Mustache
also mous-tache (məs-tash, mə-stash) noun

1. The hair growing on the human upper lip, especially when cultivated and groomed.

2. Something similar to the cultivated, groomed hair on the human upper lip, as (a) A group of bristles or hairs about the mouth of an animal. (b) Distinctive coloring or feathers near the beak of a bird. (c) Food or drink sticking conspicuously to the upper lip, as after a deep draft: a milk mustache.

(story begins on page 28)
Wit Explosion

Regarding the article "X2" (June 9), Suzanne Finnimore should no longer be allowed to write. I cannot afford another gut, as my last one merely exploded from laughter.

She is witty, crafty, and has a great talent for bringing visual detail to the written word.

Alvan via e-mail

Split Tips

I don’t understand the purpose of the divorce rant ("X2," June 9), but for something more informational, see the San Diego–inspired www.FamilyLawCourts.com or, in a pinch, the Cliff Notes version of the misogynistic, civil, criminal, and family court bench at www.SanDiegoJudges.com.

Bonnie R. via e-mail

They All Die

I called because in the June 9 Reader there’s a letter titled “Many Miracles,” and it’s from a Christian Scientist, I gather. It concerns a "Sheep and Goats" article from May 26 in the United Church of Religious Science. I’m curious about something. My late uncle had a bunch of in-laws who were Christian Scientists, and I remember when I was a kid, when we visited their house there were never any Saturday Evening Posts or Life magazines or anything lying around, only Christian Science literature, which to me as a child was pretty boring. And also, we — coming forward to the recent past in San Diego here — we had some neighbors who were Christian Scientists. Their children were friends of our children. I’m a little bit curious. I know my uncle’s in-laws, a lot of the older people, are dead now. The woman who wrote the letter that you printed in the June 9 Reader, from what she says, a lot of Christian Scientists believe in miracles, and they more or less perform miracles on each other — you know, one of them gets sick and the others pray for him or her and he or she then gets well. And her letter implies that they are not sick very often and that prayer keeps them healthy. But I’m just wondering, they all die of something eventually, so what do they die of? I’m not being sarcastic, I’m just curious.

Name Withheld

Fiberglass Legacy

I thoroughly enjoyed the article in your May 26 edition "Sweet, Wet, Ugly, Tough," by Steve Sorenson. I am a fisherman for fun and not a lobster fisherman, but I thought you might be interested in the fact that I still have, and in good shape, one of the boats that Dale built during the off-season. There were no inflatables in those days, and the country life guards used Dale’s boats for surf rescue. He built the boats with a Jefferey bow, which enabled the boats to go through waves without turtling.

A friend of mine knew a fiberglass husband who used one of Encinitas to go in and out of the surf. He gave us a ride, and we were convinced, talked our wives into letting us buy one, fixed it up a little with splash boards and convertible top, and have used it ever since. The hull was marine fiberglass ply — fiberglassed both sides, which made the bottom very sturdy. In all these years — over 50 — mine has never leaked.

I now have graduated from a 5-horse to a 90-horse Johnson and can make South Coronado Island in 45 minutes on a flat day.

We’ve been in some very rough weather, and it has performed well.

We’ve trailered it everywhere easily. Trailer to San Quintin, take all your camping gear, then run to San Martin Island and stay three or four days. Those were good trips.

Thanks for rerunning the article. It brings back happy memories.

P.S.: I’m 60 and still go out about once a week.

David G. Jessop
La Mesa
An archive of City Lights stories can be searched on the Internet at SanDiegoReader.com

Out of the past The memo, dated September 6, 1978, is from San Diego Police Captain P.H. Rose to Captain M.C. Guadarrama. It stings the praxes of a 28-year-old officer, badge number 1840, bunching for promotion to the rank of Police Agent: “Jerry has completed in excess of 150 college credits majoring in English. He possesses an A.A. Degree, Intermediate R.O.T.S. Certificate, E.M.T. Certificate, and California Teaching Credential (Limited).” Rose goes on to say that “Jerry has a very pleasing personality. He is usually soft spoken and congenial during public contacts, unless the situation dictates otherwise. He communicates very well with his peers and with all supervisors.” Also: “While a member of S.W.A.T., he instructed in the use of chemical agents and rifle training and assisted in scheduling and coordinating for the S.W.A.T. Academy and training.” Rose adds, “Jerry’s appearance is excellent. He maintains his uniforms and equipment, and obviously takes pride in his appearance. He has no mannerisms which could be considered detrimental.” And: “Jerry is a good report writer. He has the education to be able to express his thoughts logically. His reports are always clear and concise as to the circumstances of an incident.” Of course, nobody’s perfect. Under the heading “Reprimand” is “February 21, 1976 – Off-duty DWI, 10-day suspension.” The young police officer’s name: Gerald R. Sanders.

Comings and goings The departure of Cliff Williams as chief-of-staff for San Diego city councilman Scott Peters is causing a bit of a stir at city hall. Williams, who has worked for Peters in one role or another for the past five years, is moving over to the downtown office of the big national law firm Latham & Watkins to become a “land-use analyst.” According to city records, Latham lawyer Allen Haynie is currently lobbying the council on behalf of 12 clients, including the Chargers, which retained Latham on April 27. Other clients are developer Black Mountain Ranch, LLC; Liberty Station’s Gotham McMillin Companies; Centurion Partners; big box retailer Home Depot; and Allied Waste Industries.

The Chargers actually have two lobbyists working on their new stadium proposal; former Clinton-Gore campaign guru Mark Fabiani registered as a lobbyist for the team in January. He’s said to be laboring to produce a possible Chargers-sponsored ballot measure that would end-run the city council by making the team’s pitch for a new Mission Valley land directly to voters. Having ex-city hall insider Williams on board to help push the measure might be insurable to Stockton mega-millionaire Alex Spanos and son Dean, who own the team.

But critics of the Chargers deal are sure to be watching closely. Under city law, departing employees are forbidden by a “project ban” from getting paid by someone who is advocating a development project in which the ex-worker has had a “substantial” role in overseeing during his or her tenure with the city. Ethics Commission chief exec Stacey Fulmore says she’s scheduled a routine exit interview next week with Williams, during which she plans to go over with him the tricky ins-and-outs of the restrictions. Williams didn’t return a phone call seeking comment. Arnold Watch, a group opposed to GOP governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and his pending ballot measures, is out with an e-mail: “From now on all campaign rallies will begin with a ‘Go Team Arnold’ cheer from the San Diego Charger cheerleaders — brought to you by team owner Alex Spanos, the Big A’s top donor with $2,114,700 delivered.”

Drunk town Hottest new attraction for the swinging set is the Hotel Solamar at Sixth and J Street, developed by Padres owner John Moores as part of his sweetheart stadium package with the city. The hotel’s most unique feature: a flaming red urinal painted to resemble a woman’s mouth in the men’s bathroom of the posh fourth-floor rooftop “J-Bar”... Meantime, San Diego may be going broke, but the party continues at the city’s official skybox at Petco Park. Established via a quiet agreement between city fathers and Moores, the skybox is a favorite party venue for council members, their staffs, and high-rolling campaign supporters.

During a game last week, according to a lucky attendee, there was unlimited beer and wine, along with as many nachos, hot dogs, and finger food that box occupants could devour, all for the low fee of $15, and the liquor was not cut off in the seventh inning, as is the case in the public stands. An official game program, with a face value of $5, was thrown in for free... The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce has announced its first ever “Get Connected at Sea” business networking cruise to Baja California aboard the Carnival Paradise. Departing for three days in November, the trip is advertised as offering a “11 Hour Open Bar Networking Cocktail Party” so that chamber members can “put your new networking skills to work.” If that’s too arduous for local business types, the chamber says, “Don’t worry; you will have plenty of time with your family and friends to enjoy the fabulous dining, endless entertainment, Camp Carnival children’s program, friendly casino and everything else while the Carnival Paradise takes you to Ensenada, Mexico.” Suites run from $659.

$20 Million In Unanswered Questions

By Don Bauder

In chaotic times, outsiders have the inside track. So-called “outside” lawyers, accountants, consultants, actuaries, investment bankers, and self-proclaimed experts-for-hire are like taxi-cab drivers they salivate when the meter is running. Often, opposing lawyers, feigning belligerence, are conspiring like sociologists: their conclusion is that there has to be another study. A surefire money-maker is one consultant being hired to audit the work of another and vice versa. And they helping one another pick the pockets of the drunk in the gutter?

Outsiders by the bushel are being hired at big pay to protect one city hall faction (the mayor and his crew) from another (the city attorney’s office).

Inexpert has played a role, too. “Nobody in this government of the City of San Diego is a sophisticated consumer of legal services,” says Pat Shea, the attorney who assisted city attorney Mike Aguirre in his move into office and is now running for mayor on a platform of taking the city into municipal bankruptcy.

“People don’t know the product they want to buy, don’t know the task to assign, don’t know how to measure the product they are getting. It’s an inefficient marketplace — people employing consultants, lawyers, and accountants but not being sure how to direct them.”

The door opened in September of 2003, when Diann Shipione, Shea’s wife and a member of the pension board, challenged the veracity of pension-related information in a $500 million sewer-bond prospectus. The offering was taken off the table, while the city’s outside bond counsel studied her.
How the Big Thing Blew Up

By Ernie Grimm

E nglish teachers at Bell Junior High School must have an easy time teaching irony to their composition students these days. Ironic abounds at the Southern San Diego school. For example, the campus and buildings, after six years’ deferred maintenance, were cleaned up recently, but much of the faculty is unhappy about it. More ironic: Maria Shriver, wife of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, was to pay a visit in late May to inspect the school’s new fitness facility as part of her campaign against childhood obesity, but students were kept out of physical education classes — sometimes watching movies with substitute teachers instead of exercising — in the days leading up to her scheduled visit. The visit from California’s first lady — originally scheduled for May 24 but canceled when Ms. Shriver took ill — was coming. And I know that something happened at Bell that hadn’t happened for a few years. “For the first time in, like, six years,” says a Bell teacher who asked not to be identified (call her Teacher #1), “we have had these extra funds were available, the students could have certainly come up with this money to beautify our campus with maintenance guys here, working all weekend long on overtime rates. I know from talking to them; many of them were on heavy overtime to get this project done in time for her May 24 visit, which never transpired.”

Teacher #2 adds, “If these funds were available, the students could have certainly used them eight months ago when school opened for the year. It really seems that it is more for appearances than it is for the students. And that is really the bottom-line irritation that those of us who have been around a while feel: just because this lady is coming out to this school, and say, ‘Oh, Arnold, the place looks great, the school system is fine,’ and it has looked terrible for years. I mean, they haven’t been scraping paint, people we haven’t seen for years, coming out to this school.”

Teacher #1 wasn’t the only member of the Bell faculty bemused by the sudden concern for the school’s appearance. “It’s extremely disingenuous,” says another teacher, Teacher #2, adding that after years of telling the school there wasn’t money for maintenance, “suddenly the district has found out that Maria Shriver was coming. And I know that they have had the vast majority of our custodial crew, plus the extra painters and maintenance guys here, working all weekend long on overtime rates. I know from talking to them; many of them were on heavy overtime to get this project done in time for her May 24 visit, which never transpired.”

Both teachers insisted on anonymity for fear of retribution by the school administration in the form of class cuts, extra gardening staff, extra people going around painting, all these workmen coming, and I have no idea how much overtime everybody has accrued. The school definitely needed it, but we have had to contract any labor out for it. We didn’t have the vast majority of our custodial crew, plus the extra painters and maintenance guys here, working all weekend long on overtime rates. I know from talking to them; many of them were on heavy overtime to get this project done in time for her [May 24] visit, which never transpired.”
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San Diego Reader June 16, 2005
To induce KPMG to complete the audits, Aguirre then probed the pension mess. He began issuing reports citing San Diego city officials for fraud and illegal acts, as well as violations of state and local laws. The mayor and council members who were cited for such violations didn’t like it. Result: more outside professionals came on board. Officials of Kroll, Inc., raking in up to $900 an hour, were hired, supposedly to “reconcile” the benign Vinson report with the biting ones by Aguirre.

Early this year, the city established an Outside Professionals’ Audit Committee headed by the Kroll group. It, in turn, brought in two New York lawyers at $660 and $825 an hour to do what Vinson was going to do. Vinson may or may not give an oral report to the audit committee. The city isn’t talking and neither is the committee. “All I know is that Vinson is charging a lot,” says Don McGrath of the city attorney’s office, who studied the question last month.

What’s all this costing? Aguirre thinks the tab is more than $10 million. Attorney Michael Conger, who successfully sued the city over the pension underfunding, puts it between $10 million and $12 million. She says it could be up to $20 million.

In a sense, the city is paying for comedy. In 2003, the city fired Vinson, who was never provided documents outlining the scope of the work product — once burned, twice shy,” says councilmember and mayoral candidate Donna Frye, who opposed the move.

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Big thing blew up continued from page 3

scheduling. “They can give you really rotten classes,” says Teacher #1, “really horrible. It’s well known that scheduling is the way they punish you.”

Feelings among the faculty about the sudden, expensive facelift for the campus ran strong enough that teachers planned a silent protest for the visit. “Everybody was going to wear black that day,” says Teacher #1. “We wanted to wear all black but [Workman] was so upset, and we all like her a lot, so we thought, ‘We’ll compromise and just wear a black shirt.”

Bell’s principal, Stacy Spector, says it’s not a matter of funds being suddenly available. “We are on the district’s landscape schedule, and we are on their maintenance schedule for facility upgrades for repainting, stucco repair, etc. In this situation, we were able to work with the district to sort of move some of that forward; it was going to be done now.”

Another issue of concern to Bell teachers is that students were prevented from using the new fitness rooms and outdoor physical education areas for a few days leading up to Shriver’s visit because the school administration wanted to keep them clean. “That is partially true,” Workman says. “Each individual coach had classrooms to go to, and they did work there. I don’t think they did physical activity; they could have done some nutritional things. I can’t speak for all the coaches.”

Kids were kept out of physical education for four or five days, Workman says, adding that the motivation was not to keep students from sullying the facility. “Absolutely not,” she says. “The room was still under construction, and we just didn’t want the kids in and around the construction site. There were workers everywhere. It wouldn’t have been safe to have kids in there. That is why we gave them an alternative room to do their thing.”

After Bell, Workman attended the school district’s meeting. “I was so upset, and we blew up,” Teacher #1. “Really horrible. It was so bad that teachers truly didn’t want to vocalize that with her when she came.”

The other thing about all this is the kids are not fooled,” adds Teacher #2. “When [the cleanup] began, our students were sitting here in class, and they were asking, ‘Who is the school getting fixed up for?’ And that is an awkward position to be put in to have tactfully, without politicizing it, explain to them that a dignitary is coming, and suddenly the funds are available. But they are not stupid. They see through this as well as anyone else.”

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CITY LIGHTS

$20 million question

continued from page 6

his own professional judgment, says the committee.

“He was an expert witness for CalPERS [California Public Employees’ Retirement System] when Governor Pete Wilson tried to delay payment of pension contributions, then went along with [San Diego’s underfunding],” says Aguirre.

Another who expressed opposition to underfunding, then cared in, is the former outside attorney for the pension system, San Francisco’s Robert Blum. The city, following Conger’s lead, filed suit against Blum for giving bad advice. Although all details have not been worked out in court, Blum will settle for the amount of his insurance. After legal expenses, the city should get about $11 million, says Conger.

But why did both outside actuary Roeder and outside lawyer Blum go against their earlier disapprovals? “We should try to find out who twisted their arms,” says Shipman. She objects to the Blum settlement. “What happened between June of 2002 and November of 2002 that caused Blum to eliminate from his letter to the retirement system about 45 reasons why not to do the [underfunding]?” she asks. “It appears there was a great motivation to settle with Blum so that no discovery would be done, no depositions would be taken, questions like that would not be answered.”

Outsiders knowing inside dirt get special treatment.■

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I competitive racewalking like most sports? You’re done by the time you hit 35?” It’s endurance athletes,” Curt Clausen says. “If you’re willing to put in the time and put in the training, you can go to your upper 30s, early 40s. There have been top-level marathoners in their early 40s and top-level walkers in the same boat. For a long time, the world record in marathon was held by a 38-year-old. The key is staying injury free, and that’s hard as athletes get older.”

Clausen started racewalking in the seventh grade. Since then he’s been to the Olympics three times, won the U.S. 50 km six times, the U.S. 20 km five times, and placed third in the 1999 World Championships. He’s been training at the ARCO Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista since 1997. He acquired his cellular phone number from a reliable source: his mother. He answered on the third ring.

I ask, “Is there a country where racewalking is a big deal?”

“Mexico is one of the biggest,” Clausen says. “Mexico hosted the Olympic Games in ’68, and racewalking was one of the events they got a medal in. Walking has been huge there ever since. Ecuador has huge crowds for a walk. Jefferson Perez won a gold medal for Ecuador — the only Olympic medal ever won by an Ecuadorian. Jefferson has his own postage stamp, he’s been on Ecuadorian currency; the guy is a national hero.”

In Europe, there are hotbeds for walking: the Italians, the Spaniards, the Russians. Polish people love it. Robert Krzemenowski won gold in ’96; he won both distances for men in 2000, and he won gold in 2004. He’s a Polish national hero.

Not in the USA. It’s hard to move Americans off football and baseball; they barely tolerate soccer. “Is there a racewalking circuit in the United States?”

“We have a national championship circuit. This past weekend racewalkers were in Niagara Falls for our national 10 km. We have national championships in the 5 km, 10 km, and 15 km. Our Olympic distance is 20 km, and we also host 30, 40, and 50 km. There are events throughout the United States. If you’re on the world-class level there’s also a world tour, a Grand Prix series. Traditionally, racewalking events in Mexico kick off the season. You’ll go to Italy, Germany, Spain…”

“You’re done that?”

“Yeah.”

Had to have been great fun. “Are you still competing?”

Clausen says, “Semi-retired. Right now I’m in Madison, Wisconsin, going to law school; just finished my first year. I came straight here from Athens [2004 Olympic Games site]. I’m hoping to get back to San Diego for work. As for racewalking, I’m dabbling. I qualified for the world championships in Helsinki, Finland, next February. I won the [U.S. 30 km and 50 km] nationals, but I’m definitely not training at a world-class level. In order to compete on the world-class level you have to be a full-on, full-time athlete.”

“Sounds like you haven’t decided whether to retire or not?”

“I’m getting older — I’m 37 — my career is on the downswing. I decided to get law school behind me. I came out to Chula Vista in ’97, did the full-time-athlete thing through Athens. The post-Olympic year is a down year anyway, so I figured this was a good time to start on my law degree. Two thousand seven will be my third year of law school, and that’s when you start qualifying for the Olympics. I hear law school gets easier after the first year. We’ll see what happens.”

“How about coaching?”

“I’m going to stay involved in the sport. There’s not a lot of money in racewalk coaching…not a lot of jobs out there, although I do have friends who eke out a living in racewalking, it can be done. I hope to take my law degree and channel it into sports, most likely Olympic-level sports and at the administrative level within racewalking.”

I’ll lay 20 bucks he makes it. “Let’s say you’re talking to a San Diego teenager. He’s enthusiastic; he wants to start racewalking. What would you tell him?”

“The best thing is to find a junior Olympic Club through USA Track and Field.”

“In San Diego?”

“Yeah, there are plenty. There are some books on walking. The Internet is a great place for advice: there’s a website called racewalk.com, which has a bunch of links and overview.”

“How about a middle-aged guy in El Cajon who wants to pick up the sport?”

Clausen e-mails me his answer. “There are a couple walking groups in San Diego that should help a beginner learn the basics. Walk This Way has a website: cast2active.com/WalkThisWay/. Sloan Zeiro is the coach and trains at Mission Bay Park weekly (Sundays, I believe). Liz Salvato heads Walk2Win and her website is walk2win.com/.”
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Father Edward Gallagher’s homily at Saint Gregory the Great began with a story of the son of a minister who left the Protestant church to become a Catholic. After Mass, Father Gallagher said many Protestant ministers are leaving their traditions to join the Catholic Church. “They usually become Catholic because of the 6th chapter of John, on the Eucharist. They realize what they are teaching is not what they are practicing.” Father Gallagher added that the Catholic tradition is the only valid priesthood. “We are not condemning other traditions, just acknowledging the reality. Their priesthood is not valid. The Catholic Church has been around for almost 2000 years. There is a history of who founded the Catholic Church and we can trace our steps back to Jesus Christ.

There is a Real Presence of the Sacraments administered by people who trace their roots to Jesus.” Father Gallagher said he did not want to judge these other traditions but wanted people to participate in true Sacraments.” Gallagher recommended I contact the Coming Home Network which supports Protestants who become Catholic.

Jim Anderson, at the Coming Home Network, is a liaison with Protestants who seek to learn more about the Catholic Church. This year, Anderson said there has been a 40 percent increase in the number of Protestants who have contacted the Coming Home Network. Anderson said many pastors sacrifice their vocations and occupations upon conversion to the Catholic Church. “I asked Anderson why people decide to leave their tradition to join the Catholic Church. “Many of the clergy as well as lay people in the Protestant denominations are having a crisis of faith, not in Jesus, but in, ‘What is truth and how do we know it?’ In the past, beginning in the 16th Century, Protestants answered the question of authority with ‘Sola Scripture,’ or ‘the Scriptures alone.’ Beginning in the 19th Century through the 20th, and continuing to our own century, there has been continuing erosion amongst mainline Protestant denominations in the authority of the Bible. If the Bible was your only authority, and your denomination had rejected that, all that is left is subjectivism. If all that is left is subjectivism, you now have truth being decided by the annual national convention through popular vote.”

Anderson encouraged all Protestants who become Catholics “to enjoy the fullness of the faith, grace and truth, which Christ intends for them offered through all the means He wishes to grant them. These means include the full Bible, Apostolic tradition, the secure teaching authority of the Church, as well as all the Sacraments established by our Lord Jesus, especially the Holy Eucharist, wherein Jesus is truly present, body, blood, soul and divinity.”

“Jesus said that his desire is that we all may be one as he and the Father are one. I pray every day that all the churches would unite into the Roman Catholic Church,” said Father Edward Gallagher. “If there are non-essentials we can change, we should.” Gallagher listed celibacy of the priesthood as one non-essential the Catholic Church should allow. “There are a lot of Catholics who are leaving the Catholic Church because we value life issues in areas such as embryonic research, life at conception; we are against birth control, abortion, divorce or homosexuality,” added Gallagher.

I spoke with several parishioners at St. Gregory about the Catholic Church and its relationship with Protestant churches. Rosa Vendermar said she believes the Protestant Church has improved the Catholic Church. “The Catholic Church was stricter but now is more open and flexible because of the Protestant Church.” Vendermar said she believes “God wants all the churches to get back together.” Domini Scigliano said, “Martin Luther had it right when he pointed out the abuses of the Catholic Church, but he never meant to make a new church.” Scigliano said he would like to see more dialogue between the Catholic Church with other churches. “Christ is the center of our beliefs; we should allow.”

I asked Father Gallagher what happens to a person after he dies. “After death, they are judged. Whether they go to heaven or hell is up to the Lord. When people who go to hell see the beauty and glory of the Lord they will miss it for eternity. That will be hell.”

— Drew E. Goodmanson

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Dear Saffron,

My husband and my mother do not get along. I’ve tried everything I can think of to build a bridge between them. Nothing works. My husband says that when they are alone that she is snide and disrespectful. He feels she is constantly withholding her approval and looking down on him. He has had trouble keeping jobs and my mother has had to help us out financially. This is a sore point between them. When I confront her she always says that what my husband complains about is nonsense and that she is at all times nice and civil to him. When other people are around, they appear to be getting along. I’ve asked friends if they perceive any tension between my mother and husband and they always look perplexed and say, “No. They got along okay. I didn’t notice anything weird.” I’ve talked to both of them about this many times and I always get the same reaction on both sides: “It’s all his/her fault!” What can I do?

SICK OF FRICTION IN GOLDEN HILL

Dear Sick,

I don’t think you can do much at all right now, I’m sorry to say. These warring factions should never be left alone with each other, since that’s when conflict seems to ignite. Besides encouraging them to treat each other well and cut each other acres of slack, your hands are tied. Family counseling is an option if you can get them to agree. Otherwise, accept the fact that on some fundamental level they are allergic to each other, at least for the time being, and keep trying to promote harmony and not get squashed between them. You can’t force the lion to lie down with the lamb, though in this case you might be dealing with a lion and a tiger.

Dear Saffron,

I have a friend who wrote a couple chapters of a book. It took him two years to write them and he gave them to me to read. I jumped into them immediately and kind of liked them, but didn’t love them. I sent him a quick note saying I was 2/3 done and thought they were great, but I stopped reading them for a while because I got very busy at work. Three weeks went by. Then I received a stone-serious note from him stating that he’d been waiting and agonizing, that I’d been torturing him by not letting him know what I thought. I finished the chapters and still felt lukewarm, but I sent a longer note saying how excellent I thought they were because I just wanted to be supportive. At a party a few weeks later I decided that complete honesty was best so I took him aside and quietly apologized for my generic praise and slowness in reading, and mentioned that I had some problems with the writing that I’d like to discuss further in the coming days. He remained at the gathering till after midnight, joyously partying. Next morning on the phone I received a freaked-out, angry attack about how I’d humiliated him at the party and what was he to make of all my previous lies. Then he insisted I tell him what I thought was problematic about his book. I made a few comments and he was wildly defensive and furious. I knew he couldn’t handle an honest critique in the first place. I hung up with the friendship in peril. What should I have done differently? What should I do now?

SANTOS IN SPRING VALLEY

Dear Santos,

There are people in this world that’ll beg for your honest opinion when they really crave only praise and reassurance. This type will blow a gasket if you tell them what you really think, as opposed to telling them what they want to hear. What you could have done differently: You could have read the chapters a little more quickly and have been more honest about your mixed reaction to them in the first place, so that you didn’t have to backpedal later. Also, don’t bring up sensitive topics in public, at a party. What you can do now: You already apologized for most of the aforementioned fumbles. Reiterate that sincere apology, assure this friend of your loyalty and affection, and see if he wants to discuss his writing now in a constructive and candid way — without jumping down your throat or getting defensive. If he can handle that, great. If not, maybe it’s time to turn the page and move on.

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Write to Saffron c/o the San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 58503; San Diego CA 92186-5803; call her at 619-235-3000 ext. 413; fax her at 619-881-2401; or e-mail to saffron@sdreader.com

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com
"I am amazed and in awe."

- April

"For 23 years I was totally dependent on glasses and contacts."
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MALE PROTECTIVE LEAGUE seeks members. Learn from female counterintelligence how to protect against the Disapproving Female hell bent on humiliating and intimidating the convenient male. Self-addressed, stamped envelope for membership application.
—CLASSIFIEDS, June 19, 1973

Twenty-Five Years Ago
Though I am an admirer of Ms. Whoopi Goldberg as a performer, I must correct a statement in her letter which appeared in the Reader of June 12, 1980.

She states, “There is presently only one Equity house in San Diego (the Fiesta Dinner Theatre).” Perhaps Ms. Goldberg is new to the San Diego theater scene. The Old Globe Theatre is the oldest professional (Equity) theater in California.


Twenty Years Ago
When Joan Kroc scheduled a recent vacation in Rome, Tribune reporter Robert Blair Kaiser arranged for the McDonald’s millionaire to have a brief audience with Pope John Paul II. Kaiser, who is Kroc’s current friend and escort, hopped aboard her Grumman G-3 jet and flew to Italy, where he wrote about the June 5 papal visit.

His Vatican dispatch told readers how “the pope and Kroc made a colorful pair under the noonday sun. He was all in white. He even wore a little white skullcap. Kroc was wearing a mauve pink dress by Givenchy, with a matching straw hat.” Kroc whispered to the pope that she is “praying for an end to the arms race,” and later told Kaiser that the pontiff “has warm hands.”

—THE INSIDE STORY: Paul Krueger, June 20, 1985

Fifteen Years Ago
TV reviewing is different from print. We must get some story in, some mention of the performances in, and a general overview of the picture in, while making it interesting and informative. And we need to include a film clip, which uses more time, and we have to do that in about two minutes!

Hell, I would love the luxury and option of writing about film angles and who is and isn’t using deep focus and the historical aspects of a film.


Five Years Ago
Another different thing about my father (how many of his other differences could it account for?) was that he came from Scotland — came from it when he was five years old, so he didn’t sound like my grandfather, though he could do the accent for?)

“WHOOPI CAUTION,” Bill Eaton, Director of Public Relations, Old Globe Theatre, June 19, 1980

Czeslaw Milosz….said to his interviewer, “Writing religious poetry in the 20th Century is very difficult. We are in a largely postreligious world. I had a conversation with the present pope, who commented upon some of my work, in particular my Six Lectures in Verse. ‘Well,’ he said, ‘you make one step forward, one step back.’”

—READING: “CZESLAW MILOSZ,” Judith Moore, June 15, 1995

Ten Years Ago
In the latest Paris Review, Czeslaw Milosz…said to his interviewer, “Writing religious poetry in the 20th Century is very difficult. We are in a largely postreligious world. I had a conversation with the present pope, who commented upon some of my work, in particular my Six Lectures in Verse. ‘Well,’ he said, ‘you make one step forward, one step back.’”

“ALL THAT IN TWO MINUTES,” Laurence Gross, Film Critic, KNSD-TV/KPOP Radio, June 21, 1990

—“A SIX-GUN AND BOX OF BLANKS,” Duncan Shepherd, June 15, 2000

Duncan Shepherd (right) and his father

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FIRST FORMAL

by Josh Board

Whenever I try to write about high school parties that involve the schools, the schools freak out and don’t let me anywhere near the campus or party site. When I tried to write about a dance at Madison High School, the vice principal almost had me arrested.

Since I had written about the Point Loma High School band, I figured they wouldn’t mind me crashing their prom.

Of course, there were hoops I had to jump through. I played phone tag with the principal, the vice principal, and a few other staff members. It took weeks to convince them to let me in. I promised them I’d stay away from topics regarding sex, drinking, or after-parties the students might have planned.

The school agreed.

It was nice to go to a prom without having to rent a tux or worrying about the zit I got on my forehead the day before.

The Point Loma High School prom was held at Paradise Point. When did proms go from being at the high school gym to being at resorts? I’m guessing the mid-‘70s. Everyone I talked to over 50 years ago said the prom was held at the school gym to being at resorts? I’m guessing the mid-‘70s. Everyone I talked to over 50 years ago said the prom was held at the school gym to being at resorts? I’m guessing the mid-‘70s. Everyone I talked to over 50 years ago said the prom was held at the school gym to being at resorts? I’m guessing the mid-‘70s. Everyone I talked to over 50 years ago said the prom was held at the school gym.

I arrived early but the parking lot was already full. I found out from a security guard that La Costa and Serra High Schools were also having their proms here this night (in different ballrooms). I saw two guys walking up who were lost.

I talked to a couple in line, Bernadette Ramirez and Joey Davidson. They told me they weren’t a couple, just friends. I asked them how much it cost them to come to this event. They said $120 for the limo, $150 for the tux (he also rented a top hat), and $100 for the hotel. I knew a lot of kids had parties at hotels afterwards, but didn’t ask any questions regarding that. I asked where they had dinner. “We saved money on that. We ate at a friend’s house.”

I saw some interracial couples. Back in the ‘80s, my high school (Mira Mesa) had all different races. We had lots of Filipino and Vietnamese, but it seemed like everyone dated someone of their own race. The few times people did date outside their race, they told stories about how their parents didn’t like the idea.

As I walked in, I saw why the line was taking so long. The staff at the school was having the kids empty their pockets. One kid looked angry as he held his wallet, comb, and car keys in his hand. Better safe than sorry, we seem to hear about school shootings at least once a year now.

Since the students were being frisked and nobody was inside yet, I decided to talk to the DJ. He was spinning records for an empty dance floor.

His name was Peyton Vincent, and he worked for La Jolla DJs. I asked him how he decides on the music he’ll play. He replied, “Sometimes it

“My mom] said my cell phone better be on, the battery better be charged, and that I better answer any time she may decide to call.”

One said, “We just walked into the other school’s prom. It was so embarrassing.” I said to them, “It’s not going to be as embarrassing as you guys walking into your prom without dates.” They laughed and told me their girlfriends were in the car putting on their makeup. I’m not sure why the guys did show up too early. But worrying about being cool can get you into trouble. So many of my friends got limos that I felt weird driving my date in my old Mustang. I borrowed my parents’ brand-new T-bird and promptly broke the headlight when I hit a pillar in the parking garage at Anthony’s Restaurant in La Jolla.

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tures. The DJ played Michael Jackson's "Beat It," and the lights were completely dimmed. I should've asked him if Jackson was appro-
riate to play.

When the next song was played I heard a guy tell his date, "We have to dance now. That's my song." Another girl sitting nearby said, "That's the first time a guy has had to suggest they go out on the dance floor."

When a Kelly Clarkson song was played, more peo-
ple got on the dance floor. It snowballed after that. A girl put one of the napkins in her purse. "A Sunset to Remember, Prom 2005" was printed on it with an image of a couple kissing between palm trees. Her and her friends

depends on the racial demographics. It can be different at different schools. The North County schools are strict and like very clean music played. One school wanted more disco, others like a lot of hip-hop. I was surprised with Coronado. They liked the '80s songs."

Vincent told me that he had radio edits of rap songs minus the nasty lyrics.

It didn't occur to me at the time to ask him if there are any proms that still hire full bands.

After talking to him and grabbing a Coke, I was surprised the ballroom was still empty. Then I noticed the line went from getting inside to lining up for pic-
tures. When I went to that line, I asked why they didn't want to dance a little or kick back at a table before jumping back into another line. One guy said, "My girlfriend is making me. The pictures are the most important thing to me."

She smiled and said, "With those high school memo-
ries. Things that happened in 5th period that humili-
ated you and had you run-
ning home and telling your parents that you'd never go back to school again — things we typically don't remember as adults. I thought of a classmate I had in 8th grade who killed himself. You wonder what could be so bad, and you wish that kids would realize that things do get better.

Paradise Point had tables set up with a wide variety of soft drinks and fruit punches. They also had a lot of fruit, appetiz-
ers, and a great selection of desserts. I heard one girl say to her date, "You could've saved money on our dinner. There's so much food here that we could've eaten."

I saw an African-American kid wearing a white Padres cap that matched his tux. He reminded me of an African-American athlete from my school who showed up at the prom in a tux with tails, a top hat, and cane. He thought he was cool, but we spent the entire time making fun of him and singing "Puttin' on the Ritz" every time he walked by.

Watching the groups of people, I saw a few cou-
uples kissing and getting affectionate. But most groups would each other with hugs and hand-
shakes, like long-lost friends who haven't seen each other in years. A few guys tried to act cool with high fives, slapping hands, and doing weird hand-
shakes.

I asked several couples if they were nervous meet-
ing their dates' parents. All of them said they had met the parents on previous occasions. Some parents gave the kids curfew-
s, other parents agreed that they could go to the hotel parties, which usually involved 20 or more stu-
dents who all chipped in for the room. One girl said, "My mom said I can stay out until 4:00 a.m., but she said my cell phone better be on, the battery better be charged, and that I better answer any time she may decide to call."

I saw a guy walking around in a weird plaid suit. His name was Nicholas and his date was Megan. I asked Nicholas about his suit. "This is my older brother's. It was in his closet, and it matched my date's [outfit]. I like the multicolors. My brother has gone to so many dances and he has a lot of differ-
ent outfits."

She's a junior and he's a senior, and they are just friends. I asked them where they had dinner. "We ate at George's on Fifth," said Megan. "My friend's dad is a chef there, so we got a good deal." She told me she bought her dress but it wasn't that expensive. She also com-
plained that she forgot her ID, which was required to get in. (She somehow made it inside.)

I heard one girl talking about a couple named Stephanie and Alex who were eating at the Indigo Grill in Little Italy and had a $400 dinner bill (they had seven other friends with them). A couple at the bar saw the kids at the table and paid their tab. The couple left before they could even be thanked. The DJ played Michael Jackson's "Beat It," and the lights were completely dimmed. I should've asked him if Jackson was appro-
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ple got on the dance floor. It snowballed after that. A girl put one of the napkins in her purse. "A Sunset to Remember, Prom 2005" was printed on it with an image of a couple kissing between palm trees. Her and her friends
were also taking photos. Girls seem to be more into photos and keepsakes than guys are. Guys buy flowers and a card the afternoon of Valentine’s Day. And the cards we receive usually end up in the trash a few days later. I’m willing to bet women spend hours searching for just the right card. And they probably save all the cards we give them (at least until the breakup, and sometimes, even after).

I heard one girl say, “Oh my God! I have to sit down. My feet are just killing me.” One girl who told me earlier that she spent $280 on her shoes already had them off. “They were getting uncomfortable.” I told her if I spent $280 on shoes, I’d sleep in them, and that they should have magical things happen when I click them together. She laughed and said, “It’s not a waste of money. I’ll wear them again.” I won-dered where, since she’d taken them off so early in the night.

This is probably the first time many of these kids have been to a formal, but they all carried themselves well. Nobody was yelling or cussing. People were shaking hands like they were going into business together. There have been studies that show kids behave better when they are dressed up.

I talked to another couple named Victor Kareh and Ashley Roche. She’s a senior and he’s a cadet at West Point. Whenever he answered my questions it was “No, sir. Yes, sir.”

He was flying back to West Point. Whenever he was meeting some friends, he’d get dressed up. “I’ve been an employee here for 37 years. We do 20 proms a year. It’s not hard. The kids are great. And we see a lot of the same schools each year. Weddings are a lot harder because we have to pour champagne and wine. Here we have juice cans of soda we set out.”

I noticed the music was getting louder, and a few girls escaped outside so they could hear who they were talking to on their cell phones. I glanced over at one awkward couple who weren’t talking. It looked like they didn’t know each other well, not like they were having a fight. I suppose the loud music was a convenient excuse not to chit-chat.

I went outside and eavesdropped on the cellphone conversations. One girl said, “Why aren’t you guys here yet?” The girl on the other phone said, “He didn’t have a date, so I told him to just come with me. He’s really nice and I’m having fun.”

I grabbed a piece of chocolate cake, scarfed it down, and headed out. I was meeting some friends at a late showing of Star Wars. One of the students said to me, “Aren’t you staying to see who will be the prom king?” I shook my head and smiled. Watching the movie brought back great memories from my childhood.

One girl overhead me asking questions about the expenses, and she told me she spent almost a thousand dollars. I asked why so much. “This stuff adds up. I had to get my hair done. I had a manicure and a pedicure. I needed to buy this dress. It’s good my boyfriend paid for dinner.”

The least amount anyone I talked to spent on clothing was a guy who told me his tuxedo was only $70. And he looked better than a few of the guys who had the long tails, pin-stripes, and weird colors.

There was an employee replacing drinks. His name was Marcos. I asked him if it was hard working a prom. “I’ve been an employee here for 37 years. We do 20 proms a year. It’s not hard. The kids are great. And we see a lot of the same schools each year. Weddings are a lot harder because we have to pour champagne and wine. Here we have juice cans of soda we set out.”

I talked to another girl. “Boyfriend paid for dinner.” I heard one girl say, “This dress. It’s good my boyfriend paid for dinner.” I’m willing to bet women spend hours searching for just the right dress. And they probably save all the dresses we give them (at least until the breakup, and sometimes, even after).

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I talked to another couple named Victor Kareh and Ashley Roche. She’s a senior and he’s a cadet at West Point. Whenever he answered my questions it was “No, sir. Yes, sir.” They had been dating for 20 months and they flew home for just this event. He was flying back to West Point as soon as the prom was over. Ashley said, “We met at OLP. That’s an all-girls Catholic school.” She told me they had dinner at home.

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Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com
DIARY OF A DIVA

The Bald Truth

by Barbarella

Oh, I know a lot of men are made uncomfortable by this monthly miracle. But not me. No, I embrace it. Embrace it the way some men embrace the weekend! Why, I anticipate it the way a child anticipates Christmas...for I have a good attitude towards MENSTRUATION!

— Dave Foley

I’m breaking out,” David complained, examining his scalp in the mirror. “Are you feeling emotional?” I didn’t believe him the first time he told me, but after years of experience, I am now convinced that David’s smooth, shaved head is a divining rod for menstruating women.

I learned of my partner’s “early-warning system” the day after our second date, when I called to tell him I had had a great time.

“Me too!” he said. Then the conversation turned awkward. “This may sound weird,” he added, “but are you by any chance about to get your period?”

“Uh, yeah, weird is a good word for it, I thought. We’d only kissed once — where did this guy get off? My urge to keep my private parts just that was overwhelmed by my curiosity regarding how I’d let on that I was premenstrual.

“Yes, I am about to get my period,” I snapped. “Why are you asking me that?”

“Well, you see, if I’m around a woman who is menstruating, the top of my head breaks out. I think it has something to do with female hormones,” said David.

“Yes! You’re trying to tell me that your head informed you of my impending monthly?”

“Yes.” I strained to detect a hint of humor in his voice, waited a few seconds for him to tell me how he really knew, but nothing.

I have no idea how it is that David’s body reacts in such a strong and obvious way to chemical changes in my body (or any woman’s), but I have come to rely on his head’s accuracy. It’s to the point where I stopped keeping track of my period altogether. A few blemishes on his melon means I have about a week before my hormones begin to boil. And God help the poor pimply one when that happens.

I’d like to take a moment to congratulate any men who are still reading (even if morbid fascination is your motivating factor). David is the only man I’ve ever known who is sympathetic rather than dismissive when it comes to “the curse.” I grew up in a household of women.

When his last daughter came of age, my father had to deal with not one but five unstable women every month. We were all hormonal at the same time, which is at least two weeks out of every four. For reasons not yet discovered by science (an industry dominated by men), cohabiting women end up with synchronized periods — those with submissive hormones naturally adjust their bodies to the “alpha” female, or she who could cause the biggest breakout on David’s head.

By the time I “flowered” at 15, my father knew the difference between the words “Ultra” and “Long” and the significance of the word “Unscented.” He was regularly asked to stop by the commissary to pick up feminine products for menstruating women. I couldn’t tell you what kind of tampons I have under the bathroom sink today without checking, which is why I respect Dad’s disciplined memory, dedicated to keeping his family from snapping his head off.

Every conceivable symptom that contributes to PMS was covered in our household. Heather’s cramps were so bad she’d often have to stay home from school. Mom’s lethargy was contagious. Jane became extra bitchy. Jenny, who was always a little psycho to begin with, was frighteningly unpredictable. And I was an emotional wreck.

I can’t speak for my sisters, but I have noticed that with time, I have come to better understand my body’s needs and wants. I now respond to my familiar symptoms with the speed and precision of an emergency medical technician. Even though I don’t keep a calendar, I am always prepared, due to David’s prophetic head. Unlike many women, whose bodies are regulated by some kind of birth control medication, mine is as consistent as a politician’s version of the truth.

“How many do you have?” I asked David, my eyes meeting his in the mirror’s reflection.

“Seven.”

“Seven?”

“Yeah. It’s going to be a bad one.” Despite his history of female friends, a sister, and six prior relationships, David had never before encountered a woman with PMS as extreme as mine. He should be sainted for how he handles me during my tender time of the month.

As my body prepares to lose blood, my mood alternates 60 times per hour between angry, ecstatic, miserable, amused, angry, and...
really, really angry. Have I mentioned I don’t handle pain very well? At the first sign of a cramp, I’m practically sobbing in the cup of tea David has most likely brought to me, along with a hopeful dose of Pamprin.

My complaints about the tiny bump on my chin earn me two rolling eyes from David as he points emphatically to his seven signs of my fecundity. I crave meat and demand a quick trip to Adams Avenue Grill, home of my favorite burger in town.

The entire way there, I bitch about the drivers on the road and fret over how I look, even though an hour before I’d said I didn’t feel like taking a shower or fixing my hair and moped about how I didn’t want to bother with the task of grooming anymore. David, ever wise in times of trouble, refrains from bringing this up.

When we arrive home, I want to cry. But I have no good reason to cry, so I sit through the few tearjerkers we own until my eyes find my favorite movie of all time — The Color Purple. David runs downstairs to make popcorn and fetch me a glass of 20-year-old Fonseca Tawny Port.

Here is my theory on emotional cycles: The chemicals that make up my person, those glands that make me human, yearn to be exercised — crying is one such exercise, as the excessive joy and misery one perceives is a buildup of energy that must be purged. I have never cried without feeling cleansed and refreshed afterwards. The stronger the pull on my tears, the better it feels once I’ve shed them.

David returns with popcorn, port, and a welcome surprise — chocolate! Salt, sugar, Pamprin, and alcohol ensure balance. The title sequence theme music causes waves of emotion to course through me. I turn to David, who is sitting quietly in his black leather chair.

“Thank you,” I say, but what I mean is, “Thank you for loving me, thank you for being so amazing and patient and, God, I don’t deserve you, how do you put up with me, I’m so lucky to have you, so happy, so fucking grateful.”

I look at David, urging him to read my mind, for I know someutter one more word, I will become a blubbering mess.

“No worries,” he says, taking note of the glistening sheen in my eyes. Then, with a long-overdue sigh, he lifts his hand to his scalp to gauge the damage and adds, “I figure this another 255 times...not that I’m counting.”

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HE FIRST TIME my lips brushed against a mustache, I was 15 years old. I was babysitting. The missus was out of town. When the mister came home, we sat and chatted. The kids were nestled in their beds, upstairs. We were friendly. I had babysat there several times before. The family owned a fancy hot dog stand at the local mall’s food court; I was thinking of working for them. The kiss was brief, the mustache wiry and foreign. I said I had to go, got cab fare, and left.

Two years passed before my second mustache encounter. This time, I was working in a corporate restaurant in downtown Kansas City; I made soups and sandwiches. Most of the other kitchen workers were men; besides me, the only women were two matronly black women. The thick, black mustache came up to me in the walk-in cooler; I was standing next to trays of stuffed potato skins that were awaiting the deep fryer. The mustache belonged to the head chef and reminded me of the badger-bristle shaving brush my father used to lather up his shaving soap: mostly soft and pliable, with a stiff prickly bit at the end. Soon after, I moved to the front of the restaurant and started waiting tables. I noticed that both head bartenders and the restaurant’s general manager wore mustaches.

The encounters didn’t traumatize me. I didn’t start regarding mustachioed men as sinister figures of ill intent, à la Snidely Whiplash. I slid out of both situations without incident and carried on. However, most of the men I dated after that had smooth, even boyish faces. The man I married couldn’t grow a mustache if he tried; the hairs come in sparse and patchy. Still, there’s enough there that if he goes a day or two without shaving, I’m hesitant to kiss him. I compare the irritation on my lips to the effect of uncomfortable shoes on my feet — I can take it, but only for so long.

Now, I notice mustaches, especially extravagant ones that must demand maintenance of the sort I give my hair. And I notice them on guys not noted for extensive, metrosexual grooming. Tough guys: cops, firemen…bikers. So, passing by the row of muscular Harleys at La Mesa’s Thursday Night Car Show last summer, I start chatting with the men behind the mustaches.

I marvel at the mustache on Raphael. The mustache owns his face below the nose, grudgingly sharing its claim with a patch of hair beneath his lower lip. His mustache looks almost two inches wide and sprawls a good two inches past each side of his mouth. “It is hereditary,” he tells me. “It comes from my grandfather, to my father, to me. I wear it this long because my father and grandfather did. I never asked them why they let them grow, but since they did, I did too. Also, it was easier to let it grow than shave; shaving is a bitch. For me, there is no care and maintenance. Once you trim it, then you have maintenance. But if you just let it do what it wants, then that’s that. I think at a certain point, you start eating it, and then it just trims itself.”

Something that big begs for a reaction, no? “Some look at my mustache as dirty. Others, it doesn’t bother them. If I apply for a job and they want me, they have to take me the way I am. I once worked for FedEx, and I got promoted to driver after doing everything else that you do. Their rules for mustaches were that you could only have an eighth of an inch above the lip. I would have gotten full benefits, the whole package, if I took the position. But I turned it down because my mustache meant more to me. It is part of me now. I’ve had it since I was 15, and I’m 40 now. I’ve had women ask me to shave it, but I never will. I’m Chicano, and in the Chicano culture, the mustache is a masculine symbol, probably because of history. They were worn by the Mexican cowboys, the vaqueros and the charros.”

Raphael thinks that a mustache expresses strength. “I think it says a man is confident in himself. He wears it and doesn’t mind what anybody thinks of him. He is okay with himself. It’s everybody else that has the problem.” But whether he cares or not, he is aware that “people make assumptions about me all the time. ‘Vato is no good, vato is no good. He can’t be trusted.’ Yet I am probably one of the most trustworthy guys you will ever meet. A man of his word.”

He also knows that a mustache is not without its implications. His favorite mustache from history is the one belonging to “Zapata, one of the revolution-
aries from Mexico. And he admits that, in his culture, a bushy mustache can indicate prison time. "Unless it is natural, the only way to grow something like that is to constantly trim and shave. And only in prison can you constantly shave. That's what a lot of guys do in there to kill time. Nobody really notices it until the day you hit the streets. Then everybody says, 'Hey, where did you get that? You didn't have that the last time I saw you.' 'Yeah, well, that was three years ago.'"

A few pairs of wheels down from Raphael, I meet Tom, who hails from another group of frequently mustachioed men. "I'm in the fire service. A lot of the firefighters do have mustaches," he granted. "I think it's just tradition; if you look back at the old-time firefighters, a lot of them had mustaches." Tom's inch-wide reddish-brown mustache is neatly trimmed, but it is not constrained by his upper lip; it wanders down the sides of his mouth all the way to his chin. "The fire department won't let us grow a full beard, so this is the next best thing." He professes an admiration for the big handlebars sported by Wild Bill Hickok.

Terry, also nearby, is a 43-year-old African-American construction worker. Like Raphael, his choice of mustache was influenced by his father. "My dad was in the military," he says, "and he looked very handsome with his mustache. So I grew one at 19. I added the goatee when I was 25, because some ladies thought that was sexy." Unlike Raphael, he spends considerable time maintaining his mustache's appearance. A mere eighth of an inch in width, it runs along the top of his upper lip, well below his nose. The black hairs curl up snugly against each other, forming a delicate line. Out at the ends, it is clasped by the upward-reaching arms of a narrow goatee. "It's a ritual. It takes me about 35 minutes. I trim and shave about every four to six days. I use soap and water and then a moisturizer for the skin and a hair moisturizer, which softens the mustache and keeps it from getting dry. I shave up above it to keep a little space between the mustache and my nose, and I use a little brush to keep the hairs lying down."

The mustache remains the same; what the ladies think, however, changes with his ride. "When I'm on my bike, it's like, 'Oh, there's a rough guy.' And when I'm not on my bike — when I'm in my car — they look at me like, 'Oh, there's a handsome guy going to work.' But my girlfriend likes my mustache."

A second Terry — this one 60 and a mechanical engineer — sports a goatee as well, but the mustache is far wider than the first Terry's, and far whiter. A well-gnawed cigar protrudes from beneath it. My notion of the connection between bikers and mustaches has thus far been confirmed, but Terry dismisses the idea. "I've been riding motorcycles since I was 16, but I didn't start growing the mustache until I was 30. I don't know why — I just let it grow one day, and I've had it ever since. I just trim it every couple of days," unless he's going on a long road trip. Then it gets more careful attention, for purely practical reasons. "Last year, while I was going to Colorado, it just slapped the heck out of me because it was really long. It's like somebody is putting you in a sandblaster; it was stinging. As soon as I got to Denver, I went snip-snip and shortened it up."

Bikers, firemen...gays. One of my favorite moments from The Simpsons is when Homer starts leading a protest march against a bear that has wandered into town. He leads the crowd in a chant: "We're here, we're queer, we don't want any more bears." "Great chant, Homer!" someone cries. "Thanks," he answers, "I learned it at the mustache parade!" That was the '90s; Allan Peterkin, author of One Thousand Beards: A Cultural History of Facial Hair, offers some account of what led up to that point. Back in the '70s, leather-clad gay bikers, their machismo confirmed by their mustaches and sideburns, formed one subculture within the gay community. But, he notes, "The look of the blonde, smooth, muscular type was also popular. By the end of the decade, a hybrid look known as 'the clone' appeared. Short, cropped, military-style hair, obligatory mustache, bomber jacket, beefed-up shoulders, and muscular butt under tight jeans."

But the clone vanished with the onset of AIDS, and Peterkin notes that the gay pornography of the '80s and '90s presented images of baby-smooth men. He opines that the look reassured viewers of the performers' purity and youth and, by extension, freedom from disease. Gay men flocked to salons for electrolysis and laser hair removal, a situation Peterkin finds dismaying. "Fortunately, by the late
"80s in San Francisco," he writes, "men blessed with beer bellies, ample body hair, beards, and mustaches rebelled against the oppressive image of distorted physical perfection. These men adopted the bear as a symbol. " Oh, those clever Simpsons — the chant from the “mustache parade” being used to protest an invasion of bears.

When I meet Bob, a 39-year-old manager at Dixieline, he squires me through a gallery of mustaches popular in the gay community today. "There's the cop mustache — short, straight hairs combed down flat across the top of the mouth but extended about a quarter to a half inch past the end. The Army or Navy mustache runs above the top line of the lip and does not come out past the end of the mouth — it's only a tiny little thing. Then there's the Club Kid mustache, which is trimmed almost to the point of just being a week's worth of growth, almost prepubescent looking. Finally, there's the bear, a big, full mustache that really accentuates the mouth. I think my own beard and mustache — although not necessarily nondescript — is just a bear beard."

Bob has sported some sort of facial hair since he was a junior in high school. "I don't like my face without facial hair, " he explains. "I have soft, flabby features and a rounded, moonly face. I think a beard goes well with that. Also, I find mustaches and facial hair very attractive. My favorite mustache in history belonged to Captain Smith of the Titanic. His mustache and beard engulfed his face; it was big and fuzzy and furry. His mouth wasn't even visible until he opened it."

Before the bear beard, Bob wore only a mustache, one that began as a sort of plea for individual identity. "I was working in a big corporation where I was kind of assimilated in a way that made me uncomfortable. I wanted to make myself a little bit different. I had a full beard at the time, and I sat down in front of a mirror one day and spent eight hours reducing it to a mustache. "I just plucked and plucked and plucked, one hair at a time, to shape the mustache. I wanted it to be perfectly shaped. I even plucked my sideburns. My face was red the next day."

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my lip and then across my cheek in a big swoop and grew off the end of my jaw — about seven inches on each side. It was really long, not like a handlebar. A handlebar has long hairs that are waxed; mine was just short hairs that grew across my face. To maintain it, I would just pluck the top quite carefully — I’d take 10 to 15 minutes for that — and then I would shave up to the pluck line. I used a disposable razor with a very narrow head, and I shaved in three different directions — up, down, and sideways. Then, once a week, I’d pluck around the whole thing. The mustache was complicated — it had a curve that came up and then went down. My barber always wanted to trim it; I said, ‘No! One hair off and the whole thing will look lopsided.’

“I was just trying to cry out, ‘I am an individual,’” says Bob. The cry was heard. “I never got forgotten. If I was on an airplane full of people who wanted coffee, I always got mine.” But with individuality came inconvenience. “The joke was that if I got food in my mustache, I’d have to chase it around the back of my neck and it would just fall off. But because the mustache covered my mouth, I couldn’t eat corn on the cob or chicken on the bone. I couldn’t even eat a hamburger without cutting it up into very small pieces. I thought it was disgusting to have ‘secret sauce’ in my mustache; no one wants to look at that. And for some reason, hair retains odor. If I ate a hamburger or some other messy food, for hours afterward I would be inundated with this horrible smell — like a wet-dog smell.” And it got him unwanted social attention. “If I was standing in Disneyland and the characters were dancing nearby, they would always grab me and want to dance. That was uncomfortable sometimes.”

Eventually, individuality exploded into notoriety. People would assume things. “They would say, ‘I knew that he was gay; the mustache was just too flamboyant.’ It was so recognizable that it sometimes caused problems. When you live in a town long enough, ultimately, in some circumstances, you seek anonymity. I couldn’t have that with the mustache. I would walk into a bar and the guy at the piano would say, ‘Let’s hear it for the mustache!’ I would go to Mexico, and the guys at the door would say, ‘Mr. Mustache! Come in!’ If I wanted to meet a friend somewhere, every head would turn when I walked in. The negatives started to outweigh the positives.”

Bob kept the mustache for ten years before giving it up as “youthful folly.” His current ursine look is less eye-catching, but people know he was gay; the mustache was just too flamboyant, but people know...
I’m gay even when I’m not talking, walking, or gesturing.”

Bob mentioned the ponderous fullness of the mustache on the Titanic’s Captain Smith, so that’s who I think of when I meet Fletcher, a 60-year-old computer technician. He doesn’t have a beard, but his white mustache is so substantial that it reminds me of walrus tusks. “It’s bigger and prominent,” he says. “I have a mustache, because I’m gay even when I’m not talking, walking, or gesturing.”

The years passed, the mustache mushroomed. “It became like a part of me; a signature. I couldn’t be myself without it.”

However wonderful for starting conversations, it does pose some trouble for ending them, at least with the fair sex. “It’s initially annoying for the opposite sex to kiss a person with a big, long ‘stache,” grants Fletcher. “They say, ‘It tickles,’ or ‘Ew.’ In my case, since my lip is not full on top, you have to part the mustache to find the lips. So it’s kind of an adventure, particularly for women who aren’t used to kissing someone with facial hair. Frankly, I have heard that some females just won’t have it.”

Mealtime inconveniences: “It gets in your beer. And it’s very difficult to keep clean. I have to wipe it constantly. Sometimes, I have to splash water on it. The most expedient thing to do at the table is to take a drink of water. You can get some water on the longer hairs and then simply wipe it away with a napkin. But it does have a downside with respect to ice cream or pizza.”

A semi-handlebar needs waxing to keep its shape. “I find mustache wax at the bigger stores, Target or Rite Aid. It’s sort of hit-or-miss; there are different kinds of applicators. There’s a stick, like ChapStick: you smear it in, spread it around, and form the mustache with your fingers. Or you can get it in a tube, apply it to your mus-

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I’ve made the mistake a couple of times of letting the barber trim it. They butchered it. They don’t do what you want, they do what they want. It’s such a personal thing that it can set you back for months.”

Fifteen years ago, he trimmed it so that he could wear a scuba mask. “You need to have a really tight fit under your nose so that you don’t have water climbing into your eyes.” Other than that, there isn’t much that will make him cut it back. He told me he had been denied jobs at both La Costa spa and Panda Express because he refused to cut his facial hair. He reckons he’ll have it till he dies.

“My mustache, in my opinion, is unusual. I notice people who have mustaches, and it’s like I have some sort of kinship with them.”

John, for instance. John is a drummer in his mid-30s. Like Fletcher, he thinks he’ll take his mustache to his grave. “I’ve always had a mustache,” he says. “I’ve never shaved it off. Not once.” Reddish-brown, it grows from under his nose and hangs just past the top of his lip. The ends push out about a quarter inch from the ends of his mouth, then drop straight down to his jawline.

“I think my mustache says, ‘I do my own thing. I don’t follow fads.’ I trim it every three or four weeks and groom it with my fingers. When I shave, I buy stuff for sensitive skin. I get razor burn that turns into zits, especially if it’s hot or humid. Or if I play drums for a half hour and sweat, the sweat gets into the pores and they get irritated.” Also like Fletcher, John is a mustache-watcher.

“When I see a mustache, I’ll check it out to see how guys grow it, how they manicure it, what style they use. I’ve seen them from really tiny to handlebars. Our German teacher in high school had a handlebar mustache. He was full-on German: his name, his attitude, and his dress. He grossed the kids out — in the middle of class, he would dig into his ear, get the...
wax out, then stick it on
his mustache and roll it
in so that the hair
would curl up on the
end. That is gross.”

Tim, a silver-haired
retired urban planner
in his 60s, wears a tight,
trim mustache. He first
grew it not as a state-
ment of individuality
but rather because it
was fashionable: Tim
lived through the tran-
sition from the clean-
shaven ’50s into the
hair boom of the ’60s.
“It seemed everyone
was clean-cut in the
’50s. No one had facial
hair. We’d get our hair
cut so short that the
barber would have to
shave a part in.” In
1964, after a little col-
lege and a stint in the
Navy, Tim returned to
school and grew a goat-
tee. “I was 24 at the
time. It was a statement
of being within the
average profile of a stu-
dent. I felt a bit out of
place on campus, being
older than most peo-
ple.” Facial hair helped
him blend in.

By the time he
graduated, the mus-
tache was gone,
replaced by long hair
and sideburns. It was as
far as he could go at his
East Coast job. Then, in
the summer of ’70, “I
got hired for a job in
San Diego. The day I
resigned to head west, I
started growing a full
beard. I drove cross-
country, and by the
time I got to San Diego,
I had a full beard and
mustache and hair not
quite to my shoulders.” Unfortunately, the
West Coast was not
quite as freewheeling as
he had anticipated.

“When I got to San
Diego, I started looking
for housing. I wanted to
live in Pacific Beach, so
I just drove up and
down the streets look-
ing for ‘For Rent’ signs.
Finally, I started out
the day with a newspaper.
One place sounded
pretty nice, so I called
ahead and asked the
lady if it was still avail-
able. ‘Oh, yes, it’s avail-
able,’ she said. I had
called her from a pay
phone a few blocks
away, so it was just five
minutes later when I
got to her door. She
opened the door and
looked at me, and when
I asked about the apart-
ment, she said, ‘No, we
don’t have any vacan-
cies.’ I was frustrated,
but I thought, ‘Now I
have a better under-
standing of other peo-
ple’s experience.’ Com-
ming out of a completely
WASP upbringing and
background, I had
never experienced
discrimination.”

But it wasn’t dis-
crimination that
scraped Tim’s face; it
was vanity. “I was 28,
and I worked for the
County. Other people
in the office had facial
hair; there wasn’t any
pressure to get rid of it.
When I started getting
silver strands in my
mustache, I thought it
made me look older. So
I shaved the beard and
kept the mustache.”

Since then, he’s
worn a mustache more
than he hasn’t and
grown two or three full
beards. “My mustache
is easy to grow; there
are no wild hairs. And
my beard is nice and
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full; when I grow it, I get lots of compliments. But then, whenever I shave off my facial hair, people tell me how much younger I look. One woman I dated pleaded with me to grow my mustache back after I shaved it. “Either way, his vanity gets stroked. Beyond that, he says, “I have somewhere in the back of my mind that growing a mustache or facial hair is like a symbol of emancipation. When I retired, that was true emancipation, so I grew the mustache in celebration — it had been at least five years since I’d had one.”

Maintenance is no trouble. “I trim it twice a week. I hate electric razors — they leave me feeling uncomfortable, and they don’t do a good job. I have always used a safety razor. I use a mug with cake soap and a very good badger-hair brush to whip it up. I don’t like the instant lather. I have to shave my neck, otherwise I get ingrown hairs. And I have to shave my cheeks or hair starts growing right on my cheekbones. I shape the mustache around the perimeter. Since my cheeks are chubby when I smile, I have these two natural lines on my face — it’s the obvious place to let the mustache go. I’m going to keep this one for a while, as long as it feels comfortable. I may have it the rest of my life, or I may take it off in a week. I don’t have a timeline.”

Peter, a 37-year-old self-employed business writer, is not so capricious. He feels his mustache is an integral part of his face. “I would just as soon shave my eyebrows off as my mustache,” he says of his bushy growth. Peter’s mustache is something of a wild thing, a thicket instead of a garden. “It’s dark, although there are reddish hairs in it — I don’t know where they came from, since I’m not a redhead at all. And now that I’m getting older, it’s getting gray hairs too. The hairs are kind of coarse and a little bit curly, thicker at the base and thinner out at the ends. The tips are sharp when they first grow out, but they get worn down over the months as they grow.

“It wasn’t a conscious decision to let it grow long. I just let it go, and once it starts bugging me — getting in my mouth so that I’m biting on it when I’m eating dinner — then I think, ‘It’s trimming time.’ I’ll also trim it when I’m going to see a client and need to spiff up. I just get the scissors, cut it back out
of my mouth, and cut a bit off the sides." When it comes to shaving, "I've gone back and forth between a regular razor and an electric shaver. I prefer the regular razor, with shaving cream — it gives a better shave. But I always cut myself. I have blood coming down, and I have to stop the blood. That's not fun."

Like Tim, Peter associates the mustache with "a sense of freedom." In general, he doesn't think there's much societal pressure not to wear a mustache, "but I was an Air Force kid, and they were very strict about facial hair. I think there was a lot of pressure when I was growing up not to have it. The last week of my senior year of high school, I let my facial hair grow; it was sort of liberating." These days, however, "I don't notice any reaction to my mustache, just like I don't notice any reaction to my eyebrows. Only once, when I was working for the San Diego Housing Commission, did someone comment. It reminded the person of Zapata, the Mexican revolutionary guy. I took it as a compliment; I thought it was kind of cool. I think I project some individualism with this mustache."

Richard, who is 47 and works at SeaWorld, also started his mustache early: "I first grew it when I was 16. I didn’t like the way my upper lip looked — it’s very feminine. I grew the mustache so I would stop getting razzed in high school." Now, it’s easier just to keep it. "It's really tough to shave there. I don’t know how guys do it without cutting themselves all the time. I’ve shaved it only two or three times. The last time was back in 1991 when I was looking for work. I figured it would be easier to find a job without one." He found work at a 7-Eleven, and after about six months, he grew it back.

"There is a perception on the part of certain very conservative elements that a man should not have any hair on his face whatsoever. At SeaWorld, it used to be that you couldn’t work there and have one; that was back before Anheuser-Busch bought the park in 1986. Now, there are strict requirements: they can be only so wide and can’t go past the corners of your mouth. It must be very short and trim but not a toothbrush like Hitler’s. That’s strictly against company rules. A few guys in my area of the park have mustaches, and the supervisors are always eyeing them."

Once upon a time, Richard went for the full handlebar, but it kept getting in his mouth. Then, for a while, his hair started graying but his mustache stayed dark. "People thought I was dyeing it." Now, things are better. "The mustache is grayed, and it’s short, neat, and military look..."
I look like everybody’s favorite uncle. I like the way I look with it. I don’t like the way I look without it. Somebody once offered me $50 to shave it. I said, ‘Add another zero and you’re talking.’ I can always grow it back. It takes four to six weeks. It itches a lot, but once it hits the six-week mark, it stops.”

Some people decline jobs to keep their mustaches. Some people shave their mustaches to get jobs. John’s was a professional requirement — he was planning to take it onto the silver screen. Says John, a retired postal worker, “I just happen to look somewhat like Captain Smith” of Titanic fame. “My wife read in the paper that they were looking for extras to play in The Far Side of the World. They wanted me, and they said not to cut my hair or trim my mustache — they would do it. I let my hair and mustache grow, but the mustache still wasn’t long enough for them. So when they trimmed my hair, they took a bunch of it and glued it onto my cheeks. For the next few days of filming, they used fake hair from someplace. When I got home and showered, I had to work like a dog to get it off my face.”

Today, John’s mustache descends neatly into a white beard. “When I was in the Navy, we had to be clean-shaven. When I got out at 21, I grew a mustache. I’ve had it for 26 years. After I got out, I joined the Naval Reserve. Admiral Zumwalt had come in and allowed Navy men to have beards, as long as they were neat and trim. I grew a beard and kept it for 26 years.

“I thought, The old-fashioned magicians had mustaches; I’ll grow a mustache and wear a hat.’”

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vice. When I retired, I
grew it back. No one in
my family liked my
look without it. The
beard gave me a fuller
face; I have a saggy
neck; people said I had
no chin. It defined my
face."

My third Terry also
wears a mustache for
professional reasons —
he’s a magician. "When
I was first doing my
shows, I would wear a
tuxedo, and people
would think I was the
maitre d’ when I was
working in restaurants.
I thought, ‘The old-
fashioned magicians
had mustaches; I’ll
grow a mustache and
wear a hat’; All the guys
in the magic books had
them. There was one
magician named
Alexander Hermon; he
had a goatee and a
really big handlebar.
That was my favorite.”
Terry used to wax his
own tidy handlebar,
“but it makes a mess
when you drink. The
wax gets into the drink,
and you see it floating
at the top. I use regular
hair gel to get it to curl
up.”

For Terry, the mus-
tache provides a distin-
guishing characteristic,
perhaps even an added
element of mystery. "A
lady once told me, ‘My
dad told me not to trust
anybody who hides
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thing. “My logo even
has a mustache on it. I

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don't think people would recognize me without it. I do a lot of school shows, and I have one routine where I tell the kids that the mustache is what makes the magic. I do all sorts of funny things with it to make it move around. They all want you clean-shaven — no mustaches, no nothing. But with my last job, I went on vacation for the first time in years, so I decided to grow my mustache out. One, because I had the opportunity. Two, because I volunteer on a tugboat every Saturday for a refurbishing project. The captain who runs the thing said, 'You know, the boat guys are macho, tough guys.' He was trying to give me a hint. So I thought a mustache would help. When I grew it out, my girlfriend—who is older than me and likes my baby face—wasn't happy. I kept it because of the tugboat thing, so she tolerated it.

The mustache changed things. "I felt people treated me differently, with a little more respect. Younger women liked me more — that daddy/paternal thing." He started thinking about himself, "There's a mainy man who works on tugboats, trying to get his life together. An older, wiser man.

"Then a film crew from Channel 4 came out to do a story on the tugboat. So there I was watching myself on TV, and I had this big, obnoxious mustache. It didn't fit my face; I was just some guy with an out-of-place mustache. I think that if there is a God out there, He does something for our mental sanity — we look in the mirror and see ourselves subjectively. We look pretty good in the mirror, but in reality, maybe we don't look as good as we think."

— Deirdre Lickona
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Upon reading Daughter of the Forest, by Juliet Marillier (2000), my mind whirled with thoughts of the mystical powers and lore that surrounded this well-spun story. I read it a few months ago, when my cousin let me borrow it (I still have it, by the way). I wasn’t all that interested in the fantasy/science-fiction genre before I read this book. Boy, was I wrong!

In the story, Sorcha’s siblings are all boys; she has six brothers. They live in the enchanted forest of Sevenwaters, located in the Northern part of Ireland, called Erin. Sorcha has the gift of healing and has the power to speak mind to mind with her brothers Finbar and Conor. All is well until an evil enchantress turns her brothers into swans. Sorcha is sick with fear and helplessness. Then, the Lady of the Forest gives her a perilous task to accomplish; while she does it, she must remain silent the whole time.

You know you’ve found a good book when, instead of words on paper, you see a moving picture. I felt Sorcha’s feelings when she lost her brothers. I felt the pain she felt when Sorcha’s task deformed her fingers and hands. My admiration for her was endless. For the week it took me to read, I barely put it down. I remember my eyes widening and my gasp when two drunken men sexually abused Sorcha. I remember crying as she did. Sorcha was the strongest woman I had ever heard of. And at 16 (which is my age!), she was able to save her brothers from the sorceress and find a love of her own.

When I finished reading, I leapt on the computer and ordered the second and third installments of the Sevenwaters trilogy. I wanted to go back to the mythical world, full of danger and the protagonist’s need to overcome obstacles.

— Lee Ann Gonzales,
Monte Vista H.S.

Leave it to writers of the 1960s to supply readers with an entertaining if not acidic review of society via a dog with an embedded stopwatch and a youth named Toby (how could you name a human “Toby” unless you lived in the ’60s?).

Never a tremendously popular book, The Phantom Tollbooth, by Norton Juster, documents the journey of a school-weary boy through a fictitious world consisting of the kingdoms of Dictionopolis and Digitopolis. Toby is assigned the Herculean task of uniting the two kingdoms by restoring the Princess of Sweet Rhyme and the Princess of Pure Reason to power. While he does so, he encounters many characters that have odd obsessions with abstract theorems and explanations. Because the princesses were banished by bitter kings, Toby must conquer many obstacles — which revolve around the theme of the danger of ignorance — in order to re-establish sanity and order.

When I first read the book in fourth grade, I didn’t comprehend all that the author intended. I only read it because I had been impressed by the singing Lethargins (creatures whose only purpose is to draw people into the fruitless land known as the Doldrums) and psychedelic graphics that illustrated the simply written novel. Having developed a deeper respect for knowledge and education, I decided to read the book again recently. I was surprised to find it explodes with valuable insights for anyone of any time period.

Juster makes profound points about the importance of not only educating, but educating properly. Without Rhyme and Reason to power. While he does so, he encounters many characters that have odd obsessions with abstrus theorems and explanations. Because the princesses were banished by bitter kings, Toby must conquer many obstacles — which revolve around the theme of the danger of ignorance — in order to re-establish sanity and order.

— Mary Lindquist,
El Capitan H.S.
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, June 22, at 7 pm, anthropologist and renowned author of Sex, Lies, and Menopause, T.S. Wiley, will appear at a book signing and give a keynote presentation at the Marriott Hotel in La Jolla. Topics will include: natural hormone replacement therapy, protecting yourself from breast cancer and heart disease, hormonal consequences, and safely increasing energy, libido and intellectual capacity.

An anthropologist, cultural theorist and well-known author, T.S. Wiley has a special interest in researching molecular medicine as it relates to endocrinology and evolutionary biology. Wiley has written several books including Sex, Lies, and Menopause and her most recent publication, The Wiley Protocol: Real Hormones, Real Replacement, Real Solutions.

At this FREE seminar hosted by University Compounding Pharmacy, T.S. Wiley will provide women with the facts, tools and information they need to maintain the highest quality of health in what has been dubbed “the sexy years.”

Call: 1-866-346-0797 ext. 332 for more information or to reserve your space. Special $5 parking day of event.

Need the name of a local physician specializing in natural hormone replacement therapy? Log on to: www.ucprx.com

I fell in love with The Perks of Being a Wallflower at first glance. I’d read about it, heard about it, but didn’t believe that it was a life-changing book. I was walking through the aisles of books in our library recently, looking for a worthy read, took a glance over my right shoulder, and then it was, beckoning me to take it off the shelf. The cover was simple, neon green, and plain. The book was nothing extraordinary — thin and light — but I knew that it was necessary for me to check the book out, so I did.

The book, written by Stephen Chbosky, was difficult to put down from its first couple paragraphs. I think what made it perfect was its accuracy in depicting the life of an adolescent. It gave me the reassurance that people go through the same things I have gone through. Charlie, the shy but intelligent wallflower of the story, sent intimate letters to a receiver whose name, gender, and age were left anonymous. This had a big impact on me because throughout the whole experience, I was picturing myself as Charlie’s friend, the recipient of the mail and reader of his most personal and heart-warming experiences.

Charlie dealt with family matters, peer pressure, thoughts of experimentation, how to make friends, sexuality issues, and was experiencing the complications of a crush. These are things that most high school students go through that I go through. What’s most memorable about The Perks was Charlie’s phrase of “feeling infinite.” Those words sum up what kids like me would like to feel: a never-ending feeling of something genuinely fulfilling.

I’ve read the book 11 times now, and I don’t think I’ll get rid of it. I returned the book the day after I brought it back from the library (having read it twice by then), but by the end of the week a good friend of mine bought me the paperback copy. I still have it.
Maybe because the story is similar to the lives we are living that made the book an instant favorite among students like me. Maybe we appreciated the author’s attitude toward life, music, school, friendship, and love, and his sentiments reopened our eyes to life’s beauty. Either way, this book is more than a compilation of words, but a book is more than a compendium of words, but a teacher and a reminder that every day contains at least a minute or two of feeling infinite.” —Stephanie Sarreal, Southwest H.S.

Besides the Harry Potter books (which I assume are among the favorites of half of San Diego, and thus I have decided not to write about them), *Catcher in the Rye* is one of my new favorite reads. I recently finished reading it for the first time, as it was an assignment for my high school English class. Written by J.D. Salinger and published in 1951, the book chronicles the life of 16-year-old Holden Caulfield. He is fed up with the fake people who comprise his ritzy private school from which he is being kicked out. As the narrator, Holden attacks the conformity of 1950s America and the superficiality and hypocrisy that he sees around him; at the same time, he realizes that he is guilty of possessing the characteristics he loathes.

I identified with Holden throughout the novel, as many teenagers do. Similar to him, we are going through a period in our lives in which we’re trying to determine who we can trust, how to be true to ourselves while we try to fit in, and what our values are. Holden is critical of people and situations and approaches life with cynicism, which I can’t say is true of myself, yet I was still able to relate to his skepticism of society.

One of the most memorable scenes is when Holden decides, in the middle of the night, to leave Pencey Prep immediately. Storming out of his dorm hall with suitcase in hand, he loudly shouts, “Sleep tight, ya moron!” to the hall of people whom he detests. Holden is basically saying what so many people are afraid to because of fear of confrontation. I admire his forwardness and the way he tells people how he feels. It took me about a week to read the edition that I had checked out from my school library. I plan on buying a copy of my own. *Catcher in the Rye* has earned a spot between my bookends, among books such as Cecily von Ziegesar’s *Gossip Girl* and Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

—Naomi Serling-Boydk, Mt. Carmel H.S.

The name of one of my all-time favorite books is *Absolutely Normal Chaos*, by Sharon Creech, published in 1990. It was given to me when I was 11 years old by my favorite teacher. She instilled in me a love for reading. This book that she gave me was an eye-opener because it helped me to realize that other people share what I go through. It is one of the funnest books I’ve ever read. Sharon Creech knows how to draw you into a story and make you enjoy it.

I related to the main character, Mary Lou. She went through changes...
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**Eye exam and single-vision glasses with CR39 lenses (most prescriptions)**

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Some restrictions apply.

*Includes exam, all follow-ups for 6 weeks, soft lenses and care kit. Select lenses. Most prescriptions.

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Prodigality Plus Incompetence
Equals Chaos

In the second chapter, Hoover and Dominelli quietly moved their financial operation to the offshore Montserrat tax haven, but they were anything but quiet about their pursuit of the San Diego mayor’s chair. In the third chapter, they think they are emulating the upper class by dishing out money for classic cars, donating money to classical music, and loaning money liberally to friends who can help them.

Chapter 3
In early 1982, J. David's accountant approached Nancy Hoover about one of the many inadequacies within the operation.

“The trouble with you is that you make your decisions logically. We make ours emotionally. We’re here to have fun,” Hoover said, pithily summarizing J. David's modus operandi.

There has never been a more disorderly house than J. David's. Captain Money and the Golden Girl had no knowledge of accounting, bookkeeping, or basic business procedure. “When I asked Jerry on an expenditure, he’d say, ‘Ask Nancy.’ She’d say she’d get back to you. She wouldn’t,” says another former accountant. “You’d go to Jerry on an expenditure. He’d say, ‘Ask Nancy.’ She’d say she’d get back to you. She wouldn’t,” says another former accountant.

Decisions were based on friendship and emotion. There is no record in Hoover/Dominelliana of any decision made analytically. In his business deals Dominelli considered whether he liked his partner or didn’t study the business aspects of any deal, and there is little evidence that they would have known how to do so.

One time, a group of locally prominent entrepreneurs approached Dominelli and Hoover with details of a deal. The J. David pair called in their chief numbers man and asked him to prepare a report. He worked three straight days and nights, finally coming up with solid reasons to turn down the offer. He went to Hoover with his rationale. “Oh, we’re already decided to go into that deal,” she’d said breezily. “We don’t go by the numbers. We go by the heart.”

When Dominelli bought merchandise or contracted for services, he invariably paid far too much. When he entered a business deal, he frequently got taken to the cleaners. When he loaned money, he got fleeced by his own debtors.

The money came in and the money went out, and no one kept track of it. “Jerry had no idea of accounting. He was confused when told things had to add up,” says Robert Mengar.

That was particularly true of the checkbook. In fact, a rash of bounced checks eventually brought Dominelli down. However, his checks had been bouncing long before the demise. When the company closed down a money-draining Las Vegas office in 1981, several checks were returned for insufficient funds. Throughout a long relationship with a race car driver, one of every ten of Dominelli’s checks proved no good.

Alert investors often became aware of the incompetence. In 1983 an accounting firm asked J. David investors, in a form letter, if they had any observations about the firm. Wrote La Jolla’s Robert O’Neill: “J. David & Co.’s management team was in such disarray during the June-August 1983 period that I lost total confidence in any of their accounting procedures. I did not receive account receipts, important account letters, and I got inadequate telephone answers from account manager Jerry Russell, during the above-mentioned period. In short, I would require greater CPA skills than I presently [have] to justify the enclosed statement’s accuracy. I must refer your question to the regulating commission for such activities.”

Officers of J. David’s accounting firm Laventhol & Horwath commented in interoffice memos about their client’s laxity and incompetence. Eric C. Johnson, a Laventhol tax specialist who was plotting the delicate steps required to keep J. David’s Montserrat “bank” free of U.S. taxation, informed the head of the San Diego Laventhol office in May 1983: “We [J. David Banking] can avoid taxation if the people at J. David are willing to cooperate and follow the instructions we give them. However, I don’t put a lot of faith in them following through.” (Johnson, who later left Laventhol to go with J. David, was wrong. J. David never did pay any U.S. taxes on its offshore tax haven “bank.”)

“On one wall was malfeasance, and on the other wall was ineptitude, and in between was total chaos,” says one of J. David’s first employees.

That was an understatement. Early in the game, this official had resigned when he saw the money Hoover and Dominelli were pouring into their corporate headquarters.

“Even if they were making 40 or 50 percent on their money, as they claimed, they were headed for bankruptcy,” he said in 1982.

J. David didn’t suffer for long in the dank little office beneath the Mexican restaurant. After Hoover resigned from Bache in...
As the company expanded, Dominelli and Hoover decided they needed their own snug retreat. Although they had sunk $1 million into the leased building, when they purchased a building next door for almost $2 million. They pumped $500,000 more into it. (After the company’s collapse, it sold for just $1.6 million.)

J. David’s headquarters were located on the second floor. The main office was Dominelli and Hoover’s, with Mitrovich and Yarr in occupying nearby offices.

The building was the plushest office I have ever seen. It was strictly an ego trip, one overimprovement after another,” says an estate appraiser. The building had custom-designed wood floors and ceilings and accordion window shutters of mahogany and had been, according to the appraiser, “remodeled to resemble the Hearst Castle.” There was a private elevator in the front and a private exit in the rear, so that Dominelli could scoot out the door and jump into one of his sports cars undetected. There was a $60,000 generator in the basement, in case the computer went out, and there was a special computer room, although computer usage by J. David was quite unspoken. There was a library. And a private kitchen. There were expensive antiques and art pieces on the walls. And a poster of a 1955 Swedish bicycle race, in which all the female participants were pedaling in the nude. There was a private bath with shower, adorned with gold-plated fixtures. In his office Dominelli had a glass jar filled with $50,000 worth of rare coins. An enormous deck surrounded the second floor; the brass would regularly dine there on catered food. And there was an extremely expensive, state-of-the-art electronic security system, replete with electronic beams and motion detectors.

Dominelli had all the latest trading equipment. A Telestart machine, which rented for $800 to $1,000 a month, spewed out all the foreign currency quotations. He had telephones with direct lines to market insiders and also to Wall Street traders, through whom he was supposedly buying and selling currencies. There were Dow Jones and Reuters wires, a telex — “all the glitter,” to quote foreign currency trader Ronald Brouillet.

A huge, 12-foot-high safe was concealed behind wood paneling. Inside the safe were dozens of cash boxes and a tall ladder, providing easy access. This was probably the source of the cash that Dominelli always had in his wallet. “Usually, Jerry carried $10,000 in cash with him,” says a former executive. “Hoover would also have wads of $100 bills.”

Together Dominelli and Hoover would go on shopping excursions. She would stride a few yards ahead of him, pointing to things she wanted. Head bowed, he would shuffle along, pulling out the cash needed for the purchase. “They would breeze through Bullock’s. She would point to a piece of furniture she wanted, and he would unlock the bills and pay,” says a former employee. Not surprisingly, they didn’t keep track of their purchases. “One of my first days on the job, the accountant asked me if I would call a list of retailers and ask if they would send us invoices for company furniture. He said that the IRS wanted the information, and we didn’t have any invoices,” remembers a former secretary.

Dutifully she phoned the retailers and requested invoices. “Some of them laughed, but some of them were very nice,” she says. “After all, he was a big customer.”

Dominelli would routinely pay cash for restaurant meals of more than $1000; and Sandra Kritzaik recalls his buying hundreds of dollars’ worth of high-fashion ski clothes for Hoover and paying with cash.

Captain Money opened his wallet to Hoover’s children as well, financing cars, expensive trips, and almost anything they requested. He was also generous — but less so — with his own children, who were living with his now estranged wife.

Dominelli’s main love was expensive automobiles. “Jerry was enamored of cars. He bought cars the way a woman buys hats. Whenever he got blue, he’d go buy a $100,000 car,” says an employee. The California Department of Motor Vehicles has records on two dozen Dominelli cars, but there were probably around 30, either registered in other names or perhaps not registered at all. According to a report by the bankruptcy trustee appointed to determine Dominelli’s assets after the fall of J. David, there were as many as 80 vehicles under the J. David, including Dominelli’s cars, those he was giving or selling to others, racing cars, and a fleet of limousines that Hoover purchased. Dominelli was trying to get local permission to build a 17-car garage in Rancho Santa Fe and had other vehicles stashed in garages at several locations around San Diego. Basically it was a recycling arrangement. Paying $50,000 to $100,000 or more each, Dominelli would buy Rolls-Royces, Porsches, Mercedes-Benzes, Jaguars, Alfa Romeos, Ferraris, and Maserasis and
drive them for a couple of weeks or months. When he tired of one, he would sell it to an employee or friend at a low price or simply give it away to a productive salesperson or a friend of Hoover’s. Then he would buy another.

As in everything else, money was no object. “He once bought a car for $60,000 or $70,000. He told the salesman, ‘I’ll give you $1500 more if you have it ready tonight,’” recalls an official probing into J. David’s demise.

Dominelli invested $300,000 in La Jolla Ferrari Ltd., which had a book value of only $30,000. In return, he would use some of the dealer’s luxury cars and avoid paying thousands of dollars in licensing, purchase fees, and taxes. Dominelli called it a “consulting arrangement.”

After the J. David collapse, La Jolla Ferrari, which had not disclosed Dominelli’s investment to the state, was billed for $5000 in back auto taxes and penalties.

Mary Yarry had a gull-wing Mercedes worth $120,000. Nancy Hoover had a platinum Porsche 911 Targa she kept only two months. Later she got a Porsche 928 convertible “but didn’t like it because it moused her hair up,” says a former employee. Dominelli had a metallic black Porsche 928 that eventually went to one of the subalterns.

Once Dominelli bought a Chevrolet Camaro — an American car. “He had paid $15,000 for it in $100 bills,” remembers an ex-employee. Dominelli went to the airport to pick up Hoover. She was livid. “I’m not going to ride in that thing!” she snarled. “The next day,” says the former employee, “Nancy Hoover gave the Camaro to me, almost to spite Jerry. I had been in the process of trying to lease a car through the company, and she handed me the keys to the Camaro and said, ‘Here, take this.’ That’s the way they gave things away. They almost forced them on you.”

Hoover’s largesse was
Not always meant to gain employee loyalty. The husband of a secretary totaled the family car. “Nancy bought her a new VW Rabbit and gave her the pink slip to the car with her name on it. Nancy didn’t like that with everybody. It was her way,” recalls a former secretary.

Hoover and Dominelli had 17 pieces of real estate around the west, mainly financed with debt. When they started the company, Dominelli lived in an upper-middle-class home in the inland planned community of Rancho Bernardo, and Hoover lived in Del Mar. As they prospered, they moved to the lushest area, Rancho Santa Fe. They owned a huge $2.2 million estate, as well as two lots worth half a million dollars. The couple had more than $1 million in ski condominiums in Utah, an $800,000 house in La Jolla that was offered to employees rent-free, the $750,000 home used by Mitrovich gratis, and various real estate properties in the San Diego area.

Hoover bought a restaurant in Del Mar and changed its name to Vittorio’s (after Dominelli’s father). Nightly, Dominelli and Hoover held court at Vittorio’s, entertaining customers, receiving those asking for charitable donations, and basking in the attention they received from the oglers.

Dominelli leapt into real estate deals with the slimmest of information, usually supplied by a colleague. In an official examination after J. David’s collapse, Dominelli explained to the bankruptcy trustee’s lawyers how he got into a project known as Beech Tower Condominiums in San Diego. According to Dominelli, Orange County interbank salesman Mike Hall told him, “I would be doing him a favor in helping him out. He was — obviously couldn’t get the place sold, and he was having some problems with the bank on the financing that he had had for the projects and was now trying to — he had asked his various friends and so forth to purchase places over there, and I guess he had gotten four or five friends to buy condominiums, or at least go on record as buying them or whatever. I don’t know.”

Dominelli made a visit to the condo with Hall, who assured him he would be paying the market price. He snatched up the deal without doing any homework.

Mike Hall was also a partner in a luxury boat Dominelli bought into. In the examination Dominelli was ever vaguer on that one: “Essentially there were three partners that owned the boat, and we all — there are papers on it and so forth, which I signed, you know, and so I can’t tell you too much about it other than the fact I’m one of the owners of it, and I guess they keep it down in — I believe it’s St. Vincent or St. Thomas.”

Dominelli had earlier told others that he didn’t particularly like boats, but he did like airplanes — especially after officials of a Chicago commodities firm, Refco, came to visit him in a private jet. “When he saw Refco’s private plane, his eyes just bugged out. He was as excited as a kid buying chocolate,” says a former employee. Initially J. David was spending upwards of $50,000 a month flying air taxis. After the Refco visit, Dominelli decided he had to buy a plane. He wound up buying two and leasing a third. First he purchased a Lear 24 jet for $600,000 and got a lease on a Lear 35. But those didn’t sate his ego, and in mid-1983 he arranged to buy a 1967 Grumman Gulfstream II for just over $5 million. To do so, he agreed to pay 22 percent interest — a horrendous rate at the time.

Just after that commitment, Chris Kalabokes came in as J. David’s chief financial officer. He told Thomas LaHay, senior vice president of San Diego’s First National Bank, J. David’s main banker, that Dominelli had paid an “outrageous interest rate on terms that partially handcuffed the company.” Dominelli insisted it was “the only way we could get the plane financed at the time.” The purchase would turn out to be one of Dominelli’s most critical blunders.
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.

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

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

Qualified participants:

• Will receive up to $2450 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.

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 $1000 for your participation.
• You receive no-cost study-related medication and medical care.
• No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

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.

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Qualified participants:

• Will receive up to $2450 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.

Loss of interest or pleasure? Sadness or hopelessness? Sleep disturbance? Are you or someone you know over the age of 18 and suffering from Depression? If so, you may qualify to try an investigational medication being studied for Depression. 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 $1000 for your participation.
• You receive no-cost study-related medication and medical care.
• No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

Qualified participants:

• Will receive up to $2450 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.

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

• Decrease your immune response
• Decrease your physical and mental functioning
• 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.

Qualified participants:

• Will receive up to $500 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.
J. David's charitable contributions were another unmonitored drain. Almost $200,000 went to the San Diego Symphony, about $100,000 to the San Diego Opera, and about $100,000 to the La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art. Hoover, reveling in her press coverage, gave large sums to Del Mar institutions. And a third of a million dollars went to the University of California at Los Angeles. Almost $60,000 went to KPBS, the local public-broadcasting radio and television affiliate. One of the best-publicized events, partly funded by J. David money, was a televised debate among the U.S. Senate Republican Primary candidates in spring 1982. The City Club, sponsor of the debate, was trying to shake the perception that it was a deadly combination.

Almost $60,000 went to Hoover, a former vice president of the firm. "It was a deadly combination." "She wanted to give away money and he couldn't say no," recalls a former top vice president of the firm. (The charity, though, never got the money.) "Jerry couldn't say no to a friend," says William Galt, a large investor.

Institutional giving was another large investor. "Jerry couldn't say no to a friend," says William Galt, a large investor.

"Jerry couldn't say no to a friend," says William Galt, a large investor.

The local media gave the debate extensive play, and Mitrovich, of course, raved on and on about it in his Neutroline column.

But six months later KPBS was still trying to collect from Mitrovich. Gloria Penner, a popular local TV personality, had written several letters to Mitrovich. On November 10, Eldon H. Hale, the station's administration manager, wrote, "For five months KPBS has been attempting to collect from you the balance due to us for the expenses we incurred in broadcasting the U.S. Senate debate on May 25, 1982. On June 11, 1982, you wrote to Gloria Penner, promising payment upon your return from France. On July 14th, I spoke with you and you promised payment, 'in the next week or so.' "

Gloria wrote again on August 4th and September 1st. Additionally, there were several telephone conversations and promises made before and since that time, including a "promise" to bring the payment with you to KPBS on November 3rd. The purpose of this letter is to make a final request for payment in order to avoid further action and the resultant legal expenses for both of us."

On November 16, an indignant Mitrovich wrote Penner on City Club stationery. Two of his City Club supporters had each anted

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You may have diabetic peripheral neuropathy.

To find out about a research study for diabetic peripheral neuropathy, please call:

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Lawrence Sherman, MD
Call Mon-Fri for more information
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Tired of HEAVY PERIODS??
...But Don’t Want Hormones!!!!

A 12-month research study is underway to evaluate a non-hormonal, investigational oral medication for women with heavy periods. If your periods leave you frightened and embarrassed by how much you bleed, and you want an alternative to hormones, this study may interest you.

Participants must be:
1. Healthy females, 18-49 years old, with regular menstrual cycles
2. Monthly breast pain and tenderness in at least the last 6 menstrual cycles
3. Able to take acceptable pain medications
4. Over 40, must have had a mammogram in past year

Participants receive at no cost:
1. Examination and consultation by a board-certified gynecologist
2. All study-related medications and laboratory studies
3. Compensation

Interested, please call:
619-521-2841
MEDICAL CENTER FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH
Offices in Mission Valley and Santee
Robert Semo, M.D.        William Koltun, M.D.

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William Koltun, MD        Robert Semo, MD

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...But Don’t Want Hormones!!!!

A 12-month research study is underway to evaluate a non-hormonal, investigational oral medication for women with heavy periods. If your periods leave you frightened and embarrassed by how much you bleed, and you want an alternative to hormones, this study may interest you.

Participants must be:
1. Healthy females, 18-49 years old, with regular cycles every 21 to 35 days for the past 6 months
2. Have a normal pelvic exam (fibroids are OK) and Pap smear
3. Not presently taking or willing to stop birth control pills 2 months prior to study entrance

Participants receive at no cost:
1. Examination and consultation by a board-certified OB-GYN
2. Study-related medications
3. Study-related laboratory tests, pelvic ultrasound, Pap smears, and EKG
4. Compensation

Interested, please call:
619-521-2841
MEDICAL CENTER FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH
Offices in Mission Valley and Santee
Robert Semo, M.D.        William Koltun, M.D.

BIPOLAR DISORDER
DEPRESSION
SCHIZOPHRENIA

Researchers at Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital are currently enrolling subjects into inpatient and outpatient studies. Eligible participants will receive all study-related care at no cost, and will be reimbursed for time and travel.

For more information, please call the Clinical Research Department at (858) 694-8350.

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Tired of failed dietary recommendations, compresses and vitamin remedies? A 6-month clinical study is underway to evaluate an investigational oral medication for moderate to severe breast pain caused by Fibrocystic Breast Disease that occurs with each cycle.

Qualified participants:
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3. Able to take acceptable pain medications
4. Over 40, must have had a mammogram in past year

Participants receive at no cost:
1. Examination and consultation by a board-certified gynecologist
2. All study-related medications and laboratory studies
3. Compensation

For more information call:
The Medical Center for Clinical Research
619-521-2841
William Koltun, MD        Robert Semo, MD

Healthy Volunteers

Radiant Research is conducting a clinical research study of an investigational medication.
To qualify you must:
• be 18-65 years of age
• have seasonal allergies
• be able to make overnight stays at our clinic

This study offers compensation up to $1,500 for time and travel to those who qualify.

Call Mon-Fri for more information
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9665 Chesapeake Dr., Suite 200, San Diego, CA
www.radiantresearch.com
Radiant Research is looking for current or ex-smokers who have breathing problems. They may qualify for a clinical research study of an investigational medication for COPD. Qualified participants will receive all study-related testing and investigational medication at no cost and may be compensated up to $2,600 for their time.

Warren W. Pleskow, MD
Call Toll Free Mon-Fri for more information
1.877.851.1066
317 N. El Camino Real, Suite 506, Encinitas, CA
www.radiantresearch.com

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.

Warren W. Pleskow, MD
Call Toll Free Mon-Fri for more information
1.877.851.1066
317 N. El Camino Real
Suite 506, Encinitas, CA
www.radiantresearch.com

My Dear Penner:
Enclosed please find the checks promised. They total $1000, as promised.
The balance will follow shortly.
Also, and on a less positive note, the phone call from Eldon Hale to Jerry Dominelli, as in J. David Dominelli, wanting to know about the monies owed, was not repeat, was not, appreciated. Period.
I always said that I would make good the money, not J. David. The $4000 given by J. David was more than enough. J. David did not need to give more.
Moreover, I would not have permitted J. David to have given any additional monies.
This was a City Club obligation, not a J. David obligation. Calling the person I work for was an exercise in very poor judgment. While it is true that the burden of this was on me, one that I assumed, the delay was not altogether my fault.
It did take some time for me to receive from KPBS a statement as to why the cost was $2000. Even then the statement I received was not very precise.
But, to go back to the call from Eldon to Jerry, the more I’ve thought about it, the more annoyed I’ve become. The bitter taste will linger a while.
Sincerely, [sic],
George Mitrovich
President

Hale says he never made any such call. Mitrovich claims Dominelli threatened to fire him as a result of the alleged call.
Despite such occasional unpleasantness, J. David succeeded in becoming known as one of San Diego’s great benefactors. There was an important quid pro quo: People connected with the arts groups were moved to invest heavily in the J. David interbank fund.
The sums that arts patrons invested were greater than the monies J. David donated to the institutions. Dominelli and Hoover

San Diego Reader
June 16, 2005
also spent millions of dollars supporting athletics. Some $40,000 went to the San Diego Crew Classic. Dominelli made a multi-thousand-dollar contribution to a local marathon — in cash, the day of the race.

Dominelli, who frequently received speeding tickets, was a fast-car addict. At parties, when he would be huddled in the corner reading a book and those around him would be marveling at his intellectual curiosity and amazing attention span, Dominelli wouldn’t always be studying books and newsletters on international investing. Often he would be reading pulp magazines about sports cars.

Dominelli pumped millions of dollars into race-car teams. He first backed a San Diegan, Wayne Baker, but in 1982 decided he wanted international prestige. He became the angel for John Fitzpatrick Racing, which competed on European as well as American tracks, such as the nearby Riverside Raceway. At Riverside Dominelli would entertain potential investors and any Beautiful People Hoover was trying to woo. They would sip drinks under a guest tent and would be joined by the race car drivers and mechanics after the event.

Dominelli said he owned 50 percent of the Fitzpatrick team. After the collapse of J. David he told the bankruptcy trustee, “I’d say my part is worth, minimum, three-quarters of a million dollars. The race cars alone are worth anywhere from $200,000 to $250,000. Each spare motor is $50,000.” Some think Dominelli poured between $2 million and $4 million into the venture.

If so, you may have a condition called erosive esophagitis. Acid reflux (backflow of stomach acid into the esophagus [food pipe]) can cause damage to the lining of the esophagus, which can result in erosive esophagitis. Only a medical doctor can diagnose this condition.

A clinical research study is being conducted to determine if a marketed medication, including an investigational dose, heals erosive esophagitis.

If you are between the ages of 18 to 75 and have frequent heartburn (heartburn is a burning feeling, rising from the stomach or lower part of the chest towards the neck), you may qualify to be examined for erosive esophagitis and to participate in this research study. If you are eligible for this study, you will receive study medication, study-related physical exams, and labwork at no additional cost to you. You also may receive reimbursement for time and travel expenses.

Do you suffer from frequent heartburn?

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Steven Drosman, M.D.
I mean, she was throwing things. She gave an ultimatum to Jerry — one of many she gave — and that was the end of racing,” says a top official of J. David at the time.

J. David achieved international prominence through its sponsorship of a triathlon team. The triathlon is a grueling event: Participants in the “ultra” event swim 2.4 miles, then bicycle 112 miles and run 26.2 miles.

Ted Pulaski, the top salesman, took an active interest in the triathlon and later became the national over-40 champion. Hoover and her two college-age children, Georgie and Nina, were on the team. In October 1983 Sports Illustrated lauded Dominelli as “Triathlon’s Sugar Daddy.” J. David had its athletes on salaries of $1000 to $1500 a month. Team members were provided the finest equipment and stayed in the finest hotels around the world.

One of the team members was photographed running along with a wad of bills in his hand. It was to symbolize J. David’s largesse in an article for Triathlon Magazine, a publication J. David helped finance. Hoover and Dominelli transported the team to events all around the world. Hoover would rent a helicopter to view the races. Over three years J. David put more
than a third of a million dollars into the triathlon. Hoover and Dominelli put much more into horse racing. Since they lived in horsy Rancho Santa Fe, it was perhaps inevitable that they would take up the sport. They formed Hoover Farms and in 1983 paid more than $650,000 for four horses. (One unnamed yearling had a dam by the name of Takethemoneyandrun.) The horses achieved moderate — extremely moderate — success, and members of the horse-breeding set were reportedly eager to unload more mediocre merchandise on the newcomers to the sport. One of San Diego's most prominent horsemen, astonished by the prices that Dominelli was shelling out for horses, concluded that he must be on cocaine. According to bankruptcy records, Hoover paid $230,000 for a horse that later sold at auction for all of $7000.

Not surprisingly, Hoover Farms didn't last long. After J. David's collapse, the ownership of the horses was quietly shifted, and the horses started racing under another stable's name. Hoover Farms has disappeared.

In connection with all their activities — cultural, athletic, business — Dominelli and Hoover threw parties costing thousand.

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such as Teachersworth Services, which sold annuity insurance contracts to teachers. Others were started from scratch. J. David Mercantile Group was a venture capital/syndication subsidiary that financed a startup high-tech firm and was searching for others. Under it was Mercantile Management Company II, which offered limited energy partnerships: J. David Energy I, J. David Energy II, and J. David Energy III.

J. David Intercurrency served as a broker arranging foreign currency transactions between banks. J. David Trading was a commodity trading adviser dealing in regulated commodities. Systematic Risk was a partnership formed to apply modern portfolio theory to the selection of commodity trading advisers. Dominelli and the founder squabbled, and the operation fell away from J. David long before J. David's demise. On its own, it is now prospering.

J. David Natural Resources was Dominelli's piece of a Northern California silica- and gold-mining operation named Yuba Natural Resources. Dominelli was a one-third partner in a group that bought up roughly half of the old-line company. The other partners were prominent in California politics: Richard Silberman, former chief adviser to Gov. Jerry Brown, and M. Larry Lawrence, former chairman of the California Democratic Party. Dominelli tried to resell his piece to his investors but failed at the task.

One of the biggest drains was J. David Securities, the stock- and bond-marketing operation. Dominelli opened offices in several large cities and recruited brokers by offering commissions that were substantially higher than those they could get at other firms. "I did a study to show him that he would lose money paying those commissions, but he ignored it," says a former accountant. (Many of the stockbrokers also picked up extra commissions, mainly under the table, by steering investors into Dominelli's foreign currency pool.) Dominelli fought hard to keep the subsidiary going.

In the end a consultant informed him that J. David securities was losing at least $1 million a month, if the salaries and commissions, leasehold improvements, and rentals were properly charged to the operation. According to the consultant, "He paused and said, 'Well, maybe we can turn it into a discount brokerage.' I told him, 'Discount brokerages have linoleum floors and Army surplus desks. You have the most plush offices in the U.S.'"

And there were diverse other subsidiaries: Cambier Management; Treasury Life Holding Co. and its underlings, Southwest Industrial Life and Treasury Life Assurance Co.; J. David (Asia); Capital Assets Managers; J. David Municipals and governments; and on and on. Dominelli would launch a new venture, or make an acquisition, on a whim: "One time a shark friend of mine called," remembers Robert Menagar. "He said, 'Your man Dominelli is a real mark. A friend of mine called him
with a deal [a piece of the equity in a small company]. They talked awhile. Finally, Dominelli offers him about three times the maximum he thought he could receive. About knocked him off his chair.”

The operation he bought eventually became one of the subsidiaries, and like the others, it was insignificant except for the strain it was placing on the company.

Besides the massive losses, the subsidiaries had one thing in common: No one knew how Dominelli was paying for them. “There was this big black hole. Every time you asked where the money was coming from, you couldn’t find out. He wouldn’t let you now how he was financing them,” says one accountant.

“He wrote checks to support the other enterprises. He called it his ‘magic checkbook.’ Other times he called it his ‘slush fund,’” recalls a third accountant.

An employee who inquired where Dominelli was getting the money to fund an offshoot operation was told laughingly, “Dominelli Airlines.” When Dominelli wrote these checks, he often had little idea if he

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Dominelli beamed, “Oh, much was in the account, money in the account, "

project of mine. He said had agreed to support a

was in his office, and he to cover them. “One time I had money in the account

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This accountant still is not sure whether Hoover “actually understood the difference between client funds and her own funds.” Once when a payment was late, Hoover airily explained to a vendor, “Oh, a customer’s check bounced.”

After only six months with the company, the accountant resigned and informed the FBI of the irregularities at J. David. This accountant was the first — but hardly the last — to go to the FBI.

Many of J. David’s follies were actually follies of one: Nancy Hoover. “She ran the company in the administrative sense,” recalls a former senior financial officer of J. David. “She determined who was hired. She hired friends, friends of friends, family members, investors, friends of investors. There was no planned growth. She would say, ‘Five more people were hired this month, so we need another office.’ People came in Monday and found they were reporting to another person. The rank and file was in confusion. People didn’t understand what they were supposed to do. In the course of three years, some people were moved ten times.”

“The unprofessionalism was unbelievable,” according to one investor. “After I decided to remove my money, I called and asked to be sent the interest. Two days later I called and asked for the $50,000 principal, and she said the same thing, ‘Fine,’ and that was it. She never asked for my account number. Two days later I called and asked for the $50,000 principal, and she said the same thing, ‘Fine,’ and never asked me the account number or anything.”

Basically, Hoover handled the administration because she was as decisive as Dominelli was indecisive. He relied upon her judgment for all business details, particularly their spending. “Hoover ran the company in the administrative sense,” recalls a former senior financial officer of J. David. “She determined who was hired. She hired friends, friends of friends, family members, investors, friends of investors. There was no planned growth. She would say, ‘Five more people were hired this month, so we need another office.’ People came in Monday and found they were reporting to another person. The rank and file was in confusion. People didn’t understand what they were supposed to do. In the course of three years, some people were moved ten times.”

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Heads would roll according to Nancy’s plan, with no rhyme or reason,” says an ex-official.

The chaos grew. Finally, Yarré convinced Dominelli that the company needed an office manager to relieve Hoover of some of her administrative burdens and to free her up for the sales duties at which she excelled.

Thus did one Richard Colabella, a former colleague of Yarré’s at Institutional Investor, join J. David in 1982. “Colabella came in as a hatchet man, but he made the mistake of announcing he was a hatchet man,” a former vice president remembers. “He tried to talk in a gruffly voice like the Godfather and use Italian gestures, but he also wanted people to know how cultured he was.”

He fit snugly into the J. David environment. “When I was interviewing for the job, he spent the entire time trying to get a powder blue Cadillac for one of the vice presidents in Orange County,” says a former secretary.

Colabella would frequently throw tantrums that friends say resulted from a stomach disorder. “He would be raging violently, then he would take some of his medicine, and pretty soon he would mellow out,” recalls a former employee.

According to several intimates, Hoover resented both Yarré and Colabella. This was one reason that Hoover and Dominelli would frequently get into bitter arguments that ruffled the mahogany shutters, damaged morale, and sent visitors scurrying for cover.

“First, they would just be bickering ideas off each other. Then their voices would start to rise. Then the door would close…and all hell would break loose,” remembers a former employee. By some reports, Hoover could match and often one-up Dominelli’s profanity.

They feuded primarily about company matters such as intrusions by Yarré and Colabella. But they also argued about personal matters — most frequently, Dominelli’s reluctance to divorce his wife. 

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“One time, a fellow had been waiting outside their office for two and a half hours,” says a former executive. “They started to argue and Nancy started telling Jerry that he was no good in bed and never had been any good in bed. One of the secretaries came to the man and told him that Mr. Dominelli and Mrs. Hoover would not be able to see him that day and that he should go home.”

“Are you kidding? I wouldn’t miss this for anything,” said the visitor.

At the peak of most donnybrooks, Hoover would bolt out of the office, with Dominelli in pursuit, yelling, “Nan!”

One former employee even claims to have witnessed physical violence: “I heard these sounds. I heard hollering, screaming, and bad language. I rushed out in the hall. Nancy had picked up Jerry by the throat, and she was banging his head against the wall.”

As time went on and hostilities escalated, employees increasingly suspected — that there was pressure on Hoover, Dominelli, Y arry, Colabella, and the others that was almost unendurable.

The in-house cleric, George Mitrovich, tried to serve as peacemaker. He took Colabella to lunch and explained how his outbursts hurt personnel relations. He pleaded with Hoover and Dominelli to do their fighting outside the office.

“But poor George didn’t understand,” chuckles a former J. David official.

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Here is a penmanship certificate from 1933 and a diploma from St. Mel’s High School dated 1937. Here also: an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army dated January 1946, a pipe tool for scraping ash from a briar bowl, a compass, and a rubber stamp that, when inked and pressed, will read “FINAL COPY — Set This — R.

The wreaths of lazy smoke demarcated a zone where family squabbles were off-limits; issues of bedwetting, menopause, sick dogs, or charges of sibling cruelty were banished beyond the cloud.

Memories of my father always include one particular image, and that is of the family man after dinner, seated at the dining room table in whatever house we occupied at the time, leaning over a large black typewriter — a Remington or an Underwood, I think — obscured by clouds of burning pipe tobacco. We were not to disturb Dad as he worked. The wreaths of lazy smoke demarcated a zone where family squabbles were off-limits; issues of bedwetting, menopause, sick dogs, or charges of sibling cruelty were banished beyond the cloud. His day at the insurance company or agency where he would compose inane ad copy and navigate the politics of a venal corporation was left outside of this cocoon. The muted machine-gun clacking of the typewriter signaled another article about politics or pornography, the rhythm method, violence on television or film, Padre Pio, or a comic misadventure with the kids at the company picnic. Occasionally he would allow me to stand next to him and study the completed pages.

“Ever since Eve touted Adam onto the apple, Man has been trying to peek around the corner of the future to avoid putting his foot into it again. Gun-shy since Eden, he has sought to outwit or at least anticipate The Big IF, that imponderable of the future that bodes either good or ill for him. With childlike faith he has spent fortunes in animal skins and hard cash, on gourd-rattling witch doctors, seers, soothsayers, owls, and oracles — everything and everyone who might have the answer…”

I was nine years old at the time I read this coming off his typewriter, and while I had no idea what he was talking about, I knew it was about magic and was in itself a kind of magic. My father could string words together with interesting verbs, lace them with colorful images, and pin them to the page, which he then would exchange for school tuition and school uniforms for an increasing number of offspring.

Now and then these pages would offer an insight as to what was going on in the household:

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dinner and announced, “This family should learn how to eat.”

“Who’s the tutor? Peter Rabbit?”

“That’s not what I mean and you know it,” she retorted. “Did you know, for instance, that the white flour we buy for cooking and baking is so low in nutrition that insects avoid it? They’d starve!"

“As usual, I found myself pinioned on the horns of a typically female fabricated dilemma. If I let it be known that I was glad our flour bin was bug free I would be implicitly approving incipient malnutrition."

“The grand architect for my family’s gustatorial reform is the author of a remarkable book entitled Please Your Pancreas — and Live! by Doctor Julius Crapby. According to Dr. Crapby the pancreas lies off the Islands of Langerhans somewhere east of Suèt. Before the discovery of health foods and those little wayside health bars where vim, vigor, and virility may be stored via coconut milk cocktails, gourmets and trenchermen were frequently shipwrecked on the shoals of indigestion because of storms that pounded down out of the pancreas and liver. The fat globules could not be broken down because of bally liver bile and unless you had you-know-whose little liver pills the results are flatulence, heartburn, and a complete shambles of the large and small colon…."

My puzzlement at the pretzel logic of women and my suspicion of authority (certainly of “experts”) has bypassed misogyny and non-conformity and landed me squarely in the country of the misanthrope, just outside of anarchy. We all try to do a little better than our parents, and I like to think that my inherited sense of the absurd would elic it that distinctive, tobacco-wracked laughter from my dad.

Bob Brizzolara wrote television and film reviews and was quoted at length, I recently discovered in my cartons of memories, by Time magazine in August 1957 as a “Catholic Film Critic.” In his piece on Hollywood’s treatment of the clergy, he postulates the casting of George Raft as St. Augustine in The Confessions. His articles for the Voice of Saint Jude, Ave Maria, the New World, and Catholic Home Messenger examined anti-Christian sensibilities in fraternal organizations like the Masons, the Communist threat, “Dear Abby” Van Buren, and physics teachers at De Paul University. My father, it seemed to me, knew everything and everybody, read everything, and knew just how to phrase his conclusions with both authoritative skill and clay-footed puzzlement. He was my only writing teacher, and he taught me that didacticism was a sin, but if you’re going to do it, make damn sure you’re funny while you’re about it.

Robert Brizzolara died of a heart attack while on a fishing trip in Wisconsin in September 1968. He was 49 years and seven months old. In July of this year, I will be that age precisely. It is only now dawning on me, old-guy jokes aside, how very young that is. — John Brizzolara


Dear Son,

On the occasion of your 21st birthday I’ve considered all kinds of gifts from cash to a watch that runs backward, but I have decided on this, at least: a list of some of the things I now know at 47 and wish I knew at the age of 21. I wonder if any of it will help you.

The first thing that comes to mind is that bell bottoms are a big mistake. I realize this information is only so useful, like the knowledge that one should use a condom when doing drugs — no one does anyway. But I will try to think hard about this. It is difficult because our lives are so different. It is impossible not to think about my own 21st birthday.

I have no recollection of it whatsoever. I only recall that your mother and I were just back from hitchhiking around Europe; we were broke and briefly sharing an apartment with a friend on 98th Street and Riverside Drive in Manhattan. I was working as Christmas help at a giant bookstore on Fifth Avenue, had long hair, a beard, and no janitorial rent. My own father had been dead for three years, and I had been traveling since then. I was already cynical in a way that I hadn’t quite earned: a kind of preemptive strike against a world I knew was out to kick my ass.

I have known you your whole life, and you have, thank God, no traces of this malaise. Your mother once wrote, in her first short novel, that “Cynicism is the laziest of intellectual postures.” This is something true. I have become more cynical rather than less, lazier rather than more enterprising. I do not — and again I do thank God — see you traveling down a road anything like the one I’ve traveled. You already know the value of hard work and money. I have never really appreciated the value of money. In this way I have remained strangely, even belligerently naive. You are working your first real job at Boston Market and have been reliable and steadily promoted, all the while taking college courses. I quit the Art Institute of Chicago after six weeks so that I could travel with a rock band.

One of the traits we do share is an abiding curiosity about the world we live in and ones we do not. I remember one night down in Mexico, around your tenth birthday, when I pointed out the spiral arm of the Milky Way galaxy where we reside. When I explained to you the dimensions of what we were looking at, I could see the wonder and reality of it dawn on your face, and I was very happy that I was the one who, in a sense, pulled a curtain away to expose a miracle.

You have since pursued astronomy, physics, and biology with appreciation, understanding, puzzlement, awe, and, hunger. To say that I am very proud of you says nothing of how I feel. I will tell you something else I am certain I have never told you. It may sound like an unusual thing to say, but I respect you in a way I do not respect many people. I say unusual because I wonder how common it is for parents to respect their children. Not very, I am guessing.

This leads me to the irony, the presumption of this letter: that is, telling you things you should know, that I wish I knew at your age. More to the point is that I wish I knew then what you already know. I wish I had more of your qualities and fewer of my weaknesses. I would have liked to have had your implicit understanding of a few vital things, like getting intoxicated or stoned is mostly a deplorable waste of time, that sex for its own sake is irresponsible, that a structured education has distinct advantages over the autodidactic approach, and that patience and humility are a strength, arrogance and intolerance an abomination.

I would also like to know how to get to level nine on the CD-ROM video game Star Smashers of the Galactic Reich — something you do with ease and yet has eluded me.

On a practical level, I think it’s safe to say this much to you at this point in your life: chew with your mouth closed. I’ve tried drilling this into your head — well, jaw — since you went on solid food. I’m not saying you’ll never get laid unless you correct this habit; many successful friends of mine eat like swine and get poon for days, but I’m just saying it is disgusting. Picking your nose when you pull up to a stop light is another thing I would urge you to think about. Everybody does it, yeah, yeah, I know, but hey, man, you’re not invisible in some magic way at a stop light. You look like a pig, a moron, a slob. Don’t get me wrong, I love you. Just don’t do that, okay?

Life Lesson: #9.3. Sorry, I may be getting a little ahead of myself, but I cannot resist the impulse to warn and advise you on the subject of loving women. This may well be unnecessary…but here you go. I think it was John D. MacDonald who said it (I’m not sure, but it stands): “Never go to bed with a woman who has more...”
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troubles than you do. This undoubtedly will sound sexist to someone, but I would give the same advice to a daughter if I had one — about men, you know.

Don’t be afraid to love. On balance, it will be one of the two or three most important things you will ever do. The work that you choose will be one of those things, whether you become a writer or a scientist, a gardener, a teacher, a janitor, a stockbroker, a stockboy, or a CEO — choose something that makes you happy more often than it makes you miserable. The same with those you choose to love. Sometimes it seems that we do not get to choose these people, but actually we do — trust me. Most of us love the wrong person at some time or another in our lives, often more than once, and it can cause you more pain than a giant tumor over your heart, lymph nodes, liver, bowels, and brain for love. I would not have arrived at the abiding happiness I find with the woman in my life these days if I had not gone through the madness that I did.

I regret deeply that I caused so much pain around me as I floundered with my emotions. You will find ways around this kind of mess in your life (of course, I hope you are spared, though I’m afraid it’s kind of inevitable), but the best way is through it, not around it. If you don’t slow down along the main drag of Paintown past Heartbreak Hotel and that lonely self-service station at the edge of town near the on-ramp to the Blue Highway, the Paintown Police will catch up to you sooner or later, and they’ll be pissed.

The third most important thing you will ever do — and I sorely hope you do — is to become a father. The moment you were born at, I think, 3:02 a.m. at Beth Israel Hospital on Manhattan’s east side, I remember thinking: I have never done anything important before. If you are lucky and have a kid like yourself and the ass-hole gene doesn’t skip a generation and my traits crop up in your child, you will have a large degree of happiness in your life, and it will help you weather the worst of things.

I’ll let you ponder that while I fish into the nettles of my experience for more gems.

Speaking of police, don’t argue with cops. Be polite and cooperative. Otherwise you’re shafting yourself. Eat a lot of protein (steak, fish, chicken), shine the carbohydrates (unless you have liver trouble as I do), and eat vegetables even if you have to force yourself; they will, if nothing else, often provide gratifying farts. But probably you shouldn’t listen to me about dietary matters.

Be generous with people who are less fortunate than you, and, as a strong man, defend those whom you can: those who need a little help — and it’s usually just a little. Don’t break the law unless the law strikes you as so asinine or immoral that you must. Jail is horrifying. If you ever find yourself in a cell, try to make sure that it is for a higher reason than you just fucked up. That may happen; if it does, pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and try to make it right with anyone you’ve hurt.

You are already in the habit of reading for pleasure as well as education, but I notice you limit yourself to fantasy and science fiction. That’s all right, but you are what you eat, and, like vegetables, you simply need certain nutrients. John Gardner, a good writing teacher and a novelist, advised young writers (and you already are one) to read Faulkner (you already have) and then read Hemingway to get the taste of Faulkner out of your mouth. Hemingway, too, can provide gratifying farts. Someday read Graham Greene for the way a sentence should be balanced. Read Elmore Leonard and Richard Price for the way that people talk; Dickens, not science fiction writers, for the way a world is created and a mass of life is set in motion on the page. Read every chance you get because there isn’t enough time. You’ll find life gives you just enough time for many important things but never reading. A lot of us

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die hungry for more. If you don’t get to Proust, don’t worry about it.

Let me see, I think I’ve already tried to impart to you some things I have learned the hard way, like that strategy in line at the movies for popcorn and Coke when the movie has already started: never get in a line behind an obese person — to say nothing of an obese family. It is like trying to pass a convoy of 18-wheel trucks going downhill. Forget about it.

Don’t go to war for any reason; it’s not a video game. The world never suffers from a shortage of patriots and lunatics who think war is glorious. Meat will always be provided for the grinder. If you feel the need to take part in some kind of war effort, do what you can to stop it.

Which leads me to politics. I have no advice here other than, choose your baton wisely. I have no advice here. No advice here.

When in a hurry to get out of the grocery store, get in line behind a single, middle-aged, lonely-looking guy buying TV dinners and soup for one.

Pay attention to everything, even fools and idiots. You’ll be surprised what you can learn from the most unlikely people. Know that you are going to be smarter than most people around you and be patient with them, unlike me. Remember what little knowledge any of us ever really has at the end of the day.

When you think you’re going to die, it is the things you haven’t done, not the things you have, that you most regret. No matter what you do, you’ll probably have regrets, so don’t be afraid of temptation. Give in to it as least as often as you resist it.

Question authority — bumper sticker advice, I know, but still. The exception in this case is if the authority in question is carrying a firearm (see police above).

Music: this can be one of the major joys in life. It is the closest thing to actual magic that I can think of. Music can save your sanity. Music can make you cry when you need to and every time your body is fighting it desperately. Bach can help you think; Mozart will offer you transcendence, a momentary reprieve from mortality. Wagner can make you seasick; Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters can mirror a longing and dogged joy that is otherwise hard to articulate. Charlie Parker and Miles Davis, John Coltrane and Chet Baker can paint abstract pictures in your head, making a kind of sense out of the modern world that is otherwise unavailable. Rock and roll can set you free for a while. I don’t know what that heavy speed-metal crap is that was don’t know what that heavy.

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Let’s do it again, Dad

Dad disappeared from my life when I was 12, but before that I got to see him, my half-sisters, and stepmother for a week at Christmas and a month during the summer. I remember once, when I was about four, stepping through a barbed-wire fence and walking out into a field of grass, arm up, holding his hand. That’s the whole story, except for the feeling, a warm welling happiness.
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It was pure joy. It all came to an end on my 12th birthday. My mother sat me down and said, “Under the terms of the divorce, when you turn 12 you get to decide whether to go to your father’s or not. So you won’t have to do that anymore.” And I didn’t.

I remember sitting, strapped in his lap, looking down at the small city of Springfield, MO. It was thrilling, and every plane ride since has been thrilling. I remember walking away from the Piper Cub, again holding his hand. I said, “Let’s do it again, Dad.”

We never did, but once, in his 60s, I took him up. I watched me get out on the step and push off, then fall when you’re of the size of a dime. I’ve never seen a man look more proud.

After a movie, hold me in the dark in a warm down jacket. I’ve never seen a man look more proud. My dad said my favorite of all the sentences I ever heard from the doorway of my room at my prone and sleeping body. “Why don’t you old people ever sleep in?” I ask him through the amber darkness of morning.

“Well, I’m all ready for some bacon and eggs,” his voice trails off as he walks away, “and you’re layin’ in there, playin’ with your butt or something, I don’t know…” I hear a pack of cigarettes land on the kitchen counter and a match strike.

The red, burning cherry makes its appearance at my door and without the benefit of visible lips holers, “Get up! The truck’s leavin’ for town in five minutes.” A puff of smoke stays; the cigarette leaves.

“All right!” I yell from under my sleeping bag. “I’m up. Let’s go. I’m in here wait ing on you! I’m not the one who needs half an hour to shower in the morning, Mrs. Streisand. I’m sure you used all the damn hot water.”

“Oh shut up. I’m going to warm the truck up.”

I put my clothes on in the smoky haze of my room. By the time I’ve brushed my teeth and put a hat over my miserable pushed-up hair, he’s already changing stations on the Toyota’s radio.

“Oh my God. Paul Harvey. Paul god-damned Harvey, you’re so full of it!” he groans.
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as he snaps the dial to off. At the restaurant I'm still in that morning torpor and just cannot cope with the waitress's cheery-ass attitude.

"You must be Jim Olivieri's son," a blond smile says to me before I get my coffee.

That's me.

With waitresses my father is either flirty or down-right obnoxious. "What would you like?" she asks.

"Well, I can't say. Not in front of my kid," he says. "It goes so long, I have a grill problem."

He hits her quick with "you've got a problem too."

She pauses for a minute and tries to think of what could have gone wrong with the simple process of filtering water through coffee grounds. He helps her cognition out with "It tastes like shit!" I expect him to heave his cup of java right off the table and onto her apron, but he doesn't.

"Dad!"

The waitress drops our food onto the table, turns back into the kitchen, and my dad snickers like Muttley the cartoon dog, "khee, khee, khee."

After breakfast, we walk through a door near the kitchen and into a bar called the Office. A big man in a cowboy hat and holding a beer flips us both off immediately and yells out, "Hey, Jimmy! What are you and the kid up to?"

"Not much," my dad answers. "I'm going to go get a haircut and go see my dad. He's your uncle, you know. You ought to visit him once in a while."

"Uncle Jim?" my cousin Ernie, the rancher in the hat asks. "Is it his birthday or something?"

"No," my dad answers. "It was Veterans' Day, Thursday."

"Oh. Oh. Oh, well, hell. I'm the only one who goes up there anymore."

"No, you're not," my dad refutes. "I go up there all the time."

Ernie leans over and yells at the bartender, "Hey, get us three blackberry brandies and three beers!"

"No, no no," my dad protests. "I gotta go get a haircut. The kid can sit here and have one with you while I go across the street."

"Is he old enough?" the bartender asks.

"Why sure!" my cousin booms out into the bar. "This here's Jimmy Olivieri's son. He's a bigshot lawyer from the city."

"All right, then."

"I'm not a lawyer," I try to say, but I'm cut off by Ernie's insistence that I'm a lawyer.

My dad leaves through the front of the bar, shaking his head, and walks across the street to the barbershop.

A shot of blackberry brandy and a Coors light land in front of me. Ernie quaffs his and turns to me. I look down at my stomach, which is still digesting an omelet and hash browns. I can't help myself but to say "Ooof!" and scrunch my face up.

Ernie laughs a loud cackle and slaps me hard on the back. I sip a couple more times and try to blend in with the morning drinkers.

My dad returns after a short time, and we decide to hit the fleas market. We say our good-byes to Ernie, and he hollers out to us, "All right! You boys know where I am. Come on by anytime."

My dad switches on his truck radio and yowls, "Oh my God! Paul Harvey, again! How could we be so unlucky? Twice in one morning!" and he cuts the radio off.

As we're parking the truck in the dirt lot at the fairgrounds, a guy with gray hair and glasses walks in front of us. My dad rolls down his window and shouts, "Get out of the way, you old fuck!" The man looks up from his reverie and sidesteps out of the spot.

"Who is he?" I ask. I figured it had to be one of my dad's friends or he wouldn't talk to him like that.

"I don't know," he answers. "Some old bastard."

"He's probably very near your age," I correct him.

"Hell, he's probably ten years younger," he corrects.
me. "It doesn't mean he's not old," he says straining against the steering wheel.

I concede the point and we walk into the flea market.

While sifting through the heaps of debris, my dad seems driven in his pursuit. We make jokes about the useless junk that people bring out in hopes of pawning it off on some other fool.

"Hey, did you need some more crap?" my dad asks me.

"Oh, no thanks," I answer. "But, there's a lovely pile of crap over here that you might want."

"Well, look at that," he points out in astonishment. "Craptastic!" I exclaim and let out a short whistle.

"More crap." He sticks the tiny flag in the dirt and pulls a few weeds before opening a beer and sitting down. I sit and have a beer too.

He tells a story that I've heard a hundred times but still enjoy. "When I was in high school, I opened up a drawer in the garage," he says, talking about our first house that his parents left him. The one he grew up in.

"And all these beers come rolling out. I say to the old man, 'Hey, you're not supposed to be drinking. The doctor says you can't have beer anymore. Mom will have your ass if she finds these,' and the old man says to me, 'They're not mine, asshole. I took them out of your car.' I must've just left a beer here and a beer there after coming home from parties. The Old Man grabbed them off my floorboard and hid them so my mom wouldn't have a conniption."

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**Actual patient**

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"Elvis Presley" printed in large type beneath his face. He sticks the tiny flag in the dirt and pulls a few weeds before opening a beer and sitting down. I sit and have a beer too.

He tells a story that I've heard a hundred times but still enjoy. "When I was in high school, I opened up a drawer in the garage," he says, talking about our first house that his parents left him. The one he grew up in.

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**Actual patient**
I never knew either of his parents. They both died before I was born, but I knew that “the old man” was named Big Jim, and my dad went by “Little Jim.” My dad was adopted, which caused a little bit of separation between him and the rest of his family. He always said, “Aw, to hell with ’em. They don’t want me, I don’t want them.”

He didn’t get along well with his mother, but he was definitely his father’s son. He picked up drinking and smoking from his dad. He also picked up a work ethic. “The old man worked every day of his life except one week a year when we went on vacation. His dad, your grandpa to provide for his family. He went out and got a job. He worked until the day of his life except one day. He was adopted, which caused a little bit of separation between him and the rest of the family. He went by “Little Jim.” My dad was named Big Jim, and my dad went by “Little Jim.”

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on, more people filter in from their dusty jobs of building fences, plumbing, and laying asphalt. Each stops by my dad to say hello and shake hands. He introduces us, “This is my boy Tony and his friend Jess.” I lose track of all the names, I lose track of who’s who. They all wear jeans, ball-caps, or cowboy hats. They all wear boots, even the women; I’m the only one in sandals. “What the hell are those?” is a popular question that my dad cuts off with “He’s from San Diego. Just up visiting.”

He talks with his friends, and they tease each other about being rich. If somebody bitches about the price of gas or beer or car parts, my dad always yells out, “If I had your money, John, I’d burn mine!”

“Olivieri, you’re richer than all of us. Why don’t you just buy this place and let us hang out here.” They look to me to confirm their suspicions. “Oh, yeah,” I say. “The old man has coffee cans full of money buried in the yard.”

The crowd erupts at that one with shouts of “See! I told you!” and “You can’t bullshit us, Jimmy. The kid knows all your secrets.”

After a few more cold ones I get comfortable with the deerheads on the wood-paneled wall and the overpowering smell of hot dogs. My dad goes out the back door to have a smoke. Jess and I meander through the people and spot some guys our age. Jess knows them pretty well because he’s lived here his whole life. They aren’t familiar to me because I took off right after high school.

We sit and drink and talk. We talk about .40 calibers and 9 millimeters, about B.A.R.s and Mini-14s. Aliesha, the bartender, keeps us topped off, and the beer keeps us rambling on — fishing, hunting, trucks. Venison jerky is passed around, and the salty-sweet meat really hits the spot.

I find my dad on the back porch having another cigarette and talk about me leaving. “When’s your flight back?”

“Saturday at 1000 a.m.”

“From here to Sacramento to San Diego.”

“Yes.”

From home to home. We decide to get one last drink before hitting the
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road. We walk back through the bar together, and I can hear the husked words again, “Good kid. Visiting his dad. Jim Olivieri’s son.” — Ollie

He Found the Flower
It was almost noon on Saturday. Occasional breezes made the heat of the sun milder, but the air was still warm enough to annoy me. I had been more comfortable in the car. We were running late for Jenny’s soccer game. I never liked going to the games and already dreaded the lack of shade forcing me to squint, being asked to fetch water bottles for sweaty girls, listening to parents talk about their children’s accomplishments, and trying to find a place to sit away from bugs and boys. At the games I cheered for Jenny and hoped her team would win but thought, look at them out there, fantastically fit, and here I am, fat and bored and on the sidelines.

Pavement met dirt, met grass. As we walked I wondered why Dad had chosen to park as far away from the playing field as was possible. He was late because he’d taken an aerobics class. I was late because I didn’t want to leave the house. He came to get me anyway. Dad insisted that we feel fresh air on our faces. “You should go outside,” he would say. “It’s so beautiful today!”

“Yeah, Dad, I know. We live in San Diego, that’s gonna happen.”

Dad knew I was falling into a funk. I suspected from his comments that he might have seen my poetry—my handwritten bid to rid myself of self-loathing by writing my negative thoughts down on paper. Dad could not understand why I was unhappy.

“What do you have a roof over your head? People who love you? Your health? What’s the problem?” Before my histrionic downward spiral began, my father and I were bound, my father and I were becoming friends.

When I was 12, I announced to my Catholic family that I no longer believed in God. Rather than attempt to prove me wrong, Dad took me chanting at the Siddha Yoga Meditation Center and encouraged me to read Darshan magazine, the Bible, and the Koran. I never made it through the big books, but the magazine’s anecdotes — written by people of different faiths — were easy to digest. Dad found lessons in fortune cookies or the secret to life in a sage’s quotation. Despite his efforts, my unhappiness grew — I compared myself to those around me. I always came up short. In my mind, not looking as good meant not being as good.

Halfway across the empty field, Dad stopped walking and dropped to his knees.

“What are you doing?” I asked, surprised he would knee down in the middle of an empty field.

“Do you not have a roof over your head? People who love you? How’s the problem?” Before my histrionic downward spiral began, my father and I were beginning to understand each other; we were becoming friends.

LOS ANGELES, June 16, 2005
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risk staining his khaki pants. He didn’t answer, which increased my curiosity. “We’re going to be late!” I cried. But still, he was silent, his fingers sifting through the grass before him. He grabbed a weed and carefully plucked it from the ground. “Come closer,” he said. His gaze left the weed and met mine. I peered into his brown eyes and forgot the game. I was at Dad’s side when he returned to his feet. “Look at this,” he said, holding the weed between his thumb and forefinger. “Do you see that?”

“You mean the flower on the end?” I asked. Miniature white petals adorned the top of the raggedy-leaved stem. Dad turned the weed upside-down in his hand so that the stem became the focus of our scrutiny. “And what do you see there?” He asked.

“A weed,” I said. “Look very closely,” he said, holding the weed inches from my eyes. “Do you see all of those tiny hairs that form the fuzz on the stem? And how, when you turn the stem like this in the sunlight, they shine?” I did see it. “You see, Barb, everything in this world is beautiful. Everything. From roses and butterflies to spiders and weeds. You just have to look at things in the right way.” He handed the weed to me and we continued to walk. I fingered the velvety stem while I greeted my mother and found a spot to sit on the grass, far from the centerfield and, thus, all the people. Running my hands over the tips of the green surrounding me, I watched "roses" with long blonde hair and skinny legs sprint back and forth. I remembered the words on the back

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Aspiration?
Journalist.
Dartmouth College, 1936
Notes for “Still Life with Dad,” living room. Any evening. Dominant hue: pale grey-green dollars of the day called “sea foam.”
Business section, New York Journal-American, held open by two hands with long, artistic fingers, just visible at the paper’s edges. From below the Journal-American jut two athletic legs; hairy, but not too; crossed, ankle of the left resting on knee of the right; blue madras Bermuda shorts; old brown loafers, no socks. Make sure shadows are deep, no secondary lights (see Edward Hopper’s Nighthawks).
Include his watercolor? Framed, on wall above lamp; skillful copy of Holiday magazine photo of Virginia City, Nevada, painted one evening, with paper pad propped on knees while sitting in the green chair.
Basement. Three cardboard barrels, two a jumble of books. Auden, both Waugh’s, Wodehouse, Eliot, complete Shakespeare, Frank Sullivan’s Our Times: The ’20s. A volume of photos taken through a microscope, the crystal formations of snowflakes. Two yearbooks: Trinity-Pawling School, 1932; “Bill or Nev”; ice hockey and baseball; aspiration? Journalist. Dartmouth College, 1936: “Bill or Nev”; B.A. English, Delta Kappa Epsilon; college humor magazine.
Third barrel: records,
and talented. I’m very sorry for your loss. Everybody knew him and loved him, right down to the secretaries."
They did? He was? I’m glad to learn that.
— Linda Nevin

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Health and Beauty

Madison Avenue, "The Magazine of New York Advertising," August 1959:
“In this issue... The New York Agency Marketing Director... Bill Nevin, vice president and marketing director, Compton Advertising.” Five full pages, 11 photographs, plus cover photo. Black-and-white shots of white men in white shirts; on the phone with a client; reviewing a marketing plan; discussing details of a campaign presentation; meeting with account managers around a conference table littered with notepads, pencils, coffee, ashtrays; evaluating giveaways to offer with soap, cereal; against a background of canned goods, evaluating product placement on a supermarket’s shelves; business lunch at Le Valois with executives from Procter & Gamble.

“Nevin is a shirtsleeve-type executive who beies the traditional concept of the Ivy League agency executive. As might be expected from his background, he is a good salesman, runs a relaxed but well-organized department and has the perspective to operate in a climate of mutual respect with both clients and the advertising men in the agency…”

“...To insure that Compton’s marketing department is properly manned, Nevin takes on the average of 60 days of interviewing up to 100 applicants to find a man with proper qualifications. ‘He must,’ says Nevin, ‘have wide sales experience and have lived with a P&L statement. And, equally important, he must have demonstrated the ability to communicate with management in writing.’”


Shocking, ice-blue eyes. Gaunt, ashen, stricken face.
Barely audible, “Hi. Go ask them, are they moving me to New York today? Did you bring the suitcase?”

Orderlies later steal suitcase, watch, slippers, pajamas, robe; but leave the volume of classic reportage, Eight Men Out: The Black Sox and the 1919 World Series, with bookmark still in place.

Office lobby, 635 Madison Avenue: Short, curly redhead. Tailored purple suit. Takes one of my hands in both of hers and hangs on. “We’ll miss him here so much. He contributed so much to this business. He was so smart photos. Brittle black-shellac discs; Anita O’Day on the Okeh label; swing bands and crooners. A group of laughing couples, drinks in hand, plopped onto a long couch next to a jukebox; dark-suited men; women in clingy crepe and fat-heeled pumps, corsages; hair upswept like Lana in clingy crepe and fat-suited men; women in hand, piled onto a long table.

Driven ten miles a day. Sits on the hood and roof, then bounces onto the lawn. At night, acorns from the oak trees. Falls, at night, acorns from the oak trees. Falls, at night, acorns from the oak trees.

The Okeh label; swing bands; lac discs; Anita O’Day on the Okeh label; swing bands and crooners. A group of laughing couples, drinks in hand, plopped onto a long couch next to a jukebox; dark-suited men; women in hand, piled onto a long table.

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TOP 10 REASONS TO CALL THE KING

Today, 60 years young, retired from teaching in the classroom, yet still a teacher (and so, a perpetual student) at heart, my dad looks like a monk, a jolly monk, with his face's customary expression set at permanent pious amusement. He still enjoys occasional long, solitary drives, relaxing into rhythms on the road, listening to music, stopping to read, and beholding the landscapes and small towns of our beautiful open country. "I'm heading west," he'll tell my mom, "to sell my first edition of Catcher in the Rye." And once he unloads the valuable volume, to some fellow bibliophile in Ohio, then he'll turn around and come on home. But he takes his time and rarely travels the big highways. He always brings a few good books.

— Geoff Bouvier
“Spanish reggae,” though lyrics are often in “Latin rap with a reggae type of beat,” or describes reggaeton as being similar to influences, originating in Panama. Julio refers to it as “hard-core hip-hop.”

Both of us do the scratching,” says Julio. For anyone who hasn’t been to a club in 20 years, scratching is the sound made when a DJ moves a vinyl record back and forth by hand while the record is playing. You kind of take a person through a ride — you might start off with a bang ([a popular song on the radio]) and then all of a sudden drop in a quick old-school hip-hop mix that brings back memories. We might hit ‘em with one song that’s mostly for the ladies…guys tend to like something that’s more gangsta, like Dr. Dre or Snoop Dogg.

Julio and Porras have picked up at least eight sponsors while marketing their comeback. On average, sponsors contribute around $100 to help pay for promotional flyers and posters and up to $200 of donated items that will be given away at the show. Sponsors include Purepazo No Worries Wear, Lefty’s Tattoo Parlor & Body Piercing, and Connection Point, a store that sells car stereos and televisions.

Most events you go to, they say they’re going to give stuff away, but if you go, you’re lucky if you even see someone holding [a giveaway] like a T-shirt or glow stick. We invent a lot in our events,” says Julio. At their upcoming show, 2000 glow sticks and toys, purchased by the Boyz, will be given to clubgoers along with sponsor giveaways.

The Boyz have spent approximately $5000 in the past two months to pay for flyers, posters, and supplies. Depending on the turnout at Iguanas-Ranas, they stand to make about $500. “We might only make a couple hundred bucks or a thousand, but it’s great exposure. If the club is packed, the management will pay.” The managers of Iguanas-Ranas were unavailable for comment.

Flyers have been passed out at Southwestern College and San Diego State University, and posters have been displayed at all sponsor locations. The Boyz are expecting a diverse crowd. “For all of our events, [our philosophy] is basically ‘mixed drinks, mixed music, and mixed crowd,’” says Julio. “We’ll get some of the local crowd down there, but we’re expecting a lot of San Diegans.”

MC Snatch, who regularly appears on Jammin Z90 (90.3 FM), will be a special guest DJ at the show. Opening acts include DJ Ru, “who’s into beat juggling and scratching,” and the Reggaeton Co-Stars.

Most of the Boyz’s upcoming shows in June will be at La Casa on Third and Revolución in Tijuana, but they hope to perform in San Diego and Los Angeles. They have also received offers to perform at the annual Latin Fest in Long Beach, Calif.

Da Big Boyz Summer Kickoff Party
Friday, June 17
8 p.m. to 5 a.m.
Club Iguanas-Ranas
Third and Revolución
Tijuana
Cost: $6 men; women free
Info: 619-241-3562 or www.dabigboyz.com
Connie’s Cabins—Big Bear
San Diego CA 92108
For fax to 619-897-2400. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.

**BAJA**

*“La Ley del Ranchero” (The Law of the Rancher)* signed by author Iligio Salcedo, Thursday, June 16, 7 p.m., at Tijuana Cultural Center (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Río). Free. 011-52-664-687-9600. (TIJUANA)

The Family Comedy *En Esta Esquina* performed Thursday, June 16, 9 p.m., at El Foro, Jai Alai Place (Avenida Revolución). 619-734-2353. (TIJUANA)

Mainly Mozart Festival 2005, annual musical series continues. Mainly Mozart Festival 2005, June 16, 9 p.m., at El Foro, Jai Alai Place (Avenida Revolución). No cover for women, men $5. 858-278-1878. (TIJUANA)

Sinfonía Juvenil de Tijuana plays at El Foro, Jai Alai Place (Avenida Revolución). Saturday, June 16, 7 p.m., at Tijuana Cultural Center (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Río). $5 U.S. 011-52-664-687-9600. (TIJUANA)

Oscar Chavez and los Morales Trio plan concert on Saturday, June 18, 10 p.m., at El Foro, Jai Alai Palace (Avenida Revolución). 619-734-2353. (TIJUANA)

Take the Train to Tecate when Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association hosts vintage train excursion, Saturday, June 18. Train departs Campo Depot at 10:30 a.m., returns to Campo at 4:30 p.m: Fare: $40 for adults, $20 for those 3-12, free for kids under 3. Reservations: 619-463-7776. (CAMP, TECATE)

Charro Festival with Mexican music, food, entertainment, Sunday, June 18, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., at Cortijo San José. 011-52-664-608-6726. (PLAYAS DE Tijuana)

The Comedy *El Tenorio Comico* may be seen Tuesday, June 21, and 9:30 p.m., at El Foro, Jai Alai Palace (on Avenida Revolución). 619-734-2353. (TIJUANA)

**U.S.-A.-Mexico Relationships and the Mexican Revolution in Baja California* explored when Marco Antonio Santamaria Lopez presents lecture on Wednesday, June 22, 7 p.m., at Tijuana Cultural Center (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, in Zona Río). Free. 011-52-664-687-9600. (TIJUANA)

“Cervantes and Borges” examined when poet David Huerta speaks on Thursday, June 23, 7 p.m., at Tijuana Cultural Center (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Río). Free. 011-52-664-687-9600. (TIJUANA)

**OUTDOORS**

Crape Myrtles are in bloom around San Diego this month through the end of summer. This small, vase-shaped tree blossoms in colors ranging from white or pale pink to lavender, lilac, red, purple, and blue. “Lilac of the South” is one of the nicknames given to this native tree of China because of its popularity in the warmer parts of the U.S.

**SACRAMENTO**

Gaslamp Quarter Walking Tours offered Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, 10 a.m. to noon. Tour guide Gino Lizardi reveals romantic past of restaurant row, presents updates on current building boom. $10. Reservations: 619-239-7215. (GASLAMP QUARTER)

A Night Wildlife Hike is planned in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Friday, June 17. Outing starts at 6 p.m. at end of Park Village Drive. Wear hiking boots, insect repellent, and bring water. Free. 858-484-3199. (LOS PEÑASQUITOS)

Spot Green-Tailed Towhees and many other birds during Audubon Society outing to Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Saturday, June 18, 9 a.m. to early afternoon. Meet just inside entrance to Paso Picacho Campground. Five-mile hike, somewhat strenuous trail hike: 619-280-7710. (CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK)

Explore “Ancient Forests of Palomar Mountain State Park” during seminar led by Anna-Borrego Institute on Saturday, June 18, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Seminar explores several habitat types, botanical identification techniques. Three miles of moderately easy trail hike: 760-445-2425. (PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK)

Rain-Damaged trails have been repaired, and Hellhole Canyon Nature Preserve is open again. Docent-led hike, Saturday, June 18, starting at 9 a.m. in parking lot at corner of Kiavo Drive and Sannte Lane. 760-749-5320. Free. (VALLEY CENTER)

Enjoy a Sunset Solstice Walk along Rose Creek, Saturday, June 18, 6 to 8 p.m. Explore lower creek, bird watch, learn history of

**SOUTHEAST**

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Birding the Marsh, Chula Vista Nature Center hosts guided bird-watching hikes around Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, on Saturday, June 18, 8 a.m., and Sunday, June 19, 11 a.m. Reservations: 619-449-5903. Free. (CHULA VISTA)

A Guided Nature Walk led by trail guide Don Wetzel begins at 9:30 a.m. on June 18, at Tecolote Nature Center (5380 Tecolote Road). 858-581-9961. Free. Bring binoculars and drinking water. Hikes offered third Saturday of each month. (ESCONDIDO)

Tree Time, Offshoot Tours offers hour-long guided tour highlighting various Balboa Park trees Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m., starting at park’s visitors’ center. Free. 619-235-1121. (BALBOA PARK)

Meet Native Plant Lovers and get questions answered when Baena Vista Native Plant Club meets on Sunday, June 19, 2 p.m., at Baena Vista Nature Center (2202 South Coast Highway). 760-439-2473. Free. (OCEANSIDE)

Summer Solstice, the time when the sun reaches its northernmost point in the sky, occurs this year at 11:46 p.m. on Monday, June 20. The summer solstice not only marks the beginning of summer for the Northern Hemisphere; it also means that the daylight hours are maximized. San Diegans now enjoy approximately 14 hours of daylight daily, with the longest day of the year occurring on Monday, June 20.

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of daylight, in contrast to the mean 10 hours or so we experience in December. Anytime this week, try checking your shadow at 12:50 p.m. (the local daylight time in San Diego currently equivalent to astronomical noon). The sun is then only 10 degrees south of the straight-up direction and casts near-vertical shadows. A lesser-known consequence of the summer solstice is that our twilight periods are longer than usual. Evening and morning twilight periods are now lasting more than 90 minutes.

June's Full Moon occurs Tuesday, the 21st, approximately one day after the summer solstice. Watch as it arcs upward into the darkening eastern sky, starting some 15 minutes after the time of sunset. June's full moon has been called the “rose moon,” “strawberry moon,” or “honey moon” because of its tinted color. When seen from a northern latitude such as our own, the June full moon traces a low-lying nightly path across the sky, very similar to the sun's daytime, low-lying path at the winter solstice. At such low positions the moon's light tends to be filtered and reddened by its passage through the atmosphere, producing a warm-tinted color.

Sounds of the Chaparral, naturalist Larry Allen Tonar leads easy three-mile full-moon hike on Creek Crossing and Chaparral trails in Daly Ranch on Tuesday, June 21, 7 p.m. Meet group in main parking lot (on La Honda Drive). Free. Requested reservations: 760-839-4800, x07000.

June's Lowest Tides are for early risers only! Check out the local tidepool life without hordes of other people around. Wednesday, June 22, features a minus-1.7-foot tide at 4:36 a.m. Thursday, June 23, brings a minus-1.8-foot tide at 5:33 a.m., with early dawn light in the sky. Wake up on Friday, June 24, for a minus-1.6-foot tide at 6:11 a.m., with plenty of daylight available.

Grunion Runs are most likely to occur near or after midnight on the mornings of June 24-26. This corresponds to one to two hours after highest nocturnal tide, two to four days after the date of full moon. The small, silver grunion tend to spawn on wide, gently sloping beaches such as Silver Strand, Mission Beach, Pacific Beach, La Jolla Shores, and Del Mar. California law allows the taking of grunion in summer by those possessing a state fishing license. The grunion must be caught by the hands only and should be eaten (not wasted).

Marine Memorial Garden Visit hosted by Buena Vista Native Plant Club, Saturday, June 25, 10 a.m. Bob Warrick has created garden over one acre in size. Garden is next to NCO Club (on South Mesa) at Camp Pendleton; guards will direct drivers. Have driver's license, proof of registration and insurance to show. Free. 760-439-4743. (OCEANVIEW)

DANCE

Indulge Your “Inner Dancing Diva” whether you’re a “big, beautiful woman” or not, during class led by two “big, beautiful belly-dance instructors,” Thursday, June 16, 6 p.m., at Great Curves Plus-Size New and Resale Shop (2792 Lytton Street). $10. 619-224-9174 (Monday). Calling All Jitterbugs, Cafe-Savoy Swing Productions hosts swing dance party with musical tribute to Ray Charles and Joe Williams by Big Mo Band, Thursday, June 16, 9 p.m. to midnight, at Firehouse YMCA Community Center (7877 Herschel Avenue). Swing lesson at 8 p.m. $10. All ages. 858-395-4606. (SA AN)

Contradance to Cobblestone's Music and calling by Steve Barlow on Friday, June 17, 8 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church (3030 Thorn Street). Beginner’s workshop at 7:30 p.m. $7. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. (PORTER)
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    - 2 Welcome Drinks at NY Jazz Bar.

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**FILM**

Madcap Heirs, Refudled Zoologist, Pet Leopard — Garden Cabaret showcases Howard Hawks’ flick Bringing Up Baby, Thursday through Saturday, June 16–18, 8:30 p.m. Catch the classic starring Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant at 4480 Goldfinch Street. $12. 619-295-4221. [MISSION HILLS]

**LOCAL EVENTS**

**TRAVEL BUDDIES**

Michael Konik and dog Ella read and sign Ella in Europe at Warwick’s Bookstore on Thursday, June 23. (SEE IN PERSON)

**LECTURES**

“Conquering Carthage: Interpretation and Representation of Roman-Era Africa” is subject when SDSU art professor Antonio Minardi speaks for “Art in the Afternoon” series at Timken Museum of Art on Thursday, June 16, 1:30 p.m. Free. 619-239-5548. [BROOKS PARK]

Work Focusing on Public Art is specialty of Barbara Stauffacher Solomon, speaker for series co-sponsored by American Society of Landscape Architects and Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Thursday, June 16, 7 p.m. Find the museum at 790 Prospect Street. $15. Reservations: 619-283-8818. [LA JOLLA]

“Introduction to Touch,” learn of “specialized touches and movement exercises to improve your pet’s self-confidence and reduce various stress behaviors” during Happy Hour Lecture, Thursday, June 16, 6 p.m., at San Diego Humane Society (5500 Gaines Street). $10. Reservations: 619-243-3424. No pets. (DOWNTOWN)

Creative Writing Workshop led by author, creativity coach Jill Badonsky on Thursday, June 16, 7 p.m., at Book Works (Flower Hill Mall, 2670 Via de la Valle). Triggers, writing prompts, tricks.

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**Music and Film**

**FILM**

*Mar Adentro/The Sea Inside,* Alejandro Amenabar’s 2004 exploration of life and the hereafter, is featured for Sunday Matinee on June 19, 2 p.m., at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). Free. 619-236-3800. In Spanish with English subtitles. (DOWNTOWN)

*Stories de la Frontera* was produced by journalist Laura Casarini, 2004 film exploring the lives of Chicanos in Viet Nam, of “specialized touches and movement exercises to improve your pet’s self-confidence and reduce various stress behaviors” during Happy Hour Lecture, Thursday, June 16, 6 p.m., at San Diego Humane Society (5500 Gaines Street). $10. Reservations: 619-243-3424. No pets. (DOWNTOWN)

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**SUNSET CLIFF MINERAL SPA**

Immerse your body, mind, and soul in a rejuvenating experience of a different kind. Our signature services include: Mineral Bath, Mud Facial, Aromatherapy, Body Wrap, 1-hr. massage (LINDA VISTA)

**Music and Film**

**FILM**

*Mar Adentro/The Sea Inside,* Alejandro Amenabar’s 2004 exploration of life and the hereafter, is featured for Sunday Matinee on June 19, 2 p.m., at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). Free. 619-236-3800. In Spanish with English subtitles. (DOWNTOWN)

*Stories de la Frontera* was produced by journalist Laura Casarini, 2004 film exploring the lives of Chicanos in Viet Nam, of various stress behaviors” during Happy Hour Lecture, Thursday, June 16, 6 p.m., at San Diego Humane Society (5500 Gaines Street). $10. Reservations: 619-243-3424. No pets. (DOWNTOWN)

Creative Writing Workshop led by author, creativity coach Jill Badonsky on Thursday, June 16, 7 p.m., at Book Works (Flower Hill Mall, 2670 Via de la Valle). Triggers, writing prompts, tricks.

**LOCAL EVENTS**

**TRAVEL BUDDIES**

Michael Konik and dog Ella read and sign Ella in Europe at Warwick’s Bookstore on Thursday, June 23. (SEE IN PERSON)

**LECTURES**

“Conquering Carthage: Interpretation and Representation of Roman-Era Africa” is subject when SDSU art professor Antonio Minardi speaks for “Art in the Afternoon” series at Timken Museum of Art on Thursday, June 16, 1:30 p.m. Free. 619-239-5548. [BROOKS PARK]

Work Focusing on Public Art is specialty of Barbara Stauffacher Solomon, speaker for series co-sponsored by American Society of Landscape Architects and Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Thursday, June 16, 7 p.m. Find the museum at 790 Prospect Street. $15. Reservations: 619-283-8818. [LA JOLLA]

“Introduction to Touch,” learn of “specialized touches and movement exercises to improve your pet’s self-confidence and reduce various stress behaviors” during Happy Hour Lecture, Thursday, June 16, 6 p.m., at San Diego Humane Society (5500 Gaines Street). $10. Reservations: 619-243-3424. No pets. (DOWNTOWN)

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“Sailing to the Far Horizon: The Restless Journey and Tragic Sinking of a Tall Ship” is both a book’s title and topic for lecture by its author, Pam Bitterman, when Sierra Club meets on Friday, June 17, 7:30 p.m., in auditorium of San Diego Zoo’s Otto Center (left of zoo’s main entrance). 619-585-3773. Free. (BALBOA PARK)

“Modern Magick,” James Agnew on “how to apply magick to modern life” for Cadent Cross Institute, Friday, June 17, 7 p.m., in Canyonview Clubhouse of Sleepy Hollow Apartments (4201 Sixth Avenue). Free. Registration: 619-239-2897. (HILLCREST)

Why Are Corporations Allowed to Make Political Contributions if the government is ‘we the people?’ Susan Lerner, executive director of California Clean Money Campaign, speaks on importance of publicly funded elections on Saturday, June 18, 1 p.m., at Coronado Library (640 Orange Avenue). Free. 800-566-3780. (CORONADO)

“The Art of Funding Your Films: Alternative Financing Concepts” offered by Carole Dean on Saturday, June 18, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Media Arts Center San Diego (921 25th Street). $35 general. Registration: 619-230-1938 x101. (GOLDEN HILL)

What Is a “Just War”? Who decides? Consider issues at ecumenical panel discussion with Buddhist Ping Au-Yeung, Muslim Sharif Battikhi, Anglican Scott Richardson, Roman Catholic Norbert Rigali, Unitarian Arvid Straube, and Mennonite Lace Watkins. Discussion is 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 18, at Saint Paul’s Cathedral (2728 Sixth Avenue). $15. Reservations: 619-948-2462. (MIDTOWN)

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- Delivery of clean, sanitized spa
- Fill and operation demo
- Drain and pick up when you’re done

For information on the day you plan to visit, please call (619) 661-7373 in San Diego County, (714) 220-5200 in Orange County or (760) 327-0499 in Palm Springs or visit us online at knotts.com.

Pacific Spin has touched down at Soak City in San Diego. Blast down a 132-foot long ramp into the large, open end, splashing back and forth on over 5,000 gallons of swirling water. Then shoot through the mouth of the funnel, under a waterfall and into the catch pool for a cool splash landing. Experience Pacific Spin, a new twist on wet and wild thrills.

New Ride in ‘05

CAUTION: Thrilling when wet.

Present this coupon at any Knott’s Soak City ticket window to receive $8 off each adult ticket (regular price $25.95). Valid any day Knott’s Soak City is open to the public and regular tickets are on sale. Cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. Coupon is not valid for special ticket events. Offer available only at Knott’s Soak City Water Parks in San Diego, Buena Park or Palm Springs. Limit 6 discounts per coupon. Hours, prices, promotions and attraction availability are subject to change without notice. Valid through the end of the 2005 operating season. #1685
June 18, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at REI (5556 Copley Drive). $55 non-members. Registration: 888-586-7726. ($2556 Copley Drive). Free. 619-691-9774. (Copley Drive) 

“Successful Aging and You: Let’s Think Differently About Aging” discussed Saturday, June 18, 10:30 a.m., at Chula Vista Library (365 F Street). Free. 619-691-9774. (Copley Drive) 

“Marriage, Sexuality, and Relationships” examined when Humanist Fellowship meets Sun- 

day, June 19, 2 p.m., on third floor of San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). Free. 619-670-4139. (E Street)

“Ploral Secrets of the Chaparral” revealed when ecologist Richard W. Haley speaks for San Diego Floral As- 
sociation on Tuesday, June 21, 7 p.m., in room 101 of Casa del Prado. Owner- 
s of Rusty Acres Farm in Rainbow, John Allen (owner of Rancho Jojoba Nurseries) plan presentations. Free. 619-232-5762. (E Street)

The San Diego County Plant Atlas project was created by the San Diego Natural History Mu- 

seum to scientifically document the floristic diversity of the county. Museum botany curator Jon Reb- 

man speaks about the project on Tuesday, June 21, 7:30 p.m., in Casa del Prado room 104. Free. 619-685-7321. (E Street)

“Wonderful Wood Warblers” explored during classes (Tuesday, June 21, Thursday, June 23) and field trip (June 23) hosted by San Diego Natural History Museum. 869 fee in- 
cludes van transportation for outing. 619-235-2023. (E Street)

“Reclaiming Your American Dream” presented by Will Matte on Wednesday, June 22, 5:30 p.m., at Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park). $25. 888-376-2025. (LINDA VISTA)
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A GUIDE TO UNEXPECTED SAN DIEGO AND BEYOND | BY JERRY SCHAD

San Diego County is riddled with edges or “ecotones” — boundaries between different geographic regions or ecological habitats. Ecotones harbor great biological diversity and often feature spectacular scenery, especially when the transition from one type of landscape to another is abrupt. Ecotones abound at the ocean’s edge, where coastal sage scrub converges into coastal strand or rocky shore habitat and that in turn grades into the intertidal zone. Another major ecotone snaks its way along the mountainous desert landscape south of the county — the top of the Peninsular Ranges some 40-50 miles inland. In places, a strip of land just a few hundred feet wide separates cool temperate forested areas from steeply plunging slopes falling straightway to the desert floor. A 40-minute stroll through pine woods and wildflower chaparral in the Laguna Mountains takes you to Monument Peak, smack dab on the mountain desert ecotone. A small cluster of communication antennas rests on Monument Peak, a testament to the mountain’s strategic geographic position. Few hikers come this way as a result, the shortest route to the summit is obscure and requires a bit of navigational attention.

From San Diego drive east on Interstate 8 to Sunrise Highway, and follow Sunrise Highway north about ten miles to mile 29.2 (according to the small green highway mile markers posted every half mile). Park off the pavement on the right (east) side of the road, and start walking uphill on the signed Big Laguna Trail. Initially, you traverse an area dotted with aspen, pines and black oaks that was spared in both the 2002 Pines Fire and the 2003 Cedar Fire conflagrations. Proceed 0.5 mile uphill to a junction with the Pacific Crest Trail. Turn left, and continue moderately uphill, counting your paces as you go. After about 800 steps, you get a glimpse of microwave antennas ahead. This is an important clue. At the next sharp leftward bend in the trail, keep going straight on an informal path up the rocky slope, the path bends to the right and you clamber up to and around a fenced laser-research facility to join a paved access road that is closed to public automotive traffic.

Follow that road to Monument Peak’s summit, where the vista of earth and sky spreads incredibly far and wide, particularly around the beginning and the end of each clear day. Early in the day, the sun vaults above a bluish horizon shaped by Arizona Peaks, late in the afternoon, Laguna Mountain shadows lengthen across the floor of the Anza-Borrego Desert, racing towards Franck, San-Saens, Schubert promised when CantA-more Choruses performs Sunday, June 19, 7 p.m., at First Montgomery Church of San Diego (1111 Camino del Rio South). $10. 858-755-3239 (MISSION VALLEY).

Ronda Vincent and the Raga quartet performs in residence at the Paloma Theatre on Sunday, June 19, 7 p.m., at La Paloma Theatre (471 South Coast Highway 101). Tickets $20 in advance, $24 at door. 760-436-7469. (ENCINITAS).

Sundays at Six, summer concert by Peter Rutman Blues and Jazz Band on June 19, 6-9 p.m., at Harry Griffin Park Amphitheater (9550 Middletown Street). Free. 619-667-1116. (LA MESA)

Dixieland Jazz Concert and Dance with music by South Bay Jazz Rambler, Sunday, June 19, 1-5 p.m., at Elks Lodge (2260 Washington Avenue). Tickets: $10 general, $5 for those under 22. 619-287-5277. (EL CAJON)

Music in the Park, summer concert series starts with Sue Palmer’s Motel Swing Band, Sunday, June 19, 4 p.m., at Montgomery Park at the Bow (253 Park Way). Free. 619-585-5682. (DOWNTOWN)

12th Annual Lipinsky Jewish Arts Festival concludes with “Klemer Symposium” on Monday, June 20, 7:30 p.m., at Lyceum Theatre. Program includes performances by Bobby Rodriguez, Alexander Gourevitch, cast of For- ever Plaid. $32. (ENCINITAS) 619-544-1000. (DOWNTOWN)

Hymn Classics performed by Tim Zimmerman and the King’s Brass, Monday, June 20, 7 p.m., at Foothills United Methodist Church (4031 Avocado Boulevard). $10. 619-670-4009. (LA MESA)

Avant-Garde Summer Series showcases poet and mixed-media artist Michael Klam and Group, Tuesday, June 21, 7 p.m., in Nasatir Hall room 100 at San Diego State University. $5. 619-594-4426. (SDSU)

The Twilight in the Park Summer Concerts start with performances by John Perry, Tuesday, June 21, at Marine Band San Diego (Wednesday, June 22); and Yocahan Sebastian Wimian and his band Klaw perform tunes by Rabbil Shlomo Karbach (Thursday, June 23). Concerts run from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. in Spreckels Organ Pavilion. Free. 619-239-0512. (BALBOA PARK)

Travel Buddies, a journey through Europe with his dog Ella is chronicled in Michael Klam’s book Ella in Europe: An American Day’s International Adventure. Duo visits Warren Books (7112 Girard Avenue) to “discuss and sign” their work, Thursday, June 23. Free. 858-454-8347. (LA JOLLA)

M.D. and Author Nick Yphantides signs his book Big Fat Greek Diet, Thursday, June 23, 7-9 p.m., at Barnes and Noble Bookstore (1040 North El Camino Real). $7. 760-943-6400. (ENCINITAS)

The Insomniac Tour led by Dave Attell and Dane Cook hits town on Friday, June 24, 7:30 p.m., at Copley Symphony Hall (750 B
We would love to extend a special invitation to introduce you to The Open Door Wellness Center. Come and join us in our joyful celebration as we present a multimedia showcase of music, entertainment, food, and self-expressed merriment. Don't miss the opportunity to sample the healing services of our extraordinary practitioners.

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10 am-4 pm Practitioners will be offering services as a gift to our community
4-5:15 pm Soul of Yoga Kirtan Café Music
5:15-6 pm Fun and fare
6-7 pm Music and entertainment
7-8:15 pm Fun and fare
8:15-8:45 pm Fire dancing and drumming with Alex Dial and friends

Donna Loftin, Quantum Biofeedback Practitioner
Lindsay Duff, Expressive Arts Therapist, Medical Intuitive and Artist
Rusty Loftin, Massage Therapist
Jenny Pao, Quantum Energetics Structured Therapy
Tamara Messenger, Awareness Coach, Teacher and Healer
Lora Sorg, Intuitive and Spiritual Counselor
Lilly Satterfield, Psychic Astrologer
Christa Orecchio, Marketing Director and Yoga Instructor
Julieann Myers, LCSW, CACLLL, MAC, Social Worker, EMDR
Kevin Whelan, Transformational Intuitive Readings

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Mariachi Showcase and Festival
(Mariachi Showcase and Festival) (SDSU) Diego State University. The 8 p.m., in Smith Recital Hall at San Lotfi, performs Saturday, June 25, Pops in Moonlight, School (1174 East J Street). $10 place at Rancho del Rey Middle Vista, Mariachi Chapultepec, many concerts on Sunday, July 10, Symphony plans summer pops improvisations from classical Per- Hernandez taking stage at 5 p.m. and Sunday, June 18, 7 to 10 p.m. Fee: 1.5-mile fun walk, is Saturday, Easter Seals Walk with a 1.5-mile fun walk, is Saturday, June 18, at Del Mar Horsepark (14550 El Camino Real). Registration ($25) starts at 7 a.m. 619-400-8166. (DOWNTOWN)

Easter Seals Walk with a, six and 19, at Del Mar Horsepark (14550 El Camino Real): 857-794-1171. (DOWNTOWN)

Father's Day Beach Party and Menehune Surf Classic hosted by Fathers Resource Center, Sunday, June 19, at Moonlight Beach (at foot of Encinitas Boulevard). Competition for children 12 and under, with a father/child tandem division. Live music (from 10 a.m.), booths (8 a.m.), all kinds of entertainment. 760-721-7700. Admission is free, entry fee for contests. (ENCINITAS)

Electons take place at Rancho del Rey Middle School (1174 East J Street). $10

A 50-Mile Ride with “Short Hills” promised when San Diego Bi-cycle Touring Society bicyclists head out for Del Mar, Del Dios, Escon- dido, and Poway from Doyle Park (8175 Regents Road at Nobel Drive) on Saturday, June 18, 8:45 a.m. 858-452-8226. Free. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

Naked Juice 5K Walk/Run benefiting San Diego Blood Bank is Saturday, June 18, 8:30 a.m., in Embarcadero Marina Park North.

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Two Bicycle Races are offered every Saturday, rain or shine, start- ing at 8:30 a.m. in northeastern parking lot at La Jolla Village Square/UC Cyclery. Select from race-training 45-mile ride, slower 35-mile ride with experienced leader. Helmets mandatory. Free. 858-495-2454. (LA JOLLA)

Starting at 8 a.m. 619-400-8166. (DOWNTOWN)

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Reasons to Celebrate with Hornblower

Hornblower’s June Cruises and Special Events

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>In honor of our 25th Anniversary, every guest on a June Nightly Sunset Dinner Cruise receives a FREE TICKET for our new one-hour Harbor Cruise &amp; Sea Lion Adventure</td>
<td>Harbor Cruises with Sea Lion Adventure Begins</td>
<td>Every Friday All Summer</td>
<td>Sunset Dinner Cruises with Live Music From The Aubrey Faye Band</td>
<td>This exciting Dinner Cruise features a fun blend of Motown, Blues and Jazz. Experience the best of San Diego with spectacular harbor views, gourmet cuisine and impeccable service all aboard an elegant yacht.</td>
<td>Weekends</td>
<td>&quot;Lobster Onboard&quot;</td>
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<td>Father's Day Cruise</td>
<td>Treat Dad to a Hornblower Brunch or Dinner Cruise.</td>
<td>1st Day of Summer</td>
<td>Full Moon Dinner Cruise</td>
<td>Champagne Brunch Cruises</td>
<td>Weekends</td>
<td>Father's Day Cruises</td>
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Nightly Sunset Dinner Cruises
Champagne Brunch Cruises
Daily Sightseeing Harbor Cruises
Sea Lion Adventure Cruises
Father's Day Cruises
Graduation Celebrations
Weddings & Corporate Events

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10/2 Green Day
9/10 Bill Cosby
8/28 Doobie Brothers
8/26 Coldplay
8/25 Dave Matthews
8/24 Donna Summer
8/15 Amy Grant
8/12 Dana Carvey
8/7 Clint Black

7/30-7/31 Dora The Explorer
10/2 Green Day
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8/15 Amy Grant
8/12 Dana Carvey
8/7 Clint Black

San Diego Art Institute continues “Grand Ballroom” at the Prado.
“TeleMagica Music and Arts Festival,” described as “a gathering of bands, artists, opera, poets, and people of all kinds to ignite the world,” takes place Saturday and Sunday, June 18 and 19, at Institute of Perception (1 Railroad Street). Camping and bonfires allowed; hot springs available for use. Fee: $20 per day, free for those under 14. 619-766-9227.
2005 Spring Harvest Fair, this year’s throbbing bee and antique engine and tractor show at Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum is June 18, 19, 25, and 26. Blacksmith and wheelwright demonstrations, grist and sawmill operations, vintage skills, along with food, gifts, music, train rides, displays of antique cars and steam engines.
Find the museum at 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Admission: $5 for adults, $3 for those 6 to 12, and free for kids under 6. 619-760-1971. (VISTA)

JUNIETHEEN

AIDS, June 17–19, at Scottish Rite Auditorium, offering jewelry, gems, minerals, June 17–19, at Scottish Rite Masonic Temple (1895 Camino del Rio South). Hours: noon to 7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. 8300. 619-262-8384.

Art Around Adams, enjoy “spring art around Adams” Avenue (from Hamilton Street to Bonita Drive) on Saturday, June 18, 6 to 10 p.m. Performances, open galleries, artists on hand. Free. 619-233-0532.

Dance the Spinossa at Market Street” by Isaac Bashvies Singer when Great Books Reading and Discussion Group gathers on Saturday, June 18, 2 p.m., in third-floor conference room, San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). 838-755-8978. Free; newcomers welcome. (DOWNTOWN)

Taste of Gaslamp, more than 20 locations offer samples of food during self-guided tours, Saturday and Sunday, June 18 and 19, to 4:30 p.m. Tickets: $25 per day, $40 for both days. Suggested reservations: 619-293-5227 (gaspull quarter)

More than 70 Wooden Boats take part in 15th annual Wooden Boat Festival, June 18 and 19, at Koshler Kraft boathouse (2302 Shelter Island Drive). Steamboat rides, variety of boats to tour, knot-tying lessons, maritime mural painting, seminars (boat restoration techniques), exhibitions, rope work and knot tying for kids, demonstrations (boat building), food.

Festival opens at 9 a.m., closes at 5 p.m. on Saturday, 4 p.m. on Sunday. Admission: $5 for adults, free for those under 12. 619-952-8037. (SHELTER ISLAND)

“TeleMagica Music and Arts Festival,” described as “a gathering of bands, artists, opera, poets, and people of all kinds to ignite the world,” takes place Saturday and Sunday, June 18 and 19, at Institute of Perception (1 Railroad Street). Camping and bonfires allowed; hot springs available for use. Fee: $20 per day, free for those under 14. 619-766-9227.

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Find the museum at 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission: $5 general, $3 for those 6 to 12, and free for kids under 6. 619-741-1971. (VISTA)

Drumming Circle for drumming yourself into alignment with the rhythms of the universe,” Saturday, June 18, 7 p.m., at Philosophical Library (507 South Escondido Boulevard). $5. 760-745-2724. (ESCONDIDO)

Master Gardeners’ Sale, Saturday, June 18, in room 101 of Casa del Prado. 619-239-0512. (BALboa Park)

Seventh Annual Old House Fair on Saturday, June 18, runs 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on 14th and Beech Streets. Antique appraisals, vendors, historic home tour (fee), live music, design consultations. Free admission. 619-233-6679. (SOUTH PARK)

“Ride With Pride,” Therapeutic Equestrian Activity Center for handicapped hosts “Ride With Pride” on Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 12152 Moreno Avenue (at Willow Road). Stu-
dents present riding skills demonstrations. Food, silent auction. Don-
ation: 619-396-2025. (LAJUEDEESE)

Tea Tasting with Michael Figggs, exploring characteristics and elements of teas, on Saturday, June 18, 2 to 4 p.m., at Calife Cali-
baria (3933 35th Street). Free. 619-291-1759. (NORTH PARK)

Veterans for Peace honor U.S. military who have died in Iraq since March 2003, installing over 1600 crosses in lawn at Collier Park (500 6th Street) for “Arling-
ton West” event on Saturday, June 18, noon to 4 p.m. Free. 619-233-0671. (BAYAREA)

The House of Finland hosts lawn program at House of Pacific Relations, Sunday, June 19, 2 p.m. Free. 619-234-0739. (BALboa PARK)

Stamp-Collecting Show, stamp and cover dealers offer wares, Sun-
day, June 19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Al Bahr Shrine Temple (3440 Kearny Mesa Road). Free. 619-469-3337. (KEARNY MESA)

San Diego Book Award Winners will answer questions about “the writing and publishing of these au-
thors’ works,” when San Diego Writers/Editors Guild meets on Monday, June 20, 6:30 p.m., at Joyce Beers Community Center (1280 Vermont Street). $5. 760-471-3523. (MILLERS)
THE GIFT
"He gave her class. She gave him sex."  
— Katharine Hepburn on Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers

The Gambler
The gambler knows nothing more addictive than deception. With the chance that the betrayed one, the spouse or the State, is pretending or consenting to be deceived for motives of vanity or greed not different from his own, leaving him with a choice to make between his mistress and his self-respect— which may be why the ideal reader of Graham Greene’s novels went to a parochial school, was married and divorced, has lived abroad in Europe or Asia, plays in a weekly small-stakes poker game, works for a newspaper, lives for a living.

When a Woman Loves a Man
When she deems herself the proper one, she means mercenary. And when she says, “I’ll never speak to you again,” she means, “Put your arms around me from behind and I stand disconsolate at the window.”

When a Man Loves a Woman
When a man loves a woman he is in New York and she is in Virginia. When she is in New York, reading, or is wearing a sweater and sunglasses in Balboa Park and he is raising leaves in Tahiti or he is driving to East Hampton and she is standing disconsolate by the window overlooking the bay where a regatta of many-colored sailboats is going, while he is stuck in traffic on the Long Island Expressway.

When a Woman Loves a Man
When a woman loves a man it is one-ten in the morning she is asleep he is watching the ball scores and eating pretzels drinking lemonade and two hours later he wakes up and stegers into bed where she remains asleep and very warm.

When a Woman Loves a Man
When a woman loves a man, she wants to swim naked in the stream on a glorious July day with the sound of the waterfall like a cloudbank of water rushing over smooth rocks, and there is nothing alien in the universe.

Ripe apples fall about them. What else can they do but eat?

When he says, “Ours is a transitional era,” “that’s very original of you,” she replies, dry as the marlin he is sipping.

They fight all the time. It’s fun. Do I owe you? Let’s start with an apology. Oh, I’m sorry, you did, didn’t you? A sign is held up saying “Laughter.” It’s a silent picture.

“I’ve been fucked without a kiss,” she says, “and you can quote me on that,” which sounds great in an English accent.

One year they broke up seven times and threatened to do it another nine times.

When a woman loves a man, she wants him to meet her at the airport in a foreign country with a jeep.

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Reading

Two Trains Running

FROM THE DUST JACKET: Electricly, compelling, and ultimately terrifying, Two Trains Running is a galvanizing evocation of that moment in our history when the violent forces that would determine America's future were just beginning to roll below the surface.

Once a devastated mill town, by 1959 Locke City has established itself as a thriving center of vice tourism. The city is controlled by boss Royal Beaumont, who took it by force many years ago and has held it against all comers. Now his domain is being threatened by an invading crime syndicate. But in a town where crime and politics are virtually indiscernible, there are other players awaiting their turn onstage. Emmett Till's lynching has inflamed a nascent black revolutionary movement. A neo-Nazi organization is preparing for a race war. Juvenile gangs are locked in a bitter feud over territory. And there's a terrifying, compelling, and ultimately page-turning novel from Andrew Vachss about Brooklyn, a neighborhood that could destroy more than his career. Even the most innocent love story may end in death or as ornaments in death. Two Trains Running begins on September 28, 1959, at 9:22 in the evening and ends on October 13, 1959, at 9:22 in the evening.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR: "The first question everybody is going to ask about the new book is, 'Where is Burke and why is Burke not in Two Trains Running?'"

"I don't know how to respond to that question," Mr. Vachss said. "I don't have an obligation to produce Burke novels on any regular basis. There are other things that I want to do, and Burke isn't a suitable vehicle to do them. It's not any more complicated than that. In order to accomplish what I wanted to accomplish with this book, a Burke book isn't the right tool for the job. There will be more Burke books. It isn't as if I had to choose between the two. I've actually been working on this book for years and years and years, night through the Burke books."


ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Andrew Vachss is the author of many novels and of two collections of short stories. He has written for Parade, Antaeus, Esquire, Playboy, and The New York Times, among other publications. He divides his time between New York City and the Pacific Northwest.


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Reading

“it’s literally 14 days.”
How did you happen to set the book in this way?

“The only way only to do what I wanted to do was to be a jour-

nalist, so that I’m giving you surveillance logs.”
Mr. Vachus, who has written elsewhere that he has “always regarded himself more as a journalist than a novel-

ist,” explained that these “logs” allowed him to compress the ongoing action, or acts, leaving “no rest” between one act and the next.

“You don’t have that leaden exposition; it’s all hap-

pening at the same time, so that if you go from one set of char-

acters speaking to another set of characters speaking, the time

lapse between them is where the third set of characters could be speaking. So you get the sense that it’s all happening at the same

time. Without that I think it wouldn’t have worked. Because you wouldn’t have had to fill in too many gaps.”

“You would have had to write too many green trees and too many long and winding roads.”

— James Ellroy, "L.a.

by Night"

archaeology, education, anthropo-

logy, and fine art. Find the mu-

seum on the Cuyamaca College
campus, 12110 Cuyamaca College
Drive West. 619-670-5194. (084)

Heritage Walk Museum, the museum includes the restored Vic-
torian House, the city’s original
Santa Fe Train Depot, a railroad cafe,
a railroad train, working blacksmith shop, and a barn. Find Heritage Walk in Grape Day Park, at 321 North Broadway; 760-743-
8207. (ESCONDIDO)

John DeWitt Historic Mu-

seum and Library, operated by the
Alpine Historical Society, it is located
in the 1897 home/office of Dr. Sophronia Nichols. She was the first female doctor in the East County. Indian artifacts from the
Kingery family on exhibit. The
museum is located at 2116 Tavern
Road; 619-457-7776. (CARLSBAD)

Mesa Depot Museum, lo-

cated in a restored 1894 wooden
train station, exhibits include orig-
inal telegraph and telephone equip-
ment, pot-bellied coal stove, period furniture. The adjacent freight train display features 1923 steam locomotive, 1937 refrigera-
tor car, restored 1941 caboose. Find the museum at the Mesa
Boulevard and Spring Street. 619-465-7776. (MESA)

Magee House Museum, built
in 1887 and surrounded by rose
gardens, the site includes "one of the last barns still standing in Carlsbad." Docent and self-guided tours. Find Magee House at 258
Beech Street; 760-434-9198. (CARLSBAD)

Museum of History and Art,
ongoing exhibits explore the over-
all history of Canada, Navy and
Army, Tent City, and the Hotel del
Coronado. Find the museum at 1100
Orange Avenue. Call 619-435-7242 for further infor-
amtion. (CORONADO)

Museum of Making Music,
the past 100 years of American music and music making are highlighted at the museum, with over 450 vint-
age instruments, hundreds of au-
dio and video clips, and an inter-
active stage. Find the museum at
5790 Armanda Drive; 619-438-
5906. (CARLSBAD)

Ramona Pioneer Historical
Society and Guy B. Wood-
museum is a complex of historical buildings, including the
Verdugo House, a restored 1894
Western adobe home of French provin-
cial design still in existence), wag-
gone, antique exhibits, and artifacts. There is a cove museum house,
women’s clothing and accessories
from 1700 to 1800, a ranch black-
smith shop and a music western. The
Casey Tibbs Memorial Exhibit is
dedicated to Tibbs, a local resident
who was a world-champion rodeo
rider. The Bancroft Memorial Rose
Garden is on the grounds. Rare docu-
ments, historical exhibits, books,
photographs, and a research re-
search library are also part of the
complex.
Find it all at 633 Main Street.
760-789-7444. (RAMONA)

San Diego Aerospace Mu-

seum, the technological advance-
ments in flight history and propuls-
ion over the last century are show-
cased in “100 Years of Aircraft Engines,”
including a functional reproduc-
tion of the 1903 Wright Flyer Engi-
gine, a Rolls-Royce liquid-cooled
Merlin V-12 that powered the
Spirit of St. Louis and flying
gunners, and a rare German Junkers
Ju-88, one of the first world’s first
operational jet-engines. For more
information, “The History
of Commercial Aviation in
America.” A new section of the ex-
hibit celebrates the 40th year history
of PSA, with original graphics, a
re-creation of the airline’s first
ticket book, a Lindbergh Field, and
uniforms and memorabilia donated by former employees.

“P-51 Mustang,” celebrates the
legendary Air Force fighter used
during both World War II and Ko-

Reed Speedwagon June 17
Independence Jam June 18
Jewel June 18, 19
Half & Odell June 23
Tanya Tucker June 23
Dave Attell June 24
Buddy Guy June 26
Kelly Clarkson June 26
Journey June 26
Dwight Yoakam June 30
Chris Isaak June 30, July
Jay Leno June 30
Lyle Lovett July 3
Loggins & Messina July 7
Billy Ray Cyrus July 7
Rascal Flatts July 15
Alanis Morrisette July 15
Lil’ Kim July 15
Robert Plant July 21
50 Cent/G-Unit, Eminem July 22
Steve Vai July 22
Mark Knopfler July 24
LeAnn Rimes July 27
Augustines July 27
Les Lowery Boys July 31
Celine Dion July 31
CeeLo Green July 31
Bobcat Goldthwait July 31
The Script July 31
ASAP Rocky July 31
Kenny Chesney June 18
Eagles Aug. 7
GiGi Gryns Aug. 17, 18
Clint Black Aug. 7
Tom Petty Aug. 20
Rutles Wainwright Aug. 21
Kenny Chesney June 18
Reading
(continued from page 10)

The Bush Administration literally owning press people.

And it's not just this admin-
istration. One of the things
that I'm most bitter about is anything to do with African genocide, hav-
ing seen it firsthand. Rwanda was
newly an African genocide by
the Clinton Administration. One
of the points of this book is that
it's not Republicans and Demo-
crats. It's rulers and rulers --

"It's class more than color."

"It's absolutely class more than color. And it's a microcosm for what happens interna-
tionally. If you can get tribalism to run
amok that's how -- in Nigeria, for instance -- you sit there and re-

"What I really hope out of
this book is people will read it
and say, 'You know, it's so outra-
geous.' And then a couple of
things will hit them that they
know somewhere dimly in their
minds are actually facts. And
they'll say, 'Hmm.' And they'll
look and they'll look and they'll
look. Because I've constructed
completely plausible scenarios
that I'm not expecting people to
buy. That's my not interest. I'm
expecting it to motivate people
to go and take a closer scrutiny
than they ever did. That's why
this whole book is my ode to
journalism.

"I believe journalism is in
rot, not even decline. And so by
making not a journalist so much
as journalism the hero of the book
and how journalism is the only
thing that really stands
between us and the vanishing
of democracy, I really said what
I wanted to say."

On the website www.
two trainsrunning.com, Mr. Vachss
writes, "Ultimately, TWO TRAINS
is my tribute to the one truth
ful force for progressive social
change, the one reliable
guardian of democracy: inves-
tigative journalism. For
any journalist worthy of the name,
the quest for truth is the ulti-
mate pilgrimage. So, for me,
the success of this book will
be measured not only by
how many questions it raises, but
by how many questioners it
creates."

Mr. Vachss went on to talk
about Internet journalism. "In
the age of Internet journalism,
he said, "you can create fact in
seven or eight seconds. Because
it's transmitted after that, and
you can never trace it back to its
original source."

As for Mr. Vachss' thoughts as
history often is written today, Mr. Vachss
said, "I've got a very good illus-
tion. I was contacted recently
by an historian. This historian is
writing an account of a place and
time where I was a player, which
was an organizing effort in Lake
County, Indiana, when I worked for
Saul Alinsky.

"The historian writes to me,
I left the region and the Calumet
Community Congress, which
was our founding event, to
become the executive director
of the National Center for Urban
Ethnic Affairs. Did we ever meet
or did we just miss each other?
He knows I was there. Every-
body knows I was. He continues,
'I'm now writing my memoirs
and I've got a grant, blah, blah,
blah."

"So I wrote back, 'I entered
the Lake County Region' -- and
I explained how I got there --
to work in October of 1964. An
experience which taught me a
great deal about the roots of the
White Power Movement and produced
friendship which endures to this
day. To the best of my knowl-
edge, our paths never crossed."

"Here's his answer: 'I'm sur-
pised that you have viewed the
Calumet Community Congress
as part of the White Power Move-
ment.' So, I write back and say,
'Where did you get that I viewed
the Calumet Community Congress
as part of the White Power Move-
ment? What I said was that the
experience which taught me a
great deal about the roots of the
White Power Movement and it
did. I chose to work with groups
who had not previously received
any attention from the organiz-
ers. They included, but were not
limited to, people involved with
the American Independent Party.
One of the many things I learned
was that some folks would have
then voted for Robert Kennedy
had he lived to be a candidate were
now backing George Wallace.
Any "messages" I got were not
a matter of my interpretation.
I am a good listener.

'Didn't hear from him again.
But the point is, I never said any-
thing that could be remotely con-
strued as 'The Calumet Com-
unity Congress was part of the
White Power Movement.'

"He then morphs what I said,
tries to lecture me about it,
pushing me in a conform-or-
deny position, because I don't
respond as if I did, when he writes
his stinking little history book,
he's going to have me saying that."

Mr. Vachss, I said, "gets a lot
of this stuff.

He agreed. "I can give you
another example, which is just

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Fossil Hunters San Diego"
shows how museum’s paleontolo-
ists hunt for local fossils — what
they look for, tools they use, how
fossils are excavated and trans-
ported, how they’re prepared and
authenticated; they don’t fact check,
and they don’t confirm. They don’t
do those things.

“You know how they’re always
talking about that ‘window of
opportunity?’ Well, I’m a work-
class boy. I know what that
never means.”

“Do I dare ask you about
why, after almost 15 years with
Knopf, you changed publishers
and went to Pantheon?”

“I believe this was the right
horse for the course. I believe
Pantheon is a wonderful oppor-
tunity for me, and I’m excited
about all that it offers, and I
believe it was exactly the right
house for this book.”

“Your dedicated website
— www.vachss.com — receives
two million hits per year. That’s
amazing.”

Mr. Vachss did not disagree.

“The only question to
‘karma’? Do you know what it
means?”

Mr. Vachss disagreed.

“They’ve got the energy, it’s just
that we’ve lost the constituency.
In other words, there’s a huge
number of people in this coun-
try who were absolutely vehe-
ment about the idea that they’d
been abducted by aliens. There’s
a tremendous number of people
who actually believe that there’s
an alien presence that we’re
being watched by, and you can-
not shake their convictions. But
these are the same people who
won’t question a history book. So,
okay.”

“The alien thing satisfies
needs within them that ques-
tioning history would not. It’s
like the karma people. I got into
a really nasty exchange with
somebody who was talking about
karma, I said, ‘Do you know the
original translation of the word
‘karma?’ Do you know what it
means?’ He said, ‘No.’ I said, ‘It
means bullshit.’ And he said,
“What?”

“[Karma people are] basi-
cally saying that everybody who’s
raped, everybody who’s tortured,
everybody who’s killed, every-
body who’s got AIDS, they some-
how earned that in a previous
life.”

“But the only question to
ask if you’re an intelligent human
being is, ‘Who profits?’ If you
don’t ask who profits by a belief,
by a value system, then you don’t
understand it. Who profits by the
idea of karma? Obviously the
guy in the castle, not the
peasant.

“All is, is a complete abdi-
cation of responsibility. If it’s all
down to karma, what’s with
effort? But it’s comforting, because
takes no effort. All these belief
systems, if you buy into them,
you no longer have to do any-
thing. All you have to do is be.
You are what you do, and if what
you do is nothing, that’s what
you are. Nothing.”

— Judith Moore

San Dieguito Heritage Museum,
the museum offers informative dis-
plays on the North County coastal
history including Native Americans,
early homesteaders, and recent
times, as well as photographic col-
clections and archives. Find the mu-
seum 561 South Vulcan Avenue; 760-632-9711. (SDHFHM)

Serra Museum, “Commemor-
ating 75 Years: The Serra Mu-
seum” is said to “remember the
events leading up to the dedications
of Presidio Park and the Serra Mu-
seum” on July 16, 1929. The ex-
hibit includes a “visit back in time
to 1929.”

The museum interprets the
Native American, Spanish, and
Mexican periods of San Diego’s
history and contains Spanish
Colonial furnishings, art, and
artifacts. It’s located at the site of
the West Coast’s first European settle-
ment, 2727 Presidio Drive. 619-297-3258. (PRESIDIO PARK)

Stephen Birch Aquarium-
Museum, an aquarium and mu-
seum under one roof, the facility is
a component of the Scripps Insti-
tution of Oceanography at UCSD.
Look for 33 tanks containing ma-
rine life of the Pacific Northwest,
the California coastline, Mexico’s
Sea of Cortés, 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 Lynne
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.
(P.BIRCH)

Wells Fargo History Museum,
the museum features a working
agents’ office staffed by guides in
period costumes 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 1880s; an exhibit
of Concord Coach #251, a restored
stagecoach built in 1867; and the
Davies watch. The museum is lo-
cated in the reconstructed Cal-
orado House, at 2733 San Diego
Avenue. (OLD TOWN)

San Diego Run 2005, June 16, 2005 167
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**ART MUSEUMS**

**California Center for the Arts Museum, “Making It: Ten Years of Artist Commissions at California Center for the Arts, Escondido” continues through Monday, July 4. The exhibit examines the intimate collaboration of artworks produced through artist residencies held between 1995 and 2005 at the museum, with works by Stephen Curry, Roman de Salvo, Jay Johnson, Peter Walker, Eloy Tercio, Esther Mera.**

**Mingei International Museum, “Origami Masterworks — Innovation and Form: The Art of Paper Folding” includes more than 150 pieces by 42 artists from across the globe. Most of the objects were created by folding single sheets of paper to make geometrical forms, flowers, trees, people, masks, and a menagerie of animals. Continuing.**

**Mingli International Museum, “Elemental Art of the Indone-**

**Sionese Archipelago” includes more than 100 objects such as textiles, jewelry, puppets, baskets, beaded objects, ritual dance masks, architectural ornaments, household objects, ancestor figures, and shrines. Through summer.**

**Mingei’s Logo is located on**

**the square with the San Diego Museum of Art and the Timken Museum of Art. 619-239-0003. (BALBOA PARK)**

**Mingei International Museum, North County Satellite, “The Bearded Universe — Strands of Culture” includes beads from 40 cultures, inspired by and based on The History of Beads by Lois Sheer Dubin. Exhibit includes beaded globe four feet in diameter created by Hichol Indians, a Yoruba chief’s robe, garments by New York artist Sandra Ruel. Most wonderfully, see “JoAnn Tanner — Architectural Enamels.” Works were created by painting with vitreous glass on steel. Continuing.**

**Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown, “Richard Allen Morris: Retrospective, 1958-2005” explores oeuvre of this “painter’s painter” with 150 paintings on view through Sunday, August 28. Exhibition includes examples of Morris’s work from the many different styles he has adopted throughout his career.**

**San Diego Symphony, 7:30 p.m., at Copley Symphony Hall. “Making It: Ten Years of Artist Commissions at California Center for the Arts,” Plan B.**

**SeaWorld is looking for… Jugglers, Magicians and Strolling Acts Auditions are by appointment only. Please call 619-226-3900 x2521 for more information and to set up your appointment. Daily Rates Apply!!! You must be at least 18 years of age to audition. Prepared materials should be appropriate for family audiences. Call the SeaWorld Audition Hotline for additional information: (619) 226-3607 • www.seaworldjobs.com SeaWorld is an equal opportunity employer and supports a safe and drug-free workplace.**

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**Half price sushi, appetizers, Japanese beer and sake before the game!**

**FRIDAYS: Sushi Happy Hour and DJ Scott Martin 6:00-7:30 pm**

**SATURDAYS: Live music from 7:00-9:30 pm**

At 9:30 we cut loose into a pure, unhindered nightclub Bring your dance shoes to work off that dinner! NO COVER in the nightclub with your $20 food minimum FREE VALET PARKING with $20 food & beverage minimum per person Valet starts at 6:00 pm**

**COME & PARTY AFTER THE GAME! 6th & Broadway, 6 blocks from Petco Park Dress code relaxed with Padres ticket Friday & Saturday 10:00-11:00 pm Please call in advance for reservations (619) 231-0011**

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**ART LISTINGS**

**San Diego Reader.com submit information online at 619-881-2401. You may also hold (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER ART, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92118-5803. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.**

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**San Diego Reader.com**

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**SeaWorld is an equal opportunity employer and supports a safe and drug-free workplace.**
Lieutenant Lawrence McKinney, Winstons management told the undercover vice detectives that permits were not needed because the bands playing that night were performing for a charitable cause.

“The detective asked the manager how the [door admission receipts] were distributed,” continues McKinney. “They were told that 40 percent went to the band. Under the nonprofit that 40 percent went to the distributed,” continues because the bands playing that permits were not needed under new municipal codes adopted in 2000, Winstons needed an “entertainment license” for venues over 50 people.

Attempts to reach owners Scott Slaga and Mike Stiffano for comment were unsuccessful. — Ken Leighton

Lesh’s Love-In Grateful Dead bassist Phil Lesh, on a book tour to promote his autobiography Searching for the Sound, was at the Mira Mesa Barnes & Noble on June 9. Over 300 people were in line when Lesh showed up at 7:15. As he walked by the line, people said hello to him. He didn’t look up or smile. A woman trying to get into the kids’ section said, “What is this, a love-in?” Lesh sat down at the table to sign at around 7:30. The first person to meet him didn’t have a pen, and there were none on the table. As bookstore employees scattered to find one, the first five people in line offered theirs. Lesh signed three books for the first person but refused to sign a fourth one.

The second person had a photo of the Grateful Dead, and Lesh said, “Sorry, I’m only signing the book today.” Soon after, a Barnes & Noble employee announced over the speakers that no memorabilia would be signed.

I walked toward the back of the line, noticing most in the crowd had Lesh’s new book and other things they wanted signed. One person had photos they had taken of Lesh at San Francisco’s Fillmore. Another guy bad photos from a San Diego concert in the ’70s. People held lots of albums in hopes of getting them signed.

One guy said, “I’ll tell him you can keep the book. I’ll pay the $27 [book price] for him to sign this photo. It’s already signed by Bob Weir and Jerry Garcia. Hell, I’d give him $50.”

glad to meet Lesh in person and shake his hand.

My friend Steve was in the middle of the line. He called me later and said that when he handed Lesh an album, he said, “Oh, that’s nice,” and set it down without signing it. The person behind Steve had a guitar signed by others in the Dead. Lesh did autograph that.

Flying Lessons on the I-5 “The last thing I remember was flying out the window,” says 21-year-old drummer Sid Hilarides. “I flew about 30 feet.” Hilarides and two of his Irieside bandmates were traveling north on I-5 from a Solana Beach gig to another at the Flying Bridge in Oceanside on June 4. The rock/reggae band was in a Chevy Suburban.

“You know how you think someone’s going to give you the space to merge?” says Hilarides. “This car in front of us turned the other way. We tried to overcorrect and lost control of the car. The car started spinning, then it tumbled.”

“The car flipped eight times overcorrect and lost control of the car. The car started spinning, then it tumbled.”

“The car flipped eight

The Reader offers $25 for news tips published in Blurt. Call us at 619-235-3000, ext. 456, or e-mail your tip to blurtt@sdreader.com

Less Than Charitable? “Vice officers went into [Winstons on] May 27 to do a regular check of their permits,” says SDPD
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THIS SATURDAY!

MALDITA VECINDAD
REEL BIG FISH

HOWIE DAY
ISRAEL VIBRATION

YELLOWMAN
PAT GREEN

ON SALE NOW!

STATIC X
T-DANCE

LUCIANO
MERLE HAGGARD

LIFEHOUSE
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W.A.S.P.
KARL DENSON’S

BILLY IDOL
JAGUARES

CAFÉ TACUBA
KINKY EL Y GUERRA

BRAZILIAN GIRLS 7/6
MOVING UNITS 7/7
RAY LAMONTAGNE 7/8
JA RULE 7/17
THE CIRCLE JERKS 7/20
ATOMIC PELOTA 7/21
BIG HEAD TODD & THE MONSTERS 7/29
ROB ZOMBIE 8/21

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“I went up to him and said his name twice, and he didn’t say anything at first,” says Earl. “He was there moaning, curled up.”

“I didn’t remember anything,” says Hilarides. “As soon as I remembered I was at the Fiesta [del Sol in Solana Beach], then I started worrying about the other guys… I broke a lower window. It is shocking to some people to get it anyway. Our exotic, because I’m not going to get anything,” says Earl.

“Men serve three years, women for a year and 40 to have been drafted. In Israel, military service is still mandatory,” says Pinback — aren’t they having a dressing room at the Metrotrot. — Ken Leighton


does aggressive stuff

for three days in the hospital, Hilarides was released. “They said in six to eight weeks we can take off the brace. I’m so lucky. I can’t even believe I’m alive. The [Suburban] got totaled, but somehow my drum kit was unharmed. Hilarides was released. “They were drunk and said his name seven times,” says bassist Alex Earl, who was in the front passenger seat. He and driver Ben Blessad had seat belts on and were unharmed. Hilarides wasn’t wearing a belt, and he was ejected from an open window.

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DINNER EVENINGS: Includes dinner in the Turf Club, preferred seating, Fair admission and VIP parking. Availability of dinner packages is limited. Acts subject to change. Visit our Web site for more entertainment listings.

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW at the Fairgrounds Box Office and all Ticketmaster locations. 619-220-TIXS, or visit www.ticketmaster.com. For information call 858-755-1161, or visit our website at www.sdfair.com.
M y mother was always putting on this old scratchy LP called Music from Around the Globe,” says 46-year-old Carlos Olmeda, “and I would sit mesmerized at how beautifully diverse each song sounded.” This early exposure to world music inspired his later songwriting. “I call what I do tricultural pop. I sing and I play acoustic guitar with the intent of making you imagine things in your head with a sound-track attached.”

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Olmeda moved with his family to Oceanside when he was six and soon got himself a $15 Tijuana Borderline Special guitar. By the time he reached eighth grade at Washington Junior High in Vista, he was already composing pieces like a musical adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe’s “Annabel Lee,” which he was asked to play for a final-period history class. “I had to run from phys ed class to get there before the bell to go home. So there I was in my gym shorts and a wide-beater T-shirt, dripping sweat, probably kinda smellly and out of breath, trying to sing this dark love song with all this genuine feeling.”

Olmeda played his first professional gig with brother Toca Rivera (currently Jason Mraz’s per- cussionist/backup vocalist) at Vista’s El Rancho restaurant when he was just out of high school. “We played mostly originals and some popular acoustic music for tips and then spent all the money playing Ms. Pac Man until two a.m.”

His debut studio album Learning to Walk (“All told, it cost me over $6K to get them to sound impressive before he/she even plays the guitar,” says 46-year-old Olmeda) closed while executing a demi-plié ballet move where the feet and knees are facing outward and the body upright. “My mom asked me to play ‘The Princess Pupuli’ at a church laxus. To this day I cringe when I re- member having to sing the phrase ‘Za za za za, za za za za, za!’ Oh, baby! I have the video in the safe-deposit box of a Mexican bank.”

WORST COVER SONG YOU EVER HAD TO PERFORM? “My mom asked me to play ‘The Princess Pupuli’ at a church laxus. To this day I cringe when I re- member having to sing the phrase ‘Za za za za, za za za za, za!’ Oh, baby! I have the video in the safe-deposit box of a Mexican bank.”

SIMPSONS OR KING OF THE HILL? “I prefer King of the Hill. In its own way I think it’s more subversive and less hopeless. The dad is also more soft spoken and loving towards his son. I kind of relate to being a fat little kid with a lot of heart.”

GUITAR RUNDOWN? “I also have a Guild Jumbo Dreadnaught and an Ibanez which sounds damn good through the direct/XLR. The Taylor is the first guitar I’ve ever owned that I could tell you the model/make number of. It always kinda pisses me off when some dweeb spouts off the model numbers and names of his gear just to sound impressive before he/she even plays the damn thing.”

SOMETHING FEW WOULD KNOW OR GUESS ABOUT YOU? “I can imitate the sound of a cricket with my eyes closed while executing a demi-plié ballet move where the feet and knees are facing outward and I dip at the center with arms out to the sides. It’s really quite a thing.”

FIVE FAVORITE ALBUMS?

1. The Beatles, The Beatles (“Pop interpreters who existed at exactly the right time in history to allow them to be perceived as revolutionary while remaining almost completely adaptive. Now that’s cool.”)

2. Bob Dylan, Highway 61 Revisited (“When I was a kid in the ‘60s, Bob Dylan gave me hope that you don’t have to sing like Caruso or play like a virtuoso to be involved with music in a deeply moving way.”)

3. Paul Simon, Greatest Hits: Shining Like a Nova (“I call what I do tricultural pop. I sing and I play acoustic guitar with the intent of making you imagine things in your head with a sound-track attached.”)

4. Elton John, Goodbye Yellow Brick Road (“When I was a kid in the ‘60s, Bob Dylan gave me hope that you don’t have to sing like Caruso or play like a virtuoso to be involved with music in a deeply moving way.”)

5. Elvis Costello, Spike (“Hope springs eternally, man!”)

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KC & the Sunshine Band
The Commodores
Open Sky Theater • July 21 • 8pm
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Kansas
Eddie Money
Open Sky Theater • August 4 • 8pm
Tickets $40 – $60

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### This Week's Concerts

**THURSDAY**

- **The Mother Hips:** The Casbah, Thursday, June 16, 8:30 p.m., 2501 Kettner Boulevard, midtown. 619-232-4355.

**FRIDAY**

- **Static X:** House of Blues, Friday, June 17, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.
- **Alison Brown:** Acoustic Music San Diego, Friday, June 17, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.
- **REO Speedwagon:** Del Mar Fairgrounds, Friday, June 17, 7:30 p.m., 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-755-1161 or 619-220-8497.

**SATURDAY**

- **Kenny Chesney:** Coors Amphitheatre, Saturday, June 18, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600 or 619-220-8497.
- **Jewel & Jackie Greene:** Humphrey’s Concerts by the Bay, Saturday, June 18, 7 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-523-1010 or 619-220-8497.
- **Steel Pulse:** Del Mar Fairgrounds, Saturday, June 18, 7:30 p.m., 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 619-735-1161 or 619-220-8497.

**SUNDAY**

- **Jewel & Jackie Greene:** Humphrey’s Concerts by the Bay, Sunday, June 19, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-523-1010 or 619-220-8497.

**MONDAY**

- **Robert Earl Keen & Guy Clark:** Humphrey’s Concerts by the Bay, Monday, June 20, 7 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-523-1010 or 619-220-8497.

**TUESDAY**

- **Luciana:** House of Blues, Tuesday, June 21, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.
- **Foreigner:** Del Mar Fairgrounds, Tuesday, June 21, 7:30 p.m., 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 619-735-1161 or 619-220-8497.

**WEDNESDAY**

- **Merle Haggard:** House of Blues, Wednesday, June 22, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

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**Extension 4000**

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**Concert Soundboard**

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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.)

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**Second Wind Bars**

- **NAVAJO**
  - THURSDAY, JUNE 16 • 8 PM
  - ORIGINALS
  - **Mike Ruggirello Presents**
  - **Shelle**

- **SANTEE**
  - THURSDAY, JUNE 16 • 8 PM - MIDNIGHT
  - **SANTÉE**
  - FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 17 & 18 • 9 PM
  - **ROCK COVER BAND**

- **NORTH PARK**
  - THURSDAY, JUNE 16 • 8 PM
  - **SERIOUS GUINSEL**
  - TUESDAY, JUNE 21 • 8 PM
  - **NORTH PARK KARAOKE THURS.-SAT. 9 PM HOSTED BY LEO**
  - **NO COVER CHARGE**
  - **SANTEE**
  - 8528 Magnolia Ave.
  - 619-596-8350
  - (Corner of Prospect & Magnolia)

- **NORTH PARK**
  - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22 • 8 PM
  - **SWING**
  - **TUESDAY, JUNE 21 • 8 PM**
  - **ROCK COVER BAND**
  - **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22 • 8 PM**
  - **ROCK COVER BAND**
  - **TUESDAY, JUNE 21 • 8 PM**
  - **ROCK COVER BAND**

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**The Shout House**

Summer 2005 Beach Party!

Bikini Contest $300 1st Prize

No Cover for anyone in complete beach wear - head-to-toe! (must wear shoes or sandals)

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'70s Soul Jam featuring Stylistics, Chi-Lites, Delfonics, Heatwave, Peaches & Herb and Persuaders Hosted by Jimmy "JJ" Walker

Madeleine Peyroux/ Iris DeMent

The Neville Brothers with special guest Shemekia Copeland

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- 2 dinners at Humphrey's Restaurant and one suite, jr. suite or guest room at Humphrey's

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Tickets required for all ages
Dates subject to change or cancellation
Additional acts will be added periodically throughout the summer.
Please check our website for updates.

Humphrey's Box Office Hours
Tues-Sat. 11:30 am-6:30 pm

The Wallflowers with special guest Kristin Hoffmann

Premium Packages not available at Tickermaster outlet stores.

Sponsored in part by

Ticketmaster
1-800-745-3000
www.ticketmaster.com

Lexus presents Humphrey's CONCERTS BY THE BAY

Jewel with special guest Jackie Greene Saturday & Sunday, June 18 & 19

The Wallflowers with special guest Kristin Hoffmann Saturday, June 25 • 7:30

David Byrne featuring The Tosca Strings Saturday, June 25 • 7:30

Buddy Guy featuring Eric Johnson Electric Band Tuesday, June 28 • 7:30

Chris Isaak with special guest Cindy Bullens Thursday & Friday June 30 & July 1 • 7:30

July

Lyle Lovett & his Large Band Saturday, July 3 • 7:30

Indigo Girls with special guest Gary Gygax Wednesday, July 7 • 7:30

Julio Iglesias Saturday, July 9 • 8:00

Chris Botti with special guest Steve Oliver Friday, July 8 • 7:30

Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons Saturday, July 9 • Promotional Passes Only

Box Scaggs Thursday, July 14 • 7:30

Hootie & the Blowfish Wednesday, July 14 • 7:30

Ladysmith Black Mambazo/ Richard Thompson Thursday, July 15 • 7:30

Clay Walker Friday, July 15 • 8:00

Heart featuring Jorma Kaukonen & Nancy Wilson with special guests Anne McCue Sunday, July 17 • 7:30

Lila Downs Monday, July 18 • 7:30

Tea for Two featuring special guests Jenny O’Connor & Bela Fleck Tuesday, July 19 • 7:30

Bruce Hornsby Thursday, July 21 • 7:30

Sinbad Friday, July 22 • 8:00

Poco/ Richlie Furay/ Venice Sunday, July 24 • 6:00

Linda Eder Friday, July 29 • 8:00

the B-52’s Sunday, July 31 • 7:30

Sponsored in part by

TIG Technology Integration Group

www.TIG.com

Charge by phone (619) 220-TIGS

June

Robert Earl Keen/Guy Clark with special guest Angel Haylor

Marc Cohn/ Suzanne Vega/ Jesse Winchester Monday, August 1 • 7:30

B.B. King Blues Festival 80th Birthday Celebration featuring B.B. King, Kenny Wayne Shepherd & Joe Bonamassa Wednesday, August 3 • 6:30

Michael McDonald featuring Steve Oliver Thursday, August 4 • 7:30

Air Supply with special guests Fireball Thursday, August 4 • 7:30

The Temptations with special guest Lollie Bell Wednesday, August 10 • 8:00

John Hiatt featuring Shawn Colvin with special guest Kristin Hoffmann Thursday, August 11 • 7:30

Dana Carvey Monday, August 15 • 7:30

Cellicio & Kapono Sunday, August 14 • 7:30

Cowboy Junkies with special guest TBA Tuesday, August 16 • 7:30

Judy Collins/ Richie Havens with special guests Zoe Lewis & LeRoy Bell Wednesday, August 17 • 7:30

John Legend with special guest TIG Thursday, August 18 • 7:30

Dave Koz & Friends featuring Jeffery Osborne, Marc Antoine & Praful Friday, August 19 • 7:30

Boom Summer Nights starring Al Jarreau, The Stylistics featuring Russ Freeman & Cassandra Wilson Monday, August 22 • 7:00

TRIO! starring Stanley Clarke, Béla Fleck & Jean-Luc Ponty Tuesday, August 23 • 7:30

Marty Balin’s WBCN/92.3 Presents Main Event featuring Roger Daltrey Thursday, August 25 • Promotional Passes Only

September

Susan Tedeschi/ Blind Boys of Alabama Thursday, September 1 • 7:30

SheDAISY Wednesday, September 7 • 7:30

Chaka Khan Thursday, September 8 • 7:30

Keali’i Reichel/Na Leo Friday & Saturday, September 9 & 10 • 7:30

Aretha Franklin/Guest Thursday, September 14 • 7:30

Los Lobos/Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes Thursday, September 15 • 6:30

Otmar Liebert & Luna Negra Sunday, September 18 • 7:30

Tony Bennett Wednesday, September 21 • 7:30

Jim Brickman with special guest Vienna Teng Thursday, September 22 • 7:30

Pat Metheny Trio featuring Christian McBride & Antonio Sanchez Thursday, September 29 • 7:30

Tower of Power Friday, September 30 • 7:00

Dead Can Dance Tuesday, October 4 • 7:30

Rockin’ Blues Revue featuring John Mayall & The Bluesbreakers, Robben Ford & Eric Bibb Thursday, September 20 • 7:00

Etta James Friday, September 30 • 7:30

Bobby Caldwell Thursday, October 1 • 7:30

“Hills of Home” featuring Doc & Richard Watson & David Holt with special guest Liva Kottke Friday, October 2 • 7:30

Celtic Woman Sunday, October 9 • 7:30

Jesse Cook Tuesday, October 18 • 7:30

Daniela Mercury Friday, October 14 • 7:30

Mariza Sunday, October 16 • 7:30

CANCELED:

Cesaria Evora – June 23
Mademoiselle Ismyra will now be played by Ismyr

Dar Williams – August 15
Due to scheduling conflicts, Dar Williams will no longer be appearing at the Cowtown Jukebox

We apologize for the inconvenience.
The Jerry Garcia Band: Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, June 22, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140 or 619-220-8497.

"70s Soul Jam" featuring the Stylistics, Die Chi-Lites, the Delfonics. Heatwave. Peaches & Herb, and the Persuaders: Humphrey’s by the Bay, Wednesday, June 22, 7 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-220-8497 or 619-523-1010.

Daryl Hall & John Oates: Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400 or 619-220-8497. 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-220-8497 or 619-523-1010.

The Spin Doctors: Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-755-1161 or 619-220-8497.

The Wallflowers: Humphrey’s Concerts by the Bay, Saturday, June 25, 7:30 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-323-1010 or 619-220-8497.

Lowen & Navarro: 2865 Acoustic Music San Diego, Saturday, June 25, 7:30 p.m., 4650 Manfield Street, Normal Heights. 858-303-8176.

The Neville Brothers and Shemekia Copeland: Humphrey’s by the Bay, Friday, June 24, 7:30 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-323-1010 or 619-220-8497.

Stylistics: Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-523-1010 or 619-220-8497. Wednesday, June 22, 7:30 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

The Offspring: Humphrey’s Concerts in the Park, Wednesday, June 29, 8 p.m., 4650 Manfield Street, Normal Heights. 858-303-8176.

Chipmunk and the Persuaders: Humphrey’s Concerts in the Park, Wednesday, June 29, 8 p.m., 4650 Manfield Street, Normal Heights. 858-303-8176.

The Persuaders: Humphrey’s Concerts in the Park, Wednesday, June 29, 8 p.m., 4650 Manfield Street, Normal Heights. 858-303-8176.

Journey: Humphrey’s Concerts in the Park, Monday, June 27, 8 p.m., 4650 Manfield Street, Normal Heights. 858-303-8176.

The Offspring: Humphrey’s Concerts in the Park, Monday, June 27, 8 p.m., 4650 Manfield Street, Normal Heights. 858-303-8176.

Billy Idol: 17, 8 p.m. 619-232-4355. $12.

Billy Zoom: The Casbah, Saturday, June 17, 8 p.m. 619-232-4355. 512.

Chris Isaak: Humphrey’s Concerts by the Bay, Thursday, June 30, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-323-1010 or 619-220-8497.

"Warped Tour 2005" featuring the Offspring, Thrice, My Chemical Romance, and more: Humphrey’s Concerts in the Park, Thursday, June 30, 8 p.m., 4650 Manfield Street, Normal Heights. 858-303-8176.

Jo Dee Messina: Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Thursday, June 30, 8 p.m., 4650 Manfield Street, Normal Heights. 858-303-8176.

Shemekia Copeland: Humphrey’s Concerts by the Bay, Wednesday, June 29, 8 p.m., 4650 Manfield Street, Normal Heights. 858-303-8176.

The Offspring: The Casbah, Saturday, June 17, 8 p.m. 619-232-4355. 512.

Billy Zoom: The Casbah, Saturday, June 17, 8 p.m. 619-232-4355. 512.

Billy Zoom worked the rockabilly angle hard when he moved to L.A. in the ‘70s. This was pre-X. Rockabilly was not the tattooed cliché it would later become. I ask him if he felt vindicated when the genre revived in the ‘80s. “I thought, it figures. I’m always ahead of the curve. Stuff becomes popular,” he says with a wry laugh, “as soon as I stop doing it.” I ask Zoom how a musician with his road mileage approaches rockabilly today. “I do what I do. I’ve always kind of tried to have my own identity. I guess I’m old school,” he says. “I’m old. I’ve been doing this for a long time.”

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Our stars shine brighter.

Come away to Pala Casino, Spa and Resort. A four-diamond getaway where concerts take place under the stars. All the excitement of a world-class casino, 507 deluxe hotel rooms, 8 spectacular restaurants, a luxurious day spa, and an Olympic-size pool. It's what you've been waiting for and it's closer than you think. A different place to play.

Julio Iglesias  
July 12 7:30pm  
$55/$65/$75

Heart  
July 15 7:30pm  
$65/$75/$85

Michael Bolton  
July 31 7:30pm  
$65/$75/$85

B-52’s  
August 1 7:30pm  
$25/$35/$45

Al Green  
August 21 7:30pm  
$55/$65/$75

Smokey Robinson  
August 26 7:30pm  
$40/$50/$60

Macy Gray  
September 30 7:30pm  
$25/$35/$45

Montgomery Gentry  
October 23 7:30pm  
$40/$50/$60

LOCATED IN NORTHERN SAN DIEGO COUNTY
From San Diego & Riverside: Take I-15 to Hwy 76, go East 5 miles
From Orange & Los Angeles: Take I-5 to Hwy 76, go East 23 miles

www.PalaCasino.com  
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213.480.3232  •  714.740.2000
805.583.8700  •  619.220.TIXS
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1930’s Art Deco Theme Restaurant & Nightclub With a South Beach Flair

THURSDAY, JUNE 16TH
COLLEGE NIGHT @ DECO'S

Tommy Entertainment & Aaron Cherry Presents

DJ Chris Cutz & Sleeping Giant Music @ Deco’s

Welsh DJ Chris Cutz records like no other, mixing HIP HOP with Rock & Roll and HIP HOP with 80’s Glamrock.

DJ Billa Knight will be in the main room spinning strictly HIP HOP joints.

DJ Baby and Nicky 2 will be in the restaurant room spinning top 40 all night. Where else in town can you go on a Thursday night? We’ll see you at Deco’s.

For VIP email Aaron Cherry at aaron@tommyent.com

www.ForePlayEnt.net

FRIDAY, JUNE 17TH
INFINITE FRIDAYS @ DECO'S

Infinite Entertainment and EOS (The Producers of The Preview)

Come together to bring San Diego the hottest Friday night event ever!

Your Friday Night Destination: The Future in Culture & Atmosphere

SAN DIEGO’S PREMIER DEEJAYS WILL BE SPINNING

THE ULTIMATE TOP 40, NASHUPS, HIP HOP & DANCE

DJ SIXX, JOHNNY JOHNNY, & NICKY 2

Dance under the stars with us at Infinite Fridays, your Friday night exclusive!

www.JayAveryPresents.com

SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH
SUMMER NIGHTS @ DECO'S

Every Saturday Night, we invite you to experience our unique blend of music and ambiance at “SUMMER NIGHTS” with 3 Dance Floors, including San Diego’s only outdoor rooftop dancefloor, you will find the perfect spot to dance and party the night away!

DJs: O’Ray, Vu, Nicky 2, and other special guests spinning a Hi Energy blend of Hip Hop, R&B & Groovey House.

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PRESENTED AND HOSTED BY JASON OVERALL, GARR STEPHENSON & CHARLIE PERRONE

JUNE 18th MAIN ROOM
DJ DISCIPLE & BARRY WEAVER

KAINA LOUNGE KAHN LOVE

JUNE 25th MAIN ROOM
J.OVERELL & PAULI P.

GALLERY JOEY JIMENEZ
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*Dancing Boozehounds*
FOGHAT
Friday, July 8th at 8:00 PM
Tickets are $35

BJÖRN AGAIN
THE ABBA EXPERIENCE
Thursday, July 21st 7:00 & 9:30 PM
Tickets are $20

GET BACK!
THE CAST OF BEATLEMANIA
Friday, July 22nd 7:00 & 9:30 PM
Tickets are $20

YELLOWJACKETS
Friday, July 29th
Tickets are $35

COLLIN RAYE
Thursday, August 4th
Tickets are $35

NEIL SEDAKA
Friday, August 12th
Tickets on sale Friday, June 17th at 10 am for $50

MORRIS DAY
AND THE TIME
Thursday, August 18th
Tickets on sale Friday, June 24th at 10 am for $35

Special 20% savings for Club Sycuan members on Concert Tickets (max. 4) when tickets purchased at Sycuan Gift Shop.
To purchase tickets, call (619) 659-3340, visit the Sycuan Gift Shop or purchase online at WWW.SYCUAN.COM

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Drafts
Hotwire Productions presents Headtrip Superstar (from L.A.) with special guests

EVERY THURSDAY

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Coors Amphitheatre, Thursday, September 14, 7:30 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-523-1010 or 619-220-8497.

The Pat Metheny Trio: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Thursday, September 22, 7:30 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-523-1010 or 619-220-8497.

Tower of Power: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Friday, September 23, 8 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-523-1010 or 619-220-8497.

Dead Can Dance: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Thursday, September 29, 7:30 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-523-1010 or 619-220-8497.

The Waterboys: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Thursday, September 29, 7:30 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-523-1010 or 619-220-8497.

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Baseball in a Rock Bottom Restaurant

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MLP presents FLOOD THE SKY (from L.A.) HEADTRIP SUPERSTAR ORSON (from L.A.) * THE UPS

SATURDAY 5-18

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80s INDUSTRY NIGHT
80s hits spinning all night long with DJ MINI MEE

26: Hotwire Productions presents PARKURST PARKHOUSE ANGELHEAD FOLK - LIONER SATURDAY’S CHILD

UPCOMING SHOWS:

THURSDAY 5-23

Sulo King Productions presents LEO RISING

SATURDAY 5-25

Hotwire Productions presents TOOT & NAIL TOUR FREDricc

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Drink Specials 7 pm-Midnight
$1 Bud Light drafts
53 Rumpie Mumps
2-62: Sulo King presents LIVE MUSIC - TBA

THURSDAY 7-1

Hotwire Productions presents G TOM MAC performing his anthem from The Lost Boys “City Little Sister (thou shalt not...)” with special guests

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SATURDAY 5-25

Hotwire Productions presents TOOT & NAIL TOUR FREDricc

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THURSDAY 7-1

Hotwire Productions presents G TOM MAC performing his anthem from The Lost Boys “City Little Sister (thou shalt not...)” with special guests

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THURSDAY 5-16

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SALUTE TO MOTOWN:
THELMA HOUSTON & THE SPINNERS
FRI & SAT, AUGUST 26 & 27

An Evening with
BURT BACHARACH
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SUN, AUGUST 28

1812 TCHAIKOVSKY SPECTACULAR
FRI, SAT & SUN, SEPTEMBER 2, 3 & 4

TICKETS $10 - $65

All performances feature the San Diego Symphony and begin at 7:30 pm, except July 14 which begins at 8:15 pm. Gates open and pre-show entertainment starts at 6 pm. All dates, times and artists subject to change.
I haven’t always known what’s considered cool and what’s not, but for many years I felt safe in the assumption that Hall & Oates were not cool. Recently my assumption has been put to the test. Ben Gibbard, the singer of Death Cab for Cutie and Postal Service, has posted online a list of his top-ten favorite Hall & Oates songs. And it’s not just him. I asked Ajax Green, formerly of the band Gran-falloon Bus, what he thought of Hall & Oates, and he went on at length about the soulfulness of Daryl Hall’s voice, the magnificence of John Oates’s mustache, and how when you listen to “Sara Smile” and “She’s Gone” alone with headphones on, “If you have ever known sadness, you will understand, and these songs will transport you up to heaven.” I can’t always tell when Ajax is being serious, so I asked his friend Russ Blackmar to elaborate. He said that a few years ago while spinning records at nightclubs he found that “not only would people put up with H&O, they would totally eat it up.” He continued, “Nowadays, it’s funny — I hear ‘Sara Smile’ and ‘I Can’t Go for That’ all the time, being DJ’d all over the place.” Sarah Guerin, the third fan I talked to, put it this way: “I hate to say that I’m petitioning others to accept the brilliance that is Hall & Oates, but I have no problem telling people that I listen to them. I’d much rather sit on my couch and listen to H&O or Bread or the Little River Band than go to some hipster retard party to see assholes try to out-cool each other.”
DJ EVENTS

If you would like to include your DJ event, e-mail sella@sandiegoreader.com or fax information to 619-481-2401 by 5:00 p.m. Fri., to add your event to publication. The listings are free.

Air Conditioned: Thursdays, Orange Kiss, lavish lounge-scape with DJs Sergio DJ Gage: Fridays, old skool, funk, and disco with DJs J D Masterson and Joe P; Saturdays, Jah Bloo, funk, and dancehall; Sundays, downbeat tempos. Mondays, Party, bring your iPod and you're in the DJ Tuesday, Big Romeo: Chill, DJ Drew spins ethosial dream-pop bliss. Wednesdays, Rockbox, '70s and '80s rock with DJs Atami, Sergio, and J D Masterson: 4673 30th Street, University Heights. 619-501-9831.

Blitzkrieg Bop: Mondays, punk, indie, and rock 'n' roll with DJ M. Hyde: 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. Kadan, 4696 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500.

Booty Basement: Fourth Saturday of the month, rap, booty bass, and '80s with DJs Rob, Ikahl, and Dimmit: 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up: The Whistle Stop Bar, 2236 Fern Street, South Park. 619-284-2100.

Club Ballyhoots: Wednesdays, electro, '80s, and indie with DJ Richard D and DJ B; 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up: Club Recognize, 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, City Heights. 619-521-4747.

Club 80's: Thursdays, new wave, electro, and new romantic with DJs Bryan Pollard and Sickley: Shooters, 3815 30th Street, North Park. 619-574-0744.

Club Krave: Fridays, electro, '80s, and indie with DJ B; 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.; and San Diego Sports Club, 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-299-7372.


Club Rio Nilo: Saturdays, DJs Mikee and Masterdoom spin reggae-ton and hip-hop: 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. 4835 Home Avenue, San Diego. Information, 619-264-8297.


Deep: Thursdays, drum 'n' bass and jungle music with DJs Walkervale: Probable Cause, and Eddy: 9-10 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up: The Rhythm Lounge, 3808 Midway Drive, Midway. 619-224-4835.

Deviantly Dark: Sundays, dark, driving progressive house and breakbeats with DJs Emmer Materdon and Joe P: 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Kadan, 4696 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500.

 Faction: First Tuesday of the month, electroclash, indie, and synthpop with DJs Bobcat, Talbot, and Narcopol: No cover: 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up: Kadan, 4696 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500.

 Fresca: Thursdays, trip-hop, downtempo breaks, and acid jazz with DJs Red Source and Time: 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. The Marlin Lounge, 348 Fifth Avenue (below Teasers Restaurant), downtown. 619-256-5670.

Fusion Young Adult Laser Dance Club: Thursdays, college DJs spin party breaks, house, and club remixes: Fridays and Saturdays, DJ Dizzy D spins hip-hop, rap, reggae, and reggaton: Sundays, Sunday night jam: 275 Maple Street, Escondido. 760-741-9393.

HiFi: Third Saturday of the month, mix shop, and indie with DJs B-czar and Richard D. Gato Loco, 638 Broadway, downtown. 619-546-1609.

Liquid Funk: Fridays, funk, downtempo, and drum 'n' bass: 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; and San Diego Sports Club: 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-574-0744.

Moondoggies Pacific Beach: Saturdays, DJ Night Mix, hip-hop and R&B with DJs Engama and G isso: 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. No cover. 858-483-6550.

One Nation: Second Saturday of the month, new wave, gothic, and dubstep originals with DJs Blackstone and Atana: The Whistle Stop, 2236 Fern Street (corner of 30th and Juniper), Golden Hill. 619-284-6784.

Plum Loco Saloon: Thursdays, Late Night with DJ Rick La Voz: Fridays, hip-hop with DJ Lenny, Saturdays, old school and hip-hop with DJ Rick La Voz: 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. 2518 Sweetwater Road, National City. 619-475-7313.


The following nightclubs have valuable coupons in the Music Section of the Reader's website. Indicates North County.


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**Big Back Yard**

Big Back Yard's music possesses a certain roughness that accentuates the strength of its solid vocal harmonies and mellifluous instrumentals. In spite of a few unforgivable musical errors, the use of improvisation transforms the group's musicianship into an attempt at revamping three very different genres.

**ROBBIE'S ROADHOUSE**, 530 North Highway 101, Encinitas. 760-534-2865. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Features of the Day, blues.

**Scallen**, 3990 Via La Vela, Del Mar. 858-229-9944. Thursday through Saturday, live jazz. Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Sambojazz, American and Brazilian jazz.

**Squid Joe’s**, 85 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-4996. Music is rock/hip-hop unless otherwise noted. Thursday, Never Too Late, rock; Friday, the Ruses; Saturday, Bella Diablo, world beat.

**The Metaphor Coffeehouse**, 200 East Second Street, Encinitas. 760-489-8880. Thursday, The Old Town Jazz Band, Dixieland jazz; Friday, the Randy Band and Sea Spot Run, world beat.

**Neimans Bar and Grill**, 300 San Elijo Boulevard, Carlsbad. 760-729-4131. Saturday, live music. Sunday, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., The Red Pepper Jazz Band, Dixieland jazz.

**North Bar Sports and Spirits**, 203 West El Porto Parkway, Encinitas. 760-480-8828. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Mike Gardner, acoustic rock.

**The Pine Hills Lodge**, 280 La Pacifica, Encinitas. 760-439-1200. Saturday, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., Cowboy Jack, country.

**Pounders**, 125 West Grand Avenue, Encinitas. 760-739-1288. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, live rock.

**Rancho Bernardo Inn**, 1350 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-675-8800. Friday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Cowboy Jack, country.

**Woody’s Sports Bar**, 2329 South Coast Highway Carlsbad. 760-735-8939. Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., The Crowbar, classic rock.

**BEACHES**

Aurora Traforteria, 1025 Prospect Street 4250. La Jolla. 619-381-8554. Sunday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., Leighton and Donna Hal, jazz standards.  

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**Big Back Yard**

Big Back Yard's music possesses a certain roughness that accentuates the strength of its solid vocal harmonies and mellifluous instrumentals. In spite of a few unforgivable musical errors, the use of improvisation transforms the group's musicianship into an attempt at revamping three very different genres.
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La Valencita Hotel, 1312 Prospect Street, La Jolla. 619-434-0772. Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., Barry Lopez, jazz. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., also, Sunday and Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., Rick Ross.

The Lodge at Torrey Pines, 11480 N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla. 858-453-4401. The Great Gatsby Friday and Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Mike Nolan, solo jazz guitar.

Tiki House, 3228 Manchester Avenue, La Jolla. 858-459-3794. Thursday, call club for information. Friday, Ript House, rock. Saturday, Jimmy Lewis, acoustic. Wednesday, the Bongo, rock.

Turquoise Cafe, 3829 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-450-0474. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., Fiddel Fiddel. Thursday, Those Zung Robins. Friday, Perseveres, 9:30 p.m., Stores and Rule of 360, live. Saturday, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., Plump. Sunday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., 14th Street Deluxe Blues Band. Monday, the Electric Works Band. Tuesday, La Doña and Flock. Wednesday, Gordon and Hi. Final dance music.

San Diego
The Auro Club, 3863 India Street, San Diego. 619-297-7211. Call club for information.

Albie’s on 6th, 1204 Hotel Circle South, San Diego. 619-291-1103. Friday and Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., J. Durand Smith.

The Bohia Bella Cruise, the Bohia Hotel, 6324 Mission Bay Blvd., San Diego. 619-539-7779. Departs 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., Sept. 26, 27, 28. Formerly, the West End, Saturday, the Nude Blues.


Brick by Brick, 1110 Bannock Avenue, Bay Park. 619-275-LIVE. Music is rock/alternative unless otherwise noted. Saturday, the
**Calendar CLUBS**

Dublin Square, 554 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-239-3818. Live Irish folk.

Fat City, 2317 Pacific Highway, San Diego. 619-222-3303. Friday, 10 p.m., Rico Tomas/Tommy's. 4th @ B, 448 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4848. Call for information.

The Honey Bee Hive, 1409 C Street, downtown. 619-702-6010. Saturday, Funktonia, hip-hop.

**Saturday, June 18**

San Diego Reader

Thursday, June 17

Budweiser True Music presents

136 2nd Avenue, downtown. 619-222-3303. Friday, 9 p.m., Pogues, Chieftains, and Tim Geraghty.

GASOLINE CHICKEN

The Attacks on the Bus Social Indofin

Corona Village

MUSTACHE REVOLUTION

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Aurora Green Grass

**Sunday, June 19**

OPEN MIC S 9 PM

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**Monday, June 20**

OPEN MIC TUESDAYS 8 PM

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**Philadelphia, PA**

**Sunday, June 19**

**Jimmy Love’s**, 672 Fifth Avenue (corner of Fifth and G), downtown. 619-595-0125. Thursday and Sunday, Masterpiece, jazz/R&B. Friday and Saturday, 9:45 p.m., Superluxe Fantasy, disco/dance Top 40. Monday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Reggie Smith & The Royal Court. Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Mysique, jazz/R&B. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Soul Revue, jazz/dance/Top 40.

**Lael’s Restaurant** (at the Manchester Grand Hyatt), downtown. 619-232-1234. Saturday, 9:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., the Blue Aces, harmonica blues.

**Martin’s Ranch**, 528 F Street, downtown. 619-235-4100. Friday and Saturday, call club for information. Sunday, reggae/fusion/blues. 619-235-4100. Call Billy or Drew • Now Hiring Security & Backup Sound Engineers

**Thursday, June 22**

**4th @ B, 448 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4848. Call for information.**

The Honey Bee Hive, 1409 C Street, downtown. 619-702-6010. Saturday, Funktonia, hip-hop.

**Friday, June 23**

**Budweiser True Music presents**

Mister Tic’s 3rd Annual Beer Bash

**Saturday, June 24**

**San Diego Reader**
Screechers

Rather than admit the truth, Big Daddy has pretended to love them all.

One of my favorite stage directions comes in Act Two of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Arguing that drama shouldn’t give easy answers, Tennessee Williams adds: “Some mystery should be left in the revelation of character in a play, just as a great deal of mystery is always left in the revelation of character in life, even in one’s own character to himself.” He refers to Brick Pollitt, Ole Miss All-American, in the late 1940s, and national TV sports announcer, now impotent alcoholic suffering a “disgust with life.” Gossip — in the play and the audience — blames his relationship with Skipper. Brick says it was a “true, clean” friendship. Others allege that the football buddies were lovers, which explains why Brick will no longer sleep with his wife, Maggie. But does it? Or is it just an easy answer that masks a deeper spiritual crisis?

Brick is life-blown. He’s known stardom, soared above the heights. Now he can’t even clear a hurdle on his high school’s track. To return “a person in Brick’s state of spiritual despair” to the living — and life-creating — with a quick solution at play’s end, Williams said, would be artistically false. It would be yet another lie in a play brimming with mendacity.

Lies have held the largest cotton plantation in the Mississippi Delta together. Big Daddy, who owns the 28,000-acre estate, defines mendacity as “having to pretend stuff you don’t think or feel or have any idea of.” Big Daddy can’t stand his wife, Big Mama, eldest son Gooper, his wife and their five “screechers.” Rather than admit the truth, Big Daddy has pretended to love them all for four decades, and vice versa. It’s a cover-up. But the Band-Aid’s too small for the wound.

Big Daddy’s dying of cancer. But those wanting to inherit the plantation pretend he isn’t. They kiss up, tout the lie. Amid this tangled web, in which mendacity spreads like cancer, Brick’s blank despair almost seems sane.

I never say that you must see a show. What you must do’s your own business. But please, if you love live theater, do not miss Cygnet’s *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. It is wonderful.

In effect, Williams didn’t write a play. He wrote a musical score, a symphony of emotions, from “soft” to extreme, in three movements. At Cygnet, under Sean Murray’s expert direction (and on Murray’s subtle, raked set), everything contributes: every sound has value (is that a little dog barking in the thunder?), the lighting ranges from lyrical to raging, and the cast — as fine a local ensemble as you’ll ever see — blends and jars with striking fluidity.

Francis Gercke and Jessica John (who makes Act One an extended solo riff) are excellent as the emotionally paralyzed Brick and steaming, determined Maggie. Tom Stephenson’s understated Gooper and Melissa Fernandes’ Mae (who is really...
On the Starkadders’ Cold Comfort Farm, in Howling, Sussex, old Adam’s milking the cows: Pointless, Feckless, Aimless, and Graceless (whose wooden leg’s come loose); Benet just dove down the well again (she does whenever an ex-boyfriend is mentioned); Amos’s off preaching to the Quiverers (their favorite hymn: “ex-boyfriend is mentioned); again (she does whenever an wooden leg’s come loose); less, and Graceless (whose

Sussex, old Adam's milking the Comfort Farm, in Howling, Enough. Go see for yourself. Worth a try.

Lydian Space, 78 Horton Plaza, Downtown, through June 26 at 7:30 P.M. For days and times of specific shows, call 619-544-1000.

Amy’s View
David Hare’s drama has little to do with its title (she’s convinced that love conquers all). It’s much more about the poles in Amy’s life: dominating mother Esme, a popular actor; and husband Dominic, a proto-fascist lambster of the arts and budding film director. Eime and Dominic fight like simians, the actors not only parody rural novels, they parody themselves. This wears thin.

But then Doren Elias dazzles as Mr. Neck, a Hollywood producer/blazing comet. As do Mike Buckley’s two sets (rustic producer/blazing comet. As do Mike Buckley’s two sets (rustic

Ensemble parts, she's a terrific merman. Usually given merman. Usually given roles. Case in point: Sarah Zimmerman, who played so over-the-top that she rates her most popular character, Midge. Critics usually err when they proclaim that an actor’s made a breakthrough perfor-

more often than not, the actor who may have waited years, finally lands the right role. Case in point: Sarah Zimmerman. Usually given ensemble parts, she’s a terrific Flora. Dressed in smart slacks, and flowing scarf, Flora becomes a young Kate Hepburn; assured, urbane, cut-

flying about like a humming-

Young Elfine’s a gossamer blur, when not writing poetry, Quiverers (their favorite hymn: 
ex-boyfriend is mentioned); again (she does whenever an wooden leg’s come loose); less, and Graceless (whose

enjoyed this slow, disillusionment, Big Daddy dated by mendacity and sudden disillusionment. Big Daddy does this amazingly slow, and Daddy. At one point, inun-

play as larger-than-life Big Mama and Jim Chovick bookend the

sional support. Sandra Ellis-Troy

seasonal support. Sandra Ellis-Troy and Jim Chovick bookend the play as larger-than-life Big Mama and Daddy. At one point, inun-

and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

- Actors Alliance Festival of Short Plays

I want to plug this enterprise, right un-

seen. The 12th annual Actors festival offers more than 100 local actors, de-

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stage, or with few props, against a black background. Costumes range from off the rack to off one’s clothes hanger (or floor). The emphasis isn’t on visual display; it’s on acting. Each evening has three or four short plays. Not everyone will be a standout. Some get chosen for juicy roles rather than for telling a good story or making a dramatic point. But the percentage of quality work is high. And every now and then you’ll find a jewel.

Worth a try.

Lydian Space, 78 Horton Plaza, Downtown, through June 26 at 7:30 P.M. For days and times of specific shows, call 619-544-1000.

Amy’s View
David Hare’s drama has little to do with its title (she’s convinced that love conquers all). It’s much more about the poles in Amy’s life: dominating mother Esme, a popular actor; and husband Dominic, a proto-fascist lambster of the arts and budding film director. Eime and Dominic fight like simians, the actors not only parody rural novels, they parody themselves. This wears thin.

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lago on the evil-ladder. NCRT’s opening night was shaky, in part because David Ellenstein’s direction wavered between sharp sections and fuzzy crossings and blockings on Marty Bunnett’s gloriously detailed set. The genuine interest lies in how Rosina Renoldo embraces Eame’s arc. Both move from the theatrical, in life and art, to the end. At the end of an outstanding performance, Renoldo doesn’t present Eame’s heart through extraneous, she invites you into it. When she does, Renoldo might break yours.

Worth a try.

CROWLEY’S DRAMA, WHICH ASKS: “WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A MAN WITH NO MEMORY MEETS HIS MOTHER AGAIN?”

A THEATRICAL MUSICAL, WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY LORY TATOULIAN, WITH ANDY INGERSOLL AND AMY DALTON.

IRISH STEPPING DANCE, WHICH INCLUDES DUBLIN SQUARE IRISH PUB AND GRILLE’S 104 FOURTH AVENUE, DOWN-TOWN. OPEN-ENDED RUN; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 9:30 P.M. 619-239-5818.

JOEY AND MARIA’S COMEDY ITALIAN WEDDING

THE COLD THEATER HOSTS “NOT SO-ORDINARY INTERACTIVE DINNER THEATER,” AS JOEY AND MARIA TIE THE KNOT.

THE LAST SUNDAY IN JUNE

REVIEWED THIS ISSUE.

5TH SOMAS SATA FE DRIVE, SOLLANA BEACH, THROUGH JULY 17; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-544-1600.

ASSASSINS

KALMIA STREET, BANKER’S HILL, OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. THROUGH AUGUST 28; TUESDAY, JUNE 21 AT 7:00 P.M. 619-584-3593.

AUTOSPASIONS AND OTHER SPECIES

HIP AND HER PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS A THEATRICAL MUSICAL, WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY LORY TATOUILIAN, WITH MUSIC BY ARA DABAHADJIAN.

BRONZE

SLIDEGHAMMER THEATRE PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF BUFF YOOG’S COMEDY ABOUT A BRONZE-MEDAL ICE SKATER HOLDING HOSTAGES AT GUNPOINT IN AN ALL-NIGHT DANCE. YOOG DIRECTED.

COLD COMFORT RANCH

IMPERIAL COUPCAKE. 1120 SIXTH AVENUE, DOWNTOWN. THROUGH JULY 1; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-544-1600.

THE FANTASTICS

CORONADO PLAYHOUSE STAGES JONES AND SCHMID’S POPULAR MUSICAL ABOUT INNOCENCE, EXPERIENCE, AND THE PROPER CULTIVATION OF RADISHES. KEITH A. ANDERSON DIRECTED.

FOR REASONS THAT Remain Unclear

6TH/PENN THEATER PRESENTS MART CROWLEY’S DRAMA, WHICH ASKS “WHAT WOULD YOU SACRIFICCE TO ENER THE PAST?” CAVILO RAYGOZA DIRECTED.

THE WINTER’S TALE

DIRECTED BY DARCO TRENJAK

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

DIRECTED BY DARCO TRENJAK

MACBETH

DIRECTED BY PAUL MULLINS

THE WINTER’S TALE

DIRECTED BY DARCO TRENJAK
The Pajama Game
Patio Playhouse presents Adler and Ross's musical about love and labor in the 1940s. Director: Deborah Zimmer directed.
PATIO PLAYHOUSE, 201 EAST GRAND AVENUE, DOWNTOWN, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M., SUNDAY AT 5:00 P.M. THROUGH JUNE 18; TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 5:00 P.M. 619-522-5999.

Palm Beach: the Screwbait Festival The north Florida festival. La Jolla Playhouse opens its season with this musical homage to the “Swingin’ Sixties” and the rambunctious fun of the 1960s. "I don’t realize that “her chosen beau has’nt found his way to her bedroom, co-"mmons in their jewelry box.” Des McAnuff directed.
LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 ADAMSON DRIVE, INDEX AS “MEN’S INTERESTS,” TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 5:00 P.M. £619-234-9583.

Play It Again, Sam
The Julien Theatre Company (former- ly the Pine Hills Players) stages Woody Allen’s comedy about Alan Felix. To win the dating game, he seeks advice from the spirit of Humphrey Bogart. JULIEN THEATRE, 2219 MAIN STREET, JULIAN, THROUGH JUNE 18; FRIDAY AT 8:00 P.M. AND SATURDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 760-715-2119.

San Diego Theatresports
A cross between improvisational comedy and Family Feud. Improv, making up questions and topics on the spot, is tough enough. Add competitive scene making, with the audience voting on who wins the round. Purists might balk at the audacity of competitions used in this San Diego Theatresports “game show” is a host. The 90-minute evening offers different forms. The company has taught “Team Sports” — two pairs of players competed, taking suggestions from the audience, and “Go-"rella Theatre” — five directors inverted scenes, using the other four as actors. This year it’s a banana, the loser a “footbitch” (other formats include “Mictro” and “Improv Everywhere”). Some attempts went well, others were less successful (I did it in my mind, as hindsight reveals, callow youth). Others made amaz- ing, and sometimes hilarious, moves that makes the hit more frequent than the misses. The gurus, Kevin McGourty and John White, have written two very best books I’ve ever read about making theater. And they plan to make it even more good. Their motto: “Remember, when it’s not funny, it’s art.”

THE PARMESAN, 317 1ST INDIA STREET, MISSION HILLS, OPENENDED RUN; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. AND 9:45 P.M. 619-227-1818.

Triple Espresso: A Highly Caffeinated Comedy
Hugh Buttmann’s done his lounge at the Triple Espresso. The show grows 20 years to the day. While patrons sip a house blend — “B” or “Scandinavian,” perhaps — or “Mokoko Coca-Mocha” — Hugh plays 70s tunes on the pi- ano. He and his company, here to celebrate Hugh’s anniversary, get stuck in the 70s. The trio used to be called Maxwell, Buttmann and Bean, a comedy group that never went far. They’re “losers,” they ad- mit, not “outnumbered.” But truth to the- ory, their reunion could help them face suffering issues from past, present and future, a potentially comic storyline? Yep. Straight from Forever. The show has to go on, or else the Casts: A new, talented, run-cast members have been replaced...

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The Tale of the Allergist’s Wife
La Jolla Playhouse stages Charles Busch’s comedy about a depressed doctor’s wife reunited with a mysterious childhood friend. Jon Bialof directed.
LAGUNA PLAYHOUSE, 606 LAGUNA VISTA BOULEVARD, LAGUNA BEACH, THROUGH JUNE 25; TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 949-448-7469.

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Distant wars, nearby tables: Thirty years ago, North Vietnam conquered Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam. When the U.S. withdrew in ’72, many professionals and prosperous businesspeople came to the U.S. Members of the South Vietnamese military, on the other hand, couldn’t desert their posts. But once Saigon fell, it was too dangerous for them to stay, and they, too, fled. San Francisco saw the first waves of both sets of immigrants. The first group opened several casual Vietnamese eateries. The last-minute military migrants founded top-notch restaurants: A former general opened the first serious Vietnamese dinner house in the Bay Area, and an air force navigator owns another. One man settled in Southern California—a pilot. He opened our own Le Bambou, the first Vietnamese restaurant in San Diego, and the best I’ve tried here.

Le Bambou’s charm begins with its ambiance. Live bamboo plants grow from glass-bricked dividing walls. Each white-clothed table bears a vase of fresh flowers, often pink and yellow roses from the owners’ home garden. The chic hostess, one of the owners’ daughters, is swift, fluent in English, and alert to diners’ needs. She even memorizes the longest orders and helps newbies learn Vietnamese eating customs.

After a scouting visit, I lassoed four friends who were new to this cuisine: word travelers Keith and Cheryl (room to a rug rat) and regular Sam and the Lynxster. The appetizers arrived, each plated laden with a heap of lettuce leaves, fresh mint and cilantro, and raw veggies (bean sprouts, julienne carrots, sliced tomatoes, and/or sliced cakes), with minor variations from plate to plate. Most included at least one dipping sauce in a bowl on the side, and some also came with a covered container filled with warm, translucent rice-paper crêpes.

I told my friends that these are not mere decorations. The appetizers are interactive—you get to play with them. (And, to the Vietnamese, this means that you’ll appreciate them more keenly.) Whatever the dish be—it is Imperial Rolls or rolled beef fillets or grilled shrimp—if it comes with greens, you get to roll everything up and eat with your fingers. Going back to the fork is boring.

There are a dozen choices on the appetizer menu, and another two on the list of ten house specials. An appetizer of ground shrimp grilled on sugarcane is the best version I’ve tasted since leaving San Francisco. The dish originated as a delicacy from the old royal palace at Hue (in the center of the country), but at too many local restaurants it has the plebian texture of bubble gum. Here, it’s a tender, sweet-flavored shrimp-cake. It’s served already separated from the spent sugarcane that flavors it and sparkled with black pepper. They’re flash-fried until crunchy and served halved lengthwise, swathed in a dark, sweet, smoky sauce (a sort of Vietnamese barbecue sauce), along with the usual greenery. “The stuffing is like a Parisian pâté made from Asian ingredients,” said Lynne. That was hardly surprising, given France’s long occupation of Indochina. Soft-shell crabs, the most debatable (and expensive) of the appetizers, offered molting crustaceans with exceptionally fragile shells. Their cornstarch coating seemed to guzzle up the canola frying oil. They arrived in a flurry of neutral-tasting bulk crabmeat, caramelized onions, and greens, with a side dish of tangy, mysteriously purplish sauce.

Our choice of soup wasn’t optimal. The menu described Suông as “special prepared shrimp with rice noodles in tangy chicken broth.” It sounded so exotic, we had to try it. The shrimp’s specialness? They were ground and reassembled into Chee·tos-flavored rice noodles in tangy chicken broth.” It sounded so exotic, we had to try it. The shrimp’s specialness? They were ground and reassembled into Chee·tos-flavored rice noodles in tangy chicken broth.” It sounded so exotic, we had to try it. The shrimp’s specialness? They were ground and reassembled into Chee·tos-flavored rice noodles in tangy chicken broth.” It sounded so exotic, we had to try it. The shrimp’s specialness? They were ground and reassembled into Chee·tos-flavored rice noodles in tangy chicken broth.” It sounded so exotic, we had to try it. The shrimp’s specialness? They were ground and reassembled into Chee·tos-flavored rice noodles in tangy chicken broth.” It sounded so exotic, we had to try it. The shrimp’s specialness? They were ground and reassembled into Chee·tos-flavored rice noodles in tangy chicken broth.” It sounded so exotic, we had to try it. The shrimp’s specialness? They were ground and reassembled into Chee·tos-flavored rice noodles in tangy chicken broth.” It sounded so exotic, we had to try it.

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– San Diego Union-Tribune

– San Diego Home and Garden

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“★★★★” – Mobil Travel Guide
“★★★★” – Naomi Wise, San Diego Reader
“Elegant/Exotic” – Maria Hunt, San Diego Union-Tribune
“High-Thai Dining” – David Nelson, San Diego Magazine
“Hottest New Restaurant” – USA Today
“Hands Down San Diego’s Best Thai”
– Steven Silverman, San Diego Home and Garden

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Indulge
Excellent Wine/Bar List

Tropical Transplant
The menu divides entrees into Vietnamese, Beef, Chicken, and Seafood categories. (Although pork is used in many appetizers, it doesn’t get an entree category to itself.) More entrees appear on the “Le Bambou Specialties” list. Even if eating with a fork is less fun, the best of the main dishes soon won everyone over. Scallops in tamarind sauce featured sautéed Asian bay scallops surrounded by a sweet-tangy sauce. “This is really a sophisticated flavor,” said a partner. “Since the dish is stir-fried, the flavors stay strangers to each other.” The next day, however, even he had to admit that, after a night’s rest in the fridge, the tastes had harmonized. (Doggie bags are a great invention!)

Strangely enough, the “Le Shaking Beef” offers garlic-marinated steak cubes, grilled with onion and scallion slices (like an unskewered kebab), and marinated steak cubes, grilled with onion and scallion slices (like an unskewered kebab), and near-raw celery tops, and near-raw vegetables. Beef with pineapple matches beef slices with pineapple chunks, cilantro, celery tops, and near raw tomato slices. “I’m a little disappointed with this,” said my partner. “Since the dish is stir-fried, the flavors stay strangers to each other.”

There are several fruity desserts, but the appetizer and entrée portions are so generous, we couldn’t handle more food.

The charming wine list includes numerous French bottlings at merciful markups, including several serious reds and a delicious Alsatian Gewurtztraminer that’s the perfect quaff with Southeast Asian food. (“That’s what I drink myself,” says Mr. Do.) A tasty Pouilly-Fumé proved a drier but still appetizing alternative. There are plenty of California bottlings, too—but the fruity white Frenchies are obviously so much fun with this cuisine. And for a true taste of old Saigon, beer lovers can opt for 33 Beer, a Vietnamese brand that even beer-haters like me can enjoy. It’s made for the tropics, to accompany a tropical cuisine.

Over the years, San Diego has gained scores of newer Vietnamese eateries serving pho and other tasty peasant dishes. I love the fruity white Frenchies are native. There are plenty of Asian restaurants, the hotness of Americans ask for ‘very spicy,’ we still give them a 5. Me? When I eat, it’s a 10—or a 15.”

He and his wife have had to adapt their cuisine not only to American tastes but to Del Mar tastes in particular. For instance, he can’t use ground beef. “It’s too fatty, and our customers don’t want fat. When people are rich, they worry about their health—but they want to live a very long time.” They also had to back down on the heat of their spicy dishes. “We always ask how hot people want it, on a scale of 1 to 10. But when Americans ask for ‘very spicy,’ we still give them a 5. Me? When I eat, it’s a 10—or a 15.”

Note: On the reviews of Nobu and Samurai, graphic errors were made in translating split ratings into stars. The correct ratings: Nobu had 4 stars for sushi, 2½ stars for the dinner menu; Samurai had 4½ stars for sushi, 2 stars for the dinner menu. •

142 San Diego Reader, June 16, 2005
Lying Perverts


Oh, man. It’s hot, and I need a drink. I’m up here about a job. A one-week affair helping clean up a warehouse — could be some surplus furniture in it for me. Been walking miles, along one side of the Marines’ Miramar airbase. Tomcats, choppers whoosh and clatter around the sky as I head into this totally forgettable strip mall. “The Filling Station,” says a sign over a bar wedged into the corner. Wow. Looks like the ideal place to bring your nubia, knowing you’d know, like, no one.

Not that I’d be alive today if I ever tried that on the lovely Carla. Can just see her sniffing my shirt for evidence, looking me straight in the eye, like, no one.

“Uh, do you have food?” I ask. I shudder as I swing through the doors. Seems I’m the only person here, though. Must be that time of day. Around three. Except for Katrina, behind the counter. She’s blonde. Li’l City Limits. And signage.

“Sure,” Katrina says. She points to a list on the back wall. Looks like a bunch of hot dog buns, burgers, Philly cheesesteaks. I slide onto a stool.

“I’ve already ordered,” I say, sitting down at the end stool.

“Nothing’s open up there about a job. A one-week affair knowing you’d know, like, no one.”

“Lying Perverts” says a sign over a bar wedged into the corner. Wow. Looks like the ideal place to bring your nubia, knowing you’d know, like, no one.

“Uh, no,” she says. “Afraid not.”

“Ice tea?” I’m trying hard to ignore the dripping Buds ($2.25) in the cooler. Katrina goes out back to look, comes in shaking her head. “Sorry. Not that either. How about sodas?”

I get a Coke ($2.00).

“And you’d like something to eat?” she asks. At just this moment a guy walks in. “What a day,” he says, dropping onto a stool. “Nothing’s falling right. Gimme a beer, sweetheart. And meatballs. Your famous meatballs.”

Katrina rises up and flies the channels.

“Dinner menu,” it says. “All $5.99.”

“It’s the dinner menu, too,” Katrina says.

“Can you put Ego out?” Mike asks. Katrina rises up and flies the channels.

“Uh-huh. Can’t seem to find it, though.”


I’m still working on the menu. Cheeseburger. Meatball, Philly cheesesteak, BBQ rib, grilled chicken breast, chicken Caesar salad. Then they have all the straight sandwiches like ham, turkey, roast beef, with Swiss, American, or cheddar cheese. Oh, and a bunch of appetizers. French fries for $1.75, taquitos ($2.75), onion rings ($3.50), mozzarella cheese sticks ($3.85), zucchini sticks ($3.75), chicken nuggets ($3.75), and macaroni and cheese ($3.50).

“Guess I’ll have the barbecue rib,” I say, as a second guy wanders in.

“Well, if it isn’t my favorite gal,” he says, sitting down at the end stool.

“This is our club really. We go to ball games together, all sorts of things.”

“Just down Black Mountain Road.”

“Anybody know where Activity Road is?” I ask.

“Black Mountain?”

“If this is the Filling Station, it’s done its job. We all watch when we hug hello. If you were born in June just show your ID and we’d be back for some of that free Salisbury steak.”

“Your dish here?” Mike asks.

“‘Perverts Corner’ — and ‘Liars’ Corner here. Katrina. She brings Mike’s meatballs and my rib sandwich ($2.25) in the cooler. “These are my guys,” says Katrina. “They know their job.”

“Black Mountain?”

“Just down Black Mountain Road.”

“Anybody know where Activity Road is?” I ask.

“Black Mountain?”

“You’re right next to it.”

“Okay. Let’s go.”

“Lobster” says a sign over a bar wedged into the corner. Wow. Looks like the ideal place to bring your nubia, knowing you’d know, like, no one.

“Look at this,” says a sign over a bar wedged into the corner. Wow. Looks like the ideal place to bring your nubia, knowing you’d know, like, no one.

“You’re right next to it.”

“Okay. Let’s go.”
Beefy Savior

“I’ve gotten as far in three years as I might have in ten years without them.”

Brian Loring didn’t set out to ride the wine boards to success in the wine business, which is probably why he was able to do it at all. The wine boards — Internet bulletin boards/chat rooms such as the West Coast Wine Network (run by San Diego’s own Brad Harrington) and eRobertParker.com — are not a good place to show up and blog your latest creation. The posters are a savvy bunch, many of them with deep cellars and oceans of experience. And they like their commercial independence — they’re not in the business, not beholden to anyone. They’re in it for the fun of it. You show up as CabFan2005 and start raving about the hedonistic fruit on your new Extravagance Reserve Cabernet (Egostroke Vineyard), and you’re liable to get called out and flamed. The reason they didn’t blast Loring when he started writing about Loring Wine Company? In part, because he was their own one.

For now, Brian Loring still has a day job — he writes software — and it was through a couple of coworkers at Hughes Aircraft that he discovered the wine boards back in 1998. “It was just wine geeks talking about wine — finding new wines, telling about good experiences at wineries, asking silly questions like ‘What’s your favorite wine?’” Loring, a longtime devotee of Burgundy, answering, “I’ve gotten as far in three years as I might have in ten years without them.” The wine boards were like a home away from home for Loring, a relatively new winemaker. “Fortune smiled upon him. As a newbie starting out, I had no mad skills or anything,” he admits, “Pinot Noir was his great love, so naturally he wanted to make it — but Pinot is not known as a forgiving grape. Part of its reputation for inconsistency, suspects Loring, comes from the fact that producers are often “dealing with fruit that’s just on the edge of ripeness. At that point, it’s really fragile.”

Early on, however, he found himself getting into vineyards planted with newer, heartier clones, clones that produced ripper, heartier fruit. (Loring buys all his grapes.) “Once you get rolling, the connections are just there. I found Clos Pepe on the Internet. I was going to get grapes from James Onions, but he had to drop fruit and didn’t have any left for me. So he convinced the guys at Garys’ Vineyard to sell me some fruit. Once I was there, it was easy to get into Rosella’s vineyard, which is owned by one of the Garys. And Adam Lee at Siduri called me and told me that Keefer Ranch had some fruit available. We watch out for each other; we’re all kind of buddies.” (Another example of the peculiar noncompetition between winemakers who by rights should be fighting desperately to dominate their share of the relatively tiny wine market.)

Fruit from these new clones, says Loring, “is not as delicate; it’s not as much ‘the heartbreak grape.’ People say that you have to have all gravity flow in the winery when you’re making Pinot” — meaning, you let gravity take the juice from crusher to fermenter to barrel and so on, so as not to bruise the fruit through any kind of violent force. Such a setup is usually too expensive for a newbie operating out of a warehouse, but Loring was saved by his beefy new grapes. “I pump everything, and I don’t think it beats the wine up at all; it’s happy to be treated like Syrah or anything else.”

“I started sending out a kind of early blog as e-mails to a bunch of people about what I was doing,” recalls Loring. The e-mails formed a WineMaker’s Diary, and somebody began posting them on the West Coast Wine Network. “People started asking questions, and before you knew it, they started signing up for the mailing list. Then when they said to other board members, ‘Try Brian’s wines; they’re really good,’ those other members said, ‘Okay!’ It was word of mouth, in a sense, but because of the boards, I’ve gotten as far in three years as I might have in ten years without them. The wine boards brought pennies from heaven or, thousands of dollars from heaven.” They helped give him the wherewithal to double production, though as the scores and press begin to pile up, Loring is beginning to get more signups from elsewhere. Now, he says, “I try to be really careful not to market myself when I’m on the boards. I try not to talk about my wines unless someone asks a question or attacks my style of winemaking. I spend most of my time talking about other people’s wines, the guys who run the boards are cool with it; I think they like having winemakers and vineyard guys participate. It kind of rounds out the discussion.”

But if he doesn’t use the boards as a selling platform, he’s happy to use them as a tool for customer care. “I could be in upstate New York for two weeks, testing sonars in a barge in the middle of a lake, but when it’s time to go to dinner, I can have five or six dinners set up in Syracuse or Rochester or Corning. It started as just survival marketing myself when I’m on the boards.”

Sushi-Bar-Restaurant

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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

San Diego Reader June 16, 2005

414

a luxurious new wine experience in hillcrest

the bar

• Over 150 wines to try by the glass
• 27 wine flights including ports and dessert wines
• Delectables: caviar, olives, meats, cheeses, breads and light dinners available
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Happy Hour: 1/2-price wines by the glass from our international list ($2.50-$5)

wine tastings

• Saturday, June 18 • 6 pm
Cinnabar Vineyards, Saratoga, CA
$10 per person. Includes bread, crackers and appetizers.

• Tuesday, June 21 • 7 pm
Tour Of Italy
A wine tasting tour of Italy! We will taste six of Italy’s most popular varieties. $25 per person. Includes bread, crackers and appetizers.

• Tuesday, June 28 • 7 pm
Chalone Wine Group
The Wine Encounter is proud to present a tasting of five upper-tier wines with the Chalone Wine Group. $30 per person. Includes bread, crackers and appetizers.

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www.thewineencounter.com
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- San Diego Van & Storage • Scripps Clinic
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- Simic Gallery • Southern Wine & Spirits
- Steepstone Real Estate Services • Sun Microsystems
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But then it was, like, ‘Gosh, these people are on my mailing list, it would be nice to put a face to the name, have a little more connection with the customer.’ We’ve met hundreds of people on my mailing list through the boards. I’ll add an extra day to my New York business trip and drive down to Philadelphia. Or I’ll stay overnight during my Chicago layover and hook up with some people for dinner.

If it’s a grand affair like the recent eRobertParker.com tasting at the Pampalonesse Grill, Loring may bring some barrel samples. ‘I figure the winemaker ought to bring something interesting, and it gives my customers a feel for the vintage. I do that sort of thing way more often than formal winemaker dinners, where you stand up, say “Dr. Zin” and drink.”

Loring has put together a complete searchable list available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

## NORTH COASTAL

### En Familia Amici

564 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-755-9000

You’ll feel like a guest at an intimate dinner in this small, cozy, pretty dining room. Chef Monica Szepesy and her brother created the menu, including house-made breads and desserts. Be sure to try the house-made chicha morada, a tangy soft drink made from Peruvian purple corn. The fare includes numerous types of empanadas, tapas—like small plates, and full-serve entries—most from the family homeland, Peru. Desert’s very nicely and can include a chocolate-like tres leches cake. vegetarian and allergy-restricted diets accommodated. Dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Reservations necessary. — N.W. (5/02)

### Neiman’s

300 Campland Village Drive (at Campland Boulevard), Carlsbad, 760-729-4111. Set in a Victorian gingerbread mansion overlooking Highway 101, this hotel restaurant’s best deal is the Sunday you-can-eat-all-you-can-drink champagne brunch, featuring made-to-order omelets, seafood creations, mimosas, etc., moderately priced at $22.95 per person (includes tax and tip). You get to have your “usual”! That’s Shannon. They do it once a month with good burgers, but breakfast’s what a lot of folks come for. “Dieters’ Downfall,” a 3-egg omlet stuffed with ham, bacon, sausage, tomato, jack, and Cheddar, is wicked. Two other things to try are the “Sausage of the Week” is made next door at the Red Geranium (at Carlsbad Boulevard), Carlsbad, 760-634-5556. Chef-owner Paule Pagnia was executive chef of the Four Seasons Asians when he decided he wanted his own little place. His casual strip-mall restaurant has been perpetually packed for dinner since opening day. Here he serves a monthly changing menu of Southern French and Mediterranean cooking spotlighting seasonal local produce. Highlights include a clever, ethereal Duck breast, cranberry sauce, potato, a lush beurre noisette sauce, and an ultra-rich macadamia-nut and ham croissant. The adventure main-Cal wine list is remarkably affordable, with many choices available by half-bottles and glasses and (modestly) charged if you BYO. Dinner reservations required; no groups larger than ten accommodated. Lunch Tuesday through Sunday. — N.W. (1/01)

### Ruby’s Diner

1 Pierview Way. Takes reservations. A woman would never build up an appetite just getting there. It’s the end of the 1/3 mile long Oceanaside pier. (There’s a 50-foot electric wagon, too.) Ruby’s is part of a themed “diner” chain stretching from LAX to Kodiak, Alaska. It’s just fun. Shiny Cherry Corvette-style red leather red sofas, white walls, berhotes, old Coca-Cola signs, “Diner music” on holiday evenings and during happy hours. A large, attractive heated patio next to the parking lot offers some afternoon sun and Open daily, lunch until late, plus Sunday breakfast/brunch. Inexpensive. — E.W. (6/98)
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GOLD COAST

Bella Wanta Pizza House 418 Ab-
eldor Drive (off the 101), Cardiff-by-
the-Sea, 760-753-6707. This ever-pop-
ular North County restaurant which
opened back in 1965 is a family oper-
tion all the way. Their thin-crust East
Coast-style pizzas are famous locally.
Also check for the big spaghetti or
lasagne specials if you just want to
fill up. Open seven days, lunch and dinner.
Inexpensive. — E.B. (1/01)
Cafe Zinc 132 South Cedros (at Loma
Santa Fe), Solana Beach, 785-593-456.
The Rancho Santa Fe Steak set to har-
go out here in the garden patios with their
Porsches at the curb and their sirloin
under the table is welcome. Even for non-doggie people, the
California pepper trees and garden sculp-
tures make this indoor-outdoor eatery
a really pleasant kick-back place (which
gives its same from the zinc top bar in-
side). The menu, a mixture of Italian
and Vegetarian, offers dishes like frittata
with marinated, mozzarella, and Parme-

sun cheese. The vegetarian chili and the
Zin cottle burger (served on a Lava
bun) are tasty to try. Open seven days,
breadth through late night. Inexpen-
sive. — E.B. (9/01)
Samurai Japanese Restaurant 975 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Lomas
Santa Fe Plaza, Solana Beach, 858-
452-0632. This restaurant brags
“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 eas-
ily make a meal from the sushi and ap-
petizers. Seating is available at the sushi
bar or the central dining area, which
provides spacious booths. A tatami
room (with floor-seating on tatami
mats), Japanese-style offers special prix fixe
feasts ($60 per person and up), by
reservation only. Open daily. Moderate
 Extremely expensive. — E.W.

L A J O L L A

Aesop’s Tables Greek Cafe #86
Gemence Avenue #106, Costa Vade
Shopping Center, 858-455-1533. Gy-
ros are the thing here, since 1975. The
meat’s prepared outside to Aesop’s recipe
of lamb, beef, and spices. But
would the spiky-haired Greek Lahidist
recognize pita with lamb sausage and
deep fried onion? On the dishes
out in slabs, American-style A true
blade (and white) Greek choice is the
more appetizer plate to share, with
samplings of grilled eggplant, mar-
ninated mushrooms, artichokes, broad
beans, and stuffed grape leaves. Just
add pita bread and it’ll almost make a din-
er for two. The vegetarian combo es-
tics are good also, with nice thick nasturti-
(yogurt, cucumber, dill, and, sour
cranberry, and lemon (sesame seed)
Lamb dishes like moussaka (layers of
ground lamb, beef, eggplant, and arni
souvlaki (lamb on a shaver) are helped
by a wide choice of Greek wines,
including Xinamoro Merlot. But to re-
ally get the spice and savor the sate,
seasoned K zestou chese flameed at your
table with Ouzo. Go ahead, try an
“Ouzo” with Lamb and dinner Monday to Saturday,
Sunday, dinners only. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B. (6/04)
Brockton Villa 1235 Coast Boule-
vard, La Jolla, 858-454-7893. Pretty
romantic, this sprawling cottage
perches above La Jolla Cove and offers
heated terraces as well as semi-enclosed
tables indoors to admire the view.
The culinary masterpiece is “Coast Toast,”
prepared for breakfast but now served all
day — it’s the the fluffy toast of your
happiest dreams, puffy and airy with a
lovely orange flavor. (And the coffee is
excellent.) Lunchtime features sand-
wiches on flavorful Bread & Cafe breads
while dinner runs to San Diego inter-
national-eclectic cookery that can be
hit-or-miss. Affordable wines and
cocktails. Quiet, pretty room, you may overhear
the Rancho Santa Fe set like to hang
out. Open seven days, lunch and dinner.
Moderate — Expensive. — E.B. (9/01)

LA JOLLA

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Overlooking Legendary Torrey Pines Golf Course, site of the 2008 US Open
Sunday, June 19, 2005 • 10:30 am-2:30 pm

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Prime Rib
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~Enticing Desserts~
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Assorted Pastries

Enjoy Complimentary Sparkling Wine
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Parking will be validated for 3 hours.
All reservations must be held with a credit card. Guests who do not wish to dine for brunch may order off a limited menu in the Lounge or from Room Service.

Sunday, June 19, 2005 • 10:30 am-2:30 pm

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~Enticing Desserts~
Crêpe Station
Assorted Pastries

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San Diego’s Largest Selection with Over 150 Regular Items Plus
Prime Rib & Snow Crab
$11.20 all day
~Additional patio open on Father’s Day~
Now serving Prime Rib Monday-Thursday
LUNCH $7.20 • DINNER $10.20
Not valid on holidays.
15% OFF TOTAL BILL • Seniors
Not valid on other offers or to-go orders.
Not valid after 5:00 p.m. Expires 6/30/05.
Discounts and reservations for groups or parties available.
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Dinner Monday-Thursday 3:30-9 pm
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Sunday All Day Dinner 11 am-9 pm
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father’s Day Buffet
San Diego’s Largest Selection with Over 150 Regular Items Plus
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$11.20 all day
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Boston Bar

Bale French Sandwich Shop
4159 University Avenue (at 49th Street), City Heights, 819-268-4332.
Ann Nguyen started this back in 1980, and her prices haven’t changed —
they’re incredibly low. But the taste of her sandwiches is up there in French-Vietnamese heaven. The Vietnamese are special at this: they do French better
— much better than the French — with some spicy Asian touches. The BBQ Pork French sandwich delivers the immediate taste of cilantro, garlic mayo, sweet
barbecue sauce, carrots, onions, cucumber, and lashings of sliced pork, with the occasional heat of a green jalapeño. But above all, it’s that crunch of bread — fresh, flaky, and very French — that makes this hard to beat. Add dessert of home-made banana
shrimp cake and Vietnamese coffee and — voila! Open daily, breakfast through early evening. Inexpensive. — E.B. (9/02)

Dumpling Inn
4169 Convoy Street
the-wall. For those who love the Far East and its food, finding the Dumpling
Inn is a little revelation. It’s located in the busy Jasmine/Korean Market Cen-
ter among Oriental herbists, manicure-vase shops, even feng shui experts. The Inn itself is tiny but charming. Long hanging lanterns, decorative
strings of scarlet and gold firecrackers, Chinese fans, and even an odd coni-
straw hat. The food is serious but not expensive. Dishes like tin fish and
green chive dumplings, spicy stir-fried three-ingredient lo mein (thick noo-
dles, jumbo shrimp, calamari, and chicken plus hot red peppers) are chal-
lenging and exciting, as is the Dumpling Dinner (including hot-and-
sour soup, cold cuts, shredded pork, buns, pot-stickers, shrimp and pork
dumplings). Don’t miss their divine jelly
— crunchy-tender, bright and spicy (but not too) — you’d be hard-pressed to find it like outside of Hong Kong. Lunch and early dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B. (9/02)

Dumpling Inn

Emerald Chinese Seafood Restaurant
Pacific Gateway Plaza, 3709 Convoy Street (at Aero Drive), 1st floor, Kearny Mesa, 858-565-6888. Ar-
guably the best Chinese restaurant in the county, here’s where local Asians
(of all nations) go for both casual fam-
ily dinners and special events of Hong Kong specialties. When you dig in,
you’ll know why. Menu (trilingual in Chinese, Vietnamese, and English) empha-
sizes seafood and gourmet delicacies of the South China coast, plus lunchtime dim sum carts daily. The staff is bilingual and simply helpful, and the specialties are well worth explor-
ing. Reservations accepted for all meals, including weekend dim sum branches. Few dishes include MSG; dinners can re-
quest none in made-to-order dishes. Live fish tank, full bar, serviceable wine list. Mainly moderate, with moderate splurge like live fish and Peking duck easily balanced by inexpensive down-
home dishes (unless you insist on shark fin or bird’s nest). Open daily from lunch until midnight or later. — N.W. (3/02)

New Shanghai
4619 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-569-4833. New Shanghai is busy, friendly, and draws a mostly Chinese clientele because their Chinese food isn’t “Americanized.” Whatever your gastronomic politics, try the generous plateful of dry braised
shrimp, the “de-fatted pork shoulder,” the hot tripe, and the ingenious red bean pudding dessert. Inexpensive. to moderate. — M.N. (4/99)

New Shanghai

Rosie and Joe’s Grill & Cantina
7966 Avenida Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-377-3777. For Polachi and his wife Rosie started this place in 1959. Now his son Paul and wife Lynn run it as a
New Mexico-style eatery—sports bar-
patio café with karaoke and mini-golf. Popular dishes include the “Beerrabu”
sandwich (corn beef on rye with sauerkraut, Gouda cheese), the Sweet
Sicilian sandwich (grilled Italian sausage, sun-dried onions, olive peppers, provolone), and the California Chi
Burger (with roasted chiles, onions, Gouda cheese). Also good: the Pescado Vera Cruz (pan-grilled fish with caramelized onions). Yes, it’s out in the industrial wilds of Kearny Mesa, but it has a Cheers feel to it. Open for lunch,
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Treat Your Dad to a BIG FAT STEAK.

24-oz. USDA Choice Porterhouse

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Includes salad or clam chowder and choice of potato.

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24-oz. USDA Choice

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The THE BEACHES

Free of hormones, steroids, pesticides & antibiotics.
EAST COUNTY & COLLEGE AREA

Bars & B-Q 2625 Lemon Grove Avenue, Lemon Grove, 619-462-9206. Clayton Davis’s sign says it all: “Pens Are Being Tha South Ya Month.” You can tell this is the real deal from the two heavy iron doors in the brick wall behind the counter and the big wood fires burning oak inside. This is Memphis-style soul food, mild and moist-wathering and—oh. Expect dollar portions from the unhurried chicken or pork, neck bones and cabbage, to country crows, corn on the cob, and corn bread. Other lip-smacking dishes include chopped beef brisket sandwich, pork ribs or shoulder, beef ribs, red snapper, and hot links or ham — all with two sides and bread. Oh, yes they also serve catfish sandwiches and sweet potato tarts. Or you could just stand outside and smell the smoke. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/00)

Jimmy’s 6935 Mission Gorge Road (at Town Center Drive), San Diego, 619-444-4994. We’re at the end of the line here, the trolley’s Orange Line. Feels like a safari. You walk back through the grass to the streets of San-ter. Thank goodness for this family-friendly restaurant with good, old-fashioned American food. Their six-page plastic menu tells all — forget your diet. You get the breakfast basics: Eggs and Cakes” (two eggs, two pancakes), the “Touchdown” (two eggs, two hormones, four strips of bacon or three link sausages), or the “Monte Cristo” hot sandwich (ham and turkey grilled on butter-dipped Texas toast with Swiss cheese, hot sauce, and French fries). Later in the day, the New York strip or sirloin steak with all the trimmings, and desserts like homemade cinnamon bread pudding with raisins and whipped cream. Open three meals, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/00)

La Mesa Ocean Grille And Seafood Market 1460 Lake Murray Boulevard (at Maryland Street), La Mesa, 619-563-5740. This spot speaks seafood in several accents — Italian, Mexican, Cajun, and “Continental.” One part of its menu is devoted to ba-sic fare, such as seafood sandwiches, tacos, and various simple fish preparations (fried, blackened, “craw”). Then there are the more elaborately sauced and—garnished seafood dinner entries, most with pasta accompaniment. Fish-echers will find chicken in a classic Italian treatments (scaucopini, pizzata, etc.), plus nightly specials. Seafood here is very fresh and properly cooked, although there are occasional and dig into the breakfasts — possibly an- s and mouth watering — and cheap. Ex-pensive. — E.B. (5/04)

Lucky Star Seafood Restaurant 3893 54th Street (at University Avenue, in Kmart Shopping Mall), College Area, 619-229-9228. The Cantones and Mandarin menus run to 225 dishes, not to mention the dim sum lunches from roving carts bearing goodies. The huge room is perfect for large parties (call ahead to reserve) or banquets. Not to be missed are lobster dishes, steamed whole fish, Dungeness crab in special sauce, and frog’s legs. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to upper moderate. — E.W. (3/99)

Rancho Valencia’s 9803 Camps Road, Suite A Spring Valley, 619-589-1292. With 35 Mexican restaurants in the area, this Mexican City entity has got to be good. It’s a cheery place with lime green walls and orange accents. Cooking from the capital tends to be less bitty hot but some northern foods with unexpected taste combos, like pollo en salsa de cai-abate (an almost Thai-tasting chicken in peanut sauce which comes with rice, beans, and salsa “like the delicious pelangoches, a mess of bacon, pork, pineapple, mushrooms, bell peppers, onions, and cheese. Aztec hipster (cactus with potato, cheese, lettuce, sour cream, and salsa) is also great to love. Open daily; closes early on Sun-day. Inexpensive. — E.B. (2001)

Sunny Garden Cuisine of China 5501 Grossmont Center Drive (next to Target), La Mesa, 619-464-2288. De-centric Chinese food, in East County, in a mall? Yes! Fans of fried goodness will find of course swoon over tempura shrimp — punki-crusted, huge and tender — but they might also start with the smoked chicken — smoked meat swad-dled in an orangey fried coat, served atop a deeply munchable bed of sal-bury fried mustard greens. The menu is typically broad. Chicken, shrimp, beef and pork are all given the misu-treatment — mixed with bamboo shoots, bean sprouts, and thin, chesey mush-rooms and wrapped tableside (if you like) in paper puppysacks. Yu-hong (with shrimp, beef, or pork) includes vegetables that are flavorful (not af-terthoughts) in a refreshingly non-sweet vinegar sauce. Specialties include Peking duck and a noodle roast filled with either seafood or beef. Open seven days, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — A.M. (4/02)

Valley House Restaurant 10767 Woodward Avenue (at Magnolia), San-ter, 619-562-3789. This is for Cornell Hicks, plus his Saloon in the Palms (2003) served speaking, plenty of it aton food. Take the morning special, “Iowa Breakfast”: battered pork tenderloin, two eggs, and hash browns, fries, or grits, plus a choice of biscuits, muffin, or toast — it’s delicious. Lunch or dinnertime you can’t go wrong ordering the signature “Iowa Porker” hot sandwich (battered pork tenderloin in a bun with soup, potato salad, or steak fries) or the “Iowa Bistro” (seasoned ground beef sim-mered in chicken broth, piled into a burger bun). Open three meals, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B. (8031)

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Dara Thai Cuisine Restaurant & Bar 402 West Broadway Emerald Plaza • Downtown San Diego 619-232-7702 • www.darathai.net

FAR EAST

Dulzura Cafe 16961 Highway 94 at Dulzura. 619-686-5951. Thank Gogues of Varlo, Okies, the 1930s. Dulzura Cafe is the real thing, serving big, hot meals to weary scientists since 1930. The walls are cluttered with license plates, pots, brass cream separators, com-shakers, horse collars, railroad lanterns, ancient egg-baskets, six-foot snake skins, deer antlers, and a seedy stuffed bobcat head. The food’s for fill-ing. Big, juicy hamburgers with juicy home-cut fries, thick slices of meat loaf, or if you arrive early, steak and eggs or a hefty Denver omelet. This is frontier food before slim spilled “success.” Breakfast and lunch Monday through Thursday, three meals on weekends. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/00)

La Posta 32337 Old Highway 80, Pine Valley, 619-478-5605. Is the Wild West dead? Not out here. Swinger in past the rocking chairs on the wooden porch, by the “NRK meets here, every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays, 7 to 11 pm” sign, post horses and arrows, dream catchers, kitsch, and brass spittoons, and swing into a chair. Now think vintage American food. Hotly anytime-breakfasts include two eggs, hash browns, biscuits, and coffee
Bread and Cie 350 University Avenue (at Fourth), Hillcrest, 619-683-9352. At least twenty breads emerge daily from this bakery's 10,000-square-foot operation. French bread is particularly lovely. At $2.50, the charge may seem a bit steep, but you would probably be hard pressed to find more consistently good French bread at a comparable price in the region. Open daily, breakfast through early evening. — N.W. (10/02)

Extraordinary Desserts (430 Mission Street on Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-294-7001; also 2929 Fifth Avenue, uptown, 619-298-0508. With策略 for a quiet dessert stall still standing on the original churro cart at Balboa Park. Those wanting most of a meal for the newer Little Italy location, a vast, noisy space with industrial decor and a menagerie of eclectic small plates — mezze, spreads, bruschettas, sandwiches, and the like. Prices tend to be intense; some creations (such as a braised fennel sandwich with pomegranate and celeriac — spread) are wonderful, others are astonishing even in small portions. One location offers pasty cases full of desserts that live up to "extraordinary." — E.B. (5/02)

Ono Sushi and Pacific Spice 3741 3rd Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-298-0916. If you are searching for huge portions, fresh-tasty food and reasonably priced, check out this neighborhood Japanese/Pacific Rim cafe. Excel- lent specialty rolls, appetizers, entrées. Very crowded weekends; locally young diners rave. Best bet: try the spicy red snapper with jalapeño; a spicy lobster-stuffed pepper for the spicy spiciness lover. — E.B. (10/03)

Salo 2502 Howard Street, Hillcrest, 619-298-0916. If you are searching for huge portions, fresh-tasty food and reasonably priced, check out this neighborhood Japanese/Pacific Rim cafe. Excellent specialty rolls, appetizers, entrées. Very crowded weekends; locally young diners rave. Best bet: try the spicy red snapper with jalapeño; a spicy lobster-stuffed pepper for the spicy spiciness lover. — E.B. (10/03)

Potrero's Cafe 21E 1st Avenue (northwest corner of University), University Heights, 619-297-4057. Pomegranate's address is serendipitous; that of Deep South Georgia is the Louisiana cuisine of the South. The dinner menu changes seasonally, featuring barbecue items due to autumn weather, and special dinners on all major holidays. Good wine list (including champagnes), beers, fruit and the rice fields of Bali. The white table cloths, linen napkins — but the decor and a menu of eclectic small

RESTAURANTS

E.B. (12/01)

Banquet facilities available

3925 4th Ave.
858-454-2500

3687 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-298-7088. Co-owner Jeff Rossman, personally, featuring barbecue items due to autumn weather, and special dinners on all major holidays. Good wine list (including champagnes), beers, fruit and the rice fields of Bali. The white table cloths, linen napkins — but the decor and a menu of eclectic small

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list; food expensive or higher. — N.W. (1/04)

Chive 555 Fourth Avenue (near J Street), 619-232-4683. “We cater!” Chive was wonderful enough, but now, with chef Fabrice Poggi (most recently of the Farmer’s Daughter) at the helm of the kitchen, it features a new cuisine for the neighborhood that is truly residential in spirit.


Edgewater Grill 861 W. Harbor Drive, Coronado, 619-435-3265. An easy walk from the Convention Center, the dining room is spacious and serene, and the view from the crowded dining terrace is optimal (the bay, the Coronado Bridge, a park, etc.). The menu, though, is convention-centered — like a Howard Johnson’s for the 21st century. The fare features mal-dile-of-the-road faux-fusion salads, scowled, grilled steaks, pastas (even with shellfish), and individual pizzas, plus daily fish-fish dishes listed on a card in a plastic holder on the table. The lighter dishes are the most successful — that place did well to “graze” on the teriyaki salmon and a mimi pizza when you’s starved for a view. Difficult wheelchair access to terrace. Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Entrees high moderate to very expensive. — N.W. (8/04)

Fat City Steakhouse 2317 Pacific Highway (at Hawthorn), Little Italy, 619-213-9310. In the “Deux’s” palace” at the edge of downtown, the USAF Choice steaks (and one all-Prime cut) are cooked over mesquite charcoal, which lends them a deliciously smoky campfire flame. Don’t be afraid! You can choose nicely grilled chicken, pork, or salmon, or try the Iberian pork (the putatness is better than the marinated), or scampi. The appetizer list is mainly adult pub-grub, but the fry-does cook a great job with calamari in a fairly-fair, the lunch/dinner patio is a little piece of Tener. For a fresher basic wine list taste, ambience, above-average wheelchair access from large, free parking lot. Dinner nightly, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W. (12/02)

The Honey Bee Hive Bar and Grille 1001 India St. #105, Little Italy, 619-702-6010. Seems like half the students and staff of City College are pocking across the room in this collarese. Why the bar theme? A love of red rocks discovered in here. Try the Bee Keeper burger (a half-pound cheeseburger), the King Bee honey-lemon grilled chicken sandwich or wrap, the Queen Bee, a Cajun honey-grilled chicken sandwich or wrap, the “turkey tantrum” (roast turkey with cranberry sauce, pineapple, tomato, chutney, fresh seasonal fruits, and non-fat mayo) is filling and available all day. The Honey Hive is a very popular and the crêpes are delicious (using flax seeds), “meat” loaf (using beans and greens), and the crêpes are delicious. But doesn’t cooked in an oven — it’s better the next day. “Aloha shirt restaurant — huge, but the flowery, shrimp, lobster, and scallops. Open Monday through Friday for lunch and breakfast. Inexpensive. — N.W. (8/04)


El Do Gordo Churrascaria 999 Fourth Avenue (between E and Broadway), Gaslamp, 619-504-8764. The most authentic Brazilian barbecue you can get here — a cook, a bird, a hot bun with made with unsmoked bacon. Soups and is a Brazilian rodine-skewer skwith skewer of churras (Brazilian barbecue). A new mid-week lunch special, Thursday thru Saturday, offering traditional meats. At each table there’s a wooden cone with one red end and the other end green. Turn the green side up and the red side will turn red. Available all day. Inexpensive. — N.W. (8/04)

Rebel Do Gordo Churrascaria 999 Fourth Avenue (between E and Broadway), Gaslamp, 619-504-8764. The most authentic Brazilian barbecue you can get here — a cook, a bird, a hot bun with skewer of churras (Brazilian barbecue). A new mid-week lunch special, Thursday thru Saturday, offering traditional meats. At each table there’s a wooden cone with one red end and the other end green. Turn the green side up and the red side will turn red. Available all day. Inexpensive. — N.W. (8/04)

The Westgate Gourmet Deli & Extension Third Avenue, between Broadway and C Street, downtown, 619-350-5808. This is where you will find your respectable Amish meats for lunch. The place reeks of poultry. Green carpets, white linen cloths, fresh flowers, chandeliers, giant potted palms. It’s part of the Westgate hotel, and looks like a grocery for the rich who just can’t live without specially olive oils and expensive wines. But prices for sandwiches, light breakfasts, and lunches are down there with the best Market Street liquor-deli. The Hawaiian chicken (with, is a mashed potato bowl loaded with fish such as sea bass, shrimp, shark, lobster, and scallops. Open Monday through Friday for lunch and breakfast. Inexpensive. — N.W. (8/04)

Chive was wonderful enough, but now, with chef Fabrice Poggi (most recently of the Farmer’s Daughter) taking charge of the kitchen any time of year. Very nice. Very popular. Dinner nightly, 11:30 p.m. weekends. Full meals expensive or higher. — N.W. (10/04)

Clairott Live! 315-1/2 3rd Avenue, Chula Vista, 619-827-7401. Look in Cristina Guzman’s kitchen — no smoke, no burns. Only warmers. Her theory? Never heat food above 112 degrees or the enzymes will die. Enzymes? They live. They give you energy and do your digestion for you. What’s amazing is how much real-looking and — tasting food she can create with raw nuts and toasts. And fruit. And especially seeds. She creates “the God squares” (using flax seeds), “tortilla” (using chia seeds), “tapioca”(using coconut milk), “pita bread” (using lentil flour), and “taco” (using oatmeal). — N.W. (8/04)

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With this ad. Expires 6/30/05.
Never Fear
Nolan merits much credit for filling the Batsuit with the low-wattage Bale.

A n anticipatory response to Batman Begins might be that it surely should have been called Batman Continues or Batman Resumes or at least, for a finer shade of meaning, Batman Changes. The casting of a new man in the role of the DC Comics superhero — Christian Bale succeeding Michael Keaton — hardly gives the series leave to pretend it is no longer Batsuit with the low-wattage Bale.

The psychological root of his fixation is indeed looking to follow in anyone’s footsteps (much less to do further damage to his reputation, founded solely on Memento, than he did already in his Hollywood remake of Insomnia). He is instead looking to strike off on his own, to return to square one: how and why Bruce Wayne came to be Batman; the psychological root of his fixation on flying mammals; the part this played in his guilt over his parents’ murder; in short, the logic, the reasoning, behind the selection of his chiropteran crime-fighting persona. Burton, if I remember right, went over some of this ground in the original Batman of 1989, or maybe I’m thinking of Schumacher digging into the background of the sidekick, Robin, in the 1995 Batman Forever. In either case, the ground was not gone over in such detail, nor with such a straight face, a grim face, a “game face.” Should you still bristle at the title, think of it rather as Batman Starts Over or Batman Backs Up. Think of it, in other words, as a prequel, if only to link it with Star Wars III and Dominion to form a summer cycle. Mind you, it’s a much better film than those, easily the best Batman film since the 1989, and possibly better than that one by a whisker, Batman Recovers.

The starting-over will naturally mean that the storytelling takes a good long time to get to the Batsuit, the Batcave, the Batmobile, and all the appurtenances, a time taken up with flashbacks to boyhood and young manhood, and with a present-tense plotline that picks up in an Asian prison, where a scruffily bearded Bruce Wayne is commingling with the low-wattage Bale.

And where he is visited in solitary confinement by a nattily attired and smoothly groomed Liam Neeson, neither a phantasm nor a fairy godfather, who poses him a challenge out of the Arabian Nights: pick the rare blue flower that grows on the eastern slopes, carry it to the top of the mountain, and join the path of the League of Shadows, in order to find what he seeks. And what’s that? “To turn fear on those who prey on the fearful,” he answers, ever mindful of his father’s dying words, “Don’t be afraid.” All of this, and the subsequent training in Eastern martial arts and eventual disillusionment with the League of Shadows, produces surprisingly little impatience, thanks to the straight face, the grimness, the gameness, the unflagging intensity, the hammering on the motif of fear, the percussive musical accompaniment credited jointly to Hans Zimmer and James Newton Howard (which one’s the drummer?). But the intensity, etc., cuts two ways: it lends a degree of conviction.
adding head-butts and kung-fu kicks to his repertoire. Even so, Nolan merits much credit for filling the Batsuit with the low-wattage Bale, an actor as opposed to a star, a more credible sufferer and struggler and a less certain victor. And the support team, aside from the kewpie-doll Katie Holmes as an incorruptible D.A., is solid: dry Michael Caine (taking over for Michael Gough, one constant in the Batman series) as the loyal manservant, Alfred; a very Morgan Freeman as the supplier of gadgetry (what “Q” is to James Bond); and a world-weary Gary Oldman as the town’s one honest cop. No Robin and no Batgirl equals less silliness.

_Howl’s Moving Castle_, imported from Japan and distributed through Disney, is the second film from Hayao Miyazaki, the acknowledged master of anime, since his announced “farewell” one, _Princess Mononoke_. The latter, to our shame, was but the first of his works to receive a wide release in the U.S.; and, to my personal shame, it served as my belated introduction to him. So, while I am not complaining about the deferral of his retirement, neither am I rejoicing. At least not at the pitch of other critics I’ve read. I still have several earlier Miyazaki films to track down on DVD, and I still intend to follow through, but _Howl_ seemed to me really more of a snore, a dreamworld that doesn’t so much pull the spectator into it as push him toward it. It certainly, in common with the other ones I’ve seen, doesn’t lack for imaginative detail. On the contrary, it could have made do with a little less. The French novelist and essayist Anatole France, who went on a few flights of fancy of his own, once came up the notion in a fictional dialogue that the human imagination can come up with nothing the human eye hasn’t already seen; it can only come up with new combinations. (“The Greeks used to see centaurs, sirens, and harpies, because they had previously seen men, horses, women, fishes, and birds.”) In that sense, Miyazaki here combines too much. Piles too high. Blends too thick.

The titular castle, to begin with, is an amalgam that might symbolize the entire project: a fused junkpile of architectural oddballs and ends lifted from Medieval fortresses, 19th-century factories, countryside cottages, boiler rooms, God knows what all, walking around on giant chicken’s feet and dragging a dinosaur’s tail, the residence of a glamorous operetta, pastoral ideal and prettified operetta, pastoral ideal and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated and Disney-ized into a hunchbacked crone by computer animation that so contaminated the multiple-chinned Witch of the Waste. It looks — and this is not meant as a compliment — like something you might encounter in a live-action Terry Gilliam film, right down to the computer animation that so contaminates Miyazaki’s hand-drawn purism. The setting is a similar amalgam: an alternative Europe of past and future, history and fairy tale, naturalistic novel and prettified operetta, pastoral ideal and urban dystopia, model T’s and f flying machines, grazing sheep and ambulatory edifice, mythical birdman and Disney ingenue, all jammed together, with a lot more besides. It’s too much of a good thing. Or anyway, too much of a thing, whether or not good. What the film most definitely does lack is adequate mundanity to ground the runaway whimsy (the breakfast of bacon and eggs stands out as an excep- tion), and, more importantly, adequate narrative motor — to propel the viewer through the long, slow couple of hours (the very vague Orwellian war in the distance never fully gallops forward like the hunchbacked crane, the temporal smothering-out of the crone’s will, the moment when the hero captures her youthful ardor. Miyazaki manias, of which there are more than a few, will doubtless find much else to like, like the long, slow couple of hours from earlier in the year, _Steamboat_.

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**MOVIE LISTINGS**

All reviews are by Duncan Shepherd.

**PROMOTER PREVIEW**

Previews indicated by one to five stars and aptitudes by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past past reviews are sorted alphabetically, by year of release and by rating, are available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

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**ADVENTURES OF SHARK BOY AND LAVA GIRL IN 3D** — The dreamyear superhero-adventure-adventure-grade-school-comics-comes-to-life, pull him out of the classroom, fly him in Planet Droid (Where Kids Rule), side the Train of Thought to the Land of Milk and Cookies, take a Banana-Split Boat down the Steam of Consciousness, and so on. Didactic kid stuff from Robert Rodriguez, a change from his Spy Kids series, shot in cloudy, colorless-3-D. Hard on the eyes, no easier on the stomach. With Cayden Boyd, Taylor Lautner, Taylor Dooley, David Arquette, Kristin Davis, and George Lopez. 2005. ★★

**CARMEL MOUNTAIN**

CHULA VISTA 10.

**DE MAR**

HIGHLANDS 8.

**ENCINITAS 8**

**ESCONDIDO 16**

**FASHION VALLEY 18**

**GROSSMONT CENTER**

HORTON PLAIZ 14.

**LA JOLLA 12**.

**MBA MESA 18**.

**MISSION MARKETPLACE PLACE 13**.

**MISSION VALLEY 20**.

**OCEANSIDE 16**.

**PALM PRONIAZ 24**.

**PARKWAY PLAZA 18**.

**POTRERO 10**.

**POTRERO DEL REY 16**.

**SAN DIEGO 16**.

**SAN MARCOS 18**.

**TOWN SQUARE 14**.

**BAZT MAN BEGINS** — Reviewed this issue. With Christian Bale, Katie Holmes, Liam Neeson, Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman, and Gary Oldman, directed by Christopher Nolan. ★★★

**CARMEL MOUNTAIN**

CHULA VISTA 10.

**CPI CHULA VISTA 2**.

**HIGHLANDS 8**.

**ENCINITAS 8**.

**ESCONDIDO 16**.

**FASHION VALLEY 18**.

**FLORENT P. 4**.

**GROSSMONT CENTER**.

**HORNET MALL**.

**JAMITOS CENTER 7**.

**HORTON PLAIZ 14**.

**LA COSTA 8**.

**LA JOLLA 12**.

**MBA MESA 18**.

**MISSION MARKETPLACE PLACE 13**.

**MISSION VALLEY 20**.

**OCEANSIDE 16**.

**PARKWAY PLAZA 24**.

**POTRERO 10**.

**POTRERO DEL REY 16**.

**SAN MARCOS 18**.

**SOUTH BAY DRIVE-IN**.

**SOUTH BAY DRIVE-IN**.

**TOWN SQUARE 14**.

**VISTA VILLAGE**

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**BRINGING UP BABY** — Screwball comedy involving, among others, a paleontologist, a socialite with an incomprehensible high opinion of herself and an unstoppable word flow, a fox terrier who has stolen and buried a base-brontosaurus bone, a big-game hunter, and a pet leopard whose temper can be soothed by the singing of “I Can’t Help Myself (Anymore)” (Baby), all of whom, plus others, come together at top volume for the finale in the sheriff’s office. If the inevitability of the thing doesn’t come so much from Howard Hawk’s directional touch (he’s normally light on dramatic mood-handled comedies), but from the perfectly natural, unselfconscious, and idiocentric sense of humor. What Howard Hawk’s _Daisy_ is, _Baby_ is: easy to identify because of the persistent re-surfacing of the same ideas in other movies: a bookworm for a hero, Cary Grant in women’s clothing, a woman oblivious to the fact that the back of her dress is missing, the nagging repeti-
Cinderella Man — The story of the light-heavyweight champion of the world, Rocky Marciano, who retired from the ring in 1956 with a 49-0 record and started a career in business. The film stars Viggo Mortensen as Marciano and is directed by Ronald F. Maxwell. 2005.

Downfall — The story of Adolf Hitler, the leader of Germany during World War II, who had a downward-facing church, is put over with great care and attention to detail. The film stars Dieter Laser as Hitler and is directed by Oliver Hirschbiegel. 2004.

Happily Ever After — Consider the possibilities marital comedy written and directed by Yvan Attal, revolving around three car salesmen in contrasting marital states, and achieving a quality of genuine discourse. Tender moment: Attal, who also plays one of the three salesmen, gazing at his wife’s neck as Elvis sings of how he can’t help falling in love. (One of Attal’s greatest assets as a filmmaker, displayed also in his My Wife Is an Actress, is his on-screen as well as off-screen wife, Charlotte Gainsbourg, who in truth has a neck that can stand to be gazed at.) Bad moment: a food fight between the two of them, to the background sounds of Batch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid on TV, evolving into a locker-room pillow fight. Johnny Depp puts in two cameo appearances, the first one silent and the second one speaking fluent French. With Alain Chabat, Emmanuelle Seigner, Alain Cohen, Anouk Aimee, Claude Berri. 2004. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

High Tension — French-made horror thriller with Cécile De France and Maïwenn Le Besco, directed by Alexandre Ajn. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN: ESCONDIDO 18, FASHION VALLEY 18, GASPALM 15, GROSSMINT TROLLEY, JLA JOLLA 12, MISSION VALLEY 20, OCEANSIDE 18, PALM PROMENADE 24, PARKWAY PLAZA 18, RANCHO SAN DIEGO 10, SAN MARCOS 18)

The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy — End-of-the-world science fiction as filtered through the sensibility of zany, nutty, Monty Python-y British humor. The trendy, youthful, catty Douglas Adams book, now a quarter of a century old, demonstrates itself to be less than timeless. With Martin Freeman, Zossey De-schanel, Sam Rockwell, Mos Def, and the voice of Alan Rickman as a clinically depressed robot; directed by Garth Jennings. 2005. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ (GASLAMP 15)

The Honeymooners — a face-change for the vintage TV comedy, with Cedric the Entertainer as Ralph Kramden and Mike Epps as Ed Norton, directed by John Schatz. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN: CHULA VISTA 10, ERINIA 8, DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8, FASHION VALLEY 18, GASPALM 15, GROSSMINT CENTER, LA JOLLA 12, MIRA MESA 18, MISSION MARKET PLACE 13, MISSION VALLEY 20, OCEANSIDE 18, PALM PROMENADE 24, PARKWAY PLAZA 18, RANCHO DEL REY 10, RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15, SAN MARCOS 18, TOWN SQUARE 14, VISTA VILLAGE)

Howl’s Moving Castle — Reviewed this issue. With the voices of Jean Simmons, Emily Mortimer, Christian Bale, Billy Crystal, and Lauren Bacall; directed by Hayao Miyazaki. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ (ESCONDIDO 18, FROM 6/17; HILLCREST)

Kung Fu Hustle — Advertised as “a new comedy unlike anything you have ever seen before.” Uh-huh. Or perhaps wanted. In a hunk of martial-arts madness in which a gang of axe murderers will form a celebratory chorus line after their mining leader has felled a rival (felled him face-first by slicing off his leg in full stride with a thrown tomahawk), but will soon run afoul of a handful of kung-fu geniuses living in peaceful obscurity in a Shanghai slum called Pig Sty Alley. The Lion’s Roar, secret weapon of a henchpecking cigarette-puffing landlady in hair curlers, will trump a bunch of axe murderers. But the Toad Style of the Kwan Lun School, the province of an unpropossing old man locked up in Hannibal Lecter isolation, will trump that. And then the Buddha’s Palm, a celestial gift to the Chosen One, will trump that. For those who haven’t found martial-arts movies to be silly enough already, this assemblage of videovile characters, slapstick sight gags, and Looney Tunes violations of the laws of nature will further test their limits (if any). To be sure, the brutalization of bodies for the fans should not bother anyone who can see no difference between, say, a cartoon coyote and a flesh-and-blood human. Director, co-writer, and star Stephen Chow has given the thing an intermittent touch of perceptible, intelligible direction, not to be confused with perceptive, intelligent direction. The uninterrupted, unrelenting direction of it, in any event, is toward a new output, a new milestone, in the purification of the action film. 2005. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ (GASLAMP 15)

Ladies in Lavender — Thirty series premieres about two British sisters (Judi Dench, Maggie Smith) who befriend a German-speaking stranger; directed by Charles Dance. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS: LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Layer Cake — Matthew Vaughn, producer of Snatch and Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels, tries his own hand at directing one of these tough and tricky British crime thrillers: a brutal cutie. Well played by Daniel Craig, Colin Meneay, Green, Kenneth Branagh, Jamie Foreman, Sally Hawkins, Michael Gambon, among others, but the difficulty of following the plot is a real obstacle to enjoyment. 2004. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

Lemony Snicket’s A Series of Unfortunate Events — An amalgam of three of Daniel Handler’s children’s books under
The pen name of Lemony Snicket (Jimmy Cricket) what a monicker! here impersonated in voice and in silhouette by Jude Law. The getting is an amalgam as well: Charles Addams Gothic and Edward Gwyer Edwirdiana infiltrated with modern conveniences such as cars with telephones, and verbal anachronisms such as “This place could use a little TLC.” The grand total, the small sum, is a sort of mock-Dickensian 2005, tarasak, an almost unrecognizable Heath Ledger, a makeup-free Rebecca De Mornay — does nothing to disrupt the pseudodocumentary illusion. Any rise in verisimilitude, however, comes with a com- menseurate rise in tediousness. 2005.

**CARMEN MIRANDA: MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER: HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MR. MEXICO 18; MIRIAM 18; SAN MAR COS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA PLAZA.**

A Lot Like Love — The course of romance commences seven years ago, with anonymous mutual enrollment in the mile-high club in the basement of an X-AK-To reed-eye, and it proceeds from there in fits and starts, after progressively diminishing intermissions (three years, two, one, one half), without either party ever really getting to know the other, or getting to be known to the viewer, either. All that matters is that they look good together, or, apart, and have a good time. “They” are: he is the ever-handsome, always entertaining, always fascinating, factitious, forced, and jaded —

**ESCONDIDO 18; MIRA MESA 18; OCEAN BEACH 16; PARKWAY PLAZA 14; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 18; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA PLAZA.**

Pooh’s Heffalump Movie: Pooh and his friends meet a Heffalump named Lumpy. Lumpy is funny. He makes that noise. Bioworks: Different parts of the world are pretty in color, like the jungle.

**GROSSMONT CENTER: GROSSMONT TROLLEY; HAZARD CENTER 7; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEAN SIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 14; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POMAYO 10; RANCHO DEL REY 18; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA PLAZA.**

Madagaskar — Four escapes from the Central Park Zoo, a zebra, a hippo, and a giraffe — are packed up and, in fulfillment of the tenth-birthday wish of the zebra, shipped back to the wild. “I live in-a mudaha-wipe-yourself-with-a leaf wild,” in the less sanguine view of the lion. (“I am just a bunch of passers, observes the resident Lord of the Lemurs, even before the lion goes caught biting the zebra in the face.”) Notable cartoon in the contemporary style of aggressive, hard-edged hips. The lion’s discovery is the world’s first and only one that can not only make comedies for tittery old-timers (Savannah: Grace, Calendar Girls) but can just as well make one for tittery youngsters. 2005.

**GASPAXL 15.**

Mad Hot Ballroom — Marilyn Argo’s documentary on New York City fifth-graders who’ve been channeled into the stay-off-the-streets-and-stay-out-of-trouble activity of competitive ballroom dancing: “I see them turning into ladies and gentlemen,” one teacher manages to say while fighting back tears. We follow three disparate classes (only one of which will make it through to the citywide finals). “I still really don’t understand what happened,” a dejected curly top bobs his head at the quarterfinals, after his team falls three points short), and we follow them with almost no parental tunnel vision: we cannot really judge the competition; we have eyes only for “ours.” Kids being kids, with no pumped-up heroes or villains beyond a troublesome student named Jonathan, whose troubles go uninvesti- gated, this is an easy-to-like film with an easy-to-overlook funny video image. 2005.

**ESCONDIDO 18; MIRA MESA 18; OCEAN BEACH 16; PARKWAY PLAZA 14; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 18; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA PLAZA.**

**AN IRIDESCENT BLENDING OF COMEDY AND DRAMA.** — After an absence of a few years previ- ously, one of Jackie Chan’s best American movies. You can watch it again and again. I especially like how Owen Wilson and Jackie act together.


**Universal**

List price: $29.98

GTO: GREAT TEACHER ONIZUKA

**BOX SET (Japan) 1998, Tolyoppoy**

List price: $99.99

Shanghai Knights (USA) 2003, Touchstone Home Video

List price: $29.99
Mr. and Mrs. Smith — A tartareur’s de- light, if anything — and it’s a big deal — you can take delight in gauging at Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie for the first time, both shipshape by Bojan Bazelli and pamperness emblazoned in an abundance of costume opulence. There is space in this firmament for no one else, apart from a small corner for Vince Vaughn and the dimly glimpsing personas of socio- pathetic griefs. The two stars play a hus- band and wife whose passion has gone out of entertainment after “for one or six years,” depending on which one you ask. Unknow- nown to either of them, they both hap- pen to be top-level high-tech assassins for rival espionage agencies, and once this fact becomes known to them they are obliged to turn on each other. The other big idea — the situation may shape up for a while as a darkly comic metaphor on the slow death of a couple’s conjugal life, this impression, this hope, cannot survive their mutual revelation, after several sincere attempts at pre-empting it with laughter that their love remains strong, that their passion can be relinked by means of a common enemy. At times, the film is a weakly, dully comic, but brightly. And if — a final big if — filmmaker Doug Liman (Swingers, Go, to start with) can bring it through to the Bowie Earnestness with his “promise” unbroken — the promise of a rival espionage agencies, and once this fact it cannot survive their mutual revelation, after several sincere attempts at pre-empting it with laughter that their love remains strong, that their passion can be relinked by means of a common enemy. At times, the film is a weakly, dully comic, but brightly. And if — a final big if — filmmaker Doug Liman (Swingers, Go, to start with) can bring it through to the Bowie Earnestness with his “promise” unbroken — the promise of a

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The Sea Inside — Factual story of a Spanish quadriplegic who, after twenty-
several years of paralysis, took his fight to the courts for the right to die. Given its
intricately and poetically observed writing (by Alejandro Amenábar), well photographed
(by Javier Aguirresarobe, who collaborated with Alejandro on their previous film)
and well acted (by Jordi Mollà, Belén Rueda, Laura Dueñas, Mabel Rivera, Clara Segura).
The protagonist is a protagonist artist rather than for euthanasia, says a
good woman: “Who said anything about quality? It’s about time, too.”
In the end, he and his relationships with, primarily, four very
different women are sharply defined: the empathetic lawyer who herself suffers from
a degenerative disease (and with whom our hero explores the boundaries of untactile
sexuality), the simple factory worker who insinuates herself at first as a pro-life advoca-
te, the pregnant representative from Deaf Aid who seduces and seduces him and the
identi-
dy sister-in-law who, together with a moody nephew, cares for the invalid round the
clock; the issue with a quadriplegic priest is nev-
ertheless staged: the priest’s wheelchair isn’t fit
to carry the weight, and it doesn’t come down, so a messenger must shuttle up and
down with the points and counter-
points, until the debate degenerates into a
shouting match, with no more of an inter-
vention the quarter-time fusion to cinematis-
ture the material towards flashback and fantasy.
Still, for all its valiant struggle, the film is accurate as confes-
not so much by restriction of move-
ment as by narrowness of scope. 2004.

**ILLAED (PLAN 19)**

The Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants — The quintessential coming-of-age
tale, from a best-selling “tween” novel by Ann Brashares, refers to a clique of four
sixteen-year-old girls from New York, all of whom are linked from the womb in their
mothers’ prenatal aerobic classes, who purchase a pair of thigh-shapen pants that magically fit
their dissimilar bodies (“scientifically impimi-
ble”), and who helped the garment back and
for a way to stay in contact during their
summer of separation. While it deals with mat-
ter family problems, sexual activity, and
deflation, the drama has a timeliness about it
that poses no hazard for the target audi-
cvoir. No doubt the target group circumscribed
for a red dress, green eyes, blue golden,
hair, blood, etc. may or may not be “first
vis-
rack of Thinspo (New York), but over the
long haul it’s visually compelling.

Bruce Willis, Bruce Willis, Bruce

Wenner, Al Wenner, Al Wenner,

Alessio Befi, Alessio Befi, Alessio

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Nicolas Cage, Nicolas Cage, Nicolas

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n’t blind you to her talent. With Jenna
Boyd, Bradley Whitford, Nancy Travis, di-

Star Wars, Episode III: Revenge of
the Sith — George Lucas closes the circle:
the last of the three prequels, evenly spaced
out at three-year intervals. (The film-
maker’s latter-day visual style comes back
to us in a twinkling: the flatness of the hu-
mans and the overfertilized fluorescence of
their computer-generated surroundings,
something like sticks of wood in a stop-mo-
tion tomato patch.) Anakin Skywalker, as
we all are aware ahead of time, is on course
to explore the Dark Side of the Force, his
personal Darth side, “motivated” by his im-
palpable passion for Padmé, the Senator
formerly known as Queen, and by his pre-
monitions of her death in childbirth. Look-
ing more and more like Uma Thurman
(pulp floating upwards) and talking more
and more like Uma Thurman (pouty lips
over tight jaw), the leading man, Hayden
Christensen, appears to plumb the depths
of darkness about as far as a college sopho-
more facing a term-paper deadline when
he’d really rather be chugalugging beer. It’s
true that he has a hand in a lot of carnage
(personally dispatching a roomful of
“younglings,” sentimental overkill reminis-
cent of the slaughter of Macduff’s family in
Macbeth), yet the dire warnings of the film’s
unsuitability for children seem a bit off
base. Surely it’s more suitable for them than
it is for adults. Lucas’s obsessive castration
symbolism (a fear bordering on hysteria)
may be over their heads, but on the other
hand they will be less likely to carp at the
murky exposition of the Jaxx-Shake
sporadic political skulduggery, more likely
to sit there in contented incoherence,
insomuch as the meekness, thick though it is,
falls in the slightest to obscure the goodness
of the good guys and the badness of
the bad. So clear is this separation that
Anakin’s change of allegiance — Jedi self-
lessness for Sithian selfhood — reduces him
to a dupe at best and a loon at worst. And,
in the midst of what looks to be an erupting
volcano, his climactic lightsaber duel with
his mentor leaves him quite literally dimin-
ished in stature (or symbolically, once
again, castrated). Though he gets propped
up afterwards in the operating room, he
comes out of it as a sort of Wizard of Oz
with the curtain thrown back. Ewan Mc-
Gregor, Natalie Portman, Ian McDiarmid,

Howl’s Moving Castle

Unleashed — Jet Li, seeking no credibility
in gritty Glasgow, is a kind of kung-fu Wild
Child, raised and trained to be a human pit
bull, doctored as a dog collar, a deadly dervish
when it’s removed. Extravagant violence at
both ends, and extravagant baths in be-
tween, when the hero comes under the care
of a kindly old blind piano tuner (Morgan
Freeman) and his bubbly pianist step-
dughter in braces and knee-highs (Kerry
Condon). With Bob Hoskins, written by
Luc Besson, directed by Louis Letterier.
2005.

The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill —
Human-interest documentary, and aven-
interest, about an unemployed San Fran-
cisco musician, Mark Bitterman, who tends
a flock of cherry-headed conures, plus one
outcast blue-crown conure by the name of
Corryn (they all have names), who is quite a
character. Lightly engaging most of the
way, with all of the wrenching saved for the
end. Directed, edited, and shot (“No digital
special effects”) by Judy Irving. 2005.

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FREE ADS BY MAIL OR INTERNET

ONE FREE CLASSIFIED ad per week is available to private parties and nonprofit organizations that do not charge for their services.

MAIL: Ads must be clearly printed on 3x5 cards or postcards and are limited to 25 words. Additional words cost 60¢ each. Ads must be printed clearly on 3x5 cards or postcards.

ZIP CODES REQUIRED. Leave message 24 hours in advance of desired publication date. Load your ads for up to a month.

NAME

CARD NUMBER

EXP DATE

CATEGORY

SIGNATURE

DAYTIME PHONE

To provide online viewers of your ad with a map of your neighborhood, we need:

Nearest cross-streets: ___________________________ Zip code: ____________

The Reader will not be responsible for its failure to run an ad or for errors in an ad except to the extent of the cost 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.

$8 ADS BY INTERNET, FAX OR IN PERSON

QUICK, EASY, AND CHEAP! $8 ads are available to private parties only. Ads are limited to 25 words. Cash, check or credit cards are accepted. (Services, rentals, lessons or any other profit-making enterprises do not qualify for $8 ads. See instructions for business ads above. Other rules apply to Roommates and Matches ads.)

BY INTERNET: Go to SanDiegoReader.com and click on the link to place a free classified ad.

BY FAX: Complete the form below, photocopy it, and then fax it to us at (619) 233-7907. Payment is with Visa, Discover, or MasterCard.

IN PERSON: To place an ad with cash or check, fill out the form below and bring it to our office at 1703 India Street (at 1st Avenue), Downtown. The deadline is 6pm Monday.

REAL, REALY, REALY LATE ADS: Private parties that have missed the 6pm Monday deadline may still place ads until 6pm Tuesday. Either come to the above address or call (619) 235-8200. The cost for these late ads is $16 for 25 words, plus $64 per extra word

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.

NAME

CARD NUMBER

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To provide online viewers of your ad with a map of your neighborhood, we need:

Nearest cross-streets: ___________________________ Zip code: ____________

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**Help Wanted**

**COMMUNITY TRAINING SPECIALIST/ JOB COACH**

8.38/hr. to start, DOE

To assist developmentally disabled adults in the community.

Behavorial and instructional programs. Implement scheduale.

Must know First Aid and CPR. MTDB and computer

Very flexible work schedule, 3-4 days/week, 8am-5pm.

Full time, permanent. Benefits: *bad*.

**TRANSITION SPECIALIST**

8.46/hr. to start, DOE

To assist teachers in group- and community-based instruction for
devitably disabled children in a nonpublic school.

Experience preferred. All Disabilities, Chula Vista, La Mesa.

Monday-Friday, 7:30 am-1 pm.

**CLASSROOM AIDES**

8.25/hr. to start, DOE

Work with developmentally disabled children in a nonpublic school.

Experience preferred. Allied Gardens, Chula Vista, La Mesa.

Monday-Friday, 7:30 am-1 pm.

**DRIVERS / DELIVERY**

Place free online ads with photos at www.vistasandiego.com. Also thousands of classified ads printed here!

**VISTA SANDIEGO**

Stronger Families...Brighter Futures

Special Education, Prevention Services and Treatment Programs

Community Training Specialist/Job Coach

$8.38/hr. to start, DOE

To assist developmentally disabled adults in the community.

Behavioral and instructional programs. Implement scheduale.

Must have knowledge of First Aid and CPR. MTDB and computer

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Flexible work schedule, 3-4 days/week, 8am-5pm.

Full time, permanent. Benefits: *bad*.
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER needed to work 1.1 with fun-loving, friendly 12- year-olds with TBI. Community based teaching. ABA, OT, IT training beneficial. Colorado required. Work hours vary; 10 hours per week. Fax resume: 720-751-5116.

TEACH ENGLISH IN JAPAN! This is the perfect job for English loving volunteers to teach English to one of 310 branch schools. Recruitment will be conducted weekly in Los Angeles. Bachelor's degree required. www.aie.org. Submit application and 1 page essay by "I want to Live in Japan and start my independent life." www.ajc.org/apply. Send to: AJC, P.O. Box 24790, Secaucus, NJ 07096. Fax # 201-464-1616.

TEACHERS, Teaching Assistant, Instructors Immediate openings: Extra hours in 12 ECE units and experience required. Ocean Beach: 858-229-8549.

TEACHERS, Health Care Facilitators, Speech Language Pathologists, with 12 or more ECE units, for our preschool classes. Immediate openings available for immediate openings in 2 schools. We offer competitive pay and competitive benefits. Call today at 210-655-0642 or visit www.aeonet.com. Send resume attn: HR.

TEACHERS, Preschool Program: Immediate Openings: Extra hours in 12 ECE units and experience required. Ocean Beach: 858-229-8549.

TEACHERS, Preschool, Kindergarten, Immediate openings: Extra hours in 12 ECE units and experience required. Ocean Beach: 858-229-8549.

TEACHERS, Health Care Facilitators, Speech Language Pathologists, with 12 or more ECE units, for our preschool classes. Immediate openings available for immediate openings in 2 schools. We offer competitive pay and competitive benefits. Call today at 210-655-0642 or visit www.aeonet.com. Send resume attn: HR.

TRANSITION SPECIALISTS, Team Facili-

PRESCHOOL TEACHER/ASSISTANT: Individuals with a minimum of a 2-year associate degree, or 3-4 years of full-time classroom experience, offering a high initiative, compassionate perspective on working with elderly, experience in the same environment preferred. Call for interview appointment, 858-753-5060.

PRESCHOOL TEACHER/ASSISTANT: Individuals with a minimum of a 2-year associate degree, or 3-4 years of full-time classroom experience, offering a high initiative, compassionate perspective on working with elderly, experience in the same environment preferred. Call for interview appointment, 858-753-5060.

PRESCHOOL TEACHER/ASSISTANT (3-5 years old): Individual with strong organizational, communication, and teaching skills. Knowledge of Total Involvement and quality of early childhood education. Call 213-310-3949.

PRESCHOOL TEACHER/ASSISTANT: 18 years of age. Must be punctual, reliable, hard working, and perform duties under the supervision of the classroom teacher. Call 213-310-3949.

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Would you enjoy working with like-minded people?

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- Retail Sales Associates
- Business Center Clerk
- Housekeeping
- Concession Attendants
- Dishwashers
- Reservation Agents
- Telecom Phone Tech
- Banquet Setup

— Management —
- Assistant Director of HR
- Employment Manager
- Group Sales Manager
- Fine Dining Manager

Interested candidates should apply in person at the Hotel Del Coronado Human Resources office located at: 1500 Orange Ave., Coronado (Monday-Friday 9 am-4 pm) or fax résumé to: (619) 522-8160

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I work really hard, but I make really good money. I make $400/week calling companies. I offer networking with business owners that outside salespeople can meet with. If you want an opportunity to make $400 per hour or even more, call now to schedule an audition.

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OFF THE CUFF
by Cruz Medina

What expectations do you have for your children?

Kristen Solano
Home Decorator
Pacific Beach

I hope that they’ll be happy with themselves, respect their father, and love us unconditionally. If they don’t finish high school, they’ll still be my kids and I’ll still love them. I won’t be disappointed. But I would like to encourage them. They wouldn’t be happy working at McDonald’s; I would raise them better than that. I’d like my kids to pursue jobs like professional baseball players; that’d be tight. I want four kids: three boys and one girl. The little girl will be the princess and a total daddy’s girl. All four will be close in age so they can all share one car on the way to high school. My boyfriend and I are serious; he’s hoping for all boys, but I’d like one girl. We even know about the [sexual] positions that make it so you have boys or girls.

Lauren Pflath
Food Server
Pacific Beach

Very high expectations. My kids will have to do very well in high school and go to a good college. I’m not going to pay for college; I’ll expect them to get financial aid. If they get financial aid, that’s great, but I want them to have a chance. If they want to become doctors or lawyers, then that’s all the better. I won’t pressure them one way or the other. I grew up as a Christian, so that’s how I’m going to raise them. As little kids, I’ll just make sure that they go [to church], but when they’re older I’ll let them decide for themselves.

Scott Lyman
Bartender
Encinitas

I would hope that my kids go to college. I just want them to do what makes them happy. I’ll try to offer them a variety of things to try when they’re young so they can have a chance. I’d like a model but she was too short, so I told her not to. I’d break the news to her so she wouldn’t get hurt further down the line. Being truthful with your kids is a good thing. My parents have encouraged me to pursue acting, they’re home-schooling me and when I’m done I won’t be going to college. I would never become a stage parent because I figure-skated when I was younger and I saw parents yelling at their kids, starving them, and making them skate when they didn’t want to. To remember kids borrowing money from people at the rink to buy food from the vending machines.

Lauren Yuma
Student
San Diego State

I would expect them to go to college unless they were going to pursue acting or some type of sport. If I truly thought they were bad at acting, I would discourage them. I had a daughter and she wanted to become a model but she was too short, so I told her not to. I’d break the news to her so she wouldn’t get hurt further down the line. Being truthful with your kids is a good thing. My parents have encouraged me to pursue acting, they’re home-schooling me and when I’m done I won’t be going to college.

Michael Perry
Student
Encinitas

I would expect them to have good morals and be good people. I don’t necessarily expect them to be successful in the business world. I just want them to be genuinely good-hearted people. I want to private school them their whole life, and I would want for them to have the same opportunity by following my footsteps. That puts some pressure on me a little because I have to be able to provide the lifestyle that I want for my family. Sports played a big role in my life, and I think kids usually follow the trends of their parents, so I think it’s inevitable that they’ll want to play sports. My girlfriend of three years plays college soccer and I played basketball all through high school, it’d be in the genes to be athletic. As long as my kids are on the top of their game with whatever they choose to do.

Karsten Shota
Ocean Beach

One day in the future, when I have kids, I would expect them to become confident in themselves and figure out what they want in life so they can be happy. I would hope that I don’t put too much pressure on them to figure out what they want to do by a certain age. By 18 or 19, I want to know in general what they want out of life. Most people need a higher-level degree to succeed in most careers, so I would encourage college for my kids. I’ll be open to alternatives. Between art and athletics, I’d want them to know that they should have something to fall back on; it’s worth it to pursue talents and dreams, but it’s hard to cut it in the real world.
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SPRING VALLEY. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. 2nd floor. 4666 Montezuma. 414-3179.

SPRING VALLEY. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. 2nd floor. 4666 Montezuma. 414-3179.

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UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 5th floor. 1919 Mission Ave. 414-1090.

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**DOWNTOWN.** New remodeled 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. 9431 19th St, 92106. 2092 sq ft. Open house Saturday, 12-5pm. Owner, 619-787-6852 or www.melissagoldstein.com.

**EAST COUNTY.** Country living in Shadow Mountain. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,620 sq ft. $279,500. 619-289-2833.

**ENCLAVES.** Palisades Enclave. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Gated community. Low HOA. $255,000, 3208 San Vicente. 619-494-4955.

**FINCH.** Upscale modern townhome. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 1,750 sq ft. Owner, 619-788-4838.

**FACHED.** 3 story, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,180 sq ft. Owner, 619-659-5580.

**FARRELL.** Great 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Great location! 2 bedroom, 1 bath. $185,000. 1545 Prospect St. 619-939-1478.

**GARDENS.** Great Find! 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Gated community. Large windows. Beautifully remodeled. 1,150 sq ft. 619-872-4242.

**GASTOWN.** 20 acre estate in downtown. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,800 sq ft. Owner, 619-656-2539.

**GEMA.** End unit, large windows. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. $299K. Owner, 619-433-1870.

**GILMAN.** Historic home. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 1,950 sq ft. $359,000. Owner, 619-451-4239.

**GOLDEN GATE.** Beautifully remodeled. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,150 sq ft. Owner, 619-494-7287.

**GROVE.** 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Beautiful location. $650,000. Broker, 858-483-3989.

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**HAMILTON.** Facing Granville Park. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Open for showings! Kismit at Plantation, 1-888-643-1527 x1292. 858-485-9234.

**HANCOCK.** Pacific Pines Condo. 10040 Heritage View Dr. $379,000. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,225 sq ft. Owner, 619-230-8888.

**HARBOR VIEW.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath. All appliances. Huge backyard with pool/spa. $365,000-$375,000. 619-922-9892.

**HARBOR VIEW WEST.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 800 sq ft. $249,000. Owner, 619-494-2525.

**HALCYON.** Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo. $265,000. Please call for appointment. Owner, 619-433-1870.

**HARLEM.** Rare Opportunity! 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,200 sq ft. Owner, 619-312-1882. 619-865-4937.

**HARRISON.** 1 bed/1 bath, 1026 sq ft. $225,000. Owner, 619-494-4955.

**HARVEY PARK.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 1800 sq ft. Gorgeous location. 950,000. 619-458-6802.

**HATFIELD.** New, modern, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,150 sq ft. Owner, 619-850-2571. Cadre#01183960. Prudential CA Realty.


**HERSHEY PARK.** 3 bedroom, 4 bath, 1,200 sq ft. $225,000. Owner, 619-494-4955.

**HIDALGO.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 904 sq ft. $249,000. Owner, 619-140-6526.

**HILLCREST.** Beautifully remodeled townhome. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 800 sq ft. Owner, 619-312-1882. 619-865-4937.

**HILLSIDE.** End unit, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. $299K. Owner, 619-433-1870.

**HOLLYWOOD SOUTH.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 906 sq ft. Owner, 619-433-1870.

**HOMESTREETS.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 800 sq ft. $212,000. Owner, 619-494-4955.

**HOOSE.** Deluxe remodeled. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. $249K. Owner, 619-494-4955.

**HUMBOLDT.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 700 sq ft. $225,000. Owner, 619-659-5580.

**HUNTINGTON.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 900 sq ft. Owner, 619-433-1870.

**INDIANS.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 900 sq ft. $299K. Owner, 619-433-1870.

**ISLAND VIEW.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 900 sq ft. $299K. Owner, 619-433-1870.

**JAMHUR.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 800 sq ft. $235,000. Owner, 619-433-1870.

**JERSEY.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,000 sq ft. Owner, 619-433-1870.

**JIMMIE.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 800 sq ft. $229K. Owner, 619-433-1870.

**JOHNSON.** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,200 sq ft. $299K. Owner, 619-433-1870.

**JOHNSONVILLE.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 900 sq ft. $299K. Owner, 619-433-1870.

**JOHNSON'S HILL.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Owner, 619-286-5813.

**JORDAN.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 900 sq ft. $299K. Owner, 619-433-1870.

**JUDSONIA.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 900 sq ft. $299K. Owner, 619-433-1870.

**KING.** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,200 sq ft. $299K. Owner, 619-433-1870.

**KING'S HILL.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 800 sq ft. $225,000. Owner, 619-494-4955.

**KINGS HILL.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 800 sq ft. $215K. Owner, 619-494-4955.

**KINSLEY.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 900 sq ft. $299K. Owner, 619-433-1870.

**KUBE.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 900 sq ft. $299K. Owner, 619-433-1870.

**KULAK.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 900 sq ft. $299K. Owner, 619-433-1870.

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**KUSKUS.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 900 sq ft. $299K. Owner, 619-433-1870.

**KUSTERS.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 900 sq ft. $299K. Owner, 619-433-1870.
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VOCALIST WANTED. Female preferred, able to sing metal stuff desired. 619-980-8236. (theundecidedband.com). Upcoming gig, Saturdays, 1/30/05, at Oasis, September 14, Coors Lite. $150. 619-943-4278. Bring resume between 10am-7pm, Monday-Friday. 619-523-6296.

VOCALIST WANTED. Established hard rock vocalist for The Undecided (across from S.D. Toyota). Must have experience, and be willing to travel the country. Must be able to dedicate 2-3 nights a week to jamming. 619-943-4278.

VOCALIST WANTED. Male vocalist/frontman. Ability to do current/’80s covers. Female preferred. Must be able to sing at up to 12 bars per song. Best price. No minimums for CD duplication. Contact Brian, 760-433-2494.

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LEAD STORIES
— The agency that oversees Spain’s stock market announced that it will implement a rule in July to require each director of an exchange-listed company to disclose not just names of family members but of any other “allied of pot” (2 percent if on exam day, 1 percent if the day before), witness- ing a distressing event on exam day (up to 3 percent), just-broken arm or leg (up to 3 percent), headache (1 percent).

— Among the most striking federal government “pork” grants funded in November was $1.5 mil- lion for a new bus stop (several times more than the typical cost) in front of the Anchorage (Alaska) Museum of History and Art. To replace the current kiosk, the city’s transportation director said he imagines a generous upgrade, including perhaps a heated sidewalk to deal with the snow. “We have a senator [Ted Stevens] who gave us that money,” said he had no clue as to motive; and the principal viewed the refusal as insubordi- nation and suspended Tyler, but the superin- tendent later apologized.

— Federal health officials in Hawaii said they have received reports of at least five people flying to Xinhua news agency.

— In Nanjing, China, municipal officials were ordered In Nanjing, China, municipal officials were ordered to disclose any extramarital affairs as a way to help monitor insider trading. ...— A man identified as David Connor (by Boston police) or Timothy Connor (by Providence, Rhode Island, police) was arrested after a two-hour standoff in which he filled his mother’s home with propane and threatened to blow it up (cell phone). ...— A man identified as David Connor (by Boston police) or Timothy Connor (by Providence, Rhode Island, police) was arrested after a two-hour standoff in which he filled his mother’s home with propane and threatened to blow it up (cell phone).

— In Dayton, B.N.H., in March, Steven Metallic, 39, was arrested after a two-hour standoff in which he filled his mother’s home with propane and threatened to blow it up (cell phone). Metall said he had no clue as to motive; and the principal viewed the refusal as insubordination and suspended Tyler, but the superintendent later apologized.

— The purpose is to help monitor insider trading. ...— A man identified as David Connor (by Boston police) or Timothy Connor (by Providence, Rhode Island, police) was arrested after a two-hour standoff in which he filled his mother’s home with propane and threatened to blow it up (cell phone).

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— A recent study issued in May by Britain’s Joint Council on Qualifications, directed to agencies that administer high-school and junior-high stan- dardized tests, called for students to receive extra points on the test if they have experienced pre-exam stress due to selected circumstances: death of a parent or close relative (up to 5 percent extra), death of relative other than parent (up to 4 percent extra), 26-year-old. [1 percent extra] if exam day, 1 percent if the day before), witness- ing a distressing event on exam day (up to 3 percent), just-broken arm or leg (up to 3 percent), headache (1 percent).

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Inexplicable
— An undercover sheriff’s deputy’s (whose name was not disclosed in a May news report) filed a lawsuit against his father after a fight among the Federal Reserve in Orlando because, he said, when he went for a shot of pain medication in his hip in October 2000, he was injected instead with what appeared to him to be “a cosmetic needle.” Stelling said he had no clue as to motive; and the principal viewed the refusal as insubordination and suspended Tyler, but the superintendent later apologized.

— Police in Springfield, Ore., charged Pamela Ann Hemphill, 51, with theft in April after she allegedly snatched neighbor Walter Merritt’s $300 computer cart. She was arrested after a two-hour standoff in which he filled his mother’s home with propane and threatened to blow it up (cell phone).

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— According to the surveillance video, he appeared to ask for a head start of “60 seconds” before police arrived and then asked to shake the clerk’s hand as if cementing the agreement. (2) In May, Jim Stelling, the Repub- lican party chairman in Seminole County, Fla., won a lawsuit for defamation of a third-party official who had accused him of being mar- ried six times, which Stelling said he found par- ticularly insulting, since he “believe[s] in family values.” Stelling said he has been married only five times. The judge ruled that Stelling was not defamed enough for money damages.

— Among official job-title changes implemented by the Scottsdale, Ariz., school district this year, (1) a man identified as David Connor (by Boston police) or Timothy Connor (by Providence, Rhode Island, police) was arrested after a two-hour standoff in which he filled his mother’s home with propane and threatened to blow it up (cell phone).

News That Sounds Like a Joke
— In April, police in Buffalo, N.Y., said Thomas L. Hunter, 55, ran off with a case of brandy from the Eastside Liquor store, but during the search he dropped the bottles and bottles shattered. He was arrested when he returned to the scene of the spill and started sucking up brandy with a straw. (2) At a train station in Oguni, Japan, in May, an extraneous eye dog apparently misunderstood a spoken com- mand and led a blind couple off of a platform and tumbling onto the tracks. The couple and the dog had been headed for a workshop for assistance dogs.

Creme de la Weird
— Four former patients of clinical psychologist Letita Libman sued Delnor Community Hospital in Geneva, Ill., in March and April for malprac- tice. Libman said that Libman’s hospital treatments for neurological disorders included tarot cards, love potions, DNA-based hexes, and other superstitious beliefs.

Suspicions Confirmed
— (1) The Florida supreme court in March dis- bursed attorney David A. Barrett for violating the state’s professional conduct code, including paying for an assistant to attend a chaplain’s course at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital in order to offer prayers in the rooms of accident victims and solicit business for Barrett. (2) In County Cork, Ireland, in December, Dane Ring, 13, was sus- pected from school for two days after he ignored what schoolboys know is the cardinal rule of bod- ily functions, which is to never admit that you’re the person who just passed gas in a crowded room.

Unclear on the Concept
— (1) A man identified as David Connor (by Boston police) or Timothy Connor (by Providence, Rhode Island, police) was arrested after a two-hour standoff in which he filled his mother’s home with propane and threatened to blow it up (cell phone). Metall said he had no clue as to motive; and the principal viewed the refusal as insubordination and suspended Tyler, but the superintendent later apologized.

— A new law that the director may have...— A man identified as David Connor (by Boston police) or Timothy Connor (by Providence, Rhode Island, police) was arrested after a two-hour standoff in which he filled his mother’s home with propane and threatened to blow it up (cell phone). Metall said he had no clue as to motive; and the principal viewed the refusal as insubordination and suspended Tyler, but the superintendent later apologized.

— Political leaders in the world’s highest profile have been forestalled by the news that their hair has been dyed, their wardrobe design is being dictated by a hair stylist, the manufacturer’s warranty to 10/14/05, and they have a television, a microwave, a toaster, and a refrigerator. (1) A man identified as David Connor (by Boston police) or Timothy Connor (by Providence, Rhode Island, police) was arrested after a two-hour standoff in which he filled his mother’s home with propane and threatened to blow it up (cell phone). Metall said he had no clue as to motive; and the principal viewed the refusal as insubordination and suspended Tyler, but the superintendent later apologized.

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As I slide my Hejira CD into the player, I think, “Joni Mitchell makes me want to cry.” Maybe it’s the third glass of Riesling talking, but it’s a reunion with one of my favorite CDs. I know enough of Joni to expect that would dismiss my heartfelt sentimentality, she would “piff” under her breath and take another drag off her cigarette. But that’s the way it works with hero worship, with loving songs and songstresses, with catching your breath when you hear the frettless bass snaking its way between her guitar lines.

I’m a late bloomer when it comes to Joni. I learned her through covers, “Big Yellow Taxi” when Amy Grant covered it, and Sarah McLachlan’s version of “Blue.” (My lack of popular music knowledge is such a travesty that I’ve made unspoken vows to my unborn children, to play good music for them in utero, to raise them on Michael Hedges, Beethoven Piano Concertos and the Beatles, not to mention Tori Amos.)

Fast forward to years later, where I’m housesitting for my voice teacher, my last year of college. My best friend and I are being boring and housesitting for spring break. I’m healing from a broken, guilty heart. She’s busy planning her wedding and student teaching, not to mention learning music for her senior recital. I spend most of my time catching up on my sleep, reading in the claw-footed bathtub, and consulting my personal saint Madeleine L’Engle’s works as I write.

It’s a long song.

I felt these words intensely: Wrestling with the sparks between a former (or constant?) love and I, Joni articulated all my tumbling thoughts — am I just lonely and horny? Faint from pets of phrases that wedged in my mouth and under my breath. It looped continuously, interspersed with my Tori Amos live MP3s. I fell head over heels with “Amelia.” One day I finally sat down and listened to the CD full volume, with lyrics out and heart open. I realized that it’s a long road trip of an album, of Jonicourting love with a mysterious, tricky man, and running away from her broken heart, of rough embraces in juke joints, of letters composed to girl-friends, all in the company of “white lines on the freeway.”

Sometimes it’s just the sound of her words that make me catch my breath. It’s the way the consonants click against your teeth. Her lyrics are wondrously so smart and articulate, there’s very little veiling her story. Another thing I love about Joni is her minute attention to details, the little things that catch the eye. She sees a white lace dress in a shop window and it becomes a reason for chasing love — all for a chance to wear that dress. It may be sacrilegious to compare her to a blogger, but she is like one, focusing on the small things, the bad driver that screwed up your afternoon, the way the light falls on your front porch, the hungry rumble you have for something beyond a “normal” life. All the small moments that you cup in your hand, the pivotal turns that happen so quickly you’re going down a different road before you know it.

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DEFRAUDING AN INNKEEPER

Location: 660 K Street, Gaslamp Quarter
Time/Date: 1:45 a.m. on 6/5/05

Investigation: Officer Ramirez #6056 and I responded to a radio call to take custody of Ryan A. A. had been placed under citizen’s arrest at the Altitude Sky Bar and Garden Lounge for not being able to pay a $301 bar tab. The bar is owned and operated by the Marriott Hotel. The bar manager, Adam K., made a citizen’s arrest at 1:45 a.m. We arrived at the Marriott and took custody of A. at 6:30 a.m.

Statement of Adam K.: Ryan A. ordered drinks. His orders included two bottles of Dom Perignon. A. paid for the champagne by charging the bill to Room #1119. I checked with the occupant of #1119. That person had not authorized any purchase, and was a stranger to Mr. A. A. was starting to leave the bar. I stopped him and confronted him about the room charges he made. He had no money or other means to pay the bar bill.

I searched A.’s pants pockets. I found 11 expired room keys from our hotel in his pockets. None of those keys was assigned to Room #1119. A. told me that the expired room keys had been given to him by room service employees at our hotel named “Miguel” and “Alberto.”

Statement of Ryan A.: I was drinking with friends...and a guy named “Baul.” The “Baul” guy said to charge the champagne to our room. I had been in before asking for syringes. I was advised they had. R. was believed to be the suspect so I handcuffed him for safety while he was seated. Officer Howell #4543 and Officer Belz #4983 arrived.

During the investigation, I learned R. had struck P.’s arm with a Pvc pipe.

Statement of Stephen P.: I am the owner of the Community Prescription Center. I came into my business today and found the suspect in the store. He had been in before asking for syringes. I told him he had to go. He said there was going to be a problem if I told him to go. He was holding a large soda and threw it in the air. The soda splattered on the ceiling, register, etc.

Today, when I came in I saw the suspect already there and he tried to get me to help him. The suspect was screaming and turned to walk out of the business. He grabbed a sunglasses display rack and knocked it over. I followed him outside and the suspect pulled a pipe out of the ground. The suspect started swinging the pipe at me. I raised my arms to defend myself and he hit my right forearm with the pipe, causing pain.

BATTERY
Location: 640 University Avenue, Hillcrest
Time/Date: 1:10 p.m. on 6/6/05

Officer’s Investigation: I was driving westbound on Washington Street near its intersection with Lincoln Avenue when Stephen P. flagged me down. P. directed me toward James R. R. was walking eastbound in front of P. I stopped R. to investigate the possibility a crime had just been committed or was being committed.

I learned R. and P. had been involved in an altercation. I checked with dispatch to see if they had received a call for service regarding this incident. I was advised they had. R. was believed to be the suspect so I handcuffed him for safety while he was seated. Officer Howell #4543 and Officer Belz #4983 arrived.

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Today, when I came in I saw the

offended on scene, they found the car unoccupied. At about the same time, deputies received a report of a female wearing a red shirt that committed a burglary in a nearby medical office. The female, Simona M., was determined to be one of the occupants of the Maxima and she was arrested.

The female victim of the carjacking was not injured and the Nissan Maxima was determined to have been stolen from La Mesa.

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY/CARJACKING
Location: 466 West Washington Avenue, El Cajon
Time/Date: 9:00 a.m. on 6/7/05

Incident: The victim was in the parking lot taking his two-year-old daughter to daycare. When he exited his vehicle, a silver 2005 Ford Explorer, three males approached him. One of the males demanded the victim’s car keys and wallet and indicated he had a gun. The victim gave the suspect his wallet and car keys, but told them he wanted to get his two-year-old baby girl out of the car before they took it. The suspects looked into the vehicle, then gave him back the car keys. Then they went through his wallet but when they saw he had no money, they also returned that to him. They fled on foot down South Johnson.

— Michael Hemmingson
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Travis’s Ticket Magnet

Travis Frink bought his S-10 at the end of 1997. “Got it pretty cheap,” he tells me. It was a demo, so it had, like, 1700 miles on it. Now it’s ready to turn over and, I’ve kind of outgrown it. That’s why I’ve got the other two cars. The S-10 has turned into a kind of project now. I don’t drive it every day like I used to. I’ve got the other car for that. The one I drive every day is a 2003 Nissan 350Z. And the other project is a 1963 Cadillac Seville, which is also on air suspension, like the S-10.

“The S-10 was my high school and college car, and I’m out of college now. So I’m willing to let it go, although it has a lot of sentimental value to me, since I’ve put all the money and time into it.”

“How much money is it in?” I ask.

“Besides the original cost, probably eight to ten grand. I’ve done a lot of body modification, like making the bumper and shaving the tailgate. The tailgate opens from the inside now. You have to lift the cover and reach inside. That gives it added security.

“The front bumper is custom. Upgraded wheels, 18-inch. It comes with 15-inch wheels. In truck wheels, bigger is better. Some guys have 22-inch wheels, but that’s hard because you have to cut the body a lot. I don’t have any cuts in mine, so it’s still a safe vehicle to drive every day.”

“I say, ‘The huckabucks look like spinners.’

“No,” he tells me, “they’re not spinners. Spinners are like a fad that has faded out.

‘I’ve done a lot of audio upgrades. It’s got a bunch of Alpine components, mid-range speakers and two ten-inch subs. They’re in a box in the extended cab. So you can only fit one person back there on the little seat. The rest is open.’

“The interior is all custom. My buddy and I did all the work. He has a custom vehicle store now. S.C.D. Fabrications.

“Our club, Team Synergy, has a website at teamsynergy.com, with pictures of our cars and links to car and truck shows. Our club is small, only about 13 of us. We were friends in high school and kind of stayed together. We go to shows, get a couple hotel rooms and party. The shows we go to are usually around L.A. or Orange County.

“Besides the club, I enjoy that people admire my cars. They come around and ask questions. Like, this weekend, I had the Cadillac down here at the beach, and I got swarmed by people. Another benefit is, I’m most relaxed when I drive. I like the feeling. My cars are like an addition I keep pouring money into.

“What’s not so good, besides the expense, I keep getting these fix-it tickets. I’ve gotten over 20 fix-it tickets in the S-10. The taillights are illegal. They’re clear white instead of red. When I get a ticket, I put the originals back on, go to court and get them signed off, then put the white ones back on. I used to get mad when I got a ticket, but once I had over 15 of them, I’m, ‘Hey, it’s my fault.’

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ON TV, PEOPLE’S FACES LOOK DRAMATIC IN THE RAIN. In real life, the rain doesn’t impart that magic quality of passion. The air between cars is painted with a gray, oily brush. The black dots of gum on the sidewalk turn blacker, and everyone’s shoulders soak in the dark water. Fat water drops run off the awning and down my collar as I step into the bright white light of the liquor store.

My footsteps slow and I wander, looking up and down the rows of candy bars, bags of charcoal, and magazines. I pick up a jar of sangria, a big one with the little glass finger-loop of a handle. I carry it back and set it in front of the fire exit. Taped to the drab green metal door is a standard lined piece of paper with “no use” scrawled on it in blue ballpoint pen ink. The “O” of the warning sign had been built up to bold by the author’s scribbling the circle of the “O” over and over again.

Back in the aisles, I scan the bottom shelf for the stout bottle of laundry detergent in the blue-and-yellow bottle that looks like superhero tights. I take the detergent and place it on the floor with the jug of wine.

My collection grows. On the floor is a circle of products, all bottles with handles. I take my seat in the center of the ring. Rain seeps under the fire door and wets my jeans. With the sangria jug in my lap I hold each bottle by its handle and test each for weight. I make mental notes of each how feels in my hand and how I feel about the color. Party-sized peanut container, tan and yellow, heavy but not thick. Fancy cat food, pink and white, light with a thin handle. Freeze-dried coffee, brown and red, short, fat, and light. The sangria never leaves my lap. I sit with my bottles because I have to. I can’t think of anything else.

“You! Get out of here!” It’s the owner, and he’s pointing at me. “I tell you don’t come back! But still you come back!” Each syllable is pronounced separately, individually wrapped by English classes and practice in a busy store. The sangria bottle rolls onto the tile as I jump up and bolt for the door behind me, one hand on the chrome push bar, one hand on the “no use” sign, and the shop owner’s calling after me, “You stay away now!”

I’m outside. In the rain that’s not dramatic, it’s just wet.

WHAT I WILL AND WON’T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

HEALTH MATTERS
UCSD-TV, 9:00 A.M.

The book Eating to Cure by Dr. Robert Turturro has inspired me to cure my own condition with what the conventional doctors call a “syndrome.” Dr. Turturro writes, “The medical industry is in the business to sell pharmaceuticals.” Eating to Cure explains that proper diet and exercise, tailored to each individual’s needs, can dispel the demons of a “mental illness” without the use of poisonous medication.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

MISSION: ORGANIZATION
HGTV, 2:00 P.M.

My roommates, Kip and Renee, have two cars that live above our laundry room. Last Monday I heard conversation coming from the cabinet above our washer. When I opened the cupboard, of course, there was no one there, but I could hear the talking from the other side of the wall behind the dryer sheets and floor cleaners.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

DOUBLE IDENTICAL TWINS

DISCOVERY HEALTH, 12:00 P.M.

This explains that there is a twin Kip who knows about the room behind our laundry cabinet but wants to keep it a secret from me. Now, Kip is married to Renee. You’d think she would notice if there were two Kips. But the other day I saw Renee’s cheekbones and jawline were a little wider than the day before, and her hair was a lighter shade of red.

SEMI-HOMEMADE COOKING WITH SANDRA LEE

FOOD CHANNEL, 11:00 A.M.

That means there are two identical Kips and Renes. Last Wednesday the real Kip and Renee — or maybe the twins, I’m not sure — were cooking. From the front room, I could hear them talking over the sound of a skillet frying, and I could smell an onion and copper odor coming from the kitchen. I’m not sure why they were not at work, as this was the middle of the day, but I’m sure they were there.

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

FOSTER’S HOME FOR IMAGINARY FRIENDS

CARTOON NETWORK, 10:00 A.M.

When I went to the kitchen to prepare a sweet potato — as part of my new miracle diet “to cure” — no one was in there, and there were no frying onions, and the door to the adjacent laundry room slammed shut. When I opened the door I could hear a faint knocking and hurried whispers from the cabinet. There must be a ladder from behind the water heater to the room behind the cabinet, but I haven’t found it yet.

MONDAY, JUNE 20

THE DAILY SHOW WITH JON STEWART COMEDY CENTRAL, 8:00 P.M.

The Daily Show is still great. If you haven’t tuned in for a while you’ll be surprised at how fresh the comedy is. The Daily Show looks as if it won’t fall victim to the Saturday Night Live rut of taking the path of least resistance to parody the nation’s political climate.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

KFMB, 10:00 A.M.

Preceding the appearance of my new twin roommates by a day has been this noise coming from beside the TV. It’s a light ticking, almost a tapping from the woodwork. If I remove the television set from the entertainment center, the tapping follows, always about six inches from the right side of the console, so it’s not in the shelving unit itself.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

DUST BE MY DESTINY (1939)

TCM, 3:30 P.M.

Another clue as to the ticking — or tapping, or knocking, or whatever — is that it is in a definite mathematical pattern. The pattern doesn’t necessarily mean that it’s manmade, but it is intelligently designed, not just random frequency glitches from the set itself. I’m writing all this down because if my roommates or this tapping thing are a menace to me, there’ll be a written record.

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Lewis is probably in his 30s, mid-length dark hair, a little thin on top. He has the look of a guy with a day job in an office — he began by instructing the audience to clap their palms together, separate, then point their index fingers ceilingward and bring the digits together on his command. My date (whom some may remember as the Specialist) obeyed. “It worked! You should have done it!”

After Lewis had moved on his spiel, I did try it, and the separated fingers closed of their own accord. I declared it a natural muscle contraction and was a little embarrassed. Lewis told the volunteers that they would not be stuck in a hypnotic trance for the rest of their lives. “Maybe some of you know people like this already. If you are not sincere, I cannot force you to go under hypnosis. If you do get hypnotized, I promise you, you will have more fun than the rest of us.”

It was then that I noticed my friend and neighbor Dennis Harris on stage. Harris did not strike me as anyone’s fool. When (under the spotlights) he seemed to sleep and raised his arm, he and the others followed instructions to go deeper into trance and “straighten your arm, like a bar of strong metal,” I began to wonder. Lewis told the volunteers to stop raising their arms and go again, deeper into trance. Dennis, along with the others, collapsed like a dominion in a chain and fell himself over the woman on his left, who, in turn, folded herself over whoever was on her left. This was repeated across the stage.

While Lewis was dropping them even deeper into what was clearly a bottomless pit of trance, the Specialist turned to me and said, “Don’t listen. People in the audience get hypnotized by accident all the time.” I started dropping my eyelids and flattening them as if fighting off a powerful wave of sleep. “Stop it! Cover your ears!” She had a look of horror on her face. I cracked up, breaking the effect.

“You are all expert musicians!” Lewis declared to those sleeping on stage. “You all have with you your musical instruments. Some of you have a trombone, some of you have a guitar, and some of you are seated at a piano. Pick up that instrument, put it in position to play.” The volunteers positioned “air” instruments before them. Dennis mimed holding a soprano sax or maybe clarinet. “You are going to play with skill, you are going to play with passion. Ladies and gentlemen, our next act is about to begin.”

With eyes closed, the volunteers attacked unreal woodwinds, keyboards, and several guitars. The manic strains of the overture to the William Tell overture filled 4th & B. Lewis patted some volunteers on the shoulder, regressed me through childhood. “I’d never seen a performing hypnotist. It was time for Lewis; I was about to get my money’s worth.

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