless act would make his action in November after donating a kidney to a stranger, hoping the selfless act would make his action in November after donating a kidney to a stranger, hoping the selfless act would make his action in November after donating a kidney to a stranger, hoping the selfless act would make his action in November after donating a kidney to a stranger, hoping the selfless act would make his action in November after donating a kidney to a stranger, hoping the 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$8 CLASSIFIEDS!

MIRROR, MATTRESS, selling for $625. 619-297-8952.

Women’s nice office shoes, like new, size 8. 858-688-2781.

Dresser mirror, oak, arched and beveled, asking $350 each. 5 available at $45 each. Joe, 619-857-4325.


Third party insurance. 858-623-8434.

Piano and bench, $775. 619-588-4325.

Table top, 3 leaves, 6 chairs, French provincial, 90"L, 1 year new, moving, must sell, $500/best. Shelli, La Jolla, 858-272-0418.

Vanity, hand-sewn lace and pearls, 44"L, 1/2, 2 sets, $45 each. Kitchen faucets, Galvanized, new, with all accessories except handles, $50. 858-767-6517.

2 person bowling ball. 858-277-7197.

Most cars, Vans, Trucks, etc. 5% extra. Machine rotors extra. Gasket and filter extra. (858) 565-7835.

TABLE TOP, MIRROR,未來性。$25 3450-A KURTZ ST. • (619) 260-1747

BOWLING BALL, $40. 858-277-7197.

Your Complete Automotive Service Center

30K, 60K, 90K, 120K MAJOR SERVICE

OIL CHANGE SPECIAL

SMOG CHECK: Test Only $25

$59.95 12-Month/12,000-Mile Warranty

$24.99 4-cyl. $34.95 5-cyl., $42.95 6-cyl.

$189 Most 4-cyl. $249 5-cyl. $299 6-cyl.

$24.99 4-cyl. $34.95 5-cyl., $42.95 6-cyl.

$249 Most 4-cyl. $249 5-cyl. $299 6-cyl.

$249 5-cyl. $299 6-cyl.

$95 3-cyl. $195 4-cyl. $249 5-cyl. $299 6-cyl.

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$249 5-cyl. $299 6-cyl.
AUTO THEFT

Location: Fanita & Mission Gorge Road, Santee
Time/Date: 4:18 p.m. on 12/13/04

Suspect’s Statement: I found the paycheck yesterday. I thought it was a sign from God to help me out.

NARRATIVE: The incident involved an arson fire to a 1999 Honda Civic. I was dispatched to determine the origin and cause of the fire. I arrived at the scene at approximately 3:36 p.m. to find the fire had been extinguished by firefighters securing the scene of the fire. The weather was cool and calm.

This fire occurred within a [x] 1999 Honda Civic four-door sedan that was black in color. The vehicle was located in a parking space adjacent to the rear of the apartment building where the registered owner lives with his parents.

Exterior examination of the vehicle revealed the doors were locked and the windows rolled up. The victim indicated the vehicle had been in this condition prior to the fire. Fire damage was observed to the rear spoiler and trunk lid. The passenger side rear window was broken out and the trunk lock was punched in. Fire crews had caused this damage while gaining access to the trunk and passenger compartment.

Based on fire scene examination, evaluation of the indicators observed, and the evidence found, it is my opinion the fire resulted from a person(s) igniting the exterior rear of the vehicle with an open flame ignition source, such as matches or a lighter.

Damage estimate: $5,000.

ARSON

Location: [4500] Cove Drive, Carlsbad
Time/Date: 1:15 p.m. on 12/1/04

Report: Officers were sent to check a report of a suspect looking into vehicles in the underground parking garage.

Responding officers observed a vehicle leaving the area with two occupants aboard who matched the suspect’s descriptions. The car was stopped. Jarrett P. and a 15-year-old female were identified as the suspects.

Suspect’s Statement: I identified the back of the check was signed as Whitney H.

I called the phone number on the check and asked if Whitney H. worked at the hotel. A manager answered the phone and said yes. The manager said H. was currently working. I asked to speak to H.

Victim’s Statement: I lost my paycheck yesterday. I think I may have threw [sic] it in the Dumpster by accident. I got a new paycheck issued to me and cancelled the check I lost.

Suspect’s Statement: I found the paycheck yesterday in downtown. I know it was wrong but I needed the money. I thought it was a sign from God to help me out.

FIRE

Location: [4500] Cove Drive, Carlsbad
Time/Date: 1:15 p.m. on 12/1/04

Narrative: The incident involved an arson fire to a 1999 Honda Civic. I was dispatched...to determine the origin and cause of the fire. I arrived at the scene at approximately 3:36 p.m. to find the fire had been extinguished by firefighters securing the scene of the fire. The weather was cool and calm.

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Damage estimate: $5,000.
MISSOURIAN. Case trenching ma-
chine with trailer. Fish aquariums. SeaDoo with double trailer. PVC pipe parts, various sizes. 1-4. Southeastern Kansas Card­board. La Mesa 3-582.
MISSOURIAN. Microwave. Fridge. 15" mini cyclone. 50" mini cyclone. Ladies' beach bike, waist chair, rattan rocker exercise bench, double sink, vanity bathroom sink, ski, dolly, screen door. Slabott 3-494.
MISSOURIAN. Antique sewing ma-
nachine in wood console. Throw-out Mi-
crowave. Kitchenware. Blankets. 20" bi-
framed chairs, bedding, bedspreads, piano stool, neons, everything. 619-670-7821.
MISSOURIAN. Dell speakers, $49. New Dell DVD/CD, $80. 441-9.
MISSOURIAN. Door. 858-270-0565.
MISSOURIAN. Holds 200 CDs, $30. Records, 45rpm, all. 619-896-0779.
MISSOURIAN. Electric hedge clipper, pool antique, claw feet, $65. 2 aquarium, refrigerator, computer, CD tower (carousel), Antique sewing ma-
chine, $25. HP Deskjet printer, $125. UTOMOTIVE
8 CLASSIFIEDS!
MISSOURIAN. 7400. 14', minor repair needed, gorgeous solid wood, 1" handlebars, lights, primaries, many more accessories. 619-200-6977.
MISSOURIAN. ISUO SMART, • • •
1984, 104000 miles, runs fantastically, it’s big, has all original parts, accessories. $10,000. 858-688-2544.
MISSOURIAN. 1978, 19,000 miles, 4 cylinder, red, black chrome, top quality, cool and fun, don’t miss this one, $12,995. Vin-09315. 11/35. Midway Jeep-
MISSOURIAN. Dodge Grand Caravan, 2000, Dodge Caravan SXT, $9,900. Vin-871675. Midway Jeep-
MISSOURIAN. Dodge Neon SE Sedan, 1995, 4 cylinder, automatic, air, a/c. Runs well, 129,000 miles, well maintained, all records, runs
perfect for enthusiasts! 858-729-0555.
MISSOURIAN. DiceTraining.com.
MISSOURIAN. BMW R 3, $2500. Large cutting torch, rototiller, $30. Weedeater, cordless, large, $2750. Large cutting torch, rototiller, $30. "Large" microwave, good, $450. Concourse models, 2 Triumph photo books included. Has never been raced, laid down or,
smashed, 2 Triumph photo books included. $1000, includes helmet. Burgundy. Specializing In:
MISSOURIAN. 1987, runs great, very strong, strong and automatic power windows. Recently inspected and serviced. Registered and smogged. Solid, reliable transportation. $500. 619-485-4376.
MISSOURIAN. 1995, coupe, red, black chrome, sports package. 4 cylinder, automatic, air, a/c. Runs great, air conditioning, power steering, power brakes, $250. 619-563-0779.
MISSOURIAN. 1997, 1997, 4 cylinder, automatic, air conditioning, power steering, brakes, am/fm, runs fantastically, it’s big, has all original parts, accessories. $10,000. 858-688-2544.
MISSOURIAN. 1995, coupe, red, black chrome, top quality, cool and fun, don’t miss this one, $12,995. Vin-09315. 11/35. Midway Jeep-
Brandon Luffe says, “My brother bought the Trans-Am from our uncle, when he couldn’t get in and out of the car very well anymore. It belongs to my brother, but I drive it a lot more than he does. He lives up north now. His name’s Brian.

“It’s a nice car, and we try to keep it nice looking and make it look stock even though we keep putting stuff on it. We’ve done a lot of upgrades to make it faster and make it handle better. It’s been to Sears Point a couple of times.”

“Sears Point?” I ask.

“A road-racing area just below San Francisco. My brother raced it there. And we’ve slowly been putting parts on it — suspension, chassis, sub-frame connectors, we welded those in. Sub-frame connectors keep the chassis nice and stiff. We put in Eibach lowering frame connectors keep the chassis nice and stiff. We put in Eibach lowering frame connectors, we welded those in. Sub-

And we’ve slowly been putting parts on it. I guess so, but you don’t dare keep track of that stuff, the money.

“The motor, it’s the original, 305 cubic inches. We put the supercharger on. And while the intake manifold was off, I put out that made that a little bit bigger and put all new injectors in it. It’s probably 340 or 350 horsepower.

“So you’re not putting as much emphasis on speed as on handling, right?”

“A combination of speed and handling,” Brandon says. “And a car like this, it’s never done. But now it handles well, and it’s got a little more power than it used to. I’ve taken it to Carlsbad Raceway and Qualcomm Stadium, for the quarter-mile drag racing at Carlsbad and eighth-mile at the stadium.”

“How did you do?”

“The car did what it was supposed to do.”

“I ask, “And your brother and you do all the work, even the welding?”

“We’ve done all the work. Originally it had a rear drum. We put in a disc rear end. So now it has disc brakes all the way around. It’s got a new ignition box and a good stereo. It’s comfortable. I took it to Vegas not long ago.”

I flash back to the days when Nevada had no speed limit and my dad owned a muscle car, a 1959 Oldsmobile. Once we crossed the state line, my dad would punch the gas, my mom would cover her eyes, and I would become Buck Rogers’ rocketship copilot.

I imagine Brandon’s Trans-Am streaking across the desert, like a jet car on the Great Salt Lake. I ask, “How long did the trip take?”

“Five or six hours,” he says. I shake my head and think Brandon must have super-natural willpower. “So you were just cruising.”

He says, “I’m building a new motor. When it’s done, I’ll go again and see what it can do.”

To suggest future “Driven” stories, e-mail ken@kenkuhlen.net.
**CLASSIFIEDS!**

San Diego, CA 92173. 
Tel: 619-741-7080.

**NISSAN QUEST, 1994, 4 cyl., automatic, excellent condition, tan with tan interior, with gray cloth interior. 96K miles. Runs great. NISSAN QUEST, sound, rear spoiler, privacy glass. White excellent. $5500/best. 619-741-7080.**

**NISSAN MAXIMA, 1997, V6, 30K miles, tan interior, 140,000 miles, black, tan leather interior, dual door, am/fm stereo, champagne color, dark green, 119,000 miles, super condition. Wow! $3995. Vin#122896. Fi- com.**

**PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT, 1994, 140K miles, air conditioning, automatic, 4 wheel drive, 64,000 miles, trailer hitch, single cab, stick shift, 4 cylinder, white, 85K miles. Great mpg, fat, current registration. Moving. $1000. Alex, 619-482-9501.**

**PONTIAC SUNBIRD SE, 1988, 16V, black, excellent condition. 4 disc brakes, premium wheels and stereo cassette, 2.0 liter, great engine. $4000/best. 619-733-2919.**

24-hour Internet or fax for private parties. See form on page 145.

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HOW TO BE A BIG-TIME HOLLYWOOD WRITER FOR A HIP, NEW TV SHOW
In high school, show some creativity and intelligence but no real ambition. Concern yourself with small-town trivialities like football, chicks, and scoring marijuana from your brother’s friend Jimmy. Watch a lot of TV, especially when you’re stoned. Revel in your fantasy life of being a high-tone actor or director—doesn’t matter which, as long as you can drive a totally sweet car and bang a lot of chicks.

Major in English once you’re in college. Why not? You’ve already taken four years of it in high school. You already know what verbs are.

On the final summer before your senior year, visit your friend Steve in the grit of Los Angeles. Ride around with Steve in his Volkswagen Jetta, and when you’re drunk, stick your head out of the moon roof, raise your arms in triumph, and scream, “I LOVE L.A.!” Living on Steve’s couch, come to realize that you can go back to school anytime—Vichita State will always be there. Work as a freelance website designer because you’re good with computers and you’ve built a couple sites. Begin by borrowing a computer but eventually buckle down, start paying rent, and buy some furniture. In the bulletproof haze of coke and pills, talk to Steve about writing for his new TV show. You’re funny. Your friends still talk about you today as the “trendy joke” guy. Make a break-dancing reference to finally snap the egg nog. It’s not your best work, but it will do for this week.

Three months and 12 episodes later, spin your coke habit out of hand. At a writers meet-up, you’ll give an impromptu reading, resign to being the “trendy joke” guy. Make a break-dancing reference to finally snap the egg nog. It’s not your best work, but it will do for this week.

After three years of writing fresh, innovative comedy for a midweek, mediocre TV show, you get a break. It’s different; you get a chance to “be the man.” An agent of the great Miller Agency calls and asks if you’d like to represent you. You say yes. You now have a job. It’s not a TV show, but the money must’ve run out. Lou Diamond Phillips maybe, but Emilio Estevez? How far have thou fallen, Emilio?

DENNIS MILLER
CNBC 43, 6:00 P.M.
In a bid for Universal ambivalence, Dennis Miller moved from HBO to CNBC. What was once a license to parody has been scaled back. Dennis Miller ambivalence.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6
JAG
USA, 6:00 P.M.
Oof, what a stinker. This show could really storm your house and yank you out of your closet while you’re clutching a tiny Cuban boy, but it doesn’t. Instead of handling Constitutional issues during war, this show handles petty theft and roommate disappearances. It reeks of red-herring plotlines, and even the bitchy marine wife with nice cans doesn’t make it watchable.

DENNIS MILLER
CNBC 43, 6:00 P.M.
In a bid for Universal ambivalence, Dennis Miller moved from HBO to CNBC. What was once a license to parody has been scaled back. Dennis Miller ambivalence.

WHAT I WILL AND WON’T WATCH THIS WEEK
THURSDAY, JANUARY 6
JAG
USA, 6:00 P.M.
Oof, what a stinker. This show could really storm your house and yank you out of your closet while you’re clutching a tiny Cuban boy, but it doesn’t. Instead of handling Constitutional issues during war, this show handles petty theft and roommate disappearances. It reeks of red-herring plotlines, and even the bitchy marine wife with nice cans doesn’t make it watchable.

DENNIS MILLER
CNBC 43, 6:00 P.M.
In a bid for Universal ambivalence, Dennis Miller moved from HBO to CNBC. What was once a license to parody has been scaled back. Dennis Miller ambivalence.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7
CHARGERS FEVER
NBC 7, 6:30 P.M.
When a winning team garners new support, the old guard calls “bandwagon jumping.” As if by tapping yellow lightning bolts to your early-’90s Bronco for seven years has somehow forged the team from iron ore into the tip of the spear. Your furious yelling at touchy-feely fans is the “trendy joke” guy. Make a break-dancing reference to finally snap the egg nog. It’s not your best work, but it will do for this week.

THREE months and 12 episodes later, spin your coke habit out of hand. At a writers meet-up, you’ll give an impromptu reading, resign to being the “trendy joke” guy. Make a break-dancing reference to finally snap the egg nog. It’s not your best work, but it will do for this week.

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