Letters

We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader. Phone them in at 619-235-3000, ext. 460, address them to Letters to the Editor, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92116, fax them to 619-231-0489, or e-mail them to letters@sandiegoreader.com.

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

Vacuous Friends

Dear Barbarella, Emerson once said that “education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper,” and Clint Eastwood said that “people used to be able to disagree politically and still be friends, which doesn’t happen anymore.” If your friends can’t talk politics without losing their minds, that should tell you something about them (“Diary of a Diva,” September 1).

Furthermore, if all your friends talk about is reality television, you have two problems — your friends and you have nothing in common and your friends are vacuous and boring.

Remember the piece you wrote a few months ago about cleaning emotional house? Re-read it and follow your own advice.

John via e-mail

Random Killers

In response to the article titled “Peace Seekers” (“Local Events, September 1”), I just wanted to say the last paragraph was the biggest load of crap I’ve ever read. Grover states, “Gang members don’t kill people that preaches peace ‘cause all gang members are looking for peace.”

How would gangsters know what kind of people they kill? They often shoot random people on the street they don’t know at all. Gangsters would shoot the Dalai Lama if they didn’t like the way he answered the ridiculous question, “Where are you from?”

As far as featuring ex-gang members in the Reader, please bring back the wisdom of Curtis Howard and spare us the inanity of Derek Grover.

Rebecca Stanger
Pacific Beach

Reach One Child

Re “My Past Announced Itself” by Curtis Howard (“City Lights,” August 25). I just wanted to say I was extremely impressed with this article.

And I just wanted to let Curtis know that it is so true what people say: if you can reach one child — or just one individual — and make a difference in their life, it counts. It seems like a small drop in the bucket, but you never know what that person needed that day to encourage them to do the right thing, and you might be that one person, that one thing that makes them think twice, and you can stop a domino effect of bad things from occurring. I have two sons and I work with kids daily, and I constantly tell myself that no matter what happens, I’ll can make a difference in one child’s life, just one, by even saying good morning to them — something they might not get at home — it makes a big difference.

So I just wanted to let Mr. Howard know that I really enjoyed his article. I thought it was great. And for him to keep up the good work and just know that that one person he touches will remember him, forever.

Tracie Moreland
San Diego

Krautrock

Hello, I’m writing this letter to Dave Good concerning his concert-preview piece about the New York Dolls ("Of Note," August 25). I know that this might fall under the “It’s always something” label, but I must take issue with you over the description of Can as a “Stones-ish” band. Can isn’t anything like the Stones. Certainly not in the era of the Dolls. During that era, the Stones were mining a deep blues vein and then shifted to explore dance-and-soul-inspired rhythms. The albums I’m thinking of would be Exile on Main St., It’s Only Rock ‘N Roll, and maybe Black and Blue. Can is a German band that were deeply associated with what is called “krautrock.” Although this term is loosely applied at best, considering the range of musical groups involved, it generally implies an odd combination of familiar, James Brown-inspired beat with rigid, hypnotic melodies and lyrics reflecting futuristic and
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She's No Dumbbell

By Don Bauder

Forget those jokes: blondes are not dumb.

The proof is the former Nancy Hoover Hunter — now named Nancy Fletcher and once again living in luxury in San Diego County.

She and her husband of two years, Eugene Fletcher, have homes in Rancho Santa Fe and Coronado Cays and have access to the Del Mar beach homes used by the Fletcher clan. They were built by Colonel Ed Fletcher, who arrived in San Diego in 1888 and developed such areas as Mt. Helix, Grossmont, Fletcher Hills, and parts of El Cajon. His descendants were kingpins in the savings and loan and legal fraternities, and the family remains socially prominent. Eugene and Nancy Fletcher are building another tax counts, she was sentenced to ten years in prison but served 30 months because she provided information that was deemed useful in a related trial.

From the early to mid-1980s, she and her then-lover, J. David “Jerry” Dominelli, had gone on a spending binge from their Rancho Santa Fe digs. Alas, they were spending

Fifteen years ago, she begged forgiveness for her role in the J. David investment scam, which mesmerized San Diego in the 1980s. Found guilty by a jury of four investors’ money, not their own. It was a classic Ponzi scheme — early investors being paid off with funds from later investors — and it collapsed, ultimately sending the lovebirds and some of their associates to the pokey.

Dominelli was sentenced in 1985 to 20 years. Early in his incarceration, she found another lover: Kenneth Hunter, a multimillionaire from Montecito, the super-upscale suburb of Santa Barbara. He spent $2 million on her defense. They married and lived several years at his manor. He died in early 2000, and his estate later coughed up $10 million toward partial cleanup of a toxic dump he owned.

Some amateur psychologists theorize that Nancy continued on page 8

Contact Don Bauder
at 619-881-2395 or
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Neal Obermeyer

The Reader offers $25 for news tips published in this column. Call our voice mail at 619-235-3000, ext. 440, or fax your tip to 619-231-0489.
Trouble at Midnight
By Joe Deegan

In early September 2001, Carol Eklund went to Paris for a fashion show. She was looking for new lines to offer sales representatives of a wholesale business she had started two years earlier. Her return to San Diego was scheduled for September 10, but early that morning she phoned her husband to say she wanted to stay longer. Would he change her airline reservations by 24 hours? He could pick her up at Lindbergh Field late the following day, she told him.

I spoke with Sven Eklund in March of this year. His wife’s flight home was well under way, he said, when it was directed to return to London due to terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. During a call from London, he said, she complained that the flight was the worst she’d ever experienced. Everybody on the plane seemed to be coughing and sneezing. And now she too felt a cold coming on.

Most passengers from the flight had to spend four days in London. “Carol had a room one or two nights,” said Sven Eklund, “but not every night. She stayed in the airport waiting for a flight home. Thousands of people were there in the same situation.”

Carol complained of headaches, a backache, and a sore neck upon her arrival in Encinitas, and they diagnosed her as having migraines. “But the third one,” said Eklund, “told her that it might be meningitis and that if she didn’t get better soon, she’d better get to a hospital.”

So on Sunday morning, September 23, I drove her to Scripps Memorial Hospital Encinitas, and they diagnosed very quickly that it was viral spinal meningitis, which they said was not life threatening.” Nevertheless, the hospital admitted Carol and put her on antibiotics in case she was suffering from the more dangerous bacterial meningitis. On Tuesday evening Carol began feeling better and called her husband to say that she had eaten and would come home soon.

But in the middle of the night, said Eklund, his mother–

continued on page 8

4007 St. Charles Is Dry
By Alan Boudreaux

Last Sunday morning, August 28, at about 7 a.m., I left my apartment on St. Charles Avenue to evacuate New Orleans as Hurricane Katrina closed in. The night before, my parents had plans to “vertically evacuate” to a room in a downtown hotel, but I had managed to convince them over drinks that they should leave town, because this storm looked bad. I didn’t sleep that night, watching the weather channel as the storm approached. I packed light — some T-shirts and jeans in my backpack, enough books and DVDs to keep me occupied for a few days out of town, and the hard drives from my computer — just in case.

By now you all know the case: New Orleans is decimated, drowned. First by the 165 mph onslaught of Katrina, then by floodwaters and broken levees, and now by anarchy, criminal thuggery and an equally criminal lack of federal action. Who knows when it will end — it’s Thursday as I write this — it’s been four days since the storm hit, and the situation only becomes worse by the moment. The devastation...it’s unimaginable. The human cost, the emotional toll, the geographic destruction, the economic ruin, it’s all more than my mind can even process. We evacuees are all walking around on autopilot, not really admitting to ourselves what happened and what continues to happen. At the same time, it’s all we can talk about, and our televisions and radios and Web browsers are nothing but disaster coverage, hoping that we’ll see our neighborhoods find some news about our homes or our loved ones.

I’m lucky; I was able to evacuate with my family (my parents, grandmother, two aunts, a great aunt, and a cousin) to Destin, on the Florida Gulf Coast, where my parents have a vacation condominium. It might be a crazy place to evacuate to, on the coast and all, but by the time we left, it was clear that the worst we’d see here would be nothing compared to what was about to happen in New Orleans. Things have been easy here — it’s the beach, we have everything we need, all our relatives are safe, and my family can stay here as long as they want, but I’m in the great minority of evacuees in that sense.

E-mail has been an incredible asset through this whole ordeal — and so has my Weblog, Unapologetic. I’ve received e-mails of concern and support from so many of my friends that I’ve lost count — people I haven’t spoken to since college have written to make sure I was okay. I’ve even gotten sympathetic e-mails from readers in Brazil and Singapore and Germany. It’s amazing how much that constant flow of support has helped me to get through this week, has kept me from the creeping depression that isn’t far from any of Katrina’s victims. That being said, I’ve developed the amazing superpower of being able to cry in public, whenever some little memory hits me and I realize I may never again experience the little details that were my day-to-day life — coffee at PJ’s Coffeeshop on Magazine Street, drinks at Molly’s at the Market, jogging on the streetcar tracks under the great live oaks of St. Charles Avenue. I’ve also been able to keep in contact with many of my friends from town, now fellow evacuees scattered throughout the country, and to read their stories — most got out early, as I did, but some of them, or their relatives or friends, stayed through the
She’s no dumbbell

continued from page 6

latched on to Dominelli because she was envious that her sister, Carolyn, was married to a Fletcher — Stewart, who is a cousin of Eugene’s. Now it has come full circle: they are both married to Fletchers.

“Nancy’s defense in the fraud case was that she was a dumb blonde, just doing what Jerry told her to do,” says Gay Hugo-Martinez, the former assistant U.S. attorney who successfully prosecuted Fletcher (then Hoover Hunter). “She is no dumbbell. I don’t know what this woman has but she could make millions writing a book and let her other women know how she does it.”

Hugo-Martinez “recalls Hugo-Martinez. “Richarddomelli, who has since gone on to the education field. Alan Bersin, who has since continued from page 6

dumb blonde because I watch TV all night and they are both married to Fletchers. Now it has come full circle: they are both married to Fletchers.

“I honestly believe Dominelli would never have committed this crime if he hadn’t been having this affair with Nancy,” says Hugo-Martinez. “He was a poor, sick puppy dog in love; he just couldn’t say no to her.” While she took care of the administrative side, he was supposed to be trading in foreign currencies. But he wasn’t trading. “They both knew it was a fraud. She wrote that damn note, the smoking gun that showed she knew exactly what was going on.”

Nancy refuses to be interviewed. But Eugene Fletcher says, “Nancy feels she has paid her dues. We don’t want people throwing darts at us.” My book about the J. David scam, Captain Money and the Golden Girl, which the Reader reprinted over the summer, is “nothing but trash, crap. She feels it was trash.”

Neither he nor other people I interviewed know Dominelli’s whereabouts. He spent a dozen years in prison and was released to a halfway house in Chicago, where he is presumed to remain. He had suffered a stroke early in his prison stay and has probably not made much headway, says sources who interacted with him earlier.

One member of the Hoover/Dominelli inner circle who appears to be missing is Ken Holm, the brother of Nancy and Carolyn. He went to jail for running his own Ponzi scheme. Eugene Fletcher and another family member say he hasn’t been seen for some time.

Some people involved in the J. David adventure have done very well. Mike Aguiar, who pressed civil suits against firms that provided services to J. David, is trying to clean up San Diego as city attorney. Roger Hedgecock, former mayor who was convicted on felony counts of taking under-the-table campaign payments from his friend Nancy, is a right-wing radio commentator who sometimes pinch hits for Rush Limbaugh.

Most of the convictions were overthrown by the state supreme court, and Hedgecock settled with prosecutors. His campaign consultant, Tom Shepard, admitted that he had taken funds illegally. Shepard has since handled campaigns for former mayor Susan Golding and is now coaching mayoral candidate Jerry Sanders.

Hedgecock’s lawyer in his second trial, Maria defense attorney Oscar Goodman, went on to become a nationally known mayor of Las Vegas. He is a part-time Coronado resident. George Mitrovich, J. David’s community relations adviser, became a downtown insider and corporate welfare booster.

Sheryl White, J. David’s first accountant, smelled out the scam early and tipped off federal authorities, who wouldn’t listen. Now she has a firm, Statecarr, that designs compliance software for politicians. She had handled Duke Cunningham’s account since 1992, then was fired by his new chief of staff right before stories of his financial improprieties broke. “I lost him but picked up three others,” she says.

One-time Dominelli attorney Norman Nousakian spent eight months in prison for mail and securities violations. After he got out, he was reinstated by the bar and is practicing in San Diego. “It’s an old story,” he says.

Allan Frostrom, who was the final bankruptcy trustee, notes, “There were a billion dollars of claims [by investors].” When it was all sorted out, it seems to me that there were 1,000 people that could prove they lost money. The final sum, it seems to me, was $93 million,” but investors recovered much of that from deep-pocket suits. Today, Frostrom is an attorney who also has a real estate business.

Some people who were deep in the J. David adventure didn’t fare well. Richard Silberman, who hoodwinked Dominelli into making a gold mine investment, later went to prison for money laundering. Attorney Nicholas Coscia, who had joined J. David and immediately smelled out the scam, pleaded guilty to manipulating a stock and was sentenced to two years of probation in 1996.

Beginning in the early 1990s, a lawyer and local judges became involved in ugly bribery cases. One of the lawyers pressing deep-pocket J. David suits, Patrick Frega, was convicted of racketeering charges for his gifts to local judges. Former judge James A. Malkus, who had handled one of the J. David cases, was convicted. Former judge Michael Greer, who had been a J. David investor, pleaded guilty to a bribery count.

Jerome Schneider, who sold Jerry and Nancy a bank on the offshore haven of Montserrat, was sentenced to six months in prison last year for defrauding the Internal Revenue Service. Richard P. Stark, jury foreman in Hedgecock’s second trial, was sentenced to ten years in prison in 1993 after his real estate lending machine fell apart.

When Hedgecock was running for mayor, Larry Remer ran a publication that Nancy financed. Remer used the paper to plug Hedgecock and planned to use his mayoral connections to seize potential advertising. Later he became a political consultant and is now under indictment for illegally using taxpayer funds to promote a bond campaign.

Some prominent personalities have died. U.S. district court judge Earl B. Gilliam, who heard Nancy’s case and sentenced her, died in 2001. Retired Marine General Louis Metzger, the primary bankruptcy trustee, died last month at 88. M. Larry Lawrence, San Diego hotelier who loaned Dominelli money early on, then wised up, died a supposed war hero but was dug up in ignominy. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery because of his purported heroics with the U.S. Merchant Marine. But it was all untrue, and his body was disinterred.

Trouble at midnight

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in-law, Teresa Garcia, staying bedside, noticed that her daughter was having trouble breathing. At seven the next morning, a code blue sounded, and Carol Eldlund was pronounced dead. She was 34 years old. In addition to her parents and husband, she left behind a daughter, Tova, 9, and a 3-year-old son, Sven Diego.

What happened and didn’t happen in Carol’s hospital room between midnight and 7:00 a.m., September 26, 2001, became the focus of a lawsuit that Sven Eldlund filed seeking damages from Scripps Memorial Hospital Encinitas on behalf of himself and his children. While waiting for the trial, Eldlund in 2002 moved his family to Sweden, where they live today. In the meantime, he hired attorney David Miller to handle his case. After several delays, the case went to court in February of this year. Eldlund attended the trial and returned in March to handle further matters relating to the case.

As the trial unfolded, the main point of contention became whether Scripps Hospital breached the “standard of care” that a patient in Carol Eldlund’s condition could expect to receive. Not long after midnight on the morning of her death, according to records presented at trial, Carol again began experiencing a lot of headache pain. To counteract the pain, hospital staff reminded...
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NOW OPEN
Trouble at midnight
continued from page 8

her and her “family” to use the patient-controlled morphine pump attached to her body. The device has a button for the patient to increase the morphine dosage up to, but not beyond, the maximum dose. But when she began experiencing difficulty breathing, hospital staff apparently thought it was due to an overdose of morphine.

Scripps Hospital nurse Joan Loftin made the following nursing chart entry for Carol at 3:00 a.m.: “[Patient] found lethargic and unresponsive to verbal and painful stimulation. Medicate.” It then notes intravenous administration of two milligrams of Narcan, a drug that counteracts the effects of morphine. Subsequently the log records, Carol was observed “thrashing” about in her bed.

But Teresa Garcia testified during trial that throughout the early-morning ordeal, hospital nursing staff did little more than make their routinely scheduled checks of Carol’s vital signs. Scripps Hospital’s nursing supervisor, Rebecca Long, seems to corroborate the point in a pretrial deposition. There she agrees “thashing” about in her bed.

During trial that throughout the early-morning ordeal, hospital nursing staff did little more than make their routinely scheduled checks of Carol’s vital signs. Scripps Hospital’s nursing supervisor, Rebecca Long, seems to corroborate the point in a pretrial deposition. There she agrees "thashing" about in her bed.

In appealing the trial’s verdict, Eklund may only be acting out his grief. But most medical experts contend that viral meningitis is rarely, if ever, deadly. Steven Campman, of the San Diego County Medical Examiner’s Office, testified at trial, however, that an autopsy of Carol Eklund’s body revealed the cause of her death to be “meningoencephalitis.” He explained that the Cosack B2 virus that had caused her meningitis had entered her brain.

Eklund remembers the only time he spoke with Campman. The doctor called him nine days after Carol’s death, according to Eklund, to say there was no evidence of the virus having entered her brain and that he was puzzled as to the cause of her death. Several weeks later, Eklund received the autopsy report. But it was a report on the death of a 65-year-old man. After notifying the medical examiner’s office of the mistake, Eklund said he finally received Carol’s autopsy report. He observed immediately that it was dated the day after her death, yet it identified the cause of death as meningoencephalitis. “So apparently Campman declared the cause of her death,” said Eklund, “well before he called me to say he couldn’t explain it.”

Campman, said Eklund, “never returned the eight or nine calls I made to his office to get clarification of the inconsistency.” The next time Eklund saw Campman, he was testifying from the witness stand.

Reached by phone, Campman told me that in their conversation he told Eklund that he couldn’t “see” meningoencephalitis as the cause of her death. But that’s because the naked eye cannot detect it in the brain. Later, when results of microscope analysis came back, he learned that the cause of death was meningoencephalitis. The medical examiner’s toxicology report did show that morphine was present in Carol’s body but not in excessive amounts, said Campman. And he maintained that a combination of Ativan and morphine could not have killed her because her body had no remnants of the Ativan.

Continued from page 7

The nursing staff…all failed to “assess” Carol’s pain, they did not ask why she was having it. And Long agreed that among the nurses, there was a lack of in-depth neurologic assessment after the administration of Narcan as well as a lack of continuous respiratory assessment.

At the trial’s conclusion, the jury responded “yes” to the question, “Was the defendant negligent in the treatment of Carol Eklund?” They then were asked, “Was the defendant’s negligence a substantial factor in causing the death of Carol Eklund?” Their answer of “no” denied to Sven Eklund any monetary compensation for damages to him and his family.

In all, including money to hire three expert witnesses, Eklund maintains he paid attorney David Miller over $90,000 to pursue his case against Scripps Hospital. At the beginning of their relationship, according to Eklund, Miller exuded confidence in winning the lawsuit. At trial’s end, the two were feuding over courtroom tactics. Eklund has found another attorney to take the trial’s verdict to California’s courts of appeal. Miller did not return phone calls seeking comment on the situation.

Eklund’s disappointment in the lawsuit’s outcome is heightened by his feeling that Miller did not make Ativan, the last drug given to Carol before her death, a major focus in the trial. After Narcan counteracted the effects of morphine in Carol’s body, nurse Loftin sought a decision from physician and neurological specialist Benjamin Frishberg about how to address Carol’s “agitation.” According to trial records, Frishberg, on duty at the hospital that morning, prescribed one milligram of Ativan, a common anti-anxiety medication. He did not look in on Carol, making his decision on the basis of nursing information.

According to court documents, Frishberg also testified at trial that he did not prescribe any further administration of morphine. Nevertheless, trial transcripts reveal that someone turned Carol’s morphine pump back on between the time she received the Ativan dose and the pronounced time of her death at 7:00 a.m. But this information did not appear on Carol’s nursing log.

In consulting with doctors in Sweden, Eklund has come to believe that a combination of Ativan and morphine in his wife’s body is what killed her. Eklund put me in contact with Bengt Nellgard, head of the neuro intensive care unit at a university hospital in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Nellgard wrote me that an “unconscious patient given morphine must be monitored at all times.” If “an unconscious patient is given Narcan to reverse morphine treatment, that patient should be transferred to an intensive care unit” and not be given Ativan. Ativan given after morphine can decrease breathing drive and in a meningitis, supposedly with higher intracranial pressure than normal, this may be deleterious.”

I took the issue of morphine and Ativan interaction to several local pharmacists and to Professor Gordon McGuire at UCSD’s School of Pharmacy. The pharmacists requested anonymity but agreed that nothing they know for-bids Ativan from being given patients already on morphine.

One of them, however, said that the situation can be similar to someone drinking heavily and then taking sleeping pills, which also depress the central nervous system. That combination has had fatal consequences, she said. Both Ativan and morphine depress the central nervous system too.

McGuire agreed that it was not common for hospital patients already on morphine to be given Ativan to relax them. He also states that Narcan, even though its action lasts only an hour, permanently reverses the effects of a morphine dose.

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Continued from page 7

St. Charles is dry
continued from page 7

storm and were forced to leave when the levee broke. One friend’s parents were rescued off of their roof, brought to dry ground, and left there. They walked to a friend’s home for shelter, and found him there, protecting his property with a shotgun, and together they got in a car and drove along a railroad track until they were able to cut down a fence to reach the interstate and head out of town. Everyone has stories like that, but what’s worse are what you hear about those who haven’t been able to leave. I know of several people—a friend’s mother, someone else’s aunt and uncle, a neighbor in my condo complex—who have been in touch via text messages and remain holed up in their homes in uptown New Orleans, running out of supplies, and afraid to even look out of their windows for fear of being murdered by criminals. A doctor friend of my aunt’s, who had stayed at Children’s Hospital with patients, had to be “escorted” with her patients by private armed guards to a helicopter when the hospital fell under siege by looters trying to reach its pharmacy.

I’ve been trying to speak with as many other evacuees as I can around this week. Everyone has been eager to trade stories in hopes that they’ll hear something about their neighborhood, their block, their home, their friends who

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they haven’t been able to get in touch with. I thought I might find people out and about at the local beach bars and restaurants trying to drown their sorrows or make the best of a bad situation, but those places have all been empty of evacuees. Nothing could ever make this feel like a vacation. The only places I’ve found people congregated are around what few computer terminals there are here (in the lobby of the Sandestin Hilton hotel) that are open to guests, and everyone is just concerned with finding that one bit of hopeful information. A website that had been set up at www.scipions.com was extremely useful, as it contained a Google map of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, which people could annotate with damage reports for specific addresses.

That’s where I met a nurse named Jean, trying to find information about her home in Diamondhead, Mississippi, west of Biloxi — nothing definitive turned up, but she found reports that some nearby homes had been totally destroyed. Another family, from New Orleans, was gathered around Laurie, a Mount Carmel High School sophomore who was checking discussion groups for information about her friends, and when, if ever, they might be able to return to school there. Mount Carmel is near the break in the levee that has caused so much of the flooding into the city, and the news seemed bleak. An attorney named George was concerned for his home in an affluent suburb after hearing a rumor of deep flooding, but wasn’t able to find any relevant information and left, obviously shaken and nervous. I even ran into a friend from home, a graphic designer named David Caruso, who with his fiancée, Liz, searched for specific addresses.

Like everyone else, I’ve been in contact with by e-mail, can’t afford to stay in touch with. I thought I might go back to school there. Mount Carmel is near the break in the levee that has caused so much of the flooding into the city, and the news seemed bleak. An attorney named George was concerned for his home in an affluent suburb after hearing a rumor of deep flooding, but wasn’t able to find any relevant information and left, obviously shaken and nervous. I even ran into a friend from home, a graphic designer named David Caruso, who with his fiancée, Liz, searched for specific addresses.

Laurie said she’d been in contact with her family in New Orleans, was going to DC or Chicago, where my generous friends have offered me room and board for as long as it takes to get on my feet again. I’ll make it work; not much choice, is there?

There’s so much loss I can’t talk about it all. I can’t understand all the implications. I can’t wrap my head around just how bad things are for my city and the wonderful people who gave it spirit and heart and made it the living thing that it was. It is still alive, critically injured, but it’s “on the way” — but it never will be.

As this first week of our hellish odyssey comes to an end, everyone is trying to figure out their long-term plans. Most of the people I’ve spoken to here, as well as friends I’ve been in contact with by e-mail, can’t afford to stay in hotels much longer and are moving on for extended visits with family or friends in other parts. We won’t be let back into our city for several months, and even then probably won’t have jobs to go back to — so those of us without extravagant savings have to start finding places to live and work. It looks as if I’ll be heading to DC or Chicago, where my generous friends have offered me room and board for as long as it takes to get on my feet again. I’ll make it work; not much choice, is there?

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Dear Matt,

I won’t join a circus to find out, so this task goes to you, Matt. What propels the human cannonballs? I don’t believe it is a powerful explosive charge. That’s for effects. Not a spring, maybe a giant and long bungee, compressed air, steam (catapult), or hydraulics. These are my likely guesses. I can hardly wait to find out.

— Curious Greg Gieselman in Point Loma/OB

Well, how did you know that Grandma comes from a long line of circus folk? We have these cute pictures of Grandma practicing riding a bicycle across a high wire, having a little trouble with her training wheels, though. As a teenager, she was swept off her feet by a trapeze artist but gave up the career when he accidentally dropped her into the elephant pen. But she still gets teary when she sees a big top. And she can tell you without a doubt that no gunpowder is involved in the human-cannonball trick, except as special effects. The living projectile hops into a cylinder that slides down inside the barrel. At the base of the barrel is a container of compressed air set at about 150 psi. The release of the air shoots the cylinder down the barrel, it stops before it’s ejected, but of course the human bean keeps going. It might seem like the tricky part is over, but more human projectiles are injured or killed by missing the landing net than by any problems from the concussion. It’s a tricky business.

The first human cannonball was a woman in a circus in England, and she used a contraption made of springs and wires.

And now, so we can get the Labor Day barbecue going, here’s something from the Matthew Alice archives.

Dear Matt:

The other night, when my family and I pondered this question, I had a “Eureka.” I realized only one guy (and a few elves) would be able to sort this one out. Our family dog, who’s gone by the name of Boondock, is not brilliant, but he’s incredibly thoughtful and perceptive. Most of all, he is the most photogenic in the history of all our family pets. When we show him all his great photos, he gets a funny gleam in his eyes. He puts his ears back and licks his lips bashfully. Is he recognizing himself? Can his vision process what is on a photo? And then can he realize how silly he looks in a hat or begging to be photographed? Or are we over-anthropomorphizing?

— Karen in Carlsbad

We get so many cat questions, I guess it was only a matter of time before the doggyphiles checked in. Put down their pooper scoopers and took up pencil and paper. Luckily, dogs’ brains are a little more transparent than cats’. And because dogs consider us to be dogs, they talk to us a lot, though sometimes we only hear what we want to. Boondock, for instance. He’s saying, “Huh? What? Whazzat? Can I eat it? Can I eat it? Pet me! Pet me!” Thoughtful, perceptive Boondock doesn’t have a clue, Karen. He knows he’s the center of attention, which is good; and you’re sticking your hand out like you’re giving him a treat, which is good, but the treat doesn’t smell, which is not good. Not only can he not recognize himself, he can’t even see the photograph very well. He can’t begin to appreciate how cute he looks wearing goofy hats. All he knows is that when you pull out the funny box and put it in front of your face, he gets all kinds of attention. Then you get excited and say things such as, “Good boy, Boondock!” Then he gets excited as though it’s playtime, and the more he keeps it up, the more attention he gets. All the manipulation is exhausting.

Now go find Boondock and look right into his friendly old doggie face. Note where Boondock’s dopey old doggie eyes are. Kind of pointing off to each side, yes? That gives dogs good wide-angle vision but poor ability to focus straight ahead at close range. This makes sense when you consider that dogs are designed to hunt and chase down prey, not be art critics. And dogs are stimulated by things that move. Waving the picture at him might catch his attention, but a plain old Polaroid held in front of his nose simply has no meaning, assuming he can see it at all. That’s especially true since not animals don’t see things in the detail that we do. They react to larger forms and big movements, not minutiae like the cute expression you’ve captured when you took the snapshot.

Flashy, multicolored hats on Boondock won’t help either. Dogs can distinguish very few colors, since they are designed to hunt at twilight. In short, there’s not a thing about your adorable portraits that Boondock finds interesting. All he knows is, you seem to be having fun, and he wants to join in. You’re top dog in the pack, after all.

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

Got a question you need answered? Send an e-mail to heymatt@cts.com or fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Matthew Alice, c/o the Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186.
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THE HEIGHTS. YOUR FIRST RESORT TO CALL HOME.
On August 24, 1968, Mary McBride and I stood one mile south of Hawthorne, Nevada. It was 108 degrees, and we hadn’t eaten in a day or had a change of clothes in two. She was 17, I was 24. We were in love.

Mary grew up in Columbia, a California town of 2500 set in the Sierra Nevada foothills. She was tall — five foot, ten inches — had outrageously long, fire-red hair, green eyes, thin, wide lips, long legs, and large breasts. Now add a sweet disposition and significant talents in art and piano.

We met, the preceding spring, in Los Altos Hills, California, at one of my stops, Foothill Junior College. I was living in a 75-dollar-a-month hovel that became, within the space of one week, a 75-dollar-a-month hovel/lake nest. At the end of spring semester, Mary, at her mother’s insistence, went home to work in a photographer’s shop, a job mom arranged the moment she heard that daughter was off the leash.

We planned an August rendezvous at the Fresno airport. Mary would pick me up in her boat of a Ford Fairlane and drive us back to the Bay Area. She would resume her studies, and I, reformed by the love of a good woman, would commence an epic trek to a Ph.D. followed by a tenured life of piano recitals and faculty barbecues.

The Fresno airport closed at midnight, and at midnight I was patrolling the empty terminal under the visual custody of two janitors. Showing the kind of gumption that, 30 years later, would find her as sole owner of a greeting-card company, living on an honest-to-god Mississippi plantation, Mary got through to one of the janitors, who walked the length of the terminal, tapped me on the shoulder, and led me into his office.

Mary said there was an accident followed by a fire. Miraculously, no one was hurt, but she lost her Ford, clothes, money, and I.D. She called from her mother’s house in Columbia.

The next morning, I hitched over to retrieve Mary. It was a hostage situation. Her mom had telephoned the cops (Mary was underage by two months) and demanded my arrest. While mom waited for the police to arrive, Mary and I ran down current events. He invited us to a University of California sociology department. Bruce Burger came on the telephone, “Hello.”

I said, “You don’t know me, but...” and run down current events. He invited us to his office.

We wound up staying six weeks in Bruce’s apartment. Bruce got us into school and lined out a magnificent package of NDSL loans, Pell Grants, student loans, and work-study jobs. Pretty soon, Mary and I were pulling down more money as students than we ever made working in the hive.

We stayed in Nevada for a few years and then I started traveling. Mary moved to Santa Monica, took up freelance work as a graphic artist, married a man from Pass Christian, Mississippi, moved there, started a greeting-card company, got divorced, stayed on, and grew her business. Coincidently, Mississippi, disappeared from the face of the earth during the early morning hours of August 29, 2005.
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SHEEP AND GOATS
PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Denomination: nondenominational
Address: 12574 Manifesto Place, University Towne Centre, La Jolla, 858-342-8362
Founded locally: September 2003
Senior pastor: Yucan Chiu
Congregation size: 40–60
Staff size: 1
Sunday school enrollments: 3–5
Annual budget: $36,000
Weekly giving: n/a
Singles: no
Dress casual
Diversity: Asian, white, Hispanic, Ethiopian
Sunday worship: 10:15 a.m.
Length of reviewed service: 2 hours
Website: www.ethnos.us

“God is involved in a lot of ways in hurricane Katrina,” said Seth Pruitt, the worship leader at Ethnos. “God is sovereign. He allowed Katrina to occur. In allowing it to occur, He has a plan beyond my understanding. Maybe it is to open people’s eyes about the importance of compassion, now that the hurricane has come and gone. Or it reminds us of the frailty of human life. It may help people see the acts of evil and selfishness that exist under the surface of our civiliza-
tion. Ultimately, why God allowed it to happen, I don’t know.”

“I do know that God does not delight in the suffering of people,” said Pruitt. “He is intimately aware of every person He’s created. It doesn’t please Him when people die. Personally, I don’t think God is pour-
ing out His wrath on the city. All the wrath of God, the Father’s wrath, was poured out on His Son. God is very gracious in His dealing with us. Every-
one has been given a time to accept His grace and we can avoid His wrath if we accept it. This is hard love. I know it isn’t much comfort to some-
one who lost their chil-
dren in the hurricane. I grieve with the people who experienced loss.”

A number of Christian groups have said the hurricane was a form of punishment from God. The Columbia Christians for Life said that the storm was God’s way of punishing Louisiana for having ten abortion clinics and to prevent Southern Decadence, a gay-themed bash, planned for Labor Day weekend. Another group, Repent Amer-
ica, stated, “Although the loss of lives is deeply saddening, this act of God destroyed a wicked city. From ‘Girls Gone Wild’ to Southern Deca-
dence, New Orleans was a city that had its doors wide open to the public celebration of sin. May it never be the same.”

Pastor Yucan Chiu disagreed with the responses from these groups. “I think it is presumptuous to determine what God’s motives are. Unless we have a direct revelation from God, Christians shouldn’t say those kinds of things,” Pastor Chiu added. “The amazing thing is that God hasn’t done this to all of us. Sin has distorted creation and the human heart.” Yucan said this is why He wants people to hear about Jesus, who provides forgiveness for sin.

Ethnos is Greek for an ethnic people group.

Central to Ethnos’ vision is to reach a variety of ethnic communities. “In the UTC area, there are 40 languages spoken at the local elementary school,” said Pastor Chiu. “We want to help peo-
ple realize that Jesus is unique and culturally relevant to all people.” Chiu said he is intentional in his outreach to numerous cultures. In Ethnos’ membership class, time is spent on multicultural training. Chiu cited numerous Bible passages, such as Galatians 3:8, which emphasized God’s desire to reach all people. “People are attracted to Eth-

nos because of our multicultural vision, so they come knowing and wanting to experience many cultures. We are a real mix, which includes low-
income families, Ethiopians, Gypsies. I’m a Chi-

nese pastor; we have a white worship leader, and we often sing worship songs in Spanish.”

“Multiracial churches honor God,” said Seth Pruitt. “God put it on the heart of Pastor Chiu to pursue a multiracial church, and he has been obe-
dient. It isn’t something that can be programmed.”

I asked Pruitt why more churches don’t have mul-
ticultural success. “It’s hard enough to come together and reach out in faith to a God who is unseen. Then, add to this the discomfort of multiracial services. For many it’s too much.” Seth Pruitt believes it is sin to not pursue diversity. “It is a falling short of what God has intended. Whenever we fall short, it is sin. [Christians] need to pray and search the scriptures to inform us of God’s heart for all people. Ask God to teach us His heart to make a practical dif-
ference because we need to reach all people.” Pruitt mentioned cultural changes he has brought into worship. “I’ve been studying Indian music at Aradhna.com to bring in some of these elements. We use a sitar in the wor-
ship music. We sing songs in other languages, or we have had Ethiopians per-
form a song.”

Last Thursday I attended a midweek Eth-
os community group. The community group met to discuss different characteristics of Jesus. The group sat on couches and chairs in Seth and Courtney Pruitt’s living room. After introductions, the women and men split for a time of accountability and prayer. In the men’s group, men who requested accountability wished to discuss pornography, relationship prob-
lems, and work. Seth Pruitt asked the group to pray for him, that he would be a better witness to a coworker in the office. A college student asked for prayer for depression. The student desired to feel closer to God. After everyone spoke, the group prayed for each other. When the women returned, Steven Lee, the facilitator, requested accountability of the group spend the remainder of the evening in prayer about the hurricane Katrina.

“I asked Seth Pruitt what happens to the peo-
ple who died in the hurricane. ‘The person who dies without Christ will face God’s wrath,’ replied Pruitt. ‘Christians who die go to a new life with God. They go to a new creation that Jesus is prepar-
ing for us called heaven. ’”

— Drew E. Goodmanson

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com
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Dear Saffron,
After living in National City for ten years, I finally had my house painted. It wasn’t cheap, but I was pleased with the result — it made my home look fresh and new. My next-door neighbor seems to have gotten the home improvement bug, too. A week after my paint job was completed he had a big block wall put up around his front garden and had the wall stuccoed. This wall is right on the property line between his house and mine and very close to one side of my house. So close, in fact, that the guys he hired to do this job, who he did not supervise at all, slopped stucco on my newly painted house. Now my house is dotted with splotches and blobs of stucco. The walkway on that side of my house has stucco dripping on it, too. I’m quite mad about this. My wife says that since the next-door neighbor isn’t the most pleasant person in the world that we should keep quiet and call the painter and pay for him to touch up the paint and clean up the stucco. I say I have a right to tell my neighbor that since his workers messed up my property, he should pay for having it put to rights.

Frowning Homeowner

Dear Frowning,
This seems pretty cut-and-dried: If your neighbor hired workers who didn’t clean up after themselves and left stucco souvenirs on your house and grounds, then he needs to pay for whatever needs to be done to tidy up the mess. Maybe he can get his workers to come back and finish what they began by doing a proper clean-up. There’s no reason why his wall construction should leave your property splattered or add unwanted sculptural dimensions.

Dear Saffron,
My little sister married a dude I can only describe as a slacker. They have three girls, and this man hasn’t had a steady job since their oldest was born eight years ago. There’s no good reason why he can’t work — he just doesn’t want a job that isn’t perfect. He’s been involved in a few stupid get-rich-quick schemes, all of which have bombed. My sister is a stay-at-home mom, and our father (Mom died when we were teenagers) has been pretty supporting my sister’s family. Dad is getting on in years and my wife has started to wonder if being with our doctors, Barry Katzman, M.D., or Libro DiZinno, M.D.
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Two of my brothers-in-law are superstars in karaoke world. Carl and Leon are both tall, handsome, wannabe Vegas singers. Leon, whose curly hair earned him the nickname David Hasselhoff, favors cheesy ’80s rock Ballard; Journey, Air Supply, Rick Astley, and the like. Carl is more of a Sinatra man, though he isn’t above the occasional soft-rock favorite. Recently, the two crooners brought their families to town for a Kelly reunion. We wanted to have karaoke night, but we didn’t want the expense and hassle of going out for it. So husband Patrick and I decided to rent a karaoke machine.

The evening was riotous. Carl’s “Annie’s Song” and “Abracadabra” were hilarious, as was Leon’s “Don’t Stop Believing.” Their willingness to temporarily suspend their dignity inspired others to take up the microphone. Husband Patrick’s “Bust a Move” rap had the party writhing on the floor in laughter. The singing went on until 2:00 a.m., when Patrick unplugged the machine as Carl rasped through “Feelings.” The following morning, as the family rubbed sleep out of their eyes and nursed hangovers, Carl revived the machine again, spinning some easy-listening tunes for brunch entertainment. The children, who had been chomping at the bit for some mic time, got their turn after breakfast, yelling out some Sound of Music tunes and kiddie songs, such as “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”

The following day, I spoke with Angel Cortez, owner of The Party San Diego’s Karaoke Experience (619-477-1212), who rented us the machine.

“We started renting karaoke machines for our family parties about eight years ago,” answered Cortez. “My wife got hooked on it. I think she rented a machine six times in five months. Then she bought the company.”

Cortez related that he later lost his wife to breast cancer, but continues her business. “We took on the legacy, keeping the company in business for her sake because she loved it so much.”

Karaoke was popular in the Philippines, explained Cortez, and then it came to the United States. “People rent the machines for entertainment at their parties. Often, they will rent an Astro Jump for the children and a karaoke machine for the adults. It’s an entertainment source. We also provide machines for bars and restaurants for their karaoke nights.”

“The largest unit I rent out is 500 watts of power, with capacity for about 200 people, with 400 CDs and about 8000 songs. That is utilized mainly indoors, though it can be both indoors and outdoors. That unit is ideal for restaurants because it has plenty of power but not too much. That one rents for $150.

“The smallest unit I rent has a little over 100 CDs with about 2500 songs on it. That machine is more geared for teenagers with more of the modern songs that are coming out. That one rents for $135.”

The unit we rented did have some modern songs on it, though the majority were from my era of ‘60s, ‘70s, and ‘80s. “That machine you rented was built about seven years ago,” offered Cortez, “but I updated it by pulling out about 50 CDs that were not utilized that much and replaced them with some newer music.”

Cortez said the CDs are not cheap. “It’s very expensive to provide entertainment for karaoke. For a CD with six songs, you’ll pay about $9. For 15 to 20 songs it’ll cost about $20, and for 24 songs about $28. In the 400-CD changer that I rent, I have over $8000 worth of CDs. So it doesn’t really pay to buy your own inexpensive unit. For a little four-inch screen unit with 60 watts of power, it will cost you anywhere from $79 to $150 just for the machine.”

At our party, singers were marveling at the authenticity of the backup instrumentals. Carl, who normally sings over synthesized-style accompaniments, was thrilled at the Vegas-style, big-band orchestrations backing his Sinatra tunes. “There is definitely a quality issue with the instrumentals on the CDs,” Cortez explains. “Just like buying a purse at Wal-Mart versus buying a purse at Neiman Marcus, so it is with the music for karaoke. Some companies are better than others. Sing Young Music World has a very large selection of karaoke equipment and music.

“The rental is up to 24 hours,” he continued. “The second day is usually half price. We had a family that rented the machine for New Year’s Eve, and they had so much fun, they called up and rented it for a second day.”

Cortez recommends reserving a machine one or two weeks in advance, longer for weekends. “This Saturday’s reservation has been booked for a month now.” He offered, “It’s for a KOA campground karaoke party for the campers. Weekends book up early, though sometimes you can make a last-minute reservation on a machine if it is for a weekday.”

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1. Angel Cortez
2. Karaoke machine
3. Singer
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Thirty Years Ago
I left San Diego at 1:00 p.m. on the 21st of July for Vancouver, British Columbia. I had been rapping about how much fun I was going to have for so long that the night before take-off, my good friend, Mike, signed on for the expedition. Solo hitching is easier, there's more opportunity to wheel and deal. Two people seldom get a ride in a Volkswagen bug, and Volkswagen bugs give a disproportionate amount of the rides to hitchhikers.

—"THUMBS UP!" Robert M. Cook, Jr., September 11, 1975

Twenty-Five Years Ago
"In 1976 Archie Moore told us if we could find a good, strong white kid, he'd only have to be a fairly good boxer, and we could still do big things and make a truckload of money," says Ray Hamel, "We didn't realize then that we'd go through a truckload of our own money and a truckload of white guys lookin' for him."

—"PUNCH HARD, BUT DON'T GET HIT." Bill Owens, September 11, 1980

Twenty Years Ago
Testimony in Hedgecock’s criminal trial last week included the disclosure that former Channel 8 news anchor Tom Lawrence was paid $2000 to coach Hedgecock on how to talk and look better in front of TV cameras…. Hedgecock, writes Lawrence, "exhibited a certain coolness …as if not really open to questions or new thoughts."

Hedgecock’s performance improved as the session continued. Lawrence commended him for this “very positive kinds of responses…even your laugh is more open.”

—"THE INSIDE STORY," Paul Krueger, September 12, 1985

Fifteen Years Ago
While we tossed down brew after brew, gliding through the salt marshes south of Mexicali, the trick was to remain in control. Men. Partners. Compadres. Drinking as much as they could without losing control. I’m a stud. If you can’t keep up with me, if you get sick — if you can’t maintain — you’re a wimp, a weasel, a fag. We were prisoners of traditions that extended much deeper than any lies we ever swapped about sexual prowess and appetite.

—"I TOOK MY LAST DRINK OF ALCOHOL OVER FOUR YEARS AGO," Hank Larson, September 13, 1990

Ten Years Ago
Q: Did you meet the Beatles?
Q:?

A: It was Jann Wenner’s fault. He asked me to interview Timothy Leary for Rolling Stone in early 1969, after I’d left Crawdaddy! A few months later Tim called me at my commune in Mendocino and said he was going to run for governor of California and would I be campaign manager.

First we went to San Luis Obispo, where he lectured to students in the gym and then to a rock festival in Hollywood, Florida, with the Grateful Dead and the Youngbloods and maybe Quicksilver Messenger Service. We found out that John and Yoko were planning to do a Bed-In for Peace in Montreal, like the one for their honeymoon in Amsterdam, subject of the Beatles’ single “The Ballad of John and Yoko.” We had to go to Montreal. Tim called Playboy and told his contact that I would conduct an interview with Tim and John at the Bed-In and get Playboy to front us plane tickets.

—"CRAWDADDY’S DADDY," Paul Williams, September 7, 1995

Five Years Ago
We watched the 10:00 news while the baby performed gymnastics under my maternity shirt. "Wow," Jack said after a particularly large kick.

"I swear, this baby is going to fight his way out," I told him.

When Jack and I climbed into bed around 11:00, Jack reached over and stroked the hair that fell across my forehead. "I hope you get some sleep tonight," he said.

"Me too."

—KID STUFF: "GOOD NIGHT AGAIN," Anne Albright, September 7, 2000

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enjoy Evite party invitations for the on-line responses from people who are showing up or declining.

A woman named Bonnie (an editor at WORD San Diego) sent me an Evite: “Bring a dish to share, along with a piece of your original writing to accompany the wine, though I’m not sure which genre goes with either white or red.”

Victoria responded, “I’ll bring a red wine poem, a white wine poem, and a gin-induced rambling.”

Another response said, “I’ll have nothing to read because I haven’t written anything but e-mails and budget justifications for years.”

A guy named Nate wrote, “I’m maybe-ing because I know more people who ask me to help them move than invite me to parties.”

Kathy, a teacher, responded, “No! I will be doing a bunch of writing that weekend, but unfortunately it will be report cards. Maybe I should just bring them along. Who knows, after a glass of wine or two, everyone may get an A.”

I e-mailed Bonnie about her party. When she wrote back, I jokingly told her that she uses too many exclamation back, I jokingly told her that she may get an A.”

Victoria gave me a hard time about drinking. If I started telling someone a story, she’d interject, “Did that happen that you don’t drink? Obviously, you do.”

The rest of the night, Victoria gave me a hard time about drinking. If I started telling someone a story, she’d interject, “Did that happen because of your drinking?”

Victoria is a court reporter. She read a story called “The Great Divide,” in which a woman was in an accident with a drunk driver, and her husband, who had left her five years earlier, still called. “It’s more than just insurance forms and logistics. There are some things even new wives can’t fix. Or understand.” Later she says the new wife is named Lydia, which rhymes with chlamydia — “both nasty and unwanted.”

Someone at the party told me that a lady named Amy got a two-book deal with Viking/Penguin and would be working with the same editor who had worked on Sue Monk Kidd’s The Secret Life of Bees. Amy read from her second novel, a piece called “Fingers and Underpants”: “Wendella had never seen a human finger before. Or at least not one that wasn’t attached to a hand or the rest of the body...She recognized what it was right away. Kicked it a few times around the patch of grass on the alley side of the chain link fence. Saw that the nail had been chewed down to the nubbins, as her mom would say, just like her own. Wendella liked biting her nails. She found it soothing her insides, especially when she’d been through a cussing out by her daddy.” I was captivated by this character who plans to win the school science fair...by bringing in the finger.

Amy’s boyfriend, Eber, was interesting. We agreed on movies — we both thought Million Dollar Baby was overrated, but had an argument about Crash. After 15 minutes of discussing it, others asked us not to ruin the story for them. We went into the kitchen and argued for 45 minutes. When a woman heard Eber say how the movie shows that “all of us are racist,” she objected. (I found out via e-mail the next day that some people at the party were annoyed with me for not letting the topic drop.)

The story Eber read was about a guy who woke up and...
realized he didn’t have a mouth: “I attempted a yawn and only felt my cheeks stretch. Breathing was working okay. Thank God for clear sinuses.” He also mentions how much easier shaving is. The funniest part of is when he says how he goes through 47 ATM receipts and writes, “I just dutifully collect them each time I go to the ATM until my wallet barely bends and sitting on it becomes uncomfortable. Then I sort through them in an obligatory ritual, feigning a sense of fiscal responsibility before throwing them away.”

Eber told some funny stories later in the evening. He talked about how his youthful experimentation with drugs almost kept him from a job because he was honest about it on the application. Eber said he once worked in a college radio station that brought Bob Marley in for an interview. Eber was in his office while Marley was on the air, and he saw billows of pot smoke coming out of the windows. He thought the FCC would come shut the station down.

A doctor named Suzi was at the party. She wrote a mysterious piece about a homeless woman digging through trash at a hospital because of the large amounts of food hospitals discard. “Since bags were tied tight, you couldn’t smell, and it led to surprises.” Her piece was funny and scary — she ended it with a cliffhanger. I never asked her how she was going to end it. Or if hospitals throw away the funky, bloody things she described.

After Suzi read, someone convinced Bonnie to turn off the disco ball she had in her living room. Everyone laughed. Between stories, her husband Randy was playing bongo drums they had in the corner. (I thought he could’ve punched up some of the pieces with bongo beats in the right places.) I told Randy the disco ball would look great on top of a Christmas tree, and he told me they’d done that before.

A curly-haired blonde named Erica read a handful of her poems. I liked a few, but the rest were too cryptic. One about a lady was interesting: “Where the cars seeeth by like mechanical lemmings/as their fumes intoxicate your lungs with a ransom.” It concluded: “high above the boxot of the rhinoplastic playground/the moon is breaking off in great chunks.”

Bonnie wrote a funny piece about a lady with Alzheimer’s who was lost. In the story, after police search the area, describing the woman and her clothing, Bonnie decides to dress like the old lady and walk around the neighborhood. Later, Bonnie told me that Christopher Reeve was her soul mate. In the ‘80s, Bonnie put a quarter into a machine at a movie theater. The machine asked her a series of questions and then spilt out the name of the actor who was her soul mate. “So when he died, it wasn’t just Superman dying. It was my soul mate.... It would never be.”

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

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com
Death must be so beautiful. To lie in the soft brown earth, with the grasses waving above one’s head, and listen to silence. To have no yesterday, and no to-morrow. To forget time, to forgive life, to be at peace.

— Oscar Wilde

**Sorrow and Solace**

**DIARY OF A DIVA**

For me, the month of September holds significance for two life-changing reasons: it is the month of my birth and the month in which I face my greatest fear — loss. It’s ironic that I can embrace change the way I do, yet still be afraid of those changes I cannot control, like getting fired from a job for political reasons, being left by a love-interest for personal reasons, or having to say goodbye to a loved one too soon.

**Getting fired, in the end, was a welcome push to go home after two years of exhausting self-discovery and death-defying party habits.**

During my first few months of living in Los Angeles I was consumed with worry that my friends in San Diego would forget about me. I held parties to draw them up north, and when they didn’t come, I drove down to be with them. Despite my efforts, physical separation led to emotional distance. While lamenting over my loneliness in the shallow sea that was L.A., I was fired from my job.

Shock, anger, and self-pity were the fires I burned for months to come. The truth is, I didn’t even like my job. But to suddenly lose it — to have my identity as a headhunter fall out from under me — was devastating. I woke up every day for my job, dressed for it, thought of it at night, never introduced myself to someone without announcing it as part of me. And then it was gone.

I’m of the belief that things happen for a reason. That somehow, we are each able to manifest our deepest desires. I wanted to go back to San Diego. Getting fired, in the end, was a welcome push to go home after two years of exhausting self-discovery and death-defying party habits. The death of one phase led to the birth of another.

I started a new job and forgot about my fears. I skated through life without paying much attention, until one September day. It was something in the morning on the 11th when the phone rang. I was dressed for work, but my wet hair was still wrapped in a towel.

“Barb, turn on the TV,” said the voice in the phone. I can tell you it was one of my family members, a parent maybe, perhaps even a sister. I just can’t remember which one. When the news was on, and I was trying to process the images in front of me, whoever it was on the phone informed me in a trembling voice, “Jeffrey is in there.”

Jeffrey, Father, husband, son, brother, New York firefighter — my cousin. I was too stunned to cry. He’s probably all right, I thought. I was unwilling to accept the possibility of death. I watched in disbelief as the second tower fell. I don’t know how it is with your family, but my cousins are closer than most siblings I’ve encountered, and I might as well share an appendage with each of my three sisters. I had talked to Jeffrey on the phone more often than I spoke with some friends. He was worried about me because I had told him of my frequent partying. He had every right to worry. But I was fine.

And he was missing.

A month later, the family gathered en masse to say goodbye to the man whose remains wouldn’t be found for two more weeks. Everyone dealt with the loss in his own way. Some channeled their grief into anger toward those responsible for the atrocity. Others withdrew from the rest to cope on their own.

But we all had one thing in common — we missed Jeffrey. We missed his hilarity-inducing smile, his positive energy, and his ability to diffuse awkward, painful situations — like going to a funeral.

When Jeffrey went missing, I handled the loss in the only way I knew how — escape. I held my birthday party at a friend’s house in L.A., where I was everything but sober for three consecutive days. Beneath my chemically-created mania, I agonized.

Now, four years later, my birthday approaches in the wake of another tragedy. Last week, my family experienced an unexpected loss when Susan, my brother-in-law’s mother, passed away. I can’t talk to my children, her husband, her grandchildren, but I imagine their pain is a magnified version of mine. I wept after my sister called to inform me that Susan was gone. But with my grief I felt something else — gratitude for having known her.

There’s no such thing as forever. How you live your life depends on how you react to, and bounce back from, each of your losses. Death also comes in many forms — the death of a relationship, the death of a lifestyle. You can’t...
escape it. Life, as we know it, is only temporary.

In September, my fear is heightened. I find myself fretting over potential loss. I ask myself, What would I do if I lost David, the love of my life? How could I continue living and breathing without him next to me? One by one, my family members line up in my mind and, for a moment, I panic and grieve with the idea of losing them.

“What’s on your mind, babe?” David asked this morning, when he awoke to find me concentrating on his face—memorizing the angle of his brow, the soft curve of his nose.

“I love you so much,” I whispered, then kissed the top of his head as I rested my cheek against his chest, the light in our room was as soft as the comforter beneath me.

How could I continue living without him. I thought of the upside of losing them.

Each moment outside of my life, the people I get to spend time with, the happiness in my life, the people who I get to love, I thought of the upside of losing them.

Rarely does a moment pass that I don’t savor the love and each other, right now. How precious we all are to the rest of the victims of 9/11. The will have taken place across the country for Jeffrey and the rest of the victims of 9/11. The celebration of my life will be accompanied by the presence of death and the awareness of how precious we all are to each other, right now.

This month, my fear of losing those I love will be the catalyst for me to remind them that they are loved. And as we grieve for our losses, I will do my best to ensure that we remember all that is not lost.
WHEN THE LOUD BELL RANG

My first day in school was really my second day.

It was September 1950, and that first day my brown uniform shirt scratched, the heavy corduroy pants were stiff with newness, my suspenders would not stay up, and my new shoes (bought a size too big for growing into) had slippery leather soles that made each step an effort. My mother carried my lunch and, gripping me with her other hand, led the way from our house on 1 Street to Our Lady of Angels, a two-story square brick building at 24th and Market Street.

Standing at the door of the first-grade classroom was somebody really scary. I could see no hair, but I guessed that she was a lady because she wore a long-sleeved black dress that went almost down to the floor. She was as big as a sixth grader, and she had wrinkled skin, and she wore a bib as stiff as a paper plate. From under the bib, hanging on some wood from her neck and at eye-level to me, was a man wearing a diaper. Also, we had nylon curtains at our house, and this lady had one that went down her back just like our curtains except that hers was black. Around her waist was a rope of big wooden beads that were each the color and size of an extra-large black olive.

She said her name was Sister Ruth, and when she smiled she was not so scary. She told me to sit in the second row and pointed. There were six rows and six desks with somebody in almost every desk. Others came in after me. The girls wore dark blue skirts and white blouses; the boys had everything brown like me. Big windows let in lots of sunshine. Pigs, lambs, and happy tabby cats were taped to the walls. In one picture above the blackboard a lady holding a baby in a nightshirt like the kind my grandpa wore to bed. They both had yellow hair.

I did not see my mother leave that first day.

Sister Ruth closed the classroom door just when a loud bell rang. Some children were crying and Sister Ruth said, “Well, now.” We learned to sit at attention and raise our hands, and that first morning she taught us how to get under our desks and cover our ears for air raids. Nobody was crying by the time Sister Ruth finished reading a story. We colored with crayons and pasted with glue. Recess was for going to the toilet. Boys and girls had their own bathrooms. In the boys’ bathroom, some boys had their underpants on backwards and had to pull down their pants and their underpants too. Sister Ruth made us wash our hands. The Borax powder felt like sand, and the paper towel hurt.

At noon we were back outside to eat lunch and run around. Other ladies in black clothes were on the playground, but we stuck close to Sister Ruth. After lunch, before we laid our heads on our desks for quiet time, Sister Ruth asked who knew that the baby in the picture was named Baby Jesus and that He loved us. I raised my hand like everybody else because I forgot that I only got baptized just so I could go to Catholic school and that nobody at my house talked about how Baby Jesus loved us. Sister Ruth said Baby Jesus was God’s only son and that He wanted each and every one of us for His very own, but I had brothers at my house and I had to learn how to share.

Afterwards, my mother was waiting for me in the playground. She asked how I liked school. I gave her my coloring and said it was fun, but the next morning it was the same thing all over. I put on the same clothes, and we walked that whole way again. Sister Ruth stood at the door just the way she did yesterday. My mother kissed me, said goodbye, and turned away. That’s when I got it. Today was like yesterday, and tomorrow was going to be like today — stories, lunches, and quiet time, over and over and always without my mother. This was school.

A primitive awakening gripped me and I howled, but my mother kept walking.

“Stop that!” said Sister Ruth. She took me by the cuff of my shirt and led me to my seat, where I wept more. My heart was breaking, and then others remembered and their hearts started to break too. At the front of the classroom, Sister Ruth said that that was enough of that; and then she called me by name. I shut up and gulped air, baffled. I had just heard my name spoken, so it seemed to me, for the very first time.

— Jangchup Phelygal

THE RADIATORS THAT TICKED HEAT INTO THE ROOM

The winter I was in fifth grade, my father brought home a National Geographic book that seemed to consist entirely of swamp photographs. He turned the thick, glossy pages for me, and I stared at the lakes and moss-draped trees, remembering a glass-bottomed boat in which we had once, on a family vacation, traveled through Okefenokee Swamp Park, peering down in the murky water for a green-yellow flash of alligator. He said he had been transferred from New Mexico, where we lived, to South Carolina, the place shown in the book. We were moving to the South.

My father had already picked out a house and met some of the neighbors, and he told us the boy across the street might come over and say, “Hi! I’m your new neighbor!” He was an otherwise generous, thoughtful man, but this was his way of telling me that the boy, Chris Bethel, was black, and that black people spoke with a kind of folksy ignorance. Clovis, New Mexico, as it appears in my school pictures, was full of white people.

When we arrived in Sumter, I saw the swamp that lay to the north of us along one side of McCray’s Mill Road. I saw the houses on Manning Avenue, the poorest part of town, where black families still lived in wooden shacks no better than slave cabins. I saw the admittedly small but unfenced alligator that liked to sun itself on a spit of grass near the path at Swan Lake city park, and I met Chris Bethel, whose mother fed me cake and called me Dear.

On my first day at Millwood Elementary I wore the clothes my mother had sewn for me: red pants, red vest, and a red hooded jacket lined with plaid flannel, as if I were Little Red Riding Hood on her way to Grandmother’s. I loved that jacket. I remember the heavy front door, the long dark tunnel of the hall, the classroom at the far end of the classroom wing, the radiators that ticked heat into the room. The air they warmed smelled of baking metal, a sweetish smell that reminded me of ironing my father’s handkerchiefs.

All of my teachers in New Mexico had been women of advanced age with stiff, stylized hairdos; polyester pantsuits; and glasses attached to beaded chains. My new teacher was Mr. Leach. He looked like a detective in a TV cop show: rumpled white dress shirt, wavy silver hair, sideburns, a toothpick in the corner of his mouth. For years I had pretended when playing house that I was married to Starsky, Fonzie, or Carmine Ragusa, Shirley’s boyfriend on Laverne and Shirley, and Mr. Leach had their stubbled good looks.

“This is our new student,” Mr. Leach said in his laconic way. “Laura Rotten.”

Iblushed because my last name wasn’t “rotten.” “‘Readin’, Writin’, and Wrote-n,” my father always explained to people, but this never helped on the first day of school.

I corrected him. I stared at the children in all the desks before me, 29 of them, half black, half white. I took my seat next to the radiator and class resumed. When there was a break in the lesson, after recess, a black boy named Anthony climbed up on the desk and chair beside me, balanced himself like a gymnast on the parallel bars, and asked if I was...

“Mama, when they bleed,
American. He thrust his pelvis at me ever so slightly.

"Of course," I said. He was at ease in a way I was not. He didn't speak with a folksy ignorance. In fact, he seemed years ahead of me.

"No, you're not," he said.

"Yes, I am." But Mr. Leach said you're from Mexico. Instead of assuming that he'd misheard, I assumed he didn't know the states of the union. "New Mexico," I said, but I could tell he considered me a foreigner, and this made me strangely uneasy, as if he, in not knowing the place I came from, made it a less real place, one to which I could never return.

From that day on, I clung to Mr. Leach, with his undeservedly ugly name and his comforting, fatherly affection. He hugged me, an unthinkable act now, and told me I was pretty. I considered him my only ally, my only friend. In my mind I wrote letters to friends in New Mexico, describing my loneliness except for Mr. Leach, who at various points in the day would find me hovering near his desk, wanting to show him photos of the latest swamp my father had driven us out to see. I sat on the radiator and felt the heat scorch my legs and hands.

One day when I was hovering, he told me that he was a child getting on a bus when he saw a black person for the first time. He said he asked his mother, "Mama, when they bleed, do they bleed red or do they bleed black?"

It was a strange story, and I don't know if he was trying to teach me that we were all alike, or that we looked at one another and saw alien creatures, or both. Sometime that winter, before the dogwoods bloomed, I left the red hooded jacket on a hook in the classroom and it disappeared, and within three years, we, too, had disappeared, gone to another Air Force town, another school. I don't know what happened to Mr. Leach or to a single soul in that desegregated but starkly divided classroom, though I remember the names, still, and the smell of the radiators, and the story I heard not long ago about the alligator that used to sun himself at Swan Lake Gardens. He grew too large and ate the swans, apparently, and they had to get rid of him. I like to think that the huntsman cut him open and the swans fell out, alive and whole, to float away through the dark, wet woods.

— Laura Rhoton McNeal

I was enthusiastic about it from the start. World War II had ended only three years before, and I had spent my early childhood poring over battle maps in the evening paper, reading comic books with GI heroes, and watching the Marines kick the hell out of the Japanese in the Movietone News.

My stepfather had been killed bombing Hamburg, and I remember being awed as I handled his insignia, the beveled edges of the brass U.S., the delicate etching on the wing and prop insignia of the Army Air Corps. When WWII ended I was astonished. I didn't know the idea was to get it over with; I just thought it was what we did.

I viewed this as my entrance into that world. And it was.

But I don't remember the trip to Ponca City, OK, to the Ponca Military Academy. Maybe Mom borrowed a car. Maybe a friend took us. I don't remember being fitted for my uniforms either, if "fitted" is the term.

The first thing I remember is sitting in my room with my three new roommates. They were 10- and 11-year-old boys, away from home for the first time, and two of them were crying.

This was my eighth grammar school, which meant that every time I'd started to make friends in one school I'd gone to another. For my first 11 years, every time I got to my feet I was cut off at the knees.

My roommates were crying, and I thought it was lame. This was no big deal.

The fifth grade was the first year I spent an entire year in one school, and it had been, for me, a disaster. I made no attempt to play with other kids, only knew the name of one other kid, Jess Kirby, who lived down the street and with whom I traded comic books. I had cut myself badly, early in the year, playing alone, and was instructed to come straight home after school and lock myself in. The year I reached puberty, I spent less time in the sun than an inmate of a maximum-security prison.

In the military school, on the other hand, we were required to vacate the barracks from 3:30 until 5:00 p.m. I still don't recall playing with other kids much. But I was outside, surrounded by green things. There was a horizontal ladder out back of the gym that I liked to play on. Only I got tired of swinging on the ladder and I liked to swing up on
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When I went to bed that night I was the low-est of the low, a cadet buck private, a rear-rank rudy in the most nowhere military institution in the known universe. But I had three times as many friends as I'd ever had in my life (three), and I felt as though I owned the place.

— Jim Morris

FORGET-ME-NOTS

Upon my return from Boston, where I attend college, and dizzy with the prospects of home, the customary pile of mail one expects after a long sojourn greeted me. Two thin off-white envelopes lay within the bank statements and junk. Printed across them was the pseudo-rustic seal of my elementary school. Envelopes like these come every so often, as graduates of private academies are likely familiar. They bear preformulated notions of nonspecific nostalgia designed to coerce us, hearts pining, into reaching for our checkbooks. I ripped them open without much expectation, which is, as I think about it, how these things always begin.

The letters were two of the most terrible I have ever read.

"We are devastated to inform you…" the first letter began, words printed across the page in neat black type, the second letter unimaginatively similar. "We regret to inform you…"

In five minutes, two of my favorite people were gone.

I sat on the floor, trying to think. Trying to cry. I held the letters, one in each hand, side by side. Their death made no sense and seemed perfectly logical at the same time, and by this tandem I was somewhat eased; the shock of death is old hat, a friend I hadn’t seen in a while.

I read their names; Joan Zuckerman Morgan. Veronica McLeod. Names reduced to prim, sanitized words on expensive letterhead stock. I read the names again and again, searching for their owners, as though they were lost, which, in a way, they were.

And after some thought, I found them. Joan Morgan was tough. She was a pioneer, the creator of a program of movement, dance, and conceptual space she had dubbed “Rhythms,” linked but not identical to Waldorf’s concept of eurythmics. Conducted on the near-topmost floor of the school in the “Rhythms room,” a high-ceilinged space with plate-glass windows and a pretreated ballet-school floor, Rhythms mixed child’s play and yogatic wisdom. Set to the soundtrack of a live piano, and, in that vast room framed by teal curtains, sunlight pouring in from those huge windows as we frolicked to the concertos and arias of greats we didn’t know the names of, Rhythms could be downright magical.

Joan was the first adult that I ever struck a deal with. At age three, I had developed a precious sense of self-consciousness and was prone to severe embarrassment. I knew my peers seemed either not to possess or not to indulge. While my classmates were happy to perform whatever tasks were called for, I often stood rigid in self-preservationist abstention. In short, I was crippled, alone in the wake of the others, sweating feet planted firmly on the Rhythms room’s urethane-slick floor.

While most teachers would not have this, as this is the way of teachers — you must sing, you must run the obstacle course, you must do “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes” — Joan
understood something about me, something I
didn't yet understand
about myself. Of how she
and not the multitude of
progressive educators I
was passed around to
happened upon this I will
never quite be sure, but I
remember her dark eyes
and the flash of a metal
crown as she spoke, drop-
ning her commanding,
voice an octave: “If you
really don’t want to do it,
don’t do it,” she said, as
though speaking to an
adult, “Come sit by me.”

So I’d sit. Sometimes
I wouldn’t and would
instead get swept into
the swing of things — gal-
loping, for example,
which I loved, with my
strong legs and tall-girl
stride — but, if plagued
by my own premature
neuroses, I’d take my
place on the stage where
Joan sat, holding whis-
pered court with her
between her barks of
“change!” or “higher!”

Joan was not an easy
woman. She was stub-
born and commanding,
and her expectations
were high. But she was
fiercely brilliant, usually
democratic and incredib-
ly dedicated. Part chore-
goer, part yogi, and
part dramaturge, she
both ran our classes and
rafted together our end-
of-the-year class plays
from the haphazard ideas
with which we bombarded
her. How she turned
wary eight-year-olds into
colonial settlers, sixth
graders into Socratic
scholars, and kids about
to enter high school into
post-revolution American
families is a mystery to
me. But she did, pulling,
forcing, and stirring
things from us we did not
know we had. She got us
through and around the
bend.

A few years after her
retirement and my entry
into college, we met ran-
domly in the West
Village. We stopped to
chat, and I watched her as
we talked, taking her in.
She had always been a
strong presence, but there
was something I had
missed, and I tried to
pinpoint it as we
rehashed the old days
with both fondness and
shared frustration in a
school we felt was depart-
ing from its original phi-
losophy. Mostly we talked
about our lives, what was
new. Looking into those
eyes, I saw it, what I had
not quite caught all those
years, what had either
eluded or simply not
occurred to me: Love. As
she walked away, as I
walked away, it dawned
on me as it never had
before. “She loves me,” I
thought to myself, as if it
were impossible. I knew it
was true then and knew,
with a touch of bitter-
sweetness, that it had
been true all along.
That was the last
time I saw her.

Roni McLeod’s
favorite art piece was a
terra cotta bust of
Abraham Lincoln, crafted
by a student long since
graduated. This little like-
ness — and it was quite
striking, as I recall — was
an item she kept front
of the stairwell, proved to be
a healthy dose of vivacity
mixed with tough love. Her
voice, loud and boom-
ering, reverberated in the
hallway, filtering up the
stairs to where I stood,
petrified.

But Roni was softer
than she seemed. Her
overwhelming presence,
the one I shrank from in
the stairwell, proved to be
a healthy dose of vivacity
mixed with tough love.
She was, I learned, prone
to laughter, to boisterous
expression, to bursting
into song. And oh, she
could sing. That great,
big voice of hers carried
the tunes in a low, almost
mannisht baritone, so low
and rich and full. At
assemblies, when the
school gathered to sing
folk and seafaring songs,
Roni’s voice rose from
the back of the room,
above all the rest, true
and clear. In class, she
sang us numbers from
The King and I, telling us
the story as she kneaded
clay with her wrinkled
brown fingers. I repeated
it to myself, that phrase:
the king and I, the king
and I, until the king and I
became the king.

She let us breathe,
Roni did, and for that we
were in her debt. She ran
a wide berth around us,
giving technical instruc-
tion and then letting us

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swimwear for women of all ages.
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That was the last
thing that linked Roni
and me. I regarded the
delicate handiwork as
impossible, and she was
immensely pleased by
what she knew was
merely exemplary.
As a small child, I
was intensely afraid of
Roni. Her jaw jutted
forward at an odd angle
and, framed by a row of
impeccably straight
teeth, made her appear
slightly ghoulish. Her
voice, loud and boom-
ing, reverberated in the
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clay with her wrinkled
brown fingers. I repeated
it to myself, that phrase:
the king and I, the king
and I, until the king and I
became the king.

She let us breathe,
Roni did, and for that we
were in her debt. She ran
a wide berth around us,
giving technical instruc-
tion and then letting us

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San Diego Reader
September 8, 2005

Yes, if The French Gourmet caters the reception!
SECOND DAY OF SEVENTH GRADE

The second day of seventh grade, the students of my new junior high were having a sit-in in the library over open campus. There were about 40 of them on the floor between the stacks, and I immediately joined them, thinking, “This is the school for me.” I was a little radical — it was 1970 after all — and I had just moved from Placerville (formerly known as Hangtown) to Davis (formerly known as Davisville). On former names alone, you could probably guess that a place ending in “ville” would be a kinder environment for a free-thinker than one beginning with “hang.”

The junior high students wanted open campus at lunch so that they could go to restaurants other than the cafeteria, such as Taco Bell, which was a couple of blocks away. Twenty miles east in Sacramento, the Taco Bell there was voted best Mexican food for several years, according to my sister, who lives there. In small towns, you get excited over the small things.

In Placerville, rebellious students would have received a stiff penalty — I got sent to the office in sixth grade for not signing my elementary school’s version of a loyalty oath. But Davis, a university town, was influenced by the campus’s liberal atmosphere, and consequently, the students triumphed. Taco Bell picked up a few extra customers, and the girl leading the sit-in became a human rights lawyer.

In Placerville, my father taught junior college in the temporary buildings at the fairgrounds. Junior college...
was suspect there because it was considered "higher learning." In Davis, junior college was chopped liver. Just about everyone's parents were employed by UC Davis. The town was so intellectual that all the streets running east/west were named after universities. Growing up there familiarized one with Antioch, Bucknell, and Cornell — knowing the names was one less barrier to attending.

In Placerville, my father had a student who came in one day, and her front teeth had been knocked out by her boyfriend. This girl, one of ten siblings, had a younger brother in my grade who liked me and was an unintentional chivalry; that children needed their moms more than their dads. Sally and I lost the debate and suffered the derision of our classmates. I remember asking boys to dance, but even Davis proved conservative on this front. I stumbled into a discussion on "Women's Lib" during English. Being pro-Women's Liberation — the previous name for the feminist movement (before that the women were "suffragettes," I think because they suffered) — was still taboo.

The English teacher allowed us to have a debate on Women's Lib, and so my newfound feminist friend Sally and I recorded all sorts of statistics to bolster our argument that women should have equality with men, but it came down to the other side — a cheerleader and her friends — claiming that women's brains weren't as big as men's; that if women were equal, men wouldn't open doors for them anymore (only an idiot would trade money for chivalry); that children needed their moms more than their dads. Sally and I lost the debate and suffered the derision of our classmates.

When I tried that summer to get a job at the local Baskin-Robbins, the owner told me that women's wrists weren't strong enough to scoop ice cream, and he refused to hire me. The positive side to all this is that being on the forefront of a movement means that you're there at the inception. At age 12 I helped start the Women's Center on the UCD campus and got to meet Betty Friedan, the mother of Women's Lib, who told me, "We're doing this so that she [meaning me] won't have to fight these issues when she's our age." And here I am, their age, and the world is better for women.

My sister, seven years my junior high who used to yell in the hallways, "Where's Gretchen Kubiack, who asked me in the swimming pool when I was going to start shaving under my arms. I hadn't even started my periods yet. I had one hair under one arm. I was so oblivious that I assumed most thought the way I did. I never burned a bra, but then I rarely wear one. In my eighth grade, all the girls were required to take a semester of home ec. I was so oblivious that I assumed most thought the way I did. I never burned a bra, but then I rarely wear one. In my eighth grade, all the girls were required to take a semester of home ec.

The boys took a quarter of a movement means that you're there at the inception. At age 12 I helped start the Women's Center on the UCD campus and got to meet Betty Friedan, the mother of Women's Lib, who told me, "We're doing this so that she [meaning me] won't have to fight these issues when she's our age." And here I am, their age, and the world is better for women.

My sister, seven years younger than me, is a civil engineer. (I majored in theater.) I know many girls these days and don't realize that in this climate of paranoia (not so dissimilar from the 1970s), those freedoms (privacy, for example) will erode if acquiescence takes the place of action.

Placerville still has the dummy hanging outside Hangman's Tree tavern on Main Street, but they got rid of the noose that formed the O in the word "Police" on the city's police cars (both decisions, I believe, prompted by tourism). Clearly money and chivalry can coexist; but girls, don't expect to get either by simply sitting around.

— Jennifer Ball

HE'S GOING TO SEE MY BALD SPOTS AND KNOW I'M A LUNATIC

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me about my arrival at Brown University. First, that my acceptance had been a mixup. Second, that I wouldn’t know how to behave at the cocktail party/dinner that was scheduled for day one. And finally, that I didn’t know how girls dressed in grad school.

The latter concern was particularly pressing and complicated by the fact that I’d spent the final, neurotic, and troubling year of my undergraduate education cozying up with loaves of French bread and pints of cookie dough ice cream that I’d ordered my then-boyfriend to fetch me from the corner store. This limited my shopping option to the local Lane Bryant or Fashion Bug Plus. In search of something “cool” yet professional, I pawed through racks of tent-size, part-polyester tunics organized, depressingly, by pastel color.

Loathe to make my first appearance on campus looking like a waddling tub of rainbow sherbet, I went with something I already owned — the outfit I wore to my grandpa’s funeral only a few months before: A matronly, long black skirt patterned with soft blue flowers, a black tunic, and a matching long sheer scarf with more of the aforementioned flowers. Now this scarf was meant to be worn around the neck, but I chose instead to wrap it around my head. I had my reasons. Since childhood I had a stress tic — hair pulling — which occasionally left me with
small bald patches on my head. The scarf did what it could to help.

Dressed and anxious, I went to my first official appointment with my first-year advisor. A smart and kind man, he immediately put me at ease, asking about my undergrad professors at Buffalo and asking reasonable questions about what I had been working on before my arrival. Trying to sound as calm and erudite as possible, I launched into a passionate monologue about my work on Anne Bradstreet and several lesser-known women writers of the 17th Century. As I spoke, the scarf on my head began to unwind. Words continued to come out, “monstrous births,” “maternal impression,” as the scarf slid down, down, down. I didn’t stop, I couldn’t stop, because the room was spinning and I thought that this indeed was what it felt like to be tied to the tracks with a train barrel- ing toward you. A message played over and over in my head: “I do not belong here. This is a mistake. I’m a mess. He’s going to see my bald spots and know I’m a lunatic.” It’s only when the scarf fell over my mouth that I paused to remove it. And then the kind professor let me go on my way.

I ran out of the English department office and behind the first ivy-covered building I could find. It was only 9:30 a.m. on my first day as a graduate student, and I already had found a hiding spot for on-campus crying.

It’s hard to remember the rest of the day. I got to know my cohorts a bit. There were ten of us, and when I found out from a professor that only five percent of applicants were accepted into the Ph.D. program, I was ever more certain that they’d made a serious mistake. I went to a state school, and I was working class, and I’d never even read *Moby Dick*. I couldn’t properly accessorize, and my parents weren’t curing cancer or publishing papers about their archeological finds.

Oh, but the day was not to be done until the dreaded hour of the cocktail party/dinner. Oh, oh, oh.

The only professor at the party was the host—an aging medievalist with a cloud of white-gray hair and a tribe of similarly fluffy pets. My contribution to the meal was a box of Entenmanns’ chocolate chip cookies (I’d purchased two boxes but wisely left one at home for post-party stress eating). The meal was nice but unmemorable. The other students and I noticed the bread knife at once—a giant, ancient-looking blade better suited for decapitations than bread slicing. Together, we stifled a collective laugh. Together, the guests turned on the host. I don’t know why we did it. I felt bad and awkward, and I wanted to go home. The night wore on, and the stifled laughs became more obvious. Everything seemed absurd to us: the pet-hair-encrusted slipcovers, the oversized...
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metal tools on the walls, the dust, and the professor herself — the fact that she was clearly not in touch with us and our studies and our time and our theoretical practice. At the expense of a kind, very possibly brilliant woman, we asserted our right to be at Brown. To be the minority who made it and would prove our worth over the next five or six or seven years.

Before the evening ended, the professor (hopefully, hopefully just a little oblivious to our rudeness) asked us to go around in a circle and answer some questions: Where did you grow up? Where did you go to school? What do you study? What do your parents do?

What do my parents do? How was that relevant? I thought that the question would be sidestepped by the others. But it wasn’t. Parents were professors and teachers and doctors and lawyers. Nary a blue collar in sight.

And when it was my turn, I explained my background and my parentage. “My dad is an operating engineer — he works on cranes. My mom works for our local town government.”

The white gray-haired professor looked at me kindly. “People like you do well here,” she said. The color left my face, and stress sweat poured off me out onto the matted carpet of pet hair under my feet. “What?” I managed to squeak out. “You know,” she said. “People who…you know. I’ll bet you’ll do well.”

And I suppose I did well enough. I earned my master’s degree and then I left, right before losing myself to a full-blown nervous breakdown.

A loop of that dinner played in my head from the first day forward. If I could have shaken it, if I could have stopped feeling as if I didn’t belong, if
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If there were nursery schools on the north-west side of Chicago in the late 1950s, I knew nothing about them. The other preschoolers on my block and I negotiated our way through those years when we were two and three and four the old-fashioned way. We hung around our mothers while they did their housework. We looked after our younger siblings. We napped. We made up games and played hide and seek. Weekday afternoons, we watched the Mickey Mouse Club on our primitive black-and-white TV sets.

Compared with that long, quiet prelude, the first day of kindergarten
struck me like a thunderclap. I had just turned five, a sturdy girl an inch or two short of four feet tall. The evening before my first day of kindergarten, my mother had grasped locks of my straight brown hair, wrapped them around her left index finger, then secured the flattened coils with crisscrossed bobby pins. When my head hit the pillow, she caressed me into ignoring the pressure of the metal against my skull. I slept but jolted to the next morning. “Rise and shine! You know what day this is!” How could I not? Together we’d counted down the days.

In anticipation of my first day of kindergarten, we’d taken the bus to one of the local clothing stores and had found me a blue and gray plaid dress that we thought looked both festive and scholarly. It had a snowy white collar adorned with a dusty blue bow. Big white buttons decorated the waist. We’d bought new shoes, too, a pair of black-strapped leather flats that I wore with pristinely anklets.

When I had donned my new outfit, my mother freed my hair from the Bobby pins and brushed it into a bushy halo. Then she lugged a bench out into our little back yard, so she could capture the moment on film. I could dress this way, as if bound for a birthday party, because I wouldn’t be attending St. Edwards, the local Catholic elementary school, for two more years. Students at St. Ed’s wore uniforms, but the parochial school was a mile from our house, and the only way for me to get there was to walk. The John Palmer School was just three doors away. The public school where my father had received his elementary education, Palmer occupied a stately brick edifice trimmed with limestone and topped with a steeple. A vastness of gravel playgrounds surrounded it. On that portentous Tuesday morning, my mother secured the baby in his carriage and, leading my other brother by the hand, accompanied me to Room 110, the...
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would pay off for a long, long time.
— Jeannette De Wyze

“GIN AND JUICE” UNTIL THE SUN COME UP

Jess’s Ford roaring up my driveway woke me up. I looked at the clock, 7:15. I was supposed to be awake at 7:00. I was in the shower when I heard Jess yell from my front room, “You lazy bastard! We’re going to be late!”

Breakfast would have to be a Pepsi and a chew of Copenhagen, no time for cereal. I had just got my shirt on, clinging to my wet skin, when Jess and I eased down the hill in his faded blue pickup.

“Moss’s Creek,” Jess said as we crossed the one-lane bridge.

“Yep,” I said after taking a swallow of soda.

“Good old Moss’s. We had a pretty good time there.”

“Hell yes,” Jess exclaimed. “We had an awesome party there. We were singing ‘Gin and Juice’ until the sun come up. Nobody even knew the words.”

“Why’d we start singing that?” I asked but cut him off before he could answer. “Oh, I know, because Tuff brought a bottle of cheap ass gin his sister bought him.”

“Yeah,” Jess agreed. “Boy, that gin was bad.”

“That was cheap damned gin. I think there were bits of wood floating around in it.”

The dilapidated farmhouses and cow pastures outside my window soon gave way to the gas stations and restaurants of downtown.

“Remember when Reb got arrested right there?” I said, pointing to the spot in front of the library.

“Yeaah,” Jess said through a knowing smile.

“What was that, parade weekend?”

“Yes,” I answered.

“Remember we had the bed filled up with coolers of ice and beer, and by about midday Pam kept taking her top off?”
Stifling a laugh, Jess said, "Ol’ Pam. She’s shameless, ain’t she? There were little-kid marching bands and the ‘Sierra Ladies’ on their horses all walking by, waving and playing their instruments, and there’s Pam up on my roof with her tube-top pulled up over her head and around the back of her neck. Looked like she was wearing a harness. There are still dents up there from that day,” he said, pointing up to the round indentations in the ceiling of the truck cab.

“We lost this mirror a couple weeks later,” I said and made a circular gesture outside my window where a rearview had been. There was still a bracket remaining from when Jess backed through a barbed-wire fence and one of the posts wrenched the mirror off.

"Hell, the worst abuse this truck took was when nobody at all was driving. I had Jenny laid out in here, and her foot popped the shifter into neutral. We were down at Brewster’s place up on that little hill above his cabin. I sit up to take her pants off, and I look out the window and yelled, ‘Oh shit! We’re rolling!’ I scrambled down with my left hand and crammed the brake on right before we slid into that tree. The front bumper’s still creased in the center.”

I thought about the jukebox days of summer. Sitting on chrome bumpers, sipping beer from silver and blue cans, and riding down to the lake in the bed of the truck, singing “You Shook Me All Night Long” and “Rock and Roll All Night.” I put my hand out the window and let the air run over it. I made an aerofoil out of my hand and forearm and shifted the pitch of my palm to let the wind push it up, and then with a lazy arc from my wrist I let it be pushed back down. Up and down, bobbing and cutting through the oncoming breeze. But always pushed forward by my shoulder and the seat of the pickup and the tires on the road and Jess behind the wheel and his foot on the accelerator.

— Ollie
didn't stay. That is, the first day I ever went to school, I was there for all of three minutes.

I was born in Southern California in 1969, and I lived for the first two years of my life with my parents in a house in Pico Rivera. Jeff and Linda Bouvier were teachers. In 1971, my father was offered a good teaching job in Darien, Connecticut, and so we all packed up and set out to drive across the country — my father in his new job in Darien, Connecticut, and so we all set out to drive across the country — my father in his '67 red Ford Mustang, and my mom and me in the Volkswagen Beetle. My mom had made a playpen in the back of the Beetle for me, and we'd rendezvous with my dad at predetermined inexpensive motels in the evenings.

When we arrived on the East Coast, our little family stayed at my grandparents' place for a few weeks while my parents searched for a suitable apartment in a suitable town near enough to my dad's new job in Darien. Finally, after our long odyssey, we were settled into a two-bedroom abode on Meadowside Road in Milford, Connecticut.

After my sister was born, and although I had mellowed somewhat, my mother conscientiously noticed that all the recent different things I'd need: a playpen in the back of the Beetle for me, and we'd be spending some of my time. My mother intended to abandon me there. No, thank you, ma'am. Nothing doing. When we arrived on the East Coast, our little family stayed at my grandparents' place for a few weeks while my parents searched for a suitable apartment in a suitable town near enough to my dad's new job in Darien. Finally, after our long odyssey, we were settled into a two-bedroom abode on Meadowside Road in Milford, Connecticut.

My mother noticed that all the recent different beds and sites and states had awakened an insecurity in my young son. I was unwilling to leave her side for even a moment. I would follow her around the apartment. I needed to sleep between my parents in their new Connecticut bed.

After my sister was born, and although I had mellowed somewhat, my mother conscientiously realized that I should be socializing more with children my own age. And so she enrolled me in nursery school at the tender age of three and a half.

Jack and Jill Nursery School was a quaint little house with a play yard, just up the road and around the corner from Meadowside Road. In the days leading up to my “first day of school,” my mom took me shopping for the things I’d need: a new shirt, new shoes, a new belt, a stylish (bowl) haircut… She presented these novelties to me like shiny gifts, and she gave me loads of experienced information, and she got me excited about this new place (school!) where I’d be spending some of my time.

Little did she (or I) know...

That fateful first day, as we entered the school-yard full of screaming, running, playing, and jumping children, I grew worried. I distinctly remember the worry. I still feel it when I enter spaces full of screaming, running, playing, and jumping people. As we met Miss Laurie, my teacher, who, though kind-looking and gentle, was much older than my mom, I started to wonder what was going on. And when my mother detached her hand from mine and said she’d see me later, it dawned on me. I was duped! My mother intended to abandon me there. No, thank you, ma’am. Nothing doing. I ran after my mom and held on. I reached deep into my tiny chest and found the biggest voice I could and I screamed out loud and loudly cried. I held on to the doorknob with one hand and my mother’s hand with the other. I fell on my face and kicked and rolled around. Such...
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behavior! On some level, I view this performance as rather comical. It would have played well in vaudeville. But to me, at the time, the feelings were all too real. And my mother sympathized. Finally, she just gave up and took me home with her. I never made it to my first day of school.

The next day was the same, except that this time my mother broke free and left me there. Apparently, I calmed down quickly after she was gone, and I had to face my peers with a hoarse voice and salt mottes on my stunned little face. I recall that many of my new small friends did quite a bit to comfort me. There wasn't much compassion and 1972; mostly among us, me. There wasn't much comfort and reassurance to be had. In fact, as I get older, it's the last days that make me want to kick and scream. Ah, well…”

— Geoff Bouvier

MEAN GIRLS

Do you think you're pretty?

A strip of tawny brown hair, chewed at the ends, dawdles by her nose. She stands at the top of the stairs and tills her head to the side, flipping the errant strand into submission and stealing a sideways glance at her cohort, Angela, fawning lieutenant of the gum-snapping sort. (I will later think of Angela whenever some '50s-era Brooklyn whine nasals out from beneath a beehive hairstyle — even though it's 1970, we live in California, and Angela's hair, though ratty, is not ratted.)

“Well, DO you?”

Her demand tosses me into kickball's court. The smack of liver-pink rubber wets myreckled cheeks as I redden from the inside. I grip the railing and let the rush of students scuttle past me — such freedom! — to class. Perhaps my classmates are scared of this school, the new locker combination, a task-mastering home room teacher. All my fears are here on the stairs.

“TELL US! Do…you…think…you’re pretty?”

“Uh…uh…uh…I don’t know!”

Their squeals upend like soda, pop and fizzing.

“Well WE don't! We think you're a DOG!”

They lean into each other for balance against the wave of laughter, then turn together and head down the hall, tripping and grabbing each other. Eyes downcast, I watch the tile, blurred by a fuzzy frame of tears. As I lay up, Angela whips back her head. I focus on the wad of pink gum in my bare teeth.

“Look, Mary Lynn, she’s crying. God! Can you believe it?”

“Oh, she always cries.”

That afternoon, my father sets the sprinklers on our front lawn's brown patches, a last attempt to fight early September's scorch. I'm in the garage, pulling boxes out to store summer clothes. He stops suddenly, squats, and peers into a maple tree's base, where a square of soil butts against the grass. He leans forward, retrieves an object, then stands and walks toward me. A gloved hand extends the offering, as if it's dripping. It dangles — A chewed bone! Wadded-up Kleenex! — from his index finger and thumb.

“Susie, what is this? Some kind of a joke?”

A plastic Snoopy figurine, caked with wet dirt and twigs, settles in his palm on its back, paws in the air, belly up.

My face crumples; his eyes flash.

“Who did this?”

Sobs lift my carriage up and down like a marionette.

“Answer me! Who did this to you?”

“Uh…uh…uh… I don’t know!”

“That little snub-nosed girl! The one
I sleep, I wake up, I sleep, I wake up...

A new study of an investigational medication for insomnia may help put you to sleep.

- Restless sleep disturbs the normal rhythms of the body.
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If you have chronic problems falling and/or staying asleep, you may qualify for a research study in our state-of-the-art sleep clinic and receive an investigational medication for poor sleep.

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 $2,450 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.

Depression

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 $1,000 for your participation.
- You receive no-cost study-related medication and medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

Schizophrenia

can tear families apart.

Do you or a loved one have Schizophrenia? Tried Haldol®, Prolixin®, Zyprexa®, Seroquel® or Risperdal®? Still feel hopeless, have side effects or continue to suffer from troubling thoughts or voices?

We are caring, experienced professionals funded by a well-known pharmaceutical company to conduct an inpatient and outpatient research study for qualified people with schizophrenia.

If your loved one participates, there is no cost…instead:

- They receive up to $1,285 for time and travel.
- They receive no-cost study-related medication and study-related medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

Sleep

Interfering with Sleep?

Work Interfering with Sleep?

Are you working 3 to 5 nights in a row or rotating shifts and experiencing excessive sleepiness! Is your sleep restless or do you wake up still fatigued! Most mistakes made working nights are due to worker fatigue. We’re looking for volunteers 18-65, male or female, in good health, to take part in a clinical trial of an investigational medication being studied for Shift Work Sleep Disorder.

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

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

- You receive up to $600 for time and travel.
- You receive no-cost study-related medication and study-related medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

Anxiety

doesn’t just stress your mind.

We know it can…

- Decrease your immune response.
- Increase fats in the bloodstream.
- Decrease your physical and mental functioning.
- 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.

Creepy, Crawly, Nighttime Legs

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

Every study conducted by 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 may receive up to $350 for your participation.
- You receive no-cost research study-related medication and medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.
you’re always calling? Who needs her? My God, don’t you have any pride?”

Why is she so mean to me? Did I make her mad? How did I make her mad? Should I call and apologize? She used to like me…what happened? What did I do? Remember when we played Hearts in her living room and her mother made us lunch? Why is she so mean to me now? I should ask her mother. Her mother liked me. Maybe I’ll call and ask her mother. I bet it was Angela’s idea…

“Whadda you care what they think? You’re gonna let other people tell you who you are? You’ll lead a miserable life that way, young lady, let me tell you. Do you think I listened to the kids in my school? You think they didn’t make fun of me, with holes in my pants? I quit! I was too ashamed to stay in school. So I quit school because some lousy kids didn’t like my god-damned pants. And what good did that do me? Fuck all! Do you think I would be a salesman today if I’d stayed in school? Hell, no! Who knows what I could have been? Instead I had to work twice as hard to catch up with those bastards. Is that what you want? To work harder?”

I am heaped on the lawn, sniffling, running down tomorrow’s To Do list.

Call Mary Lynn. Apologize for whatever I did. Ask her if she did this. Why would she do this? I bet Angela did this…Call Mary Lynn’s mother. Ask her why she did this…Does her mother like Angela? I can’t believe her mother would like Angela…

“Go inside and wash your face. And don’t let me catch you talking to that girl again. She’s garbage.”

I watch my father, gloved hand extended in poison-control position, walk the dog to the trash, lift the lid, and lay the plastic beagle to rest among the leaves and mowed grass.

— Sue Greenberg

PAGAN BECAME MY NICKNAME

My parents had taught me that, as a Catholic, I was a

Insomnia?

Pacific Sleep Medicine Services is participating in a national research study of individuals who regularly have trouble falling asleep or waking and not able to get back to sleep.

Interested participants must be:

■ 65 years of age or older
■ Diagnosis of chronic primary insomnia for at least 3 months

Study related care is provided at no charge, including a physical exam, sleep exams, laboratory services and study medication.

Qualified participants receive up to $2,350 for time and travel.

For more information, call (toll-free)

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

ADHD/ADD Research Participants Needed

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

Symptoms of ADHD may include:

■ Being easily distracted
■ Often losing things
■ Making careless mistakes
■ Difficulties organizing tasks or activities
■ Forgetfulness

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

For more information, please call:
(619) 543-3697
Or e-mail: adhdstudy@ucsd.edu
UCSD Department of Psychiatry

RESEARCH STUDIES

TYPE 2 DIABETES RESEARCH

Please call:
(858) 642-3997

Dr Robert Henry and his associates at the VA Medical Center in San Diego are currently seeking Veteran and Non-Veteran participants for a Research Study on Type 2 Diabetes. If you have been diagnosed at least 3 months ago with Type 2 Diabetes, you may be eligible to participate in this study.

Qualified participants may receive study-related medical care and financial compensation for time and travel.

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Call for more details & an evaluation today!
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Patients Needed for Schizophrenia Research

To participate in this investigational drug study, the patient must:

■ Be 18 to 65 years old.
■ Currently taking Seroquel® for treatment of schizophrenia.
■ Study duration 70 days (10 weeks).

All study-related medical care, lab work, and examinations will be provided to patients at no charge.

Call Synergy Clinical Research Center 1-888-619-7272 for details.

San Diego Reader
September 8, 2005

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■ Study duration 70 days (10 weeks).

All study-related medical care, lab work, and examinations will be provided to patients at no charge.

Call Synergy Clinical Research Center 1-888-619-7272 for details.

San Diego Reader
September 8, 2005

Patients Needed for Schizophrenia Research

To participate in this investigational drug study, the patient must:

■ Be 18 to 65 years old.
■ Currently taking Seroquel® for treatment of schizophrenia.
■ Study duration 70 days (10 weeks).

All study-related medical care, lab work, and examinations will be provided to patients at no charge.

Call Synergy Clinical Research Center 1-888-619-7272 for details.

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San Diego Reader
September 8, 2005
Hepatitis B Patients

Volunteers wanted for a research study.
Do you have chronic hepatitis B?
You may be eligible to join an important clinical study of an investigational drug for hepatitis B.
Convenient, once-a-day oral dosing...
Screening and medical care...

Requirements:
• 18-69 years of age
• Must not be co-infected with hepatitis C, hepatitis D or HIV
• Must not be pregnant or breastfeeding

Qualified participants will receive medical exams, laboratory tests and medical treatment related to the study. All participants will receive either the new investigational treatment or an approved treatment for hepatitis B. All study-related visits and study drug are provided at no cost to eligible participants.

If you are interested, please call:
Medical Associates Research Group
(858) 277-7177

Look Familiar?

It was 2:15 the last time you looked. That seems like ages ago. Time is at a standstill and all you can do is lie in bed, staring into the darkness. By tomorrow you’ll be so tired that you’ll fall asleep at your desk, but chances are you won’t sleep tomorrow night either.

We are currently conducting a research study of an investigational medicine for insomnia associated with Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD). Participants will receive study-related exams and study medication at no charge. Qualified participants may be compensated. Participants must be between the ages of 18 and 64 and the study requires 8 office visits.

For more information or to schedule an interview to see if you qualify, please contact:
AFLIATED RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(619) 688-6565

Have you lived in the same Board & Care for the last 5 months?
Have you been diagnosed with Schizophrenia?

Has your medication been stable for at least five months, but you still suffer from the following:
• Difficulty holding conversations
• Neglect your own personal needs
• Avoid social activities/talking to people

If so, you might qualify to participate in an out-patient medication study.
You could receive:
• Study-related visits with a psychiatrist
• Study-related medication at no cost
• Up to $700 without being hospitalized

For more information or to schedule an interview to see if you qualify, please contact:
AFLIATED RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(619) 688-6565

HAVE YOUR PIMPLES TAKEN CONTROL OF YOUR FACE?

Affiliated Research Institute is conducting a research study for kids and adults to test the safety and effectiveness of an investigational medication for moderate to severe acne.

Qualifications include:
• Kids ages 12 and older AND adults
• Must have at least 20 pimples on your face

Qualified participants:
• Could get an investigational combination of two currently marketed acne products in one tube, or a single currently marketed product
• Will receive a supply of study medication
• Will not receive placebo
• Will receive up to $125

There is no cost to you.

For more information or to schedule an interview to see if you qualify, please contact:
AFLIATED RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(619) 688-6565

Experience severe mood swings?

Individuals with bipolar disorder seek control over their symptoms almost every day. Sometimes they may feel trapped in either a manic “up” episode or in a depressive “down” episode.

A nationwide clinical research study is now seeking volunteers with bipolar disorder. The purpose of the study is to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of an investigational medication in treating individuals with bipolar disorder who are currently experiencing symptoms of depression.

If you are between the ages of 18 and 65, diagnosed with bipolar disorder, and currently experiencing symptoms of depression, you may be eligible to participate.

For more information or to schedule an interview to see if you qualify, please contact:
AFLIATED RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(619) 688-6565
member of the One True Church. But the Catholic school I attended in first, second, and third grades stopped teaching that kind of hard doctrine, instead adopting a soft, we’re-okay-they’re-okay approach to the Church and its place among the world’s religions. Even to my third-grade mind, that wasn’t okay. My father agreed and pulled my little brother Peter; my older siblings Serena, Margaret, James, and Leon; and me out of St. Phillip’s School.

His search for a new school ended, for one year anyway, at a school called Imperial, where the administration, teachers, students, and parents firmly believed they belonged to the One…True…Church. But they weren’t Catholic. They were members of the Worldwide Church of God, a sect (cult) that called itself Christian but adhered to a legalistic Old Testament code of conduct, even going so far as to abstain from eating pork. Founded in 1934 by the late Herbert W. Armstrong, whose followers believed him to be a living prophet in the line of Isaiah and Jeremiah, the Worldwide Church of God believed it was the only authentic Christian church. The rest of us were “so-called Christians” who were “deceived” and “instruments of Satan.” But the word I remember my classmates using to describe me was “pagan.”

I’ve never found out just what my dad was thinking putting us in that school. I remember he liked the fact that the school still employed the paddle, while other schools, public and private alike, had all abandoned corporal discipline. He also liked the fact that all six of us could be in the same K-12 school. Other than that it made no sense. We went from we’re-okay-you’re-okay Catholicism to we’re okay, but you Catholics are instruments of Satan.

Imperial’s fourth grade was too crowded so I had to join their fifth grade. That was difficult enough without being called pagan. Yet I was called it so often that “Pagan” became my nickname. But they didn’t call me pagan right away. To their credit, they gave me a trial of my peers before they passed judgment on me.

It rained my first day at Imperial so we ate our lunch in the classroom. I remember a kid with an English accent leading a group of six or eight other kids over to where I ate my bologna sandwich. “Hello, I’m Nigel,” he said. “What school did you go to last year?”

“St. Phillip’s.”

Nigel and his cohorts exchanged knowing glances.

“Are you Catholic then?”

“Yes.”

More knowing glances. Out of the corners of my eyes I noticed that the rest of the class, seeing that Nigel was interrogating me, were starting to gather round.

“What are you eating there?”

“Bologna sandwich.”

“That’s pork, right?”

“I guess so, why?”

Nigel suppressed a grin. “Just curious,” he answered. “When’s your birthday?”

“July 10.”

“Get any presents?”

“Yes!” I answered with enthusiasm. “I got a big cap gun that looks like a Revolutionary War musket!”

My classmates looked at each other and snickered. I figured fifth graders must be above cap guns and I felt embarrassed.

“What else?” Nigel said.


One of the girls started to answer, “Because we don’t believe…”

“Shush,” Nigel scolded her, then to me, “We just want to get to know you. How do you celebrate Easter?”

“Oh…uh…we have Easter baskets in the morning, then we go to Mass.”

“Easter baskets with chocolate bunnies?” Nigel asked.

“Yeah, I guess,” I answered, setting off another round of whispering and snickering.

Nigel was relentless. “What about Christmas? Did you have a tree?”

---

### Asthma? Are your genes right for your medications?

UCSD Clinical Trials Center is conducting a study to identify and measure the response to bronchodilators by specific gene types. Bronchodilators are a common medication used for the treatment of asthma.

**About the Study:**
- Male or female, ages 18 years and older.
- The study lasts approximately 62 weeks.
- Includes FDA-approved medication for asthma.

Qualified participants will receive breathing, physical and asthma assessments at no cost, and compensation for time and travel.

For more information call:
- **(888) UCSD-AIR**
- (888-827-3247)
- or e-mail: ctc@ucsd.edu

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### BIPOLAR Manic-Depressive

If you or someone you know suffers from bipolar disorder, you may qualify to participate in a research study evaluating an investigational medication for the treatment of this condition.

Qualified volunteers will receive compensation for their time and participation.

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### TYPE 2 DIABETES Giving Medication a Try

Living with Diabetes is not easy. Sometimes the proper diet and the right exercise are not enough.

Local physicians are participating in a research study with an investigational medication to see if it safely and effectively helps control blood sugar levels.

To be considered, you must be trying to manage your diabetes through diet and exercise alone and not be currently taking an oral antidiabetic medication.

If you qualify, you will receive all study-related care, including physical examinations, laboratory services and investigational medication.

For information, please contact:

SAN DIEGO SPORTS MEDICINE AND FAMILY HEALTH CENTER
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**Is That Vaginal Infection Back Again???

...Time For A Different Approach...Research Study**

A 9-month clinical research study of an investigational medication is underway for women with recurrent bacterial infections of the vagina. **Bacterial Vaginosis (BV)** causes a foul-smelling, creamy and often irritating discharge that can recur even when diagnosed. If you are a woman who is frustrated with numerous doctor visits and medications that only help for a short period of time, you may be interested.

To possibly qualify:
1) Females, 18-45 years of age
2) Recently treated for BV or with symptoms at present
3) Have had at least 2 documented episodes of BV in past 12 months

Qualified participants receive at no cost:
1) Study-related exam and consultation with a board-certified OB-GYN
2) Pap smear, cultures and study medication
3) Compensation for your time and travel

Interested, call Laurel at:
**619-521-2830**

MEDICAL CENTER FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH
Robert Semo, M.D. William Koltun, M.D.

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**Do You Have Type 1 Diabetes?**

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We are located on a major bus line (929) and a shuttle is available from the H Street trolley station.
“Yes.” Snickering turned to chuckling. “And presents?” “Yes.” Chuckling turned to belly laughing. “What did you get?” I was annoyed, and I wanted to kick Nigel’s snickering butt back to England, if only he weren’t so big. “Why are you asking me these questions,” I asked instead.

“No reason, just trying to get to know...”

“We don’t believe in celebrating holidays or birthdays, and we don’t eat pork.” said a kind-faced girl named Angela.

“Angie, don’t tell him,” Nigel pleaded, evidently wanting to continue his inquisition.

“You’re being mean, Nigel,” Angie responded. “Leave him alone!” Nigel stood up, looked at me, and told me, “You’re a pagan.” Then he and his hooligans left me alone. For the rest of that bizarre school year, when he wasn’t calling me Pagan, he was telling me to “Bugger off!”

Angela stayed with me the rest of that first lunch period, and she explained their beliefs more fully. Christmas trees and Easter bunnies were false idols. And the Bible said not to eat pork so they didn’t. “And,” Angela explained, “we don’t give presents because...”

I can’t remember the reason. I only remember thinking, “No presents! That can’t be the One True Faith.”

— Ernie Grimm

The first day of higher education started for me with morning ablutions in my own private bathroom. I had one of the few single rooms on the dorm’s fourth floor, and baths adjoined no other rooms. Mine came from luck of the draw, but you’d have insisted I had pull in the highest levels of the school’s administration. I figured the other students would believe the same thing. The thought terrifed me. They will razz me beyond anything I can take, I worried. Maybe they will rough...
Radiant Research is seeking people who have seasonal allergies to participate in a clinical research study.

Qualified participants will receive all study-related care and investigational medication at no cost, and may also receive compensation up to $1000 for time and travel.

To find out more, call the number below.

Call Mon-Fri for more information

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www.radiantresearch.com
Are You Diabetic and Suffer from Pain in Your Legs or Feet?

A 14-week research study is being conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of a twice-a-day investigational medication in reducing the pain associated with diabetic neuropathy (pain in your lower legs or feet caused by diabetes).

To qualify you must:
- Be at least 18 years old
- Have Type 1 or 2 diabetes and be taking anti-diabetes medication
- Have pain in your lower legs or feet due to painful diabetic neuropathy that has lasted for at least 3 months
- Meet all other inclusion requirements

Qualified participants will receive, at no cost:
- Study-related exam and neurological assessment of diabetic neuropathy
- Study-related laboratory tests
- Study-related electrocardiogram (ECG)
- Study-medication or placebo and follow-up for 14 weeks

Compensation for travel will be provided.

For more information please call:
Diabetes and Endocrine Associates
858-622-7212

BIPOLAR
Manic-Depressive

Bipolar disorder affects 480 million adults. We are currently conducting a research study of an investigational medication that may treat manic episodes associated with bipolar disorder. Manic symptoms include decreased sleep, irritability, racing thoughts, rapid speech and hostility.

If you or someone you know has these symptoms, you may qualify to participate.

Are you a heavy drinker who currently smokes marijuana and is not seeking treatment?

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Volunteers must be 18+ years of age, have photo identification and proof of Social Security Number and provide proof of current address (ID, utility/household bill, rental agreement, third-party correspondence, etc.).

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Bring this ad and receive a $5 bonus upon completion of your first successful plasma donation.
wanting him to assert some authority.

Study sessions began in earnest that night on the dorm's fourth floor. The engineering students looked worried as they pored over their calculus assignments under bright table lamps. For now, the rest of us chalked it up to their being the most intellectual among us. The only residents who commanded more respect were the jocks we hoped would return us to the football reputation our university once had maintained.

In a room across the hall from my own, a small group had gathered to examine in awe a set of math homework problems. By ten o'clock the food cart was making its rounds, and everyone poured out to buy chocolate milk, sodas, and snacks. Footballer Marty and a smaller, 240-pound colleague of his appeared. They were laughing about holding, ten minutes earlier, "some egghead" over the stairwell at fourth-floor level to see if he would panic. Rumors had gone round that before school started, with football practice already in session, several players dangled someone out a fourth-floor window upside-down by his feet. Now everyone was yukking the stories up and slapping Marty and his friend on their backs.

Suddenly the conversation turned to my rare bathroom. One loudmouth shouted through a hillbilly guffaw, "How do you rate?" I felt my fears spike. Marty looked at me, recognizing me from class. With a conspiratorial smile, he said to me, "The fox knows many things. How does the rest of it go?" He signaled to his friend to follow him into my room. The two of them climbed onto my well-made bed, their combined 520 pounds jumping up and down until one corner of it smashed to the floor.

That night I slept on a broken-down, slanted bed. But it was the peaceful sleep of knowing that my bathroom had been atoned. — Joe Deegan

**Day one, 5 a.m.** I am buttoned into an immaculate uniform, my polished black shoes sport steel toes, I carry a whip, rubber spreader, and an 11-inch slicer. My heart bangs at over 100 beats per minute, sweat layers under my chef's coat and black-and-white plaid chef's trousers. Maybe I'll have a heart attack. Maybe I'll pee on the floor.

Eighty-five percent of the world's master chefs were teaching at the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) in Hyde Park, New York, in 1987. Rumor had it that two-thirds to one-half of your starting classmates would make it through to graduation.

I question my nerve in pursuing a degree in cooking at the late age of 25. The school's reputa-
tion in 1987 of having a six-month to one-year wait for entry was well publicized; that I had been denied entry once before added to my unease.

My first try at entry to the CIA was at the recommendation of Mr. Louis Bonnafious, president of the French Culinary Society. Mr. Bonnafious was a family friend; he insisted I go with him to apply to the CIA. He and I, on a busy Monday morning, arrived at the school with no appointment. The announcement was made that Mr. Bonnafious was on campus, and immediately we were ushered to the school’s vast grand boardroom on whose walls glittered various awards and trophies. We met with CIA president Ferdinand Metz. Metz cordially welcomed us. Understanding that our visit was about my entry to the school, Metz handed me off to an admissions worker while he courted Mr. Bonnafious with pastries, coffee, and stories of days gone by. I sat in the admissions office for 30 minutes before a gentleman named Jim Kelly reviewed my application. He said, “It all looks in order,” and delivered me back to the boardroom where Mr. Bonnafious and I thanked Metz for his time and departed. Two weeks later a letter arrived from Mr. Kelly that stated, “DENIED ENTRY.” I was a marked man for trying to subvert the admissions office. I went on to University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Hotel College, and two years later reapplied to the CIA and was accepted, beginning March 24, 1987. The admissions office and Jim Kelly never mentioned...
my first attempt.
My orientation letter ordered that on March 24, 1987, I be in uniform: chef’s jacket, steel-toed shoes, checkered chef pants, handkerchief around neck. I was assigned a group number and told to assemble in the hallway of Great Hall on campus. This hallway of 30-foot ceilings and stained-glass windows is the major pass through for all students and offers views, under bright lights, of experimental teaching kitchens that contain microscopes, stainless-steel kettles, knife sharpeners, and chairs with half desks. VERY intimidating this first day, as there were 96 other students looking for their group number, trying to fit in, to not get in the way, and to avoid standing out. Not a word was spoken among students. Junior and senior students with aprons, chef’s hats, and knife rolls walked by and gazed with confidence at the fresh pickings of first-day entry students.
Mr. Virgili was our teacher for Food Science and Sanitation in room 430 on the top floor of the building; we were to march there immediately. Once out of the grand and grandiose hallway, chatting began among our group. “Are you in the dorm?” “I haven’t slept in two days!” “Are those guys in the hallway going to cook our dinner tonight?” “Does your chef jacket itch?” “These shoes are like wearing 25-pound weights!” “I’ve felt more comfort in burlap potato sacks than in these chef pants!”
The first day of class was an eight-hour day of lecture to be followed by chapters of reading homework on sanitation and food science. We were told to research growing botulism and salmonella and were expected to devise a test of knife blades and their molecular structure.
Every day of school we arrived dressed for kitchen action but would soon realize this wise institution would not let us near a kitchen for another six weeks. On that day we would be handed many onions for peeling and dicing with Swiss precision, which leads to another story…
— Tim Klepis

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hugs in front of the trailer-park-style temporary dorms. Upperclassmen hung their heads out of windows calling to friends not seen since spring. And an anxious student hustled up the path, carrying his seminar reading, Homer's *Iliad*, anxious to get his studies started.

My room was empty, my roommate hadn't arrived yet, and I had arrived without any family. Two high school chums had come to campus this year as well; they were my comfort. I was excited but scared. Homesickness wasn't the problem; I had gotten over that malady during my two previous years at a high school boarding school. This anxiousness was foreign to me. I had only visited the campus when I was in middle school some eight years earlier. Memories were fuzzy. Two siblings were students then, and we younger girls flew out with Mom and Dad to spend Easter with them.

I plopped myself down on my high school friend Juliet's bed and watched her unpack. She buzzed around introducing herself to everyone who walked by her door. Juliet was a great friend for a shy girl like me to have in a strange school. Between introductions we discussed our class sections and teachers. All classes at Thomas Aquinas College were held seminar-style, with the "tutor" assisting in the discussions in each sec-
tion. During my years at the school, class sections were small — only about 13 students. Our graduating class numbered only 39. By the end of the four years, we became a tightly knit group, but on this first day on campus, we were strangers. There was the girl named Kinga, a Canadian of Hungarian roots, with bronze skin and iridescent blue eyes. She dressed all in black with black Converse sneakers. There was fair-skinned Ann with graying hair, from Kentucky, who had spent the previous four years in a convent. There was Tony, who had been in the Air Force before being kicked out of flight school because he was too aggressive at the controls. There was James with wire glasses, a home-schooled Californian, experiencing his first classroom. We were an odd bunch, aged 16 to 28, thrown together to hash out the truths of Western Civilization.

That evening, we headed “down below” (as the lower, woodsy half of the hillside campus was called) to the “Hacienda,” the college president’s residence. Placed amid live oaks, redwoods, sycamores, and Japanese maples, the Hacienda was the site of the annual “Meet the Freshmen” party. My girlfriends and I giggled walking down the paths to the house, but once we arrived, I stood silent, sizing up the crowd. A handful of upperclassmen introduced themselves to me. Some came off reassuring, others I was sure were hitting on me. At the end of the evening, my future husband Ernie walked in with his father and older brother Leon, who was also to be in our class. Leon and his father were similar in looks: tall, dark-haired, brown curly hair, blue eyes. Ernie, my husband-to-be, was short, black-haired, very tan, and green-eyed. I was attracted immediately to what my friends and I
decided must be an adopted Mexican brother. (We were wrong, as it turned out.) I stared intently at my shoes as I was introduced to the three.

The next morning came too early; gossiping into the wee hours left us girls hung over as we arrived to our first class on Euclid, the ancient Greek geometer. We sat around a great table, waiting for our tutor. My mind drifted into the wee hours left us uneasy. I arrived 30 minutes early because I’m nervous, and when nervous I want to be in place, with the playing field repositioned, food stores stacked, powder dry, long before combat begins. I’ve passed the time rehearsing my opening remarks, “Good morning. I am Mr. Daugherty, your substitute teacher for today.” I plan to pause here, turn my back to the class, and print my name on the blackboard, indicating, I believe, serene authority. I wait until 32 squirming seedlings settle into their desks, clear my throat, and begin, “Good morn…” The bell rings. Damn, that’s a loud bell. I feign a worldly smile and begin anew, “Good morning. I am Mr. Daugherty.”

A loudspeaker, fastened to the wall above the door, spits, then transmits the bored, condescending voice of an adult female. This is the voice of someone who hates her job and cannot be fired. The woman reads school announcements. I hear something about a bus schedule change and a field trip to Red Rock Canyon. Then the woman begins a full-on verbal avalanche. The topic is class pictures; the where...
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Ariel Ortiz, M.D., F.A.C.S., is the author of the book LAP-BAND for Life. This book is the only one written about the Lap-Band by a Lap-Band surgeon and promises to be your guide to success!
and when of them, the correct size of class picture envelopes, the importance of acquiring the right-sized envelope and then delivering the right-sized envelope to the right place at the right time. This is followed by a long list of right places and right times. Forward to the topic of parents, their money and their signatures. And then the patronizing zombie voice tells us about parents’ night, the need for parents to attend parents’ night, the helpful reminder notes that will be entrusted to the students of Harmon Elementary School, and the importance of handling these notes to Mom and Dad. The voice seems, especially, to hate this announcement. I zone out.

A period of time passes. I notice, with a start, that there is silence and has been silence in the classroom. Very good. “Good morning. I am…” The loudspeaker spits. Again. A second woman’s voice announces morning prayer. I thought this was illegal. The prayer is amorphous but sounds vaguely Christian. It ends. “Good morning. I am Mr. Daugherty, your substitute…” The loudspeaker does what it does, and prayer lady returns with the “Pledge of Allegiance.” Thirty-two spawn of Las Vegas jump up as one, stand at rigid attention like Hitler Youth at a Nazi Party parade, place tiny right hands over tiny hearts, and recite the pledge, perfectly and in unison. Then the class sits with one movement. My mouth hangs open. I blink rapidly as sweat gushes from my forehead and armpits. Now comes the familiar spit and a new voice, this time a girl’s, begins reading today’s lunch menu. She ends with the word “Jell-O.” Silence. Twenty seconds pass. I ask the class, “How long does this go on?”

“That’s all,” chirp a dozen students, delighted with their first victory of the day.

I wanted to teach. I wanted to do well. I wasn’t conscious of that until this moment, which is the same moment I see that teaching these kids anything is impossible. While those idiotic announcements have been droning along, I’ve had time to feel what it’s like to be in charge of 32 kids. To drop in here for one day and hope to do anything more than keep the peace is absurd. This is what Andrew Prins told me yesterday afternoon. He’s an old friend and lifer high school teacher. We were having beers at the Rocking Horse Ranch. Andrew said, “The school
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only wants two things from you. Number one, take roll. Attendance is where their money comes from. Taking roll is what counts. Do this before anything else. Do this if you do nothing else. And number two, keep enough order so the class does not generate complaints. You don’t want kids screaming so loud as to cause the teacher next door or a teacher walking in the hallway to complain. You don’t want students hitting each other, at least to the extent that parents will notice their wounds. You can ignore this and still continue to sub, but, if found that it makes for a more pleasant day, for you, if you keep them to a reasonable level of uproar.”

Andrew chugged a 20-ounce mug of Heineken, smacked his lips, and said, “Oh, and don’t, don’t, for God’s sake, don’t try and teach anybody anything.”

— Patrick Daugherty

I WANTED TO CRAWL INTO MY MITTENS

I don’t remember much from my childhood. Why this is, I don’t know. I remember that much. I came from an intact, loving, financially stable home. But when I go poking around my childhood memories, I usually get little more than puzzle pieces. My husband teases me about my drawn blanks, says I must have taken a lot of drugs in my misspent youth.

When I push hard, the first memory that comes to me, the one that’s completely mine and not inspired by black-and-white photos in my mother’s family album, is the first time I wore my Minnie Mouse mittens. They were a birthday gift from my grandmother. Minnie’s face adorned the top half of the mitten; her cheeks were round, her face flesh-toned. Her pointed nose rose up from the mitten, held on by stitching. Her round black ears, decorated with polka-dotted red bows, jutted out from the top. A matching dress covered the palm.

It was not quite cold enough for mittens, but I was desperate to slide my paws into them. Mom was sending me off to the first day of preschool, and I was going to wear my mittens. The ground was damp and muddy — we’d had several days of rain — and the sky was gray and drizzly. But the weathermen said there would be sun in the afternoon. Mom told me this in an effort to dissuade me from wearing my Minnies, but I was determined, and Mom relented. She slipped me into a pink jacket, and I slipped into my red mittens.

As we drove to the school — five blocks away — I wasn’t nervous at all. I was concentrating on the mittens, stroking the bows, lost in Minnie’s vast white eyes and oval black pupils. The preschool was attached to a starkly white Presbyterian church. I stared up at the angular steeple; it seemed a mile high. I turned my eyes back to Minnie’s eyes. I touched the soft cotton fibers and ran one mittened finger in a circular motion around one eye. Mom escorted me into the school, found a seat for me in a squat, orange plastic chair, took my jacket and mittens, and hung them on a wooden peg next to about
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I didn’t remember what we did that first morning. I do remember that I wanted to crawl into my mittens and be cuddly and cozy. When the teacher announced outside playtime at recess, I was already twiddling Minnie’s nose with my thumb as we waited in line. I was anxious to leave the room and its warm, salty smell.

The air smelled sweet and cool when we got outside. I pondered the playground. The monkey bars — no good. My mittens would make me slip. The swing would be fine, though. I wouldn’t have to worry about my fingers getting pinched in the chains; Minnie would protect me.

After a while, I considered the slide: metal, massive, hulking, its top half covered by a shiny, dented metal dome. I wasn’t scared; I liked heights. Climbing was exciting for me. The slide dared me. I dared back. I decided to slide headfirst, hands extended. Before I reached the end, I would slow myself by grabbing the sides of the slide. At the bottom, a ditch had been carved out by hundreds of tiny feet as they flew off the slide; the rain had slid into the ditch and left it gooey with mud.

As I neared the bottom, Minnie betrayed me. The soft cotton of the mittens kept me from getting a grip; I couldn’t stop. I sailed headfirst off the end of the slide and plunged Minnie’s face into the muck. The fibers sucked cold wetness onto my hands. I untopped myself and stared at the mittens, at Minnie’s eyes, now brown and gritty. Tears poured from my own eyes; I couldn’t stop crying. The teacher took me inside.

She pulled the mittens off and told me to wash my hands. She rinsed the mittens in a large metal sink and hung them over the center divide to drip dry. Minnie’s eyes were still a dingy brown, and her ears drooped. The bows were crooked. The water dripped from the mittens; tears kept flowing from my eyes. I wanted to go home. I hoped my mother would come to get me soon.

— Deirdre Lickona

A FLOWER ON THE WALL

Shyness has a strange element of narcissism, a belief that how we look, how we perform, is truly important to other people.

— André Dubus

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San Diego Reader September 8, 2005 17
ior was crucial for survival.

My sisters had helped me to see the flaw in my old personality. One warm July day we were in the back yard by the pool, and I complained to no one in particular that I was not liked. I had learned I was not liked on the last day of school, when Sara, after flipping her long blonde hair over her shoulder and smiling the way Wile E. Coyote did when he thought he had the Roadrunner cornered, delivered the message to me at my locker.

“Nobody likes you,” she said. “You are not a friend, and she had invited you to her party — the one next to me. Is that good or bad?”

There were some girls who had received their own little scrolls to Jessica’s party — the one I had been officially uninvited to. They whispered to each other at the other end of the room, where they sat side by side. A girl in a yellow dress sat next to me. I smiled at her and struggled not to say anything. Remember your training. Keep to yourself.

I made it through the entire first period without breaking character. The girl in the yellow dress...
had not once looked in my direction during class. I had stared openly at her — analyzed the way she kept her head down, I should practice that angle, listened as she mumbled a timid “here” as the teacher took attendance. She was pretty, she was quiet, she was a yellow wallflower, a mysterious new student — she was everything I wanted to be, the opposite of the old me.

I followed her outside, called her name — the old, extroverted me paid attention to other people’s names. She had no idea what mine was, I could see it in her face and hear it in her voice when she mumbled a meek “What?”

“Yes, you’re correct,” I said, her face lighting up to match the brightness of her dress. “Cool,” I said. So much for being shy. I can’t wait to tell her all about me.

— Barbarella

OUT OF AFRICA

It looks as if you’re cradling a baby goat in your arms while something explodes from its backside. Right wrist rests atop left elbow. Right elbow rests atop left wrist. Right pinky and index finger extend to form the “horns,” or cornuto, gesture — an almost universal expression of contempt. Fingers of the left hand execute an expulsive “flicking” motion. This is the American Sign Language, ASL, sign for bullshit.

It’s difficult to grasp an ASL sign through words. ASL engages not only the body, but also the space around the body, the space between “speaker” and “listener.” The difference between spoken language and signed language is the difference between saying “I love you” and holding someone in your arms.

Christine was the first person I ever saw execute an ASL sign from roll call — the old, extroverted me paid attention to other people’s names. She had no idea what mine was, I could see it in her face and hear it in her voice when she mumbled a meek “What?”

“My name is Barb. You wanna have lunch with me today?”

“Yeah, that would be great,” she said, her face lighting up to match the brightness of her dress. “Cool,” I said. So much for being shy. I can’t wait to tell her all about me.

— Barbarella

OUT OF AFRICA

It looks as if you’re holding someone in your arms while something explodes from its backside. Right wrist rests atop left elbow. Right elbow rests atop left wrist. Right pinky and index finger extend to form the “horns,” or cornuto, gesture — an almost universal expression of contempt. Fingers of the left hand execute an expulsive “flicking” motion. This is the American Sign Language, ASL, sign for bullshit. She’d contorted her face in such a way that you didn’t need to have been born deaf, or to have studied ASL, to put a definite meaning behind what her hands and arms were doing. Her livid red hair, spiky with gel, quivered. Her green eyes seemed to emit beams of disdain.

Christine’s disdain-beams were ricocheting around the dim corridors of the National Captioning Institute at Sunset-Gower Studios in Hollywood, California, sometime, as far as I’m able to recollect, in the early fall of 1985. At the time, the National Captioning Institute, NCI, was the country’s largest producer of “captions,” those odd little snippets of dialog and description of sound (“doorbell rings”) that flash across television screens for the benefit of the deaf or otherwise “hearing impaired.”

At the time I was a newly Orthodox Jew, or Jew new to Orthodox Judaism, who’d been sent to live in Los Angeles by a San Diego rabbi who felt I needed to spend time studying at a San

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Fernando Valley synagogue that offered night courses in Talmud and other subjects central to the faith and practice of Orthodox Judaism. (I had my eye on Jerusalem. The San Diego rabbi felt I wasn’t yet ready for Jerusalem.) After finding and renting an apartment in North Hollywood, I got my job at NCI through a wiry Colombian woman who ran an employment agency in Encino.

“Two of my last three husbands were Jews,” she told me between speed-dial calls to prospective employers. Thin brown cigarettes smoldered in an ashtray beside her. “I love Jews.”

The workplace to which the wiry Colombian sent me was a snakepit of identity politics. My first morning at work, I saw Christine sign “bullshit” to the woman, I’ll call her Lola, whom I was told was my supervisor. Christine stormed off. Lola took me by the elbow and led me to her office.

“There’s tension in the deaf community,” Lola told me in her loud, strange articulation, “between oral deaf people like me who can read lips and speak English and between deaf people like Christine who are best at using sign language. Christine is big-D Deaf. Deaf pride!”

Lola explained that I would spend one hour each week transcribing Robert Schuller’s Sunday sermon from the Crystal Cathedral, a few hours on menial filing tasks, and the rest of my time “working on” captions with Christine for segments of movies such as Out of Africa.

Christine snatched me as I exited Lola’s office.

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Christine, the beauty of Christmas meant she closed her eyes and smiled in some remembered joy.

My progress in ASL amazed her. Perhaps I have a gift for languages. I don’t know. I was getting intensive one-on-one tutorials in ASL for about 25 hours a week over the course of months and months. I was learning far more ASL than I was learning biblical Hebrew. I was even learning the fine points of ASL slang, such as the pejorative signs for deaf people like Lola who were a little too proud of their ability to read lips and speak English. Christine was convinced I had remarkable talent.

“You must go to G-A-L-A-U-D-E-T,” she told me, “the university for deaf people. You’ll learn to sign like a deaf person. You’ll be a wonderful translator.”

I didn’t tell Christine that I’d applied for a scholarship at a yeshiva, religious school, in Jerusalem. In any language, how can you tell someone who’s given you a way of understanding the world that you’ve chosen another way?

There came the afternoon when Christine took me by the hand to learn to sign like a deaf person.
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the office of the president of NCI at Sunset-Gower Studios in Hollywood. The president, a tall fellow in a suit that cost more than I made in several months, explained that on Christine’s recommendation, NCI had spoken to Gallaudet about me. If I were willing to study ASL full-time, NCI would arrange for me a scholarship at Gallaudet.

Speaking in English, signing all the while, I thanked him but said I’d already accepted a scholarship for a religious school in Jerusalem. We make the choices we make. I suppose many seem more dramatic in retrospect than they were at the time. I had a farm in Africa at the foot of the Ngong Hills… A couple of weeks later, it must have been early summer, at the end of my last day at NCI, Christine escorted me outside. Into my hands she placed a paper plate of cookies covered in plastic wrap. They were Christmas cookies, sugar cookies — stars, angels, Christmas trees — decorated with green and red sprinkles.

“I made them,” she signed. She touched the side of my face. She watched me walk to my car. As I was driving away, she stood and watched me go. She didn’t sign any special farewell. She smiled. She waved good-bye. She waved good-bye the way we all do. The way everyone does.

— Abe Opincar

IN AS MUCH SIN AS YOU COULD FIND!

It was the first week of September, must have been. I was 13 and it was 1964. JFK was dead less than a year, but the Beatles were making us feel better about it. I caught the school bus on Lake Street, and as I climbed aboard I noticed with relief that all the guys were wearing the same kind of shirt, tie, and sports jacket, more or less. I was not the only homo. A homo was a guy who wore white sox, ties, and had to be home by ten o’clock.

On a transistor radio Alan Price’s organ howled with pain on “The House of the Rising Sun,” a really interesting record.

On the way to St. Joe’s in Westchester, Illinois, I tried to read my Ace paperback of Beau Geste, but I was too nervous or excited. It would be my first day of high school. My parents wanted to send me out to Saint Joseph’s to “Broaden my horizons,” which meant go to school somewhere I

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didn’t have to fight my way home through Irish kids. I had split Bobby Finch’s lip and reshaped his finger along with Marty McGee’s ear and left eye for most of the summer. James Cunningham would spend a lot of time at the orthodontist thanks to me. I had dropped in on each of them one at a time at their homes on the last day of eighth grade.

We passed Maywood, Melrose Park, and some alien suburbs. St. Joe’s would later have grade.

When I walked in, there were at least a thousand guys seated in the bleachers. Brother C was at a podium beneath what would later be a famous basketball hoop.

“Don’t think I don’t know how you spent your summer!” His voice was hoarse — I would later discover — from habitual yelling for no apparent reason. “In as much sin as you could find! Am I right?”

No response but mumbling.

“Gin and Seagram’s 7 and Hamm’s beer, eh?”
Marijuana cigarettes and nude cutie magazines and the white thighs of Catholic girls, eh?"

I know it sounds as though I’m making this up, but I swear.

"I don’t ask you to write an essay on ‘How I Spent My Summer Vacation’ because I know! Hmmm…?"

"When you weren’t sinning with some pimply girl, you were humping up and down, undulating on your pillows! Your athletic little buttocks sweating, mother naked, spilling your seed!" His toaster-sized face of the makeshift pulpit/lectern, I will all know Paddy because you will all sin. That is your nature." He was branding a wooden paddle like something you used to bake long, thin loaves of bread. It was stained, I could have sworn, with bodily fluids of its recent victims. Likely it was just stained with ordinary varnish, with ordinary varnish, with ordinary varnish.

"Let me introduce Paddy, Paddy is my partner. You will all know Paddy because you will all sin. That is your nature."

"I am the disciplinarian, and your summer of sin is at an end!"

God. Yes, of course. I’m sorry. I’ll never do it again. Just keep me away from this madman.

"I don’t ask you to write an essay on ‘How I Spent My Summer Vacation’ because I know! Hmmm…?"

Vacation’ because I Spent My Summer writing an essay on ‘How I Spent My Summer Vacation’ because I know! Hmmm…?"

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"I am the disciplinarian, and your summer of sin is at an end!"

God. Yes, of course. I’m sorry. I’ll never do it again. Just keep me away from this madman.

"I don’t ask you to write an essay on ‘How I Spent My Summer Vacation’ because I know! Hmmm…?"

Vacation’ because I Spent My Summer writing an essay on ‘How I Spent My Summer Vacation’ because I know! Hmmm…?"

Your athletic little buttocks sweating, mother naked, spilling your seed!" His toaster-sized face of the makeshift pulpit/lectern, I will all know Paddy because you will all sin. That is your nature." He was branding a wooden paddle like something you used to bake long, thin loaves of bread. It was stained, I could have sworn, with bodily fluids of its recent victims. Likely it was just stained with ordinary varnish, with ordinary varnish, with ordinary varnish.

"Let me introduce Paddy, Paddy is my partner. You will all know Paddy because you will all sin. That is your nature." He was branding a wooden paddle like something you used to bake long, thin loaves of bread. It was stained, I could have sworn, with bodily fluids of its recent victims. Likely it was just stained with ordinary varnish, with ordinary varnish, with ordinary varnish.

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“Hey! You’re not going to take that, huh?”

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TIME OUT

When the fall quarter began in 1972, I vowed to make no new friends at school. I was a third-year graduate student in literature at U.C. Irvine. I was finishing coursework and would take qualifying exams in the spring. “No new ones,” I promised my wife Rebekah that first day. “Probably wise,” she replied.

Graduate schools, even the best of them, are a boot camp of the mind. Daily you watch students handle stress, setbacks, and, often more revealing, success. All take place in an atmosphere of evaluation, of rankings real and imagined. On this mental proving ground, strong bonds can form.

At Irvine, Rebekah and I made some close friends in our first two years. Then, often without warning, they’d leave. Susan Cohen, as brilliant as she was down-to-earth, came to the program from N.Y.U. Her “main squeeze,” Larry, was an acquired taste, though. Studying to be a

--- John Brizzolara

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San Diego Reader September 4, 2005 117
CONSIDER OBESITY A GREATER HANDICAP THAN DYSLEXIA OR DEAFNESS.

I wanted to fade into the woodwork and not have anyone look at me or talk to me. I'd go to the store late at night. I didn't do anything socially. I felt trapped in a terrible job because I was afraid no one would hire a fat woman. My weight was hurting me—physically and emotionally. Studies show that obese people can have up to a 20% shorter life due to complications from their weight. Whether or not that was my fate, I believed I was going to die. But that would be o.k. because my life really wasn't worth living. Dr. Wittgrove performed the first laparoscopic gastric bypass and has helped thousands of people regain their health and their life—including me. But his program at Scripps La Jolla is about more than surgery. If you're 100 pounds or more overweight, attend the seminar on September 17th to find out how you can get the tools you need to live a healthy, hopeful life.

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SOME PEOPLE CONSIDER OBESITY A GREATER HANDICAP THAN DYSLEXIA OR DEAFNESS.
“Oops,” says Scott between gulps. “Forgot about that.”

For the next 25 hairpin, vertiginous, rain-slammed miles, Scott described each upcoming turn: “little right. No! Hard right. MORE!!” — this as part of an ongoing adoration of the windshield’s “far out” drip patterns.

Scott left the program in the spring of ’71. He walked into the lit office, said good-bye to the secretaries and the department chairman, then walked out. He was stark naked.

Scott has since become an award-winning science-fiction writer. He lives in Paris and, last I heard, now writes novels in French. Dire prognostications to the contrary, he’ll probably outlive the planet.

No new friends, I promised Rebekah. Of course I’d made a similar vow the first day of my final year at U.C. Santa Cruz: no romantic complications this time; gonna hit those books, write that senior thesis — then there she was. From the entering class of literature students, in the fall of 1972, I made lifelong friends. To commemorate two of them, and suggest the tribulations of graduate life — including a sad divorce — I dedicated my dissertation “To Mike Clark and James ‘the Hawk’ Culhane, who helped me get sane, when I was crazy, and crazy, when I got a little too sane.”

— Jeff Smith

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Mean people

THE WALL

There’s no meaner adult than the evil teacher. Everybody has had one. My first evil teacher, Mrs. S, sprung upon me in the second grade. To this day, she is the most frightening person I have ever seen. Mrs. S’s blond hair stood at least three feet high off her head. Her nails were stained an eerie, dark red (the blood of unsuspecting eight-year-olds?). The voice was a pitch so high, so painful, that many children’s eardrums collapsed from hearing it.

She was cruel, and certainly unusual. I had heard many a tale of Mrs. S using unspeakable tortures to punish those who dare challenge her. The most feared of these tools was “The Wall.” The Wall was in the back of one of the classrooms. The convict was forced to spend time sitting with his or her back against the hot and sticky surface during recess. With the sun beating down on the unfortunate soul, he or she had to watch the joy of the freed children on the swings or slide. The punishment was the harshest of its day and was only employed by Mrs. S. She took a little too much delight when children disobeyed her orders. I spent one painful recess against The Wall; I don’t even remember what I had done wrong. The pain I suffered that day while watching my two best friends play hopscotch while I sat in no man’s land taught me to comply with Mrs. S’s every wish and command.

— Anne Baker, Carlsbad H.S.

During the summer before I entered middle school, I became convinced that I was destined for stardom as a pop singer. This is painful to admit, but I think Britney Spears had something to do with my decision. However, unlike Britney, I intended to sing.

Because I’d become serious about singing, I realized that I needed to switch my sixth-grade elective from band to choir. I had heard horror stories about the choir teacher, but I felt so determined, her terribleness could not stop me from doing what I wanted to do.

Almost all of my teachers have liked me because I am cooperative and do well in school. In choir, I worked hard and was pleasant. Unfortunately, those qualities weren’t good enough; they were overriden by the fact that, while having what some might call a “pretty” voice, I had nowhere near the lung power to sing most of what this teacher wanted me to sing.

These problems became worse when the teacher — who clearly doubted my abilities — placed me in the audition-only “elite” women’s ensemble that she was forming. Making it into this after-school program made me think that I had a chance as a performing artist.

This teacher would scream at and threaten students who had behavioral problems or a talent deficit. Once I was placed in the new ensemble, she terrorized me more than she had in the past. I would go to each rehearsal trembling, and she would yell at me many times without fail. I never doubted that I was her worst student ever.

Yet, I would not let her terrorism defeat me. I persevered and continued in the ensemble the following year. In high school, I switched to drama.

— Michelle Diaz, Poway H.S.

A teacher’s influence can alter a child’s perception on education, knowledge, and life. Some teachers use their power for good and some for evil. In middle school, I had the displeasure of having a teacher I will call Mrs. Smith. (If she ever realizes I wrote this, I doubt she’d send a pack of ravenous aardvarks to exact revenge.)

Mrs. Smith taunted science. My teacher’s-pet tendencies saved me from the full potential of her wrath, but those who defied her suffered her cruelty. If someone whispered during her “teaching” time, Mrs. Smith’s eyes stretched wide, her face turned red, and — as if demons within were strangling her throat — her voice became more shrill than a banshee’s. That’s when all students cowered, hoping to draw as little attention to themselves as possible.

One of my faults is my inability to restrain my smile. Mrs. Smith’s outrageous anger often reminded me of the wild animals she taught us about. When I’d see her anger surface, thoughts of Mrs. Smith wrestling with, say, a Tasmanian devil, would stir and amuse me. While I struggled to hide my laughter, other students who found her anger amusing weren’t as experienced in concealing their smile. Those were the students who suffered the verbal onslaughts. Many a student endured slander as Mrs. Smith labeled 12- and

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Britney Spears
Many of his students strike discord within Mr. Elliot (as he would say) of his students for the AP exam.

His actions epitomized cruelty; Mr. Elliot often watched students squirm and sweat in their seats as they took a test on material he did not cover. He enjoyed observing students squint their eyes at the documentaries he’d play on our school’s television set; we’d frantically jot down notes in the hope of acing the essay. While most teachers stayed after school to aid students, Mr. Elliot left at the sound of the bell. I admit that he was intelligent. I wish he would have shared with us the “plethora and virtual cornucopia” (as he would say) of information he said he had to offer. Mr. Elliot preferred to hand out worksheets and play films rather than lecture.

Mr. Elliot lacked the common courtesy that many people in our society demonstrate. A “good morning” would be met with a glare or a grunt. I was saddened to realize, on the last day of class, unlike the rest of my teachers, he forgot to wish us good luck and tell us how much he enjoyed teaching us.

— Vivian Pham,
Mt. Carmel H.S.

When I was 13, I met the meanest person I have ever known. She was a bully and fit the stereotype: big, mean, ugly, with no friends except her lackeys. Unfortunately, she had her sights set on me. I was the new kid and an easy target. Every day, she picked on me in the halls. She’d tell me I smelled, that my clothes looked like garbage, that I was a freak, and some other things I don’t care to repeat. She would knock my books out from under my arm or even knock me down as she passed. I started going out of my way to avoid her, even if it meant going all the way around the school, in the opposite direction of my class. I was afraid of her, and there was no one to help me because I didn’t know anyone and usually the other kids looked the other way.

One day, I decided I’d had enough. When she came up to me, I stood my ground and looked her in the eye. She started with her usual insults and antics, but I didn’t budge. She noticed it wasn’t affecting me, and she got angry. She tried to get a reaction out of me, but she didn’t work. She got fed up and left, and she never bothered me again.

— Angel Sonada,
Academy of Our Lady of Peace H.S.
Recycled Pits
Re letter to the editor, “Pit Ignorance,” by Name Withheld (August 25).

I’m a 69-year-old metal dinosaur whose punker friends of the mid-’70s, the Cardiac Kidz, played at the Back Door at SDSU, circa ’75 or ’76, and had a mosh pit down in front of the stage. It was fun but got a bit too rough even though I was a pretty strong woman in my 30s then. My (ex) husband pulled me up before I got more than a few bruises, but it was fun. (Our own rock and metal band, Adco Express, had gentler audiences.) I believe the mosh pits might have started with the earlier punkers in England and/or New York City, as it was not a new idea at the time.

Dale Anne Thompson
Clairemont Mesa

Hod Not Hog
In the cover story in the August 18 issue of the Reader — “The Good Shoemaker and the Bad Hoggerson,” August 18 — the story of Cardiac Kidz and the mosh pit was covered. My (ex) husband, who was a member of the band and, hence, a laborer employed in carrying supplies to bricklayers, stonemasons, cement finishers, or plasterers on the job.

Jim McVicar
Allied Gardens

Due to an editorial error, “Hod” was changed to “Hog.” — Editor

Space Obscured
I’m tired of reading phrases like “cultural icon” used to convince people who don’t care about libraries that we need a new central library (“This Isn’t a Free Library,” “City Lights,” August 18).

Those who do care and do use the central library know that what we do need, have needed for decades, and need more desperately with every passing day is space.

The current building was identified the ship type (“Unforgettable,” August 18). Below.

There are two main types of rig. A square rig has the yard centered on the mast and is perpendicular to the mast and centerline while the ship is at rest. Hence, square rig. A fore-and-aft rig has the spar attached to the mast at one end only and is on the centerline of the ship while at rest. Hence, fore-and-aft.

Amy Wallen
via e-mail

Grove Laugh
I enjoyed John Brizzolara’s article this week about First Friday readings at the Grove (“T.G.I.F.,” August 25). It was funny and captured the reader — sorry to quibble, but when I read that description it made me feel bad that a band as unique and groundbreaking, in terms of blending electronics and organic sounds, as Can was being so unfairly remembered.

Keith Boyd
via e-mail

Schooner Oops
Thank you for your articles on the history of San Diego. In the first article, you misunderstood the ship type (“Unforgettable,” August 18). Below.

There are four main types of two-masted ships. If both masts are fore-and-aft, it is a schooner. (A ketch is a variant where the foremost is taller than the mizzenmast.) If there are one or two square sails at the top of the foremost and the rest of the ship is fore-and-aft, it is a topsail schooner, e.g., the San Diego Maritime Museum’s “California.” In your photo, the ship labeled a brigantine is truly a topsail schooner. If the foremost is square rigged and the mainmast fore-and-aft, it is a brigantine. If both masts are square rigged, then it is a brig.

There are also four main types of three-masted ships. You can have a three-masted schooner or a three-masted barkentine. If the first two masts are square and the mizzen (third) is fore-and-aft, then it is a barque (or bark), e.g., the Maritime’s Star of India. If all three masts are square rigged, then it is ship rigged, e.g., the Maritime’s Surprise (aka Rose).

All of the above rigs may have a variety of stay sails and jibs, but these sails do not change the general classifications.

Jim Dillon
San Diego

Formidable Beauties
The article in your paper “His Eyes Were Red and Glassy” (“City Lights,” August 11), describing Mary Prévost’s dealings with the city attorney, was a nice piece of journalism. As a former client of Ms. Prévost, I can attest to her competence, intellect, and compassion. The bumbling bureaucrats have a formidable opponent.

My very best to her, a truly beautiful woman.

Lary Knight
Encinitas

Non-Rat Bracelet
How and where can I obtain the opt-out bracelet that Matt Potter referred to in his article “Bad Blood” (July 28)? My husband works in the downtown area and rides a motorcycle. Neither he nor I wish to be a lab rat.

Teri Thomas
via e-mail

Breacelets can be obtained from Donna Kelley at (619) 543-7200. — Editor

Instant Dental Care
andle, in terms of blending electronics and organic sounds, as Can was being so unfairly remembered.
The Raiders Lift Us Up

Football Fan Empire

If you know that the good guys aren’t so good, you’re a Raiders fan. If you know you’ve been jacked and are waiting for revenge, you’re a Raiders fan. If you know your boss isn’t any better than you are, you’re a Raiders fan,” write Jim Miller and Kelly Mayhew in their new book, Better to Reign in Hell: Inside the Raiders Fan Empire. On Friday, September 9, Miller and Mayhew will be discussing their book at D.G. Wills Books in La Jolla.

Miller, who was born in San Diego and grew up in Los Angeles, has always been a fan of the Raiders football team that began in Oakland, traveled to L.A., and returned to its home city. “During the [2003] season we immersed ourselves even more than we had been before,” says Miller’s wife and coauthor, Mayhew. “We had season tickets and we sat in the ‘Black Hole,’ the most notorious section in the Oakland Coliseum.”

Mayhew, who was pregnant at the time of her research, remembers the close-knit group that shared the Black Hole. “The people who sat behind us would put my growing belly. It was like a big family, which is kind of counter to the image of the Raiders fan.”

In their book the duo writes, “Real or imagined, the Raider Nation is an affirmation of blue-collar toughness, rebellion, and solidarity during a time that valorizes the lifestyles of the rich and famous. In an era that craves order and safety, Raider Nation offers chaos and fun. In the face of the new Puritanism, ‘Just say no,’ and ‘Watch what you say,’ the Raider Nation says, ‘Fuck you.’

The book continues, “As homeless Oakland resident Ben Duckworth put it while collecting empty beer cans on East 12th Street, ‘The Raiders lift us all up…I may be homeless and broke, but I’m a winner. That’s because my blood runs silver and black.”

“The Chargers are a more of a suburban team in a lot of ways,” says Miller. “I think when people think about the Raiders coming in, people feel like, ‘Oh, it’s a gang invasion of San Diego.’

“The most notorious example of violence was at a game in San Diego where a Raiders fan stabbed a Chargers fan. The Raiders fan is still in jail.” Unable to reach the convicted man for comment, Miller and Mayhew interviewed one of his neighbors. “He was just this regular guy that lost it. It was a pathetic tale, really; there was no gang association with it.”

“The fear of Raiders fans is the fear of the urban, fear of black and brown,” says Miller, who is Caucasian.

What about the die-hard, war-painted individuals? “They are not representative fans,” answers Miller. “The cameras love them because they’re colorful, but we interviewed a number of people [with painted faces] who don’t even have tickets; they just go to get their pictures taken in the parking lot. There’s a minor industry made out of celebrity fans.”

Aggressive fans, stresses Mayhew, are not limited to one team. “Whenever you wear an opposing team’s colors on another turf, you are kind of holding yourself up to getting hazed,” she says. “At a Chargers game last year a group of Chargers fans got arrested for beating up an opposing team’s fan. It wasn’t a Raiders game.”

Mayhew writes one chapter about women as sports fans. “Women are a growing market and they make up a large percentage of football viewers.” Mayhew attributes this growing trend to the fact that “more and more women have the same kinds of work and life pressures as men have traditionally had,” and that watching sports offers the proper outlet.

“You get in the stands and you cheer your team on, you curse them out when they flub a play, you high-five the people in the stands next to you. There were a significant number of women in the Black Hole.”

The chapter Mayhew wrote is titled “Real Women Wear Black.” Miller and Mayhew took their newborn son to the last game of the year at the Oakland Coliseum. “It was pouring down rain in buckets and we were wearing ponchos because you can’t bring an umbrella in,” remembers Mayhew. “One of the guys who sits in front of us [swapped seats] so that we could sit under the overhang to protect our kid. We only see this guy at games, but he stood in the rain [for us].”

— Barbarella

Better to Reign in Hell: Inside the Raiders Fan Empire
Discussion and book signing
Friday, September 9
7 p.m.
D.G. Wills Books
7461 Girard Avenue
La Jolla
Cost: Free
Info: 858-456-1800 or www.dgwillsbooks.com

San Diego Reader September 8, 2005 13

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Betsy Pecamin's Open-Air Concert, Thursday, September 8, 7 p.m., at Ti-
juana Country Club (on Boulevard Agua Caliente). Tickets: $30 U.S.
011-52-664-104-7548. (Tijuana)

More than 300 runners ex-
pected during 5K run, Saturday, September 10, 8 a.m., and finish-
ing at University of Baja Cal-
inifornia (Mesa de Otay). 011-52-
664-682-1033. (Tijuana)

La Playa Motocross Round Nine for motorcycles and ATVs on the dunes, Saturday, September
10, 8 a.m. 011-52-661-612-2525. (Rosarito Beach)

SANDIEGOREADER.COM
LOCAL EVENTS
Events that are underlined occur after September 15.
HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER EVENTS, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.

BAJA
Rosarito Beach Racquetball Open — with players from Canada, U.S., Japan, Korea, Dominican Rep-
ublic, Chile, Guatemala, Bolivia, and Mexican national team — runs Thursday, September 8, through Sun-

“Galera de Armas Rotas” read from and discussed by author Luis Jorge Boone, Thursday, Septem-
ber 8, 7 p.m., at Tijuana Cultural Center (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Río). Free.
011-52-664-687-9636. (Tijuana)

“PROTEAS in the Landscape” illuminated, Saturday, September 10, at Water Conservation Garden.
(SEE LECTURES)

“Galeria de Armas Rotas”
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664-682-1033. (Tijuana)

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Summer Midweek 2-Day Special includes $50 Gift Certificate!
Enjoy Butterfield B&B’s cozy parlor & back porch pantry with refreshing drinks & fresh baked goodies. 3 comfortable rooms, some with fireplaces. Savor a 2-course Country Gourmet Breakfast, then try a brisk walk through our 3-acre hillside, or stay at Black Oak Cabin with ultimate seclusion & privacy!

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Only a short drive from San Diego, Atipahato Lodge, nestled among the trees in beautiful Idyllwild, offers weekday packages from $79 including breakfast at the Mountain House Restaurant. All of our comfortable knotty pine guestrooms have forest-view balconies. Luxurious cabins are available with Jacuzzi tubs and cozy fireplaces from $155! AAA approved. www.atipahatolodge.com; 888-400-0071.

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A fairy tale castle & B&B! The perfect romantic getaway secluded in a fragrant lemon grove in Pauma Valley. 4 chambers to choose from, all with Jacuzzi, balconies. Full breakfast included! Get $25 off with this ad! Gift certificates! Military discounts.

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Outdoors

The Time of Sunset changes most rapidly this time of the year. This is mainly because the sun is swinging rapidly south along the ecliptic (its apparent path through the background stars). From the latitude of San Diego, the sun is now setting about 73 degrees earlier every day (equivalent to about 9 minutes earlier per week), and its setting position along the horizon shifts southward about one-half degree per day.

Gaslamp Quarter Walking Tours offered Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, 10 a.m. to noon. Tour guide Gino Lázardí reveals romantic past of restaurant row, presents updates on current building boom. $10. Reservations: 619-239-7515. GASLAMP QUARTER.

The Zodiadic Light, which can appear as a diffuse, pillar-shaped glow in the eastern sky for up to 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at corner of West Point Loma Boulevard and Famous Boulevard with work clothes; bring work gloves and tools if you have them. 619-224-4591. Free. (POINT LOMA)

San Diego Kite Club hosts day of kite flying, second Saturday of each month, including September 10, 10 a.m., at Tecomote Shores North Park (on Mission Bay Drive, north of Fiesta Island entrance). Free. 619-277-0319. (MISSION BEACH)

HELPING WILDLIFE IN TROUBLE WITH Wildlife Assail. Volunteer re- cruitment sessions on Saturday, September 10, 2 p.m., at Claire- mount Community Center Service (behind Vons, at 6711 Claire- mount Drive). Program repeats Sunday, September 11, 2 p.m., at Encinitas Community Center (1140 Oakcrest Park Drive). 619-921-6044. Free. (CLAIRMONT, ENCINITAS)

San Diego Kite Club hosts day of kite flying, second Saturday of each month, including September 10, 10 a.m., at Tecomote Shores North Park (on Mission Bay Drive, north of Fiesta Island entrance). Free. 619-277-0319. (MISSION BEACH)

Fledgling birdwatchers invited to Audubon Society outing at Lake Murray, Monday, September 12, 8 to 11 a.m. Bring binoculars, a small notebook, field guide. Take I-80 to Lake Murray Boule- vard, exit, proceed one mile to Bal- timore. Turn left, go about one mile, and make a left on Jackson Drive. Proceed one-quarter mile and make a left onto Golfcrest. Drive about one mile to Mission Trails Park; meet in parking area near small deadlocks. Easy hiking. 619-280-7710. Free. (LA MESA)

Lowest Tides This Month, still on an early-morning regime, are predicted for the following three days: Thursday, September 15, at 2:13 a.m. (-0.9 foot), Friday, September 16, at 2:30 a.m. (-1.0 foot); and Saturday, September 17, at 3:25 a.m. (-0.9 foot). The two highest tides of the month, both +6.7 feet, will occur on Thursday at 8:04 p.m. and on Friday at 8:52 p.m. Starting in October and...
DANCE

The Circulators 
Square Dance Club offers beginners’ class starting at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, September 9, in Recital Hall (2130 Pan-American Plaza). First class free; $3 thereafter. Classes are open to adults and children over ten (accompanied by an adult). 619-644-2336.

Sports | Concerts | Theatre

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the Christian faith such as mercy, hope, prayer, and faith.” Tickets: $3 in advance, $5 at door; free under 18. 619-297-4366 (MISSION VALLEY).

**English Country Dancing** takes place every Sunday, 6 to 9 p.m., at Jean Hart Academy of Dance (Oak Knoll Plaza, 12227 Poway Road). Instructor is Ellen Riley on September 11. Beginner’s instruction at 6 p.m. $6 per class, $20 per month. 858-486-9160. (POMEOY)

**Middle-Eastern Dance** extraordinaire with folkloric, tribal, cabaret, and samba dance, Sunday, September 11, 6 p.m., at San Diego Woman’s Club (2557 Third Avenue). Tickets $15 in advance, $20 at door. 619-890-5241. (BANJERS HILL)


For a Right Silly, Jolly Good Time? Morton Ray Fig Morris leads English traditional morris dancing — beginners’ nights offered Tuesdays in September, 7 p.m., at the War Memorial Building (3325 Zoo Drive, at Park Boulevard). $5 per night, $10 for series. 858-689-8947. (MISSION PARK).

**Imagining Is Becoming,** according to Lezana, who teaches bellydance on Tuesdays, September 13–October 18, at Bamboo Yoga and Bodyswork Center (1127 Loma Avenue). $60 for six-week series. 619-435-9119 (CARDIFF).

**Swing and Ballroom Dance Party,** every Wednesday, including September 14, 7:45 to 11 p.m., at Cheek 2 Cheek Dance Studio (909 Grand Avenue). Introductory dance lesson included in admission fee: $8. 619-229-0141. (PACIFIC BEACH).

**“Trolley Dances 2005”** presented by Jean Isaacs’ San Diego Dance Theater and Metropolitan Transit System, September 24 and 25, October 1 and 2. Six new works by featured choreographers including Henry Torres, Wendy Rogers, Rebecca Bryant, Sadie Weinberg, Isacs. Dancing presented along new trolley line complete with 40-foot elevated platform, underground Weinberg, Isaacs. We Make Dancing Imagining Is Becoming, moreton Bay Fig Morris. “Unlocking DaVinci’s Code” delves into “legacy linking Jesus Christ, Mary Magdalene, and Leonardo DaVinci.” See film on Friday, September 9, 7 p.m., at Philosophical Library (507 South Escondido Boulevard). Donation: $5. 760-745-2724 (ESCONDIDO).


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**OVER & ABOUT**

**TUTANKHAMEN**

Resurrected, Returns — Arlene Wolinski on L.A. County Museum of Art exhibit, Friday, September 9, at Mesa College; and Sunday, September 11, at San Diego Museum of Art.

**FILM**

A “Torrid Allegory of Love and Betrayal”!* Alfred Hitchcock’s Notorious, starring Cary Grant and Ingrid Bergman, shown Thursday through Saturday, September 8–10, 8:30 p.m., for Cinema Under the Stars (4040 Grand Avenue). Introductory dance lesson included in admission fee: $8. 619-934-0051.

**Imperial Beach Film Festival** runs Friday and Saturday, September 9 and 10. Entries include “mixed film series,” documentaries, appearance by writer-director Andrea Richards (talking about her book Girl Director). Details: 619-934-0051.

**“Unlocking DaVinci’s Code”** — part two of this 6.5-hour film following an Italian family from 1900s to present screens on Friday, September 9, 7 p.m., at Italian Community Center (1669 Columbia Street). In Italian — without English subtitles. $2. 619-237-0601. (DOWNTOWN)


**What If Everything You Know About 9/11 Is Wrong?** See documentary Loose Change on Monday, September 12, 7 p.m., at Ocean Beach Recreation Center (4726 Santa Monica Avenue). Free. 619-881-0770. (OCEAN BEACH)

In Honor of Banned Books Week, Snow Falling on Cedars screens for ongoing Carlsbad Library film series on Wednesday, September 14, 6 p.m., in Schulman Auditorium (1775 Dove Lane). Free. 760-462-2026. (A COSTA)

**“River Stories” Video** on tap when Friends of Rose Creek meet, Wednesday, September 14, 6:30 p.m., at Pacific Beach Recreation Center (1405 Diamond Street). Free. 858-405-7903. (PACIFIC BEACH)

**Scandinavian Film Series** at San Diego Museum of Art commences with The Emigrants, starring Max Von Sydow and Liv Ullman, Thursday, September 15, 7 p.m. $8. 619-232-7931. (MISSION HILLS)

**The “All-Girl Surf Movie”** Sal Siros by Cardiff filmmaker Ash- ley Carney Davis premieres Thursday, September 15, 7 p.m., on big screen at La Paloma The-

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<tr>
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<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mineral Bath, Mud Facial, Aromatherapy, 1 hr, massage</td>
<td>$125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slimming Wrap &amp; Facial (low $7-27) (towels)</td>
<td>$145</td>
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Sharp HealthCare System Offices Auditorium
8695 Spectrum Center Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123
For more information or to register, call 1-800-82-BLACK (1-800-827-4277) or visit www.sharp.com/vistapacifica.

---

**How can you help someone with an alcohol or drug problem?**

Learn how at a free informational seminar.

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Los Pinos Mountain’s 4805-foot height hardly places it in the same league as the nearby, higher peaks of the Cuyamaca and Laguna, but the peak does get some recognition as the site of one of the few remaining active fire lookouts in Southern California. Cleveland National Forest operates the lookout and has jurisdiction over most of the surrounding landscape.

The fire roads curving up the slopes of Los Pinos Mountain are too long and tedious for most hikers, but ideal for travel by intrepid mountain bikers. For the best views, try the following loop tour of 17 miles, up and over the top of the mountain. Truncated versions of the route are possible. Since summer’s heat lingers this month, try to get an early-morning start, or wait until mid-afternoon, when evening shadows begin to drape the slopes of the mountain.

Let’s assume you start at the intersection of Corral Canyon Road and Buckman Springs Road, 3.3 miles south of Interstate 8. This is within the national forest boundary, so you’ll need to display a National Forest Adventure Pass on your parked car.

Begin with a warm-up on the first few, rather flat miles of Corral Canyon Road. The road leads to the Corral Canyon Off-Road Vehicle Area. If you’re riding on the weekend, watch out for cars and trucks hauling ORV machines on the narrow pavement.

At a point 4.8 miles from the start, Corral Canyon Road bends sharply left and begins curving up a hillside (you’ll return to this point after you come down from the mountain). Exactly at the bend, you’ll see a locked gate on the right. This keeps out ORVs, but hikers and bikers can go through. Go ahead and do that.

Continue riding uphill in the shade of live oaks, now on a dirt surface. After 0.5 mile, veer left on the narrow Espinosa Trail. After another mile uphill through chaparral, you reach a saddle where Los Pinos Road intersects. Espinosa Trail continues west — eventually into the Pine Creek Wilderness, which is dotted by willowy oaks.

You can make the Scion xA, xB or tC your own.

**PURE EXPRESSION.**

Over 40 available accessories. Make the Scion xA, xB or tC your own.

**2006 xA starting at $13,245**

**2006 xB starting at $14,395**

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5-door hatchback with 60/40 folding seats

**URBAN UTILITARIAN**

5-door microvan with standard traction & stability control

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Well-equipped
24TH ANNUAL
ADAMS AVENUE STREET FAIR
SAT. SEPT. 24th  NORMAL HEIGHTS  SUN. SEPT. 25th
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA’S LARGEST FREE MUSIC FESTIVAL
6 Stages • 70+ Musical Acts • Over 300 Food, Arts & Crafts Booths
3 Beer Gardens • “Giant” Carnival Rides! Bring the kids! Pancake Breakfast 8:00 am Daily

Sat Sept 24Th
Action Andy
Al Howard &
The K-23 Orchestra
Angela Correa
Anna Troy
Big Sandy &
His Fly Rite Boys
Billy Shaddox
Bishop John W. Haynes
& Change
The Boogiemen
Brett Sanders
Soul/Jazz Project
Cash'd Out
Chuck Schiele
Cindy Lee Berryhill
& The Wigbillies
The Coyote Problem
Gregory Page & Friends
Jane Lui
Jim Earp
Johnny Polanco
Y Su Conjunto Amistad
Kush & Bloodfiyah Angels
Lady Star & The
Bustin’ Loose Band
Len Rainey &
The Midnight
Players
Les Shelleys
Lindsey Troy
Lou & Virginia
Curtiss
Mark
Jackson
Band
Nortec
Collective
Patty Hall
Peter Bolland
Peter Hall
Pinetop Perkins
Prisa
Roy Ruiz Clayton
The Shambles
Skid Roper Combo
Sol E Mar
The Spots
Steve White
Stranger
The Strangers Six
Sue Palmer & Her
Motel Swing Orchestra
Tomcat Courtney
Transfer
Truckee Brothers
The West Coast Pinups
Working Cowboy Band
Allen Singer

Sun Sept 25Th
Ashley Matte
The Baja Bugs
The Bellrays
Billy Watson
Bolga
Zuidomah
Carlos
Guitaros
Cash’d Out
Dehra Dun
David Myers &
The Blues Crew
The Devastators
Gregory Page
Hacienda Brothers
Holiday & The Adventure
Pop Collective
Kelly Bowlin Band
Lady Dottie
& The Diamonds
Ledesma Brothers
Little Charlie &
The Nightcats
The Loons
Mary Dolan
Michele Lundeen
The Mighty Gospel
Revelators
Nathan James
& Ben Hernandez
The Passion Of
Jose Sinatra
Quetzal
Quinazo With Quino
Robin Henkel
The Shadowdogs
Silver Sunshine
Steve White
The Travis Larson Band
Will Edwards
Annie Bethancourt

619.282-7329 • www.adamsavenuestreetfair.net
Presented By The Adams Avenue Business Association & The Normal Heights Community Association
Partially Funded By The City Of San Diego’s Small Business Enhancement Program.
Music Produced By Steve Kader, Lou Curtiss & Folk Arts Rare Records.
IN PERSON


Thriller Author David Morrell signs Creepers, Friday, September 9, 9 p.m., at Mysterious Galaxy Books (7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard). 858-268-4747. Free. (CLAREMONT)

Pilita Corrales and comedian Fe de los Reyes take stage on Friday, September 9, 7 and 9:30 p.m., at San Diego Folk Heritage, Saturday, September 10, 7:30 p.m., at Casa de Bandini and Theatre in Old Town. $40 fee includes lecture, wine and hors d’oeuvres, reception. Required reservations: 619-297-9327 (OLD TOWN).

Fall 2005 World Music Series continues with concert by folk connection, Saturday, September 10, 7:30 p.m., in Oceanside Library community rooms (330 North Coast Highway). $10. 760-435-5360. (DELMAR)

New Works for Toy Piano premiered—written by “serious composers” who’ve been commissioned to write new works — during Toy Piano Festival, Saturday, September 10, 2 p.m., in lower level of UCSD’s Geisel Library. Featured: Sue Palmer — “queen of boogie-woogie piano.” Free parking, admission. 858-534-8974. (LA JOLLA)

Get the Skinny on Ford Model T’s when Chuck West speaks for Third Thursday series at San Diego Automotive Museum on September 15, 6 p.m. $10. 7559.

Comic Howie Mandel promotes his new book, Better to Reign in Hell: Inside the Readers Fan Empire, Friday, September 9, 7 p.m., at Kit Carson Park amphitheater (3333 Bear Valley Parkway). Tickets: $12.50-$17. 760-489-2494. (ESCONDIDO)

Concerts on the Green showcase Nitehill at Prescott Promenade (on East Main Street) on September 9, 5 p.m. Series continues on Fridays through September 30. Fees: 619-401-8938, ext. 201.

“Ducks and Solos,” evening of dance and art by choreographers Sadie Weinberg and Brittany Brown Ceres, visual artists Julia Wren, Carol Nelson Ceres, Friday, September 9, 6 p.m., at Arts and Entertainment Center (3026 University Avenue). $10. 858-755-8021. (NORTH PARK)

Highland Way performs for San Diego Folk Heritage, Saturday, September 10, 7:30 p.m., at San Diego United Methodist Church (170 Calle Magdalena). $15. 858-566-4040. (ENCINITAS)

“Courtyards: Intimate Outdoor Rooms” signed and discussed by photographer and author Douglas Keister, Saturday, September 10, 7 p.m., at Sedley Stables (between Casa de Bandini and Theatre in Old Town). $40 fee includes lecture, wine and hors d’oeuvres, reception. Required reservations: 619-297-9327 (OLD TOWN).

Sunset Carriages will deliver to your door. You needn’t have a limousine or town car.

American Bead and Trading Co.

In 1996, Sky Sailing has been a leader in the sport of sail diving. Take a skyline ride for one or two with an FAA-certified commercial pilot. $125-$240 per passenger. Gift certificates for the person who has everything, the adventurer, a client or perhaps a romantic ride for two for newlyweds. As low as $60 per person (Min: 2 people). No audio or video recording. 21 and over only.

INDOOR KART RACING

Need a Limousine or Town Car?

San Diego Reader Calendar

An Evening With Thich Nhat Hanh

September 10, 2005
Pasadena Civic Auditorium
Pasadena, California

Tickets are available at:
The Box Office 1-626-449-7360
ticketmaster.com or
call Deer Park Monastery at 1-800-640-7448.

Remembrance & Transformation

$50-$70. Reservations: 866-468-3399. (VALLEY CENTER)


Thriller Author David Morrell signs Creepers, Friday, September 9, 9 p.m., at Mysterious Galaxy Books (7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard). 858-268-4747. Free. (CLAREMONT)

Pilita Corrales and comedian Fe de los Reyes take stage on Friday, September 9, 7 and 9:30 p.m., at Syccan Casino Showcase Theatre (3569 Casino Way). $30. 619-699-3380. (DEL MAR).
**How Can We Create a Safe World?** — that isn’t also an authoritarian world? Booker Prize-winning author Salman Rushdie’s answer: “We must not allow ourselves to be frightened out of our own morality.” Rushdie speaks about his work (including Shalamar the Clown, Midnight’s Children, The Satanic Verses) and answers audience questions on Tuesday, September 20, 8 p.m., in UCSD’s Mandeville Auditorium. $35. 858-534-3TIXS. (LA JOLLA)

**Terry Gross,** host of NPR’s *Fresh Air,* speaks about her experiences and reads from her book, *All I Did Was Ask: Conversations with Writers, Actors, Musicians, and Artists,* at San Diego State University’s Montezuma Hall on Wednesday, September 21, 8 p.m. $52–$152. 888-399-5727. (SDSU)

**SPORTS**

**United States Lawn Bowling Championships** — 48 competitors from all over U.S. compete, September 8–12, at northeast corner of Balboa Way and Presidents Way. Local players Robin Olson and Roger Teske play in entire tournament.

Opening ceremonies and first match game: 1:30 p.m. on Thursday; play begins at 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Friday–Sunday; playoffs (if necessary) at 8:30 a.m. on Monday. Free for spectators. 619-238-5457. (BALBOA PARK)

**San Diego Padres** host Colorado Rockies in Petco Park. 7:05 p.m., Thursday, September 8. Padres head to Los Angeles to meet with Dodgers for games September 9–11, at 7:40 p.m. on Friday, 1:10 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Road trip continues with stop in San Francisco to play Giants, September 12–14, at 7:15 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, 12:35 p.m. on Wednesday. Tickets: 877-374-2784. (EAST VILLAGE)

**Memory Walk,** 3k fundraiser for Alzheimer’s Disease, September 10, 7:30 a.m., at Park Boulevard and Presidents Way. $40. 858-692-4400. (MIRA MESA)

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<td><strong>“Integral Asia: An Evening of Asian Classical Crossover”</strong> boasting music, poetry, and instruments of India and Japan, Friday, September 16, 8 p.m., at the Neurosciences Institute (10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive). Musicians T.M. Hoffman (voice, shakuhachi), Abhijit Banerjee (tabla), Reiko Obata (koto) joined by guests. $18 general. 619-318-1286. (LA JOLLA)</td>
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HE’D LIKE TO HAVE YOU FOR DINNER

Celebration for the Critters. A great evening of food, wine and music awaits you. All proceeds go to CRES, the Zoological Society of San Diego’s Conservation and Research for Endangered Species. Join us on Saturday, September 24th from 7:30 pm to midnight at the San Diego Zoo. General admission tickets are available for $80 or $90 after September 9th. VIP ticket packages start at $150. To purchase your tickets, please call (619) 231-1515 ext 4199, visit the Membership booth, or log onto www.sandiegozoo.org/celebration2005. Must be 21 to attend. No infants, children or strollers permitted. But hurry, tickets are almost as rare as the species you’ll be saving.

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San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles Magazine • San Diego Reader • Sony Electronics, Inc. • Union Bank of California • Walter J and Betty C Zable Foundation

OPEN CALL AUDITION
San Elijo Dance & Music Academy’s full-scale production of the Nutcracker Saturday, Sept. 17, 2005 at 4:00p.m. 1635 S. Rancho Santa Fe Rd. #203, San Marcos 760-410-1999 AGES 10 AND OLDER • 2 PERFORMANCES DEC. 20-21 AT THE CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ESPANDIDO • WITH GUEST STARS PATRICIA BARKER AND KABE CRUZ Please bring pointe shoes, photo/resumé a plus. Some paid positions available.

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2-FOR-1 INTRODUCTORY LESSON $38 Advance Reservation Required
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on Sunday, September 11, 8:30 a.m. to noon, at Ocean Beach Pier. Noncompetitive event seeks to raise "awareness of the pollution problem along San Diego’s coastline." Paddlers expected on surfboards, Boogie boards, kayaks, all manner of paddling devices (bring your own). Free. 858-792-9940. (OCEAN BEACH)

Rancho Valencia Cup Competition continues Sunday, September 11, at San Diego Polo Club (1455 El Camino Real). Preliminary matches begin at 1:30 p.m., featured polo match at 3 p.m. General admission is $5, as is parking. The club meets at 1455 El Camino Real. 858-481-9217. (PANCHO SANTA FE)

The Granddaddy of Rough-Water Swims, 75th annual La Jolla Rough-Water Swim, Sunday, September 11, starting and finishing at La Jolla Cove. Junior, amateur, masters, and Gatorman divisions at La Jolla Cove. Junior, amateur, masters, and Gatorman divisions Saturday and Sunday, September 10 and 11, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tarot, palmistry, numerology, other psychic arts featured; $20 per reading. The shop is located at 3545 Midway Drive, suite G. 619-298-3422. (SPORTS ARENA)

California Wolf Center hosts public programs focusing on North American gray wolves every Saturday at 2 p.m. Programs include slide show, visit and tour with resident wolf pack. Tickets: $8 general, $5 for seniors, $4 for children ten and younger. Required reservations: 619-234-WOLF (9675). (OLD TOWN)

Psychic Fair and Metaphysical Conference, Alexandria’s BookStore, Saturday and Sunday, September 10 and 11, noon to 6 p.m. Tarot, palmistry, numerology, other psychic arts featured; $20 per reading. The shop is located at 11333 Natural Town Road. 858-452-6846. (OLD TOWN)

Special

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Del Mar Art Center Art Fair, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, September 10 and 11. Live music, fine art. Find center at 1555 Camino del Mar at 15th Street. 858-481-1678. Free admission. (DEL MAR)

Psychic Fair, Saturday and Sunday, September 10 and 11, at Rainy’s Mystic Books (801 Grand Avenue #3). Fifteen-minute chair massage or readings, $15. 760-744-7900. San Marcos (5459 Sycuan Road). Free. 760-743-1899.

The Granddaddy of Rough-Water Swims, 75th annual La Jolla Rough-Water Swim, Sunday, September 11, starting and finishing at La Jolla Cove. Junior, amateur, masters, and Gatorman divisions Saturday and Sunday, September 10 and 11, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tarot, palmistry, numerology, other psychic arts featured; $20 per reading. The shop is located at 3545 Midway Drive, suite G. 619-298-3422. (SPORTS ARENA)

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San Diego Senior Olympics run Friday, September 9, through Sunday, September 25, at venues around county. Over 1700 athletes 50 and older compete in 23 sporting events. Details, locations: 619-226-1324. (SAN DIEGO COUNTY)

SPECIAL

Traditional Gathering and 16th Annual Pow Wow hosted by Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Nation runs September 9–11 at Sycuan (5459 Sycuan Road). Northern and Southern drumming, powwow games (beginning at dusk), dancing, grand entry (8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday). 619-445-7776. (DEHESA)

Artists’ Colony Open Studios, Friday, September 9, 7 p.m., at 1150 Seventh Avenue (between B and C Streets). “Meet and mingle” with local artists in their working studios. Art for sale. Admission: free. 619-665-4047. (DOWNTOWN)

Drum Circle, Friday, September 9, 6 to 9 p.m., at Cafe Primo (159 South Main Street). All skill levels welcome; bring instruments. 760-723-1899. (DALLAS)

Grape Day Festival, Saturday, September 10. Grape stamping, live entertainment, crafts, art show, children’s games, food, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Grape Day Park (321 North Broadway). Grape Day Parade on Grand Avenue from Escondido Boulevard to Juniper, 10 a.m. Free. 760-743-8207. (ESCONDIDO)

27th Annual Greek Festival is September 10 and 11, at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church (3459 Manchester Avenue). Greek music and dancing, cuisine, children’s games, bazaar, deli, import booth. Admission: $2; children under 12 free. Hours: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday. 760-942-0920. (CARPINTERIA)

Southern California Plumeria Society hosts annual show, Saturday and Sunday, September 10 and 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in room 101 of Casa del Prado. Advice, plants for sale. Admission: free. 760-431-1472 or 619-443-4799. (BALDWIN PARK)

“Ridin’ for the Cure,” poker run benefiting Informed Prostate Cancer Support Group. Starts on Saturday, September 10, 9 a.m., at Cyclevisions (4263 Taylor Street), ends at Chuy’s Cantina with concert, dinner. 855. Registration: 858-452-6846. (OLD TOWN)

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Poetry

FROM THE FAVORITE POEM PROJECT

NOT WAVING BUT DROWNING
Nobody heard him, the dead man,
But still he lay moaning:
I was much further out than you thought
And not waving but drowning.

Poor chap, he always loved larking
And now he’s dead
Must have been too cold for him his heart
gave way.
They said.
Oh no no no, it was too cold always
(Still the dead one lay moaning)
Was too far out all my life
And not waving but drowning.

— Steve Smith

FIRST MEMORY
Long ago, I was wounded. I lived to revenge myself
Against my father, not for what he was
For what I must have been from the beginning of time,
In childhood, I thought
That pain meant I was not loved.
It meant I loved.

— Louise Glück

NOT WAVING BUT DROWNING

At MELVILLE’S TOMB
Often enough the wave, from this ledge
The dice of drowned men’s bones he saw
Bequeath.
An embarass. Their numbers as he watched,
Beat on the dusty shore and were obscured.
And wrecks passed without sound of bell,
The cafys of death’s bounty going back
A scattered chapter, lid hieroglyph,
The portent wound in corridors of shells.

Then in the circuit calm of one vast coil,
Its lashings charmed and muleteering
Reformed eyes there were that lifted altars;
And silent answers crept across the stars.
Compass, quadrant and sextant contrive
No farther tides... High in the azure steeps,
Moony shall not make the winder.
This fabulous shadow only the seas keep.

— Hart Crane

The Favorite Poem Project can be found at:
http://www.favoritepoem.org

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Wedding Guide

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WEDDINGADO

The Reader’s Guide to Art.)

MUSEUMS

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

Bancroft Ranch House Museum

blends indigenous Indian artifacts and memorabilia of early settlers in the area, run by the Spring Valley Historical Society. The home, built in 1865, was registered as a National Historic Landmark in 1982 and is on a spot where Kumeyaay Indians camped more than 1000 years ago beside the spring that later gave the area its name. The museum is found at 9050 Memory Lane; 619-469-1480. (SPRING VALLEY)

Barona Cultural Center and Museum is located at 1195 Barona Road; 619-443-7003 x2. (LAKESIDE)

California Surf Museum, “The Surfer-Shapers,” exhibit through 2003, showcases a century of surfers whose conceptual abilities and crafting talent radically altered the surfboard design. The search has always been for lighter, faster, more maneuverable boards, from Keku Kahanamoku in early 1900s to Tom Blake in 1920s to Simon Anderson in early 1980s. The museum features surf artifacts and memorabilia — such as surfboards and clothing — of local legends Phil Edwards, John ""J.1."" Richards, Peter Johnson, and Duke Kahanamoku. The museum is located at 223 North Coast Highway, 760-721-6876. (VISTA)

Chula Vista Center, an interactive living museum devoted to the endangered Southern California coastal wetlands, located in Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. Visitors can use a Bracelet viewer to view animals macroscopically, use a Wentscope for views of microscopic organisms found in the ""Salt Water Soup,"" and interact with computerized videos exploring how tides affect the bay in the tides, Tides, and the San Diego Bay"" exhibit. Pet sharks and rays in the David A. Wergeland Shark and Ray Experience, see flying owls and migratory birds, and enjoy the xerophytic gardens.

Visitors meet a shuttle bus at the Bayfront E Street Trolley Station or at the center’s parking lot at the foot of E Street and Bay Road. 619-403-5893. (CHULA VISTA)

Flying Leatherneck Museum, dedicated to the Marine Corps who provided air support, from the propeller-driven fighters and bombers of the 1940s to the modern jets and helicopters currently in use. Static display of a variety of aircrafts are included, along with equipment, insignias, paintings and photographs, scale models, and a research library. The museum is located in building T-2002, at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. 858-693-1723. (MIRAMAR)

September 10, 8:30 a.m. Reservations: 858-674-2275 x5. (SAN DIEGO HARBOR)

Back-to-School Family Day at San Diego Model Railroad Museum is Sunday, September 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Railroad arts and crafts, grand opening of Tachachi Pass two-level operating model railroad exhibit. Admission: free for those under 15, $5 for everyone else. The museum is located downtown in Casa de Balboa Building. 619-498-0199. (BALBOA PARK)

The 35th Annual Julian Blue Grass Festival
The 35th Annual Julian Blue Grass Festival runs Saturday and Sunday, September 17 and 18, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., in Frank Lane Park (2645 Farmers Road). Festival opens with banjo and fiddle contest; lineup of performers in-...
Reading

Envy: A Novel

By Kathryn Harrison
Random House, 2005; $24.95; 301 pages

FROM THE DUST JACKET:
Will, a Brooklyn psychoanalyst and almost-identical twin, has a good sex life—will he marry. So why then is he increasingly plagued by violent erotic fantasies that are to break out of his imagination and into the real world, have the power to destroy not only his family but his career? He's about to lose his grip when he attends a college reunion and there discovers evidence of a past sexual betrayal, one serious enough that it threatens to overpower the present, even as it offers a key to Will's dangerous obsessions.

Hypnotic, beautifully written, this mesmerizing novel by "an extremely gifted writer" (San Francisco Chronicle) explores the corrosive effect of evil—and how painful psychological truths long buried within a family can corrupt the present and, through courage and understanding, lead to healing and renewal. "Like Scheherazade in the grip of a fever dream, Harrison can corrupt the present and, through courage and understanding, lead the reader to healing."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:
Kathryn Harrison was born in Los Angeles and reared there. Ms. Harrison was raised primarily by her maternal grandparents. She received her MFA from the Iowa Writers School. She is the author of the novels The Seabed Wife, The Binding Chair, Poison, Exposure, and Thicker Than Water. She has also written the memoirs The Kiss and The Mother Knot; a travel memoir, The Road to Santiago; a biography, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux; and a collection of essays, Seeking Rapture. She lives in New York with her husband, the novelist Colin Harrison, and their three children.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR:
I asked Ms. Harrison, not a prac-
ticing Catholic, how she had decided to write the biography of Thérèse de Lisieux for the Penguin Lives series.

"The editor of the series called, asking about a possibility of my doing biographies in the series. I was delighted because...

(continued on page 108)

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Gaslamp Museum of Historic San Diego, a glimpse of San Diego's colorful past at the museum, which displays highlights Wyatte Earp's San Diego days, the Peg Leg Gold Legend, the first maps and photographs of Old Town and "New Town," early military his-
tory, the naval disaster in 1923 at Point Honda, and more. Find the museum in Gaslamp of Historic San Diego Museum of Historic San Diego, at 14134 Midland Poway's past. Find the museum in Gaslamp Museum of Historic

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"The editor of the series called, asking about a possibility of my doing biographies in the series. I was delighted because..."
thought it was a fun series and people had done some great work in this series. But when he told me it was — Thérèse de Lisse, also known as 'The Little Flower' — I thought, 'My God.' Because she had in truth been the saint that I had loathed the most growing up (Ms. Harrison attended Catholic school), just because she always seemed like such a 'goody two shoes.'

"The Little Flower," the whole thing I found a little nauseating... but I thought about it and everybody kept saying, "Oh no, don't do it, don't do it, Oh, don't do it." For various reasons they said that. "They don't pay enough for the work," or, "You get all bogged down doing the research and it eats up so much time." And then being perverse I said, "Yes," because I thought, 'to loathe someone is to love someone.'

"So, Envy," Ms. Harrison said that she'd been out of touch with her agent for a while, but her agent mentioned that some reviewers of Envy did not like the book. Most reviewers, she was too modest to say, do admit Envy. Many reviewers, I said, increasingly seem to confuse the book’s author with the book's narrator or any of a number of a book's characters.

"True, and strangely unphilosophical for people who are supposed to be reviewers or critics. I remember when my first novel came out, which was very autobiographical, it was sort of tempting waters about the whole thing. And some guy in the audience at a bookstore saw it, and he asked me, 'What does your father think about this stuff?' I thought, 'Hey, this is a novel. You can't ask me that question. I made the whole thing up, supposedly.'

"But he was totally uninterested in any such distinction. He just kept repeating the question actually until somebody from the bookstore took him away, for which I was very grateful. But, yes, it was a little curious.

"I'm very disappointed when I don't get a couple of reviews of that saying that I twisted or disgraced or a degenerate in some way, because I'm not interested in writing something that leaves people lukewarm. I've always tended to have people who are either strong supporters or who strongly dislike my work. In the same day, Envy got an amazingly different review in the The New York Review of Books, the Washington Post. The guy who reviewed it for the Post, I can't remember his name right now, but he basically held me responsible for the decline in literary fiction. And then he went on to denounce the very idea that the book was in every possible way.

"I think it's important — and fun — for women to break the taboos about how and what women should write. Breaking those taboos can make some readers quite angry.

"I love seeing how angry they get."

"Envy. How did you come up with that title?"

"Well, not for any honorable reason. I think it probably would be better titled Brevity, but so clearly remembered that Pinter said something to this effect. I guess it was a play too with the name; there's something about this stuff that wants to have its cake and eat it too. The book has a fairly suspenseful, even in places sensational plot, it has that 'beach read' quality, so I wanted it to have that kind of title, and Envy seemed to be a fit. It just popped into my head.

"The things last and I can't say that I believe I'm very good at making a novel. It's a strength, I think making up titles and writing are not particularly wonderful writers. I hope that I write well enough, but I don't think I'm a good thinker of titles.

"When she begins a book, Ms. Harrison said, she usually has a ‘fake title.’ I know it’s a fake title, but it reveals itself to be the breaking titles. There was the title of Pandora because of Jennifer having a Pandora quality. And, of course, Pandora's box is what was shot down pretty quickly.

"In Envy is a character who may or may be the narrator's daughter. He doesn't know. About that character, Ms. Harrison said, "She was a complete surprise. I think that was the first time in the course of a novel, except for the first one, which was autobiographical, that the characters were disguised or 'slightly shifted,' real-life people. Usually there's this one, very formidable female character who arrives and... either takes over the book, but in this case Jennifer was not part of the plan in any way, but she just arrived with sort of a smart mouth. She's not a very admirable person, but I like her a lot. I like having written a bad girl that gets away with everything."

"Envy's narrator is male. About writing from a male point of view, Ms. Harrison said, "I really like it and remember reading Joyce Carol Oates's book, I think it's What I Lived For. It's written from male point of view. It was pretty masterful. I dossed the book — it was a good ten years ago — and thought, 'What a tour-de-force in terms of writing as a man, when you're not a man.' I thought, 'I could never do that.'

"Then I tried it out. I realized, 'I'm starting a book from the point of view of a man. Instead of looking down at the tightrope and saying to myself, 'Uh oh,' I thought, 'Okay, I'll have Colin read it at the end, and if I've made any terrible mistakes, he'll let me know.'"

"Did he? Had you?"

"No, not really."

"What surprised Ms. Harrison, she said, was this: 'When I finished Envy, seeing it as I hadn't been able to see it while I was writing it, I thought, Oh, of course again I'm writing about me and my mother.' A person who's in a very cold, punishing clique where it's really hard to sustain life and he's pursuing a female object that comes and goes at her own discretion without ever speaking to him, and she will allow him to touch her and penetrate her but only so far — she never allows him any access to what he believes is her soul.

"I thought, 'once again, I am writing about my experience with my mother.' And at that point I realized that it actually is very familiar to me, to be in the position of longing for a withholding elusive female. I experienced my mother as not only desirable but I was very aware of her sexuality, I suppose because was she was so young and because my father disappeared when I was 16 months old, so she was dating and all that..."

"So was aware of her dressing for dates and being involved with young men of whom I was jealous. I understood that she..."
was desirable in terms of her flesh and the way she looked, so I too desired her.

“I feel natural to me to be writing as a character in pursuit of a female object. I actually began this book from a woman’s point of view, from the mother’s point of view, after a child drowns. I got totally bored. I thought it was sort of distasteful. I thought ‘Oh, well, maybe I’ll do it from the father’s point of view.’ I don’t know how he turned into a shrink.

“In the beginning, I thought I’d write about somebody who was a veterinarian. So I spent a lot of time hanging with veterinarians and then I realized they have nothing to say. You know, all their patients are animals. ‘I’ve never been so bored in my life. As a teenager I dreamed of being a veterinarian. I hung out with our own vet, and somebody who provided liaison to their veterinarian. But they were these men who had nothing to say. No understanding of who they were or why they were doing what they were doing. So I thought, ‘I just have to go and give up on this idea.’ Because I had in my mind the idea of somebody who was a lot like me in some ways. I mean that whole idea of being sort of a tortured, antagony and constantly looking for a pattern in the chaos of experience. That’s not a veterinarian. It’s much more likely that that person would be a shrink. It’s a very tall book.

“You made Will’s father a veterinarian, but you made him retire.”

“He retired and turned into a photographer.”

“Almost from Envys’s first page I can tell there’s water. The son drowns; the twin brother is a swimmer and so on. You write in the beginning that He wants to believe that love can’t make mistakes, but what he knows is that’s it’s like water, assuming the shape of the vessel, always imperfect, that holds it. ‘Did you notice something like that when you finish a book or all along are you aware of it?’

“No, I don’t know anything when I get to the end. I think the person seems proper for that, given that it’s a book that messes around with the idea of the unconscious. It’s hard to be sure. ’Did you end up with a critical tool by which to analyze your own writing?’

“I think, like any other graduate school, connections come out of it that can be useful to you when you leave, but I think that you can in some way internalize the process of the workshop, in analyzing things like point of view or overall tone. You know voice and those sorts of things.

“And then to be able to think that rather independently afterwards. Then you’re learning something. But I think anybody who believes that a workshop can teach you that it’s incorrect. It might help you to polish your craft but that’s a separate thing.”

“You know how low wa I derived for me? That’s where I met my husband. In that sense it had a profound impact on my life because there was no other interaction. I met my husband in that sense, and I might have met — so that was a great gift.”

“Brooklyn must be becoming something of a writer’s colony.”

“Yes. We landed here completely accidentally. We moved to New York directly from Iowa. Colm was raised there, a rental, which was worth more than the stuff in it. I flew ahead. I had something for a pattern of the chaos of experience. That’s not a veterinarian. It’s much more likely that that person would be a shrink. It’s a very tall book.

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**CLASSICAL MUSIC**

### ART LISTINGS

**Events that are underlined occur after September 15.**

**How to send us your listing:** Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), and a phone number (including area code), and a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER CLASSICAL MUSIC, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186. Or fax to 619-891-2401. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.

Operatic Selections by Handel, Schubert, Copland, Puccini, Poulenc, Dvořák, Sondheim, and Mozart promised when soprano Susanna Kurner, accompanied by pianist Lawrence Goldie, performs “Carlbach to Karlový Vary” concert. Recital at 7 p.m. on Friday, September 10, in UCSD’s Qualcomm Concert Hall. Meet artists during reception on Saturday, September 10, 6:30 p.m., at Art Academy of San Diego. Free. 619-891-2401. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.

### GALLERIES

**“Division”** by photographer Satoru Yoshida and “Ascent” by August Highland commence in Simmspace at Art Academy of San Diego (840 G Street) with reception on Friday, September 9, 6 p.m. See show through Saturday, October 10. Sharp Gallery, 3807 Ray Street. Closes on Sunday, September 11, 2 p.m. 619-557-8303. (GALADYN QUARTER)

**“Six Elements in Sculpture”** explored in recent works opening with reception for six participating artists, Friday, September 9, 6 p.m., at Galerie d’Art, 3807 Girard Avenue, suite 201. Closes on Sunday, October 23. 858-793-0316. (OLIVIA READING)

**The Annual All-Media Faculty Art Exhibit** is on view through Thursday, September 29, in MiraCosta College’s Kruglik Gallery (in student center at One Barnard Drive). Meet artists during reception on Friday, September 9, 6:30 p.m. 760-795-6657. (DOWNTOWN)

**A Partial Retrospective** of paintings by Yosh F. Kerrigan is on exhibit through Saturday, October 22, at District Art Studios and Gallery (317 East Grand Avenue). Meet Kerrigan at reception, Saturday, September 10, 6 p.m., at gallery’s Showcase Gallery (Studio 201). Jurors: Craig Anderson, Drew Bandish, Curt Bauer, Jim Millard, Dan Robbins. Reception is Friday, September 9, 6:30 p.m. 619-338-0502. (LITTLE ITALY)

**“Cirrus Obscura,”** exhibit of latest works by Ezzidaine and Carr open with reception on Friday, September 9, 6 p.m., at Brookes Building Gallery (402 Market Street). Show continues 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, September 10 and 11. 619-294-3966. (GALADYN QUARTER)

**“Six Elements in Sculpture”** explored in recent works opening with reception for six participating artists, Friday, September 9, 6 p.m., at Galerie d’Art, 3807 Girard Avenue, suite 201. Closes on Sunday, October 23. 858-793-0316. (OLIVIA READING)

**September’s Featured Artist** is Betty Gilroy at Vista Village Art Gallery (127 Main Street). Reception for artist: Friday, September 9, 5:30 p.m. 619-622-4891. (VISTA)

**Going Strong,** new work in variety of media by San Diego Visual Artists Guild members opens with reception, Friday, September 9, 6 p.m., at guild’s new gallery (102 East Ninth Avenue). Opening followed by Small Opera Company performance at 8 p.m. Free. 619-890-6520. (BIDWENTON)

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**ART MUSEUMS**

**California Center for the Arts Museum**, 100 black-and-white photographs are gathered in “Live With History: Photographs from the New York Times’ Photo Archives.” Exhibit boastst iconic images by Alfred Stieglitz, Edward Steichen, Berenice Abbott, and others.


**Mingei International Museum**, North County Satellite, “Homes — Cirdling the Globe” includes animals from India, China, Japan, Indonesia, Sweden, England, Guatemala, Mexico, and the U.S. Some have religious connections, some were made as toys. Ongoing. Find the museum at 155 West Grand Avenue. 760-735-3555. (ESCONDIDO)

**Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown**, WriterzBlock is a collective of artists offering youth of Southeast San Diego technical skills in visual arts, opportunities to learn about aerosol painting through educational programs. Through Sunday, December 11, view murals by WriterzBlock’s artists in lobby and Fayman Galleries, augmenting their banner project on museum’s Jacobs Building construction fence on Kettner Boulevard. Find the museum at 1001 Kettner Boulevard (at Broadway), directly across from the Santa Fe Railroad Depot. 619-234-1001. (DOWNTOWN)

**Museum of Photographic Arts**, “Graham Flint: American Portraits at 1800 Megapixels” showcases the physicist and photographer’s project bringing “together the cutting edges of photographic optics, film technology, and digital processing, creating landscape photographs which contain an unprecedented detail and resolution.” Through Sunday, September 11.
GOBLIN’S DEBUT IN THE BAG

Halloween. “After 16 years of scars and ear damage all in the name of spreading goodwill and the Rock N Roll doctrine,” says John Reis at www.rfc.com, “we will take the stage for the last time on our favorite day of the year. We know that it is very difficult for those around the world to be with us for this celebration, but we invite all that have been a part of this awesome ride to come out one more time and give it up for the band. We will offer those that have supported and fueled us the first opportunity to purchase tickets.”

The show, to be held at the Westin Horton Plaza Grand Ballroom, is free for anyone with an RFC tattoo (a longstanding policy). The fan presale (September 9–11) offers packages with one ticket and a hotel room ($165 before hotel tax, with $25 for each additional ticket) or tickets only for $30 each. After the presale, those prices are available to the public through October 1 or until tickets run out.

— Jay Allen Sanford

GOOD FOR ONE MORE SHOW

To support Sleeping People’s CD-release party and to give fans a taste of its own debut; Bagged and Boarded will hit shelves on October 25 after a lengthy delay.

The identity of the caped Lord Phallus isn’t a mystery — it’s listed on the Casbah website. Rob Crow’s latest project will include a string of videos and comic books that tell the story of his alter ego’s birth.

Phallus says he doesn’t listen to much contemporary music. “I’m mostly steeped in the classics, like Manowar, Thor, and Venom.” — Jeremiah Grifffy

“Rampant Liver-Defying Consumption” is promised at Rocket From The Crypt’s final show on October 25 after a lengthy delay.

Lord Phallus,” crawled from the shadows to fuse the sounds of Pinback and Black Sabbath. Goblin Cock showed to support Sleeping People’s CD-release party and to give fans a taste of its own debut; Bagged and Boarded will hit shelves on October 25 after a lengthy delay.

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“Rampant Liver-Defying Consumption” is promised at Rocket From The Crypt’s final show on October 25 after a lengthy delay.

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Reservation Blues

Twenty years ago, concert promoter Bill Silva predicted that there would eventually be two concert markets in San Diego County: North County and metro San Diego. In other words, the same artist could play both ends of the county on the same tour. When the B-52s played Humphrey’s on July 31 and Pala Casino the next day, that prediction was realized.

Last week, Pala Casino, 30 miles east of Oceanside, announced House of Blues would take over talent buying for its 2500-seat outdoor theater. Dick Clark Productions booked Pala for the past two years. “Pala is so far away (from San Diego),” says David Swift, general manager of San Diego Productions, “it draws mostly from Orange County and Riverside Counties and some from North County.” Swift says “by leveraging our national talent-buying power,” he wants Pala to become North County’s premier concert venue.

A local promoter points out that Indian casinos often win bidding wars for big acts because they can pay so much more for artists. “I went to a concert-industry conference [and] one talent buyer from a casino said that because they can pay so much more—means that $3 billion disappeared into thin air,” according to Pollstar.

Missing: $3 Billion

Clear Channel Entertainment holds exclusive rights to book the Sports Arena. Sources say the agreement won’t be renewed when it expires in December.

As the largest concert company in the U.S., Clear Channel Entertainment dominates the concert business in most major cities (San Diego is an exception, with the market cornered by House of Blues Concerts).

Clear Channel Communications, meanwhile, is America’s largest radio company. It purchased the concert company five years ago, expecting a positive synergy between the two entities. That effect hasn’t been realized, and the entire company is up for sale. Pollstar magazine reports that Clear Channel Communications paid $4.4 billion for the concert company in 2000. Now, according to the magazine, it’s worth $1.5 billion. “That means that $3 billion disappeared into thin air,” according to Pollstar.

Insiders say the new operators of the Sports Arena will be AEG Live/Goldenvoice, the company that promotes the annual Coachella Music Festival near Palm Springs. AEG is the second-largest concert company in the U.S. and dominates the concert business in most major cities (San Diego is an exception, with the market cornered by House of Blues Concerts).

Sports Arena general manager Ernie Hahn was not available for comment. — Ken Leighton

Skate, Then Die

One of Hot Snakes’ final recordings is featured on Activision’s video game soundtrack to Tony Hawk’s American Wasteland. They do a cover of Government Issue’s “Time to Escape.” Saves the Day, Thrice, My Chemical Romance, and other bands covered 14 classic punk songs for the North County skater’s new game. It’ll be released next month on the Xbox, PlayStation 2, GameCube, and DS. A CD version of the soundtrack will be released on Vagrant Records around the same time.

— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS

Jay Allen Sanford
Mary Montgomery, Derek Plank,
Hoffman, Ken Leighton, Ryan Lefols,
William Crain, Edwin Decker, Dave
Morin, Mary Montgomery, Derek Plank,
Jay Allen Sanford

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North Park  
Rock & Blues

Sunday, September 11 • 1-4 pm  
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Sunday, September 18 • 1-4 pm  
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10/29 THE STRING CHEESE INCIDENT (LATE NIGHT)  
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10/30 GALACTIC (LATE NIGHT)  
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“I feel the weight of each riff.”

Tim Walter is the technical director at On Broadway, downtown — that’s a fancy name for a VJ (video jockey). “There’s a unique balance found in the chaos, which, as of late, is very joyful,” he says. “Being the technical director here couldn’t be better…the trinity of problems, solutions, and people.”

TRICKIEST PROBLEM WITH LIVE SHOWS? “The joyous part of this kind of work is the diversity of circumstances you’re faced with…to further elaborate on that theme with something technically related would not even scratch the surface of complexity that exists in dealing with all of the personalities involved in a typical event. Most audio, lighting, and video equipment does its job consistently…in the arena of personality, you’re navigating the ebb and flow of diverse emotions.

“Anything can trigger a chain reaction of emotion in an individual or group that can complicate situations…some people have control needs; many can be very reactionary, others are just clueless. There’s no handbook…the challenge lies in analyzing your situation and applying the best strategy to keep all faces smiling…negotiating a client’s self-imposed needs will help provide the head space required to keep the most insane people from being a bother and allow the technical side of the job to run that much smoother. That is my Tao of Sound.”

TOP FIVE END-OF-THE-WORLD DISCS?
1. Ali Farka Toure, Niafunke. “This album represents the primordial beginning and end of music to me. Recorded in his native Mali, in a tractor shed on his goat farm, you get an intimate view of true roots music. Ali combines his virtuoso guitar playing — which could be looked on as a native African expression of the blues — with the indigenous instruments and songs of his village, performed by his family.”
2. Orchestra Baobab, Live in Munich. “The Orchestra Baobab is the pride of Senegal, and this live recording vividly documents the purity and grace these amazing performers wield in their unending journey around the globe. They represent the African side of Afro-Cuban music and perform with vitality and confidence that pulses with the rhythm of the earth. The vocals express a richness in timbre and command in execution that only can be found with age and experience. The album seeps with joy.”
3. Funkadelic, One Nation Under a Groove. “The prophet George Clinton speaks: The Dao of Funk! Forget your biases and false concepts, this album broadcasts amazing themes of empowerment, awareness, and upliftment [sic] in a uniquely coded language. The collection of songs challenges the listener to go deeper within all aspects of self and provides a methodology for healing from the many scars we pick up in life.”
4. Sleep, Jerusalem. “Here you will find the ultimate expression of heavy. The hour-long song/album sucks me into the plasma of life with an organic, throbbing beauty…I feel the weight of each riff, the force in the notes. The majesty in arrangement is empowered by a conscious alchemy of the elements. The result is something that I would parallel to mystic Bedouin musicians of the desert; it is in touch with natural forces.”
5. Voivod, Angel Rat. “The unsung heroes of space metal deliver one of the most future tense albums ever conceived, ripe with music and lyrics descending from dimensions beyond our own. It has a fine balance of depth, accessibility, and progressiveness…steps ahead of the current waves of music, even though it’s over ten years old.”

INTERVIEW
MUSIC SCENE
SANDIEGOREADER.COM

OASIS
JET * KASABIAN
SEPTEMBER 14

LUIS MIGUEL
SEPTEMBER 17

GREEN DAY
JIMMY EAT WORLD
SUNDAY OCTOBER 2

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SALVADOR SANTANA BAND
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BIG & RICH
THE WARREN BROTHERS
COWBOY TROY
SUNDAY OCTOBER 23

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San Diego Reader September 8, 2005

Photo: Photography by Chris Morrow

Coors Light X Live Concert Calendar
HOB.com/PAR众乐乐
Concerts by the Bay, Thursday, September 8, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-5400 or 619-220-8497.

Bebel Gilberto: House of Blues, Thursday, September 8, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

FRIDAY

Marcia Ball (N69): Belly Up Tavern, Friday, September 9, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-5400 or 619-220-8497.


Earth, Wind, and Fire and Chicago ’Tribute Concerts with Vieras,’ Embudadero Marina Park South, Friday, September 9, downtown San Diego waterfront. 619-465-5400 or 619-220-8497.

Koolai’i Reichel: Humphrey’s by the Bay, Friday, September 9, 7:30 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-523-1010 or 619-220-8497.

Husky Lewis & the News: Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Friday, September 9, 8 p.m., 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400 or 619-220-8497.

SATURDAY

Carlos Vives and Daddy Yankee: Cox Arena, Saturday, September 10, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-594-0427 or 619-220-8497.

Koolai’i Reichel: Humphrey’s by the Bay, Saturday, September 10, 6:30 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-523-1010 or 619-220-8497.

KR5-ONE: Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, September 10, 143 South Cedros Avenue. 858-481-9022 or 619-220-8497.

Koolai’i Reichel: Humphrey’s by the Bay, Saturday, September 10, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-523-1010 or 619-220-8497.

TUESDAY

Crossby, Stills, & Nash (3972): Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Tuesday, September 13, 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400 or 619-220-8497.

Sizzla (798): Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, September 13, 143 South Cedros Avenue. 858-481-9022 or 619-220-8497.

WEDNESDAY

Wednesday Jazz Series: Presented by Gilbert Castellanos Also featuring DJ SK (spinning rare jazz grooves)

THURSDAY

La Jolla Thursdays: Presented by Corey Biggs & Jason Overell

FRIDAY

Hip Hop: Presented by Game Productions

SATURDAY

Live music on the patio from 4:00-8:00 PM

Minx Productions presents a distinct blend of house, hip-hop & ’80s

KARL DENSON’S TINY UNIVERSE

by Dave Good

From the beginning, acid jazz was the bastard child of smooth jazz, cross-pollinated by straight-ahead jazz, funk, rock, salsa, sampling, and club beats. In the end it got swallowed up in the resurgence of R&B, but it was hot while it lasted. My sister’s ex-boyfriend Arthur bought the dream in a big way. He was a music-industry lawyer and cofounded one of the original acid jazz labels. They were generating buzz in L.A. far ahead of actually rolling out any product when Arthur died suddenly and the company dissolved. I still have one of their T-shirts.

Karl Denson got a taste of that acid jazz momentum with DJ Greyboy and their joint project, the Greyboy Allstars. Denson’s soul-infused bebop tenor sax put meat on the bones of Greyboy’s scratching and sampling, with the remainder of the band built a cross-current of dance beats and polyrhythms. Denson called it boogaloo — black hillbilly music. For a time they had a monster Euro- plus albums, and continued to tour to this day.

Karl Denson came to the Allstars with impeccable sideman credentials, having worked with Lenny Kravitz and ex-James Brown funksters Maze, Packer and Fred Wesley. After the Allstars faded in the late ’90s, Denson eventually created Tiny Universe, a five-man outfit dedicated to the fusion of jazz and R&B within the format of a jam band. Denson handles vocals and flute as well. His playing recalls Gene Ammons or even Sonny Stitt, especially when the latter favored tenor. “The original intention of jazz was music you could dance to,” he told a reviewer. “I eventually became more intellectual. I’m just trying to get back to the roots of it.”

Karl Denson’s Tiny Universe, Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, September 14, 9 p.m. 858-481-8140 or 619-220-8497. $20.

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4TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 7

TRADE ROOTS

TABULARASA

MAIZ (featuring B-SIDE PLAYERS)

THURSDAY, SEPT. 8

PRIVATE ANNIVERSARY PARTY!
(by invitation only)

QUINO (from BIG MOUNTAIN)

Dj D-SKWIZ

FRIDAY, SEPT. 9

MODERN DAY MOONSHINE 6-8 pm

DJ SEAN TEMPLE

SATURDAY, SEPT. 10

BUDWEISER BAND

DJ SEAN TEMPLE

SUNDAY, SEPT. 11

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Tori Amos / (468) Byrdie Concerts with Viejas, Wednesday, September 14, downtown San Diego waterfront. 619-465-5400 or 619-220-8497.

Karl Denson’s Tiny Universe / (661) Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, September 14, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140 or 619-220-8497.

4TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 7

TRADE ROOTS

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ADULT LEARN-TO-SKATE CLINIC $5

Valid Tuesday, September 13, 2005.

Tori Amos / (468) Byrdie Concerts with Viejas, Wednesday, September 14, downtown San Diego waterfront. 619-465-5400 or 619-220-8497.

Karl Denson’s Tiny Universe / (661) Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, September 14, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140 or 619-220-8497.
Mondays: Happy Hour All Night!
www.moondoggies.com

Oasis: Cover Amphitheater, Wednesday, September 14, 7:30 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-523-1010 or 619-220-8497.

Aretha Franklin: Humphrey’s Concerts by the Bay, Thursday, September 15, 6:30 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-523-1010 or 619-220-8497.

Los Lobos/Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes • SOLD OUT!

Upcoming Concerts

September

George Thorogood (588) House of Blues, Thursday, September 15, 10:35 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.
The O’Jays: Palomar Starlight Theatre, Thursday, September 15, 7 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pa. 760-310-4500 or 619-220-8497.

Los Lobos (583) and Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes • SOLD OUT!
Humphrey’s Concerts by the Bay, Thursday, September 15, 6:30 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-523-1010 or 619-220-8497.

Pepper: House of Blues, Friday, September 16, 10:35 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

Nine Inch Nails (164) and the Queens of the Stone Age: Cox Arena, Friday, September 16, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-544-0427 or 619-220-8497.

Luis Nigmo: Cover Amphitheater, Saturday, September 17, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600 or 619-220-8497.

Intepal: Open Air Theatre, Sunday, September 18, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-523-1010 or 619-220-8497.

Midnite: Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, September 18, 143 South Cedros Avenue. 858-481-9022 or 619-220-8497.


Otmar Liebert & Luna Negra • SOLD OUT!
Humphrey’s Concerts by the Bay, Sunday, September 18, 7:30 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-523-1010 or 619-220-8497.

Live: House of Blues, Monday, September 19, 10:35 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

Macco Parker (687) House of Blues, Tuesday, September 20, 10:35 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

Tony Bennett: Humphrey’s Concerts by the Bay, Tuesday, September 20, 7:30 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-523-1010 or 619-220-8497.

John Scofield (686) Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, September 21, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140 or 619-220-8497.

Jim Brickman (862) Humphrey’s Concerts by the Bay, Wednesday, September 21, 7:30 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-523-1010 or 619-220-8497.

The Pat Matheny Trio (865) 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.

The Fabulous Thunderbirds (479) 46th & B, Friday, September 30, 46th & B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

The Aaron Neville Quintet: Belly Up Tavern, Friday, September 23, 143 South Cedros Avenue. 858-481-9022 or 619-220-8497.

Tower of Power: Humphrey’s Concerts by the Bay, Friday,

Johnny Mathis
Thursday, September 8

Kool’i Reichel/Na Leo
Friday & Saturday, September 9 & 10

Aretha Franklin
with special guest Earl Thomas
Wednesday, September 21 • 7:30

Los Lobos/Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes
Thursday, September 15

Tony Bennett
Tuesday, September 20

September

Johnny Mathis
Thursday, September 8 • 7:30

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

Aretha Franklin
with special guest Earl Thomas
Wednesday, September 21 • 7:30

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

Otmar Liebert & Luna Negra
Sunday, September 18

Tony Bennett
Tuesday, September 20 • 7:30

Johnny Mathis
with special guest Vienna Teng
Wednesday, September 21 • 7:30

Pat Metheny Trio
featuring Christian McBride & Antonio Sanchez
Thursday, September 22 • 7:30

Tower of Power
Friday, September 23 • 8:00

Dead Can Dance
Tuesday, September 27 • 7:30

Rockin’ Blues Revue
featuring John Mayall & The Bluesbreakers, Robben Ford & Eric Bibb
Thursday, September 29 • 7:00

Etta James
with special guest Ots Taylor
Friday, September 30 • 7:30

October

Bobby Caldwell
Thursday, October 6 • 7:30

“Hills of Home”
featuring Doc & Richard Watson & David Holt
with very special guest Leo Kottke
Friday, October 7 • 7:00

Celtic Woman
Sunday, October 9 • 7:30

Jesse Cook
Thursday, October 13 • 7:30

Daniela Mercury
Friday, October 14 • 7:30

Mariza
Sunday, October 16 • 7:30

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Calendar

CONCERTS

September 23, 8 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-523-1010 or 619-220-8497.

*Adams Avenue Street Fair*: Roots rock, alt rock, Latin jazz, world music, and more. Saturday, September 24, and Sunday, September 25, Adams Avenue (between 36th Street and Bancroft), Normal Heights. 619-282-7329.

The Presidents of the United States of America: House of Blues, Saturday, September 24, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

Molotov (476): House of Blues, Tuesday, September 27, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

The Foo Fighters and WEEZER: Cox Arena, Tuesday, September 27, 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-594-0427 or 619-220-8497.

The Presidents of the United States of America: House of Blues, Saturday, September 24, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

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The Presidents of the United States of America: House of Blues, Saturday, September 24, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.
San Diego
September 8, 2005


Buddy Jewell: 800-988-4253 or 619-220-8497.

The Dropkick Murphys: (415) Soma, Tuesday, October 11, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

Doves: House of Blues, Tuesday, October 11, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

Santana: Coco Amoeba, Wednesday, October 12, 250 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600 or 619-220-8497.

Dana: House of Blues, Sunday, October 10, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

Franz Ferdinand: (888) House of Blues, Thursday, October 13, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

Jesse Cook: Humphrey’s Concerts by the Bay, Thursday, October 13, 7:30 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-323-1010 or 619-220-8497.

Mark Wills: Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Friday, October 14, 3560 Willow Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400 or 619-220-8497.

Daniela Mercury: Humphrey’s Concerts by the Bay, Friday, October 14, 7:30pm., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-323-1010 or 619-220-8497.

Almea Mann (446s) Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, October 15, 1055 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140 or 619-220-8497.

Pat Joe: House of Blues, Sunday, October 16, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

Marisa: Humphrey’s Concerts by the Bay, Sunday, October 16, 7:30 p.m., 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-323-1010 or 619-220-8497.

Dwight Yoakam: House of Blues, Tuesday, October 18, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

Doves: House of Blues, Thursday, October 20, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

Gwen Stefani: Cox Arena, Thursday, October 20, SDSU campus, Collage Area. 619-394-0427 or 619-220-8497.

Country Joe McDonald: Acoustic Music San Diego, Friday, October 21, 4650 Manchester Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.


Sheryl Crow: Crisp Hyman Hall, Monday, October 24, 1245 Seventh Avenue, downtown. 619-220-8497 or 619-220-8497.


Gov’t Mule and moe: House of Blues, Wednesday, October 26, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.


Gov’t Mule and moe: House of Blues, Thursday, October 27, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

Beck: RECAM Arena, Thursday, October 27, UCSC campus, La Jolla. 858-534-4497 or 619-220-8497.

Spyro Gyra: California Center for the Arts, Friday, October 28, 340 N.
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John Lee Hooker Jr.

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Steve Lucky & The Rhumbabums

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San Diego Reader September 8, 2005

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WWW.GARBAGE.COM
A few years ago I went to the opening night of one of those weekend-long garage-rock festivals — the kind with about 200 bands on the bill, all with names that began with "The" or "Thee" and end with a plural noun. The first few bands played their sets and left no last impression. Then the Woggles took the stage.

At first I didn’t see anything especially promising about the Georgia band. Like all the others, they had retro guitars, retro clothes, and retro haircuts. But when they started playing, the room was theirs. The music was good, gospel and R&B-flavored '60s rock ’n’ roll, but the undisputed focus of attention was the singer, who goes by the name the Professor. With a tambourine in one hand and a microphone in the other, he did a kind of two-step dance throughout the set, as if the music wouldn’t let him stand still. It was contagious and everyone joined in. Before long the Professor was playing the audience like an instrument. He did that old comeback move of asking everyone to squat down while the band got quieter, and then jump up when the band got louder — and everyone in this room full of jaded hipsters happily followed his instructions.

I later learned that the Woggles have been doing this since 1987, along the way inspiring an all-female tribute band (the Woggles) and a German band named after one of their songs (the provocatively titled “Ramadan Romance”). By some accounts, Howlin’ Pelle Almqvist of the Hives stole his moves from the Professor. But the Woggles are the real deal. They’ll make you believe in rock ’n’ roll again.

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Spell Toronto: Soma
Sprung Monkey: (243) Blind Melons
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Street Heart: The Kraken
The Tall Dudes: Don’t Cocktail Lounge
Transfer: The Kensington Club
The Transit War: Soma
Triple X: Bub’s Whiskey Dive
21 Grams: Winstons
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The Love Rangers: The Alley
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POP / TOP 40

The Beach Boys: Harrah’s
Jesse Davis: Buon Giorno Restaurant

EXTENSION 4005

JAZZ / BIG BAND

The Archblessin: Croce’s Jazz Bar
The B-3 Four: Vesuvio Gourmet Restaurant
The Ray Barrie Big Band: The German-American Societies
Tom Bishop: Rancho Bernardo Inn
Ray Biz: Hotel del Coronado
Amelia Browning: (663) The Westgate Hotel, Turquoise Cafe
John Cain: (760) Elton’s Bistro & Sky Lounge, Hotel del Coronado
The Jorge Camberos Quintet: Croce’s Jazz Bar
Gilbert Castellanos: (667) Orya
A.J. Croce: Lestat’s Coffeehouse
Jo Dark: The German-American Societies
Delta Nove: Winstons
Karl Anderson’s Tiny Universe (687): Belly Up Tavern
Nick Flores: Pasque on Prospect
The Jim Gala Jazz Trio: Kitima Thai Restaurant
John Giulino: Pasque on Prospect
Hailina: Vesuvio Gourmet Restaurant
The High Society Jazz Band: Two Lou’s Lounge
Alfred Howard & the K23 Orchestra: ’Canes
Daniel Jackson: Hotel del Coronado
Barbara Jamerson: Hotel del Coronado
Jazzilla: Turquoise Cafe
The Ron Jermain Big Band: Viejas Casino
Tony Lazy: Hotel del Coronado
Jaeryoung Lee: The Westgate Hotel
Barry Levine: La Valencia Hotel
Stellita Lindgren: Hotel del Coronado
Dave Lindgren: Hotel del Coronado
Luna Llena: Coyote Bar and Grill
The Coral MacFarland-Thuet Jazz Quartet: Coronado Island Marriott
Bob Magnussen: Dizzy’s Masterpiece: Jimmy Love’s
Jerry Malnick: The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, Rancho Bernardo Inn
The Shop Meyers Quartet (680): Hotel del Coronado, Croce’s Jazz Bar
Duncan Moore: Dizzy’s Mystique: Jimmy Love’s
Mike Nelson: The Lodge at Torrey Pines, Quips Bar & Grill
The Flip Oakes Dixieland Band: North Coast United Methodist Church
David Owen: Vesuvio Gourmet Restaurant
The David Patrone Quartet (647): Croce’s Jazz Bar
Primavera: Sevilla, Croce’s Top Hat Bar and Grill
Rick Ross: La Valencia Hotel
The San Diego Concert Jazz Band: The Inn Suites
Dave Scott: Pasque on Prospect, Croce’s Jazz Bar
Reggie Smith & Pressed for Time: Jimmy Love’s, Coyote Bar and Grill
The Soul Revue: Jimmy Love’s
Peter Sprague: (643) Dizzy’s
Tripp Sprague: Dizzy’s
The Stage 4 Jazz Quintet: Buon Giorno Restaurant
The Super Sonic Samba School: Winstons
The Sweet Life: Los Cabos Mexican Mesquite Grill
Sweet Tea: Hot Monkey Love Cafe
Joe Tarentino: Hotel del Coronado
Archie Thompson: Pe Pazzo Bar & Grill
The Bob Thorton-Jaime Valle Jazz Duo: FRESH Seaford Restaurant & Bar

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- **The Velvet Smog**: Hennessey’s Tavern (Gaslamp)
- **Jason Weber**: Humphrey’s
- **Yazoo**: Cross’s Jazz Bar

**EXTENSION 4007**

**COUNTRY**

- **The California Rangers**: McNee’s Beach Club
- **Whiskey Ridge**: Renegade Inn

**EXTENSION 4008**

**ACOUSTIC / FOLK**

- **Amy Ayres**: Twigg Tea and Coffee Company
- **Banda Braza**: Turquoise Cafe
- **David Beldock**: Coyote Bar and Grill
- **Amanda Bethancourt**: Lestat’s Coffeehouse
- **Borne**: Twigg Tea and Coffee Company
- **Bowen & Lewist**: Winstons
- **Steve Brewer**: Blarney Stone Pub, McP’s Irish Pub and Grill
- **The Celtic Ensembles**: Twigg Tea and Coffee Company
- **Chris & Harold**: Blarney Stone Pub
- **Cindy & Tom**: Twigg Tea and Coffee Company
- **Kells David**: Twigg Tea and Coffee Company
- **Dalange**: Twigg Tea and Coffee Company
- **Kim D’Vincenzo**: Lestat’s Coffeehouse

**EXTENSION 4009**

**BLUES / SOUL**

- **Aunt Kizzy’s Boys**: Hennessey’s Tavern
- **Marcia Ball**: Belly Up Tavern
- **The Boys Brothers**: Patrick’s II
- **Blue Collar**: Hennessey’s Tavern
- **The Blues Brothers**: The Kraken
- **The Boogaloo**: The Gordon Brewery
- **Tommy Budi & Woody City**: Island Sports & Spirits, McP’s Irish Pub and Grill
- **The Charleskurtis Blues Band**: The Kraken
- **Chet Cannon & the Committee**: Patrick’s II
- **Chet & the Committee**: Elbo’s Place
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**Mondays**

- **5:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.**
  - **DJs Wallkrawler, Probable Cause, and DJ Dizzy D**
  
  *9 p.m. to 2 a.m.*
  - **Kadan**, **Bryan Pollard, AryRose, and Synex**
  
- **9 p.m. to 2 a.m.**
  - **The Bar with a Atmosphere**, **Mint condition**, **21 and up. No cover**

**Tuesdays**

- **7:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.**
  - **MixLab**, **Progressive Listening Session: Alternative Eclectic**

**Wednesdays**

- **9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.**
  - **Flying Bridge**, **Hip-Hop and R&B with DJs SR-71, D-niall, and Dan**
  
  *9 p.m. to 2 a.m.*
  - **Flying Bridge**, **Jive, gothic, and darkwave with DJs**
  
  *9 p.m. to 2 a.m.*
  - **Maxlab**, **Thursday. D.J. Dax spins an edgy listening session: alternative hip-hop, urban-soul, and Latin music**

**Thursdays**

- **9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.**
  - **The Bar with a Atmosphere**, **Mint condition**, **21 and up. No cover**

**Fridays**

- **9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.**
  - **MixLab**, **Alternative Eclectic Listening Session**

**Saturdays**

- **9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.**
  - **The Bar with a Atmosphere**, **Mint condition**, **21 and up. No cover**

**Sundays**

- **9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.**
  - **MixLab**, **Alternative Eclectic Listening Session**

**Weekends**

- **9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.**
  - **MixLab**, **Alternative Eclectic Listening Session**

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Driveway: Fridays, industrial, electron, and gothic. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. Shooters, 3815 30th Street, North Park. 619-274-6744.

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

**CLUBS BY AREA**

**NORTHERN COAST**

*The Alley*, 421 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-436-1173. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the Love Rangers. Top 40/rap.

*Belly Up Tavern*, 433 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022. Thursday, 7 p.m., Sound Tribe, Sector 9, West Indian Girl, and DJ Elor Lips. Friday, 7 p.m., the Cobalt Love Band. 9 p.m., Marcus Bell Saturday. 9 p.m., KRS-One, Dejavu Bistro, and Willows the Gaslamp Killer. Sunday, 8 p.m., Pink Martini. Monday, 8 p.m., Jim Velt and Earlfront. Alternative, Tuesday, 9 p.m., Sizzle, Israel the PeaceMaker, and the Sticks of Mighty. Regina. Wednesday, 9 p.m., Karl Dennis’s Tiny Universe and the African Showboy.

*Big Jim’s Old South Bar B Q*, 195 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas. Sunday, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Tomasz Cerny and the Blues Doeurs, blues.

*Boar Cross’n*, 390 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-2089. Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m., Girl Trouble, rock.

*The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe*, Flower Hill Mall, 111 Via de la Valle, Del Mar. 858-755-3733. Friday, 8 p.m., the Kyle Jester Blues Show.

*Bub’s Whiskey Dive*, 301 Pier View Way, Oceanside. 760-735-3088. Friday, Blizzard, alternative rock. Saturday, the Cory Williams Band, rock. Sunday, 7pm-X, rock.


*Carvers*, 1140 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-566-2401. Friday, Koko’s, pop rock. Saturday, the Crossroads, classic rock.

*Cozy Bar and Grill*, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-720-4695. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Bill Watson, blues, 10 p.m., DJ event. Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Borderrow. rock/brass/folk. 10:30 p.m., DJ event. Saturday, 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., David Belew, folk. 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Sunshine, New Orleans funk. 10:30 p.m., DJ event. Sunday, 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Iona Linna, jazz. 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Reggie Smith & Proud for True. Jazz, Wednesday, call club for information.

*Danky’s*, 5806 Van Allan Way, Carlsbad. 760-662-0630. Performances are on the patio. Friday, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Clay Cotton Band, classic rock. Saturday, 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Gene on the Big, Irish folk.

*Game Time Tavern*, 12735 Pomeroy Road, Poway. 858-748-0015. Friday and Saturday, live classic rock.

*Harrish’s Rincon Casino & Resort*, 3375 Valley Center Road, Valley Center. 877-777-2475. Thursday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Aunt Eliza’s Boys, blues/country. Friday, 8 p.m., the Beach Boys and Howe Met. Saturday, 8 p.m., Makki, disco/dance, Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Private Domain, rock and roll.

*Hennessey’s Tavern (Carlsbad)*, 2777 Roosevelt Street, Carlsbad. 760-729-8671. Thursday, the DJ’s 8-3, Friday, DJ event. Saturday, Dryer.

*The Inn at Ranchero Santa Fe*, 3951 Linoso del Campo, Rancho Santa Fe. 858-736-1331. Thursday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., Jerry Maslow, jazz/variety.

*Mandala*, Saturday, 8 p.m., Makki, disco/dance, Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Private Domain, rock and roll.

*Press for Time*, 2377 Roosevelt Street, Carlsbad. 760-729-8671. Thursday, the DJ’s 8-3, Friday, DJ event. Saturday, Dryer.

*The Whistle Stop*, 2236 Fern Street (corner of 30th and Juniper), South Park. 619-284-6784.

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September 30

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Excelsior, Prospect Street, La Jolla. 858-456-8265. Thursday, call club for information.

**PASQUALE on Prospect, 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla. 858-438-6722. Friday, Nick Four, John Giovanni, and Dave Scott, jazz.

**Owiqs Bar & Grill, 5083 Santa Monica Avenue, Ocean Beach. 619-222-1101. Friday and Saturday, live rock. Sunday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Mike Nelson, solo jazz guitar.

**SANDBAR SPORTS GRILL, 718 Victorias Place, San Diego. 858-488-1274. Call club for information.

**TIKI HOUSE, 1152 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-273-9734. Thursday, call club for information. Friday, Fairfield Fats Saturday, Agave, rock, Sunday, Jenny Lewis, acoustic. Wednesday, 420 Blackbird, rock.

**TROPICOSO, 1225 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-270-5190. Thursday, DJ Ganton Caiates and DJ Lee. Friday, Brazilian music. Saturday, sean/columbia/mercurius/Latin.

**TURQUOISE CAFE, 873 Turquoise Street, La Jolla. 858-498-4200. Thursday, Amelia Brown and David Owen, jazz. Saturday, Fred Heath & the Sideburners, blues. Friday, Jezzla. Saturday, call club for information. Sunday, 7:30 p.m., Brenda Braze, Brazilian band, Monday, Greek and Turkish music. Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. to midnight, Tomcat Courtney of the Blues Dodgers.

**WINSTONS, 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-232-6777. Thursday, Spoken Gar and Chapter
SAN DIEGO

The Aero Club, 3865 India St, San Diego. 619-297-7211. Tuesday, S.D. Blue, blues jam.

Albie’s Beef Inn, 1201 Hotel Circle South, San Diego. 619-281-1103. Friday and Tuesday, 6-10 p.m.; and Saturday, 7 p.m., Doral Timothy Smith.

The Bahia Belle Cruises, the Bahia Hotel, 994 West Mission Bay Drive, Mission Bay. 858-539-7779. Departs 6:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, live music.

Blarney Stone Pub, 2617 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont. 858-279-2033. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 7 p.m., David Timothy Smith.

Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Avenue, Bay Park. 619-275-LIVE. Music is rock/alternative unless otherwise noted. Thursday, Mad Juana. Friday, Aspidistra, Fine White China, and Not Since Reagan. Sunday, Opus Dai and 32 Leaves.

Epicentre, 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa. 858-271-4000. Music is alternative/rock. Thursday, the Spill Canvas, This Day & Age, and A Midday Atlantic. Friday, Hieroglyphics, Del, the Souls of Mischief, Casual, Pop Love, O.C. of D.I.T.C., and the Boom Bap Project. Sunday, Hidden in Plain View, Halifax, and A Change of Pace.

Etta’s Place, 6179 University Avenue (at College and University). 619-582-6730. Thursday, 8 p.m. to midnight, the Stampede Jam, classic rock. Sunday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Chet & the Committee, Musi-caning.

Gato Loco, 634 Broadway, San Diego. 619-544-1609. Thursday, 9 p.m., the Executive, hip-hop/R&B. Sunday, 8:30 p.m., Winterbrol, Lettom, Acumen, and Rock of Black Earth, black metal/death metal.

The Gordon Biersch Brewery, 5010 Mission Center Road, San Diego. 619-688-1120. Friday, the Boogiemen, R&B.

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The Mice do have a distinctive way of approaching a song. The problem is that they strive for difference and create an unnatural sound that’s too forced to look past.

To hear a sample from Volume One, call 619-233-9979, wait for the prompt, then punch in ext. 4440.

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

Kadan’s, 4696 30th Street, San Diego. 619-640-2300. Tuesday, 10 p.m. Art Fag, punk/rap.

The Kensington Club, 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington. 619-284-2848. Music is rock/alternative. Thursday, Split Infinity, the View from Space, and Debra Dunn. Friday, 9 p.m., the Mexia City Rollers, the Glosstones, and the Atoms. Saturday, Transfer, Vito, and Music for Jesus.

Klita Thai Restaurant, 406 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-298-9299. Thursdays through Sunday, and Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Jim Gida Jazz Trio.

Lestat’s Coffeehouse, 343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-262-0427. Music is acoustic/indie, unless otherwise noted. Thursday, Amy Raines & Barrett Johnson. Friday, A.J. Croce, jazz, and Gregory Page. Saturday, the Billy Rooms and Jack the Original Sunday. Jean Lee and Lindsey Young, Monday, open mike. Wednesday, Kim EN’ST, Arden Kaye, and Blaine Long.

O’Connell’s Pub and Nightclub, 1310 Morena Boulevard, Bay Park. 619-276-5673. Music is rock. Friday, 8:30 p.m., Citizen Band, Telos, and the Catharys Band. Saturday, 8:30 p.m., the Downtown Moneymakers and Barred House. Wednesday, 8:30 p.m., Casey McLaugli, Mary Froemke, and the Predates.

The Ould Sod, 3373 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-264-6594. Friday, live acoustic/folk. Tuesday, traditional Irish jam session.

Pal Joey’s, 8406 Fairing Road, Allied Gardens. 619-286-2870. Friday and Saturday, Nite Life, blues.

Pe Pepe Bar & Grille, 1919 India Street, San Diego. 619-283-1917. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Robert Langano, pianos. Tuesday and Wednesday, Archer Thompson, jazz/variet.


Second Wind, 8515 Navajo Road, San Carlos. 619-665-1730. Friday and Saturday, Nontos, classic rock.

Sham Rocks Shack, 2659 El Cajon Boulevard (half block east of 70th Street), College Area. 619-463-2263. Call club for information.


Tio Leo’s Lounge, 3562 Napa Street (at Morena Boulevard), Bay Park. 619-542-2682. Thursday, Hot Red Linus, rockabilly. Friday, Candy Kane & the Fat Bottoms, Girl, blues. Saturday, Blasters, rockabilly. Monday, tango. Tuesday, ryderes. Wednesday, 7 p.m., High Society Jazz Band.

Top of the Cove, 1216 Prospect Avenue, La Jolla. 619-844-7779. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m., Kristi Bicker, piano.

Trister’s Wine Bar, 8555 Station Village Lane, Suite C, San Diego. 619-296-1501. Thursday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Nathan Wieden, acoustic folk. Sunday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Suzanne Slo, classic covers/original folk.

Tutto Mare, 8420 Executive Drive, La Jolla (Golden Triangle area). 858-557-1108. Monday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Capricorn String Quartet, classical music. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Jaime Yulette Quartet, Brazilian and mainstream jazz.

Twigg Tea and Coffee Company, 4590 Park Boulevard, University Heights. 619-286-0616. Music is acoustic/folk. Thursday, 8 p.m., Scott Exell, Elle Levy, and Alfonso. Friday, 9 p.m., Danny Sandock, Evan, Delaney, Barna, and Just Johns at the Duke. Saturday, 8 p.m., Amy Ayres, Trevor Hall, Kelly David, Cindy & Jon, Love-Flying Mice, and Matthew Jordan. Sunday, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., the Celtic Ensemble, folk.

The Mice's feigned grunge persona comes into conflict with the rest of the group's image. The band's lyrics are pretentious — verbose and simplistic. These lines from "Speak to Me" are as deep as the trio probes: "What you doin' / yeah I don’t wanna understand / lots of feelings / I cannot comprehend / the things you do and what you say / about what you mean to me / please my dear / make me clear when you speak to me." The vocal range of frontman Rob Logic wavers between flat and monotone. His repitition of the line "you’re the one for me" 17 times in "Sunny Day" — a song that endures for over two minutes — is reason enough to lounge for the eject button.

On their debut album, the Mice play fast indie punk that comes across as wannabe grunge. They did pay attention to the crafting of each song’s melody line. There is an aspect of blink circa Cheshire Cat buried inside some of the chords of “Life Crisis” and “Gotta Get Away.” Each composition has vintage guitar riffs that propel upbeat punk with an indie flair. While each cut sounds a lot like mainstream pop-punk/indie groups, the disc lacks the playfulness that is linked to the genre. This is where the Mice’s feigned grunge persona comes into conflict with the rest of the group’s image.

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**The Butcher Shop**, 356 Broadway, Chula Vista. 619-426-9440. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., Tom Lesley, Latin/Acoustic.

Coronado Island Marriott, 230 Third Avenue, Chula Vista. 619-426-3172. Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Gordon Kel, Elton John, R&B/standards/Latin.

Edgewood Restaurant, 1550 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-6611. Rock & Roll: Thursday and Sunday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Friday, 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Tom Lesley, Latin/Blues. Saturday, 8:30 p.m., Stella Lengen and Dave Lindgren. Tuesday and Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Jim Gibson.

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**The Coral MacFarland-Thuet Jazz 3000**, 5083 Santa Monica Ave. 619-435-3140. Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., the Jaime Valle Bossa-Jazz Quartet. Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., the Stage 4 Band featuring Bobby Monroe.

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THEATER LISTINGS

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

Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Moonlight Stage Productions presents the popular musical, based on Mark Twain’s novel, about Huck, Jim, and that “river in the rain.” Mark Twain’s novel, about Huck, Jim, and that “river in the rain.”

San Diego's "100 Years of Latin Music in America"

"100 Years of Latin Music in America" was technical, not felt. You could sense that performances would grow, however. Plus, having Charles Jaczak (as bedraggled Egnor) and Kandis Chappell (the Lady Abbess as a force of nature) guarantees quality. As Do Lien Craig and Evan Zsa as the dual Dromios: played as a cross between Charlie Chaplin and the Cantinflas of Around the World in 40 Days, their slapstick antics guarantee laughs. Then there’s the conjuration dance. When Dr. Pinch tries to exercise Ephesian demons, his conjuration makes everyone wonder. They flop into a snaky, ritualized Bollywood dance that, while Pinch’s spell lasts, is a hoot.

The Caucasian Chalk Circle

South Coast Repertory Theatre opens its new season with Bertolt Brecht’s drama about Grusha, trapped in a war and a legal battle.

The Comedy of Errors

Nature or nurture? Most Comedies of Errors stress how alike Shakespeare’s two sets of twins are, as if growing up in separate cultures had no effect. Director Darko Tresnjak shows how different a similarity can be. When at Ephesus (site of sorcery, according to St. Paul) Aristophanes share the same identity but are opposites. Complications ensue. In some ways, the frame of this staging’s more arresting than the middle. The 90-minute version moves well, but on opening night the acting was technical, not felt. You could...
SEPTEMBER 11: THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-500-1100.

The Invention of Love
In 1982, Tom Stoppard wrote that love is “the real thing.” His 1997 drama disagrees. Love, he has Oscar Wilde say, is an invention, a myth created around the loved one. “We would never love anybody if we could see past our invention.” The play takes place in the mind of A.E. Housman, poet and foremost classics scholar of his era. As he ferries to Elysium, he recalls choices made and roads not taken — especially his lifelong, unrequited love for Moses Jackson, fellow Oxfordian. Oscar Wilde loved his love, even made himself a myth, Housman, like Septimus Hodge in Arcadia, lived a hermit’s life of “long silences.” Cygnet Theatre’s opening-night performance stumbled a bit, with thick, garbled accents (at least half the cast) and spurs through speeches. The design work, including excellent slide projections, matched the play’s fluidity. Jim Chovick struck moving, elegiac tones as the older AEH, though his raspy accent needed toning down. Sean Cox, as Housman the lad, gave a deft blend of optimism and sexual perplexity. Stoppard said he advocated a balanced portrait of Wilde such a memorable last role. Whether or not he should have given Oscar Wilde such a memorable last role is up for debate. Critics’ pick.

SEPTEMBER 17-25: THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. 619-239-5818.

Irish Step Dancing
Dublin Square Irish Pub and Grille presents “San Diego’s answer to the Celtic wave,” an evening of contemporary and traditional Irish dancing, music, and song. Dublin Square Irish Pub and Grille, 504 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, Open-Ended Run; Thursday through Saturday at 9:30 P.M. 619-239-5818.

I Am My Own Wife
Charlotte von Mahlsdorf not only survived the Russian blitzkrieg of Berlin, somehow she also lived through Nazi Germany and the communist occupation. Hounded by the Gestapo, she was often told she shouldn’t exist because “she” was born a “he” in 1928. In Doug Wright’s Pulitzer Prize-winning play, Charlotte gives a guided tour of the Mahlsdorf mansion, a museum specializing in the handcrafted Grun- derzeit style (1870–1900). It’s soon clear that she’s the real museum. Mays also convinces, in his performance as Charlotte: the eerie calm at night, the piercing 1000-yard stare and unflinching, things-as-they-were recollection. Steeped in history, Mays is a living museum. Theatre, UCSD, Through September 18. 619-544-1000.
LATE-NITE CATECHISM
Back by popular demand: Its most interactive theater the audience needs time to warm up, get into the spirit of performance. Vicki Quade and Maripat Donovan’s one-person show, by contrast, takes two seconds, max. Sister, a nun substitute-teaching St. Bruno’s adult catechism class, waltzes in, beams a pleasant smile, then orders latecomers to take their seats NOW! She’s here because it’s Father Murphy’s poker night. And she’s from the pre-Vatican II, don’t-spare-the-rod-school (when she taps a ruler on her palm, half the audience rubs its knuckles from suddenly unreprieved memories). Halting around in heavy black gabardine, a python-sized rosary coiled at her waist, she commands such a presence that eyes avert when she glares at them. And, whether threatening a gum chewer with eternal damnation or delighting in church hoopla (St. Veronica probably had an eating disorder; St. Patrick was actually a Scot), she’s as strict as a drill sergeant and funny as a crack stand-up comic. Late-Nite Catechism, which began in 1993, has become a cult classic. It’s the Ricky Horner Show for anyone who had an old-school, pornish education. And everyone else.

WORTH A TRY
NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, DOBLE LADIES; SISTER HICKMAN DIRECTED. SEPTEMBER 12—OCTOBER 25; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M., FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-437-0600.

MACHETH
Double, double, toil and trouble? No. Something tasteful this way comes. Paul Mullins has directed a safe, formula Macheth, substituting stage pictures for substance. Instead of the Macheth’s irascible frenzy, fed by “slaughterhouse thoughts,” we get choreographed, often mathematically precise visuals. Some do catch the eye (white-faced Weird Sisters in alerce, red, late-medieval chis; Macduff’s spears poking through Balboa Park toward Dunsinane!). But the Sisters arecupcakes. The do-no battles are aesthetic affairs. And the leads are tame. Tom Hammond’s Macbeth a thoughtful, perplexed guy who delivers his lines with slow, sculpted cadences that don’t come near the lion’s roar. As Lady M, Dixiee Lovejoy resorts to deep breathing to convey emotion and plays her scenes as set pieces, apart from other actors (when she deepspeak, Lovejoy makes something for anyone who had an old-school, pornish education. And everyone else.

LAMB’S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 O. ANGELO, CORONADO, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 18; THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M.; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AT 2:30 P.M. 619-437-0600.

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A WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL
By Terrence McNally | Choreographed and Directed by Graciela Daniele
Sep 10 - Oct 23 | Old Globe Theatre

Broadway’s magical moments originally created by theatre legends Jerome Robbins, Leonard Bernstein, Bob Fosse, Gower Champion and Michael Kidd are brought to life in this blockbuster musical event!

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By Terrence McNally | Choreographed and Directed by Graciela Daniele
Sep 10 - Oct 23 | Old Globe Theatre

Broadway’s magical moments originally created by theatre legends Jerome Robbins, Leonard Bernstein, Bob Fosse, Gower Champion and Michael Kidd are brought to life in this blockbuster musical event!

THE LADY WITH ALL THE ANSWERS
By David Rambo
Directed by Tom Moore
Now - Sep 11
Cassius Carter Centre Stage

The Lady with All the Answers is as much a look at ourselves as it is a visit with the wise, funny, no-nonsense woman who helped shape the social and sexual landscapes of the last half-century.

HURRY!
FINAL 6 PERFORMANCES.
MUST CLOSE SUNDAY.

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not always felt intimacy or sharp focus (there’s a lot of upstaging going on). Jeanne Reith’s wonderful costumes — Montague blue and Capulet rust red — are a definite plus. And the must-see performance of Griffin and Bashir tip the scales.

Worth a try.

THE COMEDY INSTITUTE THEATER, 2971 LOS ANGELES DRIVE, SOLANA BEACH, THROUGH OCTOBER 2; THURSDAYS, SATURDAYS AT 8:00 P.M. SATURDAY AT 7:00 P.M. 858-461-0155.

San Diego Theatrepods

A cross between improvisational comedy and Family Feud. Improv, making up a funny scene as you go, is always tough enough. Add competitive scene making, with the audience awarding points to the winning team. Parants might balk at the odiousness of competitions used in this format, but San Diego Theatrepods “game show” is a hoot. The 90-minute evening offers different bits. The show I caught had “Sports!” — two pairs of players competing, taking suggestions from the audience; and “Go- Rilla Theatre,” five directors inventing scenes, using the other four as actors. The winter gets a banana; the loser a “forfeit” (other formats include “McQueen” and “Improv Survivors”). Some attempts went nowhere (I repeat: improv is tough; I did it in my, as hindsight reveals, callow youth). Others made amusing twists and turns. The group makes the bits much more fresh than the missing. Their guru, Keith Johnstone, wrote one of the very best books I’ve ever read about making theater. And they put his pedals to the goads. Their motto: “Remember, when it’s not funny, they’re not listening.”

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Worth a try.


The Lady With All The Answers

Scapino

Scapino Ranch Theater opens its ninth season and Jim Dale’s madcap comedy, based on a face by Moliera. Jim Caputo directs.

SCAPINO RANCH THEATER, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9; THROUGH OCTOBER 8; FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS AT 8:00 P.M.; SUNDAYS AT 7:00 P.M. 619-858-7728.
Kabul Kebabs

Authentic Afghan cuisine is hard to find. For several years, Chopahn restaurant was an overlooked storefront in a huge mall up near UTC. “When we were in the Renaissance Towne Center, people often drove right by us and missed us,” says chef-owner Hauder Hussainy. After a two-year hiatus to find a more attractive location, Chopahn reopened in the Gaslamp — but as of this writing, it doesn’t yet have an overhead sign. At our first visit, we nearly missed it: The setting sun was in our eyes, and a herd of elephantine SUVs was parked in front, obscuring our view. Only when we crossed the street did we espie the patio tables and eye-catching planters filled with flowers.

It was worth the hunt, because good Afghan cooking is a delight — and Chopahn’s is very good, indeed. Hussainy’s rugged, mountainous country borders on India, Iran, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and several lesser-known “stans.” It shares some of the best elements of all these cuisines. If you love kebabs, you’ll be thrilled with Chopahn’s, which features fine, hand-cut meat cooked to order and enriched by a gentle herbal marinade. If you enjoy Indian spices and Persian stews, you’ll find close equivalents.

As you enter, you walk across two handsome Afghan rugs in the vibrant reds and compelling designs of Oriental tribal carpets. The dining room is painted a light mustard, with arches cut into the walls; the banister of a stairway to an upstairs banquet room is sawed in zigzags. Rhythmic Afghan music plays on the sound system — sometimes exotic, sometimes weirdly similar to Appalachian bluegrass jams. (It’s mountain music either way.)

Every appetizer on the menu is worth trying. My favorite (perhaps because it was new to me) was bulance, a thin turnover of airy, fragile dough, filled with an intense purée of leeks, spring onions, herbs, and a touch of hot pepper. (There’s also a ground beef and potato version called bulance kachalhu.) Aushak is probably Afghanistan’s best-known dish, consisting of large, thin-skinned, ravioli-like dumplings with a similar leek filling, topped with garlic-spiked yogurt and a spicy ground-beef sauce. (This is a dish that lovers of Uzbek cuisine will immediately recognize as a close variation of chuckvara, the national dish.) Mantu, from the north of the country (near the Uzbek border), are aushak in reverse — the meat’s in the filling, and the topping is yogurt sauce and vegetables. Both aushak and mantu are also available as entrées.

From the Indian-influenced side of the cuisine, sambosas are essentially double-size samosas, with a ground-beef and pureed chickpea filling spiked with fresh-ground coriander seed. Polakwra resemble swollen Indian pakoras — in rounds the size of English muffins, a puffy fried batter encloses tender eggplant or potatoes and is served piping hot before it has a chance to deflate. The eggplant version was my partner’s favorite appetizer. The toppings are yogurt sauce and a mildly seasoned meat sauce.

Along with your appetizers you’ll receive a flatbread resembling Italian focaccia, baked in a regular oven. (In the homeland, it’s typically made in a tandoor oven.) Adding to the flavors are a ramekin of extra yogurt sauce and another containing coriander “chutney.” Make no mistake, this is not a sweet chutney but the house hot sauce, a purée of cilantro, garlic, and Serrano chiles. I told my partner, “Wow, this tastes like one of those homemade peppa sauces from Trinidad.”

Thinking that I meant the faded bottled sauces we brought back five years ago, he swiped his bread through it and took a big bite. With my mouth full of bulance, I couldn’t yell, “Watch out!” Eyes tearing and ears fuming, he promptly downed half a glass of beer (which, oddly enough, was Pacifico, not Ta) Mahal or Kingfisher — his favorite Indian imports aren’t offered here). The soothing yogurt proved the key to his recovery.

Among the three salads, the modestly named “house salad” is the one that patrons of the UTC Chopahn most savored. It includes romaine, shredded carrots and red cabbage, cucumber, and tomatoes (seriously unripe that night) in a light yogurt-mustard dressing. The flavor is big and bright but weightless.

There are endless variations on kebabs. In Afghani languages, “kebabs” means meat dry-cooked, grilled, or roasted, whole or in chunks. It needn’t be skewered. Many selections are grilled whole — no hole through the center. Chopahn serves seven types of kebabs, four of which highlight different cuts of lamb. (The rest are beef, chicken, and veal.) Given Afghanistan’s geography, I chose ovine over...
bovine — the lamb selections are presumably the most authentic. A steep and chilly nation's cuisines, but in these

There are two desserts. The most lavish entrée is the house-made baklava is less gooey than most, with top and bottom layers of filo sandwiching at least three inches of ground walnuts, all lightly dressed in sugar syrup. The other choice is firni, a creamy rice pudding that I like a lot but was too full to try.

Even if you don’t want to venture into the “deep ethnic” side of the menu, go for the kebabs. No insult to other nations’ cuisines, but in these dishes, Afghanistan is a world leader and Chopahn is a world-beater.

The grill here employs lava rocks, lending the meats a touch of oil (like Chinese fried rice), plus the same grilled vegetables as those served with the chopahns.

Regular lamb kebabs (kebab-e-goushandi), skewed chunks, are made from the well-trimmed leg, same as most Greek and Armenian, Persian, Turkish, etc.) shish kebabs, and they benefit from the same marinade as the chopahns. Sautéed lamb shows up in karai, where it mingles with onion, tomatoes, and green peppers, served over basmati rice. (There’s also a beef version, korma chaloow.) If you prefer long-stewed lamb, the shanks go into a dish called quabili pallaw, rice with carrots and raisins. In addition, there are several stews, with a choice of egg-plant, spinach, or cauliflower as the costarring vegetable. But it’s not an all-mamallan menu of main courses. Although Afghanistan has no seacoast, it has plenty of lakes and rivers laden with trout and other freshwater fish. A form of freshwater salmon is called “red fish” in translation. It’s presented on the menu as mahi (which means simply “fish” and is pronounced like mahi-mahi, minus one mahi). This is farm-raised Atlantic salmon, grilled to order — precisely to our order of “moist.” It’s served on a bed of sabzi, baby-spinach stew, with chopped tomatoes, garlic, and green bell peppers over well-buttered basmati. It’s among the owner’s favorites and one of the waiter’s pick hits, but to me, it’s still just chicken breast.

Vegetable side dishes shouldn’t be missed, even if there are already veggies on the plate. (Served with chaloow, these dishes make up the vegetarian entrees.) The must-try choice is kado, pumpkin cooked meltingly tender in a sweet syrup and topped with yogurt and meat sauce. (Right now, with pumpkin seasonally unavailable, it’s made with nutty butternut squash.) I was delighted as well with gulpi, cauliflower cooked with ginger, tomatoes, and onions. It’s similar to Indian cuisine, but the flavors are distinct, rather than a currylike blend. You can appreciate the individual ingredients.

The wine list is appropriate and generally affordable, dominated by California bottlings but with some French and Italian choices. Mr. Hussain says Chardonnay with the appetizers and Pinot Noir with lamb dishes. I do wish there were more choices by the glass — but that’s a constant criticism.

He was already engaged in cooking. “When I was little, I watched my mom. I loved to cook, and I learned that way. I’ve cooked for all my life, since I was about 12 or 15. Now I remember how my mom cooked things, and I put them on the menu. That’s why I got into the restaurant business.”

As a student, Hussain supported himself by working nights as a waiter at the Hyatt — a gig that ended up lasting nearly a year, with increasing responsibilities. “When I finished my schooling,” he says, “I told my wife, ‘I’ve finished my degree but I’m not going to work in business, I’m going to open my own restaurant.’” Both he and his wife, a corporate manager, saved up their money to fulfill the dream. That was the first incarnation of Chopahn, opened in 1998 in the Renaissance Towne Center mall at UTC. “After about four years I sold that restaurant and spent two years tending to my family and looking for a better area to reopen in,” he says. “I wanted to find some nice location in the Gaslamp area. I found this place, and it took me one year to rebuild it, with all the permits and engineering.”

His cooking is remarkably wholesome, with everything made from scratch. “It’s healthy food,” he says. “I want to serve everything fresh.” He makes the yogurt sauces with a blend of whole-milk low- and full-fat yogurts to get the right consistency. “I don’t want to make it too heavy, I want a balance. Once in a while I make yogurt from scratch, but it takes too much of my time.” Although he uses standard restaurant supplies, he buys only never-frozen meat and poultry (in fact, the restaurant has no freezer). He cuts the meat himself, trimming off all visible fat. For the vegetables, “I shop all around, looking for the freshest vegetables. When the wholesaler sends me vegetables, I look at them over, and if they’re not fresh I send them back. If I see something nice at the farmer’s market, I buy that.”

I asked him what Afghan cuisine has in common with neighboring India and what differs between them. “Afghan cooking shares the same spices with Indian and Pakistani cooking, as well as the juniper-spice that Persian people use. The difference is that Indian food uses a lot of spices all at once — the Persian has no freezer). He cooks the meat himself, trimming off all visible fat. For the vegetables, “I shop all around, looking for the freshest vegetables. When the wholesaler sends me vegetables, I look at them over, and if they’re not fresh I send them back. If I see something nice at the farmer’s market, I buy that.”

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“Sublimely fresh.”  
— Naomi Wise, San Diego Reader 2002

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Glam Sisters

“We realized this was not our soup. It was the customers’. They’re very possessive.”

All right! Got wheels. Our neighbors Bill and Linda have gone on vacation to Virginia. Left me their cats and their car to look after. This should give Carla a kick when she gets out of rehab about a week from now.

So this morning I drop them off at the airport and start looking for a breakfast joint. End up on Cañon in Point Loma. Just before Scott Street I notice this yellow hole-in-the-wall with a cluster of people buzzing around the entrance.

Hmm. My kind of place, looks like. I park. They have some yellow stools and seats out on the sidewalk and a tiny space inside filled with folks chatting, sucking smoothies, chowing into bagels, sandwiches, fruits, croissants. But most of all, talking.

“Did you know Point Loma used to be an island?” a guy says. He’s eating a big pile of fruit. “Then the San Diego River brought silt down and joined it up with the mainland.”

Huh.

I go up to the counter. Purple, with a green top. It’s curved and has an oval porthole in it ... at knee level. It makes you think of ... a hull. A boat hull! Somebody’s put some crazy imagination into this shoebox. Whole place is decked out like a yacht! Somebody’s put some crazy imagination on Cañon in Point Loma. Just be- 

Then — saved! You can get eggs, ham, cheese, and tomato on a bagel, bread, or croissant ($5.00). I go for that. Bagel, please.

It comes freshly toasted, packed with scrambled eggs, and gets more interesting when Cindi brings the bottle of Sriracha hot chili sauce. Now we’re talking.

And yacking. And telling yarns. Place this size, it’s hard not to. Turns out this guy Jim, who’s standing glooping coffee and munching a banana next to me, designs yachts. Like, mega-yachts. Like, the Spanish entry to the next America’s Cup. Lee, the gal waiting for her “Very Berry” smoothie (apple, blueberries, blackberries, nonfat yogurt, $3.75), has just sailed around the entire world in a 36-foot boat with her husband and her daugh- ter Kate, who’s 12. She was five when they started out. Carl, who’s 18, says he’s just in from help- ing sail a 50-footer back from Hawaii. Robert Mulligan — Bob — old guy in a wheelchair, is a vet of World War II. Corsair pilot. Wow. Those were the fighter planes with bent seagull wings and huge props. Then this guy Denny hauls up out side on a scarlet chopper. Fat back wheel, lo-o-ong front forks. “Iron Horse,” he says. He orders a tuna salad. Kelly insists on getting a Polaroard of her and Denny sitting on the chopper.

That’s what we discovered when we decided to try and take over this place, four months ago,” says Kelly. “We realized this was not our shop. It was the customers’. They’re very possessive. You’ve got to recognize this is a very small community, or it’s game over.”

But, everyone says, no way is the game over here. They love the sisters. Turns out the two of them arrived in Seattle as babies from Saigon when their parents escaped in 1975. Cindi says they can make, say, those raw Vietnamese spring rolls, if you ask. Even the cook’s interesting. He comes down from his perch at the back. Grabs a coffee. Says his name is Balarama. He’s Anglo. “It’s from the Bhughurah Gita. Indian,” he says, “My parents were hippies. They traveled a lot.”

I’m so busy talking, hardly remember to get through my breakfast eggs. Then Cindi comes over with a plate of fruit chunks. She forks one and holds it up for me. Mmm. Grab it with my teeth. Cantaloupe with a hot-pepper dusting. She makes me another. Perfect mouth freshener. “I’ve just got one question,” I say. “What’s with the bags of water?”


Can’t say I blame them. I could easily become a barley here myself.
Monster Lover

“The wet laboratory of your mouth is not always the same.”

“His is such an American story,” says Elin McCoy, author of The Emperor of Wine: The Rise of Robert M. Parker, Jr. and the Reign of American Taste, about her subject. “The guy who comes out of nowhere and follows his passion, who takes on the establishment and succeeds beyond his wildest dreams. The whole concept of going out there and rating all these products, the 100-point system. It’s the Horatio Alger story. You don’t find it in France; you don’t find it in England.”

Horatio Alger? I might have gone with Charles Foster Kane. Remember that moment in Citizen Kane when Kane gets his old-school Principle of Statements in the mail from his best friend J. D. to whom he’s just fired for being honest? He shreds the paper, and when someone asks him what you would do if you were just shredded, he snarls, “An antique.” The circumstances were complicated, but one thing was clear: somewhere along the way from idealistic golden boy to Master of the Universe, something went wrong. It was the “Hedonistic” monsters loaded with gobs of jammy fruit. Called “overbearing” in his youth — the “hedonistic” monsters loaded with gobs of jammy fruit. And if that was a whim, I got a regular snotful in this devastating paragraph from McCoy’s closing. “So much of what Parker says he stands for is so much of what Parker says he stands for in this devastating paragraph from McCoy’s closings.”

Marc Lynch was his comrade in the crusade branded on the cork. In the first phase of his career, he was a consumer advocate. In the second phase, he sort of consolidated his power and extended his reach. He’s in the third phase now. He’s a brand, a business. He’s got a lot of power, but he has to keep defending it.

Parker is on a plateau now,” continues McCoy. “When Parker arrived at the chateau, however, he was bitten on the leg by a miniature schnauzer, who watched “impassively.” Then Hébrard said he wouldn’t let Parker retaste. Then he changed his mind. Parker tasted, and subsequently changed his assessment, eventually rating the wine 90 points in his book, Bordeaux. It would have been much easier to simply stick to his unchanging opinion. (The story illistrates one of Parker’s virtues, but McCoy notes that it also undermines his chief symbol of the elite expert pronouncing on unobtainable wines. Though he insisted he valued individual taste, the would-be consumer advocate became the supreme judge.” It goes on like that. “When you see all of these goals and dreams that Parker had,” says McCoy, “what he thought he was doing in the beginning — there are some things about that that are very admirable in many ways.” He strove for objectivity, for freedom from conflicts of interest — the called wine like he saw it. The famous Hébrard story is a case in point. After slamming the ’81 Cheval Blanc, Parker agreed to come and retaste the wine. Upon Parker’s arrival at the chateau, however, he was sitting on the lawn by a miniature schnauzer, who barked and would not let go. Jacques Hébrard, Chateau Cheval Blanc’s manager, stood by and watched “impassively.” Then Hébrard said he wouldn’t let Parker retaste. Then he changed his mind. Parker tasted, and subsequently changed his assessment, eventually rating the wine 90 points in his book, Bordeaux. It would have been much easier to simply stick to his unchanging opinion. (The story illustrates one of Parker’s virtues, but McCoy notes that it also undermines his chief claim to fame: that of the infallible palate. “I have this great quote that I really love from Louis Martin, the wet laboratory of your mouth is not always the same.” Even Parker is not something that you pour wine into and a little digital read-out comes out. He sometimes revises his scores. But from what I’ve discovered, that first score, for the most part, sticks with the wine like it was branded on the cork.”

Though his heart remained with France, he championed new regions (Australia, anyone?) and new merchants — what a pleasant surprise to read that Parker aided the rise of importer Kermit Lynch and was his comrade in the crusade against filtration. Graciously, Lynch tells McCoy that Parker “legitimized me…He gave me a national presence.”

These virtues, says McCoy, are why “how it all played out is sad. It’s sad when you start out with these goals and ambitions to create what you think is a good thing, and it ends up having an effect that you probably don’t even want to look at, because it’s the opposite of what your intention was. The thing that was really sad to me, and really surprising, was how many people I met and talked to who were not willing to rely on their own taste. They became convinced that if they liked something and Parker didn’t, then there was something wrong with their own palate. It’s hard to imagine Parker longing for such a legacy.”

And legacy is something Parker might well be looking toward. He is pushing 60 now, an elder statesman. “In the first phase of his career, he was a consumer advocate. In the second phase, he sort of consolidated his power and extended his reach. He’s in the third phase now. He’s a brand, a business. He’s got a lot of power, but he has to keep defending it.”

“This is the plateau now,” continues McCoy, “How long he can stay there is an interesting question. This book was about Parker and not Coy. ‘How long he can stay there is an interesting question. This book was about Parker and not Coy. You think about her subject. It’s the Horatio Alger story of the Reign of American Taste, an American story,” says Elin Coy. “How long he can stay there is an interesting question. This book was about Parker and not Coy.”

And status is one of the keys to his power. McCoy writes of dinners “for which the price of admission was bringing a 90-, 98-, or some times even a 100-Parker-point wine.” The boom of the late ’90s was “the era of ‘1000-point dinners’ — meals featuring ten 100-point wines.” She also says that “if you want to invest, you should be paying serious attention to what Parker says. That’s the index. That’s the basis for what it’s always the same.”
Mc Coy continues, "You see the Internet as a powerful tool. This is not news to Parker, who, she writes, "convincs it is the medium of the future for information and influence." McCoy reports that when Parker moved Mark Squires' wine bulletin board onto eRobertParker.com in 2002, he "was assured that [the site] would attract some of the most knowledgeable and vocal wine geeks on the Internet." And, winey, Parker himself joined the fray more and more often, as according to McCoy, "He found the bulletin board useful in cor-
ting the record and sharing his 'random thoughts' on wine, and liked having the opportunity to show his readers that he was a down-to-earth, regular guy."

But a bulletin board really is a democracy. Everyone gets an equal voice, and that may not be good for the Emperor, even if the board is contained on his website. Wonders McCoy, "How much will joining a bulletin board and being able to say, 'Hey, I tasted this; what do you guys think of it?" dilute his power? It's hard to know. The situation is changing."
Oceanside 101 Café’s (1928), it has become a genuine part of Encinitas life—lines on the weekends will tell you that. Open breakfast and lunch, closed Tuesdays. Inexpensive. — E.R. (2206)

When in Rome 1108 South Coast Highway 101 (at Encinitas Boulevard), Encinitas, 760-944-1771. This elegant restaurant offers three dining areas and a menu with outstanding appetizers and pasta dishes. There are many unusual preparations. Gorgeous presentation, warm, friendly service. A winner. Dressy-casual, Open for dinner nightly. Expensive. — E.W.

NORTH INLAND

Bamboo Hut Black Mountain Village 9172 Mesa Mesa Boulevard (one drive- way west of Black Mountain Road), Mesa Mesa, 858-348-0414. You’ll find a taste of Hawaii in a strip mall in a neighborhood that’s all-salt. The bright little “but has bamboo dancers, a bamboo cell- ing, bare floors, and unlabeled clothes, with a sushi counter next to a tiny kitchen with a warming gas grill. A large lattice above the outdoor seating a few steps from the door. The quality of the food is all over the map, though—this is not the place to try your first Spam sushi. The salads are good, though, including a fine Romaine Roll with really sweet, and the more creative rolls run to cream cheese and salmon. The “classic” rolls feature things like avocado and mildly garlic-flavored rice, macaroni salad, and green salad with bright orange dressing a la French. Be sure they deliver what you ordered; there may be slips. Open seven days, lunch and dinner. Very inexpensive. — N.W. (803).

Chinese Garden 6580 S. Escondido Boulevard (frontage road along Centre City Parkway), Escondido, 760-489-6013. In the quiet little “mountain row” just north of Lake Hodges, this cute, friendly café serves classic American diner food, including all-day breakfast. The chicken-fried steak is exemplary, with a crusty, buttery crust and a smooth, creamy cream gravy. Several cuts of USDA Choice steaks are offered at rock-bottom prices, and early bird dinners and daily specials offer amazing bargains. You can eat inside, in a coffee-shop ambience, or choose the daytime, daily, dinner. Meals huge portions. Low prices. — M.C.

Chiu-Ahn Vietnamese Cuisine 16769 Remando Center Drive, Suite 10 (Ranch Bernardo Discount Center, Rancho Bernardo, 858-485-1243). This very pretty restaurant in an attractive Asian-themed mall is home to a South Vietnamese specialty rarely found in the North Island area. Not all dishes on the lengthy menu are equally successful, though. Among the best are the “royal级” shrimp, with black rice and a sauce that’s a mixture of sauteed garlic and server’s red pepper, and the pineapple-sweetened “sang and sour” soups, the tender cornish hen with Five Spices seasoning and the catfish pot with herbs. The crepes are a good bet, too. In salads and stir-fried dishes, though, the kitchen may overlook red meats until tough, and sauces can be heavy with cornstarch. Incidentally, don’t look for pdf on the dinner menu—it’s served at lunch only. Numerous vegetarian choices. Dinner Tues- day through Friday, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W. (903).

Hacienda de Vega 2006 S. Escondido Boulevard (frontage road along Centre City Parkway), Escondido, 760-738-8909. This is a Mexican restaurant with a difference—no tortillas. The dining is a gorgeous restored Old Californi- nia-style hacienda set on two acres, including a verdant courtyard (complete with fountain) for fair-weather dining. The menu is also a leap upward from standard fare. Sefora Vega offers authen- tic Mexican cuisine cooked in the sophisticated manner of Mexico City- hometown — not border-food com- promises. You’ll find an array of fresh and interesting appetizers along with a wide choice of entrées featuring complex, delicious sauces. Each dish is seasoned to the optimum for its specific flavor, whether it’s the brandy and morel of the fish, or the heat and fire of the beef. The Sunday all-you-can-eat buffet is fantastic, with such a variety of items brought to your table, with refills as desired. Three vegetarian entrées and a whole menu available; casual atmos- phere. Full bar specializing in margar- itas, of course. (Lunch or brunch) and dinner. — N.W. (903)

Omami Japanese Restaurant 240 East Via Rancho Parkway, Suite 820, San Diego, 760-738-7532. This Japanese buffet offers everything from miso soup and sukiyaki to hot water, ads, including several variations of soy sauce. There are teriyaki, sashimi, and a platters of sushi. The cook makes a fine California Roll with mussels, tempura shrimp roll, guacamole roll, and Philadelphia roll. Skip the dry egg rolls and head for the corn crab cakes, teriyaki chicken, tempura shrimp, and veggie. Desserts offer fresh fruits, bite-size cake options, and go-back-for-seconds green tea ice cream. The food is fresh, the pre- sentation artful, and the staff friendly and efficient. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Expensive. — S.M. (804).

San Diego Artisan Bakers 1551 S. Escondido Boulevard (at 16th), Escon- dido, 760-784-5966. This European-style bakery specializes in handcrafted, slow-baked bread made from nat- ural ingredients including certified orga- nic, handmade white bread that’s-store- bought at the oven. Recipes are from Italy, France, Germany, and the U.S. These loaves have textures and depths of flavor you’ll find only in the smallest bakery breads. And for a breakfast or snack, there’s nothing better than settling on the front porch with a cup of espresso and one of the moist and chewy scones. Open Monday through Saturday, morn- ing to late afternoon. Inexpensive. — N.W. (903).

Wine Sellar and Brasserie 9550 Waples Street #115, Mesa, 858-850-8037. This is the sister restaur- ant to Laude, and the food is a delight to the palate. Lunch on Saturday served by itself. Inexpensive. Call for directions and specific hours. — E.W.

GOLD COAST

Alton’s Deli Flowers Hill Mall, 2600 Via de la Valle, Del Mar, 858-722-9175. The food here is very expensive, and the name is a misnomer. It started out as a non-Kosher (jewdel), but has come to embrace diner food, pub grub, and Italian and Mexican favorites, along with a full cast of Ashkenazi nucleons. Sit down and stuff yourself with Mediterranean food. The crêpes are a good bet, with a sushi counter next to a tiny kitchen with a warming gas grill. A large lattice above the outdoor seating a few steps from the door. The quality of the food is all over the map, though—this is not the place to try your first Spam sushi. The salads are good, though, including a fine Romaine Roll with really sweet, and the more creative rolls run to cream cheese and salmon. The “classic” rolls feature things like avocado and mildly garlic-flavored rice, macaroni salad, and green salad with bright orange dressing a la French. Be sure they deliver what you ordered; there may be slips. Open seven days, lunch and dinner. Very inexpensive. — N.W. (803).

Chinese Garden 6580 S. Escondido Boulevard (frontage road along Centre City Parkway), Escondido, 760-489-6013. In the quiet little “mountain row” just north of Lake Hodges, this cute, friendly café serves classic American diner food, including all-day breakfast. The chicken-fried steak is exemplary, with a crusty, buttery crust and a smooth, creamy cream gravy. Several cuts of USDA Choice steaks are offered at rock-bottom prices, and early bird dinners and daily specials offer amazing bargains. You can eat inside, in a coffee-shop ambience, or choose the daytime, daily, dinner. Meals huge portions. Low prices. — M.C.

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LA JOLLA

AzuL La Jolla | 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-451-9646. Chardy name, but scarce Euro-bistro find with outside tables under trees. This is your escape to “Pac-Man” anytime you can afford La Jolla. Actually, they keep the price of wine down by offering two “plain and simple” steamed eggs with fresh fruit and toast, or the “Pepoy” omelet, with spinach, Parmesan cheese, prosciutto ham, and diced tomato, fruit, and toast — down to a small ear. Course, everybody in this neck of the woods is trying to eat so, expect lots of fruit plates and healthy lunch sandwiches like roasted eggplant with zucchini, bell peppers, tomatoes, and mozzarella. Inexpensive to moderate; dinners a little more expensive. E.B. (8/03)

Great Khan’s Mongolian BBQ | 6451 La Jolla Village Drive (University Town Center), 858-678-0899. This is a chain that stretches almost as far as the Mongolian Empire, but that’s because the idea is good. One meal, plenty of it, and guaranteed fresh because it’s either frozen (cured shavings of beef, chicken, turkey, pork) or raw (veggies including cabbage, celery, broccoli, cucumber, grape peppers, carrots, mushrooms, pineapple, water chestnuts). Stuff as much as you can into your bowl and hand it to the chef to boom on the huge platter and add modes. Bonus: Unique view of skaters or an ice hockey match while you eat. Open breakfast through dinner weekdays, earlier closing weekends. Inexpensive. E.B. (1/04)

Tapenade | 7612 Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-551-3750. This is not only one of the finest restaurants in the county but in the country. Featuring pungent Provençal flavors, famed chef-owner Jean-Stéphane Dubois offers superb seasonal ingredients treated with the consummate ease of a master chef. Among the special dishes here are an sophistication swipe, topped with truffle, luscious free-range veal, and top-quality seafood, with garnishes that display an impressive balance of venturesome creativity and rigorous technique. Desserts are worth the calories, matching the style and flair of the earlier courses. And you don’t even have to dress to the nines for your first-class dinner — the setting will do in the easy bistro atmosphere. Serving lunch (including a moderate two-course prix fixe) and dinner daily, including bargains: Three-course prix fixe “summit dinners” weekdays. Otherwise, expensive to very expensive, and worth it. N.W. (8/03)

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Sides

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Watch the chef prepare it
right before your eyes!

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Feeling adventurous? Go for the goat meat pot or Korean steak tartar (yakitori). This is unusual, elemental, hearty-citified food. — M.N. (1/29/09)

Tropical Star 6163 Balboa Avenue, Chula Vista, 858-874-8727. A modest self-serve and order at chef-owner and Asian-American food and socioeconomic. Very model of surroundings, good authentic inexpensive food. Same menu all day Monday through Saturday, Sunday. — E.M. (8/09)

THE BEACHES

The Australian Pub 2014 Grand Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-723-9912. A great place to take your kids after a morning at the beach. This relaxing pub, owned by a Scotsman who hails from Ausie, offers heaps of good Aussie food. Try the Road Kill (grilled chicken breast with pico de gallo sauce and cheese “run over” between 2 pieces of sourdough) or the Aussie Burger (12 oz. pound patty, with a fried egg, cheese, bacon, grilled onions, buns, pickles, and a side of steak fries). For an “outback experience,” order Vegemite (a furry kind of paste) and four slices of bread — it’s the Aussie national food, mate. Open Monday through Saturdays, lunch and dinner until midnight; weekend breakfasts through dinner until 2 a.m. — E.B. (1/01)

Breakol Yolk Cafe 1851 Garnet Avenue, San Diego, 858-497-4983. Breakfasting PBers love this place. 24 hours a day; weekends breakfast through dinner until 2 a.m. — E.B. (10/01)

Seoul B.B.Q. 6070 El Camino Real, Encinitas, 760-435-1505. This restaurant inside Sweden’s N.W. (11/03)

 mexican food’s more sensible than exciting, of course. But healthy — beef and pork for the meatballs are guaranteed hormone-free. You eat the meatballs with Swedish lingonberry (not cranberry) sauce. Fish is the shrimp open-faced sandwich, the salmon plate with potatoes and broccoli, and the Granad Lox Plate (cured salmon), are always on. And if you want to be desperately healthy, chore on their fresh vegetable pot (raw carrot salad, beets, cumin seed, gherkin, beans, and muesli). — A.M. (8/02)

Seoul B.B.Q. 6070 El Camino Real, Encinitas, 760-435-1505. This restaurant inside Sweden’s N.W. (11/03)

fishy lunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive. — M.N. (8/03)

Saska’s 760 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach, 858-472-2211. Netherland-style steak-and-egg joints that trend harder, from the forth-homemade to the pot-roasted palsy-dodo, and serve it with some venison or chili sauce. The house brat is quite a complimentary local sausage. — A.M. (8/02)

Gringo’s 6474 Mission Boulevard (at Garnet Avenue), Pacific Beach, 858-491-2677. You’ll enjoy the food if you’re going from this name, the ambitious turn-off of the local Moozwood gang serves the sort of Mexican cuisine you might find at a sectoral resto in Cabo or Puerto Vallarta. Skilfully crafted with good, fresh ingredients, just a bit bomb-doodled in the flavors. The chile verde, says, is beautifully seasoned if barely piquant, and the succulent car-neous horroros white big shrimp cooked just till done and not a moment more. Given the serene location at the hub of PB’s PB, the food is actually better than it needs to be. A vast list of tequilas, interesting margaritas, and a subtle, strong, barely enhanced with a champagne beurre blanc sauce and topped with a truffle-ginger sauce, you’ll be satisfied for disgustingly healthy dishes like Judy’s oval plate along with skins-on breakfast sausage, ham, bell peppers, onions, and eggs). Our favorite: the avocado, cream cheese, and chives omelet. Vegans’ fare may be the “veggie” omelet switched to mushroom, onions, stainless steel, rice, tofu, and toasted Garlic. Her sauce makes pretty much everything on the spot, including muffins, waffles, and pancakes. While you’re waiting, they all say, “how’s this out here” until covered, with plates full of pictures and horn that says “Will you have for Food.” Breakfast menu only; close at 2 p.m. — E.R. (8/02)

Chicken Pie Shop of San Diego 2633 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park, 619-295-4556. How much do people love this place? Count the chickens lining the walls — ceramic, wood, beaded, painted, even feathered. Hundreds. They’re gifts from generations of customers. Now, as in the days it started up, the basic chicken pie comes flat, with big chunks of dark and light chicken, doused with white gravy and accompanied by mashed potatoes, celery, and peas, a roll, and some round little licentious pineapple pie — all for under a roll. The menu also offers fried chicken, burgers and beans, but 90 percent of customers still order that same old chicken pie. Seven days a week. — E.B. (11/01)

Kensington Grill 4055 Adams Avenue, Kensington, 619-281-4041. This is a happening place that started up during the daytime, does dinner into the night; weekends breakfast through dinner until midday; weekend breakfasts through dinner until 2 a.m. — E.B. (10/01)

Red Sea Restaurant 417 University Avenue (at Euclid), City Heights, 858-482-9772. You’ll find richly sea-soned fish and a full bar. Open daily, dinner only. — M.N. (8/03)

Agave 2117 University Avenue (at Euclid), City Heights, 858-482-9772. You’ll find richly sea-soned fish and a full bar. Open daily, dinner only. — M.N. (8/03)

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All dishes made to your taste — spicy hot, mild or wild!!

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SUSHI BAR

Sushi bar open nightly, 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Moderate. — A.M.O. (8/02)

Umami Sushi 2806 Shelter Island Drive (in Soltera, off Scott), Point Loma, 619-226-1135. An instant neighborhood success, this large, cheerful sushi and dinner house also offers Japanese and Korean entries, including tareyosansyoki (cooked in the kitchen, not at table). Korean rib, and excellent beef teriyaki of gently grilled prime beef. Soy sauce includes lemon-maoli shells, fresh garlic, and a “Crazy Boy” miso spicy enough to dribble your teeth. The restaurant is a classic place with the presence of imitation crabmeat. Free parking lot (for 16 cars). Special kids menu available. Lunch and dinner daily. Sushi prices lower than most; entries in expense to moderate. — S.W. (4/04)

Sushi & Grille 3676 Indian Street — E.B. (9/04)

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Available online. — M.N. (9/04)

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cameras more subtle, food-friendly Chilean bottlings add

to the draw for a lively young crowd that

Catering available. — S.M. (9/04)

San Diego Reader’s Best of 2001, San Diego Union-Tribune

Our authentic dinner entrées include:
Vegetarian • Chicken • Lamb
Seafood • Basmati Rice
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All dishes made to your taste — spicy hot, mild or wild!!

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nearly as exciting as several of the spec-
cialties. The Ajob (spicy beef tartare) is
very good, the good-green-meat-cubes
in spicy butter) is excellent, both are
cooked (or not cooked) to your order, and
seasoned to your specifications (if you
say “hot,” expect fire). Vegetables are
two, the yellow split-pea, espes-
sically, sung with flavor. Rest rooms
not wheelchair-accessible. Vegetarian-
friendly. Can be noisy on weekend
evenings. Open daily. Very inexpensive.
—N.W. (1/90)

EAST COUNTY & COLLEGE AREA

Geno’s West Coast Style Barbe-
cue 291 West Main Street, El Cajon. 619-444-3687. Geno’s a real guy, refugee from corporate America who turned this old Taco Bell joint into a surf-
ning-themed BBQ place. He’s a surfer but he’s serious. He has won lots of prizes for his BBQ sauce, using a chili pepper he
says nobody else has. There are these
strengths “bound-up” (mild), “Cuddy-
up” (spicy), or “Stampede” (hot). Try
5, pulled pork and slaw, or 9, shred-
ded beef, melted jack, and sautéed
onions. Side dishes vary: corn and
bread are good, but if you’re light of
pocket for the “Ripcurl” hot dog, the
best deal on the menu. Open for lunch
and early dinner; six days closed, Sun-
day Inexpensive. —E.B. (1/94)

Sham Rock Shack Bar & Grill 7099 El Cajon Boulevard (at 70th Street), La Mesa, 619-463-2265. It has the feel of a
pub: nice solid-wood furniture, pool
tables, dart boards, big open kitchen in
back. Of all, people know each other.
For the food—yes, there’s a little
bit of Ireland, like the corned beef
sandwich, but mostly it’s all-America
can-pre-hospital-cream-chilled.
Dinner egg omelets with home fries,
Philly cheese steaks, spaghetti and
garlic bread, fried fish, adobo papaya,
spicy peppers, and eggs, and of course fish
and chips. Presentation’s old-fashioned,
too—like a dinner menu with a
steady cutlery, as long as you agree to
“please don’t steal the forks.” But Irish?

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We Deliver!
strong olives, and rosemary-flavored sauce. Entree like grilled chicken and mushroom in parmesan cream with penne pasta is safe enough to order, but try to find it in filet mignon with black pepper zin- nadine sauce. But for their sherbet, check out the tuna salad sandwich wrapped in lavash with three vertical strata of grain bread tubes, angled to dissect interior of tuna and greenery. Eat on the rock and salt-buttered pate. If you can. Breakfast, lunch, dinner. Moderate to expensive. — E.B. (2003)

Spío’s Gyros Ferry Landing, 1201 First Street #4, Corona del Mar, 410-433-1223. The food, music, the view — aren’t we outside Austin? Is this the场均 outside Greek cafe is located at the water’s edge, and the heated patio has a spectacular view of San Diego, the bay, and the boat traffic. At night, sip- ping their excellent Greek wine (chaperoned by their California), watch the city ablaze in gold. The prices keep Spio’s popular with the locals as well as tourists. Try the moussaka (eggplant, potatoes, and beef) or the souvlakia chicken, mar- inated in tzatziki, served with tomatoes, onions, and pita bread. Open seven days until 8 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B. (2004)

Tango Grille Argentine Steak
635 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-420-0384. Play interiors of tuna and greenery. Eat on the water’s edge, and the heated patio is open seven days until 8 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B. (2004)

Mention the name of 21 Tides, Imperial Beach, 619-423-1976. The last true beach pub on the coast! It’s a great place for bikers, 2111 Top boards, shaved heads, Navy vets, Art America, surfers, and surfers, and sometimes from Hollywood seems to turn up. Food’s pretty much always available, but the patio area is such a popular weekend brunch. You get a 4-8 or 8-ounce steak (your choice, or substitute six sausages or ham or pork Link), plus a Hong- kong-style (or any) steak, home fries, and a pick-me-up drink (like a Bloody Mary, Screwdriver, Saby Dog, Bud, or Coke). From 10 a.m. standard coffee shop breakfast price. No wonder the place has stayed open since 1986. Inexpensive. — E.B. (1990)

Gone are the days of the wooden ceiling with gas lamps, hanging flowers, and a fountain. Oh, and if you’re not all-Israelic and Green such as the lounge Mr. Fish or thunder- rous with the signature plate, b’llou. You’re reminded of something (could it be fish?). Open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days. Moderate. — E.B. (2004)

Mr. Fish Blvd. Agua Caliente 8600, Tijuana, 866-368. Also at City Hall, Plaza Municipal (at Paseo del Centenario and Avenida Juarez Ortiz de Ruis), San Diego, 619-486-826-8602. The sign is changing its age and the concept (exotic middle-class restaur-
In addition to the fall season, we are now entering the year’s second season (after Feb.-Mar.) of local film festivals, or to state it more carefully, of local film-related events that call themselves festivals. In chronological order — and I hope I haven’t omitted one — they deploy themselves as follows.

The Imperial Beach International Film Festival, September 9 and 10 at the Old Palm Theater (Friday) and Dempsey Holder Hall (Saturday), wherever those may be, plus a free outdoor screening of *The Princess Bride* at the Imperial Beach Pier Plaza (Saturday night at 8:00). “Now in its third year,” I am quoting from the press release, “the IBIFF hosts a range of activities, including screening of superb short films, workshops with film industry professionals, an art-walk, and art auction.” The film industry professional cited by name is an Andrea Richards, who “will talk about her book *Girl Director*, present a few girl-made movies, and discuss girl- and woman-made movies today.” Website: www.ibfilmfestival.com.

The Found Footage Festival, September 21, one program only at 7:30, Hillcrest Cinemas. “An hour’s worth of footage from videos that were found at garage sales and thrift stores and in warehouses and Dumpsters throughout the country,” accompanied by live commentary from co-curators Joe Pickett and Nick Prueher, currently on their first West Coast tour, “having played to sold-out crowds in New York, Boston, Minneapolis, Austin, and Chicago.” Website: www.foundfootagefestival.com.

The San Diego Film Festival, or as it seems to be calling itself this year, the San Diego Film and Screenwriting Festival, September 21 through 25, Gaslamp 15 Theatres. True to form, I have so far received no announcements from this festival, but as my annual exercise in magnanimity, I mention it anyway. The full schedule of films, tilted as in the past three years towards American independents (and at least one subtitled film, *Innocent Voices*, shown last spring in the San Diego Latino Film Festival), is available online at www.sdff.org. There will also be, and hence the longer new name, a screenwriting conference and screenwriting contest.

The San Diego Asian Film Festival, September 29 through October 6, Hazard Center. The sixth annual event, over twice the length of the fifth, promises “more than 130 short and feature films from the U.S., Canada, Thailand, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Taiwan, and the Philippines,” with a special emphasis this year on female directors, or if you prefer (after the Imperial Beach festival), girl directors. I see none of the bigger Asian names on the roster of filmmakers (by which I chiefly mean, still no sign of the last, never mind the very latest, Hou Hsiao-hsien film), but this is a festival I always look forward to and make an effort to attend. Website: www.sdaff.org.

The San Diego International Children’s Film Festival, October 21 through 30, Museum of Photographic Arts. The second such event — not the second annual but the second of 2005 —

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**A Leaf Turns**

The cheesiness of the special effects could almost stir up nostalgia for the days when science fiction tended to be grade-Z.

The Found Footage Festival, September 21, one program only at 7:30, Hillcrest Cinemas. “An hour’s worth of footage from videos that were found at garage sales and thrift stores and in warehouses and Dumpsters throughout the country,” accompanied by live commentary from co-curators Joe Pickett and Nick Prueher, currently on their first West Coast tour, “having played to sold-out crowds in New York, Boston, Minneapolis, Austin, and Chicago.” Website: www.foundfootagefestival.com.

**REVIEW**

**DUNCAN SHEPHERD**

The cheesiness of the special effects could almost stir up nostalgia for the days when science fiction tended to be grade-Z.
The Aristocrats — Paul Provenza’s talk-
ing knock film rounds up a herd of well-
known and less known comedians to tell
and to analyze an old gray blue joke, the
punch line of which is the film’s title. (Al-
ternate and not-as-good punch lines: the
Sophistsiates, the Debaines.) The joke
seems to be something of a private joke
among comedians, seldom told in public
out of common decency. It has an unusu-
able structure, a solo beginning and end,
and a lot of room in the middle for ex-
tended jazzy improvisation, often on
motifs of incest, bestiality, bodily waste.

**MOVIE LISTINGS**

**ALL REVIEWS ARE BY DUNNIE SHEPHERD.**

**Priorities are indicated by one to five stars**

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**San Diego Reader, September 9, 2003**
The set form the audience reasonably to gauge who goes "too far," which turns out to be a less question of than a question of comprehension, a question of intelligence. Howie Mandel and Bob Saget step up as the top competitors for the worst — most uncomprehending, least intelligent — rendition with, Saget getting the edge by laughing repeatedly at his own id- ocy. George Carlin makes the least glibly contribu- tions as an analyst. And Kevin Pollak earns perhaps the biggest laughs, or anyway the most guiltless laughs, with a totally irreverent impression of Christopher Walken. Other jokes, not all of them blue, are of them variations on or inversions of some of the central joke, get told as well. The central one, as much as it’s a dirty joke, is also a pun joke, a quip joke, smelling of the dusty trunk of vaudeville, dulled a bit by the liberated ethos of Leroy Bruce. Taboo topics are in short supply. Yet — in what appears to have been the inspiration for the film — the joke got revived and revitalized in the '90s, when Gilbert Gottfried chose to tell it for a tele- vised Friars Club roast of Hugh Hefner, having already made a case of it a few years earlier. The show got decent reviews. The combination, with other implications, is no jokey villain this time (notwith- standing the ease of Spider-Man if not Superman.). Batman begins his guilt over his parents’ murder; in short, is not noticeably a step up, nor is it a significant step removed from the Asylum documentary in the most fundamental sense. It nonetheless meets the mandate of a docu- mentary in ninety minutes, ghastly to look at, the film at hand, stretched out at a few ticks under an hour and a half. Can an air of seriousness feasi- ble contributions as an analyst. And Kevin Pollak earns perhaps the biggest laughs, or anyway the most guiltless laughs, with a to- tally irrelevant impression of Christopher Walken. Other jokes, not all of them blue, are of them variations on or inversions of some of the central joke, get told as well. The central one, as much as it’s a dirty joke, is also a pun joke, a quip joke, smelling of the dusty trunk of vaudeville, dulled a bit by the liberated ethos of Leroy Bruce. Taboo topics are in short supply. Yet — in what appears to have been the inspiration for the film — the joke got revived and revitalized in the '90s, when Gilbert Gottfried chose to tell it for a tele- vised Friars Club roast of Hugh Hefner, having already made a case of it a few years earlier. The show got decent reviews. The combination, with other implications, is no jokey villain this time (notwith- standing the ease of Spider-Man if not Superman.). Batman begins his guilt over his parents’ murder; in short, is not noticeably a step up, nor is it a significant step removed from the Asylum documentary in the most fundamental sense. It nonetheless meets the mandate of a docu- mentary in ninety minutes, ghastly to look at, the film at hand, stretched out at a few ticks under an hour and a half. Can an air of seriousness feasi-
erage freethinker. His private inquiry into her murder, apart from the light shed on cor-

The Exorcism of Emily Rose — Reviewed this issue. With Laura Linney, Tom Wilkinson, Campbell Scott, and Jennifer Carpenter; directed by Scott Derrickson.\n\n** ★★★

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The 40 Year Old Virgin — The hero is not what he is by reason of any philosophy, religion, or phobia. “It just never happened.” But now his colleagues at the Smart Tech electronic store, cowering on to his condition, are pitching in to cure him of it. Though not uncompassionate in treatment, the character is coy, cautious, even cow-

Four Brothers — The titular quartet, all adopted, all acknowledged “back-ups,” are of two races, evenly divided, black and white, and reunited for the Turkey Day fun-

The Constant Gardener

Ralph Fiennes, Rachel Weisz

Grizzly Man — The glob-trotting Werner Herzog dug up another of those border dwellers, those boundary pushers, he loves to document — one Timothy Treadwell, b. 1957, d. 2003 — along with a hundred or so hours of found footage, a treasure trove of video shot by the subject himself, of himself to record his years in the wilderness living among Alaskan bears, capped off with an audio recording of his own death, plus his girl-

The Great Raid — True story of a U.S. Ranger assault on a POW camp in the Philippines toward the end of the Second World War, though the first-person narrar-

Johnny Knoxville, Seann William<ref>...

Fantastic Four — Namely, Mr. Fantastic (a sort of Plastic Man), the Human Torch (more like a Human Comet), the Invisible Woman (God knows why), and the Thing (a cross between the Incredible Hulk and the Golem). The slender storyline explains how they got to be so fantastic, and it then gives them little scope to explore their powers. Commonplace comic-book adaptation, campy and tacky. With Inez Grufeld, Chris Evans, Jessica Alba, and Michael Chiklis; directed by Tim Story.\n\n** ★ (GALAXY 15)

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The Last Seduction — The one-timer Bundit, as an odious backwoods bagpie, a greedy pig named Hogg. One early chuckle — an au-

The Oracle — Namely, Mr. Fantastic (a cross between the Incredible Hulk and the Golem). The slender storyline explains how they got to be so fantastic, and it then gives them little scope to explore their powers. Commonplace comic-book adaptation, campy and tacky. With Inez Grufeld, Chris Evans, Jessica Alba, and Michael Chiklis; directed by Tim Story.\n\n** ★ (GALAXY 15)

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The Tides of Man — Big-screen transplant of the hit tvLand comedy series circa 1990, a younger cousin of the likes of Smokey and the Bandit. There is thus a sort of rough justice in casting the mummified Bert Reynolds, the one-time Bandit, as an odious backwoods bagpie, a greedy pig named Hogg. One early chuckle — an au-

The Terminal — Namely, Mr. Fantastic (a cross between the Incredible Hulk and the Golem). The slender storyline explains how they got to be so fantastic, and it then gives them little scope to explore their powers. Commonplace comic-book adaptation, campy and tacky. With Inez Grufeld, Chris Evans, Jessica Alba, and Michael Chiklis; directed by Tim Story.\n\n** ★ (GALAXY 15)

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Kids being kids, however, really judge the competition; we have eyes almost parental tunnel vision: we cannot short, and we follow them with an dejected curly top buttonholes the emcee at it through to the citywide finals: "I still parate classes (only one of which will make gentlemen," one teacher manages to say while stay-off-the-streets-and-stay-out-of-trouble activity of competitive ballroom dancing: "I the scrotums") and, secondarily, so she can go to www.filmratings.com HUCK• STORIES — Reviewed this issue. With Jan Decleir, Koen De Bouw, Werner De Smeth, and Hilde De Baerdemaecker, directed by Erik Van Loey. ★ ★ ★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS. FROM 5/9) Mr. and Mrs. Smith — A stargazer's de- signer gown. Cary Grant, Claude Rains, Louis Calhern; script by Ben Hecht. — Reviewed this issue. With Elizabeth Perkins, Jon Favreau, and Morgan Freeman, directed by Luc Besson. March of the Penguins — Nature doc- umentary on the reproductive ritual of the emperor penguin, the back-and-forth walk of around seventy miles, the mating dance, the harsh winter, the interminable night, the months of starvation, the high mortal- ity rate. It's a hard life, and fascinating. The cuteness of the creatures makes up for much of the hardship, although it also makes the hardness harder to bear. Narrated by Morgan Freeman; directed by Luc Besson. 2005. ★ ★ ★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN, GAXLAMP 15) The Man — Mistaken-identity comedy starring Samuel L. Jackson and Eugene Levy, directed by Les Mayfield. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DIN ERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 2; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 10; FASHION VALLEY 16; GROSS- MONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MES- SION VALLEY 20; ENCINITAS 16; PALM PRIME- NACE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RAN- CHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 13; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 5/7) The Memory of a Killer MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE) The Memory of a Killer — Reviewed this issue. With Jan Decleir, Koen De Bouw, Werner De Smeth, and Hilde De Baerdemaecker, directed by Erik Van Loey. ★ ★ ★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS. FROM 5/9) The Bourne Identity — Reviewed this issue. With Matt Damon, Franka Potente, and Clive Owen, directed by Paul Greengrass. 2005. ★ ★ ★ ★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ENCINITAS 8; ESCON- DIDO 10; FASHION VALLEY 16; GROSSMONT TROL- LEY; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; LA PALOMA; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; ENCINITAS 16; PALM PRIME- NACE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RAN- CHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 13; SAN "A DIZZLINGLY EROTIC ROMANCE!" — Aaron Gell, OPRAH MAGAZINE GOING OUT...OR STAYING IN? MOVIE-METER HELPS YOU MAKE THE RIGHT MOVIE CHOICE. The Memory of a Killer MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE) The Memory of a Killer — Reviewed this issue. With Jan Decleir, Koen De Bouw, Werner De Smeth, and Hilde De Baerdemaecker, directed by Erik Van Loey. ★ ★ ★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS. FROM 5/9) Mr. and Mrs. Smith — A stargazer's de- signer gown. Cary Grant, Claude Rains, Louis Calhern; script by Ben Hecht. — Reviewed this issue. With Elizabeth Perkins, Jon Favreau, and Morgan Freeman, directed by Luc Besson. March of the Penguins — Nature doc- umentary on the reproductive ritual of the emperor penguin, the back-and-forth walk of around seventy miles, the mating dance, the harsh winter, the interminable night, the months of starvation, the high mortal- ity rate. It's a hard life, and fascinating. The cuteness of the creatures makes up for much of the hardship, although it also makes the hardness harder to bear. Narrated by Morgan Freeman; directed by Luc Besson. 2005. ★ ★ ★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN, GAXLAMP 15) The Man — Mistaken-identity comedy starring Samuel L. Jackson and Eugene Levy, directed by Les Mayfield. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DIN ERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 2; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 10; FASHION VALLEY 16; GROSS- MONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MES- SION VALLEY 20; ENCINITAS 16; PALM PRIME- NACE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RAN- CHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 13; SAN ...
Pretty Persuasion - Mauling satire of a high-school virgin (a ready and willing Eva Rachel Wood) and her victims, as she finagles her way from the lead role in the Drama Club Diary of Anne Frank to a featurerd part in the network sitcom, Dysfunction. It shoots for the Veins of Hallelujah, Erection, Drop Dead Gorgeous, Mean Girls, The Skeleton Key – TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE (CHULA VISTA 10; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VILLAGE 18; NAPOLEON DYNAMITE (USA) ( stratégically placed deep in the narrative, Drop Dead Gorgeous, Mean Girls, The Skeleton Key – TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE (CHULA VISTA 10; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VILLAGE 18; NAPOLEON DYNAMITE (USA) ( Part One recent film I love for the JUZL PEREZ Freelance makeup artist One recent film I love for the transformation of Charlie Theron into this real-life serial killer is amazing. The story is harsh and the brutality of the work to make her look like the real person boils me away because you're never aware of it as a makeup effect. For fantasy, I appreciate Pirates of the Caribbean. The bouncing back and forth between the skeletons and the pirates was great. The rotting teeth were fantastic. How much work it takes to sculpt teeth and the consumption of time it takes to have actors transform so many times. MONSTER (USA/Germany) 2005, Columbia/TriStar List price: $26.96 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: THE CURSE OF THE BLACK PEARL (USA) 2003, Touchstone Home Video List price: $19.95 (two discs)

The Skeleton Key — Dilapidated mansion in the bayou. Walls without mirrors. A secret room in the attic. Strange howederities. Long ago deaths by violence. It’s all the more that the magic. Southern gothic hyst- erics with no involvement. Kate Hudson, Gena Rowlands, John Hurt, Kelly Preston as Rachel McAdams, showing no excessive physicality in the closing stretch) finally rebels against her personal terrorist (Craig Mau-phy) you might think what took her so long; but the film is pretty much over by the time you can lay a finger on, or poke a finger through, as it were, the terrorist plot. At just about an hour and a quarter, it is closest thing you can find nowadays to an early “B” movie An- thony Mann or Richard Fleischer. Close in running time that is; close in speed; not in a quarter, it is closest thing you can find nowadays to an early “B” movie An- thony Mann or Richard Fleischer. Close in running time that is; close in speed; not in

Newbery Heights with Laurence Olivier and Merle Oberon has been a favorite since I was young. This love-hate relationship between people from different sides of the tracks is very emotional. I love when they’re children playing on the moors and having fun without the pressures of stereotyping. I was required to watch Like Water for Chocolate in a Spanish class, and I absolutely fell in love with it. It’s a love story about two people forbidden to marry because of family tradi- tions. I love the symbolism. I like the quirky humor of Absolutely Fabulous. Jennifer Saunders’s Edina is an off-the- wall trendsetter; with her outra- geous friends Patsy, they make a motley pair of party-hardy girls.


2004 — After the concentrated perfection of “The Hand”— Wong Kar-wai’s fraction of the anthology film, Zemo — the effects of this one are apt to appear the more glaring. Ostensibly it’s a sequel to his close-to-per- formance In the Mood for Love: on any- how the action picks up shortly after it in 1966, and centers around the same protagonist (Tony Leung), although the love—en—and leave—em— liberated and spicy science-fiction writer of the current film bears little resemblance to the inhibited pianist and Grab-Street drudgery of his predecessor, even al- lowing for the ravages of a broken heart. (The title refers both to the time-setting of his x-facte and to the number of his next
door hotel room.) There is a patchwork feeling here, jumbled and jumbled, diffuse and desultory, partly the effect of a frag- mented narrative that never quite reaches the cement of voice-over, and partly the effect of a visual grab-bag that includes a lot of slow-motion, a bit of black-and-white, and extended re-enactments of the hero’s visions of the future, sometimes animated, sometimes live-action, and in an illustra- tional style that postulates the science fic- tion of the mid-Sixties. The director’s painterly eye shows us, at the same time, a great deal of beauty; and the wide, wide screen affords him more room than ever before for empty space, out-of-focus space, purely compositional and coloristic space. This thing of beauty, though, is rather a scattered beauty, a gorgeous space case. Some hefty ideas, to do with imper- manence, loss, memory, alienation, are lumped up against the otherwise flat, two-dimensional, static character of the novel character. Or anyhow


GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; GROSS- MONT TROLLEY; MISSION CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; HORTON PLAZA 14)

Christopher Robinz Freelance makeup artist

*** GARDEN CABARET, 9/8 THRU 10/1, 8:30 P.M.

NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2002
A Sound of Thunder

170
[47x-585]9:50;
[47x-109](1:15, 4:30) 7:20, 10:00;
[47x-49]stant Gardener

showtimes are in parentheses.

The 40 Year Old Virgin

4665 Clairemont Drive (858-274-1234)

CLAIREMONT
CENTRAL
8:00, 9:35; Mon.-Thu. (2:00, 3:20, 4:45, 5:30) 7:25, 9:55
4:20, 7:15, 9:55; Mon.-Thu. (1:20, 4:20) 7:15, 9:55; Thu. (1:00, 3:20) 4:20, 7:15, 9:55;

all by himself. 2005.

RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15)
PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PORTAY 21; RANCHO DEL REY 18; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 23; SAN DIEGO INTERNATIONAL DRIVE IN;
TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA LAGUNA

The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill

Human-interest documentary, and avant-

ianature in the final scene. Directed and

trimmed down to 88 minutes. 2005.

Word of the Worlds — Steven Spielberg’s retelling of H.G. Wells’s If classic.

the alien-invasion subgenre, as everyone now

within the Climax, there’s the stinky bird from Trafalgar

tage of their modus operandi, however, the
director did not have a great deal for her to do. She had

often, parents and grandparents may get made out of it if they understand

though the narrative’s arc is at the expense of a

George C. Scott as a man who got his first

and flowerhut's: With the voices of Ewan McGregor,

the museum’s collection. However, the

to the city’s best city buildings, the

average of half a century ago, we are at

The Exorcism of Emily Rose

8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262)

Call theater for program information

Horton Plaza 14

8:00, 9:35; Mon.-Thu. (2:00, 3:20, 4:45, 5:30) 7:20, 9:50; Wed. (2:00, 4:35) 9:50; Thu.

— British-accented Disney comedy

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**In person:** To place an ad with cash or check, fill out the form below and bring it to our office at 1703 India Street (at Date), Downtown. The deadline is 6 pm Monday. **REALY, REALLY LATE ADS:** Private parties that have missed the 6 pm Monday deadline may still place ads up to 6 pm Tuesday. Either come to the above address or call (619) 235-8200. The cost for these late ads is $16 for 25 words, plus $.06 per extra word.

**Deadline:** 6 pm 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 not be financially responsible for failure to run an ad or for errors in an ad, except if, at fault, to the extent of the cost of the first insertion.

**NAME**

**DAYTIME PHONE**

**EXP DATE**

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**This form is for $8 ads only.**

To provide online viewers of your ad with a map of your neighborhood, we need:

- Nearest cross-streets:  
- Zip code:  

The Reader will be responsible for failures to run an ad or for errors in an ad except to the extent of the cost of the ad.
SeaWorld is currently seeking a Seasonal Groundskeeper to work in the Landscaping Department. Assist in all basic landscaping duties as required. Maintain safe conditions in work areas at all times. Keep accurate written records of landscape activities. Ability to function in a team-based work environment. The requirements listed are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required, including frequent lifting of 50 lbs. or more with or without accommodations. Must be at least 18 years of age, have valid California driver’s license. High school diploma/equivalent preferred. Must be able to read and write English. Must be able to pass required safety training. Education in landscapes or plant sciences preferred. Work experience in commercial landscape, construction or similar type of work preferred.

SeaWorld San Diego is a drug-free environment.

Please send résumé to: Jenefer.Jackson@SeaWorld.com

or fax: (619) 225-4242

For more details please check: www.seaworldjobs.com

EOE/ME/F/D/V
Permanent Part-Time Jobs

WE PROMOTE FROM WITHIN
Great Opportunities
Permanent Part-Time Jobs
Part-Time Package Handlers

Starting pay $8.50/hr. — $9/hr. after 90 days
Medical, Dental, Vision, Paid Holidays/Vacation

Monday-Friday — WEEKENDS OFF!
Two shifts available: 3:5 am or 5-10 pm
1-5 hours average per day

Come to Our Information Session
every Thursday at 2 pm or Friday at 8 am:
7925 Ronson Road, San Diego, CA 92111

Apply online at: www.upsjobs.com

The Best in Hospitality
• BANQUET SERVER (On call) (shifts vary)
• HVAC MECHANIC (FT) (graveyard)
• STEWARD (FT) (shifts vary)
• COFFEE BAR ATTENDANT (FT) (AM shift)
• LEAD HOUSEPERSON (FT) (AM shift)
• PASTRY COOK (FT) (AM shift)
• CONVENTION SERVICES HOUSEPERSON (FT & PT) (shifts vary)
• PROJECT HOUSEPERSON (FT) (shifts vary)
• COOK III (FT) (AM shift)
• STOREROOM ATTENDANT (FT)
• INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL SALES MANAGER

APP Analytics, Inc.
2015 Garnet Ave. #410
San Diego, CA 92031

Restaurant
Now Hiring

MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL
AND COUNTER ATTENDANTS

• Full- and Part-Time
• Day and Evening Shifts
• Starting Hourly at $8.50
• Grease-Free Environment

Apply in person 9 am-3 pm in Pacific Beach
at 2015 Garnet Ave. at Morrell.
858-270-5450

Management candidates mail résumé to:
1804 Garnet Ave. #410
San Diego, CA 92109

APP Analytics, Inc.
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1804 Garnet Ave. #410
San Diego, CA 92109
Immediate Jobs! Valets

- Hourly rate + tips $$
- Fun and exciting job
- Outdoor San Diego breeze

You’ll need:
- H6 driving report from DMV
- Ability to drive stick shift
- Winning personality
- Proven customer service experience

Full-time and part-time shifts available! Cashier and Traffic Director jobs open too.

Call today for an interview: 619-231-9501
Ace HR office:
2550 Fifth Ave., Ste. 105 • San Diego, CA 92103
STOP!
DON’T BE FOOL BY THE REST –
WE’RE THE BEST PART-TIME
JOB IN TOWN!!

We offer:

• Flexible AM/PM schedules
• Average earnings: $9-$14/hr.
• Guaranteed hourly
• Paid training
• Weekly pay
• Professional/friendly environment
• Bilingual (Spanish) programs available
• 48 years of experience
• Advancement opportunities

We are looking for friendly, outgoing individuals to contact established customers on behalf of leading financial corporations.

Call today:
858-292-6751 x9036
or apply in person at:
9322 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
www.dialamerica.com/sandiego

WANTED: CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Locked in a boring job?
Ready for a job change?
Are you a people person?
Want to control your income?
Want to be paid for your effort?

We will pay you while you learn!

You will earn a minimum of $6000 for your first 90 days on our sales force.


All applicants welcome to interviews.

Fax résumé: 619-297-2323
or Apply in person:
COURTESY CHEVROLET CENTER
750 Camino del Rio North
San Diego, CA 92108
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Now Hiring

• Framers • Laborers
• Concrete Finishers
• Drywall Technicians
• Remodelers
• HVAC Techs/Installers
• Pipefitters
• Superintendents & Project Managers

Pay up to $30/hour!
Commercial and Residential Experience Wanted!

Call today!
858-874-7500

Contractors & Builders
Skilled Trades & Construction Labor

8888 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite J
San Diego, CA 92123

TELESALES
Growing academic software publisher seeking motivated sales professionals.

$10/hour + generous commission plan to start
Earn $35,000-$85,000
Realistic first-year earning potential.

We offer paid training, a relaxed atmosphere, medical benefits, life insurance, and 401(k).

Contact Martin Saul:
(800) 858-9673 ext. 181
martins@wordsmart.com

Our top rep made $30,000 in the first quarter of 2005!


Drivers. Instantly service-seeking drivers class A or B for local deliveries. Full-time. Experience a plus. Also drivers with own pickup and shell or van for full and part-time delivery routes. Clean DMV. Must be 21. Call 619-297-0171 or fax resumes to 619-296-0911.

Drivers. URGENT! Urgent Transportation services provider for seniors and disabled. Great pay! At Your Home Family care. E-mail:’amorant58@yahoo.com. Call toll free: 1-877-920-JOBS.

Drivers/Installers. Deliver or install UBC phone needs customers or pay phones in San Diego County. Year round work. Full-time or part-time hours. Paid car allowances. Must speak English. Drug tests required. Call 619-291-0855.

Drivers: Part-time Field Coordinators. Distribushop, a division of HPC Publications, is searching national publisher and sales people. We have an immediate opening for a part-time Field Coordinator to assist in the operations of the San Diego market. 28 hours max a week. Responsibilities include: auditing distribution points, delivering consumer directories, cleaning and maintaining storage facility, and handling accounts. Submit resume to: jenefer.jackson@seaworld.com or fax: 619-225-4242. For more details visit: www.seaworldjobs.com. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Drivers, Electricians. Tools, work truck and drug test required. Call for interview: 619-640-9000.


Drivers, Technicians. Williams Auto Store. Flexible part-time hours. Customer service skills, valid driver’s license, high school equivalent required, $8.75 to start plus regular increases. EOE. Call 619-297-0171 or fax resume 619-297-4170. 5228 Ray Street.

Drivers: Part-time Field Coordinator. Distribushop, a division of HPC Publications, is searching national publisher and sales people. We have an immediate opening for a part-time Field Coordinator to assist in the operations of the San Diego market. 28 hours max a week. Responsibilities include: auditing distribution points, delivering consumer directories, cleaning and maintaining storage facility and handling accounts. EOE. Call 619-297-0171 or fax resumes 619-296-0911.

Drivers, Restaurant. Experienced pizza delivery drivers for San Diego market. 28 hours week. Responsibilities include: auditing distribution points, delivering consumer directories, cleaning and maintaining storage facility and handling accounts. EOE. Call 619-297-0171 or fax resumes 619-296-0911.


**Sports Marshaled**

Southern California’s premier marketing company is looking for 10-15 sports-minded people for our top team.

- Entry-level marketing
- Managerial, and customer service opportunities.
- No experience necessary.
- $400-$600/week

Call for immediate interview.

Ask for Linda: 858-751-1601

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**Production Supervisor (1st & 3rd shifts)**

The Bally Total Fitness facility is seeking a Production Supervisor to lead its production activities of approximately 35 hourly production workers in the element finishing area. Duties include administering the health, safety and environmental needs within the shift, as well as reviewing work orders, work order variances and shortage controls. Will be responsible for leading projects that focus on lean manufacturing, cost reduction, best practice and procedure standardization. Must be willing to able and working to shift different as necessary. A minimum of 3-5 years’ manufacturing supervision in an MRP environment. Excellent computer and interpersonal skills.

**Production Workers** **$500 STARING BONUS FOR ALL PRODUCTION WORKERS**

Bally Total Fitness has a new system opens immediate openings for Production Workers on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd shift.

**Shifts** (There is a 10% differential for 2nd shift and a 20% differential for 3rd shift.) Available positions include:

- **Packagers • Preppers • Wet Testers • Brine Sealers • Rollers**

Candidates should have some prior production experience, good math skills, be able to lift 40 lbs, and be willing to stand all day. These positions are full time but will initially be payroll through an agency during an introductory period.

**Leadperson/Machine Operator**

An immediate opening for Leadperson/ Machine Operator needed to work 2nd shift weekends in our Membrane Manufacturing Department. Qualified candidate will supervise 2 operators, complete assigned tasks and schedules from Supervisor, operate machines, mix chemicals, maintain logs and log books. To be considered, you must have a high school diploma or equivalent (GED) and two years' experience.

**Machine Operator/Castor/Coater**

Immediate opening for 2 experienced Machine Operators for 2nd shift weekends in our Membrane Manufacturing Department. Duties include setting up and operating machines for coating and/or casting membrane products. Required: High school diploma or equivalent, computer and math skills, ability to lift 40 lbs., and ability to stand for an extended period of time. Under supervision, make adjustments to machines, temperatures, etc., as necessary. Ability to keep complete and accurate records and logs of readings. Qualified candidate will have a high school diploma or equivalent (GED) and knowledge of web processing machine operation.

---

**Koch Membrane Systems**

Koch Membrane Systems is seeking highly motivated, high-energy individuals who want to become active participants in the drive to be a world-class company. We are hiring for the following positions located at our manufacturing plant in Scripps Ranch.

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**Entrepreneurs WANTED.** Serious about creating wealth by owning your own retail. Good potential. $160/week.

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**Koch Membrane Systems**

Koch Membrane Systems offers an excellent benefits package including a matching 401(k). Please fax resumes to KMS at: 858-635-1009 fill out an application at west@kochmembrane.com. Please visit our website at www.kochmembrane.com. A drug screen, physical, and background check will be performed on all new hires.
Restaurant

Experience Line Cook

with at least 1 year of experience needed for
Dublin Square Irish Pub &
Grill in the heart of the Gaslamp.

Please apply in person
Monday-Friday
noon to 5:00 pm
554 Fourth Avenue
San Diego

Customer Service
to $20/hour

Top guns make $1,000 per week.
Earn up to $20/hour during training.

AM/PM shifts available.

Medical and dental benefits.

Two locations to choose from:
North County: (760) 630-2323
Mission Valley: (619) 687-0070

Call today, start today!

100+ IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

- Appointment Setters
- Lead Generators
- Sales Assistants
- Inside Sales Reps

Six months’ minimum outbound calling experience required.
Base pay $9–$12/hour DOE + bonus and/or commissions.
Walk-ins welcome 9 am-2 pm Monday-Friday or by appointment.

(800) 690-8367
E-mail: recruiter@abcow.com

ABCOW STAFFING
325 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 125
San Diego, CA 92108

Habistats, the Electric Chair is now accepting applications for Housekeepers. Hip 19-chief salaried, tons of walk-ins. Tony and Guy education, great income. Experienced only. Kathy, 1-818-233-5472.

Habistats, University City, Licensed Certificated. Shifts: late day, nights, weekends. Lube, general, housekeeping, etc. Weekends. Call today 817-560-5587.

Habistats, San Diego, in full-service beauty salon in Rancho Bernardo. Christens, Hair and Beauty Center. Call 858-659-1209.

Habistats, Housekeeper. Free night. Set own retail in large salon near Parkway Plaza Shopping Center. Bring starts, good potential, heavy foot traffic, 613-649-6757.

Habistats, Health Care, no experience required for actions in any discipline in our East County offices for part-time and full-time positions. Must be able to lift up to 40 lbs. Call 760-368-0516. It starts with sending your résumé to:
• Inside Sales Reps
• Sales Assistants
• Lead Generators
• Appointment Setters

Base pay $9–$12/hour DOE + bonus and/or commissions.

• Busser (Full-time, Weekends, Early Morning)

If you are a positive, motivated person who likes

good working conditions & benefits.

• Focused professional training

Fax résumé:
Luxury North County Resort
(800) 690-8367
2525 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 125
858-756-0165

3pm, Tuesday-Thursday: 2333 1st Avenue, Cajon, CA, 92020 or apply online at www.guidinghands.org. Call 619-938-2866.

- $8-$13/hour
- $8.50 per hour. Must be at least 18 years of age. Valid driver’s license. Call on Monday-Friday, 9 am-4:30 pm. Email resume to: info@allprocleaning.com

%20 K-60K Average First-Year Earnings.

For more information call: (619) 531-COPS or visit our website at: www.sandiego.gov/police

Law Enforcement Ready for a Career Change? San Diego Police Department Is Hiring!

PolicE OFFICERS

Upcoming test block dates are:
Friday 8 & Saturday, Oct 21 & 22
Applicants must attend both days of testing.

Police Recruit .................................. $42,723/yr.
Police Officer I ................................ $43,596/yr.
Police Officer II .................................. $61,110/yr.

www.wwlco.com

For the perfect job! If you are a positive, motivated person who likes talking on the phone, then this is the career for you!

$8–$13/hour
Great hours: Monday-Thursday 7 am-3:30 pm
Full benefits/vacation bonuses
$40K plan
Focusing professional training

Call Greg at: 888-592-8577

THE PERFECT JOB!

THE PERFECT JOB!

100+ IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

- Appointment Setters
- Lead Generators
- Sales Assistants
- Inside Sales Reps

Six months’ minimum outbound calling experience required.
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(800) 690-8367
E-mail: recruiter@abcow.com

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Habistats, San Diego, in full-service beauty salon in Rancho Bernardo. Christens, Hair and Beauty Center. Call 858-659-1209.

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$8–$13/hour
Great hours: Monday-Thursday 7 am-3:30 pm
Full benefits/vacation bonuses
$40K plan
Focusing professional training

Call Greg at: 888-592-8577

THE PERFECT JOB!
We Have Immediate Openings in Our New San Diego Call Center!

CSC is a financial services company. We specialize in purchasing defaulted retail debt, i.e., credit cards, auto deficiencies, etc. We have immediate openings for the following positions:

- **Receptionist**: Paid medical, dental and vision; 401(k). Salary; $12.25-$14/hour. Closes September 9, 9am-1pm.

Qualified candidates call: Bonni Cutler, 888-234-9691. Fax résumé to 619-556-9537 or call Roxane, 619-281-0433. www.vistahill.org

MD Mortgage Group, Inc.

JOIN A WINNING TEAM!

MD Mortgage has become one of the fastest-growing mortgage brokers in the U.S. Our company is going through a rapid expansion and has a number of positions available:

**RECEPTIONIST**: Must have 2 years experience handling large call center. Responsibilities include handling inbound calls for 25 Loan Officers. Must also be familiar with Microsoft Office programs for minor administrative duties.

Fax résumé to Scott at: 858-587-6734 or e-mail résumé to: scott@mdmortgagegroup.com

**Administrative Assistants/Receptionists**

- **$10.00 – $15.00/hour**
- **Must have 6 months’ office experience**
- **Must have strong PC skills**

**Customer Service Reps**

- **$10.00 – $14.00/hour**
- **Inbound call center experience**
- **Min. 6 months’ call center experience required**

**General Labor**

- **$8.00/hour and up**
- **Light warehouse work**
- **Shipping/receiving**
- **Short-term projects**

From Chula Vista to Downtown to La Jolla to Del Mar, we have openings close to you! Chula Vista / Downtown / Mission Valley / Clairemont / La Jolla / Sorrento Valley / Mira Mesa / Del Mar

In the following fields:

- Engineering
- Medical
- Financial Services
- Insurance
- Real Estate
- Hospitality

**CABINET INSTALLER APPRENTICE**

Helper candidates must have a positive attitude, good people skills and a willingness to learn. Must be able to lift at least 50 pounds. Good DMV record required.

Specializing in custom closets, garages, and office home. We offer competitive salaries, medical benefits, paid vacation and holidays, and 401(k) plan.

**CALIFORNIA CLOSETS® • 858-689-7100**

**Immediate Openings!**

**Administrative Assistants/Receptionists**

- **$10.00 – $15.00/hour**
- **Must have 6 months’ office experience**
- **Must have strong PC skills**

**Customer Service Reps**

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**General Labor**

- **$8.00/hour and up**
- **Light warehouse work**
- **Shipping/receiving**
- **Short-term projects**

Call or e-mail us today to set an appointment to meet with one of our skilled recruiters.

laajolla@ultimateteststaffing.com

fax: (858) 625-2026

phone: (858) 625-2025

Temporary • Temporary-to-Hire • Direct-Hire Placement Opportunities
Custodial Positions Open Immediately!

CUSTODIAL SUPERVISOR #20119

Responsible for leading the day-to-day activities of the custodial staff to ensure all buildings/work areas are kept clean and sanitary. Requires 5 years’ related custodial experience, with 1 year of formal, supervisory experience.

- Ordering supplies, coordinating scheduling, performing site inspections, and ensuring the workload is equally distributed
- Providing training and guidance to 8-person staff, participating in hiring process and performing annual performance reviews
- Salary depends upon experience, starting at $14.50 and up with bonus plan.

3 CUSTODIAL POSITIONS #19241, #20996, #20997

Minimum 1 year of custodial experience. Temp-to-hire position with pay starting at $9.25/hour.

BD Biosciences Pharmingen is located in the Torrey Pines area. We offer competitive pay and benefits such as 3 weeks vacation, medical/dental/vision insurance, and a matching 401(k).

For more information, or to apply online, visit us at: www.bdbiosciences.com
Or fax resumed to: 858-812-8893

Rookie Managers! $30K+ Starting

Cross Training:
- Customer Service • Sales/Marketing • Leadership
- Warehouse Inventory • Team Development

Bonuses and incentives. No experience necessary. We train. All positions are full-time. Paid training from day #1!

- Not an agency/No telemarketing
- Call Summer Haze: 619-427-8289

Hairstylists: We need you!

At TRADE SECRET ALOANE we have a great working environment, and we are so busy we are recruiting new stylists and regular clients away.

You truly have unlimited money making potential!

- Our salary or commission plans are among the best. Earn while you learn. We offer complete salon equipment and back bar. We have monthly contests with fabulous prizes. We have immediate positions available in our North County Fair, Horton Plaza and Mission Valley Center locations.

Please call Danielle at (858) 988-7718 ext. 1869 to learn more about these exciting opportunities.

We’re looking for individuals who are dedicated to delivering a high level of service. No experience required. Bilingual a plus.

- $20,000-$30,000/month consistently.

Hair stylist positions in downtown office. Fax: 619-398-4148 or e-mail: kdowdy@amcaplend.com

Account Rep at Kaiser Permanente

Work at Kaiser Permanente, one of California’s largest health care providers! Multiple openings for Account Support Representatives at the Kaiser processing center in Kearny Mesa. Accounting and/or Customer Service experience is preferred. Job requirements include: typing speed of 35 wpm, data entry speed of 7,000 kph, and knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel. These are long-term positions paying $12/hour.

Send your résumé today!
Fax: (619) 574-1018
E-mail: Jobs1@AStarStaffing.com
Apply online: www.AStarStaffing.com

Rookie Managers! $30K+ Starting

Cross Training:
- Customer Service • Sales/Marketing • Leadership
- Warehouse Inventory • Team Development

Bonuses and incentives. No experience necessary. We train. All positions are full-time. Paid training from day #1!

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Account Rep at Kaiser Permanente

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Send your résumé today!
Fax: (619) 574-1018
E-mail: Jobs1@AStarStaffing.com
Apply online: www.AStarStaffing.com

RCU has a national reputation in the mortgage industry.

We are looking for individuals who are dedicated to delivering a high level of service. No experience required. Bilingual a plus.

- $20,000-$30,000/month consistently.

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I didn’t think there’s a right age. I’m 24, and I have a few friends getting married right now, but not many of them. Something like 16 might be a little young, but it’s an individual thing. I would think that someone that young wouldn’t know themselves well enough to know who they would want to be with for the rest of their life. I still don’t know what I want, and I’m 24. You should take however long it takes. Who says you even have to get married? You can get married on a grad-school budget, but it wouldn’t be fun unless I were to find a sugar-mama.

At least 25. I’m 26, and I don’t have any friends getting married right now. I go to school, and I think a lot of people are in school and they should at least finish undergrad school before they actually get serious about something. Actually, 25 is the minimum age; I wouldn’t get married until I’m 30 or 40. It’s the love of your life and you’re going to marry them, then it shouldn’t matter. I fear getting a divorce, so I’d rather wait and break up with someone at 40, than marry and divorce. I’m a med student, and I wouldn’t want to be doing residency with a fat stomach and having time off to have a baby when you’re so close to being a doctor. Guys don’t really have to worry about maternity leave.

Considering graduating college and working a few years, I’d say 25. I think you probably don’t want to wait too far past 30. After 30, you appear to be damaged goods. It’s a slim window. A lot of people do [marry] at 22, right when they finish college, but I think it’s optimal to work a few years and get yourself established. The financial aspect is important. It’s very much up in the air, let’s give the window between 22 and 30. I don’t recommend 22. I think it would be best if people got married and waited a few years to have kids. A lot of people get married and have honeymoon babies when they really haven’t had enough time to live together and know each other, already they’re bringing somebody into the house to take care of and who’s going to be there for the rest of their life. But you don’t want to be 70 years old and at your kid’s graduation.

Don’t think there’s a minimum; of course, I mean, you should wait until the legal age of 18. It’s better to get married when you’re older. I’m 21 right now, almost 22, but could I get married right now? Yeah, no, no, maybe 25. The latest I’d want to get married by would be 35. If you’re unmarried at 35, you better get moving. You could wait as long as 38. Marriage has to do with having children, and you can still have children when you’re 38, 39, 40. Thirty-five-year-old women shouldn’t sweat it; they should keep on living life, having fun. You have to scope it out and see what you want and what you don’t want.

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Student
Mission Beach

I don’t think there’s a minimum; of course, I mean, you should wait until the legal age of 18. It’s better to get married when you’re older. I’m 21 right now, almost 22, but could I get married right now? Yeah, no, no, maybe 25. The latest I’d want to get married by would be 35. If you’re unmarried at 35, you better get moving. You could wait as long as 38. Marriage has to do with having children, and you can still have children when you’re 38, 39, 40. Thirty-five-year-old women shouldn’t sweat it; they should keep on living life, having fun. You have to scope it out and see what you want and what you don’t want.

I personally want to be married by the time I’m 30. The earliest I’d get married would be 27. Right now, I’m 23, and if someone asked me to get married tomorrow, I’d say no. I feel too young. I’m not sure where I want to settle and there are too many things that I want to do. You need some time after college because you’re in such a bubble when you’re in college. There are so many people from all over the world who you can still meet. You can get sucked in during college to just be with that one person. You should take a lifetime on your own and then see what else is out there. For me, I’d like a guy with some ambition. He doesn’t have to have it all right now, but he has to have a goal. As long as he can get by, then it doesn’t matter what he’s doing.

TELEPHONE INTERVIEWERS. Seeking friendly, outgoing people wanted. Bilingual Spanish a plus. Hourly plus bonuses. Part-time or full-time, flexible hours. Must be at least 22 and 30. I don’t recommend 22. I recommend 35. If you’re unmarried at 35, you better get moving. You could wait as long as 38. Marriage has to do with having children, and you can still have children when you’re 38, 39, 40. Thirty-five-year-old women shouldn’t sweat it; they should keep on living life, having fun. You have to scope it out and see what you want and what you don’t want.

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VOCABULARY: Hands on hospitality, massage, soul, relaxation.

MEDITATION: Mindfulness, presence, inner peace.

RELAXATION: Deep breathing, progressive muscle relaxation, visualization.

SPLENDA: Sweetener, sugar substitute.

COFFEE: Energy, alertness, aroma.

LEMONADE: Quenching thirst, hydration, refreshment.

BEAUTY PARLOR: Haircuts, facials, manicures, pedicures.

BEACH: Sun, sand, vacation, relaxation.

PERSONAL GROWTH: Self-awareness, personal development, mindfulness.

AFFORDABLE MASSAGE: Low-cost services, value, accessibility.

THAI MASSAGE: Deep tissue, flexibility, stress relief.

CUPping: Therapy, detoxification, lymphatic drainage.

SPORTS MASSAGE: Recovery, injury prevention, muscle soreness.

SPORTS FITNESS: Exercise, training, wellness.

HEALTHY EATING: Nutrition, diet, balanced meals.

HEALTHY LIVING: Wellness, lifestyle, exercise, vitality.

SOFTWARE: Computer programs, productivity tools.

COACHING: Personal development, leadership, career guidance.

GODDESS TOUCH: Divine feminine energy, empowerment.

STRONG HANDS: Empowerment, strength, resilience.

PROFESSIONAL MASSAGE: Expertise, quality, comfort.

RELAX IN MY HANDS: Trust, relaxation, comfort.

SENSATIONAL MASSAGE: Sensual touch, pleasure, relaxation.

COUPLES MASSAGE: Connection, intimacy, shared experience.

MASSAGE TABLE: Comfort, support, safety.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA: Pain relief, stress reduction, muscle relaxation.

COLON/LYMPHATIC THERAPY: Detoxification, immunity, lymphatic system.

ABANDON YOUR ACTING FEARS: Self-confidence, courage, talent development.

TAI CHI: Mindfulness, balance, relaxation.

BASKETBALL: Teamwork, coordination, physical fitness.

COLD READINGS: Tarot, numerology, astrology.

HEADSHOTS: Professional photography, networking, personal branding.

HAPPY ADULTS: Mental health, emotional well-being, support.

COUNSELING/DREAM STUDY: Therapy, guided imagery, dream interpretation.

ABILITY THROUGH TRAINING: Skill development, self-improvement, motivation.

GODDESS TRAVEL: Spiritual journey, transformation, personal growth.

HOME HEALTHCARE: Support, care, aging in place.

CAREER COACHING: Job search, interview preparation, career guidance.

HEALTHY ADVICE: Nutrition, exercise, stress management.

Sanskrit: Ancient Indian language, spiritual, philosophical.

Taoist: Philosophical school, Eastern philosophy, spirituality.

SOPHOMORE STUDENTS: Academic year, second year of college.

ARTS AND LEISURE: Creativity, relaxation, cultural engagement.

LIQUOR STORE: Alcohol sales, social drinking, responsible consumption.

HEALTHY LIVING: Mindfulness, balance, vitality.

DIET: Nutrition, weight management, health.

SLEEP: Rest, relaxation, repair.

MEMORY: Cognitive function, learning, retention.

RELATIONSHIP: Intimacy, connection, communication.

MEDITATION: Inner peace, clarity, self-awareness.

PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE: Coaching, mentoring, career development.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY: Exercise, fitness, wellness.

PERSONAL GROWTH: Self-improvement, personal development, mindfulness.

HEALTHY LIVING: Wellness, lifestyle, exercise, vitality.

SOFTWARE: Computer programs, productivity tools.

COACHING: Personal development, leadership, career guidance.

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by David Levinson Wilk

Across
1. Pollutant banned in 1975
5. "Got Milk?" maybe
14. "Looks like trouble!"
16. 1972 treaty sub.
17. DANCING TONI
19. Es. of S. Dak.
20. Actor MacLachlan
21. Soprano McDonald
22. Tallidingers
26. ITALY RUNS
30. Camera ____ (film festival)
31. Discovery channel sub.
32. With force
33. Discovery channel subj.
34. Falafel holders
35. Chickadee relative
48. "Certainly, captain!
49. All ____ sudden
50. INTEL JUMP
53. Not agin
54. Putting to work
55. Picasso’s eye
57. Of the 164 entrants, 144 were correct.
58. Unclear
60. Grotto
61. EDD Weddington
62. Discovery channel subj.
63. Nickname of catchers Carlton
64. Orderly
65. Sault ____ Marie
66. All ____ sudden
68. Emphatic agreement
69. Immediate, if not sooner
70. Home wrecker

Down
1. Wrinkly pout
2. Team in the AL and NL
3. It’s good in France
4. Employees of the
5. In the event of disputes or ties, decisions of the judges will be final and arbitrary.
6. Preserve, in a way
7. It’s a beautiful thing.
8. Best Christmas present ever.
9. Falafel holders
10. It’s a beautiful thing.
11. Boarding school
12. She can take the worst of us
13. It’s a beautiful thing.
14. A frequent problem
15. It’s a beautiful thing.
16. Preserve, in a way
17. It’s a beautiful thing.
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70. It’s a beautiful thing.

Solution to and winners of the Reader Puzzle for 9/1/05.

Of the 164 entrants, 144 were correct.

The winners are:
1. Richard Young, Bonita
2. Graham Grimm, El Cajon
3. Eric Harris, San Diego
4. Mike Romerson, San Diego
5. Edd Weddington, Encinitas

LET’S MEET AND SEE HOW IT goes. I’m telling attractive, humorous, fit and Latin, 38. Searching for 25-35 lady who’s active in life. Please unquote. (9/21) ☎ 580-4225

When asked what makes a perfect partner, one lady said, “I want a guy who can make me laugh and warm my heart. I want someone who will support me and be my confidant. I want a guy who is honest, trustworthy, and has a good sense of humor.”

Michael Freeman
Authorized Independent Agent
3511 Camino Del Rio So., Suite 303
San Diego, CA 92129
(800) 660-4313
CA Insurance Lic. #0619120

THE RIGHTPLAN PPO 40 is offered by BC Life and Health Insurance Company (BCL&H) and California Consumer Life and Health Company (BCA) under the registered service marks of the BCA.

No-Deductible Health Plans!

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<th>RightPlan PPO 40</th>
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The above rates from BC Life and Health Insurance Company are level I (standard) monthly rates effective 3/1/05 in rate area 6: Imperial, Riverside (except ZIP code 92883), San Bernardino and San Diego Counties. Rates are illustrative only and may vary based on an individual’s underwriting review. Some areas may have higher or lower rates. Refer to the plan for a complete list of coverages, conditions, restrictions, limitations and exclusions.

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3. Your mailbox will expire at midnight. Your mailbox will expire at midnight. Wednesday, six days after publication.
RED MEAT

Look, man...you can’t live by the rules we made way back when we were in college.

But we met it, Don.

Look at that over there. If you ever see me hold that chicken’s peek for her, kill me.

Then you’ll just have to go and admit to me. My wife comes out of that dressing room, and I’m not holding that purse...I’m dead anyway.

You’ve got it, my man. Goes double for me.

Goes double for me. I better grab her wife’s purse out from under that clothes rack before she comes out.

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USD/LINDA VISTA. $54. 3/4 plus free Share. Quiet, quiet tree-lined house, 4 bedroom, 3 bath room, 5, 10/22, 12/21, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, in lovely area. Available immediately. 858-693-8294.


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Last week’s place: Little Clyde (a Welsh pony), Barney the goat, and Bonnie the pygmy goat share this little piece of country at City Farmers Nursery, 4832 Home Avenue. Owner Bill Tall says most of the animals in his “farm” yard come from people who could no longer look after them. (Last week’s winners: Troy Salinas, Sophia Padin, Susan Alexander, Terry McManara, Brian Hamilton)
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LA JOLLA STREETS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Spacious, clean, walk to beach! Street parking. Pets. 2054 Ebers Avenue. 619-539-7433.

LA MESA. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Close to I-8 & I-5. Walk to bay, nice neighborhoods, good schools. 547 Callanan Avenue. 619-321-4187.

LA MESA. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Near Bay. Quiet, spacious, 2 blocks to beach. 6466 Platero Street. 619-557-7444.

LA MESA. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Great find, just 2 blocks to beach! Privacy, parking, great. 6127 Aleman Avenue. 858-583-2982.

LA MESA. Large 1 bedroom guesthouse on rear cottage, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Nicely furnished, near coastline, garage, private parking. Available now. 3053 35th Street. 619-665-9497.


LA MESA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-car garage. 3034 Casado. 619-567-9187.


LA MESA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Hardwood floors, garage, 2 parking spots. 1/2 block to beach. $1495. 1590 Sunset Avenue. 619-459-2647.


LA MESA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 1/2 block to the beach! Large yard, great view. Pets negotiable. $1350. 1713 Ocean Avenue. 619-294-2550.

LA MESA. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, washer/dryer, refrigerator, 2-car garage. 1160 Aliante Avenue. 619-281-9170.


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E-mail: lajoliacrossroads@lajoliacrossroads.com

San Diego Daily Reader September 1, 2005
Page 3
Rental

FOR AFFORDABLE LUXURY LIVING?

The Club Torrey Pines is a pleasant place to call home. We are nestled in a quiet neighborhood of Carmel Valley and we offer something for everyone, an award-winning school district, shopping within walking distance, easy freeway access, minutes to Del Mar beaches, and free tennis and swimming lessons.

CALL FOR SPECIALS!

1 bedroom/1 bath from $1225
2 bedroom/2 bath from $1540

CALL FOR SPECIALS!
PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH, $1,025. 2 bedroom, Large, downtown, Studio, re- 

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH, $1,100. 1 bedroom apartment. Beautifully landscaped, 

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH, $1,345. 2 bedroom apartment. 2-1/2 blocks to beach. 
Restored hardwood floors, appliances, 2-car garage, pool, air conditioning. No pets. 
Lease. $1,345 deposit. 619-229-5894.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH, $1,450. 2 bedroom units in Townhome. 
1 bedroom, 1 bath. Master bedroom has views of the ocean and bay. Large. Quiet. 

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH, $1,600. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Newer 2 story. Easy freeway ac-
cess, ocean view, cul-de-sac. Nice swimming pool and spa. Pets available. 10/1. $2,000. 858-
597-8000.

SANTUAN, $1,500. Security deposit special, $300. Ground floor, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 

SAN DIEGO/LA MESA. $1,500. Spacious 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Washer, dryer, parking. 
Upscale neighborhood, near shopping and recreational areas. Close to freeways. 858-492-9292.

SAN DIEGO/LA MESA. $1,700. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Extra large, quiet. Laundry, parking, 
community pool, spa, Eclipse. Beautifully landscaped. $1750, plus $900 moves you in. Available mid- 
September. Call 619-562-7675.

SAN MARCOS/SAN ELIJO HILLS. $1,925. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. All newer, stainless steel appliances, including dish-
washer, high efficiency washer/dryer, fireplace, extra large patio. Community pool. 858-487-6527.

SAN Ysidro. $2,000. Beautiful home w/ 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, corner lot. Pool, spa, 
fireplace. 5 blocks to freeway, great schools! Pets. Available 10/1. 619-605-9466.

BEAUTIFUL OCEAN VIEW! 2 BEDROOMS!! Beautiful, large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 1/2 block to beach! 
Furnished master bedroom & balcony. Big screen TV plus many other amenities. Call 619-233-4632.

BEAUTIFUL 2 BEDROOMS!!! North Beach. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Ocean view, patio, 

BEAUTIFUL 2 BEDROOMS!! 3 blocks to beach!! Stainless steel appliances, dish-

COLORADO. $700. Great location! 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Washer, dryer, pool, patio, 

COLORADO. $750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Walk to beach. Ocean, bay, city views! 
Lease. 619-226-0393.

COLORADO. $825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Beautifully landscaped. $600 security 

COLORADO. $825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Beautifully landscaped. $600 security deposit. 

COLORADO. $900. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Stainless steel appliances, dishwasher, washer/dryer, swimming pool, near freeway. No pets. 858-593-2608.

COLORADO. $900. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Stainless steel appliances, washer/dryer. 
Community pool. Beautiful. $950 minimum security deposit. No pets. 858-593-2608.

COLORADO. $950. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Stainless steel appliances, washer/dryer, 

COLORADO. $1,050. 1 bedroom. Near Grossmont College. 6405/1505/6505. 858-698-6211.

COLORADO. $1,150. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Newer 2 story. Easy freeway ac-
cess, ocean view, cul-de-sac. Nice swimming pool and spa. Pets available. 10/1. $2,000. 858-
597-8000.

COLORADO. $1,500. All newer, stainless steel appliances, dishwasher, washer/dryer. 

COLORADO. $1,600. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Extra large, quiet. Laundry, parking, 
community pool, spa, Eclipse. Beautifully landscaped. $1750, plus $900 moves you in. Available mid-
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COLORADO. $1,700. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. All newer, stainless steel appliances, including dish-
washer, high efficiency washer/dryer, fireplace, extra large patio. Community pool. 858-487-6527.
September 8, 2005

Large deluxe 1 bedroom, 1 bath apart-

near Big Kitchen Restaurant. 3095

dishwasher and appliances. Available

site, parking. 6-month lease. 8965 Switzer

tops, stainless steel appliances, beach-

diet, 2 bath townhouse. Gated, landscaped

Easy, low floor, no pets. $700.

rooms, 2000'. Upgrades, views, 5000'

3 bed, 2.5 bath, 2-car garage. Zoned for additional

Bar, bath, 2-car garage. All appliances. No

university’s best! See map-New maple wood cabinetry, granite
tops, stainless steel appliances, beach-
dy, 2 bath. Garage, 2 spaces. 1917-1919 Oliver.

10148 Strathmore Drive. MPM Realty,

$369K. 1365 Seacoast Drive. House, 1 bath, 2
door or balcony. Max $20,000. Call for de-

1493 sq. ft. 3 bedroom, 1 bath townhome. Gated, landscaped

Homes, too many upgrades to list! No

pull off of city street, 315 square feet, 13

3 bedroom, 1 bath townhome. Gated, landscaped

1 bedroom, 1 bath, 2-car garage. Zoned for additional

$320,000. HOA only $140. 100% financ-

signature-New maple wood cabinetry, granite
tops, stainless steel appliances, beach-

gate, 2 spaces. 1917-1919 Oliver. 1 bedroom,


San Diego house/condo for sale. Fast/easy.

house. 2 story, 5 bedroom, 3 bath, 2-car
garage. Only $370,000! Call Lisa/agent

OCEANSIDE.

sands of classified ads not printed here!

"Owner's" homes-save thousands! Call 24-

take over payments. $369K. 1365 Seacoast

owner may decline. 1 bedroom, No pets, 2 cars.

3 bed, 1 bath townhome. Gated, landscaped

2,395 square feet. Acre lot plus parcel:

$1395 deposit. 619-615-6766.

TALMADGE/COLLEGE AREA.

2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Everything remodeled. New

town. 24-hour security building.

KITCHEN/VISTA.

WE ARE SELLING OUR HOME!

gated, 2 spaces. 1917-1919 Oliver. 1 bedroom,


la. Move in now! Gated, landscaped yard, new floors, carpet, paint, new light fixtures, and ceiling fan in bed-

Garage, 2 spaces. 1917-1919 Oliver. 1 bedroom,

"Owner's" homes-save thousands! Call 24-

Rancho Santa Fe. Pinot Noir. Zoned for additional

la. Move in now! Gated, landscaped yard, new floors, carpet, paint, new light fixtures, and ceiling fan in bed-

Tanaka Boulevard #54. Juno, 619-275-

Small front yard. No pets. Washer/dryer in

DEBRA SANCHEZ (858) 405-5270, www.

2-story townhouse. Garages, 2 spaces. 1917-1919

1 room and mirrored wardrobe doors. New

new light fixtures, and ceiling fan in bed-

commission. No pets. 4531 Kansas Street. 619-

9094 Harness Street. 619-804-3325.

$1395. 2-story town-

$795. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, laundry, parking.

4 blocks to bay. Two 1 bedroom, 1 bath
townhomes. 4452 Techy Circle #181. $495,000. For sale by

ONE GUY/ONE BEDROOM. Airy, artful, high ceilings,

2 bedroom, 1 bath home in senior parc-

322,800 square feet. Gorgeous neighbor-

52,800 square feet. Gorgeous neighbor-

$700. Cute and

$750. 1 studio, 1 bath.

3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-car garage on huge

3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-car garage on huge

$100+ move-in assistance from the county to help you

SAN DIEGO.

2,195 square feet. Acre lot plus parcel:

NORTH PARK/HILLCREST.

$400 off first month! Renovated 2
duplex. Everything remodeled. New

town. 24-hour security building.

La Jolla. Bathroom of single family home.

$1945/month. Call 888-643-1527 x1121.

free of mold, pets. 4531 Kansas Street #7.

Bathroom of single family home.

$300/month. Call 888-361-4636.

La Jolla. Bathroom of single family home.

$1945/month. Call 888-643-1527 x1121.

TEAM GUGGENHEIM

$795. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, laundry, parking.

La Jolla. Bathroom of single family home.

$300/month. Call 888-361-4636.

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**REAL ESTATE**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

$8 CLASSIFIEDS!

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**WANTED.** Two educated successful women for joint ownership in purchase of real estate. Call Darleene. Call Darlene for details. 619-519-3403.

**WE BUY HOUSES!** Any condition, any area. Call Darlene for details. 619-519-3403.

**IN-WALER KEYS!** Darlene's In-Waler Keys. 619-519-3403. Agent/contractor.

**WE BUY HOUSES!** Any condition, any area. Call Darlene for details. 619-519-3403.

**24-hour Information:** Call Darlene for details. 800-374-8972.

**San Diego Home Buyers!** We have purchased properties throughout San Diego County. 800-664-7666. 20-30 new properties daily. We buy undeveloped land. $79,500. For full details call Darlene for details. 619-519-3403.

**dock ramp.** 1/2 mile from boat ramp/lake on. Cash buyer. 858-488-8721.


**LA MESA.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 master bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. $2250 square feet lot, 3 car garage, 2 deck/walkway. Light, bright, open floor plan. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. 3990. Beautiful. 619-295-2323. **ESCONDIDO.** 4 bedroom, 2 masters, 4 bath. Home warranty. 4037. For details. 619-749-2047.

**3890.** 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Well maintained, tile, central air, 2 car garage, 1,900 square feet, house and lot. 31700, 3rd Ave. 619-465-9117. **3990 x1172.**

**ATTENTION RENTERS!** Zero down or rent to own. Free report. Visit Realty Executives. Margarita: 858-829-1111. 11am-3pm.


**BUY WITH $3500.** Local credit buyers. Call Paul, 619-478-2944.


**277.** Sold as is. $199. Evenings, 619-460-1830.

**238-3071** $15,000. Selling thousands! Call for details: Broker/Agents new). 4 bedroom, 2 masters, 4 bath. 34,000. For details. 619-232-8888.

**3990 x1172.**

**The Lyon and Healy Professional.** 3363. Openings for vocalist, musicians and DJs. For the absolute best SanDiegoDrum.com or call 760-941-9371. Wanted. 13, 12, with chrome snare. No tom holder. We buy used and working audio gear and musical instruments. We buy, sell and trade! Del Mar Fair, September 24, 10am-3pm.**

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**DOWNTOWN SPECIALIST!** Time Buyers #130. Avoid Mistakes Home-buying. Call for details: Broker/Agents new). 4 bedroom, 2 masters, 4 bath. 34,000. For details. 619-232-8888.

**BUY WITH $3500.** Local credit buyers. Call Paul, 619-478-2944.


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FEMALE SINGER WANTED.

ROGER, 858-776-2635.

FEMALE SINGER WANTED.

Focus is on music, adding songs, band. Influences: Linkin Park, Evanescence for female singer who can co-front the vocals. Must be melodically trained, in timing, experience, under age 40. Approximately 150 paid shows and some gigging. Roger, 858-776-2635.

DRUMMER WANTED.

DRUMMER WANTED

Please include contact info, experience. Excellent meter. Dependable. Call Fashek, Myka Nyne, Scientist, Skunk, Shattered.

VOCALIST NEEDED


TENANT KAYAKS FOR SALE.


TICKETS

PLACE FREE ONLINE ADS with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. Only $15 for 60 classifieds of classified ads not printed here! Or, same day and black out dates. Other dates and locations.

RESERVATION BOX OFFICE.

We will beat any advertised price.

LADY KAYAKS FOR SALE.


BASS PLAYER WANTED

San Diego, 858-715-4642 or 858-349-4625. Not just a job, a career. Go to SanDiegoReader.com. Also see thousands of classified ads not printed here!

GUITAR FOR SALE

HUGE Selection!! Expires 9/31.

RECORD WITH DL MUSIC.

LADY KAYAKS FOR SALE.


WANTED: experienced, music-oriented, female keyboardist. Must be able to read music, have at least 10 years experience. Excellent meter, timing, dependable. Call Fashek, Myka Nyne, Scientist, Skunk, Shattered.

SPECIAL PROMO: buy 100 tickets at $45 each and receive 100 tickets for FREE. Valid for 2006 at all shows. Limit 100 FREE tickets per person. Please see Ticketmaster for details. For info call 619-278-4849.

ATTENTION: LAST CHANCE TO SAVE UP to 50% on most items at our San Diego record store. Also, to all our loyal customers, we are moving into a larger space! Large retail, 760-451-0999.
If you have any warning light, we can fix it! Any make or model.

GERMAN • JAPANESE • EUROPEAN • DOMESTIC
Factoy Standards’ State-of-the-Art Computer Analysis
FREE DIAGNOSTIC
with major repair

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available on site for your convenience

6-MONTH/3-MILE SERVICE
$30.99*
Most cars

15K/45K/75K/105K SERVICE or 12-MONTH
$79.95*
Most cars

30K/60K/90K/120K/150K MAJOR SERVICE
$144.95*
Most 4-cyl. cars

RENTAL VEHICLES
available on site for your convenience

DBL
Don’t Buy a Lemon™
MISSION VALLEY
5803 Mission Gorge Rd.
1/2 block north of I-8, across from Cash Honda
619-516-5555

FREE TOWING
With repair over $500.

90 DAYS INTEGRAL CREDIT 90% QUALITY.
OPEN MON. - SAT. 7 AM - 6 PM

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**San Diego Reader**

**CONVOY AUTO REPAIR**

- Inspect air filter
- Lubricate chassis
- Install new spark plugs

**Prices**

- $55.95
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**Free CAR RENTAL**

One day with any repair

Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Please call for an appointment.

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**Auctions & Collectibles**

**AAA-Approved Repair**

**12-Month/12,000-Mile Nationwide Warranty**

Accept nothing less!

- BRAKES • FRONT ENDS
- ENGINES • ALIGNMENT
- ASE-CERTIFIED MASTER TECHNICIANS

**SAN DIEGO SMOG TEST ONLY**

- For most 4-cyl. cars. Plus $8.25 certificate and $3 transfer fee.
- Expires 9/22/05.

**FREE LOCAL SHUTTLE SERVICE**

FREE TOWING

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LEAD STORY
— In court papers filed in 1994 but which only recently became public attention, for the first time, the Archdiocese of Portland, Ore., challenged a child-support claim against a priest by pointing out the culpability of the mother herself for failing to use birth control (which the church regards as a sin).

The 1994 document came to light when the woman went to court in July 2005 for an increase in child support, but the court turned her down in December, finding Oregon law wrongheaded, although Uribe’s ordering procedure subsequently volunteered more support. (The man who was archbishop of Portland during the 1994 case recently assumed Pope Benedict’s previous job as the Vatican’s chief doctrinalist.)

Ironsies
— New World Order: In April, the communist government of China presented its quinquennial Vanguard (or Model) Worker award (in the past, given to factory workers, public-outrageous-strikes, and the like) to Yao Ming, the Houston Rockets basketball player who lives most of the year in the United States and earns about $15 million annually from playing and product endorsements (which is about 15,000 times the average earning of Chinese urban workers).

— More Ironies: (1) Criminal defense lawyer Donald Johnson apprehended the man burglarizing his home in Cornwall, Ontario, in May, and discovered it was one of his clients, Scott Best, 34, who was unaware of whose home he had entered and wanted to telephone Johnson from the station house. (2) Among the items stolen from the All Souls Church in Peterborough, England, in July was a two-foot-high statue of St. Anthony of Padua, the patron saint of lost and stolen items.

Compelling Explanations
— In July, a team of South Korean scientists made history by cloning an Afghan hound, but many experts view the team’s revelation two months earlier as even more important, when they derived 11 stem cell lines from clones of patients with specific diseases. The leader of the team, Hwang Woo-suk, told the journal Nature Medicine that his clones have an advanced ability to harbor errors in delicate laboratory work because of “Oriental hands. We can pick up very slippery corn or rice with the steel chopsticks.”

— Lame: (1) Ronald Schaeuller, convicted of attempting to hire someone to knock his estranged wife unconscious and kidnap her, said (according to prosecutors) that he was just trying to reconcile with her, based on an idea from a Dr. Phil TV segment in which the host said that sometimes people need a good scare to realize their delusions (Port Washington, Wis., Aug. 1). (2) Jenca Stakelbeck, 22, charged with neglect when two of her diaper-clad toddlers were found on the side of a highway, blamed her lapse not on being high — (Franklin, Ind., Aug. 8).

Latest Rights
— Eric Lavriere, 25, filed a federal lawsuit in Boston in July, claiming the Waltham, Mass., police violated his constitutional right to be drunk and arrested him. (The law in many states requires police to detain anyone who is incapacitated and who might be a threat to him- self, and indeed, some police departments have been sued if they fail to detain someone who later attacks himself.) In July, Britain’s High Court declared illegal London’s 9 p.m. curfew for those under age 16 who are not with an adult. Lord Justice Brooke said “everyone” should have the right to “walk the streets without interference from police.”

— Geoffrey Moore, 65, of Hightown Green, England, filed an unfair dismissal claim against his former employer, Kevin Mayhew Publishers, for firing him after he was convicted of six counts of sexually abusing a 4-year-old girl. Upon his conviction, Moore was placed on various restrictions but avoided jail time and now says that since he never actually went to jail, the company, which specializes in Christian-themed books, should take him back.

The Litigious Society
— In Old Saybrook, Conn., in October 2004, Alan Hauser, who was parked with engine running, sitting with his mother-in-law, accidentally hit the accelerator, causing the SUV to jump a curb and plough down an embankment into the Connecticut River, where rescuers (who were later cited for heroism) pulled the woman out 30 minutes later. (Hauser managed on his own.) The woman, 75, suffered serious brain damage from being submerged in water, and the insurance team against the driver for not having guardrails, or not having regular patrols of trained and equipped rescuers, and not having more signs warning people of the danger of falling into the river. (Hauser was also sued, but the family’s original plan, to sue individual rescuers, was scuttled.)

— In July, Jeanette Passalaqua, 32, filed a lawsuit in San Bernardino, Calif., against the Kaiser Permanente medical organization for the death of her husband in June 2004, when he passed out while watching his wife receive an epidural anesthetic, fell over, and fatally hit his head. According to the lawsuit, hospital personnel had asked the husband to hold and comfort his wife while the needle was being inserted and therefore were at fault.

Things People Believe
— About 200 Major League Baseball players wear $23 titanium necklaces made by the Japanese company Phiten, according to a June New York Times report, with many accepting the company’s claim that they improve circulation and reduce muscle stress. Said a company spokesman: “Everybody has electricity running through their bodies. This product stabilizes that flow of electricity if you’re stressed or tired.” Said New York Mets pitcher Heath Bell (who has two necklaces): “If you think it’s not good, you’d be asking to work. But I don’t think it’s not good, it’s not going to work. I’m going to keep wearing it because next year there will be something new we’ll all have to get.”

Questionable Judgments
— Steven Newell was hospitalized in London, Ontario, in July, passing out in the large plastic swimming pool, which he had just placed on his second-floor balcony and then filled with water, caused the balcony to collapse and plunge to the ground. The pool, 8 feet in diameter and filled with water as it was a height of 20 inches, would require about 640 gallons, weighing more than 2 1/2 tons. Newell had relocated the pool to the balcony in order to avoid safety requirement of building a fence around it.

News That Sounds Like a Joke
— Lawyers for horror novelist Stephen King acknowledged in June that King had been sued once again by Anne Hütner, who now claims that the obsessed, psychotic nurse in the movie farmhouse must have been based on her. She had earlier claimed that a psychic character from King’s TV show, Kingdom Hospital, was based on her and sued him for that allegedly breaking into her home and stealing manuscripts.

Recurring Thèmes
— “News of the Weird” has often mentioned cases of bestiality, but the death of a 45-year-old man in Enumclaw, Wash., in July was extraordinary. The death was reported in the local media as having occurred after “sex with a horse,” but bestiality usually involves the human as the perpetrator. In this case, though, the man died of acute peritonitis from a perforated colon, indicating that the horse was the perpetrator. Investigators reportedly seized videotapes of the activity, which took place at a non-descript farm that was known in Internet bestiality chat rooms to be a haven for sex with livestock. Washington is one of 17 states without a specific anti-bestiality law, and authorities said that the act was probably not a crime in that the state’s animal-cruelty law would require showing that the horse suffered.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 60933, San Diego, CA 92116 or to newsweird@aol.com
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Faded Memories

There’s a line in the 1986 movie Stand by Me about “never having friends like the ones you have when you’re young.”

This came to mind recently while I was going through old photos from my childhood and found a faded black and white snapshot of my 8-year-old self with an arm around my first best friend, Robbie. He lived across the street from me and we were best buds until my family moved to another town the same year that picture was taken. Through the years I’d see him every now and then. The last time was when he was pitching a baseball game for UC Irvine, where he’d earned an athletic scholarship.

Seeing this photo made me remember the simplicity of those times, at least to an eight-year-old. It was the late ‘60s... We didn’t know there was a war, and protesters, and hippies. Our lives revolved around kickball, Big Wheels, and ‘60s... We didn’t know there was a war, and protesters, and hippies. Our lives revolved around kickball, Big Wheels, and Winky Dink and You. At the photos too. Just then, the screaming began.

“No no no! Aiiiieeee!!” Eeeeeeeeeeeeeeek! Something like that anyway. I hear that out and feel uncomfortable about turning my back, even for a minute. My common sense tells me that the world is a much safer place now than it ever has been, but my emotions are irrevocably scarred by the culture of fear that we now live in.

Even people without kids are nervous. A few weeks ago we were in Sandpoint, Idaho, poking around the touristy downtown area. We stopped at the Cedar Street Bridge to browse the Coldwater Creek store there. In the middle of our browsing, our daughter started her little dance and whispered, “Mommy, I have to go...” so off to the nearest bathroom on the upper level of the bridge. My son and I looked at old photos on the wall while we waited. Soon a middle-aged couple and their friend stopped to look at the photos too. Just then, the screaming began.

“No no no! Aiiiieeee!!”

Eeeeeeeeeeeek! Something like that anyway. I hear this stuff practically every day and I know how to read all the different noises my kids make, so I didn’t react at all. But the couple next to us became very concerned, probably because of a recent child abduction that had brought national attention to our area. The woman didn’t want much time and announced loudly that she was “going to investigate!”

We waited a few moments, with a small crowd gathering, and me pretending not to know what’s going on. Pretty soon the woman emerged from the bathroom, spread her arms, palms out to calm the masses, and authoritatively stated, “It’s okay! Everything’s all right. She just saw a spider web!”

Audible signs of relief followed, and the crowd dispersed, glad that the screams of terror coming from the public restroom were simply a little girl freaking out over a dusty old spider web.

So, my kids are growing up in a different world, with dangers both real and perceived. But I’m not so sure that’s a bad thing. They are healthier, happier, and smarter than I was at their age, and they will have opportunities in the future that we could not have even imagined thirty years ago. It’s kind of like what my childhood was like as compared to that of my parents.

The only constant that I hope holds true for my children is that they find one or two “friends like the ones you have when you’re young.” And may they have a freezer full of ice cream!

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PURE OAK TABLE, 3 chairs, cherry wood finish. New for $1000, sacrifice for $35. Please call Linda 619-252-4274.

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ARRIVED and the suspect was taken into custody without incident. He was booked on four counts of felony vandalism. No gun was found. The suspect was recently released from parole.

FELONY EVASION, BATTERY, ET AL
Location: (4606) River Road, Oceanside
Time/Date: 9:00 p.m. on 8/21/05

Incident: Officer Clark and I were in S/E when we responded to a call of a 417 PC FELONY VANDALISM. No gun was found. The suspect was recently released from parole.

Air Support Unit Report: Officer Clark and I were in S/E when we responded to a call of a 417 PC (gun). When we arrived, a Sergeant was speaking to the victim. On our second orbit, the suspect drove up behind the Sergeant in his Tahoe. The Sergeant immediately pointed his gun at the suspect and had him put his hands out of the driver's side window. We called for expedited cover for the Sergeant. All of the cover units were from a distance. The suspect got out of the car and began moving around in the street, reaching towards his waistband. A cover officer and a K-9 unit arrived and the suspect was taken into custody without incident. He was booked on four counts of felony vandalism. No gun was found. The suspect was recently released from parole.

FELONY VANDALISM
Location: 687 Alvin Street, Emerald Hills
Time/Date: 10:45 a.m. on 8/20/05

Incident: A deputy received a call to take a report of an armed robbery that occurred at the Robertito's Taco Shop. Two male suspects confronted the clerk inside the taco shop. One of the males put a backpack on the counter and told the clerk to put all of the money inside. The other male held a gun to the clerk's stomach and moved him toward the cash register. The suspects fled inside. The other male held a gun to the clerk's stomach and had him drive up behind the Sergeant in his Tahoe. The Sergeant and moved him toward the cash register. The suspects fled into S/E when we responded to a call of a 417 PC FELONY VANDALISM. No gun was found. The suspect was recently released from parole.

BATTERY, ET AL
Location: [4400] River Road, Oceanside
Time/Date: 9:00 p.m. on 8/21/05

REPORT:

Erica R. (19) and a companion were inside their vehicle in the area of Highway 78 and Nordahl shortly after the vehicle ran over spike strips that the vehicle hit the center median and spun out of control, coming to rest on the freeway. The suspect fled the vehicle on foot, and officers caught him before he could get away. He was subsequently arrested, and booked into the Vista Detention facility for two case of felony evading, assault with a deadly weapon against a peace officer, possession of a controlled substance, violation of parole, and domestic battery.

KIDNAPPING
Location: 815 East Vista Way, Vista
Time/Date: 7:34 a.m. on 8/21/05

Report: Erica R. (19) and a companion were inside their vehicle in the parking lot of the Jack in the Box. R.'s boyfriend, E.M. (23), drove into the parking lot and blocked R. and her companion. R. exited the vehicle and tried to enter the restaurant. M. struck the vehicle several times with the crowbar and broke out several windows. M. then went after R., forced her into his vehicle, and fled the scene. R. and M.'s whereabouts are currently unknown. They have a child together, Bruce (20 months), who is also missing.

TERRORIST THREATS
Location: (7800) Paradise Valley Road, Skyline
Time/Date: 1:48 p.m. on 8/22/05

Officer's Report: F.S. threatened, both over the phone and in person, to burn down T.T.'s car. T. came into the Southeastern front counter to report this incident. I took T.'s statement. I had Officers Johansen and DeWitt check the address for F.S., but the address was empty. I placed a T.T. on hold. Officers Johansen and DeWitt knocked at the door and the residents said they never heard of F.S.

T. told me that on 8/21/05, she was visiting friends in the Meadowbrook Apartments, across from where S. was visiting his friends. During the night, S. kept yelling in the window, trying to get her to come out. She ignored him and went to sleep. When she left the apartment this morning, S. was outside waiting for her. He called her names and threatened to burn her car to the ground. T. again ignored him and left.

This afternoon, S. called T.'s cell phone and said, “I’ll ever find your car I will blow it up.” He continued saying, “You don’t give a shit about your kids.”

T. will save the message on her cell phone for detectives.

— Michael Hemmingson

The King’s Criminal of the Week:
San Diego PD was trying to track down several people with outstanding arrest warrants when they thought of a brilliant idea. They sent all the criminals free tickets to a Padres game. When the people arrived, they were promptly arrested.

If you are the criminal of the week,
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George “King” Stahlman
Mary Jackson founded a ministry in Barrio Logan. She helps women learn job skills.

Mary drives a new Honda Element. “Do you want to hear how I got such a nice car?” she asks. I nod, and she begins, “At the end of last month, I was praying for a friend of mine, and I asked, ‘Lord, why would you have me do this for this person, if anything?’ He said, ‘Give them your car.’

“I had been thinking about giving a little money or encouragement. So I said, ‘My car?’ And He said, ‘Yes, like before.’

“About seven years ago I had broken my back and couldn’t drive a stick shift anymore. And I prayed and I asked God whether to put my car in the car in the Reader or the Union-Tribune or the Auto Trader, and He told me to give it to this family I knew.

“I’d never heard anything like that before from Him. So just in case I had misheard Him, I told Him I’d check back in a week. In case He didn’t see the whole picture, that I really needed that money to get a different car and to get my daughter braces, I gave him another week to reevaluate.

“A week went by and then I asked, ‘Okay, God, I’ve given you this week, now what’s it going to be, Auto Trader or Union-Tribune or Reader?’ So I gave my car to these people. This time it was much easier, because I had done it once and I knew He wouldn’t leave me high and dry.

“I was using an old station wagon that our ministry owned, and someone came up and said they had been praying and they felt that they were supposed to buy me a car. I was really taken back, this was so generous, and I didn’t want them to do it because they felt sorry for me.

“My daughter hears from the Lord too, so that day I went to her and said, ‘There’s really a important decision I need to make, and I need to know if the answer is yes or no, and that’s all I’m going to tell you.’ So my daughter went to the gym and worked out, and she came home, and we talked about something else. Then she said, ‘Oh by the way, God said yes.

“This person asked me what kind of car I wanted, and I said ‘I don’t know.’ Later, we went to look at cars, and we looked at a Honda Element, because I have two dogs and it’s just like one of me, a little functional, a little boxy. And it’s a good car.

“This person said, ‘You know this is God’s money, so don’t thank me, thank the Lord.’ I said, ‘Yeah, but you gave the money to the people who have the choice of what to do with it.’ And the person said, ‘No, really—

To suggest future "Driven" stories, e-mail ken@kenkuhlen.net
$8 CLASSIFIEDS!


“COFFEE, PLEASE,” I SAY AND HOLD BACK ON SNAPING MY FINGERS AND YELLING, “Quick! Quick! Move! Move!” She understands the unspoken commands and slides a clear, textured glass of ice water in front of me. As soon as she’s flipped over the small, robin’s-egg-colored mug, hot black mud is flowing into it.

On the TV above the counter a man in a crisp black blazer with black shirt and red tie stares into the camera from behind a giant oak desk. The sound is so low I can’t make anything out, but I think he says “Lance Armstrong.”

Behind me a child parades his ten-word vocabulary around for everyone in the diner to hear. “Mom! Mom! Mom! Look!” Raising one eyebrow and peering over her left shoulder, I see the little bastard turned around in his seat, standing up and making a charge at the back of the booth like it’s Mt. Everest and the bald guy sitting behind him is base camp.

Straightening up, I see my suspicions confirmed when a yellow jersey and aerodynamic helmet race across the screen — blured foliage behind the scene and a title bar in front that reads “Lance Takes Arms.”

“What can I get ya, honey?” the blond smile asks the notepad in the clutches of her long fingernails.

“I’ll take a cheese omelet, wheat toast,” I answer. “You sure can,” she says to the notepad and vanishes.

I didn’t ask. I didn’t say, “Can I get a...” because I hate that. She can’t answer, “Sure you can,” when I didn’t ask for it.

With that one most passive of aggressive acts the waitress has wrested control from me. What was a you-bring-me-things-for-pay situation she reversed and made it an ask-for-things-that-I-allow-you-to-have situation.

“Mom! Mom! Mom!” from the booth. Grubby little hands have found a spoon and an errant saucer and fashioned them into a percussion instrument. Clang! Clang! Clang! “Mom! Mom! Mom!” I can’t hear the damn TV.

“More coffee, honey?”

“Yeah,” I say loudly, pointing over my shoulder. “And tell that booth to hold it down.”

The look of fear crosses the waitress’s eyes. That’s right. I want to confront that family and tell them they’re disturbing others. Control comes back to me with the unspoken threat of, “If you don’t...” If you don’t I’ll tell the manager. If you don’t I won’t come back and spend money here. If you don’t I’ll show that cello-taped wrap in my ears and pop the drums so I don’t have to listen to this racket and you’ll have to clean up all the blood and ear pus that leaks out and down my shoulders and onto the GODDAMNED counter.

“And, turn up the volume on that television.”

“Sorry, honey, if you eat any of my peanuts you’re a dead woman,” one of them says, and the other补充, “With these I can’t do anything with these Money Tree caterpillars.”

I’m amazed he thinks some adver-tising isn’t a lie, but for this one he’s spot on.

COMPANY: MIDOL
SEEN: BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER, DAYTIME TALK SHOWS, LIFETIME SHOWS, LIFETIME COMPANY: MIDOL
SEEN: BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER, DAYTIME TALK SHOWS, LIFETIME SHOWS, LIFETIME
SEEN: SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE, KING OF THE HILL, THE PRICE IS RIGHT, QVC COMPANY: MIDOL
SEEN: BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER, DAYTIME TALK SHOWS, LIFETIME SHOWS, LIFETIME
SEEN: SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE, KING OF THE HILL, THE PRICE IS RIGHT, QVC

What I’m thinking has to be illegal in the Bible.

Is that woman even the same species as me?

I don’t like that there’s an implied psychedelic affect. Let’s just have out with it. Pills make you feel funny. They give you courage or somnolence or energy or whatever. I want to see that commercial. “Our pills put you to sleep. Give them a shot.”

COMPANY: UNESTA
SEEN: SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE, KING OF THE HILL, THE PRICE IS RIGHT, QVC

Commercial: A woman to sell nutritional supplements does ab and glute exercises next to a swimming pool. My thoughts: “Good lord. She’s tanned skin pulled taut over muscle. She’s hairless and only slick like a Caucasian lizard. Is that woman even the same species as me? What I’m thinking has to be illegal in the Bible Belt states.”

COMPANY: LUNESTA
SEEN: SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE, KING OF THE HILL, THE PRICE IS RIGHT, QVC

Commercial: A luminescent butterfly floats from house to house and puts people to sleep. I don’t like that there’s an implied psychodelic affect. Let’s just have out with it. Pills make you feel funny. They give you courage or somnolence or energy or whatever. I want to see that commercial. “Our pills put you to sleep. Give them a shot.”

COMPANY: YXIENCE
SEEN: NOTHING BUT KNOCKOUTS, PRIDE FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIP, THE ULTIMATE FIGHTER COMPANY: YXIENCE
SEEN: NOTHING BUT KNOCKOUTS, PRIDE FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIP, THE ULTIMATE FIGHTER

Commercial: If anyone knows this commercial is really selling, but I’m totally sold on the mascot idea.

COMPANY: LAS VEGAS BOARD OF TOURISM
SEEN: BILLBOARDS AT BUS STOPS AROUND TOWN COMPANY: LAS VEGAS BOARD OF TOURISM
SEEN: BILLBOARDS AT BUS STOPS AROUND TOWN

Commercial: These billboards are tie-ins with the recent “alibi” line of TV commercials Vegas is airing. The billboards have a phrase with a missing verb like, “I couldn’t stop ______ all weekend.” Or “We just stayed up and ______ the whole time.” With these I can’t do anything except put the “f” word in. That’s where my sixth-grade sense of humor automatically goes when faced with this sort of challenge.

COMPANY: XYLENCE
SEEN: NOTHING BUT KNOCKOUTS, PRIDE FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIP, THE ULTIMATE FIGHTER COMPANY: XYLENCE
SEEN: NOTHING BUT KNOCKOUTS, PRIDE FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIP, THE ULTIMATE FIGHTER

Commercial: If Red Stripe was Tom Cruise and I were Renee Zellweger I would run across the room, throw my arms over its longneck and kiss it on the bottle cap and I’d say, “You had me at ‘Hooray Beer.’ You had me at ‘Hooray Beer.’”

COMPANY: SELECT COMFORT
SEEN: MATLOCK, THE PRICE IS RIGHT, QVC COMPANY: SELECT COMFORT
SEEN: MATLOCK, THE PRICE IS RIGHT, QVC

Commercial: Whenever a Sleep Number commercial comes on, my dad throws whatever reading material is in his hands and yells, “What a crock! You mean to tell me that people sleep on regular mattresses, hay bales before that, and rocks before that, but I’ve got to have a personalized bed with some kind of digital number? What a load of...? No, it’s a lie. These people are liars.” I’m amazed he thinks some advertising isn’t a lie, but for this one he’s spot on.

COMPANY: EMALED NUTS
SEEN: SPORTS EVENTS, GAME SHOWS COMPANY: EMALED NUTS
SEEN: SPORTS EVENTS, GAME SHOWS

Commercial: It’s rare that you learn something from a commercial. This is the exception. In this ad an ugly little girl with a mongoloid uni- brow asks her daddy to share his peanuts. He says, “Sorry, honey, if you eat any of my peanuts unicorns will disappear forever.” GENIUS!

COMPANY: STARBUCKS
SEEN: MORNING TELEVISION, SIMPSONS, FAMILY GUY COMPANY: STARBUCKS
SEEN: MORNING TELEVISION, SIMPSONS, FAMILY GUY

Commercial: A guy wakes up to find he’s being held by a cheering section, complete with mascot in matching suit. Oh, ho ho, MAN, do yellow face paint smeared across my knuckles, teeth skittering over a concrete floor, and the shouts of, “Please! Oh, please! No more! I can’t take...oh, my antennae! No!”

COMPANY: SIX FLAGS
SEEN: EVERYWHERE CONSTANTLY COMPANY: SIX FLAGS
SEEN: EVERYWHERE CONSTANTLY

Commercial: Finally, a good commercial. If Red Stripe were Tom Cruise and I were Renee Zellweger I would run across the room, throw my arms over its longneck and kiss it on the bottle cap and I’d say, “You had me at ‘Hooray Beer.’ You had me at ‘Hooray Beer.’”

COMPANY: RED STRIPE
SEEN: KING OF THE HILL, POKER, DAILY SHOW COMPANY: RED STRIPE
SEEN: KING OF THE HILL, POKER, DAILY SHOW

Commercial: If a guy wakes up to find he’s being held by a cheering section, complete with mascot in matching suit. Oh, ho ho, MAN, do
AUTOMOTIVE

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Smog check $11.95

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S.A.M.C.O.
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10% off your total invoice

Seaside Classic Tinting
Window Tint $59

Shrens Autocare
Computerized alignment $29.95

Sound Check
$99 window tinting

Speedy Auto Centers
AC service $119 plus freight

Streneyz Auto Sound & Security
10% off window tint

Suspension Plus Full Service Center
One free shock or strut

T&T Smog Test Only Check
$10 off Test Only smog

Thao Automotive
Smog check $16.75

Transmission SCA
Free oil change with transmission service

USA Autosound
Free window tint

Welltech Auto Service
Smog check $15.75

Worth Automotive
$29.95 AC service

FOUR WHEEL DRIVERS]

FORD EXPLORER XLT, 1998, LT, V6, im- maculate, original owner, garage, bal-de, Teflon coated, not a single ding and doesn’t leak oil. JBL, CD, $2500 (new) $1850- 4500

FORD EXPLORER LTD, 2000, with 3rd seat and lots of air bags, located in El Cajon. $4300. 619-333-0330

FORD EXPLORER V6, 2000, all under 100 miles, $3000. 619-741-4829.

FORD FEAL, 1996. Superior, sunroof, black, leather, 4.9L, 6-speed. Great condition. Man-
tended. Loaded. Lifted, extra large tires. New tires, brakes, more. $9500. 619-582- 0100.

FORD MAXI CARGO VAN, 1998, extra long, really good, price firm, low miles. 9700. 619-335-7692

FORD RANGER, 2000, Regular cab. Red, Automatic, 40,000 miles, 2 wheel drive, V-6, cruise, air, power windows, locks, CD changer, dual exhaust. $7000. 619-741-4829.

GMC Jimmy, 1995, great condition. con-

FORD 4X4, 1996, 4.9L, 6-speed, automatic, 42,000 miles, 2 wheel drive, V-4, air. Excellent condition. AM/FM, stereo, automatic, 4 wheel drive. Winch, towbar, remov- able bedliner, one owner. $7500. 619-741-4829

GMC TRUCK, 1999, 4WD, only 91,000 miles, like new. $23,000. 619-333-0330.

GMC TRUCKS, 1999, 4WD, 91,000 miles, pull out s, $23,000. 619-333-0330.

JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT, 1995, 4.0L, 4WD, Custom wheels/exhaust, CDMPS, alarm, roof rack, power windows, heater/AC, $12,000. 619-336-3888.

JEEP WRANGLER, 1995, 4.0L, 4WD, automatic, 78,000 miles, 4x4s, 6-speed, 2 door, black leather, fuel efficiency. $4900. 929-582-2896.


CASH FOR CLASSICS,
with photos at

MOTORHOME.
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CASH FOR CLASSICS,
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CASH FOR CLASSICS,
with photos at

MOTORHOME.
I was asked to leave by a Starbucks employee accusing me of threatening behavior.

When I first started writing this column, six years ago this week, I pretty much decided not to over the obvious Friday pursuits like going to bars or hanging around in coffee shops. Mostly I think I have done this, or rather, not done it. But in the past six years the coffee shop has become, for me, just the living room in the Zeitgeist as it were. All of us are spending possibly inordinate amounts of both leisure and work time in these establishments. It has, for example, become quite common for me to write this column in one of these particular Starbucks locations. Last week’s column, for example, where I am sitting now. In it, I seized upon this forum for my own agenda, possibly, but until I am stopped, I decided I will continue to luxuriate in this liberating and vital opportunity to express the terms of disloyal and incompetent society members who are constantly plotting against me.

Excuse me a moment. Thank you. Another job of African caffeine. Yes, my mind is much clearer. To begin with, I deplore the absence of electrical outlets in certain caffeine emporiums; don’t they know that, like the staff behind the counter, I am working on Friday nights? I can only assume that I am expected to sign up for their wireless deal.

That, of course, is a pathetic ruse to get your name on a list of those to be served only coffee laced with odorless, tasteless sterilizing chemicals and drugs to inhibit sexual activity and/or renders undesirable customers impotent. That is precisely why I bring my own water bottle. If I order a Frappuccino Cranberry Lattesino, I will pretend I ordered it by mistake and foil it on some local chimpansion talking about the Chargers (whoever they may be) and should not be having children.

A word about the music in Starbucks, HEAR MUSIC, I believe they call it dismagnosically. Alanis Morris, other whiners. Thank God, the aural palate is cleansed by the occasional Ray Charles, Miles Davis, and Van Morrison offerings. These gentlemen have a prophylactic effect on the neural synapses and are proof against the music of certain chicks that would love to make me look foolish because I have no idea what they’re talking about. “Isn’t It/Ironic”? Alanis? Well, as local writer Alex Bosworth exposed publicly — Bosworth is one of us I believe, but I will say no more — no, rain on your wedding day is not Ironic! You clearly have no idea what the words mean, Alanis, or whatever your real name is. As for Tracy Chapman singing “Stand by Me,” the song was never meant to be performed on heroin, and if your children hear it (do I have to say it again?) make sure they wear a condom. Myself, I find an aluminum foil condom inexpensive and effective, but my readers know that already.

I will mention particular coffee shops in the following section.

Claire De Lune, Lestat’s, Basaam, and the above-mentioned Living Room locations (which I will not disclose) are safe places to work and recreate, and you can smoke at Basaam’s. I mention these because they have survived where others have failed. Between the Friday on which I am writing this and the next Friday when the column of pre-brewed coffee businesses will have appeared, untold multiplicities of pre-brewed coffee businesses will have vanished with the kind of hope that springs eternal in a young man’s heart in spring. A near equally crash will be induced by the weight of supply and demand principles and, needless to say, the ongoing consensus, which is to look into question widely accepted realities such as the reason frozen peas are near all the same size. The pea question is one that so-called comedian George Carlin once remarked upon as it was quite humorous. I think you and I both know the deadly serious nature of the current political climate.

As an aside, I noted the presence of a middle-aged man reading a hard-bound Barnes & Noble (I think) edition of Grimm’s Fairy Tales. I learned across my table to read the title, and the long-haired, pin-wheel-eyed gent caught the book and hid it away in his lap. Likely attracted to the volume as a result of seeing the current movie (I have not seen it) about the brothers, this aging hipster, quite possibly smallish, having betrayed himself. I saw in a trice that he was caught on to the encryption implied in the spine by the Grimm literary agents.

Our fair tale, gnome-like little man may already, even as I write this, be possessed of secrets at which we can only guess. Later: In a parking garage off Fifth Avenue, I was asked to leave by a Starbucks employee accusing me of threatening behavior. I complied, naturally; I am on probation regarding a misunderstanding that involved alcohol and some sort of law. Those who have read my jail columns will understand. Passages in my recent work have provided psychiatric lackeys of the government with what they call “increasing evidence of returning symptoms” and I simply call emigrations. For the record, all I said to the covering spy at the sidewalk table as I reached for the code was, “Give me the book, traitor, bastard!”