hours of trying to get a straight answer from the NRA and searching online (and finding over a dozen contrary claims about the subject), I gave up and took the wire report at face value.

No Surprises
Re “Leave’n on a Jet Plane” (February 24).
I am glad someone is watching the actions of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, but I don’t know why anyone would be surprised that the authority has already reached a decision.
In a KPBS story aired on November 14, 2002, about Joe W. Craver — the former chair of Mayor Murphy’s failed Blue Ribbon Committee on City Finances and Mayor Murphy’s appointee to the authority — it was stated: “Craver says he’ll remain site-neutral until the authority is up and running, but he concedes, Miramar seems like a perfect location.” This was prior to the establishment of the authority in January of 2003 and certainly is a new twist on neutrality. He had not even started earning his $139,000 salary.
I am also not surprised that the authority is carrying out a “contract against the county.” A legacy of poor planning and the inability of the city and the county to say no to developers has left no site that will not radically alter the quality of life of someone. The authority will not show you those issues in their glossy brochures (what is the connection between biotech and an expanded airport, anyway, hypertension?). Probably the first and last time the authority ever recognized quality-of-life issues was when Joe W. Craver told an audience of angry Coronado residents, “We’re not going to aggravate your problems. To me, that’s un-American.”
If anyone believes that, then I have an airport site to sell you.

Name Withheld
via e-mail

Sanford’s Mistakes
Re Jay Allen Sanford’s coverage in “Blurt” of Gary Wilson (March 3).
Unfortunately, it’s difficult to catch every journalistic error and fact-check every statement in such a large publication, but readers should be aware of these mistakes:
(1) Motel Records reissued You Think You Really Know Me (just barely beating out L.A.-based Stones Throw Records) a few years ago.
(2) Wilson’s new material has already been released on Stones Throw Records. Mary Had Brown Hair was released late last year to mixed reviews.

G. Renteria
via e-mail

Hollow Error
About your Letters (March 3): Jay Allen Sanford deserves a pat on the back for answering his critic about the “Blurt” cop-killer bullets. So many times errors or other valid questions raised by letter writers simply get no response. Jay’s answer was good, as far as it went. He also should get a good swift kick in the ass. Why? Cause he didn’t cop to and explain his error about hollow points being “illegal in most states,” which his critic pointed out.
So here is Mr. Sanford’s opportunity to redeem a scooch of journalistic credibility. Where did he get the info such bullets were illegal? Why not tell us? How come it is so god-awful difficult to give a full disclosure? And to admit a mistake?
Issue the editor a bull-whip.

Mike Clark
Chula Vista

Jay Allen Sanford responds: The claim I made was based on the original wire service report of the arrest, which states this style of ammunition is illegal. After over two
The Celebrity Factor

By Don Bauder

Jurors who had spent eight days hearing a medical malpractice case were stunned when it was a mistrial February 28.

All 15 jurors told the plaintiff’s attorneys that they would have found the physician responsible for the death of a child during delivery, according to a lawyer who polled them. Four hours after the mistrial was declared, 10 of the jurors submitted sworn affidavits declaring that superior court Judge S. Charles Wickersham repeatedly scratched the back of the defense counsel, former district attorney Paul Pfingst, while kicking the backside of plaintiff’s lawyers, Nancy Sussman and Julie Parker.

Sussman has filed to have Wickersham removed from any retrial of the case, Leticia Lopez vs. Dr. James Schaefer, et al. Also, Sussman has filed complaints with the California Commission on Judicial Performance and the city attorney’s office. Among her many complaints — also mentioned by jurors in their affidavits — was that Wickersham yelled at her in the presence of the jury, thus prejudicing her client’s case, and also slept during the trial.

Neal Obermeyer

On Tuesday, Wickersham recused himself from the case, although denying all of Sussman’s allegations of misconduct. Wickersham noted that the most serious allegation was that he “colluded with counsel for the defendant in grantiing a motion for mistrial.” The judge noted that the allegations “created a substantial doubt” on his capacity to be impartial.

Both Sussman and Pfingst smell a rat. They say that on the day of the mistrial declaration, Pfingst showed up as one of the attorneys for the city manager’s office in the battle between the pension board and City Attorney Michael Aguirre. Wickersham happens to be a friend of Mayor Dick Murphy. Last fall, the judge was randomly selected by computer to hear one of the election suits involving Murphy. Citing a “personal relationship” with Murphy, Wickersham recused himself. Later, all the superior court judges were recused.

On the same day that the jurors registered their complaints, Pfingst, now with established law firm of Higgs Fletcher & Mack, wrote to Sussman, denouncing her statements to jurors.

continued on page 6
Is Cheri an Axe Murderer?

By Joe Deegan

In her 1995 trial for the murder of Susan Taylor, Cheri Lynn Dale didn’t get a chance to explain to the jury where she was and what she was doing on the day of the brutal killing. Her court-appointed attorney Michael Berg chose not to put her on the stand. Dale’s mother and stepfather, Connielou and Charles Caldwell, and her stepbrother Fred Caldwell, wanted to tell the story for her. They thought Berg promised them he would call them to testify; they recalled Berg telling the judge they would be called as witnesses. “When Berg told the court, ‘The defense rests,’ we fell through the floor,” says Charles Caldwell. “We couldn’t believe it.”

“As a result,” according to Fred Caldwell, “the jury heard only the prosecution’s version of the murder.” They still deliberated for nearly a week, but on April 25, 1995, they found Cheri Dale guilty of first-degree murder. Several days later, Judge David Gill gave her a prison sentence of 26 years to life.

Connielou was at work, but Charles and Fred Caldwell spoke with me in their modest Leucadia home. To get help with Cheri Dale’s case in the years after her conviction, they have contacted over 40 government officials, including California’s attorney general. All of them say it’s not their job or they’re too busy to help. Now they want to publicize Dale’s story.

The Caldwells told me that Cheri Dale got mixed up in a North County drug scene when she was 17. By the time she was 20, she was in the habit of buying methamphetamines at a drug house on Torrejon Place in Carlsbad. On Thursday morning, January 25, 1990, other visitors to the house found Susan Taylor, 26, bludgeoned to death. She had taken 46 blows to the head and numerous others to the body. At the time, Taylor had been living in the house for five or six days while she prepared to move to another residence.

Cheri Dale often stayed at friends’ homes; when she was high on drugs, her mother did not allow her into the Caldwell home. But on the Tuesday and Wednesday nights before the killing, according to the Caldwells, Dale slept drug-free at home on the family couch. During times like that, they said, mother and daughter were close. On Wednesday, January 24, the pair drove to the courthouse in San Marcos, where Dale paid the fine on a traffic ticket. The family still has the $405 receipt for the payment with Dale’s signature on it. Later in the day, they bought videos to watch together that night.

But before they went home, Dale asked her mother to drive to the Torrejon Place address so she could pick up a red telephone shaped like a Porsche; she had bought it for her brother Fred’s birthday. Others in the house had used it several days earlier, and Dale had forgotten it there.

By the time Fred Caldwell got home later that Wednesday afternoon, mother and daughter had left in the car again. But he remembers seeing the phone on the dining room table, and he saw it in the same place the next morning, before 9:00 a.m., he says. He also noticed that his sister Cheri Lynn was asleep on the couch.

According to court records, Carlsbad police said Susan Taylor was killed between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. During the trial, deputy district attorney Thomas Manning would claim that Dale had been awake for a week on a methamphetamine bender that drove her to kill Taylor.

The Caldwells hoped that the red “car” phone would add outside verification to the testimony of witnesses. But defense attorney Berg did not use the testimony of witnesses who did recall the phone.

In a recent phone conversation, Berg presented an alibi for Dale by trying to show that the real killer was one of the other suspects in the case. But as the prosecution “shot down” each of them, he lost belief in Dale’s innocence, while still doing his best to defend her. He thinks that a comment Dale made during police questioning turned the jury against her. “The police have her on tape saying that the victim must have been ‘hit and bit,’ ” said Berg, “and that was before they revealed that evidence was on the body.”

A reputed bite mark was found on Susan Taylor’s upper arm, and forensic dentist Norman Sperber testified that the mark was consistent with five of Dale’s teeth. The Caldwells recall, however, that Sperber explained “consistent” to be at the low end of trustworthy evidence, “absolutely certain,” the highest.

Instead, say the Caldwells, they overheard a juror after the trial say that the most damaging statement Dale made to police was that she was at the drug house on the morning of the murder. “I defy the district attorney’s Manning to find on tape where she says that,” says Charles Caldwell. “She didn’t say that. It’s a lie, but Manning repeated it all through the trial.”

continued on page 12
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Celebrity factor continued from page 2

and others. "You have made false and unsupported accusations against both Judge Wickersham and myself..." Pfingst wrote. "I demand that you cease making any additional defamatory statements or I will be required to take legal action. Furthermore, I demand that you provide a retraction to each person to whom you have published the defamation and provide proof of the retraction. It is my intent to bring this matter to the attention of the state bar."

Pfingst's letter "is a violation of the ethical conduct code," says Parker. "You can't threaten an opposing attorney who is reporting alleged misconduct, she says.

After Wickersham declared the surprising mistrial around 11:00 a.m. February 28, Parker and Sussman took the 15 jurors to the presiding judge, who refused to speak with the jurors. After a delay of four hours, the two lawyers questioned 10 of the jurors under oath.

Jury Ryan Sullivan called the mistrial "a great injustice" and the Wickersham/Pfingst relationship a "good old boys club. The process of a fair and equal justice system in Judge Wickersham's courtroom was never present. I'm scared for every citizen of this great country to think that fairness and equality have no role in our justice system."

Juror Judith Macander said, "The judge was clearly in favor of the defendant's attorney and biased towards the plaintiff's attorneys."

Dennis Fagan said of Wickersham, "He repeatedly belittled Ms. Sussman and Ms. Parker" and raised his voice to them, while "he showed unusual deference [and] courtesy to defense attorney Paul Pfingst. I feel very strongly that something strange was going on between Judge Wickersham and Paul Pfingst throughout the duration of this trial." Joyce Floyd echoed those words. "I believe the judge and Mr. Pfingst had something going on together, and that's why there was a mistrial."

Patty Totina said, "I felt like Judge Wickersham had almost, like, a good old boy relationship with Mr. Pfingst and made that evident in his conversations with him and his rulings during the proceedings."

Glenn Rosbrook sensed "a disposition on the part of the judge which favored the defendant and was biased against the plaintiff."

"The judge was somewhat enamored by having Mr. Pfingst in the courtroom, being a celebrity," said Dave Grosch, complaining that "no justice was done" for Lopez. Rand Power said Wickersham "seemed to give these two ladies [the plaintiff's attorneys] a bad time whenever they wanted to speak, and he seemed to shield Mr. Pfingst from having any problems."

"Mrs. Lopez, the plaintiff, was not given a fair trial," said Michael Olpin. "Judge Wickersham clearly showed preferential treatment for Mr. Pfingst and a bias against Ms. Parker and Ms. Sussman," said Cedric Tabuena. "My opinion was that the evidence was clearly in favor of the plaintiff."

Several of the jurors said under oath that Wickersham slept at some points during the trial. Sussman said, in her official statements of disqualification of Wickersham, "Judge Wickersham has fallen asleep during the plaintiff's case in chief. I have seen him do so at least four times in which his head nodded back."

Richard Verlasky, a neutral attorney in the courtroom, said he was "completely floored" to learn of the mistrial. He believed the jury was going to come back with a judgment favorable to the plaintiff. He did mention that Wickersham told him Sussman had difficulty framing questions "and jumped
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continued from page 6
from subject to subject.”

I interviewed some others who were in the
courtroom, Dr. Walter Coulson, a
retired professor of pathol-
gy from the University of
California at Los Angeles,
was to testify for the plain-
tiff on February 28. “It
seemed to me that the entire
proceedings over two hours
were almost as if it had been
somewhat previously re-
hearsed,” said Coulson. “At
least the judge knew what
he was after; if he let it
continue, something bad was
going to happen.”

Pfingst asked for the mis-
trial. On February 28, he said
that throughout the case,
“Plaintiff’s counsel has re-
peatedly and unceasingly
asked improper questions.”
This caused him to object
numerous times, giving ju-
rors the impression he was
“trying to hide something.”
He claimed that the plain-
tiff’s lawyers were trying to
insert impermissible evi-
dence. They attempted “trial
by ambush” by introducing
the topic of a type of baby
heart rhythm, which his
client said was caused by
anemia.

But Sussman and Parker
rebutted that it was the de-
fendant who had introduced
this topic. They then put an
expert witness on the stand
who said that this abnormal
rhythm was not caused by
anemia but by lack of oxy-
gen. They accuse Pfingst of
deregous misconduct” and
had introduced imper-
missible hearsay
evidence.

At one point in the trial,
the defendant had been
asked a question about pre-
vious medical procedural
evidences. He had objected
to the question. Pfingst
later said, “I’m not an ob/gyn” and
admitted he didn’t know about the
topic. “I told the court at this
time I don’t know anything
about this,” Pfingst had said
in court. “I am learning
about it for the first time.”
Sussman and Parker, who both
specialize in such litiga-
tion, claimed ignorance is
no defense.

After much sound and
fury, as well as confusion,
Wickersham granted the
miatiral, admitting that he
had made errors during the
case.

In an interview, Pfingst
defended Wickersham. “He
was not sleeping on the
bench,” said the former dis-
trict attorney. Wickersham
“was incredibly patient with
Sussman as she asked a se-
ries of objectionable ques-
tions that a first-year law stu-
dent would know were ob-
jectio nal.” Wickersham did
not return a call for com-
ment.

The jurors favored the
plaintiff because “we hadn’t
gotten to the defense case,”
Pfingst said. He claimed his
letter to Sussman was not
threatening. “I’m just giving
her an opportunity to with-
draw the statements. People
say things in the heat of the
moment.” Pfingst said he
can’t remember whether he
worked on that pension-re-
lated case later that day.

“The jury saw right
through Pfingst,” said Parker
in an interview. “You can
only keep that veneer of
shock so long. All he said
was smoke and mirrors. We
had a unanimous decision
going. The reason a mistrial
was called was that Nancy
and I made [Pfingst] look
stupid.” She calls the mistrial
“a legal Mulligan” — an er-
rant golf shot that is re-hit
without a taking a penalty.

Sussman said Wickers-
shima’s motivation seemed
to be: “Let’s get Mr. Pfingst out
of this any way I can.”
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- Video Camera
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LG SC1400
- Camera Phone
$50 Mail-in Rebate Available*
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- Video Camera
$30 Mail-in Rebate Available*
See store for details.

LG C1300
- Color Screen
- Flip Phone
$50 Mail-in Rebate Available
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Nokia 6230
- Video Camera
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LG SC1400
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Sony Ericsson Z500a
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- PDA with Camera
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LG SC1400
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Caldwell maintains that Manning concocted the story based on information Cheri Dale told police: that she’d gone to the house to buy drugs four days before the murder. “That day, Cheri approached the front door, which was ajar, and heard a fight going on inside the house. So she left,” says Caldwell, who notes that neighbors told police that fights regularly occurred in the house.

But Dale also told police she slipped into the house, hid in a closet just inside the front door, and listened to the fighting. What Manning did, Caldwell argues, is transfer this story to the following Thursday, thus placing Dale inside the house at the time of the murder. According to court documents, Manning maintained in his closing arguments at trial that Dale spent more than two hours in the house, first committing the murder and then cleaning herself up meticulously.

Caldwell has copies of the crime-scene photos; they show blood and bits of brain all over the back bedroom where Taylor was killed, even in the adjacent hall. “Manning wanted to have it both ways. First, he has a drug frenzy driving Cheri to commit a brutal murder,” says Caldwell. “Then he has her calmly and deliberately cleaning up afterward.”

Court records show the district attorney’s Manning referring throughout the trial to a bag of bloody clothes he insinuates were Dale’s. Police never found such a bag, nor did they find a roofing axe thought to have been the murder weapon. But the idea of the bloody clothes is what turned Carlsbad police on to Dale in the first place. At the time, Cheri Dale was married to Jeff Hilner, the man who gave police the tip. Like Dale, Hilner was a regular visitor at the house on Torrejon Place. According to court records, Hilner for years has been in and out of jail on felony charges of running a meth lab and creating Molotov cocktails. In the months after Susan Taylor’s murder, according to Charles Caldwell, Hilner pursued Dale to the point of stalking.
well says he chased Hilner away with a handgun. “I was so furious, I think I might have shot him,” he says.

In the meantime, Hilner was thrown into jail again, this time for pointing a gun at one of Dale’s cousins. According to court records, on January 7, 1992, almost two years after Susan Taylor’s murder, Hilner told prison guards that his wife killed Taylor and hid a bag of bloody clothes in a Leucadia residence. Police did not find the clothes at the home. But Carlsbad detective Robert Wicks and deputy district attorney Manning went to Texas, where they interrogated Dale for five hours. They also took samples of her hair and dental imprints.

On the basis of analysis by a Germantown, Maryland, crime lab, the prosecution claimed that Dale’s hair matched hair found clutched in Susan Taylor’s hand on the day of her murder. On August 23, 1993, Wick and Manning again went to Texas, where they used the hair comparison as probable cause to arrest Dale.

In the meantime, the prosecution lost the “rope” of hair purportedly found in the victim’s hand. It later turned up in the back seat of the detective’s car. Then the Maryland crime lab did a second analysis of the hair and reversed its original conclusion. The hair found in the victim’s hand, they said, could not have been Dale’s.

The first attorney appointed to defend Dale accused Manning and Wick of perjury and falsifying evidence in their warrant for her arrest. He tried to get the court to dismiss the charges. Instead, the court removed the first attorney from the case due to “conflict of interest.” After replacing the first attorney, Michael Berg dropped the move to dismiss charges against Dale. But the prosecution never again used hair-analysis evidence in the case.

After Dale’s trial was over, she and her family appealed the guilty verdict to a higher court. Although they lost the effort, their appellate attorney, Russell Babcock, got “a very uneasy feeling about what happened to Dale.” Although Babcock reports that less than 5 percent of criminal verdicts get overturned on appeal, he thinks this case might have warranted it. “The prosecution never showed that Cheri Dale had a good motive for murder. And it was hard to see how a petite woman [Dale weighs 110 pounds] could have murdered anyone so brutally.”

In the original trial’s closing argument, defense attorney Berg insisted to the jury that all the evidence presented against Dale was circumstantial. That left plenty of room, he argued, to question whether the prosecution had established Dale’s innocence “beyond a reasonable doubt.” Berg’s summation also castigated the police’s bungling of evidence in the case.

These days Dale, now 35, calls her parents weekly from the Central California Women’s Facility in Chowchilla. “She and her mother usually talk about things she can and can’t do on the inside,” says Charles Caldwell. “She loves a welding class she’s now taking.”

Several months after the trial, Caldwell says he read in the paper that Carlsbad police detective Wick got a promotion. “The article,” he remembers, “said Wick got it for solving the Susan Taylor murder case.”
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San Diego
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Lemon Grove
3416 College Ave.
San Diego
619-582-2800

Mission Valley
8330 Rio San Diego Drive
San Diego
619-295-6200

Carmel Mountain
11465 Carmel Mountain Road
San Diego
858-451-3900

Clairemont
4283 Genesee Ave.
San Diego
858-264-4200

Temecula
40486 Winchester Road
Temecula
951-379-1400

STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE

Matt:
I don’t mean to be morbid, maybe just inappropriate, but over the years I keep hearing of
pedestrians being hit by cars who literally fly out of their shoes. I’m not talking about your basic
Kermitsteps or slippers, but rather lace or buckled shoes. Is it the tremendous force that cause a
person to fly out of their shoes or is something more going on?

— Inappropriate Paul, the net

Lucky for us, firefighter-paramedics love talking about this stuff. We checked with the San
Diego service and hit paydirt. Yeah, people do get knocked out of low-cut, tie-on shoes (not
hightops or lace-up boots), but maybe not with the frequency you suspect. From one medic’s
personal experience, it happens when someone is hit with tremendous force in the upper torso.
That knocks the upper body back, the legs trail behind, then snap forward. Under certain
shoelace circumstances, that would fling footwear many yards from the accident site. He has
seen shoes left near the point of impact, but the mechanism would be similar. The trailing foot
somehow slides out of the shoe as the body curves backwards with the impact. If the unfortunate
victim didn’t do a good job of securing his Nikes before he set out, the force acting on the body
will be different from that acting on the shoes. Our source says all patients he’s seen who have
been knocked out of their shoes were in really bad shape from the vehicle impact so he was a
little too busy saving lives to see how well the victim’s shoes were tied. He also recalls that a
firefighter working at the side of the freeway was hit and knocked out of his turnouts — those
big, black, honkin’ high boots they wear. But they’re not secured to your feet or legs, so
you can be lifted right out of them. So see? Once again Mom was right. Stop and tie those shoe
laces. Otherwise you’ll not only end up with a major crushing chest injury but be out $80 for
new footwear.

Matt:
My boss told me today that kiwi fruit is a genetically engineered fruit crossing a peach with a
banana. P.U.H -lease tell me this is a farce!

— Gretchen, the net

Would you rather be right or employed? Of course it’s a farce, but does your boss want to hear
that? Tell him that kiwi fruit is actually part grape, part hamster. Then tell him that a nectarine
is a cross between a plum and a peach. Most people believe that, but it’s bunk too. A nectarine
is just a mutant peach that found a market. No gene tinkering involved.

Heymatt:
What’s the difference between a hare and a rabbit? Size? Musical stylings?

— Jay, the net

Hair. Hair stylings. Well, actually baby hair. Hares are born with hair, rabbits aren’t. Hare
babies have their eyes open, rabbit babies don’t. Hare babies can hop around shortly after birth,
but they’re not secured to your feet or legs, so you can be lifted right out of them. So see? Once
tie those shoe laces. Otherwise you’ll not only end up with a major crushing chest injury
but be out $80 for new footwear.

Matt:
I cannot urinate with some guy standing next to me in the men’s room. I know I’m not the
only one. I see others afflicted with this block. On a radio show I heard of a course one could
take to remedy the problem. I can’t count on finding a men’s washroom without company.

— C.N.T.P.E.E., M.D.

Our pee-sit question a couple of weeks ago shook loose some interesting mail. This was the
most heartfelt, though, I’m not sure I can direct you to a pee class, C., but danged if there isn’t
an international association for the urinarily challenged. Every affliction from gout to the vapors
is somewhat bigger. That’s because a jackrabbit is a hare, which generally outsize cottontails
and others of the rabbit clan.

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— Jay, the net

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Please advise.

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an international association for the urinarily challenged. Every affliction from gout to the vapors
seems to have a nonprofit support and research group these days, so why not paruresis? That’s
what it’s called when you’re trying to raise money for it. Around the water cooler it’s called shy
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San Diego Reader March 10, 2005 16
SportsBox
By Patrick Daugherty

Race Day

I

motion over to www.iditarod.com, click on
"Race Updates," watch the page load, let
loose a sincere but muted, "This is good," pick
up the phone, and dial a number in
Fairbanks. The receiver clicks, and without
waiting to hear a hello, I cheerfully announce,
"DeeDee is out of Finger Lake with 16 dogs.
First place. Swenson is a minute back, also
with 16 dogs. You owe me 50 bucks."

A baritone voice mutters, "Punk-ass
Swenson."

It's March, time for the Iditarod column.
For new readers, Iditarod refers to the 1000-
miles-plus sled-dog race that runs from
Anchorage to Nome. Sort of. The Anchorage
start is for TV. The municipality trucks in
snow; locals crowd saloons, line the streets;
mushers don their racing gear, gather their
dogs, hook 'em up, mush down Fourth
Avenue, wave at the cameras, turn onto
Cordova Street, mush past the city limits, a
little farther, then stop, load their dogs onto
trucks, drive 70 miles to Wasilla, spend the
night, get up, dress, gather their dogs, and
start the real race. The Anchorage start isn't
timed.

Because of GLOBAL WARMING, snow is
iffy in Alaska this time of year. This year,
due to the lack of snow on the ground, the start
was moved to Willow, 30 miles up the road
from Wasilla. Same thing happened last year.
In 2003, in search of snow, the start was
moved 360 miles up the road to Fairbanks.
There are 79 mushers in the 2005 race. This
year all the heavyweights have signed on.
Mitch Seavey (defending champion), Robert
Sorlie (2003 winner), Martin Buser (four-time
winner), Doug Swingley (four-time winner),
Jeff King (three-time winner), and Rick
Swenson (five-time winner) are here. DeeDee
Jonrowe, Charlie Boulding, Ramy Brooks, Ed
Iten, John Baker, Ramy Smyth, and a dozen
others who could have won — damn near did
win — one or more Iditarods, are on the trail
too.

There are always a number of mushers
who race for reasons other than winning. One
is Rachael Scdoris, 20, from Bend, Oregon.
Her goal is to finish. Scdoris can see shapes
and shadows but is legally blind. It may not
surprise you to learn that she is the first blind
person to compete in the Iditarod. Iditarod
authorities are allowing Scdoris to use a
"visual interpreter." The interpreter is fellow
musher and competitor Paul Ellering, who
will talk to Scdoris by radio and describe the
trail ahead.

Sounds nuts to me, but I'll be rooting for
her. Follows is a little of what she'll be going
up against. Will the radio work for ten days
under racing conditions? It's going to be over
40 degrees during the day for much of the
trace, too hot for dogs to run. So, mushers run
in the late afternoon and at night when it's
cool. Ellering's not going to be able to see
much at night. At times, he's going to be busy
with his own problems and won't be able to
tell Scdoris when to lean, when to break, or
when to turn. In places, the trail is much
rougher than civilians imagine. There are
rocks, boulders, spots of snow, spots of bare
ground, a jungle of shrubs, thin ice on one
zillion creeks, moose, bears, buffalo, steep
great engineers, sharp turns — and that's if the
weather is perfect. Get a wind blowing, get a
storm happening, and things can get life-
threatening in less time than it has taken you to
read this.

DeeDee Jonrowe, 51, is the front-runner as I
count this. She began mushing in 1979 and
entered the Iditarod the following year. She
has 13 top-ten finishes, including second place
in 1993 and '98. Although never winning the
Iditarod, Jonrowe has won other top-tier sled-
dog races: Copper Basin 300, Klondike 300,
and the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon.
Between 1985 and 1990, a woman won the
Iditarod five out of six times. There was a
saying going around at the time, "Alaska,
where men are men and women win the
Iditarod." It was an ironic jab, but for men
folk, after the third or fourth female victory,
the statement became a little too real, and
many Alaskan men froze whenever "Iditarod"
and "woman" were used in the same sentence.
That time is long past, and DeeDee Jonrowe,
by a long mile, has become the favorite of
both sexes.

She earned her way in. This is her 22nd
Iditarod. Jonrowe is a U of Alaska alumna.
She married the same man for 29 years.
Here's a quote from the Big Lake Baptist
Church parishioner: "The Iditarod provides
me more uninterrupted opportunity to talk
with God than at home." She built her dog
team on persistence and "prayer and gender
folk, after the third or fourth female victory,
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She earned her way in. This is her 22nd
Iditarod. Jonrowe is a U of Alaska alumna.
Been married to the same man for 29 years.
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Sheep and Goats
Places of Worship Reviewed

R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility (Kairos Prison Ministry)
Denomination: non-denominational
Address: 480 Alta Road, San Diego, 619-661-6500
Senior pastor: Bill Brown
Congregation size: 200
Dress: blue jumpsuits
Diversity: diverse
Website: www.kairosprisonministry.org

Tall, barbed-wire fences surround R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility near the San Diego-Mexico border. Approximately 5,500 inmates call the blue-and-white cement buildings home. Twice a year Kairos Prison Ministry runs a three-day weekend program for the inmates. All visitors sign and acknowledge that in the event they are taken hostage, the authorities will not barter for their lives.

Kairos volunteers arrive at 6 a.m. and stay until 6 p.m. The volunteers talk to the inmates about God, love, and forgiveness. On the last day, over 100 visitors attend a celebration ceremony to show support for these inmates.

Donovan is separated into three yards, based on the crime and danger the prisoners represent. In the maximum-security yard, 60 men participated in the program. These inmates came by invitation of other Christian prisoners. The celebration was held in the yard chapel. The chapel walls were decorated with 60 hand-drawn posters from churches and local schools. One poster from Valley Christian School read, “Jesus loves you” and “We are praying for you,” surrounded by students’ signatures. Streamers decorated the ceilings, and a table was set with homemade cookies.

In the chapel, guests sat on one side of the room and prisoners and volunteers sat on the other. The prisoners wore dark-blue jumpsuits with “Prisoner” written in yellow on their pant legs. The ceremony began with a band of guests and inmates singing songs such as “Do Lord, Be My Body” and “I Saw the Light.” After the songs, a dozen prisoners came forward to give testimonies.

This has been a new experience for me. I always refer to myself as a convict, even when I’m out on the street. I have had a life of gang involvement and drug addiction. This weekend I have seen that I am a human. Some of us have never seen this type of love in our lives,” said Don.

“I gave myself to the Lord two days ago. This is amazing. I was in tears,” said Donnell. “I’ve been in prison 13 and a half years. I am scheduled to be out in four months. I’m scared; I don’t know what’s out there for me, but as long as I keep walking with God, I’ll be all right.”

Other inmates spoke about the hope they have now, the love they felt. After the testimonies, Jack, the yard pastor, walked to the front. Jack said 360 people volunteered to help the Donovan ministry. “Five-thousand-dozen cookies were made for the prisoners to eat and hand out to other inmates,” said Jack. “[The Kairos program] transcends denominational differences — Pentecostals, Baptists, Episcopalian, Catholics, and Methodists. The Christian community is bigger than denominations.”

Pastor Jack then spoke about the hope the program offered. “We have guys who never have the possibility of going back on the street, but they have hope.”

At the end of the meeting, an inmate named Dexter walked up to the yard pastor and said he wanted to accept the Lord as his savior. Three men laid their hands on him and led him in a prayer to confess his sins, ask for forgiveness, and accept Jesus Christ as the King of his life. At the end of the prayer, the people in the room stood up and cheered. Dexter wiped away tears from his eyes.

Chaplain Bill Brown walked forward to close the ceremony. “I am tickled to be here and see what God is doing. If you are feeling something, it is the living God and His Spirit because he’s trying to give you a message of hope, peace, and joy,” said Brown. He looked at the inmates and continued, “You don’t need to wait until you get out of prison to experience these things. You all are invited to be a part of the body of Christ.”

After the ceremony, the prisoners and visitors mingled around homemade cookies and punch. “For many, the ceremony was a miracle. The third yard has been on lockdown since last September,” said Charlie Woerner, a Kairos volunteer. “Lockdown means the prisoners are not allowed outside of their cells.” The warden signed off just days before the Kairos Ministry weekend, allowing it to happen. Woerner attributed this to God answering prayers.

Walter, a 19-year-old, said he accepted Jesus six months ago in the last Kairos weekend. Since then, he has gone back to college to study psychology. He is scheduled for release this November. “I lost contact with my family outside of here,” said Walter. He remarked that this weekend surpassed his expectations. “There were a lot of rough guys in this group. A lot of these guys were involved in gang violence.”

Chuck has been involved in Kairos for three and a half years. Chuck told me he was still in prison because of the three-strikes law. I asked him his experience with the prisoners who became Christians during the weekend. “Half of the people walk the walk,” said Chuck. “The other half fall back into their old life because of the peer pressure.”

Chaplain Brown told me the impact of Kairos is significant in prisons. “The prison is divided by language, race, and by gangs. The blacks are separated into the Bloods and Crips, and the whites by Aryan Brotherhood and biker gangs. When a man comes to Christ we are all to love one another. I’ve seen white men with a giant swastika tattoo holding hands and praying with a black man,” said Brown. “Sometimes the shot-callers take offense and tell these guys not to affiliate with other races. We’ve had [Christian] brothers beat up for walking their Christian faith.”

Brown showed me a study by the Florida Department of Corrections. Of the 33 inmates released who served in the Kairos program, the recidivism rate, or how often an inmate is convicted after release, is 9 percent. In comparison, the statewide rate is approximately 28 percent. “We are seeing guys come to the Lord and get out on parole and stay out. Now they want to come back into prison as a volunteer,” said Brown.

— Drew E. Goodmansen
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Dear Saffron,

Another night and I am wide awake, readying again for long hours of tossing and turning. I am a 30-year-old female, have been married four years, and I have been celibate for almost four years. My wonderful, beloved husband has absolutely no interest in sex. Zero. I knew he had a low sex drive when I married him, but he tried so hard to make it up to me with other physical attentions and imaginative situations, I thought I/we could change that. We have tried all the “special” pills, equipment, therapy, etc. In all other ways, he is the most loving, kind, generous man any woman would want in her life. He used to be a world-class cuddler, but even that has fallen by the wayside. I find it terribly ironic that most of my friends, both older and younger, complain about having to make love to their partners more than once a week. I wish I had even that! I am in the prime of my life, a place that I thought if I ever could actually have a relationship and an active sex life, that’s not feasible, alone. It will take great patience and persistence to find the right doctor and/or therapist (your husband could additionally consult a licensed nutritionist and/or acupuncturist — they have sometimes been helpful in such cases) who is knowledgeable about sexuality and who you are truly comfortable with so that you can work together to find ways to work with or around this distressing disparity in libido. Please don’t give up.

Hi Saffron,

In response to “In Limbo in Lemon Grove,” the 30-year-old woman who was considering moving out because her boyfriend had turned into a name-calling slacker at home, I have a suggestion about improving their relationship. Men tend to assume that we women instinctively understand and appreciate their efforts will be appreciated. He needs to work on their future and might give him the emotional support that’s not feasible, alone. It will take great patience and persistence to find the right doctor and/or therapist (your husband could additionally consult a licensed nutritionist and/or acupuncturist — they have sometimes been helpful in such cases) who is knowledgeable about sexuality and who you are truly comfortable with so that you can work together to find ways to work with or around this distressing disparity in libido. Please don’t give up.

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A foodie friend of mine once told me that real-deal, freshly made ramen is judged by the quality of its broth. So I was intrigued by the next eight ramens, all of which came with two or three flavor packets for constructing the broth. Samyang produced the next two entries (both $0.69 for 4.23 oz.), and both broths and broths were miles ahead of everything we’d had so far. “A nice gluten chew to the noodles,” observed Canisius. Added Anna, “I can taste each one individually, and they’re smooth, like glass. And the broth is meaty.” The chief difference between them was that the ramen from the red package gave hints of chili flavor.

The noodles in the Nongshim Kimchi ramen ($7.99 for 4.23 oz.) were like silk ribs. “I get lots of carrot flavor,” said Patrick, “and a creeping heat that wafts up into my sinuses.” He kept going back to the bowl, until he got a taste of the Nongshim seafood ramen ($7.99 for 4.41 oz.). “It smells like a tidal pool, but the broth is like concentrated fish stock,” he said. “It’s complex; I get lots of flavors — onion, seaweed, spice, fish. And the noodles are like Rapunzel’s hair.”

He championed the seafood ramen against the next offering: Myoko Chukazanmai soy-bean-paste ramen ($1.31 for 3.83 oz.). Kate argued that it was like a meal in a bowl. “The thick broth clings to the wonky noodles. And there’s lots of sesame flavor, and peanuts, with a balance of sweetness and soy. The Myoko is working its magic on me.”

The last three packets all hailed from Thailand. “Are those really ramen?” asked Anna. “I thought ramen came from Japan, and these noodles look different.” “I think of ramen as referring to any packaged noodle soup,” answered Canisius as he stirred. I had done my homework, and I whipped out Julia Moskin’s New York Times article on the subject. Turns out ramen is a Chinese dish that caught on in Japan in the ’50s. Instant ramen came along in 1958, when the founder of Nissin Foods, Momofuku Ando, decided to deep-fry the noodles in packages to preserve them. Ramen as served in ramen shops consists of soup, chef’s tare (soy sauce, sugar, and rice wine), noodles made springy by the addition of baking soda to the dough, and traditional toppings such as roast pork, hard-cooked egg, scallions, mushrooms, bamboo shoots, and slices of fish cake.

The matter settled (sort of), we got back to eating. The Mama flat-rice-noodle clear soup ($0.29 for 1.75 oz.) was a disappointment — slippery noodles, oily broth, and a sour flavor that stood out on our tongues. Where Mama failed, Wai Wai sour soup ($0.29 for 2.1 oz.) succeeded. Thin spiral noodles, plant-y firm, in a broth oozing with lemongrass and spices.

We finished the evening with Mama’s Pad Thai ($4.49 for 2.47 oz.). All delighted in the delicate, sweet flavor, the spicy peanut finish, and the noodles that slid down the throat like raw oysters.

The favorites: Canisius liked the Wai Wai sour soup; Patrick the Nongshim seafood ramen; Anna the Nongshim Kimchi ramen; and Kate and I, the Myoko Chukazanmai soy-bean-paste ramen. Definitely worth the extra cents.
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**BACK WHEN**

**Thirty Years Ago**

Word was out that *Blood on the Tracks* was Dylan’s return home to serious stuff away from the karma clichés and kitsch he indulged in for kicks…. To me, sequestered in Clairemont and light-years removed from the magic of San Francisco (where grassroots rockers embody everything the fan wants to find in himself), the record seems like cheapshot cannibalizations of a dead style.

— “POTSHOTS FROM CLAIREMONT,” Ted Burke, March 13, 1975

**Twenty-Five Years Ago**

Bada….received a number of samples from the museum, including a skull from the bluffs north of Del Mar and part of another that had been found at the site of the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club when it was being built…. The skull fragment from La Jolla Shores had been dated at 44,000 years old, and the Del Mar skull at 48,000 years old…. Six years after his announcement Bada’s date for the Del Mar skull remains unaccepted by the majority of anthropologists and archaeologists in the United States.


**Twenty Years Ago**

Wars come and go, governments rise and fall, but fishing remains an eternal verity. And for Ed Lam, fishing has been an escape into peace that netted an unwanted notoriety. He started out trying to catch some fresh catfish on Lake Murray one day and finds himself with honors bestowed by national sportsmen’s magazines and constant recognition by fishermen. “People come to shake my hand all the time,” says the diminutive Vietnamese. “Sometimes I have to hide. Out on the lakes, sounds carry half a mile, and I hear ‘Where’s Ed Lam?’ They try to follow me.

Ed Lam found himself with honors bestowed by national sportsmen’s magazines and constant recognition by fishermen.


**Fifteen Years Ago**

It’s ALWAYS tragic to step on a snail. Lawn snails….street snails (in precincts where applicable)….pond snails. Crunch, they’re done: could Arthur effing Miller be trag- icky? Tramper yer own snail, tho, and you’ve reached the acme — the apex — the pinnacle of a gastropod illfortune. (Aschylus could not do you justice.)

You….me….you would have to be drunk and I was. Couple beers, me and my snail, the petite little slimmer was outside my door in the rain. Streetlamps reflecting off his delicate shell, I lifted cautiously with midfin-ger and thumb, inviting him in for a Pabst Blue Ribbon. We shared a sudsy glass: he, crawling upside the vessel with shell in tow, bending down at the lip to dip face in froth; I sipping/slugging in conventional manner.

— “HOUSEPARTIES I’VE IN ALL LIKELIHOOD KILLED OR MAIMED,” Richard Meltzer, March 15, 1990

**Ten Years Ago**

The children’s father was in his last year of graduate school. We were dirt poor. Some mornings I was so depressed I could barely turn on the flame under the coffeepot. No matter how hard I scrubbed, the stove stayed dirty. The linoleum stayed dirty. Hems undid themselves on the girls’ dresses. They scribbled in their Little Golden Books. Sarah, one morning, hit Rebecca in the eye with a hammer. “I want her to watch me and not Captain Kangaroo” is why she said she did it.

I married too young. I was still wild. How would I tame myself? He couldn’t. Meals cooked, pots scrubbed, floors swept, husband’s huge shirts ironed with no creases… "Like when I was dating Jewel and play- ing in her band, I got this one review. It said, ‘Jewel attracts — boyfriend distracts.’ If I hear a song of mine on the radio, I’ll turn it off because I don’t want to listen to what the DJ says afterward. I like to play my life with blinders on.”


**Five Years Ago**

“If I listened to everybody’s opinion I’d go crazy,” says Poltz, wiping his mouth after we sipped/slugging in conventional manner.

— “YOU AIN’T ANY BETTER THAN A GOOD PLUMBER,” Ed Decker, March 9, 2000

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com
**'05 JEEP WRANGLER X’S, UNLIMITEDS, SPORTS, RUBICONS**

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This wasn’t a birthday party, but one for Valentine’s Day. I asked Caryn, who was throwing it, why it wasn’t on Monday the 14th. She said, “Who wants to go to a party on Monday when they have school?” I asked Caryn why there weren’t more phone calls. She said, “Instead of going to all these crazy parties where people get drunk and want to fight, why not go to an upscale one in La Jolla?”

All this sounded great to me.

The party in La Jolla started in the late afternoon. It was a big house, and I immediately thought about the show on MTV where they follow girls around as they plan their Sweet 16 birthday parties. The first episode that aired featured a La Jolla party with the band Unwritten Law being hired to play. This wasn’t a birthday party, but one for Valentine’s Day. I asked Caryn, who was throwing it, why it wasn’t on Monday the 14th. She said, “Who wants to go to a party on Monday when they have school or work the next day?”

I showed up as everyone was finishing dinner. There was a choice of chicken, fish, or steak. (Note to self: Show up to parties on time and you won’t have to hit Taco Bell’s drive-thru.) The dining room was set up nicely, and most of the guests were dressed up. Other people were sitting outside by the pool.

There was a table set up with lots of shrimp, crab, and other seafood. I’ve never seen that many appetizers set up at a party.

There was also a room with five hookah pipes set up with strawberry- and apple-flavored tobaccos. One person said, “What’s the point of smoking those if you aren’t going to get wasted?”

A few people were trying to decide whether to go swimming. They debated whether you had to wait an hour after eating. One heavyset guy did a cannonball, soaking lots of people. He said, “I just ate and I’m risking it.” One girl said under her breath, “When doesn’t he eat?”

Two guys grabbed a third and threw him in with all his clothes on. Everyone laughed, including the victim. He swam to the side, got his shoes and socks off, and continued swimming in his jeans and polo shirt.

When these guys grabbed a girl to throw in, she was screaming for them not to. “I don’t want to get my hair wet. I just had it done today.” They threw her in anyway. She quickly swam to the side, got out, and tried punching one of the guys. He was laughing as he blocked her punches. She grabbed a towel, dried off, and immediately left the party.

Two different guys at the party brought guitars and started playing. When Caryn mentioned the drum set in another room, the musicians made it over there. And with a baby grand nearby, there was a jam session. Caryn started doing a drum solo, and someone said, “She sounds like Travis Barker [of blink-182] on speed.” When they started playing a Jimmy Eat World song, someone told her the drums were too loud and drowning out the guitars.

Drummers never get respect. Just ask Ringo.

There was a bartender hired to fix drinks. Even though most of the crowd looked to be in their early 20s or older, I wondered if bartenders hired for parties have to deal with checking IDs. I assume at a private home they really don’t care, and it’s not as if vice is going to show up. I asked the bartender if he liked working parties like this. He said, “It’s usually easy money. But these girls keep ordering all these fruity drinks. It’s not like they want a beer or a Jack and Coke. I should’ve brought my tiny umbrellas.”

I noticed that when the dinner ended a lot of the older people left. I asked one young couple who kept making out (and smoking) if they felt more comfortable now that some of the parents had left. The guy said, “I’m just stoked this party is on Valentine’s Day. I would’ve had to take her to an expensive restaurant. Instead we get to come here and eat for free.” She smiled and said, “You still owe me a nice dinner, you cheap bastard.”

He said, “Hey, I gave you flowers. What did you give me?” She said, “You’ll see later.”

I asked Caryn why there weren’t...
MENOPAUSE: FACT VS. FICTION

FREE SEMINAR

Statistics show that approximately half a million women in San Diego are either in or entering menopause. Despite the inevitability of this life change, the information available about menopause symptoms and treatments can often be confusing and difficult to interpret.

On Wednesday, March 16, at 7:00 pm, Dr. Andrea Cole Raub will give a keynote presentation at the Marriott Hotel in La Jolla about the facts and myths surrounding menopause and help attendees make the connection between hormones, menopause and overall quality of life. Dr. Cole Raub has been a practicing physician for over twenty years, specializing in wellness, anti-aging and disease prevention.

At this free seminar hosted by University Compounding Pharmacy, Dr. Cole Raub will educate attendees about how treating menopause with natural hormone replacement therapy can dramatically improve their health, mood and overall quality of life. She will provide women with the facts, tools and information they need to maintain the highest quality of health in what have been dubbed “the sexy years.”

In addition to Dr. Cole Raub’s keynote speech, certified nutritionist Kim Ruby will give a brief presentation on menopause and weight loss titled “When Will This Weight Gain Stop?” which will highlight weight management and metabolism changes as women go through menopause.

This free seminar will be held on Wednesday, March 16, at the Marriott Hotel in La Jolla. The event begins at 7:00 pm. Attendees are welcome to arrive early to visit with physicians and health providers that will be showcasing their services and products at the seminar. Admission is free, but reservations are recommended. Call (619) 683-2005 ext. 332 for more information or to reserve your space.

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Cleaning House

by Barbarella

Character is so largely affected by association, that we cannot afford to be indifferent as to who or what our friends are.

— Anonymous

W here’s Mary?” Carolyn asked as revelers began to arrive.

“Not invited,” I said.

“What? How can you just not invite her? You guys are, like, best friends, aren’t you?” She was flummoxed.

“I’m cleaning house, and she’s on the list,” I said. “It’s no big deal. There are plenty of people coming. If she shows up, I’m sure I’ll cope.”

“Cleaning house” is a term I picked up from a self-help book during my “quest for emotional independence” phase. For me, the phrase means reevaluating the people in my life and determining whether or not I want them to be there. When I lived in L.A. I met scores of prospective friends — and found myself cleaning house every three months. It’s true I’d hung out with Mary frequently, partying hard, staying up late at night, high out of our minds, analyzing our lives by picking apart people we knew. Then one day something changed and I thought: I don’t want this person in my life anymore.

Lately, I’ve been in this pensive state of mind, redefining what friendship means to me, and discovering there are fewer people than I had imagined who fulfill my felicitous, symbiotic-friendship need.

Whether it is because I have matured or am busier than usual, I’m hyperaware that I do not want to waste my time on one-sided relationships; I’m ready to clip back the bush in order to allow selected buds to thrive and bloom. I don’t have to spend time with people I don’t care for — time-wasters, energy vampires, my dad would say. “Black holes, devouring every bit of time and energy you have, and giving only blackness in return.” Perhaps it’s not that dramatic, but there’s still some serious spring cleaning to be done.

The first step in my process of evaluation is to ponder the traits my friends can expect of me. Kindness, laughter, insight, and inspiration. Certain people float above the rest — good friends who exhibit all of these traits and more. Then another handful of names come to mind: fun folks I want to have around but maybe not every day. Finally, I’m left with a few names that don’t fit anywhere; thick grins left at the bottom that refused to emulate. These are the people I must scrub away.

Just as you need different cleaning products for different areas of your home, various methods must be employed to wipe from your life different breeds of toxic people. Blunt honesty works best for those who betray.

“I am no longer your friend,” I said to someone over lunch a few years ago. Prior to this eye-opening meal, she had begun to act strangely. I’d overheard her lying about inconsequential things, witnessed her exacerbating tense situations by playing people against each other, and other such juvenile behavior. The day it all came to a head — when I caught her lying to me — I felt betrayed and abandoned. For two days, I mourned the friendship as though it’d lost a sister. The following week I told her, “I am no longer your friend. I don’t even care what the truth is anymore.” And that was it.

When I outgrow a friend — when our values diverge drastically but no actual offense has been committed — I casually transition the person from the revered spot of “friend” to the distanced spot of “acquaintance.” My ex-friend Lori is a perfect example. We were tight for two years, and then she started saying things like, “Oh, thank Goddess you’re here” and changed...
her name to something ridiculous, like High Priestess Lilith Pashmina. In my opinion, she had gone off the proverbial deep end. I have no interest in putting up with any- one who takes herself and her newly discovered pseudo-spirituality/sexi- uality/lifestyle too seriously.

You can’t come right out and say, “I think you’re full of shit,” to someone you outgrow because chances are a friend who has convinced herself that her behavior is on par with the divine path of righteousness rather than what it is — self-gratifying, ego- tistical nonsense — is not likely to come to her senses anytime soon.

What you can do is stop putting forth any effort. I wouldn’t care if I were to attend a func- tion and run into Lori — or whatever the fuck her name is nowadays. I’d smile, go through the social pleasantries, and make my escape. She has thus been effectively cleaned from the clutter of my mental liv- ing room and placed neatly on a shelf in the garage.

There is nothing wrong with choosing your company. Those who are not selective about whom they let into their lives tend to waste the most time and experience the most drama. One year, I was trapped in obligated circumstances for weeks at a time, and I have sworn never again to put myself in such a position.

“Sure, you can stay with me” is the stupidest sentence one can say to one who is an insidious para- site. Helpless people are — you guessed it — impossible to help. After being put out time and again, after bitching to others about how so-and-so is ruining my life with her dependence on me, I am able to sense an oncoming lurch from a distance, and my tolerance for them is nil.

The words “I was never able to do BLANK because BLANK” are enough to make me delete someone’s info from my cell phone. I have no room for self-proclaimed martyrs. When cleaning house, it is always rewarding myself of per- petual victims that takes the most elbow grease. Because of too many exasperating experiences with “vic- tims,” I spot them quickly and avoid them like a bad hair day.

The way I see it, if you are in unhappy circumstances, chances are you’re the one who put your- self there, and you’re the one who’s going to have to lift yourself out. Constantly moaning for sympa- thy and singing the “Oh, poor, pitiful me” song is not going to effect a change in your life situation. If I see you making a serious effort to help yourself up again, I will be the first one by your side to lend an arm.

I had one friend tell me for years how much she hated her life. Despite my attempts to help her fix it, she continued to make poor decisions, constantly putting her- self in less than desirable situa- tions. Why do you bother? I asked myself. Good question. Answered, and stopped bothering.

The overly needy can be soaked up with the same sponge as martyrs and are just as easy to spot. Unfortunately, I sometimes fall into this category. Despite the qual- ity of friendship I can offer, I am what you might call “high mainte- nance.” For this reason, I would- n’t be surprised if many people have cleaned me out of their lives, unwilling to be part of the audience I occasionally require. This is always for the best. I can’t stand to be around someone like me for too long. I’m a talkative bitch, and the spotlight can only shine on one person at a time. I can sit back and watch, but if someone is hoarding, monopolizing, and annoying, I will not hesitate to produce a cane from the side curtain and pull the pest off my stage.

Honestly, I’m astonished that people actually want to be my friend. But for those who do, I will strive to meet my own requirements and offer laughter, kindness, insight, and inspira- tion. As for the nonreciprocal few, it’s time to fetch the cleaner and clean house.
I quickly recognized this man as a high school buddy of mine. He yelled at me over the whining engines and air ratchets firing off behind him, “You’ve got to race for my team! I just lost a driver.”

“You’re in the pit for #13?” I asked.
“Exactly,” he said. “I need someone who can suit up now.”
“I don’t have a car. For that matter, I don’t even have a license.”
“You’re the only one who can do it. I saw you take Wards Ferry Road in your dad’s old Ford pickup at 80 miles an hour,” he urged.
“Lots of kids did that back then,” I answered.
“Yeah, but not with two kegs, a hot tub, and 17 people in back.”
He had a point.
I ran to meet him at the gate to the pits, and he stuffed me into a white fire suit and helmet. And, with only 12 laps to go I shot out onto the track like lightning. I muscled my way through the pack, scraped my quarter panels past the competition, and maneuvered the champagne-colored four-door Corolla into the lead. But it wasn’t
over yet. On the last lap a fierce black-and-gold Monte Carlo threatened to take my victory, but as the checkered flag waved, I nosed the “Go Barb” license plate over the finish line and took my place in the winner’s circle.

My prize for grinding out the fastest time on the track was a fire truck full of strippers. They placed wreaths around my neck and a microphone in my hand. I pointed to the stands and acknowledged my instantaneous fan base. And as I uttered the echoing, tearful words of gratitude to those who’d helped me along the way, I caught sight of my friends Barb and David. They were far off in the stands, but I could see them perfectly. Waving to Barb and thanking her for the use of her car, I could hear her say, so clearly, “Are we in the boondocks yet?”

“I’m sorry, what?” I asked. “What are you doing, daydreaming? Get out of the car. We should eat before we get to the races,” she fired. She and David looked at me expectedly from the doorway of the Latino Taco Shop.

“Oh, yeah,” I said. “I knew that,” and I followed them in. At the door I turned back and looked around the shopping center for clues as to how to get to the track, but Déjà Vu’s Love Boutique porno shop and nearby Chevron weren’t included in my directions.

The taco shop was brightly lit in hues of yellow and orange. The walls featured large photomurals of an idyllic paradise far away from El Cajon. Between bites of carne asada, rice, and beans I talked Barb’s ear off about how excited I was to be going to the races. She listened intently to my ramblings while she methodically separated her burrito into very distinct separate piles on her paper plate and ate the beans individually on tortilla chips. David and I watched her for close to five minutes, at which point he whispered in my direction, “O-C-D,” in an attempt to explain her odd behavior, but I was already accustomed to her strange eating habits. Barb assured us it was merely a “minor preference.”

It was five minutes past 4:00 p.m. when Barb had finished sacrificing frijole villagers to tortilla pterodactyls, and she finally said, “All right, let’s go. The parking lot and track are open. Let’s get a good spot.” Still uncertain as to where the hell we were, I went back to the counter to ask. The small Mexican man spoke quickly, his hands gesticulating wildly. The directions were accurate and helpful; unfortunately, no one in my party spoke Spanish. I pointed, and he nodded with a “Sí.” Good enough for me. Turning to leave, we thanked the small mustachioed man for the food and directions, clacked our brown plastic tray into the receptacle for brown plastic trays, then set out for our destination.

Not knowing what to expect, I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of bumper stickers. The last 20 minutes on the 8 east had filled my head with questions. How many things could a die-cut vinyl Calvin possibly piss on? Would the rebel flag or the American flag be the most prominent display of colors? Would it look as if the Confederate Army had set up a splinter cell in the East County of San Diego? And who

The last 20 minutes on the 8 East had filled my head with questions.
belongs to the NASCAR numbers 3 and 8. Being metropolitan urbanites, we were naturally fearful of anything east of the 15.

From the backseat of the Barbmobile, I watched rugged off-road trucks with their bodies lifted in angles and positions Henry Ford never meant them to be. Orange-haired old ladies in Plyments and Malibus with mirrors duct taped into place passed by, horns blaring. Barb is one of those women who drives in the second-to-fastest lane doing 50 mph and singing wildly. That afternoon, David and I were her captive audience as she belted out the entire soundtrack to The Little Mermaid.

Before we headed out, David had to make several trips back and forth from the car to his apartment for things he had forgotten: earplugs, the camera, his sunglasses. Barb and I sat impatiently in the car, and she kept saying, “We’ve got to get there in time,” and he’d return, only to turn right back around and head back upstairs with Barb sighing, “Dammit.” She was in a hurry and let fly with the pointing and cursing at other drivers until surface streets gave way to the 15 north. From then on, it was a one-woman show of Ariel and Sebastian’s hijinks.

The Dust, Guts, and Wall

Giant tractor tires, painted white, stood guard at the dusty entrance to the Cajon Speedway parking lot. I was surprised to see the lot was nearly empty. We parked three rows back from the entrance gate, an easy walk. David hopped out and immediately started testing light levels and fussing with his digital camera. Barb, adjusting her sunglasses, took the first time and applying a final touch-up to her makeup with the pointing and cursing at other drivers until surface streets gave way to the 15 north. From then on, it was a one-woman show of Ariel and Sebastian’s hijinks.
lipstick, prepared for her big debut at Cajon Speedway. Throwing her boa across her shoulder, she put one high heel out and yelled, “This is dirt!”

“No, it’s not ‘dirty,’ it’s dirt. The parking lot is dirt. If these heels are ruined, I’m having your ass,” she joked. Barb’s favorite role, besides that of any musical Disney cartoon, is that of the prima donna. This bitchiness is hilarious to her friends but would probably be misunderstood by outsiders. Others would have no way of knowing that she’d driven and paid for our tickets, serenading us all the while.

Getting out of the car, Barb asked David, “What do I do with this?” referring to her parking stub. David said, “Just put one on your dash and keep the other with you.”

“Oh,” she said in surprise, “do I give this stub to a parking attendant?”

“No, Barb. There’s no valet service at Cajon Speedway,” David replied coolly.

Once inside the gate, a fancy baseball cap with “Cajon Speedway” emblazoned on the front was shoved into our hands, and a smiling face said, “Cap Night. First 2000 people get a hat.” Admittedly, I was more excited about the lids than my companions. Barb and David were

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grateful, but if it doesn’t have feathers Barb won’t put it on her head. I’m not sure there is such a thing, but David wondered about the thread count of his new chapeau.

I, on the other hand, yelled, “Wow! Cool, look at that. That’s a great hat.”

I removed my favorite Stihl chainsaws headpiece and replaced it with the brand-new Cajon Speedway cap. Surprisingly, it was of Cajon Speedway cap. Surprisingly, it was of good quality, constructed from hefty material in a fetching red, white, and blue graphic arrangement.

On one occasion, an eager driver stomped his accelerator and overtook the car ahead of him from the outside before the green flag.

The three of us were intent on getting into the pits, which Barb called “The VIP Room.” We didn’t even know if there were pits, but dammit, we wanted in to whatever restricted area the track could offer. We walked around the stands looking for forbidden places into which a press pass and a smile might grant us access. Making our way to the south side of the track could offer. We walked around the stands looking for forbidden places into which a press pass and a smile might grant us access. Making our way to the south side of the track could offer. We walked around the tracks stood tall overlooking the cyclone fence and wall that separate spectators from careening speed machines. A brown Crown Victoria with a stuffed cow and hand-painted numbers came crashing into the considerable concrete blockade just yards in front of me.

The ripping and booming of mechanical power plants was deafening.

“I’m not this awesome!” I screamed.


“Awesome, isn’t this awesome?” I yelled again, but it was no use. There was no way she could understand what I was saying. And the brown Crown Vic took another tire-screeching lap past us.

The three of us were intent on getting into the pits, which Barb called “The VIP Room.” We didn’t even know if there were pits, but dammit, we wanted in to whatever restricted area the track could offer. We walked around the stands looking for forbidden places into which a press pass and a smile might grant us access. Making our way to the south side of the stadium, away from the bellowing open pipes on the oval track, we headed for the office and said, “Gotta have a pass. Can’t get in without a pass.”

Rubber dust spit like a fine mist from the paved oval track in great clouds whenever a race car passed. We hadn’t noticed that we were nearly covered in it until we got into the artificial light and air-conditioning of the front office. We brushed it off from our arms and shirts as the manager watched us. “Can I help you folks?” Yes, you see, there’s a lot of black dust out there, and we thought we’d come in for a quick shake off in your crisp, clean lobby. You don’t mind, do you?

If we were going to woo this man into giving us pit passes, this probably wasn’t the best way to start.

“What’s your names?” he asked, and then checked his roster.

“Oh, we’re not on any list, you see...”

“If you’re not on the list, you can’t get pit passes,” he interrupted. This was my cue to turn around and head for the door from which I entered, but Barb grabbed my shirt sleeve. She saw this as a challenge she could handle.

“But we’re writers. He’s writing a story about the speedway, and this is our photographer,” she said as she pointed to David. Barb pressed on while I read a newspaper article tacked to the wall that bemoaned the uncertainty of the speedway’s future.

The man behind the counter noticed I was reading about the lease with the county expiring, and he added, “Yep. Might not be here next year. This might be our last season.”

“Sorry, folks. You should’ve called ahead or written us a letter. I can’t do anything for you.”

Again, I turned to leave and Barb yanked me back by my collar. Barb has the gift of
where you live = how you live

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charm and conversational ease the way I have the gift of eating and breathing. Having zero people skills, I was thrilled when the manager said, "Okay. Okay. I’ll let one of you go back, but that’s it." Five minutes later we walked out of that office with three pit passes, a history of the track, and a season schedule.

Between the new ball caps, a digital dictator, a notebook, a digital camera, schedules, histories, and Barb’s purse, we were walking around like bedouins, our arms cradling gatherings from the field. We knew we couldn’t drag all this crap around with us, and it was decided that I would stow some of our junk in the car.

Upon reaching the gate to get out I was turned back into the speedway because I had a pit pass. The gate attendant said, “If you have a pit pass, you have to go out through the office.”

“What the hell kind of rule is that?” I grumbled and plodded back to the office. My gas-station-bought flip-flops were clapping on the tile as I crossed the office floor, heading to the dusty parking lot. As I passed through the lobby on my way back, a girl thought quickly of how Barb would handle such adversity. What could I say to get this high schooler to let me back into the car?

The whole place smelled like boiling hot dogs and burning alcohol fuel.

The front office giveth, and the front office taketh away.

I climbed the broad creaking steps to the top of the two-story-tall amphitheater and looked back into the sun. My gaze followed the streaking shadow cast by the flagpole down the stairs to the south side of the track, where Old Glory snapped and popped in the wind. Taking up two city blocks just beneath the Stars and Stripes is the pit area. The pits were buzzing with men in coveralls rolling tires and sliding under cars in a scramble to ready their machines for racing. Once ready, the cars leaped out onto the oblong track from the south corner.

Buzzing the length of the stands, the racers raced with that holiest of documents stapled to my left sleeve. I formulated a cunning plan. I would wow this girl with a tale of my greatness, my need to be in the action and on hand with the drivers. As I launched into my bewitching story of daring, all that came out of my mouth was, “Okay, sorry.” I stood dumbfounded as the teenager ripped the paper pass from my shirt sleeve. I damned San Diego’s perfect sandal weather and my ineptitude. The front office giveth, and the front office taketh away.

I climbed the broad creaking steps to the top of the two-story-tall amphitheater and looked back into the sun. My gaze followed the streaking shadow cast by the flagpole down the stairs to the south side of the track, where Old Glory snapped and popped in the wind. Taking up two city blocks just beneath the Stars and Stripes is the pit area. The pits were buzzing with men in coveralls rolling tires and sliding under cars in a scramble to ready their machines for racing. Once ready, the cars leaped out onto the oblong track from the south corner.

Buzzing the length of the stands, the racers had time to mash the
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gas only a few seconds before laying on the brakes. The automobiles then tore ass around the corner and flew back past the Stars and Stripes for another lap.

Behind me, on the ground, people were filtering in through the front gate and into the concession area, where they were assaulted by the smell of pretzels and the hammering noise of engines. I scanned the crowd for my friends and bounded down the whitewashed wooden steps to rejoin them.

The roar of engines steadily increased and suddenly dropped to give way to squealing tires as the cars flew closer to the stands and then away to round the far corner. We marched through the vending area, past the miniature American flags hanging from the storefronts, and toward the pits. Through the forbidding chain-link fence people sat in fold-out camp chairs and BSed with their friends and neighbors. The camaraderie of the racers was what I missed most. The whole place smelled like boiling hot dogs and burning alcohol fuel. Beneath the bleachers, sunlight filtered through the stands, mixing with the dust-filled air to erect a maze of light. David and Barb were at the races for the first time in their lives, but I was home.

A Family Tradition

When other kids’ parents took them to Monterey, it would be for sailing, swimming, and camping. When my dad took me it was to attend the Superbike championships at Laguna Seca raceway. We’d regularly have family days at a top-fuel funny car drag in Stockton or the one-mile dirt oval track in Sacramento. My family loves anything to do with internal combustion engines and the seemingly endless manifestations of body...
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style, wheels, and gear- 
ing. Flip through a 
photo album of my 
childhood: There’s me 
on my dad’s Ducati 
motorcycle. There’s me 
in my uncle’s Corvette. 
There’s me at the 
drags, at Sears Point, at 
Hot August Nights. 
There’s a picture of me 
when I was 14 in the 
21st anniversary edi-
tion of Easyriders 
magazine.

My dad was born 
into the generation of 
chrome and candy 
paint and has turned 
his interest into devo-
tion. When he was a 
kid he would take his 
parents’ Model A out 
cruising, and he still 
speaks of the day he 
saw an Oldsmobile 
Rocket 88 for the first 
time. "Until Olds came 
out with the Rocket 88, 
cars were junk. They 
all had flatheads that 
didn’t produce shit for 
power and would over-
heat. But when Olds 
rolled out that over-
hed valve design, 
everything changed.”

His gaze drifts away 
when he thinks of his 
teens and the yearning he held for 
large-cubic-inch V-8 
engines.

One of my father’s 
favorite jokes is “Why 
do the limeys like hot 
beer? Because Lucas 
made refrigerators 
too.” Apparently, Lucas 
was a manufacturer of 
gauges — speedome-
ters, tachometers, 
ammeters, and the like. 
These gauges were 
mainly used by British 
motorcycle makers like 
Triumph, BSA, and 
Norton, built in and 
around the ’50s and 
’60s. As you can guess, 
the gauges are known 
to be faulty. Now, 
unless you are one of 
the — maybe dozen — 
people who have the 
encyclopedic knowl-
dge of cars and 
motorcycles that my 
dad does, you would 
not understand this.

When I was 15, I 
owned over a dozen 
vehicles and helped my 
uncle build a ’68 
Dodge Charger. By the 
time I was 17 he 
helped me build a ’68 
Chevy pickup. My 
uncle and I would sit 
on the front porch of 
his house and haggle, 
“I’ll give you the Nova 
for the Camaro and a 
327.” He’d respond, 
“Bullshit. That 
Camaro’s in better 
shape than that Nova. 
I’ll trade you the 
Camaro for the Nova, 
but I keep the 327 and 
you help me paint the 
lowrider pickup.” Deal.

Vivid still-frame 
memories of my child-
hood include “King” 
Kenny Roberts doing a 
wheelie through the S-
turn and the smoking 
patch of bleach in a 
predrag burnout by 
Kenny Bernstein. I 
haven’t been as inter-
ested in cars since 
then. When I hit my 
early 20s I gave up hot-
rodding and haven’t 
been to any races since.

Climbing back up into 
the bleachers at Cajon 
Speedway, tasting the 
dust and smelling 
burnt rubber, put me 
right back on that hot 
blacktop of my youth.

Mime, Balloon 
Artist…Racer

I was rejoicing that 
they took my pit pass 
when I read the sign, 
"Absolutely No Alcohol 
with Pit Passes." The 
vendors made sure I 
didn’t have one and 
then poured sweet sal-
ation into my red 
plastic cup. A Bud 
Light at the races will 
cost you $5.50, but it’s 
a small price to pay to 
enjoy this wholly 
American activity with 
a tall glass of beer. My 
cold beer in hand, I 
took in the carnival 
asphalt and there the 
iron curtain of race-
ning area offered. 
Strains of ZZ Top 
wafted through the air, 
merchants hocked tiny 
metal replica cars of 
NASCAR heroes, and a 
seated ancient gentle-
man with a hearing aid 
size of a bagel 
yelled out, “Programs! 
Two bucks!”

When I see conces-
sions and the roar of 
enines, my 
thoughts return to the 
county fairs of my 
youth. As a little kid in 
small town I always 
want to be older and 
act cooler than the 
dorkiness that ruled 
my behavior would 
allow. An interest in 
cars and beer went a 
long way to set this 
doofus free. Still, I 
carry with me indelible 
memories of stark 
shadows cast by artifi-
cial lighting in 
crowded arenas. I was 
always looking for that 
thing I had a secret crush 
on, testing my knowl-
dge of all things auto-
motive with other 
boys, and drinking 
beer from coolers 
found in pickup beds.

I was on my sec-
ond cold one when 
Barb and David 
returned from the pits, 
excited about the treas-
ures they had col-
lected while behind the 
iron curtain of race-
ning area offered. 
Strains of ZZ Top 
wafted through the air, 
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TEAM DYNAMICS - TSW - ZENETTI - WELD - BOZE - XD - EVO - ALBA - MOTEGI - NITRO

dom. “I got to hang out with the drivers” and “I got great shots of the cars,” they assured me. The first person they spoke with was Kenny Hall, who races in the street stock class. His 2002 Monte Carlo was a 78 Ventura last year, but with the help of his family he’d turned it into an all-fiberglass bad boy and was poised to win it tonight. Kenny was only 20 years old and racing motorcycles when he had a nasty spill and a bad case of temporary amnesia. His racing in-line set to work building him a car to get him off those damn motorcycles.

One of Kenny’s biggest rivals is Neil, in the #217 street stock car. Neil and Kenny have traded spots in the winner’s circle all season, which makes for interesting talk at the dinner table. Kenny is married to Neil’s sister. On and off the track, their family enjoys the same love of mechanical toys my father and I share. For fun, they take their families out to the desert to ride dirt bikes and four-wheelers and between racing weekends work on each other’s cars to keep them in top shape.

Tonight would be the last night for Neil to spin his wheels around the blacktop. After ten years of racing he was hanging his fire suit up for good in exchange for more time riding with his friends and loved ones. He was leaving high-paced competition and bursting around the inside of a tin can for relaxed-paced concentration on the things that really mattered.

I convinced Barb to come along with me back to the beer shed. David was nearly losing his composure. “I have to go to the other side of the track.” He
was worried about his photographs. “I can’t get the light I need, I just can’t…” While Barb and I started to descend the stairs, David was fiddling with his camera and scratching his head, saying, “Well, I need a slow shutter speed to get the cars, but it’s just too bright right here.” As we rounded the corner he was just setting out to get his shots.

With the track’s future at stake, I wondered about its past. In the beer garden I asked a friendly fellow named KC just how long he’d been working the races. His draft-pouring partner said, “That’s kind of an unfair question.”

“Why’s that?” KC said, “Well, my mom worked here when she was pregnant with me, so I guess I’ve been here since before I was born. My folks own the concessions, and I come out every weekend to work the booths.”

KC told us he was a workaday police officer. There may have been a slightly awkward moment between me and KC, seeing as how if I’m awake I’m usually violating some law. I thought about the terms of my probation and the beer in my hand, but after a few seconds, we eased into our skin and put our everyday lives behind us and sat there, just two race fans. I asked him what kept him coming out to the track week after week.

“It’s the people, the families, and the characters you meet,” he said.

That was the cue for “Wierd Marvin” [sic] to enter, stage right. Wearing a purple fire suit and shaking hands as if he was running for mayor, the tall, thin man came upon us. He stopped in to say hi to KC.

“Hi, nice to meet you,” I said. “What’s your name?” He smiled and said, “Wierd Marvin, with the ei reversed because I’m so weird.”

“This purple outfit is stunning. Is it for racing?” Barb asked.

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“Yep. I run the Purple Pinto Eater, that’s in the pony stock class,” he informed us. Marv was fulfilling a lifelong dream to race.

“I’ve been around these races forever. My dad raced at Balboa in the ’50s, and we came out here when it came out here. I’ve been around these races all my life.”

Marvin, his dad, and the races came out to Cajon Speedway from Balboa Stadium in 1961. In the mid-’60s the track was expanded and paved. The speedway’s past is rocky, but it’s held on. After Marvin had spent years entertaining the crowds in other ways, the racing community came together to buy him a car.

“I’m not just a driver. I’m a balloon artist and mime. I’ve entertained out here for years, and I finally got a car,” Marvin told us.

“I’m sorry, what?”

“Yep. I’m a mime,” he confirmed. “I became a mime because nobody could hear my stupid jokes. Well, I better get to the pits.” And with that, Wierd Marvin, balloon artist, mime, and racer, was gone.

While Barb and I were walking back from the beer hut we ran into David. “I got a couple good pics, but the lighting just isn’t right yet. Everyone here seems to have a lot of fun out here.”

“David, my friend,” I said, “there’s...
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There was a spinout.
A car bashed the considerably bulky wall and filled the field with smoke.

petition supporters sat on fabric that was the same colors as the cars they cheered on. Kenny and Neil’s family were firmly planted on an expanse of orange trimmed with blue tape.

“Well, we’re not in your way, are we? Did we take your seats?” Barb asked, as the woman found the owner of the backpack.

“No, no, not at all. Hi, my name’s Andrea.” I asked, “So you come out every week-end?” Which is exactly what she had just told me. Dumbass, I thought.

“Yeah, my husband drives the tow truck for the track,” she answered, “and we just love to come out to watch them race.” The track is not just a circle of asphalt at the north end of El Cajon, but an array of infrastructure, including public works, emergency rescue divi-

French, Scotland, Thailand, and Brazil, I’m confident, could not produce one damned mime, balloon artist, racer between them. And here was one in our own back yard.

When we got to the stands, people were settling in for the qualifiers and heat races, and I was settling into a complimentary Bud Light from KC. In the row in front of us two women were figuring out who owned a backpack that was left on the seats. The way they were greeting other groups of people and setting up chairs that were built specifically for bleachers told us they were track regulars.

“Well, we sit here every weekend. It’s just that my husband didn’t come out and put down a sheet.” It was then that I noticed the many spots in the stands covered with sheets or blankets that had been duct taped in

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sions, and maintenance. Were they all paid for by the same measly ten-dollar admission charge?

“No, he volunteers; there are a lot of volunteers. People like to help out at the races. It’s a hobby to a lot of people who don’t race. There’s the tow-truck driver and the fire truck…”

“Is that the Coors Light Fire and Rescue Truck?” I asked, thinking I was being really funny but more likely coming off as an asshole.

“Yep, that’s the one. They’re mostly older guys — retirees, I think,” she said. I was going to crack a joke about pouring beer on flaming crashes but decided to quit while I was behind.

An arriving collection of weekly race fans yelled something unintelligible to Andrea.

“You know those folks?”

“Oh, yeah,” she said, “they’re here every week. Their son races.”

“Wow, their whole family comes out for this,” I noticed about the pack of people.

“Yeah, there’s a lot of kids here, a lot of parents and grandparents.” She pointed out a group of people.

“Right there are four generations of people out here to watch the races.”

See Who Can Stuff the Largest Breasts into the Smallest Shirt Contest

During qualifiers and heat races Barb paid little attention to the track and instead chose to comment on our fellow spectators.

“Look at that poor woman’s awful hair. Oh, those roots,” or “Isn’t that little girl adorable?” Her favorite observations usually had to do with what we later named “The See Who Can Stuff the Largest Breasts into the Smallest Shirt Contest.” If cup size in San Diego was being graded, this place would throw off the curve. And it seemed that for this hot summer night, nothing but the smallest of tank tops would do. Green tank tops, burgundy tank tops, and the ever-popular white, ribbed tank tops — commonly known as a “wife beater” — abounded, but only in the tightest sizes one could find.

Between races and Barb’s comments on the varying bust sizes of passers-by, I occasionally checked the big flashing LED sign at the south end of the track. The black plastic frame would scroll little white squares to spell out messages for the fans: “HAPPY” flash “21ST” flash “BIRTHDAY” flash “ANDREW.” At the maddeningly slow pace of flashing words, it would take a good minute to get a brief message all the way through, but I could not tear myself away from it once I...
had started a message — I had to watch it through to the end. Barb caught me staring at it and said, “I’ve arranged to propose to David on that thing.”

“Really?” I asked mockingly.

“Yeah, during halftime,” she said confidently.

Halftime, huh? Barb was getting bored and started playing Scrabble on her Palm Pilot, but I was still thrilled with the races. I was glad we’d gotten out early to watch the qualifiers and heats.

The qualifiers and heats were a progression through the categories. First was the pony stock. These tiny cars, modified beyond any shadow of what Pintos were in the 70s, ripped around the track — each driver going as fast as he or she could, with no competition but the clock. When it was time for the bomber class to race, everyone cheered. The bombers were, by far, the most eccentric. With each new car came a new stuffed toy hanging out the passenger window — chickens, cows, and Scooby-Doo each hung on for fluffy life as their floppy heads bobbed in the wind. When #38 spun out and hit the wall, someone in the crowd yelled, “BOMBERS!”

The bombers are just normal everyday cars that have a heavy steel cage welded to the interior, a beefed-up drivetrain and suspension, and the occasional Kermit strapped on for luck. The doors and fenders of bombers have a signature pattern of man-
Lincoln Continental
Dodge Diplomat or
count on coming out
grandparents’ home. In
have a picture of my
a mobile home, you’d
haphazardly in front of
the bombers there that
cars between derbies.
look like demolition
was unforgiving. They
was tight or the wall
dent, and gouge tell of
gled metal. Each line,
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Harley shirt. He’s given me shirts from Merced and Laughlin, and I’ve given him shirts from Las Vegas and Barcelona. We each have shirts from Laguna Seca and the Sacramento Mile races we’ve attended together.

The heat races were by far the coolest events of the night. The LED sign intermittently read “4 LAP” flash flash “TROPHY DASH!” flash flash. The top four qualifiers of each class race for four laps. Without the clutter of the pack and the marathon timing of the main events, the heat races are quick-paced and the drivers daring. It was not uncommon for drivers to swing to the outside of the track and lay the hammer down. Each individual class had its own daredevils and cliff-hangers, with the winner usually only inches in front at the finish line.

We latched on to Andrea to explain the esoteric rule system. Previously, Barb, David, and I had tried to figure out what was going on down on the track, but we were baffled. In my oval-track virginity I lamely asked, “Is this the main event? How come there are only four cars?”

“No, the main event is a lot longer,” Andrea explained. “These are just the guys with the top lap times. They race before the main event to see who gets what position in the field. These are called ‘heat races.’ ”

“Okay, so there are qualifying laps, then heat races. Then the winner of the heat race gets the lead position?” I asked.

**RESEARCH STUDIES**

**BIPOLAR DISORDER**

If you or someone you know:

- Has been diagnosed with Bipolar 1 Disorder
- Has been treated for manic and depressive episodes
- Is currently suffering from symptoms of major depression...

...then you may be interested in participating in a clinical research trial currently being conducted at PCSD–Feighner Research Center.

To learn more about this study, please call 877-FOR-INFO (877-367-4636). Study participants receive investigational medication and all study-related tests at no cost. Compensation for time and travel is also available.

**OUTPATIENT SCHIZOPHRENIA STUDY**

Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital is currently enrolling subjects in a new clinical research trial for people suffering from Schizophrenia or Schizoaffective disorders.

Eligible patients will receive medical care at no cost and will be reimbursed for time and travel expenses.

Please call if you:
- Are between ages 18 and 60
- Are currently experiencing an inadequate response to current antipsychotic medication
- Have not taken Zyprexa® (olanzapine) for more than eight weeks at one time

For more information, call Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital’s Clinical Research department at (858) 715-8709.

**For Information**

Call 858-784-STOP (7867) or visit www.scripps.edu/np/dcp
Insomnia
can affect the quality of your life and your partner’s.

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

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

Qualified participants:
• Will receive up to $2150 for time and travel.
• Receive no-cost study-related medication and study-related medical care.
• No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

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Finding Answers Together – Since 1982
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www.cctrials.com

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

If you have been diagnosed with osteoarthritis of the hips and/or knees, wake up at night in pain and are otherwise in good health, we may have a clinical trial that’s right for you.

California Clinical Trials has been selected to study a once-a-day medication currently approved for the treatment of chronic moderate to severe pain in order to see how treating pain can improve the quality of sleep in osteoarthritis patients suffering from painful hips and/or knees.

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

If you participate, there is no cost to you...instead:
• You receive up to $1105 for time and travel.
• You receive no-cost research study-related medication and medical care.
• No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

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Anxiety
doesn’t just stress your mind. We know it can ...

• Decrease your immune response
• Increase fats in the bloodstream
• Be mistaken for medical conditions
• Interfere with sleep

If you are between the ages of 18 and 64, you may qualify to take part in a research study of an investigational medication for Generalized Anxiety Disorder.

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

If you participate, there is no cost to you...instead:
• You will receive up to $500 for your time and travel.
• You receive no-cost study-related medication and study-related medical care.
• No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

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Schizophrenia
Outpatient Research Study

Are you currently taking *Zyprexa, *Risperdal, *Seroquel, *Abilify or *Geodon and still having troubling symptoms or side effects? If so, you may qualify to try an investigational medication for Schizophrenia.

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

If you participate, there is no cost to you...instead:
• You receive up to $1300 for your time and travel.
• You receive no-cost research study-related medication and medical care.
• No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

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Still Depressed?
Are you still experiencing several of these symptoms?

- Sadness
- Little or no interest in activities
- Change in weight or appetite
- Difficulty sleeping or sleeping more than usual
- Fatigue, loss of energy, or feeling overtired
- Difficulty concentrating, thinking or making decisions
- Feelings of worthlessness or guilt nearly every day
- Thoughts that life isn’t worth living
- Feeling of restlessness or being “slowed down”

Have you tried available antidepressants such as Prozac, Zoloft, Celexa, Lexapro, Effexor, Wellbutrin, and others? Have you been unimpressed with the results? You may be eligible to join a research study of an investigational medication. You must be 18 years or older to participate.

For more information, please call Optimum Health Services at: (619) 667-4567

The crowd went crazy for the grandstanding smoke show. Standing, yelling, and turning to each other, the fans cheered the season winner for more.

Schizophrenia?
Do you or someone you love suffer with Schizophrenia?

Services are available at no charge.

Affiliated Research Institute is conducting a clinical trial with investigational medication.

Participants receive visits with a psychiatrist, study-related medication, lab work, and staff support.

Do you have Type 2 Diabetes?

The Whittier Institute for Diabetes is conducting a clinical research study of an investigational medication. You must be 18 years of age or older and cannot currently be on insulin to participate.

If you qualify, you will receive at no cost to you or your health insurance company:

- Investigational medication
- Study-related laboratory testing
- Study-related physical examination

Participation in this trial will be approximately 24 weeks.

Call to see if you qualify for our Type 2 Diabetes study: 858-626-5678

RESEARCH STUDIES
Medical Marijuana Evaluations

In September 2003, the San Diego City Council passed law enforcement guidelines stating “a patient must obtain a written recommendation... from a physician practicing within San Diego County.”

For more info visit www.sandiego.gov/communityservices/medicalmarijuana.

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

Robert F. Sterner, Jr., M.D.
Harvard 1978/UCLA 1982
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www.antiagingarts.com

Call us at:
1-888-619-7272
Thank you.

synergy clinical research center

Specializing in medication studies for depression, anxiety disorders, and many other psychological disorders including bipolar disorder and schizophrenia.

Transportation and patient stipends are available to qualified participants.

Are YOU

✓ Taking insulin for Type 2 diabetes?
✓ A smoker with diabetes?
✓ An asthmatic with diabetes?
✓ 18-65 years of age?

If you answered “YES” to any of the above questions, you may qualify for a new medical research study with the Profil Institute for Clinical Research.

Qualified Participants Will Receive:
✦ Study-related physical exams and lab work at no charge.
✦ Compensation for your time and travel.

Call Today
Toll-Free: 1-866-308-PICR (7427)
Local: 619-409-1244

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7 AM–8 PM
E-mail: studies@profil-research.com
PARTY A LOT?

Are you drinking heavily on weekends or your days off of work or school?

Does your alcohol consumption cause problems in school or at work?

Do others complain about your drinking?

Then this study may be for you!

Research Participants Needed

Medical researchers at UCSD are currently conducting a clinical research study to evaluate the investigational use of an FDA approved medication. The purpose of the study is to see if this investigational drug reduces alcohol use.

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

Contact UCSD Department of Psychiatry to inquire about this study or see if you qualify:

619-543-3697

UCSD Healthcare

DIABETES

Are you taking insulin shots OR a combination of pills and insulin shots for treatment of Type 2 Diabetes?

You may be eligible to participate in a research study of an investigational medication that may help to lower your blood sugar levels.

To be eligible you must:

• Be 18 years or older
• Have Type 2 Diabetes and be taking insulin alone or insulin in combination with diabetes pills
• Meet other entry criteria

Participants will receive at no cost study-related medication and physical exams, lab tests, EKGs, glucose meter and test strips and financial compensation for time and travel.

For more information call: (858) 622-7212

Diabetes and Endocrine Associates

9850 Genesee Ave. #415 • La Jolla, CA 92037

PROSTATE and URINARY TRACT HEALTH

MEN AGED 18-65 YEARS

Do you have any of the following symptoms?

• Pelvic pain and/or discomfort
• Sensation of not emptying your bladder after urination
• Frequent and urgent urination
• Burning on urination
• Painful ejaculations

If you have experienced any of these symptoms for at least 3 of the past 6 months, please contact us at the number listed below. We are looking for men aged 18-65 years old with a clinical diagnosis of Chronic, Non-Bacterial Prostatitis to participate in a national research study. This study will evaluate the investigational use of an FDA approved medication.

You may benefit from the physical examinations, blood tests and review of your symptoms and will be reimbursed for your time and travel.

For more information please call: 619-460-0595

Do You Suffer from Frequent Heartburn?

Volunteers needed for study evaluating an approved medication for heartburn.

If you’re suffering from frequent heartburn, it could be a sign of Acid Reflux, a medical condition that can affect your quality of life. Now, as part of a national research study, local doctors are evaluating a medication already approved for the treatment of Acid Reflux.

To pre-qualify for this study, you:

• Are between 18 and 65 years of age
• Have been suffering from heartburn for at least the past three months and
• Are currently experiencing heartburn at least 4 days per week

Qualified participants will receive a study-related medical evaluation and study medication at no cost. Reimbursement for time and travel will be provided.

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

• Intense periods of ANGER or ANXIETY for a few hours to a few days at a time
• Ongoing fear of ABANDONMENT
• History of unstable INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS
• Persistent SELF-IMAGE problems
• IMPULSIVITY in any of the following areas: spending, substance abuse, eating and sexual activity
• Almost constant feelings of emptiness
• Difficulty controlling your feelings of ANGER and fits of TEMPER

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

Transportation assistance is available.
### Type 2 Diabetes Patients Wanted

Are you a Type 2 Diabetes individual treated with diet or by monotherapy with metformin or sulfonylureas?

Then Profil Institute for Clinical Research invites you to participate in a clinical research study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-60 years of age</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>stable body weight for at least 3 months</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>only taking one diabetes medication</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>duration of diabetes 3 months or more</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>with no major health problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 visits in our clinical research center</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Profil Institute for Clinical Research is proud to provide you with:

- Volunteer stipend up to $2600
- Shuttle service from H St. trolley
- Study-related physical exams, lab tests and EKG’s at no charge

**Healthy Volunteers may help us to advance medical research.**

Radiant Research is seeking healthy volunteers to participate in clinical research studies.

**To qualify you must:**

- be a man or woman 18 to 45 years old
- be a non-smoker

You may be compensated up to $2,050 for your time and travel.

Call Mon-Fri for more information

**Radiant Research**

866.818.3253

9665 Chesapeake Dr., Suite 200, San Diego, CA

www.radiantresearch.com

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**Legs with a mind of their own**

Some people notice an uncomfortable feeling, sometimes even a burning sensation, which is relieved by getting up or moving—especially during periods of inactivity, like in the evening or during sleep.

Restless legs can cause disagreeable sensations that lead to problems with sleep, general discomfort, and overall fatigue. We are currently enrolling a 2-week research study. Qualified participants will be compensated for their time. Clinic offers a 3-month treatment program following the study. Call today to hear more!

PACIFIC RESEARCH NETWORK, INC. 619-294-4302

**Profif**

Medical Plaza II • 855 Third Ave. #4400
Chula Vista, CA 91911
Internet: www.profil-research.com

If interested, contact our Profil Recruiting Team via phone or e-mail.

**Please call for more information:**

619-409-1244

or e-mail studies@profil-research.com
Are You A Type 2 Diabetic Taking Insulin? Research Opportunities Available!

The Center for Metabolic Research is offering research opportunities for veterans and non-veterans who are Type 2 Diabetics currently taking insulin. Subjects who enroll receive study-related medical care at no cost and financial compensation for their time and travel.

To find out more and see if you qualify, please call:
858-642-1432
Center for Metabolic Research
VA San Diego Medical Center

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COPD Volunteers Needed

Are you being treated for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease?

If you are a current or ex-smoker age 40 or over who has COPD, Wettin Research is taking part in a national clinical research study to demonstrate the effectiveness of an oral investigational drug for COPD.

Qualified participants will receive study-related lung function tests, physical exams, ECGs, clinical laboratory tests and investigational drug at no cost while taking part in this 7-month study.

Call: 619-583-1954 ext. 17

Save This Advertisement!!!

...for your next YEAST INFECTION

If you have symptoms of vaginal yeast infection–itching, burning, or swelling–or you get yeast infections occasionally... keep this ad!

A clinical investigation is underway to evaluate 2 single-dose oral medications in a 3-visit study for vaginal yeast infection. If you have symptoms... call now.

You will receive at no cost: exam by a board-certified OB/GYN, study-related labs, Pap smear, study medication and compensation up to $130.

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

ADHD/ADD

Research Participants Needed

Medical researchers at UCSD are currently conducting a clinical research study to evaluate an investigational drug compared to placebo for Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. Participants must be between 18 and 55 years of age to be eligible.

Symptoms of ADHD may include:
- Being easily distracted
- Often losing things
- Making careless mistakes
- Difficulties organizing tasks or activities
- Forgetfulness

Medical and psychological evaluations and study drug will be provided at no cost. Eligible participants will also receive financial compensation. For more information, please call:
(619) 543-3697, UCSD Department of Psychiatry

The crowd also started heckling the necking twenty-somethings with “Pull the shade down!” and “Get a room!”
**Asthma?**

Radiant Research is seeking volunteers 18 years of age or older for a clinical research study for asthma.

If you suffer from asthma, you may qualify for this study. Qualified participants will receive all study-related testing and investigational medication at no charge and will be reimbursed for their time up to $900.

**Who May Be Eligible?**
- Adults between ages 18-60
- HIV+ and HIV- adults with known or suspected Hepatitis C infection
- No history of interferon treatment

**What Will Happen?**
- Eligible participants will complete interviews and testing, a medical examination, and fluid sampling
- Compensation for your participation

**For More Information:**
Please call Marvin Hanashiro
@ (619) 543-5041 or
Jorge Manly-Gil
@ (619) 543-5098

---

**Endometriosis Research Study**

If you have endometriosis, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study evaluating a new investigational medication for pelvic pain due to endometriosis.

**In order to qualify, you must:**
- Be a woman between 18 and 45 with regular menstrual periods
- Have endometriosis diagnosed by a surgical procedure (laparoscopy or laparotomy) within the past three years
- Have moderate to severe pelvic pain due to endometriosis for at least three months
- Not be using oral contraceptives for the past 30 days
- Be sexually active
- Have not had a surgical treatment for endometriosis in the past six months

**Other criteria apply.**
For more information, call:
858-505-8672

---

**Bipolar?**

We're looking for men and women diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder. Volunteers at least 18 years of age are needed to participate in a clinical research study testing an investigational use of a marketed drug for the treatment of Bipolar Disorder, also known as Manic Depression. Patients suffering from Bipolar Disorder must be currently experiencing a major depressive, mixed, or manic episode. All necessary office visits, medical evaluations, and study medications will be provided at no cost to qualified patients.

**For more information about this study, please contact:**
(619) 688-6565

---

**Do you have Severe Psoriasis?**

Volunteers with psoriasis needed for a medical research study

More than 4.5 million people in the United States are estimated to suffer from psoriasis. For many, psoriasis can become such a problem that it causes normal, daily activities to change or end.

If you are struggling with psoriasis, we’d like to talk with you. Local doctors are conducting a medical research study to evaluate an investigational oral psoriasis medication.

**You may qualify for this study if:**
- You are 18-70 years of age
- Your psoriasis covers at least 15% of your body, AND
- You have had your psoriasis for at least 6 months
- You are 18-70 years of age
- You have had your psoriasis for at least 6 months
- You are 18-70 years of age
- You have had your psoriasis for at least 6 months
- If you are a woman, you must be either postmenopausal or surgically sterile.

Qualified participants will receive a study-related medical evaluation and study medication at no cost. A set reimbursement amount for time and travel will be provided.

**To learn more about this local study, contact:**
(858) 638-SKIN (7546)
psoriasis@therapeuticsresearch.com

---
Poor Bladder Control Is A Common Problem For Women

Millions of American women experience involuntary leakage of urine upon exertion, sneezing, or coughing that interrupts their active lifestyle. Are you one of them?

If you are a woman and

- Are between the ages of 18 and 65
- Experience involuntary leakage of urine on exertion, sneezing, or coughing at least 7 times a week
- Have experienced this for over 3 months

You may be eligible to volunteer for a research study of an investigational medication.

Qualified participants will receive a study-related physical exam and study medication. Please call 619-236-0045.

San Diego Uro-Research
1901 Fourth Avenue, Suite 200 • San Diego, CA 92101

For more information on this study.

PATIENTS WITH NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS NEEDED

If you or a family member suffers from Alzheimer’s disease (AD), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), multiple sclerosis (MS), or neurological injuries such as stroke or traumatic brain injury (TBI) and experience episodes of exaggerated crying and/or laughing, we would like you to participate in a market research discussion. If you qualify and participate, you will be paid CASH for your opinions and time. No sales are involved.

If you are interested, please call Luth Research at (619) 243-8052 and ask for Lisa.

Medical Marijuana Referrals

Do you need a doctor’s referral for medicinal marijuana?

Do you know where dispensaries are to buy your medicine?

We can help.

GreenMedicineGroup
(310) 360-5911
greenmedicinegroup@yahoo.com

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

You will be compensated in vouchers for your participation.

For information call:
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800-495-0001
Principal Investigator
Joseph Mawhinney, M.D.

SOUTH BAY

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HEALTH SERVICES

SCHIZOAFFECTIVE

Are you overweight and suffering from either Schizophrenia or Schizoaffective disorder?

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

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

Down on the pavement, #221 was parading around on a victory tour while Neil’s car slipped back to the pit area. As he did high-rpm transmission drops and smoking burnouts, we asked Andrea why it wasn’t Neil out there celebrating. “Oh, Neil won that last race, but #221 just won the points standing for the season.” The crowd went crazy for the grandstanding smoke show. Standing, yelling, and turning to each other, the fans cheered the season winner for more.

Soon after the race ended, we were defeated. We were hot and worried about sunburn during the day, but the night air chilled our bones. Our emotions and anxiety for Kenny and Neil had welled up to the brim and were purged with clapping and shouting. Tired and spent, I asked the group if it was time to go, and they agreed. We gave our parting gratitude to Andrea for being our guide to this great American tradition.

On the way home we talked about the races. I vowed to make it back out to Cajon Speedway before its fate is sealed. The next day I saw my dad and gave him a fancy new red, white, and blue ball cap from a speedway that might not be there next year. Maybe it’s time to start a new tradition.

OHS

For more information on this study.

For more information on this study.

OHS

For more information on this study.

For more information on this study.

OHS

For more information on this study.
Two summers ago, when I was 14 years old, my best friend (who I will refer to as Jamie) invited me to spend a couple of weeks with her in Colorado and attend her 15th birthday party.

Jamie, the sweet and humorous individual I met in fifth grade, declared her family’s plans to move to Denver toward the end of our second year in middle school. I was upset, though we promised to write letters and visit each other as much as possible. I kept my promise, writing letters almost weekly and traveling to Colorado to meet her each summer after her departure. I retained pleasant memories from each visit. So, I excitedly accepted Jamie’s invitation to her 15th.

After meeting Jamie and her mother at the airport, we drove to her grandparents’ house, her place of residence after three recent moves. I walked in carrying my bags and looked around. Chaos. Jamie’s cousins were raising hell throughout the house and her grandmother was shouting for tranquillity in a hoarse voice. I could tell this wasn’t an isolated incident. My suppositions were affirmed under the impression that I was madly in love and had planned out the wedding. She’s also territorial about her grandparents’ house, her place of residence after three recent moves. I walked in carrying my bags and looked around. Chaos.

Jamie’s boyfriend was being annoyingly possessive. Every half hour, Jamie’s neglect and agitation toward her "best friend" was reinforced. She would tell me that we were going driving, accusing me of jealousy. “I hate you!” she hollered. While living in Jacksonville, Florida, I had the two best friends any young boy could have imagined. They lived next door, shared the same interests, and were always able to go outside and play. The three of us spent the majority of the year together and grew close. However, our relationship faltered when we were all 12 years old.

The day of the party came and Jamie was in one of her irritated moods. I tried to ignore it as we went to the park with her boyfriend and cousins to decorate. Soon, however, Jamie verbally attacked her cousins. When I told her it was wrong to treat her inoffensive relatives so horribly, she turned toward me and began screaming, accusing me of jealousy. “I hate you!” she hollered.

Although she apologized and we continue to talk, my relationship with Jamie is not the same. I have trouble trusting people’s sincerity, knowing that a friendship of so many years can be carelessly discarded. I forgave Jamie, but I have never forgotten.

One of my oldest and dearest friends is a bit flippant when it comes to dating. She’ll like a guy for about a week and by the time she likes her she’s on to someone else. I like to think of Joanne as the Holly Golightly of Carlsbad High; she’s chic, hip, and always on to something bigger and better. She’s also territorial about the young men who happen to cross her path. Is it my fault that one of her victims happened to be totally cute and just my type?

There are not enough polite, good-looking, non-morally bankrupt boys at Carlsbad High. I mentioned my admiration of Joanne’s ex to a friend. By five o’clock that night, everybody in the western hemisphere (including my parents...a plot twist I have no intention of delving into) was under the impression that I was madly in love and had planned out the wedding down to the color of the bridesmaids’ dresses.

Problems of immense proportions ensued. I received dozens of irate phone calls from Joanne, all of which I hung up on. I felt that she was being too possessive and not understanding of the shortage of decent fellows around; she felt I wasn’t upholding my duties as a friend.

We hardly spoke for a week (a long time in girl land). After several tense lunch periods, it was apparent that Joanne would not forgive my crime of having a crush on an ex-boyfriend. There was only one thing to do and I really didn’t want to. I had to apologize. It was excruciating, but in the end, probably worth it. By the next morning we were both over it and we went shopping.

“I wanted everyone to talk about me, be like me, and be with me. Friendships were miles wide, but only an inch deep.”

— Anne Baker, Carlsbad H.S.

Fights

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they kept at it, apologizing almost weekly for their stupid deed. I finally accepted and the three of us became best friends again. Looking back, I wish I had accepted their apology earlier.

— Patrick Cole, Eastlake H.S.

The phone call came only weeks after the start of my sophomore year. I repeated the message on my voice mail again and again in disbelief. It took a few times before I allowed the yelling, shouting, laughing, and whispering to sink into my head. All I remember were three people shouting derogatory names such as “chink” and “gook.” It didn’t take me too long to find out that they were not strangers, but were my “best friends” from middle school.

When I entered middle school, I surrounded myself with friends who could give me the most attention — nothing else seemed to matter. Being “in” the group was not enough; I wanted everyone to talk about me, be like me, and be with me.

Friendships were miles wide, but only an inch deep. I felt superior, always putting myself before others. I treated my best friends condescendingly, only to find them suppressing their pains and rarely fighting back to defend themselves.

It took almost a year before my best friend developed enough courage to tell me that I was “selfish, spoiled, and self-centered.” I laughed at what she said and refused to believe it. The more I tried to push that thought away, the more she reminded me of how insultingly I treated her. We fought more often about trivial things and held grudges against each other.

Ultimately, she and I were no longer fond of each other and engaged in new relationships. I never saw her again after our eighth-grade promotion. Years later, I received an e-mail with an unfamiliar return address. I opened it and read it once, twice, and for a third time. I sat in my seat for a moment with a big smile on my face.

As the sun rose that day, I felt my heart at peace with my best friend. I uncovered my ten-year-old piano and played my favorite piece, enjoying the warmth of the light on my shoulders.

— Mimi Jun, Mt. Carmel H.S.

When I was 14 years old, one of my new friends that I had met as a freshman in high school backstabbed me. I didn’t realize that I was being attacked until it was too late to do anything but cry. This girl, who shall remain nameless, was friendly, outgoing, and an all-around nice person (or so I thought). Because she was becoming a close friend, I introduced her to my other friends. This was the
R

ecently, my best friend Steven and I engaged in a cold war. We have been friends since first grade, competing over grades and enjoying working and studying together. As time progressed, the competition dissolved as Steven grew distracted by social pursuits. I began to exclude him from study groups, where he was once integral, and I avoided working with him on projects.

I started to see myself as academically superior to Steven — not for my intelligence, but for my dedication and abstention of brown-nosing teachers. My dominance in school provided me with confidence. Steven, startled as he perceived cockiness, he thinks that he is more entitled and I avoided work projects. Last summer I grew angry, particularly when Steven called me at three in the morning, while I was on vacation, to bluntly inform me of a friend’s death.

We are both letting our friendship drift, never confronting one another directly. Without a word, this fight has transcended all other fights I’ve had in length and loss. While lately we are closer than we have been in months, we seem so distant that I still feel as though I am watching my oldest friendship implode. I’m not sure if a friendship can overcome such deep resentment.

— Megan Zapanta,
El Capitan H.S.

beginning of a downward spiral.

First this girl started taking my other friends to expensive places and buying them little presents, as I used to. She waved it off and then went crying to the others. I will not trust people as easily that way again. Now I allow anyone to treat me away from them. I will not last straw, and now I stay away from them. That was the beginning of a downward spiral.

first time I entered high school, I grew annoyed at these inconveniences. Last summer I grew angry, particularly when Steven and I called me at three in the morning, while I was on vacation, to bluntly inform me of a friend’s death.

We are both letting our friendship drift, never confronting one another directly. Without a word, this fight has transcended all other fights I’ve had in length and loss. While lately we are closer than we have been in months, we seem so distant that I still feel as though I am watching my oldest friendship implode. I’m not sure if a friendship can overcome such deep resentment.

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I Spin the Loaded Zodiac

The Ern Malley poetry hoax refuses to die down. In 2002, nearly 60 years after two Australian servicemen invented a modern poet in a single afternoon, John Tranter’s online magazine Jacket featured seven “new” Ern Malley poems: two by John Ashbery and five by John Kinsella. It’s remarkable enough for newly written poems to surface from a poet deceased for 60 years. It’s even more remarkable when that persistently productive, posthumously potent writer turns out never to have existed.

New essays on Ern Malley — by Rebecca Warner and Judy Rowley — have appeared in print or been delivered at literary conferences in the past year. Now comes more evidence of the hoax poet’s appeal. Peter Carey uses the story as the fulcrum of his new novel My Life as a Fake (Knopf, 2003). Everything else in this novel is trumped up, but the Malley hoax, which Carey retells in altered form, is true. In a novel of fabricated imitations it is the genuine fake. Though Carey changes the names of most of the personages involved — Ern Malley becomes Bob McCorkle — it is Malley’s verse that he quotes and Malley’s story, with its twists and paradoxes, that he appropriates.

Unlike most Australian literary developments, the Ern Malley hoax made international headlines when it was sprung in June 1944 — not a slow news period. Two Sydney-based poets, James McAuley and Harold Stewart, had whiled away a weekend in 1943 by creating the complete life-work of a nonexistent poet to whom they gave an identity, replete with birth and death dates and a surviving sister credited with having discovered the poet’s manuscript. They called their creation Ern Malley; Ern, short for Ernest, perhaps in the spirit of Oscar Wilde’s Importance of Being Earnest, in which characters make up names, assume false identities, and see them come to life; Malley, because it contained the French word for bad (mal), which in the hoaxers’ judgment the poems certainly were.

Lieutenant James McAuley and Corporal Harold Stewart hated modernist poetry in general and despised the Adelaide wunderkind Max Harris in particular. Harris, at age 22, edited a self-styled avant-garde literary magazine with a goofy moniker, Angry Penguins. It was to him that McAuley and Stewart submitted all 16 of Malley’s extant poems. Using the name of Ern’s fictional sister Ethel, they attached a cover letter detailing the deceased poet’s short, unhappy life. The poems came as a surprise to her, Ethel said.

She couldn’t disguise her disapproval of her younger brother’s bohemian ways.

She wondered if they had any merit. She knew nothing about poetry herself and couldn’t disguise her disapproval of her younger brother’s bohemian ways. Ern was born in England in 1918, was taken...
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to Australia when his father died two years later, and was brought up by Ethel after their mother died. He was then 15. He had dropped out of school and worked as a garage mechanic in Sydney and as an insurance salesman and part-time watch repairman in Melbourne. “From things he said I gathered he had been fond of a girl in Melbourne but had some sort of difference with her. I didn’t want to ask him too much because he was nerdy and irritable. The crisis came suddenly, and he passed away on Friday, the 23rd of July. As he wished, he was cremated at Rookwood.” McAuley and Stewart had calculated the exact number of days that John Keats had spent on earth when he died shy of his 26th birthday, and they gave their hoax poet the same life span. 

The hoaxers wanted to expose Harris to ridicule. If *Angry Penguins* went for their hoax poet, it would show that the editor and his cohorts couldn’t tell the real from the fake. After all, in crafting the Malley poems, they had gone out of their way to produce bogus verse. They lifted lines haphazardly from books opened at random, made nonsensical sentences, wove together misquotations and false allusions. They made certain the poems offered no coherence, no message, “only confused and inconsistent hints at a meaning held out as a bait to the reader.” Max Harris fell for the bait hook, line, and sinker. He published, the hoaxers pounced, and to make matters even worse for the *Angry Penguins* crowd, the South Australian police seized the issue and filed obscenity charges. The trial, especially the testimony of police detective Vogelsang, was a masterpiece of unwitting self-parody. The beautifully named Vogelsang (from the German for “bird song”) declared the poems to be indecent and for proof pointed at the word “incestuous” in one of them. On cross-examination he admitted he didn’t know the meaning of the word. The poetry of Ern Malley initially succeeded on the terms that McAuley and Stewart dictated. What they had written was parody, caricature. But it has lasted as poetry, and the continuing appeal of the work confirms that not the hoaxers but the hoaxed — especially Max Harris, who never modified his admiration of Malley’s verse — have prevailed. It is not quite in spite of McAuley and Stewart that this happened; it is rather in the very nature of a successful hoax that it makes some predictions fulfill themselves. There are passages where the hoaxers succeed precisely in making the thing they detect — but aping it so well that the result transcends their conscious aims. This stanza from “Sybiline” goes so far as to intimate that Malley does not exist:

And now out of life, permanent revenant, I assert: the caterpillar feet —
Of these predictions lead nowhere, —
It is necessary to understand —
That a poet may not exist, that his writings
Are the incomplete circle and straight drop
Of a question mark and a question mark.
And yet I know I shall be raised up

The hoax made the news in 1944 as a victory for an old guard suspicious that the whole modernist experiment was phony. It stays news because the poems of Ern Malley remain, after all the controversy and debate, in the minds of many the supreme achievement in modern Australian poetry. There is a marvelous combination of mystery, grandeur, dark humor, and self-deprecating wit in Malley. These lines are from “Petit Testament”:

Set this down too: I have pursued rhyme, image, and metre, known all the clichés in which the foot may stick, stumbled often, staggered, but in time the fading voice grows wise and seizing the co-ordinates of all existence traces the inevitable graph.

Malley writes as if aware of his ambiguous existential status — as if merely by existing he is transgressing. Who can resist a poet who describes himself as “an interloper, robber of dead men’s dreams” and as “the black swan of trespass on alien waters”? In May 1976, the faculty of the Brooklyn College MFA poetry program consisted of John Ashbery, Jill Hoffman, and me. Each of us contrived an examination question that the students had to answer satisfactorily, in the form of a short essay, in order to receive the degree. For his question, Ashbery quoted two poems in their entirety and wrote, “One of the two poems below is by a highly respected con-

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temporary poet; the other is a hoax originally published to spoof the obscurity of much modern poetry. Which do you think is which? There then followed the poems, unidentified by author or title:

So much for the elves’ wergild, the true governance of England, the giant warrior-gospel armoured in engraved stone. I wormed my way heavenward for ages amid barbaric ivy, scrollwork of fern.

Exile or pilgrim set me once more upon that ground: my rich and desolate child.

I have avoided your wide English eyes:
But now I am whirled in their vortex.

My blood becomes a Damaged Man
Most like your Albion;
And I must go with stone feet
Down the staircase of flesh
To where in a shuddering embrace
My toppling opposites commit
The obscene, the unforgivable rape.

One moment of daylight let me have
Like a white arm thrust
Out of the dark and self-denying wave
And in the one moment
I shall irremediably attest
How (though with sobs, and torn cries bleeding)
My white swan of quietness lies
Sancitified on my black swan’s breast.

Ashbery never revealed that one of the two poems was from the esteemed poet Geoffrey Hill’s “Mercian Hymns”; the other was Ezra Jackman’s “Sweet William.” But you, dear reader, can surely tell the real from the fake. Can’t you?

— David Lehman

This story originally appeared in Tin House, November 20, 2003,
Midsummer nights, I not infrequently put myself to sleep considering the taste of a warm ripe apricot. I imagine the apricot’s sunrise color, the red blush along its curve. I imagine the apricot’s heft in my palm. I recall its skin’s softness. I imagine the fruit under my nose. I inhale. I break apart the apricot. I love to split these drupe fruits — the fleshy fruits, like peaches and plums, whose flesh surrounds a single hard stone that encloses the fruit’s seed. I press both thumbs along

the fruit’s curve and gently pull the fruit apart and expose the flesh. I study the smooth, hard seed. I get in there with my thumbnail and lift out the seed. I enjoy the stone’s resistance. I set half the apricot in my left palm and with my right hand lift the other half to my mouth and suck and bite. When I get to the sucking and biting part, my fantasy apricot seems so real I’m sometimes surprised grainy orange juice isn’t dribbling down my chin onto the pillow.

The other day I bought a dozen apricots. I stood on tiptoe and lifted down a white dinner plate. A cobalt blue line runs just inside the plate’s edge. I arranged the apricots in a circle, along that blue line. I left the plate on the kitchen counter. Afternoon heat deepened the fruit’s aroma, the way flushed skin intensifies a woman’s perfume.

I might have considered apricot tart or apricot preserves or tossing a half dozen apricots in the Cuisinart and pulping them to pour over ice cream. I didn’t. I thought about my father-in-law.

I see him as he was several years ago: a gnome shrunk down inside a bright Hawaiian shirt grown too large for him. Cigarette ash litters the shirt’s red hibiscus. He reeks of whiskey. His face over the years has turned increasingly simian, as if his face sought its way back through elaborate genealogies to its first forebear. He looks like a mean tanned monkey.

My father-in-law had the best apricot tree in town. The town was and is a small town, set down in a Pacific Northwest valley. He was born there, from pioneer stock. He planted the apricot tree when he first moved back after the war and bought the house where my husband grew up. I once asked my father-in-law if he remembered what kind it was — Floragold? Goldrich? Moon-gold? Moorpark? Wenatchee Moorpark? He didn’t remember. He said it was a few twigs and a root ball wrapped in burlap when he got it and that he’d also planted, at the same time, Bing cherries, pie cherries, pears, apples, peaches, plums. The vast orchard he had planned, he said, “didn’t pan out.” Winter took the other trees. Winters there were harsh. The apricot tree persisted.

He pruned the tree over the years, and the tree towered and spread. I am 5’5” and could stand beneath its lowest branches and still not have my head touch the tree’s dark green, broad, heart-shaped leaves. Only a few sparse grass tufts prospered beneath its shade.

My father-in-law said he liked to look out the kitchen window and see that the white blossoms had set on the tree. “Means spring’s here for good.” An odd look flickered across his face when he said that, as if he were reliving a moment that felt good and hurt bad all in the same instant.

I stood in my father-in-law’s yard late one spring morning. A few days earlier, he’d tilled his vegetable garden. The garden took up an entire lot. I gazed across the brown furrowed soil, which he had not yet begun to plant. The apricot tree stood at the garden’s farthest edge. Beyond the tree, emerald green grass rolled out to the horizon. The tree rose to perhaps fifteen feet. Sun poured down on the white blossoms. The wind that blew all spring through the valley blew that day. The wind fluttered the apricot tree’s branches. White petals rose into the air.

Ecstasy is difficult to write about. My father-in-law, I think, well may have known ecstasy when he looked out his kitchen window at those white blossoms. His simian face...
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with its creases and the red spots where he had skin cancers burned away, looked, I think, like it looked some Sundays at church.

He was a lay reader in our Episcopal parish. He often was appointed to read one of the lessons. Some Sundays before he drove into the parish parking lot and strode into the sacristy and slipped into the white surplice that lay readers wore, he played nine holes of golf and drank down I don’t know how many Bloody Marys. So that by the time he stood to walk to the lectern, his gait was unsteady. When he read, he slurred his words.

Lay readers sit beyond the altar rail and face the congregation. My father-in-law not infrequently slept during the sermon. His tanned monkey face bobbed above the white surplice; when he snapped back into consciousness, he gasped. Children occasionally tittered.

After the sermon came the Mass. Most Episcopalians of my father-in-law’s generation accept that the words said by the priest over bread and wine turn those elements into the Body and Blood of Christ. My father-in-law believed that. When the priest extended the paten, transformed into Christ’s flesh, toward my father-in-law, his mean monkey face took on that same look that he had when he said, about his apricot tree’s white radiance, “Means spring’s here for good.”

Why I’d asked my father-in-law, “Do you remember what kind of apricot tree that is?” was that I wanted to plant an apricot tree alongside the fence in our yard. I studied up on apricot trees. Apricot, like apple or peach or pear or cherry trees, are either “self fruitful” or “self unfruitful.” Varieties that bear fruit from pollination among their own flowers are “self fruitful.” Those requiring pollen from another variety are “self unfruitful.”

Given that my father-in-law had only one apricot tree and that it regularly put forth its white shroud of flowers, followed by a profuse setting of fruit, it had to be self fruitful. It could not have been Goldrich, which is self unfruitful, and must have been, I think now, either Moorpark or Wenatchee Moorpark.

In-laws, for almost everyone, are difficult. Rarely do your in-laws believe that you are good enough for their child, and rarely are you. I had hoped to be gathered into my husband’s family the way egg whites are folded into a cake batter. I wasn’t. They would have preferred my husband marry a local girl like his younger brother did. They would have preferred someone whose family they knew. I grew to dislike them, in large part because they disliked me. But as much as I disliked them, I wanted them to like me and to approve their son’s choice of me.

My father-in-law was a gifted, orderly gardener. His rows ran straight and were as weedless as his wife’s kitchen floor was without crumb or stain. His Romaine and Bibb and Iceberg and Black Seeded Simpson lettuces, one head after the other, grew equidistant from one another. His Blue Lake pole beans ran up straight white string, as did his peas. His Straight Eight cucumbers dangled down among wide
noted that his mother seemed to regard his father’s gardening as some unspeakable, filthy habit. My father-in-law brought in five-six apricots at a time that he ate out of hand. The rest he gave to me and to neighbors. My mother-in-law would have none of them. She said apricots weren’t “big, like peaches.” She said that she liked canned fruit better than fresh.

When my father-in-law telephoned us or dropped by our house to tell us the apricots were ready, we went with boxes and two small buckets. The stepladder waited under the tree. That ladder must have been 20 years old. It was metal and every year showed more rust.

He stood to the side and watched us as we stood under his tree. My husband climbed up on the ladder and carefully, one after another, set the apricots in the bucket. Then, he climbed down and handed me the full bucket, picked up the empty bucket and climbed back up the ladder. I, meantime, sat on my heels at the tree’s edge, packing the delicate fruit. I took great pains to take the fruit from

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“I put meals on the table,” and “Nothing fancy,” was how my mother-in-law described her cooking. She cooked vegetables down to mush and meat until it looked like geology exhibits. My husband said that his mother “feared rawness.” She hated her husband’s garden produce. “The vegetables,” she sighed, “are so dirty.” She often threw out the big Detroit Dark Red beets and the Royal Chantenay carrots that he carried in a zinc bucket from garden to kitchen. My husband
I easily understood why the Persians, who were growing apricots before the birth of Christ, called them “eggs of the sun.”

I washed and pitted them. As one after another ripe fruit passed through my bare hands I easily understood why the Persians, who were growing apricots before the birth of Christ, called them “eggs of the sun.” I made several apricot pies, and apricot preserves and apricot chutney. I had not yet learned to make an apricot tart and would not, for years. If any apricots remained, I canned them, halved, in pint jars with Bing cherries. You layer the raw fruit inside the canning jar so that the cherry-filled side faces out. You pour hot sugar syrup in the jars and then process them in the canning kettle. The cherry’s red tincture bleeds into the orange apricot’s interior.

I sent my husband over to his parents’ house with a pie and several jars of preserves and canned apricots. I knew even then that my motives were mixed. I genuinely wanted to give something back to my father-in-law for what he gave us; I also wanted to show him I wasn’t a no-good, that at least in the kitchen he might reckon me as virtuous as any local girl.

Several weeks after our first picking, my father-in-law would invite us again.
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this time to gather windfalls. Winds that blew through the valley in early summer blew ripe apricots onto the ground. The fruit, once it fell, deteriorated quickly. Skin split in the fall and the flesh turned brown. Wasps whirred above the toppled fruit. While my husband stripped the tree of the last fruit, I gathered windfalls. The decomposed fruit, I threw into a garbage sack; recently fallen fruit I packed into boxes for preserves and nectar. The last time I did this, a wasp stung my arm, right above the wrist. The sting was painful. The swelling, later, was ugly.

I think I am correct in believing that what we do not like in our in-laws — say, something as petty as bad table manners or as big as mean-spiritedness — is a habit or trait that we fear will surface in our mates. We worry that when love’s initial bloom drops away, that a wife will bolt her food and keep her elbow on the table or that a husband will not give a friend or a child the benefit of the doubt.

I had trouble with apricot tarts. I could make a tart that tasted good but didn’t look pretty. I was young and lacked patience. The tart dough, richer than common piecrust dough, and more difficult to handle, turned ragged by the time I rolled it out and fit it into the tart tin. I had trouble slipping off the apricots’ skins without ripping the fruit’s flesh. The custard that sits beneath the apricots, I didn’t stir with sufficient assiduity and it had lumps. And, finally, because I did not keep the flame turned low enough, the apricot glaze that finishes off the tart turned past the promised gold to brown. I fretted and wept and regretted who and what I was and felt shame at the truth about myself that ruined my tarts. I was in too big a hurry. I wanted goodness and beauty, but I wanted them fast.

My mother-in-law declared herself “happy as a clam,” after my father-in-law retired from dentistry, when they sold the big house where the apricot tree reigned. She said, “I intend to be as retired as he is retired.” They not only sold the house, they sold almost all its furnishings. They bought a doublewide trailer in a court outside town. My father-in-law ate his breakfast downtown at Webster’s Café. He hunkered, with his buddies, men he’d known since childhood, at the counter. They brought silver pocket flasks filled with liquor and poured the liquor into their coffee.
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My father-in-law is beyond my dislike. I am beyond his.
He has entered apricots.
He inhabits every bite.

I slowly roll out the pastry and fit it into the tin. The custard is smooth, rich, eggy, and subtle. I cut halved apricot slices into the custard and centrifuge them. I brush on strained apricot jam. I do not have to set the timer to remember the oven.

My father-in-law is beyond my dislike. I am beyond his.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bikini or Underarms</td>
<td>$75</td>
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<td>Bikini &amp; Underarms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Back</td>
<td>$299</td>
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<td>Chin</td>
<td>$49</td>
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<td>Lip &amp; Chin</td>
<td>$79</td>
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<td>Chest or Abdomen</td>
<td>$150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legs (Both)</td>
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Gilbert Lee, M.D.

The San Diego Reader March 10, 2005
**In That Sea of Tattoos and Piercings**

**The Word is Retrieved**

February 16, 2004

**Do You Have Reservations?**

I wish I could tell a story of red roses and dark chocolate candies, of a paddleboat in a lake with a gentle breeze playing at our hair. I want nothing more than to describe a perfect day where a husband and wife forgot the world if only for that 24 hours and withdrew to a place previously unknown to them or to anyone. But that’s not my Valentine story. In truth, I’m not remotely romantic and in confessing this I must also add that if I were to attempt to be romantic, my wife would suspect some sort of lechery on my part. But I love my wife and somehow, I want to find ways to express this without being clichéd or feeling the movie plot formula where the passion is out in the van with her hippie mom had made it to the Supercuts, finally willing to give her hair long. It took forever for me to make it to the hair salon, only to be met with an empty house to some teenagers and put this formula in the hands of Bertolucci. Instead of a wild party complete with kegs and torn-down walls, you get wine drinking and incest. Of course, there was nudity and another type of wall dismantling. I enjoyed the film and believed that a nice dinner would end up making the day complete.

It wasn’t to be. I’d assumed we could get a steak that should have been medium was rare and where the cashier stood and撕 down walls, you get wine drinking and incest. It wasn’t to be. Forgiving the couple for not being here, really. Just killing time while my wife was away for an overdue trim. Outside, in full view of all in the waiting area, the sidewalk teemed with its usual traffic: the drug dealers, crack addicts, and prostitutes. Inside, a young hippie movie star stared at the Supercuts price chart, budgeting the little bit of money her husband had allowed for haircuts for her and her two daughters. From time to time, she’d sprint out to the van to ask for more, and the figures in her head rising with the hands of Bertolucci. Instead of being “unrelentingly violent” and killing time while my wife is away for an overdue trim. Outside, in full view of all in the waiting area, the sidewalk teemed with its usual traffic: the drug dealers, crack addicts, and prostitutes. Inside, a young hippie movie star stared at the Supercuts price chart, budgeting the little bit of money her husband had allowed for haircuts for her and her two daughters. From time to time, she’d sprint out to the van to ask for more, and the figures in her head rising with

However, I wish I could tell a story of red roses and dark chocolate candies, of a perfect day where a husband and wife forgot the world if only for that 24 hours and withdrew to a place previously unknown to them or to anyone. But that’s not my Valentine story. In truth, I’m not remotely romantic and in confessing this I must also add that if I were to attempt to be romantic, my wife would suspect some sort of lechery on my part. But I love my wife and somehow, I want to find ways to express this without being clichéd or feeling the movie plot formula where the passion is out in the van with her.

Earlier in the day, I sat fifth in line at Supercuts, finally willing to give up an hour of my time in exchange for an overdue trim. Outside, in full view of all in the waiting area, the sidewalks of El Cajon Boulevard teemed with its usual traffic: the drug dealers, crack addicts, and prostitutes. Inside, a young hippie movie star stared at the Supercuts price chart, budgeting the little bit of money her husband had allowed for haircuts for her and her two daughters. From time to time, she’d sprint out to the van to ask for more, and the figures in her head rising with the hands of Bertolucci. Instead of being “unrelentingly violent” and

**The Dreamers.** It wasn’t to be. Forgive me, Elaine. Earlier in the day, I sat fifth in line at Supercuts, finally willing to give up an hour of my time in exchange for an overdue trim. Outside, in full view of all in the waiting area, the sidewalks of El Cajon Boulevard teemed with its usual traffic: the drug dealers, crack addicts, and prostitutes. Inside, a young hippie movie star stared at the Supercuts price chart, budgeting the little bit of money her husband had allowed for haircuts for her and her two daughters. From time to time, she’d sprint out to the van to ask for more, and the figures in her head rising with the hands of Bertolucci. Instead of being “unrelentingly violent” and

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starts when he's turned over to the Romans. Unrelentlessly violent beating. Sniffles can be heard over the crappy speaker. A few people seem to need a break. I've learned one thing: betray the Son of man and you'll not only come down with an advanced state of leprosy, but little kids will turn into frightening dwarves and chase you from the city gates. Judas swings from a tree.

Before my Supercut moment, I watched the action on the boulevard. Across the street, a woman in a pink tube top leaned against the wall of an out-of-business furniture store talking to a humped-back man with a halo of unkempt hair around a blushing bald spot. He pointed nervously at something across the alley as she whipped out her cell phone. A few minutes later, they would walk in opposite directions and my name would be called.

Jesus is on his way to Golgotha and I'm hungry. I weigh my dinner options as this shell of a Jesus endures more beatings. I'm starting to have a Titanic moment: I want this Christ to be crucified just as I wanted that ship to sink. Anything to get this movie done with.

"How'd you like it cut?"

"Five on top; four on the sides."

"Short huh?"

It is accomplished. Two hours and ten bucks of my life...A few people clap; a few others seem to be in a trance. I'm hungry. I don't understand the purpose of this movie, but I can see why the believers might find it worthwhile.

While in the chair, the buzz of the number four working around the curve of my right ear, I decided to go to a movie. What to see? Starsky and Hutch is sacrilegious. Why does Hollywood feel the need to remake everything? My final choice would be the Jesus movie.

I can't get to Carls Jr. fast enough. A wrong turn takes me to the back of a parking lot where my headlights expose a man in the passenger seat of a car. A woman's head pops up, and I realize...
that I need to make a U-turn. Finally inside Carls, I have to wait behind two college kids in togas. If their faces distort, I'll consider church tomorrow.

I looked in the rearview mirror. This haircut should last me a few months. For the time being, I was definitely a changed man.

March 29, 2004

Masago (or How I Made My Wife Cry)
Masago made my wife cry. Actually, I take all the blame, but it's a long story.

Masago, or “fish eggs,” as my wife puts it when asking for them to be left off of her sushi, sprouted from the already late-arriving Philly roll like orange blossoms on a desert cactus. I’d finished off my hot dynamite and my chicken curry and was more than just a little ready to leave. When the waitress placed the little plate in front of her, Elaine's demeanor changed, from anticipation to frustration. They’d forgotten her request, ignored it, and now she seemed stuck with having to scrape the eggs off with chopsticks, an exercise in futility.

But that’s not why she cried.

We’d spent that day on a quest to see the desert bloom, a 90-minute drive through the recently burned mountains to the very edge of civilization, to Borrego Springs and the Anza-Borrego State Park, where we soon found out that the peak had been days before and that all that remained was a scattered bloom, enough to make us realize what we had missed. Elaine snapped a few pictures but because of the heat and my growing fatigue we decided to abandon any thought of a hike. I examined a map at the park information center and noticed that the Salton Sea was only a half-hour away.

We continued driving through the surreal landscape of saltmangers and powerlines weighted down by cement. Mountain peaks in the distant red and gray, evidence of a past when water filled the basin and the surface teemed with ocean life. Now it was scrub and arid nothingness. After one last curve in the road, the Salton Sea appeared, the water shimmering in the middle of a desert, a contradiction of sorts. Soon the landscape turned green, and small towns with unfamiliar names dotted the landscape: Brawley, Imperial, Westmoreland. Towns of sated nomads, a life in this desert, with gas station bathroom graffiti and scorched coffee and oddly named steak houses. The Martian landscape tried to become something else, reminded Elaine of Alabama with its cows and alfalfa fields and John Deere dealers.

After seeing the blackhawks near the military outpost, we were back to familiar roads, El Centro and the 8, and the climb from below sea level to 5000 feet and back down through boulder-lined blacktop, Border Patrol checkpoints, and radiator water stations. El Centro became El Cajon and the tan sands

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became San Diego green and we were home again.

Three hundred and fifty miles later we sat in the overcrowded Kyoto Sushi, the waitress warning us that she was busy. It took 15 minutes to get our drinks.

Then she forgot the miso soup. And Elaine’s Philly roll.

The desert heat, even from inside the car, had taken what was left of our energy and left us hungry and moody. Especially me. So I stared at Elaine poking at the masago, begging me to get her a fork, and I snapped.

“Just try it. It doesn’t have a taste,” I growled. She looked up from her roll and I saw a woman disappointed. “I can’t. I don’t care if it tastes like water, I don’t want it in my mouth. They get stuck in your teeth and,” she paused to wipe the orange balls from her chopsticks, “and they pop when you bite them.”

That’s when it came, the moment of frustration, the apex of fatigue from a week’s worth of banging my head on the rungs of the corporate ladder.

“Damn, you’re like a ten-year-old.”

That’s what I said. And she cried.

I apologized because I didn’t mean to lash out. I hate to see anyone cry. I’m male and incapable of dealing. As if to prove this, I apologized again and started laughing, a Troilus laugh. It seemed to work; she smiled, wiping away the one tear that remained on her cheek with the masago-stained napkin.

We abandoned the Philly roll and left Kyoto Sushi. We both needed a bed and sleep to get the desert out of our bones.

March 31, 2004

Synergy

Nothing in my life remains a constant for long, especially luck. The past few days, things have been teetering on the good side. Friday, I scored a free cup of coffee at Starbucks because their registers were down, and asking anyone to use a pen and paper to add digits is a really tough assignment. Saturday, I (or I...
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He's a gracious guy, always with a friendly handshake to the two people he's just pummelled, their 15 minutes of fame now a half-hour of nationally televised and forever-in-syndication shame.

One recent contest, he fell behind early to contestants number three, a young Canadian who seemed to be on his game. But it was just a matter of time. The Canadian didn't know about fish, so when he landed on the Daily Double! with a chance to take a commanding lead into Double Jeopardy! he flinched, cowered at the thought of throwing away his chance at becoming the next Ken Jennings. Worst of all, he showed weakness. Like a shark to blood, Ken devoured the kid, running off entire rows of correct questions, taking the momentum to the Double Jeopardy! round where he nailed both Daily Doubles! and coasted to an easy win.

One thing about Ken: he'll only go so far. Alex dangles the one-day-record carrot in front of his nose, yet despite many chances, he plays it conservatively. Maybe he believes in karma. Or it could be his Mormon upbringing, the fact that by taking that risk,
he is possibly committing a sin worse than caffeine consumption — gambling. I'm guessing that he's saving it all up for a great dénouement. He'll look into the camera as the Final Jeopardy! question is revealed and announce, “I'm stepping down, Alex.” The crowd will oooh, Alex will make a horrid attempt at saying something funny, but Ken will not be swayed. “This will be my final Final Jeopardy!” And in an unprecedented move, the producers of the show will reveal his wager before his answer. We'll all see that he's bet it all. He could end up with $73,240 for a “one-day total.”

And then it will be over. Ken will have his street (or a school or a park) named after him. Alex will grow his moustache back in honor of this great man. We will all realize that there will never be another Ken Jennings.

July 06, 2004

Ten things I discovered during this three-day weekend
1) Three days is never enough, so that Monday which should be Sunday will only lead to a strenuous Tuesday and the loss of a day’s worth of work, making the four days more stressful than the five days, so that I’m left confused and anguished and in need of a fifth day at work or a fourth day off.
2) I can no longer sleep late even if I try. This coming from someone who just a few years ago could sleep well past noon and still not feel rested. Now I’m up by 7:00 and fighting to go back to sleep.
3) Homer the barking dog (seen here relaxing away a stressful barking day) hates fireworks but loves pork chops, both I actually already knew but thought I would mention here anyway.
4) The view outside the stadium from the top of the upper deck at Petco Park is amazing. The climb to the top of the upper deck at Petco is deadly. The hot dogs at the concession stands in the upper deck at Petco are horrible.
5) Rereading Catch-22 after ten years is a worthy endeavor. In many ways, it’s a completely different novel than what I remembered.
6) One should soak unhusked corn in water for longer than 15 minutes before attempting to grill it. Also, it’s probably a good idea to clean the grease trap in the gas grill every so often. The combination of flaming husks and accumulated grease can and will lead to some unpleasant results.
7) Seeing a cat with a fucked-up eye can ruin your wife’s day.
8) I really enjoy reading Tingle Alley.
9) Small “bursts” of stress can be good for your immune system.
10) Hannah, the quiet dog, turned 11 on Sunday. She also likes pork chops, but fireworks don’t seem to
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For reservations, call 1-800-SCRIPPS or visit lapbypass.com for information.

Featured singer – Carnie Wilson before her 1999 surgery.

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yards behind where Palahniuk was describing pro-lapse, a young girl, proba-
bly 12 or 13, stood in the Young Adult section, a book opened in her hands, her head
down as if reading, but her attention obviously focused on what was being
broadcast throughout the store. She acted as if she didn’t know whether to smile or
run to her mother to ask a question, and I’m sure there were plenty of questions
she could ask. As for me, I won-
dered if Palahniuk cared, if reading for this crowd that needed to be shocked, to live
up to his image of a hardcore writer of hardcore subjects trumped the fact that
this store was full of 12-year-olds who had neither needed his warn-
ing to leave, who only wanted to read a biography about Britney. I’m no moralist, so
I certainly wasn’t outraged. Just curious.

Palahniuk finished the story and asked if anyone had passed out. I looked back
over to where the girl had been, but she had dis-
appeared. “Six people? That ties a record,” Palahniuk said, then accepted even more
pride applause from the kids, all of them realizing that they had a place in Cult
history. Palahniuk began a Q & A session, handing out tiaras and crowns to the lucky
ones who asked him a ques-
tion. I wanted to ask Palah-
niuk about the little girl, but I
also wanted to make it to
my car without becoming a
bather, I returned to my desk
my fill of naked woman sun-
that next day after getting
ing to leave, who only wanted
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**Uncommon Optimist**
If Hunter Thompson had been black, the two autograph-seekers that drove “all the way” to L.A. to impress him with a bottle of scotch would have licked his jack-boots from the waist down (“Blurt,” February 24). Hunter’s style of rage against the ominous quiétude of the bourgeoisie has seen but few challengers for sheer authenticity and, yes, compassion, among white men or women of his and our generation. African-Americans are a different matter — except that as soon as someone takes them seriously they seem to get assassinated (Malcolm X, Martin Luther King) or they have strange accidents. Notwithstanding the acting out of thoughtless criminals that perpetrate the crimes of property and violence we read about each day, most Americans are like cattle in their Texas two-step march to the shopping mall to fulfill a destiny of consumption until that final last purchase of a crematorium package (now with a cruise benefit). Hunter Thompson’s brilliance was his unconstrained characterization by contrast of the sleepwalking state of mind reflected in the political correctness and culpability of a culture that is offended by the rude gesticulations of a clown while blithely overlooking genocide and eco-logic suicide. In these spiritually desolate times, when it requires uncommon optimism to keep body and soul together, I say again, Duke is dead. Long live Hunter Thompson. Your money’s worth — their collectible memorabilia, “Eat shit and die” indeed.

Michael Winn via e-mail

**Selfless Rides**
On February 10 your newspaper published a wonderful article titled “Out and About” written by Ernie Grimm (“City Lights”). In the article you address many of the transportation programs available to seniors and disabled adults throughout the county. While the article was very inclusive and mentioned many of the positive benefits of all the mentioned programs, you had one glaring omission.

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California has run a very successful transportation program in South Bay from the Normam Park Center for the past 11 years. The program is geared toward low-income seniors and disabled adults. The service is free for low-income seniors and disabled adults. If a person is over the income guidelines and can no longer drive, we will still be able to provide transportation for $33 per month.

We have a unique program in that our volunteer drivers pick the person up at their front door, drive them to their destination, whether it be their bank, doctor’s appointment, or the grocery store. They then escort the person back to their front door. If the person has gone to a grocery store, the driver will, if he or she is able, carry their bags in. This is a one-on-one interaction, enabling the drivers to know their clients, and they are thus able to report back to us if there are any changes in a person’s demeanor, either physically or mentally. We are mandated reporters. The client knows they can completely trust our drivers, a very important issue in this day and age when so many scams are perpetrated on seniors who, because of their trusting nature, are too often victims.

For 10 of the 11 years that the program has been in existence, we operated on a shoestring with no funding whatsoever. Last year, through the generosity of three anonymous donors, we received donations that totaled $6700. We immediately spent $5000 of that on gas cards, something that we had always hoped we might be able to do because our drivers supply not only their cars but also their own gas. We are now able to at least compensate our drivers for the gas money they spend.

Recently one of our very dedicated drivers who has been with us for six years celebrated his 500th ride. This averages 83 rides a year. He has become much more than a driver to the people he helps, inquiring about a person’s family, their health, picking up their mail for them, and performing many small and thoughtful services. He is constantly in demand and greatly loved by all who come in contact with him. He was, in fact, volunteer of the month for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program in December of 2004.

We are very proud of our services, and recently East County has gotten a program in their cities using our formula. We hope to get started in La Mesa and Ramona.

Drivers go through a screening and training process. If necessary, we will even do it one-on-one. The most important thing that we always try to keep in mind is the safety and physical well-being of the people we are helping. We average 600 rides a year, and it makes such a difference in people’s lives.

Ann Perry
Chula Vista
thursday | 10
SAN DIEGO LATINO FILM FESTIVAL Films from Mexico, Cuba, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Guatemala, Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina, and Spain screen at the Hazard Center through March 20. See FILM, page 92

TOMMY The rock opera based on the Who’s ’69 rock album, adapted by band member Pete Townshend and La Jolla playhouse director Des McAnuff, performed at Palomar College. See THEATER, page 109

saturday | 12
MARThA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY Landmark works by the grande dame of dance (including Aaron Copland’s Appalachian Spring) with musical accompaniment by members of the San Diego Symphony, at Copley Symphony Hall. See DANCE, page 91

FUTUREHEADS These Brits reinvent garage rock with a mix of pop, new wave, and postpunk. At Epicentre. See CLUBS, page 131

sunday | 13
ANNUAL UGLY DOG CONTEST: Awards include dogs that look like their owners and unusual dog markings. Registration at 10:00 a.m., show at 11:15, at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. See SPECIAL, page 98

Local Events page 88 | Classical Music page 103 | Art Museums & Galleries page 104
Theater page 105 | Pop Music page 111 | Restaurants page 137 | Movies page 150
Bug Snapshot

Microbes Killed with Resin

On a daily basis, innumerable signals are broadcast on innumerable frequencies, all passing through our bodies, houses, everything, constantly. Unless we have a receiver tuned to a specific frequency, these invisible transmissions go largely unnoticed....I hope to create an experience in which the audience becomes strangely aware of the invisible signals filling the air around them.” This is how local artist Joseph Winter describes his current work.

“The audience will experience the piece through my collection of electronics placed throughout the gallery, but is also invited to bring their own FM radio to the event or park their car [nearby] and tune in to the frequencies announced before the piece begins,” says Winter. He will demonstrate his performance piece, entitled Interference Music, on Friday, March 11, as part of the Voz Alta Project’s collaborative art show in East Village.

According to its website, the Voz Alta Project is a “Chicana/o nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting community empowerment and social change through cross-cultural and multidisciplinary art forms.” This exhibition, entitled Pencil on Glass, will include work by six San Diego artists, four of whom are currently in the MFA program at UCSD.

Five of the artists are based in New York City; they were invited to take part in this show by cocurator Jeff Williams. The idea behind the Voz Alta Project’s collaborative art show mixing this local event with New York artists was Williams’s idea. He hopes that as New Yorkers’ work will be grouped together on the opposite wall, small drawings, paintings, and etchings form the majority of this group exhibition. Some drawings on paper will be affixed to the wall with clear pushpins, while others are framed and hung. Of the work, Winter’s performance art and one other artist’s work stand out.

An installation piece consisting of four acrylic rectangular boxes, serving as petri dishes, will be displayed in the front window. Shannon Spanhake, one of the four artists in UCSD’s MFA program, has created what she calls “microbial landscape portraits.”

“I wanted [the visible air from inside Voz Alta] to impede the viewer’s view looking through the window,” she says. The piece will be installed vertically, with four sections making a total of eight feet by one and a half feet. To create this work, Spanhake filled each shallow box with nutrient-rich gelatin and inoculated (exposed to the air) them inside Voz Alta’s gallery space for an hour. Bacteria, mold, and yeast from the air settled onto the gelatin within the petri dishes and began to “feed and grow” from its nutrients. She considers this to be the “portrait” of the space, for what is in the air became visible on the gelatin.

After allowing these microorganisms to grow for one week, Spanhake killed the microbes by pouring liquid resin over them, a substance that eventually sets into a hard, clear plastic. She obtained the resin from Home Depot. Looking through the resin, the ex-living creatures look like blazed, beige polka dots interspersed with small orange and yellow spots — ranging from the size of a silver dollar to the head of a needle.

“Yeast is beautiful,” Spanhake says, pointing out the more colorful spots. Spanhake has a history of working with bacteria. In a previous show, she engineered E. coli to be 11 different colors, including hot pink. Her vehicle for displaying the colorful E. coli was perfume bottles. (E. coli, as you may know, is an organism that lives in the intestines of cattle but can be deadly to humans.) When asked how this was possible, Spanhake launched science-speak, but I could catch the terms “DNA” and “splitting genes.” How does an artist in the MFA program get involved in molecular biology? For Spanhake, who has a background in electrical engineering, the answer is clear.

“When you’re an engineer, you kind of put things together,” she says. “I met up with a great molecular biologist, and he lets me use his lab to make my artwork. E. coli is pretty ubiquitous, so it wasn’t hard to get a hold of it for my project.” Eager to transition away from what I know as the “poo bacteria,” I asked about the trails of air bubbles connecting many of the circular colonies in this life-as-art work is pretty enterprising, even she gets grossed out on occasion. “When they’re alive, they can really smell.”

— Barbarella
To beer, or not to beer...

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Events that are underlined occur after March 17.

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**BAJA**

The “Tijuana Legends” Tribute to Sor Aubea starts at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, at Casa de Zona Río. Quintet members include the female violinist of Juarez City, performed by Conjunto Teatro Company, Thursday, March 10, 8 p.m., at Tijuana Cultural Center (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, in Zona Río). 011-52-664-687-9600. Free. (Tijuana)

La Quinta Estación in concert on Friday, March 11, 8 p.m., at Tangalo Club (on Boulevard Agua Caliente). 011-52-664-681-8091. (Tijuana)

Alberto Cortez appears in concert on Friday, March 11, 9 p.m., at Tijuana Cultural Center (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, in Zona Río). 011-52-664-687-9600. Tickets: $35, $45 U.S. (Tijuana)

Pepe Aguilar performs Saturday, March 12, 8 p.m., at Monumental Building by the Sea. Tickets: $20, $40, $60 U.S. 011-52-664-608-4692. (Playas de Tijuana)

Half Marathon starts at 8 a.m. on Sunday, March 13, at Centro Crico. 011-52-664-683-6962. (Mexicali)

**OUTDOORS**

The Pleasantry Pungent Odor of sage is filling the air wherever native vegetation grows on the county’s coastal and lower foothill slopes. Most common are the black sage, with tight clusters of small, white flowers; the grayish-leaved, white sage; purple-blossomed, sweet-climbing sage; and California sagebrush, characterized by soft, needle-like leaves. Ornamental Peach Trees, with radiant white and pink blossoms, are lighting up the manicured landscapes near Paseo de los Latinos and Laurel Street in Balboa Park. These and other “stone fruit” trees, with and without edible fruits, bring to the guru Prunes. Several native Prunes species contribute to San Diego County’s natural vegetation, among them, hol- leafy cherry, choke cherry, desert almond, and desert apricot. The desert apricot, now in full bloom on the rocky hillsides of the Anza- Borrego Desert, attracts swarms of bees with its sweet-smelling flower.

**MOUNTAINS**

Big Bear Cool Cabins— Check Rates & Book Online, Pet-Friendly Available Cabin, condo or luxury home, near the ski slopes and lake. All have fireplace, barbecue, TV, VCR or DVD, stereo and kitchen. Many come with hot tub and foosball or pool table. Professional housekeeping, towels, linens and all included. www.bigbearcoolcabins.com or 800-550-8779.


**DESERTS**

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**SEA**


Baja Diving In La Paz Only $299 Includes 4 hotel nights and 6 amazing boat dives! Breakfast, lunch and transportation included! Add a roundtrip flight from LAX, only $199! This tax. Spa packages, snorkels, mantas and sea lions sweat! Carey Outdoors. Since 1992 www.careyoutdoors.com 800-523-7249.

**Puerto Escondido:** Mexican Riviera Pipeline Come surf, relax, and enjoy the beautiful Mexican Riviera! Ideally located a few steps from exotic beaches, the best surfing in South Mexico, and only one mile from Puerto Escondido International Airport. We include diving, fishing, and sailing, this is the perfect holiday destination. The gorgeous 4-bedroom house features satellite TV, two phone lines and internet access. Kitchen is just back in a luminous at the cabana. Room specials start at only $99/night, including breakfast & housekeeping. 415-204-0032, 619-225-0448 reservations. www.marineturtles.com/mexup.


**DANCE**

_“danceAlive!”_ A diverse collection of dance pieces by faculty and guest choreographers, directed by Yolanda Snaith, showcased March 10-13, in Mandell Weiss Forum at UCSD. Curtain rizes at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, 7 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets $15 general, $5-10 students, seniors. 858-534-4574. (LA JOLLA)

The All-Age Fairy Tale _Purim the Sni_ is “about the Earth, borders, and the spirit of children,” created and choreographed by Gina Angiule for Evoque Dance Theatre. Performances continue through March 26 at Old Wonderbread Factory (147 4th street). Shows begin at 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets $20 general, pay what you can on Sundays. 619-238-1153. (CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA)

Martha Graham Dance Company performs March 11 and 12, 8 p.m., in Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street). Friday’s program includes _Appalachian Spring, Emeral into the Maze_, _Diversion of the Angels, Sketches from Chronicon_, and _on Saturday, enjoy_ _Appalachian Spring, Cave of the Heart, Deep Song, Satyric Festival Song, Lamentations, Division of the Angels_. Tickets $35-105. Reservations: 858-439-3728. (DOWNTOWN)

Ragtime-Era Two-Step Variations highlight beginner-friendly dance on Friday, March 11, in room 207 of Casa del Prado. Lessons at 7:30 p.m., followed by open dancing. All ages, singles, partners. Free. 619-583-9956. (BULGARIA)

Bellydance Dinner Show featuring Rachel and guests, live music by Middle-earth Ensemble, Friday, March 11, 7 p.m., at Greek Palace (8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard). No cover. 858-573-0155. (HEARNY MESA)

Salsa Central, DJ Pana mixes salsa, merengue, and cha-cha during dance for those 18 and older on Friday, March 11, 8 p.m. to midnight, upstairs at Mission Valley Resort Hotel, 875 Hotel Circle South; $12. 760-943-2260. (CHULA VISTA)

Leroy Thomas and the Zydence Roadrunners perform _zydeco dance_ hosted by Bon Temps Social Club in Recital Hall, Saturday, March 12. Dance instruction at 6:20 p.m., live music from 7 to 10:30 p.m. Recital Hall is located on Presidents Way off Park Boulevard; $12. 838-496-6655. (BULGARIA)

Bulgarian Workshop led by Venzti Sitarov on Saturday, March 12, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., at Folk Dance Center (4569 30th Street). Potluck dinner, request dancing follow. Fees: $6 for workshop only, $8 for whole shindig. 619-281-5566. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

West African Dance Workshop led by Nikola Clay and guest artists, accompanied by live drumming, on Saturday, March 12, 3 to 4:30 p.m., at Encinatas Community Center (1140 Oakcrest Park Drive); $25. 760-943-2260. (CHULA VISTA)

Contradance to music by Running With Scissors, calling by JoAnn Koppany on Saturday, March 12, 8 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 5135 Pacific Beach Avenue. No cover. 858-573-2260. (KEARNY MESA)

**WINERIES**

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**EVERYTHING ELSE**

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2 roundtrip airfare & 2 nights hotel in exchange for qualifying & attending 90-minute timeshare presentation near you. No obligation to buy anything. Minimum income $40,000/year to qualify. Call for details, 7 days 8am-7pm. 800-718-8818 x225, 619-287-9877 x225.
The 12th Annual San Diego Latino Film Festival runs March 10-20, showcasing films from U.S. and across Latin America. Screenings take place at Main Thaters Hazard Center (7510 Hazard Center Drive). Featured films include Odas A Ando Vio, Mugas y Gigantes, El Carro, Love for Rent, Caribe, many, many more. This year, take in “Par a la Familia,” featuring films, documentaries, television shows for families. Seminars include “Producing for Television,” “Financing the Independent Film,” “Selling Your Screenplay.” Tickets: $8.50 general, $6.50 for students and seniors. Showtimes, information: 619-230-1938 (MISSION VALLEY).

The Documentary Bloomers of Fire, depicting the “legendary women of Juchitan, a city in Oaxaca, Mexico,” screens for Activist San Diego on Friday, March 11, 7 p.m., at Korona Coffee Bar (4496 Park Boulevard). Requested donation: $3.50. 619-328-8833 (CARLSBAD). Specials

The German Film Good Bye Lenin screens for International Film Series at MiraCosta College, Friday, March 11, 7 p.m.; room 3601 on campus (One Barnard Drive). 760-757-2121x6284. Free. English subtitles, occasional.

Daniele Luchetti’s Dalla di Pa role Mia (Ginger and Cinnamon) may be seen on Friday, March 11, 7 p.m., at Italian Community Center (1669 Columbia Street); 621-237-0601 (LITTLE ITALY).

Gillo Pontecorvo’s Battle of Algiers screens for San Diego State University Film Festival presented by history department, Friday, March 11, 7 p.m., in Little Theater. Discussion led by Professor Thomas Lide. Free. 619-594-5262. (ISIMI).


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*With min. 6-hr. booking. While supplies last.

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San Diego – March 10, 2005

Screening repeats at 7 p.m. at First Unitarian Universalist Church (4190 Front Street). Free. 858-534-6618. (UTLCREST)

The Original Indie Film! Carlsbad Library film series features Raiders of the Lost Ark on Wednesday, March 16, 6 p.m., in Schuman Auditorium (1775 Dove Lane). Free. 760-602-2026. (LA COSTA)

“Wednesday Night at the Movies,” film festival showcasing independent and foreign films continues with Canadian comedy The Republic of Love on March 16, 7 p.m., at Chula Vista Civic Center Theater (1145 S Chula Vista Boulevard). Free. 619-488-1070. (CHULA VISTA)

*Human Presence*” explained by Lucia Sansoman during gallery talks on Thursday, March 10 (6 p.m.), and Sunday, March 13 (2 p.m.), at San Diego Museum of Art. Included in regular admission. 619-900-6565. (LA JOLLA)

“American Women Composers” on Thursday, March 10, and “Multitalented Women Composers,” presented by Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park); $40 fee requested reservations: 858-272-0526. (LA JOLLA)

“Human Presence” is the theme for 16th annual Social Issues Conference at University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park), continuing through Saturday, March 12. Keynote speech by author/activist Father John Dear on Thursday, March 10, at noon. Social activist Sister Helen Prejean, author of Dead Man Walking and The Death of Innocents, speaks Friday, March 11, 7 p.m. (reservations required). Conference workshops on variety of subjects. Free. 619-262-4798. (LA JOLLA)

“Rethinking Democracy: Peace, Power, and Equality” is theme for 16th annual Social Issues Conference at University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park), continuing through Saturday, March 12. Keynote speech by author/activist Father John Dear on Thursday, March 10, at noon. Social activist Sister Helen Prejean, author of Dead Man Walking and The Death of Innocents, speaks Friday, March 11, 7 p.m. (reservations required). Conference workshops on variety of subjects. Free. 619-262-4798. (LA JOLLA)

“Women of Note: Notable Women in Classical Music” explored when pianist/lecturer Virginia Eskin presents series at Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street). Learn about “American Women Composers” on Thursday, March 10, and “Multitalented Women Composers,” presented by Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park); $40 fee requested reservations: 858-272-0526. (LA JOLLA)

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A Guide to Unexpected San Diego and Beyond

by Jery Schad

The Spanish colorists who christened Arroyo Seco (“dry creek”) evidently noted only its lower end — a sweltering, bulldozer-wrenched embayment into the Los Angeles River. It’s hard to believe this once watercourse, draining the south slope of the San Gabriel Mountains some 20 miles upstream, assumes the character of a mountain brook, dancing over boulders and sliding down sheer inclines up to 50 feet in height.

If this season’s torrential rains continue, that peaceful brook may be a bit too lively to explore safely for a certain period afterward — not mention the possibility of restricted access due to mountain highway damage and closures. For these reasons, it’s a good idea to contact Angeles National Forest (626-574-1613 or www.fs.fed.us/argoves) before setting off on a trip anywhere in the San Gabriel Mountains.

Our route sampling the upper Arroyo Seco takes you by trail around the many inaccessible falls and down to a lesser cascade in the canyon below. The starting point, the popular Switzer Picnic Area, is located off Angeles Crest Highway (State Highway 2), ten miles east of Interstate 210 at La Cañada. Be aware by that the time fair weather arrives, parking space at the picnic area will be scarce or nonexistent if you arrive after midmorning on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday. At the west end of the picnic area, find and follow the signed Gabriel Trail. Make your way past outgoing picnic tables down along the shaded stream. Soon, nothing but the clear-flowing stream and rustling leaves disturb the silence. Remnants of an old paved road are occasionally underfoot. In a couple of spots you ford the stream by boulder-hopping — no problem except after heavy rains.

One mile down the canyon you come upon the foundation remnants of Switzer’s Camp (now the site of a walk-in campground). Established in 1884, the camp became the San Gabriels’ premier wilderness resort in the early 1900s, patronized by Hollywood celebrities as well as anyone who had the gumption to hike or ride a burro up the tortuous Arroyo Seco trail from Pasadena. The resort suffered a decade in decline before the construction of Angeles Crest Highway in the 1930s and was finally razed in the late 50s.

Below Switzer’s Camp the stream slides 50 feet over Switzer Falls — but don’t go that way. Instead, cross the stream bridge on the Gabriel Trail as it angles along the canyon’s right (west) wall. To the left are glimpses of the falls, a dark pit below them, and the crumbled foundation of a miniature stone chapel (a part of the old resort) that perches on a ledge above the falls. Continue 0.2 mile to a trail junction. Take the left fork (the trail to Bear Canyon) and descend to the canyon bottom. There’s a severe, unfenced drop on the left on the way down, so watch your step.

Leave the trail there and walk along the stream bank, or rock hop through the stream itself, 0.2 mile up-canyon. You’ll come upon a shallow pool, fed by a 15-foot high cascade just below the main Switzer Falls. This is a peaceful and secluded spot for a triloback lunch or dinner. Signs here warn against climbing farther up the canyon, and that advice is well taken.

ARROYO SECO

Discover a secretive 50-foot waterfall in the rocky Arroyo Seco gorge above Pasadena.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 142 miles

Hiking length: 3.6 miles round-trip

Hiking difficulty: Moderate

(you can call her doctor) Lacy Kaplansky performs in concert for San Diego Folk Heritage on Sunday, March 13, 7 p.m., at San Diego Unitarian Universalist Methodist Church (170 Calle Magdalena). The American musician and psychologist has five CDs and has toured extensively in Ireland and the U.K. $18, students $14, (619-237-4747). • 17-Piece Swing Orchestra the Ranchero San Fe Big Band promotes “pops-like concert” on Sunday, March 13, 6 p.m., at Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club (at corner of Avenida de Acacias and La Granada). Tickets: $25 in advance, $30 at door. 959-476-4432, (RANCHO SANTA FE)

"Let Heaven and Nature Sing," festival of hymns led by organist/pianist/Michael Reed on Sunday, March 13, 7 p.m., at Clairemont Lutheran Church (4217 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard). 858-273-7423.

The Limeliters perform for AcousticsMusicSan Diego on Sunday, March 13 ($18, $22). Next: Kiez Delmonico on Wednesday, March 16 ($15, $20). Both concerts begin at 7:30 p.m., at Normal Heights United Methodist Church (4600 Mansefield Street). 619-309-8176. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

The Camarillo Orchestra performs “Spring Festival of Classical Music” at 8 p.m., at Moorpark College Performing Arts Center (500 E. Camarillo Boulevard). 805-388-9001.

"RKO Radio Picture Pops" concert, featuring Canadian tenor Andrew Haji, takes place Sunday, March 13, at 0 p.m., at Balboa Theatre (1897 Third Avenue). Tickets: $38, $45. 405-3500.

The Gary LeFevre Quartet performs at 1:30 p.m. for party hosted by Jazz Association of Greater San Diego (JAG) on Sunday, March 13, at Hotel Del (1850 Pacific Coast Highway). Tickets: $30 at door. 858-436-6900, (DEL MAR)

Keto Music promised at Masaico Norikura performs Sunday, March 12, 8 p.m., at Voltaire King Cobra, Triple M’s Love Songs (1029 Orange Avenue). Free. 619-237-7892.

"Let Heaven and Nature Sing,” festival of hymns led by organist/pianist/Michael Reed on Sunday, March 13, 7 p.m., at Clairemont Lutheran Church (4217 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard). 858-273-7423. Offering: (CLAREMONT)

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Adopt a Russian Child

Please attend a free informational meeting
Thursday, March 17, from 7-9 p.m.
(Ask about our Asian program.)

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North County & Downtown Locations

March 12, 1 to 2 p.m. daily, at DANCE WITH ME ACADEMY

March 12, 3 p.m., at Scripps Miramar Ranch Library (10301 Scripps Lake Drive). Free.
619-338-8158. (ENCINITAS)

March 12, 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 13, 10 a.m.
(ENCINITAS)

March 12, 1 to 2 p.m. daily, at DANCE WITH ME ACADEMY

March 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Vertical Hold Sport Climbing Center (9580 Distribution Avenue); $25 fee includes all-day climbing. T-shirt, equipment rental and instruction for first-time climbers. Registration: 9 a.m.
619-238-5790. (MIRAMAR)

I.S.F. Middle School Surf Team Competition #5 runs Saturday and Sunday, March 12 and 13, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., on south side of Oceanside Harbor. Free for spectators. 760-931-4020. (MIRAMAR)

Tallest Party in Town, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation hosts 24th annual StairClimb to Cure CF on Saturday, March 12, at One America Plaza (1040 North El Camino Real). Sign-ups at 8 a.m., climb from 9 a.m. to noon. Participants climb 14 floors of commerce, sports construction or slower pace, then ride elevator down to start again. Suggested donation: $50. 858-578-2945. (ENCINITAS)

Oceanside Strand Stride, Saturday, March 12, 8:30 a.m., starting at Oceanside Pier amphitheater. 760-435-3231. (OCEANSIDE)

San Diego Gulls host Alaska Aces on Sunday, March 13, 5:05 p.m., at San Diego Sports Arena. $12 to $25, available by calling 619-224-4627 x5. (SPORTS ARENAS)

North County Loop, travel up Rancho Santa Fe Road to San Elijo, through Elfin Forest, past Lake Hodges during a Knickbiker cycling trek on Sunday, March 13. The Loop condo for novices starts at 9 a.m. at Harvest Ranch Market parking lot (at Encinitas Boulevard and Manchester Road). Bring money for lunch at Hernandez’ Hideaway. 760-942-0027. (ENCINITAS)

Take Me Out to Spring Training! San Diego Padres continue spring training with games most days through Thursday, April 7, mostly beginning at 12:05 p.m.
Regular season tickets: 877-374-2784. (PEORIA, ARIZONA)

San Diego Walk for Autism, Sunday, March 13, at Sixth Avenue and I Street. Registration starts at 7 a.m.; 5k run starts at 8 a.m., one-mile fun walk begins at 8:30 a.m. 619-878-8880. (DOWNTOWN)

Doggie Dash, hosted by Escondido Humane Society on Sunday, March 13, in Kit Carson Park (3333 Bear Valley Parkway). Registration is 6:30 a.m.; 5k race starts at 8 a.m.; 5k for runners and walkers with dogs at 8:15 a.m.; one-mile fun walk 9 a.m. Pet contests at 9:30 a.m.; $28. 760-888-2240. (ESCONDIDO)

La Jolla Sea Caves Kayak Tour hosted by Mike Bake Kayak; San Diego on Sunday, March 13, Two-hour tours begin at 9:30 a.m., 12:30, 2:30 p.m. $45 fee includes kayak life jacket, paddle, renting and instruction. Reservations: 858-551-9510. (LA JOLLA)

SPECIAL
“Celebrating Women Scientists” continues through Saturday, March 12, 1 to 2 p.m. at Reuben H. Fleet Science Center. Demonstrations and take-home experiments on half-life of radium, using Van de Graaff generator to explore laws of electricity, more. Included in regular admission. 619-238-1233.

Conflict Is Inevitable but Manageable, according to those at National Conflict Resolution Center. In conjunction with Days of Dialogue, group hosts business/work-
Grand Opening Party
Saturday, March 19th
FREE admission
Professional Shows:
Dance, singing, music, and more...

Wedding 1st Dance:
Personalized Choreography,
On your Music,
First Hour Private Instruction FREE.

Dance Shoes:
March Special: Buy 2 Get one FREE,
Quality, Comfort, Elegance,

Dance Videos
Learn to Dance on your own
Price $25, 1 Video Package $125

OFFERED THROUGH FRIDAY, MARCH 11TH

San Diego Marketplace

“WE ARE FAMILY,” it’s the theme
for Carlsbad’s annual multicultural
arts festival, running through
Saturday, March 12, at locations
around Carlsbad. Indian storytelling
and dancing, puppetry, African drumming, Hawaiian hula, Brazilian martial arts, ballet folklorico, much more.

Locations include Centro de Informacion (3333 Harding Street), Cole Library (1250 Carlsbad Village Drive), Schuman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library (1775 Dove Lane), Harding Community Center. Free. 760-434-2904. (CARLSBAD)

Shakespeare’s Merchant of Venice discussed when Del Mar
Great Books Reading and Discussion Group meets Friday,
March 11, 7 p.m., at Barnes and Noble Bookstore (Del Mar Highlands Town Center, 12835 El Camino Real). 858-756-4298. Free. (DEL MAR)

St. Patrick’s Day Beer Tasting
of ten beers, along with Irish cheese and corned beef sandwiches, Friday, March 11, 7:30 p.m., at Whole Foods Market (8825 Villa La Jolla Drive); $10. Reservations: 858-442-6700. For those 21 and older. (LA JOLLA)

Craftman and Spanish Revival Weekend
hosted by Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO),
March 11-13, headquartered at Old Wonderbread Factory (147 14th Street). The focus this year is on city of Coronado.
Exhibitors offer selection of antique and revival furnishings, decorative arts during exhibition and sale, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Admission: $5 (with return privileges).
Lectures, workshops, home tours. Fees, reservations, times, call 619-297-7511. (DOWNTOWN, CORONADO)

Gem Faire, over 85 manufacturers, wholesalers, importers offering jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, and minerals, March 11-13, at Del Mar Fairgrounds. Show hours: noon to 7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Weekend pass: $7. 585-252-8300. (DEL MAR)

Golf Fest, interactive golf expo featuring over 130 exhibitors, appearance by Debbie Dahmer, fashion shows, teaching stage staffed by PGA golf pros, clinics, seminars, hitting cages, and more, runs March 11-13, at Del Mar Fairgrounds. Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. $10 for adults, kids ten and under free. 858-586-1202 x18. (DEL MAR)

Wine and Dine benefit for ElderHelp of San Diego, Friday, March 11, 6 p.m., at Manchester Grand Hyatt on San Diego Bay (One Market Place). Food from 18 area restaurants, wine from California wineries, auction; $85. Reservations: 619-284-9281 x22. (DOWNTOWN)

Sheet Music, Books
on a variety of subjects, CDs and LPs, and art periodicals on offer during sale on Saturday, March 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street); 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

San Diego Aerospace Museum

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San Diego Reader
Weekly Edition

Poetry

The Unswep

From the Unswep Room

Broken bay leaf. Olive pit.
Crab leg. Claw. Crayfish armor.
Wheel shell. Horse shell. Dogshackle. Snail.
Wobble tossed unwinding on test of sea urchin. Chicken foot.
Waxseed skeleton. Hen head
— eye so weak open
as if singing in the dark. Laid out in tiny tiles, by the rhapsodygrapher.
Each swirl of shadow — each shadow cast by a different light. Permanently fresh
husks of the feast! When the guest has gone, the morsels dropped on the floor are left as food for capybara characters, my imagined, here are some fancies of crumbs from under love’s table.

By Fire

From Blood, Tin, Straw

When I pass an abandoned half-ruined building, on a waste-lot, in winter, the smell of the cold river decides me — I am not going to rest. I will not dig down in the ground with the caulflower and the eggshell mushroom, and grow a fungus out of my stomach like a fungus, my face slaving off me.

FIN

“Fibers in Paradise,” sponsored by Association of Southern California Handweavers, takes place March 12 and 13 at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Exhibits, fashion show, “spin-in,” marketplace with vendors, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. $5. Gallery fiber art walk at eight galleries on Grand Avenue, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., balloons flying outside participating galleries. 858-454-6732. (Escondido)

The Flower Fields

boasting 50 acres of giant ranunculus flowers are blooming again, open for tours Saturday, March 12, through Sunday, March 5. Visitors stroll pathways through fields from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Sweet pea maze, all-American Rose Selection Garden, theme gardens. Admission: $8 general, $7 seniors, $5 for children. Exit I-5 at 80th Street East and go south to 30th Street, turn left onto Paseo del Norte Road. 760-431-0352. (Escondido)

The 25th Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade

is Saturday, March 12. The parade — boasting floats, marching bands, Irish step dancers, Irish bands, and more — kicks off at 11 a.m. at Sixth Avenue and Ju-niper, proceeds to Sixth and Laurel Street.
The parade concludes with fest-ival at Sixth Avenue and Laurel: Celtic Irish Village, Irish music and dancing, food, craft booths, kids area, more (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.). Free. 858-268-9111. (Balboa Park)

Spring Civil War Re-Enactment

at Anteau Gas and Steam Engine Museum, Saturday and Sunday, March 12 and 13, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hundreds of uniformed combat-ants “from the North and South” enact battle scenes; encampment of historians, entertainers, food vendors, merchants.
Find museum at 2004 North Santa Fe Avenue. Admission: $10 general, $8 seniors, $5 for kids 11 and under, free under 5; parking $2. 800-496-6036. (Escondido)

Treasures and Trivia, Collectors Market

Will feature event at Miraval, International Museum North County Satellite and Grand Annex Gallery (143 Grand Avenue), Do-nated and consigned objects for sale. Hours for Friday, March 11: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday’s hours extended until 8 p.m. 619-239-0085. (Escondido)

Confections on Parade, San Diego Cake Club presents its annual show, March 12 and 13, at La Jolla Village Square. Cakes created by amateurs and professionals on exhibit, sugar craft demonstra-tions, cupcake corner, cakes for sale. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat-urday, noon to 4 p.m. Admission: free. (Balboa Park)

Herb Festival and Tomatomania

North annual festival and spring plant sale, along with celebration of all things tomato, on Saturday and Sun-day, March 13, at Quail Botanical Gardens (230 Quail Gardens Drive). Roster includes over 20 speak-ers, many demonstrations, herb walks, herbal products on offer.

“World Tour of Tomatoes ’05” includes “world’s largest heirloom tomato seedling sale.” More than 100 unusual heirloom varieties presented, along with modern hy-brid seedlings, “tomato-growing accoutrements”; $8 general. 760-436-5036. (Escondido)

International Reptile Breeders’ Show and sale — showcasing cap-tive-bred reptiles and amphibians — runs March 12 and 13 at Del Mar Fairgrounds. Workshop, vendors. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Tickets $8 adults, $3 children (12-1), free for kids under 3, 619-383-4724. (Del Mar)

House of Ireland hosts lawn pro-gram at International Cottages on Sunday, March 13, 2 p.m. Songs and dances of Ireland. Admission is free; Irish refreshments for sale. 619-234-0739. (Balboa Park)

“Urban Trees 2,” 50 colorful and unusual heirloom varieties of “tomato” presented, along with modern hybrid tomato seedlings, “tomato-growing accoutrements”; $8 general. 760-436-5036. (Escondido)

“Irish Lullabies,” 50 years of songs by Big Joe Productions, at La Jolla’s French cuisine by Sherry’s at La Jolla. Admission: $30 general, $25 to $30 seniors and children 13 and under. Call 858-755-5913 or 858-424-1212. (La Jolla)

The Unswept Room

Sharon Olds

Sharon Olds

"Ways with Words,” exhibit celebrating words and language by featuring unusual dictionaries, thesauri, word games, other books and ephemera, is on view through Saturday, May 20, in donor corridor at SDSU Library. Free. 619-594-4629. (Balboa Park)

"Traces of Black San Diego: The Norman Baynard Collection” is on display through Friday, March 25, in honor of west wing of UCSD’s Geisel Library. Ex-hibit showcases work by Logan Heights photographer Norman Baynard (a.k.a. Mansour Abdullah), whose work spans 40 years. Free. 858-534-8074. (Balboa Park)

"The Disasters and Miseries of War — Prints by Francisco "Einstein" himself, and free admis-sion to Reuben H. Fleet Science Cen-ter on Monday, March 14, noon to 2 p.m. 619-228-1253. (Balboa Park)

4261.

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Leaving the Saints: How I Lost the Mormons and Found My Faith

Crown Publishers, 2005; 320 pages; $24.95

FROM THE DUST JACKET: In a thoughtful examination of faith, Martha Beck chronicles her decision to leave the Mormon church and her subsequent struggle to overcome a dark secret buried in her childhood.

What do Mormons believe? In 2002, when Beck's son was born, she and her husband, Mr. Beck, discovered that chemotherapy was recommended for the embryo for children with Down syndrome. The couple had undergone genetic counseling, but the diagnosis came as a shock. Beck, like many Mormon women, is a devout believer who relies on spiritual and religious guidance. In her memoir, Beck recounts her journey away from the Mormon church, a journey that was marked by a sense of isolation and a desire to find a new path in life.

Beck's decision to leave the church was not an easy one. She had grown up in a devout Mormon family, and the church had played a significant role in her life. However, as Beck began to question the church's teachings and practices, she realized that she no longer felt comfortable within its structures.

Beck's memoir is a powerful testament to the complexity of faith and the challenges of leaving a community that has been a central part of one's life. It is a story of personal courage and the search for a sense of purpose in life. Beck's journey is not just about leaving the Mormon church, but about finding a new path that is true to her own beliefs and values.

I’ve seen people burst into tears when they heard that the earth was more than 6000 years old.”

California Surf Museum, “The Surfer-Shapers,” on exhibit through 2005, showcases several surfers whose conceptual abilities and crafting talent radically altered surfboard design. The search has always been for lighter, faster, more maneuverable boards, from Duke Kahanamoku in early 1900s to Tom Blake in 1920s to Simon Anderson in early 1980s. The museum features surfing artificats and memorabilia — such as surfboards and clothing — of local legends Phil Edwards, John “L.J.” Richards, and Peter Johnson, and Duke Kahanamoku. The museum is located at 1933 North Coast Highway; 760-721-6877.

Chula Vista Nature Center, an interactive living museum devoted to the endangered Southern California coastal wetlands, located in the Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. Visitors can visit a Bionoscope to view animals macroscopically; use a Wenteoscope for views of microscopic organisms found in the “Sweetwater Soup,” and interact with computed videos exploring how tides affect the bay in the “Moons, Tides, and the San Diego Bay” exhibit. Pet sharks and rays in the David A. Wergeland Shark and Ray Experience, see burrowing owls and migratory birds, and enjoy the xerophyte gardens.

Flaying Leathemecock Museum, dedicated to the Marine Corps who provided air support, from the propeller-driven fighters and bombers of the 1940s to the modern jets and helicopters currently in use. Static displays of a variety of aircraft are included, along with equipment, insignia, paintings and photographs, scale models, and a research library. The museum is located on hundreds of San Diego Bay, the Pt Loma Gold Legend, the first maps and photographs of Old Town and New Town, early military history, the naval disaster in 1923 at Point Honda, and more. Find the museum at 413 Market Street (between Fourth and Fifth Avenues). 619-237-1492. (GASLAMP QUARTER)

Heritage Museum, an interpretive wall, replicas of the early post office and general store, and a school room are part of this museum. A painted mural by Michael Strong depicts six periods of Poway’s past. Find the museum in Old Poway Park, at 14314 Midland Road, 858-679-8587. (POWAY)

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nese jades of the Late Neolithic (4300-2350 B.C.) through the Ming periods (A.D. 1368-1644) are included in “The Stone of Heaven. The Enduring Art of Jade China.” From ancient times, jades in China were treasured as talismans, worn on the body either as final adornments in death or as ornaments in life. See a rare collection of jade artifacts from South and North China. The suits were made of bronze (depending upon the era). The Origin of Species was published in 1859. People were freaking out, particularly people on the American continent because here was an entire unknown world, that the Judeo-Christian tradition didn’t even address. The world started out in the Middle East, and the Europeans managed to pull themselves into it, but what do you do with the United States? What do you do with the Americans? So that’s one thing Joseph Smith’s theories did—they made everybody feel like, “Oh, these people are just immigrants from the Holy Land and Jesus came to them and it’s all okay.” So, ironically, people of some learning and intelligence tended to gravitate toward the new religions, and they become as locked in with their bizarre explanations. But now that those explanations are testable, people’s worldview is being rocked. I’ve seen people burst into tears when they heard that the earth was more than 6000 years old.’”

I think Mr. Beck was looking towards that thing that religions were tending more to a fundamentalism? That religions were freaking out, particularly religious experiences, that religions were structurally made the Mormon church go from a cult to a mainstream religion, and most of it was feeling driven out. That’s what they share with Judaism: the sense of being cast out and homeless and wandering in the wilderness. One thing I actually like about Mormonism, it’s one of the few Christian religions that is not anti-Semitic. That’s the plus column. There’s a strong sense of wanting to be identified with Judaism.”

“I find it difficult to understand how people who proclaim themselves as religious can be so mean,” I said. “Weirdly enough, the bloodiest and most horrendous wars in history have all been fought in the name of God. I think it’s because the impulse towards violence with a very intense impulse. I was just reading a fascinating book called Why God Won’t Go Away: Brain Science and the Biology of Belief, it’s about the neurobiology of mystical experience. The authors write about what happens to the brain during a religious experience.

“It’s consistent; the brain does the same thing in every culture. The responses are extraordinarily intense when you feel them. There are two different ways the brain accesses this, and one is by misidentifying with reality completely, which is like what Buddhists do. They just sit down and meditate until reality melts away.

“Right. The Great Awakening.”

“Exactly. Then in the 19th Century, Darwin publishes and there is a response against the religious to the rise of rationalism. The Origin of Species was published in 1859. People were freaking out, particularly people on the American continent because here was an entire unknown world, that the Judeo-Christian tradition didn’t even address. The world started out in the Middle East, and the Europeans managed to pull themselves into it, but what do you do with the United States? What do you do with the Americans? So that’s one thing Joseph Smith’s theories did—they made everybody feel like, “Oh, these people are just immigrants from the Holy Land and Jesus came to them and it’s all okay.” So, ironically, people of some learning and intelligence tended to gravitate toward the new religions, and they become as locked in with their bizarre explanations. But now that those explanations are testable, people’s worldview is being rocked. I’ve seen people burst into tears when they heard that the earth was more than 6000 years old.”

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“At 321 North Broadway; 760-743-3351. Spitfire Aerospace Hall of Fame. The museum offers exhibits of over 65 aircraft — including a replica of Spirit of St. Louis, a Fokker Scourge (or Fokker Eindecker E-III), a World War I Spad VII, flight deck of the USS Yorktown, and a Lockheed Blackbird spy plane — 140 scale models, 10,000 aviation-related items, and memorabilia from Montgolfier brothers’ hot-air balloon era to Space Age, along with an International Aerospace Hall of Fame.

The museum is located in the

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changes in social roles have pressured men and women. It’s extraordinarily difficult for people to get themselves together psychologically because the expectation is now that both members of a couple will work. But they also have to raise children, and the way the roles have been set up, it’s virtually impossible to do all this. So many people live on the edge in extreme anxiety without a support system. This makes people starved for certainty and encourages a return to a very simplistic form of religion.

“It’s just very comforting. And there’s a sense — this is also in this book on the neurobiology of mystical experience — that ritual of any kind where people get together and do certain unusual things in a kind of rhythm has an extremely comforting effect. So the whole idea of being with other people is very comforting. The systematic nature of worship is very comforting, too. But they also have to raise children and interpret them literally. It’s the most literal of all Christian religions. God has a body — yes He does — and this is what it looks like. You know, I don’t want to sound condescending, but it is a very childlike way of believing in God. That is a literal, physical Daddy, who acts pretty much like Daddy does. I went with metaphor. It wasn’t a very popular opinion.”

— Judith Moore

The San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum opened the decommissioned USS Midway is open for tours, now berthed at 910 North Harbor Drive. Exhibits include Navy jet simulators, carrier and flight deck touring, captain’s sea cabin, pilot house, navigation bridge. Admission fee includes audio guide: 619-702-7700. (DOWNTOWN)

San Diego County Sheriff’s Museum, the 130-year history of the sheriff’s department is highlighted at the museum, which is located “just feet away” from the original cobblestone jail site, built in 1850. The museum boasts artifacts, photographs, equipment, uniforms, all vehicles, along with exhibits from each of the departments making up the organization such as crime scene, K-9, court service, detentions, crime lab, bomb squad, and many others. Find the museum at 2384 San Diego Av- enue; 619-260-1850. (OLD TOWN)

San Diego Electric Railway Association, located in historic National City Santa Fe Depot (922 West 22nd Street), offers exhibits, video displays, trolley equipment, restored passenger car from National City and Otay Railroad. 619-474-4000. (NATIONAL CITY)

San Diego Model Railroad Museum, the museum celebrates American railroads with “the largest permanent operating model railroad and toy train exhibit” in North America. “Rail Town,” an “O” gauge operating model train exhibit, is on display through August. Four scale model railroads of the Southwest, the “San Diego County Relief Map exhibit,” and an interactive toy train is there. There is a multimedia presentation on railroadiana, an operating railroad semaphore signal, and interpretive displays on railroad and model railroading. The museum is downstairs in the Casa de Balboa building. 619-686-0199. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Natural History Museum, developed by Field Museum in Chicago, “Chocolate” leads visitors on journey from rainforest understory to supermarket shelf, exploring our culture and its impact on wildlife. Continues through Sunday, May 1. “Earth, Wind, and Wildfire!” continues through October 2005, exploring powerful forces (such as fire, nature, people) shaping the landscape of Southern California. The exhibit is “designed to raise awareness of the history and in- evitable links in Southern Califor- nia’s arid and diverse wildlands.”


San Diego Zoo, the world’s oldest, largest, and most successful zoo is 100 years old. The zoo is a component of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD. Look for 33 tanks containing mar- ine life of the Pacific Northwest, the California coastline, Mexico’s Sea of Cortes, and the South Pa- cific. One highlight is the La Jolla Kelp Tank, a two-story-high tank with giant kelp plants and nearly 30 species of local marine life. “Earthquake! Life on a Restless Planet” explores earthquakes and their impacts on life. The Lyme and Howard Robbins Shark Reef Exhibit features a 13,000-gallon shark tank with black tip, white tip, nurse, and wobbegong sharks.

The aquarium is located at 2300 Expedition Way (off North Torrey Pines Road, south of La Jolla Shores Drive). 619-534-FISH. (LA JOLLA)

Wells Fargo History Museum, the museum features a working agents’ office staffed by guides in period costume and contains a working telegraph for visitors to send and receive messages. Short films on California and Wells Fargo history; a gold display, part of the collection assembled by Wells Fargo agent Samuel Dorsey at the end of the 1800s; an exhibit of Concord Coach #251, a restored stagecoach built in 1867, and the Wells Fargo Museum is lo- cated in the reconstructed Col- orado House, at 2733 San Diego Avenue. (OLD TOWN)

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**CLASSICAL LISTINGS**

Events that are underlined occur after March 17.

**HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING:** Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number (including area code), and a phone number for public information to READER CLASSICAL MUSIC, Box #8803, San Diego CA 92112. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.

Faculty Recital by cellist Angela Young and guest pianist Laura Baneey (violin), Scott Avend (horn), Byron Chow (piano) perform trios by Brahms and Ravel on Thursday, March 10, 8 p.m., in French Parlor of Founders Hall at University of San Diego (5998 Alcali Pack); 58 general. 619-260-4171. (LINDA VISTA)

“Symphonic Dances” by Rachmaninoff and Bartok, “Concerto Grosso” by Handel, chamber orchestra are showcased by Rivas/Singh/Chau (piano) April 1, 8 p.m., in La Jolla Church (1050 Thomas Avenue). St. Andrew’s-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church (320 Date Street, at 1st Avenue). Selections by Bach, Telemann, Vivaldi (violin), Scott Avenell (horns), Byrnes (oboe) perform trios (violin), (340 North Escondido Boulevard). UCSD’s Mandeville Center. Free. 619-239-8836. (La Jolla)

**In His Footsteps,** organist Marilyn Mason presents Dupré’s "Stations of the Cross" on Sunday, March 13, 7 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church (320 Date Street, at Fourth Avenue; 619-322-7513). Offering. (DONATE)

**American Beauty,** Camarada performs for “Second Sundays” series hosted by San Diego Performers’ Arts Association, March 13, 6 p.m., in Schulman Auditorium at the Carlsbad City Library (1725 Dove Lane). Requested donation: $5. 760-944-7010. (CHULA VISTA)

**American Movement**

Martha Graham Dance Company performing with live music

**American Movement**

Two Left Feet Dance Clubs International

**Advance Reservation Required**

**Two Left Feet Dance Clubs International**

Sun., Mar. 13, 8 p.m., at Neurosciences Institute; $15-$65. Reservations: 858-350-1212. (DOWNTOWN)

**Contemporary Classical Music,** “music from earlier periods,” jazz and fusion pieces promised when Synergy presents mini-concert at noon on Monday, March 14, at Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street). 858-454-5872. Free. (LA JOLLA)

**The Magic and Artistry of Classical Music** showcased when San Diego Chamber Orchestra presents family concert on Tuesday, March 15, 7 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (450 North Escondido Boulevard). Concert includes selections by Mendelssohn and Beethoven, performed by violinist Linia Suh. Conductor: Donald Barra. Remarks will be translated into Spanish; $3. 800-988-4253. (ESCONDIDO)

**Messa[en’s “Vingt Regards sur L’Enfant Jésus,”** and “Harmonies Poétiques et Religieuses” by Liszt may be heard when solo pianist Steven Osborne Wang performs for “Second Sundays” series hosted by Pacific Camerata on Saturday, March 12, 7:30 p.m., at St. Andrew’s Church (1670-1738), songs from 18th century, and selections by Telemann, Ravel, Piazzolla, Rameau. Also: French chansons, English Church (1050 Thomas Avenue). St. Andrew’s-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church (320 Date Street, at 1st Avenue). Selections by Bach, Telemann, Duke Ellington, Gershwin, Chick Corea. Free. 619-691-5069. (CHULA VISTA)

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50% OFF Sun. Pass Includes Entrance. Call for details.

9580 Distribution Ave. • San Diego • 858-586-7572

**TWO NIGHTS ONLY**

Martha Graham Dance Company performing with live music

**American Movement**

Martha Graham & Aaron Copland Festival
forms on Thursday, March 17, 7:30 p.m., for Chamber Concert Series hosted by Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street); $27. Space availability: 838-454-5872. LA JULIA

Low Brass Recital promised when Sean Reusch (trombone) and Scott Sutherland (tuba) perform for Concert Hour series on Thursday, March 17, 12:30 p.m., in Palomar College Performance Lab (Bldg. 101). Find the campus at 1140 West Mission Road. Free. 760-744-1150 x2317. (SAN MARCOS)

Operatic Arias, Ensembles, Art Songs, more promised when San Diego Opera Ensemble presents season finale concert on Thursday, March 24, 7:30 p.m., at Sycuan Casino Resort. Please call the SeaWorld Audition Hotline at 760-745-7835 or 760-740-2304. (NORTH PARK)

Earth Day Art Exhibit: A City of Farmers, a City of Art, "Out of the Frame," an exhibit of work by art quilt maker Dan Olef and metal sculptor Ardeo Zielek, opens with reception on Saturday, March 12, 1 p.m., at Quail Hill Art Gallery (3032 Highway 78, at junction of Wohlwend Road and Hwy 78). Reception at 2 p.m. "Out of the Frame" showing dates from the library art exhibit "about exciting designs" closes on Sunday, April 24. 760-765-1676. (SAN YSIDRO)

Earth Day Art Exhibit: "Human Presence: Works of the Mingei Museum," a part-exhibit focus on the human body, "Part I: The Singular Body" incorporates gallery sculpture of people and animals with those in the garden and court. "Part II" brings attention to "physiological reactions to pure form and color" via the "Through the Geometry of Color" exhibit. Experience through Sunday, July 17. "Visions of the Great Goddess: The Divine Faemle in South Asian Art," focuses on cultural and artistic significance of goddess imagery in South Asia in paintings from the Emily R. Binney Collection. Works feature Devi, the "Great Goddess" or the "First Cause of Things" in four aspects—as a great power, a bestowed, 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. For further information, call 619-239-4509. (BALBOA PARK)

Mingei International Museum, "Navajo Textiles, Navajo People," a biennial exhibit of Navajo silver and turquoise jewelry dating from same era as weavings (from a private collection) also on view, through May. "Elemental Art of the Indonese Archipelago" includes more than 100 objects such as textiles, jewelry, pendants, baskets, beads, objects, ritual dance masks, architectural ornaments, household objects, ancestor figures, and shrines. Through March. "First Collections—Dolls and Toys of the World," continuing through Saturday, May 7, includes dolls and toys from around the world, including French, England, Japan, India, Mexico, Russia, Italy, Turkey, Panama, U.S.A. (SAN DIEGO)

SeaWorld is looking for percussionists with group performance experience, violinists, trumpeters, specialty acts, variety acts and hip-hop dance teams for the 2005 summer season.

Percussionists with group performance experience: SeaWorld is looking for percussionists with performance experience in drum corps, winter guard, or similar groups. Types include: marching percussion (snare, quads, bass), pit percussion (mallet instruments, timpani, toms, chimes), drum set, or ethnic percussion (congas, timbale, etc.). Prepare two minutes of your best material to perform. You must provide your own instrument.

Violinists and trumpeters with performance experience in Rock and Jazz: Prepare two minutes of upbeat music to perform. You must provide your own instrument.

Specialty acts, variety acts, and hip-hop dance teams: Prepare two minutes of your best material to perform. Specialty acts and variety acts should incorporate audience interaction.

Entertainment Auditions

SeaWorld Entertainment Auditions

Audition Open Call Audition:

Saturday, March 12, Noon to 4 pm

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Thwarted Desire
Eight people scurry around the stage, slamming doors, out of breath — and their minds.

The real star of the La Jolla Playhouse’s Private Fittings isn’t the play, direction, design work, or actors. It’s the brand-new, 450-seat Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre. How’s-er, does this place have possibilities?

Technically, the theater’s a “black box”: a squarish room without the usual proscenium/audience configuration. Having no permanent fixtures gives it creative flexibility. But most black-box stages are small and, well, boxy. This one’s a rectangle so long they could put a net across the middle and play tennis or, because of its height — approximately three stories — put up baskets at each end and host the NCAA’s March Madness.

Overhead, way up there, hang lighting fixtures that will be state-of-the-art probably ten years from now. The second level has a walkway you know will get good use in future productions. As will a floor section, centerstage, that can be lowered mechanically. This makes for rapid scene changes, done on roller skates: Chris Hoch’s Best of the bunch (if you don’t count the jazzy music, Michael Friedman; movement, Charlie Oates; choreography, Kelly Devine)

As does the theater in general. It’s easy to see Shakespeare’s battle scenes enacted here and intriguing to imagine musicals staged in such an open space, especially the choreography.

With the addition of the Potiker, the La Jolla Playhouse now has hat trick of theatrical locales: a proscenium stage (the Mandell Weiss), a thrust stage (the Forum), and a black box.

For Private Fittings, the gym-sized Potiker has seats on moveable risers, down both sides of the court-shaped stage. A first impression: it will encourage — nay, require — movement and strong voices to fill the space. And for the theater’s shake-down cruise, it’s fitting that director Des McAnuff chose a farce by Georges Feydeau.

The “father of French farce,” who put more stage directions into his scripts than any other playwright, Feydeau (1862-1921) must have heard doors slamming in his dreams. He penned about 40 plays for the Come-Die-Française, including A Flea in Her Ear, Sauce for the Goose, and Hotel Paradiso. Most are bedroom farces in which the wronged person intrudes so often, and always at the most inopportune moment, you wonder if any trysts ever get consummated. Feydeau, in real life a womanizer and degenerate gambler, coaxes comedy from thwarted desire.

He wrote about the French bourgeoisie. Mark O’Donnell, who translated and adapted Private Fittings, resets the play in contemporary La Jolla. You never quite know what Eric does. He says he’s a spiritual healer, a “personal life coach,” not a psychotherapist, and makes big bucks giving vague advice to people with vague problems. According to Ranch and Court magazine, Eric and Yvonne, his wife of six months, are “the perfect couple.” Okay, sure — if perfection means they sleep in separate beds, have extramarital liaisons, and are at each other’s throats.

Eric borrows the moldy Pacific Beach condo of his scripts than any other playwright. What follows recalls the irrational results. In no time, people stand in unfamiliar places; rational moves cause irrational results. In no time, eight people scurry around the stage, either running from or toward a lover, slamming doors, out of breath — and their minds.

The play’s a bauble. Light and diverting, it’s clear from this, Feydeau’s first full-length play, that Neil Simon learned his craft from the French farceur. Private Fittings is also funnier than the Playhouse production thinks, however. Director Des McAnuff and a frenzied cast try to pack every second of the show’s 75 minutes with business. Every move is urgent, every speech a blare. Everyone pushes for comedy. But when actors push, they can wear an audience down. Not to mention the actors’ voices: at least two of them were worn out the night I caught the show — which suggests that the acoustics in the Potiker may require re-tweaking.

Best of the bunch (if you don’t count the jazzy music, Michael Friedman; movement, Charlie Oates; choreography, Kelly Devine)

Now — March 27

In this effervescent comedy, a newlywed doctor and his favorite lady patient think they’ve found the perfect hideaway for a tryst. But when unexpected visitors come calling the good doctor finds his best-laid plans have gone horribly, hilariously awry.

Tickets: $39-$52 RUSH tickets: $15
CALL 858-550-1010 www.lajollaplayhouse.com

Private Fittings, by Georges Feydeau, translated by Mark O’Donnell
La Jolla Playhouse, Potiker Theatre, UCSD
Directed by Des McAnuff; cast: Jessica Bowers, Lucia Brawley, Kyle Fabel, Chris Hoch, Stana Katic, Chris Kipiniak, Joan Van Ark, Eric Wippo; scenic design, Neil Patel; costumes, Paul Tazewell; lighting, Howell Brinkley; music, Michael Friedman; movement, Charlie Oates; choreography, Kelly Devine
Playing through March 27; Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Sunday at 7:00 p.m. Matinee Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 858-550-1010.
Antony and Cleopatra

The Poor Players will give Shakespeare’s sweeping drama their trademark “no holds barred” approach. Nick Kelly directed.

THE ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS, ALVARADO CANYON ROAD, EAST MESSINA VALLEY, FRIDAY, MARCH 11, THROUGH APRIL 15; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-456-7036.

Applause

Vanguard presents the Charles Strouse (music)/Lee Adams (lyrics) musical based on the film 60s hit "Applause" directed and choreographed by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is not subject to legal challenge.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CANAL AT TABOR STREET, POINT LOMA, THROUGH MARCH 10; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-407-2189.

A Day in Hollywood...A Night in the Ukraine

Visa’s new Broadway Theatre stages the musical about a cappella group with one last shot at the concert they never got to give.

HIS HOUSE THEATRE, 280 LAWRENCE WEST, ENCLAVE, ENCINITAS, THURSDAY, MARCH 17, THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-476-7448.

Forever Plaid

Wilk Resort Stage’s staging of the popular musical about a pop group for one performance only.

TWO TREES THEATER, 1325 POCONO ROAD UPSTAIRS AT THE LIVING CENTER ENSCHEDE, POINT LOMA, FRIDAY, MARCH 11, THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-868-4253.

The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds

Paul Zindel’s drama, about a family that’s an old-hat dodge. (A true story of a woman to the Colonel, who deals with people who are individuals, but put together they are individuals, but put together they are individuals, but put together they are individuals, but put together they are individuals).

THE CIVIL WAR CENTER, 2215 BRIGHT IDEAS DR, SAN DIEGO, FRIDAY, MARCH 11, THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-233-6135.

Green Meadows

Scirps Ranch Theatre’s presentation of Robert David’s classic about the relationship between James Joyce and his "mistress." Nora Baracale, Joseph Hardy directed.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, SIMON EDISON CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, BALBOA PARK, PREVIEWS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-239-2255.

I Just Stopped By To See The Man

Jose Davidson’s Robert Johnson-like blues legend. He may have made a pact with the devil. And now’s supposed to be dead. He lives with his daughter, a political fugitive, in anonymity, until Karl, a fiddling British rocker, enters his life — like the Satan who tempted Johnson — and he is in for a shock. The performances are more character-driven by the needs of a comedic bit, not comedy of manners — audience members may recognize their neighbors’ foibles, here and there, but not their own.

THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

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Worth a try.
THEATRE IN OLD TOWN, ONGOING RUN; TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M., FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS AT 8:00 P.M., SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 5:00 P.M. MATINEES SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-688-2494.

National Comedy Theatre
Comedic sports changed its name, but its methods (and madness) remain the same. Improvational comedy, making up funny stuff on the spot, is difficult enough. Years ago, however, Keith Johnstone thought it’d be more exciting if done competitively. He got the idea from pro wrestling (“where Terrible Turk mangled defrocked priests, while mums and dads refilled insides and grannies waved their handbags”). National Comedy Theatre, an offspring of Johnstone’s Theatresports (artistic director Gary Kramer says the two compact like “rugby and American football”), resembles an athletic event more than an improv. Teams wear uniforms and compete on ActoTurf. The night I caught the show, three San Diego comedians played a “challenge match” against players from the San Jose franchise. Using suggestions from the audience, they played “Emotional Sympathy,” “Blind Line,” and “Freeze Tag,” with judges awarding points to the best scenes. Klinkers and groaners got booed; quick wit rewarded (one of the most refreshing parts of the contest: people acknowledged failure, abundantly, then forgot it). It made for a lively, often quite funny, evening. And Gary Kramer was one talented comedian.

Worth a try.

HIMSELF and NORA
A World Premiere Musical

Broadway Stars: (R-L) MATT BOGART (Miss Saigon, Aida) and Former Miss America KATE SHIMBLE (Jekyll and Hyde)

HIMSELF AND NORA

Book and Lyrics by Sheila Walsh

Music and Lyrics by Jonathan Brielle

Directed by Jeff Calhoun and Joseph Hardy

Mar 16 - Apr 24 | Old Globe Theatre

A captivating new musical about a man and woman who lived a turbulent life of love, sexuality and passion. Himself and Nora is an unconventional love story that explores the unique romantic relationship between literary legends James Joyce and his lifelong muse, Nora. For MATURE AUDIENCES.
San Diego Theatresports
A cross between improvisational comedy and Family Feud Improv, making up a funny scene as you go along, is tough enough. Add competitive scene making, with the audience awarding points to the winning team. Purists might balk at the odiousness of comparisons used in this format, but San Diego Theatresports’ “game show” is a hoot. The 90-minute evening offers different bits. The show I caught had “Team Sports” — two pairs of players competed, taking suggestions from the audience; and “Goliath Theatre” — five directors invented scenes, using the other four as actors. The winner got a banana, the loser a “forfeit” (other formats include “Microtro” and “Improstomers”). Some attempts went nowhere (I repeat: improv is tough; I did it in my, as hind sight reveals, calling youth). Others made amazing twists and turns. The group makes the hits much more frequent than the misses. Their guru, Keith Johnstone, wrote one of the very best books about the craft, and choreographed. The group 760-785-7008.

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The Sopranos’ Last Supper Diller Productions presents an evening with the notorious Barone family “grumbling, dinner, dancing, and good old moister fun.”
1305 NORTH HARBOR DRIVE, DOWN- TOWN, AND DAVE AND BUSTERS, 2031 CAMINO DEL RIO NORTH, MISSION VAL- LEY, OPEN DRENED RUN, FRIDAY AT 7:30 P.M. 800-944-5639.

Steel Magnolias
The Julian Theater Company (for- merly the Five Hills Players) presents Robert Harling’s comedy- drama, set at Truvy’s Beauty Salon. Scott Kinney directed.
JULIAN TOWN HALL, 2129 MAIN STREET, JULIAN, THROUGH MARCH 12; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 760-765-2119.

Stomp!
The extremely popular eight-member percussion group returns to San Diego, still making rhythms out of everything from poles to Zippo lighters.
SAN DIEGO CONC THEATRE, 202 C STREET, DOWNTOWN, THROUGH MARCH 12; THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-510-1120.

Tales of Ordinary Madness UCSD Theatre and Dance presents Czech playwright Petr Zelenka’s tapestry about life in Prague for thirtysomethings. John Rouse di- rected.
157 GALBRAITH THEATRE, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO, THROUGH MARCH 13; THURSDAY THROUGH SAT- URDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY, MARCH 12, AT 2:00 P.M. 858-534-4514.

A Thousand Clowns
Scene design with Marty Barnett somehow managed to time-travel a wood-paneled Manhattan studio apartment into the North Coast Rip (the mismatched chairs speaking vol- umes about the inhabitants). Cos- tumes...designer Sheila Williams...dresses them in precisely 1962 finery (button-down collars, madras shirts, and the black high-top Converse All- Stars worn by the Boston Celtics). The look for Herb Gardner’s...comedy is firmly in place. But, more often than not, the perfor- mances aren’t. When Jason Robards Jr. played Murray Burns, onstage and in the...impossible to comment, even when they “spiked” Him. His eyes...The audience was something about...Murray) was not right...The Sopranos’. Last Supper Diller Productions presents an evening with the notorious Barone family “grumbling, dinner, dancing, and good old moister fun.”
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There’s also the Forever Plaid problem: the three comedians are far too talented to play inert characters. Chet’s a whiz at the piano. Another’s first-rate mime, and the third’s a crackjack magician. There is no one so talented, when the plot has them complain of difficulties to overcome, you wish they could do just that, spewing up the pseudo-drama and get on with this highly entertaining, if lightweight show. (Note: the original cast members have been replaced.)

**Worth a try.**

### FOX THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVENUE, GASLAMP QUARTER, OPEN ENDED RUN: WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAYS AT 8:00 P.M. AT 4:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M. SATURDAY AT 5:00 P.M. AND 8:00 P.M. AT 3:00 P.M. AND 7:30 P.M. AT 1:00 P.M. AT 7:30 P.M.

### FESTIVAL THEATRE, 505 KALMIA ST., HILLCREST, THROUGH MARCH 23; SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M. AT 5:00 P.M. AT 2:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M.

### THEATRE AT SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY, 1025 BEACON ST., DUANE STREET, THROUGH MARCH 23; SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. AT 1:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M.

### THEATRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA, 10701 N. LAVON AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH MARCH 23; SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. AT 1:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M.

### THEATRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, 1005 S. MAIN STREET, GAINESVILLE, THROUGH MARCH 23; SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. AT 1:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M.

### THEATRE AT RICHMOND UNIVERSITY, 1000 CENTER PLAZA, RICHMOND, THROUGH MARCH 23; SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. AT 1:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M.

### THEATRE AT SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1140 W. HILLCREST AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH MARCH 23; SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. AT 1:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M.

### THEATRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA, 1000 COLLEGE AVENUE, IOWA CITY, THROUGH MARCH 23; SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. AT 1:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M.

### THEATRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, 1140 W. HILLCREST AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH MARCH 23; SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. AT 1:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M.

### THEATRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, 1140 W. HILLCREST AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH MARCH 23; SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. AT 1:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M.

### THEATRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, 1140 W. HILLCREST AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH MARCH 23; SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. AT 1:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M.

### THEATRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, 1140 W. HILLCREST AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH MARCH 23; SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. AT 1:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M.

### THEATRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA, 1140 W. HILLCREST AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH MARCH 23; SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. AT 1:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M.

### THEATRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, 1140 W. HILLCREST AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH MARCH 23; SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. AT 1:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M.

### THEATRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS, 1140 W. HILLCREST AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH MARCH 23; SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. AT 1:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M.

### THEATRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, 1140 W. HILLCREST AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH MARCH 23; SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. AT 1:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M.

### THEATRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, 1140 W. HILLCREST AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH MARCH 23; SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. AT 1:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M.

### THEATRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, 1140 W. HILLCREST AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH MARCH 23; SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. AT 1:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M.

### THEATRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-ANN ARBOR, 1140 W. HILLCREST AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH MARCH 23; SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. AT 1:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M.

### THEATRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON, 1140 W. HILLCREST AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH MARCH 23; SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. AT 1:00 P.M. AT 7:00 P.M.
An Evening with the Stars of Saturday Night Live

March 12 • 8:30pm
Tickets $45


Jay Leno
April 2
2 shows: 7pm & 9:30pm
Tickets $85

Vanessa Williams
April 24 • 7pm
Tickets $60

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“IT WAS CHASED DOWN, called [an expletive], and stabbed. I assume they were white supremacists.”

Rapper/blues guitarist Jae Strawbridge, 25, had just spoken with Johan Accvedo, managing partner of the Longshot bar in San Marcos, about an upcoming gig when he stepped outside with his friend and guitarist Chris. Strawbridge started freestyling (impromptu rapping) as Chris beat-boxed (made rhythm/drum machine noises with his cell phone). Then two guys got close up in my space. I pushed one off me, and then I pushed another. I ran in the parking lot to get away from them so I could talk on 911... I made it to the inside track from when they were inside the club. “By chance there was no entertainment that evening, and we had no security that night. I went outside because I saw a lot of people were going outside. We don’t usually get involved with what goes on outside the bar. The stabbing didn’t happen at Longshot’s. Something different could have been done, but I’m not a cop. We gave the sheriff anything we could. I’m happy to have the benefit for him.”

Reason to Rebel, Parkhurst, Lucid, the Midas Touch, and Innocent Noise appear at a fundraiser to help cover medical bills (though Strawbridge works as a nurse, he does not have health insurance) tomorrow night, Friday, at the Longshot. Admission is $7; all ages 6–10 p.m., 21 and up after 10 p.m.

— Ken Leighton

A stabbing occurred at the California Theatre, 1122 Fourth Avenue, on the night of February 17, according to the San Diego police department’s “Watch Commander’s Log” (Incident #37682). The victim was the venue’s 50-year-old custodian (name withheld). The assailant was a 52-year-old white male transient sleeping in the theater’s doorway. The custodian told the man to leave. “He confronted the man and a fight started. The custodian pulled out a can of mace and sprayed the suspect, who retaliated by knocking the custodian to the ground and stabbing him in the upper arm and buttocks.”

The stab wounds were minor, and the victim was treated at UCSD Medical. The transient suspect was arrested and the bloody knife found on his person.

The California Theatre opened in 1927 and was a movie house until 1976. It was renovated in 1988 but has been scheduled for demolition. However, it still stands.

— Michael Hemmingson

“I just stick it in my ear and drive,” says Emily Vigney (of the Poway-Bernardo Mortuary featured on A&E’s Family Plots) about wearing headphones. She owns a 40 GB iPod. “Some people think you’re on the phone. I put my hair over it, so they don’t get mad at you. It’s kind of dangerous maybe.”

Family Plots, the reality series that follows the staff at Poway-Bernardo Mortuary, returned for a second season, which began Sunday, 8 p.m. The show features three sisters: head mortician Shonna Smith, assistant funeral director Melissa Wissmiller, and office manager Emily Vigney. Also featured in the series is their father, Chuck Wissmiller, a former boxer who picks up bodies and delivers them to the funeral home.

“My boyfriend got two [iPods] for Christmas, and he gave me one of them,” says Emily, who has a playlist entitled “Country Music I Can Handle.” She also listens to 1970s funk.

“I keep it in one ear and then I’ll answer the phone, but I keep it real low so I can...
still hear what people are saying.”

While driving in the hearse, Chuck listens to rap, “Tool and Limp Bizkit, Rage Against the Machine...2Pac, of course, I liked him right from the get-go.”

Shonna said she listens to the music while preparing bodies for a viewing. “I was going to be a music major in college, and then I decided to go into undertaking.”

— Pat Sherman

Brenda Spencer was 16 in January 1979 when she inspired the Boomtown Rats song “I Don’t Like Mondays” by opening fire with her father’s .22 caliber rifle on Grover Elementary School in San Carlos. She appeared before the California Parole Board two days ago to request her release.

Now 42, Spencer killed the school’s principal and caretaker, wounded eight children aged 6 to 12, and shot a police officer in the throat. A reporter who reached her by phone during the shootings was told, “I just did it for the fun of it. I just don’t like Mondays.” Spencer eventually surrendered to police and was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Boomtown Rats singer Bob Geldof heard of the rampage while doing a radio show on the East Coast and wrote “All the Young Dudes” in 25 years in prison.

Geldof heard of the rampage while doing a radio show on the East Coast and wrote “All the Young Dudes” in response.

Her newest request for parole states she’s a “model prisoner who has completed an Alcoholics Anonymous course and had no incidents of drug use. She is the electronics expert at the prison who has completed an Electronics course and had no incidents of drug use.

Sachs says Spencer is still psychotic, citing an incident four years ago. “When her girlfriend...[was released from jail], she burned the words ‘courage’ and ‘pride’ in her own arm like a tattoo. She’s still subject to depression.... The District Attorney’s office will oppose Spencer’s parole application.”

— Jay Allen Sanford

SPENCER IS UNLIKELY TO LEAVE PRISON

Sachs says Spencer is still psychotic, citing an incident four years ago. “When her girlfriend... [was released from jail], she burned the words ‘courage’ and ‘pride’ in her own arm like a tattoo. She’s still subject to depression.... The District Attorney’s office will oppose Spencer’s parole application.”

According to the report, “Thimmes did more checking and discovered about 200 of these headsets were missing.”

“This eBay seller account is ekin_s13,” reports Schenkelberg. “He was an eBay seller since 12-19-01.”

A subpoena is in the process of being delivered to eBay. Checking the site, it showed Thimmes’ ekin_s13 account is still active, has sold several of the C1060 headsets in the $200 range, and as of March 1 won auctions for a leather steering wheel to a Nissan Pathfinder and a box of Pria chocolate “peanut crunch” diet bars.

— Michael Hemmington

“hydroplaned on the road and hit the back of this red truck.” Murph Martin, 16, singer/guitarist with the band Muff, was on the road on a rainy February 19, heading north.

“I dented the back of his bumper. We pulled off to the side of the road to exchange information. As we were doing that, this Marine named Mike pulled over to make sure we were okay. The next thing I know I was laying 30 feet away in the mud in a fetal position. Mike came over and told me I was hit by a car and that I flipped two and a half times in the air.”

An ambulance took Martin to Scripps La Jolla, but he was released that day.

“I didn’t break any bones. I’m going to have surgery.”

— Ken Leighton

“…they will set a date when the swelling goes down. They are going to completely replace the ACL tendon. It is a common sports injury.” Junior Seau had it.”

Muff (www.muffrocks.com) appears Saturday, 5 to 9:30.

— Jay Allen Sanford

“…coming to market, increased volume” has been a staple of radio and TV commercials,” says Dan O’Neill, chief technology officer for La Jolla’s Trusonic, Inc., the company that broadcasts the music you hear when you are put on hold on the telephone.

“Trusonic’s MBOX, a commercial digital player for storage and broadcast of on-hold music and messaging, was released this month. The new model offers volume levels 40 percent higher than before.

The music is played from central computers programmed with a library of songs “a million deep,” including U2, Sheryl Crow, Shania Twain, and George Strait. Anyone can submit songs for consideration. “Trusonic Independent Artists” get paid per play, as well as receiving a free band with MP3 storage space at garageband.com.

— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS

— Jennifer Hall (editor), Josh Board, Emily Sackett, Dave Good, Michael Hemmington, Randy Hoffman, Kent Leighton, Ryan Lybicky, Mary Montgomery, Derek Flank, Jay Allen Sanford.

ST. PATRICK’S DAY 2005

Notlin’ but a Party!

Thursday, March 10 • No Cover

NIK SIMON BAND

“Simon Says It’s the Blues”

Friday, March 11

TEXAS TWisters

“Pushin’ the Blues”

Saturday, March 12

Join Us on Our Double-Decker Bus in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Bus Leaves Bar @ 9 am. No Charge!

FINISHERS

AFTER THE PARADE PARTY BLUES

RONNIE LANE & THE TEXAS TWisters

“Pushin’ the Blues” • 9-3:30 pm

SUNDAY, March 13 • No Cover

RED LANE ROCKS

“Classic Rock–Touch of Country”

SOUL DIDGE

“High-Energy, Soulful Blues” • 9 pm-1:30 am

BLUEs, SOUL, ROCK ‘N’ ROLL!
Full Potential

“It requires lots of practice in the mirror to play with a guitar.”

“We sold 200 tickets, and I’d say 150 of them were to hot chicks,” says Dylan Paton, songwriter, guitarist, and front man for San Diego band Paperback Statue.

He’s talking about their first live gig at 4th & B on November 5 of last year. Bassist Nan Chi Vu cocreated the act.

“There were definitely a lot of women there that night, and afterward they came up and talked to us, wanted our CD, gave us feedback, and then there was my mom,” he explains. “Yes, she was there too, partying in the crowd. She’d gotten out of the hospital for high blood pressure. She was taking heart medicine and didn’t know she couldn’t drink. After saying hello to everyone, my mom tried running up to me to give me a hug and say how proud she was of me and instead she passed out cold on the floor. I thought she was having a heart attack. I freaked out; we carried her outside and tried to stand her up. But she was out cold. I was so scared. I didn’t want to wait for the ambulance so I got a cab to take us to the hospital. The cab driver ends up taking us to a closed ER. I was so pissed; I really thought something bad was going to happen. When we got there, she wakes up and throws up outside the cab. She ended up being fine. By the time I got back to the show to hand out CDs, the show was over and everyone was gone.”

Paperback Statue will play 4th and B again on March 11 with local bands Fono and Dirty Sweet.

TRICKIEST MUSICAL PROBLEM PLAYING LIVE?

“Being able to play guitar and sing at the same time. The goal is that eventually you know the guitar so well that you can just concentrate on singing and really give the audience what your full potential is. That’s why most really good singers sing by themselves. It requires lots of practice in the mirror to play with a guitar. Most people can’t tell the difference… I mean, most people can’t hear pitch either. It took me one year of bel canto [Italian singing style originated in the 16th Century] training to really hear if [other] people or myself are on pitch or not.”

INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT USED?

“We like to use little boutique amps, even on the bass — then the drums really come forward at our shows. Boutique amps are custom made to your liking. My amp is a mix between an AC30 and a Fender Bassman. It has one vintage 12-inch speaker. Because vintage tubes aren’t going to be around forever, I had the amp made so I can put in normal tubes that they make today, and it still has a very warm sound with lots of bottom. The back is also sealed so none of the bottom end escapes; it’s driven forward. It sounds amazing. We use Fender, Musicman, Gibson, and Carvin basses.”

YOUR INFLUENCES?

“Tom Petty for his happy and sad songs, great lyrics, and great spirit. The Cure for their innovation and eclectic sound. Radiohead for their weirdness. The Police for their great driving drum beats. The Clash for making punk, rock, and reggae come together and making this new sound. Smashing Pumpkins for getting really heavy and mellowing out many times in a song.”

ANY DREAMS ABOUT MUSIC?

“I always have strange dreams that I’m naked floating in the sky on giant leaves and my penis is 20 inches long and I don’t know what to do with it. It won’t fit in my pants or my boxers, and in my dream we usually have a show to play so I’m freaking out because I don’t know how to hide my penis.”

TOP FIVE MOVIES?

1. Run Lola Run (“I love the intensity.”)
2. Goodfellas (“Because my family is Sicilian.”)
3. Casino (“Reminds me of home.”)
4. Big (“Great kid’s fantasy story.”)
5. The Goonies (“The characters are awesome; they make the whole movie.”)

Nan Chi Vu and Dylan Paton

San Diego Reader March 10, 2005 113
March 11, 9:15 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach.

Press the 4-digit extension above the category that interests you (for example, 4000 for this week’s concerts). At the next prompt, press the 3-digit code that is next to the performer you wish to hear. (Performers without codes currently do not have recordings.)

Upcoming Concerts

March

Big Head Todd & the Monsters (4773) 4th & B, Thursday, March 17, 7 p.m., 340 N. Escondido Boulevard, Escondido. 760-988-4253 or 619-220-8497.

Joe Cocker (588) Pala Events Center, Thursday, March 17, 7:30 p.m., Pala Casino Resort, 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala. 760-710-4555 or 619-220-8497.

Blue Öyster Cult (309) 4th & B, Friday, March 18, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

Michael McDonald (610) Pala Events Center, Friday, March 18, 7:30 p.m, Pala Casino Resort, 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala. 760-710-4555 or 619-220-8497.

Deana Carter (777) Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, March 19, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

Mary Black (569) California Center for the Arts, Saturday, March 19, 8 p.m., 340 N. Escondido Boulevard, Escondido. 760-988-4253 or 619-220-8497.

Diana Ross (774) Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Saturday, March 19, 8 p.m., 3000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-644-5400 or 619-220-8497.

Reverend Horton Heat (268) the Supercrackers (367), and Trainwreck ‘Canes Bar and Grill, Saturday, March 19, 9 p.m., 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780 or 619-220-8497.

Michael Franti (45’s) 4th & B, Saturday, March 19, 7 p.m., 340 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

Dave Stamey: Acoustic Music San Diego, Saturday, March 19, 7:30 p.m, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Normal Heights. Information, 619-303-8176.


The Byron Berline Band: Acoustic Music San Diego, Sunday, March 20, 7:30 p.m., 4600 Manifold Street, Normal Heights. Information, 619-303-8176.

April

U2 (288) California Center for the Arts, Sunday, March 20, 2 p.m., 15900 Freeway Drive, Carlsbad. 760-742-7490 or 858-488-1780.

Diamond Rio (227) The Real McKenzies (291), and the Decemberists (202) Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, March 26, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

The Presidents of the United States of America (228) Belly Up Tavern, Friday, March 25, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.


Handsome Boy Modeling School: Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, March 29, 7 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

A Bar 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.

The Real McKenzies (558), ‘Canes Bar and Grill, Thursday, March 31, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-481-8140.

April

Johnny Mathis (641) Pala Events Center, Friday, April 1, 7:30 p.m., Pala Casino Resort, 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala. 760-510-4555 or 619-220-8497.

Rod Stewart (865) Covers Amphitheatre, Friday, April 1, 8 p.m.,

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2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600 or 619-220-8497.

Ryan Cabrera: Spreckels Theatre, Friday, April 1, 3:30 p.m., 700 Broadway, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons (612): Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre, Friday, April 1, 8 p.m., 5469 Casino Way, Dehesa. 619-659-3380.

“Taste of Chaos” with the Used, My Chemical Romance, Killswitch Engage, and more: San Diego Sports Arena, Friday, April 1, 6 p.m., 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-224-4171 or 619-220-8497.

The Radiators: Belly Up Tavern, Friday, April 1, 9:15 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

The Young Dubliners (469): Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, April 2, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

The Drive-By Truckers (574): Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, April 6, 8:30 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

George Duke and Brenda Russell: Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre, Thursday, April 7, 8 p.m., 5469 Casino Way, Dehesa. 619-659-3380.

Slipknot, Lamb of God, and Shadows Fall: Cox Arena, Friday, April 8, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-220-8497 or 619-594-0429.

Vance Gilbert: Acoustic Music San Diego, Friday, April 8, 7:30 p.m., 4690 Manheim Street, Normal Heights. Information, 619-303-8176.

Maktub (572): Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, April 9, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

The Dan Band: Open Air Theatre, Saturday, April 9, 8 p.m., SDSU campus, College Area. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

Joe Satriani (536): 4th & B, Sunday, April 10, 8 p.m., 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

Velvet Revolver and Hoobastank: Cox Amphitheatre, Tuesday, April 12, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600 or 619-220-8497.

The Killers: RIMAC Arena, Tuesday, April 12, UCSD campus, La Jolla. 858-534-8497 or 619-220-8497.

The Bodeans: Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, April 16, 9:15 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

Moe.: 4th & B, Saturday, April 16, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

The Gin Blossoms (603): Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, April 21, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

“Festival Del Mar” featuring Macy Gray (938), Etta James (951), the Blind Boys of Alabama (953), Taj Mahal (958), the Yonder Mountain String Band, the Charlie Musselwhite Band, Peter Sprague (645), Chris Klich (695), Jason Mraz (824), Donavan Frankenreiter, Blackalicious, Karl Denson’s Tiny Universe (641), Dave Wakeling, Common Sense (780), and more: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Saturday, April 16, and Sunday, April 17, 2280 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 619-220-8497.

Bob Schneider (244): Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, April 17, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

Crystal Method: 4th & B, Friday, April 15, 9 p.m., 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

moe.: 4th & B, Saturday, April 16, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

Sound Tribe Sector 9: 4th & B, Wednesday, April 13, 8 p.m., 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

The Young Dubliners: Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, April 2, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

Bob Schneider: Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, April 17, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140.

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BY WILLIAM CRAIN

Rock ‘n’ roll started out as music to dance to, and some might argue that it should stay that way. But when modern bands try to bridge the gap between rock and dance music, they usually borrow something from the ‘60s or ‘80s playground. Few try to encroach on house music’s territory.

The Music, a young band from Leeds, England, has done just that. Their name is suitably robotic, their graphics properly high-tech, and most significantly, drummer Phil Jordan pounds his kit with a driving four-on-the-floor beat straight out of the dance clubs.

Guitarist Adam Nutter and bassist Stuart Coleman engage in a good deal of Led Zeppelin-type riffage, but they also use a lot of repeated figures and special effects to create a very electronic wall of sound. On their recordings, digital editing makes the production sound up-to-the-minute.

Why then does the Music’s 2004 album Welcome to the North make me think of Jesus Jones, School of Fish, EMF, and other alternative radio acts circa 1990? It could be singer Robert Harvey, whose long hair and baggy clothes make him look like a member of the Happy Mondays. His vocals, however, sound more like Geddy Lee, circa 1976. I guess that, in turn, makes me think of Perry Ferrell, circa 1991.

The Zeppelin riffs put me in mind of Jane's Addiction, too. That’s not necessarily a bad thing. But it strikes me as funny that the Music’s rock-dance hybrid skips the ‘60s and ‘80s but still ends up evoking the past.

MUSIC, ‘Canes Bar and Grill, Sunday, March 13, 8:30 p.m. 858-488-1780 or 619-220-8497. $12.50.
For Tickets Visit The Pala Privileges Center or Call:

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San Diego Reader - March 10, 2005
THURSDAY, MARCH 10
ORIGINAL ROCK & ROLL
Tapwater

FRIDAY, MARCH 11
6-8 PM • ORIGINAL ADULT ALTERNATIVE: Simply Complex
Rising Star
(Anson Funderburgh & The Rockets has been cancelled due to illness.)

SATURDAY, MARCH 12
6-8 PM • JAZZ: Arvella Murray
9:30 PM-1:30 AM • LATIN ROCK
Viva Santana

SUNDAY, MARCH 13
9 PM-12 AM • ORIGINAL ROCK: The Mighty Flyers
SMOOTH JAZZ WITH KELLY COLE
THE ONLY PLACE TO BE ON SUNDAY NIGHT!!!
8 PM-12 AM
SMOOTH JAZZ NATIONAL RECORDING PIANIST
Dan Siegel

UPCOMING SHOWS
SATURDAY, APRIL 9
LEAD SINGER OF "CHICAGO" - BILL CHAMPLIN
TWO SHOWS:
7:30 & 10 PM
The Sons of Champlin

THURSDAY, MARCH 10
ORIGINAL ROCK & ROLL
Tapwater
San Diego Reader March 10, 2005 12

FRI/ MAR/11

hustle - Always on the move.

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FREE BEFORE 11PM.
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Present ticket at club entrance. Not valid on Holidays or Special Events. Voucher has no cash value. Limit one per guest. Must be 21 or older. Fashionable attire required. Deco reserves all rights.

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SAT/ MAR/12

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Spinning the best in HIP HOP, Old School, R&B, Dancehall & Reggaeton
DJ Billy Knight, DJ Play (Blazin 98.9 FM) & RESIDENT DJ BIG DUDE
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Obvious comparisons aside, the Flying Putos are not the Best Farmers revived. When three of the Farmers’ founding members — Buddy Blue, Jerry Raney, and Rolle Love — formed the Putos a few years back with drummer Joel Kimah, they opted not to pick up where the Farmers left off when that band ground to an untimely halt in the mid ’90s. Instead, the Putos wound the clock back and crafted a skill-cracking sound that the Farmers might have envied had they ever possessed a sense of common purpose. After Blue departed the lineup, the band drafted Joey Harris, developed three heads, and followed them off in separate directions.

Even if you hated cowpunk, you have to give the Beat Farmers their due. They were vanguards to the alt-country scene. From the otherwise bone-dry music wasteland of El Cajon, the quartet took its shot at the industry pile of gold in 1985 and hooked a big one in the form of Rhino Records. That year Rhino released Tales of the New West, a surprise blend of bro, rock nostalgia, and high school pranksterisms. Glowing reviews followed, handed down by critics at Rolling Stone, Creem, and Spin. Melody Maker compared them to the Beatles; Billboard said the Beat Farmers were “the best American band to come down the pipe since Creedence.” The Farmers almost lived up to it.

The Putos experience is not unlike a joyride through the worst part of town in your father’s borrowed Caddy with the radio cranked — all tatted attitude and with the potential of a grave hangover. They are a bar band’s bar band. By now, the Putos have a collective motherlode of root rock’s best under their belts: “Psychedelic modal honky-tonk hillbilly garage blues,” says Buddy Blue of their ambitious gig. “Maybe like if the MC5 and Merle Haggard and the Allman Brothers and Bob Diddley all puked into the same toilet together.”

FLYING PUTOS, Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, March 17, 9 p.m. 619-220-8497 or 858-481-8140. $10.
March 16th-20th

Circo Luci is a new cirque-style theatrical entertainment production. It is a bold combination of acrobatics, aerial artistry and dazzling visual effects. Spectacular lighting, beautiful costumes and high-energy dance make this show a hit.

Tickets are $25

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Thursday, March 17, at 8:00 pm
Friday, March 18, at 8:00 pm
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Sunday, March 20, at 4:00 pm

GEORGE DUKE
BRENDA RUSSELL
Thursday, April 7th
Tickets are $40

CAMBODIAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATION
Wednesday, April 13th at 7:00 PM & 9:30 PM
Tickets are $20

GORDON LIGHTFOOT
Friday, April 22nd
Tickets are $40

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Showtimes are at 8:00 pm unless otherwise noted.

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The Tall Dudes: Don’s Cocktail Lounge
Tapwater: Humphrey’s

San Diego March 10, 2005
Reader

The Stilettos: Blind Melons
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P.O.P. / T.O.P.
Carol Amos (619) Winston
8 Natural: Bahia Belle Cruise
The Corvettes: Viejas Casino

The New Breed Band: Dick’s Last Resort
NRG: Dick’s Last Resort
The Pier Group: Trelises Garden Grill
Patrick Quillen: Bambana
The Ratz Pack: La Scala
Peter Robberecht/Pianoman (622): Dakota Grill and Sprits
2 Guys Will Move You: McP’s Irish Pub and Grill

Tickets On Sale Saturday @ 10am
Saturday August 6
RIMAC FIELD
ON UCSD CAMPUS

BANDS
The Stillettos: Second Wind (San Diego)
The Tall Dudes: Don’s Cocktail Lounge
Tapwater: Humphrey’s

Bands
Humphrey’s
Second Wind (Santee)
Don’s Cocktail Lounge
Blind Melons
Saturday August 6
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Viva Santana: Humphrey’s Restaurant
The Wylde Bunch: Belly Up Tavern
Jesse Davis: Buon Giorno Restaurant
The Heroes: Viejas Casino
Liquid Blue (669): Woody’s Sports Bar and Grill
Elliot Louie: Bahia Hotel
The Love Rangers: The Alley
Rick Lyon: The Imperial House
Sean McVicker: Trelises Garden Grill

EXTENSION 4004

EXTENSION 4005
Jazz / Big Band
Agua Dulce (760): The Gordon Bierch Brewery, Winstons
Blind Melons: Humphrey’s
The Archetones: Croce’s Jazz Bar
The Rat Bar Big Band: The German-American Societies
The Big Daddy Orchestra (687): Tin Le’s Lounge
Tom Bishop: Rancho Bernardo Inn
The Sachi Beutros Quartet: Aurora Trattoria
Ray Briz: Hotel del Coronado
John Cain (760): Elanis Bistro and She Lounge, Hotel del Coronado
The Jorge Camberos Quintet: Croce’s Jazz Bar
Sammy Canonizado: Café LaMaze
Gilbert Castellanos (667): Elabor
Sandy Chappell: Café LaMaze
Jo Dark: The German-American Societies
Aubrey Fap: Humphrey’s
Donnie Finnell & Co. East: Bistro 221
Puertas: The Calypso Café
Dora Hall: Aurora Trattoria
The High Society Jazz Band: The Inn Suites, Tin Le’s Lounge
Alfred Howard & The K23 Orchestra: Neiman’s Bar and Grill
Daniel Jackson: Hotel del Coronado
Barbara Jamerson: Hotel del Coronado
Jazzilla: Tamarisk Café
Kevin Kanner: Dizzy’s
The Chris Kich Jazz Quintet: Coyote Bar and Grill
Tony Lasley: Hotel del Coronado
Benny Lewish: La Valencia Hotel
The Joe Marillo Quartet: Buon Giorno Restaurant
Masterpiece: Jimmy Love’s
Jerry Malnick: The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, Rancho Bernardo Inn
The Ship Mayors Quartet (600): Hotel del Coronado, Croce’s Bar
Avelia Murray: Humphrey’s
Mystique: Jimmy Love’s
Josh Nelson: Dizzy’s
Palos: The Calypso Café
The David Patrone Quartet (667): Croce’s Jazz Bar
Ben Powell: Tamko Bar and Grill
Primavera: Sevills, Croce’s Top Hat Bar and Grill, Belly Up Tavern
Harish Ragahvan: Dizzy’s
Dean Paul Ratman: Bistro Soliel
Rick Ross: La Valencia Hotel
Sambajazz: Scalini Restaurant
The San Diego Concert Jazz Band: The Inn Suites
Adam Schroeder: Dizzy’s
Dave Scott: Croce’s Jazz Bar
Dan Singe: Humphrey’s
Reggie Smith & Pressed for Time: Jimmy Love’s
The Soul Revue: Jimmy Love’s
Joe Tarantino: Hotel del Coronado, Hotel del Coronado
Tony Taravella (663): The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf (Clairemont)
The Third Coast Jazz Trio: The Book Works/Pannikin Café
The Tami Thomas Big Band: Viejas Casino
The Jaime Valle Quartet: The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, Rancho Bernardo Inn
Yavaz: Croce’s Jazz Bar

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DJ EVENTS

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Air Conditioned: Thursdays, Orange Koi, lavish ingroundscapes with Dr. Sergio DJ Gage. Fridays, old skool, funk, and disco with DJ J. Minniestar Mondays, Party, bring your iPad and you’re the DJ. Wednesdays, Rockshiva, ’70s and ’80s rock with DJs Atan, Jergo, and J. Minniestar. 4673 30th Street, University Heights. 619-501-9831.

Blitzkrieg Bop!: Mondays, punk, indie, and rock ‘n’ roll with DJ Mr. Hyde. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. Kadan, 4006 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500.

Booty Basement: Fourth Saturday of the month, rap, booty bass, and ’80s with DJs Bob, Bati, and Dimitri. 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. The Whistle Stop Bar, 2236 Fourth Street, South Park. 619-284-6774.

Club ’80s: Thursdays, the best of the ’80s with DJs Bryan Pollard and Brian Anderson. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. Shortstop, 3435 30th Street, North Park. 619-374-5744.


Deep: Thursdays, drum ‘n’ bass and jungle music with DJs Wallbrower, Probable Cause, and Island. 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. The Rhythm Lounge, 3048 Midway Drive, Midway. 619-224-4835.

Deviantly Dark: Sundays, dark, driving progressive house and breakscapes with DJs Kimmie Masterson and Joe P; 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Kadan, 4006 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500.

Fact 6: First Tuesday of the month, electroclash, indie, and synthpop with DJs B-Czar, Taboo, and Narcoscept. No cover; 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. Kadan, 4006 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500.

Frescati: Thursdays, top-hop, downtempo breaks, and acid jazz with DJs Red Sonya and Jeran. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. The Mystic Lounge, 545 Fifth Avenue (below Teasers Restaurant), downtown. 619-354-1670.

Fusion Young Adult Laser Dance Club: Fridays and Saturdays, DJ Diary spins hip-hop, booty bass, and reggae. 775 Jewel Street, Escondido. 760-741-7993.

HIFI: Third Saturday of the month, ’80s, hip-hop, and indie with DJs B czar and Richard D. Gato Loco, 634 Orange Avenue, downtown. 619-544-1609.

Liquid Funk: Fridays, funk, downtempo, and drum ‘n’ bass; 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. The Marlin Lounge, 545 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-224-3670.

The Mercury Room: Thursdays, R2 and CAZ spin hip-hop, dance, and Top 40. Fridays, Mars’s Rain, Riba spin rockabilly, psychobilly, and swing. Wednesdays, Kish Krome, the best and worst of metal and rock. 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. 9325 Mission Stop Road, Santee. 619-562-2429.

MixLab: Thursdays, DJ Dax spins an electric-tinged session, alternative hip-hop, urban soul, and Latin grooves. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. No cover. Candela, 416 Third Avenue, downtown. 619-224-3670.

Moondoggies Pacific Beach: Saturdays, Saturday Night Mix, hip-hop and R&B with DJs Magnum and Cisco. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. No cover. 832 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-6530.


The Whistle Stop, 2236 Fern Street (corner of 30th and Juniper), Golden Hill. 619-284-6784. The Alley, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 760-729-2989. Thursday, and Saturday, Carlsbad. 760-737-7398. Friday and Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., Donnie Finnell & Co. East, standards and light jazz.

Bistro Soliel, 441 South Coast Highway, Encinitas. 760-942-9548. Friday, and Saturday, Steel Dawn, classic rock. The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe, Flower Hill Mall, I-5 at Via de la Valle, Del Mar. 858-755-3735. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 9 p.m., rock. Saturday, 6 p.m., the YNF Band, “Throw Rag, the Ups, and 53 Gons, alternative rock. Sunday, 5 p.m., the Stone Sirens, reggae. Wednesday, country.

Boar Cross’n, 3815 30th Street, North Park. 619-574-0744. Shooterz, 3815 30th Street, North Park. 619-574-0744. Thursday, and Saturday, Shooters, 3815 30th Street, North Park. 619-574-0744. Friday, and Saturday, 6 p.m., “the Easy Way” and “Rye Whiskey” are more ominous.

The biggest downfall seems to be the organization. The first five tracks are studio versions, but the sixth, a live performance of the second track, sends listeners into fits of deja vu; this is followed by fresh studio tracks. Why not save the live versions for the end, or perhaps as hidden tracks? It’s too hard to adjust for those variances on one’s home or car stereo without having to fiddle. (To hear a sample of Tennesser and Below, call 619-233-9797, wait for the prompt, then punch in ext. 4817.)

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD REVIEWED, PLEASE MAIL IT TO: Jennifer Ball, hometown CDs, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803.

Borders Books and Music, 1905 Calle Barcelona, Carlsbad. 760-479-0242. Friday, 7 p.m., Kevin Tinkle, folk.

Sub’s Whiskey Dive, 301 Pier View Way, Oceanside. 760-755-BUBS. Friday, and Saturday, Steel Dawn, classic rock.

roadhouse rock. Tuesday, Jack Templer, folk. Wednesday, Runnin’ Blue, blues.
Carvers, 11940 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-566-2400. Friday and Saturday, the Jackson 3, rock.
The Cask and Cleaver Restaurant, 2757 South Mission Road, Fallbrook. 760-728-2188. Friday, 8 p.m., The Hank Show, country.
Che Café, building 161, UCSD. 858-534-2311. Some Girls, The Plot to Blow Up the Eiffel Tower, Friday, time TBA.
Coyote Bar and Grill, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4695. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., the Rhythm Method, classic rock. Friday, 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Jeff Moore & the Winchesters, blues. Saturday, 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Red Lane, rock/blues, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., the Jerry McCorn Band, rock/reggae/R&B. Sunday, 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Dan Connery, folk rock, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Cleo Kitch Jazz Quintet. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Bonnyard, rock.
Game Time Tavern, 12735 Poway Road, Poway. 858-744-0015. Friday and Saturday, 6,09, classic rock.
Hennessey’s Tavern (Carlsbad), 277 Rousseau Street, Carlsbad. 760-728-6911. Saturday, Sandjacket, alternative.
The Jumping Turtle, 1600 Capalina Road, San Marcos. 760-471-7738. Thursday, Chill Roy and the Firebirds, blues. Friday, the Big Provider and Pascal, alternative/rock. Saturday, Joel, alternative. Wednesday, Pete Block, classic rock.
The Kraken, 2331 Old Highway 101, Cardiff. 760-436-6483. Thursday, Jeff Moore & the Winchesters, blues. Friday, the Mondo Blues Band, Saturday, the Travel Agents, alternative. Sunday, the Blues Brokers, Monday, the Charlie Burton Blues Band.
Last Shot Saloon, 445 Grand Avenue, San Marcos. 760-744-8756. Thursday, Motley Crue, Parkhurst, and Immortal Noise, rock. Friday, Sleepfest and Headtrip Supercar, hard/heavy rock.
Martini Ranch, 485 South Coast Highway (at D Street), Encinitas. 760-943-8101. Thursday, 5 p.m., Hunter Harvey, the Garrett Thomas Band, and the Ken Garcia Band, rock. Friday, Max Pina Cantina, 2780 State Street, Carlsbad. 760-434-3497.
Neimans Bar and Grill, Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4996. Thursday through Saturday, live jazz.

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., SambaJazz, American and Brazilian jazz.

Squid Joe’s, 850 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-4996. Thursday, Tribal Soul, Friday, 8 p.m., Motzin, 2 Creps, Six Waving, and Mold, alternative rock. Saturday, Lost Minutes, Two for Thirty, Hanny Rotations, Marion Adams’ Ada, the Trade Route, and Juice, heavy rock/reggae.

Surf N’Saddle, 123 West Plaza Street (Lomas Santa Fe and Highway 101), Solana Beach. 858-735-9474. Friday, the Free Range Chickens, rock. Saturday, Tobby, rock. Wednesday, 9 p.m., open mic.

Tomiko Bar and Grill, #7 Encinitas Boulevard, Encinitas. 760-633-3187, Saturday, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., Ben Powell, movie jazz.

Vista Entertainment Center, 150 West Vista Way, Vista. 760-941-0152. Saturday, 9 p.m., the Home Wreckers, rock/blues.

Woody’s Sports Bar & Grill, 2529 South Centre City Parkway, Escondido. 760-735-8399. Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m., Liquid Blue, pop rock.

Bridget Brigitte’s, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego. 619-222-8131.

Chateau Orleans, 1132 Prospect Street, La Jolla. 858-454-8092. Wednesday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., Space Playboys, 3 Against 1, Gecko, the Great American Band.

Dinner Buffet 5-8 pm

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**CALENDAR**

**Thurs., Mar. 15**

- Live music 8:30 – Eamon Carroll with Irish Step Dancers

**Sat., Mar. 12**

- Irish Pub Crawl in the Gaslamp – Win T-shirts

**Sun., Mar. 13**

- Traditional Irish Music and Dancing 5:30 pm

**Mon., Mar. 14**

- Open Mic Night – Are you the next Irish Idol? Sign up now!

**Tues., Mar. 15**

- Live music 8:30 – Eamon Carroll with Irish Step Dancers

**Wed., Mar. 16**

- Guinness Oyster Festival Night – Music by Harold’s Craic Band

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**St. Patrick’s Day 2005!**

Doors open at 9 am • Let the party begin!

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Turquoise Cafe, 873 Turquoise Street, La Jolla. 858-488-4200. Saturday, 8:30 p.m., Fred Heath & the Slideshow, blues, and Jacilla, straight-ahead jazz.

Winstons, 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822. Thursday, the Lights of Zion, reggae. Friday, Botana, Honey Bucket, & Frost, and the Rap Bandits, heavy rock/alternative. Saturday, 7 p.m., Box, rock, 9:30 p.m., Angry Dule, Latin jazz. Tuesday, EFL, the Gizzards, and Inner Limit, rock. Wednesday, Carol Anne & 21 Grants, original rock.

SAN DIEGO

Albie’s Beef Inn, 1201 Hotel Circle South, San Diego. 619-291-1103. Friday and Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, 7 p.m., David Timothy Smith.

The Bahia Belle Cruise, the Bahia Hotel, 998 West Mission Bay Drive, Mission Bay, 858-539-7779. Departs 6:30 p.m. Friday, B-Natural, pop. Saturday, the Noise Blues.


Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Avenue, Bay Park. 619-275-LIVE. Music is rock/alternative unless otherwise noted. Shows begin at 8 p.m. Thursday, Murdock, Sorrow’s End, and Forkstone. Friday, Shanein Park, Call Me Alice, Otto’s Daughter, and Broadchurch. Saturday, Alice Uncharted and OZ 612. Wednesday, Wayne “the Train” Hancock and the Bandits.

Caffe Calabria, 3933 30th Street, North Park, 619-291-1759. Friday, 8 p.m., Earl Thomas and Home Anderson, blues. Tuesday, Jim Earp, Celtic folk.

The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, 5657 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont. 858-276-2848. Saturday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Tony Tavarella, jazz guitarist.

Epicentre, 8450 Mira Mesa Blvd, Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000. All music is heavy rock/alternative unless otherwise noted. Thursday, Gatsby’s American Dream, Bear vs. Shark, Circa Survive, Get Back Loretta, and Goodbye Tomorrow.

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

The Gordon Biersch Brewery, 5010 Mission Center Road, San Diego.
619-848-0680. Friday, Agua Dulce, Latin jazz.

Harry’s Bar and American Grill, 4751 La Jolla Village Drive, San Diego.
858-373-1252. Friday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Jame Yolke Queret, Brazilian and mainstream jazz.

Humphrey’s, Half Moon Inn, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.
619-224-3577. Thursday, 8 p.m. to midnight, Topper’s original rock.
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Saturday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Aretha Musty, jazz vocalist.
9:30 p.m., Viva Sentosa, Latin rock.
Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Audrey Fay, smooth jazz.
8 p.m. to midnight, Dan Segel, smooth jazz.
Monday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Island Breeze, Tommy Buffalo tribute band.
Tuesday, 8 p.m. to midnight, the Soul Persuaders, funk/soul/dance.
Wednesday, 9 p.m. to midnight, Skilper, traditional Irish music.

The Imperial House, 505 Elmira Street, San Diego.
619-234-3553. Thursday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., Rick Jons, pop standards/Top 40/variety.

In Cahoots, 5073 Mission Center Road, Mission Valley.
619-291-4835. Call club for information.

The Inn Suites, 2223 E Cajon Boulevard, San Diego. 619-296-2101.
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Jamar’s Restaurant and Lounge, 3777 University Avenue, La Mesa.
619-469-7777. Thursday, Saturday, the Bert Torres Band.
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The Kensington Club, 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington, 619-284-2848. Friday and Saturday, live alternative/rock music.


The Mercury, 9315 Mission Gorge Road, La Mesa, 619-462-2429. Thursday, hip-hop/R&B. Friday and Saturday, call club for information.

O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub, 1310 Morena Boulevard, Bay Park, 619-276-5867. Friday, Fish & the Seasoned, classic rock. Saturday, the Blues Connection, Blues, Sunday. 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Mystery Train. Tuesdays, open blues jam.

The Ould Sod, 3373 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-284-6594. Friday, Gene Warren, Irish folk. Tuesday, Irish jam session.

Pal Joey's, 1541 Waring Road, Allied Gardens, 619-286-7783. Friday, a live band, Nite Life, blues/wing.


Second Wind, 8515 Norrho Road, San Carlos, 619-461-1736. Thursday, Mike Riggorski, acoustic/folk. Friday and Saturday, Senior Gane, classic rock. Tuesday, J.J. Slyde, blues.


Tie Leo's Lounge, 5302 Napa Street (at Morena Boulevard), Bay Park. 619-412-1462. Thursday, Hot Red Lincoln, rock/blues/moving. Friday, the Big Daddy Orchestra, blues. Saturday, Cornels House and Bad Habit, alternative rock. Monday, tango. Tuesday, sydneys, Wednesday, the High Society Jazz Band.

Top of the Cove, 1216 Prospect Avenue, La Jolla, 619-454-7797. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m., Krux Redek, piano.

Trelilises Garden Grill, 50 Hotel Circle North, San Diego. 619-898-5017. Thursday, Sean McVicker, contemporary and dance. Friday and Sunday, the Part Group, pop.

Tutto Mondo, 2205 Executive Drive, La Jolla (Golden Triangle area), 622-397-1188. Wednesday, p.m. to 9 p.m., the Jamie Valle Quartet, Brazilian and mainstream jazz.

Twigg Tea and Coffee Company, 3053 Park Boulevard, University Heights, 619-289-0616. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, 8:30 p.m., Marina V., Proper Fire, Dusolla, and Company for Quiet. Friday, Jackie Dixon, Bonts, Pete Nguyen, and Kerl Henson. Saturday, Martin Simon, Ashley Matte, Revered 16, Will Edmonds, and Tim Mush, piano.

Vesuvio Gourmet Restaurant, 3621 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-281-7000. Friday, 9 p.m. to midnight, live jazz.

DOWNTOWN
Blarney Stone Pub, 502 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-8519. Friday through Sunday, and Wednesday, Steve Brower, acoustic.

The Casbah, 2011 Kettner Boulevard, downtown. 619-232-3333. Wed. Music is acoustic/rock unless otherwise noted. Thursday, the Rolling Blackouts, the Pars, the Laches, and Flatland. Friday, Demolition Doll Roads, the Hauntscreen, the Red Omens, the Mexico City Rollers, and Eclectic K-S. Saturday, the Vireonesters, the Chinese Stars, GoGoAirhead, and Die Prusen. Die, Sunday, 11. Mere, and Elucorum. Monday, Losers, the Honorary Title, and Commandeering, Thursday, the Robot Air Me, and the Donkeys. Wednesday, La Caja, Ed Fete, the Infants, and the Kingdom of snakes.

Croce's Jazz Bar, 802 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-8519. All music is jazz unless otherwise noted. Thursday, the David Parmelee Quartet, jazz. Friday, Erica, Saturday, and Sunday, the Archtones. Monday, Dave Scott Tuesday, the Ship Meyers Quartet. Wednesday, the Jorge Combines Quartet.

Croce's Top Hat Bar and Grille, 802 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-8519. Friday, Fuzzy & the Blueberries. Saturday, Prime, saloon/Latin jazz.

Dakota Grill and Spirits, 801 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-234-5545. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 9 p.m. to 10 p.m., PeterRobbenChow/Pitman, pop/Top 40.

d灵的 Last Resort, 345 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-231-9100. Thursday, Private Domain, rock and roll. Friday, NRC, high-energy dance. Saturday, Straight Six, rock. Sunday, Heavy Ole, rock. Tues., Mongo's, acoustic rock. Wednesday, the New Breed Band, pop/jazz.

Dizzy's, 344 Seventh Avenue, downtown. 619-234-3333. Monday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., a punk band. Tuesday, 8:30 p.m., Adam Schroeder, Harujel Asphalt, Ken Kammer, and Josh Vebber, straight-ahead jazz. Wednesday, 7 p.m., Boris Hendel & His Quintet, blues. Wednesday, 8 p.m., Rahim Alhaj, original jazz.

Dublin Square, 554 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-238-3818. Live music by Raggle Taggle, Irish fasion. Call club for information.

4th & B, 435 B Street, downtown. 619-231-6441. Friday, 9 p.m., Paperback Stamps, Fono, Dirty Street, and the Pheradi, alternative.

CS-Georges on Fifth, 835 Fifth Avenue (between E and F Streets), downtown. 619-702-0444. Thursday, Friday, and Wednesday, Tim Barbuto, pianist.

NightSpotting

CHEZ Avenida Tapachula 103 (corner of Avenida Hipódromo) Tijuana, Mexico 011-52-137-8821

MUSIC ➤ mariachi, rock, punk, dance SPECIAL NIGHTS ➤ mariachi band on Fridays, every other Saturday, punk or rock.

CLIENTELE ➤ 18 and up; average early 20s (and a few in their late 20s), all men and women. Covers ➤ none.

HOURS ➤ 6:00 p.m. until midnight Sunday through Thursday, 6:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

BATHROOM ➤ all men and women, though the authorities aren’t too strict about other types of music. He answer questions. I just serve the drinks.

I was a bit disappointed that they did not have cars to race the other cars and I ususally had to fix. We are the authorities and we don’t give up until we fix the car.

When it comes to the bathroom. the authorities aren’t too strict

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- ’2” Karls • ’5 Cosmos • All night
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- 32-oz. Domestic Big Ass Beers ’5 • All night
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**Thursdays:**

- Mojito Madness • ’5 Mojitos • All night
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** Fridays:**

- Happy Hour 6-8 pm • ’3 Wine, Wells, & Drafts

**Sundays:**

- Industry Night • 9 pm-Close
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- ’2 Off All Appetizers

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**St. Patrick’s Week 2005**

“Beannachtam na feile padraig go n-éirí an bóther leath! Slainté”

**Irish Dance Cabaret**

- Thursday-Sunday
- 2:30-5:30 pm
- 9 pm-midnight
- Featuring dancers formerly of "Riverdance" and "Lord of the Dance"

**Music by:**

- Thursday: Dublin Fusion
- Friday: Lepre-Khanz
- Saturday: Skelpin’
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Join us:
- Tuesday at 6:30 pm for Brainstormer Pub Quiz
- Wednesday at 8 pm for Karaoke with Levi

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1130 Buenos Ave. (off Morena Blvd.)
The following nightclubs have valuable coupons in the Music Section of the Reader’s website.

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Tio Leo’s Lounge</td>
<td>$5.50 off speeding dinner.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brick by Brick</td>
<td>2 for 1 admission.</td>
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<td>Club Caribe</td>
<td>$5 off cover.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croc’s Bar</td>
<td>Free cover with dinner.</td>
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<tr>
<td>In Cahoots</td>
<td>$1 off cover.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jolt &amp; N’ Joe’s</td>
<td>$2 off cover.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucky 7 Match</td>
<td>$5 off speed dating.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCabe’s Beach Club</td>
<td>$2 off admission.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mulvaney’s</td>
<td>50% off appetizer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patricks II</td>
<td>2 for 1 cover.</td>
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<td>Sandbar</td>
<td>Happy-hour priced round.</td>
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<td>Second Wind Navajo</td>
<td>$5 off event.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6MinuteMatch.com</td>
<td>$1 off club admission.</td>
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Online Club Coupons!
Guam is an American territory in the South Pacific, about two-thirds of the way between Hawaii and the Philippines, and whether you call its people Americans, Guamanians, or Chamorros (the natives’ name for themselves), the cuisine is distinctive. The islanders have taken snippets of cookery from other cultures, added spice, and made it nice.

The largest local communities of Guamanians are in National City, Mira Mesa, and Oceanside, so the last place you’d expect to find a Chamorro barbecue would be in Hillcrest, on a condo-lined stretch of Park Boulevard. On the front patio of the Embassy Hotel, a cook bastes meats and chicken on a propane-fueled oil-drum barbecue grill. Step through the bamboo fences divide the dining room, and a bamboo-and-grass “shack” covers the kitchen door. Native craft objects, posters, and a map of “Guam USA” hang on the walls. You order at the counter, then choose a table. Everything is delivered in polystyrene takeout containers, bottled King Ice tea and waiting for their lunch. It seemed a sign of authenticity, even if it meant a longer wait for our food. Every time the counterperson brought out one of their orders, the group would cheer. None began eating before all were served. Then they said grace in unison and dug in.

Guamanians have a unique tropical cuisine that combines local specialties with flavors from several nations’ worth of occupiers and immigrants. You’ll find dishes that originated in Spain and Mexico (corn tortillas, for instance, brought by Spanish ships sailing between Manila and Acapulco), along with tastes of the Philippines and the Germans, Japanese, and Acapulco), along with tastes of the Philippines and scarcely altered it. Rather than the elaborate concoctions made for festivities, celebrations, and office birthday parties, the restaurant serves a plainer version that Filipinos (and evidently Chamorros, too) cook at home. About the size of a Havana cigar, the deep-fried lumpia: The cylinders come with a red, sweet-sour-spicy sauce for the shrimp). Pancit (served as a side) — a basic rendition of stir-fried pork and frozen peas and carrots. The cylinders come with a red, sweet-sour-spicy dipping sauce (the flavors are simpler than in the sauce for the shrimp). Pancit (served as a side dish for $3) is another of Guam’s Filipino borrowings — a basic rendition of stir-fried cellophane noodles decorated with carrot, celery, and onion slivers, teryaki beef bits, and a
Surrounded by newsstands, you can find a saloóng (pronounced sallawng) near any market, fish, or fowl place. Auyun or scallions, lemon juice or vinegar, and (optional but usual) crushed red pepper. It’s Guam’s twist on ceviche, and on the island it’s often tucked into a plain corn tortilla (not an orange-colored one) for a portable lunch. Islander Grill’s kelaguen features tender white-meat chicken and lemon juice and lots of “optional” hot pepper. It’s a winner.

“Islander Combo” entrées come with a mound of refreshing cabbage salad in a light vinaigrette, plus two scoops of rice. You have a choice of white Japanese-style rice or red rice. “Red rice — that’s our rice,” said Lori Torres, one of the owners, who was taking her turn at the counter. Red rice is sticky, medium-short grain Calrose rice, colored orange with achiote and mixed with sautéed onions and garlic.

Alongside, you get several little plastic containers of Guam’s national sauce, called finadene (pronounced fin-a-h-DAY-nay), a mixture of soy sauce, lemon juice, scallions, and hot pepper. You’ll want to mix some of that into your rice — it’s customary, it’s tasty, and it lightens up the starch.

The numbered “combos” are barbecue platters of grilled meats. Combo #1 offers two barbecued meats and a scoop of kelaguen, Combo #2 has two meats, no kelaguen, and Combo #3 has one meat. The choice of grilled proteins includes chicken, pork ribs, sliced beef, or vertically sliced short ribs (cut in the Korean manner).

Our favorite of these meats was the barbecued chicken, tender chunks of thigh with a light soy-based glaze and a jolt of hot pepper in the marinade and/or “mopping sauce.” (The barbecue dishes are “secret recipes.”) The red meats taste more like teriyaki — sweater than the Japanese versions, less sweet than the Hawaiian. Even better than the barbecue items, to my taste, are the stews. There’s one called “pork roast,” but don’t expect anything like your mom’s version (unless she’s Chamorro). The menu describes it as pork “simmered in soy sauce, vinegar, onions, and garlic.” That led me to expect something like Filipino adobo. Wrong again. Tender chunks of pork come in a thick, dark, sweet sauce that defies analysis; the flavors are so blended you can’t take them apart. If you’re into the mood for something spicy, try kadañ pika, stewed chicken leg quarters.

The menu description substitutes lemon juice for the pot roast’s vinegar, with red pepper flakes. — but the sauce is lighter, with a touch of coconut milk, and it’s hot — hot! Esofano manok is similar, but without the hot pepper.

Anywhere in the Pacific, a “bowl” means a bowl of rice with a topping. Here, the toppings include your choice of chicken, beef, kelaguen, or a generous portion of that Pacific Island favorite, Spam, (to which you can add an optional egg). When it’s on special, you get half a can of Spam on top for under $4 — a good deal, if you love Spam.

There are desserts, perhaps since most of Guam’s tropical fruits can’t be imported here (insects, etc.). You probably won’t notice the lack, because the entreé portions are gigantic and the flavors are hot, sweet, and sharp enough to satisfy your hunger for sensation. Moreover, the bill is so low that it’s within reach. It’s a real bargain for those who want to mix something like Filipino pika, and it’s my special island — I found it first.

Secret island Guamanian cooking is a mid-Pacific tradition and an ideal mid-Pacific provisioning stop for its ships’ travels between Manila and Mexico. The Spaniards forcibly converted the Chamorros to Catholicism, massacring thousands of them in the process. Yet the Spanish also contributed domesticated pigs, chickens, perhaps rice, or (from its Mexican possessions) corn, hot peppers, and possibly achiote. As a consequence of the Spanish-American, the island was ceded to the United States (which behaved more gently). During World War II, the Japanese seized the island; a brutal occupation included concentration camps and beheadings. The U.S. regained Guam via a naval bombardment that destroyed the capital city of Agana (now Hagåtña, following Chamorro dialect) and killed thousands of Chamorros as well as Japanese. Currently, only about 40 percent of Guam’s population is Chamorro or part Chamorro. Immigrants and their descendants from Japan, the Philippines, Hawaii, and mainland America fill out most of the remainder of the population. All have contributed to the Guamanian cooking pot.

Still, Guam has maintained its Chamorro roots — perhaps because the islanders had a secret. The peaceful, communal Chamorro culture was mainly linear and matriarchal, with its fellows and culture passed on through the female line. None of Guam’s occupants realized the crucial role of women in maintaining the island’s way of life and thought. By now, American influence may have eroded the special position of women — but at least both sexes still share the cooking!
Hello, Rangoon

“Three days, celebrating the arrival of the monsoon. People throw water at each other. It’s silly but fun.”

I’m collecting hellos,” I say. “Ah,” Michelle says. “So you want to know ‘hello’ in Burmese?”

“Exactly,” I say. She writes, slowly and carefully. “Mya la bar.”

“Hello” in Burmese is “Pyin ba ohne mei.”

So why call this “Little Hawaii”? “Because I love Hawaii. It gives good feelings, even though we’re not cooking Hawaiian.”

She tells me about the kitchen and the Israeli meatballs — “I don’t have a lot of cash,” I say up front. “So we’ll have to make a mental note to come back with Hank, just for one of these.”

“Why do you call this Little Hawaii?” I ask. “Because I love Hawaii. It gives good feelings, even though we’re not cooking Hawaiian.”

Michelle says she found this place advertised on the Internet and decided to try it because it’s close to the main post office and the library — “So far, it’s been good. We’re breaking even, after two months.”

Wow. I ask what she misses most about Myanmar.

“The water festival in April,” she says. “Three days, celebrating the arrival of the monsoon. People throw water at each other. It’s silly but fun.”

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“Pyin ba ohne mei.”

“Well, let’s just call it au revoir for now,” I say. “Cause I’m definitely coming back to drink more coconut.”

The Place: Little Hawaii, 901 E. Street, downtown, 619-595-1785

Type of Food: Japanese

Prices: Full Moon Combo — teriyaki chicken, teriyaki salmon, and soft-shell crab, $7.99; yellowtail roll, $5.99; anago (sea eel) hand roll, $1.70. That sort of thing. Couple of guys sit at one of the three inside tables, leaning over plates of rice and chicken — looks like chicken teriyaki to me. Another lady sits alone at a bare table. Nancy. “You’ve come to the right place,” she says. “I live in the next block. Visit twice a day, once to eat, and once to talk. She’s a darlin’.”

This is when Michelle comes out from the kitchen and we get into the “hello” conversation. Turns out she and her husband Victor, who cooks, are the owners. And yes, they’re from Burma, Myanmar, where that incredibly brave democracy-fighter Aung San Suu Kyi is still under house arrest, even after getting a Nobel Peace Prize. Michelle is getting herself in trouble, demonstrating for democracy in Rangoon. That’s one reason she left, came here. The other was to study microbiology at UCSD.

Dang. Here she is learning the hard stuff and working seven days a week. I feel like such a slacker.

But why cook Japanese? “Because in Bend, Oregon, where we lived first, there was no Japanese sushi place in town. I hired a professional sushi chef to teach me Japanese cooking. He was very good. And business was very good. Except I couldn’t stand the cold and snow.”

So why call this “Little Hawaii”? “Because I love Hawaii. It gives good feelings, even though we’re not cooking Hawaiian.”

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Easy Love

“They were very nice people. My only problem was getting the funding to buy wine. They constantly cut my budget.”

My friend Kenny visited Australia recently, and he tells me that the really good Australian wine — with the exception of luxe stuff like Penfolds Grange — never leaves the continent. Before Julian Velovan defected from Romania in the ‘70s, he had a similar experience — only there, the really good Romanian wines never even hit the Romanian market. “They all went to the Communist officials,” he says. Defection took him from Turkey to Rome to New York to San Diego. In 1982, he began working as the maître d’ for the Fountainbleu Room at the Westgate Hotel downtown. “There was no Horton Plaza, there was no Gaslamp. The Fountainbleu was one of the top restaurants in town. All my waiters were in tails and white gloves.” He began to learn about wine. When, in 1987, he took a job at the Ritz-Carlton in Laguna Niguel, working with master sommelier Emmanuel Kemiji, he learned a great deal more. “We used to go to my house with a bunch of waiters — like Wine Steals, maybe. But then you need more employees.” Two servers and a premium list of luxe stuff like Penfolds Grange — never affected from Romania in the ‘70s, much more than anywhere else in San Diego.

Looking at the list, it’s clear that he got his inventory. His ticket out came when “some very dear customers of mine looked at the place and liked what they saw. They were high-end wine drinkers. They liked the concept, and they liked me personally. They said, ‘Let’s open up something with a larger magnitude.’ That was the starting point for the Wine Encounter, the shop where Velovan now works as manager. Looking at the temperature-controlled wine cellar, with its candy-store presentation of bottles tilted up toward the windows, it’s clear that Velovan got his inventory. Looking at the list, it’s clear that he got his magnitude and international range. “Right now, at 160 wines by the glass, I probably have a hundred more than I ever had at the Wine Lover.” Possibly more than anywhere else in San Diego.

The Wine Encounter is part of the same University Avenue strip mall that houses Uncle Biff’s California Cookies — barely a block away from the wine bar/cocktail lounge Crush, two and a half blocks from the Wine Lover, and not much farther from Wine Steals. Plus, Amarin Thai restaurant on Richardson now features a next-door wine bar. All five serve wines by the glass, all but Crush sell wines retail. “We toyed with downtown, La Jolla, Little Italy, and Del Mar,” says Velovan. “I decided to wait until something opened up in Hillcrest for several reasons. One, Hillcrest is emerging as a very fine area for dining. Two, it’s easier to park here. There are 80 parking spaces in front, and at night we are virtually the only ones open until one in the morning. What I discovered at the Wine Lover is that people will not hesitate to come in and spend 10 or 20 dollars for a glass of wine, but to put a car in a parking structure for three or four dollars bothers them. People do not want to pay for certain things. Three, when I worked at the Wine Lover, I developed a very good relationship with the gay community. They call me the gayest straight guy in Hillcrest. Every month, we have a gay club that meets here — the Back Room.
Wine Club. They’re all high-end people with a passion for wine who just happen to be gay.”

Generalizing for a moment: The Wine Lover has the high-end wines and the fancy crystal glasses. Wine Steaks has the great bargain wines. Crush has the hip decor and the cocktails. Amarin has the restaurant and the exotic vibe. “What we try to do is capture a little bit of the market from everywhere,” says Velovan. Our house wines are $4 a glass, which is less than I spend going to Red Lobster or Olive Garden. It’s five ounces, and it’s in a crystal glass. Or, people can spend $100 for a glass of Chateau d’Yquem.” The range in price is matched by the range in geography. All the usual suspects make appearances, but so do wines from Lebanon, Hungary, Israel, Mexico, Greece, and Velovan’s Romania. Nine bucks will get you a glass of Boutari Moschofilero, still characteristically Greek but not brash about it. The cheese list is similarly far-flung — Argentina to Cyprus to Finland to Ireland to Spain to Switzerland, $5 a slice. Your $5 will also procure an appetizer such as smoked duck breast, pâté, salamis, olives, or smoked salmon. Cold sippers run $9.75, and desserts are, again, $3.

For a clubby, in-crowd feel, one wall is lined with single-case lockers — cherry wood with wire mesh windows, so that the treasures within are visible. The lockers aren’t designed for long-term storage; they’re here as a perk to the bar’s best customers. Nameplates adorn the doors: the Godfather, Los Amigos, the Nice Lady, Kiki. Only a few remain empty. “They can say to their friends, ‘Come see my locker; my name is on the door,’” explains Velovan. “Already there is a kind of Cheers atmosphere.”

RENTAURANT LISTINGS

The Reader’s Guide to Restaurants are recommended listings written by our reviewers (Ed Bedford, Ambrose Martin, Shari McCullough, Max Martin, Eleanor Widmer, Naomi Wise). Each issue contains only a fraction of nearly 500 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at SanDiegoReader.com. Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a mid-range entrée. Inexpensive: $10 or less; moderate: $10 to $19; expensive: $20 to $24; very expensive: more than $25. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

NORTH COASTAL

En Familia Amici 504 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-735-9030. You’d feel like a guest at an intimate party eating a leisurely dinner in this small, noisy, pretty dining room. Chef Monica Sweeney and her brother Michael offer personalized, home-style renditions of South American cuisines, including house-made breads and beverages. Be sure to try the house’s chicha morada, a tangy soft drink made from Peruvian purple corn. The fare includes numerous

721 Grand Avenue • San Diego • 858-270-3596
Ocean-view patio. Open noon-9 pm every day. Parking available. All major credit cards accepted.
types of empanadas, tapas-like small dishes, and full-size entrees — most from the family homeland. Peru. Desert oven nightly and can include a cloud-like two lches cake. Vegetarian and allergy-restricted diets accommodated. Dinner Tuesday through Saturday reservations necessary. Moderate. — N.W. (3/04)

La Espanola Vieja 104 North Coast Highway 101 (at Leucadia Blvd.), Leucadia, 760-942-1040. This big, brightly lit roadhouse sports high window views (take a look at the blue ceramic “pond” in the dining room, complete with can-nes) and bears a five-page menu, including a page of a dozen regional soups and another full page for seafood. The soups are superb — for instance, the authen-tic Mexican City-style chicken soup is laden with avocados, chicken chicharron, cilantro, and rice, and the savory eggplant soup includes a little “couscous” of puffed rice. The fresh, interesting seafood entrees outline the rea-tionary ordinary renditions of the stand-ard shellfish-tortilla varieties. No wheelchair access to rest rooms. Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Inexpensive. — N.W. (10/02)

Neiman’s 800 Carlsbad Village Drive (at Carlsbad Boulevard), Carlsbad, 760-729-4131. Set in a Victorian ginger-bread mansion overlooking Highway 101, Neiman’s is a hot restaurant’s hot restaurant on the Sunday all-you-can-eat-and-drink champagne brunch, featuring made-to-order omelettes, seafood creations, the meats, etc., moderately priced for a day’s worth of calories and, of course, brunch reservations, so expect a wait. (Holiday brunch prices are much higher, but you can take advantage of reservations.) The atmos-ter dark, the site is basically a nightlight, with a younger crowd wearing up trad-tional American attire, pricied high, until midnight or later. Open daily, lunch and dinner. — E.Y.

OceanSide Cafe 1938 South Coast Highway, Oceanside, 760-722-7337. This little place is as “mom and pop” as they get. “Hi honey. You going to have the usual?” That’s Them. They do lunch, with good burgers, but I’m sure that what a lot of folks come for. “Dietor’s Donard.” A 3-egg omelet stuffed with ham, bacon, sausage, tomato, Jack, and cheddar, is wicked. Two mentor things to try the “California,” which is now made at the next door at the Red and White Market (anything from backstage to French ap-ple-chicken sandwich). And the dieter’s real downfall comes with Montana’s car-rot cake or her double chocolate cake — rich, moist, and fresh out of her oven ev-ery morning. Breakfast, dinner. Inexpensive. — E.Y. (5/03)

Pizza Shack Cafe 120 West 1st Street, La Jolla (at Pacific Beach Boulevard), Encin-tias, 760-438-1266. Check out the cute potato-ton-mural on the side of the building — a sign for spuds loaded up on portions sized for lumberjacks from The Lumberyard across the street. American fries (“served all you can eat”), French fries, potato patties, and baked potato toppings with various toppings are the heart of the menu, along with egg, omelets, biscuits with sausage gravy, and beer-and-buttered onion rings made from sweet red onions underneath the doughnut-ish thik “mushroom” pancake that’s bigger than the plate. Lunch runs to “dinn” sandwiches (with potatoes), or they take delivery of the doughnut-ish thik “mushroom” pancake that’s bigger than the plate. Lunch runs to “dinn” sandwiches (with potatoes), or they take delivery of the darted. Many local Spanish-speaking customers. You can order your tortillas breakfast, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — N.W. (10/02)

Ruby’s Diner “Pier View Way, Ocean-side, 760-438-RUBY (8929). One thing about Ruby’s: You can build your own Custom burger or a nice collection of the best of all the fried food. The mile-long Oceanside Pier. (There’s a 50-cent electric wagon, too.) Ruby’s is a sort of a theme of the “superstardom” dining — you can check on the little pink booth and see if it’s open. And how! But Ruby is a real old-fashioned diner with half hour wait, the house-baked brown bread. Southern “peanut” potato parnicae are rarely found in California are done up rather doughy rather than crisp to serve with many main dishes. The best things to do are the short rib and crab and in crab and in crab, and muni, lots of lovely flame-seared muni muni. Dine ered in a standard pesto mune, in crab and in crab and in crab and in crab. (One thing about Ruby’s you can order your own Custom burger or a nice collection of the best of all the fried food. The mile-long Oceanside Pier. (There’s a 50-cent electric wagon, too.) Ruby’s is a sort of a theme of the “superstardom” dining — you can check on the little pink booth and see if it’s open. And how! But Ruby is a real old-fashioned diner with half hour wait, the house-baked brown bread. Southern “peanut” potato parnicae are rarely found in California are done up rather doughy rather than crisp to serve with many main dishes. The best things to do are the short rib and crab and in crab and in crab and in crab. At this point you can order your own Custom burger or a nice collection of the best of all the fried food. The mile-long Oceanside Pier. (There’s a 50-cent electric wagon, too.) Ruby’s is a sort of a theme of the “superstardom” dining — you can check on the little pink booth and see if it’s open. And how! But Ruby is a real old-fashioned diner with half hour wait, the house-baked brown bread. Southern “peanut” potato parnicae are rarely found in California are done up rather doughy rather than crisp to serve with many main dishes. The best things to do are the short rib and crab and in crab and in crab. At this point you can order your own Custom burger or a nice collection of the best of all the fried food. The mile-long Oceanside Pier. (There’s a 50-cent electric wagon, too.) Ruby’s is a sort of a theme of the “superstardom” dining — you can check on the little pink booth and see if it’s open. And how! But Ruby is a real old-fashioned diner with half hour wait, the house-baked brown bread. Southern “peanut” potato parnicae are rarely found in California are done up rather doughy rather than crisp to serve with many main dishes. The best things to do are the short rib and crab and in crab and in crab. At this point you can order your own Custom burger or a nice collection of the best of all the fried food. The mile-long Oceanside Pier. (There’s a 50-cent electric wagon, too.) Ruby’s is a sort of a theme of the “superstardom” dining — you can check on the little pink booth and see if it’s open. And how! But Ruby is a real old-fashioned diner with half hour wait, the house-baked brown bread. Southern “peanut” potato parnicae are rarely found in California are done up rather doughy rather than crisp to serve with many main dishes. The best things to do are the short rib and crab and in crab and in crab. At this point you can order your own Custom burger or a nice collection of the best of all the fried food. The mile-long Oceanside Pier. (There’s a 50-cent electric wagon, too.) Ruby’s is a sort of a theme of the “superstardom” dining — you can check on the little pink booth and see if it’s open. And how! But Ruby is a real old-fashioned diner with half hour wait, the house-baked brown bread. Southern “peanut” potato parnicae are rarely found in California are done up rather doughy rather than crisp to serve with many main dishes. The best things to do are the short rib and crab and in crab and in crab. At this point you can order your own Custom burger or a nice collection of the best of all the fried food. The mile-long Oceanside Pier. (There’s a 50-cent electric wagon, too.) Ruby’s is a sort of a theme of the “superstardom” dining — you can check on the little pink booth and see if it’s open. And how! But Ruby is a real old-fashioned diner with half hour wait, the house-baked brown bread. Southern “peanut” potato parnicae are rarely found in California are done up rather doughy rather than crisp to serve with many main dishes. The best things to do are the short rib and cr
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**鱼丸**
Dinner Buffet

**GOLD COAST**

Besta Wan Pizza House | 18 Ab- eorem Drive (off the 101), Cardif-food-be- the-Sea, 760-753-6707. This ever-pop- lar North County restaurant which opened back in 1961 is a family opera- tion all the way. Their thin-crust East Coast-style pizzas are famous locally. Also check for the big-pile spaghetti or lasagna specials if you just want to fill up. Open seven days, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B. (10/1)

**Stern’s**
333 South Cedros (at Loma Santa Fe), Solana Beach, 858-793-5436. The Rancho Santa Fe set like to hang out here in the garden patio with their Parchus at the curb and their dog (or two), if welcome. Even for non-doggie people, the California peppers and garlic scapes make this indoor-outdoor eatery a really pleas- ant kick-back place (which fits in name from the zinc-top bar inside). The menu, a mixture of Italian and vegetarian, of- fers dishes like frittata with cucumber salsa, and baked eggplant “pizzette” (per- sonal-size pizza) with marinarra, mu- razzana, and Parmesan cheese. The vegetar- ian chili and the Zinc veggie burger (served on a La Pena bun) are tasty too. Open seven days, breakfast through late lunch. Inexpensive. — E.B. (1987)

**Samurai Japanese Restaurant**
779 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Lomas Santa Fe Plaza, Solana Beach, 858-481-0032. This restaurant boasts “the largest California sushi bar” as well as a menu of over 100 items. The food is artistically prepared and presented, the sushi uniformly fine. You can easily make a meal from the sushi and appetizers. Seating is available at the sushi bar or the central dining area, which provides capacious booths. A tatami room (with floor-seating on tatamis, Japanese style) offers special prices for five feet free (560 per person) up, by reservation only. Open daily. Moderate to extremely expensive. — E.W.

**LA JOLLA**

**Aesop’s Tables Greek Cafe**
8650 Girard Ave. #110, Costa Verde, Shopping Center, 858-435-1533. Gyros are the thing here, since 1975. The meat’s prepared outside to Aesop’s recipe of lamb, beef, and spices. But would the infamous Greek fabulist recognize pita with lamb sausage and feta on top? Or the leg of lamb carved out in slices? American-style? A true-blue (and white) Greek choice is the mix of appetizer plate to share, with amusements of grilled egg- plant (“melitzanosalata”), tabbouleh, marinated mushrooms, artichokes, broad beans, and stuffed grape leaves. Just a little pinch of red pepper and it’s almost a dinner for two. The vegetarian combo entrée is good also, with nice thick marinated mushrooms, artichokes, and arvo sour! (lamb on a skewer) is helped by a wide choice of Greek wines, including Xinomavro Merlot. But to re- ally get the spirit, order avgolemono, steamed Kasseri cheese flamed at your table with Ouzo. Go ahead, try an “Opah!” or two. Lunch and dinner Monday to Saturday; Sunday, dinners only. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B. (1994)

**Cueve**
5616 La Jolla Boulevard (at Bird Rock Avenue), La Jolla, 858-551-4890. Also at 2334 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley, 858-259-5878. Seasonal if rather undersized California-Mediterranean cuisine, designed to ac- company an interesting and very af- fordable wine list. All bottles on the regular list are under $25 and available by the glass; you can even get a sip before choosing. A reserve list includes fancier choices, still at minimal markups. Low corkage for BYO, too. Menu suggests get wine pairings for each dish. Dining rooms are pleasant but quite noisy. Reservations are urged; a few tables on hallowed garden patio are available to drop-ins. Small parking lot in alley be-
Roppongi 475 Prospect Street (at Fay), La Jolla, 858-551-2532. In terms of atmosphere and food preparation, one of the best restaurants in La Jolla. The Euro-Asian fusion menu offers a vast choice of 20 appetizers, or tapas — their bacon-fat gravy will have you licking the plate. Bonus: You can sit here with a book and a coffee all night long if you like. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B. (12/99)

494th Aero Squadron 8885 Balboa Avenue, Kearny Mesa, 858-586-6771. One of San Diego's older continuously owned classic American fare (honey-glazed pork tenderloin, farmhouse chicken) in the "Officers' mess," but better yet is the fine buffet Happy Hour — pig-bean weekdays from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Select items may include a "stuffed" Pollo asado (Stuffed chicken with cheese, potatoes, nacho, etc.). (Of course, you have to buy something — say, a pitcher of beer for two.) Thursdays and Fridays, the outside "Runway" grill features kebabs. The biggest attraction is the place itself. Built to mimic a WWF French farmhouse turned over by a bunch of Yankee fliers, when everything else is closed. The place feels like a Midwestern "Officers' mess," but better yet is the fine buffet Happy Hour — pig-bean weekdays from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Select items may include a "stuffed" Pollo. If you're in the mood for Pollo — fresh, feathery, and very simple fixings — their bacon-fat gravy will have you licking the plate. Bonus: You can sit here with a book and a coffee all night long if you like. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B. (11/00)

Andres’ Patio Restaurant 1235 Morena Boulevard, Bay Park, 619-275-4114. This is a cozy cultural Sur-prise on hard-to-find Morena Boulevard. The food is flavorful (and not spicy hot like Mexican and South American dishes). A good introduction to it is "ropa vieja" (old clothes): shredded beef sautéed with mushrooms, green pepper, and tomatoes with every present rice and black beans. And the Cuban sandwich (roast pork, baked ham, and cheese) shows off the Cuban handling of pork. Other interesting dishes are the Amapolitana (pork and green plantain) and his-cious, mueny cevvy mofa (yuca root with garlic oil). Open for lunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive. — E. (9/00)

Bale French Sandwich Shop 94th Aero Squadron Road, Bay Park, 619-275-4114. This is a cozy cultural surprise — their bacon-fat gravy will have you licking the plate. Bonus: You can sit here with a book and a coffee all night long if you like. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B. (1/04)
not strapped for cash, go for the popular feujiade stew, black beans cooked slowly with six types of pork and two kinds of beef. If don’t have the dough, have what most of Brazil eats every day: the “PE” logo joints (“ready plate”). It’s beef, chicken, or fish with rice and Brazilian beans. End with the cheapest dessert, the wicked brigadeiro. Come early evening or weekends and you might learn the fero (“roha”), a Brazilian dance. Open seven days, close early Monday. — E.R. (9/04)

Hanaoka-2 1200 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-274-9755. This is the suave cousin of the Hanaoka family restaurant in National City. The atmosphere is a filtered modern revival, with a Costa sleekness. It’s still reasonably priced if you choose carefully (most sushi is delicious with its smoked salmon, seaweed, cream cheese, rice, and sesame seeds. But this place is really aimed at yuppies People under “labor-saving” spicy crab with yellowtail, or toro roll (meat is 20 percent off during early-bird hours, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.). The Philadelphia roll is priced at $2.00, and the great thing is, you can come late: the kitchen’s open till 10:30 P.M. What becomes a legend can come true — E.B. (6/03)

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Sushi Ota
6525 Mission Boulevard (at San Diego Mission Road), Ocean Beach, 858-483-9830. What do folks recommend? "a mean Greek, Thai, or New York pizza, or pita. The French connection continues here: the chef is French and throws a mean Greek, Thai, or New York pizza. The chef is leaving for a new job in L.A. Not valid on holidays, Sun. Coupon good thru 3-31-05.

Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.
3795 Mission Boulevard (at San Diego Mission Road), Pacific Beach, 858-499-9094. The kitchen’s open till 10:30. What becomes a legend can come true — E.B. (6/03)
<table>
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<th>CENTRAL SAN DIEGO</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Los Reyes</strong></td>
<td>He consults with the on-going waiters and gets ideas for the new dishes. His innovative dishes have earned him a place in the San Diego Reader's Top 10 Restaurants list.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saigon</strong></td>
<td>The menu is extensive and features a wide variety of options. The atmosphere is relaxed and comfortable, making it a great place to enjoy a meal with friends or family.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jimmy's</strong></td>
<td>Known for their eclectic mix of Asian and American flavors, Jimmy's offers a unique dining experience. The staff is friendly and attentive, ensuring a pleasant experience.</td>
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<td><strong>Lucky Star Seafood Restaurant</strong></td>
<td>The restaurant offers a great selection of seafood dishes, including fresh catches and specialty items. The ambiance is cozy and inviting, with a laid-back atmosphere.</td>
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<td><strong>Sun Tzu Seafood Restaurant</strong></td>
<td>Focused on traditional Chinese dishes, Sun Tzu Seafood Restaurant delivers a memorable dining experience. The service is excellent, and the dishes are consistently delicious.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Seafood Market</strong></td>
<td>Known for their fresh seafood options, Seafood Market offers a variety of dishes, from simple grilled fish to more complex seafood platters. The atmosphere is casual and friendly.</td>
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Mexican rice, and melted jack cheese in a warm tortilla. As a great filler, the Cabo Blanc/California Red is a handy blend of grilled chicken or steak in a bowl with black beans, Mexican rice, cheese, guacamole, and side of salsa. And yes they do make the Bush's fish tacos. Daily specials are usually worth a breakfast or lunch visit. Full meals expensive. Inexpensive. — E.B. (1/04)

Candelas (216 Third Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-231-4013) Candelas is to here — Chef Eduardo Baez specializes in alta en vino, a luxurious, inventive cuisine that reflects his Spanish and French techniques. In a handsome Spanish-style dining room (bigger than the upstairs entry hall) and that rather noisy with gracious service, the menu emphasizes seafood, including a signature dish of Chilean sea bass. Plenty for vegetarians too, if you ask. Black Angus steaks areinetirely généreux. But the menu and impromptu changes the menu on average to the years at the "Dude, where’s my taco?" conversation. Yes, that is less venturomen and might be, and execution can be even. In the lounge at 10 pm on the week, music cracks up and the scene goes down a cover charge for non-diners; ID’s checked. Reservations advised, required on weekends, nightly. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly at 11 pm. Inexpensive but interesting experience. — E.B. (1/04)

The Honey Bee Hive Bar and Grill (3344 Fourth Avenue [near Island], Gaslamp, 619-232-4483). The old Chie was wonderful enough, but now, with the Chie going on a cover charge (the owner of Bertrand at M), taking charge of the Caliente is as if going up an upscale residential neighborhood rising around it. One can enjoy a classic Mexican-American meal in the downstairs lounge or the upstairs specialty Mexican food. The menu is almost a quarter of the downstairs lounge. The appetizers are mainly a variety of beef, chicken, or pork with rice and beans menu. Bar and grill, and the Chicken Bee is a small dish in the upstairs lounge with a cover charge for non-diners; ID’s checked. Reservations advised, required on weekends, nightly. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly at 11 pm. Inexpensive but interesting experience. — E.B. (1/04)

Las Cuatro Milpas 1575 Logan Ave., Barrio Logan, 619-234-4460. This is a great compromise between the touristy area and the local restaurants in Logan Heights. A tradition of Mexican-American food in the neighborhood. The restaurant is located in the Logan Heights neighborhood. The menu is made up of traditional Mexican-American dishes. The restaurant is popular with locals and tourists alike. The atmosphere is casual and friendly, with a focus on providing a satisfying meal. The dishes are prepared with fresh, high-quality ingredients, and the food is cooked to order. With the support of the local community, the restaurant has been able to maintain its popularity over the years. The service is friendly and attentive, ensuring a pleasant dining experience. Overall, Las Cuatro Milpas is a must-visit for anyone looking for authentic Mexican-American cuisine in the Logan Heights area.

South Bay & Coronado
Bino’s European Coffee and Crops 1230 Adella Avenue (south of Orange Avenue), Coronado, 619-435-0155 (858-448-3000) Bino’s has the best coffee (cappuccino, latte) in town (south of the Post Office) to be had. Bino’s makes his own breads and croissants daily. It’s a critics favorite for breakfast. Bino’s makes his own breads and croissants daily and great crunchy sandwiches. Try the Brie Fantasy (chicken breast, roasted marinated peppers, double cream Branche cheese) or the roast beef and jack cheese. Even the veggie sandwich has squash with heirloom eggplant, and the desserts are delicious. Bino’s wife is Austrian and makes great Viennese-style coffee. Open daily. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/00)

Cantina Livel 315-1/2 3rd Avenue, South Beach, 619-434-9577 (858-491-7982). This is a great place to enjoy a delicious meal in a relaxed atmosphere. The menu offers a wide variety of Mexican dishes, including tacos, burritos, enchiladas, and more. The restaurant is open Monday through Saturday. Inexpensive. — E.B. (8/01)

Coronado Hotel Del, plus enthusiastic servers, terrace, the dining room is spacious and friendly — that is, less venturesome than the "Dude, where’s my taco?" convention. Yes, it’s classy — that is, less venturomen and might be, and execution can be even. In the lounge at 10 pm on the week, music cracks up and the scene goes down a cover charge for non-diners; ID’s checked. Reservations advised, required on weekends; slightly more expensive. — E.B. (11/00)

Da Kine’s Plate Lunches 1635 South Pacific Beach (at Prospect), National City, 619-574-8364. This is where you take your respectable Aunt Martha for lunch. They paint all the seals and porpoise outside every day? Blame a potent mix of tourists and local people. This place is better than the marina, seafood. — E.B. (8/01)

Estudillo family has been serving old-fashioned Mexican food here for three generations. Bertrand at Mr. A’s) taking charge of the "Dude, where’s my taco?" convention. Yes, it’s classy — that is, less venturomen and might be, and execution can be even. In the lounge at 10 pm on the week, music cracks up and the scene goes down a cover charge for non-diners; ID’s checked. Reservations advised, required on weekends; slightly more expensive. — E.B. (11/00)

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Seafood Market & Grill 3667 Island Ave. • PACIFIC BEACH • (858) 270-YOLK Open daily 5 am-3 pm 1163 GARNET Ave. • PACIFIC BEACH • (858) 270-YOLK Open daily 5 am-3 pm
El Rodeo, Sinaloa 1407, Tijuana, 634-3039 or restaurant’s seven-digit number. To fix 011-52-664 when calling Tijuana; from the United States use the pre-fix 001-619-233-7272. Also at 10749 West Meade Ave., National City, 619-477-5605; and 6095 El Cajon Boulevard (at College Avenue), 619-280-3322. This is the one major national chain to cling firmly to a regional American identity. Wherever you go, if you find a Popeye’s, you’ll be eating Louisiana-shaped chicken. But some flavors travel better than others in fast-food translations: the spicy, crisp fried chicken and after-dark biscuits are fine as can be. The stuffing (whether of chicken or crawfish, when available) is surprisingly decent. The gumbo is weird — the gumbo isn’t weird, it’s more like a Creole risotto, with wet rice instead of liquid (where’s the soup?). Dirty rice and jambalaya are nasty and dry. Food quality varies subtly from branch to branch, as does the attitude of the counter-persons. Open daily, three meals. Inexpensive.

Afterthoughts

Ninety-nine out of a hundred other Hollywood directors would have done the same thing.

Maybe it’s mean of me, but I was pleased that Martin Scorsese failed, for the fifth time in five tries, to get his coveted Academy Award. If they gave out statuettes for Best Overdirector, he should have a shelfful.

The outcome on Oscar night was particularly pleasing — in what was touted as the hardest-to-handicap race of the evening, and one which afforded a clear alternative to Scorsese and his methods — in that the award went instead to Clint Eastwood, his second. I dimly remember saying at the time of his win for Unforgiven, twelve years ago, and I could certainly be saying it again now, that it seems almost unfair, unjust, unnatural, that Eastwood is able, while not being in the least esoteric or elitist, to make exactly the kind of movie he wants to make, in exactly the way he wants to make it, without kowtowing in any fashion to popular taste, and without (so I’m told) test-screening it for a kibitzing crowd of commoners — and yet also to receive an Academy Award for it!

Unforgiven was simply not the “type” of movie that collects an Oscar. Nor is Million Dollar Baby, notwithstanding any impression, in conjunction with the triumph of The Sea Inside in the foreign-film category, of rabid Academy support for the cause of euthanasia.

Scorsese on the other hand, in his increasingly obsessive pursuit of Oscar, has been turning himself wrong side out, attempting desperately to impress other people, making outsized Prestige Pictures of the “type” that traditionally woo and win Oscars: The Age of Innocence, Casino, Kundun, Gangs of New York, and now The Aviator, with its added lure of holding up a mirror to narcissistic Hollywood. He, in short, has sold his soul. In that sense, he probably “deserves” an Oscar, but I personally will be content if he has to settle for one of those lifetime-achievement, career-contribution deals that Sidney Lumet, this year, had to settle for. And frankly, in my view Scorsese still has a ways to go to match the résumé of Lumet.

In all the anguished reasoning of the handicappers (Clint had already won one, Marty was overdue, etc.), I never heard any whisper of the possibility that a nod to Million Dollar Baby would serve as a sort of make-up (a standard line in handicappers’ reasoning) for the bypassing last year of Eastwood’s Mystic River, when it, and he, lost out to Peter Jackson and The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King, really a collective award to three movies in one, an award to monumentality, an award to money, a “typical” award. I like to think, all the same, that some kind of recompense may have factored into the vote. Mystic River must be one of the very best movies ever to be nominated for Best Picture in the entire seventy-seven years of Oscars. Million Dollar Baby, good as it is, isn’t that good.

Speaking of recompense: the suspense of Oscar night, for me, was doubtless diminished by my dragging in from the airport after the finish of the show and having to watch it later that night on videotape, fast-forwarding through commercials, Beyoncé, and acceptance speeches by sound technicians and such. But I was amply compensated for this by having been in Wichita, Kansas, on a family er-

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rand, the very day of BTK’s arrest and only one day after I had taken a tour of all the known murder sites. There cannot have been a better day in all of recorded history to be caught alive in Wichita.

Determined at all costs to avoid a repeat of last year, when I saw only one new movie more than once, I herewith disclose that I prodded myself to go back for a second look at Million Dollar Baby. I cannot say I got much more out of it, although it did mean more to me when Eastwood mutters to himself, and to no one else, the words “Mo Caust。” A short while before he spells these out on the back of his fighter’s new silk robe. Even the first time through, however, it struck me as inconceivable in this day and age, even in as marginal a sport as women’s boxing, that a fighter could ascend all the way to a title bout without some enterprising journalist digging up the meaning of those words, and spoiling the lovely moment when Eastwood finally reveals it.

As accomplished and polished a director as he is, or has become, Eastwood still is not the most distinctive visual stylist — not a Hitchcock, not a Welles, not even a Scorsese — and visual stylist — not a Hitchcock, not a Welles, not even a Scorsese — and Million Dollar Baby is more toned down, more levelled off, more straightened out than usual: his customary diagonals, more precisely, are a bit closer to parallels and perpendicularrays. This filmmaker lacks, all through his output, what we might call a theoretical base, or what we might otherwise call intellectual pretensions. If he thus never quite inspires my complete confidence, he all the more inspires my admiration. Every step is a potential misstep; he proceeds on instinct, not on doctrine. An example of a lapse, rare though it may be, would be his switch into slow-motion at the turning point in the title fight. That’s not the stamp of a master. Ninety-nine out of a hundred other Hollywood directors would have done the same thing, the conventional thing, the trite thing, although admittedly those other ninety-nine directors, Scorsese included, would have been switching into slow-motion in the earlier fights as well. And while I have my quibbles with the dreamlike ease and convenience of the final scene at the hospital, I am compelled to point out that the Eastwood character’s vanishment into oblivion — into the mists of guesswork and rumor — carries powerful reverberations of the ending in Unforgiven. I ought to have pointed it out in my initial review.

I also went back for a second look, albeit after an interval of twelve years, to the first Wong Kar-wai film I had ever seen, Days of Being Wild, retrieved from the vaults for national circulated now that Wong commands a follow-through. I also went back for a second look, (Go to www.sdlatinofilm.com.) I did not, however, as I thought I had run up against the usual, the festival will overlap with the NCAA basketball tournament, a/k/a The Big Dance, presenting the always tough choice between art and life.

**MOVIE LISTINGS**

All reviews are by Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the back 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.

*The Aviator — Martin Scorsese continues to suffer from a form of exhilaration, compounded by a touch of Oscaritis: a parking-three-hours epic on the tumultuous career of Howard Hughes (the eternally boyish Leonardo DiCaprio, deficient in gravitas even with the added mustache midway through) in the parallel worlds of filmmaking and amarmecas circa 1927-47. It offers little insight into the man*

*By softening some of its more wrenching aspects, I hope to make my film and its message of love available to a wider audience.*

-MEL GIBSON

San Diego, March 10, 2005
(the best you can say of the childhood prologue, in which his mother terrorizes him with the threat of cholera and typhus, is that it’s brief), yet it offers plenty of random, rambling, gossipy entertainment: the behind-the-scenes follies of the then most expensive film ever produced, Hell’s Angels, an exciting test flight in 1935, breaking the existing speed record, and a spectacular crash in 1946 in the heart of Beverly Hills, breaking numerous bones; two face-offs, or face-downs, of inquisitorial panels, first the Hollywood censors up in arms over Jami Russell’s décolletage in The Outlaw, and then a U.S. Senate committee ostensibly piqued over his misuse of government funds during the war; and a whole host of illustrations of his personal eccentricities (to pick a mild word): the handshake phobia, the stuck-photograph-needle speech tic (suppressible only by a hand over his mouth), the lengthy sequester in a studio screening room, with the resultant lengthy hair and fingernails, and the daily recycling of the delivered milk bottles as urinals. One way or another, the caricatures of Hollywood luminaries (particularly Cate Blanchett’s recognizable Kate Hepburn, if only verbally, and Kate Beckinsale’s unrecognizable Ava Gardner) add to our entertainment as well — it, again, not to our insight. And, although useless as a narrative device or even a period-reenactment device, Scorsese’s pedantic reproduction of the primitive two-color process (reds and blues only, redding her pretzels, blue foliage, etc.), evolving into a fuller spectrum with the passage of time, might tickle aficionados. Surely Scorsese, however, was fishing for a stronger compliment than words to the effect that his movie is good for a few laughs. John C. Reilly, Alec Baldwin, Alan Alda. 2004.

Because of Winn-Dixie — A homeless mutt fills the void in the life of a motherless girl’s father, a Baptist minister, holds Sunday school class in the back of his truck, stretches himself, playing a full-length hair and fingernails, and the daily recycling of the delivered milk bottles as urinals. One way or another, the caricatures of Hollywood luminaries (particularly Cate Blanchett’s recognizable Kate Hepburn, if only verbally, and Kate Beckinsale’s unrecognizable Ava Gardner) add to our entertainment as well — it, again, not to our insight. And, although useless as a narrative device or even a period-reenactment device, Scorsese’s pedantic reproduction of the primitive two-color process (reds and blues only, redding her pretzels, blue foliage, etc.), evolving into a fuller spectrum with the passage of time, might tickle aficionados. Surely Scorsese, however, was fishing for a stronger compliment than words to the effect that his movie is good for a few laughs. John C. Reilly, Alec Baldwin, Alan Alda. 2004.

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summons up a decent Scottish accent to accompany an innecent smirk. And Kate Winslet is her usual tower of strength and intelligence in spite of a role so nannified in conception that she’s not going to be allowed to cough unless she’s going to die of it... With Julie Christie, Radha Mitchell, Dustin Hoffman; directed by Marc Forster. 2004.

**GARFIELD MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; LA PALOMA; POWAY 10**

**Hitch** — That’s the name the occupying army has bestowed on the “weekend party palace” of Saddam’s son, Uday, complete with swimming pool, fishing pond, putting green, and bomb shelter. Documentarian Michael Tucker, narrating the action in the ominous amplified murmur of Martin Sheen in Apocalypse Now, lived there for two months in late 2003 and early 2004, sharing a room with ten American soldiers, going along on nocturnal raids, interviewing troops, recording the impromptu rap numbers of African-American ones, etc. Viewers hungry for an up-close look at the mop-up operations in Baghdad, and at the people commissioned to carry them out, will likely find themselves wishing for a more informative video image. 2005.

**(HILLCREST CINEMAS; FROM 3/12)**

**Hide and Seek** — To speed his daughter’s recovery from her mother’s sudden death, a Manhattan psychotherapist whisks her to a fishing pond, putting green, and bomb shelter. Dustin Hoffman; directed by Marc Forster. 2004.

**LA PALOMA; POWAY 10**

**★**

**Hole** — The feature-film debut of writer-director Dan Harris is a debut of writer-director Dan Harris is a

**VILLAGE; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; RANCHO DEL REY 16; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOMAN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE**

**Lost Embrace** — Identity quest of a fatherless young Argentinian Jew who helps out in his mother’s lingerie shop in a Buenos Aires mall. The quest itself isn’t terrifically interesting, but the style — shaky, shallow telephoto shots, short zooms — is actively irritating. With Daniel Hedden, Adriana Aizpuru, Silvina Bosch, Sergio Boris; directed by Daniel Burman. 2004.

**LA JOLLA VILLAGE; THROUGH 3/10**

**Man of the House** — Proprogrammed comedy of a stiff-necked Texas Ranger charged with safeguarding five witnesses to homocide, a Texas Longhorns cheerleading squad. (He confiscates their cellphones, implements a dress code, shops for Tampax.) Dustin Hoffman, Barbra Streisand, rounding out their star casts. (He confiscates their cellphones, implements a dress code, shops for Tampax.) Dustin Hoffman, Barbra Streisand, rounding out their star casts.

**MIRAMAX; FROM 3/11**

**Movieone** — The feature-film debut of writer-director Dan Harris is a

**PACIFIC THEATRES**

**Million Dollar Baby** — It would have been inhuman, if, after the events of Mystic River, Clint Eastwood were to revert to the relaxation mode of Blood Work, Space Cowboys, True Crime, Absolute Power. For a while, it would appear he had done just that. This sets up as a nice, light workout of fight-film conventions, smooth and steady, hardly

**the crooks quickly lost interest when the flamethrowing horse robot failed to produce movie list.**

**supported by San Diego Reader**

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**Calendar MOVIES**

**San Diego Reader March 30, 2005**

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Days of Being Wild

Hostage — Action thriller starring Bruce Willis and directed by Florent Emilio Siri.

**GARFIELD MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 20; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 8; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 8; LA JOLLA 12; MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POPPY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 18; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOMAN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE**

**Imaginary Heroes** — The feature-film debut of writer-director Dan Harris is a

**LANTERNS MARKET THEATRES**

**PACIFIC THEATRES**

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**Million Dollar Baby** — It would have been inhuman, if, after the events of Mystic River, Clint Eastwood were to revert to the relaxation mode of Blood Work, Space Cowboys, True Crime, Absolute Power. For a while, it would appear he had done just that. This sets up as a nice, light workout of fight-film conventions, smooth and steady, hardly
break a sweat. But ultimately it takes shape as more than just an old-fashioned fight film, really more a relationship film, with the Eastwood character — a gruff and guilt-ridden Irish Catholic trainer, manager, and cut man — taking under his wing a feisty female fighter who becomes a surrogate daughter to replace the biological one with whom he has lost touch, and who in turn needs a surrogate father. The boxing, almost inevitably, is ridiculous, a blur of first-round knockouts, two punches, three punches, in total contradiction of the heroine’s diagnosed handicap as a late-starter. While not nearly as ambitious, not remotely as career-defining, as Mystic River, it proves in the end to be a film of remarkable gravity and bravery. No quick knockout itself, it is more like a late-round TKO, a well-earned war of attrition. You will likely feel, at the completion of Eastwood’s standard two-and-a-quarter hours, that you have come down a long road, been somewhere been through something. The director, as always, takes his time yet doesn’t linger, doesn’t build things up too big, doesn’t blend them dry. He understands the value of understatement. He understands a knock out itself, it is more like a late-round knockout — a device in a setting: that is the essence, not strictly a moral sense — the wake of the Man with No Name, to say, the wake of the Man with No Name, Bacon to do his crying for him, he here out Sean Penn, Tim Robbins, and Kevin exquisitely emotional value of understatement. He understands a doesn’t bleed them dry. He understands the likely feel, at the completion of Eastwood’s knockout itself, it is more like a late-round round.” (Ong-Bak and the Thai warrior, couldn’t recover Ong-Bak’s head, our village is doomed.” (Ong-Bak and the Thai warrior, and about the Ong-Bak: The Thai Warrior PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; COSTA 6; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA 18; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; GROSSMINT TROLLEY; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIKA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PORTY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 10; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SAN DIEGO 100; SAN DIEGO 150; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE).

Paper Clips — Elliot Berlin’s and Joe Fab’s documentary about an educational experiment in a Tennessee middle school on the subject of the Holocaust. (FLOWER MILL 4; LA JOLLA 12).

The Passion of the Christ — A work of devotion, and a big gamble, for Mel Gibson, financed out of his own pocket, boasting no big-name stars (Jim Caviezel and Monica Bellucci, the biggest), not to mention English subtitles for ancient languages, graphic gags, and a feast of pre-release publicity on its latent anti-Semitism. A version of this story that would bear down on the body punishment absorbed during Christ’s last day on Earth was probably, in the fullness of time, inevitable. And it’s a short step from saying that such a version was inevitable to saying that it’s a particularly appropriate one for its time: a Passion, if you will, for the new millennium. More specifically, benefit of the spiritual and obsessed with the physical. In the end, there’s really very little to it, apart from duration: the arrest in Gethsemane (with such explosive force as to leave Jesus at the outset looking like Rocky Balboa after a fifteen-rounder); the kangaroo court; the interminable public torture (Mel’s martyrdom in Braveheart was but an appetizer); the marathon uphill climb to Calvary; the spikes in the hands and feet and the spear in the side; and scarcely more than ten seconds for the rolling-away of the stone and the restoration of the body for the ascent to Paradise. A major contributor to the aforesaid duration — two hours plus — is the willy-nilly use of slow-motion, always a handy access to dramatic emphasis for a filmmaker too lazy or inept to achieve it by honest means such as pacing and camera placement. And please don’t bother to voice any misgivings over the suitability of so vapid a device in so classic a work, that just goes along with the ultra-violence to identify the film as of its time. 2004. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CINERAMA 8; ENCINITAS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; GROSSMINT TROLLEY; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIKA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PORTY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 10; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SAN DIEGO 100; SAN DIEGO 150; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE).

Ray — Truncated and time-scrambled biography of singer Ray Charles, with a lot of back and forth between his childhood in rural Florida and his manhood circa 1948-65, to ensure that Jamie Foxx will never be absent from the screen for too long at a stretch. There’s a nice scene of the newly blind boy at age seven or eight, getting his bearings from the aural co-ordinates around the wooden shanty he calls home, while his mother stands by in silence and lets him figure it out for himself. There could have been more of that sort of thing. At two and a half hours, the movie takes our kindness for this lugubrious waiter (otherwise known as the Genius of Soul); and the fact that he passed away in the same year in which the movie was released only tightens the emotional screws. The routine re-enactments of financial exploitation, marital infidelities, drug abuse, backstage discord among band members, etc., hope to be emulated by the brand name of Ray Charles — or more broadly, by the customary blackmail of True Story. Foxx does a commendable job of mimicking the trademark manic-rocking motion whether walking or singing, the self-hug, the twenty-four-tooth grin — but it’s a performance condensed to stay on the surface, like a leaf on a pond. With Kerry Washington, Regina King, Clifton Powell, directed by Taylor Hackford. 2004. (GASLAMP 15).

Robots — Computer-animated kidde science fiction, with the voices of Ewan
The Sea Inside — Factual story of a Spanish quadruplegic who, after twenty-five years of paralysis, took his fight to the courts for the right to die. Given its intrinsic limitations, the film is well directed (by Javier Aguirresarobe, who collaborated with this director on The Others), and will act as a jury for a brave, heartfelt defense of Darsies, Mabel Rivera, Clara Segura. The protagonist, acting as a spokesman for the artist rather than for euthanasia, says a good thing: “Who said anything about quadruplegics? I’m talking about me!” And relationships with, primarily, the two different women who are so deeply defined the emathic lawyer who herself suffers from a degenerative disease (and with whom her legal foe explores the boundaries of antiscial sexuality), the simple factory worker who inomates her first as a pre-life advocate, the pregnant representative of Death With Dignity, and the silently devoted sister-in-law who, together with a moody neighbor, cares for the invalid round the clock. And the out-and-out debate of the issue with a quadruplegic is deeply staged: the priest’s wheelchair won’t fit up the lift, and its hero won’t come down, so a messenger must shuttle upstairs and down with the points and counterpoints until, the debate decide towards a shooting match, with no more of an intermediary. There are further attempts to cinematic the material through flashback and fantasy. Still, for all its valiant struggle, the film is almost as confused as its protagonist: so much by restriction of movement as by nervousness of scope.

★★★★ (HILDEGARD CRENS)

Short Cut to Nirvana — Maurice Benard’s and Nick Day’s scattered coverage of the immense Kumbh Mela, an every-two-years religious festival at the confluence of the Ganges and Yamuna rivers as a sacred pilgrimage. With tens of millions, a sort of outrider state fair of Eastern holy men (and women) and their disciples, a veritable smorgasbord of spirituality. The filmmakers’ sampling of the fare, under the cheerful guidance of a bespectacled young monk named Swami Krishnanand, is surely the next best thing to being there. Or for the less devoted, a better thing.

★★ (DEN. THROUGH 3/10)

Sideways — The bare outline would look like a handful other buddy comedies: two old friends from college, an ex-soap opera actor and we, older, well Married (by Javier Aguirresarobe, who collaborated with this director on The Others), and will act as a jury for a brave, heartfelt defense of Darsies, Mabel Rivera, Clara Segura. The protagonist, acting as a spokesman for the artist rather than for euthanasia, says a good thing: “Who said anything about quadruplegics? I’m talking about me!” And relationships with, primarily, the two different women who are so deeply defined the emathic lawyer who herself suffers from a degenerative disease (and with whom her legal foe explores the boundaries of antiscial sexuality), the simple factory worker who inomates her first as a pre-life advocate, the pregnant representative of Death With Dignity, and the silently devoted sister-in-law who, together with a moody neighbor, cares for the invalid round the clock. And the out-and-out debate of the issue with a quadruplegic is deeply staged: the priest’s wheelchair won’t fit up the lift, and its hero won’t come down, so a messenger must shuttle upstairs and down with the points and counterpoints until, the debate decide towards a shooting match, with no more of an intermediary. There are further attempts to cinematic the material through flashback and fantasy. Still, for all its valiant struggle, the film is almost as confused as its protagonist: so much by restriction of movement as by nervousness of scope.

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this the depiction of masculine deceit — self-deception, congenital mendacity — extends as far and wide as a whole way of life, a fundamental condition of existence, a subject for a film of substance.

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BY FAX: Complete the form below, photocopy it, and then fax it to us at (619) 235-8200 or in person (1703 India Street, at Date Street) Downtown. Hours are 9am-5pm, Monday through Friday, and until 6pm Tuesday.

PLEASE NOTE: The Reader will not be financially responsible for failure to run an ad or for errors in an ad, except, if at fault, to the extent of the cost of the first insertion of the ad.

Deadline: 6pm Monday

Write your ad below, listing the item for sale first, followed by its description (including price) and ending with the phone number. Each phone number counts as one word; ads over 25 words will be edited. Refer to the Table of Contents to determine the classified category you want. If you are unsure, the appropriate category will be assigned. No cancellations accepted. No refunds.

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April 161

Reader

San Diego
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Which profession makes too much money?

By Cruz Medina

T he two professions that I think make too much money are actors and professional athletes. Actors put a lot of effort into their sport; they work out a lot because it’s their job. Their careers span are much shorter than in other professions, but I don’t think that justifies being paid millions of dollars a year. Our teachers form these athletes over the years and they make $40,000 a year and can barely support their families. Some actors are fronted millions of dollars before the movies are even made; it doesn’t matter if they don’t work. If an athlete’s something that you devote so much time to and thoroughly enjoy, then it shouldn’t matter if you’re doing local plays or have part time in commercials. If it’s a passion and something you love, then it shouldn’t matter how much money you make at it. I think it’s unfair because there are people out there who work just as hard at their job and don’t get paid as much, but touch people’s lives in a more positive way.

Drug dealers. They’re always coming and going with big wads of cash. They get the wads of cash to re-up (get a new supply of drugs) and then they get another wad of cash and get rid of that... On the corporate level, half of prescription medicine doesn’t work and you’re just somebody’s guinea pig. On the street, it’s the same thing; you gotta be leery of who you’re getting drugs through ‘cause you can really get fucked up. Drug dealing is high risk, too; you got tweaking needing more drugs, other tweaking who owe you money, the highest up dealers who get after you if you fuck them over, and other drug dealers worry about. It’s definitely a cutthroat business.

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Sport figures make obscene amounts of money. When you see athletes wearing big necklaces and wristwatches, what does that say about the value that we place on those who are paid to entertain? It’s a complete mismanagement of money. Teachers get paid crap and people who play a game get paid millions to advertise Coke and Nike. It’s a product of capitalism... where there are those who do extremely well while others with similar skills and less luck scrape to get by. It sets an unfair standard of living for impressive youth who look at sports as the only alternative.

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SALES—FURNITURE. Cute furniture/sale, 326-251- Tueday-Thursday, 9 am-6 pm. 3737 Tamarisk Road, Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. Self motivated, enthusiastic Salesperson with friendly customer service skills. No experience necessary, will train. Complete application at Gujar Travel, 7120 Clairemount Drive, San Diego, CA 92154.

RETAIL, Supervisor. Spacious, fun store. Full-time employment. Experience required. Excellent compensation, employee benefits, 1304 5th Ave., La Jolla, San Diego CA 92037. Logs in at 8 a.m.

SALES/RETAILPERSON/Perfect candidate: Must be self-motivated, energetic, and hardworking. Excellent compensation, benefits, and potential for advancement. Retail experience required. Please call 858-720-8285.

RETAIL—MANAGER. Excellent opportunity for a retail management position. The company is looking to expand their sales force and is interested in working with a motivated and experienced individual. The ideal candidate will have experience in customer service, retail sales, and management. Please contact us at 619-858-2720 for more information.

RETAIL — MANAGER/INSTRUCTOR. Excellent opportunity for an instructor or manager for a retail store. Must have experience in retail sales, management, and customer service. Retail experience required. Please call 619-858-2720 for more information.

RETAIL—SALESPEOPLE/Blockership. Full-time, part-time, weekend. Lánsing team, reliable, sales-experienced, article feel for display world. Ring for Bo as a must. A cheerful positio, 619-208-2092.

SALES—FURNITURE. San Diego's premier furniture store. Full-time, 40 hour week. Valley Furniture/Cash & Carry. Part-time, full-time, weekend. Reliable, team. We can train. Great benefits! $90 per day. Location: 619-462-4100.

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SALES. Looking for a change? Stop working 
- jobs, earning a minimum wage, go to a career! We are searching for people like ourselves. People who like to make money with like-minded people? We are looking for qualified individuals to fill the position of Telemarketer/Mortgage Loans. This is a full-time career opportunity that includes a best-in-class compensation plan, a rewarding work environment, a strong company culture, and outstanding growth opportunities. Call Rene, 858-692-8552.

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- Massage Therapy
- Reflexologist
- Business Information Systems
- Computer Networking Technology
- Criminal Justice

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March 17, 1 P.M. - 5 P.M.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPO: Women in Law Enforcement! The San Diego Police Department is hosting a Law Enforcement Expo to help women pursue careers in the field. It will be held March 12th from 10am-2pm at the Police Academy at Miramar College, 14440 Black Mountain Road, San Diego.

PART-TIME SECURITY, Immediate Position Open: Security Guard Call, please see office for details. San Diego, Escondido, Tustin. We invite you to apply. With the largest, most respected security company in the world! supermarkets, hotels, restaurants, shopping centers, banks, apartments, office buildings and much more. You’ll be part of a premier organization! Residential experience preferred. $11.00/hr.

TANNDAR SALON MANAGER: Tanned and Drenched in Platinum is a full-service salon in the heart of Del Mar, California. Must be organized, detail-oriented, presentable, outgoing, dependable, with great customer service skills and willing to do whatever is needed to ensure salon’s success.

RECRUITMENT: NURSES. Do you have a passion for healthcare? Would you like to work in a beautiful environment with a tight and supportive team? We are currently looking for RNs, LPNs, and Nursing Assistants to join our team! Please email your resume to info@tannedanddrenched.com.

Harry’s Bar & Grill, a popular local eatery, is looking for part-time bartenders and servers. Experience is preferred but not required. Competitive pay. Contact us at 858-488-1234 for more information.

For immediate consideration, please submit your resume to info@tannedanddrenched.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

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SPRAY PAINTER: Experienced, well trained painter with 10+ years experience in automotive. Must have clean DMV and valid California driver’s license. Must be able to work evening and weekend shifts. Contact: 858-289-7307 or e-mail mhoare@vhr.com.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Providing administrative support in an environmental and social justice organization. Provides secretarial support to senior management and board, assists HR, provides clerical support of program reporting, basic bookkeeping and light database work. Must be organized and a self-starter. Call for more information: 616-516-0033.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Technical support position. New oversight and support for our C&D Towing services. Responsibilities include: answering phones, mail, and in person, providing formal and informal client relations, tracking equipment requests and inventory, completing all final show analysis. Must be able to work evening and weekend shifts. Experience: 858-349-0779 or e-mail bcomyn@dvr.com. Or apply in person: Meeting Services, Inc., 9220 Activity Road, San Diego, CA 92126, 858-348-1010.


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Contact David, 760-492-2822.


EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES: This is a growing company in environmental and social justice. Responsibilities include: administrative support to senior management and board, providing clerical support of program reporting, basic bookkeeping and light database work. Must be organized and a self-starter. Call for more information: 616-516-0033.

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TO THE READER PUZZLE

by David Levinson Wilk

THE READER PUZZLE

Seeking tall, healthy male, 55-65, wanting a serious relationship. Let's brainstorming. (3/23)

58-YEAR-OLD NORTH COUNTY white male, 50 years old, 6'3", 200 lbs. Seeking attractive, sincere, thoughtful, sensitive, available for friendship, nonsmoker, good person, happy, intelligent, financially responsible, honest, kind, good-natured. (3/16)

THOUGHTFUL WHITE MALE, 52, 5'8", 175 lbs. I'm a laid-back, honest, kind, helpful, sensitive and caring gentleman who enjoys the outdoors, music, good friends, good cooking, and dancing. Seeking a similar individual with whom to share many happy moments. (3/16)

ATTORNEY, 34, seeks a partner who is creative, funny, caring and loves to laugh. (3/23)

MATCHES

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HONEST, INTELLIGENT, charismatic, dynamic, 38, for a fun, sensual, woman who loves to laugh. Sense of humor, creativity, interest in fun and quality of life. (3/23)

MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN, sometimes takes a while to find someone special. Professional seeks Christian young lady for friendship, dating, dancing, romancing, going places. (3/23)

TO MAKE ME LAUGH, двумя дюймами выше, мужчина играет на гитаре. (3/23)

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DAMES Ask: Name: Telephone: Address:

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SICK SHAPE, 47, anastolic, 56, Seeking attractive, causional, professional, well-groomed, nondonor, 55+. Looking for a special relationship. Movies, walking, dining. (3/23)

SRO, 39, 6'3", 195 lb. Rugged, attractive, 47, fit, athletic, a good provider. Seeking a compatible, quality woman. (3/23)

SUSAN, 48, 5'4", 180 lbs. A gem, a real gem. Seeking a good, positive, confident, firm, sexual relationship. (3/23)

Sensual Attractive, 39, 6', 185. Seeking an outgoing, sensual, tremulous woman. (3/23)

THE READER PUZZLE

March 10, 2005

1. “The joins” 5. Puts away


6. “Strong Starts” man band

9. It may be tiered

29. From...in last-2 letters

31. Hitched, or asen

32. “Dinner for Five”

33. “New Sensation” band

34. A gift, for short

35. “Mo Money Mo Problems”

36. “Sharp Dressed Man” band

37. Two-thirds of a pizza? (3/16)

38. “Have a bite”

40. “Love Story” composer Francis

41. A gift, for short

42. “Keep a Space Clear”

43. Poetic plaint

44. “The joint”

45. It’s all wound up

46. ____ Grande

47. Singer Lavigne with the 2002 hit “Complicated”

48. Bellhop, often

49. Pics of speech

50. Toe-woe

51. In the altogether

52. NASA affixates

53. New York Problems” raper

54. ﬂushed with fun and love. Must be honest, fun-loving, 42. Artists given in life. You are active, fit, financially responsible, emotionally stable, spirited, home- owner. (3/23)

55.“And...” (3/16)

56. Grandpa

57. Bet taken by 17-, 25- and 43-Across

58. Actress Dench

59. Singer of “Duet”

60. Actress Dench

61. Commercial gal for quality time together, walking, dining, traveling. Bye for now. (3/16)

62. Good thing to have about you

63. Singer of “Duet”

64. ____ Grande

65. In the altogether

2. Poetic plaint

3. Singer of “Duet”

4. “Love Story” composer Francis

5. “Sharp Starts” man band

6. “Strong Starts” man band

7. A核实, successful and attractive. I am a 3. Professional, well-groomed, nonsmoker, 5'8", 5. Old-time amusement park staple that's won 57-Across!

6. “Strong Starts” man band

9. It may be tiered

29. From...in last-2 letters

31. Hitched, or asen

32. “Dinner for Five”

33. “New Sensation” band

34. A gift, for short

35. “Mo Money Mo Problems”

36. “Sharp Dressed Man” band

37. Two-thirds of a pizza? (3/16)

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60. Actress Dench

61. Commercial gal for quality time together, walking, dining, traveling. Bye for now. (3/16)
CAUCASIAN, LATE 50s, 6', slim, honor- able, educated, no drugs. Seeking pretty young lady for established friendship. Must respect high, good manners, hobby/interest. Caucasian, no drugs/smoking, non-smokers preferred. Call [323]...

YOUNG AT HEART, CAUCASIAN, 21, seeks
YES, LADIES, active, intelligent, attractive, enthusiastic, and sometimes an adventurer, willing to try just about anything once. 35-40, single, recently separated, not yet ready for relationships. Seeking a real friendship, intimate relationship, and/or romance (very open). Call [323]...

I AM STARTING TO DATE and meet nice people for serious dating. I am 33, 5'10", white, single, down to earth, kind, thoughtful, humorous, no attitude, drugs, no smokers, non-smokers preferred. Call [323]...

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Soon after advertisers place their ads, their spoken introductions go on the Roommate Hotline. This lets you hear before you're ready to call the Roommate Line. Call 24 hours/day & choose option two. Select listings by gender, price and area. Listings updated daily.

BLACK ARTIST (PROPERTY OWNER) for passion- ative, intelligent, nordic type. Age is not an issue. (3/16)

GOOD LOOKING, CONSIDERATE, gentle, great listener, shy but witty, 6'. Love sharing togetherness, laughter, stimulating conversa- tion, spirituality. (3/16)

CAUCASIAN, female in late 40s, 6', athletic build, financially youthful, 155lbs., attrac- tive and educated lady, in her mid 30s. (3/16)

LADY, attractive and educated, in her mid 30s. (3/16)

SUCCESSFUL, EUROPEAN, handsome, Catholic. (3/16)

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3. You may renew your mailbox any time Thursday through 6 pm Monday.

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LA JOLLA. $750. 2 rooms in 3 bedroom house. Quiet location. 1/2 utilities. Room with own bath. Cleaning service in house. Pets welcome. 235-2415, x12540.


LA MESA. $645, 1/2 utilities, deposit, share bathroom. Free parking. Pets considered. $450, 1/2 utilities, deposit, share bathroom. 858-459-7400; 858-292-9090.

LA MESA. $675, plus utilities. Female to share 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Share bathroom. Quiet neighborhood, good location. 858-495-0520.

LINDA VISTA. $550/month, plus $50 deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, yard. Pet considered. $550/month, plus utilities. 801-830-7697.

LINDA VISTA. $600, plus utilities. Share 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 blocks from beach. Pets allowed. Share bathroom. Quiet neighborhood, good location. 858-495-0520.

LINDA VISTA. $600, includes utilities, completely furnished apartment. Share bathroom. Quiet neighborhood, good location. 858-495-0520.

LINDA VISTA. $650, includes utilities, completely furnished apartment. Share bathroom. Quiet neighborhood, good location. 858-495-0520.

LINDA VISTA. $650/month, plus $300 deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, share large closet. Quiet older home with easy parking. Laundry. Pets possible. $445.


LINDA VISTA. $875/month, plus $300 deposit. LA JOLLA/WINDANSEA BEACH. Nicely furnished, includes laundry, pool. No smoking/pets. Available now. 858-564-0480.

LINDA VISTA. $899. 1 block from beach. Female preferred. Comfort, amenities, good location. 619-455-1311.

LINDA VISTA. $950/month, plus $350 deposit. LA JOLLA. Nicer room, 2 bath, private bath, condo. Furnished, very nice. Washer/dryer, gym, close to beach. 858-495-3439.

LA JOLLA. $950/month, includes utilities. Room/own bathroom. TV, Internet, 3 meals/day. Female roommate. Close to UCSD. 858-495-3938.

LA JOLLA. $950/month, includes utilities. Room/own bathroom. Nice neighborhood, quiet area. 858-495-3938.


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Tony, 619-207-1747.

ROOM FOR RENT IN QUIET, SPACIOUS HOUSE. NICE NEIGHBORHOOD. INCLUDES HOUSEKEEPER, GARDENER, LAUNDRY, PARKING. NO DRUGS, SMOKING, PETS.

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LA MIRAGE: 2 bedroom, 2 bath, fully furnished, washer/dryer, fireplace, full equipped kitchen, large closets, large backyard, pool. Aval. 6/1, 619-247-9784.

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LA Jolla: 2 bedroom, 2 bath, beautifully furnished, washer/dryer, parking, pool, close to downtown/UCSD. Available now. 858-459-6646.

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— by Robert Mizrahi
It's worth a try. This blood-caked machete I’ve been carrying seems to draw moisture from every living thing, without polluting our poor service they’ve been getting.

From human flesh...?!
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**CABEZA.MOUNTAIN PARK AVE.**

3 beds, 2 1/2 baths. Waterman, left on Alta View). Agent, 858-282-8000.

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2 bedroom, 1 bath. 8953 Grove Street. 619-692-4121.

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CARLSBAD, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, single story apartment home with garage, hardwood floors and carpeting. No pets. Agent, 619-741-6767.


CARLSBAD/LAGOS, 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Carport. 504 Caminito Trejo. Ocean view, fireplace, storage, on-site laundry. Pets, no pets accepted. 619-430-3030.

CARLSBAD/VILLAGE, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, single story apartment home with garage, hardwood floors and carpeting. No pets. Agent, 619-741-6767.

CARLSBAD/VILLAGE, 1659. For Alex: #6327 lovemyspace.com.


CARLSBAD/RANCHO CARILLO. 850-3697.

CARLSBAD/VILLAGE. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 2-story townhouse with garage. Large laundry hooked up, garage, pool. Section 8 Ok. Agent, 619-741-6767.

CARLSBAD/VILLAGE, 1 bedroom, 1 bath update unit, with garage, hardwood floors and carpeting. No pets. Agent, 619-741-6767.


CARLSBAD/VILLAGE, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, single story apartment home with garage, hardwood floors and carpeting. No pets. Agent, 619-741-6767.


CARLSBAD/VILLAGE, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, single story apartment home with garage, hardwood floors and carpeting. No pets. Agent, 619-741-6767.

Jacuzzi, Steam
Parafango
Exfoliating Body Scrub
Table Shampoo

COLLEGE AREA.

469-0031.

bath apartment. 4421 Winona, #C. Avail-

CLAIREMONT.
nock Avenue. 858-232-7900.

Washer/dryer hookups. Enclosed
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Condo, Spacious 1 Bedroom. Washer/dryer
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DOWNTOWN/CORTEZ HILL. 208 Aloe St. $1650. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Close to beach. Call 1-800-845-CORTEZ.


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Corner units. $1095, studio, new paint,

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Lighting systems, pumps, decorations

20H aquarium $20; 29 for $29; 40R $40.

$1300. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 3

208. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Beautiful Coast Boulevard

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Villas at La Mesa, 8515 Chloe Avenue.

Close to all. No pets. Available now.

Spacious 1 bedroom. Newly renovated


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Missions Beach: $575. Studio apartment. All utilities included. Pets OK. 619-435-2362.

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Missions Beach: $1200. 1 bedroom, 1.5 bath. 680 square feet. Pets OK. $1200. 5130 Mission Blvd. 619-540-3453.

Missions Beach: $1200. 1 bedroom. Pets OK. $1200. 2345 Paradise Road. 619-540-3453.


Mission Valley: $1700. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 525 square feet. Pets OK. $1700. 619-231-1505 ext. 12


Missions Beach: $2395. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Pets OK. $2395. 5191 Mission Boulevard. 619-540-3453.


Missions Beach: $2595. 1 bedroom. Pets OK. $2595. 5191 Mission Blvd. 619-540-3453.

Missions Beach: $2800. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Pets OK. $2800. 5115 Rio San Diego Drive. 619-507-4979.


MISSION VALLEY, EAST. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Nice, quiet location. Move in special: 1 month $895. 1626 36th Street West. 619-264-6147.

MISSION VALLEY. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Great, clean, newly remodeled. $925/month. 1 block to bus, park, shopping. 5648 27th Street. 619-433-3967.

MISSION VALLEY. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Move in special! $1050. 851 35th Street. 619-577-2956.

MISSION VALLEY. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Almost new furniture. 2 blocks to 27th Street, 3 blocks to La Jolla. $1075/month. 619-835-1290.

kitchen, bathroom, elevator, onsite laundry, security building, 3949 33rd Street, 1-862-1087.

NORTH PARK
$1025, 1/2 month move-in special, newly remodeled 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, 2nd floor, private patio. 3752 Avenida De La Renta #108, 1-858-355-3699.

NORTH PARK
$980, 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, bottom floor, new paint, new carpet. 4358 Arizona Street #1, 1-858-296-5055.

NORTH PARK
$950, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 2nd floor unit, stove, refrigerator, microwave, dishwasher, washer/dryer, balcony. 3352 Columbia Street, 1-858-457-4092.

NORTH PARK
$950, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 2nd floor, quiet location. 3730 1-1/2 blocks to ocean. 1-858-297-7707.

NORTH PARK
$950, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, bottom floor, 2nd floor unit. 4944 Narragansett Avenue #403, 1-858-425-1682.

NORTH PARK
$950, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 2nd floor, upper unit. 4934 Narragansett Avenue, 1-858-425-1504.

NORTH PARK
$950, 1 bedroom apartment. 4916 Narragansett Ave #201. 1-858-296-6699.

NORTH PARK
$950, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 1/2 month move-in special! 1/2 off 1st month's rent. 4944 Narragansett Avenue. 1-858-425-1682.

NORTH PARK
$950, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 2nd floor 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, 1/2 month move-in special, 1/2 off 1st month's rent. 4944 Narragansett Avenue. 1-858-425-1682.

NORTH PARK
$950, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 2nd floor, upgraded, renovated, private patio, parking, free laundry, 1 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. 619-697-6314.

NORTH PARK
$950 rent, 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 3614 1-1/2 bound-

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GRANITE COUNTERTOPS • Select units with island kitchens • Internet access (high-speed) • Pets welcome • Pool/mountain views available • State-of-the-art cardio fitness center • Business center • Clubhouse, media center, pool table • Near San Diego Trolley stop, movie theaters, shopping malls, Qualcomm Stadium & Fenton Marketplace

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• Heat/air conditioning
• Heat/air conditioning
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• Close to freeways

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San Diego
Reader

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The Club Torrey Pines is a pleasant place to call home. We are located in a quiet neighborhood of Carmel Valley and we offer something for everyone, an award-winning school district, shopping within walking distance, easy freeway access minutes to Del Mar beaches, and free tennis and swimming lessons.

1 bed/1 bath from $1165
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$250 OFF 1ST MONTH!
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2 bedrooms from $1530*

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La Jolla/UTC

8895 Caminito Plaza
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800.921.1643 TOLL-FREE!
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Studios from
$375/week or
$975/month!

- Heated pool and spa • Free parking
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San Diego, CA 92117
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Luxury gardens, ocean views, enchanting views—not exactly typical apartment living. But then nothing about Loma Palisades is typical.

Special Amenities
- Rare 2 & 3 Bedroom Townhomes or Single-Level Plans, up to 1,200 Sq. Ft.
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- Basketball court
- Jogging trail & sand volleyball court
- State-of-the-art fitness center
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1, 2, 3 bedrooms $950-1150

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- clubhouse
- fitness room
- business room
- tennis
- heated pool/spa
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1, 2, 3 bedrooms from $950-1150

$200 off 1st month, $100 off 2nd month.

- New appliances, new paint, new carpet,
- New kitchen, bathrooms, flooring, windows,
- New stainless appliances, carpet and
- New designer colors, new carpet, laundry,

- With fireplace, washer/dryer, new
- Recent remodel, new paint, new carpet,
- New stainless appliances, new paint, new
- New designer colors, new carpet, new
- New designer colors, new carpet, laundry,

- Pet negotiable. 2811 Jarvis. Call 619-222-4836 x14
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- Pet negotiable. 2811 Jarvis. Call 619-222-4836 x14
- Pet negotiable. 619-222-3214.
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### Houses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1124 Eureka St. #16</td>
<td>1 bedroom/1 bath, 690 square feet, laundry in unit, $965/month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6394 Rancho Mission Rd. #13</td>
<td>2 bedrooms/2 baths, 1690 square feet, $1835/month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9175 Campina Dr. #3</td>
<td>2 bedrooms/2 baths, 990 square feet, $1695/month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3460 Twain Boulevard</td>
<td>2 bedrooms/2 baths, 920 square feet, $1650/month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5283 Kings View Ct.</td>
<td>3 bedrooms/2 baths, 1300 square feet, $1595/month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1196 Via Hacienda</td>
<td>2 bedrooms/2 baths, 930 square feet, $1485/month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5192 Paradise Woods Dr.</td>
<td>3 bedrooms/2 baths, 970 square feet, $1595/month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4575 Lakeshore Dr.</td>
<td>2 bedrooms/2 baths, 982 square feet, $1675/month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2215 Monaghan Dr</td>
<td>3 bedrooms/2 baths, 1200 square feet, $1750/month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5741 Sycamore St.</td>
<td>3 bedrooms/2 baths, 1200 square feet, $1775/month.</td>
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</tbody>
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### Condos

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3327 Oak Park</td>
<td>1 bedroom/1 bath, 750 square feet, $1250/month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4501 Kansas St.</td>
<td>2 bedrooms/2 baths, 1000 square feet, $1600/month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4565 North Avenue #4569a</td>
<td>2 bedrooms/2 baths, 890 square feet, $1500/month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4567 North Avenue #4569a</td>
<td>2 bedrooms/2 baths, 890 square feet, $1495/month.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Apartments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2602 Coral St.</td>
<td>1 bedroom/1 bath, 600 square feet, $825/month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4460 North Avenue #4451</td>
<td>2 bedrooms/1 bath, 870 square feet, $1200/month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4458 North Avenue #4450</td>
<td>2 bedrooms/1 bath, 870 square feet, $1150/month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4443 Kansas St.</td>
<td>2 bedrooms/1 bath, 910 square feet, $1250/month.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Apartments for Rent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4565 North Avenue #4569a</td>
<td>2 bedrooms/2 baths, 890 square feet, $1495/month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4567 North Avenue #4569a</td>
<td>2 bedrooms/2 baths, 890 square feet, $1500/month.</td>
</tr>
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### Apartments for Rent

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<tr>
<td>4458 North Avenue #4450</td>
<td>2 bedrooms/1 bath, 870 square feet, $1150/month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4443 Kansas St.</td>
<td>2 bedrooms/1 bath, 910 square feet, $1250/month.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**PLACE FREE AD ONLINES** with photos at www.sandiegobestrentals.com. See thousands of classified ads not printed here.

**REAL ESTATE**

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MARCH 10, 2005

**Boulevards, Camps, 10 acres, year-round horse trails. Built-in split bedroom, 2 bath, open floor plan. Sunny, bright, beautiful property. $400,000. Dania, 858-686-1452.

**206 youths** have successfully completed the drug court program with great credit, and other programs underway. Call New Age, 685-9690.

**Vacation rentals** in beach, ocean, city and mountains. 1,2,3 & 4 bedroom units with fully equipped kitchens. From $95 - $150 per night. Call, 888-473-2867.

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**Bank foreclosures**—call Marie Bates, 858-504-5977. www.mariabates@earthlink.net.

**Mission Valley Condos** for sale under $350,000. For more information, contact your realtor with great credit, and other programs underway. Call New Age, 685-9690.

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Call now to reserve your space. Kearny Mesa, 800-482-6483.

Singers and songwriters.
“San Diego Reader” ads and online for last 2 weeks. Have trained over 300 students. Opportunity available for energetic, committed, professional teacher. Must be experienced in teaching professionals, students and beginners in: Guitar styles and techniques, music theory, songwriting and improvisation. $40/hour includes engineer. Awesome Master and Record. 619-277-0314.

Singers, bands, solo performers.
Performing in clubs, coffee shops, and honky-tonk bars. E-mail information reedman to make great local group work, San Diego based cover band. 1960- 70’s, 70’s, 80’s, 90’s, nowlove. Peter/vocalist forming new jazz combo. Round 10pm Sun. $10 cover. $5 for students. Call 619-295-0311 or 619-457-0311 for more info. Dalehauskins@yahoo.com or 858-401-7802.

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“San Diego Reader” ads and online for last 2 weeks. Have trained over 300 students. Opportunity available for energetic, committed, professional teacher. Must be experienced in teaching professionals, students and beginners in: Guitar styles and techniques, music theory, songwriting and improvisation. $40/hour includes engineer. Awesome Master and Record. 619-277-0314.

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Located near the set of NBC’s Behold the Beauty. Call 858-496-1216 for reservations.

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Join us March 31 as we kick off the monthly series with Sean Halley from Digidesign and Scott Ray from Waves. Please note: the monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Southcoast Convention Center. For sales and service, call: 619-822-9740. KAYAK WINTER SALE
New boats from $1995. Great prices, service, selection, delivery. Bayside Marine, 5325 Playa Del Rey Dr., La Jolla 822-9740. 48hrs, excellent boat, good condition. KAYAKS $500-$1000. 50% back with trade, used once. $500. Must sell! 760-802-9740.

KAYAKS $500-$1000. 50% back with trade, used once. $500. Must sell! 760-802-9740.

KAYAKS $500-$1000. 50% back with trade, used once. $500. Must sell! 760-802-9740.

KAYAKS $500-$1000. 50% back with trade, used once. $500. Must sell! 760-802-9740.

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KAYAKS $500-$1000. 50% back with trade, used once. $500. Must sell! 760-802-9740.
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**Factory and repair your vehicle quickly and economically. We**
**MISSION HILLS, 5:30-8pm. Fabulous collection of hand-**
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**Rummage sale. Saturday, 3/12,**
**Home jewelry party. 3/16,**
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- 4-CYL, $29.95 + 6-CYL $35.95
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- Timing belt extra if required.
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- Includes boot, clamps, grease and labor.
- Starting at $35.95 for 2 boot.

**Complete Axle**
- Replacement of all major components of your car.
- $89

**FREE Bumper-to-Bumper Inspection**
- Check all major components of your car.

**IMPROVE YOUR GAS MILEAGE WITH FACTORY-SCHEDULED SERVICES**
- We use premium parts to improve your performance.
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**15K SERVICE starting at $40.95**
- Includes: oil, oil filter, engine check, undercarriage check, steering and suspension check, and more.

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**Japanese Auto Tech**
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Mon.-Fri. 8-5:30, Sat. 8-1. Please call for appointment if we may better serve you. Limited time offer – call for details. Most cars. Not valid with any other discounts.

**FREE BRAKE INSPECTION**
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- Clearly black and white. In all of San Diego area, especially the Andrew Adams and otherBeauties of the 10’s. At $2 each. 119-498-6289.

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**NEW CARPET CONVERSION**
- Custom installation
- Color choices available
- Installation labor

**FREE ALIGNMENT**
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LEAD STORY
— Some of the well-intentioned donations for victims of the December floods are bewilderingly inappropriate (such as ski jackets and Via- gra), according to a February Wall Street Journal dispatch from Sri Lanka. Relief workers are being distracted by shipments of, for example, moisturizing gel, sweaters, women’s dresses, Arctic-weather tents, and thong underwear. Crucial medical supplies were in short supply, but not Val- inol or other contraceptives, with labels in languages that local doctors could not read. As the Journal wrote, some doctors “appear [just] to have unloaded their sample bins.”

World’s Shortest Attention Span
— A New York City jury in January awarded $435,000 in punitive damages to a professional dancer whose career was ended in 2001 after surgery by Dr. Andrew Feldman at St. Vincent’s Hospital. In a pre-op meeting, the dancer described the discomfort in his right knee, and Dr. Feldman wrote a large “X” on the spot of the pain, but 20 minutes later, he mistakenly cut into the man’s healthy left knee.

Tacky Public Officials
— (1) In December, Jean Eaton, mayor of the town of Albert Lea, Minn. (population 18,000), was warned by her city attorney to keep her campaign T-shirts from using a musical note in which she bought apparel from Marshall Field’s department stores and then affixed their price tags to some older, used garments and “returned” them for a refund. Police said a search of her home yielded evidence of tag switches totaling more than $800 in store credit. (2) In January, Canada’s immigration minister, Judy Sgro, resigned after a pizza-packer owner Harjit Singh accused of her of denying on a deal she allegedly proposed: that she would help Singh with an immigration problem if he would deliver pizza and garlic bread to her campaign headquarters.

Finer Points of Law
— (1) Sergio Segundo Ruiz, 60, was hospitalized with multiple injuries in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, in January after being hit by a car while crossing a busy street. He was charged with interfering with traffic, and a police officer was stationed outside his room to prevent him as soon as he left the hospital. Ruiz was also a suspect in a bank robbery in Breda, Netherlands, ruled that a 46-year-old bank robber who stole $8400 could only be charged with a crime worth about $4100 because the court had to let the man offset the equivalent of $2300 that he paid for his gun as a legitimate business expense.

Latest Religious Messages
— In January, the Consumer Product Safety Commission turned down a petition from a group of Traditional Jewish leaders to ban “The Rod,” a 22-inch-long nylon stick marketed by an Oklahoma couple as an aid to Bible-based child-rearing (“spare the rod, spoil the child”). Yvon Pasch, a 4-foot-9, long, polyurethane spanning paddles of a Bakersfield, Calif., man and wooden spanning paddles of a New Kingston, Pa., man, both sold with an explicit Christian message. (Lawrence, who said she is a devout Lutheran, said corporal punishment of children is inconsistent with Jesus’ teachings.)

— In a December Tampa Tribune feature, local Southern Baptist preacher Tom Rives was pro- filed in his part-time role as KoRoMo the Clown, enthusiastically delivering uplifting spiritual messages to kids as an alternative to judge- ments. Said Rives (who estimates he has trained about 400 people for his clown troupes), “I don’t think [preachers] should be going around with a Bible slung under their arms and a scroll on their face.” To his critics who say clowning is undignified, Rev. Rives said, “I tell them that all Baptist preachers are clowns. I just went to class and got certified.”

Another Election Headed to a Supreme Court
— Ali Joho, who lost a close election for the par- liament in Kenya in December, filed a petition two weeks later asking the country’s high court to nullify the contest because the winner, the 28-year-old Mwaboza, was allegedly spotted with some supporters under a bridge on election eve, sewing up the eyes of three cows and then drowning them, in order to cast a spell on Joho’s partisans. Allegedly, as part of the spell, voters from out of the district appeared and voted for Mwaboza, and some polling places were opened late and closed early in order to frustrate Joho’s supporters.

People Different From Us
— A jury in Nacogdoches, Texas, convicted Jerry Don Hartless in January of killing his former best friend, Bill Bob Walley, during a group drink- ing bout one night in 1994. According to testimony, Hartless believed that Walley had stolen his boat motor but couldn’t prove it. Then, that night, the group discussed a recent Jerry Springer show featuring a black woman claiming to be a member of the Ku Klux Klan, and the alcohol-fueled Hartless insinuated that Walley’s granddaughter, who was white, would have black men. (All the drinking group were white.) When Walley objected, Hartless shot him. A witness to the shooting was Walley’s wife, an old friend (“Bill’s Wild Bill Wallace” is his actual birth name).

Least Competent Criminals
— Northern Ireland’s chief constable told reporters in January that the meticulously executed Decem- ber robbery of Belfast’s Northern Bank earned him praise from the															(Robo), according to a February Matthew W. Hiltzow’s new beds as warehouse pricing dwelling. Prices are subject to change without notice. Prices are subject to change without notice. (State of California License No. 637864)

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A T U O M O T I V E
Officers released the injured puppy to Animal Control, who took the dog for medical treatment. The puppy is thought to have a broken leg and further diagnostic tests are scheduled.

Investigation: I was dispatched regarding a burglary to a business, the Cleaner’s Club. When I arrived on scene, I spoke with the owner, J.R. He said the business was closed on Saturday at about 5 p.m. On Sunday morning around 11:00 a.m., he received a phone call from his alarm company advising him of an alarm activation. A short time later the alarm company called and notified him that the police had checked the business and it seemed secure.

J.R. went...to make sure nothing was taken, because on 12-01-04 his business had been burglarized. He noticed the cash register box was missing. He said he had three or four business days’ worth of cash and checks in the drawer. The loss was undetermined.

There was no signs of forced entry. There are two doors to the business and neither one had any recent signs of tampering. There are no security cameras in or around the business. I didn’t attempt to lift any fingerprints because J.R. had a company come in to replace the cash register box and wiped the area prior to my arrival.

Vicious Dogs
Location: [1100] Nordahl Road, San Marcos
Time/Date: 6:36 p.m. on 2/21/05

Incident: San Marcos Sheriff’s Station deputies responded to a call of a dog being mauled by two loose pit bulls [that] had apparently forced their way into a gated yard and attacked two dogs, killing one. Neighbors intervened and were able to save the other dog.

Deputies arrived and helped try to contain the pit bulls. The pit bulls escaped the yard, then went to another nearby home on Calavo Drive and attacked at least one other dog.

Deputy Alan Noble located one of the pit bulls as it was attempting to attack another dog in a fenced yard. That dog then started towards yet another dog in an unfenced yard, until Deputy Noble shot the [vicious dog] to prevent another mauling. The pit bull was struck twice, then picked up by Animal Control Officer J. Palumbo.

Deputy Amy Brown and some other area residents cornered the second pit bull in a garage in the 1500 block of Calavo Drive. The residents had interrupted that pit bull as it was attacking their dogs. Deputy Brown contained that animal until Officer Palumbo was able to capture it. Two of the mauled animals required veterinary attention, as did the pit bull that was shot. One of the animals attacked by the pit bull was killed and removed by Animal Control. None of the residents were seriously injured, despite several close encounters.

STABBING
Location: [1400] Alturas Road, Fallbrook
Time/Date: 11:23 a.m. on 2/20/05

Incident: Fallbrook Deputies responded to a fight at the Valley View Mobile Home. Upon arrival, the deputies were flagged down by a witness who directed them to two stabbing victims, who were in his trailer. He also directed the deputies to another trailer, where the other parties involved in the fight had fled.

Both of the parties at that location were determined to be victims, and were later transported to Palomar Hospital in Escondido and Scripps Hospital in La Jolla for treatment.

Deputies made contact at the other trailer and identified three possible suspects, one of whom was injured. He was later transported to Fallbrook Hospital for treatment.

The incident apparently occurred as part of an ongoing dispute between neighbors. At this time, two people, one adult male and one juvenile male, are in custody for the assault.

— Michael Hemmingson
Last year, I bought a used truck.

“The second Silverado,” he says. “I had one a couple years ago. My wife crashed it. I looked in the Auto Trader for about six months before I bought this one.

“I was looking at different types of trucks. I liked the Dodge, but the ones I found were more expensive. I liked everything about the Chevy I had before. If I figured it if got another one, I didn’t have to worry about finding things I didn’t like. And I found this one that was already pretty much the way I wanted.

“My other Chevy had a smaller motor. I think it was 4.8. This one is a 5.3. This truck has fewer miles on it, and the interior’s all leather and a wood dash. It was already lowered. The bedcover was on it.

“I put a stereo in it, with subwoofers under my back seat, and I replaced the front and back speakers with Infinity speakers in the back and Eclipse door speakers. I got the newest Pioneer CD player. And I put a bullet grille in front with the clear lights instead of the yellow ones.

“I ask, “How does it handle, lowered and with wide wheels and tires?”

“It drives like a race car. Going around corners, it’s smooth. Of course, when you go over big bumps or you’re backing out of somebody’s driveway, you’ve got to slow down.”

“How about mileage? With less wind resistance it burns less gas?”

“I’m not sure, but when I went to the desert with my friend who has a stock Chevy, we gassed up at the same time, and when we went to fill up, I still had a half a tank and he was down to a quarter.

“Mileage isn’t much of an issue. If it was, I ought to go get one of those Honda hybrid cars. I don’t drive a lot. To work, at home, I don’t go a lot of miles on my truck.”

“But does lowering it mean you can’t go off-road or carry big loads?”

“Well, it’s not like a lifted truck, but it works out. I have a trailer for motorcycles. We’ll take the Silverado out to the desert or up to Lake Elsinore and ride motorcycles. If I go someplace where I need it higher, it’s got the air bags in the back. I use those with the trailer, too, to compensate for the extra weight.”

“Tell me about the air bags.”

“They go next to the shocks. They’re made out of rubber. Semis have them for when they are carrying a lot of weight. The ones on mine are now here as big as the semis’, but they’ll lift the back end a few inches.”

I have a switch up-front that I push to get however many pounds I want in the bag. Before I put the trailer on, I raise it a little. Not only does it keep me from bottoming out, it makes the ride smoother.”

While driving home from our talk, I mumble, “Hmmm, if I lowered my Dodge and installed air bags...”
ZIPPY

"Bert the Terrorist" by Bill Griffith ©2005

218

“A TERROR’S Job”

“arid, with tails, 190; tricorin, 760-

“WHERE ARE THEY, TERROR? WHERE ARE THEY, TERROR? WHERE ARE THEY, TERROR?”

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RACHEL PINK IN MANHATTAN

My blog, Ratchelpink Rides the Bus, started as a lark over a long weekend. At first it was an exercise in self-restraint. I thought I was talking too much, talking all the time. I figured if I wrote about what happened every day I’d be less inclined to talk about it.

What I write about is my life as a 30-year-old book publicist living in Manhattan with my freelance writer boyfriend. I grew up on Long Island, just an hour or so from NYC. Proximity did not dampen the mystery of the city and from the first moment I moved here, into a disorganized apartment share in Brooklyn, I’ve spent each day at least a little bit amazed by the lives of the coffee cart guys, farmer’s market vendors, and the people I ride the bus with every day.

MONDAY

Like every other Monday everyone’s tired and cranky and longing for a few more hours of Sunday. My bus driver races down Houston St. and the Island, just an hour or so from NYC. Proximity did not dampen the mystery. I’m a book publicist, not a brain surgeon, but even with the help of modern anxiety medicine I’m a bit of a stress case. I was supposed to be a professor by now, or at least an almost-professor finishing up a book on the use of sniff in the 17th Century or editing an anthology of littleknown women writers. Instead I left my professorly hopes at Brown, grabbing what I could of my sanity, and now I publicize other people’s books. Sometimes the books are good, sometimes they’re not. For book publicists, it matters so much. My schedule ranges from severe to impossible, leaving me little time to read the books, much less grade them as good or bad or something in-between. I rely on jacket copy and catalogs to tell me what to think and do. It’s not how I like to work, and it needs to change. Books mean too much to me, and I can’t keep treating them like this.

But I digress.

Did I mention that this seemingly unremarkable Monday is actually a bit of a milestone? That’s the last Monday I’ll come to work for this company, this job? I’ve already notified my authors, sent out hundreds of review copies, and hastily written four or five press releases since I gave notice. I told my coffee guy that the end was near. He offered me a free jelly stick.

This week I will pack up the office, have celebrated two-cocktail keylime pies, and finish my exhausting FAQ for the new publicist. I’m leaving my job because I’ve been working too hard and staying until 9 and spending more time with Bude the cleaning lady than with Chuck the boyfriend. It’s the right decision but not an easy decision. I will miss my brilliant, clever editor friends. I will miss running out of the office at 6:30 p.m. for the $3 hot choco-late at the Jacques Torres chocolate shop across the street. I will miss the camaraderie that comes from working too hard and car- ing too much.

OK, that’s all for now. I’m getting sappy and self-involved. So let’s end on a light note.

I had a dream last night, fueled by a cocktail of Tylenol PM and a glass of diet ginger ale. It was a long and intense dream about a zombie invasion. I survived. And I had to worry about more than the flesh-eating zombie-friends because even inanimate objects were possessed by the zombie spirit. As the dream closed I was holed up with some friends in an abandoned toolshed. With increasing ferocity I was being attacked by a roll of Scotch tape. I screamed to everyone: “BE NICE TO THE TAPE. IT WILL STOP ATTACKING IF YOU’RE NICE TO IT.” I started to coo at the tape, to tell it what a good job it was doing. I said it was pretty and round and a good fighter. The attack lessened, the tape dropped to the floor and rolled off.

Let’s all be nice to our zom-bies today and see what happens.

COMING NEXT WEEK:

Desperate for Febreze, happy to spot Parker Posey at Kmart
**FORD EXPLORER,** 2001, 4WD, 32,000 miles, automatic, clean, well maintained, $3,299. 1-800-605-8880.

**FORD FOCUS,** 1997, hatchback, 99,000 miles, manual, all leather, clean, good condition, $3,995. 1-888-CARFINDER.

**FORD EXPLORER,** 1996, 4 door, 188,000 miles, automatic, great family vehicle, air conditioning, automatic, 4 wheel drive, $2,995. 1-800-345-6789.

**FORD MUSTANG GT,** V8, 1985, automatic, cold a/c, body damage, $2,500. 1-877-765-5555.

**FORD TAURUS SES,** 1999, 35,000 miles, automatic, all wheel drive, clean, well maintained, $4,995. 1-877-765-5555.

**FORD FOCUS,** 2002, hatchback, 4 door, automatic, clean, well maintained, $2,995. 1-800-345-6789.

**FORD FOCUS,** 1998, hatchback, 13,000 miles, automatic, great condition, $4,295. 1-800-345-6789.

**FORD TAURUS,** 1997, 3,000 miles, automatic, clean, well maintained, $4,995. 1-877-765-5555.

**FORD TAURUS,** 1999, 4 door, automatic, all wheel drive, clean, well maintained, $4,995. 1-877-765-5555.

**FORD TAURUS,** 1998, hatchback, 5,000 miles, automatic, clean, well maintained, $3,995. 1-877-765-5555.

**FORD TAURUS,** 1999, 4 door, automatic, all wheel drive, clean, well maintained, $4,995. 1-877-765-5555.

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**FORD TAURUS,** 1999, 4 door, automatic, all wheel drive, clean, well maintained, $4,995. 1-877-765-5555.
WE ALREADY DRANK AS HELL. We’d been at a birthday party in an apartment near the airport drinking beer and vodka for hours. The cocaine kept us operating at a normal frequency despite the gallons of booze we poured into our faces. The partygoers might have wondered why the three of us were ducking into the bathroom every 20 minutes. They might have thought it odd that two men and one woman would lock themselves in the crapper. Any questions they had about what we were doing in there were cleared up when we all clamored out, holding our noses, snorting and sniffing.

We bailed before the party wound down. We wished the birthday girl well and bowed out. The night, however, would not be denied.

Jon navigated his pickup onto Pacific Highway and into Point Loma. We passed Deja Vu, and from the backseat, Susan called out, “Let’s go to a strip club!”

Jon looked at me and said, “I’m in. We can go to Pacer’s for a pitch.”

“What the hell,” I said. “I haven’t been to one in years,” tactfully casting my vote in favor of strip-club activity for the Democratic Republic of Jon’s truck. We slid into the parking lot and found our spot on the far end, away from the street lamps.

One more snooter for each nostril from the little spoon covered in white powder and we bounded out of the truck and toward the club unhinged. There was an exchange at the door. Identification for a stamp. Money for a “VIP” card — which, despite the name, everyone gets. My frustration grew. I thought we were going to have to go to a classroom to learn passwords and handshakes, and all I wanted to do was be barrel in through the door. I was coming apart. After what was probably 20 seconds — or it was a week — the black velvet curtain was pulled away to allow our entrance.

Once inside we chose a dark hidden alleyway where the security couldn’t see us passing the brown vial back and forth. Susan brought over a pitcher of awful beer. It tasted like it was brewed in a fake leg, but we gulped it down with our eyes closed and brows furrowed.

“This is it!” I shouted. The coke had obviously overpowered the liquor. “Big, round butts, fake boobs, terrible beer, and wrestling on television. The American Dream!”

WHAT I WILL AND WON’T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

PASSIONS

NBC 7, 2:00 P.M.

Passions is nuttier than a squirrel turd. Instead of avoiding daytime soap clichés, Passions uses them as a jumping-off point. At any given time during its airing, tune in for ten minutes. Orangutans, aliens, and witchcraft will be your reward. But don’t watch the full hour, or your brain will detach and fall down into your ass.

SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS

Nick at Night, 5:00 P.M.

My roommates have queued the SpongeBob movie in Netflix. Each day we take a little time and devote it to tracking down magic mushrooms. Before the end of the month, if everything goes well, I should be graving on the coffee table while underwater absurdities unfold in front of my eyes.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

DRAWN TOGETHER

COMEDY 48, 2:00 A.M.

This is a parody of reality TV shows involving cartoon characters living together in a mansion. It is also the nastiest show on TV. Episodes I’ve seen include the Princess pinching a loaf of pizza and Captain Hero getting tied up and whipped. Drawn Together may be what we buy today. I’ll see it.

THE WARRIORS

ON DVD

My friends are making a trip to New York in April. They’ve been trying to get me to go with them, but I’ve been stubborn. “I won’t have the money. I’ll be busy. It’ll be too cold.”

I promised Jon I’d go if I went to New York with them we would walk the path of the warriors, retracing their steps from the Bronx to Coney Island. I’m rearranging my schedule, budgeting my cash, and looking for a winter jacket at the time of this printing.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

SUNFISH

WB 5, 7:30 A.M.

I celebrated a birthday by taking ten of my friends to see the Smurf movie. The theatre was giving away a Smurf seesaw toy to one lucky kid. We chose our seats, sat down. The whole time I had my fingers crossed and I was whispering, “Please let it be me. Please let it be me.”

Timmy Brown, seated directly to my right, was randomly chosen. Oh, how unfair. It was my birthday! I let that frustration build until later that week, when I soaked Timmy in his arm as hard as I could.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

BILLFISHING XTREME RELEASE LEAGUE

ESPN2 28, 7:00 A.M.

Last summer Jess, Tom, and I took a boat out every weekend to fish. We’d each bring a 12-pack. By noon the bottom of the small craft was thick with empty cans. One day I attempted to jump from the bow to a nearby pier and ended up doing the splits between the two. After fishing we stopped at a local tavern to play pool, and I left wet footprints on the concrete floor. As lame as that trip was, it was the most “Xtreme” fishing I’ve ever done.

MONDAY, MARCH 14

DESIGNING WOMEN

FOX 11, 8:00 A.M.

I was a very impressionable young man. For a month after reading my first Spider-Man comic, I wore blue and red tights. My dad ordered my mom to never watch Designing Women again after he found me on the back porch sipping a mint julep and spinning a parasol over my head. “My, my, my, isn’t a hot one today?” were the last words I spoke in a slow Georgia drawl.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

THE AMAZING RACE 7

CBS 9, 7:00 P.M.

Previous Survivor winners and millionaires Boston Bob and his wife Amber are on this show. As dumb as Bob comes off on screen, he is fantastic at these games. I don’t think he’s fit to work in the real world. He might be the first person to make reality television a career.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

LADYBUGS

ABC 10, 8:00 P.M.

Lost has fallen into the same trap as Gilligan’s Island. If the cast is rescued the show is over. If the show continues, the writers have to make three square miles of sand and coconut trees interesting. I’ll watch this show again when they construct a car and radio out of materials found on the beach.
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- $1500. Rancho Bernardo.
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I was called a frequent flyer. This implied I was faking pain to get out of jail.

At one point, I experienced chest pain. It took 45 minutes to summon a deputy, who took me in shackles (wrists, waist, and ankles) for medical observation. I waited in a cell for an hour and a half before a nurse took my temperature and blood pressure. Much later, when I saw a doctor, he spent a great deal of time typing in the list of heart meds I take and their dosages. I was then shackled, taken to UCSD hospital. After much laughter among the doc and the deps (the doc made a point of calling over all the deputies to look at his computer screen with my records) as to how many visits I had made to that hospital in the past year, I was called a frequent flyer. This implied I was faking pain to get out of jail, something I gladly would have done had I thought I could get away with it. I was given morphine and briefly debriefed with myself about trading alcohol for drug addiction.

Seven days went by, and I swore I had been there a month. I still dream I am in custody and can sleep only an hour or so at a time. I feel I should add that my incarceration had to do not only with public intoxication and trespassing, but things I did not do. Not that I infer my innocence; it’s just that I did not attend the slew of AA meetings and eight-hour course on alcohol, drugs, AIDS, domestic violence, anger management, and drunk driving that the court had required of me previously.

I did not comply. I failed to appear. To be a criminal, a bad actor, antisocial, and, I suppose, dangerous, gives me a perverse sense of gratification at my fundamental badness.