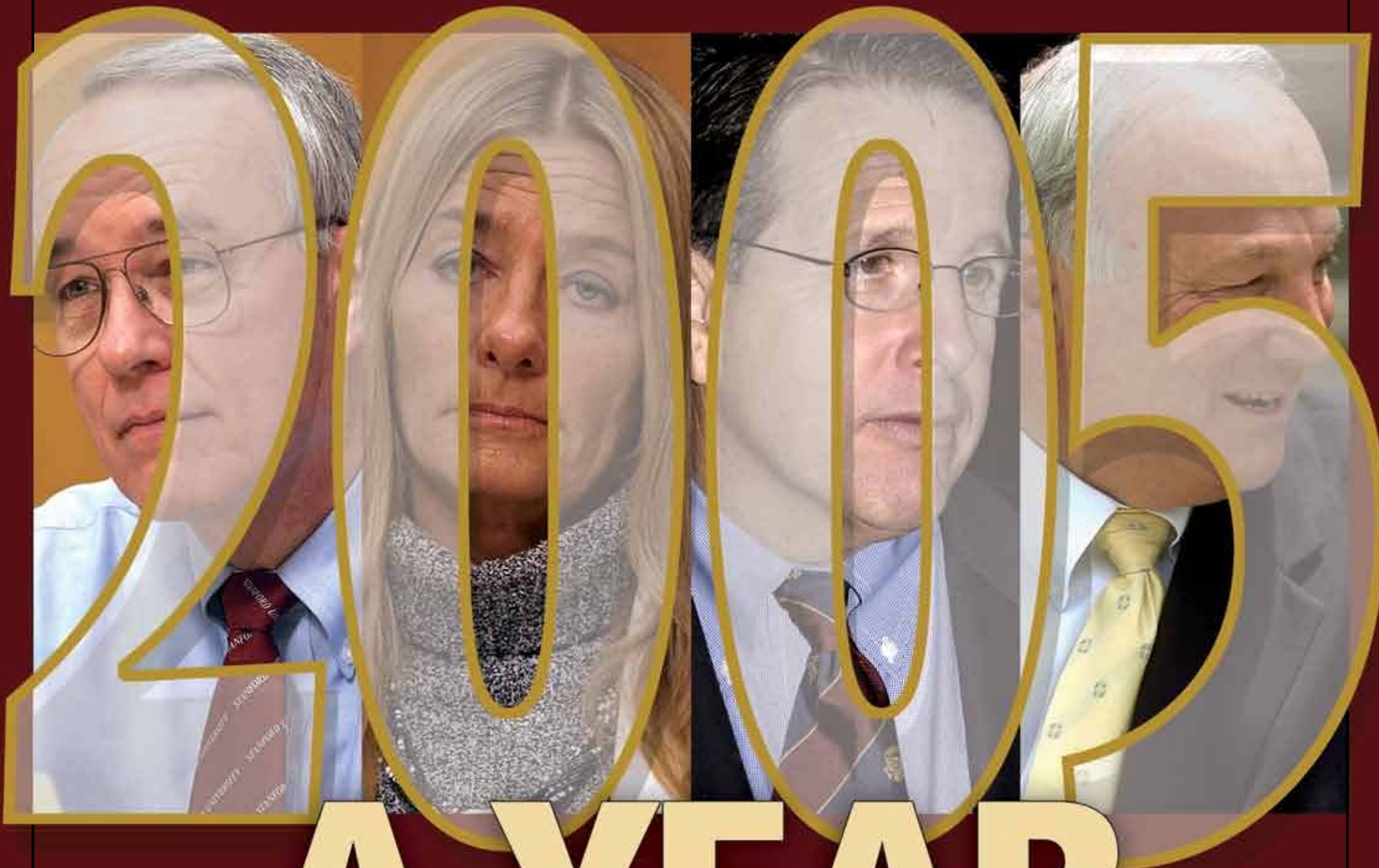


SAN DIEGO WEEKLY

VOLUME 35 / NUMBER 1
JANUARY 5, 2006

Reader



A YEAR IN REVIEW

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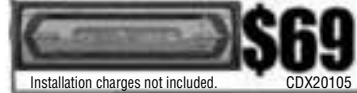
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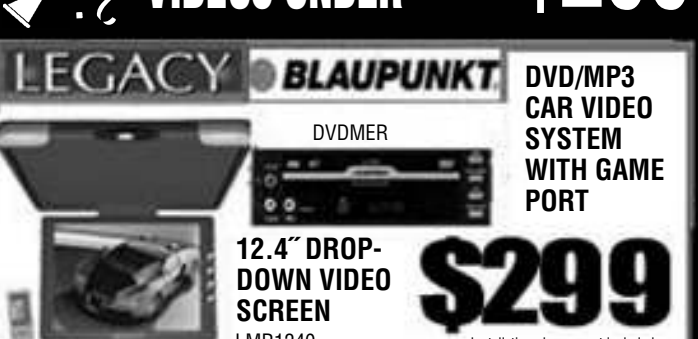
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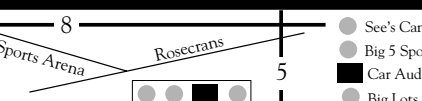
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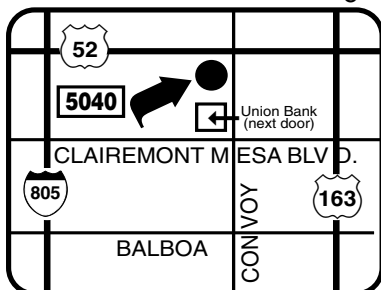
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An archive of City Lights stories can be searched on the Internet at SanDiegoReader.com

Vacation high jinks



Kevin Faulconer

San Diego second-district city council candidate **Kevin Faulconer** is about to get a big infusion of shoe leather from the state GOP's wingtip and raccoon-coat crowd. "I wanted to encourage you to consider coming down to San Diego for a few days in early January and help out on the only race going on in the country," says a recent e-mail headlined "Christmas Break Campaign Opportunity" addressed to "College Republican Leaders" from California College Republicans. "We have already invested in this race. Many CR's came down and organized others to come down for the CCR GOTV [get out the vote] weekend. Well, Kevin made the runoff and is going up against a big union Democrat. They have the public employee labor unions, we have CR's." The memo goes on to ask, "What's at stake?," answering, "Only the 6th Largest City in America — San Diego. San Diego just elected a Republican mayor and electing Kevin Faulconer to City Council will tilt the balance of power in the city government in OUR favor. More money will be spent in this race in the last month than most State Assembly campaigns budget for in their entire race. With the election on January 10th, our biggest push is Jan 7–10th (the last weekend and Monday and Tuesday) but we also need people from January 2–6th."

Workers are offered "a valuable grassroots campaign experience. We will be doing a full array of campaign activities. Everything from going to events, precinct walking, sign waiving, phone banking, volunteer recruitment — if a campaign does it we will do it. The turnout in this election will be very low, this will be a very personal, and grassroots oriented campaign." To the question "Will I be taken care of?," the answer is, "We will be putting everyone up in a hotel room for the entire time you are here. We will also be able to reimburse certain travel expenses and everyone will be PAID (depending on how long you can come down for) spending money. For those of you who came down to San Diego for the CCR GOTV you know how much fun we had while still doing everything in our power to make a difference. Well, we did and we will again."

Bankers' millions

San Diego mayoral honcho **Ronne Froman**, an ex-admiral, has filed her first statement of economic interests as required by state law. It reveals she is a director of La Jolla's 1st Pacific Bank, earning between \$10,000 and \$100,000, and owns bank stock valued in the same range, her only listed reportable asset. The other woman on the bank's board is real estate developer and Chinese restaur-



Ronne Froman

rant owner **Susan Lew**. A Froman buddy, ex-port director, and longtime friend and supporter of ex-mayor **Susan Golding**, Lew has close ties to the local GOP establishment. County records show that the bank has made hundreds of real estate loans, doing business with such notables as **Ted Gildred**, lending him \$2 million on a house in Encinitas and \$585,000 on a Solana Beach condo, and Republican donor **Sam Kholi**. On July 1, the records show, the bank filed a statement securing a loan to an entity known as 720 Lewis LLC; according to the records, Lewis is run by Maisel Presley, one of the county's most prolific condo converters. Company principal **Matt Maisel** is a vocal critic of efforts such as those favored by city attorney **Mike Aguirre** to regulate conversions. "San Diego has a housing crisis, but not in the rental stock," Maisel told the *Union-Tribune* last April. "It's in the for-sale stock. If you cut the legs off that by modifying the condo conversion ordinance, you'll eliminate the affordable housing stock, thus driving up prices in a fashion heretofore never seen in San Diego."

Duke in stir As GOP Congressman **Randy "Duke" Cunningham** faced investigation last summer for accepting bribes from defense contractors, he took time to honor an old friend. "I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring **Alan Bersin**, who this June will conclude his seventh year as superintendent of San Diego City Schools," said Cunningham in a June 27 speech on the House floor. "Mr. Bersin oversaw a transformation of San Diego City Schools. The district is now better able to serve its students, their families, and the broader San Diego community. His outreach efforts set a new standard for community participation and dialogue and helped to foster an atmosphere of mutual respect. By maintaining a relentless focus on enhanced instruction and improved student achievement, Superintendent Bersin achieved great things for public education in San Diego." ... Fund-raising is well under way for candidates running to replace Cunningham. As of the end of September, Democrat **Francine Busby** had already come up with \$248,149. Donors to her cause included Rancho Santa Fe attorney **Lynne Heidel**, a lobbyist for developers, who gave \$700. San Francisco's **Dagmar Dolby**, wife of **Ray Dolby**, inventor of the famous surround-sound system, kicked in \$1000. On September 30, Republican **Mark Wyland**, currently in the state assembly, personally loaned his campaign \$250,000. **Alan Uke**, another Republican, gave his campaign \$50,000.



Lynne Heidel

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.

— Matt Potter

Rag Trade's Bottom Line Plunges

By Don Bauder

In corporate slang, the garment industry is lovingly called "the rag trade." But in recent years, the rag trade has been ragged: people at all income levels haven't been spending as much of their disposable income on apparel.

High fashion is still around, but it's not as pervasive as in

has been marked by deflation," says San Diego-based Nitches, an importer and wholesaler of men's and women's garments, in its most recent annual report. As retail-



Garment industry websites

the past. Even debutantes wear jeans now, and not necessarily designer jeans. With more wealth and income concentrated in the upper 1 percent of the population, the apparel industry suffers from the top of the line to the bottom.

Most industries fear inflation, but "the apparel market

ers continue to merge, chains demand lower prices from suppliers such as Nitches, whose profits necessarily plunge.

Marie Driscoll, analyst for Standard & Poor's, sees continued "deflationary pricing pressures." Apparel companies may intensify the price-

slashing to get on the shelves of discounters and mass merchandisers. One demographic reason: as the population ages, people focus more on retirement, health-care costs, and children's tuition. Apparel goes to the back of the closet.

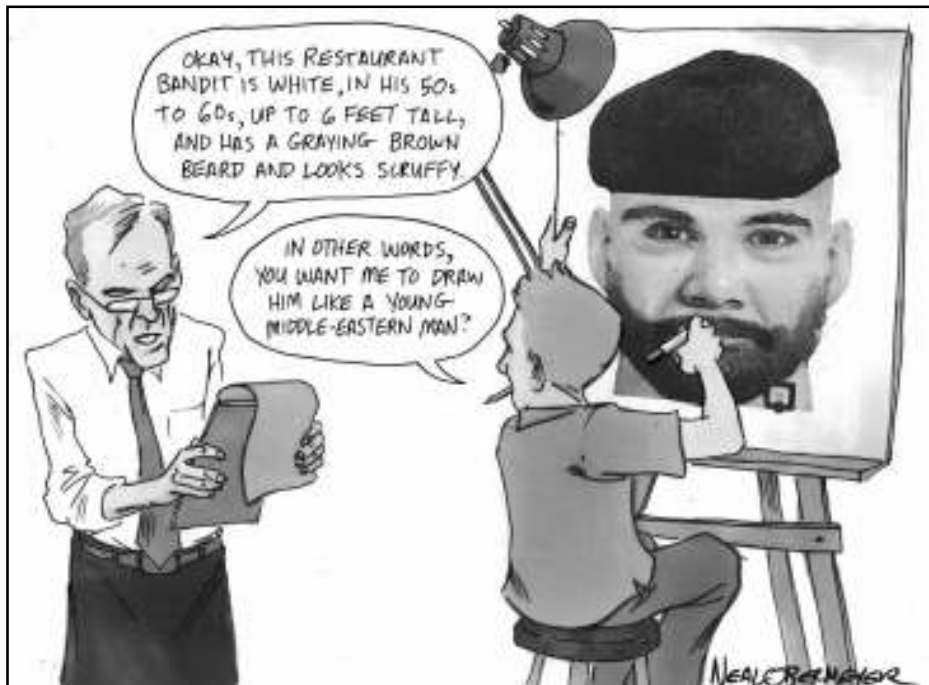
Industry trends should surprise no one. In recent decades, the gap between rich and poor has widened sharply — enough to alarm both liberals and conservatives. According to United for a Fair Economy, the top 1 percent of households has more wealth than the bottom 95 percent combined — a gap not seen since the 1920s. Between 1977 and 1999, the top one-fifth of households increased their annual income by 43 percent, while the top 1 percent went up 115 percent. The middle fifth rose 8 percent and the bottom fifth went down 9 percent.

A study by economists Thomas Piketty and Emmanuel Saez indicates that in 1915, the wealthiest families earned 400 times more than the average family. Then the middle class gained. By 1970, the super-rich brought home only 50 times more than the average folks. But by 1998, it was back to 250 times, and it's certainly much higher now. In short, we're close to being back to the Gilded Age. The difference is that today's glitterati shell

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Contact Don Bauder at 619-546-8529 or don.bauder@mac.com

Neal Obermeyer



Bill Collector Blues

By Joe Deegan

Los Angeles resident Juan Escobar didn't deny that he still owed ITT Financial Services \$1500. But a bill collector claiming that he represented the company sounded mighty suspicious. He said he would file fraud charges in court against Escobar for failing to pay off the debt. The clincher came, Escobar tells me in an interview, when the man threatened to have him deported to Mexico. Escobar was born in Costa Rica, came to the United States when he was three, and became a naturalized American citizen over 20 years ago.

Escobar says that the bill collector first identified him-

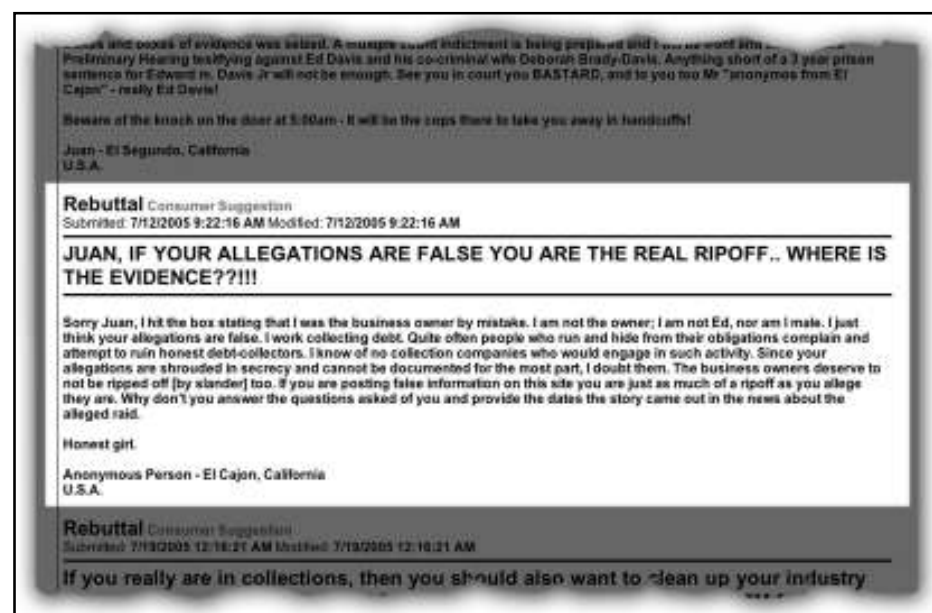
him a motherf***** and hurled other abusive terms at him, according to Escobar.

It was time to turn the tables, Escobar decided. "I called the number the guy gave me," he says, "and a woman announced I had reached ARM Financial Services. But she would not give me its address."

Through the San Diego Better Business Bureau—the contact's area code was 619—Escobar learned that ARM Financial was located on Spring Valley's Sweetwater Springs

panies used by these people... [like] DBD Collections of San Diego.... According to my investigator, these people open up for business under one of these names, then when the heat gets too hot, they shut down and change their name and they continue to go about their dirty little business right under the nose of law enforcement."

Escobar continued to write occasional entries to the website well into this year. *Ripoffreport.com* encourages accused business owners and concerned others to write rebuttals on its site if they think the allegations are unfair. This summer, on July 12, a writer signing her entry only as "Honest Girl" challenged Escobar's contentions. "Juan," she wrote, "if your allegations are false, you are the



From www.ripoffreport.com/reports/ripoff74214.htm



ARM Financial, Spring Valley

self as an investigator for the law firm of Ed Smith during a phone call in November 2003. He offered to cut a deal that would save Escobar from facing the criminal charges. If Escobar would pay \$7000 in monthly installments of \$500 to cover the firm's expenses in the case, the caller promised to drop the criminal complaint and spare Escobar an arrest. All that he needed to do to launch the agreement was to give his banking information over the phone. Then monthly withdrawals could begin immediately to settle the matter.

Escobar did not follow through on the deal even though he told the caller he would get back to him with the banking numbers. About a week later the man called again, this time threatening to tell the 33-year-old Escobar's parents and his neighbors that he was a deadbeat and child molester. The man also called

Boulevard. (It later emerged that the company also had an office on Lexington Avenue in El Cajon.) The Spring Valley Chamber of Commerce indicated that another business named Joint Venture Enterprises was operated at the same Sweetwater Springs address by Edward Davis and his wife, attorney Deborah Brady-Davis. Escobar says he concluded that Ed Smith was the same person as Edward Davis. He then filed a complaint about ARM Financial with the San Diego County district attorney.

"I hammered on the district attorney's office," says Escobar, "calling them probably seven or eight times to investigate the company." In the meantime, Escobar hired a private investigator and made numerous entries on the website *www.ripoffreport.com* describing his encounter with Ed Smith/Davis. For instance, in a December 15, 2003, entry, he identified "other shell com-

real rip-off.... I work collecting debt. Quite often people who run and hide from their obligations complain and attempt to ruin honest debt collectors.... Since your allegations are shrouded in secrecy and cannot be documented for the most part, I doubt them. The business owners deserve not to be ripped off by slander too."

To counter, Escobar wrote that a *Sacramento Bee* story on April 13, 2004, reported on Carol Greco, a woman Smith/Davis apparently tried to victimize. The story states, "Six days ago, she shared her banking data with an Ed Smith, who represented himself as a bill collector for ARM Financial Services of El Cajon." Fortunately, as the article explains, "Greco realized her mistake. Within minutes she drove to [Bank of America], where officials quickly closed her account and opened a new one.

"I was lucky," Greco said.

"I closed the account before any money could be taken out."

This story, however, pales in significance to Escobar's latest counter to Honest Girl on *ripoffreport.com*. On October 11 he claimed total vindication with the announcement: "Ed Davis ARRESTED!!!!... San Diego County District Attorney's Office arrested Edward Davis for 11 counts of extortion.... The victims finally won against the crooks and cheaters who run collection agencies." As conclusive as it sounded, however, the posting's last sentence seems to confirm Honest Girl's worries about damage to the reputations of law-abiding debt collectors.

Assistant district attorney

Tricia Pummill's economic crimes division prepared a "declaration in support of [Davis's] arrest warrant." Pummill filed it in San Diego County Superior Court on August 23. It cites Escobar's role in triggering her division's work. It also highlights an April 2, 2004, "hotline telephone call from James Venezuela, who identified himself as a former employee of ARM Financial, stating he wished to report their improper business practices."

According to the declaration, Venezuela said Davis "bought old debts from various companies, ITT Financial in particular." The companies provided key data about debtors. "Davis would usually have Venezuela call the

debtor claiming to be a process server on his way to serve a subpoena." Venezuela followed a script and prepared a client worksheet as he proceeded. He even pretended "to be in close proximity to distant locations... to convince the person his arrival was imminent." He told distraught debtors to call ARM Financial's toll-free number, which Davis answered under the name Ed Smith. Davis, who was good at convincing debtors he was in league with law enforcement, then told them he could stop the process service if they made immediate payments. "The threat of arrest," according to the declaration, "was particularly effective in securing cooperation, as was the threat of ruining a person's credit...."

"Davis always pressured targets for a 'check by phone,' which enabled him to debit the debtor's account at the beginning of the next banking day. In order to process [it], all that was required was the name of the bank and the account and routing numbers."

Of 11 counts the district attorney has filed against Davis, 4 are of "attempted extortion." Juan Escobar's case fits into this category because he was only threatened, never giving Davis any money. Seven of the charges, however, are for "extortion." Evelyn Aquino stands out in the court document as an especially poignant victim. "Aquino said that based on the threat of imminent arrest, she felt she had no choice but to cooperate, and provided her banking informa-



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Rag trade plunges

continued from page 6

out comparatively more for the latest electronic devices and less for regal gowns.

Clothing sales hit \$176 billion in 2000 and declined for three years, says Marshal Cohen, chief apparel industry analyst for NPD Group, a market research firm. In 2004, sales rose 4 percent to \$173 billion — still below the level of 2000. Figures for 2005 aren't in yet, but there was steep apparel price-slashing during the Christmas selling season.

And here's a shocker: "Many consumers who traditionally shop in high-end luxury stores are now shopping at value

stores as well," says Cohen. Goodness! The debutantes not only wear jeans, they buy them at Wal-Mart.

Nitches contracts out the manufacture of its cotton clothing lines to low-wage countries such as Cambodia and Pakistan. It sells primarily through discounters and is vulnerable. One retailer accounts for more than half of its sales.

Sales dropped from \$39 million in 2000 to \$26 million last year, while profits vanished. The company lost \$1.2 million in its most recent year. The stock has been cut in half from its 2004 peak. Stock analysis firm Morningstar Inc. says that Nitches' financial position gets a grade

of C, while growth rate gets a D-minus.

Charlotte Russe Holding, also based in San Diego, offers trendy clothes to young women at a 25 percent discount. The company has more than 400 stores and continues to open new ones rapidly. In 2001, the stock almost hit \$40. Now it's about half that, but in 2004 it was below \$10 for a while as problems mounted.

From 2000 through 2005, sales more than doubled, from \$245 million to \$604 million. But that's because of the new store openings. Actually, sales per store peaked at \$2.1 million in 2000 and dropped to \$1.6 million in 2005. Sales per square foot peaked at \$286 in 2000 and dropped to

\$228 in 2005.

Recent numbers have been perky: fourth-quarter sales zoomed 30 percent. Chief executive Mark Hoffman says the company is back on track "in spite of the significant competitive market pressures." But a report in late December by Wall Street's Goldman Sachs indicated that Charlotte Russe was among a group of retailers slicing prices aggressively during the holiday selling season.

A year ago, shareholders sued the company and two of its officers, alleging that it was not telling the truth to investors about its marketing failures. On February 14 of last year, San Diego law firm Finkelstein & Krinsk charged that

Charlotte Russe management had inflated the stock by concealing the fact that "inventory was grossly overvalued" and top personnel had "fled the company." More suits came and were consolidated. Late last year, the company agreed to pay \$3.9 million to settle.

Carlsbad's Ashworth sells golf clothing almost entirely through the "green grass" market, consisting of pro shops, resorts, golf specialty shops, and the like. It also sells a small amount through plutocratic stores such as Bloomingdale's, Lord & Taylor, and Nordstrom.

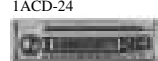
It specializes in upscale merchandise made overseas — 88 percent in Asia and 12 percent in places such as Central America and the Caribbean.

Sales rose steadily from 2000 forward, but that is misleading. The company made a major acquisition and also began selling clothing provided by its Carlsbad neighbor, club and ball maker Callaway. Those additions boosted sales.

The company's main product line, Ashworth, has shown some resiliency in the teeth of a moderate decline in people playing golf, but this company has problems. The stock hit \$18.38 in 1998, when analysts thought golf would take off, but has recently been trading at half that. The company lost \$2.2 million in its fourth quarter as it slashed prices. It was late filing its report. Some

continued on page 12

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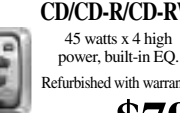
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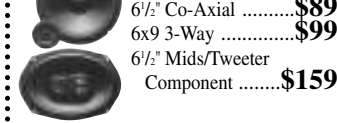
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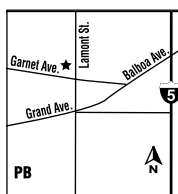
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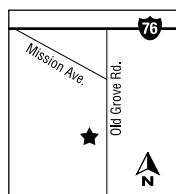
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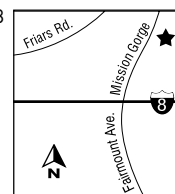
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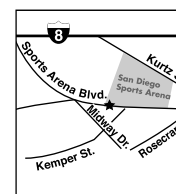
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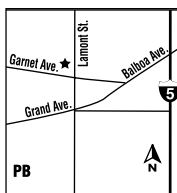
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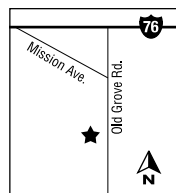
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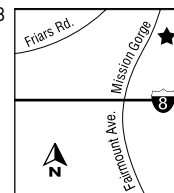
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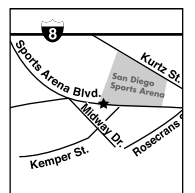
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Rag trade plunges

continued from page 8

key officers and directors have resigned, and one large shareholder wants the company to put itself up for sale. It is explor-

ing the prospect.

"The quality of Ashworth clothes has fallen in recent years; this is surely not the leading company it used to be," says Bud Leedom, publisher of the *California Stock Report*. Morningstar gives Ashworth

a C grade for financial position.

Ashworth, too, has been hit with lawsuits. In 1999, San Diego class-action attorney William Lerach sued the company, claiming its accounting did not follow generally accepted principles. Other law

firms joined in. In November of 2004, the company agreed to settle, coughing up \$15.25 million.

Carlsbad's Phoenix Footwear Group was founded in 1882 in New England. In 1999, the company, beset by rising

costs, stopped making shoes in the United States and became an importer. It moved from Old Town, Maine, to Carlsbad in 2003. In recent years, it has made several acquisitions, expanding its shoe line and also going into outdoor and

travel apparel.

In its most recent quarter, sales surged 48 percent, but profits were halved. The sales gain came primarily from two recently acquired brands. Older brands were flat. Morningstar gives Phoenix's financial position a D grade.

In San Diego County as elsewhere these days, rags are no route to riches. ■

Collector blues

continued from page 7

tion." To keep up with ARM Financial's withdrawals from her account, she had to "obtain an advance on her paycheck from a 'payday loan' location." In three withdrawals, ARM Financial was able to collect \$800 before Aquino closed her bank account. Two of ARM's debits were not yet scheduled at the time they were made. Because she could not pay what the company was saying she still owed, Aquino filed for bankruptcy.

I ask Tricia Pummill if last year's federal Bankruptcy Reform Act, making bankruptcy more difficult, will help collections criminals to be more successful. She answers that they are sure to remind debtors that bankruptcy can't be relied on to help them anymore. They break the law only if, she says, "they don't have valid reasons for calling debtors or they lie to them."

But, among other practices, the California Fair Debt Collection Practices Act forbids bill collectors to threaten violence or other unlawful means; use profane, obscene, or abusive language; harass the debtor with excessive communication; publish a dead-beat list; and falsely assert that the collector is associated with an agent of the government.

Edward Davis appeared in superior court on November 7 for a "readiness hearing," which Pummill tells me allowed his lawyer, William McGuigan, to begin plea bargaining with the district attorney's office. Davis presently is free on \$100,000 bail. At the time of this writing, McGuigan has not revealed his plans. If he does not plea bargain, the judge in the case will decide how many of the district attorney's charges Davis will face in court. That decision, or acceptance of the plea bargain, will occur in a preliminary hearing scheduled for January 11. ■

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Ready For Omega

Kudos to the tattoo artist for embracing Zen principles and casting material bullshit to the winds ("Omega Comet E.T.A. in Hours," December 29). If a cometary catastrophe loomed, I would choose my utility knife (because so many things can be made or taken apart with a Gerber Gator Serrater), my lightweight plastic magnifying glass (stolen from high school chemistry class decades ago, it creates beautiful bonfires in the field), and my compact microfilter to tide me over until I located a pure water source. Everything else could be crafted or scavenged from the smoking ruins of "civi-

lization." In the long run, I guess I'd be drinking hard cider until I figured out how to brew the Smiths. Walking down the interstate would make for a refreshing change — I'd probably enjoy faster transit time with an absolute minimum of "Ho Chi Minh sandal rage."

Justin Kayse
San Diego

Less Short-Sighted Approach

I just finished reading your article "Omega Comet E.T.A. in Hours" (December 29), and I wanted to respond to it. I see a whole bunch of dead folk in response to that article. Except for the exception of the one radio host, most people were a clear example of the short-sightedness and pure materialism that we in our modern society and especially California have become.

Nobody thought anything about taking along things to ensure their personal survival. Folks, things like pictures and iPods and skateboards and computers are material possessions; they can all be replaced. How about things like food and

water to ensure your survival? When Katrina hit, there was no bottled water; there wasn't food. Somebody said, Well, the Red Cross will be taking care of us. Well, I think after looking at Katrina, it shows that government assistance and looking to others for handouts isn't always the most reliable game plan. How about things like, oh, let's see, survival-type gear, camping-type gear. I know in this anti-gun state...even a gun to protect yourself from the marauding bands of people that tend to crawl out of the woodwork when bad situations happen or even to go hunting your own food. You know, sorry to say this, folks, but when the big one hits, there isn't going to be a 7-Eleven or even a Safeway open.

Um, other things that you might want to consider taking when this big one hits, besides your cat, who isn't going to help you survive, maybe some things like a regular radio, not to contact relatives but to contact things like people to help you out, to find you; signal flares, things of that nature. So maybe a few people out there

ought to get off your Starbucks-swilling, bury-your-head-in-the-sand, materialistic asses and maybe start to look at things with a bit more common-sense, less short-sighted approach. God help all of you; you're going to need it.

Alex Alexander
Downtown

Best Writers Get The Covers

In regards to the cover story of December 22 ("A Christmas Story"). At first I looked at it: Oh, God, how did he get the cover story of the Reader, which is coveted to me — the best writers, it seems, get the cover stories. And I thought, oh, geez. Well, I just now finished reading it, and I see why. The editors know what they're doing.

What a letdown the cover story was of December 29 ("Omega Comet E.T.A. in Hours"). I didn't even finish it, forget it. And then I found myself jonesing for some good reading. And thank God for the article "What's in a Name?" by Patrick Daugherty.

Susan Brookins

Ollie: Damn!

Ollie: Damn. You can write! Excellent job and a great story ("A Christmas Story," December 22). I look forward to reading more from you.

Lee
via e-mail

Give Us Something Fresh

We get it ("A Christmas Story," December 22). Ollie has tattoos. Ollie smokes. He had a bad childhood and is a rebel. It's old already. Give us something fresh for a cover story. Or something remotely interesting. Maybe run a cover story from previous Readers, like you do with other stories.

Frank Hudson
Fallbrook

Critic Devoured Her Son

What a fitting tribute to the celebrated café critic Eleanor Widmer in your November 23 article. This ironically spice-challenged food critic devoured her first son, spat him out, and proclaimed him undelectable, then snacked on her second son and acclaimed him "magi-

cal." Jonah, wake up, you have been swallowed by the whale! Mamma's mammaries were indeed important to her, but her purportedly prodigious intellect missed the point that they were meant to nourish and ensure the healthy survival of her offspring. It's a shame she chose to be interred aboveground; Narcissus would have flourished above her earthly remains.

Mary Truby
via e-mail

Haiku Good, Moore Bad

I can't believe the elitist, gratuitous racist remarks by Judith Moore in the December 29 Reader ("Reading"). While haiku (renga, etc.) may not be the rhyming obsession of European culture (it's more about representation than sound of words), it is still poetry, as acknowledged around the world, except in Moore's little private world. Calling the example in point "not a poem, but it's written by a poet" is an insult. And what you're looking at is *not* the way it was written, but was conflated

continued on page 82



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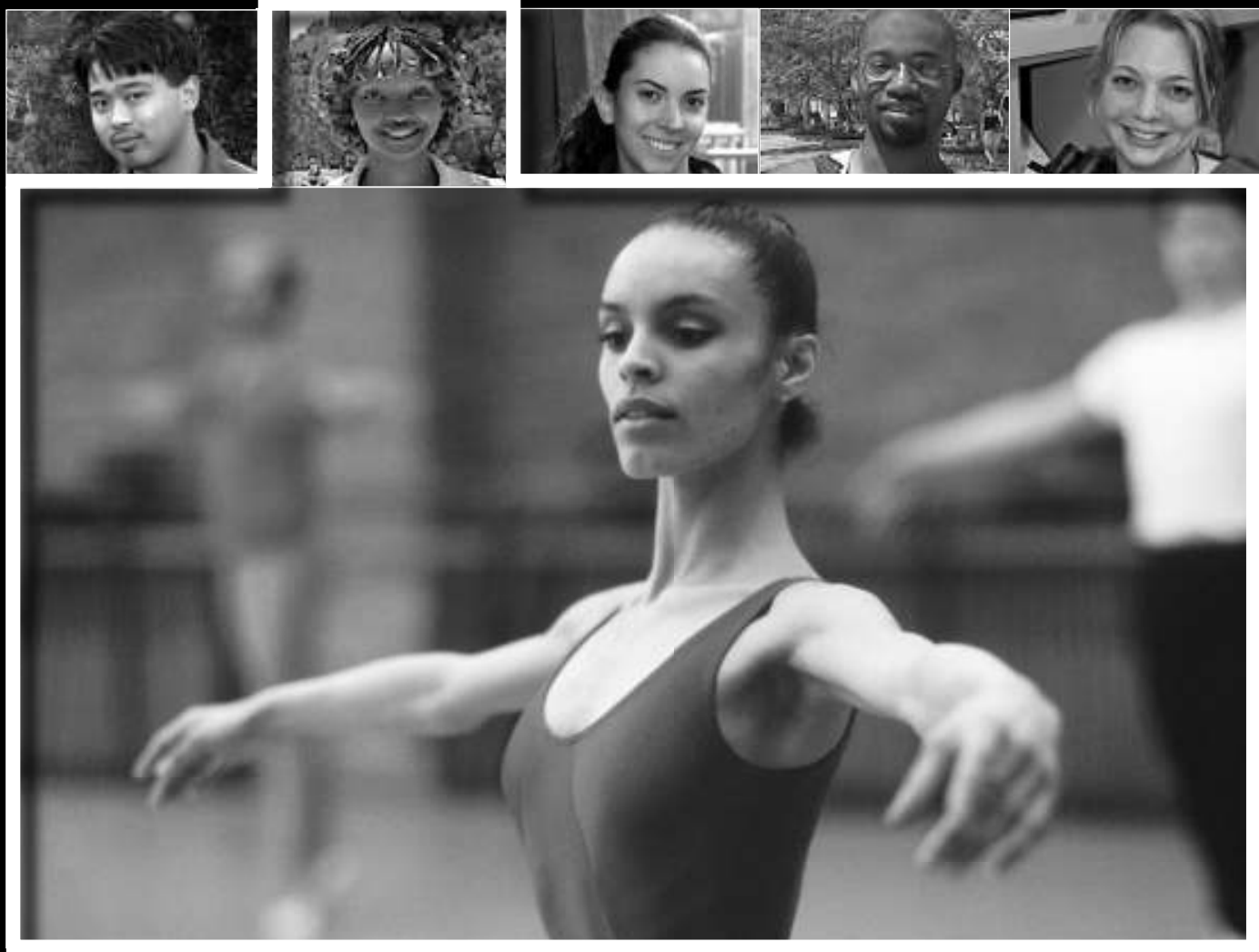
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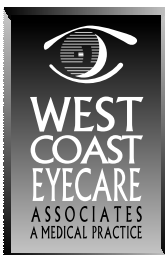
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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE

Illustration by Rick Geary



Matt:

I think I have a wonderful singing voice. But my so-called friends tell me differently. I didn’t believe them until one day I tape-recorded myself and played it back. I couldn’t believe that squeaky voice on the tape was really me. How can my voice sound so good when I hear myself sing live and sound like Minnie Mouse when I hear it on the tape?

— Martha, San Diego

If I seem to be calling you a bonehead, Martha, don’t take offense. But it’s the bones in your head that create the auditory illusion that you’re the second coming of Marlena Dietrich, while the only voice your friends can hear is Betty Boop’s.

When you launch into, say, *The Star Spangled Banner*, your vocal cords vibrate a column of air at different frequencies to create the various notes, the higher the frequency, the higher the note. The vibrating air spews out of your mouth and strikes your so-called friends’ eardrums, and they can hear the sound you’ve produced. At the same time, you’re haring the vibrating air, you (and only you) are hearing your vibrating skull bones. (When you get to the “rockets’ red glare” part, the bony plates in your head are expanding and contracting like accordions gone wild.) The vibrating bones act on your own ear much as the vibrating air acts on the audience’s ear drums. And since the bone-conducted frequencies are lower than the air-conducted sound, your own voice sounds slightly deeper to you than to your audience. This illusion is enhanced because you hear the bone sound a split-second before you hear your own air-conducted voice, which adds a certain richness to the sound (as you perceive it). Unless you can figure some way to amplify and broadcast your skull vibrations, I’m afraid your friend will never know how wonderful you really are.

Heymatt:

Does anyone cook mung beans, or are they only good for sprouting? Has anyone ever seen a mung bean recipe?

—GM, the net

A bean is a bean is a bean. Those of the mung variety aren’t much different from others of its leguminous clan. Got a hankering for some refried mung beans? Boston-baked mung beans? No reason it wouldn’t work. The beans of the mung, a hairy little vine native to India and Pakistan, are eaten boiled (sometimes still in their green, fuzzy pods) as a fine protein source in Eastern countries. The dried beans aren’t too imposing, resembling birdcage gravel as much as anything, but apparently they’re tasty eatin’ stewed up with a little yak butter and curry powder.

But if it’s a recipe you want, my personal favorite, Mung Beans Grandma Alice, is just right for today’s busy homemaker. Take a bunch of mung beans, put them in a plastic bag, leave them in the dark until they sprout, put the sprouts in the refrigerator, forget you put them there, run across them two weeks later stuffed behind a milk carton, poke the gelatinous mass around a little bit, smell it, make a face, say yuck, and throw them out. It’s low in calories and no messy dishes to clean.

Matthew Alice:

When you smell something, does that mean that little particles of what you smell are going up your nose, or is it gasses given off by the object that we smell?

— Cindy, Mira Mesa

Technically speaking, those options amount to the same thing, if we can stretch “little particles” to an extreme. The answer to your either/or question is yes. So why doesn’t granite stink like garlic? Well, a few conditions must be met in order for something to produce what we detect as an odor. First, the potential smell source must be made of volatile components; its molecules must be able to be released in the form of a gas. And the molecules must be released rapidly enough to become airborne and reach your nose. The faster the molecules are released, the more pungent the smell. And the molecules must be a type that can react with the mucous membranes in your nose and stimulate your scent detectors.

At the back of your nose you have a yellow, postage-stamp-sized membrane that contains many nerve endings connected directly to the smell center in your brain.. When you take in a good snort of air laden with smelly molecules (20 miles per hour, for the average sniff), the molecules bash into your olfactory cleft, and then you hear the faint sound of scientists arguing. Some say it’s molecular vibration that stimulates the nerve cells; some say it’s changes in electrical potential or chemical reactions. Others think the molecules fit into prescribed slots in your olfactory cleft. At present the exact method of interface is a mystery. But however it works, it really is vaporized microscopic bits of the smelly substance that you suck up your nose that make you stop and check your shoes.

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

Got a question you need answered? Send an e-mail to hey matt@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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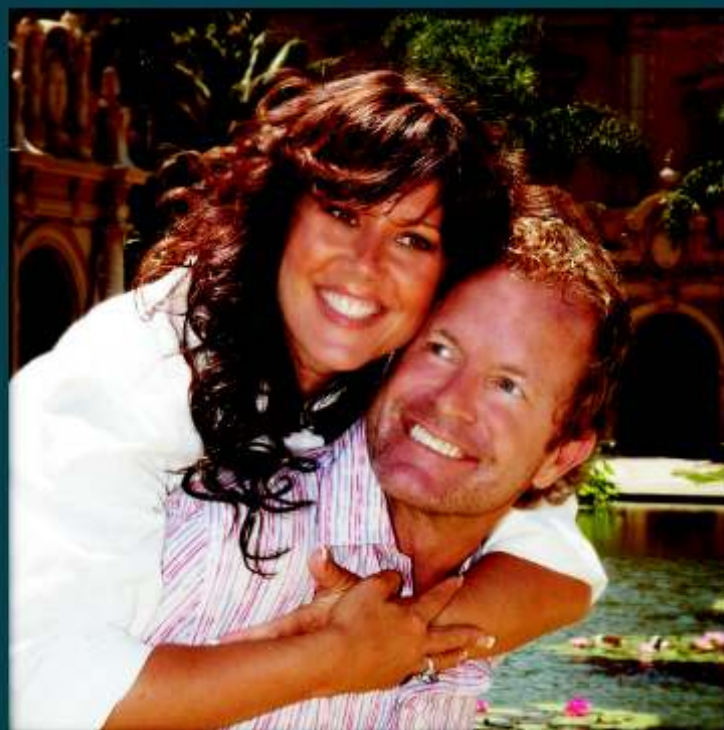
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SportingBox

By Patrick Daugherty

Maybe This Year

Cleaning house this morning. New Year's day blew by and the work-year grind begins. Found these items in a paper pile as I was mucking out my file cabinet. Follows are columns I wanted to write in 2005 but didn't.

Cajon Speedway. I planned a piece for spring, but the track never opened.

Nutrition column. There's so much bullshit surrounding the topic, I thought a straightforward column would shine. I interviewed sport nutritionists at San Diego State, UCSD, and the State of California. Turned out the subject was too big, interviews too boring, couldn't find a way in.

University of San Diego football. Gads, championship football in San Diego. The Toreros went 11-1, won their conference (Pioneer Football League), and won the Sports Network Cup, which, according to their blurb "...honors the nation's top I-AA mid-major college football program. Those institutions eligible to receive The Sports Network Cup currently include the 22 programs of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC), Northeast Conference (NEC), and Pioneer Football League (PFL), which participate in football at a non-scholarship or limited scholarship level."

It's not the Super Bowl, but it's more than we've seen out of the Aztecs or Chargers. This record, by the way, is the doing of second-year head coach Jim Harbaugh.

When I started following Toreros football, I often felt a metal, sour taste in my mouth, like the taste of a filling that falls out while eating ice cream. Seemed like it happened every time I read, "Jim Harbaugh." I didn't know why; the name was only marginally familiar, distant as the name of an old girlfriend's younger brother. Then, during the act of placing a bet on Chicago (+3 at Detroit), I recalled the connection and began to violently sweat and cringe. Could not control myself. See, I'd lost too many bets on teams he played for and, thus, an evil association was burned into my mind: "Jim Harbaugh equals loss of my money." And there is nothing like losing money to turn you against a player, particularly a quarterback. But, now, studying his record, 15 years after his repeated raids on my gambling stash, when the scar tissue on my back has toughened to the point where I can honestly state I am mostly pain-free, I will admit I might have been overly harsh in my judgment. Harbaugh played in the NFL for 15 years, which

puts him in the top 2 percent. He played for Chicago, Indianapolis, Baltimore, San Diego, and Carolina. Retired 2001. He was voted into the Pro Bowl, Comeback Player of the Year, AFC Player of the Year, and so on. Unhappily, he was none of those things for me.

But, he is, apparently, a fine head coach, and I want to do at least one column on him and the USD football program.

Roger Clemens. I'm worried he's going to retire before I get to him. The man is not human. After winning seven Cy Young awards (the guy is 43 years old), he finished last year with an impossible 1.87 ERA, his best. *His best.*

Wanted to write one on the Los Angeles Clippers. What do they want?

The 2005 Chargers. Inexplicable team. They either played better than they were (beat Indianapolis and New England on the road) or played worse than they were. Never found a steady beat.

Here's one: "Who is the worst owner in the NFL?" The perennial champ, the Bidwell clan, masters of the Arizona Cardinals, generations of unremitting incompetence, have a challenger in John York. York is the husband of Denise DeBartolo York, owner of the San Francisco 49ers. Denise got the franchise from her brother Edward (5 Super Bowls, 16 postseason games) the old-fashioned way, through lawyers. Denise acquired title in May of 2000 and handed operations to hubby. York is *the* rich-girl husband, too arrogant and insecure to hire smart people, instead hires six vice presidents who have no football experience, but have a finely tuned talent to mouth the word "Yes" with sincerity. Indeed, the 'Niners are bottom-feeders, and they have no prospects of getting better, no prospects of building a new stadium; they're down, way down, but will they stay down over decades?

World Baseball Classic. Baseball was voted out of the Olympics in July, so Major League Baseball created this World Baseball Classic thing. Exactly how that came to pass, who was behind it, who pays for it, what does the winner get, and why should anybody care?

It is disturbing that 201 National Olympic Committees showed up for the 2004 Olympics in Athens and only 16 national baseball teams have entered the World Baseball Classic. This is supposed to help baseball? Since the semifinals and finals will be played in March, at Petco Park, I have hopes this column will make it to daylight.

The Vegas Line

Wild Card Weekend (Home Team in CAPS)

<u>Favorite</u>	<u>Spread</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>	<u>Underdog</u>
Saturday			
NEW ENGLAND	8	37 ½	Jacksonville
TAMPA BAY	2 ½	37	Washington
Sunday			
N.Y. GIANTS	2 ½	43	Carolina
Pittsburgh	3	46	CINCINNATI

Odds to Win AFC Championship

<u>Team</u>	<u>Odds</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Odds</u>
Indianapolis	1 to 2	New England	4 to 1
Denver	5 to 1	Cincinnati	13 to 1
Pittsburgh	13 to 1	Jacksonville	28 to 1

Odds to Win NFC Championship

<u>Team</u>	<u>Odds</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Odds</u>
Seattle	10 to 11	Chicago	5 to 2
New York Giants	7 to 1	Tampa Bay	8 to 1
Carolina	10 to 1	Washington	14 to 1

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The screenshot shows the SanDiegoReader.com website. At the top is a search bar with the text "Search" and a "go" button. Below the search bar, the website is divided into several columns. On the left, there is a "Reader" logo with the text "THE MAN WHO HUNG THE STARS". The main content area is organized into sections: "Classifieds" with links for "Search classifieds" and "Place a free ad with photo"; "Coupons" with a link for "Hundreds of discounts for clubs, restaurants, retail, and more"; "Contests" with a link for "New great prizes every week!"; "Job Giant" with a link for "San Diego's largest job publication"; "Matches" with a link for "San Diego's best singles"; "Articles" with a list of links including "Ask Saffron", "Back When in the Reader", "Best Buys", "Blog World NEW!!", "City Lights", "Cover Story", "Crasher", "Diary of a Diva", "Driven", "It's a Crime", "Letters", "Matthew Alice", "Obermeyer Cartoons NEW!!", "Poetry", "Reading", "Remote Control King", "Sheep and Goats", and "Sporting Box"; "Guides" with a list of links including "Baja", "Best Winners", "Chiropractic", "Health & Beauty", "Legal", "Online Ads", "Travel", and "Wedding"; "Theater" with a list of links including "Half-price tickets, posted daily", "Jeff Smith's latest review", "Reviews of current plays", "Submit a theater listing", and "Theater Directory". On the right side, there are sections for "Movies" with links for "Duncan Shepherd's latest review", "Past movie reviews", "Reviews of current movies", and "Showtimes"; "Restaurants" with links for "By alphabetical list", "By kind of food", "By area", "Discount restaurant coupons", "Crush: Wine review", "Menus", "Naomi Wise's latest review", "Tin Fork's latest review", and "What the Chef Eats"; "Music Concerts" with links for "Concert listings" and "Concert previews"; "Clubs" with links for "By area", "By club name", "DJ Events", and "Submit a club listing"; "Bands" with links for "By type of music" and "Submit a band listing"; "Everything Else" with links for "Blurt: Music news and gossip", "Discount club coupons", "Hometown CDs", "Music feature", and "NightSpotting: Club review"; "Events" with links for "By area", "By category", "By date", "Event of the Week", "Roam-O-Rama", and "Submit an event listing"; and "Contact Us" with links for "Get contact info", "Give us feedback about this site", and "Send a letter to the editor".

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- Tin Fork's latest review
- What the Chef Eats

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- Concert listings
- Concert previews

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SHEEP AND GOATS

PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Denomination: Episcopalian, affiliated with the Anglican Communion Network
Address: 2083 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, Ocean Beach, 619-222-0635
Founded locally: 1921
Senior pastor: Lawrence Bausch
Congregation size: 200
Staff size: 3
Sunday school enrollment: 25
Annual budget: \$230,000
Weekly giving: didn't know
Singles program: no
Dress: informal
Diversity: mostly white, a few Hispanics and African-Americans
Sunday worship: 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m. (currently on hiatus)
Length of reviewed service: 1 hour
Website: www.holytrinityob.org

The Episcopalian Church, says Reverend Lawrence Bausch, "follows a full liturgical year, which covers all the historically recorded events in the life of Christ, starting with the Advent season before His birth, going all the way up through Pentecost and the giving of the Holy Spirit. According to Luke's gospel and Jewish custom, all Jewish males were circumcised on the eighth day after their birth — and it was at the circumcision that the boy was given his name." January 1 is the eighth day after Christmas, and the baby Jesus went under the knife just like any other Jewish boy. "At some times in its history, it's been known as the feast of the circumcision of Christ, but the more common contemporary name is the feast of the Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ."

Reverend Bausch may use the more contemporary name, but just about everything else about Holy Trinity's Mass veers toward the traditional. You can feel it as soon as you enter the church. It's cozy; the plaster walls don't rise much above six feet before they hit the sloping ceiling with its sea-weathered-gray slats and beams. A miniature choir loft holds only organ pipes; the organ — and space for the actual choir — are up front in the sanctuary. But, however cozy the space, and however contemporary the stained-glass windows telling the story of God's work in the world, grandeur and tradition hold sway. The reredos rises above the altar in royal red and gold; Christ on the cross wears the robes and crown of Christus Rex. A host of candles burn about the tabernacle and the sacred vessels, which are veiled in weighty cream-and-crimson cloth. The placement of books makes it clear that the priest will be facing the crucifix — and turning his back to the congregation — for at least part of the liturgy.

Bausch processed into the church to the sound of "Angels from the Realms of Glory," behind a phalanx of servers and choir members, all robed in black cassocks and white albs. He censed the altar, and when he handed the thurible to the server, she censed him. (Incense was used throughout the liturgy; again and again, a sweet haze formed over the proceedings, then dissipated.)

The liturgy was a complicated affair. Bausch

entered in a capelike cope, doffed it for the gospel and homily, then donned a chausable at the offertory — and that was just the vestments. But however complicated his motions — the genuflections, the gestures, the transition from speech to chant during the prayers — Bausch operated with a precision and care that made it all flow. His servers and the congregation followed suit.

During the homily, Bausch's delivery was as smooth as his motion, and tended to academic asides. "Jesus," he said, "is in fact the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua. Joshua is a very common name among Jewish boys; it means 'Yaweh saves' or 'Yaweh is salvation'.... Jesus himself becomes the embodiment and the fulfillment of those words.... He is Yaweh, and He is the Jewish people being saved by Yaweh.... In the naming of Jesus, we see God at work in the life and person of Christ.... And what he accomplishes in his own life and in his death and resurrection is given to us who then receive Christ when we are baptized — we receive the same life of Christ."

Throughout the liturgy, God's mercy was

invoked, and lest anyone be confused as to exactly why God's mercy was so important, the intercessory prayers were followed by a general confession, which included the following: "we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us."

But for all this sorrow and seriousness, there was little solemnity. People milled about during the sign of peace; some even chatted. Bausch gave a special blessing to a birthday girl while the congregation offered a rhyming prayer for her wellbeing. Bausch happily admitted that Holy Trinity offers "a formal liturgy and an informal people."

What happens after you die?

"My understanding of the Christian tradition," says Bausch, "is that when we die, we face judgment."

Whatever else it may consist of, it consists at least in seeing ourselves accurately — as God sees us. Whether this happens at the moment of our death or perhaps in some other mysterious circumstance that we can't define, we choose whether we want to surrender ourselves and accept God's judgment, and therefore be allowed entrance into everlasting life. In order for this life to have integrity, the choices of this life have to be taken into account. But I do believe, assuming we have chosen for God, that there's room for some kind of cleansing that will be the necessary preparation to enter into the kingdom. If somebody is 200 feet underwater and decides he'd like to go to the surface, he still has to go through a decompression. Whereas somebody who's been choosing God all his life is nearer the surface, so to speak.

"Or, we can choose to embrace the lie and reject God's view of us. Heaven is reality, and so hell, in this sense, is nothing — it's illusion. It's the choosing of nothingness."

— Matthew Lickona

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com



LAWRENCE BAUSCH

**Holy Trinity
Ocean Beach**
★★½

Sermon

content.....★★★
delivery.....★★

Liturgy

.....★★★★

Music

congregational.....★★

band.....★★½

Snacks

.....★★

Architecture

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Friendliness

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BestBuys

—EVE KELLY

Poor Longshanks. It's always hard to be a fat dog, but when you're a fat dachshund, it can get to the point where your long belly is dragging on the ground.

Poor Rosencranz. He's a wire-haired terrier, but there are lots of places on him that are without hair of any kind. He scratches like crazy, and fleas don't seem to be the problem. Also, he stinks.

These two pooches belong to friends of mine. They put me on the case.

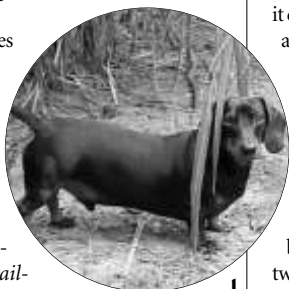
Annette Thomas is co-owner, with her business partner Joan Willson, of Tigertail Foods in Encinitas (760-634-1183; www.tigertail-foods.com). The shop specializes in freshly prepared raw foods for pets. Thomas suspected that the troubles were diet-related. "The primary ingredient that you find in grocery-store dog foods is grain. Dogs don't need grain — certainly not that much. Next is 'meat byproducts' or 'meat parts.' Something that makes you think you're getting meat. In fact, you're getting parts that you don't want your dog to eat. One dog-food maker considers the feathers off of a chicken's wings to be meat, as well as its beak. Frequently, major commercial dog-food makers use what the USDA refers to as four-D meat. The four Ds stand for dead, diseased, dying, or decayed. They use road-kill, as well as reprocessed animals out of shelters or veterinary hospitals that have died of cancer or been put to sleep with shots. They cook it at around 500 degrees for quite a while to kill as many germs as possible. Then they run it through an extruder to give it a new shape — so that it looks inviting to the owner, who has the wallet. Then they spray it with flavorings and aroma."

Thomas noted that Longshanks's weight and Rosencranz's scratching were just two of the problems that could arise from such a diet. "Dogs might start licking their feet. They could have a lack of energy. They get sour doggie breath, and their teeth get plaque. Their coats get greasy. And their eyes and ears become full of gunk — that's very common."

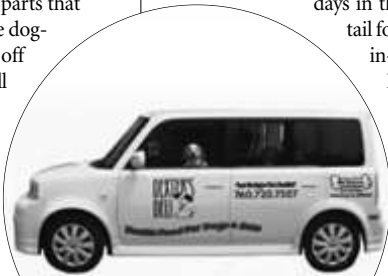
Tigertail foods, she said, avoided these problems by being "wholistic." "We spell it with a 'w' to emphasize the fact that we use whole, real food. It's human quality food. We make it on a 'prey model,' which means that we're trying

to create a better rabbit or squirrel for the dog. We use a multi-protein source — a full range of proteins." For the Original Formula Wholistic Dog Food (\$2.45 per pound), "we start with ground beef, chicken, turkey, and fish. Depending on availability, we use either buffalo or emu meat. We also use eggs and ground-up eggshells — they help to balance out the calcium requirement. Then we add anti-oxidant raw vegetables, such as carrots, broccoli, zucchini, and pumpkin. Pumpkin is a wonderful source of fiber and vitamin A. We pulp the vegetables, because a dog's intestines are much shorter than ours. Pulping helps break down the cellulose so the dog can absorb the nutrients."

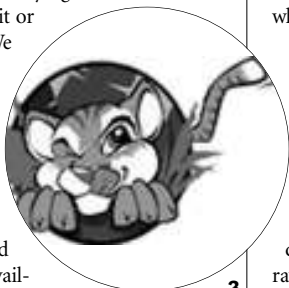
The blend, she estimates, "is 85 percent meat, 10 to 12 percent veggies, and a small quantity of brown rice, oatmeal, and Red Delicious apples and bananas. Apples give pectin for the stomach, and bananas, potassium. Last, we put in organic golden flax seed



1



2



3

"We make it on a 'prey model,' which means that we're trying to create a better rabbit or squirrel for the dog."

for a good coat."

Thomas also makes a diet formula Wholistic Dog Food (\$2.65 per pound). "We bring in more veggies — green beans that aren't pulped as finely. That helps give the dog a sense of being full, so that it doesn't become food-aggressive, but keeps it from absorbing as much. We use more white meats and less beef, so the dog gets fewer calories. It has taken weight off of dogs that vets had given up on." (And because some dogs have grain allergies, Thomas offers a grain-free formula for \$2.75 per pound.)

Quantity depends on several factors, including metabolism, level of activity, and age, but Thomas says that a general rule of thumb is two percent of your dog's body weight. "If you had a 50-pound dog, you would feed it a pound a day. But we've found that, because our food is so bio-available, customers report that they can cut that back to one-and-a-half percent."

The food is made fresh and then frozen. "Just take the container out of the freezer and let it thaw overnight. It will last easily four or five days in the refrigerator." Tigertail foods may be purchased in-store, or by phone or Internet. "We ship it all over the place, frozen, in big containers — much like Omaha Steaks."

Tori Rosay, owner of Dexter's Deli in Del Mar and Carlsbad (858-792-3707 and 760-720-7507, respectively; www.dextersdeli.com), also emphasized the importance of a raw-food diet for dogs.

"It provides extra hydration for better digestion, but the biggest thing it provides is live enzymes. Dogs have a very acidic digestive system, so they are able to handle eating raw meat. But they need enzymes for proper digestion — to assimilate the proper nutrients. Lack of those enzymes results in premature aging and disease. The pet-food industry would say that a dog is a senior citizen at age 7, but it's more like 12 or 15."

Dexter's offers "about 10 different kinds of raw foods, ranging from \$2 to \$4 per pound. They all come frozen." The range in price allows people with multiple or large dogs to feed their beasts on a relative budget. "Even if you're paying more for food," counsels Rosay, "the benefits outweigh the costs when you put it in terms of money saved on vet bills."

The foods, says Rosay, "provide a complete diet — muscle meat, organ meat, ground bone, and the correct ratio of vegetables. You're trying to mimic a prey animal, which would include all those things" — the vegetables come from "the stomach contents" of the prey. "It's more than buying raw hamburger and adding veggies. That's fine to do, but not every day. Some people who want to make their own raw dog food will do that, but they'll also feed the dog chicken and turkey necks [\$1 per pound] to provide the bone." For those interested in making their own dog food, Rosay sells a book, *Raw Dog Food* by Carina Beth Macdonald (\$12.95). Dexter's Deli also delivers — \$10 delivery fee with a minimum \$60 order.

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THE DUELIST

by Josh Board

Greg Vaughn invited me to his birthday party in North Park. He was the guitarist in a band that played at a party I wrote about last year. I remember hearing just a few songs before the cops shut them down.

I arrived at Vaughn's party early so that I could make it to a concert I was going to that night. It's awkward at the start of a party when there's only a handful of people and you don't know any of them. Everyone looks at each other and tries to make small talk.

Vaughn was a good conversationalist. One of the women mentioned the weapons he had hanging on his walls, which was something we were all curious about. While Vaughn discussed the collection, I wondered if anybody would bring him a weapon as a gift. I found out that two people did bring him weapons after I left. (It must have been like shopping for Lizzy Borden.)

Another woman asked him to take down one of the three pairs of nunchakus — the weapon Bruce Lee used. "Chucks" have two wooden handles connected with a short chain and you swing it around. Vaughn told us that he doesn't



like people to use them if they don't know how. He gave us a demonstration of how the weapon is used. The women were impressed, and I uttered the line from *Napoleon Dynamite*: "Chicks dig guys with mad nunchaku skills." I spent ten years practicing with chucks as a kid, so I asked Vaughn to hand them over. He handed me the foam ones. I said, "The real ones. I won't break anything." I swung them

"Chicks dig guys with mad nunchaku skills."

around my back, between my legs, and crisscrossed them from arm to arm. I challenged him to a "duel," not sure if that was the right word for a karate fight. He then pulled a samurai sword off the wall and



said, "Okay." Everyone laughed.

Vaughn's walls displayed axes, swords, and a spear with a blowdart gun attached. I said to one of the guys, "If you don't have any luck with the

ladies, you can ground up a roofie, put it on the end of one of those darts, and tag someone in the neck."

Vaughn used one of his bedrooms as a music studio. The room had a drum set, gui-

tar posters on the wall, and a variety of instruments lying around. I saw a small black-and-white photo he had of Little Richard with a printed autograph. I asked Vaughn if he had met him. He told me he met Little Richard's brother handing these out at a concert. I laughed because I was given the same photo along with a Bible when I met Little Richard in L.A. I asked for his autograph, and he handed me the picture with the preprinted message, "God loves you and cares for you. Please don't forget that. Little Richard." I asked Little Richard if he

would sign the photo, and in that squealing yell of his, he said, "It's already signed, man! Ain't you happy with that?"

There were a lot of musicians at Vaughn's party. One wore a shirt that read, "Support local music — Sleep with a musician."

Another guy told me that he's in a band called Suckornaut. I asked if that was the name of a spaceship. He explained, "When somebody is asking about a band, they say, 'Do they suck or not?'"

I met a sound engineer who had worked with famous musicians. When I found out he had worked with one female singer I like, I peppered him with questions about her. He was low-key about it and said that she's great to work with. Someone else at the party told me that he had been nominated for a Grammy for work he did with that singer.

He told me before I left the party that he'd prefer I didn't mention the woman's name. I will say, though, that her 1970 album is not only one of my all-time favorites, but at the time was the biggest selling record by a female artist ever.

There were supposed to be belly dancers at Vaughn's party,

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and when one woman came in, a guy next to me said, "She must be one of the dancers." She had long blonde hair and was wearing a half-shirt. It turned out she was a local DJ who appeared in *Playboy* magazine when they ran a story about female DJs. I heard her talking about going to one of the parties at the Playboy mansion. (Note to self: crash party at Playboy mansion.)

Vaughn was opening up another bag of chips, and he still had the chucks in his back pocket. A woman who showed up late

asked, "What does he do with those things?" I said, "He plays drums with 'em. And I think he uses them like chopsticks, too. They're quite versatile."

Another lady had the foam chucks and was hitting her friend. The friend was getting annoyed, but her constant cries — "Ouch! That hurts!" — didn't slow her friend down a bit.

Before I left the party, Vaughn told me about one of the bands he plays in. They're called Blasphemous Guitars and play alternative versions of Depeche

Mode songs. They had a gig later that week at the Hard Rock Cafe in La Jolla, and since I have a female friend who loves Depeche Mode, I brought her to the show.

There was a cover charge at the door, and we asked if we had to pay the cover if we were eating dinner. We were told we did, so we snuck around to the back patio and grabbed a table. When our waiter took our order, he told us we could go in and enjoy the show afterward.

The songs were clever and funny. They combined

"These Boots Are Made for Walking" with a DM song. They combined "Walking in my Shoes" with "Walking on Sunshine." And the keyboards that I hate in DM songs sounded a lot better mixed with two guitars.

Vaughn wore black vinyl pants, bat wings, and black lipstick. He left his weapons at home. ■

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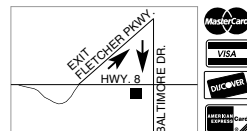
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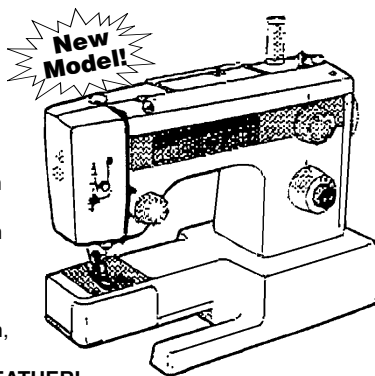
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by Barbarella

David's Debauchery

I feel like I have a hangover, without all the happy memories and mystery bruises.

— Ellen DeGeneres

David groans in anguish. "I'm old enough to know better," he sighs, dragging the last syllable, *eeerrrrrr*, into another, longer groan.

I noted the twinkling of David's shiny blue eyes, the pinkness of his dimpled cheeks — the man was drunker than a sorority girl during rush week.

In a weak, whispered whine, I agree: "So stupid, so stupid." The afternoon sun pours in through the two windowed walls for which we have not yet purchased shades. The air conditioner pumps full force — cold air is preferable to the stifling heat of direct sunrays. We lie on our backs beneath the down comforter, side by side, with pillows on our heads to shield us from the horrible light.

I muster the energy to echo David's words from last night in a childish, mocking tone of voice. "Hey, guys, come on up!" Returning to my exhausted, beaten state, I mutter, "Great idea, *David*." It

sounds like I'm spitting his name. But beneath my vitriol, I know it is unfair to put the rap for my hangover on my liquor-stricken lover.

David groans again and, in an attempt to soothe him, I reach out to find his arm and caress it. *He's hurting more than me, the poor thing*. A giggle escapes my lips — as I witnessed both his unwise choices last night and the extreme misery he has been suffering as consequence, I realize my darling David has never been more endearing.

It wasn't supposed to be a late evening. Ollie had agreed to join us at a happy hour mixer. The plan was to walk to Baja Betty's (less than three blocks away from home), have a quick drink with some new people, chat with some old friends, walk home, and be in bed by 9 p.m. so we could

wake up at the crack of dawn and hit the gym. Now, lying prostrate in pain, I half-smile, half-sneer into the pillow on my face as I remember one of my father's favorite aphorisms: *You want to make God laugh? Tell him your plan*.

Aside from the mixer's organizers, David, Ollie, and I were the first people to enter the back room of the flamboyant establishment. Sidling up to the bar, I ordered a lemontini, Ollie ordered a bourbon and Coke, and David got some giant Cuervo-thing, salted and on the rocks. Friends soon joined us and a second round appeared. Then a third. With an eye on my watch, I gestured to David that it was time to go home.

Jennifer, whose home is a few blocks farther than ours, joined us for the walk back. At this point, I was too distracted by my own buzz and inability to walk straight to notice that David's enunciation had become looser. We arrived at the fork in the evening's road — the front door to our building.

I hugged Jennifer and Ollie goodbye, and was turned around to unlock the door when I heard David say, "Hey guys, come on up! I've got a 20-year-old bottle of burgundy I've been saving for a special occasion!" He had the same excited voice of a boy in a tree saying, "Hey, Mom, look at me!"

David had spoken in reverence about this bottle to me before; it was a 1985 Domaine Bertheau from the famed village of Chambolle Musigny. He had purchased the wine in 1985 for \$50. It had traveled with him from Boston to

Washington, D.C., back to Boston, and then to three different homes in San Diego. For 20 years, no occasion had warranted pulling the cork. Now, here, standing on the sidewalk in front of our building and not wanting the party to end, he pulled it out of his ass like a trump card. I stared at him in awe as our friends considered the offer. I noted the twinkling of David's shiny blue eyes, the pinkness of his dimpled cheeks — the man was drunker than a sorority girl during rush week.

Once upstairs, Ollie, Jennifer, and I sat waiting while David lit candles and fetched the proper glasses. Still thoughtful in his giddy inebriation, David also brought out the port in case I didn't care for the burgundy. Glasses in hand, we each took a sip.

"I had worried about this," David said. He looked distressed. The rest of us, not as versed in wine as David, were confused.

"It's over the hill. I waited too long."

"No, it's fine!" we said in unison. But David, loathe to disappoint his guests, was already up and searching for a suitable follow-up.

Before the bottle of burgundy was empty, David produced a bottle of the Hitching Post's Highliner, one of the favored wines from the movie *Sideways*.

"Too bad we don't have any cheese to go with this," I said, ignorant of the ramifications of my simple comment. Without speaking, David was up again, rummaging around inside the refrigerator. When he returned to the circle, I

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was shocked to see what he held in his hand.

"You can't be serious," I said. Nodding, David dipped his hand into the bag to show me just how serious he was. I watched in wonder as his hand disappeared into his mouth. I gazed in bemusement as he chewed thoughtfully and then took a sip of the Highliner, swished the fine pinot noir around with his tongue, and then, satisfied, said, "Hey, that's a really good pair."

The fabric of my life was ripping at the seams, and I began to question reality. David, the man who has, more than once, insisted that painstakingly aged artisanal cheese be overnighed from New York so that it could be consumed at its peak of perfection, the man who had fresh wasabi root sent from Seattle to join with the oysters en route from an obscure but celebrated oyster rancher on Martha's Vineyard, was now pairing his wine with *two-per-*

cent skim-milk Kraft shredded cheddar cheese in a bag. And he *liked* it. This was reminiscent of the scene from *Sideways* in which Paul Giamatti's character drinks the rare and expensive 1961 Cheval Blanc from a Styrofoam cup.

The bag was passed around and we all took our pinches. It turned out the cheese was also a pretty good match for both the port and the burgundy. Soon, the pinches grew to handfuls, the sips turned into gulps, and, as the candles burned down, the gossip became philosophical discussion.

I have seen David drunk three times in as many years. Every person has a drunk personality, that behavior which surfaces when his inhibitions are stripped away. I have watched alcohol transform people into belligerent assholes, weepy depressives, bawdy sluts, and incapable two-year-olds.

David happens to be one

of the few, much cherished, "adorable drunks" in my life — when all liquored up, he is smily, giggly, and gregarious. I hadn't yet realized that this was the drunkest I had ever seen him. After all, he was hardly slurring his words; I remembered one night in particular when he had tried to express his frustration at the lack of cooperation he was getting from his lips. Hearing him mutter messy words about slurring had me laughing, and then, when he reacted with a pout, I only laughed harder.

Jennifer and Ollie left before midnight, and it wasn't long before both David and I were snoring. I was jerked awake by a frightening sound

at 4 a.m. Had a dog been hit by a car? Had construction on the building next door started early? There it was again, a guttural wail, and I followed the noise to the bathroom, where I found David on hands and knees before the toilet.

He looked up at me, confusion on his face, like a sick child unsure of what he did to deserve such agony. He had ripped the toilet-paper holder from the wall as he tried to balance himself; this was probably the first sound that had stirred me from my drunken slumber.

"I don't feel so good," he said in a pathetic whimper. Never in my life have I experienced the overwhelming

maternal instinct that came over me then. I dropped to my knees on the shaggy bathroom rug and wrapped my arms around David's naked torso. Stroking his smoothly shaven head over and over, I whispered in his ear, "I know, baby, shhhh, I know." I wanted to do anything I could to take his pain away.

I maneuver my pillow again to block the sunlight's advance across the bed. Though David is still hurting today, my own pain distracts me. This morning, after David shared that he hadn't vomited in over ten years, I got up to get us some water. I hesitated to go downstairs, holding onto the hope that maybe everything after the bar had

been a dream; that David had not busted into his burgundy just to find it had gone bad, that he had not wallowed in the depravity of over-processed shredded cheese in a bag.

But, as I reached the last step, all hope vanished. There, by the door, so far from where we had sat, was one small, dried-out cheese shred. I grabbed two bottles of water and, trying to avoid the additional cheese piles, empty bottles, and dirty wine glasses, I ran back upstairs and dove under the covers. ■



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Carolyn Bramlett

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2005

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Two thousand five was the year Dick Murphy died. Murphy the man is still alive, we hope. We think. We're almost certain. We haven't been able to talk to him. Not that we haven't tried. His house, his cell phone. His wife's phone. His daughter's house. Nobody wants to say where he is, what he's doing with his life. Murphy's not talking. Like ex-mayor Susan Golding before him, he's become a nonperson.

We know only that Murphy the politician and the public servant is dead. He was buried on April 25, 2005, the morning he announced he was running away from his job at San Diego city hall, the esteemed position to which he had been reelected just six months before. It was the end of a strange political odyssey for the lawyer, former city councilman, and former superior court judge. Nobody but a few insiders, like political consultant John Kern, a longtime intimate, ever really knew what he was up to.

Murphy had been mayor of San Diego for three years in March 2003 when he announced he would stand for reelection. He proclaimed, "Good government is not about flash. It's about substance. It's about hard work, focus, and persistence in achieving worthy goals and solving tough problems. That's what you'll get from me." Two

weeks later, he dropped out of the race. "If I didn't have to run for reelection," he said, "I'd stay for four more years. I don't like campaigns. I don't feel I do them particularly well."

Less than two weeks later, on April 11, Murphy was running again: "I never said I didn't want to be mayor. I said I didn't want to campaign for mayor." An unholy alliance, including Ted Roth, a former chairman of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Judie Italiano, head of the Municipal Employees Association, had materialized, seemingly out of thin air, to "draft" the mercurial mayor. Craig Benedetto, a lobbyist for, among others, beer-brewing giant Anheuser-Busch, owner of SeaWorld, provided low-key logistical support.

Pete Wilson, the ultimate GOP insider, a former pro-business San Diego mayor and former U.S. senator who became governor and then mentor to Arnold Schwarzenegger, joined the Republican rejoicing over Murphy's bizarre reentry. "Quite unintentionally, he has benefited from the fact that he was going to leave the race rather than make one (and he) stimulated something very rare in politics and that's a genuine draft movement," Wilson told the *Union-Tribune*. Democrat Ralph Inzunza, indicted in the

Cheetahs influence-peddling scandal, also signed on with the pro-Murphy pack.

A year and a half later, in November 2004, the self-proclaimed man of the people came in second behind write-in candidate Donna Frye in a three-way race between himself, the Democratic councilwoman, and county supervisor Ron Roberts. Murphy's lawyer rushed into court to make sure that the 5000 or so ballots cast by people who wrote in Frye's name but forgot to fill in the bubble would not be counted.

To pay for his legal battle with Frye, the mayor turned to almost every special interest that had business pending at city hall. Donors giving the maximum of \$1250 to his five special "legal defense" funds included wealthy landowner Pauline Foster of Rancho Santa Fe, mother-in-law of city schools chief Alan Bersin; and Black Mountain Ranch developer Fred Maas, said to be a close friend of mayoral aide John Kern.

The most conspicuous cluster of donors worked for or were otherwise related to Corky McMillin, the salty developer who died last year on September 22. His crowning achievement was the controversial but handsomely profitable Liberty Station, built in Point Loma on the site of the old Naval Training Center. The city council

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had awarded him the contract for the mammoth housing development some years earlier.

Murphy's April financial disclosure showed that during the first three months of 2005, at least 23 McMillin family members and/or employees gave \$12,900 to the mayor's legal cause, much of it on February 17. On March 15, council minutes show, Murphy voted to help advance plans for a 350-room McMillin hotel on the NTC grounds.

By May 2005, Murphy had collected a total of \$204,155 to ward off Frye's increasingly futile attempts to have the courts award her the victory her inept voters had not. But by then, the mayor had changed his mind again.

The scent of Murphy's political demise was in the air during the third week of April. The stew had been



Alan Bersin



Doug Manchester



Richard Vortmann



Arnold Schwarzenegger



John Kern



John Moores



Pete Wilson



Ralph Inzunza

brewing for years, since Murphy's predecessor, Susan Golding, had engineered a secret way to bankroll the city's multimillion-dollar con-

tribution to the 1996 GOP convention. To make the city's books balance for that and other costly projects, such as an expansion of

Qualcomm Stadium and a downtown ballpark, the city council began underfunding the city's pension fund.

A complicit city

auditor went along with the scheme, and for years, no one, especially it seemed Dick Murphy, was the wiser. After he was sworn in as mayor

in January 2001, Murphy appointed a Blue Ribbon Committee which concluded that the city's finances were "fundamentally sound."

Though one member of the committee, Richard Vortmann, president of National Steel and Shipbuilding Company and a member of the city's pension board, later wrote a letter that he claimed had warned the mayor about the growing problem with the pension fund, the committee's record was sketchy.

In February 2005, newly elected city attorney Mike Aguirre released a report alleging that Murphy's committee was rigged. "On 12 February 2002, Mr. Vortmann was notified that the pension plan funding ratio had dropped from 97.3% to 89.9%," Aguirre reported.

"Fifteen days later, on 27 February 2002, he

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presented the City Council Rules Committee with the Blue Ribbon Committee's report, which misrepresented the pension plan's funding ratio to be at 97.3%.

"Despite the fact that the Committee Report was partially revised on 14 February 2002, it was not changed to show that the plan's funding ratio had dropped to 89%." Noted Aguirre, "Mr. Vortmann has declined a request from the City Attorney to be interviewed about

this matter.

"The report also failed to disclose that by 11 October 2001 the audit staff of the City had determined that the investment portfolio of the City's pension plan had dropped significantly," Aguirre charged. "Finally, the possible triggering of the City's duty to make a sizeable balloon payment to the plan was not mentioned.... [This] failure... raises serious questions of misconduct by City officials."

With rumors of fed-

eral indictments making the rounds, the Murphy bubble was about to burst.

On Friday, April 15, Aguirre called for the mayor to quit, blaming him for the city pension board's failure to waive its attorney-client privilege and aid the investigation into the pension scandal. Then, in an issue released Sunday, April 17, *Time* magazine named Murphy one of the three worst mayors in America.

Murphy called a Sunday news conference

in the driveway of his home to denounce the *Time* story, and he vowed to fight on.

Furious Murphy insiders privately blamed the media-savvy Aguirre for setting up the mayor by shopping the story to the magazine. A small number of pundits came to the mayor's defense. *Los Angeles Times* correspondent Tony Perry made light of "the tizzy that this set San Diego in" and argued that the *Time* hit on Murphy was little more than a publisher's gimmick. "The mass magazines, as you know, love lists," Perry told a KPBS radio audience. "The five best schools. The ten best doctors. Five things your wife wishes you knew about the bedroom and won't tell you.... It's not really serious journalism."

But Perry was in the minority, and the media drumbeat grew louder.

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18, a *U-T* story included a quote from chamber of commerce vice president Mitch Mitchell saying that the *Time* piece would “fuel the call for him to step down.”

On Tuesday, April 19, the *U-T* published an editorial ostensibly aimed at Mike Aguirre and his call for Murphy’s resignation. The paper said Aguirre “should pipe down — for his own sake, and for the sake of the city.” But it also lambasted the mayor. “Who cares what *Time* magazine says? Wall Street, for one. The banking industry for another. And, of course, there’s the private sector, specifically all those businesses who normally might have been extremely receptive to a pitch that they set up shop here but which may now think twice. Orlando, here we come.”

By Wednesday, April 20, there were rumors in the *U-T* newsroom that the paper, which rarely does political polling, had commissioned Directions in Research, a Kearny Mesa firm, to gauge Murphy’s standing and that the mayor had fared badly. (The paper later revealed that the poll had been conducted between April 18 and April 22.)

Reports began circulating that the newspaper wanted Murphy out and had sent him the unfavorable poll results to make its point. All the while, the poll remained unpublished.

On Sunday, April 24, the *U-T* turned the screws ever tighter. “Recall whispers grow louder,” said the headline on a front-page story written by the paper’s crack political reporter, Philip LaVelle. “Will the growing legion of Murphy critics have the nerve to roll the dice in a high-stakes political gamble, one in which the outcome would be far from clear?” the article asked. “If so, will

Murphy go the way of former Gov. Gray Davis, recalled in 2003 after presiding over California’s energy crisis and huge budget deficits?”

Then LaVelle got to the point. “There’s also

this Machiavellian possibility, according to several sources: Business leaders who have lost faith in Murphy might use the threat of a recall to force the mayor, whose approval ratings are anemic, to resign.”

The story provided the name of only one possible “business leader” interested in toppling the mayor, bayside hotel magnate Doug Manchester, who didn’t return the paper’s calls. Others with “means to

write six-figure checks,” the story said, were “keeping low profiles.” There was still no mention of the poll, completed two days earlier. The next day, Monday, April 25, at 10:15 in the morning,

Murphy emerged from his 11th-floor inner sanctum to announce he was quitting. “When I ran for reelection, I had hoped that my second term would be as productive as the first term. But that now seems



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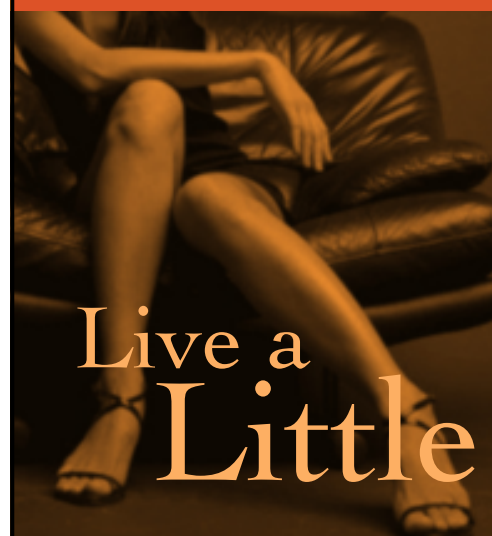
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unlikely," he said in a quavering voice. "It's clear to me that the city needs a fresh start."

Padres owner John Moores, the principal beneficiary of the \$300 million public subsidy for the downtown ballpark championed by Murphy, did not defend the mayor. "I don't really have a whole lot to say on this one." Neither Murphy nor his aides offered an explanation of what had transpired since his defiant pledge to serve out his term made just a week earlier.

The next morning, Tuesday, April 26, the U-T rendered its verdict. "In resigning only four months after being sworn in for a second term, Murphy has served the city's long-term interests. He deserves

credit for reaching the agonizing personal decision that he was not the right mayor to steer San Diego through the turbulent waters that lie ahead. His resignation took courage."

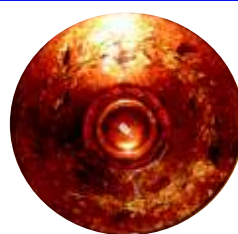
And what about that U-T poll? It finally appeared in the newspaper on Wednesday, April 27, under the headline, "Poll shows public has little faith in City Hall." Sixty-one percent of respondents said Murphy was doing a bad job, with just 28 percent approving and 11 percent with no opinion. Fifty-eight percent thought the mayor had "breached public trust." The story went on to say that as poll results "were being tabulated last weekend, Murphy was meeting with his family

and political advisers to chart his future."

The mayor was dead. Long live the mayor. That would be Jerry Sanders. Two thousand five was the year he was created. Not Sanders the ex-police chief, former public-charity administrator, ever-ready tuxedo-clad socialite who appears often in Burl Stiff's *Union-Tribune* La Jolla party notes (ten mentions and counting, according to Nexis). That Jerry Sanders has been around for 55 years. Actually, it seems longer.

Mayor Sanders. Reformer, savior of the city's image on Wall Street, defender against Democratic incursions into the city's conventional Republican base. Mayor Sanders was

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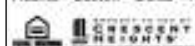


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launched on May 3, 2005, at a news conference held a week after Murphy the politician died. The body wasn't even cold, but the fixing had already begun. There had been fleeting talk that others might run, like Democrat Dede Alpert, the former state senator whose husband Mike, a semiretired corporate securities lawyer from the influential L.A. law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, was on the board of Jack in the Box.

But Mike had traveled with his wife using her campaign funds, and she was a member of the Padres' board of directors, both political embarrassments that seemed to rule out her candidacy almost as soon as talk of it surfaced.

Others suggested ex-state senator Steve Peace, another Democrat, who had authored the state's disastrous electrical utility deregulation bill, or Juan Vargas, a termed-out Democratic assemblyman and mentor of indicted city councilman Ralph Inzunza.

In the end, neither Peace nor Vargas stepped forward. (Peace, as would later come to light, was already working as a lobbyist for Padres owner and downtown real estate mogul John Moores, who former state senator James Mills maintained was attempting to disband the Port District to further a backstage grab of public land by Moores and his company, JMI Realty. Vargas chose to run against fellow Democrat Bob Filner for Congress.)

Thus, Murphy's tarnished baton went to Sanders. To many old-timers, the city's shadowy kingmakers, including the *Union-Tribune*; Moores and his partner, land titan and yachtman Malin Burnham; and their corporate

friends at the chamber of commerce, including utility giants Semptra Energy and Cox Communications, had carried the day. All would contribute to Sanders. The only person who stood between

the powers that be and their perfect, bloodless coup-to-be was Donna Frye.

Before he got to Frye, Sanders easily bested Steve Francis, a fellow Republican and Rancho Santa Fe denizen who

had made a pile of new money building a rent-a-nurse business. A favorite of political maverick Doug Manchester, who is outside the charmed circle of power and desperate to become an inside player, Francis

proved to be the ultimate political naïf, spending more than a million dollars of his own money on a bloated campaign run by ex-Pete Wilson political guru George Gorton. He placed third and slinked

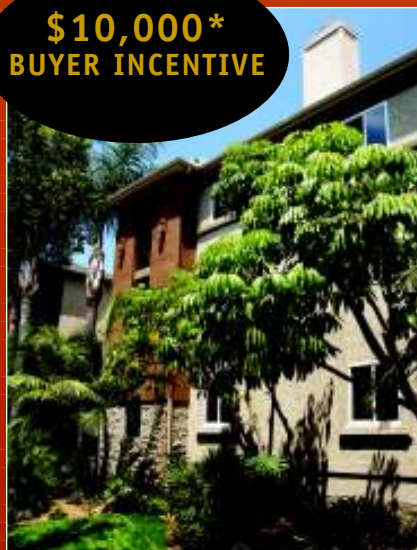
back to his golf games with Manchester. Now the race was Jerry's to lose.

Seemingly hand-picked by the city's pro-business power brokers, Sanders talked a good game, said he'd balance

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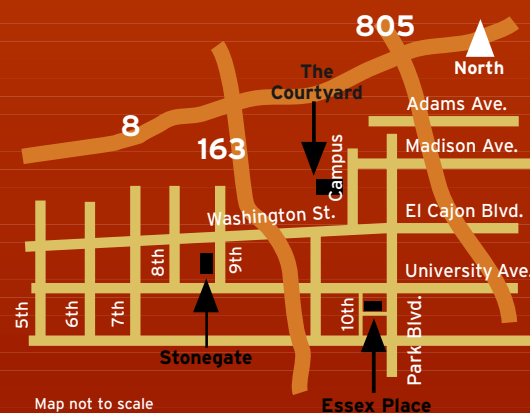


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the budget without new taxes, liked the idea of keeping the Chargers from moving to L.A., would create new jobs and be good for business, which in 2005 was enough, especially when his opponent was Frye.

Like a modern-day Joan of Arc, Frye embarked on her crusade without sufficient cash or sage political advice, doomed to political martyrdom. Though she came in first and Sanders second in the June primary, Frye soon discovered that he had locked up his base of conservative Republican blue hairs. She forgot her

own base: pro-environmental types like surfers, college professors, tree huggers, and left-of-center La Jolla coupon clippers.

They all tried to like her, but she preferred to dwell on the city's financial mess, a complicated matter that most voters didn't seem to understand or care that much about. In an October interview, Frye couldn't remember the name of the city's planning director. She refused to put sufficient effort into raising campaign cash. Sanders, assisted by ace political consultant Tom Shepard, the once-dis-

graced campaign intimate of Roger Hedgecock, had by early November outraised her almost three to one — \$1.2 million to \$484,000 — not counting the hundreds of thousands of dollars in “independent” mailings the GOP sent out.

Frye's endlessly repeated pledge to hike the city's sales tax by a half-cent as a way to balance the city budget — hearkening back to Walter Mondale's disastrous 1984 presidential campaign against Ronald Reagan in which Mondale said, “Mr. Reagan will raise taxes,

and so will I. He won't tell you, I just did” — struck even her most stalwart backers as hubris. Jumping on the issue, Sanders began pulling away and never looked back.

If her own gaffes weren't bad enough, Frye also had to deal with the *Union-Tribune*, which, though its circulation fell precipitously during 2005, still remains a power during the city's political seasons.

Not only could the paper run editorial after editorial bashing the councilwoman and repeating antitax themes that seemed custom

designed by Shepard, it skewed its coverage by omitting details of Sanders's spotty financial ventures and his business association with a white-collar criminal.

“Her leadership has been mostly confined to opposing any and every initiative to come before the council. She has not been a positive voice for the broad solutions that San Diego so desperately needs,” proclaimed the *U-T* in its July 25 editorial endorsing Sanders. The worst was yet to come.

In October, the paper leapt on Frye's pro-tax pledge, devoting

an editorial to calling the proposal a “non-starter.”

A week later, it hammered home the same message: “Frye is hardly being honest when she attempts to gain approval of her sales tax hike with a simple majority vote.” A week after that, the Thursday before the election, the paper ran another editorial, headlined “Heck no; Frye pension plan heavy on taxes, short on solutions.” The next day it opined, “Jerry Sanders' strong emphasis on reducing pension costs stands in sharp contrast to Donna Frye's call for a \$1.1 billion tax increase

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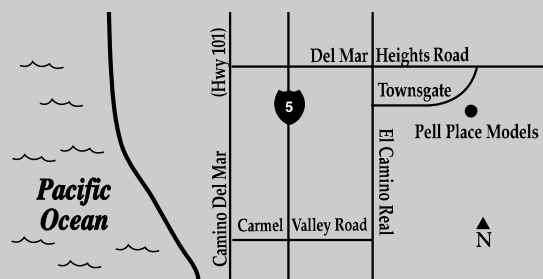
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to help pay those very costs."

Frye shrank before the U-T onslaught. The famous Frye who had once dunked an effigy of then-GOP congressman Brian Billbray into a toilet to protest alleged transgressions against mother earth had, it seemed, run out of gas. She had turned into the nice Donna.

Frye would go on to lose even her own city council district by six points. After appearing for more than a year to be a threat to the downtown Republican status quo, she would soon be out of the game.

Sanders was like Murphy, only different.

Both were Republican, white, middle-aged. Both were creatures of government, enjoyed generous public pensions, and had something to do with the law. Murphy was an ex-judge, Sanders an ex-cop. Murphy went to Harvard; Sanders dropped out of San Diego State and graduated later from National University, a fancy degree mill.

Murphy was prissy, prickly, easy to anger, and reminded some of an old lady from the Women's Christian Temperance Union; Sanders was a hale fellow well met, backslapping and beer drinking. Murphy was thin,

Sanders fat. Each was well-tailored, with silk ties for every occasion. Neither was known as a deep intellect or policy wonk.

The difference that counted the most: Sanders, to all outward appearances, was clean, with no political record. Murphy, now mistrusted by virtually all, was dirty.

Sanders grew up in Long Beach, where his father was a motorcycle policeman. He got an AA degree from Long Beach City College, then drifted down the coast to San Diego State, where friend and onetime roommate Tom Stickel remembered him as a champion member of

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the fraternity party circuit. In the early 1970s, Stickel said, he and Sanders shared an apartment in south Mission Beach. His friends from the era say booze and women were standard lifestyle accessories.

Sanders dropped out of State and got a job as a San Diego cop, where by all accounts he mixed well with the good-old-boy culture. In 1978 the 28-year-old Sanders was bucking for a promotion from patrol officer to police agent. A September 6 memo from San Diego police captain P.H. Rose to Captain M.C. Guaderrama gave him a ringing endorsement.

"Jerry has completed in excess of 150 college credits majoring in English. He possesses an A.A. Degree, Intermediate P.O.S.T. Certificate, E.M.T. Certificate, and California Teaching Credential (Limited),"

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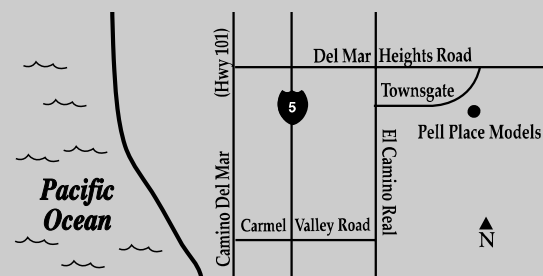
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of an incident.”

There was only one black mark on Sanders’s record, Rose reported, a February 21, 1976, “Reprimand” for driving while intoxicated that earned him a ten-day suspension from duty.

After the incident was first reported on these pages during the 2005 mayoral campaign, Sanders admitted to *Union-Tribune* writer Phil LaVelle that he had led the California Highway Patrol on a

chase in his Porsche 914 but “was not charged.” Sanders had other secrets, not all of them reported by the *U-T*. The files of his 1993 divorce from his first wife Kerrill had been sealed by a superior court judge. A

campaign operative for Frye, speaking off the record, claimed that details of the case reflected badly on Sanders’s character, though the operative could produce no evidence. Kerrill, a preschool teacher in La Mesa, insisted that wasn’t true.

“It was a very amicable parting,” Kerrill said in a June interview. “The case was sealed under advice of our attorneys to preserve our privacy. People change, that’s all. We have two kids, and everybody gets along fine. He’s a great father, and he’ll make a great mayor.” The *U-T* never mentioned Kerrill, much less that she was the mother of his grown daughters, Jamie and Lisa.

Sanders had become

police chief in 1993. Six years later, in January 1999, after almost 26 years on the force, he resigned from the police department to become president and chief executive officer of the United Way of San Diego County. To many, it seemed a strange career move, and word circulated that Sanders was having difficulty dealing with the stress of being top cop.

But none of that appeared in local newspapers. They gushed over the transition, playing up the angle about Sanders needing “more time” to spend with his family. “I want to see my daughters grow up,” the *Union-Tribune* quoted him as saying. “I’ve missed a big part of that.”

By then Sanders had remarried. His second wife, Rana, would make the ideal mayoral spouse: a slim, attractive ex-cop who had been appointed “director of public safety” at the University of San Diego, a Catholic school that is a bastion of the local monied establishment; its big-time donors range from Republicans Doug Manchester and the late Helen Copley to the late Joan Kroc, the billionaire McDonald’s heiress and liberal Democrat. The school is a nexus for the city’s rich and powerful and often involves itself in local politics, including playing a major role in San Diego school superintendent Alan Bersin’s controversial reform efforts.

Rana, who turned

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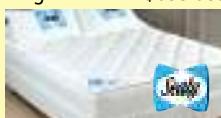
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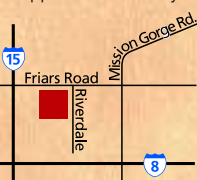
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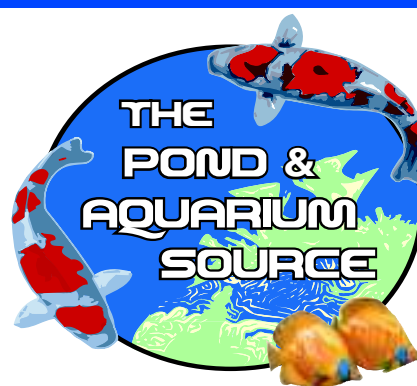


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47 in January 2005, was very different from the low-key Kerrill. A Democrat from Brooklyn, the intellectually high-powered brunette boasted a law degree from Harvard and a bachelor's degree from Barnard College, Columbia University, and in 1992 had been a White House fellow during the last year of the first Bush administration.

According to her bio, she'd been a patrol officer, undercover narcotics officer, and patrol sergeant with the New York City Police Department from 1982 to 1988 and later become a management consultant for police departments. She said she'd met Sanders in 1991 at a policing conference and married him two years later after his divorce became final. Following her gig at USD, she went back to consulting.

In July 2002, Sanders, who had left his United Way job earlier that year, joined the board of the local Red Cross, which had been the subject of a small 2001 scandal involving its response to an Alpine fire. In April 2003, Sanders was credited with recruiting Ronne Froman, the ex-admiral who had abruptly left her job as Alan Bersin's chief financial officer at the school district under mysterious circumstances only months before. She would serve as executive director of the Red Cross for two years and later follow Sanders to city hall.

According to his campaign biography, the three years of Sanders's life between his departure from the United Way in 2002 and his mayoral bid in 2005 had been spent in public service to the Red Cross and in private entrepreneurship, but the story turned out to be more complicated.

His personal financial disclosure form, filed with the city when he became a candidate in May 2005, revealed that Sanders had been involved in a money-losing company, Virtual Capital of California, with his Mission Beach roommate from college days, Tom Stickel.

But it was another old Sanders pal involved in the venture who was to draw the most interest.

Stickel, a controversial financier and one-time banker with close ties to the local GOP, related that he had set up Virtual Capital in

2002 and recruited Sanders to become its president shortly after he had left his job at the United Way. According to Sanders's 2005 finan-

cial filing, his Virtual Capital stake was worth between \$10,000 and \$100,000, and he had received less than \$500 from the venture during

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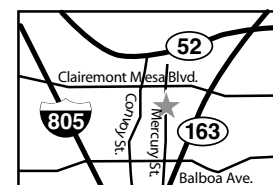
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the previous year.

Two months after Sanders became president, William "Bob" Bradley, a former tow-truck-company owner who had been friendly with Sanders since his days on the police force, invested in Virtual by putting up what Stickel said was a \$2.2 million piece of Las Vegas real estate. "I looked at the property; it was a great piece of property," said Stickel. He said he tried to borrow against the land and later ended up selling it for \$1.8 million.

As it turned out, Virtual Capital was a bust for its investors. The idea had been for the firm to license inventions from public institutions like universities and federal agencies and attempt to commercialize them. But by the summer of 2005, Stickel said, Virtual Capital was down to just one unreal-

ized idea, an electronic device installed on a truck that could be driven over a bridge and, "like an X-ray, tell if there are structural problems."

Without customers for the inventions it was trying to license, there was no money to be made; investors like Bradley, said Stickel, were left high and dry. "I've heard through the grapevine that Bob isn't happy with the investment."

But that wasn't Bradley's only problem. During his towing-company days, he had teamed up with two other friends — Mike Ellis, an ex-National City cop, and Mike Blevins — to form Metabolife. Ellis was president, Blevins vice president, and Bradley chief executive officer. Beginning in the mid-1990s, Metabolife's busi-

ness of selling ephedrine-packed diet pills exploded. The company became a sponsor of the San Diego Padres and had an endorsement deal with sportscaster Ted Leitner, who regaled his radio talk show audience with stories of his miraculous weight loss.

In 1999 it came to light that Ellis and Blevins were federal felons, convicted of operating a meth lab in Rancho Santa Fe in 1988. Blevins had an even longer rap sheet, including involvement with Chicago mobster Sam Sarcinelli. Ellis got probation; Blevins served hard time. The information had been ferreted out by a Boston television station that was doing a story on a cascade of lawsuits filed against Metabolife. The lawsuits alleged that the company's pills were responsible for a rash of

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If so, you may be interested in learning about a clinical research study.

Pacific Sleep Medicine is evaluating an investigational medication in the treatment of Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

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- Be 6 through 17 years of age (inclusive)
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You could be compensated for time and travel.

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome Pain?



If you have Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (CTS), you know that the pain can be frustrating--it can affect your ability to work and your quality of sleep.

Now, local doctors are conducting a medical research study to evaluate the pain-relieving capabilities of an investigational patch that's placed directly on the wrists of CTS patients.

To pre-qualify for this study, you must:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Have been diagnosed with Carpal Tunnel Syndrome in one or both wrists
- Have daily moderate to severe pain resulting from CTS.

Qualified study participants will receive a study-related medical evaluation and investigational study patch at no cost. Financial compensation for time and travel may be provided.

For more information on these and other clinical studies, call (toll-free):

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

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deaths caused by ephedrine, an ingredient said by the federal Food and Drug Administration to be "an amphetamine-like stimulant."

Though Metabolife would last another five years, making untold millions for its founders, liability lawsuits mounted, federal regulators barred future use of ephedrine, and the IRS raided Metabolife's headquarters, searching for evidence of money laundering. The company finally tumbled into bankruptcy in July 2005. In October, Bradley pled guilty to two counts of federal tax evasion. He is scheduled to be sentenced this April.

When news of Sanders's role in Virtual Capital and of Bradley's investment in the company were first reported on these pages last June, Sanders declined repeat-

ed requests for comment about their relationship. Stickel had said that Sanders and Bradley were close friends. But a week before the election, in a lengthy October 23 profile of Sanders, the *Union-Tribune* carried a short two-sentence account of Bradley's ties to Sanders, paraphrasing Sanders as saying that "he had little contact with Bradley in the Virtual Capital venture." It was the only time the *U-T* mentioned the connection.

Nine days before that story appeared, on October 14, Bradley gave a \$10,000 check to the Lincoln Club, a group of well-heeled GOP business types who waged a so-called independent campaign on behalf of Sanders.

But that was only the beginning of the deluge. The same donors who had so mightily

contributed to Murphy's "legal defense" fund against Frye's challenge of the November 2004 election results were back in larger force for Sanders. Checks poured in from developers like Intracorp Companies, Burnham Real Estate, and Barone Galasso. Lobbyists, including Al Ziehaus, Leslie Wade, Mac Strobl, Mike McDade, and Jeff Marston, anted up more.

The lobbyists and developers didn't much care about the ugly details of fixing the city's broken pension fund or whether the city's budget was balanced, topics that dominated the mayoral campaign. They had their own economic interests at heart: rezonings, redevelopment schemes, a pro-growth general plan, city subsidies for a new football stadium. Those issues were largely ignored during the ruckus over Frye's tax proposal, but they would be the key to the city's future and quality of life after the election was over. Development and financial shenanigans have always been the lifeblood of San Diego's corruption, and that wasn't about to change.

On October 14, all five members of the board of supervisors, every one of them a Republican, sponsored a fund-raiser: "Salute to San Diego County's

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- If female, of non-childbearing potential

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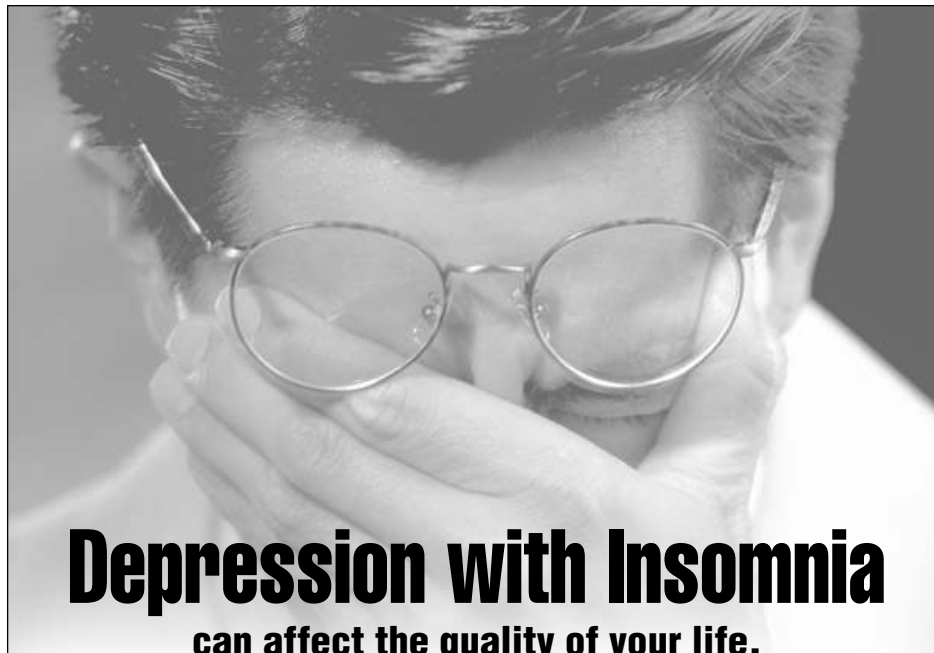
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Republican Elected Officials.” The hoopla surrounding the event highlighted the fact that the city’s ostensible restrictions on campaign contributions have become a joke.

Under the city’s regulations, donations to a given candidate are limited to \$300 per individual; corporate contributions are barred entirely. But a loophole in state law — opened when voters passed a campaign “reform” initiative some years ago — allows political parties to collect and spend unlimited amounts of money as long as use of the funds is restricted to “member communications.”

In essence, it meant that corporations could fuel a last-minute blitzkrieg of anti-Frye mailers to households with at least one registered Republican voter, reaching thousands of Democratic and independent voters in the process.

“Because this event benefits the Republican Party of San Diego County and its ongoing programs and campaigns to elect and re-elect local Republican candidates, corporate and personal contributions are allowed with-

out limit,” the party’s invitation said. Those who gave \$20,000 to attend were designated “Platinum” sponsors, entitled to “two Chairman’s Pinnacle memberships for a year, listing on all announcements, prime signage, special event acknowledgement and 30 VIP reception tickets.” Those in attendance said the Old Town event kept valet parkers busy late into the evening ferrying a stream of Mercedes, Porsches, Cadillac Escalades, and a yellow Lamborghini to and from the festivities. Big money, which has run San Diego for decades, wasn’t about to let Frye take over.

On October 28, the GOP reported spending \$108,000 on behalf of Sanders. Two weeks before, the party had spent \$172,000 on mailers and polling for its candidate.

Frye was buried in the dust. Much of her traditional labor base had gone south over her advocacy of reforming the city’s pension system. After months of whispered speculation that the unions would come to her rescue with a mammoth mailing and television buy late in

the campaign, the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council finally spent \$100,000 on anti-Sanders television spots. The Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees TIP Educational Fund, based in Washington, D.C., put up \$123,474 for mailers. It was far from enough to match the investment that business had made in Sanders.

In the final stages of the campaign, Frye seemed virtually paralyzed, unable or unwilling or both to shift the debate away from her dead-on-arrival tax hike to issues such as growth, traffic, and redevelopment, which have traditionally concerned many voters. Sanders, ever reluctant to talk about his secretive financial dealings with Bradley and Stickel, even hijacked her “open government” mantra by pledging to make city government more “transparent.” Some said Frye acted as though she didn’t want to be mayor. Immediately after Sanders was sworn into office in early December, the touchy-feely Frye walked over and gave him a big hug. ■

— Matt Potter

RESEARCH STUDIES

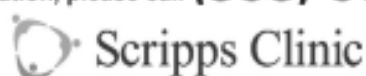
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- ☐ The unpleasant sensation is partially or totally relieved by walking or stretching
- ☐ The unpleasant sensation gets worse in the evening and at night

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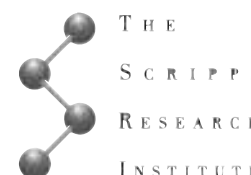
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WHY AMERICAN SOLDIERS DIE

Did President Bush make the right decision to have the U.S. spend billions of dollars on the war in Iraq while people worldwide suffer from hunger and diseases? Absolutely not! Though Bush had noble intentions to snuff out terrorism, he strayed from his original motives. Recent news says Bush doubted the reliability of the evidence regarding weapons of mass destruction, but he invaded anyway. When he didn't find any weapons, he just changed the name to a "War on Terrorism"!

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OPINIONS
MEANS THAT
VIEWS SIMI-
LAR TO MINE
ARE OFTEN
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MOCKED.

Okay, I can understand trying to prevent another 9/11, and for all we know Osama Bin Laden may currently live 25 feet under the sand in the Iraqi desert with weapons of mass destruction, but Bush shouldn't have invaded without U.N. support. In the first Gulf War, numerous Arab nations backed up the U.S. in getting rid of Saddam Hussein. If Bush made the right decision this time, then how come the majority of the world refuses to support him?

I realize that countries cannot easily pull out from war, so even though Bush admits the invasion of Iraq was based on faulty evidence, he cannot pull troops out. He should apologize to the families who have lost loved ones for a war that he had no right to start. Now, Hussein did kill many people and deserved to lose his power, but can Bush justify getting rid of him? Isn't Bush killing people, too, by having soldiers fight in a war half the nation doesn't support?

Bush's war has cost billions. That money could go toward a better cause, such as immunizing children worldwide. Unfortunately, Bush prefers invading countries that have something he wants (*cough* — oil — *cough*). If Bush has pure reasons for helping to free the

Iraqi people from Saddam, how come he ignores the massacre of Christians in Africa? Why not help them? No massive oil rigs there?

— Emma Seemann,
Carlsbad H.S.

President George Bush's approval rating has dropped to a level lower than that of any president in the history of the United States. The three primary justifications that he gave for going to war — that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, that he was involved in the 9/11 attacks, and that he had obtained illegal plutonium from Niger — have proven false. Thousands of soldiers have been killed and hundreds of billions of dollars spent. To say that things are going poorly would be an understatement.

President Bush has strayed far off track in his plan to snuff out terrorism. The United States should refrain from invading another country unless there is a solid and factual reason to do so.

More importantly, however, we are dismissing the reason for animosity toward America that exists in the world. The war is another example of the United States enforcing its will upon other countries. This is exactly what the Middle East detests. We will continue to deploy troops to Iraq until a stable democracy is established, but there is so much anti-American sentiment, it's possible that a future Iraqi government will be even more hostile toward the United States.

Additionally, the war is distracting the administration from domestic issues. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the victims have experienced a lack of response from the government. Funding for education is suffering, and the No



Child Left Behind Act has done nothing to help the matter.

I find it ironic when people say that those who do not support the war are not patriotic. The greatest form of patriotism can be seen in wanting what is best for one's country and caring about its place in the world. Blindly jumping on the bandwagon of presidential policies does not constitute patriotism. Currently, our national debt is at an all-time high, presidential support is low, and violence and death overseas are failing to cease. There is nothing to be gained by remaining in Iraq.

— Naomi Serling-Boyd,
Mt. Carmel H.S.

The war in Iraq is such a complicated topic, with so gray areas, lies, truths, and confusion. So complicated that I am reluctant to take on this topic. But here it goes.

One of my friends recently spoke to an Iranian native. He said that in Iraq there is much domestic support for a democratic government and opposition to Hussein's regime. People want the help of the American government. But there

RESEARCH STUDIES

A Clinical Study for People with Schizophrenia

Seeking balance every step along the way

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, **1 out of every 100 adults** suffers from schizophrenia, a serious brain disorder.

A clinical study is seeking volunteers diagnosed with schizophrenia. In order to participate, study volunteers should be:

- Between ages 18 and 65
- Diagnosed with schizophrenia
- Able to be treated in an outpatient setting

Participation in the study includes:

- 28 outpatient visits over 2 years, including visits every 6 months to an ophthalmologist
- FDA-approved investigational study medication
- Study-related examinations and health assessments

If you or someone you know is affected by schizophrenia, you can learn more about this clinical study by calling:

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877-FOR-INFO (877-367-4636)

Frequent heartburn symptoms? Can't sleep without a recliner? Unable to enjoy the foods you love?

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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:

(619) 688-6565

Millions of Americans have Rosacea. Most don't even realize it!

Common signs of Rosacea include:

Redness on cheeks, nose, chin or forehead

Small, visible blood vessels on the face

Bumps or pimples on the face

Watery or irritated eyes



Right now, Affiliated Research Institute is evaluating an investigational lotion and placebo for Rosacea.

All study medication, placebo and study-related medical care are provided at no cost.



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

(619) 688-6565

are a few who remain against the effort. These extremes are the reason why American soldiers die and the reason why American soldiers are still in Iraq.

We made a good effort with good intent. But the outcome and the method don't seem to cut it.

I think that the United States was justified in entering Iraq in an effort to help their government and find weapons and get rid of terrorism. The war on terror is a worthy cause to fight for, even to die for. I believe that we, as Americans, have an obligation to help snuff out

terrorism.

However, the war does seem to be failing. We are accomplishing very little over a very long period of time. I think that we have a great task to accomplish that is not best achieved through war. I don't have the answers to the problems in Iraq. I don't know what alternative would work in achieving our goals. But war doesn't seem to be working out too well.

On top of that, the war is draining taxpayer dollars and American lives. There must be another way to use these resources more efficiently.

RESEARCH STUDIES

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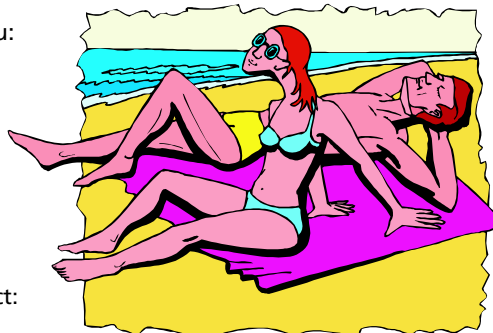
Do you have Sun Spot Fungus?

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study if you:

- Are over the age of 18
- Have white spots on your body that do not tan
- Can visit our office 3 times in about 5 weeks

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Have You Been Diagnosed with Psoriasis?



Affiliated Research Institute is conducting a research study on patients with mild to moderate plaque psoriasis.

You may qualify if:

- You are 18 years of age or older and are in good health.
- Have bilateral plaque lesions on the arms, thighs, knees, chest or back.

Participants will be seen by a dermatologist and may be compensated for time and travel.



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

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BIPOLAR?



We're looking for men and women diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder.

Volunteers at least 18 years of age are needed to participate in a clinical research study testing an investigational use of a marketed drug for the treatment of Bipolar Disorder, also known as Manic Depression.

Patients suffering from Bipolar Disorder must be currently experiencing a major depressive episode.

All necessary office visits, medical evaluations, and study medications will be provided at no cost to qualified patients.



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

(619) 688-6565

Do you have Tinea Versicolor?



(Also known as Holly Rot or Surfer Rot)

If you have Tinea Versicolor (white or pink scaly patches usually scattered on upper arms, chest and back), call us to find out if you qualify to be part of our investigational research study. The study includes study-related evaluation and study medication at no cost. Compensation for time and travel available.

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TYPE 2 DIABETES RESEARCH



Please call:
(858) 552-8585 x6740

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.

Everyone deserves democracy, but war isn't a viable solution. America should do everything in its power to aid other nations in ensuring democracy. Everything that works, that is.

— *Derrick Sun, Mt. Carmel H.S.*

'Support our troops" is a message that is plastered all over the Internet, newspapers, and commercials. When I see something like that, it makes me cringe. Now, I fully support military men and women and think they are wonderful people, but I don't see why I should be supporting what they are doing.

George Bush must think he is the greatest person in the world while he seeks out every terrorist in the Middle East. But whose job is it to seek and destroy all the terrorists (and all other problems) on the home front? I am all for peace in the Middle East, but when does it turn from a

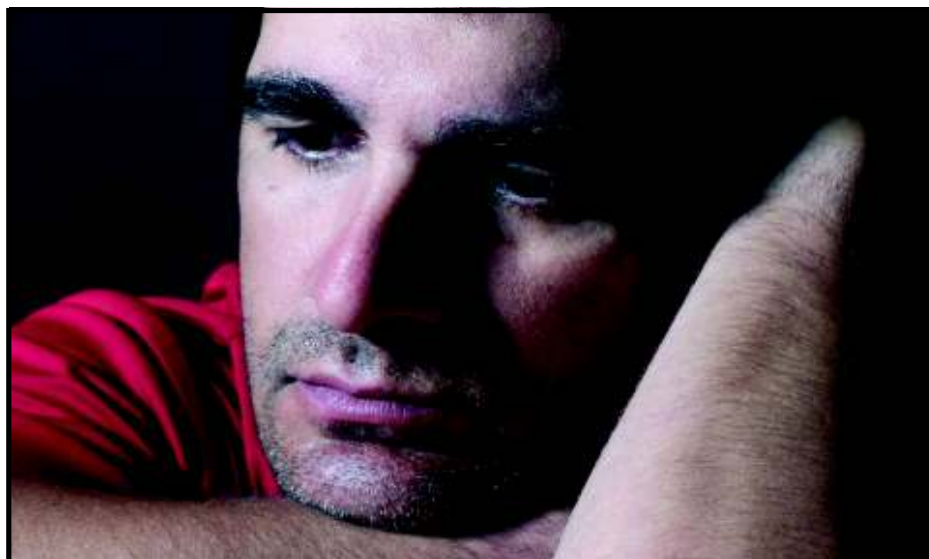
concern into our problem? Is it because of 9/11? We never captured or killed whoever was behind those events. What is being done to the people who ignored all the memos saying something bad would happen on that day? What is their punishment? Are innocent people being killed in the search for them? No, because we value life, as long as it is of someone important. Who cares about the school-children who have been killed in bombings that targeted terrorists?

As crazy as some of my beliefs may seem, they are strengthened when I hear about how many deaths are coming of this so-called "war." How many innocent lives have to be sacrificed? Weren't all the lives that were ended on 9/11 enough? I have friends who have been sent to Iraq, and it is so sad to hear stories from the ones who don't believe in being there. Being on

"dead body patrol," driving around picking up bodies, tagging them, and throwing them in the back of the truck can effect a big mental strain on the toughest of men and women.

I don't think George Bush is on track to snuff out terrorism by going to war in the Middle East. Two wrongs don't make a right. I think that the people responsible for the events on 9/11 should be brought to justice, but it is now 2006...why are we still wasting lives in Iraq?

— *John Twilla, Hilltop H.S.*



Still Depressed?

Are you still experiencing several of these symptoms?

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

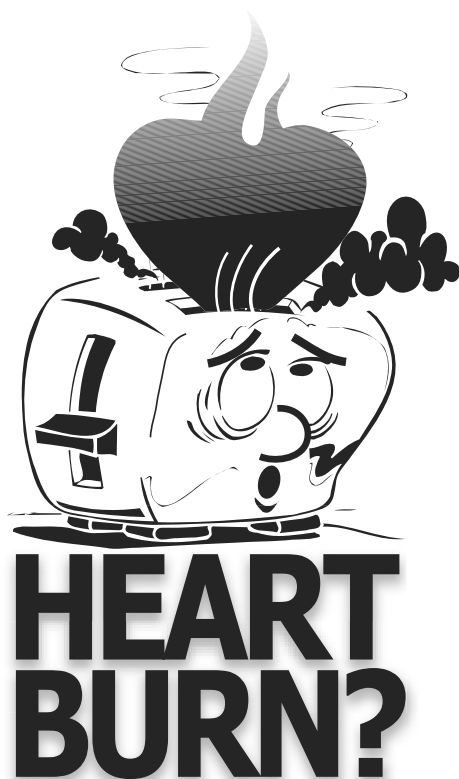
If you have been previously diagnosed and treated for depression and in recent months you are experiencing a recurrence of similar or increased symptoms, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study.

If you have experienced any of these symptoms you may qualify to participate in a clinical research study. For more information or to see if you or someone you know qualifies, please contact Optimum Health Services at:

La Mesa: 888-456-5099 or
Oceanside: 888-456-5102

OHS. OPTIMUM HEALTH SERVICES

RESEARCH STUDIES



Radiant Research is conducting a clinical research study for an investigational medication for men and women who suffer with heartburn.

To qualify for this study you must :

- be 18 years of age or older
- have had heartburn at least two days per week for the past month
- have taken an over-the-counter treatment to treat your heartburn
- have not been diagnosed with GERD

Qualified participants will receive a study-related medical evaluation and study medication or placebo at no cost. Compensation up to \$225 for time and travel will be provided.

Call Mon-Fri for more information

619.209.6555

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www.radiantresearch.com



OH, MY ACHING BACK!



If you are between 18 and 65 years of age and have had moderate to severe low back pain for the past 3 months, you may qualify for a research study. Qualified participants receive study-related exams and study medication at no cost, plus financial compensation for time and travel.

For more information,
please call Optimum Health Services:
888-755-5431



With the war dragging on, I am beginning to get more frustrated with the way our country is being handled. I don't believe innocent people deserve to die every day because our president thinks every country should be more like America. What makes the U.S.A. think we have the right to tell others what they need to do to be a better country? As of right now, the "mission for peace" has cost the U.S.A. \$218,089,660,847.

We are spending so much money on our war that we can't even afford paper for our schools. In the past four years, California schools have lost more than \$9.8 billion because of budget cuts.

Not only are we in an economic struggle, we are losing a large number of Americans. Since the war began in March of 2003, we have lost over 2000 U.S. service members. If George Bush were so pro-citizen, why is this still happening? Since Bush has been in office, health-care benefits for war veterans have been cut. How are all of these returning veterans going to be able to take care of their families?

Living in a small town with many pro-war opinions means that views similar to mine are often shut out or mocked. They say that "We're just preserving our freedom" or "They deserve it, they all want to kill us." (Yes, I have heard that one before.) Discussing the war in classrooms is more difficult; those who disagree with the war are slammed instead of included in discussions. My beliefs cause a lot of sneers from my classmates. I wish they would realize that when we graduate from high school and start our lives, our generation is going to have to work ten times harder to get out of this generation's debt. Not only is the war morally wrong, it also causes a great financial crisis. If we, as the United States of America, want the best for the people, then why are we fighting something we cannot win?

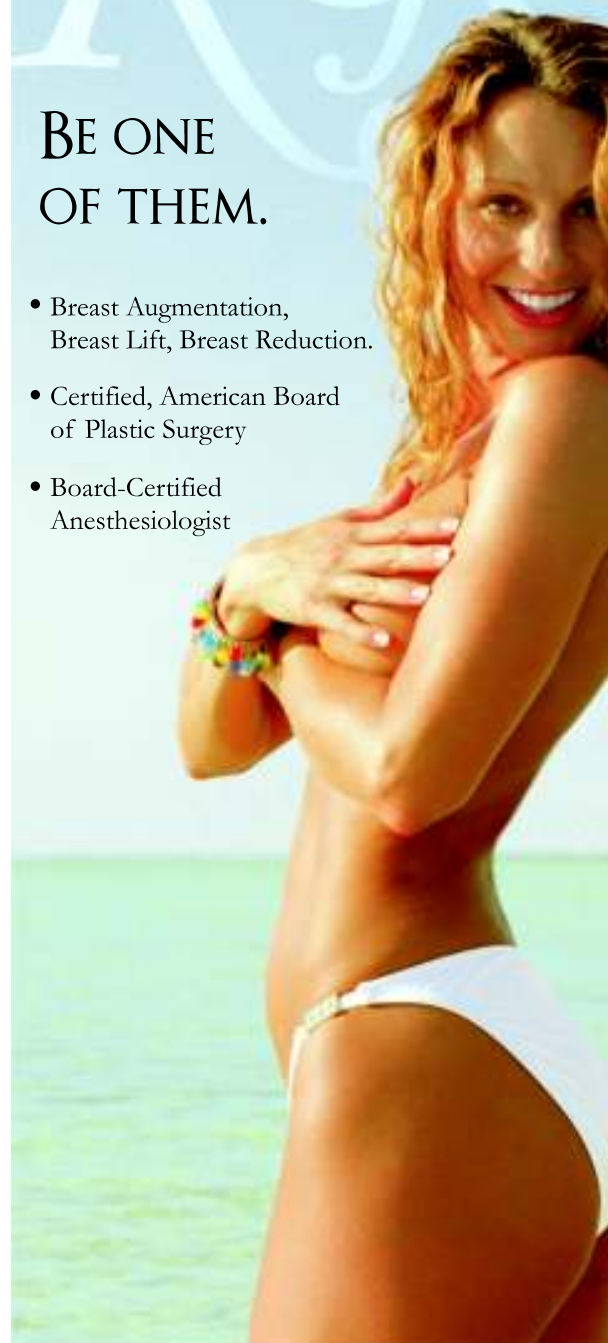
— Natalie Venolia,
Ramona H.S. ■

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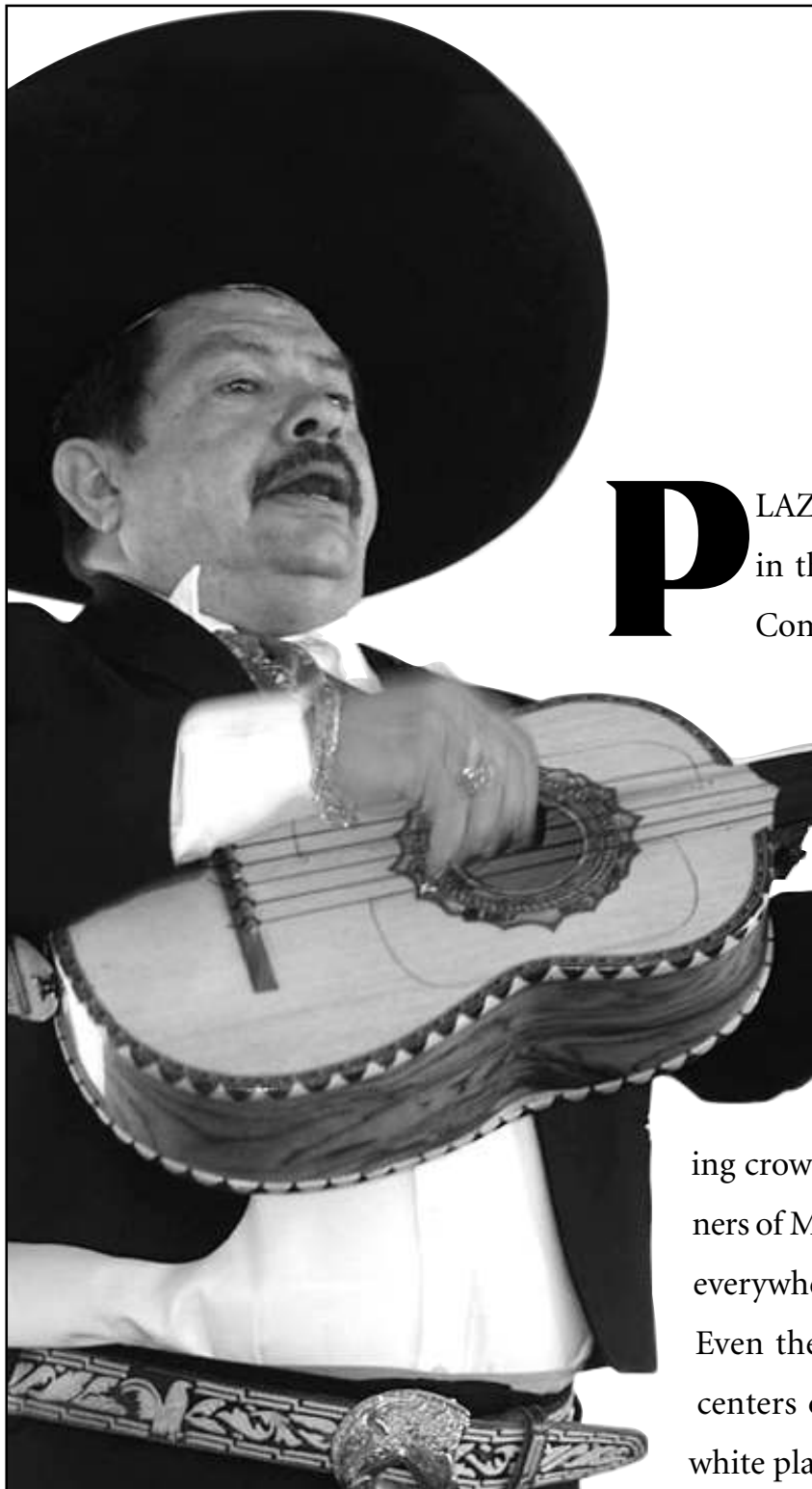
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Fiesta

BY THE HOUR



PLAZA DE LOS MARIACHIS is a small fork in the road at Avenida Artículo 123 and Comercio in Tijuana. It is walking distance from Revolución and the border. Busy streets run in a Y around the small outdoor plaza, whose entrance is marked by twin Spanish fountains. This Friday night is humid with people hurrying by to attend local political rallies for governor. Police are busy trying to manage the growing crowds from impeding traffic. Plastic banners of Mexico's major parties, PAN and PRI, are everywhere — street corners, telephone poles. Even the popular bronze monuments in the centers of the roundabouts are covered with white plastic banners hanging on strings.

Nearing the plaza, you can hear the sizzling from the grill and catch the familiar smell of spiced beef cooking. Waiting just back from the street, under a series of worn brick arches, are groups of mariachis dressed in traditional *charro* suits, many of them elaborate and distinctive. Some are dressed in black, with double rows of large, eye-catching silver buttons that run up the outsides of the legs. Between the rows of buttons is a cord that draws the pants' legs together. Some of the musicians wear white jackets, and vests, with baroque designs embroidered on the lapels, back, and cuffs. There are even red-suited mariachis with white Stetsons and long white fringe running across the backs of their jackets. This evening about 20 bands are waiting here. Many are in full dress and have their instruments, ready to be hired.

On the corner of Avenida Artículo 123, traffic moves by slowly. Some musicians are doing what could be called band promotion. When the street-light changes to red, they walk out into the stopped traffic and hand out business cards. I take a business card from one of them; it has a polished finish, with a poncho for the band's logo.

I ask a few questions of an older musician with a weathered face — price per hour? How many members in your band? Sensing I am not really there to hire a band, he grows suspicious. I tell him I just want to know more about mariachis. He relaxes some and explains that they are reluctant to discuss the business, because most of them do not claim their earnings from playing and singing. They are leery of the tax board. But he does say that a group of 10 mariachis will cost about \$200 an hour.

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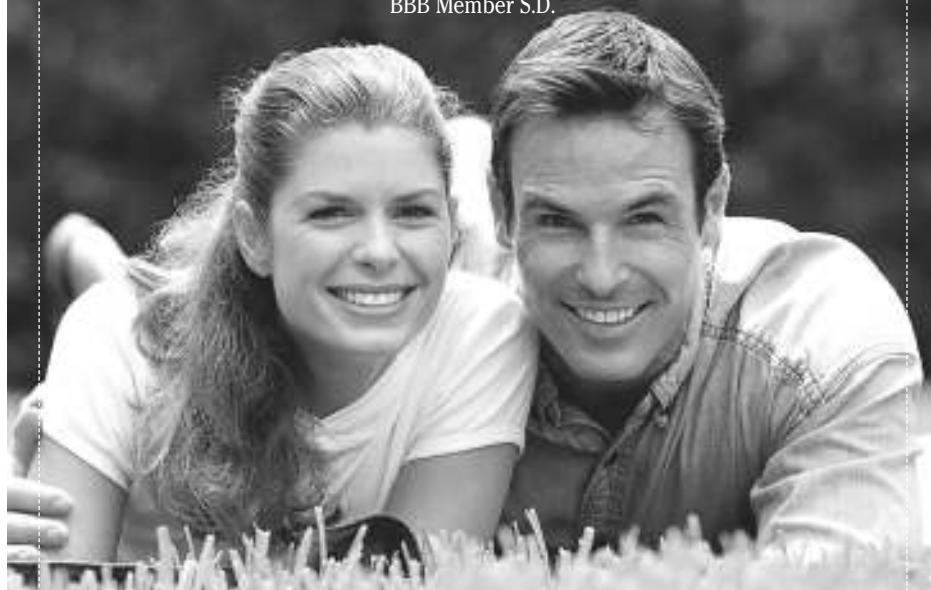
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I ask about his suit. "It is from Jalisco, a traditional cowboy costume. Different bands wear different outfits to distinguish themselves from one another."

Is this what he does for a living? He says, "No, most of these guys have other jobs during the day. They just do this on weekends and evenings for extra cash." Apparently, while waiting for the next job, they pass the time here, on the street near the plaza, talking, smoking cigarettes, playing cards, and rehearsing.

About the history of mariachi musicians, he tells me the word *mariachi* is actually French, from *mariage*, "wedding." It comes from the strolling minstrels who came with King Maximilian, when the French monarchy placed him as puppet ruler of Mexico. Maximilian was assassinated, but the mariachis were popular among the townsfolk and later became a deep part of what is now Mexican culture.

He goes on to say, "Now we play for a variety of occasions — weddings, baptisms, and *quinceañeras* are the most popular occasions." A

quinceañera is the equivalent of an American coming-out party. It is given in a young woman's honor when she is recognized by the community as a woman, usually at age 15. "There are also the well-known serenades given to ladies by their lovers from under their windows at night or in the morning." He explains that "there are fast, hard-driving cowboy songs called *corridos* that are often played to awaken hung-over friends."

"The key word in describing mariachis is 'versatile.' They are able to play according to the desires of the client or customer," he says. They can sing sweet Mother's Day ballads or a lullaby for your sister. Then they can sing traditional folk songs that describe a murder or a tragic tale. They sing of love, love lost, love found, of love rejected, and love betrayed. They can play a repertoire of traditional songs such as "La Malagueña" or "La Negra." According to this musician, the best place to go in Tijuana to hear mariachi music is La Vuelta on Blvd. Agua Caliente, at the corner of Calle Elias.

I ask him to tell me some-

thing most people don't know about mariachis. He pauses, grins, and says, "Silvester Vargas was the man credited with introducing trumpets to mariachi music. By doing this, he breathed a new life and power into it. Before this, mariachi bands had been mostly strings, guitars, violins, sometimes harps, but no horns. Vargas is credited with being the greatest mariachi musician, and his band still plays under his name today." He continues, "The last international mariachi convention was held in Guadalajara last year. Thousands of mariachis attended from all over the world for a convention that lasted a week."

From across the street, I watch a street vendor pack up his tiny stand of tamarind candies, *saladitos* (salted dried plums), chile peanuts, and soft drinks into a small cart with wooden wheels. I leave the mariachi to his evening's work and tip him for his time. I think to myself as I leave for the border how great it would be if San Diego had a place where musicians could hang out and be rented by the hour. ■

— Victor Esquer

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Here's to Crime

“Breeze looked at me very steadily. Then he sighed. Then he picked the glass up and tasted it and sighed again and shook his head sideways with a half smile, the way a man does when you give him a drink and he needs it very badly and it is just right and the first swallow is like a peek into a cleaner, sunnier, brighter world.”

The writer is Raymond Chandler, the book *The High Window* (1942), and the narrator Philip Marlowe, the gumshoe Galahad who has just sociably mixed a drink for a cop. Not a very exotic drink either, but an ordinary highball (ginger ale, ice cubes, and a shot of rye whiskey): a drink once ubiquitous, now hopelessly passé. Yet it brings out the lyric poet in Chandler, who had studied his Hemingway and knew that a succession of terse clauses connected by the commonest of conjunctions can produce sublime effects.

The hard-boiled detective novel came into being during the raucous last years of Prohibition, and the genre is soaked in whiskey, sinfulness, and the dark — as if time had stopped during a New Year’s Eve of the soul at four a.m. when the celebration has subsided and someone has to go around picking up the pieces. The detective in Chandler, Dashiell Hammett, and their successors is a hard-drinking man, a loner who may not have a secretary but assuredly has a bottle of hooch in the desk drawer and a hip flask in his pocket, and he reaches for one or the other when bad news hits. In an early chapter of *The Maltese Falcon* (1930), Hammett’s Sam Spade gets a middle-of-the-night phone call informing him of his partner’s violent death. During the next fifty minutes, Spade smokes exactly five cigarettes and downs three wine glasses full of Bacardi. Spade’s drinking and smoking mark him as a more ambiguous hero than any official guardian of the law. Yes, in the end he does the right thing, but you can never be sure of this unpredictable and even somewhat Satanic fellow with the Camel dangling from his lower lip and the glass of rum in his hand.

For all the booze consumed in Hammett’s *The Thin Man*, where sleuths Nick and Nora Charles are awash in Scotch and water, Chandler is really the king of the cocktails. Philip Marlowe without a drink is very nearly as unthinkable as Humphrey Bogart — who played Sam Spade in the movie versions of *The Maltese Falcon* (1941) and Marlowe in *The Big Sleep* (1946) — without fedora, trench coat, and unfiltered cigarette. Some of Marlowe’s drinking is compulsive, yet it brings him a certain sardonic pleasure. A chapter of *The Lady in the Lake* (1943) begins with Marlowe regaining consciousness after a blow to the head: “I smelled of gin. Not just casually, as if I had taken four or five drinks of a winter morning to get out of bed on, but as if the Pacific Ocean was pure gin and I had nose-dived off the boat deck.” A chapter later he is thirsty again. “I went back to the whiskey decanter and did what I could about being too sober.”



he cracks.

“You must always be drunk,” Charles Baudelaire wrote in one of his prose poems, and Marlowe, who does his best to heed this advice, resembles the figure Baudelaire calls the “stranger” — a man alienated from friends, family, religion, and patriotism, who reserves his love for the “passing clouds.” But though Marlowe doesn’t mind drinking alone, he also revels in the cocktail hour as a social ritual, regardless of the venue. No accident that in *Farewell, My Lovely* (1940), Marlowe’s tone-setting first meeting with his client — the oversized, loudly dressed Moose Malloy, who is “about as inconspicuous as a tarantula on a slice of angel food” — takes place in a cheerless bar where the two men drink whiskey sours.

Chandler was very particular about his drinks and liked switching favorites from book to book. In *The Lady in the Lake*, a “wizened waiter with evil eyes and a face like a gnawed bone” serves Marlowe a Bacardi cocktail — we’d probably call it a daiquiri (juice of one lime, two shots of rum, sugar). By the time of *Playback* (1958), Chandler’s last book, Marlowe has begun to favor double Gibsons (gin and vermouth as in a martini, but with a cocktail onion substituted for the olive or lemon twist).

Chandler liked gimlets so much he included a recipe in *The Long Goodbye* (1953). In the book Marlowe and his pal Terry Lennox make a habit of meeting at Victor’s and drinking gimlets. “What they call a gimlet is just some lime or lemon juice and gin with a dash of sugar and bitters,” Terry Lennox says scornfully. “A real gimlet is half gin and half Rose’s Lime Juice and nothing else. It beats martinis hollow.” (I, a lover of summer cocktails, never enjoyed the full savor of a gimlet until I followed this recipe to the letter.) Yet even the flawed gimlets at Victor’s do the trick: “I like to watch the man mix the first one of the evening and put it down on a crisp mat and put the little folded napkin beside it. I like to taste it slowly. The first quiet drink of the evening in a quiet bar.”

From the point of view of crafting prose and managing transitions, the cocktail is a great prop in Chandler’s hands. The offer

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of a drink can lubricate a reluctant witness ("a guy that buys me a drink is a pal"), pacify a cop, or romance a frail. Drinking cocktails is how Marlowe gets from one chapter to another, from the bar at the casino or nightclub — some flashy place that "looked like a high-budget musical. A lot of light and glitter, a lot of scenery, a lot of clothes, a lot of sound, an all-star cast, and a plot with all the originality and drive of a split fingernail" — to the back office where a tough guy in a double-breasted suit tries to buy him or threaten him off the case.

Think of all the bridge sentences in which a cocktail figures in Chandler's novels. You can convey the atmosphere of the narrative if not the narrative itself from a loose assortment of them. "I carried the drink over to a small table against the wall and sat down there and lit a cigarette." "It made my head feel worse but it made the rest of me feel better." "He finished his drink at a gulp and stood up." "I liked him better drunk." "Then you let me cuddle

you." "Then you cracked me on the head with a whiskey bottle." "This is harder than it looks." "He lifted the empty glass and brought it down hard on the edge of the table." "I finished my drink and went after him." "His whiskey sour hadn't seemed to improve his temper." "I needed a drink badly and the bars were closed." It sounds like a noir-ish prose poem.

The cocktail shared by two persons of either sex is an expression of real or spurious intimacy in Hammett and Chandler. The first sign of betrayal is a doctored drink, as when the Fat Man slips Sam Spade a Mickey in *The Maltese Falcon*. The most popular toast in detective fiction generally is "Here's to crime," or "Success to crime," though Chandler gets off a beauty in *The Big Sleep* (1939), his first novel, in the scene in which the thug gets ready to administer a fatal dose of poison to a luckless but honorable smalltime crook: "Moths in your ermine, as the ladies say." The character of old General Sternwood, Marlowe's client in *The Big*

Sleep, is delineated in dialogue centering precisely on what the two men are, or are not, drinking. Sitting in a greenhouse, wrapped in a heavy bathrobe, the general is now belatedly paying the price for a dissipated life. No longer allowed to drink, he nostalgically recalls that he used to take his brandy "with champagne. The champagne as cold as Valley Forge and about a third of a glass of brandy beneath it." Marlowe enjoys his drink ("brandy and soda") and his cigarette, and the general enjoys watching. "A nice state of affairs when a man has to indulge his vices by proxy," the old man says "dryly," a most apt adverb. If the Scotch and sodas in Hammett's *The Thin Man* signal sophistication, the cocktails in Chandler seem to stand for virility.

Though the drinking is much more measured in the classic detective story as practiced by Dorothy Sayers or Agatha Christie, both authors use alcoholic references to help establish the character of their detective heroes. Dorothy Sayers has a story,

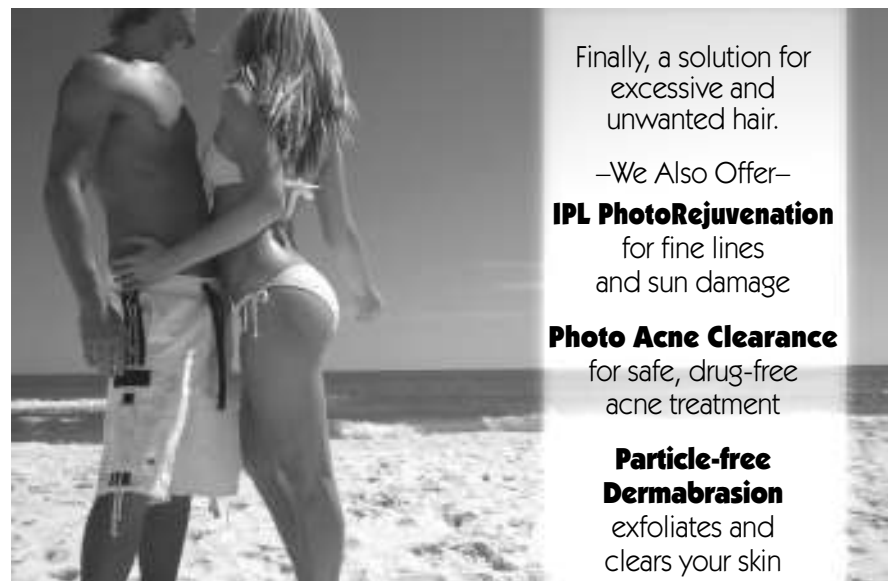
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continued on page 64

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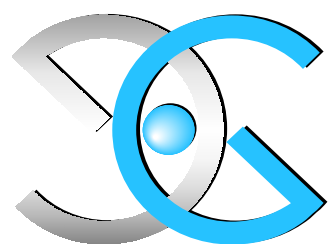
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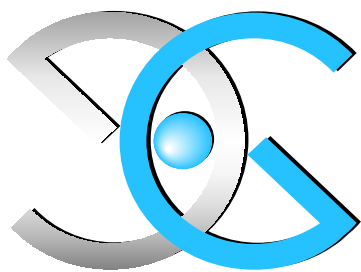


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Surgery to reshape the nose is one of the most common of all plastic surgery procedures. Rhinoplasty can reduce or increase the size of your nose, change relative shape or angle, or it may correct a birth defect or injury, or help relieve some breathing problems. Rhinoplasty can enhance your appearance and self-confidence—although the best candidates are those looking for improvement, not perfection, in the way they look.

Liposuction

Having a fit, well-proportioned body is important for your physical

agility and health. The way you feel about your body can greatly affect the quality of your life. Have you tried dieting and exercising only to get discouraged? Excess fat is not always caused by poor diet and exercise. Often genetics plays a large part in areas of the body that maintain excess fat and will not respond to diet or exercise. While liposuction is not a replacement for a healthy lifestyle, it can make you look and feel better, which in turn could do wonders for your social and personal goals.



Model

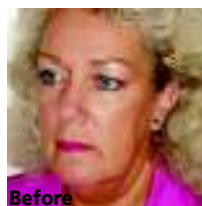
Actual Patients



Before



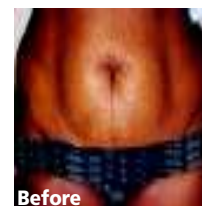
After



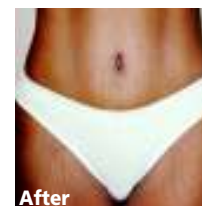
Before



After



Before



After

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Model

then there is a slight tingling sensation from the laser light itself. Most patients tolerate the procedure well, but some areas of the body are more sensitive than others. Topical anesthesia is always available for those who may have sensitive skin.

How many treatments are required? Research indicates that between 20% and 30% of the hair follicles are in the growing or anagen stage at any time. As a result, multiple treatments are required. The actual number varies from one individual to the next, but our experience indicates that 3-8 treatments at 4 to 6 weeks apart are best for optimal effect.



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Model



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Model

Age spot

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Here's to Crime

continued from page 59

Many have commented on the haute cuisine in Rex Stout's detective novels. Fewer have noticed the sometimes strategic use to which the novelist puts beverages. Stout's sleuth is Nero Wolfe, a man of pure mind and seemingly unfunctional body. He is huge, perhaps the fattest detective in a genre full of fat detectives, and he rarely vacates his armchair except to tend his prize orchids. The leg-work is done by Archie Goodwin, Wolfe's right-hand man, who is dashing and charming if always one mental step behind Wolfe, as befits a narrator in the Sherlock Holmes-Dr. Watson tradition. A running gag is that he-man Archie guzzles milk while egghead Wolfe pours down the beer, pitchers of the stuff.

Archie may drink milk the way my Toyota drinks gasoline, for fuel. But he knows how to behave when it's cocktail time, and so does Wolfe's client, Mrs. Bruner, in *The Doorbell Rings* (1965).

Archie has taken the attractive woman to lunch at a fancy midtown restaurant. His opinion of her goes up when she orders, and enjoys, "a double dry martini with onion" — he had guessed her for Dubonnet or sherry, and no onion. He has a martini himself, he tells us, to "keep her company." One reason I like *The Doorbell Rang* so much is that a vital clue is a young woman's appropriation (and revision) of some lines in Keats's "Ode on a Grecian Urn." Another reason is that I first read the novel in 1972, the year of Watergate, and the book's plot has a lot to do with illegal wiretaps and abuses of power in high places. A third reason is that one suspect's alibi is that she was attending a lecture at the New School on Twelfth Street at the time of the murder. I teach there but cannot corroborate her story.

It could be said that cocktails figure in detective fiction the way they figure in urban life. But there is another explanation for the significance of the cocktail in

thrillers. George Simenon, the creator of Jules Maigret, the introspective French inspector with the penchant for a pipe and an aperitif or two in a cafe, came to the United States to live for a time after World War II. He stopped drinking wine with his meals and now drank cocktails before them: "Manhattan after Manhattan, then dry Martini after dry Martini." He had always enjoyed drinking but never before felt like an alcoholic. "From one end of the country to the other there exists a freemasonry of alcoholics," he remarked. It is possible that the hard-boiled detective novel, the noir movie, and even the comic thriller derive some of their energy from the national American fellowship of alcoholism.

You can view Hitchcock's *North by Northwest* (1959) as a progress away from alcoholism, toward redemption. The hero played by Cary Grant is, when the film begins, an advertising man with a domineering mother and a drinking problem. The movie hops from one locale to

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another, and a way to keep track is through the drinks he either has or orders: Martinis with business associates at the Plaza, the bottle of bourbon force-fed him by the bad guys in the Long Island estate, a Gibson on the train with Eva Marie Saint, Scotch in her hotel room, and more bourbon after the fake shooting at Mount Rushmore. This sequence of drinks is seemingly indiscriminate and would be indigestible, which is part of the point, but it's noteworthy that he doesn't drink the bourbon he asks for after the fake shooting—it's a ruse to get rid of an unwanted character. In the course of his adventures, Cary Grant has graduated from his dependencies and, at the end, has Eva Marie Saint in his arms to show for it.

But then he is Cary Grant. More common in the literature and film of detection is the unreformed alcoholic who celebrates the state of intoxication. When Nora asks Nick in *The Thin Man*, "Why don't you stay sober

today?" he answers for all the detectives in the hard-boiled tradition: "We didn't come to New York to stay sober." The drinking of cocktails in a crummy bar in Los Angeles or a swell speakeasy on West Fifty-Second Street is like the renewal of life itself to these creatures of night in their trenchcoats and hats, these wounded angels who keep their righteousness and romanticism concealed sometimes even from themselves. Chandler, justly famous for his similes and wisecracks, saw kisses in cocktails and the promise of sex in the first drink of the evening in a quiet bar. The twist is that the promise of sex always exceeds in pleasure any possible fulfillment. "Alcohol is like love," Terry Lennox says (and Marlowe agrees) in *The Long Goodbye*. "The first kiss is magic, the second is intimate, the third is routine. After that you take the girl's clothes off."

**NOTES AND
 ADDITIONAL RECIPES**

(1) In Williamstown, Massachusetts, a bartender made gimlets with triple sec, Lil-

let, limes, and sugar instead of Rose's Lime Juice. It seemed to me a lot of effort to produce unspectacular results.

(2) While I regard the Gibson as interchangeable with the martini except for the onion, I know of some who feel that the ratio of vermouth to gin is slightly higher in a proper Gibson.

(3) If you set your next detective novel in Nice or Cannes, consider serving negronis to your suspects. Some recipes call for one third gin, one third sweet vermouth, and one third Campari. Dispensing with the vermouth, I use half gin and half Campari, garnish with a slice of orange, and toss in a lot of ice.

(4) The next time I solve a murder I am going to confront the culprit at a garden party after he has recited a false narrative of events. With a dramatic flourish I shall lift my glass and say, "That story should be taken with as much salt as rims the glass of this margarita." ■

— David Lehman

First published in *Tin House* (2003)

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“I’ve Got Perry Mason on Board!”

In early 1960, Erle Stanley Gardner, the man who created Perry Mason, was introduced to an Imperial Beach resident named Francisco Muñoz. Gardner had many friends, and he particularly liked Mexicans, but the

friendship that developed between him and Muñoz appears to have ranked among the most cherished of both men. By 1962 Muñoz had become a main character in Gardner’s travel books and Gardner’s abettor in adventures like this one, recounted by Gardner in *The Hidden Heart of Baja*.

Gardner had hired Muñoz, introduced to the book’s readers as a “quick-thinking, quick-talking aviator, who has been flying long enough to have developed an uncanny skill as well as an encyclopedic knowledge of the country over which he is



THE TWO MEN *gorged themselves, then realized that the afternoon was waning. “It would be touch-and-go to reach Tijuana before dark.”*

flying.” The two men had decided to fly along the Pacific coast, about 180 miles south of Ensenada, to see if the rugged beaches could yield access to custom-designed trailers and dune bikes in

which the septuagenarian Gardner hankered to go exploring. “It was great fun flying at a height of 10 or 15 feet over the sand, with the plane throttled down so that we had just sufficient air speed

to give the pilot good control,” Gardner recorded.

For “mile after mile,” they traveled in this intimate proximity to the beach, with Muñoz touching down whenever it struck his and the writer’s fancy. They studied coyotes, including one “just preparing to feast on a dead baby whale which had been cast up.” They stopped at fishing camps to gossip with the Mexicans gathering lobster and catching *totoaba*. Later, realizing they were hungry, and seeing a clam camp, Muñoz “made a quick circle into the wind, came down on the sandy beach, landed, and taxied up to the place where the clam diggers were bringing in the huge clams.”

Receiving *abrazos*, Muñoz made his and Gardner’s hunger known, and “in no time at all a young lad was forthcoming with lemons and a large soup plate,” Gardner wrote. “One of the clam diggers, at a signal, brought up a sackful...and Muñoz

and I stood by while the clam digger cut open the shells with swift skill and stripped out the meat...” The two men gorged themselves, then realized that the afternoon was waning. “It would

be touch-and-go to reach Tijuana before dark." Although Muñoz was unfazed, Gardner felt worried by the deepening gloom, and his alarm increased when it became obvious that the two were flying into a storm.

"[W]e were being borne along by a tail wind which increased until it was blowing at 75 miles an hour," Gardner later wrote. "Below us the ocean was a churned mass of angry waters, and above us the clouds kept pressing down until we were forced to fly just over the tops of the waves." Squinting through the torrential rains, Gardner shouted that Muñoz should land in Ensenada, but the storm swept

them past the town. At times "gusts of wind would catch the plane and seem to lift the tail so that it took skillful handling to keep us from being blown over end to end... We were now flying two or three hundred yards offshore, so low that headlights from the automobiles coming along the highway between Tijuana and Ensenada would dazzle me — darkness above and below, but over on the right there was a faint murky line of surf; a surf which was hitting the shore with terrific fury and sending great clouds of spray high into the air." Finally Muñoz wrestled the plane down to a landing strip in Rosarito Beach, and

the two men made their way, dripping, to the Rosarito Beach Hotel.

Still the adventure hadn't quite ended. As Muñoz called for a car to drive down from Tijuana, Gardner insisted on ordering stiff drinks and taking a room in which the two could await the ride north in comfort. "Muñoz insisted that as a customer I was entitled to the first shower, and after wasting some time in argument I stepped out of my wet clothes, leaving them in a soggy mess on the floor..." The mystery writer then entered the shower and turned on the wrong faucet, producing an icy blast. Twisting the alternate faucet, how-

ever, caused flakes of rust to jam the shower head; after a moment, only a few drops of warm water trickled out. Muñoz heard Gardner's curses and came forward to help — not realizing that Gardner had already opened the faucet. "Suddenly he had the shower head off, and water...steaming hot, struck me full in the chest. I ducked, Muñoz jumped. We collided with each other and then the stream of water was pouring over both of us!"

Today Francisco Muñoz roars with laughter at the memory. "He was in the nude, and I was dressed. And we both tried to get out at the same time!"

Gardner died about

eight years after this incident, in 1970. But Muñoz, now 76, is still an active man with detailed memories of his life. He and his wife Leysl spend part of their time at a beach-front mobile home in the community of Bahía de los Angeles, about 100 miles south of San Felipe on the Sea of Cortéz. But every month or two, they drive to Crest, east of El Cajon, where a second home overlooks rocky vistas.

"See this?" says Muñoz. He is standing in a jumbled storage area next to his Crest home, hefting a chalky white chunk of material. It's part of a whale skull, including the ear bone, scavenged from Malarrimo Beach, near Guer-

rero Negro, on Baja's Pacific coast. Close at hand, other cardboard boxes, all labeled, are packed with more whale ear bones. Some of the pieces of Muñoz's flotsam collection are unique. He shows off a wooden tool that looks like an archaeological artifact. Once, some shrimper used it to scrape his catch from the floor of his boat into an icebox. Along one side of his house, Muñoz has built shelves to hold his hundreds of bottles, once-hard-edged and glittering glass made subtle and milky by the work of sea water and sand and sun.

Inside the house, the ceiling has been hung with huge glass balls that held up

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far-flung Pacific fishing nets and, over time, washed up on the shores of Baja, sea green, turquoise, and pale rose.

Muñoz has a buoyancy that surges up through his stories, as when he recalls his first sight of an airplane. "My father subscribed to a magazine in México City called *Jueves de Excelsior*. And they showed pictures of the Mexican air force. 'Oh, God!' "he gasps, summoning a boy's voice filled with longing. "I want to be a flyer!" He was around eight years old.

Raised on his grandparents' ranch in Coahuila, Muñoz remembers going

into the pecan orchard. "You had to climb the tree with a pole and you hit the branches, and then somebody picked up the nuts from beneath the tree." Swinging on the branches, watching the flight of the birds, he says, enhanced his yearning to take to the air. But his parents were appalled by his ambitions.

"First they send me to the seminary," recounts Muñoz, whose still-accented English reflects a casual attitude toward grammatical tense. "They want me to be a priest. But the bishop kicked me out because I was asking too many questions. He told me that I came to the

seminary to learn, not to ask questions." The thought of this still provokes a chuckle. "I only stayed a semester, and then I went to high school in Monterrey, México." When he finished high school, Muñoz began a course of studies intended to transform him into a doctor. But he learned that flying lessons were available at the Monterrey airport. "I wrote my grandparents for permission to learn to fly and to support me financially," Muñoz says. "The answer was no. 'Your mother doesn't want you to be a pilot. It's very dangerous.'" So he resolved to earn the money.

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Muñoz dropped out of school and went to work as a butcher, a skill he'd acquired on the ranch. Flight instruction cost 20 pesos an hour. "That was a lot of money," he says. But after a year he had saved 320 pesos. By then the training plane in Monterrey had crashed, but Muñoz found another small flight school in the city of Chihuahua.

"It took me something like eight hours [of instruction] to fly solo," he says today. "A very short time." The date of that first time in the air, alone in the cockpit of an antiquated Curtiss Junior pusher, was February 7, 1937. He was two months short of his 18th birthday.

Because he was well educated, he was asked to conduct the aviation ground school in exchange for more time in the air. He also made money by giving plane rides to townspeople willing to pay five pesos for the thrill. Within two years, Muñoz had acquired more than 200 hours, enough to apply for a commercial pilot's license. He was granted number 237 — the 237th commercial pilot to be licensed in México.

He headed to Mexico City to seek a job with the airline Aeronaves de México. Muñoz says when he showed off his license to the airline manager, the man jumped up and barked for the youngster to follow him.

"He start walking very fast and I was almost running behind him, because he wants to verify the validity of the license. And he walk to the airport manager and he says, 'This boy is looking for a flying job. What do you think about it?'" Much to the airline manager's surprise, the other man pronounced the document authentic.

Muñoz says the airline manager then commanded him to a hangar behind the main building. "And he says, 'You are going to fly to Oaxaca tomorrow in that airplane.'" He pointed to a Stinson Detrolite, a six-seat aircraft that the youth had never seen, let alone flown. When Muñoz asked who would check him out on it, the manager retorted, "Check you out? Are you or are you not a pilot?"

"Oh, God," Muñoz the storyteller summons another voice, an internal whisper. "Where is Oaxaca?"

He says he found his way to the American bookstore in the capital and bought a map. "And then I start working — almost all that day, in the route and the plotting. The next day, I went to the airport, and I report myself to the mechanic." Maestro Alvarado would give him instructions, he was told, in the operation of the plane. Muñoz says he got it airborne, but he was alarmed by a violent vibration. Reporting this to the mechanic, the latter scoffed, "Vibration! It's like a brand-new airplane... We just put a new fabric in it, a

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new engine, a new propeller." Muñoz persisted, but the skeptical mechanic derided the fears of the "capitancito."

His honor on the line, Muñoz agreed to proceed even though, once loaded, the plane appeared even more unstable. "I took off, and it took me about 30 minutes to get over the mountains around the valley. Then I start my flight to Oaxaca, but the airplane was vibrating a lot. You could feel the whole engine shaking." Convinced that something was wrong, he landed in Tehuacán, where the Aeronaves de México office sent a telegram to the headquarters.

Muñoz says he awakened in his hotel room about 5:00 a.m. the next morning to pounding on his door by Maestro Alvarado, livid over the all-night train ride forced upon him. At the airport, the mechanic reluctantly agreed to check the propeller. That was when he discovered that one blade was four inches shorter than the other. "That was causing the vibration," Muñoz

declares.

The mechanic whipped out a hacksaw, intending to cut away the excess. "Don't do that! Don't cut it," Muñoz says he protested. "You have another propeller in the plane."

"You're right. You're right," the mechanic muttered. He made ready to install the second propeller when Muñoz says he suggested that it first be checked. This propeller also turned out to have a short blade; parts from the two had been switched. Taken apart and reinstalled correctly, the plane ran smoothly. Muñoz says the mechanic looked at him. "He was thinking very hard. And then he says, 'My respects, capitán.' That was my first adventure."

Muñoz proceeded to Oaxaca and remained there, assigned to fly "the circuit." Six days a week he would take off from the state capital in the Stinson, laden with mail and passengers, then fly from one tiny town to another, "only ten minutes' flying time between them." No roads connected these

jungle communities, and their unpaved landing strips were but 500 or 600 meters long. Muñoz can still describe the approach to some of them as if looking down upon the past through a clean windshield on a cloudless day. "With Jamiltepec... we used to come down gliding, and then the landing was uphill into the mountain. In Cacahuatpec, you no see the airport until you just about ready to touch. There is a hill, here is a river, and you just come over the river. When you see the runway, you're ready to stop." An older pilot warned him, "You cannot go around. If you try to go around, you'll kill yourself." Muñoz adds that this man later died, along with eight passengers, taking off from the village of Putla. "The engine quit. He tried to land on the other side of the river, but he hit the riverbank."

The engine of Muñoz's plane died one day as he was approaching the tiny hamlet of Juxtlahuaca with eight passengers. One of them, a girl, began screaming so

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loudly that Muñoz still covers his ears at the memory. But the youthful captain made a short turn and brought the plane down in a field of foot-high cornstalks. He then sent a bystander to telegram for help, and before long a new cylinder was installed in the stranded aircraft. Without passengers, Muñoz says he thrust the throttle forward, mowed over the plants, and achieved sufficient speed to lift off. This wasn't his only Oaxaca mishap. Muñoz says one day while taking off from one of the little circuit towns, he flew into a flock of buzzards. Although he tried to dodge the birds, one came through the propeller blades, smashed through the windshield, and sailed all the way back to the passenger compartment. The pilot grimaces. "It smelled so bad!"

Muñoz earned 375 pesos a month for the Oaxaca work, not much more than the minimum wage, he says. After a few years, he was ready for something new, and the next dozen

years brought plenty of variety. From 1942 until the end of the war, he worked for the American government's airport development program, charged with upgrading airstrips throughout México and parts of Central America to accommodate war planes. Then he took a job with a lumber company in the Yucatán, a stint that gave Muñoz the opportunity to fly a "very fancy" DC-3. "It was equipped with couches and tables and a kitchen, a buffet, and a bar." In it he ferried the company's executives on sales calls that took them from Florida to Havana to Puerto Rico. Other flights found him mapping mahogany forests in bloom, photographing the scenes below him with a clunky old Speed Graphic, while he flew the plane.

By the late 1940s, Muñoz had started his own charter service, though most of his business came from the lumber company officials. So when the head of the lumber company, a Yucatecan named Medina, became caught up in national pol-

itics, Muñoz did too. "I flew Miguel Alemán, when he was campaigning to become president of México," Muñoz reports today. After Alemán's victory, Muñoz was asked to transport the new president and his whole cabinet in the DC-3 to Medina's Cozumel beach house. At one point during the weekend, the politicians were playing in the water like children, joking and engaging in horseplay. Only Muñoz and the country's new secretary of communications sat talking — but this was interrupted when the others grabbed the secretary and dunked him, drenching his clothes and Rolex watch.

Muñoz offered to have the watch repaired and later returned it to the Palace of Communications in Mexico City. "The secretary said he was very busy at that moment, but he asked for my number so he could call me back." Muñoz had no phone because the nearest line was five miles north of where he was living (in the Mexico City suburb of

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Coyoacán). "A pilot of your caliber doesn't have a telephone!" the communications chief exclaimed. "My God! You will have one within a week." And within a week, "I had a telephone," Muñoz says today.

If association with high-level Mexican politics brought favors, it also carried risks. Muñoz says Medina believed that in exchange for all his help to Alemán, he would receive the governorship of the Yucatán. When the call failed to come, Medina grew insistent, and one day Muñoz was called to the presidential palace at Los Piños. "They told me, 'Tell Mr. Medina there is nothing at this time for him in Yucatán.'" The job had already been awarded to another man. Muñoz says this news, once relayed to Medina, provoked an outburst — directed at the messenger. "We cross some dirty words," Muñoz says of the scene that unfolded. "And then I had to quit."

He moved to Saltillo and tried to start a business unrelated to aviation, though he continued to give plane

rides to earn some money on the side. Medina had a harder time letting go of his disappointment, and Muñoz says after a while the Yucatecan was expelled from México. Much later, Muñoz was stunned by what he learned from a government lawyer who rode in his plane one day. When Muñoz disclosed something of his background, the other man exclaimed, "Oh, you are the one we are looking for! You were the number-two man with Medina." Although Muñoz protested that he was only Medina's pilot, the lawyer insisted, "It's better for you to disappear."

From the American consulate in Monterrey, Muñoz says he secured a U.S. resident visa in just two months, and he moved his wife and four children to Texas. For a while he sold Piper airplanes. Then he started yet another charter business in Douglas, Arizona, and one of his jobs took him to San Diego. At Lindbergh Field, he got to chatting with Jim Bracamonte, owner of the Jim-

sair aviation service, who pointed out that Tijuana then had no charter operators, nor indeed any private planes of any kind. "Well, this is my chance," Muñoz decided.

The year was 1955, and Muñoz says when he moved his family to Imperial Beach and began flying over Baja, he was awestruck by the emptiness of the peninsula. "I made up my mind," he recalls. If there weren't many people in Baja, he would bring more in.

From the beginning, he dreamed not just of flying charters, but of running his own airline. He planned to start small, with service from Tijuana to Bahía de los Angeles, which already enjoyed some reputation with sport fishermen. Before applying to the Mexican government for permission to provide scheduled service along that route, Muñoz says he made a pilgrimage to Antero Diaz, who ran the only hotel in the tiny town. "I told him what my intentions were and that I would like for him to give me a let-

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ter supporting me. But he said, 'No, no, no, no, no!' He didn't want any airline there." Private planes flying into the little airstrip in Bahía de los Angeles brought him enough business, the hotelier declared.

The refusal didn't deter Muñoz. He says he stole some of Diaz's hotel letterhead. "Then I typed the letter myself and I signed it Antero Diaz." There are many ways of accomplishing the same end, he adds, eyes twinkling.

Muñoz also started the complex process of applying for the air route franchise. While he waited for the bureaucratic wheels to grind, he earned some money from charter customers. Some were more glamorous than even the Mexican president, for Hollywood counted its share of Baja aficionados in those days. Among the movie stars who called upon Muñoz over the years were Fred Astaire, Leo Carillo, James Arness, Chuck Connors, and Desi Arnaz. Travel agents in San Diego and Los Angeles sent him other clients

from all over the West Coast; many were sport fishermen, but some simply sought off-beat paths. But Muñoz says he also suffered plenty of slow spells during his first years here, even after the government gave him permission to start Baja Airlines.

Muñoz still has one of the leaflets he had printed to advertise his enterprise. It's a simple sheet, green ink printed on tan paper, whose only hyperbole is the headline: "Bahía de los Angeles—the Fabulous Fishing Resort in Baja." One-way service cost \$23.12; round-trip was \$47.52. A flight from Tijuana left every Friday morning at 11:00 and returned every Saturday at 2:00 p.m., with the trip in each direction taking around two hours and 20 minutes.

In the early days, Muñoz recalls, he would sometimes take just two passengers, then he'd have to fly back empty. "That was not enough people... So I started flying illegally from Tijuana to Cedros Island, without reporting that I was going there." To the island, off the

Pacific Coast from Guerrero Negro, he would take chickens, fresh bread, other supplies, then proceed to Bahía de los Angeles and back to Tijuana again. Another form of income materialized when Muñoz was approached by the Ensenada fishing cooperative. The co-op owned two Douglas B-18s (a bomber built with the same wings, hydraulic system, and landing gear as the DC-3) but had only one pilot qualified to fly that type of aircraft. Muñoz, however, had owned a B-18 when he lived in the Yucatán. So during lobster season, he was happy to assume the controls of one of the two co-op planes and accept the crustacean passengers.

The fishing cooperative, he explains, maintained radio communication with the lobster camps, where the fishermen would keep their catch alive in the water. Once the men had a full load, the cooperative would call Muñoz, who hopped into his Cessna 170, flew to Ensenada, then picked up

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the B-18 and headed to one of the camps on the Pacific Coast; it might be "Cedros Island, Punta de Abreojos, La Bocana, Faro San José — many places," Muñoz says. All the camps had crude landing strips built and maintained by the cooperative. Muñoz says he brought the fishermen food and cigarettes, and they would toss gunny sacks filled with the twitching creatures into the plane's big open bay — some 6000 pounds of lobster on

a typical trip.

The lobster business helped him to survive, and over time Muñoz's airline also grew. He traded his four-seat Cessna 170 for a Cessna five-seater, then he also acquired an old Cessna twin-engine plane known as the *Bamboo Bomber*. This he used when he won government permission to extend his regular service to include Guerrero Negro and Mulegé. Muñoz says he was flying back from Mulegé one day

in 1960 when he got the call that brought him and Gardner together. All the radio operator told him was that some man in Guerrero Negro had an urgent need to return to San Diego. Muñoz agreed to pick up the passenger as soon as he returned to Tijuana and changed planes.

"I landed at Guerrero Negro, and there were three people waiting for me at the airport," Muñoz says. He asked the man, "Am I going to fly you out?"

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"Yes," the stranger replied.

"Okay, let's go," Muñoz reprises the conversation. But the other persisted.

Would they be there before dark?

"I said, 'No way. You're going to be late.'"

"Do you have a heater?" the man asked.

"Yes, I have a heater."

"Well, I hope you do not overcharge."

"Oh, no," Muñoz says he answered. Then the stranger announced, "I'm going to tell you who I am. I'm Erle Stanley Gardner."

"Francisco Muñoz," the pilot shot back. "Get the hell into the plane so we can get out of here."

As they climbed through the gathering gloom, Muñoz says the memory of the stranger's name gnawed at him. "Finally, I realized who it was. I thought, 'Oh, my God, I've got Perry Mason on board!'" And soon "Perry Mason" was shivering from the cold. When he asked the pilot to turn the heater on, Muñoz answered, "I can't."

"You told me you had

a heater!" Gardner exclaimed.

"Yes," Muñoz deadpanned. "But it doesn't work."

Rather than grow irritated, Gardner seemed to recognize and appreciate Muñoz's puckish humor. "Ever since we were very good friends," Muñoz states. "I never saw him in a bad mood at all. But he was very precise. He had a very deep voice. When he asked for something, he knew what he was talking about."

Upon their arrival in Tijuana, Gardner asked Muñoz to meet him the next morning and take him back to Guerrero Negro, where Gardner had assembled a large group of friends and support personnel. By flying up to San Diego for the evening, the writer was trying to extend by a few more days his Baja adventure (which in this instance was devoted to photographing the gray whales in Scammon's Lagoon and beachcombing near there). In the lobby of the U.S. Grant Hotel in downtown San Diego, Gardner, by his own description, was one of "the most dis-

reputable-looking characters who had ever entered the place"—unshaven and "clad in clothes which had been splashed with salt spray, soaked with rain water, spotted with oil and, I am ashamed to confess, probably with syrup from pancakes and an occasional drip of bacon grease."

But Gardner's cadre of secretaries ("the girls") had already "arranged for suites of rooms, had set up their typewriters and were ready for work...I couldn't take time to shave or even clean up...Files of urgent correspondence were stacked up, scripts were piled one on top of the other." Sending the others out to eat, Gardner ordered a steak from room service "and sat there pouring words into my faithful dictating machine between bites...It was around three o'clock in the morning when I finally got into a hot bath and got the whiskers off my face." Yet he was up by daylight, and the girls drove him down to the border, where he was to meet Muñoz. "I kept dictating all

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the way in the automobile."

It was a normal work night, according to both Gardner's written accounts and the testimony of his biographer Dorothy B. Hughes (*The Case of the Real Perry Mason*). All his life, Gardner had enjoyed an extraordinary capacity for work. Self-educated in the law, he'd been admitted to the bar at 21 and worked as a trial lawyer for a number of years before attempting to write. By the early 1930s, he was earning more than \$20,000 from his writing, and he had set himself a production quota, "1,200,000 words a year, or a 10,000-word novelette every three days, 365 days a year," according to Hughes. By the time he died, Gardner had created 82 full-length Perry Mason mysteries and 64 other books, which, in all editions, sold more than 325,000,000 copies.

His first Baja adventure book, *The Land of Shorter Shadows*, had appeared in 1948. In prose that ranged from lurid to breathless, Gardner had spun out an account of his drive from Tijuana to Cabo San Lucas—a journey that in many places traversed little more than goat tracks. (The Transpeninsular Highway wasn't built until 1973.) Gardner's description of the challenges of the terrain, his sketches of the friends included in his caravan, lengthy discussion of the group's adventures, and dozens of pictures inflated the trip diary to 228 pages.

Although the book included Gardner's predictions of how Baja tourism would soon be exploding, the author made no significant return trips for more than a dozen years. He was too busy. Gardner and one of his Baja companions had dreamed up an organization that would come to the rescue of persons wrongly convicted of crimes. Upon his return, Gardner had thrown himself into launching the project that became known as the Court of Last Resort. (In sum, it consisted of airing in *Argosy* magazine the evidence in support of claims of innocence. The public then agitated for justice.)

Gardner didn't neglect his regular writing for this work but "simply added on the extra hours," his biog-

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rapher states. And beyond all the books and magazine articles he produced, Gardner shouldered other demands that sprang from his creation of Perry Mason. The fictional lawyer had taken his cases to the radio airwaves in 1943 and solved mysteries there every week through 1955. Then, as played by Raymond Burr, he first appeared on American television sets in 1957. Although Gardner didn't write the hour-long weekly TV programs, he exercised control over every script.

Nonetheless, by 1960 Baja was exerting a pull, and Gardner responded by organizing the trip to Guerrero Negro. It wasn't a total getaway. With him Gardner lugged the dictating equipment he used to produce his books. Two of his secretaries also made up the expedition (including Jean Bethell, the prototype for Della Street, whom Gardner married two years before his death). Jean and her sister, Peggy Downs, were both "accustomed to setting up portable typewriters on a

fallen log or an upended suitcase and batting out notes," Gardner later wrote.

With the appearance of Muñoz to shuttle Gardner back to attend to urgent work demands, Gardner finally had the means to combine his work and play. Before the whale-watching trip ended, Gardner would fly north of the border one more time for another work-jammed evening, with Muñoz transporting him the next morning to Bahía de los Angeles, where Gardner's party had proceeded. The trip that spawned *Hunting the Desert Whale* ended soon afterward, but two more Baja adventures — and books — followed in quick succession, with Muñoz playing roles in each.

For one thing, Gardner credits Muñoz for directing his attention away from the coastal areas "to some of the other country which was completely unknown as far as the tourist was concerned." Flying with Muñoz, Gardner in a few hours could survey pristine sections of the Baja interior that would have

required weeks or months to penetrate from the ground. Before long Gardner realized that helicopters would expand his exploration further, and he organized several grandiose helicopter-assisted Baja forays. One of these would yield his dramatic "discovery" of the huge and mysterious cave paintings in the San Francisco mountains north of San Ignacio. Although Gardner was not the first outsider to lay eyes on these, few knew of them, a situation Gardner was ready and eager to change.

But Gardner's delight in the helicopters didn't diminish his need for Muñoz. In Gardner's subsequent Baja books (*Hovering Over Baja* and *The Hidden Heart of Baja*), the Mexican pilot seems ubiquitous: shuttling scripts, mail, and secretarial replacements between Gardner's Temecula ranch and his Baja campsites, playing an airborne mother hen to the vulnerable choppers, at times greasing wheels of Mexican bureaucracy. Because Gardner's expedi-

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tions worked “so rapidly against time and had no facilities for cooking other than with a frying pan,” the writer even occasionally arranged for his Temecula staff to cook roasts and rush them by car to Tijuana, where Muñoz would fly the still-warm meat to the explorers. Sometimes the pilot landed in fields where the brush was tramped down by Gardner and his friends. Other times Muñoz touched down on beaches, dry lake beds, rutted paths.

He was more than a skilled bearer, Gardner’s narratives attest. “Francisco Muñoz had turned out to be a companion, a pilot, and a friend,” the writer concluded in *Hovering Over Baja*. In that and every subsequent Baja book, Gardner included passages describing Muñoz and extolling his skills. Today Muñoz recalls that he told Gardner the publicity for Baja and Baja Airlines was worth so much “that I would be happy to fly him all over Baja for free. He said okay. But every time I took a flight, he would pay me. Very careful, he was, asking me, ‘How much you charge for the flight an hour?’ Then he would figure it out and send me a check.”

Beyond reliable service, the money also bought Gardner moments that were “thrilling beyond description,” he states in *Host with the Big Hat*. “There was, for instance, the time when we took off from Tijuana in one of Muñoz’s most prized possessions, a twin-motored plane which held ten passengers.” The passengers included the writer and three close associates. When they

took off from Tijuana it was raining, so Muñoz began climbing in the hope of breaking out above the storm. By the time they were 100 miles or so south of the border, they had reached 12,000 feet, yet still they churned through a steel-gray thickness that pressed against the aircraft windows. That’s when the noise of the engines stopped, frozen by the cold.

“And then I had to come down,” Muñoz says he knew that the 10,000-foot Sierra San Pedro Mártir lurked nearby, yet not only had the engines frozen, so had all the controls. Only by chance did Muñoz discover he could use the rudder trim tab to direct the plane away from the mountains. The aircraft dropped fast, and at about 2000 feet above sea level, one engine sputtered to life. Its vibration began to break the ice elsewhere on the plane. “We could hear the pieces of [it] hitting the tail,” Muñoz says, adding that he made for a landing spot soon thereafter.

It took more than hair-raising encounters with bad weather to drive Gardner from Baja, but Muñoz was also present for the turn of events that did so, at least temporarily. In 1964 Gardner had been invited to view some new cave paintings and fish-fossil beds near Santiago, so Muñoz flew him, Jean Bethell, and Gardner’s ranch manager, Sam Hicks, to La Paz. Soon after their arrival, Gardner and Bethell went to the hotel to rest, but Muñoz and Hicks moseyed down to the bay-side for a drink. As the two men sat talking, the town’s immigration chief strode up to them and demanded

to see Gardner, adding, “I have an order to arrest him.”

“He’s in Temecula on his ranch,” Muñoz says he lied.

“What? He’s not with you?”

Muñoz says when he stuck to his story, the official explained that Gardner was being sought “because he was exploring and taking pictures of archaeological sites without a permit, and he was stealing archaeological artifacts.” Today Muñoz believes this persecution was prompted by the 1962 cover story that Gardner had produced for *Life* magazine about the cave paintings. The story probably sparked some jealous outrage over the rich American writer profiting from México’s treasures — if only in reporting about their existence. But that April evening in La Paz, there was no time for explanations. Instead Hicks and Muñoz got word to Gardner and his secretary that they should stay hidden. The next morning, before dawn, the group sneaked out to the airport and flew north. “When I landed in Tijuana and I told them what was happening, they said, ‘We know about it, but we know him too. We know you. So we are very sure that they are doing some political thing.’”

Muñoz says Gardner met with no trouble driving north from Tijuana, and his Mexican friends helped clear up the charges. It took about a year to do so, the pilot says, during which time Gardner stayed out of México. But Gardner received not only an apology from the Mexican government but an invitation to travel to Mexico City to be honored

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by the head of state for all the writer's years of trans-border boosterism.

Gardner accepted both, and by 1967 he had plunged into Baja explorations again. Yet more and more, "Don Francisco," as Gardner called the pilot, was limited in the

amount of time he could spare for these outings with "Uncle Erle." Muñoz was now "an executive with big earnings, big responsibilities, and big problems," Gardner noted in his 1967 Baja adventure book (*Off the Beaten Track in Baja*).

Gardner wasn't the only one to publicize Muñoz's achievements. "Captain Muñoz now has 34 employees," announced a July 1967 feature story about the pilot in *Air Progress* magazine. "Baja Airlines has a 40-passenger Martin 202, two 18-pas-

senger Lockheed Lodestars, a Beechcraft C-45 and a Cessna 195." At the same time, "more than 65 percent of his landings [were still] on dirt," and according to the magazine, Muñoz commanded an uncanny ability to bring his planes to a safe stop on the shortest of landing strips. The magazine writer "watched goggle-eyed as Muñoz brought in a fully — and we do mean *fully* — loaded twin-Beechcraft into a downhill dirt strip just 1350 feet long. There were gulleys at both ends and absolutely no room for error. F.M. touched down three-point in exactly the same spot on two successive flights, within 30 feet of the beginning of the runway, and coasted to a stop with minimum braking... Captain Muñoz, for our money, is the best short-field pilot we've ever seen in action."

By 1969 Muñoz looked forward to an even brighter future. Baja Airlines seemed destined for further growth. He had bought the Crest property, divorced his first wife, and married Leysl. Yet by the end of the first year of the new decade, Muñoz had been driven out of the airline business.

Today he looks back on

1970 and sees many dark currents. The year had begun with the deepening illness of Gardner, stricken with a cancer that he could no longer hide from friends. The writer died on March 11, and Muñoz drove to Riverside to pick up his ashes from a mortuary. Four days later, Jean Bethell Gardner and a few of the writer's friends met Muñoz at Gillespie Field in El Cajon. Muñoz says they flew almost all the way to San Pedro Mártir and scattered Gardner's remains.

"It was like a regular funeral," Muñoz says. A few months later, more ashes overtook him as that summer's historic brushfire burned his new mountain home to the ground. By then portents of his business catastrophe were appearing. He says government officials suddenly demanded that he fence all his regular landing strips. Then they ordered him to remove four seats from one of his biggest planes, citing a technicality. A few months later, he received word that his air route franchise had been rescinded.

Muñoz says he tried to launch a legal fight for his business, but a judge ruled that the franchise belonged to the government and was

non-negotiable. Soon the truth behind his reversal of fortunes emerged. Muñoz says a director of Aeronaves de México had decided to expand the airline's service into Baja, and his political connections eliminated the troublesome Baja Airlines.

To earn some income, Muñoz began filling in for the pilot who worked for Exportadora de Sal, the salt works located in Guerrero Negro. The company hired him full-time in 1974, a post that Muñoz held until 1983. By then he was approaching 65 — 5 years older than the age when commercial airline pilots (both Mexican and American) must retire. "So I said, 'It is time to quit. I had my share of flying,'" Muñoz declares. Does he miss it? No, he says, because he'd braced himself for the inevitable. Had he grown tired of it? No, he says with equal firmness. That he never did.

Age robs some men of vestiges of virility, but Muñoz, at 76, hasn't suffered this. Anyone who read Gardner's Baja books and studied Muñoz's pictures in them from 30 years ago could discern the dashing pilot's face in the older man today. The thick, dark hair has receded and grayed, but the strong jaw line is unmistakable. The smooth face now bears glasses, but the eyes are clear, the gaze piercing.

A project occupies Muñoz's mind. Several years ago, he asked Lynn Mitchell, a friend and local writer, to write his biography, a challenge that Mitchell accepted with alacrity. Mitchell recalls that she was working as an assignment editor at Channel 39 back in 1974 when she made her first foray beyond Baja's border zone. She says Bahía de los Angeles struck her as having "such an ethereal quality about it, it was so harmonious, so peaceful, that I felt in a way that it was going to be my spiritual home."

Within four years, she had decided to move there. She quit her television job, moved out of her apartment, sold some of her possessions, and stored the rest at her parents' home. Renting a trailer on the beach for \$30 a month, she moved in with a solar still, some diving gear, her typewriter, copies of Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*, Peter Benchley's

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Girl from the Sea of Cortéz, and a few other books. "I wish everyone could do it," she says today.

Though at first she kept to herself, Mitchell says she longed to meet Francisco Muñoz. "I had watched *Sky King* as a child," she says with an embarrassed laugh. "And I always was very interested in flying." In Bahía de los Angeles, she heard more about Muñoz's daredevil exploits. "He was a legend. People told stories about him around the campfires." But Mitchell wasn't destined to meet Muñoz until years later. She'd then returned to

San Diego, married, and embarked on a career in public relations and as a freelance writer. Mitchell and her husband rented a house in Bahía de los Angeles, however, and there she chanced upon Muñoz one day.

The two proceeded to become friends, and Mitchell says the biography project struck her as a dream come true. Although she now works part-time writing and leading tours for two Baja travel organizations, she estimates she's spent between 300 and 500 hours interviewing Muñoz over the last few

years. The retired pilot, in turn, has been organizing his records to augment the oral history with which he has supplied his biographer.

One recent day, Mitchell sat near Muñoz, a tape-recorder rolling, listening to the old man's recollections and helping him sort through stacks of papers. When she came upon Muñoz's personal log book, she opened it with reverence. By the time of the last entry, dated December 8, 1983, the pilot had logged 23,239 hours and 25 minutes. That's all he legally could record, Muñoz interjected. "Because

you weren't supposed to fly more than 90 hours a month... But I used to fly 100, 120 hours a month. I had to."

Even the official record reflects his long career. But the log book also reveals something subtler but perhaps more telling about its keeper. Almost all the entries, written in a clear, precise hand, have been made in green ink. "Everybody used blue or black," Muñoz explains with a shrug. "I had to be different." ■

— Jeannette De Wyze



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LETTERS

continued from page 14

by some ignorant author, since haikus are stand-alone three-line poems, not jumbled together like that. Haiku is a strict discipline with number of syllables, spilt references, seasonal words, implicit not explicit messages — in short, a difficult art form to master, not the trash you assign to it. If you don't respect the form, don't refer to it like you do.

Gregory Sendelbach
Downtown

Gold Diggers Don't Die

Just the reading of the title alone: "Good Girls Dying for Love" (December 22). Out here in SoCal, they won't die for "love." They rather want their "loved one" (to die for them) for an inheritance claim/dispute. Actually (her) to make all the possible \$\$\$ gains possible before that death. Be it \$\$\$, real estate, motor vehicles, etc. That, not real "love" (for decades), is the utmost task of the general female.

Name Withheld
via e-mail

I Was Saddened

I would like to comment on the article by Joe Deegan about the Mission Valley project ("Mission Valley Project May Violate Code," "City Lights," December 22). I have been a native of this town since 1973. I frequently use Camino del Rio North to travel back and forth to my home. It is what we call the "back road" because there is a small stretch of open area. It's a nice way to avoid some of the traffic. When I saw what bulldozers had recently done to the area, I was saddened. Is nothing sacred about this land anymore? I know it's a small area, but what else is there? Pretty soon there will be nothing "natural" about this place. Developers with big pockets like this Pollack guy should go back to where they came from and develop there. I've seen the open space in San Diego diminish over the years, and it's just pathetic to see the lengths some people will go to just to make a buck.

Marco Barragan
via e-mail

Big Screen Proof

Your "Off the Cuff" section (December 22) that asked is the world going to be a better or worse place in 100 years confirmed to me without a doubt that the world will indeed be worse.

When fashion student Veronica Caldaron responded to the question with a rant about how big-screen TVs were the proof of a better world, I thought it was a joke.

All it did was confirm why the planet is doomed in the hands of human beings. She didn't think we would find peace, she didn't think we would find balance with nature, she didn't think we'd start to treat others with respect or abolish poverty. No, she talked about how great it is to watch *Lost* on a 50-inch HDTV.

It is people like this who will ensure that the world will be worse in 100 years.

David Agranoff
Hillcrest

Thanks, Barb!

Hello, my name is Kyyle. I have become a fan of "Diary of a Diva." I lost my twin in one of the World Trade Center buildings and have been on a constant downward spiral. I became a fan with the article on the great uber pig and fell in love with Barb when she wrote about her cousin Jeffery, whom I know that God sent to be Syyd's angel!!! Thank you, Barbarella. My life has been spent thinking that God let Syyd die alone; now I can live without hate and try to stop using these wonderfully horrible drugs!!!! Love and thanks for eternity.

Kyyle
via e-mail

Yellow Journalism

I don't know if your contributor Ken Leighton is just young or inexperienced with grief or just too crass to care, but I was very hurt and offended by his "obituary" last week for Mr. Joseph Pontisso ("Blurt," December 1). As a mourner of this unique, valuable, loving, talented, genuine, and troubled victim of suicide, I was really set back. There are a million journalistic ways Leighton could have presented that information in a manner more considerate to Joe's young children, who

will be searching for traces of their father online for years to come, and all his loved ones, who are still reeling with shock and grief. When you start out an article with words that are sensational, that first sentence is what pops up in a Google search. The thrill of the readers is not more important than the sensitive emotions of Joe's (barely) surviving friends and family, or anyone's survivors. Unless yellow journalism is your aspiration and standard?

Roxandra Pennington
South Dakota

Rembo-chari-bari-ruchi-pip

Dear Mary Montgomery, I just read your scathing review of my CD *Raise Hell, Raise Babies* in the "Hometown CDs" section of the November 23 issue.

In your review, you suggest I am "devoid of musical talent" and you call my song "Tiki Tike Tembo" "gibberish" and "the worst song on the disc" because it has a "bewildering lack of melody and sense."

That song is a parody of a famous children's fable entitled "Tikki Tikki Tembo," in which the main character's name is "Tikki tikki tembo-no sa rembo-chari bari ruchi-pip peri pembo." If you actually take the time to listen to the lyrics, you will see that the song retells the original fable and makes a strong and clear statement about the effect current immigration policy in the USA has on homosexual couples.

Your review suggests to me that you are not very familiar with world literature, that you don't take the time to research and understand what you are writing about, and that you use scathing and bitter comments to try to hide your own lack of education and understanding. Perhaps in the future, instead of exposing your own *bildungslocher* in a public forum by trashing the work of local artists, you will take the time to research what it is you are reviewing.

Jeffrey Beringer
via e-mail

Sharpest Knife In the Drawer

Knife-Sharpening Clinic

Everybody has a different style and technique for how they sharpen their knives," says Jeff Thurston, executive chef at the Prado in Balboa Park. For hard German steel knives like Wüsthof or Henckels (brands used by professional chefs), Thurston prefers to use oilstones in a tri-stone sharpening system. "There are three different grits of stone, from the very coarse, which works down metal on the edge, to the fine grit, where it polishes the edge. For Japanese knives — or carbon steel knives, where the steel is softer — I tend to use a Japanese water stone, which is a finer grade of

stone that doesn't work off as much metal as the grittier stones."

LOCAL EVENTS

On Saturday, January 7, Brian Menzies, a representative of the nearly 200-year-old knife-making company Wüsthof-Trident, will conduct a knife-sharpening clinic at Macy's School of Cooking in Mission Valley.

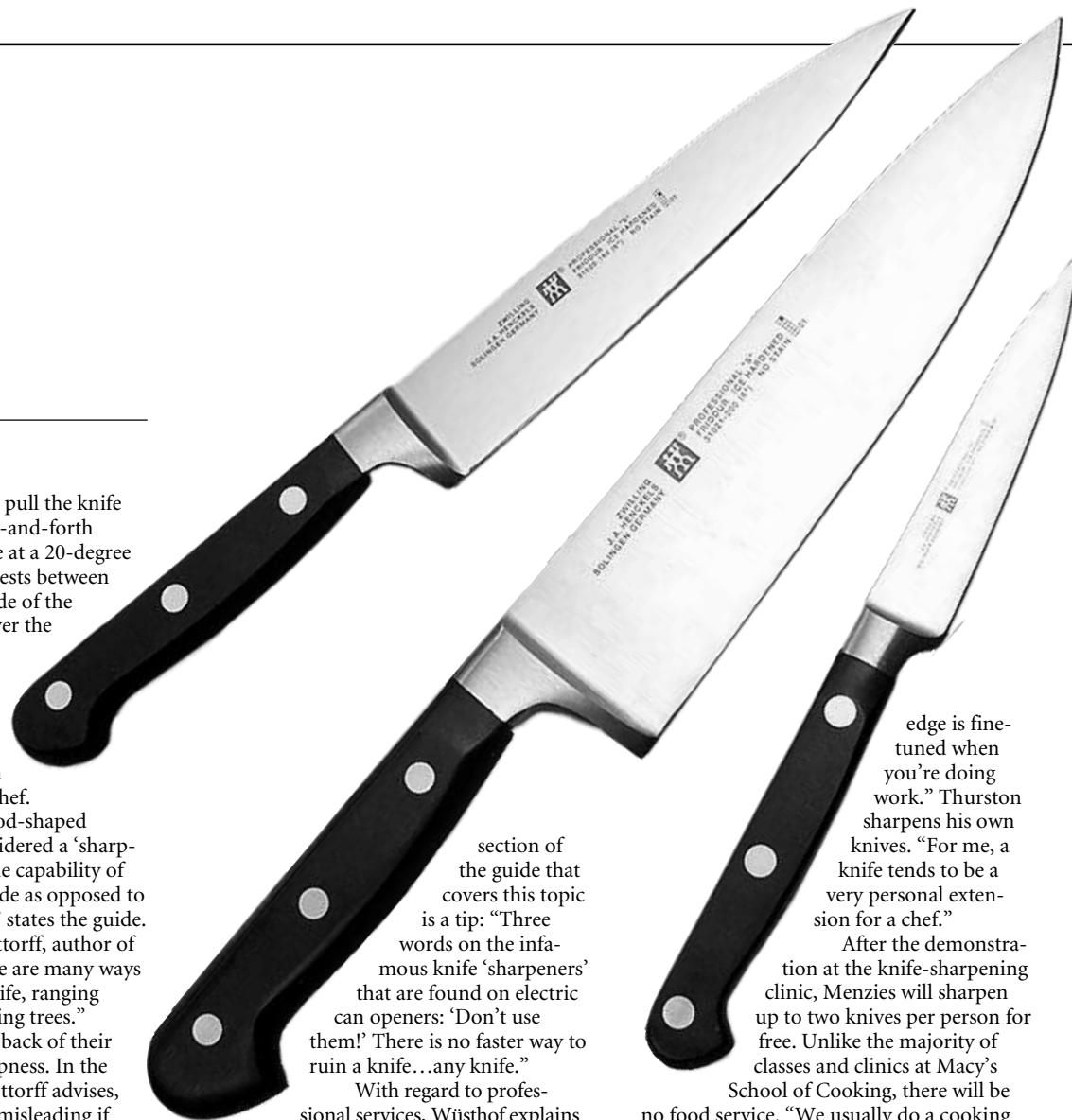
Wüsthof defines honing tools as "Edge-maintenance devices that, when employed on a frequent basis, keep the cutting edge of a knife in proper alignment...you cannot do harm [to the knife] if you [properly] hone prior to or after every use of the knife." A section in "Wüsthof's Comprehensive Guide on Honing and Sharpening" explains: "If a knife goes for longer periods of time without any care at all, the tendency is to want to catch up by performing a more vigorous honing (perhaps by applying added pressure and far-more-than-usual strokes). This is where things tend to get a bit overdone."

When honing, "always pull the knife toward you, never in a back-and-forth motion," and keep the knife at a 20-degree angle. Wüsthof's guide suggests between six to ten strokes on each side of the blade, but stresses, "Whatever the number, it is important to remember that the same number of strokes are applied to each side."

Knife sharpening is recommended about once a year for the average home chef. "Only a diamond-coated, rod-shaped sharpener can truly be considered a 'sharpening' device, since it has the capability of removing steel from the blade as opposed to simply realigning the edge," states the guide.

According to Steve Bortorff, author of *Sharpening Made Easy*, there are many ways to test the sharpness of a knife, ranging from "cutting silk to chopping trees." Some shave a hair from the back of their bare arm to determine sharpness. In the first chapter of his book, Bortorff advises, "Testing by shaving can be misleading if the blade has a burr or wire edge. Steel naturally forms a burr — a thin, bendable projection on the edge — during the sharpening process. A blade with a burr will shave but will not stand up to hard use. To test for a burr, slide your fingertips lightly from the side of the blade over the edge. You will feel the burr against your fingers. Test from both sides, because burrs are usually bent over one way or the other."

Wüsthof representatives strongly suggest having your knives professionally sharpened rather than purchasing an electric home-sharpening device. Prior to the



section of the guide that covers this topic is a tip: "Three words on the infamous knife 'sharpeners' that are found on electric can openers: 'Don't use them!' There is no faster way to ruin a knife...any knife."

With regard to professional services, Wüsthof explains that "while prices will vary, you should expect to pay anywhere from \$3 to \$10 each, depending on the size of the knife. Some services charge by the inch, others simply on a flat rate. More experienced services will also be able to perform light repair on knives that may have small chips or dents."

The frequency of a knife's honing and sharpening should be proportionate to that of the knife's use. Thurston, who uses his knives all day, every day, sharpens them once a week. "A sharp knife is a safe knife," he says. "I hone every half-hour to 15 minutes. You really want to make sure your

edge is fine-tuned when you're doing work." Thurston sharpens his own knives. "For me, a knife tends to be a very personal extension for a chef."

After the demonstration at the knife-sharpening clinic, Menzies will sharpen up to two knives per person for free. Unlike the majority of classes and clinics at Macy's School of Cooking, there will be no food service. "We usually do a cooking demonstration, but [Menzies] is not a chef," says a Macy's rep. "He loves to do the sharpenings, though."

— Barbarella

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

Events that are underlined occur after January 12.

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

BAJA

Vienna Chamber Orchestra plays classical music, Thursday, January 5, 8 p.m., at El Foro, Jai Alai Palace (on Avenida Revolución). Tickets: \$400 U.S., benefiting children of Tijuana. 619-734-2333. (TIJUANA)

"Taurus's Son," hypnosis show by John Milton runs Wednesday, Jan-

uary 11, through Thursday, February 9, at Tijuana Cultural Center (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Río). Shows begin at 8 p.m. Mondays–Wednesdays, 6 and 9 p.m. Thursdays–Saturdays, 5 and 8 p.m. on Sundays (closed January 13 and 26). Tickets: \$8, \$10 U.S. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

OUTDOORS

Recent Chilly Days and Nights only confirm that San Diego's lowest temperatures (according to more than a century of weather records) tend to occur during the month of January. January's mean temperature at Lindbergh Field is about 55 degrees Fahrenheit. (July's mean is a balmy 70 degrees.) To experience much colder temperatures, journey to the Cuyamaca Mountains; -1 and -4 degree readings were once recorded there — the two lowest temperatures ever recorded in the county.

Gray Whale Migration off San Diego County's coast peaks this month. The best view spots from land are high points close to the surf. Aside from the whale-watching overlook at Cabrillo National Monument, try Sunset Cliffs, the vest-pocket parks and dead-end streets from Pacific Beach to Scripps Park in La Jolla, various ocean overlooks on the trail system at Torrey Pines State Reserve,

OUT & ABOUT

"MUSIC TO WELCOME the New Year," pianist Scott Pratt at Escondido Library for First Thursday concert series, January 5

(SEE CLASSICAL)



the cliffs opposite Carmel Valley Road south of Del Mar, overlooks opposite Lomas Santa Fe Drive in Solana Beach, and various clifftop viewpoints and beach-access stairways in Encinitas and Leucadia. Scan the ocean a few hundred yards to a couple of miles out using high-power binoculars. Best times for viewing are about 9 a.m. to noon.

Venus Is Taking a Swan Dive from its formerly high position in the southwest at dusk. Tonight (January 5) Venus sets about one hour after the sun does. By January 10 the time gap will be reduced to a half hour. Venus will be hidden from naked-eye view as it crosses nearly in front of the sun (inferior

conjunction) on January 13. Barely a week after inferior conjunction, Venus will have assumed a prominent position in the east at dawn, the beginning of its tenure as a "morning star," visible in that configuration through September.

Anza-Borrego Palm Oasis, visit four different palm oases in southern portion of park during outing Saturday, January 7, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Bring at least two quarts of water, lunch. Wear hat and sturdy hiking boots — difficult terrain. \$45. Reservations: 760-767-0446. (ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK)

Invasive Plant Removal and cleanup — and a chance to see a

least tern nest site! — Saturday, January 7, 9 a.m. to noon, at Batiquitos Lagoon. Meet at lagoon nature center. Free. Directions: 760-931-0800. (CARLSBAD)

Clean Up! Learn the difference between native plants and weeds and help clean up around Buena Audubon Nature Center, Saturday, January 7, 8 to 10 a.m. Bring weeding tools, gloves if you have them; water. Free. Find center at 2202 South Coast Highway; 760-439-2473. (OCEANSIDE)

Birding at Santee Lakes with Audubon Society Saturday, January 7, 8 a.m. to noon. Possible sightings include osprey, black-crowned night herons, egrets, grackles, wood ducks. Considerable hiking on level ground. Bring scope. Meet trip leader in parking area between first and second lakes. Vehicle entry fee. 619-280-7710. (SANTEE)

Gaslamp Folklore and Legends Walking Tours offered

Saturdays, 10 a.m. to noon, by tour guide Gino Lizardi, who reveals romantic past and characters of the area. \$10. Reservations: 619-239-7515. (GASLAMP QUARTER)

Guided Nature Walk, Saturday, January 7, 9:30 a.m., in Marian Bear Memorial Park (at west side of park, at Regents Road entrance). 858-581-9961. Free. Bring binoculars, drinking water. (CLAIREMONT)

Help Reopen Sunset Trail during work party on Saturday, January 7, 9 a.m. to noon, in San Diego Audubon Society's Silverwood Sanctuary (13003 Wildcat Canyon Road). Preserve was badly damaged during Cedar fire. Volunteers will dig out steps, create erosion-control berms. Expect strenuous physical labor with shovels! Bring gloves, long pants, old clothes; all tools provided. Free. Registration: 619-682-7200. (LAKESIDE)

Strawberry Stand Wetland Learning Center is open on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to noon, for viewing and learning about San Dieguito Lagoon, wetland wildlife, future restoration projects. Free. Find center on San Andres Drive (off Via de la Valle). Free. 858-674-2275 x14. (DEL MAR)

Saturday Night Live, join Walk-about Saturday, January 7, for moderate to moderate-plus walk around the harbor and downtown. Walk starts at 7 p.m. at County Administration Building (on Harbor Drive, between Grape and Ash Streets). Optional dinner follows. Free. 619-303-7942. (DOWNTOWN)

Birding the Marsh, Chula Vista Nature Center hosts guided bird-watching hikes around Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife

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SEA

Rosarito Beach Hotel Weekend \$259 (Value \$307)

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Refuge, Sunday, January 8, 11 a.m.
Reservations: 619-409-5903. Free.
(CHULA VISTA)

Rescuing Wild Animals in trouble is job of Wildlife Assist volunteers. Orientation at 2 p.m., Sunday, January 8, at Encinitas Community Center (1140 Oakcrest Park Drive). 619-921-6044. Free. (ENCINITAS)

Seek and Identify Animal Tracks during Mission Trails Tracking Team nature walk, Sunday, January 8, 8:30 a.m., in Mission Trails Regional Park. Meet at Visitor and Interpretive Center entrance kiosk (One Father Junipero Serra Trail). Free. 619-668-3281. (SAN CARLOS)

The Latest Sunrise of the year (on standard, not daylight time) occurs Tuesday, January 10, near 6:52 a.m. for most of metropolitan San Diego. Slowly at first, then more rapidly in the weeks to come, sunrise will arrive earlier with each passing day. By March 20, the sun will be rising a full hour earlier than it does now. The earlier sunrises are mostly a consequence of the sun's apparent movement from the southern sky toward the northern sky from December to June. You can keep track of that movement by noting where the sun rises (or sets) over a period of many weeks from a fixed vantage point, such as your home.

Edible and Medicinal Plants and their historic usage examined when naturalist Irene O'Neill leads easy two-mile hike in Daley Ranch on Wednesday, January 11. Meet at 9 a.m. in main parking lot on La Honda Drive. 760-839-4680. Free. (ESCONDIDO)

DANCE

World-Beat Music and Dance, Damaru performs while Shalimar and guests bellydance, 8 p.m., Thursday, January 5, at Claire de Lune, 2906 University Avenue. \$5. 619-688-9845. (NORTH PARK)

Mazurka and Waltz featured during beginner-friendly dance Friday, January 6, in room 207 of Casa del Prado. Lesson at 7:30 p.m., open dance follows. Free. All ages. 619-583-9956. (BALBOA PARK)

Hey Wire makes music, Kathy and John B. call for contradance on Friday, January 6, 8 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church (3030 Thorn Street). Beginners' workshop at 7:30 p.m. \$7. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. (NORTH PARK)

Orthodox Christmas Traditions shared in Culture Corner with John Filcich, Saturday, January 7, at Folk Dance Center (4569 30th Street). Lecture begins at 7:30 p.m.; regular dancing at 8:30 p.m. 619-281-5656. \$6. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

Learn Modern Square Dancing with Ruffles 'n Beaus Square Dance Club at beginners' class, Sunday, January 8, 6 to 7:45 p.m., in room 207 of Casa del Prado. First class free, \$4 thereafter. Partners not required. 619-469-4865. (BALBOA PARK)

Sunday Zapateado, Ballet Folclorico en Aztlan presents dances from Tamaulipas, Mexico, 2 p.m., Sunday, January 8, at Centro Cul-

tural de la Raza. Free. 619-235-6135. (BALBOA PARK)

"An Evening in Africa," program for Arts for Life!/Family Arts Connection series presented Thursday, January 12, 6:30 p.m. at Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center (6611 University Avenue). Bolga Zohdooah performs music and dance from Ghana, west Africa, and Cybele Nieman-Pena will lead instruction in Afro-Cuban dancing. Free. 619-282-7599 x114. (ROLANDO)

FILM

New Subtitles, Remastered Soundtrack! Satyajit Ray's Classic *Apu Trilogy* screens on Thursdays in January at Museum of Photographic Arts. Ray's debut film, *Pather Panchali*, screens January 5; *Aparajito* on January 12; and *The World of Apu* on January 19. Screenings begin at 7 p.m. \$10 per film. 619-238-7559. (BALBOA PARK)

Robert F. Williams's contribution to African-American struggle examined in *Negroes with Guns: Rob Williams and Black Power*. Screens for Sunday Matinee January 8, 2 p.m., at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). Free. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

Secret Cinema Salon, "rare and notable films" followed by discussion at Media Arts Center (921 25th Street), Sunday, January 8, 7 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. 619-230-1938 x123. (DOWNTOWN)



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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

"Frankie and Johnny Are Married" looks at what happens when one ignores "two cardinal rules of show business: Never spend your own money, and never work with your wife." Stars Alan Rosenberg and Lisa Chess; written and directed by Michael Pressman. Screens for Film Forum, Monday, January 9, 6:30 p.m., at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). 619-236-5800. Free. (DOWNTOWN)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, currently screening in the IMAX theater: *Mystic India: An Incredible Journey of Inspiration, Mystery of the Nile*. Ticket prices and showtimes: 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

LECTURES

Considering the "Wilderness Basics Course" offered annually by the Sierra Club? Slide-show presentations by course leaders on Thursday, January 5, 7 p.m., at REI San Diego (5556 Copley Drive; 858-279-4400) and again on Monday, January 9, 7 p.m., at REI Encinitas (1590 Leucadia Boulevard; 760-944-9020). Free. (KEARNY MESA, ENCINITAS)

Curator of European Art for the San Diego Museum of Art, Steven Kern pays tribute to its collectors in "Collectors and Collections" for Docent Guest lecture at San Diego Museum of Art on Friday, January 6, 10 a.m. \$10. 619-696-1966. (BALBOA PARK)

ROAM-O-RAMA

A GUIDE TO UNEXPECTED SAN DIEGO AND BEYOND | BY JERRY SCHAD

Elephant trees (*Bursera microphylla*), once considered exceedingly rare in California, have turned out — after decades of searching and serendipitous discovery — to be not so rare north of the international border. Still, the scattered "herds" of elephant trees found in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park are worth seeing and appreciating. The park's self-guiding Elephant Trees Discovery Trail (six miles south of Highway 78 and Ocotillo Wells, just off Split Mountain Road) takes you through a small group of these



Elephant tree

diminutive trees and calls attention to many other plants indigenous to the low, hot, alluvial fan environment characteristic of this area.

The elephant tree is a very strange botanical beast. With a short, stubby trunk, puffy limbs, reddish twigs and sap, tiny green leaves, and purplish fruit, the plant fits right in with the weird

vegetation of Baja's central desert, where it grows in abundance. Like cacti and succulents, the elephant tree is able to store water internally. Native Americans believed the plant was associated with a great power capable of curing many diseases, especially skin ailments.

If you have the physical endurance, navigational skills, and desire to see more plentiful displays of elephant trees, then continue west from the west end of the marked nature trail into any of the many sandy channels of Alma Wash. After about two miles of westward travel up along a rocky alluvial fan, you reach the mouth of a prominent canyon emerging from the Vallecito Mountains. Scattered elephant trees appear as you approach this canyon. Conglomerate rock is exposed at the portals, then big slabs of granitic rock — the bare bones of the Vallecito Mountains. Inside, elephant trees dot both canyon walls, but more can be found on the north side. Some stand upright ten or more feet tall, while others, rooted to talus slopes, have limbs that seem to slither along in search of some means of support. Once the wiry saplings gain a foothold in small pockets of soil, they

survive by rolling with the punches: rock slides merely train the flexible limbs to grow in new directions.

Three miles up the canyon bottom is an area known as Starfish Cove,

inviting the attention of motivated rock scramblers.

This article contains information about a publicly owned recreation or wilderness area. Trails and pathways are not necessarily marked. Conditions can

ANZA-BORREGO

Discover the botanical oddities known as elephant trees in a remote corner of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

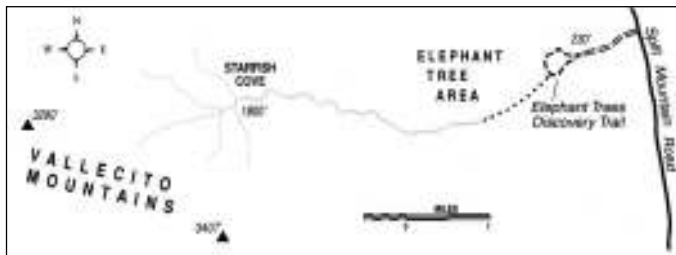
Distance from downtown San Diego: 100 miles

Hiking length: 1.2 miles (nature trail only)

Difficulty: Easy (extended hike into Vallecito Mountains can be strenuous)

where several tributary canyons join like the legs of a sea star. Numerous peaks and ridges, all very remote and seldom visited, lie in every direction from there,

change rapidly. Hikers should be properly equipped and have safety and navigational skills. The *Reader* and Jerry Schad assume no responsibility for any detrimental experience.



Knife-Sharpening Clinic teaches you how to select and care for knives, Saturday, January 7, noon, at Macy's School of Cooking (Mission Valley

shopping center, 1555 Camino de la Reina). Limited knife-sharpening offered after presentation. Free. 888-424-3663. (MISSION VALLEY)

Orthodox Christmas Traditions shared in Culture Corner with John Filich, Saturday, January 7, at Folk Dance Center (4569 30th Street).

Lecture begins at 7:30 p.m.; regular dancing at 8:30 p.m. 619-281-5656. \$6. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

Composting Mini-Seminars offered on first Saturday of each month, including January 7, 11 a.m., at Quail Botanical Gardens (230 Quail Gardens Drive). Free. 760-436-3036. (ENCINITAS)

End-of-Life Choices of San Diego offers program "The Hippocratic Oath: Implications for End-of-Life Care," at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, January 8, at Joyce Beers Community Center, 1220 Cleveland Avenue. Free. 619-233-4418. (HILLCREST)

"Navigating the New York State Census with Fewer Tears," articulated by Dr. Joel Weintraub, Sunday, January 8, 1 p.m., on second floor of Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center (4126 Executive Drive). \$3. 619-583-0826. (LA JOLLA)

"ELECTROBOY: A Memoir of Mania," author Andy Behrman signs his book and expounds on "Coping with an Invisible Illness," Monday, January 9, 6 p.m., in Garren Auditorium (in Basic Science Building). Free. 619-919-4340. (UCSD)

"Your Money or Your Life," nine-step program for attaining financial freedom explained Monday, January 9, 7 p.m. at First Unitarian Universalist Church (4190 Front Street). Donation: \$2. 619-298-9978. (HILLCREST)

"San Diego County's Horticulture Industry: Why It's Here; Will It Stay?" Question answered by horticulturist Eric Larson, executive director of San Diego County Farm Bureau, when San Diego Horticultural Society gathers on Monday, January 9, at 6:30 p.m., in Surfside Race Place at Del Mar Fairgrounds. Talk fol-

whale watch

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Craft Club meets Monday, January 9, 10 a.m., at Japanese Friendship Garden. Past crafts include bookmarks, note cards. \$5. Reservations: 619-232-2721. (BALBOA PARK)

Sailing Fundamentals, U.S. Coast Guard offers nine-week course beginning Monday, January 9, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at San Diego County Health Building (3851 Rosecrans Street). \$25 text fee. 619-446-2145. (SPORTS ARENA)

"Snow Camping" explained on Tuesday, January 10, 7 p.m., at REI Encinitas (1590 Leucadia Boulevard; 760-944-9020). Class repeats Wednesday, January 11, 7 p.m., at REI San Diego (5556 Copley Drive; 858-279-4400). Free. (ENCINITAS, KEARNY MESA)

"Red States vs. Blue States," Linda Blair expounds on Medieval man vs. Renaissance man through art on Tuesday, January 10, 7:30 p.m. at Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street). \$17. 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

"How to Save an Hour a Day on Your Computer," divulged by Tom Underhill when Computer Genealogy Society of San Diego meets on Tuesday, January 10, 10 a.m., in Carlsbad City Council Chambers (1200 Carlsbad Village Drive). Free. 760-744-7530. (CARLSBAD)

"Emotional Flexibility: The Power of Adaptability" disclosed at Sacred Pathway Bookstore (300 Carlsbad Village Drive), 6 p.m., Tuesday, January 10. Free. 760-505-0004. (CARLSBAD)

"Domestic Surveillance — Is It Ever Justified?" Discuss the subject on Wednesday, January 11, 7 p.m., at Living Room Coffeehouse (1417 University Avenue). Free. 619-295-7911. (HILLCREST)

Herbal Cleaning Products workshop by Aenne Carver includes samples and recipes, Wednesday, January 11, noon, at Ocean Beach Masonic Center (1711 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard).

\$15. Reservations: 619-276-0209. (OCEAN BEACH)

"Soil, Mulch, and Fertilizer!" Composting class taught by certified master composter Elizabeth Ramos and garden horticulture manager Don Schultz, Wednesday, January 11, 6:30 p.m., in Cuyamaca College's Water Conservation Garden (12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West). \$10. Required reservations: 619-660-0614. (EL CAJON)

Ambassador Christopher Hill examines U.S.-North Korean relations, Thursday, January 26, 7 p.m., at Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park). RSVP by January 20: 619-260-4236. (LINDA VISTA)

IN PERSON

Aloha with Style, Herb Ohta Jr., Daniel Ho, and Keoki Kahumoku perform Friday, January 6, 7:30 p.m., for AcousticMusic-SanDiego at Normal Heights United Methodist Church (4650 Mansfield Street). Tickets: \$20. 619-303-8176. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

"Sing! Sing! Sing!" Clarinetist Ken Peplowski leads "tribute to Benny Goodman's 1938 Carnegie

Hall concert" in Concert Hall at California Center for the Arts (340 North Escondido Boulevard), Saturday, January 7, 7:30 p.m. \$30-\$45. 800-988-4253. (ESCONDIDO)

"Conception Chronicles," author Shelly Dicken Sutphen explains the emotions involved in babymaking from her book *Conception Chronicles: The Uncensored Truth About Sex, Love, and Marriage When You're Trying to Get Pregnant*, Saturday, January 7, 2 p.m., at Barnes & Noble, 10775 Westview Parkway. Free. 858-684-3166. (MIRA MESA)

Chris Montgomery Jazz Quintet performs at the Museum of Making Music (5790 Armada Drive), Saturday, January 7, 1 p.m. Free. 760-438-5996. (CARLSBAD)

Mundel Lowe Quartet performs at 1:30 p.m. for party hosted by Jazz Association of Greater San Diego (JAG) on Sunday, January 8, at Handlery Hotel and Resort (950 Hotel Circle North). Doors open at 12:45. \$12. 858-454-8080. (MISSION VALLEY)

Bolga Zohdooomahr performs dance music from Ghana, west Africa, for mini-concert at noon on Monday, January 9, at Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street). 858-454-5872. Free. (LA JOLLA)

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LOCAL EVENTS

"ELECTROBOY: A Memoir of Mania," author Andy Behrman signs his book and expounds on "Coping with an Invisible Illness," Monday, January 9, 6 p.m., in Garren Auditorium (in Basic Science Building). Free. 619-919-4340. (UCSD)

The Nanda Kot Expedition 2005, illuminated by Pete Takeda, Monday, January 9, 7 p.m., at Adventure 16 (4620 Alvarado Canyon Road). In 1960s, CIA and Indian government attempted to deploy plutonium-powered spy device on Nanda Devi and Nanda Kot in Indian Himalayas; Nanda Devi "rejected all attempts to place the device on her summit," the plutonium was lost and never recovered. Takeda and crew retraced spy route in 2005. Free. 619-283-2374. (MISSION VALLEY)

Open-Mike Poetry hosted by Larry Dossey, Monday, January 9, at Twiggs Tea and Coffee (4590 Park Boulevard). Signups and

open readings at 8 p.m. Free. 619-296-0616. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Conrad John Netting IV discusses and signs his book, *Delayed Legacy: A Son's Amazing Search for the Full Story of His Father's Death after D-Day*, Wednesday, January 11, 7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble (810 West Valley Parkway). Free. 760-480-2760. (ESCONDIDO)

The 21st Season of "Plays by Young Writers" presented by Playwrights Project and Old Globe, runs January 12–22. Full productions presented of *This Girl Is a Bird*, *Tripping*, *Step Into the Night*, *Spanish Rhapsody*, *A Man of His Word*; readings of scripts *I'll Always Remember*, *Idaho Lament*, *Sara's Volleyball Dreams*, *Joe the Tomato*.

Project convenes on Cassius Carter Centre Stage at Old Globe Theatres. Tickets: \$15 general, \$12 for students, seniors, military. Times, reservations: 619-239-8222. (BALBOA PARK)

Author and Columnist Richard Reeves discusses his new book, *President Reagan: Triumph of Imagination*, Thursday, January 12, 7 p.m., at Scripps Miramar Ranch Library (10301

OUT & ABOUT

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(SEE OUTDOORS)



Scripps Lake Drive). Free. Required reservations: 619-637-3580. (SCRIPPS RANCH)

"Disney's The Lion King" hits stage at Civic Theatre (at Third Avenue and B Street) for performances at variety of times through January 15. Tickets range from

\$24–\$78, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (DOWNTOWN)

The Anonymous World Is Transformed into "a place of hope and connection" in Cirque de Soleil's "Quidam," hitting the blue and yellow Grand Chapiteau at Del Mar Fairgrounds, January 19–February 12. Production

offers combination of acrobatic artistry, technical expertise, music "woven into...an emotional dramatic thread."

Performances begin at 8 p.m. Thursdays–Saturdays, 4 p.m. matinees on Saturday, 1 and 5 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets: \$35–\$70 general, \$24.50–\$49 for children,

\$31.50–\$63 for students, seniors, all available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (DEL MAR)

Local Aviation History recounted by ex-San Diegoan Chuck Walker, who will sign his book *Atlas — The Ultimate Weapon*, which details Convair's development of the rocket. Walker, a member of the Atlas program starting in 1953, will appear on Saturday, January 21, at 1 p.m. at Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, Balboa Park. 619-238-1233 or 970-613-1682. Free. (BALBOA PARK)

Michigan State Professor Jerry Weinberger discusses his acclaimed book *Benjamin Franklin Unmasked: On the Unity of His Moral, Religious, and Political Thought*, Saturday, January 28, 7 p.m., at D.G. Wills Books (7461 Girard Avenue). Free. 858-456-1800. (LA JOLLA)

"Will and I," actor Michael York celebrates "his love of the works of William Shakespeare" in performance, Saturday, January 28, 8 p.m., at Poway Center for Performing Arts (15498 Espola Road). York presents famous monologues and "behind the scenes" discussion. Tickets: \$35, \$37 for adults, \$5 for youths (18 and younger) with adult ticket. 858-748-0505. (POWAY)

Literature, Art, Comix, Culture, Identity converge in conversation between Pulitzer Prize-winning artists Michael Chabon and Art Spiegelman, Wednesday, February 1, 8 p.m., in UCSD's Mandeville Auditorium. Spiegelman is creator of *Maus*; Chabon's books include *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*, *Wonder Boys*. \$36. 858-534-TIXS. (LA JOLLA)

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Bridal Bazaar Sunday, Jan. 29

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Make A Wedding Movie Hollywood Style!

Show hours: noon to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. (Marina portion closes at 6 p.m. each night.) Admission: \$10 general; \$5 for those 12–16, free for kids under 12. 858-274-9924. (DOWNTOWN)

SPORTS

San Diego Gulls busy hosting Idaho Steelheads, Friday, January 6, 7:35 p.m.; the Utah Grizzlies on Saturday, January 7, at 7:05 p.m.; and Alaska Aces on Sunday, January 8, at 5:05 p.m. All games at iPayOne Center. Tickets: \$12 to \$25, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (SPORTS ARENA)

Rancho Santa Fe in Reverse, join Bicycle Touring Society riders for 50-miler Saturday, January 7. Ride begins at 8:45 a.m. at DeAnza Cove parking lot on East Mission Bay Drive. (MISSION BAY)

Rider's Choice, route and lunch spot for Knickerbikers ride to be decided by those who show up Sunday, January 8, at 9 a.m. in Trophy's parking lot (4282 Esplanade Court). Free. 858-453-3687. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

SPECIAL

What's New on the Water? 18th annual San Diego Boat Show featuring in-water and on-land displays, boating lessons, seminars, kids' activities, boats and luxury yachts to peruse. January 5–8, at San Diego Convention Center and Marriott Marina.

Show hours: noon to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. (Marina portion closes at 6 p.m. each night.) Admission: \$10 general; \$5 for those 12–16, free for kids under 12. 858-274-9924. (DOWNTOWN)

Antique Show and Sale at Del Mar Fairgrounds (2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard), January 6-8; 11 a.m. to 8 on Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. \$8. 800-943-7501. (DEL MAR)

Psychic Fair and Metaphysical Conference, Alexandra's BookStore, Saturday and Sunday, January 7 and 8, noon 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)

Bird Rock Tour of Homes, five homes in contemporary, Mediterranean, and Craftsman styles, Saturday, January 7, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$20; benefits Bird Rock Community Council. 858-583-2940. (BIRD ROCK)

Twelfth-Night Concert and Feast, Renaissance-themed party to celebrate end of Christmas season Saturday, January 7, 4 to 10 p.m. at La Mesa Woman's Club, 5220 Wilson Street. Performances by Poxy Boggards, Marlowe's Shadowe, and fiddler Richard Van Healey. \$50 adults; \$35 under 12. 858-292-6083. (LA MESA)

Wear Your Period-Themed Costume to the Costume Walkabout at the Del Mar Antiques and Collectibles Show, Sunday, January 8. Represent your time period and interact with patrons of the show. Meet at ticket booth at 11 a.m. Free admission for fully costumed participants (parking is \$8). Required reservations: 760-622-0100. (DEL MAR)

Stamp-Collecting Show, stamp and cover dealers offer wares, Sunday, January 8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Al Bahr Shrine Temple (5440

Kearny Mesa Road). Free. 619-469-0337. (KEARNY MESA)

The Backgammon Club of San Diego holds weekly tournaments every Tuesday, 6 p.m., at Coast Cafe (in Embassy Suites Hotel, 4550 La Jolla Village Drive). \$20 entry, \$10 reentry. 858-342-5533. (LA JOLLA)

Automobiles of 1950s and "classic surfside Woodies" honored at second annual La Jolla Motor Car Classic, Sunday, January 15, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., on lawn at La Jolla Cove. All manner of vehicles on display — including a 1954 Chevrolet Good Humor ice cream truck — music by Sha Na Na, more. Free. 619-233-5008. (LA JOLLA)

'Tis the Season for ice skating outdoors at Horton Plaza. Skating sessions last 1.5 hours, running 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Fee: \$10 general, \$8 for kids, which includes skate rental. 858-530-1825. Through Wednesday, January 18. (DOWNTOWN)

Witness Gray Whale Migration during outings hosted by Birch Aquarium and San Diego Harbor Excursions through Friday, March 31. Scripps naturalists and assistants are on hand during cruises to search for whales, on their way to lagoons in Baja California to calve. Fee: \$25 weekdays, \$30 weekends for adults, \$15 for those 4-12. Registration: 619-234-4111. (PACIFIC OCEAN)

FOR KIDS

"Sea Strollers: Mouths" is theme when "A, B, Sea Club" for kids up to 24 months meets 8:30 to

9:30 a.m. through Friday, January 6, at Birch Aquarium-Museum (2300 Expedition Way).

"Sea Wees: Spots, Dots and Stripes," class for 2-year-olds takes place Monday-Friday, January 9-13, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Classes include aquarium exhibits, live animal encounter, free-play. \$25 per adult/child pair. 858-534-7336. (LA JOLLA)

"Pepper's Favorites II" presented by Puppet Express through Sunday, January 8, at Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater. Next up: *Giddy Up, Cowboys!* performed by Lynn Trimble, January 11-15.

Show hours: Wednesday-Friday, 10 and 11:30 a.m.; 11 a.m., 1, and 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Find the theater near Aerospace Museum. Admission: \$3 for children, \$4 seniors, \$5 general. 619-544-9203. (BALBOA PARK)

Stanley Yelnats IV Digs Up Adventure in *Holes*, production by San Diego Junior Theatre, through January 22, in Casa del Prado Theater. Recommended for those ten and older.

Curtain rises at 7 p.m. on Friday, 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday; performances at 9:30 a.m. and noon on Wednesday, January 11, and Tuesday, January 17. Tickets: \$9 to \$12 adults, \$7 to \$10 seniors and children 13 and under. Reservations: 619-239-8355. (BALBOA PARK)

Plant Wildflower Seeds during Botany for Kids class, noon to 5 p.m., in conjunction with native plant sale, Sunday, January 8, at Coastal Sage Gardening (3685 Voltaire Street). Free. Registration: 619-223-5229. (POINT LOMA)

"Fancy Nancy" shared during story time, Wednesday, Jan-

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Through January 15



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Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

uary 11, 10:30 a.m., at Borders Books and Music (11160 Rancho Carmel Drive). Free. 858-618-1814. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN)

"The Magic Flute," celebrate Mozart's 250th birthday with Classics for Kids performance (in English), Sunday, January 22, 1 p.m., at Stephen and Mary Birch North Park Theatre (2895 University Avenue). Led by a comical bird catcher and his magic flute, Prince Tamino must save Princess Pamina from Queen of the Night. Dana Mambourg Zimbric leads Classics Philharmonic, joined by San Diego Ballet dancers, opera vocalists. Tickets: \$11-\$15 for children, \$19-\$25 for adults. Reservations: 619-435-9111. (NORTH PARK)

MUSEUMS

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

Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum, the museum locates, collects, documents, and preserves historical gas-, steam-, and horse-powered equipment related to agriculture and the general develop-

ment of America. The collection is made up of equipment used in lumbering, mining, oil drilling, and construction industries. Blacksmith and wheelwright shop, country kitchen and parlor, steam-operated saw mill, and 1/3-scale train. Find the museum at 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue. 760-941-1791. (VISTA)

Bonita Museum and Cultural Center, the museum highlights the history of the Sweetwater Valley from the mid-1800s, with historical photographs; artifacts,

tools, and farming implements; the district's 1953 fire engine; and bound copies back to the 1930s of the *Chula Vista Star News*. Find the museum at 4035 Bonita Road. 619-267-5141. (BONITA)

California Surf Museum, "The Surfer-Shapers" showcases several surfers whose conceptual abilities and crafting talent radically altered surfboard design. The search has always been for lighter, faster, more maneuverable boards, from Duke Kahanamoku in early 1900s

to Tom Blake in 1920s to Simon Anderson in early 1980s.

The museum features surfing artifacts and memorabilia — such as surfboards and clothing — of local legends Phil Edwards, John "L.J." Richards, and Peter Johnson, and Duke Kahanamoku. The museum is located at 223 North Coast Highway; 760-721-6876. (OCEANSIDE)

Campo Railroad Museum, showcasing more than 115 years of American railroad heritage and

development through static and operating exhibits, the museum includes cabooses, steam and diesel locomotives, track motorcars, "Jim Crow" segregated passenger cars.

Interpretive 1.5-hour train rides offered each weekend (11 a.m., 2:30 p.m.) over portion of the San Diego and Arizona Railway. Find the depot on Highway 94 at Forrest Gate Road. 619-465-7776. (CAMPO)

Poetry | SNOW

Walking through a field with my little brother Seth
I pointed to a place where kids had made angels in the snow.
For some reason, I told him that a troop of angels
had been shot and dissolved when they hit the ground.
He asked who had shot them and I said a farmer.
Then we were on the roof of the lake.
The ice looked like a photograph of water.
Why he asked. Why did he shoot them.
I didn't know where I was going with this.
They were on his property, I said.

When it's snowing, the outdoors seem like a room.
Today I traded hellos with my neighbor.
Our voices hung close in the new acoustics.
A room with the walls blasted to shreds and falling.
We returned to our shoveling, working side by side in silence.
But why were they on his property, he asked.



David Berman

— David Berman

From *Actual Air*, 1999, Open City Books, New York.
Poet David Berman is a singer-songwriter best known for his work with indie-rock band the Silver Jews. His work has been featured in Billy Collins's Poetry 180 series. Berman lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

Chinese Historical Society and Museum, view artifacts from San Diego's Chinese and Chinese-American history, culture, and art. Current museum artifacts include a 1920s warlord's bed, exhibits on Chinese foot binding and Chinese-American veterans. The museum is in a building originally built in 1927 for the Chinese Mission. Adjacent to the building is an Asian garden with koi pond and waterfall.

Find the museum at 404 Third Avenue (at J Street). 619-338-9888. (DOWNTOWN)

Chula Vista Heritage Museum the museum features glimpses of Chula Vista's past; exhibits feature lemon packing crate labels, photographs of downtown Chula Vista, doors and adobe blocks from the original *Star* newspaper building, and relics from the Otay Watch Company. Find the museum at 360 Third Avenue. For further information, call 619-420-6916. (CHULA VISTA)

Creation Museum, a museum contrasting the evolution and creation world views is found at 10946 Woodside Avenue North. For more information, call 619-448-0900 x231. (SANTEE)

Gemological Institute of America Museum, permanent exhibits include displays depicting science and art of gemstones and history, lore and cultural signifi-

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Reading

Snowbound

Part two of two



A few years ago I ran across Yasunari Kawabata's *Snow Country*. The novel's translator writes in an introduction to the novel:

The west coast of the main island of Japan is probably for its latitude (roughly, from Cape Hatteras to New York, or from Spanish Morocco to Barcelona) the snowiest region in the world. From December to April or May only the railroads are open, and the snow in the mountains is sometimes as much as fifteen feet deep.

Kawabata's descriptions of snow are some of the most satisfying I know, and I look forward to leaning against the bookcase and reading them aloud to myself until I feel the cold he writes climb up on me. Yet Kawabata's story of a man who can't love and the woman who loves him is so irredeemably sad that I'm never sure Kawabata's snow is worth the pain my memory of his characters' end causes me.

The earth lay white under the night sky. The brightness of the snow was more intense, it seemed to be burning icily.

Presently, as the mountain chasms were far and near, high and low, the shadows in them began to deepen, and the sky was red over the snowy mountains, bathed no win but a wan light.

The snow on the distant mountains was soft and creamy, as if veiled in a faint smoke.

From the gray sky, framed by the window, the snow floated toward them in great flakes, like white peonies.

The cedars, under a thin coating of snow, rose sheer from the white ground to the sky, each cut off sharply from the rest.

When I want North American snow, I turn first to books set in the Midwest and then to childhood books, to the *Little House* books. *Little House on the Prairie*, *Little House in the Big Woods*, et al. tell the story of Laura Ingalls Wilder's life. Born in 1867 in a log cabin at the edge of the Wisconsin Big Woods, Wilder from 1870 to 1889 traveled with her family by covered wagon through Kansas, Minnesota, and Dakota Territory. A section from Wilder's *The Long Winter* furnished material for what must have been my earli-

est childhood snow nightmares. A late fall snowstorm has hit the prairie. Cattle have taken shelter by the haystacks. Pa, concerned that the cattle will tear down the stacks, goes out to drive them off. Laura follows.

Outdoors the sun-glitter hurt her eyes. She breathed a deep breath of the tingling cold and squinted her eyes to look around her. The sky was hugely blue and all the land was blowing white. The straight, strong wind did not lift the snow, but drove it scudding across the prairie....

The cattle were standing in sunshine and shadow by the haystacks — red and brown and spotted cattle and one thin black one. They stood perfectly still, every head bowed down to the ground. The hairy red necks and brown necks all stretched down from bony-gaunt shoulders to monstrous, swollen white heads....

They did not seem like real

cattle. They stood so terrible still. In the whole herd there was not the least movement. Only their breathing sucked their hairy sides in between the rib bones and pushed them out again.... Their legs were braced out, stiff and still. And where their heads should be, swollen white lumps seemed fast to the ground under the blowing snow.

On Laura's head the hair prickled up and a horror went down her backbone.... Pa went on slowly against the wind. He walked up to the herd. Not one of the cattle moved."

Next, for Midwestern winters, I like Willa Cather's *My Antonia*, which has as its landscape the author's childhood home in Nebraska.

The first snowfall came early in December. I remember how the world looked from our sitting-room window as I dressed

behind the stove that morning: the low sky war like a sheet of metal; the blond cornfields had faded out into ghostliness at last; the little pond was frozen under its stiff willow bushes. Big white flakes were whirling over everything and disappearing in the red grass....

The sky was brilliantly blue, and the sunlight on the glittering white stretches of prairie was almost blinding. As Antonia said, the whole world was changed by snow; we kept looking in vain for familiar landmarks. The deep arroyo through which Squaw Creek wound was now only a cleft between snowdrifts — very blue when one looked down into it. ... The cold stung, and at the same time delighted one. My horse's breath rose like steam, and whenever we stopped he smoked all over. The cornfields got back a little of their color under the daz-

(continued on page 92)

A late fall snowstorm has hit the prairie. Cattle have taken shelter by the haystacks. Pa, concerned that the cattle will tear down the stacks, goes out to drive them off.

cance of jewelry. Find the GIA at 5345 Armada Drive. Required reservations: 800-421-7250 x4116. (CARLSBAD)

George White and Anna Gunn Marston House, historic home sits on five acres of landscaped grounds with a formal English Romantic garden. Built for civic

leader and department store founder George Marston and his family by San Diego architects William Hebbard and Irving Gill, the Marston house design is in keeping with the early 20th-Century American Arts and Crafts period, emphasizing simplicity, function, and natural materials. The

museum is located at 3525 Seventh Avenue; 619-298-3142. (HILLCREST)

House of Pacific Relations, International Cottages are open every Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. to present the history and traditions of 30 ethnic groups. Select cottages open on fourth Tuesday of the month, *Children Around the World* videos

are shown in Hall of Nations, fourth Tuesday of every month. 619-538-4069. (BALBOA PARK)

J.A. Cooley Museum, an eclectic collection of items — including displays on phonographs, clocks, electric trains, and 20 other types of collections — is featured at the museum. The current fea-

tured attraction is an "Industrial Product Collection," with examples of the historical progression of auto technology from 1886-1915, with "some classics and a concept car."

Find the museum at 4233 Park Boulevard. 619-296-3112. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

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



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Reading

(continued from page 91)



zling light, and stood the palest possible gold in the sun and snow. All about us the snow was crusted in shallow terraces, with tracings like ripple-marks at the edges, curly waves that were the actual impression of the stinging lash in the wind.

Winter comes down savagely over a little town on the prairie....

In the morning when I was fighting my way to school against the wind, I couldn't see anything but the road in front of me; but in the late afternoon, when I was coming home, the town looked bleak and desolate to me. The pale, cold light of the winter sunset did not beautify — it was like

the light of truth itself. When the smoky clouds hung low in the west and the red sun went down behind them, leaving a pink flush on the snowy roofs and the blue drifts, then the wind sprang up afresh, with a kind of bitter song, as if it said: "Thes is reality, whether you like it or not. All those frivolities of summer, the light and shadow, the living mask of green that trembled over everything, they were lies, and this is what was underneath. This is the truth."

Mark Helprin's stories' and novels' surfaces glitter and shine with snow and ice. Perhaps no living writer, in English, does as well with plays of light over snow. In the prologue to *Winter's Tale* he describes snow falling on New York City.

But the city is now obscured, as it often is, by the whitened mass in which it rests — rushing by us at unfathomable speed, crackling like wind in the mist, cold to the touch, glistening and unfolding, tumbling over itself like the steam of an engine or cotton spilling from a bale. Through the blinding white web of ceaseless sound flows past mercilessly, the curtain is breaking...it reveals amid

the clouds a lake of air as smooth and clear as a mirror, the deep round eye of a white hurricane.

No Renaissance engine belching fire or hurtling stone could keep pace with even one white clap of a New York winter, and winter there clapped as endlessly as a paddlewheel on one of the big white boats slapping across the lake in seasons gone by. Battalions of arctic clouds droned down from the north to bomb the state with snow, to bleach it as white as young ivory, to mortar it with frost that would last from September to May.

A New York City friend who tells me she bought *Singapore: A Novel of The Bronx*, by Joe Bernardini, because she couldn't resist a novel about the Bronx written by someone named Joe Bernardini, pointed out to me Bernardini's snow scene as an example of non-romanticized urban snow:

In all fairness to the Bronx, snow is greeted with great cheers of delight. The smiles and laughter of this otherwise grim borough are few and far between and I'd be remiss in not mentioning them when they do occur. The snowball

fighths we used to have in the lot constituted the happiest moments of my youth. I was deadly with a snowball. Single-handed I'd rout Leon and is cohorts from their hiding places and send them scurrying into he building. Then, anticipating their taunts from the hallway windows, my snowballs would find the enemy as soon as their startled heads appeared. I recall throwing a snowball that landed wide of the mark. It struck the window of a recluse who was forever sitting with his nose pressed against the pane. He appeared to be staring straight at me, there was no way possible for him to overlook the snowball, and yet as the snowball approached and then struck his window he didn't budge an inch. Frightened out of my wits, I ran all the way up to Bainbridge and returned hours later when it was dark.

The light from the street lamp illumined his window and I saw that a piece of cardboard had been wedged against the opening and above the cardboard I was even able to make out the man's forehead and a few wisps of hair. He was sitting there with his nose pressed against the cardboard. Do you understand? Snow was

Snow passages in fiction and poetry are splendid opportunities for writers to set up dazzling pictorial contrasts.

falling on the Bronx. For several hours a clean, white blanket would cover the grime. Then dogs would yellow it with their pee and boots would riddle it with holes and soot belched from the incinerators would settle on its surface and it would turn to slush, and it contrast to the few white patches that remained, the Bronx would appear even grimmer than before. So snow meant nothing to him. It was still the Bronx.

Reading Katherine Mansfield's journal entry for December 28, 1914, with its expanding exterior vision covered over with white, white, white, white, white, heightens one's awareness of snow's potential as dramatic medium.

Snow has fallen, and everything is white. ... I love to close my eyes a moment and think

of the land outside, white under the mingled snow and moonlight — white trees, white fields — the heaps of stones by the roadside white — snow in the furrows.

Snow passages in fiction and poetry are splendid opportunities for writers to set up dazzling pictorial contrasts. Peter Handke's *The Afternoon of a Writer* offers this:

He switched off all the lights. Because of the snow and the reflection of the city in the clouds, it was lightin all the rooms, a nocturnal light that made the objects in the rooms all the darker.

In another example of this use of snow for effects of visual contrast, there is in Kawabata's novel a paragraph in which his emotionally frozen male character watches a geisha as she looks at herself in a mirror that reflects

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Museum, housed in a historic building, the museum features five permanent galleries with artifacts, uniforms, vehicles, weapons, and photographs depicting Marine Corps history. The museum is located in Building 26 at MCRD, just inside Gate 4, off Pacific Highway. 619-524-6038. (MIDWAY)

Parsonage Museum of Lemon Grove, "Domestic Life in Lemon Grove: 1900–1950" features dozens of vintage photographs along with handmade quilts, kitchen tools, the original 1894 school bell, a rope Jenny Lind bed, a doctor's "house call" implements, much more, from Lemon Grove homes and ranches. Through Monday, July 31. Find

the museum at 3185 Olive Street; 619-460-4353. (LEMON GROVE)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, ongoing exhibitions include "The Swing of Things: The Science of Motion and Perception" (closing Sunday, June 4), "San Diego Science Showcase," "Kid City" (designed for preschoolers), "The Best of Symmetry and Signals," "TryScience!" and "Skyscapes." "Comet Impact" is theme for motion simulator ride. "Night on Dream Mountain" is the current planetarium show. Films are shown daily in the IMAX theater. 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Archaeological Center, "Moments in Time: An Exhibition of San Diego History" examines significant events in

American history as lived by San Diegans and recorded by artifacts they left behind. Continues through January. The museum is dedicated to "curation of archaeological projects and sharing them with the public." Find center at 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road; 760-291-0370. (ESCONDIDO)

San Diego Automotive Museum, more than 80 automobiles and motorcycles from horseless carriages to future prototypes are included in the museum's permanent collection. Find the museum near the Starlight Bowl; 619-231-2886. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Hall of Champions, ongoing exhibits include "Bird Watching — Tony Hawk in

Flight," "Surfing in San Diego," exhibits of baseball card art, fencing, local rugby history. The museum —dedicated to promoting, recognizing, and preserving athletic achievement — is located at 2131 Pan American Plaza. 619-234-2544. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Historical Society Museum, "Developing San Diego: Making History Every Day" features a "now and then"-style view of San Diego. Exhibit "illustrates the changes to our built and natural environments over a long period of time." Thirty contemporary photographs by Chris Travers are accompanied by historical images from Booth Historical Photograph Archives and text by Will Chandler. Continues through May.

"Romp! Children Discover Balboa Park" focuses on why Balboa Park exists, examines the 1915 16 and 1935 36 Expositions, and includes exhibits, attractions, and "marvels that were found in the monumental buildings created to showcase the West." Historic film footage allows visitors to tour the Ford Building as it existed in 1935 and see displays and machin-

ery that were there.

The museum is located in the Casa de Balboa building; 619-232-6203. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Maritime Museum, the museum features permanent exhibits documenting the history of San Diego's waterfront and the building of the West Coast by sea, the old San Diego-Coronado ferryboats, the tuna fishing industry, and the military. The museum fleet consists of the 1863 bark *Star of India*, the 1898 San Francisco ferryboat *Berkeley*, and the 1904 Scottish steam yacht *Medea*. The H.M.S. *Surprise*, used in film *Master and Commander*, is permanently on exhibit; see artifacts, costumes, props used in making of the flick. Also open for touring: a B-39 Soviet attack submarine, among the largest conventionally powered submarines ever built. This Project 641/Foxtrot class diesel-electric submarine was designed to track U.S. and NATO warships throughout the Earth's oceans. There are also nautical exhibits, ship carpenters, model building, ships in bottles, woodcarvers, and a complete research library.

The museum is located at 1306 North Harbor Drive, along the Embarcadero at the corner of North Harbor Drive and Ash Street; 619-234-9153. (DOWNTOWN)

San Diego Museum of Man, in celebration of its 90th anniversary, "Passage to Panama: Past to Present" and "The Art of Being Kuna: Layers of Meaning Among the Kuna of Panama" continue through April. "Being Kuna" centers on importance of form and beauty for Kuna in everyday life, narratives, ritual and healing, and visual arts. Display includes *molos*, colorful and richly decorated appliquéd fabrics. "Passage" documents culture of Embera, Wounaan, and Ngöbe with ethnographic materials, cultural items, photographs.

"Reflections" showcases rare and significant objects representing 90 years of the museum's collection history; some of the objects have never been displayed for public. Items include a *Seri* woodcarving of a whale; bronze sculpture by Alan Houser; more. Through Sunday, September 24.

"Frozen in Time: Life in the Pleistocene Age" explores how hu-

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both her face and the snow outside the window.

The white in the depths of the mirror was the snow, and floating in the middle of it were the woman's bright red cheeks.

An early scene in Banks's *Affliction*, a deer hunt, is another of passage in which snow's whiteness and purity is used as a graphic contrast medium.

Slugs, pellets, balls made of aluminum lead, steel, rip into the body of the deer, crash through bone, penetrate and smash organs, rend muscle and sinew. Blood splashes into the air, across tree bark, stone, onto smooth white blankets of snow, where scarlet fades swiftly to pink. Black tongue lolls over blooded teeth, as if

the mouth were a carnivore's; huge brown eyes roll back, glassed over, opaque and dry; blood trickles from carbon-black nostrils, shit spits steaming into the snow; urine, entrails, blood, mucus spill from the animal's body; as heavy-booted hunters rush across the frozen snow-covered ground to claim the kill.

Perhaps precisely because snow offers such a canvas on which to draw contrasts, mystery, suspense, thriller, and horror writers show a fondness for wintry settings. Offhand, these come to mind: Le Carre's *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*, Ngaio Marsh's *Death and the Dancing Footman*, Chesterton's "The Invisible Man," Michael Innes's *Appleby's End*, Jonathan Valin's *Fire Lake*, Juris Jurjevic's *Trudeau Vector*, Peter Straub's *Ghost Story* and closer to home, Chandler's *Lady of the Lake*.

Martin Cruz Smith's *Gorky Park* provides particularly vivid examples of the use of snow as a backdrop for violence. From the first pages *Gorky Park* provides snowy death scenes. As bits of ice glimmer in the air, a chief investigator for the People's Militia, Arkady Renko, strides through snow "to the telltale humps" in the center of a clearing.

There were three bodies.... They lay peacefully, even artfully, under their thawing crust of ice, the center one on its back, hands folded as if for a religious funeral, the other two turned, arms out under the ice like flanking emblems on embossed writing paper. They were wearing ice skates.

Towards *Gorky Park's* end, a corpse is found (whose corpse it is I won't tell you, in case you haven't read the book and want to).

Snow had settled deep on his shoulders and hat and in the cuff of his upraised hand. Stretched out dead in the snow at his feet were two large gray dogs. Arkady noticed that what protruded in a bundle from ____'s open coat were his entrails, pulled out and covered with snow. Snow obscured the two pink holes over his breasts. His face was totally white.... Arkady noticed that no more snow was falling; not a flame drifted down, not even from the over-heavy branches. There was a ceramic clarity to the scene.

In *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*, Hemingway's Harry, a writer, is

in Africa in "a pleasant camp under big trees against a hill, with good water." He'd gotten a scratch on his leg. He forgot to put iodine on the scratch. The leg has become gangrenous. Lying on a canvas cot at the edge of the bush, Harry looks across "the heat shimmer of the plain." He knows he's going to die. "Now he would never write the things that he had save to write until he knew enough to write them well."

Snow was one of the things he'd saved to write, and Hemingway gives Harry a seven-paragraph riff that's about the best snow anybody's written. Paragraph three:

In Schrunz, on Christmas day, the snow was so bright it hurt your eyes when you looked out from the weinstube and saw every one coming home from church. That was where they walked up the sleigh-smoothed urine-yellowed road along the river with the steep pine hills, skis heavy on the shoulder, and where they ran that great rundown the glacier above the Madlener-haus, the snow as smooth to see as cake frosting and as light as powder and he remembered the noiseless rush the speed made as you dropped down like a bird.

"Now he would never write the things that he had save to write until he knew enough to write them well."

In Nelson Algren's *Notes from a Sea Diary*, or, *Hemingway All the Way*, Algren inveighed against critics who described Hemingway's writing as "baby talk." So that after I read snow paragraphs from *Kilimanjaro*, I am always tempted to echo the outburst Algren directed against those critics: "Call that baby talk!"

When I ask people what in literature they remember for its snow scenes, Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* is spoken of, and Barry Lopez's *Arctic Dreams*, Peter Matthiessen's *The Snow Leopard*, John Irving's *Owen Meany*, O.E. Rolvag's *Giants in the Earth*, and always Jack London. Not a few readers are reminded of Conrad Aiken's haunting story "Silent Snow, Secret Snow," in which the snow is imaginary, the vision of a young boy's disturbed mind. But almost no one doesn't

mention the conclusion of "The Dead," the final story in James Joyce's *Dubliners*.

Yes, the newspapers were right: snow was general all over Ireland. It was falling on every part of the dark central plain, on the treeless hills, falling softly upon the Bog of Allen and, farther westward, softly falling into the dark mutinous Shannon waves. It was falling, too, upon every part of the lonely church yard on the hill where Michael Furey lay buried. It lay thickly drifted on the crooked crosses and headstones, on the spears of the little gate, on the barren thorns. His soul swooned slowly as he heard the snow falling faintly through the universe and faintly falling, like the descent of their last end, upon all the living and all the dead.

— Judith Moore

mans survived the extreme cold, how their cultural and social behavior was affected by climate, and how artistic expression became part of their daily lives. Exhibit includes casts of rare Ice Age animal fossils, cast replica of complete Neanderthal skeleton, Ice Age artifacts and ceremonial objects. Through January.

Permanent anthropology exhibit "Footsteps through Time: Four Million Years of Human Evo-

lution" features "more than a hundred touchable replicas of early humans, primates, and futuristic cyborgs (part human, part machine)." 619-239-2001. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Tug Boat Museum, a 100-foot retired Korean War-era tug boat built in 1951 is open for tours at museum. Boat is docked along Harbor Drive, between Grape Street and Broadway. 619-200-7417. (DOWNTOWN)

San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park commemorates the clash (on December 6, 1846) during the Mexican War between the U.S. Dragoons, bolstered by sailors and volunteers from San Diego, and California militia. Narrated slide-show screens throughout the day, telling the story of the war in Mexico and California. Self-guided tour recounts the events of the battle and profiles the leaders of the forces and also describes the lives

of the Indians indigenous to the valley. The museum is found at 15808 San Pasqual Valley Road. 760-737-2201. (ESCONDIDO)

Valley Center History Museum, the museum features an educational exhibition centered around a California grizzly bear, described as "the only one on view in San Diego." Also on view: model of an 1862 settler's cabin, collection of Indian baskets, and aerospace display. Find the

museum at 29200 Cole Grade Road. 760-749-2993. (VALLEY CENTER)

Villa Montezuma, built in 1887 for internationally celebrated author and musician Jesse Shepard, serves as both a historical house museum and cultural center. Find the museum at 1925 K Street (at 20th Street). Call 619-239-2211 for more information. (SHERMAN HEIGHTS)

William Heath Davis House Museum, said to be the oldest

surviving structure in the new town area of downtown San Diego, the house is a well-preserved example of a pre-framed lumber "salt box" family home shipped from the East Coast to California by boat around Cape Horn in 1850. Find the museum at 410 Island Avenue (at Fourth Avenue); 619-233-4692. (GASLAMP QUARTER)

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CONDUCTOR



SOLOIST:
ILJAN ILIEV
CLARINET

Mozart Symphony No. 35, "Haffner," K. 385
Rossini Intro. Theme & Variations - Clarinet
Beethoven Symphony No. 4, OP 60

Friday, January 6, 7:30 pm
St. Paul's Cathedral, Downtown San Diego

Sunday, January 8, 2:00 pm
Sherwood Auditorium, La Jolla

Tuesday, January 10, 7:30 pm
Fairbanks Ranch Country Club, Rancho Santa Fe

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Calendar CLASSICAL MUSIC

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

Events that are underlined occur after January 12.

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number (including area code), and a phone number for public information to **READER CLASSICAL MUSIC**, Box 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.

"Music to Welcome the New Year" is promised by pianist Scott Pratt for First Thursday Concert on January 5, 7 p.m., in Escondido Library's Turrentine Room (239 South Kalmia Street). Free. 760-839-4329. (ESCONDIDO)

Chamber Music by San Elijo Solo/Ensemble Academy at San Elijo Middle School (1600 School House Way), 6:30 p.m., Friday, January 6. Free. 760-290-2800. (SAN MARCOS)

Caroling into the New Year, the La Jolla Renaissance Singers of-

fer French and Flemish Christmas songs at St. Mary Magdalene Church (1945 Illion Street) on Sunday, January 8, 3 p.m. Free. 619-276-1041. (BAY PARK)

Old Masters in Music and Art, Mary Barranger plays music from medieval, Renaissance, and baroque periods on harpsichord, Sunday, January 8, 2 p.m., at San Diego Museum of Art. Included in museum admission. 619-696-1966. (BALBOA PARK)

Pacific Camerata Vocal Ensemble offers "international program of seasonal music," Sunday, January 8, 4 p.m., in San Rafael Catholic Church, 17252 Bernardo Center Drive. Free. 858-487-4314. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

Civic Organist Carol Williams presents concert in Spreckels Organ Pavilion, Sunday, January 8, 2 p.m. Free. 619-702-8138. (BALBOA PARK)

"B's Medley," harpist Linda Hill presents Celtic, Latin-American, pop, and Broadway selections during concert for Chamber Concert Series, Monday, January 9, 7:30 p.m., at Chula Vista Library (365 F Street). Free. 619-691-5069. (CHULA VISTA)

German Art Songs and Arias performed by soprano Mariko Kanamitsu, pianist Miho Gary, and clarinetist Jenny Smerud, Wednesday, January 11, 7 p.m., at Carmel Valley Library (3919 Townsgate Drive). Free. 858-552-1668. (DEL MAR)

ART LISTINGS

Events that are underlined occur after January 12.

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GALLERIES

"The Usual Characters," exhibition of Reed Cardwell's caricatures in sculptures and paintings at Simayspace at Art Academy (840 G Street) opens with reception Friday, January 6, 6 p.m. Show continues through Friday, February 24. Free. 619-231-3900. (DOWNTOWN)

"Luc Leestemaker: Recent Landscapes" opens with reception for this Holland native who comes from a long line of Dutch landscape painters, Friday, January 6, 6:30 p.m., at Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street). Exhibition continues through Saturday, February 11. 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

"Hardly More Than Ever," exhibit by Laura Letinsky on view through Saturday, March 4, at Joseph Bellows Gallery (7661 Girard Avenue). Opening reception

Friday, January 6, 6 p.m. 858-456-5620. (LA JOLLA)

"Line Up," new paintings by Judith Foosaner showcased during reception Friday, January 6, 5 p.m., at R.B. Stevenson Gallery (7661 Girard Avenue, suite 201). Closes Saturday, February 11. 858-459-3917. (LA JOLLA)

First Friday Exhibition of new artwork in various media, along with work by featured artist Kelly Hutchison, opens with reception on Friday, January 6, 6 p.m., at San Diego Visual Artists Guild (1098 Ninth Avenue). Small Opera Company performs following reception. Free. 858-272-5321. (DOWNTOWN)

Carol Roberts Introduces Watercolors during reception for Southwestern Artists Association, Sunday, January 8, 3 to 6 p.m., in Gallery 23 of Spanish Village. 619-232-3522. (BALBOA PARK)

ART MUSEUMS

Mingei International Museum, more than 90 bottles, bowls, platters, and tiles made between 1940 and 2004 are included in retrospective "The Art of Vivika and Otto Heino." Vivika Heino died in 1995, but Otto Heino continues to make pots in his Ojai pottery, throwing 100 pounds of clay at a time.

"Norway — Art of the Land and the People" celebrates 100 years of Norwegian independence. Exhibit includes arts of daily life such as metalwork, jewelry, *bunads* (festival costumes), textiles, *rose-maling* (decorated pottery and furniture), and Norwegian-American immigrant chests from 18th Century. Closes on Sunday, May 21.

Art and significance of Japanese dolls from the Edo period showcased in "Ningyô: The Art of the Japanese Doll." As cultural artifacts, *ningyô* embody the customs, tastes, fashions, and politics of the time. Through Sunday, February 26.

"Elemental Art of the Indonesian Archipelago" includes more than 100 objects such as textiles, jewelry, puppets, baskets, beaded objects, ritual dance masks, architectural ornaments, household objects, ancestor figures, and shrines. Through May.

The Mingei is located on square with San Diego Museum of Art. 619-239-0003. (BALBOA PARK)

Mingei International Museum, North County Satellite, "Timeless Glass — From Byzantine to Dale Chihuly," includes a blown-glass chandelier, *macchias*, and sea forms by Chihuly; objects from Venini glass factory in Venice, art glass by contemporary artists including Italo Scanga, William Gunderath, work by Louis Comfort Tiffany, examples of ancient Egyptian, pre-Roman, Roman, and Islamic glass. Through Sunday, February 19.

"Horses — Circling 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. 760-735-3355. (ESCONDIDO)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown, "Jay Bolotin: The Jackleg Testament," is "latest project by this prolific writer, composer, per-

former, and visual artist." The piece comprises two interrelated parts, a print portfolio and a woodcut motion picture. Each of the pieces in exhibit, closing Sunday, April 30, demonstrates Bolotin's "continued interest in weaving Judeo-Christian creation stories and personal mythologies as a means to better understand the human condition."

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 Nash, cofounder of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young and "one of the widely acknowledged pioneer innovators in the world of digital photography and printing," shares photographs from his recent book in exhibition of same name, "Eye to Eye: Photographs by Graham Nash," along with recent photographs. Show begins Sunday, January 8; continues through April 30.

Seven photographs by Moroccan-born photographer Lalla Es-saydi may be seen through Saturday, January 7. Series consists of portraits of Muslim women and children taken in her unoccupied family-owned house in Morocco; the artist's intention is to explore cultural patterns within Arab and Western societies, to convey her own experience as an Arab woman.

Find the museum in the Casa de Balboa building, at 1649 El Prado; 619-238-7559. (BALBOA PARK)

Oceanside Museum of Art, "OMA Regional 4," continuing through Sunday, January 8, is a juried exhibition featuring paintings, prints, and sculpture by artists in the region. The art by 31 artists showcases "a provocative selection reflecting recent trends in contemporary art." Jurors were Mary Beebe, Derrick Cartwright, Arthur Ollman. Find the museum at 704 Pier View Way; 760-721-2787. (OCEANSIDE)

San Diego Museum of Art, "Domains of Wonder: Selected Masterworks of Indian Painting" may be seen through Sunday, January 22. Exhibit features 124 paintings, two bound manuscripts from museum's Edwin Binney 3rd Collection, ranging from 14th through late 19th Century. Concurrently: "Indian Colours," exploring materials, pigments, tools, techniques of Indian painting used by South Asian artists to create the intricately detailed paintings on display.

Paintings, sculptures, and objects from Nepal, Tibet, and India featured in "Devotional Arts of Nepal." Buddhism and Hinduism have "enjoyed a peaceful coexistence for over 1500 years" in Nepal's Kathmandu Valley; exhibit "explores fruits of this commingling." Closes Sunday, April 2.

For further information, call 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

Timken Museum of Art, between late 1650s and mid-1660s, Rembrandt Harmensz Van Rijn created a number of half-length portraits of religious figures. Paintings were created during difficult time in Rembrandt's life. "Rembrandt's Apostles," on exhibit through Sunday, January 15, includes *The Apostle Bartholomew*, along with four other linked paintings.

Permanent collection includes European masters, 19th-Century American paintings, and Russian icons. 619-239-5548. (BALBOA PARK)

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New Executive Direction At the 15th San Diego Music Awards ceremony on September 12, founder Kevin Hellman

91X local music show *Loudspeaker* as well. Another prospect is Bart Mendoza, a 25-year veteran of the local music scene who plays guitar and sings in the Shambles. Mendoza is a music writer who has contributed to the *Union-Tribune* and *City Beat*.

Hellman organized the Entertainer Music Awards for

and staged the first ceremony in 1991 at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla. Hellman says the SDMA board of directors (which includes himself, Guerra, and Mendoza) will select the next director. According to Hellman, the last SDMA took in \$68,000, \$40,000 of which was given to Taylor Guitars to provide 20 Baby Taylor guitars for public schools. Event production expenses cost over \$20,000.

"Some [local musicians] say they don't care about the awards, but they walk around with the award all night long," says a local musician who has never been nominated. "In 1993, Country Dick Montana said, 'I don't care about that damn thing,' then he walked around with a grin on all night. He wouldn't put it down."

— Ken Leighton

Soma Smarts Last month, MTV2 considered House of Blues and 4th & B for a "\$2 Bill Tour" concert that features Yellowcard and Hello Goodbye. The show, which offers no ticket

proceeds to the venue, will be at Soma January 8.

"They looked at a lot of



SOMA DRAWS YELLOWCARD

factors, like parking," says Len Paul, owner of Soma. "Besides, we have a history with Yellowcard."

One well-connected music insider says that Soma/Len Paul won a bidding war for a Fall Out Boy concert in March. The insider claims that House of Blues Concerts courted Fall Out Boy for a show at SDSU's Cox Arena. In the end, Soma, which partnered with Viejas Entertainment, won the rights to present the show. The insider says it was because Viejas could offer the bayside venue behind the convention center that can

hold 10,000.

"Now that the band has reached the arena or amphitheater level, they are staying loyal to the people who helped them get there," says Paul. "I first booked [Fall Out Boy] at Soma two years ago."

— Ken Leighton

John Who? "A lot of people think John-Mark is a singer, not a band," says bassist/singer/songwriter James Coleman, 22. The four members of John-Mark were signed to Maverick Records last May. Three local artists inked major-label deals last year (Reeve Oliver/Capitol,

press," says front man and band namesake John-Mark.

"They mentioned [the signing] in [L.A.-based] *Music Connection*, but other than that, the press was, like, nonexistent," says Coleman.

The band's first album, which is being recorded at NRG Studios in Burbank, will be co-produced by their Maverick A&R rep and by Aaron Kamin, former guitarist/songwriter with the Calling. The disc will be released "sometime in the summer," says John-Mark.

Last month, John-Mark opened for Hoobastank at the Galaxy in Santa Ana. But local gigs are rare.



RADIO-FRIENDLY JOHN-MARK

Tristan Prettyman/Virgin), but John-Mark's recruitment to Madonna's label received little publicity.

"There hasn't been any

"It appears pop is not the most appealing style in San Diego," says Coleman. "We get L.A. gigs at the Whiskey,

acknowledged that it would be his last year as SDMA executive director.

"I hope to have an announcement by March 1," says Hellman about his replacement. His position wasn't salaried, but the next executive director may be paid. One candidate is Al Guerra, who has managed Sprung Monkey and currently manages Ryan Ferguson. Guerra hosts the



HELLMAN WASN'T IN IT FOR MONEY

seven years until that North County paper folded in 1990. He then founded the SDMA

Music in the New Year!

Free Concerts

at the East Plaza Gazebo

Sunday, January 8 • 1-4 pm

The Cat•illacs



Sunday, January 15 • 1-4 pm

Breez'n

Sunday, January 22 • 1-4 pm

**Barbara Jamerson
& Two Deep**

Sunday, January 29 • 1-4 pm

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Calendar
MUSIC SCENEblurt
continued

Viper Room, and the Cat Club. But sometimes we feel like we don't fit in in our town." John-Mark's sound can be compared to the pop-rock of Matchbox 20 and Maroon Five. "We play radio-friendly, melody-driven stuff," says John-Mark.

Madonna sold her interest in the label to Warner Bros. in mid-2004, and most of Maverick's operations have been absorbed by Warner Bros. I also note that the Troy sisters, a local act, were signed by Elektra but were dropped before they could release an album.

"This is a volatile business," says Coleman. "We're just happy to play music."

Neither band member would divulge the specifics of their Maverick deal.

"We got everything we needed," says John-Mark. "Bands don't get big advances anymore." He says the signing was guided by Gary Newell, an L.A.-based artist manager who worked with Paula Abdul and Savage Garden. John-Mark says he met Newell through North County band Noise Ratchet (now disbanded, but they once had a deal with Rick Rubin's American Recordings).

— Ken Leighton

Not the Monster "My phone is tapped," claims guitarist John Pertle of Johnny Love Sound, who pleaded guilty in late November to distributing

and possessing child pornography. The 36-year-old had his mother contact me via e-mail. Through her, Pertle explained, "I don't use computers or the Internet anymore, that's one of the conditions of my bail." (The kiddie porn was circulated online via Yahoo! newsgroups.) "I am not the monster that the prosecution has made me out to be," he said.

Due for sentencing this month, Pertle sought me out to inform, "I was sexually abused as a child and addicted to pornography from a very young age; that had a lot to do with how I eventually looked at sex. I'm in therapy now and working on dealing with those issues and with the things I did as a result of what happened to me."

— Jay Allen Sanford

Meanwhile, Behind the Sports Arena...

When I went to see Le Tigre at Soma sometime last year, I drove past the Hancock Café on Hancock Street, behind Soma and the Sports Arena. A "live music" sign caught my eye, as did four life-size statues (an Elvis, a Marilyn Monroe...).

After a Humphrey's show on a different night, a friend and I stopped by the Hancock Café to hear more music. We drove past the strip clubs and unlit warehouses and parked. We saw what appeared to be a prostitute. A tall guy stood on a corner, looking around. A well-dressed man was on another corner, shouting into a cell phone, "I'll get the money to you by Friday, don't worry."

It was a little after 11, and at the Hancock Café we saw a man carrying tables inside. He was an older guy, wearing

OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: THE BITTER END

JAY ALLEN SANFORD



OVERHEARD? EMAIL JAS2669@AOL.COM

a white apron. I said, "Oh, are you closing up?" He said, "Who wants to know?" I told him we wanted to see live music, and I asked if he had bands play there on a regular basis. He put down the chair he was holding and shouted, "Who the fuck are you?!"

"I'm with the *Reader*, and sometimes we write about clubs, if there's music..." He interrupted, "Are you with



HERBIE HANCOCK, DUBIOUSLY HONORED

the CIA or something? What's with these questions? I don't know you, I don't know who you are, so why are you bothering me?" My friend smiled and said, "We're sorry to bother you. We were just looking for a

place with live music, but we see you are closing." He turned to her and shouted, "I don't fucking know you either." As the smile left her face, I said, "Okay, let's go. Forget about this place." The man said something to me as I walked away, and then he started yelling a person's name. He put his fingers in his mouth to whistle, and he shouted someone's name again. My friend started walking quickly to the car and she told me to hurry.

I saw a guy running down the street toward us. We hopped into my car and took off. We debated whether or not to call the police.

I told two friends, and they called me a wimp. The next night, my friends and I returned, and the owner was in the club (which is only about 20 feet by 20 feet). He played an electric organ and wore a British police hat. He had albums all over the walls and a picture of him with Herbie Hancock; under the photo, a small plaque says the club is dedicated to Hancock. When he finished the song, he smiled and asked what we wanted. We ordered some coffee, looked around, and then left.

I found a website for his club and e-mailed him to ask

why he'd become mad at me the night before. He never responded. A friend of a friend owns a business across the street, and he went in to check it out. He said the guy made him a smoothie, and when he asked, "Do you have live music?" the owner stopped what he was doing, grabbed a mandolin, and played a song. He said he'd recently learned to play it.

— Josh Board

Stomping and Screaming in La Mesa

Ken Bethea, lead guitarist of Old 97s, writes on his blog about the recording of his Dallas band's sixth album, *Drag It Up*. "We finished up in sunny San Diego at producer Mark Neill's vintage studio [Soil of the South in La Mesa], four of us stomping, screaming, and picking guitars into one microphone. Mark is a hard-core recording traditionalist, far removed from today's digital world. After working with modern technology on our previous three studio

trips, we found old school 8-track recording both refreshing and challenging.

"During the course of the project, we broke a \$6,000 microphone and my poor old classical guitar. I played guitar with a pencil and both Rhett [Miller] and I tried to play some bass (we failed). We stood in a giant echo-ey church and stared at each other. We stood in a tiny 8x8 room and stared at each other. We sang about satellites, stars, moonlight, cavities, death, cheating,



OLD 97S, FAR REMOVED FROM DIGITAL WORLD

Texas, friendship, parenthood, God, and storms."

— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS

William Crain, Dave Good, Jeremiah Griffey, Larry Harmon, Michael Hemmingson, Ken Leighton, Ryan Loyko, Derek Plank, Eric Rife, Jay Allen Sanford

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Moribund Metal

“We were signing autographs, and he actually has us sign the baby.”

As I Lay Dying (named after a book by William Faulkner) formed in 2001. The lineup consists of Tim Lambesis (vocals), Jordan Mancino (drums), guitarists Nick Hipa and Phil Sgroso, and bassist Clint Norris.

Hipa describes the band’s music as “brutal, energetic, melodic metal”; Mancino calls it “metal with ska breakdowns.” The band signed with Metal Blade Records in 2003 and spent last year supporting their album *Shadows Are Security* with opening slots for Slipknot and performances at Ozzfest events around the country.

“I never realized, until Ozzfest, about our utterly weird fans,” says Lambesis. “We were signing autographs...this guy brought out his two-week-old baby, and he actually has us sign the baby — our autographs are right there on its body.” Jordan Mancino recalls, “The hardest thing [about Ozzfest] was getting stuck on a dirt road with our bus in the middle of the Arizona desert.” Nick Hipa: “Lots of sloppy, gross old ladies walking around with their gross old boobs painted. Definitely a bum-out.”

As I Lay Dying was named Artist of the Year at the 15th annual San Diego Music Awards in 2005 and embarks on the Taste of Chaos tour on February 16 with the Deftones, Story of the Year, and others. Tim Lambesis, Nick Hipa, and Jordan Mancino replied to our Lists queries:

WHAT’S IN YOUR CD PLAYER?

Lambesis:

- Children of Bodom, *Are You Dead Yet?* (“It’s in my player, but I haven’t listened to it much yet.”)
- Nodes of Ranvier, *The Years to Come*

(“Their label wants us to take them on tour with us. I listened to the record; it’s pretty good.”)

Hipa:

- Deadboy and the Elephantmen, *If This Is Hell, Then I’m Lucky* (“This guy has a very smooth and dark-sounding voice. It’s the type of jam I put on when I want to chill out.”)
 - Circa Survive, *Juturna* (“I like the panned guitars on this album. There’s a lot going on in every song.”)
 - Entombed, *Wolverine Blues* (“When I’m in the need and jonesin’ for an onslaught of brutal, fierce riffs, I throw this record on.”)
 - Chase Pagan, demos (“Super-talented singer/songwriter dude in the vein of Jeff Buckley...he’s relatively unknown, mostly because of crappy label stuff.”)
 - Cult of Luna, *Salvation* (“I love this band because they are very heavy, [like] Isis and Neurosis, yet they incorporate very atmospheric passages in the vein of Sigur Rós.”)
- Mancino:** Thrice, *Vheissu* (“Like a rock opera. I love that band.”)

WORST TV SHOW EVER?

Lambesis: “*The Simple Life* was really sad, and they don’t admit that most of it is scripted.”

Mancino: “Any sort of reality show. Except *Hogan Knows Best*, I like that one.”

BEST CELEBRITY ENCOUNTER?

Lambesis: “One of the guys from AFI came to see us in Seattle and actually insisted that he pay for a copy of our CD.”

Hipa: “When I was a little kid, I met a couple of American Gladiators at this karate exhibition I was partaking in. They gave me



As I Lay Dying

autographed photos of themselves flexing.”

Mancino: “I met Judd Nelson at the Rainbow in L.A., and he was showing us how to fight. It was sweet, getting taught that by a Breakfast Clubber.”

FAVORITE LOCAL EATERY AND BEST DISH?

Lambesis: “Los Panchos in San Marcos. I usually get the vegetarian burrito and a cheese enchilada for around five bucks.”

Hipa: “Rico’s Taco Shop in Encinitas, off El Camino Real and Encinitas Boulevard. The Justin Burrito single wrapped with sour cream is my jam. It’s exactly \$4.31.”

Mancino: “Rubio’s, for the lobster burrito,

pork torta, chips and salsa. With a side of white sauce. Costs about nine dollars.”

IRON MAIDEN OR JUDAS PRIEST?

(All): “Maiden.”

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU FEW WOULD KNOW OR GUESS?

Lambesis: “I often get anemic from a blood-iron deficiency, but you can’t tell just from looking at me. I haven’t fallen off the stage or anything.”

Hipa: “I’m Hawaiian-Japanese, not Mexican.”

Mancino: “I love Disney movies, theme parks...pretty much everything to do with Disney.” ■

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WEDNESDAYS

THE STILETTOS

3.00 SKYY Vodka Drinks

THURSDAYS

CLASSIC ROCK

3.00 BACARDI FLAVORS

FRI 1/6

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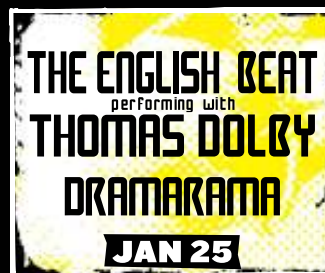
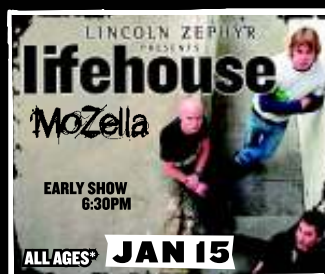


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Press the the 4-digit extension above the category that interests you (for example, 4000 for this week's concerts).

At the next prompt, press the 3-digit code that is next to the performer you wish to hear. (Performers without codes currently do not have recordings.)

EXTENSION 4001

UPCOMING CONCERTS

JANUARY

Eldar: Humphrey's Backstage Lounge, Thursday, January 12, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. 619-224-3577.

Al Kooper: Acoustic Music San Diego, Saturday, January 14, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

G. Love & Special Sauce: Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, January 18, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140 or 619-220-8497.

The John Jorgenson Quintet: Acoustic Music San Diego, Wednesday, January 18, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Disturbed: House of Blues, Wednesday, January 18, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

Pennywise [268] and **No Use for a Name [216]:** 4th & B, Thursday, January 19, 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

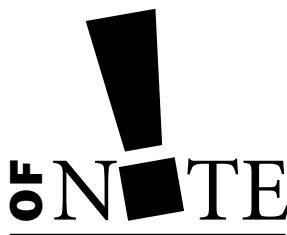
Disturbed: House of Blues, Thursday, January 19, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

Eliza Gilkyson [504]: Acoustic Music San Diego, Friday, January 20, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Pennywise [268] and **No Use for a Name [216]:** Soma, Friday, January 20, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662 or 619-220-8497.

Raphael Saadiq: House of Blues, Sunday, January 22, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

INXS [484]: Pala Events Center, Wednesday, January 25, 5 miles east



BY DAVE GOOD

To pick a ringtone that fits your personality, according to the "Cool Ringtones" blog, you need to take a little test. My score didn't put me into the punk rock grade, but who trusts those things anyway? The point was to download something with the passion generated by the Orange County punk movement of the '80s. O.C. punk was a rock-and-roll earthquake, the antidote to big-hair rock and all else that ailed corporate rock at the time. Along with earlier L.A. punk, O.C. punk remains one of my favorite periods in rock history. The site suggested "Take It Away" by the Used, but I was more in the mood for the **Adolescents'** "Kids of the Black Hole."

The Black Hole has an actual Fullerton address, but in 1979 it was a refuge for

teenage punks. Anything that was about sex and drugs, rock and roll, and dressing funny was life in the Hole. Some say that Orange County punk — a particularly antagonistic, confrontational sound bled off from the Clash and the Ramones — arose from there. It's as good of a guess as any. The Black Hole, otherwise now known as apartment two, was rented to Mike Ness of Social Distortion. The vibe of Ness's old apartment would come to be memorialized by the Adolescents, a young band who, along with Social D, TSOL, and Agent Orange, were at the core of the movement.

In the next year the Ads would see "Amoeba" become a cult hit on KROQ, but the band blew apart in the months following. Various members regrouped in 1986 for three records but eventually quit the scene again. Last year the Ads released an album of new material, and it's as true to the cause



ADOLESCENTS

as ever, a bookend to their "blue album." With songs about suicide bombers and capital punishment, the evils of Disney and the conformity of suburban life, *O.C. Confidential* shows that the Adolescents are, after 17 years, still relevant.

ADOLESCENTS, Soma, Saturday, January 7, 7 p.m. 619-226-7662. \$13.

EXTENSION 4000

THIS WEEK'S CONCERTS

FRIDAY

Los Lobos [476]: House of Blues, Friday, January 6, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

The Dead Kennedys: House of Blues, Sunday, January 29, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

Cake: House of Blues, Monday, January 30, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

The Violent Femmes [168]: House of Blues, Tuesday, January 31, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

FEBRUARY

Air Supply: California Center for the Arts, Friday, February 3, 340 N. Escondido Boulevard, Escondido. 800-988-4253 or 619-220-8497.

Willie Nelson [763]: Pala Events Center, Thursday, February 9, 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala. 760-510-4580 or 619-220-8497.

Jars of Clay [475]: House of Blues, Thursday, February 9, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.

Alex de Grassi: Acoustic Music San Diego, Thursday, February 9, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Little Feat [459]: Belly Up Tavern, Friday, February 10, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140 or 619-220-8497.

Aerosmith [529] and **Lenny Kravitz:** San Diego Sports Arena,

Friday, February 10, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. 619-220-8497.

Jeff Tweedy: Spreckels Theatre, Saturday, February 11, 121 Broadway, downtown. 619-235-9500 or 619-220-8497.

Bonnie Raitt [533]: Copley Symphony Hall, Monday, February 13, 1245 Seventh Avenue, downtown. 619-220-8497 or 619-220-8497.

Big Head Todd & the Monsters [582]: 4th & B, Wednesday, February 15, 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

Taste of Chaos: San Diego Sports Arena, Thursday, February 16, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. 619-220-8497.

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Favorite Musical Acts:
Prince & Hasselhoff

What is your New Year's Resolution?

To finally pick up my ointment prescription

First concert ever attended and age at the time:
Raffi, 18 years old

Last good movie you saw:
The Deer Hunter

Hobbies?
Freestyle flows and cat-calling

Switchfoot or I.B.S.?
I.B.S.

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Sunday: Sunday Brunch \$12.95 / Live Music (6pm-9pm)
Brunch served 9am-1pm, Happy Hour 4pm-8pm, \$2 Corona Light 4pm-8pm.
\$2.00 Drinks from 8pm.

Monday: Sushi from \$2.95 Entree Specials \$6.95
From: Chicken Fried Steak, BBQ Chipotle Shrimp & Scallop Kabobs, Chili Relleno, Chinese Chicken Salad, Garlic Peel & Eat Shrimp.

Tuesday: Taco Tuesday
\$1.50 Tacos & Enchiladas, 1/2 price Fajitas & Burritos.
\$2.75 Margaritas, \$2.25 Corona, Pacifico & Dos XX.

Wednesday: Pasta Night / Live Music
\$6.95 Pasta Dinners, Half price Pizza, Drinks from \$2.00.

Thursday: Duelling DJ's
Tone Capone & Guest! \$2 Drinks from 8pm
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Friday: \$2.00 Happy Hour
Appetizer & Drink Specials... 3pm-8pm!

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January 10



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Featuring Magic Dick: J. Geils Band
Lee Oskar: Low rider, Cisco Kid
Jerry Portnoy: Eric Clapton
Kim Wilson: Fabulous Thunderbirds

Comedy tribute to

Richard Pryor

Hosted by
Darryl "Doc" Carter
JAN 11

MAJOR CONCERT
ANNOUNCEMENT

UB40

TICKETS ON SALE
FRI JAN 13

UB40

Keller Williams



FEB 11

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9pm-4am all night &
afterhours

supastar djs:

DOC MARTIN MARQUES WYATT ERICK DIAZ & ADAM SALTER

JAN 14

BRENTON WOOD



Guest comedian:
Patrick DeGuire

JAN 15

PENNYWISE



presented by
Viejas & House of Blues

JAN 19

ASR PARTY



BANDS TBA

JAN 21

GALACTIC



FEB 9



FEB 15



MAR 23

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SUNDAYS



MONDAYS

**Rock en Español
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TAPAS BAR**

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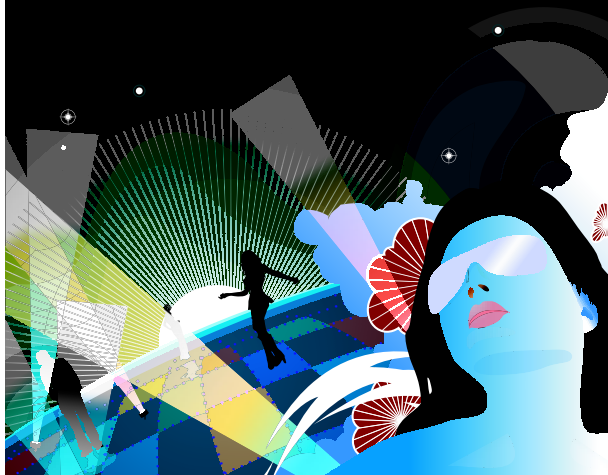
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At the next prompt, press the 3-digit
code that is next to the performer
you wish to hear. (Performers without
codes currently do not have
recordings.)

"Bob Marley Day Festival": San
Diego Sports Arena, Monday,
February 20, 3500 San Diego Sports
Arena Boulevard, Sports Arena.
619-220-8497.

Nada Surf [194]: House of Blues,
Tuesday, February 21, 1055 Fifth
Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or
619-220-8497.

Robyn Hitchcock [509]: Belly Up
Tavern, Thursday, February 23, 143
South Cedros Avenue. 858-481-9022
or 619-220-8497.

**"San Diego Brazil Carnival
2006":** 4th & B, Saturday, February
25, 345 B Street, downtown.
619-231-4343 or 619-220-849

Sinéad O'Connor [116]: House of
Blues, Sunday, February 26, 1055 Fifth
Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or
619-220-8497.

Tom Russell: Acoustic Music San
Diego, Sunday, February 26, 4650
Mansfield Street, Normal Heights.
619-303-8176.

MARCH

Styx [523]: House of Blues,
Thursday, March 2, 1055 Fifth
Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or
619-220-8497.

Arlo Guthrie: California Center for
the Arts, Thursday, March 16, 340 N.
Escondido Boulevard, Escondido.
800-988-4253 or 619-220-8497.

David Gray [610]: Copley
Symphony Hall, Monday, March 20,
1245 Seventh Avenue, downtown.
619-220-8497 or 619-220-8497.

Kem: 4th & B, Thursday, March 23,
345 B Street, downtown.
619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.

Chuck Pyle: Acoustic Music San
Diego, Friday, March 24, 4650
Mansfield Street, Normal Heights.
619-303-8176.

The Pretenders [558]: House of
Blues, Monday, March 27, 1055 Fifth
Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or
619-220-8497.

The Pretenders [558]: House of
Blues, Tuesday, March 28, 1055 Fifth
Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or
619-220-8497.

APRIL

Queen and Paul Rodgers: Cox
Arena, Saturday, April 1, SDSU
campus, College Area. 619-594-0427
or 619-220-8497.

Michael McDonald [605]: Pala
Events Center, Saturday, April 1, 5
miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala.
760-510-4580 or 619-220-8497.

Toni Braxton: Pala Events Center,
Friday, April 7, 5 miles east of I-15 on
Hwy 76, Pala. 760-510-4580 or
619-220-8497.

MAY

Ministry: House of Blues, Sunday,
May 21, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp.
619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.



Some Girls

Cattle Decapitation

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Of Montreal

Grand Buffet DJ Jester MGMT

THU JAN 26 7PM



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FRI. JAN 20



PENNYWISE

NO USE FOR A NAME

THE SUICIDE MACHINES



LOVE EQUALS DEATH

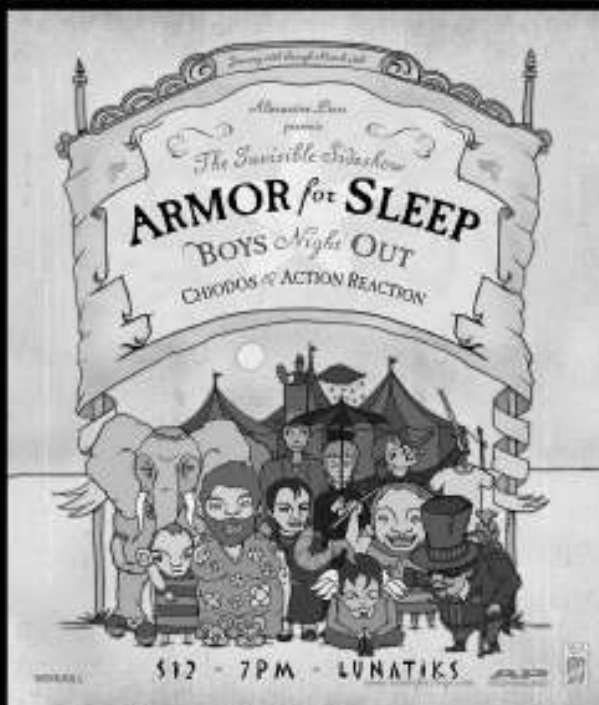
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SAT. JAN 7

ADOLESCENTS
CADILLAC TRAMPS
KNOX YOUTH
THE WRECKING CREW
\$10 - 7PM - LUNATIKS

FRI. JAN 13

THE RED RIBBON ARMY
THE ANTIQUE ROW
STRIPPED DOWN HOLLYWOOD
Z-FACTORIAL
\$8 - 2PM - LUNATIKS

SUN. JAN 22

the Jack & Troy
\$10 - 8PM - LUNATIKS

THURS. JAN 26

augustana
\$8 - 7PM - TICKETMASTER

FRI. JAN 27

IN FLAMES
TRIVIUM
Devil Driver ☆
ZAO
\$17 - 6:30 - LUNATIKS
SAT. JAN 28

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RYAN FERGUSON
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\$10 - 7pm - Lunatiks

SUN. JAN 29

Amber Pacific
THE LASHES paramore
TERMINAL
\$10 - 2PM - LUNATIKS

TUES. JAN 31

Head Automatica
\$10 - 7PM - TM

FRI. FEB 17

ARMOR FOR SLEEP
BOYS NIGHT OUT
\$12 - 7PM - LUNATIKS

FRI. MAR 3

THE BLED
SINCE BY MAN
AS CITIES BURN
PROTEST THE HERO
\$12 - 7PM - LUNATIKS

SAT. MAR 4

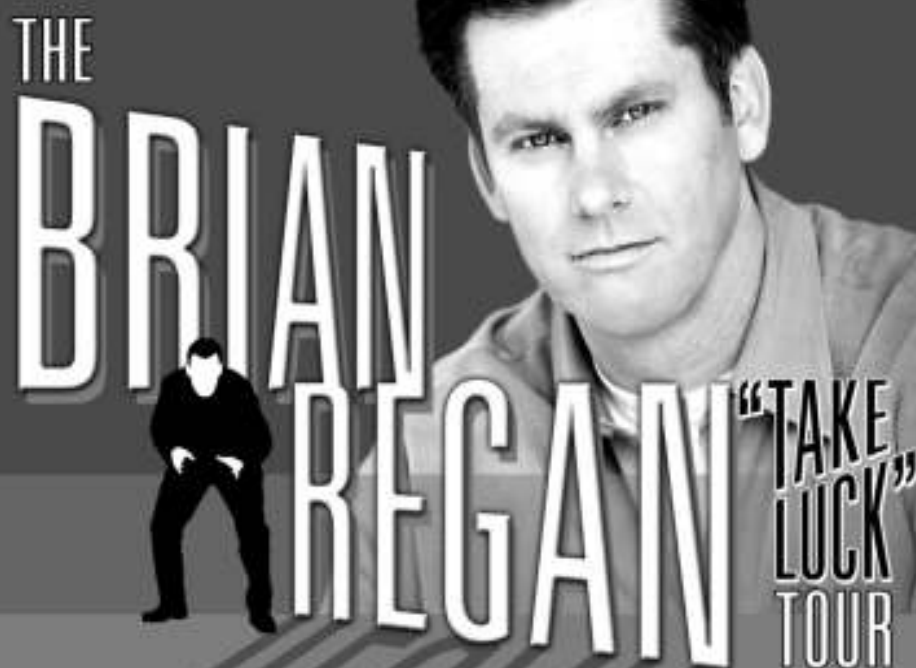
MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK
OK GO • PLAIN WHITE T'S
SPILL CANVAS
\$14 - 7PM - LUNATIKS

SAT. MAR 18

THE STARTING LINE
COPELAND
GATSBY'S AMERICAN DREAM
\$18 - 6PM - LUNATIKS

SAT. MAR 25

ANTI-FLAG
\$13 - 7PM - LUNATIKS



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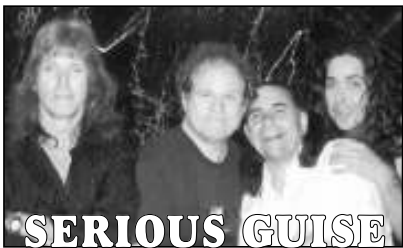


& Guests

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CLASSIC ROCK

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
JANUARY 6 & 7 • 9 PM



SANTEE

ROCK COVER BAND

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
JANUARY 6 & 7 • 9 PM



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Band Soundboard 619.233.9797

Press the the 4-digit extension above the category that interests you (for example, 4002 for alternative rock).

At the next prompt, press the 3-digit code that is next to the performer you wish to hear. (Performers without codes currently do not have recordings.)

EXTENSION 4002

ALTERNATIVE

The Adolescents: Soma
The Adopted Prophets: Winstons
The After Party: The Casbah
The Alternatives: Surf N'Saddle
The Archons: The Casbah
As We Speak: Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad)
The Atoms: The Casbah
Author and Punisher: The Casbah

Before Forever: Soma
The Cadillac Tramps: Soma
Copia Element: Soma
Crystalline: Soma
D.P.I.: Winstons
Earthless: The Casbah
VIII Fraud: The Jumping Turtle
The End of Eden: Soma
Ex Machina: San Diego Sports Club
Exit the King: The Jumping Turtle
Five Bolt Main: 'Canes
Geronimo: Soma
Ghetto Sage: Blind Melons
The Gizzards: Winstons
Glasgow Drive: Soma
The Glossines [134]: The Casbah
Goldfish [262]: Belly Up Tavern
The Gooses: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company, Belly Up Tavern
Grandpa Drew: San Diego Sports Club
The Greedy Bastards: Winstons
The Heartaches: The Casbah
The Heathen Kings of Olde: The Casbah
Knifemill Disintegrator: The Jumping Turtle
The Marked Men: The Casbah
Masterguru: The Jumping Turtle
M.E.L.D.: Blind Melons
Mommy's Little Monsters: 'Canes
My Fatal Awakening: The Jumping Turtle
The Narcoleptic Youth: Soma
Reeve Oliver: The Casbah
Gregory Page [186]: Lestat's Coffeehouse
A Scribe Amongst Lions: The Casbah
Simple Minded Soldiers: 'Canes
Songbird: 'Canes
Spell Toronto: The Casbah
The Strangers Six: The Casbah

The Sultans: The Casbah
Superunloader [208]: 'Canes
Sweet Tooth: 'Canes
T.S.O.L.: The Jumping Turtle

EXTENSION 4003

ROCK

Alice Unchained: 'Canes
Big Backyard: Tiki House, 'Canes
Bordertown: Coyote Bar and Grill
Brain Buckit [563]: Tiki House
Carol Ann: The Jumping Turtle
Cheap Date: Dirk's Niteclub
Chimichanga & the Sour Chives: The Cow Shed
The Clay Colton Band: Tom Giblein's Irish Pub & Restaurant, J.J. Lander's Irish Pub, R. O'Sullivan's
Crazy Train: 'Canes
Deadline Friday [404]: 'Canes
Dirtbag: The Jumping Turtle
Dirty Frank: Blind Melons
Dr. Bombay: Fannie's Nightclub
The 86'd: Dick's Last Resort
The Electric Waste Band: Winstons
E-Ticket: Bub's Whiskey Dive
The Experiments [419]: Winstons
Fish & the Seaweeds: Coyote Bar and Grill
Mike Gardner: Mas Fina Cantina
Gish: 'Canes
The Hacienda Brothers: House of Blues
The Taylor Harvey Band: Island Sports & Spirits
Hellfire Trigger: The Jumping Turtle
Hoofla: Surf N'Saddle
The Joey Show: Tio Leo's Lounge
Left 4 Dead: Belly Up Tavern

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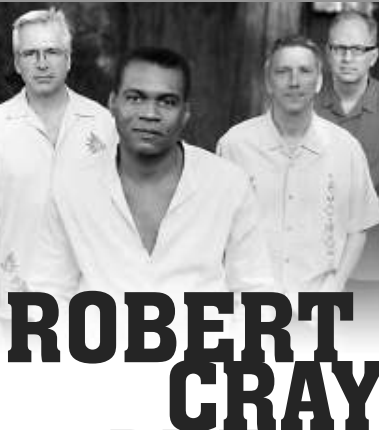
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Calendar

BANDS

Blue Turtle Seduction: Winstons
Aaron Bowen: Borders Books and Music (Gaslamp)
Steve Brewer: Blarney Stone Pub
Christopher Cash: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
The Celtic Ensemble: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
The Clachan Boys: R. O'Sullivan's
The Commoners: R. O'Sullivan's, Tom Giblin's Irish Pub & Restaurant
Lee Coulter: Hennessey's Tavern (Carlsbad)
Tony Cummins: Blarney Stone Pub
Drew Danburry: Ché Cafe
Tim Dismang: Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad)
Nate Donnis: Tom Giblin's Irish Pub & Restaurant
Tommy Edwards: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Trevor Hall: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Dave Howard [832]: Lestat's Coffeehouse
Ryan Howell: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Byron Hudson: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Javid: Borders Books and Music (Mission Valley)
Jon & Noah: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Brehon Law: J.J. Lander's Irish Pub

Meliesa: R. O'Sullivan's, Tom Giblin's Irish Pub & Restaurant
Tim Moyer: Lestat's Coffeehouse
Tim Mudd: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
My Boy Kevin: Hennessey's Tavern (PB)
The New Dadaists: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Korrie Paliotto: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Lee Tyler Post: Borders Books and Music (Carmel Mountain)
Andrea Reschke: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Martin Storrow: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Sweet James: Tiki House
Michael Tiernan [883]: Belly Up Tavern
Brett Vogel: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Wood'n Lips: Borders Books and Music (El Cajon)
Renata Youngblood: Belly Up Tavern

EXTENSION 4009

BLUES / SOUL

Blue Rockit [955]: Dick's Last Resort
The Blues Brokers: The Kraken
The Blues Gypsies: Patrick's II
Michael Burks: Humphrey's
Ben Hernandez: Lestat's Coffeehouse, Humphrey's
The Hoodoo Blues: Tiki House

NOTE

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

Last year, **John Reis**, San Diego's one-man institution of underground rock, closed down two of his bands, the bizarro-punk Hot Snakes and the long-running, hard-rocking Rocket from the Crypt. I don't know why Reis did that, but I'd like to think it's because he feels he's getting a little too old to scream his head off every night.

In *About a Boy*, Nick Hornby writes, of his thirtysomething protagonist, "He loved Nirvana, but at his age they were kind of a guilty pleasure. All that rage and pain and self-hatred! Will got a bit...fed up sometimes, but he couldn't pretend it was anything stronger than that." Reis has never

been a proponent of self-pitying grunge, but maybe he got to feeling the same way. Considering that one of Reis's RFTC anthems declared him "Born in '69," it's no secret how many candles are on this year's birthday cake. Since I'm about the same age, I wouldn't blame him for wanting to take it a little easier by concentrating on the **Sultans**, a more melodic, power pop-ish band he plays in along with his brother **Dean** and drummer **Tony DiPrima**. I'm probably just projecting.

In fact, the Sultans are pretty damn loud. With blitzkrieg tempos, trebly guitars, and vaguely '60s-ish songwriting, the Sultans sound something like how Ted Leo and the Pharmacists would sound if Ted Leo left out all the falsetto singing and political poetry and just rocked out with songs about love gone



SULTANS

wrong. It's probably a safe bet that Reis will have another band soon, but for now playing in the Sultans seems like the perfect role for him.

SULTANS, The Casbah, Thursday, January 5, 8:30 p.m. 619-232-4355. \$8.

Nathan James: Lestat's Coffeehouse, Humphrey's
Chris James & Blue Four: Patrick's II
Jamm: Humphrey's
Jump Jones: Tio Leo's Lounge
Michele Lundeen & Blues Streak [952]: Tio Leo's Lounge, Blind Melons
Jeff Moore & the Witchdoctors [910]: The Kraken

Nite Life [934]: Pal Joey's
The 145th Street Deluxe Blues Band [971]: Patrick's II
Oozie Blues: Patrick's II
Len Rainey & the Midnight Players [921]: Patrick's II
The Ravens: Winstons
Shelle Blues: Patrick's II
The Soul Persuaders [945]: Humphrey's

Joe Wood: R. O'Sullivan's

EXTENSION 4010

EVERYTHING ELSE

J.D. Boucharde [985]: Princess Pub & Grille

The Capriccio String Quartet: Tutto Mare
Ray Correa: The Butcher Shop
Dumpstaphunk: Belly Up Tavern
Garaj Mahal: Blind Melons, Winstons
Jim Gibson: Hotel del Coronado
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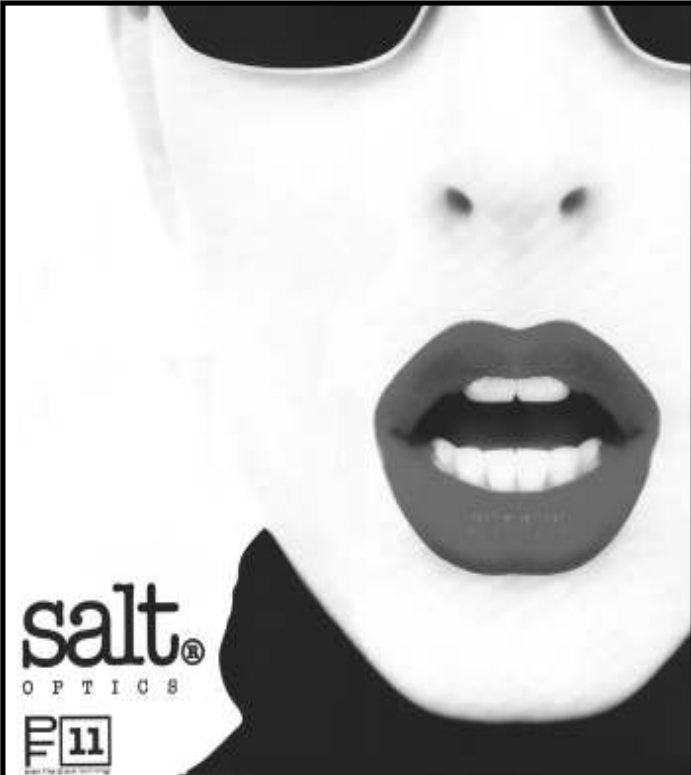
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Calendar
CLUBS

DJ EVENTS

If you would like to include your DJ event, e-mail sellis@nethere.com or fax information to 619-881-2401 by 5:00 p.m., Friday, the week prior to publication. The listings are free.

Angels in Agony: Second Friday of the month, synthpop, industrial, and gothic with DJs DarkAngel, NoSleepDamon, and guest. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. The Kava Lounge, 2812 Kettner Boulevard, middletown, 619-543-0933.

Club de Sade: Third Saturday of the month, gothic, industrial, and EBM with DJs Darkman and Creep. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. San Diego Sports Club, 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-299-7372.

Club '80s: Thursdays, new wave, electro, and new romantic with DJs Bryan Pollard and Sickboy. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. Shooterz, 3815 30th Street, North Park. 619-574-0744.

Darkwave Garden: Wednesdays, punk, gothic, and darkwave with DJs Bryan Pollard, AryRose, and Synex. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. Kadan, 4696 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500.

Deep: Thursdays, drum 'n' bass with DJs Wallkrawler, Probable Cause, and Skyler Mic. 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. Honey Bee Hive, 1409 C Street (corner of 14th Street, across from City College), downtown, 619-702-6010.

Friends Chill: Tuesdays, downtempo, electronic, and ambient with DJs Wank Chops, Istr, and Tom King. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. No cover. The Whistle Stop, 2236 Fern Street (corner of 30th and Juniper), South Park. 619-284-6784.

Inferno Young Adult Nightclub: Fridays and Saturdays, DJ Kool T spins hip-hop, house, and reggaeton. 775 Metcalf Street, Escondido. 760-741-1271.

Liquid: Sundays, liquid funk and drum 'n' bass; 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. No cover. Red C Lounge, 756 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-2838.

MixLab: Thursdays, DJ Dex spins an eclectic listening session: alternative hip-hop, urban soul, and Latin grooves. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. No cover. Candelas, 416 Third Avenue, downtown. 619-702-4455.

Moondoggies Pacific Beach: Saturdays, Saturday Night Mix, hip-hop and R&B with DJs Enigma and Cisco. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. No cover. 832 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-6550.

One Nation: Second and fifth Saturday of the month, new wave, hip-hop, and bootleg remixes with DJs Blackstone and Atari. The Whistle Stop, 2236 Fern Street (corner of 30th and Juniper), South Park. 619-284-6784.

Rockin' the House: Saturdays, hip-hop, R&B, and Top 40. 9 p.m. Rookies Sports Bar, 2216 El Camino Real, Oceanside. 760-757-1123.

Sabbat: Second Saturday of the month, Rich's, 1051 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-295-2195. Fourth Saturday of the month, the Flame, 3780 Park Boulevard, Hillcrest, 619-295-4163. DJs Adam Atom, Dekay, and Robin Roth, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up.

Sin Factory: First Friday of the month, fetish, gothic, and industrial with DJs Robin Roth, Darkman, and guests. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. Riley's Sports Bar, 2901 Nimitz Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-255-8635.

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

CLUBS BY AREA

If you wish to submit a listing, call 619-235-3000, ext. 405, night or day by 5 p.m. Friday, the week prior to publication. To send weekly or monthly schedules, fax to 760-788-1309 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the music section. Upcoming concerts, DJ events, or performances that are not at a club should be directed to 619-235-3000, ext. 261; e-mailed to sellis@nethere.com; or faxed to 619-881-2401.

NORTH COUNTY

The Alley, 421 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-434-1173. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, *The Love Rangers*, Top 40/pop.

Belly Up Tavern, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022. Thursday, 8 p.m., *Dumstaphunk* with *Alfred Howard & the K23 Orchestra*, jazz. Friday, happy hour, *Left 4 Dead*, rock, 9 p.m., *Goldfish*, retro funk. Saturday, *Quinazo and the Elijah Emanuel Band*, reggae. Sunday, salsa. Wednesday, *Michael Tiernan, the Gooses, Renata Youngblood, and Paige Aufhammer*, acoustic/pop/folk/alternative.

Bistro 221, 221 Grand Avenue, Escondido. 760-737-7398. Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Carlos Rull*, jazz.

The Blvd., 925 West San Marcos Boulevard, San Marcos. 760-510-0004. Friday, 9 p.m., DJ event, rock.

Boar Cross'n, 390 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-2989. Friday and Saturday, *Liquid Blue*, pop rock.

The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe, Flower Hill Mall, I-5 at Via de la Valle, Del Mar. 858-755-3735. Friday, 8 p.m., *Joseph Angelastro*, solo guitar.

Borders Books and Music, 1905 Calle Barcelona, Carlsbad. 760-479-0242. Friday, 8 p.m., *As We Speak*,

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Friday, January 6

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Monday, January 9

7-10:30 pm • Roots Blues

Nathan James & Ben Hernandez



Tuesday, January 10

9:30 pm-1:30 am • Funk, Soul & Dance

The Soul Persuaders



Wednesday, January 11

8 pm-12 am • Singer-Songwriter

Debra Arlyn



Thursday, January 12

Upcoming Shows

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Friday, January 13 – Coco Montoya
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Friday, January 20 – Adrian Legg
Friday, January 27 – Kenny Neal

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Calendar CLUBS

alternative. Saturday, *Tim Dismang*, folk/rock.

Borders Books and Music, 11160 Rancho Carmel Drive, Carmel Mountain. 858-618-1814. Friday, 8 p.m., *Lee Tyler Post*, acoustic rock.

Bub's Whiskey Dive, 301 Pier View Way, Oceanside. 760-757-BUBS. Friday, *E-Ticket*, rock. Saturday, *Loud Residence*, rock.

The Calypso Cafe, 576 North Highway 101, Encinitas. 760-632-8252. Live blues and jazz nightly.

The Cask and Cleaver Restaurant, 3757 South Mission Road, Fallbrook. 760-728-2818. Friday, 8 p.m., *the Hank Show*, country.

The Cow Shed, 502 East Mission Road, San Marcos. 760-471-4579. Sunday, 9 p.m., *Chimichanga & the Sour Chives*, punk/rock/metal.

Coyote Bar and Grill, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4695. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Roots to Rockets*; 10 p.m., DJ event. Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *Bordertown*, rock/blues/folk; 10:30 p.m., DJ event. Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *Fish & the Seaweeds*, rock; 10:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., DJ event. Sunday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Bruce Cameron*, jazz. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *the Wombats*, rock.

The Del Dios Country Store, 20154 Lake Drive, Escondido. 760-745-2733. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Cowboy Jack*, country.

Game Time Tavern, 12735 Poway Road, Poway. 858-748-0015. Friday and Saturday, live classic rock. Tuesday, *Bradley Leighton*, R&B/jazz/dance.

Hennessey's Tavern (Carlsbad), 2777 Roosevelt Street, Carlsbad. 760-729-6951. Thursday,

Lee Coulter, acoustic. Friday, DJ event. Saturday, *Mother Funk*, rock.

The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, 5951 Linea del Cielo, Rancho Santa Fe. 858-756-1131. Thursday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., *Jerry Melnick*, jazz/variety piano.

J.J. Lander's Irish Pub, 125 Main Street, Fallbrook. 760-731-0839. Thursday and Saturday, 8:30 p.m., *Brehon Law*, Irish folk. Friday, 9 p.m., *the LeperKhanz*. Tuesday, 8:30 p.m., *the Clay Colton Band*, pub rock. Wednesday, 8:30 p.m., *Kevin Moyles*, country.

The Jumping Turtle, 1660 Capalina Road, San Marcos. 760-471-7778. Music is rock/alternative. Thursday, call club for information. Friday, *My Fatal Awakening*. Saturday, *T.S.O.L., Hellfire Trigger, Mised Citizen*, and *Dirtbag*. Sunday, call club for information. Tuesday, *VIII Fraud*, *Exit the King*, *Knifemill Disintegrator*, *Materguru*, and *Carol Ann*.

The Kraken, 2531 Old Highway 101, Cardiff. 760-436-6483. Thursday, *Jeff Moore & the Witchdoctors*, blues. Sunday, *the Blues Brokers*. Monday, *the Charles Burton Blues Band*, blues.

La Playa Cantina and Grill, 1020 West San Marcos Boulevard, San Marcos. 760-744-7550. Friday, 8 p.m., *Mario Oliveras & Latin Spice*, Latin pop/salsa.

Mas Fina Cantina, 2780 State Street, Carlsbad. 760-434-3497. Wednesday, 8 p.m., *Mike Gardner*, acoustic rock.

R. O'Sullivan's, 118 East Grand Avenue, Escondido. 760-737-0954. Friday, 9 p.m., *Joe Wood*, blues/rock. Saturday, 9 p.m., *the Commoners*, Irish folk. Sunday, 5 p.m., *the Clachan Boys*, Irish folk. Tuesday, 5 p.m., *Meliesa*, acoustic rock. Wednesday, 8:30 p.m., *the Clay Colton Band*, pub rock.

Rancho Bernardo Inn, 17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-675-8500. El Bizcocho Restaurant. Friday, 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., and Saturday, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Jerry Melnick* and *Tom Bishop*, jazz/variety.

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Album: *Two Steps Forward* (2005)

Artist: Shocks of Mighty

Label: self-released

Songs: 1) Working for Babylon 2) Medication 3) Other Man's Gold 4) Move It 5) Deeper and Sweeter 6) Beautiful Life 7) Nice and Easy 8) The Number 9) Money 10) Work Together 11) 13 Months 12) Prescription Dub 13) Working Man's Dub 14) Move (feat. Mama T)

Where available: Lou's Records and online at www.cdbaby.com/shocksofmighty

Extra info: Shocks of Mighty are changing their name to Raiz Muzik.

Website: www.shocksofmighty.com

Nothing is lamer than a musical act faking a Jamaican accent. Sting

sounded like an idiot doing it. UB40 and Snow were even worse. When I listen to local

reggae, I'm so distracted by faux affectations that I miss what the music has to offer. Shocks of Mighty (now called Raiz Muzik) is no exception to

my preoccupation. If the accent issue doesn't bother you, then settle into *Two Steps Forward* for some digable reggae.

Two Steps Forward starts with slow, rootsy reggae with mediocre lyrics about the "Babylon system," praise to "medication," and plenty of incantations to Jah. There are a couple of instrumentals ("Move It" and "Nice and Easy") that let the horns show off a bit. I like those because I'm not fighting to hear if the singer is mincing in a Kingston inflection.



Shocks of Mighty

"Prescription Dub" and a couple of other songs use that quadraphonic-type echo thing that makes reggae a famous mixer for marijuana. Inter-spersed Spanish lyrics lend a San Diego spice to an album that seems recorded for an O.B. stoner kid's CD collection.

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD REVIEWED, PLEASE MAIL IT TO: Music Editor, Hometown CDs, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803

'Canes, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780. Music is rock/alternative unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *Simple Minded Soldiers*, and *Stone Senses*. Friday, *Mommy's Little Monsters*, *Gish*, and *Songbird*. Saturday, *Alice Unchained* and *Crazy Train*. Sunday, *Deadline Friday*, *Superloader*, *Big Backyard*, and *Sweet tooth*. Wednesday, *Five Bolt Main*.

Chateau Orleans, 926 Turquoise Street, Pacific Beach. 858-488-6744. Thursday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Tomcat Courtney* & *the Blues Dusters*, blues.

Ché Cafe, UCSD Campus, La Jolla. 858-534-2311. Saturday, 7 p.m., *Drew Danbury*, indie pop.

Dreamstreet, 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-8131. Friday and Saturday, live rock/alternative music.

Elario's Bistro & Sky Lounge (atop the Hotel La Jolla), 7955 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla. 858-459-0541. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., *John Cain*, international dance music.

Hennessey's Tavern (PB), 4650 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach. 858-483-8847. Friday, *My Boy Kevin*, acoustic. Saturday, *NZ Rough*, reggae.

The Liars Club, 3844 Mission Boulevard, San Diego. 858-488-2340. Saturday, 9 p.m., *DJ Le Chud*, rock/ska.

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The Lodge at Torrey Pines, 11480 N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla. 619-453-4420. The Grill: Friday and Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., *Mike Nelson*, solo jazz guitar.

Pasquale on Prospect, 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla. 858-456-0722. Friday, *Nick Fiore, John Giulino*, and *Dave Scott*, jazz.

Qwigs Bar & Grill, 5083 Santa Monica Avenue, Ocean Beach. 619-222-1101. Thursday and Sunday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Mike Nelson*, solo jazz guitar. Friday and Saturday, live rock.

Tiki House, 1152 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-273-9734. Thursday, call club for information. Friday, *Brain Buckit*, rock. Saturday, *the Hoodoo Blues*. Sunday, open mike. Tuesday, *Big Backyard*, rock. Wednesday, *Sweet James*.

Winstons, 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-6822. Thursday, *Blue Turtle Seduction* and *Shoestring Strap*, bluegrass. Friday, *Kim Wilson* and *the Ravens*, rock. Saturday, *Garaj Mahal*. Monday, *the Electric Waste Band*, classic rock. Tuesday, *Tower 4* and *the Adopted Prophets*, funk/rhythm. Wednesday, *D.P.I., Greedy Bastards, the Gizzards*, and *the Experiments*, punk.

SAN DIEGO

The Bahia Belle Cruise, the Bahia Hotel, 998 West Mission Bay Drive, Mission Bay. 858-539-7779. Departs 6:30 p.m. Friday, *B Natural*, Top 40. Saturday, *Nude Blues*, classic rock.

Blarney Stone Pub, 5617 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont. 858-279-2033. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, *Tony Cummins*, Irish folk. Sunday, open mike. Tuesday, Irish jam session. Wednesday, call club for information.

Borders Books and Music, 1072 Camino del Rio North, Mission Valley. 619-295-2201. Friday, 8 p.m., *Javid*, flamenco guitar.

The Gordon Biersch Brewery, 5010 Mission Center Road, San Diego. 619-688-1120. Friday, live blues.

Harry's Bar & American Grill, 4370 La Jolla Village Drive, San Diego. 858-373-1252. Friday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *the Jaime Valle-Bob Magnusson Jazz Duo*.

House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-299-2583. Friday, *Los Lobos* and *the Hacienda Brothers*, rock.

Humphrey's, Half Moon Inn, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-224-3577. Backstage Lounge: Thursday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Jamm*, blues/jazz. Friday, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., *the Steely Damned*, rock. Saturday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., *Roxy Monoxide*, '80s dance music, 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., *Michael Burks*, blues guitarist. Sunday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Calvin Romance* and *Trina Steward*, Motown. Monday, 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *Nathan James* and *Ben Hernandez*, blues. Tuesday, 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., *the Soul Persuaders*, funk/soul/dance. Wednesday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Debra Alvin*, folk.

Jack & Giulio's Italian Restaurant, 2391 San Diego Avenue, Old Town. 619-294-2074. Thursday, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., *the Jim Guerin Duo*, jazz. Wednesday, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Bob MacLeod*, pianist.

The Kensington Club, 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington. 619-284-2848. Call club for information.

Kitima Thai Restaurant, 406 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-298-2929. Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., *the Jim Gala Jazz Trio*.

Lestat's Coffeehouse, 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-282-0437. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, call club for information. Friday, *Dave Howard, Tim Moyer*, and *Annie Bethancourt*. Saturday, *Gregory Page*. Monday, open mike. Wednesday, *Nathan James* and *Ben Hernandez*, blues.

Mister A's, 2550 Fifth Avenue, San Diego. 619-239-1377. Thursday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 9:30 p.m., *Jason Weber*, jazz saxophone.

Pal Joey's, 5147 Waring Road, Allied Gardens. 619-286-7873. Friday and Saturday, *Nite Life*, blues.

Ramada Inn, 5550 Kearny Mesa Road, San Diego. 619-516-4466. The Oasis: Friday, *Seduction* featuring *Calvin Romance*, funk/old skool.

Riley's Sports Bar, 2901 Nimitz Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-255-8635. Thursday, classic rock. Friday, DJ event, '80s music. Saturday, house/hip-hop. Wednesday, *the Stiletto*s, rockabilly.

Rosie O'Grady's, 3402 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-284-7666. Friday and Saturday, live rock.

San Diego Sports Club, 1271 University Avenue, San Diego.

619-299-7372. Saturday, 9 p.m., *Ex Machina, Grandpa Drew*, and guests, alternative rock.

Second Wind, 8515 Navajo Road, San Carlos. 619-465-1730. Friday and Saturday, *Serious Guise*, classic rock.

Soma, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-SOMA. Music is heavy rock/alternative. Friday, 7 p.m., *Geronimo, Copia Element, Glasgow Drive, the End of Eden, Crystalline*, and *Before Forever*. Saturday, 7 p.m., *the Adolescents, the Cadillac Tramps, the Narcoleptic Youth*, and *the Wrecking Crew*.

Tio Leo's Lounge, 5302 Napa Street (at Morena Boulevard), Bay Park. 619-542-1462. Thursday, *Jump Jones*, blues. Friday, *the Joey Show*, rock. Saturday, *Michele Lundeen & Blues Streak*. Monday, tango. Tuesday, zydeco. Wednesday, *the High Society Jazz Band*.

Top of the Cove, 1216 Prospect Avenue, La Jolla. 858-454-7779. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m., *Kristi Rickert*, piano.

Tutto Mare, 4365 Executive Drive, La Jolla (Golden Triangle area). 858-597-1188. Monday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *the Capriccio String Quartet*,

classical music. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *the Jaime Valle Quartet*, Brazilian and mainstream jazz.

Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company, 4590 Park Boulevard, University Heights. 619-296-0616. Thursday, 8:30 p.m., *Trevor Hall, Ryan Howell, Byron Hudson*, and *the Gooses*. Friday, *Christopher Cash, Korrie Paliotto, Brett Vogel, Jon & Noah*, and *Tommy Edwards*. Saturday, *the New Dadaists, Heather Baker, Tim Mudd, Christina Baker, Andrea Reschke*, and *Martin Storror*. Sunday, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., *the Celtic Ensemble*. Wednesday, open mike.

DOWNTOWN

Belo, 919 Fourth Street, Gaslamp. 619-231-9200. Main Room: Friday, '80s music/hip-hop/R&B/rock. Saturday, house. Red Room: Friday, house. Orange Room: Friday and Saturday, downtempo/swanky lounge.

Blarney Stone Pub, 502 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-8519. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday, *Steve Brewer*, acoustic.

Borders Books and Music (Gaslamp), 668 Sixth Avenue, San

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<div><div></div><div>SUPER DIAMOND URBAN GYPSYS</div><div>1/13 & 14 • 9:00 PM</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>WANDA & ROSIE</div><div>Tues 1/17 • 8:00 PM</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Wed 1/18 • 2 Shows</div><div>8:00 PM & 10:45 PM</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>BRAZILIAN GIRLS</div><div>IRWIN'S CONSPIRACY</div><div>Thu 1/19 • 8:00 PM</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>RODNEY CROWELL</div><div>WHISKEY TANGO</div><div>Fri 1/20 • 9:00 PM</div></div>
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<div><div></div><div>JOHNNY GILL</div><div>ANISHA NICOLE</div><div>Sat 1/28 • 9:00 PM</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>LAKE TROUT</div><div>BENZOS • PLUMP</div><div>Sun 1/29 • 8:00 PM</div></div>	<div><div>COMMON SENSE</div><div></div><div>WITH GUESTS</div><div>Sat 2/4 • 9:00 PM</div></div>	<div><div>GERRY BECKLEY OF AMERICA</div><div></div><div>WITH GUESTS</div><div>Wed 2/8 • 8:00 PM</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>JOSH GRACIN</div><div>KING COUNTRY</div><div>Thu 2/9 • 8:00 PM</div></div>

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1/6

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Sun.
1/8

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Tues.
1/10

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Wed.
1/11

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and

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Thurs.
1/12

Rock

BROKEN SILENCE

DOGMATIC


SIXTH DAY

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1/10

6-8 PM:
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Trivia

Rock

TOWER 4

adopted prophets

Wed.
1/11

4-8 PM: Free Local
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Punk Rock

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GREEDY BASTARDS
THE GIZZARDS
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DUCE

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Calendar
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MONDAY • JANUARY 9 A SCRIBE AMONGST LIONS THE STRANGER SIX THE AFTER PARTY	THURSDAY • JANUARY 12 THE HELIO SEQUENCE THE CAN'T SEE THE JADE SHADER	TUESDAY • JANUARY 17 MANI (STONE ROSES/PRIMAL SCREAM) DJ SET

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Jimmy Love's, 672 Fifth Avenue
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619-595-0123. Thursday, 6:15 p.m. to
10:45 p.m., and Sunday, 6:30 p.m. to
11 p.m., Masterpiece. jazz/R&B. Friday
and Saturday, 9:45 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.,
live disco/pop. Monday, 6:30 p.m. to
11 p.m., Reggie Smith & Pressed for
Time, jazz. Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to
11 p.m., Mystique, jazz/R&B.
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., the
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Martini Ranch, 528 F Street,
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Shaker Room: Call club for
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On Broadway, 615 Broadway
Avenue, downtown. 619-231-0011.
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Onyx, 852 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp.
619-235-6699. Call club for
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Patrick's II, 428 F Street,
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Thursday, Chris James & Blue Four.
Friday, 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Chris
James & Blue Four, 9 p.m. to
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Band. Saturday, the Blues Gypsies.
Sunday, Oozie Blues. Monday, Blue
Largo. Tuesday, Shelle Blue.

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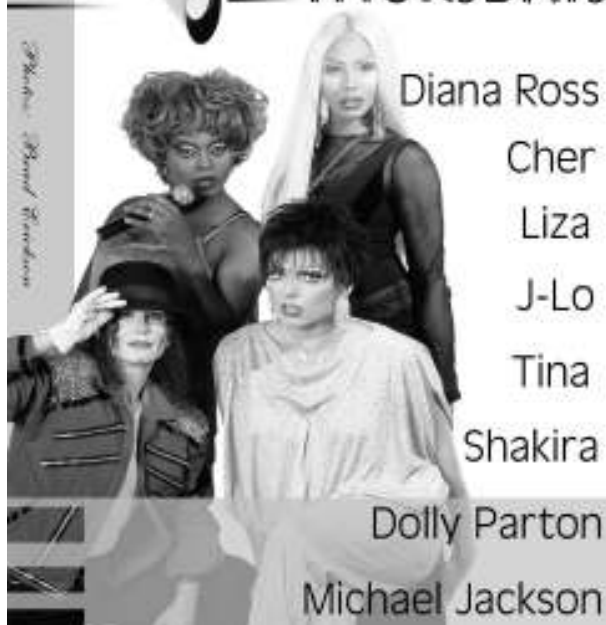
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A Cup of Cuba

When my posse and I walked into Tazablanca, we spotted a familiar sight: On the wall behind the bandstand was a colorful oil painting that we'd last seen hanging at Mambo, the huge, short-lived Cuban restaurant on the site of today's South Park Grille. Mambo opened hot but flopped when the chef walked out. The cooking and the crowds spiraled downhill, while the big Cuban band played on...Tazablanca's owner, Mike Hueso, was in fact a partner in that ill-fated restaurant, and he got custody of the painting.

Tazablanca proves to be a more appropriate and intimate venue for the cuisine, a modest-sized building with walls painted in earth tones, wooden floors, a handsome little bar, and faux-Tiffany hanging lamps. The live band is also smaller and *mucho mejor*, a trio of violin, keyboard, and bass adeptly playing Latin jazz. A unisex bathroom sports a tropical mural, and an eclectic local crowd runs mostly from their mid-20s to early 40s.

Cuban cuisine itself is neither familiar nor exotic but homey in a tropical way. Closer to Spanish than to Mexican food, with African influences, it's generous with garlic and onions and sparing with hot peppers. It shares with the rest of the Spanish Caribbean a reliance on tropical foodstuffs — starchy yuca root, plantains at every stage of maturity, sweet peppers, sour citrus (Seville oranges, lemons, and limes), and ground annatto seed to lend dishes a golden color. A key condiment is *mojo* — a blend of citrus, garlic, and onions — used as both a marinade and a sauce in numerous dishes, especially roasts and grills. Another common flavoring mixture is *sofrito*, a Caribbean version of the Cajun "holy trinity" — onions, garlic, and mild green peppers sautéed in olive oil at the start of the cooking process for stews and braises.

Tazablanca's appetizer list consists of an array of Cubanized pan-Latin dishes. Empanadas, for instance, are more characteristic of Chile and Argentina, but here they're made with a choice of two Cuban fillings, *ropa vieja* or *picadillo*. The *ropa vieja* ("old clothes") is made of stewed shredded beef with tomato, onion, and Ortega peppers. (It's also available separately as an entrée, minus the shell.) The flour envelope was large, light, and puffed with air. Its scanty filling tasted authentic but a little dry, possibly from the



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

baking. *Papas rellenas*, originally from Peru, are mashed potato balls, lightly breaded and deep-fried, concealing a vivacious stuffing of *picadillo*, Cuban ground-beef hash, redolent of garlic and parsley. *Croquetas* are common to most Iberian-based cuisines, but here the rendition is atypical: The chicken "croquette" is apparently just a hunk of breaded breast meat, rather than the more usual (and luxurious) mixture of chicken and white sauce.

Our favorite starter was *calamares fritos*, fried calamari in a light batter (almost a "frizzle"), cooked soft and served with the zesty dip that South Americans call *salsa americano*, made of mayo, ketchup, and a touch of hot sauce. (The menu identifies it by the Provençal name *rouille*, which is similar but minus the ketchup.)

Our companions at this dinner were our good neighbors, Laurie and Francisco. The latter, Ecuadorian-born, is a fan of *tostones*, fried green plantain slices. "In Ecuador, they make these moister," he said sadly as he tasted Tazablanca's rendition. "But then, they're the same at every

Cuban restaurant. It seems to be a national difference."

When we started to order our five appetizers à la carte, our accommodating waiter warned us that the portions would be too large. Instead, he offered to combine smaller portions of each on a sampler platter — which we accepted gratefully. Because of this maneuver, it was sized just right. We only missed two starters: a "quesadilla" of breaded steak, ham, and Swiss cheese, and *mini fritas*, Cuban-style sliders of dwarf burgers with fries stuffed in the bun.

Fricasé de pollo (chicken fricassee) was everybody's favorite entrée. It's a boneless leg-thigh piece stewed with tomato, capers, green olives, and potatoes, a moist mixture that tastes like home-cooking at its most savory, the sharp garnishes contrasting with the soothing potato. *Pollo con ajo* offers the same cut marinated in citrus juices and garlic, but the flesh emerged a bit dry.

Lechón is another excellent dish, although it violates every truth-in-labeling law. The word

REVIEW NAOMI WISE

Tazablanca ★★ (Good)

3946 Illinois St. (just north of University, one long block east of 30th Street), North Park, 619-294-8292.

HOURS: Dinner Tuesday–Saturday, 5:00–11:00 p.m. (Lunches are in the planning stage.)

PRICES: Appetizers, \$5.75–\$7.25 (higher for sampler platters); entrées and main-dish salads, \$9–\$19; desserts, \$5–\$7.

CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: Homey Cuban cooking. Mexican beers, mainstream wines (better choices in reds), full bar, including *mojitos* and Latin soft drinks.

PICK HITS: Fried calamari; *papa rellena* (stuffed potato); chicken fricassee with capers; *lechón* (marinated roast pork); house salad with tequila-lime dressing.

NEED TO KNOW: Reservations accepted for groups of six or larger. Shared parking with Lumberjacks, additional slots behind restaurant, via Grimm/alley. Ambient music played at high volume, quieter with live band (playing Thursday through Sunday after 7:30 p.m.). Patio seating in fair weather.

Ratings reflect the reviewer's reaction to food, ambiance, and service, with price taken into consideration. Menu listings and prices are subject to change.

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means "suckling pig," but not even pig farmers can afford to serve that delicacy very often — if ever. In Cuban cuisine, and on Tazablanca's menu, it's come to mean marinated roast hind leg of pork. Instead, the restaurant actually uses a more luscious if less traditional cut, the shoulder butt, roasted bone-in and sliced into steaks before serving. It was delicious, with its crisped bits of fat along the edges and deep flavors from the citrusy *mojo* marinade and the sautéed diced-and-canned Anaheim peppers heaped on top. (No complaints about canned peppers: They're more digestible than green bells and taste closer to Latin America's mild chile varieties.)

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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

“Santiago de Cuba” style, marinated in garlic — lots of garlic — plus orange and lime juices and parsley. That night, the fish was white bass from Baja, firm but mild and gently cooked, a neutral canvas to show off the vibrant seasonings.

Each entrée is preceded by a large salad of fresh young greens, cucumber, and tomato slices, with your choice of four dressings served on the side. Our favorite was a tequila-lime mixture with a touch of garlic. The smooth balsamic dressing was a close runner-up. Most entrées come with black beans and white rice, served in separate piles, but the fish were served with an African-influenced combination of both, *congriso*, along with sweet, seductive fried ripe plantains (*plátanos maduros*). The latter are also available as an appetizer or, topped with caramel and ice cream, as a dessert.

Next night, my partner and I split a “Cuban sandwich.” These are lifesavers on those

endless flights to the Caribbean: Miami International’s lounge is full of sandwich shops selling the drippy wonders to substitute for the dread polystyrene boxes on the next leg of the trip. They consist of an inch-high array of garlicky Cuban roast pork, sliced deli ham, melted cheese, pickles, and a splash of dressing — the pork’s natural *jus* and its marinade — on a wide baguette seared and compacted on a panini grill. The ones at the airport are deliciously messy, oozing right through their wrappings and into your purse. (Don’t fly south without one!) Tazablanca’s rendition was acceptable but disappointingly drip-free. (The owner later told me that some of the customers objected to the dressing, fearing that it was fatty, so his chef stopped serving it that way. In the future, he plans to give the customers a choice: drip or no-drip versions.) The sandwich came with terrific yuca fries. Yuca is a bland, starchy root, similar to taro, and Cubans usually serve it boiled and dressed with a touch of garlic oil. Here (in a commercial version made by Goya Foods), the roots are precooked, ground,

and shaped into tubes rolled in cracker crumbs. These emerge from the deep fryer with delectably crisp exteriors and moist, gooey centers. They really take the “yuck” out of yuca.

This visit also gave us an opportunity to sample the brief dessert list. In addition to caramel-coated plantains, there’s coconut flan and guava with cream cheese. The flan is the standard item — that is, not a coconut-milk custard but a regular flan laden with shredded coconut and dribbled with burnt caramel syrup. The guava shells are canned in sweet syrup, to dollop (Mexican-style) over a trisected crisped flour tortilla lightly spread with cream cheese. By the time you read this, the restaurant’s new espresso machine should have arrived, so you’ll be able to end your meal with a typical strong, sweet *café cubano*.

Like many other Caribbean cuisines, Cuban fare is scantily represented in San Diego. North Park is lucky to have a restaurant serving dishes that are authentic, and good to boot.

ABOUT TAZABLANCA

Mike Huesca was a hotel food and beverage manager at the

downtown Marriott for 17 years before he decided to get into the restaurant business and returned there for 2 years after the Mambo debacle. “This time, I chose the opposite sort of guy for a partner. I went from a crook to a cop. My business partner here, Jorge Guevara, was a San Diego police officer for 33 years before he retired last year. At Mambo, my partner Mitchell came in after I’d already done all the hard work of starting the restaurant. He turned out to be a drug dealer — importing and exporting from out of Miami, doing it all through the Internet and mail. He’s in prison in Jacksonville now; I think he got 12 or 13 years on a plea bargain. But when we’d been partners for three months, they started investigating him, and they seized all the money that I had invested in the partnership. Over a year later, I got a little of it back. The only other things I was able to salvage from Mambo were the painting you saw here, and the liquor license, because we had that as a corporation.

“Meanwhile, I went back to the Marriott. Then Jorge called me and said, ‘You had the right idea, you just needed the right partner. We both have creative

minds, I want to do this all over again.’ We looked at Mission Valley, and then we found this little hole-in-the-wall that I had already leased, and I was negotiating to purchase the building. It used to be a Chinese restaurant, until 1997, then it was a catering facility and storage space for another restaurant, and they’d kept up the health permit, so we decided to do it here.

“We found a Cuban chef, born and raised, who’d just come from New York. Chef Cito is in his 60s now; he’s, like, the executive chef, and chef Geraldo is, like, the chef de cuisine. We have a wonderful team.

“North Park is where downtown was eight to ten years ago. Heavenly Desserts is coming on the corner. What they’re going to offer is gonna be exquisite. I’ve heard that Fifth and Hawthorn is planning to move into the North Park Theater building in March, which will be a big boost for the neighborhood, and Sushi theater is going to move right nearby. We’re looking to do a package deal with Sushi where we do dinner, then people go to the play and come

back and have dessert. We’re working closely with Heavenly — because Cubans don’t really do much dessert, besides flan, and it’ll be nice if people can take a little walk after a big dinner here and then have a sweet. And we’re talking about opening a bakery in this neighborhood, something like Bread and Cie, but just a few simple fresh breads. We’re also planning to open for lunch pretty soon, serving salads and sandwiches, and we’re going to expand more into the patio as the weather warms up. We’ll have about 12 tables with umbrellas out there, so we’ll have room for more people to eat. We’re also looking at East-Lake — we want to bring another Tazablanca to the South Bay.”

Tazablanca means “white cup” and is a deliberate play on Casablanca. “*Casablanca* is Jorge’s favorite movie,” says Huesca, “so that’s the reason behind the name. We got a clock in the shape of a white cup, and now we’re working on getting a painting, a take-off on the classic movie poster for *Casablanca*, with all the cast’s faces substituted with local people.” ■

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"I'm here three times a week. I'm hooked on the smell."

The two Mormon elders stand ahead of me in line.

"Have the beef sandwich," says an older guy with them. He doesn't look Mormon, somehow — lacks that '50s-style perfect grooming. "Then you've got to choose two sides."

He reads from a list on the wall.

"Baked beans, coleslaw, macaroni salad, green salad, potato salad, or French fries."

Sounds as if this is the first time here for these boys — 'cause they are, like, elders, but also way young. They're dressed to regulation in white-shirt-over-white-T-shirt, blue Formica nametag, black pants, spongy black shoes made for lots of street-pounding, and the little black book you know is not a Bible.

It's my first time, too. And yet there's something familiar about this place, the red-tile roof, the chocolate-brown timber, the cream brick. I'm thinking '60s modern.

It's the normally dead hour of three in the afternoon — but, surprise! The inside's abuzz with folks chomping into meaty-looking dishes.

In line behind these oh-so-clean-cut kids, I check out the scenery. It looks like a big timber barn in here. Open rafters, knotty pine, an eight-point buck's head on one wall, set of longhorns on another, and a big desert sunset painting. One

side of the place is a blur of people in blue-and-white paper bellhop hats dealing out ribs, hefting chunks of steaming beef, slicing meat from slabs.

The elders and their host order beef sandwich plates (\$5.79 each with two sides and a pot of BBQ sauce). Now it's my turn.

There's a line forming behind me, so I've got to move fast. I see a couple of lunch specials on a board. Ribs, beef or pork, with two sides and a bun for \$5.99. On the regular menu they have all the variations, like ham sandwich plate (\$5.79), plate of beef or ham

(with two sides, \$8.49; large portions, \$9.99), half a chicken (\$8.49), chicken and ribs (\$8.99), and a hot-link or chicken sandwich plate for \$5.79.

If you don't want the sides, the chicken sandwich costs \$3.49. Ditto the beef, ham, or link sandwiches. This stocky guy who looks like Kirk Douglas slices beef under a heat lamp. He looks up expectantly.

"Guess I'll have the pork ribs lunch special," I say.

"Only on till three," says the guy, Jerry. Damn. I'm 15 minutes late. But he says, "You can still have it at the regular price."

The printed wall-menu above him lists "ribs — beef or pork, \$6.79 & \$9.49."

"And the \$6.79 is the same size as the lunch special?"

"Yup."

**TIN
FORK**

ED BEDFORD

here. Wonder how he'd swallow that? "And look at the crowds they get," Rich says. "Fifty years down the line." He points at a sign at the counter that says "50." "They must be doing something right."

"It was two cousins, back in 1955," Jerry says from his station behind the nearby counter. "Joe Browning and Ed Jensen started up right here. They've been going ever since." Jerry's been around almost as long. "I've been cutting meat for ten years, but I began as a busboy in 1957."

Jacob, one of the many guys in the blue-and-white paper hats, turns out to be a Jensen grandson. He says Joe and Ed have actually been going even longer than 50 years. They started in 1947 at 1413 Market Street, downtown, then came out here 8 years later. The secret to their popularity, he reckons, is that slow overnight barbecuing in the pit out back. "And using oak," he says. "We only use oak."

Aha! Oak. That's what it is. This place is farther to the Barbecue Pit up in Fletcher Hills. It also burns only oak. Turns out Jacob's daddy just pulled out of running the Fletcher Hills place this year. Sold his interests in it to the Browning family. Well, at least it's still a family affair.

Back at the tables, the young elders are getting ready to leave. But Elder Andrew stops.

"Say," he says to me. "Do you have a copy of *The Book of Mormon* yet?" ■

The Place: *The Barbecue Pit, 920 East Plaza Boulevard, National City (619-477-2244)*

Type of Food: *Pit-barbecued beef, pork, ham, ribs, chicken*

Prices: *Beef or pork ribs (small), \$6.79; (large), \$9.49; lunch rib special, \$5.99; ham sandwich plate, \$5.79; plate of beef or ham, \$8.49 (or large portions, \$9.99); half chicken, \$8.49; chicken and ribs, \$8.99; hot-link or chicken sandwich, \$5.79; all plates come with two sides, choice of coleslaw, macaroni salad, potato salad, baked beans, French fries; chicken sandwich (no sides), \$3.49*

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Buddy Story

"I'm too old to fight that battle."

When Charlie Froelich and Mickey Fredman set out to break into the San Diego wine-production business — not that there was too much business to break into back in the '70s — they went about it exactly backwards: they planted a vineyard. Backwards because, before you go bringing tender grapes into the world, you need to make sure you have a home for them. (Being tender, they don't stand much of a chance if they don't get taken in and turned into shelveable product — er, wine.) And when you plant a vineyard, you can pretty much count on bringing grapes into the world.

Froelich and Fredman persevered, however, and the venture eventually became San Pasqual winery, which in turn eventually became Orfila Vineyards. They got help from one Mike Menghini, who, after "ten years and ten schools" had just graduated from USD with a degree in biology. "We were buying a house — this was 1975 — and the real estate agent asked what I was doing for a job. I said, 'I would have liked to be in the wine business, but I'm so tired of school.' She told me, 'Well, they're starting a winery right here in San Diego.'"

Menghini went to Froelich and asked for a job. "He said, 'Do you know anything about wine?' I said, 'Well, I drink it a little bit.'" That was enough; Froelich put Menghini to work in the vineyard. "He put me on a tractor — 16 hours

a day for six months. I was thinking, 'God, after ten years of school, is this what I'm going to do with the rest of my life?' I worked in the vineyard for two and a half years before they started the winery. Then I worked in the winery for two years. I kind of lucked out — I got into the business when you could still become a winemaker without a degree from UC Davis — but the days of walking in and asking for a job just because you like wine may be past."

Not to say that Davis didn't eventually figure in Menghini's career. After San Pasqual, he got a job at Callaway in Temecula. "They could see that I had a real interest, so they sent me up to all the short courses at Davis in both viticulture and enology."

Callaway also taught Menghini about making wines for the public. "They knew how to soften them. Callaway never made the best wine you'll ever have, but you'll never find a clunker. They made them right in the middle — restaurant wines. They taught me a lot of the tricks of the trade, and if I have a wine that's troublesome, I can go back to what I got from them."

Menghini makes his own wines now at his eponymous winery — the one he started up in 1982 — and he's kept that healthy regard for the public. "Sometimes our wines are, technically, a little low in acidity — because my customers tell me they don't like high-acidity wines. Acid gives them heartburn." So he makes low-acid wines. It

helps that he likes them that way, too. "I know what I like, and I kind of know what the public likes — especially in the tasting room."

That goes for varietals as well. "At San Pasqual, they listened to UC Davis about what would probably grow best down here, and they ended up with the weirdest varietals ever: Chenin Blanc, Napa Gamay, Petite Sirah, and Muscat Canelli. Chenin Blanc was okay at the time — it was a mainstay at Callaway, and it made a lot of people start drinking wine, because it was very soft, very easy, and had a little bit of residual sugar." But the other stuff was, to Joe Wine Tourist, a touch esoteric. Even today, "unless they're very well known, I shudder when wineries start making stuff that isn't recognizable to the public. I know that there are wine drinkers who are always looking for something special, but in a tasting room, if you don't have something like Chardonnay... Sauvignon Blanc is my favorite grape of all time, but even that isn't really recognizable in a tasting room."

And the tasting room is where Menghini sells. "I don't think San Diego gives San Diego wines a chance," he says. It's a familiar refrain by now, but he was one of the first to sound it. "When I first started, I'd bring a bottle into a nice liquor store or restaurant and drop it off. I'd say, 'Taste it, and I'll come back and see what you think of it.' I'd come back, and they'd say, 'Oh, I don't even know where it went. One of the help must have taken it.' That kind of attitude. If I were to sell anything outside the winery now, I'd have to hire somebody to do it. I'm too close to my product." So the wine stays on-site until somebody buys it retail.

"I get so mad," he admits. "If you go up to Paso Robles or Santa Barbara or anyplace that has a wine industry, and you go into any restaurant or liquor store, they've got their local wines right at



Whatever happened to Chenin Blanc?

the top of the list." And while quality certainly plays a part in a restaurant's decision to play local booster, it doesn't always account for everything. "I go up to Paso Robles every year for the Zin Fest they have up there, and I've tasted some pretty crummy wines coming out of there. Some good ones, too." He'd like to see the day when San Diego wines receive similar support, and he's happy to see local wines showcased downtown at the San Diego Wine & Culinary Center. But he's not going to be the one to make it happen. "I think we're starting to make some pretty good wines in San Diego, but I'm too old to fight that battle. I've got a niche, and I don't know if I want to work any harder than I work right now." ■

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RESTAURANT LISTINGS

*The Reader's Guide to Restaurants are recommended listings written by our reviewers (Ed Bedford, Barbara David, Ambrose Martin, Shari McCullough, Max Nash, Eleanor Widmer, Naomi Wise). Each issue contains only a fraction of over 500 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at SanDiegoReader.com. Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a mid-range entrée. **Inexpensive:** below \$10; **moderate:** \$10 to \$19; **expensive:** \$20 to \$24; **very expensive:** more than \$25. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.*

NORTH COASTAL

101 Cafe 631 South Coast Highway 101, Oceanside, 760-722-5220. This is the oldest li'l eating establishment in Oceanside. Cooks have been flipping burgers here since 1928. The café is named after Route 101, the Pacific Highway. Old-timers remember when everyone from truck drivers to movie stars would stop for a bite before heading on to San Diego and Tijuana. Try the ABC (avocado, bacon, and cheese) Omelet, the 101 Original Cheeseburger with its "secret sauce," chicken fried steaks with eggs and, of course, the Great Depression dish: biscuits with gravy and home fries. Open daily, three meals until midnight. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (3/01)*

Azafran 1001 South Coast Highway 101 (at West Street), Oceanside, 760-435-0005. This place just feels Cuban, with its echoey inside, bongos, washed orange walls, and giant Cuban jazz mural. We're talking Caribbean-style food, not hot by Mexican standards. Most delicious intro: traditional Cuban pressed sandwiches, hot-pressed to mix the juices of, say, smoked ham, roast pork, cheese, mustard, pickles ("Cubano #2"), or roast pork (*lechón*) with a *mojo* (garlicky-citrus) sauce that makes it juicy. The bread, baked right here, is news in itself—crunchy and sometimes sweet (ask for *medianoche*). You get a lot, but don't leave without trying a plantain dish or the cheese flan. Or a cup of Cuban coffee. Lunch and dinner. Closed Mondays. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (3/04)*

Jamroc 101 101 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-436-3162. At this

former site of D.B. Hacker's, you can still get great fish'n'chips—but the Brit batter now gets its lift from Jamaica's Red Stripe beer, mon. The shack by the tracks now sports bright tropical designs on its back-patio walls, and the fare is casual Jamaican (plus a couple of Cajun dishes). Check out the bargain-priced samplers which include luscious soft-fried plantains and splendid patties (empanadas to you and me) with a choice of beef, curry chicken, or veggies. The spicing of the jerks and curry entrées are down-tuned to suit tourist tastes, but the table bottle of Walkerswood Scotch Bonnet Hot Sauce can kick that right up. Don't miss the fresh coconut water, served out of a young Thai coconut. Soca, ska, and (clean) reggae set the mood, and there's live steel pan some weekend evenings. Beer, wine, Bigga soft drinks. Open Sunday through Wednesday until 8 p.m., Thursday through Saturday until 9 p.m. Inexpensive. — *N.W. (4/05)*

Kim's Restaurant 745 First Street, Lumberyard Shopping Center #103, Encinitas, 760-942-4816. Both Vietnamese and Chinese dishes are offered in a calm atmosphere with quick, pleasant service. The menu lists 265 items, including many Vietnamese house specialties, 28 seafood dishes, and a whopping 45 vegetarian/vegan dishes, many made with *seitan* (mock poultry). The seafood isn't necessarily fresh catch—some shellfish is evidently obtained frozen, scallops are phosphate-preserved, and the reasonably priced abalone dishes involve slightly chewy, rehydrated dried abalone from Asia. On the other hand, portions are enormous, and the cooking is careful and tasty, although some flavors have evidently been adapted to American palates and ingredients. Open Tuesday through Sunday, continuous service lunch and dinner; closed Monday. Moderate. — *N.W. (10/01)*

Meritage 897 South Coast Highway 101, Lumberyard Shopping Center, Encinitas, 760-634-3350. Chef-owner Susan Sbicca creates pristine California Cuisine here, highlighting fresh (and usually organic) local produce. A few pick hits are direct imports from her Sbicca down the coast—the irresistible lobster-shrimp bisque is pure Del Mar deluxe. But some simpler dishes cleverly complete themselves as you eat them—salmon served with peas and mushrooms on one side and a creamy sauce on the other creates a whole new sauce when you broach the fillet. A lemon-pistachio cake, too, changes as you cut it, the pieces crumbling into a berry coulis. It's a fun way to eat, engaging the mind along with the palate. The setting is family-friendly (only well-mannered kids

come here) with a handsome, airy dining room and charming patio. Wide-ranging wine list, plenty by the glass and even some half-bottles. No corkage on Tuesdays; Mondays and Wednesdays all bottles half price. Reservations advisable. Lunch and dinner daily, bar menu ongoing. Moderate to slightly expensive. — *N.W. (7/03)*

Palomar Airport Cafe 2162 Palomar Airport Road, Carlsbad, 760-438-9665. *Top Gun*, anyone? Chow down and choose views of planes like the 1935 Harvard, "The Texan," or the Life Flight choppers scrambling. Expect to see greats like Chuck Yeager or his buddy Lowell Williams, who still trains stunt pilots here. It's not gourmet, but it's down-to-earth solid nosh, with plenty of beer and spirits flowing. The café's sexy waitresses serve generous plate-loads of everything from breakfast burritos (scrambled eggs, onions, bell pepper, potatoes, cheese) to corned beef hash with eggs and spuds. Or lunch-wiches with quirky plane names like Almost Famous Mustang Burger (open-faced with chili) or the B-29 (turkey, Swiss cheese, Ortega chilies "melted together on grilled sourdough"). Delish. Breakfast, lunch daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (8/03)*

Sakura Bana 1031 South Coast Highway 101 (Suite A), Encinitas, 760-942-6414. One of the friendliest eateries in a friendly town, this is a sushi bar where everybody knows your name (or acts like they do). The chefs love to whip up special dishes for the many regulars at the counter, so if you're a newbie, keep an eye out for what your neighbors are eating. A blackboard lists the specials, guiding you to the day's freshest catch. Should you spot pompano on the list, get two orders—with two orders (but not if you just order one), after you've consumed the delicate raw fillets, the chefs will deep-fry the skeleton to a lacy crunchiness. If you don't feel like sushi, there are several tables, and standard Japanese appetizers and entrées are available. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Moderate. — *N.W. (9/01)*

Swami's Cafe 1163 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-944-0612. No coincidence it's near the famous surf break and the Self-Realization Fellowship compound. You gotta love the very Encinitas vegetarian-spiritual-surfer origins. You eat surrounded by gurgling fountains, wind chimes, wheat grass

racks, a rainbow-colored wind sock, and the manager's 1969 surfer van. There are plenty of standard dishes, like eggs Benedict for breakfast or black bean burrito for lunch, but the big emphasis is health. Try the protein veggie wrap, with avocado, feta cheese, tofu, and mole, or the Indian curry with tofu. Open "7-ish to 4-ish" daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (3/04)*

NORTH INLAND

Bernard'O Restaurant 12457 Rancho Bernardo Road, Rancho Bernardo Village Shopping Center, 858-487-7171. Ambiance excels here at one of the prettiest restaurants in the county. High ceilings, tall arched windows, rose-cream walls, fireplaces, and charming Gallic paintings make for an eye-ful, and on many nights a harpist plays show tunes. The cuisine mingles French classics (for example, mussels with *frites*.) with daily specials offering seasonal Cal-Mediterranean cooking. These dishes seem a little less adventurous than in days of yore, but this is still a place for a gracious meal in a superb surrounding. Lunch Wednesday through Friday, dinner nightly. Expensive. — *N.W. (6/04)*

The French Market Grille 15717 Bernardo Heights Parkway, San Diego, 858-485-8055. Ambience is served in generous portions at this romantic establishment with elegant indoor dining or a charming garden setting. The wine list has over 50 selections, including several available by the glass, and the varied menu offers Gallic dishes of duck, lamb, fish, veal, frog legs, and more. Most dishes are served with the usual French cuisine sauces, but if you're dieting, they'll gladly omit sauce. Ingredients and execution of the entrées can be inconsistent (e.g., some nights the fish is overcooked or the meat is tough, other nights they're fine) but the crab-cake appetizer is always outstanding. Save room for dessert, especially the excellent *crème brûlée*. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *S.M. (11/03)*

Hernandez' Hide-Away 19320 Lake Drive (off Del Dios Highway), Escondido, 760-746-1444. The founder of Hernandez' claims he invented the margarita at his previous restaurant in Bird Rock. True or not, the margaritas (rocks, not slush-ee) are terrific, on a par with Baja's best. The food, though, is detuned for gringos, with a standard menu of Cal-

Mex specialties. Even the guacamole is underseasoned, but if you like this sort of thing, a pleasant "tamale pie" is as good as any Midwestern mom's. The huge bargain-priced brunch on Saturdays and Sundays brings in the crowds; reservations urged for weekends to save a long wait. The exterior patio sports a big, funny mural, and the interior is carved into several rooms (helps keep the noise down) camped up with cute "Old West" cantina decor. Weekend brunch; lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W. (7/04)*

Mille Fleurs 6009 Paseo Delicias, Rancho Santa Fe, 858-756-3085. One of the area's top destination restaurants, Bertrand Hug's beautiful room with beautiful food draws "the beautiful people"—Hollywood honchos, high-end high school graduation parties, and a steady influx of rarefied Rancho Santa Fe residents flaunting huge twinkling rocks. The daily-changing menu sports first-rate modern French cuisine (with a few German touches) by long-time chef Martin Woelsle. Order at will—everything's flawless. The menu's most exciting on weeknights, when crowds are sparser and the kitchen has time to stretch. The wine list is fabulous but exorbitant even at the bottom. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Reservations a must. Very, very expensive. — *N.W. (5/01)*

GOLD COAST

Beach House 2530 South Coast Highway 101 (at Lomas Santa Fe), Cardiff-by-the-Sea, 760-753-1321. This beautiful restaurant with its breezy seafront patio is a branch of an upscale beach mini-chain (others are in Dana Point and Laguna Beach). Its main menu features steaks, seafood, and some "Continental" warhorses (lobster thermidor, etc.) that are best avoided. The view is even more spectacular from the upstairs "Top of the House" which features pub grub and fish in a light-house-like setting. On Sundays, local families flock in for the moderately priced à la carte champagne brunch featuring the standard dishes of the genre plus some less-successful fancied-up ones, with endless Freixenet champagne (Wydclef is its house champagne, though). Whatever the meal, stay sim-

ple here—burgers, steak, unfussy eggs—and enjoy the atmosphere. Reserve for a view table or outdoor seating at Sunday brunch. Full bar but few wines. \$2 valet parking. Restrooms accessible by elevator, may be tight fit for wider wheelchairs. Daily brunch/lunch and dinner. "Top of the House" serves until 11 p.m. nightly; "early bird" cut-price dinners weeknights. Brunch moderate, dinner moderate to very expensive. — *N.W. (7/03)*

Charlie's by the Sea 2565 South Highway 101, Cardiff-by-the-Sea (a long block south of the stoplight), 760-942-1300. This seaside spot offers a blissful patio right on the breakwater and a terrific, authentic Boston-style clam chowder to match the view—it's light, creamy, and loaded with clams, unpeeled red potato chunks, and bits of honey-cured bacon. The kitchen's good with simple dishes, including fresh raw oysters and the lively "Bayou Burger" with Cajun seasonings and well-made spicy fries. The dinner menu includes more ambitious items, but the weekly main event here is Sunday brunch, with a menu of standard brunch dishes at affordable prices, featuring endless refills of champagne. (Hint: Veuve Clicquot it's not.) Huge wine list, full bar. Free valet parking. Brunch reservations advisable. Monday through Saturday, lunch or brunch and dinner; Sunday, brunch only. Moderate to expensive. — *N.W. (9/03)*

Le Bambou 2634 Del Mar Heights Road, Del Mar, 858-259-8138. Nouvelle Vietnamese cuisine is prepared here that's fresh, light, delicate. But the portions are small and two people should order three entrées for a satisfactory meal. Soups are outstanding and the imperial rolls, lemon grass chicken, soft-shelled crab, vegetarian rolls, and charbroiled pork do well here. The wine list includes 40 items. Fast service and aesthetic surroundings. Lunch Tuesday to Friday; dinner Tuesday to Sunday; closed Monday. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.W.*

Sbicca American Bistro 215 15th Street, Del Mar, 858-481-1001. Though characterized as an "American Bistro," Chef Susan Sbicca ("speeka") also reveals Asian and Mexican influences in her creative menu. Set in a one-time private home a block from the Del Mar coast, this lively restaurant boasts five dining rooms, including one downstairs with a fireplace and a "wine

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RESTAURANTS

room" upstairs for private parties. In fair weather, the outdoor rooftop patio is the best seat in the house. The menu changes seasonally, though a few perennial favorites remain. The rich, deeply flavored lobster-shrimp bisque with overtones of sweet butter pastry is worth a return visit. A thick maple-roasted pork prime rib with vanilla-scented sweet potatoes and bourbon chantilly sauce is a house favorite, although not quite as exquisite as the soup. Monday nights feature \$3 martinis; on Tuesdays and Thursdays, all bottles of wine from the fine California-centric wine list are 50% off. No corkage fee on Wednesdays. Crowded during racing season. Lunch weekdays; dinner nightly. Expensive. — *B.D. (5/05)*

LA JOLLA

Cafe Japengo The Aventine, 8960 University Center Lane, La Jolla, 858-450-3355. Here Bentleys and Beamers far outnumber Buicks. Inside is contemporary with an Asian flair, complete with kimono stands and bamboo forests. Sushi is the specialty, and it's above average, although the sushi bar chefs aren't very friendly, and the seasoned rice tastes quite salty. The unavailability of highly prized fatty tuna (*toro*) and the replacement of *tobiko* (flying fish roe) with inferior *masago* (smelt roe) are minor disappointments, but the *uni* (sea urchin roe) is pristine. If you appreciate subtlety, try the egg-omelet sushi (*tamago*), a delightful mixture of eggs, sake, and mirin. Creative party rolls are especially popular here, including the amusing Tootsie Roll — sweet and spicy, crunchy and spongy, with fried soft shell crab topped with grilled shitake mushrooms, avocado, and a sake marinade. Entrées are often a letdown, but diners may be

satisfied to make a meal from appetizers like the Char Su Duck Salad with goat cheese, candied pecans, and pomegranate vinaigrette; Duck Wontons with coriander pesto and *ponzu* sauce; and an excellent *kim chee* martini. No reservations for the sushi bar; arrive early for prompt seating. Lunch weekdays only; sushi bar opens at 5 p.m.; dinner begins at 6 p.m. Very expensive. — *B.D. (10/05)*

Forever Fondue 1295 Prospect Street #201, La Jolla, 858-551-4509. Also at 6110 Friars Road, Mission Valley, 619-295-7792. Once every thirty years, a person should experience the novelty of fondue. Forever Fondue offers patrons the opportunity to cook or dip a variety of food items in a shared pot at their own table, accompanying the morsels with six different but universally disappointing sauces. Ambiance is minimal, other than the harsh chemical spray that bussers use for cleaning vacated tables. Dessert, however, is yummy — you can't miss with anything dipped in chocolate. The restaurant is clean and the staff friendly, although service can be extremely slow. Mediocre wine choices. Seating space is limited so reservations are recommended. Open daily for dinner. Moderately priced. — *S.M. (2/04)*

Fresh Seafood Restaurant 1044 Wall Street (at Herschel), La Jolla, 858-551-7575. The fare is mainly fishy and the room is truly dishy, with lots to look at — the open kitchen, floor-to-ceiling sculptures, street-patio scene, or the decolleté of the date dresses among the younger half of the crowd. The older half shows up in business suits, whatever their gender. Here you'll find that Chef Matthew Zappoli's seafood creations and lush sauces live up to the restaurant's name, although reined in enough to keep from scaring business-suited palates. Fish not your dish? Meats and poultry are of fine quality, too. Save room for the hazelnut mocha mousse cake, so sensual it should be X-rated. Good wine buys in Sauvignon Blancs and "interesting whites." Dinner reservation suggested. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive. — *N.W. (7/03)*

Marrakesh 634 Pearl Street (at Draper), La Jolla, 858-454-2500. The North African fare of Morocco is like no other in the world — influenced by Arab cuisines, but more intense and sheerly hedonistic. At our sole Moroccan restaurant, the fare is arranged into a nightly five-course prix fixe feast, with superb lentil soup (*harira*), a salad plate, *bastilla* (a chicken-filled filo pie), an entrée, and finally mint tea poured from on high to accompany almond baklava perfumed with orange-flower water. The setting and service are dramatic — tented ceilings, low banquette seating at carved round tables, belly-dancing interludes, servers in fezzes. (You're the Sheik of Araby.) A short list of entrées (a maximum of two choices per table, to be shared) features fine chicken (or lamb) with olives and preserved lemons; moist, fatless duck; lamb with couscous; and rather dry fish. On quiet weeknights, you can request the dreamy lamb with honey, an extravaganza that includes fruits, almonds, sesame, and cinnamon. Lunch and dinner daily; reserve for weekends. Moderate. — *N.W. (4/01)*

Nathan's at Michele Coulon's 7556 Fay Avenue, Suite D, La Jolla, 858-456-5098. Fans of The Belgian Lion, a San Diego institution for over 20 years

that closed in 2001, can rejoice. Nathan Coulon, grandson of Belgian Lion founders Don and Arlene Coulon, has stepped into his mother Michele's kitchen to resurrect many of the Lion's signature dishes: *cassoulet*, *steak au poivre*, *poulet Normande*. He's also added a few of Grandpa's that never made it onto the menu — try the baby spinach gratin — and now and then slips in something of his own. Ingredients are often first rate and sourced from good local growers. Growing up in the old restaurant's kitchen has taught him well; the *poulet Normande* is one of those deceptively simple dishes that surprises you with its perfection. Thoughtful and affordable wine list. Dinner Thursday through Saturday only. Expensive to very expensive. — *A.M. (6/04)*

Piatti Ristorante 2182 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla Shores, La Jolla, 858-454-1589. Whether you sit inside to enjoy the warm, rustic decor or outside under the giant ficus tree listening to the fountain, you're in for a treat at this secluded restaurant. Meals begin with crunchy corn-studded *ciabatta* and spicy balsamic dipping sauce, but don't fill up too soon: the appetizers and salads are varied and tasty. All pastas are house-made and served with lively, unusual sauces, including *penne agnello*, a treat for lamb aficionados. Lemon-herbed ro-tisserie chicken, wood-fired pizzas, *veal picatta*, and *bistecca* (a grilled rib-eye steak) round out the entrées. Portions are generous, so pace yourself if you're planning to have one of their house-made desserts. Lunch and dinner weekdays; brunch and dinner Saturdays and Sundays. Moderate. — *S.M. (7/04)*

Roy's 8670 Genesee Avenue, Costa Verde Center (across from UTC), La Jolla, 858-455-1616. Our own noisy outpost of top Hawaii chef Roy Yamaguchi's ever-expanding chain has elements of both "top chef" and "chain" about it. Decoding Roy's Rules of Ordering can make the difference between a mediocre dinner and a very happy meal: 1. Steer clear of combination platters — the same dishes come off much better when ordered separately; 2. You can get any element of a combo (including the yummy off-menu ahi poke) by asking for it; 3. Don't waste your palate (or money) on weak umbrella drinks when the wine list is brilliant. The menu changes daily, but some frequent tasty choices are pot stickers, *lumpia*, "Kahana" *shutome* (swordfish), or chocolate soufflé. Special dietary requests accommodated, including vegetarian meals. Reserve, and hope for a table far from the raucous bar. Open nightly. Very expensive. — *N.W. (4/01)*

Sky Room Top floor of La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-0771. The stunning ocean view offers three essentials for a memorable evening: privacy, intimacy, and the ability to talk without the interruption of noise. The food is a feast to the eyes as well as the palate. Best bets: abalone and scallop steak appetizer, the daily soup, diver scallops, and lobster. Dinner only, with two seatings on weekends. Very expensive. — *E.W. (10/99)*

Zenbu 7660 Fay Avenue (at Kline Street), La Jolla, 858-454-4540. It was a natural for fisherman-restaurateur Matt Rimel to open a sushi bar-fish house, featuring sparkling fresh catch, much of it from his own boats. Sashimi and the simpler sushi are better here than the big party rolls, which can be lunkish. Don't

miss the sashimi of live local *uni* (sea urchin) served on its shell most weekends. Cooked fish entrées feature equally sparkling seafood, sometimes in almost goofily elaborate preparations. No reservations; 30-minute wait likely on weekends. Sushi bar is up a short staircase; dining room and patio tables are wheelchair accessible. Several vegetarian choices. Full bar, good sake list. Dinner nightly. Upper moderate to expensive. — *N.W. (6/01)*

MISSION VALLEY & THE MESAS

Korea House 4620 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-560-0080. Korea House offers floor seating or a table if you want to barbecue your own food. The menu offers fine "down-home" Korean food, such as traditional *mandoo* (beef) dumplings, *gaejang backban*, or raw crab, and *yookhwe*, a steak tartare worth risking. Make a meal from enormous appetizers like *gul bosam* (raw oysters, pork, and cabbage leaves). Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — *M.N. (9/98)*

Nijiya Market 3860 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-268-3821. If you're not willing to sacrifice quality for convenience when eating fast food, try this Japanese market in Kearny Mesa. Nijiya Market offers prepared box lunches, or *bento*, that are pretty to look at, appetizing, and a real bargain. I suggest, however, passing by Nijiya's steam trays and heat lamps and going straight to the coolers, where you'll find delicious chicken cutlets, fresh sushi, and chilled noodles, as well as dessert delicacies like sweet bread roll filled with sweet bean paste. Inexpensive. — *M.N. (8/99)*

Pampas Argentine Grill 8690 Aero Drive (at Montgomery Field), Kearny Mesa, 858-278-5971. The Argentine specialties feature grilled grass-fed beef, including a somewhat Americanized version of the *gauchos'* great *parillada mixta* (mixed grill), with a great chorizo but minus any exotic organs. The naturally raised meats are lower fat and lower cholesterol than feed-lot beef but are salted heavily in the kitchen unless you request otherwise. Specify rare or medium-rare, unless you really like brown cardboard. Lighter fare includes free-range chicken and fresh, well-treated seafood. Beef empanadas are a tasty, authentic starter. Potatoes (fries and mashed) are splendid, salads are exuberant. The full bar features Chilean and Argentine beverages with many affordable South American wines by the glass. Park in lot at restaurant's front door, not the back-door lot. Lunch (mainly sandwiches) on weekdays, dinner nightly. Moderate. — *N.W. (4/02)*

Prego Hazard Center, 1370 Frazee Road (at Friars), Mission Valley, 619-294-4700. In a stylish North Italian restaurant set in a come-as-you-are mall, a million-dollar renovation at the turn of our century has turned down the noise level to match the pleasing, easy-going North Italian cooking. Good starters include the antipasto platter, sparkling salads, and yeasty, fresh-baked rosemary-garlic bread (actually a mini-pizza crust). Pastas (many featuring fresh seafood) are nearly perfect, but risotto can be risky. Entrées are mainly simple grilled or rotisseried meats and fish. Service is

warm and well informed. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Moderate (pastas) to expensive. — *N.W. (4/01)*

Seau's Mission Valley Center mall, 1640 Camino del Rio North (next to Robinsons-May), Mission Valley, 619-291-7328. Footballer Junior Seau contributes more to San Diego than just sacks. His extravagant multivenue sports pub is major league fun — a real-life reincarnation of some 1960s McLuhanite media art show, with 70 video screens (ranging from large-normal to giant HDTV) running sportscasts and a professional DJ on high, periodically spinning cool sounds over muted talking heads. The menu offers mainstream "something for everyone" choices, including pizza, hefty but so-so burgers, some elementary sushi, all-American entrées, and Seau's family recipe of Samoan teriyaki "plate lunch." Above all, there's pub grub. The chicken wings are pretty good, and you can get all three sauces (Buffalo, BBQ, and Asian) on one order. Perfect hangout for mismatched couples with one sports fan and one fashionista (the latter can head for Nordstrom and Saks discount outlets nearby). On game days, patrons are allowed just one game in the dining room (\$15 minimum), but you can linger from wake-up to closing on the patio or in the bar. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W. (1/03)*

Sheila's Cafe & Bakery 4577 Clairemont Drive (Wilson Plaza), Clairemont, 858-270-0251. A "Glatt Kosher," a non-dairy Orthodox Jewish restaurant and bakery with a mission. Sheila was determined to create food observant Jews could eat without worrying — from Italian to Mexican to ribs to fried chicken to lactose-free cheesecakes — and that everybody else wouldn't know was different. The result: a menu stretching from chicken soup with matzoh balls to standards like hamburgers and even Sunday prime rib dinners. You don't need a *yarmulke* to feel comfortable here, but it's comforting to know everything down to the least lettuce leaf has received extra-careful preparation. You'll find Sheila's breads and pastries at supermarkets all around town. Lunch and dinner Monday through Thursday, lunch Friday, dinner Sunday (closed Saturday, of course). Moderate to slightly expensive. — *E.B. (11/01)*

THE BEACHES

Baleen Paradise Point Resort, 1404 Vacation Road (off Ingraham Street), Mission Bay, 858-490-6364. Take a quick trip to chic Miami at the local branch of Florida's famed new resort restaurant. Whimsical tropical decor features a monkey motif (carved in the chandeliers, peeking from the paintings) and mambos play on the speakers. But the unlisted prices for chilled shellfish may make a monkey of you unless you ask before you buy. The menu features high-quality seafood and land creatures in refined renditions, including gorgeous lobster bisque, salmon with a clever hummus crust, herbed sea bass, and a hunk of free-range veal. Servers are charmers. The wine list is long and rather steep at the bottom end with better values farther up the range. Reservations recommended. Very expensive. — *N.W. (12/00)*

The Bar-B-Que House 5025 Newport Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-4311. OB's piling in, and for good reason: the chicken and ribs are smoked on an oakwood fire, then charbroiled. Beef, pork, and ham spend eight to ten hours in the smoker. Of course, they have pork (but not beef) ribs. A good-value combo is the Southern-Style sandwich — beef, pork, ham, or chicken with coleslaw inside, along with a sauce that's just right: sweet, tangy, spicy. Most original idea? A BBQ burrito with meat, baked beans, coleslaw, and sauce wrapped in a flour tortilla. Expanded menu includes gyros. Open seven days, breakfast through dinner; till 10 p.m. weeknights; 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (3/04)*

Chateau Orleans 926 Turquoise Street (at Mission Boulevard), Pacific Beach, 858-488-6744. Just like eating in the French Quarter — at one of Bourbon Street's best tourist traps, complete with live music and party atmosphere. The lovely multiroom premises have a real Crescent City "let the bon temps rouler" feel to it, but the simpler Southern dishes — honest crab cakes, fried catfish — seem better bets than the

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kitchen's attempts at more demanding Acadian fare. Reservations strongly advised. A little dressy on weekends. Full bar. Dinner Monday through Saturday. High moderate. — *N.W. (2/02)*

Humphrey's by the Bay 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island, 619-224-3577. Most diners at this resort/concert venue restaurant eat at the prix-fixe pre-show dinners because they guarantee good seats for the concerts at the next-door amphitheatre. They're missing the best food, which emerges once the music-mavens leave the premises. The kitchen features top-quality seafood, juicy meats, and prime steaks with lively, seasonal veggie garnishes. Reserve for show-nights or to snare a window table with a gorgeous marina view. Open daily breakfast through dinner; brunch buffet Sunday. Reservations strongly advised. Pre-show prix fixe moderate, à la carte high-moderate to expensive. — *N.W. (11/01)*

Kono's 704 Garnet Avenue (on the boardwalk), Pacific Beach, 858-483-1669. This inside-outside café is your prototypical California surfer hang-out. It's cream and green with maroon canvas window canopies, red-painted make-believe shutters, and three surfboards sprouting through the roof. On weekends, lines of tourists come looking for their California fix. But Kono's is known among locals, too, for generous breakfasts. Check out their PBS: Pancakes, Bacon and Scrambled eggs. Or the breakfast sandwich with eggs, bacon, cheese, and tomato on a toasted English muffin. Or the CB Burger (chicken breast, green chili, and pica sauce). Best time: foggy mornings. Chow down on their patio on the pier while you enjoy a birds-eye view of surfers appearing out of the mists below. Breakfast and lunch daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (10/00)*

Mardi Gras Cafe 3185 Midway Drive (near Rosecrans and East Street, in mini-mall with a 7-11, across the street from Godfather Pizza), Loma Portal, 619-223-5501. The Creole cooking at this café/grocery, to eat in, take out, or have catered for your next party, is sound and tasty, if deliberately underseasoned (just add salt and hot sauce to taste). You can also buy the real and rare ingredients from the freezer, deli case, and grocery shelves, including Cajun *tasso* (spiced ham), *boudin blanc* (rice sausage) and crawfish sausage. Daily brunch through early dinner. No alcohol, everything available for takeout. Inexpensive. — *N.W. (2/01)*

MZM Seacoast Bistro 875 Seacoast Drive, Imperial Beach, 619-424-5800. If you can make it past the bland exterior, you'll discover a well-disguised classy joint inside. A harbinger of a new I.B.? Interior is all peach-colored walls, trendy blue scone wall lights, tweedy booths, and photos of owners Marek and Zofia Migdalski with people like President Bush, Lloyd Bentsen, Sam Donaldson, and Joan Kroc. Migdalski is a recognized private chef who has decided to put I.B. on the gastronomic map. Breakfasts tend

to be simple but sophisticated, like frit-tata with Polish sausage, prime rib steak and eggs, or scrambled eggs with smoked salmon. Burgers at lunch are often lamb sirloin. Dinner can be anything, including New York steak or potato-crustured Pacific red snapper. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B. (6/04)*

Sapporo Japanese Restaurant 5049 Newport Avenue (by the pier), Ocean Beach, 619-222-6686. It's small, but Sapporo has big deals, particularly the lunch specials that usually give you a miso soup, salad, and a combo such as chicken teriyaki and California rolls and white rice — all presented like a piece of performance art. Other specials include *yaki soba* (stir-fried sautéed chicken, vegetables, and noodles) and *champon* noodle soup (*udon* noodles, scallops, shrimp, vegetables), and the value-packed Chicken Bowl — a big plate of sliced chicken, broccoli, other vegetables, and a swag of rice. Open seven days, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (9/01)*

CENTRAL
SAN DIEGO

Asia Cafe 4710 Market Street (at 47th Street), Chollas View, 619-527-1917. May be Asian San Diego's best-kept secret. You have to look behind the smog shop at this all-Laotian shopping center to find it. The menu's Southeast Asian, but the owner — and most of the conversation around you — is Lao. Lao dishes include the famous *larb-kai* (chicken salad with hot peppers, lemon grass, and sticky rice). Good regional alternatives: *bamee* (egg noodle) roasted pork soup, Crying Tiger (ground beef salad with vegetables), Duck Head BBQ, and *lard nar* (seafood, beef, or pork with sloppy wide noodles and vegetables). Closed Tuesdays. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (10/01)*

Huffman's Bar-B-Que 5039 Imperial Avenue (at Euclid Avenue), Chollas View, 619-264-3115. This café has a huge multigenerational following, some famous — check out their wall photos, in which Jesse Jackson and Muhammad Ali are just two — and some not so famous. The big draw is Huffman's fabulous Southern soul food. Try their gravy-smothered fried chicken served with collard greens, yellow peppers, red beans, rice, and white mopping-up bread, or their Louisiana Creole gumbo, thick with crab, shrimp, links, ham, and chicken. Other fine eats include the catfish sandwich and half-pound rib tips. Open daily, lunch and dinner, to 11 p.m. weekdays, 3 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/00)*

Mama's Bakery and Lebanese Deli 4237 Alabama Street, North Park, 619-688-0717. You'll remember this lovely little place for two reasons. One, the atmosphere: It's a tiny kitchen attached to an old red-and-green wooden house, with tables and green umbrellas on the sloping sidewalk and also inside

a shelter of bougainvillea, green canvas, metal mesh, and white brick. Two, their *saji*. It's a round Lebanese oven of ancient design which cooks the delicious flat bread (also called *saji*) that goes with pretty much everything, including baba ghanoush ("sweet daddy" eggplant dip) and *fool madamas* (fava and garbanzo bean stew). Gotta-haves include beef *shawerma* wrap or falafel wrap and a meat pie unlike any you've had before. A lovely bonus: fresh Lebanese baklava and a little pot of thick, sweet, black Arabic coffee. Open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday, weekends until 4 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (12/05)*

Nate's Deli 3120 Euclid Avenue, City Heights, 619-284-0206. This deli-café is in City Farmers' Nursery, the one with sheep, geese, Clyde the horse and a mini forest in the middle of town. The late Nate was the father of owner Bill Tall, and this deli was his dream. (Nate died just before opening.) Try appetizers like smoked salmon, or "Kishka," a spicy wrapped filling, hot with brown gravy, or the grilled chicken fillet salad. But really, sandwiches are "it" here, and huge, and you can choose your cheeses, breads, and condiments as the sandwich-making proceeds. Go for, say, beef bologna, pastrami, liverwurst, salami, or vegetarian, then take it out to the eatin' deck, and check out the wild life. Town's a block and a world away. Breakfast to early dinner six days; closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (9/03)*

Pizzeria Luigi 1137 25th Steet (at C Street), Golden Hill, 619-233-3309. They claim to make real New York pizza in this tiny storefront and they're not lying. One of the owners is from Brooklyn and his origins are written all over the pies. The sauce tastes right and the crusts are thin enough that you can fold a slice into a "V" to eat on the run, New Yorker style. But it's better to take home a whole pie with your choice of toppings (or a stromboli or calzone) and enjoy it at leisure. Inexpensive. — *N.W. (7/04)*

Sang Dao 4212 National Avenue, Logan Heights, 619-263-0914. Laos has an exotic Shangri-La thing about it, yet the large family that run this eatery will tell you Lao food is quite plain and simple: vegetables, freshwater fish, chicken, pork, occasional beef, sticky rice, and noodles. But taste their delicious spicy catfish and you're right back at exotic. Thai basil, garlic, and most of all, the gingery *galanga*, a.k.a. "Laos root," help make it unfishy. Other must-trys: BBQ beef, *som yum* (papaya salad), and especially the spicy salad with minced meat called *larb* — closest thing to the national dish. The surroundings here may be homey, but not the excellent cuisine. "Sang Dao"? It means "Star Light." Lunch and dinner six days; closed Monday. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (3/04)*

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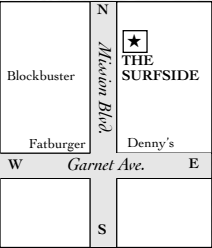
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RESTAURANTS

EAST COUNTY & COLLEGE AREA

4.0 Deli Aztec Shopping Center, 5844 Montezuma Road, 619-281-4040. This low-ceilinged, dark student sandwich hangout gets the frat house crowd, luring them in with draft beers and big Buds that go for a song. Pitchers too, if you buy sandwiches with them, and the sandwiches are no dull lunch-counter fare. Try the Montezuma, a toasted sub with grilled chicken cutlets, chorizo, Monterey Jack, and a “kick-butt southwestern dressing.” Or Grilled Rivas, named after a much-loved Colombian who worked here: grilled turkey, Monterey Jack, grilled onions, and peppers. Check specials like the Buffalo Bleu, with grilled roast beef, bacon, red onions, bleu cheese, and Tabasco. The owners had a full-scale deli in New York, so this range is no surprise. Open daily, breakfast through early dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (3/04)*

Ana Maria's 8680 Navajo Road (northwest corner at Lake Murray Boulevard), San Carlos, 619-337-3674. In this homey little restaurant, the food is regional Peruvian, specializing in the coastal area from Callao on north, plus some recently adopted Caribbean influences from Colombia. Highlights include the elaborate “Ana Maria’s Ceviche,” an array of citrus-marinated seafood with sweet potatoes and *cancha*, smoked hominy corn kernels. The *anticuchos* (heart kebabs) boast a zesty marinade, and the *lomo saltado* (sauteed beef loin strips with tomatoes, peppers, and French fries cooked right in with the liquid) is an outstanding version — it’s made with tender steak, not the typical chewy *carne asada* meat. Beer and wine. Early dinner Tuesday through Thursday; lunch and dinner Friday and Saturday; dinner Sunday afternoon to early evening. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W. (10/04)*

Charley's Famous Hamburgers and Kebobs 8312 Broadway (at Sweetwater Road), Lemon Grove, 619-460-2690. When you spot an old

red-and-white gas station that looks like a café, don’t hesitate. That’s Charley’s. The palm and ficus trees have replaced the gas pumps and a fountain now gurgles where the air hoses used to be. The menu is a long list of hamburgers, as well as hot dogs, sandwiches, and kebobs. Charley’s sweet dough beef-and-onion sandwich is scrumptious. Mostly take-out, but you can dine out at their picnic tables under bougainvillea. Open daily, three meals. — *E.B. (12/01)*

D.Z. Akin's 6930 Alvarado Road, Alvarado Plaza, College Area, 619-265-0218. Surely the best Jewish delicatessen in San Diego. Soups are wonderful, and so are the 110 sandwiches, especially the corned beef. The *knishes* and chopped liver easily rival Mother’s. Excellent breakfasts and outstanding, fully stocked bakery. Open daily, breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.W.*

European Bistro Lake Murray Square, 6062 Lake Murray Boulevard (at El Paso), La Mesa, 619-698-5555. Here at the center of a Russian new-immigrant community, in a strip-mall just south of Ross and Big Lots, you’ll find an array of savory Eastern European dishes. They’re nowhere as heavy as Nonna’s — here they’re done with the lightness of the Russian-French chef tradition, applied to specialties from Russia, Poland, and the Ukraine. Following classic Russian custom, there’s a splendid choice of small, savory, and substantial salads and delightful appetizers, including airy crêpes with juicy (and affordable) red or black caviar, and a main course including chicken shish kebab. But don’t look for borscht; it’s not on the menu. Entrées come with a choice of starches; trust me, you want fries with that. Open weekends, call before going or for reservations. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W. (7/03)*

Jasmine Bistro Westfield Plaza, 315 Parkway Plaza (at Fletcher and the 67 Freeway), El Cajon, 619-588-8228. A gleaming little architectural jewel surrounded by the big white boxes of its mall, Jasmine Bistro is a spin-off of the well-known Jasmine Hong Kong Seafood Restaurant on Convoy. By day, the fare centers on fresh, expertly made Chinese dim sum (elaborate finger-food) offered both by cart and by menu. At night a fresh crew of multiethnic chefs step in to cook up a Pan-Asian panoply, so if you’re in the mood for Mandarin and your date wants Thai, no problem.

Unfortunately, eaters in this suburban milieu won’t stand for too much authenticity, so sophisticated diners may find the fare a little dumbed-down. Mainly California wine list suggests wine pairings for the food; numerous Asian beers, fruity drinks. Reserve for week-end dinners. Daily brunch/lunch through early dinner (until 9 p.m.). Mainly moderate (except for some special entrées). — *N.W. (5/04)*

FAR EAST

Kountry Kitchen 826 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-3200. Thank goodness the Kountry Kitchen’s still around. They still open at 5 a.m. for the farmers and anyone else who’s up then. They still make their own sausages, and grind their own burger meat, too. The Italian Sausage Breakfast is truly delicious: a fat pale-brown sausage with a rich, sharp, livery flavor, along with eggs and hash browns. Up there, too, is the Cowpoke Country Special, a buttermilk short stack with eggs and sausages or bacon. Open daily, breakfast through early dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (5/02)*

La Casa Del Zorro Borrego Springs Drive (five miles south of Palm Canyon Drive at Yaqui Pass Road), Borrego Springs, 760-767-5323. La Casa Del Zorro is Borrego Springs’ most renowned and ambitious restaurant, set in a deluxe resort five miles south of town. (Drive through the parking lots until you reach the fenced swimming pool; the restaurant’s small, dimly marked door is just to the left.) The California Cuisine menu offers elaborate seafood appetizers (out here in the desert) and entrées with fine, subtle sauces, fresh veggies from nearer the coast, and rather mild-flavored, exquisitely tender meats, evidently chosen to be gentle to the dentures of the duffers. Desserts are few and very sweet. Full bar; great (but pricey) wine list. In the most formal of the three dining rooms, collared shirts and jackets required on men (they’ll lend you a jacket if needed), dressy-casual wear on women. Open daily, continuously (in theory) from breakfast through dinner. Reserve for weekend evenings. Very expensive. — *N.W. (4/03)*

The Olde Homestead Fudge Factory The Center, 590 Palm Canyon Drive (north side of the street), Borrego

Springs, 760-767-7782. The Fudge Factory’s greatest dish is not what it’s named for, and some of its pick hits aren’t fudge, either. Of the 24 flavors of housemade fudge, barely a half dozen are available on any given day. The chocolate walnut is especially delicious, but the real masterpiece is the “date shake” — a cold quaff that’s ambrosial on a hot afternoon. Then, too, a former pastry chef of the famed La Casa Del Zorro provides trays and trays of delicate pastries, and this is one of the few spots in town with an espresso machine. Open 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — *N.W. (4/03)*

UPTOWN & OLD TOWN

Arrividerci Italian Restaurant 3845 Fourth Street, Hillcrest, 619-299-6282. However you picture an idealized Italian restaurant — sprawling café on the strada or little cozy corner as in *Moonstruck* — somehow Arrividerci is “it.” The straight-from-Rome look of the crowded sidewalk deck and yellow-and-white-awning helps. The menu is a big yet familiar regional potpourri. Reliable standards include *vitello bel monte* (veal in a brandy cream sauce with tomatoes); “straw and hay” (*paglio e fieno al pesto*), pale yellow-and-green pasta with string beans and pine nuts in a delicious pesto sauce; baby rack of lamb with rosemary; or shellfish pasta dishes like *linguine mediterraneo*, with clams, mussels, and big garlicky shrimp. Part of the fun is bumping chairs. Think dining car on a narrow-gauge railroad — you’re that close to the next table. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. — *E.B. (7/04)*

Berta's Latin American Restaurant 3928 Twiggis Street (at Congress, diagonal to Rockin’ Baja Lobster), Old Town, 619-295-2343. Sampling the whole range of little-known cuisines from Guatemala down to Patagonia, Berta’s lengthy menu reads like a culinary “pick hits” list of each country’s best flavors, typically rendered with expertise and verve. Some outstanding dishes include sweet-savory Chilean *pastel de choclo* (a casserole of beef, chicken, and corn pudding) from Berta’s homeland, spicy ceviche and subtle *seco de cordero* (citrus-flavored lamb stew) from Peru, earthy Guatemalan *chilemal* (cilantro-laden pork stew), aromatic beef curry from Trinidad, and a sensuous *vatapa*

(seafood in coconut sauce) from Brazil’s African-influenced Bahia coast. Vegetarians will find many meat-and-fowl-free options. Lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *N.W. (4/01)*

Crest Cafe 425 Robinson Avenue (at Fifth Avenue), Hillcrest, 619-295-2510. “Hearty Homemade Comfort Food” is the boast, and this small retro-deco café backs it up. Cecelia and her dad, Luis Moreno, took over this place back in 1985. Some staff have been here since the start. Loyal customers get their photos and names on an honor roll that fills one wall. Lots of lazy ceiling fans, long, hanging blue lights, and art. “Matisse in Morocco,” Salvador Dali, Frida Kahlo. Consider momsy dishes like Sloppy Joes, honey-glazed pork chops, or the healthy Vegetable Steam Basket. And don’t turn down their 11 different kinds of burgers, including the Fresh Salmon Burger, the OuiOui Burger (“aged bleu cheese crumbled under melted jack cheese”) or the wicked, spicy Butter Burger (half a pound of lean ground beef stuffed with garlic, tarragon, basil, parsley butter, topped with cheese, garlic-paprikacayenne-cumin mayo and more butter). Best of all, late hours: open 7 a.m. to midnight, seven days. Dinner at 11 is no problem. How rare is that in San Diego? Inexpensive. — *E.B. (5/02)*

Fifth and Hawthorn 515 Hawthorn Street (at Fifth), Banker’s Hill, 619-544-0940. This warm, cozy cottage near Balboa Park offers once-radical dishes that have long since turned into familiar California comfort cuisine. The menu changes only slightly, and the kitchen has the dishes down so pat that execution is almost flawless. It’s a little like an ideal airplane dinner — on the Concorde, say. Highlights include spicy duck soup, tender stuffed chicken breast, melting calamari steaks, and mustard-coated catfish. Most weeknights, couples can opt for a “wine dinner” that includes four courses and a decent bottle of wine — a great bargain. Full bar, reasonable California-dominated wine list. Good pre-theatre dinner spot (near the Old Globe); let server know your curtain time. No wheelchair access to rest rooms. Dinner nightly. Moderate to slightly expensive. — *N.W. (2/03)*

Hob Nob Hill 2271 First Avenue (at Juniper Street), Banker’s Hill, 619-239-8176. It opened in 1944 as a 14-stool lunch counter. Now, you sweep in under the maroon canopy to shiny red booth seats, deep blue carpet, blond

wood, paintings, and a half-wall of wine. You’re thinking “business class,” but don’t be fooled. We’re talking coffee-shop prices, especially with the all-day breakfasts and sandwiches, not to mention the burgers with a salad tossed in. It’s across the street from a retirement condo complex and at dinner, says the owner, “We cater to seniors.” While there are à la carte choices, affordable three-course prix fixe dinners (with a regular entrée for each day of the week, Mom-style) are the order of the day — e.g., tasty barbecued pork on Saturdays, roast lamb or turkey Sundays. Open daily. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *E.B. (10/01)*

Kazumi Sushi 3975 Fifth Avenue (at Washington), Suite 120, Hillcrest, 619-682-4054. A simple neighborhood sushi bar offering imaginative rolls, each one so distinctively seasoned that there’s no need to mar the pretty fish-scapes with wasabi dip. The fish is super-fresh and includes salmon that Kazumi-san cold-smokes himself. For a family-style dinner, “The Ultimate Boat” (serving two or more) is an encyclopedia of Japanese specialties, a huge platter of sushi, *gyoza*, assorted appetizers, yakitori, teriyaki, and terrific tempura. Need comfort food? The tempura also graces the top of a satisfying bowl of *nabeyaki udon* (noodle soup) with an onion-sweet broth. With just a small staff of family members in the kitchen and house, expect a wait for food at busy times. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W. (10/00)*

The Parkhouse Eatery 4574 Park Boulevard (at Madison), University Heights, 619-295-7275. A small house provides a charming setting for dining. The eclectic menu is prepared with average competence. You can make a meal from the list of appetizers. Open weekdays three meals, weekends for brunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.W. (10/99)*

Picasso Spanish Restaurant 3923 Fourth Avenue (near University Avenue), Hillcrest, 619-294-3061. Interesting Spanish tapas and entrées are served in a small, modern, art-filled room that draws a casual neighborhood crowd. The regional style is Basque, from Northern Spain, but these aren’t the tiny *pinxos* of that area — in fact, these bites are larger than usual, sized generously for two eaters. Some top tapas include chicken-stuffed *empanadillas*, baby eels in garlic sauce, stuffed greenlip mussels, and an



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outstanding paella (available as both a tapa and entrée). A bargain-price bottomless pitcher of the house’s workmanly sangria (made with Livingston Cellars Burgundy) is the patrons’ favorite beverage. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner nightly. Moderate. — *N.W. (6/01)*

Soltan Banoo Persian Eatery & Tearoom 4646 Park Boulevard (at Adams Avenue), University Heights, 619-298-2801. It’s colorful, small, and intimate. This two-room café pulsates with multicolored cloths, midnight blue cushions, Aladdin-shaped pitchers and samovars. What you’re eating is basically Persian health food — most Persian fare is healthy food anyway. Try the pomegranate soup, made of spinach with lentils, beans, wheat, and pomegranate juice, or the strawberry tabbouleh salad. Lamb is often a part of dishes. *Ghormeh sabzi* is a lamb stew. *Koufteh-Berenji* is a ball of basmati rice with lamb, eggs, onions, and plums. And don’t forget tea. They have everything from Darjeeling and Caspian to Lapacho Bark, Black Peach, and, if you really need a boost, Temple of Heaven Gunpowder. Breakfast through early-ish dinner Tuesday to Saturday; breakfast and lunch only, Sundays. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (10/02)*

Sushi Itto Sushi Itto, 441 Washington, Hillcrest, 619-291-6060. Don’t come here looking for Japanese food. This is *Mexican* sushi, from a chain based in Mexico City that’s dedicated to creating rolls for Mexican tastes. Nearly all the party rolls feature cream cheese and avocado and most include a shot of hot spice and some fake crab (*surimi*), too.

In their own way, they’re fun, so long as you’re prepared to give up any puristic standards and go with the flow. But don’t bother with the plain *nigiri* — the rice lacks classic sushi seasonings (and is often dry), and the seafood is too mediocre to be appealing in simple preparations. Rock-bottom prices, though. Another branch is in the Gaslamp at 409 F Street, 619-237-1037. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — *N.W. (8/05)*

Whole Foods Market 711 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-294-2800. For vegetarians on the go, Whole Foods’ prepared food section will feed you better — and faster — than any vegetarian restaurant in town. Outstanding selections include green chili and cheese polenta; Emerald Mushrooms salad or Rapid Dragon greens, both with a sweet surprise of raspberry jam; and, especially, their *farofa* salad, like American stuffing, but it’s couscous studded with almonds, fat raisins, thin strips of scrambled egg, and bits of carrot and bell pepper. Whole Foods’ vegetarian meals will tempt any meat-eater with their delicious originality. La Jolla branch at 8825 Villa La Jolla Drive, 619-642-6700. Inexpensive to moderate. — *M.N. (4/99)*

DOWNTOWN

Acqua Al 2 322 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-230-0382. Despite its monicker, this isn’t a seafood trattoria, but a near-fishless branch of a restaurant in Florence that won success by eschewing the standard Florentine menu while maintaining Tuscan purity of style.

Chef-owner Martin Gonzales trained there and serves as charming host of the local outpost. Best bets are the vegetarian pasta and rice dishes made with aromatic porcini mushrooms. The tasting of five pastas may sound tempting, but they’re chef’s choice — and he tends to choose the dull ones. “Tastings” of salads, cheeses, and desserts are also offered. Mains are mainly rather plain. Moderate (pasta) to expensive. — *N.W. (11/00)*

Bangkok BBQ 936 Broadway Circle, 619-231-4124. “We’re the revolutionaries,” says the owner of this chicken-only Thai eatery. “We’re taking Thai food back to its true tastes.” The place may look modern, but much seems to be prepared traditionally on the spot, from tamarind sauce to bean curd. The “BBQ” part comes from the open grill upfront where they sizzle chicken, marinated in coconut milk and wine, for the *satés*, salads, and the basic chicken with rice dish. The chicken *musaman* is nice and rich with its curry coconut sauce, and you’ve got to try the dish the owner invented to honor the city: the San Diego Wrap, with chicken *saté*, avocado, raw veggies, and peanut sauce. Lunch, dinner, daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (3/04)*

The Blarney Stone 510 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-233-8519. This handsome establishment, made of dark wood from the Emerald Isle, includes a large, good-looking separate dining room that opens when the dining public forms a critical mass, or around 8 p.m. Like most local Irish pubs, the menu is mainly American and gringo-Mex snack foods, including an “Irish quesadilla” (corned beef and cheese on a flour tortilla). The three wannabe Celtic dishes are an in-

different corned beef and cabbage, “steak Kildare” (a tough, mushroom-smothered rib eye), and “fish and chips Liffey,” which aren’t noticeably different from, say, fish and chips “Thames” or “Afton” or even “Missouri.” Open daily. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W. (4/01)*

Buon Appetito 1609 India Street, Little Italy, 619-238-9880. At the chic, art-filled fourth branch of a chain that started with Hillcrest’s Arrividerci, the bill of fare combines the pick hits of the mother-ship and of Encinitas cousin-restaurant I Trulli. The menu calls the cuisine “Nouvelle Italian,” blending traditional and trendy Mediterranean ingredients. Seasonal specials change monthly. Most appetizers and pastas are fine (entrées often less so), but the kitchen can be hasty, turning out hard-centered risotto or burnt seafood. Winners include antipasto, quail with lentils, and wine-braised rabbit in the style of the Italian Alps. Desserts are mainly weighty. Wine list is an affordable treat, highlighting mysterious Italian grape varieties from small-scale bottlers; the adept staff can help you choose one to match your order. Euro-pop plays loudly inside; noise-sensitive may prefer patio tables. Lunch and dinner daily (with break between); open until 11 p.m. on weekends. Moderate to expensive. — *N.W. (5/04)*

Buster’s Beach House and Long-board Bar 807 West Harbor Drive, East Plaza, Seaport Village, 619-233-4300. There really is a Buster, a surfer who traveled the world working in restaurants. Baja, Oahu, Fiji, Naples, Ocho Rios, Phuket — you name it, there’s a dish from each of those waters,

and every one of them ethnically incorrect. The menu’s actually an international anthology of surfer-bar grub — and like Waimea Bay’s waves, it has huge ups and downs. Skip the greasy “Short Board” pupu platter and risky daily fish special and go for the well-seasoned crab cakes, shark tacos, spicy “paella” (more like jambalaya), or pizza. The surfy, fun decor and breezy patio easily compensate for some of the spaciest service in town; a full bar offers a great beer list and decent umbrella drinks. To snag a patio table, reserve it and make sure they write it down. Three hours validated parking, kid-friendly, plenty for vegetarians. Open three meals daily. Prices cover the waterfront. — *N.W. (7/03)*

Chopahn Authentic Afghan Cuisine 750 Sixth Avenue (near F Street), Gaslamp, 619-236-9236. Authentic Afghan cuisine resembles Indian and Persian food but is singularly itself; the spicing is exotic but the flavors are clear and unmuddled. It emphasizes grilled-to-order marinated meats (especially lamb), stews, and well-seasoned rice dishes, and uniquely delicious appetizers such as leek ravioli (*aushak*), leek or meat turnovers (*bulanee*) and battered vegetables *pakawra*. The grilled salmon is excellent, and don’t miss the side dish of sweet pumpkin topped with yogurt and meat sauce (*kadu*). Plenty for vegetarians, too. Interesting, affordable wine list; Mexican and domestic beers. Small patio. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Moderate. — *N.W. (8/05)*

Croce’s Restaurant and Jazz Bar 802 Fifth Avenue, downtown, 619-233-4355. “Live music is complimentary with purchase of a dinner en-

trée” at this restaurant and bar run by Ingrid Croce in honor of her late husband, Jim. Appetizers that mix flavors — like the baked brie and honey-roasted garlic served with mixed greens and a Grand Marnier berry compote — are delicious. But despite creative dishes, like New Zealand sea bass with a pomegranate-macadamia crust, few entrées rise above the level of average Gaslamp fare. Simple is best here — the rich and creamy shrimp *carbonara* fettuccine with Italian pancetta, Kalamata olives, and basil in a white garlic cream sauce. For dessert, try the flourless chocolate cake with roasted walnuts and pecans served with Tahitian vanilla bean gelato and Verona chocolate sauce. The menu is seasonal, so we can hope that the rhubarb and pear crisp (or “rhubarb and pear soggy”) does not make the cut next season. Sit by the window for great people-watching or retire to the bar if you prefer live jazz. Open nightly for dining and music. Expensive. — *B.D. (10/05)*

Deco’s 731 Fifth Avenue (between G and F), Gaslamp, 619-696-DECO. When the disco is not in session here, there’s surprisingly fine food in this vast, multi-room glamorama, stunningly done up like a Fred-and-Ginger 1930s ballroom. The eats are in a lightly adventurous California-Asian-Mediterranean mode featuring quality seafood handled with care and creativity; don’t miss the ethereal bread pudding for dessert. (The requisite sushi “party rolls” are merely okay.) Service is hip, smart, and kind. Best dining nights: disco-less Tuesday and Wednesday. Call ahead if you want to book an off-menu meal. No cover charge on disco nights for patrons who order dinner before 9 p.m.; no sneaks, shorts,

Restaurant Coupons and Menus SanDiegoReader.com

Restaurants listed without coupon offers have only menus online. Restaurants with • have multiple locations. See online menu or coupon for all locations.

Pacific Beach, Mission Beach & Ocean Beach

Atoll at the Catamaran Hotel
Bay Ho Bar & Grill **Free appetizer or dessert**
Broken Yolk **\$2 off breakfast or lunch**
Canes **Free wing basket**
Chateau Orleans **50% off**
Costa Brava **Free tapa for lunch**
French Gourmet **Free dessert**
Great Moon Buffet **10% off total bill**
Gringo's **\$2 off weekend breakfast**
Hawaiian Island Barbecue **Free entrée**
Lahaina Beach House **Free breakfast**
Lanna Thai **50% off entrée**
Newport Pizza & Ale House **50% off pizza**
OB Grille **\$2 off sandwich or burger**
Pacific Beach Bar & Grill **2 for 1 entrée**
Sam's by the Sea
Sandbar Sports Grill **Free taco**
Tokyo House **2 for 1 sushi rolls**

La Jolla

Beaumont's **10% off total bill**
Brockton Villa **10% off total bill**
Ginza-Sushi **Sushi dinner for 2 \$15.95***
La Basil **\$5 off lunch or dinner***
La Jolla Brew House **Free entrée**
Marrakesh **10% off lunch**
Su Casa **25% off entire check***

Uptown & North Park

Garden Grill **50% off entrée**
Harar Ethiopian **Sampler for 2 \$15.99**
Hob Nob Hill **\$2 off entrée**
India Princess **50% off dinner***
Lips **50% off dinner**
Rannoosh **Free entrée**
Rudford's **\$2 off entrée**
Taste of Italy **Free Oreo cheesecake***
Teriyaki Cowboy **Sake and beer \$5.50**
Urban Grind **50% off lunch or brunch**

Clairemont, University City, Miramar Rd., Poway, Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch & Kearny Mesa

Ashoka the Great **50% off lunch or dinner**
Filling Station **Free appetizer**
La China
Philadelphia Sandwich Co. **Free sandwich**
Thai Cafe **\$1 off buffet**

Downtown & Point Loma

Alambres **Free soup**
Bacchus Wine Market **10 samples \$10**
Beach City Market **\$2 off deli/sushi**
Blue Water Seafood **25% off**
Cafe Loma **1/2 off coffee**
Chopahn Afghan **3-course dinner \$25.95**
Dancing Dog Deli **\$1 off Egg Scrambles**
Embers Grille **50% off entrée**
The Field
Fifth & Hawthorn **Free dessert**
Gaglione Brothers **1/2 off sandwich**
Hard Rock Café •
Hornblower Cruises
House of Blues **20% off restaurant receipt**
Humphrey's
Jolt'n Joe's •
Lotus Thai Cuisine **50% off entrée**
Luxor Cafe **Free dessert**
McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant
Mister Tiki Mai Thai Lounge
Olé Madrid **2 for 1 lunch or brunch entrée**
Puerto La Boca **Free Argentine dessert**
RA Sushi
Rei do Gado
Rock Bottom
Rockin' Baja Lobster **Big Baja Bucket for 2 \$29.99***
Sevilla **Dinner show with wine for 2 \$75**
Sonrise on the Point **Free breakfast/lunch**
St. Tropez Bakery-Bistro **20% off***
Star of India **50% off entrée***
Thai Time II **Free fried spring rolls**

North County

Big Jim's Bar-B-Q **Free entrée**
Café de Thai **20% off bill**
Calypso
Golden Baked Hams **\$8 off whole ham**
Greek Village **Free saganaki**
Jamroc 101 **Free island sampler**
Le Petit Calypso **Free appetizer**
Mas Fina Cantina **50% off entrée**
Mikko Japanese **50% off sushi**
Noodles & Company •
Passage to India **50% off dinner***
Wild Note Cafe
Zibibbo **Free tiramisu**
Zip & Zack's **Free appetizer**

Midway, Old Town & Mission Valley

The Amigo Spot **15% off entire bill**
Bali Thai **50% off entrée**
Bennigan's **Free appetizer or dessert**
Chiba Japanese **\$2 off lunch or dinner**
Churasco's **50% off entrée**
Frank's Happy Chef **50% off entrée**
Old Town Mexican Cafe
Paradise Yogurt **50 cents off a smoothie**
Pizza Bella **Dinner for 2 \$29.95**
Plaza del Pasado **Free entrée**
Seau's **25% off bill**
Shanghai Chinese **\$1 off Mongolian BBQ**
Thai Time II
Tio Leo's **Dinner combos \$8.50 each***
Todai **10% off lunch or dinner**

South Bay & Coronado

Lai Thai **50% off entrée**

East County & State College

Greek Town Buffet **50% off dinner buffet**

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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

or Ts if you're clubbing. Serious wine list runs high; full bar. Happy hour Friday; dinner 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Very expensive, but somewhat affordable if you graze on appetizers. — N.W. (7/03)

El Carrito 2154 Logan Avenue, Barrio Logan, 619-702-4806. It's called "El Carrito" — "The Streetcar" — for a reason. This gem was one of San Diego's fleet of trolleys that trundled around the city for 60 years from 1889. When the city opted to tarmac over the rails in 1948, a local family rescued this car and turned it into an eatery. Today it is little changed. The menu is old-fashioned Mexican, with breakfasts like ranchero-style eggs, rice, and beans; *bistek a la plancha con huevos* (grilled steak with fried eggs, rice, and frijoles); good pork chops; and the Big Three: *caldo de rez* (beef soup), *pozole* (meat and hominy), and *menudo*, the famous tripe soup hangover reliever. Three meals, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B. (6/04)

The Field Irish Pub and Restaurant 544 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-232-9840. This spirited, colorful saloon, physically transported whole-hog from the Ould Sod, offers delicious Irish music live most nights, and also attempts serious Irish cooking — with some successes. Try the lovely herb-rich Irish stew, or the boxty, potato crêpes rolled around your choice from a variety of fillings (salmon, beef, etc.). Or start the day here with a huge, carnivorous Irish breakfast. Open daily. Low moderate. — N.W. (4/01)

Lou and Mickey's 224 Fifth Avenue (between K and L), Gaslamp, 619-237-4900. The onetime ornate Royale Brasserie across from the Convention Center finally had to bow to conventional tastes and simplify into a fifties-style steak-and-seafood house. Kings Seafood is still the owner, so the fish quality remains fine. The fare is simple, with minimal sauce or garnish; vegetables cost extra, coming in large portions but merely adequate preparations. Best dishes include "BBQ Shrimp, Man-ales' Style," a buttery, spicy New Orleans extravaganza (available as starter or entrée), and the huge, juicy rib-eye "Cow-

boy Steak." Valet parking at door. Wraparound heated dining patio. Noisy in dining room near bar; request "Nude Room" for quiet. For interesting wines at good prices, look into "Adventures" sections of the list. Dinner nightly, weekends until 11 p.m. Fish moderate, meats expensive. — N.W. (7/03)

McCormick & Schmick's Omni Hotel, 675 L Street (at Sixth Avenue), downtown, 619-645-6545. This ever-expanding chain from the Pacific Northwest may be the Starbucks of fish. Most of the dishes are still the corporate specialties, pleasing rather than exciting. The daily changing menu features about 30 varieties of fresh seafood, delivered daily in over 50 preparations, plus a handful of poultry and meat dishes. The long, interesting, mainly reasonable wine list is printed on back of the daily menu. Restaurant is often busy at lunch and packed for early dinners during Petco home-game nights, so reserve when the team's in town. A heated terrace is mainly used during lunch and game nights. Full bar. Open daily, three meals to 11 p.m. Lunch moderate; dinner moderate to expensive — N.W. (10/05)

Patty's Fruitland 1789 National Avenue (at Beardsley), Barrio Logan, 619-239-3085. Patty used to sell fresh fruit drinks outside a church in Guajuato. In 1994 she came to America and married Jose. "Why can't we sell fruit drinks in America?" she wondered. Now they've opened a place where you can get combos like the *pico de gallo* (rooster's beak) with lots of fresh-sliced fruit and raw veggies (jicama, cucumber), all dusted with cayenne pepper. They've expanded to nonfruit (roast beef and other sandwiches, shrimp tostadas, hot dogs), but the fruit and juices define the place. The most tempting: fruit salad with cottage cheese, granola, and honey. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday. Inexpensive. — E.B. (3/04)

Pokez Mexican Restaurant and Vegetarian Cuisine 947 E Street (at Tenth Avenue), downtown, 619-702-7160. Rafael — his buddies call him Rafa — started this cool student/artist hangout years ago when he was 18. Lunchtime business people come here. Evenings, seems like it's all Rafa's friends: people from downtown, Golden Hill, City College. The food is mostly Mexican vegetarian (though he's got meaty things like chicken or steak ranchero or sautéed chicken fajitas). Tip well: the servers volunteer and share the

take from the gravy pot. Three meals weekdays; closes earlier on weekends. — E.B. (12/01)

Sadaf 828 Fifth Avenue (at E Street), Gaslamp, 619-338-0008. Vegetarian-friendly. Quiet and relaxed weeknights, the room becomes an ear-splitting mob scene weekends (even before the restaurant goes disco at 9:30). The hearty but sophisticated Persian fare centers on well-marinated kebabs and herb-rich stews, served with various savory rice dishes. There's excellent spinach *borani*, sieved yogurt relish with cucumbers, lamb chop kebabs, and a vibrant, sweet-sour *fesenjan* (pomegranate-walnut sauce with chicken). But the Gaslamp branch's kitchen is wildly inconsistent, e.g., your *fesenjan* dumped on dry kebabs instead of mingling with simmered poultry. Desserts are always dreamy — try rosewater ice cream and/or pudding, or *bamieh*, a delicate ladyfinger soaked in (what else?) rosewater syrup. Moderate. — N.W. (12/00)

Taka 555 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-338-0555. The seafood at this always-packed sushi bar and Japanese appetizer-restaurant is top quality. *Ama ebi* (sweet shrimp) from the live tank go down soft and silky smooth, unlike their frozen brethren. And the chefs are highly skilled: the well-seasoned rice is freshly made all evening, and for once the spicy scallop hand roll has scallops, mayo, cuke, and hot pepper running all the way through, not just plopped on top. Savory appetizers supplement the sushi, including miso-baked black cod and mushroom-topped *agedashi* (lightly-fried) tofu. The one problem: the later you arrive, the louder it gets. Make reservations, and if you value your ears, go at an early hour. Dinner nightly. Most dishes inexpensive, but many little bites can eat a hole in your wallet. — N.W. (7/04)

Vincenzo Ristorante Italiano 1702 India Street, Little Italy, 619-702-6181. The specialty at this tourist favorite is Sicilian seafood. The cooking is competent, but the restaurant's fishmonger settles for ordinary quality (as does the produce provider). The meat jobber does a better job, providing succulent lamb and veal that the chef grills expertly, and the Italian sausages (from Pete's Meats, up the block) are the ziestiest in town. The restaurant's hard-surfaced interior is so noisy you'll hear every conversation but your own; reserve for the sidewalk patio for a quieter evening.

Open lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Moderate. — N.W. (8/01)

SOUTH BAY & CORONADO

Bino's European Coffees and Crepes 1120 Adella Avenue (just off Orange Avenue), Coronado, 619-522-0612. This little round-the-corner café (south of the Post Office) has to be good: it's a favorite retreat for local chefs. Bino bakes his own breads and croissants daily and creates great crunchy sandwiches. Try the Brie Fantasy (chicken breast, roasted marinated peppers, double cream Brie cheese) or the roast beef and jack cheese. Even the veggie sandwich squishes with luscious eggplant, and the crêpes are delicious and filling too. Bino's wife is Austrian and makes great Viennese-style coffee. Open daily until 7 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/00)

Cafe 1134 1134 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-437-1134. Rick Chapman has created a French café atmosphere with round Parisian tables and slat chairs outside and a balcony inside. Here Coronado's arty types mix with admirals, CEOs, and SEALs. Big fat cups of tea are a favored drink. Breakfasts are mostly steamed eggs plus extras, such as the Americana with two steamed eggs, Swiss cheese and ham, a side of fruit and sliced baguette. Lunches are sandwiches (like curried tuna or brie con pesto) or salads (try the chicken). Best deal: the Combo Special, a half sandwich and soup or salad. And there's always an art exhibition going on inside. Open daily, three meals; service until 11 p.m. on weekends. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/01)

Galley at the Marina 550 Marina Parkway, Chula Vista, 619-422-5714. This is a great place to relax, take in the view, and decide which yacht you're gonna buy when you win the lotto. It's run by Fran Muncey, widow of Bill Muncey, San Diego's greatest speedboat-racing champion. The tasty, bargain-priced Happy Hour specials (3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Sunday) make a visit worth the trip west of I-5: try a 1/2-pound steer-burger with French fries, chicken Caesar salad with sourdough toast, or a filet mignon steak plate with steak fries. Next morning, catch the breakfast favorite: biscuits and sausage gravy with eggs. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/00)

Point-Point Joint 916 East Eighth Street, National City, 619-474-2866. You're in Little Manila here, heartland of San Diego's Filipino community. So the food has to be authentic. Your problem's going to be choosing. Dozens of dishes with mysterious meats and veggies. You can play safe and choose, say, chicken barbecue on a bamboo spit, chicken *adobo*, or *longaniza* sausage. But you should seek out less familiar choices, too. *Kare-kare* (yam, peanut butter sauce with beef and tripe) is delicious, and so is *dinuguan*, pork in pork blood, also known as "chocolate meat." Want healthy? There's *monggo* (mung beans) with bitter melon leaves, or point to a pile of split, deep-fried fish — *daing na bangus*, vinegar-soaked milk fish, said to be popular with old men with high blood pressure. Lunch, dinner seven days; breakfast Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.B. (8/03)

Rhinoceros 1166 Orange Avenue (at Loma Avenue), Coronado, 619-435-2121. This bright, hectic bistro next door to the Lamb's Players Theatre draws pre-theatre crowds as well as locals — and that may be a problem, since the rushed pace of service doesn't abate even after the playgoers have departed. Perhaps that's why there are few appetizer choices (as though to discourage diners from spending extra time at the table). You may even be charged a "split plate" fee for sharing a first course despite ordering individual entrées. Meat and fish choices are simply prepared with ingredients of ordinary quality and generic veggie accompaniments. Why, then, is Rhino so popular? Pasta (and nothing but pasta) is the answer — that's where the kitchen shines. Very noisy when crowded; street tables are slightly quieter despite heavy traffic. Reservations advised for weekends, pre-show dinners. Moderate (pastas) to expensive. — N.W. (7/01)

Zorbas Family Restaurant 100 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-422-8853. We haven't got to plate-breaking yet, but Greek dancing is alive and well at Zorba's on Fridays and Saturdays. That includes the *zembekikos*, where the dancer picks a glass of ouzo off the floor with his mouth and drinks it. The rest of the week? Families fill this place. They're here for the buffet, spooning up the *spanakopita* (spinach in deliciously flaky pastry), *dolmathes*, (ground beef and rice rolled in grape leaves), moussaka (eggplant, zucchini, and ground beef), and lamb. Try dividing your meal into three:

first visit the salad section. Grab their real, strong-tasting olives, tabbouleh, hummus, onions, lettuce, and pita bread. Return for the heavies, the lamb and beef dishes. Then leave room for baklava and other desserts. It may not be the gourmet's method, but there's no better way to fill a belly. Lunch, dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B. (2/03)

BAJA

From the United States use the prefix 011-52-664 when calling Tijuana; when calling in Tijuana use only the restaurant's seven-digit number.

El Rincon del Oso Mercado Hidalgo, Calle Victoria #47, Rio District, Tijuana. Eating goat is an acquired taste. This little market restaurant is a good place to start acquiring. It serves kid for breakfast that's surprisingly easy on the taste buds. The best part is scooping the juices and the meat into a hot corn tortilla, adding cilantro, lime, grated onions, and a splash of salsa, and chomping in. It's meaty, slightly rich, almost gamey, like deer or buffalo, except the juices round out that gamey aftertaste. Come early morning for the best kid and the best market scenes. Open seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/01)

El Taurino Steak House Sixth Street #7531 (three blocks west of Revolución), Tijuana, 685-7075. Looking for the home of the foot-long steak? At this old-line surf n' turf eatery a (real) wall-mounted bull's head lunges at you; his severed ears and tail hang beside him. But anchors and portholes and *barcas* (boats) stuccoed on the white and green walls also emphasize the menu's "surf" side. It's all very forties. Fine linens, lifer waiters, and unchanged but good food — like marinated grilled quail, shrimp *al ajillo* (cooked in oil, garlic, and chili), and fish steamed *empapelado* (in parchment paper). A must-try is the signature *cabreria* steak, a thin but foot-long slab with guacamole, beans, onions, jalepeño, tortillas, and soup or salad. On second thought, the *media* (half) *cabreria* should be enough for most. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. — E.B. (9/04)

La Petite Cafe Avenida Constitución #720-Q, in Foreign Club Passage off Revolución between 3rd and 4th (beside Maxim's), Tijuana, 688-2171. You're in a side eddy here from the storm of Revolución among Olmec sculptures, Aztec



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Mariscos el Locochon Popotla fishing village, five minutes south of Rosarito Beach (non-toll road), dirt road next to Fox studios. There are smarter places to eat, like Puerto Nuevo. Even in Popotla, most other eateries look more like, well, eateries. The thing about Pedro García Barcelo and El Locochón is that they are what they are. His fishermen friends hand him fish straight off the boats, he sells them on a table in the sand, and if you so desire, he'll toss one into a pan of oil on a wood fire, fry a couple of corn tortillas, add cilantro, tomatoes, radishes, fried *cebollitas* (green onions), and presto! He'll hand you your freshest fish taco ever. Work out a price with him. He's there every day till dusk. Inexpensive. — E.B. (3/04)

Salon Azteca Rosarito Beach Hotel, south end of Boulevard Benito Juárez, Rosarito, 661-612-1111. This fabled old hotel's all-you-can-eat Sunday brunch buffet offers a great excuse to check out the gorgeous architecture and meet other travelers in town. To reach the buffet, go to the left behind the registration desk to the Salon Azteca, walk in, grab a plate, and start dishing up your breakfast from the long line of cafeteria-like bins filled with *gringo*, *gringo-Mex*, real Mexican (*menudo*), and international specialties. Expect to tip if you want something from the omelet or carving station. Next, plunk down at a table where a waiter will arrive to serve you juice and endless cups of decent coffee. Casual dress. Secure parking in hotel lot for a small extra charge. Sundays only, 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Somewhat expensive for the area; Visa and MasterCard accepted. — N.W. (4/03)

Saverio's Restaurant Mediterraneo Boulevard Sánchez Taboada #3151 (at Escuadrón 201 Street), Zona Río, Tijuana, 686-6442. When Javier Plascencia Huerta wanted to open an Italian restaurant, he went all the way. He built a complete Tuscan villa right next to venerable Hacienda *Cien Años*. "But then," says Plascencia, "I got interested in what Baja California has to offer." The result: an Italian *palazzo* offering an interesting and changing fusion of Mediterranean-Baja food with dishes like roasted baby octopus, local oysters cooked on the mesquite grill, mesquite-grilled quail from Ense-

nada's valley of Guadalupe, mussels cultivated in Baja farms, and a delicious rack of lamb raised in the local San Vicente valley. The restaurant even grows its own herbs. Dish presentation is pure art. One of the tastiest: roast duck breast in a guava sauce with a little burrito of candied leg meat. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. — E.B. (8/04)

Super Antojitos 1810 4th Street (between Constitución and Niños Heroes), Tijuana, 685-5070. Sr. Lechuga's restaurant has been around for 40 years, for good reason. Early mornings, people line up for breakfast. You enter a sort of heaven: arches, hidden lighting, glass chandeliers, even a statue of the Virgin Mary. The breakfast special, called *mole poblano*, includes two eggs, enchilada *de mole*, rice, beans, and bread or tortillas. The delicious *mole*, Sr. Lechuga's own, contains raisins, avocado, plantain, almonds, peanuts, thyme, and cilantro. Plus, you're drinking Sr. Lechuga's own coffee. He grows it down south. *Super antojitos* means super snacks, so search out the *pastes* — pastries stuffed with *mole*, cheese, or ground meat and potatoes. Also delicious: pork rind *gorditas*. Open daily, three meals. Inexpensive. — E.B. (3/20)

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Karl Strauss Brewery Restaurant 1157 Columbia Street, downtown, 619-234-2739. One-time Pabst brewmeister Karl Strauss heads his own brewery and a bunch of brewery restaurants bearing his name, so you can't help

but be a little wary of an over-slick operation. But at least at downtown's ivy-covered brick drink and eatery, the food's honest, tasty, and sleek, not slick. And Karl's beers are still interesting. Go for honest-but-beautiful dishes like his "Hump Day" meatloaf (Wednesdays only), which comes looking like a Magic Mountain, or the grilled marinated eggplant sandwich on focaccia. Beer influence is everywhere. Filet mignon has an Amber Lager glaze. Ribs boast a Red Trolley Ale barbecue sauce. It can get pricey; try to hit happy hour. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. Other branches at 9675 Scranton Road, Sorrento Mesa, 858-587-2739; 5801 Armada Drive, Carlsbad, 760-431-2739; 1044 Wall Street, La Jolla, 858-551-2739. — E.B. (11/03)

The Living Room Coffeehouse 5900 El Cajon Boulevard (at 59th Street), College Area, 619-286-8434. With deep-draft couches, Persian carpets, pictures on the wall, chunky wooden tables, and a tree-shaded patio, this Swiss-owned café is a student hangout with a lively notice board, a rental computer, and good cheap breakfast food in huge quantities. Try "The Works" omelet, with bacon, ham, onions, tomatoes, pepper, cheese on top, potatoes, fruit, and bread. Open daily, three meals, until late at night. Inexpensive. Additional locations in Hillcrest, Old Town, Point Loma, and La Jolla. — E.B. (10/00)

The Original Pancake House 3906 Convo Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-565-1740. Starve yourself for eight hours, then come in here and order up an Apple Pancake — a foot-wide, batter-filled, five-egg paradise pelted with slices from two Granny Smith apples and baked till it puffs up like a golden mini-

superdome. Cinnamon cinches it. The German Pancake, or its kid brother, the Dutch Baby, are good oven-baked alternatives, as is the really, really filling mushroom omelet, which comes with three pancakes. Oh, and the Eggs Michael: sausage patties and poached eggs lost somewhere under a mushroom-sherry sauce. The whole atmosphere — striped gold-and-cream wallpaper, dainty cups, shelves of ceramic dogs — feels like it's the Fifties and your granny took you here when you were five. OK, it's a nationwide franchise, but it's a comfy franchise, from Oregon. All-day breakfast only, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Inexpensive. Other locations at 14905 Pomerado Road, Poway, 858-679-0186; 160 South Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas, 760-943-1939; 435 South Mel-

rose Drive, Vista, 760-758-3441. — E.B. (4/02)

Star Of India 1820 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-483-1372; also 3860 Valley Centre Drive, Del Mar, 858-792-1111; and 423 F Street, Gaslamp, 619-234-8000. It's the lunch buffet that can lead you by the nose into Indian (and here, specifically *Punjabi*)

food. Pick among specialties like vegetable *pakora* — a bunch of veggies dipped in chickpea batter and fried, or a nice mess of eggplant with potatoes, chicken curry *masala*, and maybe the first cooked spinach you ever loved, *palak paneer*. At the PB location, you sit under a sky-blue cupola. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B. (11/01)

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"She" was born a "he" and spent her life harassed by Nazis and neo-Nazi skinheads.

2005 IN REVIEW. An unforgettable performance or production doesn't often come back as a whole memory. Usually it's a fragment that triggers others. In 2005's most astonishing performance, Jefferson Mays in *I Am My Own Wife* at the La Jolla Playhouse, I first see his hands — large, strong hands that have known hard work, yet eerily delicate, cradling an obscure museum piece as if it were the Holy Grail.

Then comes his black outfit: dress, shoes, scarf on his head, and a pearl necklace. Then his character comes into focus: Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, née Lotter Berfelde. "She" was born a "he" and spent her life harassed by Nazis and neo-Nazi skinheads ("the same stalls, only different pigs"). Somehow, as she struggled to preserve priceless treasures for posterity, she maintained an inner light.

Mays won a Tony for his performance, and — I doubt I'm betraying the most obvious of confidences — his solo performance will be honored at the San Diego Theatre Critics Awards ceremony on January 30. He could also have qualified for an ensemble award, since he played over 30 other people, each precise and deep, fully alive in an instant.

I Am My Own Wife is currently on a world tour. For reasons that may have made sense on the drawing board, one of the stagings (I think in Philadelphia) will use a second actor to play

the ensemble characters. Big mistake. Along with showing Mays's extraordinary virtuosity, having one person play all the parts enhances the play's deconstruction of labels and boundaries. Bringing in a second actor's like having Tony Gwynn bat with a tennis racket.

Last fall, Chita Rivera played herself at the Old Globe. *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life* was a wobbly vehicle. Parsimonious with its riches, it only staged portions of songs or dance numbers, then would cut to another as it skimmed through her storied career. The evening moved in fits and starts, but Rivera was splendid.

Jefferson Mays created a historical figure, and two eras. Rivera gave us living history. I will never forget how she re-created her audition for Anita in *West Side Story*. Jerome Robbins wanted something new: singers in musicals who could also dance and act. She mumbles her first try with "A boy like that"; her voice is so neutral you barely recognize the song. Composer Leonard Bernstein suggests a new rinse, says, "Warm it up." Rivera does. Close, but no banana. "Now be angry," he says. Rivera grinds in; Anita roars out, ordering Maria to "stick to your own kind." And we shot back to a turning point in musical history — the birth of the "triple-threat performer."

Over the past few years, theaters have cut back on the number of rehearsals for a show. Economics has dominated aesthetics, with the result that opening nights have become more spotty.

REVIEW
JEFF SMITH



Jefferson Mays

Nowadays productions often hit their stride a week or two into the run. Because of this shift — and thanks to its own merits — Theatre de la Jeune Lune's touring production of *The Miser*, at the La Jolla Playhouse, was by far the most polished opening night we saw last year.

Impeccable timing and detailed performances of Molière's quirky characters were just part of a larger effect. What struck then, and stays in memory now, was the play's eerie world: skinflint hell. Harpagon's such a cheapskate he revels at the sight of disrepair. His moldy, neoclassical home — broken doors, a floor that wobbled like a funhouse mirror — had all the color, and the life, sucked out.

Stephen Epps's Harpagon was an ancient brat, stuck in the terrible twos and fixated on acquiring and hoarding gold. Harpagon exercised such control that everyone around him was, at best, a partial person. They spoke half-sentences and moved in strange, often warped ways — mirroring each other, dangling from a chair on a wall — which were actually commedia dell'arte devices grounded in an unsightly realism.

Like the inmates in Philip K. Dick's *Clans of the Alphane Moon*, Molière's partial people combined their individual strengths and defeated Harpagon in a truly comic comeuppance.

I will long remember 2005 for the ten minutes

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before every opening night at the Cygnet Theatre: everyone alive with genuine anticipation. You *knew* you were about to see something. Cygnet did such consistently high-quality work, it's near impossible to choose a favorite production, performance, or design from its stagings of Lanford Wilson's *Burn This*, Tennessee Williams's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Sam Shepard's *Curse of the Starving Class*, or Lillian Hellman's *Little Foxes*.

I don't remember which, but ten minutes after one of Cygnet's opening nights I overheard an actor say, "That just renewed my faith in what I do."

* * *

LOOKING AHEAD: January's usually the deadest month in local theater; 2006 may be different:

1. *The Times They Are a-Changin'*. The Old Globe Theatre stages the world premiere of a musical, directed and choreographed by Twyla Tharp, based on the music of Bob Dylan. Captain Ahab runs a "low-rent traveling circus" (that hasn't moved in some time). Ahab has an eye for young Cleo, the animal trainer, and so does Ahab's son, Coyote. Previews begin January 25.

2. *Much Ado About Nothing*. The La Jolla Playhouse hosts the British-American Aquila Theatre Company's acclaimed production of Shakespeare's comedy. The show, which ran for six months off-Broadway and was performed at the White House, is inspired by the espionage send-ups of the 1960s: *The Avengers* and *The Pink Panther*. Previews begin January 17.

3. *Quidam*. Cirque du Soleil's newest show launches its American tour at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Pronounced "key-dam" (the Latin word for an "anonymous passerby"), the production includes aerial contortion in silk, Spanish webs, the German wheel, "diabolos," and a 120-foot overhead conveyor that lowers and levitates members of the 50-person cast. The blue and yellow Grand Chapiteau tent opens January 19 for a limited run.

4. *Restless Spirits*. the San Diego Rep offers the world premiere of Allan Havis's mystery. A UCSD prof and award-winning playwright, Havis set the play in San Diego (and based the work on over 100 local interviews). A "passionate and troubled scholar in the study of ghosts and spirits" discovers she is part of a "vibrant and ever-evolving family that crosses boundaries of time, culture, and ethnicity." Previews begin January 28. ■

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.

Ajax

6th@Penn Theatre presents a new translation, by Marianne McDonald, of Sophocles's tragedy of Ajax, who believed he deserved the armor of slain Achilles. Forest Aylsworth directed. 6TH@PENN THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AVENUE, HILLCREST, THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, THROUGH FEBRUARY 5; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-688-9210.

Beautiful Thing

Diversions Theatre presents Jonathan Harvey's tale of two London lads who fall in love. Rosina Reynolds directed. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BOULEVARD, UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, THROUGH FEBRUARY 5; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. 619-220-0097.

The Exonerated

Lynx Performance Theatre presents Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen's drama, based on actual events, about six innocent men and women who emerged from Death Row and attempted to "reclaim what is left of their hearts, minds, and dignity." Al Germani directed. LYNX PERFORMANCE THEATRE SPACE, 2653-R ARIANE DRIVE, ROSE CANYON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, THROUGH FEBRUARY 9; TUESDAY AND FRIDAY AT 9:00 P.M., THURSDAY AT 9:15 P.M., SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-280-2641.

The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler

South Coast Repertory Theatre stages the world premiere of Jeff Whitty's irreverent comedy about Ibsen's heroine, cursed to live on in an "alternative hell." Bill Rauch directed. SOUTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, JULIANNE ARGYROS STAGE, 655 TOWN CENTER DRIVE, COSTA MESA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, THROUGH JANUARY 29; TUESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY AT 7:45 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 714-708-5555.

Joey and Maria's Comedy Italian Wedding

The Culy Theater hosts "not-so-ordinary interactive dinner theater," as Joey and Maria tie the knot. LAFAYETTE INN AND SUITES, NORTH PARK, OPEN-ENDED RUN. FOR DAYS AND TIMES CALL 800-944-5639.

Killer Reunion

Mystery Cafe's newest interactive comedy takes place at a high school reunion that doesn't go according to plan. IMPERIAL HOUSE RESTAURANT, 505 KALMIA STREET, BANKER'S HILL, OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT

8:00 P.M. 619-544-1600.

The Lion King

Okay, okay, in the food chain of Broadway musicals, *The Lion King* is just *Cats* gone carnivore. The plot is stencil thin, the theme generic (and cyclical: birth, death, rebirth), and the marketing strategies behind it give new meaning to the expression "corporate greed." But what surprised, and impressed, me about the touring production is what it celebrates. Instead of imitating the movie's cartoon realism, director Julie Taymor chose the magic of theater *and* to expose its tricks: to show the puppet and the puppeteer. You see the cheetah, sleek as the world's fastest car, and also its human manipulator tilted back, windswept, as if barely able to keep up with the animal whose strings he pulls. Taymor gives us human grasslands (people wearing flattop haircuts made of foot-tall grass), a majestic elephant graveyard, and an unforgettable stampede of wildebeests I wish every kid in San Diego could see — not just for the effect, but to discover what live theater can do. Performances are uniformly strong (though it's tough to shake the sense that the "live" singers are vocally enhanced).

Critic's pick.

SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, THIRD AVENUE AND B STREET, DOWNTOWN, THROUGH JANUARY 15; TUESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY: FOR SPECIFIC TIMES CALL THE THEATER, 619-231-8995.

National Comedy Theatre

ComedySportz changed its name, but its methods (and madness) remain the same. Improvisational comedy, making up funny stuff on the spot, is difficult enough. Years ago, however, Keith Johnstone thought it'd be more exciting if done competitively. He got the idea from pro wrestling ("where Terrible Turks mangled defrocked priests, while mums and dads yelled insults and grannies waved their handbags"). National Comedy Theatre, an offshoot of Johnstone's TheatreSports (artistic director Gary Kramer says the two compare like "rugby and American football"), resembles an athletic event more than an improv. Teams wear uniforms and compete on AcroTurf. The night I caught the show, three San Diego comedians played a challenge match against players from the San Jose franchise. Using suggestions from the audience, they played "Emotional Sympathy," "Shakespeare," "Blind Line," and "Freeze Tag," with judges awarding points to the best scenes. Klunkers and groaners got booed; quick wit rewarded (one of the most refreshing parts of the contest: people acknowledge fail-



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Calendar THEATER

ure, abundantly, then forget it). It made for a lively, often quite funny, evening. And Gary Kramer is one talented comedian.

Worth a try.

MARQUIS THEATER, 3717 INDIA STREET, MISSION HILLS, OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. AND 9:45 P.M. 619-295-4999.

Pete 'n Keely

The Ramona Mainstage Theatre presents a musical comedy revue, featuring original songs and standards, about America's "swinging sweethearts" — or so they were, once. Brian Wells directed. RAMONA MAINSTAGE THEATRE, 626 MAIN STREET, RAMONA, THROUGH JANUARY 22; SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 760-789-7008.

Playwrights Project: Plays by Young Writers

Playwrights Project, in association with the Old Globe Theatre, presents its 21st season of winning scripts from the 2005 California Young Playwrights Contest: four readings and five full productions. CASSIUS CARTER CENTRE STAGE, SIMON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, BALBOA PARK, THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, THROUGH JANUARY 22; FOR SPECIFIC PLAYS AND TIMES, CALL 619-239-8222.

Prelude to a Kiss

OnStage Playhouse stages Craig Lucas's comedy-romance about what happens "in a soul-transference between totally different people." Daniel Ziskso directed. ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AV-

ENUE, CHULA VISTA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, THROUGH FEBRUARY 11; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-422-7787.

San Diego Theatresports

A cross between improvisational comedy and *Family Feud*. Improv, making up a funny scene as you go along, is tough enough. Add competitive scene making, with the audience awarding points to the winning team. Purists might balk at the odiousness of comparisons used in this format, but San Diego Theatresports' "game show" is a hoot. The 90-minute evening offers different bits. The show I caught had "Team Sports" — two pairs of players competed, taking suggestions from the audience; and "Gorilla Theatre" — five directors invented scenes, using the other four as actors. The winner got a banana, the loser a "forfeit" (other formats include "Micetro" and "Improv Survivors"). Some attempts went nowhere (I repeat: improv is tough; I did it in my, as hindsight reveals, callow youth). Others made amazing twists and turns. The group makes the hits much more frequent than the misses. Their guru, Keith Johnstone, wrote one of the very best books I've ever read about making theater. And they put his pearls to good use. Their motto: "Remember, when it's not funny, it's art."

Worth a try.

THE FUNHOUSE, 6822 EL CAJON BOULEVARD (BETWEEN 68TH AND 69TH), COLLEGE AREA, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 7:45 P.M. (THE "FAMILY" SHOW) AND AT 9:45 P.M. ("RATED PG-13"). 619-465-7469.

Sister's Christmas Catechism: The Mystery of the Magi's Gold
This sequel to Maripat Donovan's popular *Late Nite Catechism* feels

like the early stage of a work-in-progress. The ideas are in place. Sister, a spare-not-the-rod old schooler, is substitute teaching again. Her classroom's the same, only the desk is piled with presents and there's a cheapo plastic representation of Joseph, Mary, and the baby Jesus on the floor. The first hour's a class on the Christmas story. The second hour's a party, which includes a "living nativity" (audience members dress in "found" items like lampshades and shower curtains), and a mystery ("who made off with the Magi's gold?"). The show has funny stuff. But compared to the original it pales. Dressing people for the nativity takes way too long. And the tone is tame. *Christmas Catechism's* much nicer than its ancestor. As opposed to a tough love tapping her palm with a ruler, the only palpable threat this time comes when Sister picks people for the nativity and the audience averts its eyes. *Christmas* would probably fare better if it were the first of its kind (and many of the original jokes weren't recycled). But compared to the original the sequel may have too much of the holiday spirit. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987 LOMAS SANTA FE DRIVE, SOLANA BEACH, THROUGH JANUARY 8; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 858-481-1055.

6th@Penn Classic Reading Series: Dr. Faustus

6th@Penn continues its new reading series with *Dr. Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe. 6TH@PENN THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AVENUE, HILLCREST, ONGOING RUN; MONDAY, JANUARY 23, AT 7:30 P.M.. 619-688-9210.

The Sopranos' Last Supper

Dillstar Productions presents an evening with the notorious Baritone family: "gambling, dinner, dancing, and good old mobster fun." LAFAYETTE INN AND SUITES, NORTH PARK, OPEN-ENDED RUN; SELECTED FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS AT 7:30 P.M. 800-944-5639.

Too Old for the Chorus: But Not Too Old to Be a Star

Every seven seconds, a Baby Boomer becomes "officially old" by turning 50. Mark Winkler, Marie Cain, and Shelly Markham's musical revue bemoans, and eventually (and predictably) accepts this condition. In the finale, five performers vow to find new "Potential" in their sixth decade of life. All five are polished pros: Steve Anthony does a spectacular tap number ("When 50 Wore Tux"); Teri Lalton adds emotional depth to songs with skimpy lyrics; Susan Jordan handles the comedic chores with ease (and does a sultry samba with Anthony);

David Holmes and Brian Byers always contribute. Problem is: they're much better than the material. *Too Old* has three or four catchy/moving numbers (especially "Lunch Hour Lift," about quickie plastic surgery; the Wordsworthian piece "The Child Is Father to the Man"; and Holmes's touching rendition of "Dog Passages," in which the singer marks the years by the dogs he's had). The rest, though always well done (and the cast snappily dressed by Jill K. Mesaros), are negligible. They hold down slots till better songs come along — of which *Too Old* could use at least six. The revue has a frame: the five performers are auditioning for a chorus, and, of course, for the next phase of their lives. To merit a callback, *Too Old* needs major reinventing. THEATRE IN OLD TOWN, 4040 TWIGGS STREET, OLD TOWN, THROUGH FEBRUARY 5; TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 3:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-688-2494.

Triple Espresso: A Highly Caffeinated Comedy

Hugh Butternutt's done his lounge act at the Triple Espresso Coffeehouse 20 years to the day. While patrons sip a house blend — "Grape," "Scandinavian Blizzard,"

or "Mokoko Cocoa Mocha" — Hugh plays '70s tunes on the piano. He and his companions, here to celebrate Hugh's anniversary, got stuck in the '70s. The trio used to be Maxwell, Butternutt, and Bean, a comedy group that never went far. They're "losers," they admit, but not "ordinary" ones. And, hey, their reunion could help them face searing issues from their mediocre pasts. A formulaic story line? Yep. Straight from *Forever Plaid*. There's also the *Forever Plaid* problem: the three comedians are far too talented to play inept characters. One's a whiz at the piano. Another's a first-rate mime, and the third's a crackerjack magician. The trio is so talented, when the plot has them complain of difficulties to overcome, you wish they'd quit trumping up the pseudo-drama and get on with this highly entertaining, if lightweight show. (Note: the original cast members have been replaced.)

Worth a try.

HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVENUE, GASLAMP QUARTER, OPEN-ENDED RUN; WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SATURDAY AT 5:00 AND 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 3:00 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M. 619-234-9583.

THEATER DIRECTORY

Actors Alliance Of San Diego

3535 Adams Ave., North Park
(619) 640-3900 www.actorsalliance.com

Adams Avenue Studio of the Arts

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www.carlsbadvillagetheatre.com

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Christian Community Theater

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Civic Theatre

3rd & B, Downtown
(858) 570-1100 www.sdccc.org

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Holmes Elementary
4902 Mt. Ararat, Clairemont
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Community Actors Theatre

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(619) 264-3391
www.communityactorstheatre.com

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Cygnat Theatre Company

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(619) 337-1525 www.cygnattheatre.com

Diversionsary Theatre

4545 Park Blvd., Normal Heights
(619) 220-0097 www.diversionsary.org

East County Performing Arts Center

210 E. Main St., El Cajon
(619) 440-2277 www.ecpac.com

Educational Cultural Complex Theater

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(619) 527-5256

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644 7th Ave., Downtown
(619) 238-1153 www.eveoke.org

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Fern Street Circus

(619) 235-9756 www.fernstreetcircus.org

The Fritz Theatre

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Grossmont College

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(760) 746-6669 www.patioplayhouse.com

Pine Hills Lodge

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(760) 765-1100 www.pinehillslodge.com

Point Loma Nazarene University

Salomon Theatre
3900 Lomaland Dr., Point Loma
(619) 849-2433 www.ptloma.edu

Poway Center For The Performing Arts

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Ramona MainStage Theatre

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(619) 232-7636 www.sdopera.com

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www.scrippsranctheatre.org

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Pictures of Contentment

Perfection need not fit into a predetermined mold.

More and more, I notice myself in the middle of a movie, or in the first ten minutes of a movie, putting the experience to the fundamental test. Am I content to be watching *this* movie or would I rather be watching some *other* movie? A further refinement of the question: some *specific* other movie or just *any* other movie?

With the new *King Kong*, for instance, it's simple and natural to hanker after the old *King Kong*. With *The Family Stone* or *Cheaper by the Dozen 2*, the field is so wide. *I Remember Mama* might hit the spot, but just as well might *I Wake Up Screaming*. Needless to say, the question does not often come up when I am content. In view of how often it came up, however, in the year gone by — and no, I did not keep count — the positive spin to be put on it is the inference that either way I'd still like to be watching a movie. The question has not yet been displaced in my mind by a declarative bumper sticker that says, I'd rather be golfing. Or fishing. Or decomposing.

This, though, is the time of year

for remembering when that question was farthest from my mind. When I was most content.

The best piece of filmmaking I saw in 2005 was quite literally a piece of a film, more exactly a third of a film, the

episode entitled "The Hand" in the three-part anthology film, *Eros*. Wong Kar-wai's superbly sustained bout of

amorous longing, right around forty minutes in duration, seems especially rare and precious at the end of a Christmas season in which the average movie, if you added and divided, probably ran two hours and twenty-two minutes. Perfection need not fit into a predetermined mold. (The other two thirds of *Eros*, by Steven Soderbergh and Michelangelo Antonioni, were only good for filling out a marketable package.) Wong's own feature-length film from the past year, *2046*, provides another point of comparison and contrast. While it had beautiful stretches of filmmaking in it, beautiful shots, beautiful scenes, beautiful pieces, the multiple plotlines added up to a dis-



Capote

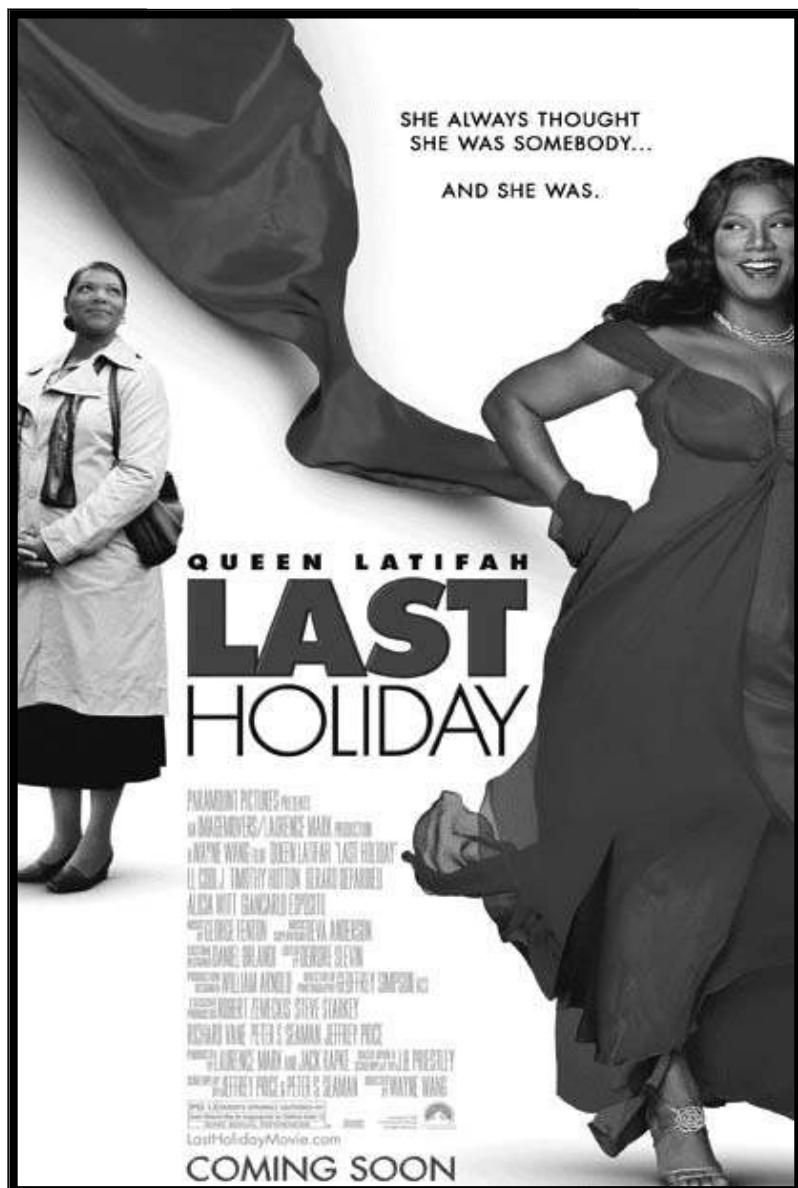
satisfying hodgepodge.

My next selection in order of preference looks like something of a setback, setting us back, that is, to the year 2004 and reminding us of San Diego's provincialism in relation to the media meccas. But there it is. Face it. Clint Eastwood's *Million Dollar Baby* did not reach our sleepy little burg until mid-January,

and it remains the year's most poised, graceful, mellifluous piece of filmmaking on a standard scale. I didn't think it was as great — yes, great — as his *Mystic River* from the year previous, but I still marvel at the unhappiness of the story — no happier than *Mystic*, though softer and sweeter — and marvel, too, that it could have walked off with

the Best Picture Oscar. And then I think of his also Oscar-winning *Unforgiven*, his *A Perfect World*, his *The Bridges of Madison County*. Dirty Harry had a lot to learn about courage.

Bennett Miller's *Capote*, next in line, did not greatly impress me as filmmaking, but it had a fascinating subject — the laborious and painful



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Calendar

MOVIES

birth of Truman Capote's *soi-disant* nonfiction novel, *In Cold Blood*—and a fine script by Dan Futterman, and a tour-de-force performance by Philip Seymour Hoffman. (Not even I am perverse enough to award the top acting laurels to Kurt Russell for *Dreamer*, although honestly the latter is in a style I prefer.) The second time I saw the film I decided that it was maybe more openly judgmental toward Capote than I had at first imagined, or wanted to imagine, yet not so openly as to require the services of a libel lawyer.

Walter Salles's *Dark Water* seems to be my dark horse this year. Without any doubt it was not helped when, on the eve of its release, a dispute between the director and the front office spilled out into the press. That sort of thing tends to save critics the trouble of using their own eyes. To mine, the film looked to be a first-class ghost story, impeccably worked out in terms of theme, setting, and character, and impeccably played by Jennifer Connelly and supporters, John C. Reilly, Pete Postlethwaite, Tim Roth, Camryn Manheim, little Ariel Gade. And speaking of disputes between directors and front offices....

If I were trying to stretch the list to the traditional ten, I would add



Dark Water

Major Dundee by reason of its dozen new minutes of (partially) restored footage. But inasmuch as my list has petered out at three and a third, I see no point in straining further. Sam Peckinpah's Civil War-period cavalry-and-Indians epic does not belong to the past year but to forty years earlier. Even in its truncated (or if you must, butchered) form, it is as good an example as any of the kind of movie I so often wish I were watching instead of whatever movie I'm currently obliged

to be watching.

On a lower echelon we have the honorable mentions, the close-but-no-cigars: Nick Park's and Steve Box's *Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit*, a happy return of the claymation man and dog, as lengthy as their three previous adventures put together and no less speedy, and yet, a bit compromised for the marketplace, not really as good as any one of them (see the lesson of "The Hand" above); Katsuhiro Otomo's *Steamboy*, a largely

hand-drawn *hommage* to Jules Verne, lighter and livelier than the higher-praised anime, *Howl's Moving Castle*, by Hayao Miyazaki; Noah Baumbach's *The Squid and the Whale*, sloppily made though sharply observed, with an unforgettable Jesse Eisenberg as stand-in for the autobiographical filmmaker; Jim Jarmusch's *Broken Flowers*, slightly commercialized, stubbornly deadpan; Miranda July's *Me and You and Everyone We Know*, quirky yet life-like; Nora Ephron's underrated *Bewitched*, imaginatively liberated from its TV-transplant obligations; François Ozon's falling-out-of-love story, in reverse chronology, 5x2, with the extraordinary Valeria Bruni-Tedeschi; Agnès Jaoui's coolly, cruelly

humorous *Look at Me*, letting her constant collaborator Jean-Pierre Bacri cultivate his dyspepsia; Andrés Wood's *Machuca* and Marcelo Piñeyro's *Kamchatka*, a penetrating pair of child's-eye views of political upheaval, Chilean and Argentinian respectively, which premiered in last Spring's San Diego Latino Film Festival; Werner Herzog's *Grizzly Man*, a compelling assemblage of found footage and ancillary interviews to piece together a crackpot who lived and violently died among Alaskan bears; Steven Spielberg's *Munich*, the director's overlong but nevertheless most gripping film in thirty years, namely since *Jaws*. And, to wrap up this group where the upper group began, Fruit Chan's "Dumplings" episode in the anthology, *Three Extremes*. A feature-length version of this episode apparently exists, but I can't vouch for it, nor see the need for it.

On the next echelon down, I am sure I found plenty of contentment, though I can't swear my mind didn't roam: to 1940's *Pride and Prejudice* during 2005's *Pride and Prejudice*, to *American Dream* during *North Country*, to *The Bad Sleep Well* during *The Constant Gardener*, to *The Entity* during *The Exorcism of Emily Rose*, to *The Tall Target* during *Red Eye*, to *The Sons of Katie Elder* during *Four Brothers*, to *Dawn of the Dead* during *Land of the Dead*, to *Judex* during *Batman Begins*, to Céline and Julie Go Boating during *Melinda and Melinda*, to *North by Northwest* during *The Interpreter*, to 1953's *War of the Worlds* during 2005's *War of the Worlds*. And on and on. It is one thing to be merely reminded of another film. It is another thing to be stolen away from the film in front of you. A more and more common thing. ■

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Aeon Flux — The live-action adaptation of an MTV cartoon remains so cartoonish — what with its computer-generated futuristic utopia, computer-animated internal organs, computer-manipulated stunts and body doubles, computer this and computer that — it's a wonder it bothered with flesh-and-blood actors at all. Charlize Theron, who may have been worried after *Monster* and *North Country* that you were beginning to view her as a frump, demonstrates that she can be as sleekly dehumanized as Kate Beckinsale in *Underworld* or Halle Berry in *Catwoman*. ("I want to know what it feels like to be a *person*," she says at one point, a tad disingenuously.) Frances McDormand, who played opposite Theron in *North Country*, cannot be dehu-



Casanova

manized to quite that extent, but she can at any rate be given a monstrous Pre-Raphaelite hairdo. Director Karyn Kusama, once upon a time the maker of the gritty little *Girlfight*, might have persuaded herself she was still carrying the flag of feminist

empowerment, but she could not very well persuade the rest of us unless maybe the computer was named HALLE 9000. With Marton Csokas, Jonny Lee Miller, Sophie Okonedo. 2005.
● (VOGUE)

Breakfast on Pluto — Odyssey of a transvestite, self-christened Saint Kitten, from postwar Irish Catholic orphanhood to Swinging London in the Sixties and on through the Disco Daze into the Thatcher era. Cillian Murphy, speaking at the

breathy top of his range, is so obnoxiously overconfident, dauntless, irrepressible, etc., as to not only renounce our sympathy but thoroughly rout it. It isn't just him. Director Neil Jordan sets an overall tone of obnoxiousness with his thirty-odd chapter headings (from "In Which I Am Abandoned" to "It's Tearing Me Apart"), a Greek chorus of subtitled songbirds, and a parade of goldie-oldies ("Honey," "Me and Mrs. Jones," "Feelings," "The Windmills of My Mind," and on and on) as congested as that in any Cameron Crowe comedy. The previous film of Jordan's that merits a mention on this occasion would obviously be *The Crying Game*. "I'm not a girl," the hero confesses to none other than Stephen Rea, who, unlike in that other film, wasn't fooled: "Oh, I knew that, princess." With Liam Neeson, Brendan Gleeson, Ian Hart. 2005.

● (HILLCREST CINEMAS, FROM 1/6; KEN, THROUGH 1/5)

Brokeback Mountain — Here's fulfillment of any desire for a homosexual cowboy movie, superseding all those inadmissible innuendos as to Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday, the Lone Ranger and Tonto, the Cisco Kid and Pancho, et al. It fills out and plumps up a sketchy, skinny, yet ample short story by E. Annie Proulx, about a love that dare not speak its name in the unliberated time and place of 1963 Wyoming, a love that could not be denied despite denials ("You know I ain't queer" and "Me neither"), a love that would survive each man's marriage and fatherhood, over a period approaching two decades, but a love that could never come down from the mountain where it sprang up: "This is a goddam bitch of an unsatisfactory situation." Though the story was quite presciently written before the murder of Matthew Shepard in that same territory, the movie arrives long after that, and with a clearer, cruder sense about it of payback, of axe-grinding, of remedial education. There is also a sense about it of material stretched too thin, a slow, uneventful, time-biding start, working up stealthily to the moment of maximal male bonding, and then a straightforward, chronological, but time-skipping follow-through. The greater detail and delay on screen, as against the page, do not equate to greater credibility. One credible detail: the horseplay that turns rough on the eve of their first parting, the eloquent expression of nonverbal types. Contrastingly, their first reunion, a clinch of sumo-wrestler ferocity, right under the nose of one of the wives, is miles from credible. Jake Gyllenhaal, with his choirboyish pretty face and lofty voice, is the more acceptably typecast of the two. But Heath Ledger, lowering his voice to a Scott Glenn register, inside a clamped jaw, and suppressing his native Aussie accent, conveys the more poignant image of inhibition and concealment. Both actors look good in their jeans, in their hats, on their horses, and with their Marlboro Man smokes. And the voluptuous landscape is lovingly photographed. Director Ang Lee already did a lot of that in *Ride with the Devil*, and did it, at the time, with more impact of surprise and revelation. (Ang Lee? Man of action?) What's new here feels frankly inevitable, not at all revelatory; and the director of *The Wedding Banquet*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *The Ice Storm* seems an unsurprising man for the job. Michelle Williams, Anne Hathaway. 2005.

★ (FLOWER HILL 4; HILLCREST CINEMAS; KEN, FROM 1/6; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA CINEMAS)

Capote — Truman Capote, that is, during the six years it took to research and write his "nonfiction novel," *In Cold Blood*. Regardless of how true a story, it is truly a good story, whose claim on our attention is not that it's factual but that it's fascinating. It is the story, at bottom, of an artist at work; a writer in pursuit of a subject; an established novelist, a Manhattan dandy transplanted from the Deep South, who, for reasons unclear, clips out an item from *The New York Times* of November 15, 1959, about the massacre of a family in rural Kansas, and who promptly gets the go-ahead from the editor at *The New Yorker* to hop a train to the scene of the crime. The story, then, of an exotic fruit in the Mid-

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Cheaper by the Dozen 2

west breadbasket, with his nasally lisping castrato drawl and his ankle-length camel's-hair coat and flowing boa-like scarf. ("Bergdorf's," he volunteers, fingering the scarf under the inquisitive gaze of an agent from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, who, tugging on his hat brim when taking his leave, says in turn, "Sears, Roebuck.") The story of a man who, in the end, fits his chosen title as well as either the

murderers or their executioners. It is not a story with a moral to it, although some viewers will feel compelled, for their own comfort, to draw one; it is simply, and complicatedly, the story of an artist at work. In its general outline — what price art? — it may be a bit old-hat; in its particulars it is like-new. Philip Seymour Hoffman, even after you have gotten over the initial funniness of his celebrity imperson-

ation, serves as our constant reminder to take the story with a grain of salt, to put quotation marks around the name of Capote. His whole-souled commitment to the part, his concentration, his emotion, his expressiveness, his nuance, his multiplicity — all of that helps to make a good story better. Whether or not truer. With Catherine Keener, Chris Cooper, Clifton Collins, Jr., and Bruce Greenwood; written by Dan Futterman; directed by Bennett Miller. 2005. ★★★★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

Casanova — Undisclosed chapter in the career of the 18th-century rake: his courtship of a protofeminist ghostwriter and swordswoman, the Ms. Right who can tie him down for keeps. The sort of romantic fantasy, in other words, that ruins real lives. A tiresome rompish costume party in antiquing golden light, under a shower of Baroque standards (Vivaldi, Corelli, Albi-

noni, et al.). Venice looks magical, but sounds predominantly British. With Heath Ledger, Sienna Miller, Jeremy Irons, Oliver Platt, Lena Olin; directed by Lasse Hallstrom. 2005. ● (DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 1/6)

Cheaper by the Dozen 2 — A family feud, over Labor Day at Lake Winnetka, between the twelve-kid Bakers and the eight-kid Murtaughs, or anyway between their hotly competitive dads (Steve Martin, Eugene Levy). Humor and sentiment every bit as cheap as *Cheaper* One. The only notable change is in the suddenly sculpted Hilary Duff, who either has done some work or,

odds are, had some work *done*. (The change in directors, Shawn Levy to Adam Shankman, is undetectable.) Bonnie Hunt finds a few crannies in which to do something resembling acting. With Piper Perabo, Tom Welling, Carmen Electra. 2005. ● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Chicken Little — "The sky is falling," in Disney's computer-animated retelling of the tale, turns out to be a metaphor for an alien invasion, and the title character becomes a synonym of civic-minded vigilance. More basically, he and his styro-

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foamy chums — the ugly duck, the fat pig, the fish out of water, et al. — are just cartoon conformists anxious to show off their pop-culture hipness. With the voices of Zach Braff, Joan Cusack, Steve Zahn, and Garry Marshall; directed by Mark Dindal. 2005.

● (PALM PROMENADE 24; VOGUE)

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe — The mythic children's book by C.S. Lewis makes for a good children's film, better, to pick a couple of nearby co-ordinates, than any of the Harry Potters, better than any third of *The Lord of the Rings*, albeit still rather longish at two hours and twenty minutes. In the first place, and in spite of the existence of six other books in the Narnia series, it has a beginning, a middle, and an end — and all in one film! (What a concept!) In that respect, it calls to mind the original *Star Wars*, not the original trilogy, much less the following trilogy, but the single, solitary film. The stand-alone film. The ending of *Narnia* in particular, with all its triumphal pomp and circumstance, calls that film to mind. The beginning, on the other hand, calls to mind an even better children's film, *The Secret Garden* (the 1993 version at any rate), with four parentless children packed off during the London Blitz to a gloomy mansion of rigid rules ("No improper use of the dumbwaiter," etc.), where they soon discover, at the back of the wardrobe in the spare room, a portal to the alternative universe of Narnia, populated by talking animals and a messianic lion named Aslan. (The transitions between the two worlds are dreamily seamless.) A prophecy, they further discover, has foretold of their coming as well as their overthrow of the reigning Wicked White Witch, wonderfully visualized — an icicle crown, frozen-stiff hair, snowman's lump-of-coal eyes, clammy, oystery skin — and commandingly played by Tilda Swinton. The narrative incidents unfold smoothly and swiftly and at times quite excitingly. And the execution of Aslan, in an atmosphere that reeks of a witches' Sabbath, is about as brutal as it could be without becoming as sadistic as *The Passion of the Christ*. His im-



The Matador

mediate resurrection, although the logic of it had been withheld from us, and although the Christian allegory of it cannot be ignored, is nevertheless easier to swallow than, subsequently, the prowess of the children on the battlefield or the wholesale resurrection of casualties on that field. The lesson in courage at that point, or those points, gets a bit muddled. It almost smacks of cowardice. With Georgie Henley, Skandar Keynes, William Moseley, Anna Popplewell, and the voice of Liam Neeson; directed by Andrew Adamson. 2005.

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The Family Stone — Christmas comedy about the gathering of a clan, and allies, in snowy New England at the holiday. The core family, name of Stone, numbers seven, so a lot is afoot: terminal cancer, a pregnancy, a gay-couple adoption (minorities within the minority: the couple is interracial and one-half hearing impaired), an old flame, a guttering flame, two new flames. It all sorts itself out, in a next-Christmas coda, with no sticky residue. The cast, including Sarah Jessica Parker, Claire Danes,

Dermot Mulroney, Luke Wilson, Rachel McAdams, Elizabeth Reaser, Ty Giordano, Diane Keaton, and Craig T. Nelson, could use any help they can get, but what they get from the bilious photography is skin the complexion of uncooked chicken. Written and directed by Thomas Bezucha. 2005.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; GROSSMONT TROLLEY; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Fun with Dick and Jane — Fast and loose remake by Dean Parisot of the all but forgotten 1977 social satire by Ted Kotcheff, the American Nightmare reimagined specially for the epoch of Adelphia, Enron, and other corporate miscreants. Fast pacing, that is, and loose plotting. Jim Carrey, as the out-of-work executive who stops his financial free fall with a spree of armed robbery (armed with a squirt gun), can still execute a pratfall and can still out-flex Gumby, but now a little more restrained, a little more aged, he is starting to look less like the new Jerry Lewis and more like the new Johnny Carson. Ace cinematographer Jerzy Zielinski (Agnieszka Holland's *The Secret Garden*, *Washington Square*, and *The Third Miracle*, for three) sees to it that the star, his co-stars (Téa Leoni, Alec Baldwin, Richard Jenkins), and their antiseptic surroundings at least look good. 2005.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Good Night, and Good Luck — Unabashed hero worship of the "crusading" CBS newsmen Edward R. Murrow, directed and co-written by George Clooney, who also plays Murrow's television producer, Fred Friendly. (In the lead role, David Strathairn has Murrow's somber countenance, speaks with his cadence, and goes through a full carton of his coffin nails.) Framed by a literal "Salute to Edward R. Murrow" in 1958, and by the guest-of-honor's scolding assessment of the current state of TV journalism, it centers on his famous face-off four years earlier with Sen. Joe McCarthy, now known in ever

widening circles as the Boogeyman. (McCarthy, seen only in grainy archive footage, looks even cruder than usual in opposition to the crisply photographed thespian smoothies.) Clooney, son of a TV newscaster himself, and high-profile Hollywood liberal, would no doubt be pleased if the sitting duck of the past were taken to be a stand-in for the fluttery fowl of today — Rush Limbaugh, Oliver North, and Co., the religious right, Karl Rove, take your pick — and pleased, too, if Murrow's example were held up to the news networks of half a century later. (But be careful, George, what you wish for: the network that appears to come closest to Murrow's stance of advocacy, if nowhere near his humanity or integrity, would be Fox.) Clooney can surely rival any of his targeted enemies, past or present, in piety; and even, albeit in a somewhat different sense, in reactionaryism: taking up the social-conscious subject matter of the Lumet-Ritt-Frankenheimer generation (he had already done so in his live-television experiment of *Fail-Safe* a few years back), setting it in the precise period of their salad days, shooting it in black-and-white (not just matching the custom of the time, but Expressionistically matching the *Weltanschauung* of white hats versus black hats), scoring it with outmoded moody jazz, and treating it in the hectoring, lecturing style of the Rose-Serling-Schulberg screenwriters. In truth the message is gotten across with an altogether unacceptable amount of speechifying; and for all the feverishly overlapping dialogue and the occasional hustle-bustle of cast or camera, it is steadfastly a static film, nailed to a platform. With Robert Downey, Jr., Patricia Clarkson, Frank Langella, Jeff Daniels. 2005.

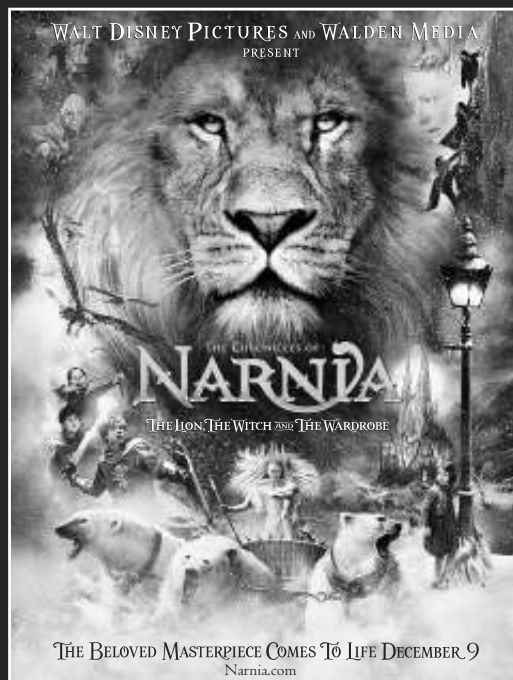
★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MISSION VALLEY 7, FROM 1/6)

Grandma's Boy — Comedy about a video-game tester, with Allen Covert, Linda Cardellini, Doris Roberts, and Shirley Jones, directed by Nicholas Goossen. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 1/6)

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire — The fourth installment in J.K. Rowling's series of children's books yields a two-and-a-half-hour movie which, for all its furious activity, gets virtually nowhere. It gets, more specifically, through the "legendary" Triwizard Tournament, only to arrive at the dampening admonition, "Dark and difficult times lie ahead." Potterites, under the freedom-of-religion pact, ought not to be begrudged their mythology; and two and a half hours of lavish illustration might well strike their eyes as a feast. The skeptic or the mere apathetic is more apt to notice the presumptuousness of filmmakers who expect their audience to meet them seven-eighths of the way. (Have you done your homework, kiddies?) The skeptic or apathetic will also be quicker to sense that the unabated spectacle of special effects becomes almost routine, almost humdrum, regardless of how imaginative some of those effects may be: the sailing ship that surfaces and submerges like a submarine, the ghostly face of Sirius molded in the glowing embers of the hearth for a fire-side chat. Such a viewer will also be more prone to argue that this sort of anything-goes fantasy, with few established rules, fosters a feeling of passiveness if not instinctive, involuntary withdrawal. The new director, Mike Newell, is the best of the three to take the controls in the series to date (Chris Columbus for parts one and two, Alfonso Cuarón for part three), although a runaway train is open only to the most limited guidance. We are reminded of his capabilities not so much by any demonstration of them as by the presence of Miranda Richardson, his scintillating star in *Dance with a Stranger*, and quite delightful here in the new role of Rita Skeeter, nosy news reporter for the animated scandal sheet, *The Daily Profit*. With Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Bren-

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dan Gleeson, Michael Gambon, Ralph Fiennes. 2005.
● (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT TROLLEY; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

Hostel — Chiller written and directed by Eli Roth, with Jay Hernandez, Derek Richardson, and Rick Hoffman. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; PALM PROMENADE 24; POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 1/6)

Just Friends — Broad comedy about a high-school fatso who slims down to become a callous Casanova in adulthood. Unlike him, the humor never slims down, remains broad throughout; heavy; clumsy; lazy. With Ryan Reynolds, Amy Smart, Anna Faris, and Chris Klein; directed by Roger Kumble. 2005.
● (FASHION VALLEY 18; PALM PROMENADE 24)

King Kong — Fresh from *The Lord of the Rings*, Peter Jackson could presumably have done anything he wanted. What he apparently wanted was to do a remake. Check that, a second remake. A 21st-century Kong. A CGI Kong. A kung-fu Kong. (Three T. rexes at a time, one hand tied up with a savory maiden.) And not least, a three-hour Kong, even though it takes over an hour to get to him, and though he must share screen time after that with an entire ecosystem of slimy, slithery critters. Jackson, remaking almost slavishly the 1933 version rather than the rerouted 1976 version, returns the action to the original period, plays up and jokes up, with help from the turtle-faced Jack Black, the film-within-the-film element (Fay Wray is unavailable because “she’s shooting a picture with RKO”), and imbues the beauty-and-beast theme with the sort of modish, operatic amplification that says so much about our Age of Indulgence, squeezing every last drop of emotion from the death of the ape, all the way down to the emotion (among the most sensitive individuals) of mirth. The Kong films show a sharp decline, this one a farther step down from the last than the last was down from the first. Three hours are not automatically “better” than one and three-quarters or two and one-quarter. Even the supposed progress in special effects — from stop-motion models to computer animation — is largely illusory. The former falsity of stiffness and creakiness has simply been replaced by the falsity of fluidness and facileness. Exhibit A: the stampede of brontosauruses, an enlarged replication of the running of the bulls at Pamplona, wherein these nimble, fleet-footed behemoths scarcely seem to occupy the same space as the humans, even when stepping on them. Exhibit B: the attack of the giant bats on Kong, fluttering like shadows and creating a timely diversion that affords the boring romantic couple (Naomi Watts, Adrien Brody) a means of escape by hang-gliding from a bat’s feet, easy as catching a ride on the trolley. In whatever measure such effects might be “better” than the old, it’s too short a measure to make up for the falloff in imagination. 2005.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; GROSSMONT TROLLEY; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA CAMINO REAL; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; SOUTH BAY DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Matador — Smarty-pants comedy-thriller written and directed by Richard Shepard. Pierce Brosnan, producer and star, further purges himself of James Bond (if *The Tailor from Panama* didn’t do the trick) in his garish portrayal of “a facilitator of fatalities” who befriends a timid American businessman on a job in Mexico: “For an assassin, he’s very nice.” He certainly appears to be enjoying himself. The viewer will be hard pressed to match him. Greg Kinnear, Hope Davis. 2005.
★ (MISSION VALLEY 20, FROM 1/6)

Memoirs of a Geisha — Nipponese

bodice-ripper, from the best-seller by Arthur Golden, though it plays as if it could just as well have been by Danielle Steel, a Cinderella story of the rise and fall and rise and fall and rise of a blue-eyed geisha in pre-war and postwar Japan. “A story like mine,” she starts out, meaning more than she means, “should never be told.” Nor should it be illustrated with the frenzy, flamboyance, and insufficient illumination accorded it by the razzle-dazzle director of *Chicago*, Rob Marshall. (Earlier in the gestation, it was going to be Steven Spielberg.) Gong Li is still Gong Li, and still beautiful, but in the lead role Zhang Ziyi is now Ziyi Zhang: the boom in Asian imports has brought no consistency in appellation, only confusion. (The catty rivalry on screen between the older actress and the younger, and eventually the all-out catfight, gains an added dimension when you recall that the one was bumped by the other in the films and affections of Zhang Yimou, or Yimou Zhang.) Using Chinese actresses is of course defensible in a movie aimed at the American masses, just as their speaking in English is defensible. Their speaking in unintelligible English rather defeats the purpose. With Michelle Yeoh, Ken Watanabe, Koji Yakusho, Youki Kudoh. 2005.
● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Munich — Steven Spielberg’s profoundly pessimistic account of the terrorist massacre of eleven Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics and the bloody aftermath of tit-for-tat reprisals. The director, while he plainly wants to pay his respects to all parties, has not rid himself of his grandiosity and his self-indulgence. The overextended running time is simply, contradictory though it sounds to say so, a shortcut to Importance, a direct equation of size with significance. And the assorted lightening, whitening, fading effects in the cinematography of Janusz Kaminski (*Schindler’s List*, *Amistad*, *Saving Private Ryan*, etc.) call attention to themselves in their inconsistency. For a very large fraction of its two-and-three-quarters hours, however, the action is tense and unpredictable, kept within the straits of credibility by various means: by a consciousness of, if not a strict fidelity to, the factuality of the case; by a care not to let the thrills overpower the aversion to violence; by an accent on the human factor. With Eric Bana, Daniel Craig, Ciarán Hinds, Mathieu Kassovitz, Hanns Zischler, and Geoffrey Rush. 2005.

★★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Pride and Prejudice — By this time the Jane Austen novel qualifies as a repertory piece, a mettle-test for would-be Darcys and Elizabeth Bennets, little different from *Romeo and Juliet*. The team behind the present production of it, apart from their attempt to replace the titular conjunction with a dashing ampersand, earn no points for imagination or courage in finding their way to so trafficky a corner of the library. (Can no one, for a change, find his way to the shelf of Thomas Love Peacock? George Meredith?) And the prospect of again sitting through the machinations of the author’s mating game (match four from Column A to four from Column B) sounds quite tedious in advance. Nevertheless, the filmmakers have not failed to make it involving. Austen herself made it hard for them to fail, as long as they stuck close to the text. Joe Wright, a British TV director in his feature debut, certainly did more than his share to gum up the works, with an anemic, coarse-grained image and a lot of mushy telephoto camerawork: a pale substitute for the MGM sheen of 1940. And Matthew MacFadyen makes a dull Darcy, a blank, more stuporous than brooding, a kind of waxwork Stan Laurel. Any doubts,

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KELLY KUGLER
Assistant manager,
Mission Valley Suncoast

Northern Exposure is a great TV series set in the wilds of Alaska. It’s a small-town comedy about living in the boonies. It also has John Corbett as the local DJ Chris Stevens. He’s an actor a lot of women are in love with.

A new DVD I’m looking forward to is Disney’s *The Greatest Game*, based on a true story about a boy who was looked down on because of his family’s financial status who proves he can make it in the golf world.

The Storyteller is a children’s show created by The Muppets’ Jim Henson in which an old storyteller recounts a variety of folk tales. It lasted two seasons, with the second season devoted to Greek myths.

NORTHERN EXPOSURE: THE COMPLETE THIRD SEASON (USA) 1992–’93, MCA Home Video
List price: \$59.98 (three discs)

THE GREATEST GAME (USA) 2005, Walt Disney Video
List price: \$29.99

THE STORYTELLER COLLECTION (USA) 1988–’90, Sony Pictures
List price: \$19.94

however, as to the star potential of Keira Knightley — and after the likes of *Domino* and *The Jacket* and *King Arthur*, how could there not have been doubts? — are decisively routed. She may be too pretty for Elizabeth, she may be too young, but she is just sufficiently feisty, just sufficiently fiery, without being too and too. It’s a tightrope she walks, and she keeps perfect balance. Two old pros, Brenda Blethyn and Judi Dench, bring solid support as two very dissimilar women, the high-strung Mrs. Bennet and the haughty Lady de Bourgh. Any well-bred young woman who can endure the one on a daily basis and stand up to the other in a moment of crisis must be made of stern stuff. Donald Sutherland, Rosamund Pike, Jena Malone, Tom Hollander. 2005.
★★ (GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

The Producers — For posterity, Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick reprise their roles in the Broadway musical, together with Gary Beach and Roger Bart, while Uma Thurman (with a funny SVEE-dish accent) appropriates the cheesecake, and Will Ferrell goose-steps into the part of the playwright of *Springtime for Hitler*, “A New Neo-Nazi Musical.” (Director and choreographer Susan Stroman, too, reprises her off-stage roles.) At first the actors might seem to be still projecting for live theater, but their energy eventually, or intermittently, pulls you in. The musical version reminds you of what was good about Mel Brooks’s 1968 original (a bit less of a musical, but a bit of a musical all the same), and there is enough newness in it to keep it interesting: a chorus line of tap-dancing blue-haired

OSCAR LIMA
Manager, Mission Valley Suncoast

Mysterious Skin makes a wonderful transition from book to screen. The camera angles take you into the mood of the character and the pain he went through. You need a strong stomach for this movie, but I highly recommend it.

Thundercats brings back ’80s childhood memories. As a kid, I used to think that if I said “Cheetara mode” I became as fast as she, or “Lion-O power,” I’d be as strong as Lion-O. It takes me back to when I first saw the show on TV.

Coming up, I’m most looking forward to *Elizabethtown*, Cameron Crowe’s great movie about finding yourself. When a director uses his own life experiences to create a movie, it makes the film more special. Great use of music.

MYSTERIOUS SKIN (USA) 2004, TLA Releasing
List price: \$24.99

THUNDERCATS: SEASON ONE, VOLUMES ONE AND TWO (USA) 1985–’87, Warner Home Video
List price: \$129.98 (12 discs)

ELIZABETHTOWN (USA) 2005, Paramount Home Video
List price: \$29.95

KAHLIL ROBINSON
Floor manager,
Mission Valley Suncoast

Dead or Alive, by Takashi Miike, has great action, a fun story, and over-the-top gore and violence. Works best as a trilogy but can also stand alone.

Dolls by Takeshi Kitano has wonderful direction, excellent storytelling, vivid colors, great costume design, and all-around is really imaginative. The sad drama drew me in. I just loved it. The visuals are why I picked this one.

Coming out in February is *Three Extremes*, which proves why Asian films are being remade by Hollywood. This three-part film showcases China’s Fruit Chan, South Korea’s Park Chan-Wook, and Japan’s Takashi Miike. Well directed, it leaves enough to the imagination so you don’t feel like the filmmakers think you’re stupid. Chan’s *Dumplings* is the best and most disturbing.

DEAD OR ALIVE (Japan) 1999, Kino Video
List price: \$19.95

DOLLS (Japan) 2002, Palm Pictures
List price: \$24.99

THREE EXTREMES (China/South Korea/Japan) 2004, Lion’s Gate
List price: \$27.98

old ladies on walkers (well, their walkers tap-dance at any rate), a delightful pas-de-deux between Broderick and Thurman, and more. The action is advisedly set in the Fifties (although some of the flaming gayness feels later), and its vaudeville roots remain brazenly exposed. 2005.
★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 18; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GALAXY 6; GROSSMONT TROLLEY; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Rumor Has It — Barren ground for the comic charms of Jennifer Aniston, as a hesitant fiancée investigating the possibility that her Pasadena family was the model for the Robinsons in *The Graduate*. That would make Shirley MacLaine Mrs. Robinson,

and Kevin Costner the nuptial Lochinvar. (A self-described “dilettante Che biographer,” he ignorantly pronounces his subject’s surname as “Gwa-vara.”) When those two once again come face to face at the climax, the music comes from a different 1967 movie, *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*. The script is similarly heavy-handed, a hammering rhythm of easy set-ups and smashes. With Mark Ruffalo, Richard Jenkins, and Mena Suvari; directed by Rob Reiner. 2005.
● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN

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SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Squid and the Whale — Complex relationship film. Parents and children, husband and wife, brother and brother, in the main, but supplementarily wife and lover, male professor and female student, older boy and new girlfriend, among others. The uncommon specificity as to time and place and cultural milieu — 1986, Brooklyn, the bourgeois intelligentsia — is to some extent a limiting factor but more so an animating factor. These people live and breathe. (Or, in view of the time, lived and breathed.) The parents, the husband and wife, are respectively a has-been “serious” novelist, now a musty academic, and a soon-to-be first novelist, presently excerpted in *The New Yorker*, and to make matters worse the wife’s wing-spreading encompasses an occasional affair. When the couple try a joint-custody separation, the older boy sides with his aggrieved father, while the younger boy, barely into puberty, sides with his mother. Though well played by the sagely bearded Jeff Daniels, with his outer show of cultivation and his undertow of savagery, the character of the father is seen as a bit of a caricature; and though likewise well played by the cosmetic-free Laura Linney, the mother is seen more distantly, less distinctly. But the characters of the children are unqualified successes, especially the older one, whose age, by no mere coincidence, closely matches that of writer-director Noah Baumbach at that same period. The hunched shoulders, the sniffy nose, the sleepy eyes, the shrugging speech of Jesse Eisenberg capture perfectly the role-playing pretentiousness of the young, and the damning details of intellectual laziness all throughout the script complete the portrait. The younger brother, played under a cloud of moroseness (with passing squalls) by Owen Kline, registers as a total original, a self-proclaimed philistine, after careful consideration of Dad’s disdainful definition (“Someone who doesn’t care about books or interesting films”), and no less pretentious, in his inverted snobbery, than his *faux*-cultured older brother. This painfully funny film, put simply, is a comedy of character, a human comedy. And



Syriana

while the filmmaking itself is nothing special, the not too jiggly hand-held camera does achieve, in its positioning and its movement, a sort of natural rapport with the humans, an easy congeniality, a Frenchified nonchalance. William Baldwin, Anna Paquin. 2005. ★★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

Syriana — Serioso. Molto serioso. Not so much a drama as a diagram, didactic in purpose, of the chain-link interconnections, the slow-burn chain reactions, in the Middle Eastern oil trade. What screenwriter Stephen Gaghan did for the illicit drug business in *Traffic*, he attempts to do again, as both screenwriter and first-time director, for the even more intricate oil business, adopting some of the same “realistic” conventions (the unsteady camera, the intermittent subtitles, the egalitarian cast of characters, a lack of dramatic emphasis, an

absence of heroics), and following the same pattern of crosscutting between plotlines in an apparently deliberate strategy of *suspensus interruptus*. Limpidity is not his aim. Complexity is, and no matter if the cost is confusion and incomprehension. You really need a scorecard to tell all the players, and even once you have figured out who’s who, it’s still hard to know which one, or ones, to root for; which outcome would be for the best; which course of action, if any, would clean up the mess. In the end, Gaghan convinces us he knows a lot more about how the world works than about how fiction works. George Clooney, Matt Damon, Jeffrey Wright, Chris Cooper, Christopher Plummer, Tim Blake Nelson, Amanda Peet. 2005. ★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VAL-

LEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Ushpizin — Benign Israeli comedy centered on a destitute Hasidic couple who are obliged to host two uninvited guests, two escaped convicts, on the Succoth holiday. No real laughs, but plenty of peculiar manners and mores. With Shuli Rand and Michal Bat-Sheva Rand; directed by Giddi Dar. 2005. ★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE, THROUGH 1/5)

Walk the Line — The same line, that would be, as the previous year’s *Ray*, a musical biopic on a recently fallen giant of popular song, C&W instead of R&B, Johnny Cash instead of Ray Charles, two years dead instead of mere months, but the same backstage tale of early poverty and tragedy, meteoric ascent, marital discord, drug abuse, salvation. Fewer people this

time, in describing Joaquin Phoenix’s impersonation of the Man in Black, will be inclined to link the adjective “uncanny” to the noun “likeness.” Though he has obviously studied hard for the part, copying the horselike head-toss and breaststroker’s air-gulp in performance on stage, he lacks both the stature and the weight: a sort of Cash shortage. It doesn’t help that his singing (separate from his head-tossing and air-gulping) is of dog-howling caliber. Reese Witherspoon’s June Carter — a ten-year-old voice on the radio in Cash’s cotton-picking childhood, a touring mate in the mid-Fifties along with Jerry Lee, Buddy, and Elvis, and finally his second wife in the late-Sixties, when the movie ends — dances rings around him. And sings them, too. With Ginnifer Goodwin and Robert Patrick; directed by James Mangold. 2005. ★ (GROSSMONT TROLLEY; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA PALOMA)

Wolf Creek — Unsolved Mysteries, Australian-style, from tyro filmmaker Greg McLean. A malevolent Crocodile Dundee (“Now *that’s* a knife,” or rather, “Nah *thet’s* a knoif”) is postulated to explain the disappearance of two pretty British backpackers in the Outback. And untold others besides. Wretched, low-budget, psycho-boogeyman antics, more exasperating than exciting. Cassandra Magrath, Kestie Morassi, Nathan Phillips, John Jarratt. 2005. ● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; FASHION VALLEY 14; GROSSMONT TROLLEY; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION MARKET-PLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; RANCHO DEL REY 16; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Yours, Mine, and Ours — Two old flames, a Coast Guard Admiral and a freelance designer, both widowed, reignite in later life, after he has got eight well-drilled children and she’s got an anarchic Rainbow Coalition of ten (four biological, six adopted). That’s a lot of kids when they all act with sitcom aggressiveness and when the gags mostly derive from the comic prototypes of the banana peel and the cream pie. With Dennis Quaid and Rene Russo (it was Henry Fonda and Lucille Ball in the 1968 version); directed by Raja Gosnell. 2005. ● (MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; VOGUE)

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Cheaper by the Dozen 2 (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (12:40, 2:10, 3:10) 4:40, 5:40, 7:10, 8:10, 9:45, 10:45 Sun. (12:40, 2:10, 3:10) 4:40, 5:40, 7:10, 8:10, 9:45; **Grandma’s Boy** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (12:40, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:40 Sun. (12:40, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; **Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (12:30, 3:50) 7:05, 10:35 Sun. (12:30, 3:50) 7:05, 10:25; **Hostel** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (12:45, 2:15, 3:15) 4:45, 5:45, 7:30, 8:30, 9:55, 10:50 Sun. (12:45, 2:15, 3:15) 4:45, 5:45, 7:30, 8:30, 9:55; **King Kong** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (1:00, 2:30, 3:45) 4:50, 6:30, 7:40, 8:40, 10:15; **Memoirs of a Geisha** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (12:35, 3:40) 7:00, 10:10 Sun. (12:35, 3:40) 7:00, 10:05; **Pride and Prejudice** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (1:10) 4:15, 7:20, 10:25 Sun. (1:10) 4:15, 7:20, 10:10; **Syriana** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (1:25) 4:25, 7:25, 10:30 Sun. (1:25) 4:25, 7:25, 10:15; **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (1:00, 2:00) 4:10, 5:10, 7:15, 8:15, 10:25 Sun. (1:00, 2:00) 4:10, 5:10, 7:15, 8:15, 10:20; **The Ringer** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat.

(12:30, 2:55) 5:20, 7:50, 10:20 Sun. (12:30, 2:55) 5:20, 7:45, 10:00

Horton Plaza 14

Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM)
Call theater for program information

LA JOLLA

La Jolla 12

8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262)
Cheaper by the Dozen 2 (PG); **Fun with Dick and Jane** (PG-13); **Grandma’s Boy** (R); **King Kong** (PG-13); **Memoirs of a Geisha** (PG-13); **Munich** (R); **Rumor Has It** (PG-13); **Syriana** (R); **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe** (PG); **The Family Stone** (PG-13); **The Producers** (PG-13); **The Ringer** (PG-13)

La Jolla Village

8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236)
Brokeback Mountain (R); **Casanova** (R); **Good Night, and Good Luck** (PG); **Pride and Prejudice** (PG)

MIRA MESA

Mira Mesa 18

10733 Westview Parkway (858-635-7700)
Call theater for program information

MISSION VALLEY

Fashion Valley 18

7037 Friars Road (858-558-2262)
Casanova (R); **Cheaper by the Dozen 2** (PG); **Fun with Dick and Jane** (PG-13); **Grandma’s Boy** (R); **Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire** (PG-13); **Hostel** (R); **Just Friends** (PG-13); **King Kong** (PG-13); **Memoirs of a Geisha** (PG-13); **Munich** (R); **Rumor Has It** (PG-13); **Syriana** (R); **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch,**

and the Wardrobe (PG); **The Family Stone** (PG-13); **The Producers** (PG-13); **The Ringer** (PG-13); **Wolf Creek** (Not Rated)

Mission Valley 7

7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)
Good Night, and Good Luck (PG) Fri.,-Sun. 10:15 (3:15) 5:30, 8:00; **King Kong** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. 11:00 (3:00) 7:00, 10:45 Sun. 11:00 (3:00) 7:00; **Memoirs of a Geisha** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. 10:30 (1:30, 4:30) 7:30, 10:30 Sun. 10:30 (1:30, 4:30) 7:30; **Munich** (R) Fri.,-Sat. 11:30 (3:30) 7:00, 10:30 Sun. 11:30 (3:30) 7:00; **Rumor Has It** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. 10:15 (12:15, 2:30) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 Sun. 10:15 (12:15, 2:30) 5:15, 7:45; **Syriana** (R) Fri.,-Sat. 12:30, 10:15 Sun. 12:30; **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe** (PG) Fri. 10:15 (1:15, 4:15) 7:15, 10:15 Sat. 10:15 (1:15, 4:15) 7:15, 10:15 Sun. 10:15 (1:15, 4:15) 7:15; **The Family Stone** (PG-13) Fri. 10:00 (12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sat. (12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. 10:00 (12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15

Mission Valley 20

1640 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262)
Casanova (R); **Cheaper by the Dozen 2** (PG); **Fun with Dick and Jane** (PG-13); **Grandma’s Boy** (R); **Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire** (PG-13); **Hostel** (R); **King Kong** (PG-13); **Memoirs of a Geisha** (PG-13); **Munich** (R); **Rumor Has It** (PG-13); **Syriana** (R); **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe** (PG); **The Family Stone** (PG-13); **The Matador** (R); **The Producers** (PG-13); **The Ringer** (PG-13); **Wolf Creek** (Not Rated); **Yours, Mine, and Ours** (PG)

STATE UNIVERSITY

Cinerama 6

5831 University Avenue (619-287-8990)
Cheaper by the Dozen 2 (PG) Fri. (3:25) 5:40, 7:55, 10:15 Sat. (12:55, 3:25) 5:40, 7:55, 10:15 Sun. (12:55, 3:25) 5:40, 7:55; **Fun with Dick and Jane** (PG-13) Fri. (2:45) 5:30, 7:45, 9:55 Sat. (12:25, 2:45) 5:30, 7:45, 9:55 Sun. (12:25, 2:45) 5:30, 7:45; **Hostel** (R) Fri. (2:30) 5:00, 7:15, 9:45 Sat. (12:45, 3:00) 5:20, 7:40, 10:10 Sun. (12:45, 3:00) 5:20, 7:40; **King Kong** (PG-13) Fri. (3:15) 7:25 Sat.,-Sun. (12:00, 3:45) 7:35; **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe** (PG) Fri. (3:00) 7:00, 10:05 Sat. (12:30, 3:35) 7:20, 10:20 Sun. (12:30, 3:35) 7:20; **Wolf Creek** (Not Rated) Fri. (2:50) 5:15, 7:30, 10:00 Sat. (12:15, 2:50) 5:15, 7:30, 10:00 Sun. (12:15, 2:50) 5:15, 7:30

Ken

4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)
Brokeback Mountain (R) Fri. (4:00) 7:00, 10:00 Sat.,-Sun. (1:00) 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

UPTOWN

Garden Cabaret

4040 Goldfinch Street (619-295-4221)
Call theater for program information

Hillcrest Cinemas

3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)
Breakfast on Pluto (R) Fri. (2:15, 5:15) 8:15 Sat.,-Sun. (11:20) 2:15, 5:15, 8:15; **Brokeback Mountain** (R) Fri. (1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00) 7:00, 8:00, 10:00 Sat.,-Sun. (11:00) 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00; **Capote** (R) Fri. (1:55, 4:40) 7:10, 9:50 Sat.,-Sun. (11:10) 1:55, 4:40, 7:10, 9:50; **The Squid and the Whale** (R) Fri. (1:45, 4:15) 7:25, 9:40 Sat.,-Sun. (11:30) 1:45, 4:15, 7:25, 9:40

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center

1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)
Adventures in Wild California (Not Rated) Fri. 6:00; **Mystery of the Nile** (Not Rated) Fri. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 8:00 Sat. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 Sun. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00; **Mystic India** (Not Rated) Fri. 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 9:00 Sat. 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 Sun. 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00; **Ring of Fire (IMAX)** (Not Rated) Fri. 7:00; **The Living Sea** (Not Rated) Sat.,-Sun. 10:00

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON

Parkway Plaza 18

405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456)
Call theater for program information

LA MESA

Grossmont Center

Grossmont Center (619-465-7100)
Casanova (R) Fri. (2:30) 5:15, 8:00, 10:30 Sat.,-Sun. (11:30, 2:30) 5:15, 8:00, 10:30; **Cheaper by the Dozen 2** (PG) Fri. (2:10) 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 Sat.,-Sun. (11:25, 2:10) 4:45, 7:15, 9:30; **Fun with Dick and Jane** (PG-13) Fri. (1:10, 3:20) 5:45, 8:15, 10:25 Sat.,-Sun. (1:00, 3:20) 5:45, 8:15, 10:25; **Glory Road** (PG) Sat. 7:20; **Hostel** (R) Fri. (2:25) 5:10, 7:40, 10:00 Sat.,-Sun. (11:55, 2:25) 5:00, 7:40, 10:00; **King Kong** (PG-13) Fri. (2:45) 7:00, 10:40 Sat. (11:00, 3:00) 7:00, 10:40 Sun. (11:00, 3:00) 7:00, 10:35; **Memoirs of a Geisha** (PG-13) Fri. (12:35, 3:35) 7:05, 10:10 Sat. (12:10, 3:35) 7:05, 10:10 Sun. (12:10, 3:35) 7:05, 10:05; **Munich** (R) Fri. (12:30, 3:50) 7:30, 10:50 Sat. (12:00, 3:45) 7:30, 10:50 Sun. (12:00, 3:45) 7:30, 10:45; **Rumor Has It** (PG-13) Fri. (1:00, 3:10) 5:25, 7:50, 9:55 Sat.,-Sun. (12:50, 3:10)

HELP WANTED

PLACE FREE ONLINE ADS with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. Also see thousands of classified ads not printed here!

A/V TECHNICIANS: Immediate for San Diego's largest production company. Responsibilities: deliver/pick up equipment from job sites, provide customer service/support, and install, connect and operate A/V equipment as needed. Must be able to work weekends and have clean DMV record. Experience driving up to a 24' truck and manual transmission preferred. Resume: fax 858-348-0079 or e-mail hr@msiropd.com. Or apply in person: Meeting Services, Inc., 9220 Activity Road, San Diego, CA 92126, 858-348-0100. EOE.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES. Don't you love when the sky is the limit for your paycheck? Join us in our Mira Mesa AppleOne branch. Must be forthright, dependable, outgoing. Basic computer skills and eager to learn. Must love sales. Excellent compensation including base pay. Call Ashley, 858-578-4437.

ACCOUNTING. La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad is growing! See our ad under "HOTEL." Call job line, 760-929-6380 for information. Se habla Espanol. EOE/M/F/V/H. A drug-free workplace.

ACCOUNTING/FINANCE. Immediate openings. Competitive wages, paid holidays and vacation, medical and dental insurance, training programs, more! Direct placement, temporary and temporary-to-hire positions. www.jobs.volt.com. Call Volt Services Group for more information. EOE. Carlsbad: 760-729-8916; e-mail carlsbad@volt.com. Chula Vista: 619-427-0200; e-mail chulavista@volt.com. El Cajon: 619-401-1524; e-mail elcajon@volt.com. San Diego: 858-576-3140; e-mail clairemont@volt.com. San Marcos: 760-471-0800; e-mail sanmarcos@volt.com. Scripps Ranch: 858-578-0920; e-mail scrippsranch@volt.com.

ACTIVISM. Great jobs to save the environment. Work with the nation's largest grassroots organization to save our national Forests. Earn \$300-\$500 per week. Call Lee, 619-297-5512.

AD SPECIALIES SALES. Success is a lifestyle. We sell 8am to 1pm or 1pm to 6pm. No weekends. \$12/hour to start. Call Rick: 1-800-566-9677.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. A contemporary, creative north county church is looking for an energetic individual able to perform multiple administrative tasks with little supervision. Position includes word processing for all church documents, simple graphics and printing, facilities oversight, volunteer coordination, telephone assistance, and database maintenance. Proficiency in Word, Excel, Publisher, and ability to learn additional computer programs a must. Starting at 15-20 hours/week at \$10/hour. Please e-mail resume to Bryan, brsmail@ix.netcom.com. North Coast Presbyterian Church: 760-753-2998.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT for North County publishing company to help sales department. Requires advanced knowledge of Word/Excel. Coordinate appointments, client relations, trade show set up. \$30k/year. Please call 760-480-0454.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS/ Receptionists. Prior administrative or receptionist experience required, must have excellent communication skills. Great career pathways with great companies. Mission Valley. Ultimate Staffing. E-mail lajolla@ultimatestaffing.com. Fax 858-625-2026. Phone 858-625-2025.

ADMINISTRATIVE. 24 hours/week. Miramar area. Flexible, fun, busy work environment. Data entry, Quickbooks, customer service (phone, e-mail, etc.) Requires basic MS Office. bsmith@maidbrigade.com, 858-536-7774.

ADMINISTRATIVE. Director of First Impressions. Motivation, initiative, leadership, Word, Excel, Access and Powerpoint skills required. Professionalism a must. Solid 3-5 years experience. Call today! 619-409-1401, or email chulavista-ca@appleone.com. Reference "Director of First Impressions" ad.

ADMINISTRATIVE. La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad is growing! See our ad under "HOTEL." Call job line, 760-929-6380 for information. Se habla espanol. EOE/M/F/V/H. A drug-free workplace.

ADMINISTRATIVE. Mission Valley office seeks college graduates for companies offering growth potential, great benefits and ability to gain industry experience. Email resume: missionvalley@appleone.com or call: 619-542-0016.

ADMINISTRATIVE. North County: Receptionist, Administrative Assistants, Dental Assistant, Dental Receptionist, Medical Assistant, Medical Biller, Collector Representatives, Case Managers, Income Audit, Warehouse/Production. Call 760-741-1622. Mid-County: Office Coordinator/ Receptionist, Administrative Assistants, Entry Level Information Technology Help Desk Support. Call TOPS Staffing, 619-299-8770; e-mail sandiego@topsstaffing.com.

ADMINISTRATIVE/CLERICAL. Temporary, temporary-to-hire, direct placement positions. Competitive wages, paid weekly, paid holidays and vacation. Medical and dental insurance plans, state of the art training, career management and more. www.jobs.volt.com. Call Volt Services Group for more information. EOE. Carlsbad: 760-729-8916; email carlsbad@volt.com. Chula Vista: 619-427-0200; email chulavista@volt.com. El Cajon: 619-401-1524; email elcajon@volt.com. San Diego: 858-576-3140; email clairemont@volt.com. San Marcos: 760-471-0800; email sanmarcos@volt.com. Scripps Ranch: 858-578-0920; email scrippsranch@volt.com.

AGENTS/PROCESSORS: Earn \$3500/month helping the United States federal government file paid mortgage insurance refunds. No experience necessary, training provided. 858-492-8091. www.miprefunds.net.

AIR CONDITIONING, plumbing, heating tradespeople with or without experience needed immediately! Work for a national leader in the service industry. ARS (American Residential Services of California, Inc.). We offer technician training programs, great benefits. Must have clean DMV and valid California driver's license. ARS is a drug-free work environment. CSL#791820. Contact Mike Barry, 858-677-5455, x202.

ANIMAL CARE TECHNICIAN (#17879). BD Biosciences Pharmingen, Torrey Pines area. Provide animal support to both the Research and Development Department and the Facilities department, acting as liaison between the two groups. Competitive pay and benefits including 3 weeks vacation, medical/dental/vision insurance and matching 401(k). For more information or to apply online, visit us at www.bdbiosciences.com/careers.

APARTMENT MANAGER to live on-site. Part time. Compensation is \$200 discount off rent per month. Manage units, keep clean, screen tenants. Send e-mail to: rumur@yahoo.com.

APPOINTMENT SETTER. Part time. Will train. Days/evenings. Better Business approved. Convenient Mission Valley office. Great potential. Hourly, bonuses, Bilingual a plus. Can train for sales if desired. Pay weekly. 858-279-9896.

APPOINTMENT SETTER. Top guns make \$1000 per week! Paid weekly. AM/PM shifts. Full or part time. Medical, dental. Near Grantville trolley station. Call today, start today! Mission Valley: 619-687-0070.

APPOINTMENT SETTERS. Experience preferred, will train. Bilingual a plus. \$300 sign-on bonus, \$150 referral bonus, daily

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APPOINTMENT SETTERS for kiosks at malls and trade shows. Door-to-door canvassers needed for 30-year home improvement company. Salary plus great bonuses. Call 858-495-0551.

APPOINTMENT SETTING. Earn \$1,000 or more a week setting appointments with business owners. If you are great on the phone and want to earn great money working from 7am-2pm, you will earn base plus commissions! Call Abanco International, LLC, today! 858-712-0150 x4033.

AQUARIUM SERVICE TECH. Full/part time. Maintain aquariums throughout San Diego County. Must have own vehicle. \$9-\$12/hour to start. Fax resume: 619-280-0155, or call 619-280-1126.

ADS UPLOADED DAILY TO SANDieGOREADER.COM

CLASSIFIED ADS

BUSINESS ADS

BUSINESSES include paid services or functions, rentals, and profit-making enterprises. For rates and discounts call (619) 235-8200, 9am-5pm, Monday through Friday.

DEADLINES: Business classifieds are accepted until 6pm Tuesday, two days prior to the issue. Call by Friday for early-placement discounts. Ads may be placed by phone using a credit

card (619-235-8200) or in person (1703 India Street, at Date Downtown). Hours are 9am-5pm, Monday through Friday, and until 6pm Tuesday.

PLEASE NOTE: The *Reader* will not be financially responsible for failure to run an ad or for errors in an ad, except, if at fault, to the extent of the cost of the first insertion of the ad.

FREE ADS BY MAIL OR INTERNET

ONE FREE CLASSIFIED ad per week is available to private parties and nonprofit organizations that do not charge for their services.

MAIL: Ads must be printed clearly on 3x5 cards or postcards and are limited to 25 words. Additional words cost 60¢ each. Ads must arrive at our PO Box by 7 am, Monday. Mail all ads to

Reader Free Classifieds, PO Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186.

INTERNET: Free ads can also be placed online at SanDiegoReader.com. Free ads placed online appear *only* on the *Reader's* Web site. See below for instructions on placing online ads that also appear in the paper.

\$8 ADS BY INTERNET, FAX OR IN PERSON

QUICK, EASY, AND CHEAP! \$8 ads are available to private parties only. Ads are limited to 25 words. Cash, check or credit cards are accepted. (Services, rentals, lessons or any other profit-making enterprises do not qualify for \$8 ads. See instructions for business ads above. Other rules apply to Roommates and Matches ads.)

BY INTERNET: Go to SanDiegoReader.com and click on the link to place a free classified ad.

BY FAX: Complete the form below, photocopy it, and then fax it

to us at (619) 233-7907. Payment is with Visa, Discover, or MasterCard.

IN PERSON: To place an ad with cash or check, fill out the form below and bring it to our office at 1703 India Street (at Date), Downtown. The deadline is 6 pm Monday.

REALLY, REALLY LATE ADS: Private parties that have missed the 6pm Monday deadline may still place ads until 6pm Tuesday. Either come to the above address or call (619) 235-8200. The cost for these late ads is \$16 for 25 words, plus 60¢ per extra word.

Deadline: 6pm Monday

Write your ad below, listing the item for sale first, followed by its description (including price) and ending with the phone number. Each phone number counts as one word; ads over 25 words

will be edited. Refer to the Table of Contents to determine the classified category you want. If you are unsure, the appropriate category will be assigned. No cancellations accepted. No refunds.

NAME:		DAYTIME PHONE:			
<div><div><div><div></div><div>DISCOVER</div></div><div><div></div><div>MasterCard</div></div><div><div></div><div>VISA</div></div></div><div>CARD NUMBER:</div></div>				EXP. DATE:	
CATEGORY:		SIGNATURE:			
This form is for \$8 ads only.					
1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	

To provide online viewers of your ad with a map of your neighborhood, we need:

Nearest cross-streets: _____ & _____ zip code _____

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ASSEMBLERS. Machine Operators and Production. Immediate openings. Experience required. Various shifts. Also hiring Call Center positions. MDI Staffing. San Diego: 8316 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, #204; fax 858-277-5621; call: 858-277-5680. San Marcos: 310 Via Vera Cruz #211; fax 760-591-7976; call 760-591-7975.

ASSET PROTECTION OFFICERS. Come and join the GMI team! Now hiring throughout San Diego county. Immediate placement available. Full/part time with valid California Guard Card. Excellent starting wages with growth potential to \$17.50/hour. Aggressive bonus programs. 401(k), health benefits, and professional certification. (*Guard Card Classes Wednesdays, 7am, \$140.) 8001 Vickers Street, San Diego. Eligibility is conditional. 858-244-1915.

ATTORNEY AIDE. Disabled female attorney needs part-time assistance (Tuesdays, Thursdays) to assist at office. Hours are 8:15am-7pm plus additional periodic overtime. Duties include typing, filing, word processing, occasional Bookkeeping, assistance at court. Good grammar and punctuation skills, knowledge of Microsoft Office, good handwriting and the ability to stand for long periods of time. Requires the ability to drive a van with automatic transmission. Must have good driving record. Candidates must pass a grammar, spelling, punctuation and typing test plus a background check. Please send resume to: Human Resources, DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary US LLP, 401 B Street, Suite 1700, San Diego, CA 92101 or email to maureen.walker@dlapiper.com.

AUTO AUDIO/VIDEO INSTALLER. New Ocean Beach auto sound shop wants experienced (3 years minimum) full time installer. Pay based on experience. Call Patrick, 619-222-5358.

AUTO SALES. \$2K-\$3K/month opportunity. Prefer experienced Salesperson. Full time only, must have driver's license. Bilingual a plus. Big money for right person! Small sales force, will show all aspects of car business. Olympic Auto, 1800 National City Boulevard, National City, CA 91950. Ask for manager: 619-477-4983.

BAKER. Night shift available for wholesale bakery located in Miramar. Experience preferred. E-mail resume: info@sttropezbistro.com or fax: 858-404-0839.

BAKER. Thyme In The Ranch in Rancho Santa Fe has an immediate opening for part-time Baker, 4:30am-10:30am. Experience needed: cakes, pies, muffins, cookies. 858-759-0071.

BAKERS. Cookies by Design has immediate full-time positions available. No experience necessary. Fun and friendly environment. Apply in person: 9450 Scranton Road, Suite 112, San Diego 92121.

BARISTA/ JUICE BAR. Need reliable/experienced person looking to join upscale market in Horton Plaza. Fun environment. Good pay. Call Robert: 619-666-6488; Fax resume: 619-501-1459; E-mail: robert@beachcitymarket.com.

BARISTAS. Experienced. We want you! Great pay! Part/full time, morning and evening shifts available. Locations in Fashion Valley Mall, Sorrento Valley and Carlsbad. Call 760-752-1070. Send resumes to: steph@coffeecartbiz.com.

BARTENDER/FOOD SERVER. Part time days and evenings at Cafe La Maze Steakhouse. Apply anytime at 1441 Highland Avenue, National City.

BICYCLE SALES. Full-time. 2 years minimum bicycle retail experience. Road bike knowledge/excellent people skills a must. \$10-\$12/hour plus benefits and monthly bonus. 858-273-7300.

BICYCLE SERVICE/PRODUCT SUPPORT. Speedplay is seeking an outgoing self-starter who enjoys multiple tasks and has excellent customer service and computer skills. Position requires answering questions about our products on the telephone from both bicycle shop employees and consumers. Duties include warranty evaluation and repair and UPS shipping. Working knowledge of bicycle parts as an experienced cyclist or mechanic required. Fax or mail resume to Speedplay Inc., 10151 Pacific Mesa Blvd. #107, San Diego, CA 92121; fax 858-453-5871.

BIKE CAB. Driver's license required, full/part time. Training Mondays through Thursdays at 6:30pm, 619 C Street. For more info, call between 9:30am-6pm, 619-237-1245.

BIKE CAB. Petco Park--fresh air, sunshine! Lease the cab, keep the money. Male, female. Full/part time. Driver's license. 641 1th Street. Student Jobs Coalition, Inc. 619-595-0211.

BOOKKEEPER FOR TAX Accountant. Part time/full time \$9 per hour. Payroll, 10-key, accounts payable/receivable. Computer. Filing. Phone. Errands. Dependable. Friendly. Fax resume: 619-276-8600.

BOOKKEEPER. Commercial Copy Center. Full-time. Monday-Friday, 7am-3:30pm. Responsibilities include: A/R, A/P, Bank Records, Payroll, Billing, Purchasing. MYOB accounting program. Must be able to work in a detailed fast-paced environment. Must have good math/computer skills, excellent verbal, organizational and resolution skills. Friendly, outgoing, detail oriented. Competitive pay and benefits package. Apply: A Copy World, 980 Buenos Avenue (off West Morena Boulevard). 619-275-5560; Fax: 619-275-5466; www.acopyworld.com.

BUSSER. Rancho Valencia Resort. Upscale resort. full-time, days. Experience in fine dining preferred. Good benefits and working conditions. Telephone: 858-759-6216/email: diningroom@ranchovalencia.com.

BUSSER. Rancho Valencia Resort. Upscale resort. full-time, days. Experience in fine dining preferred. Good benefits and working conditions. Telephone: 858-759-6216/email: diningroom@ranchovalencia.com.

CAB DRIVERS. Will train. Day, night and part-time shifts available. Drive San Diego. North City Cab Company, 4896 Voltaire. Apply: 10am-2pm, Monday-Friday. 619-368-9620.

CALL CENTER. Immediate openings! Experience required. Various shifts. Also hiring Assemblers, Machine Operators and Production positions. MDI Staffing. San Marcos: 310 Via Vera Cruz #211; fax 760-591-7976; call 760-591-7975. San Diego: 8316 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, #204; fax 858-277-5621. Call 858-277-5680.

CAR DETAILER. Full time, Mission Valley area. No experience required. Great environment. Hourly, bonuses, and tips with increases. Leave name and phone number twice (clearly): 858-689-9772.

CAR WASH ATTENDANTS. \$6.75 plus tips. Automobile Detailer, \$9 plus commission. Apply: 8505 Costa Verde Blvd San Diego, 92122; 11030 Rancho Carmel Drive, San Diego, 92128; 12889 El Camino Real, San Diego, 92130; 9850 Mi-



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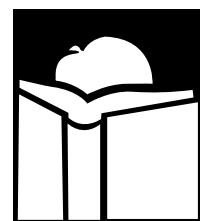
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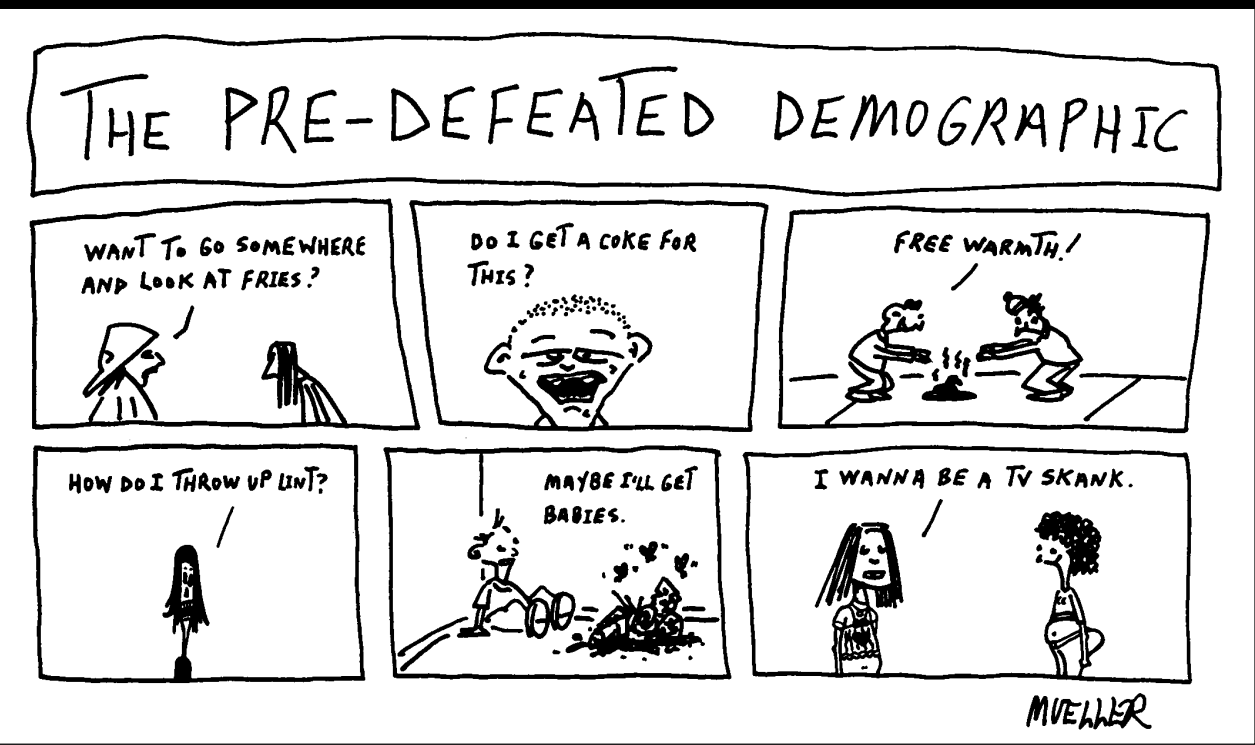
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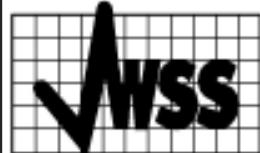
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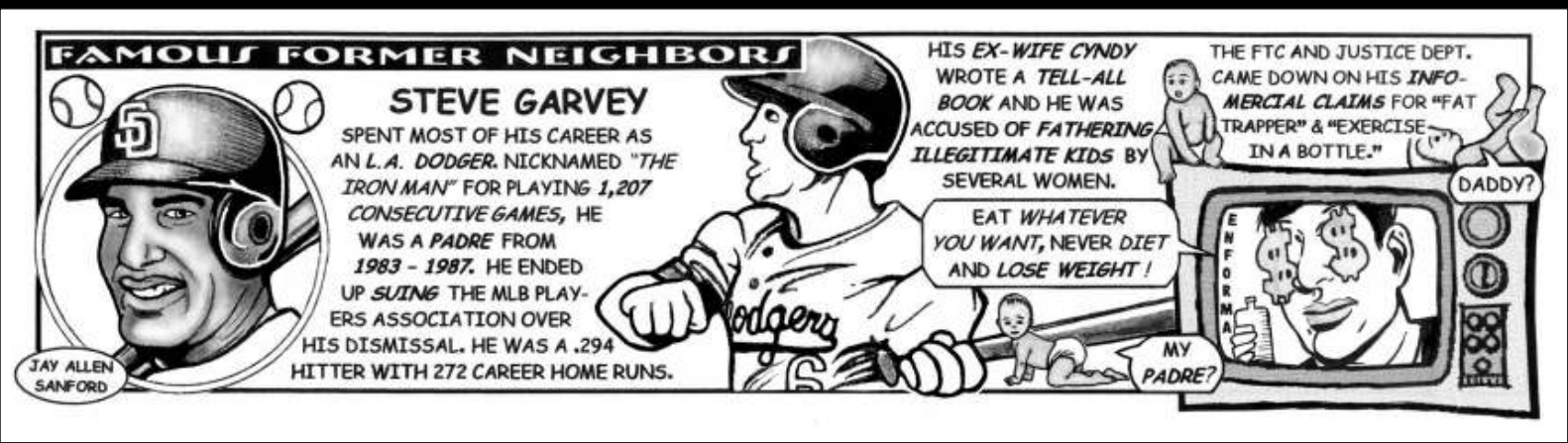
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DRIVER/LAB AIDE for medical lab. Part time Monday-Friday, 2-6pm. Use your own car to pick up/deliver medical specimens, also help in lab. \$7.25/hour plus mileage. 619-226-2854.

DRIVER: TRANSIT BUS DRIVER. ATC/Chula Vista Transit! 8 Bus Drivers needed. We provide paid training to obtain your class B license. Also seeking Mechanics. Benefits include medical, dental, 401(k) and paid holidays. Apply with current DMV H-6 printout: 1800 Maxwell Road, Chula Vista, CA. 619-656-2300. EOE.

DRIVER wanted for flower delivery service. Pay based on experience. Full/part time hours. Mission Valley area. 10450 Friars Road, #V. Thomas or Sheri, 619-516-5544.

DRIVERS (DELIVERY). Use your own mini-pickup. \$470/week to start. Openings countywide. Gas bonus paid. Growth opportunity. Call: 619-230-1532, 858-578-7812, 760-639-5400.

DRIVERS NEEDED Get cash daily! No experience necessary. 10am to 2pm, Restaurant delivery Service. Apply today,

Start tomorrow. Need car, insurance, decent DMV. Apply at www.d-d-i.com, or call 888-DDI-WORK.

DRIVERS. \$150k per year; teams! Excellent benefits and home time. Several opportunities available at Werner Enterprises, 800-346-2818 x123.

DRIVERS. C&D Towing needs drivers now! If you've got the drive, then make the drive to us! We train! Clean DMV required. Apply in person, C&D/McBrides/Mission Valley Towing, 8332 Case Street, La Mesa, CA 91942.

DRIVERS. Delivery 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. Excellent benefits. Apply in person: 5985 Pacific Center Boulevard #210, San Diego, 92121 or call 800-743-1139.

DRIVERS. Independent contractors. Local auto parts delivery with your dependable economy truck, car or van. Clean DMV. Make \$1750 to \$2400 a month. 619-233-4374.

DRIVERS. Non-emergency medical transportation company needs drivers with good driving record, do heavy lifting,

knows First Aid and CPR. MTDB helpful. Will train. Approximately \$22k per year, plus good benefits. Secure Transportation, 6190 Cornerstone Court, #208, San Diego, 92121 or call 858-623-9950.

DRIVERS. Part-time needed immediately. Clean DMV. E-mail resume: info@sttropezbistro.com or fax: 858-404-0839.

DRIVERS. Start a new career! Get your commercial driver's license. 4 weeks training. *Jobs available upon completion! 866-887-4937.

DRIVERS. Trader Distribution is looking for part-time Drivers to deliver free publications on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. You must have a truck, van or SUV and be currently insured. Call Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, 858-279-3137 x243.

DRIVERS/HELPERS Wanted for moving company. No experience necessary, but a plus! Immediate positions available! Familiar with paperwork and Thomas Guide. References required. Drug and alcohol free environment. Apply in person: 6448 Federal Boulevard, Lemon Grove.

DRIVERS/INSTALLERS. Deliver or install SBC phone books to new customers or pay phones in San Diego County. Year round work. Full-time or part-time house. Day time hours only. Use your own car. Paid car allowances. Must speak English. Must have & bring: drivers license, social security card, proof of insurance. Apply at 9586 Distribution Avenue, Suite K, Miramar, San Diego, 92121 or call 858-547-4427 between 9am-1pm, Monday-Thursday. Good pay!! We drug test.

DRIVERS/NORTH COUNTY. Deliver or install SBC phone books to new customers or pay phones in San Diego County. Year round work. Full-time or part-time house. Day time hours only. Use your own car. Paid car allowances. Must speak English. Please bring drivers license, social security card, proof of insurance. Apply at 9586 Distribution Avenue, Suite K, Miramar, San Diego, 92121 or call 858-547-4427 between 9am-1pm, Monday-Thursday. Good pay!! We drug test.

DRIVERS/RESTAURANT Experienced pizza delivery drivers, counter help and cooks. Full and part time; day and night shifts. Apply 1125 6th Avenue (between B and C, downtown). 619-531-0955.

DRIVERS/COURIERS. Part/full-time. Free weekly gas card for first 90 days. Set schedules. Wage plus miles. No experience required, will train. ProCourier: 858-874-0757, www.procourier.com.

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ELECTRICIAN I/II. Level I: \$20.62-\$25.78; Level II: \$22.73-\$28.42. Otay Water District, one of the fastest growing water agencies, is seeking an Electrician to perform electrical work in the installation, modification, maintenance, repair, overhaul and adjustment of various District electrical equipment. The ideal candidate will have a State of California Electrical Apprenticeship Certificate. See website for additional requirements. Send a District application (located at www.otaywater.gov) by fax, 619-660-7288, or e-mail hr03@otaywater.gov. Application review begins 1/20/06. Resume may not be substituted in lieu of District application. EOE.

ELECTRICIANS: Residential, commercial, custom homes. Top pay for California state certified Electricians. Full time with benefits. Training available for uncertified Electricians. Four years experience, tools, work truck and drug test required. Fax resume to 619-283-0205 or call us 8am-5pm Monday-Friday at 619-283-5723.

ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS. REMEC's Defense and Space division is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of Chelton Microwave Corp., a leading U.S. aerospace and defense contractor. We are working on unique projects for applications including tactical aircraft, electronic warfare, RADAR, communication/navigation systems, and more. EOE. To schedule interview: 858-505-3400; Apply in person: 9404 Chesapeake Drive, San Diego 92123; visit www.remecrds.com.

ENGAGED PERSONS NEEDED with a prenuptial agreement or who plan to get one, to complete a study questionnaire. Max 20 minutes. Compensation available. Call 1-800-956-2707.

ENGINEERING. La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad is growing! See our ad under "HOTEL." Call job line, 760-929-6380 for information. Se habla espanol. EOE/M/F/V/H. A drug-free workplace.

ENTERTAINMENT. Sea World is looking for enthusiastic individuals with positive attitude, high level of energy and commitment to quality for the following positions. Full time: Scenic Arts Craftsperson I, Rides Mechanic and Pump Mechanic. Part time: Scenic Arts Craftsperson III. Seasonal: Tour Guide, Park Services Hostess, Park Operations Host/Hostess and Admissions Attendants. EOE. M/F/V/D. For more information regarding these positions, please call the Jobline at 619-226-3861 or visit seaworldjobs.com. Apply in person: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm: 500 Sea World Drive, San Diego 92109.

ESTHETICIAN, Young Attitudes-Aveda Lifestyle salon near I-5 in La Jolla. Seeking enthusiastic, experienced person. Salary plus commission. Advanced training. Call 858-457-3334 or fax 619-697-9571.

ESTHETICIAN. (Licensed) Outside/Inside Sales, Training and Demo responsibilities for specialized, growing esthetic equipment company. Communication skills, extensive travel (local/national). Mission Valley. Fax resume to: 619-624-2374; e-mail: info@skintechonline.com.

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS. Mission Valley office needs 2-3 years experience supporting a chief executive officer. \$36-\$45K/year. Email resume: missionvalley@appleone.com or call: 619-542-0016.

FIELD TECHNICIANS/SERVICE INSTALLERS. Culligan, the worldwide leader in water products, is considering candidates for Portable Exchange and Bottle Water Route Drivers, Production Staff, and Field Technicians/Service Installers. Competitive company benefits package. Apply in person at 7575 Carroll Road, San Diego, CA 92121. EOE/AA/M/F/D/N. Drug testing and background check required.

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FITNESS CENTERS hiring Consultants and Group Exercise Instructors. Part/full time. Being Fit Fitness Centers. Clairemont location, 858-483-9294; Mira Mesa location, 858-549-3456. www.beingfit.net.

FITNESS SPECIALIST. Corporate Fitness Center. \$15/hour. Fitness Certification or related degree required. Part time, 20 hours per week, days, early evenings. Fax to 858-715-8681.

FITNESS: PERSONAL TRAINER. Part time for private one-on-one training facility. Degree/certification preferred. Knowledge of weight training/nutrition and health issues. Many career opportunities available. No sales required. 858-454-7774.

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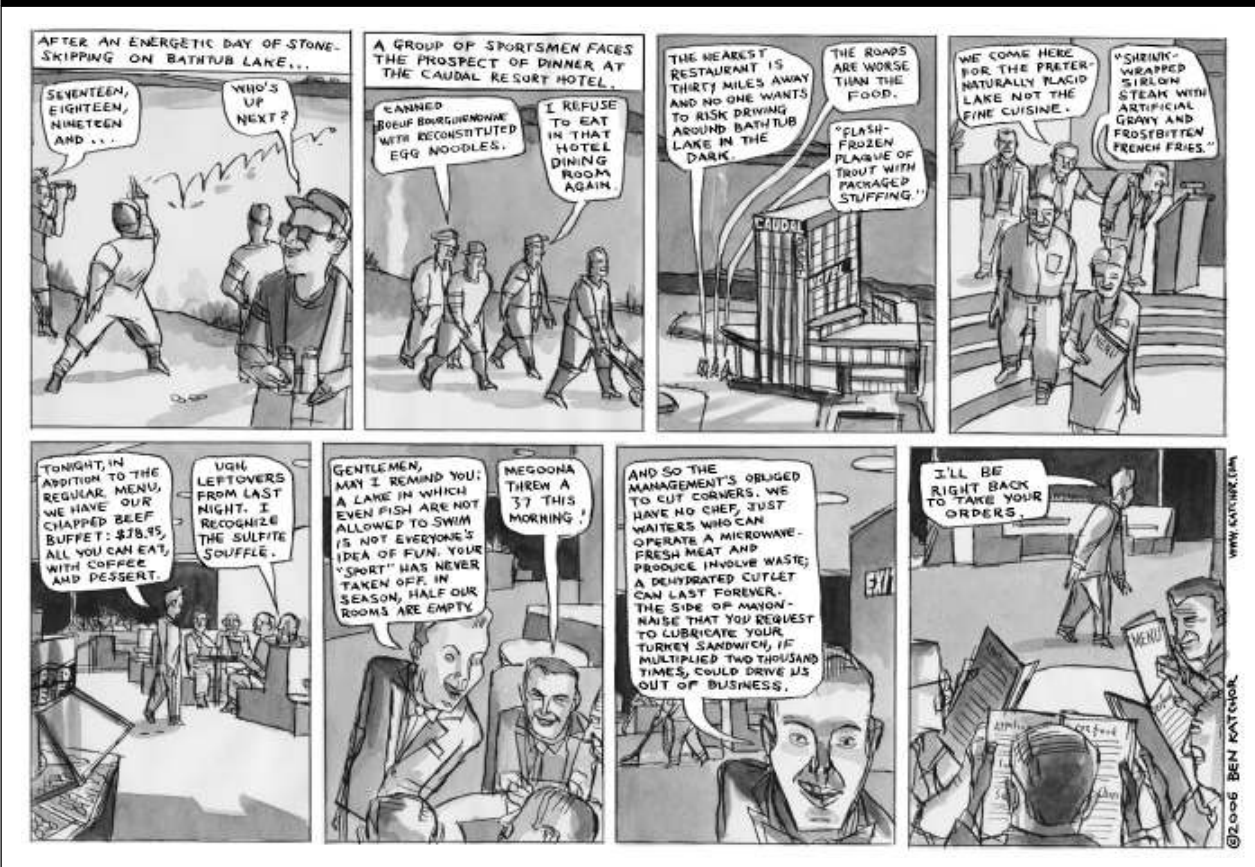
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FOOD SERVICE WORKER. Job #38147. Part time. UCSD Retail Services needs food service workers for our busy dining operations. Requires previous food service experience and excellent communication/customer service skills. Must be energetic and like working with diverse populations. Application deadline: 1/11/06. Hiring salary range: \$9.00-\$9.43/hour. Apply by visiting <http://joblink.ucsd.edu> (reference Job #) or by calling 858-822-1827 for application instructions. Background check required. EEO/AA.

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FRONT DESK. Rancho Valencia Resort. Upscale resort, full-time. Flexible Hours. Experience preferred. Good benefits and working conditions. Fax resume: 858-756-0165.

FUNDRAISING for national charities and Democratic Party. Full time or part time (evening and Sunday shifts). Paid training. Medical, dental, 401(k). Hourly plus bonuses, regular raises. Apply at Gordon & Schwenkmeyer, 2221 Camino del Rio South, Suite 201, San Diego 92108. 619-497-5600.

GARDENER/LANDSCAPER. Full time plus benefits. Resort community. Basic duties: mowing, trimming, basic foliage care, must enjoy outdoors. \$8.50/hour. Monday-Friday, 7:30am-3:30pm. Apply: Wesley Palms, 2404 Loring Street, Pacific Beach, CA 92109. Donna, 858-581-8569.

GENERAL LABOR. Fast-paced work settings. Must be reliable! \$8-\$9/per hour. Temporary. Ultimate Staffing. E-mail laajolla@ultimatestaffing.com. Fax 858-625-2026. Phone 858-625-2025.

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GENERAL OFFICE. 35 hours/week. Highly organized individual to run busy kids entertainment company. Phones, computer, scheduling, errands, training. San Diego area. 858-518-0000.

GENERAL. Healthcare Services Group now hiring Housekeepers, Laundry Aides, Janitors. Apply in person: Evergreen Carmel Mountain, 11895 Avenue of Industry, 92128, 858-673-0101; Telecare San Diego Choice, 3853 Rosecrans, 92110; Evergreen San Diego, 3520 4th Avenue, 92103; Pleasant Care of San Diego, 2828 Meadow Lark Drive, 92123; Country Villa La Mesa, 5696 Lake Murray Boulevard, 91942; Villa Rancho Bernardo, 15720 Bernardo Center Drive, 92127.

GOLF. La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad is growing! See our ad under "HOTEL." Call job line, 760-929-6380 for information. Se habla Español. EOE/M/F/V/H. A drug-free workplace.

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GYMNASTICS INSTRUCTOR. JW Tumblers, Carmel Valley, seeks out-going, talented individual with strong gymnastics/teaching background to lead children's classes, Tuesday-Thursday afternoons. Email for application, info@jwstumblers.com.

GYMNASTICS, COOKING, DANCE Instructors: Basketball, football, gymnastics, art, improv/comedy, hip-hop, cheerleading, cooking. Kids 3-12, beginning levels. Experience required. Mobile gym program. Part time, afternoons. North County. \$15-\$35/class. 760-917-4800.

HAIR DESIGNERS. Busy, upscale Gaslamp salon near Petco Park seeking booth renters. Walk-ins available! Great urban loft environment, convenient parking. Move-in incentives. 619-231-7588.

HAIRDRESSERS/ASSISTANTS needed for The Electric Chair. "City Beat Salon of the Year 2005", busy 20 chair salon/gallery, great income, Toni & Guy ongoing education programs. Looking for fun, motivated team players for 2006. Apply with resume at 4944 Newport Avenue or call Karly at 619-223-1112. electricchair-salon.com.

HAIRSTYLIST. Also hiring Manicurists and Color Technicians with some clientele following. We are currently seeking motivated professionals to share large, bright, friendly salon space in downtown La Jolla. Salon Victor Magna, 858-459-6325.

HAIRSTYLIST. Booth available. Large salon 2 blocks from the ocean. Lots of elbow room. Reasonable rent. Alexander Andrews For Hair, 967 Hornblend Street, Pacific Beach. 858-272-6990.

HAIRSTYLIST. Enjoy your job! Low stress, low pressure, great co-workers! Children's salon. Otay Ranch & Del Mar. Hourly guaranteed/commission. Health/dental. Full/part-time. 619-656-4887.

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HAIRSTYLIST. Salon J in Del Mar. Looking for stylists. Full or part time. Full with incentive. Booth rental only. Please call Jamie 858-509-1552 or Jen 858-344-6623, or Salon J, 858-259-4247.

HAIRSTYLIST/ESTHETICIAN needed full time for beautiful, upscale salon in Mission Valley. Call Mark, 858-829-2782.

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HAIRSTYLIST Ask about our Free Rent Special! Need a change! We would love to talk to you! Looking for an outgoing professional to rent booth in Rancho San Diego area. This is a must see salon! 619-669-9994.

HAIRSTYLIST for busy full-service Aveda Lifestyle salon near I-5 in La Jolla. Salary plus commission. Extensive advanced education. Great team! Call 858-457-3334 or fax 619-697-9571.

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Deliver or install SBC phone books to new customers/pay phones in San Diego County. North County positions also available.

- **Good pay! • Year-round work**
- **Full- or part-time hours**
- **Daytime hours only • Paid car allowance**

Must bring with you:

- Driver's license • Social Security card
- Proof of insurance • Transportation required
- Drug screening required



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or call: 858-547-4427 (between 9 am-1 pm Mon.-Thurs.)

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HAIRSTYLISTS. Hiring Bonus! Positions available for Stylist and Assistant Manager Trainee. Guaranteed wage, bonuses and benefits! Full time and part time. Call Great Clips in Solana Beach, 858-342-7470.

HAIRSTYLISTS. New Fantastic Sams in Poway. Fun atmosphere. Team focused. Advanced color training provided. Competitive pay. No clientele needed. Call Karen at 858-245-0156.

HEALTH CARE. No experience necessary! Care for individuals with developmental disabilities in our East County homes. Part time and full time positions: \$7.40-\$8.45 per hour DOE, or on-call positions \$8.50 per hour. Must be at least 18 with high school diploma/GED, California driver's license. Apply in person, Monday-Friday, 9am-3:30pm, Home of Guiding Hands, 1825 Gillespie Way #200, El Cajon, CA, 92020 or apply online at www.guidinghands.org. Call 619-938-3057.

HEALTH CARE: Attentive Home Care has immediate assignments for Live-in Caregivers (own vehicle/insurance preferred) and CNAs, HHAs, Caregivers (3 years' experience required). CA ID or driver's license, Social Security card required. Fingerprint and TB test a plus. Overtime for holidays. Call for an interview in North County or San Diego: 760-434-4393 or 619-231-0151. Or apply in person 10am-3pm, Tuesday-Thursday: 2333 1st Avenue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92101. *Please bring valid fingerprint card, TB test, Social Security card and California ID.

HEALTHCARE: LVN, CNAs. Casa de Manana, upscale retirement community in La Jolla offering independent and assisted living for seniors, has immediate openings for LVN, graveyard shift Sunday and Monday; full-time CNA, Saturday-Wednesday days; and part-time CNA, evenings, 20-30 hours/week. Competitive wages, benefits for full time, friendly work environment. Apply in person at 849 Coast Boulevard, La Jolla, CA 92037, or fax resume to 858-456-4293.

HOT/HOSTESS. Rancho Valencia Resort. Upscale resort, part-time, Friday and Saturday. Experience preferred. Good benefits and working conditions. Fax resume: 858-756-0165.

HOTEL. Hyatt Regency La Jolla now hiring: Banquet Captain, Banquet Servers, Barcino Server, Bartenders, Cafe Japengo Cocktail Busser, Cafe Japengo Cocktail Server, Cafe Japengo Restaurant Manager, Cafeteria Attendant, Convention Services Houseperson, Cook III, Executive Office Administrative Assistant, HVAC Mechanic, Laundry Washer, Lead Houseperson, Michael's Cocktail Server, Perks Coffee Bar Attendant, Project Houseperson, Regency Club Concierge, Room Attendants, Servibar Attendant, Stewards, Storeroom Attendant. Excellent benefits. AA/EOE. M/F/D/V. Please apply online at www.lajolla.hyatt.com

HOTEL. Job Fair. Monday, January 9, from 9am-4pm at La Costa Resort and Spa in Carlsbad. Due to our continuing expansion, we have over 200 jobs available! Conference Services Manager, Sales Manager, Membership Sales Manager, Restaurant Manager, Assistant Restaurant Manager, Front Office Manager, Chief Engineer, Training Manager, Assistant Guest Services Manager, Assistant Banquet Manager, Systems Engineer, Reservations Supervisor, Valet/Bellpersons, Front Desk Agents, Administrative Assistants, Restaurant positions, Culinary positions, Massage Therapists, Spa Attendants, Accounting Clerk, HVAC Technician, General Maintenance, Loss Prevention Officer, Golf positions, and so many more! Excellent benefits and perks! On the spot interviews and job offers. Monday, January 9, 9am-4pm. 2100 Costa Del Mar Road, Carlsbad, CA 92009. 760-929-6380. www.lacosta.com EOE/M/F/V/H. A drug-free workplace.

HOTEL. La Valencia Hotel, a 4-star preferred historic hotel, seeks qualified--Dishwasher, Houseperson, Room Attendants, Turn Down Attendant. Excellent pay and benefits. Pre-employment drug test and background check required. Apply in person: La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street, La Jolla CA 92037.

HOTEL. Night Audit position, part-time. Previous experience preferred. Hotel Parisi, 1111 Prospect, La Jolla. E-mail: virginie@hotelparisi.com or call: 858-454-1511.

HOUSECLEANERS WANTED! Must have reliable vehicle, e-mail, previous cleaning experience; speak fluent English; and love to clean. Flexible schedule. Call Art Of Clean Agency. 619-794-0463.

HOUSECLEANERS WANTED. Flexible hours. Must have car. Immediate work. English speaking. Maid in America Agency. 619-291-5000; 760-434-5150.

HOUSECLEANERS. Full/part time, flexible hours. Must have own car, speak English. Start immediately! Up to \$30K/year. A World Class Cleaning Service, 858-566-4543. www.awccs.com.

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HOUSEKEEPER WANTED. La Jolla family, Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 5pm-8pm, \$10/hour. Speak English, must have references, own transportation, nonsmoking, cat friendly, 858-775-2541. afeldste@san.rr.com.

HOUSEKEEPERS. Immediate openings! Earn up to \$462 weekly after 5 weeks full time. Weekly pay. Part time, full time. Must have car and home phone. Weekly pay. Work near home. Call today, start tomorrow! WorkWithDanas@aol.com. Dana's Housekeeping. San Diego: 619-298-6110. North County: 760-591-9740.

HOUSEKEEPERS for busy agency. Must be experienced and reliable and speak English. Phone and car necessary. Good pay, work own area and hours. Panda's, 858-292-5503.

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PM shift with full-time opportunities. Top Reps earn over \$30/hour. No selling involved. Paid training/holidays. Medical/dental/life insurance, 401(k). Two great locations: Mission Valley (near trolley) and Escondido. Hourly wage plus bonus, paid weekly.

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Jason: \$818, Theresa: \$737, Barbara: \$673, Cynthia: \$673

Call (619) 624-2888 for the Mission Valley location or (800) 549-2140 for the Escondido location. E-mail: rfonteneau@welkgroup.com or apply in person 12:30-4 pm Monday-Friday.

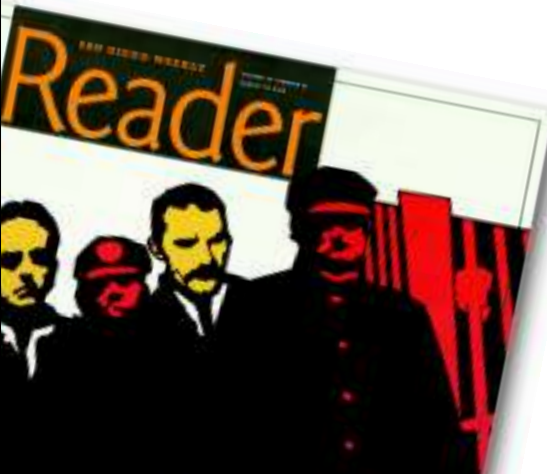
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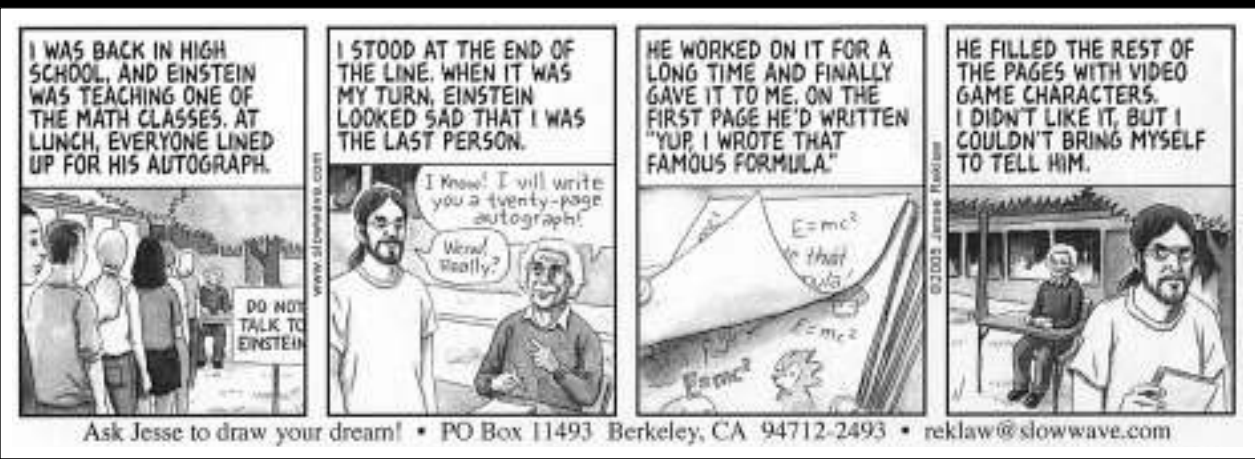
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IF YOU ARE A WOMAN, age 18-55, who has suffered a traumatic event, which has led to repeated painful memories, ongoing irritability, anxiety or depression, then please contact a UCSD research team seeking to find out how these symptoms, along with a study drug, and their treatment may affect how your brain works. This is an 8-week study, all visits, treatment and care will be free and you will receive up to \$230 for participation. For more information, please call Hai Thuy Nguyen at 858-552-8585 x5374.

INSIDE SALES, FULL TIME. Homes.com, top Internet site for real estate, is looking for highly motivated Salespeople. No sales experience necessary, will train. Base plus commission, full benefits, great hours. Sorrento Valley. Average pay \$18-\$21/hour. Real advancement opportunities! Call Nick for interview at 888-329-7576 x2100 or email Nick@Homes.com.

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INSTRUMENTATION TECHNICIAN (#21735). BD Biosciences Pharmingen, Torrey Pines area. Responsible for troubleshooting, repair, calibration and preventative maintenance of lab equipment. Competitive pay and benefits including 3 weeks vacation, medical/dental/vision insurance and matching 401(k). For more information or to apply online, visit us at www.bdbiosciences.com/careers.

INSURANCE SALES. Mortgage company looking for licensed Insurance Agent to manage Insurance Division. Fantastic opportunity! Can also do loans. No Real Estate license needed as we are a California Finance Lender. Fax resume to 858-536-5113, attention Personnel Department or call Tim at Express Funding: 858-546-5100 x102.

JET PRESS OPERATOR. Must have 2 years experience and ability to work different shifts. Also hiring Warehouse positions, 1st, 2nd and 3rd shifts. Must pass background and drug testing. Forklift experience a plus. Must be able to work weekends and overtime. Possible long term position. Call VOLT, 619-401-1524.

JOB COACH/COMMUNITY Training Specialist. \$8.75/hour to start, depending on experience. Assist developmentally disabled adults in the community. 32.5 hours/week. Benefits. EOE. Apply Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm: Stein Education Center, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego 92120. E-Mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax: 619-281-0453. www.vistahill.org.

JOB COACHES. Community-oriented, Center for Independent Achievement is

seeking dependable individuals in East County. 1:4 group ratio maximum. \$8.50-\$9.50/hour. Annual raises. Bonuses for exceptional performance. Benefits with full-time. pficareer@yahoo.com. Call 619-440-6802, or fax 619-440-6864.

JOB FAIR. Apply now at www.petco.com/jobs to be invited to our Hiring Fair, January 17! PETCO's new La Costa store needs Sales Associates, Assistant Manager, Team Leaders, Grooming Manager, Groomers, Assistant Groomers, Dog Trainers, Companion Animal Specialists. PETCO's the place for people who love animals and want to make a career of it! We offer a casual, fun environment and excellent benefits.

JOURNALISM. Diversity in Journalism. The Academy of Alternative Journalism, established by papers like this one to promote diversity in the alternative press, seeks talented journalists and students (college seniors and up) for a paid summer writing program at Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism. The 8-week program (June 18-August 13, 2006) aims to recruit talented candidates from diverse backgrounds and train them in

magazine-style feature writing. Ten participants will be chosen and paid \$3000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information and a downloadable application visit the web site at www.altjournalism.org. You may also e-mail us at altacademy@northwestern.edu. Applications must be postmarked by February 10, 2006. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator and employer. (AAN CAN)

LAW ENFORCEMENT. San Diego County Sheriff's Department now hiring 300 Deputy Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Detentions/Courts. Hiring two positions; take one exam, apply for either or both! Exam date: Saturday, 1/7/06, 7:00am arrival. Southwestern College Cafeteria (600 Building), 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista, CA 91910. Detentions and Courts: \$36,465-\$56,421 annual salary, plus yearly benefits package. Must be 18 years old. Deputy Sheriff: \$45,504-\$69,990 current annual salary, plus yearly benefits package. U.S. citizen or applied for citizenship; 20-1/2 years old. High school graduate or G.E.D. required. Bring valid photo ID, #2 pencil and \$2 for parking. Valid California Driver's License prior to appointment. Effective oral and written communication in English. EOE. For additional test dates, go online at www.SDSheriff.net/jobs. E-mail: Recruit@sdsheriff.org or call 858-974-2000.

LAWN CARE COMPANY has immediate openings. Full/part time positions. No experience necessary. Must have clean DMV. \$8-\$12/hour to start. Must speak English. 619-299-2956.

LEASING CONSULTANT needed. 29-story, high-rise property. Downtown. Must be professional and courteous and have general office skills. Part-time position, includes weekends. Experience preferred. Fax resume to Leo at 619-595-7908.

LIVE-IN SUPPORT PERSON/Community Support Facilitator positions. Innovative support living agency seeking creative individuals to provide direct support to adults with developmental disabilities in their own homes and communities. Part-time, days, evenings, weekends and overnights. \$9 per hour. Call 619-668-2228 or fax resume to 619-668-2227, attention: Creative Support Alternatives and Life Works, SDSU Foundation.

LOAN AGENTS/SALES. No real estate license required. Leave message 24 hours a day for return call, 888-313-7226. Fax resume: 858-454-2437.

LOAN OFFICER TRAINEE. Motivated and assertive individuals with excellent com-

munication skills who want to take their abilities to the next level: get into the mortgage industry now! Entry level position pays hourly plus bonus to start. Monday-Friday, 2pm-8pm, Mission Valley location. DRE# 01380621. For interview, call Ryan at 619-325-2901 x120. Fax resume: 619-325-2904. E-mail: ryanp@pinnaclelend.com.

LOAN OFFICER TRAINEES. Full or part time. No license needed. No experience required. Bilingual preferred. Will train. Call: 619-757-3300, or thangdang2002@yahoo.com.

LOAN OFFICER. Qualified leads provided each day. No license required. Challenging commission based. Must have 1 year experience in home loans. Will train. Ron, 619-402-5074.

LOAN OFFICERS. \$100,000 first-year potential! Minimum 3 months experience for rapidly growing company. We have full-time Telemarketing staff and many in-house leads for you to close in and outside California. Great work environment. Now hiring for Downtown and Mission Valley offices, so call today! For appointment, call Merissa at 619-515-2210 x159, Cliff at 619-295-2002 x101, or Scott at 619-515-2200 x114.

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LOAN OFFICERS. Real Estate. \$100,000-\$300,000 annual potential. Splits can be as high as 90%. Can do loans as well. We're a CFL lender; no Real Estate license needed to do loans. Many leads available in our Loan Division. Our company has been in business 20+ years. Call Ken Harring at Express Funding: 858-336-7885.


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Central Region—Attn: Paula, 619-543-9401
South Region—Attn: Matt, 619-656-1429
North Region—Attn: San Pasqual, 760-233-6017

Or e-mail résumé to: hr@newalternatives.org

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Live-In Caregivers Own vehicle/insurance preferred.
CNAs, HHAs and Caregivers 3 years' experience required. CA ID or DL, SS card required. Fingerprint and TB test a plus.
Overtime for holidays. Health benefits available.

Call for an interview in North County or San Diego : 760-434-4393 or 619-231-0151

Or apply in person 10 am-3 pm Tuesday-Thursday: 2333 1st Ave., Ste. 205, San Diego, CA 92101



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Shifts: 10 am-7 pm Monday-Thursday and 9:30 am-12:30 pm Saturday.
Exclusive Leads
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Full-Time and Part-Time Positions Available

- ✓ Will assist with Guard Card
- ✓ No experience required
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- ✓ Med/dental/vision
- ✓ Free life insurance
- ✓ Paid vacation ✓ 401(k)
- ✓ Ongoing training
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Apply Mon.-Fri. 8 am-5 pm.

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619-641-0049
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Management compensation commensurate with experience.
\$28K and up plus benefits and vacation.

Management candidates mail résumé to:

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- Starting Hourly at \$8.50
- Grease-Free Environment

Apply in person 9 am-3 pm in Pacific Beach at
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Housekeepers Needed Now!

- Earn up to \$462 weekly after 5 weeks full-time!
- Weekly pay

Part-time or full-time. Must have own car and home phone. Work near home.

Call today,
start tomorrow!
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619-298-6110

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MAID SERVICES. \$500 Hiring and Performance Bonus! No nights, weekends, holidays. Up to \$300 weekly! Paid training. Insured car required. Mileage paid. Always hiring! Merry Maids. South Coast/all south areas only, 619-336-1612; 619-226-2621.

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MANAGER/SANDWICH ARTISTS. Subway needs responsible, motivated Counter Attendants, Shift Leaders and Management Team in Coronado. Full/part time, day and evening shifts, flexible scheduling, competitive wages. For application, please call 619-463-0734, or fax: 619-463-0741.

MANAGERS, ASSISTANT MANAGERS, Drivers, Customer Service. Figaro's Pizza, a fast growing national pizza take-out and delivery chain is hiring motivated, outgoing, professional people looking for a position with advancement potential. Call for an appointment with Rob or Bryan. 619-758-1448.

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MANUFACTURING ASSEMBLERS and Material Handlers. Apply 8am-4pm, Monday-Friday, January 9-13: 8400 Miramar Road, #270, San Diego. Remedy Intelligent Staffing invites you to register for these temporary positions. Manufacturing Assemblers: 1st shift, \$9.50/hour. Material Handlers: 1st shift; salary depending on experience. Must bring proof of right to work in the U.S., photo ID, 2 employment references. 80% ability to speak, read, write English. Pre-employment criminal background check and drug screening required. Fax resume: 858-635-3236. Call 858-635-3239. E-mail resume to remsoresumes@remedystaff.com.

MARKET RESEARCH Phone Interviewers. No selling. Friendly, outgoing people for San Diego's fastest-growing market research company. Bilingual a plus. Hourly plus bonuses. Medical benefits. Advancement opportunities. www.luthresearch.com. Apply in person: Luth Research, 1365 Fourth Avenue, downtown. Job Hotline: 619-243-8045.

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MASSAGE THERAPIST. La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad is growing! See our ad under "HOTEL." Call job line, 760-929-6380 for information. Se habla español. EOE/M/F/V/H. Drug-free workplace.

MASSAGE THERAPIST part-time. Licensed. Sports chiropractic office. Del Mar. Need experience, deep tissue! Monday: 9am-3pm, Tuesday: 7:30am-1:30pm, Wednesday: 1:30pm-7:30pm, Friday: 2:00pm-7:30pm. Fax resume: 858-481-9797.

MASSAGE THERAPISTS/HHPs needed for day spa in Old Town. Licensed, responsible, and reliable. Great attitude. Call Relaxation Plus, 619-295-5594 or 760-715-4526.

MATERIAL HANDLERS and Manufacturing Assemblers. Stop by and apply, 8am-4pm, Monday-Friday, January 9-13: 8400 Miramar Road, #270, San Diego. Remedy Intelligent Staffing invites you to register for these temporary positions. Manufacturing Assemblers: 1st shift, \$9.50/hour. Material Handlers: 1st shift, salary depending on experience. Must bring proof of right to work in the U.S., photo ID, 2 employment references. 80% ability to speak, read, write English. Pre-employment criminal background check and drug screening required. Fax resume: 858-635-3236. Call 858-635-3239. E-mail resume to remsoresumes@remedystaff.com.

MATERIAL MOVERS. Clean DMV required. Engine Mechanics, Electricians, Quality Test Technicians, CNC Machinists, Chemical Processors and Electrical Assemblers. Solar Turbines has immediate openings. Aircraft or turbine experience strongly preferred. Must be able to pass background and drug screening. Long term assignments with potential for direct hire. Call VOLT, San Diego: 858-576-3140, Scripps Ranch: 858-578-0920, Chula Vista: 619-427-0200. El Cajon: 619-401-1524.

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PART-TIME Undercover Operative (Mystery Shopper). Licensed private investigators seeking individuals who are 21, but look younger. Dependable, good communication and typing skills. Own vehicle, California driver's license. timhinds1@cox.net. 619-447-6314.

PERSONAL TRAINERS. Degree in Exercise Science or related field preferred, not required. Knowledge of weight training/exercise physiology. Understanding of key nutritional/health issues. Del Mar. 858-481-2255.

PERSONAL TRAINERS. You want: loyalty, growth opportunity, fun atmosphere and are team oriented. See employment opportunities at: www.FitnessOTM.com.

PET GROOMER. Earn \$15-\$20/hour! Mobile Pet Groomer wanted for North County area. Looking for energetic people who love animals. Good work ethic a must! Team player. Clean driver's license. Benefits. No experience required. Complete training. Send resume to cblack@aussiepetmobile.com or apply online www.aussiepetmobile.com.

PHONE PROS. Success is a lifestyle. We sell from 8am to 1pm or 1pm to 6pm. No weekends. \$12/hour to start. Call Rick: 1-800-566-9677.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT/NURSE Practitioner needed for busy workers' comp clinic. Extremely flexible hours. Call Rosa at 619-474-8666 or fax resume to 619-474-0325.

PICTURE FRAMER wanted full time in Encinitas, Monday-Friday plus occasional Saturdays. Fun, creative environment, owner operated. Experience required. Hourly plus commission. Please call 858-232-7108.

PLAN CHECKER (Engineering Tech II). Hourly rate: \$21.65-\$27.07. Otay Water District, one of the fastest growing water agencies, is seeking a Plan Checker to perform a variety of engineering and planning work involving checking of construction drawings, including civil and mechanical plans. The ideal candidate will have two years of plan checking experience. See website for additional requirements. Send a District application and supplemental questionnaire (located

at www.otaywater.gov) by fax, 619-660-7288, or e-mail hr02@otaywater.gov. Application review begins 1/20/06. Resume may not be substituted in lieu of District application. EOE.

PLUMBERS/DRAIN CLEANERS. No experience necessary. Rescue Rooter offers: Medical/dental, 401(k), vans/tools, drug-free workplace. Apply in person with recent DMV. 9895 Olson Drive, San Diego, CA 92121. 800-859-5972. AA/EOE. License# 744542.

PLUMBERS/SERVICE TECHS needed now! No experience necessary. Rescue Rooter offers: Medical/dental, 401(k), vans/tools, paid vacations/overtime, high income, drug-free workplace. Apply in person with recent DMV. 9895 Olson Drive, San Diego, CA 92121. 800-859-5972. AA/EOE.

PLUMBING APPRENTICE. Need a trade? No experience necessary. Work in plumbing, drain cleaning trade. We train. Earn up to \$900/week with opportunity for advancement. Must have small truck or van. 858-530-3265. 619-440-4336. 760-741-7503.

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POLICE OFFICERS. San Diego Police Department is hiring! Ready for a career change? Upcoming test block dates are: Friday and Saturday, January 27 and 28. Applicants must attend both days of testing. Police Recruit earns \$42,723 per year. Police Officer I earns \$43,596 per year. Police Officer II earns \$61,110 per year. For more information, Call 619-531-COPS or visit our website at: www.sandiego.gov/police.

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PRINCIPAL ENGINEER. Continuous Computing Corporation has an opening for Principal Engineer (Network Management Telecommunications) position available at our San Diego office: Responsible for design, development and testing of network management for telecommunications products (job code: NMPE). Master's or foreign degree equivalent in Electrical Engineering or Computer Science. Must have 3 years of post-baccalaureate experience in design and development of telecommunications and data communications software programs and applications. Experience must include use of C++, Java, COBOL, XML, OOAD, ClearCase, SNMP and related technologies. Mail resumes to Continuous Computing Corporation, 9380 Carroll Park Drive, San Diego, CA 92121. Please reference job code.

PRINT/COPY CENTER- Customer Service Rep. Assistant to sales department for commercial copy center. 1-2 years experience in a customer support position desired. Industry experience also preferred. Duties to include sales order processing, purchasing, and estimating. Must be able to work in a detailed, fast paced environment. Must have good math/computer skills; excellent verbal, organizational and resolution skills; friendly, outgoing, detail oriented. Full time, Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00. Competitive pay. Benefits: Vacation, health, 401(k). Apply: A Copy World, 980

Buenos Avenue (off West Morena Boulevard); Phone: 619-275-5560; Fax: 619-275-5466; www.acopyworld.com.

PROBATION CAREERS. County of San Diego Probation Department is now hiring Correctional Deputy Probation Officer I. Test Date: January 7, 2006, 8am. 444 West Beach Street, Third Floor, San Diego 92101. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen or becoming a citizen. No felony convictions. High school diploma or GED. \$32,884-\$41,953/year. www.sd-county.ca.gov/probation. Jobline: 858-514-8558.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT/JEWELRY design. Must be knowledgeable in working with wire of all gauges; be proactive, creative, self-motivated, experienced under deadlines. Part-time; possible full-time. 619-702-5799.

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QUALITY CONTROL ASSOCIATE (#21042). BD Biosciences Pharmingen, Torrey Pines area. Contribute to the production of a quality product by testing of QC samples by using flow cytometry according to standard protocols and operating procedures. Competitive pay and benefits including 3 weeks vacation, medical/dental/vision insurance and matching 401(k). For more information or to apply online, visit us at www.bdbiosciences.com/careers.

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RECEPTIONIST. Full or part time. \$9/hour. Monday through Friday, A.M./P.M. shifts; Saturday a.m.'s. Pacific Beach. Contact Danielle, 858-273-7946.

RECEPTIONIST. Multitasker able to follow through on ordered supplies. Friendly, warm personality a must. Multiline phone system, creating spreadsheets. Advanced in Word/Excel. E-mail resume: downtown_ca@appleone.com or call: 619-238-7135.

RECEPTIONIST/BILINGUAL. \$30K. Fast-paced, team player, must have stable work history. Word and Excel proficient. Please forward resume to: Oceanside@appleone.com, and call 760-966-3682.

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call 619-234-9675 for an appointment or more information.

RECREATION ASSISTANTS. \$8.49-\$10.84/hour. Recreation Leaders: \$12.31-\$15.71/hour. Part-time for Preschool, Teen, Day Camp Programs and Community Center facility. City application and questionnaire required. EOE. Apply immediately at: 1825 Strand Way, Coronado CA 92118. 619-522-7302. www.coronado.ca.us.

RESERVATION AGENTS. \$1400 Loyalty Bonus! Top Reps earn over \$30/hour! Two locations: Mission Valley and Escondido. No selling involved. Full-and part-time PM opportunities. We offer: Medical, dental, life insurance; 401(k); paid holidays; paid training; great location close to trolley (Mission Valley office only). No experience necessary for motivated individuals. Call 619-624-2888, e-mail rfonteneau@welkgroup.com, or apply in person 12:30-4pm Monday-Friday at: Soleil Communications, Inc., a division of the Welk Resort, 6150 Mission Gorge Road #140, San Diego, CA 92120.

RESERVATION AGENTS. Hourly pay plus bonuses. Paid weekly. AM/PM shifts. Full or part time. Medical, dental. Near Grantville trolley station. Other positions available. Call today, start today! Mission Valley: 619-687-0070.

RESTAURANT JOB FAIR! New, upscale restaurant opening in Del Mar. Paradise Grille, Monday, 1/9, 9am-5pm: Marriott Del Mar, 11966 El Camino Real, San Diego 92130. Hiring Servers, Bussers, Hosts, Line Cooks, Dishwashers. Apply online at www.paradisegrille.com or fax resume: 858-350-0809.

RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT. Pacific Beach Subway. Compensation commensurate with experience. \$28K and up,

plus benefits and vacation. Mail resume to: 1804 Garnet Avenue #410, San Diego 92109 or fax to 858-573-0278. Counter Attendants: Day/evening shifts. Starting hourly at \$8.50. Apply 9am-3pm: 2015 Garnet Avenue (at Morrell), San Diego 92109. 858-270-5450.

RESTAURANT SERVERS, COOK, UTILITY: Casa de Manana, an upscale retirement community in La Jolla offering independent and assisted living for seniors, has immediate openings for full-and part-time Servers, various hours; full-time Utility Person; and Lead Cook/Supervisor, bilingual preferred. Competitive wages, benefits for full time, friendly work environment. Apply in person at 849 Coast Boulevard, La Jolla, CA 92037, fax resume to 858-456-4293, or call 858-456-4319.

RESTAURANT, CHILI'S Grill & Bar, Encinitas, hiring Servers, Host/Hostess, and Bussers. Apply in person any day, 2-4pm: Chili's, 1004 North El Camino Real, Encinitas.

RESTAURANT. Immediate opening for energetic and experienced Sandwich Maker/Breakfast Cook at Pearson Deli in Point Loma. Full or part time. Wage negotiable. Apply: 2435 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego. 619-222-2234.

RESTAURANT. La Costa Resort and Spa in Carlsbad is growing! See our ad under "HOTEL." Call job line, 760-929-6380 for information. Se habla español. EOE/M/F/H. A drug-free workplace.

RESTAURANT. Rockin' Baja Lobster, Old Town, now hiring for all positions. Apply in person. 2-4pm daily. 3890 Twigg Street.

RESTAURANT. Tired of the restaurant business? Get a real job! Work Monday-Friday, 1pm-9m. \$2200/month start plus

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RESTAURANT/BUSSER. Rancho Valencia Resort. Upscale resort. full-time, days. Experience in fine dining preferred. Good benefits and working conditions. Telephone: 858-759-6216/email: diningroom@ranchovalencia.com.

RESTAURANT/BAKERY. Thyme In The Ranch in Rancho Santa Fe has two immediate openings for Counter Person and Food Runner/Bus Person, full time, 8am-4pm. Call 858-759-0071.

RESTAURANT/SANDWICH SHOP. Extremely busy. La Jolla Shores. Requires people skills, multi-tasker, fast-paced environment. Starts \$8.00/hour. Call before 11am, Kim or Phil, 858-459-3621.

RESTAURANT: PANTRY COOK needed for private community/country club in Rancho Santa Fe for our restaurant and banquet services. Full-time positions, evenings. Duties include preparation of salad and dessert stations, plating of salads and desserts, assisting with banquet function, additional duties as needed. E-mail resume to resumes@thebridgesrfsf.com or fax to 858-759-7214.

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RETAIL SALES. Sunglasses. Mission Valley Mall, Part time 20-25 hours. \$6.75/hour plus commission. 760-672-2227.

RETAIL SALES. Women's trendy casual boutique seeks individual with energy and experience. 30-40 hours/week, Saturdays a must! Great salary! Call Julie, 858-350-0071.

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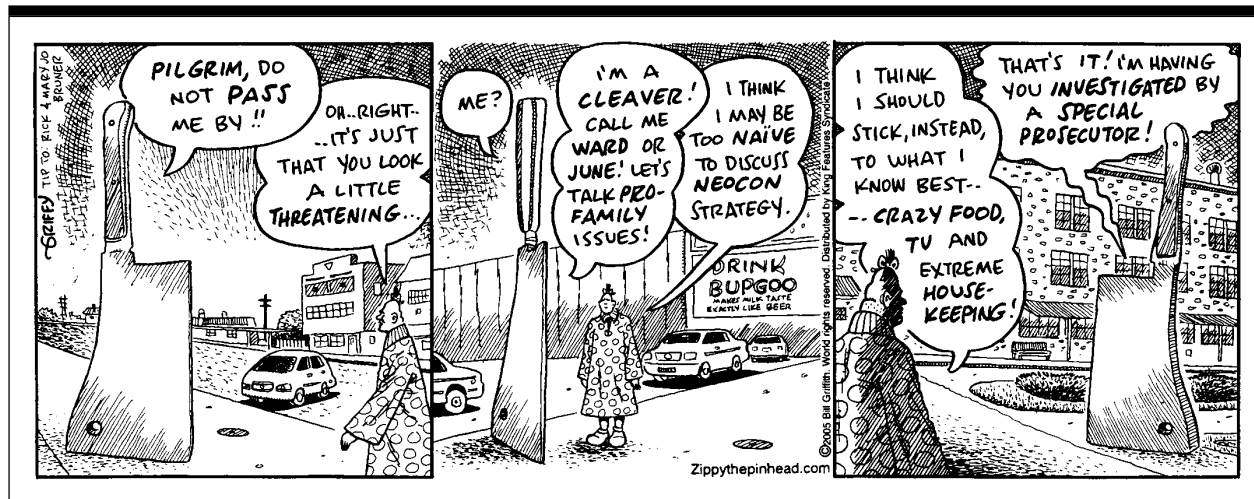
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SALES. La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad is growing! See our ad under "HOTEL." Call job line, 760-929-6380 for information. Se habla Espanol. EOE/M/F/V/H. A drug-free workplace.

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SAN DIEGO POLICE Department is hiring! Are you ready for a career change? Upcoming test block dates are: Friday and Saturday, January 27 and 28. Applicants must attend both days of testing. Police Recruit earns \$43,596 per year. Police Officer II earns \$61,110 per year. For more information, Call 619-531-COPS or visit our website at: www.sandiego.gov/police.

SECRETARY. Tax Attorney. Full time. \$10 per hour. Monday-Friday. 9:30am to 6:00pm. Phones. Computer and communication skills. Excellent writing. Errands. Dependable. Friendly. Fax resume: 619-278-8600.

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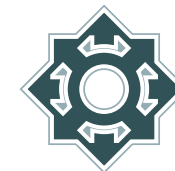
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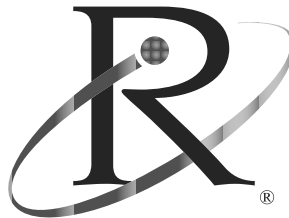
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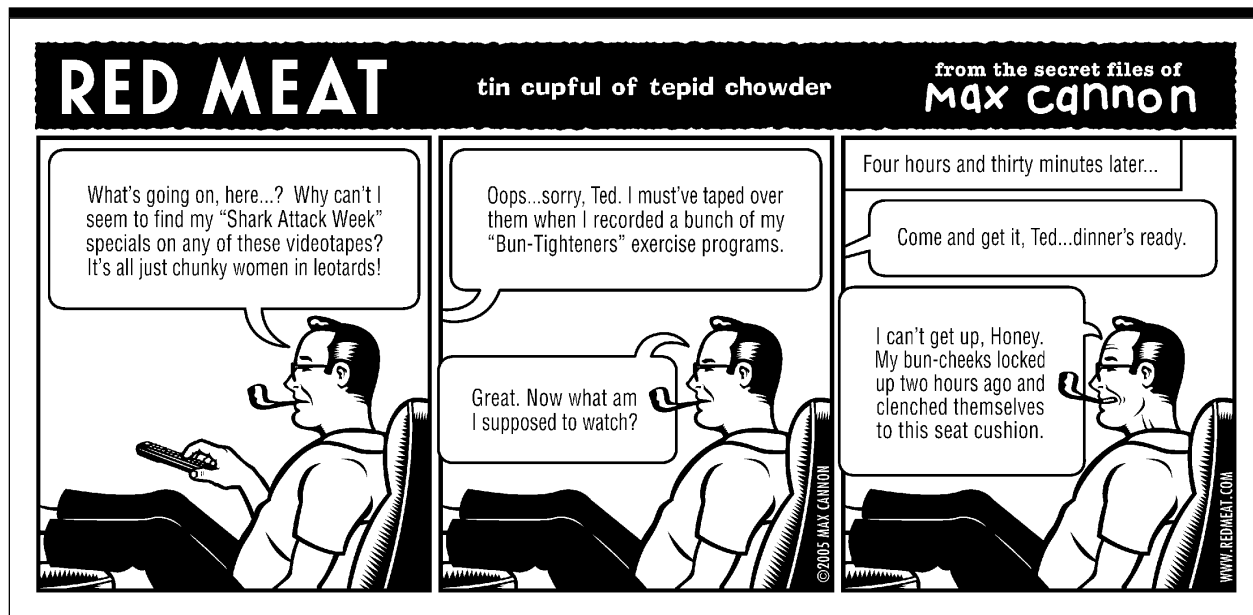


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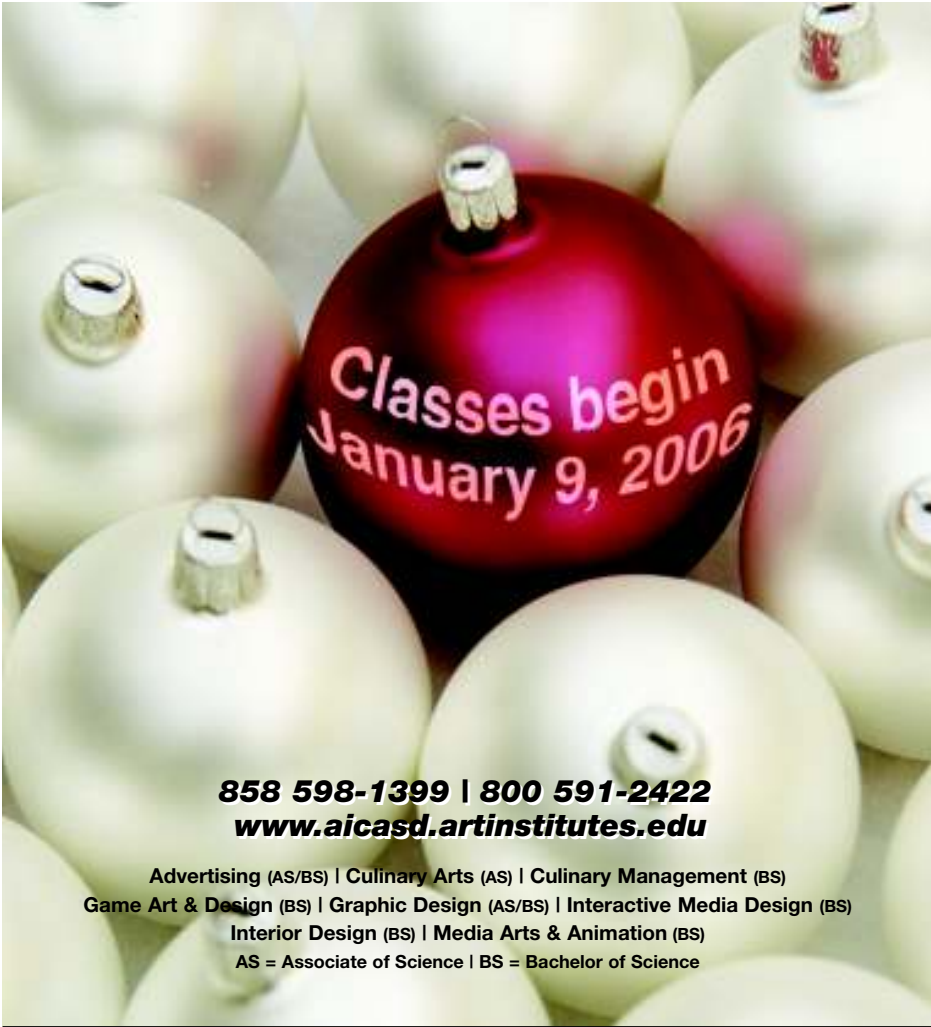
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THE READER PUZZLE

Across

- “ ____ the season ...”
- Enlarge, as one’s lead
- A ton
- Psychology topic
- Pie choice
- Circuit City section
- Closemouthed
- Like some milk
- Tough to climb
- Speaker of the quote in 28-, 36-, 45- and 54-Across
- “That’s ____ haven’t heard”
- Admit
- See 20-Across
- You might stick with it
- Dr. J’s do, once
- Boxer Ali
- See 20-Across
- Sign in an apartment window
- Sail holder
- Baseball’s Hershiser
- See 20-Across
- Very near
- Like some churches: Abbr.
- See 20-Across
- “The Grapes of Wrath” star
- The only U.S. state with one syllable in its name
- Ga. city
- Bellowing
- Nine: Prefix
- ____ end
- Boop in black and white
- Distorts
- Superhero emblem

Down

- Allegro or andante
- Big lizard
- Melancholy
- Lhasa ____
- “Finding Neverland” star
- 602, Roman-style
- Baby powder material
- One way to be caught
- Cowboy rope
- Empty
- Gator follower?
- Become extinct
- Soak (up)
- Set afire
- Graduating class: Abbr.
- Film director Petri
- “Star Trek” navigator
- 1995 triple Grammy winner
- Drift gently
- Where to go to go to Togo:

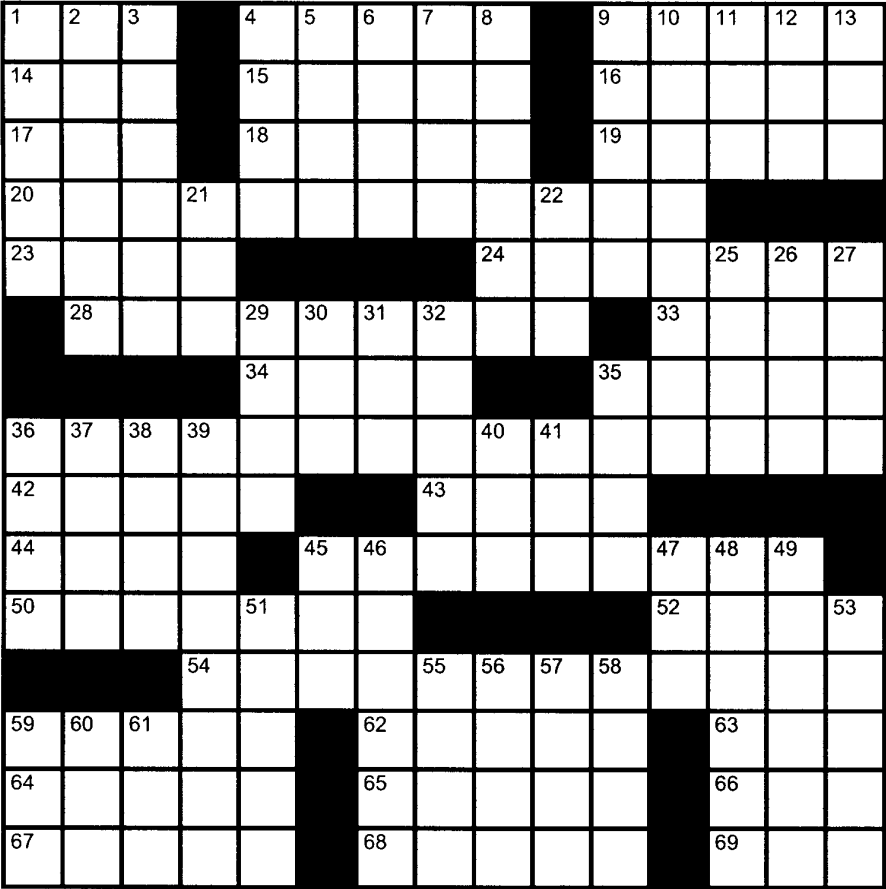
Abbr.

- “No seats,” on B’way
- Man from Marseilles
- Permits
- Yours, in Tours
- Tattered
- A Baldwin
- Berated loudly
- Small amount
- Taiwanese dissident ____
- Hsin-liang
- “The Waste Land” monogram
- Designer scarf maker
- Rolodex no.
- Morphine, e.g.
- Liquor measures
- Egg producer
- Monica of tennis
- Tug
- Eat
- From square one
- Affirmative votes
- Marvy
- Neighbor of Wash.
- “ ____ so fast!”

RULES OF THE GAME

- The prize for solving the *Reader* Puzzle will be a *Reader* T-shirt.
- All entries in the *Reader* Puzzle contest must be received by the *Reader* by 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, five days following the issue date (Fax to 619-231-0489 or U.S. Mail to *Reader* Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803).
- All entries must be accompanied by your name and address.
- Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.
- In the event of disputes or ties, decisions of the judges will be final and arbitrary. We’ve only got five prizes each week to give away, so if there are more than five winners, we’ll have a lottery.
- All answers must be entered in the space allowed on the puzzle page. And please, no phone calls or trips to our office.
- One entry per person.

by David Levinson Wilk



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Solution to and winners of the *Reader* Puzzle for 12/29/05.

Of the 186 entrants, 180 were correct. The winners are:

- Andrea Russell, *Escondido*
- Lisa Allen, *Cardiff*
- Mario Pavone, *San Diego*
- Thalia Thomas, *San Diego*
- Ron Hughes, *San Diego*

PARENT RESOURCES

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BABY STUFF. Car seats, baby gym, bouncer, strollers \$10/each. Toddler bikes \$5/each. Toddler boy clothing 12 months, large bag, \$15, all, Escondido, 760-685-8290.

FOSTER PARENT PROGRAM. Help a child in your community and support children in need. Make your heart their home. Be a Foster Parent! Training and 24-hour support. Financial compensation. License #370602780. www.waldenfamily.org. Call Walden Family Services today. 619-584-5777.

FREE PRESCHOOL/CHILDCARE. License #376600135. AKA Head Start is now enrolling children ages 3-5 years old in East County. (Full-day, part-day,

evenings, and home based.) 619-444-0503.

HELP A CHILD in your community! Make your heart their home. Be a Foster Parent. Support children in need. Training and 24-hour support. Financial compensation. License #370602780. www.waldenfamily.org. Call Walden Family Services today. 619-584-5777.

PREGNANT? Thinking adoption? Talk with caring people specializing in matching birthmothers with loving families nationwide. Expenses paid. Toll free 24/7. One True Gift Adoptions. 866-921-0565. (AAN CAN)

PROGRAMA PRE-ESCOLAR. Gratis! Licenciatura para el cuidado de niño #376600135. AKA Head Start esta inscribiendo a niños de 3 a 5 años de edad. 619-444-0503.

WEDDING & PARTY GUIDE

PLACE FREE ONLINE ADS with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. Also, see thousands of classified ads not printed here!

ADDITIONAL WEDDING SERVICES can be found in the Wedding Guide, located every week in the Calendar section of the Reader or at www.sdreader.com/wedding/.

AFFAIRS OF THE HEART? Weddings from \$350. Free consultations. Also anniversaries, birthdays, bar mitzvahs and portraits. Free 8x10 with this ad. Mind's Eye Photographies, 619-602-8253.

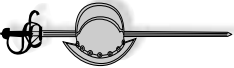
INSTRUCTION

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Open 6 days a week

NAME This Place



Q: The real Lindbergh Field?

Describe this location, name the nearest cross-streets, and win a *Reader* T-shirt. E-mail to NameThisPlace@SanDiegoReader.com; fax to 619-231-0489; or mail to *Reader*, Name This Place, Box 85803, San Diego 92186 — include your name and address. (Deadline, Tuesday, 9 a.m. In case of ties, lottery will determine top five winners.)



Last week's place: (clue: Warning: these cars will follow you.) Mural at Curt's Machine & Auto Repair, 2828 Adams Avenue. Curtis Yenawine specializes in pre-'70s car repair. A couple of years ago, artist Leila Van offered to paint Yenawine's side wall. When he agreed, she painted the two customers' cars that were in for repairs: a 1959 Cadillac Coupe de Ville and a 1957 Ford Fairlane. As you walk past them, the two cars "follow" you as though they're three-dimensional. (Last week's winners: Diego Gardner, Jenny Young, Rosemary Samo, Kelly Payne, George Castiello)

AFFORDABLE PHOTOGRAPHY and Ministerial. Married couple with over 30 years experience in wedding business teams up to cover your event. www.brianhowarthphotography.com. Call Brian or Valerie: 619-583-0411.

AWARD-WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER. See your wedding day unfold in photo book. On a budget? \$450 (you pay film, developing). Kidnapper of Images, Beverly, 858-736-4472; 858-274-4472.

BAND, "HOT PURSUIT." Weddings; corporate, private parties. High-energy dance band featuring sax player, female vocalist. Swing, jazz, rock, R&B, country, dance hits. 760-751-1876. www.HotPursuitMusic.com.

BOOK OUR BAR FOR YOUR PARTY! Funky, tropical Point Loma bar available for parties, events, fund-raisers, etc. No facility rental fees! John, 619-446-6753.

COMPLETE VIDEOGRAPHY SERVICES: Weddings, theater, corporate marketing presentations, promotional videos, demo reels, family heirloom videos, streaming web videos, etc. For samples and pricing: www.VideoDiamonds.com, 760-297-2157.

DISC JOCKEYS/LIVE BANDS/novelty acts. Weddings, corporate, parties. 400 bands, 10 DJs to choose from. All types of music. Affordable! Since 1973. 619-223-5732. www.musicasyoulikeit.com.

ENTERTAINMENT AND PRODUCTIONS. We put the wow in your corporate events, weddings, holiday parties! Best music, sound, lighting, video services. Call-free DVD demo: 619-216-4770. www.boogienightsinc.com.

PHOTOGRAPHERS: HUSBAND/WIFE TEAM. Digital and film-1,000 photos/more, including a woman's perspective! Elegant work, reasonable

prices! Mention the Reader: free 8x10! PhotographyByGeorge.com, 858-560-9797.

SAN DIEGO PARTIES & ENTERTAINMENT- Private, corporate, weddings! Excellent DJs, fabulous bands, specialty entertainment. 20 years of experience. Affordable! 619-444-2389.

STAGE NOTES

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ABANDON YOUR ACTING FEARS! Actors' Workshop Studios. San Diego's number 1 film/TV studio! Professional 3-camera set. Weekly in-house auditions with Hollywood/local casting directors, producers, agents.

www.actorsworkshopstudios.com; 858-587-6666.

ABILITY THROUGH TRAINING. Join the working actors that train at Robert Wald's Actor's Studio and learn the art of believable acting. This training prepares you to be in the moment and to work spontaneously, skills critical to an actor's success. Our students book TV, film and theatre jobs and earn industry praise. Just added, Thursday night and Saturday AM classes for students of all levels. Beginners welcome. Note: Tuesday and Wednesday night classes are filled. For details, 619-542-1216.

AUDITIONS. For "Boy Gets Girl," January 23-24, at PowPac Theater, 7pm, cold readings, headshots/resumes helpful/not-required. Rehearsals Sunday-Thursday, 7-10pm some Saturdays 11am-4pm. 619-772-1801. E-mail jpgastauer@sbcglobal.net or <http://powpac.tripod.com>.

AUDITIONS. One-person fun science shows for children. \$30-\$50 per 30-60 minute show. Part time. Monday-Friday or weekends. Performance experience with children required. Must have own transportation. Mad Science, 858-505-4880.

AUDITIONS. For "Lemonade" and "Whisper." 2 men and 1 woman over 50 needed. Stipend. 619-647-4958.

AUDITIONS. "Brothers All," 1/8-1/9, 7-10pm. Open to all, ages 19-29; 50-65. Show dates 2/19-3/15 (Sundays-Wednesdays). 1915 Morena Boulevard. Bring headshot and resume. www.6thatpenn.com; Barry, 619-463-2374.

CASTING. New real-life cable series seeking steroid users, bulimics, alcoholics, gamblers, shopaholics and those struggling with serious addictions or compulsive behaviors. www.mysteryseries.com. (AAN CAN)

COMEDY IMPROV WORKSHOP! Develop your comic/creative talents, spontaneity, expressive skills. Think on your feet! Beginning-advanced classes starting soon. Affordable and fun! 581-581-0050.

DON'T MISS "Jekyll & Hyde, The Musical" presented by OycTheatre at the Lyceum Theatre in Horton Plaza! This musical stars Dirk Stenger, Kezia Liu and Jennifer Harrell. Directed by Shaun T. Evans. Now through Jan-

uary 15. Call 619-544-1000 for tickets or information.

FEMALE MODELS. Wanted to help build photo portfolio. Trade model time for photos and compensation. 858-204-7650.

HEADSHOTS WITH MAKEUP, \$99. Three outfit changes. 36 or more photos all on CD. Zed cards available. 25 years experience. Member, BBB. 8"x10"/name, \$5 each. Call Kosnick Photography, www.mgk-shooter.com; 619-583-2229.

HEADSHOTS BY PAUL SAVAGE: Award-winning photographer. Our mission is to provide you with affordable high-end photos. Visit our galleries. www.savages4hire.com or call 858-496-9629.

MODEL. Male, 18-25, wanted for print and sculpture work. Call Brett, 619-806-0235.

MODELS. Amateur models needed for photo, video, web work. Ages 18-60. All types. No experience necessary. Cash paid. Professional setting. Call Jenn, 619-379-4964.

MODELS/FEMALE INTERNET VIDEO. 18+. Reality-based/performance art features. Excellent pay. Flexible hours. Seeking all body types/races. Tattoos/counter-culture encouraged. Paid daily. David, 619-203-3327.

MOVIE EXTRAS, ACTORS, models! Make \$100-\$300/day. No experience required. Full time, part time. All looks needed! 1-800-799-6215. (AAN CAN)

MOVIE EXTRAS. Earn \$150-\$300/day. All looks/types needed. No experience necessary. TV, music videos, commercials, film, print. Call toll-free 7 days! 1-800-260-3949 x3025. (AAN CAN)

VOICEOVER WORKSHOP. Break into voiceover! Taught by voice actor/author James Alburger. Learn interpretation, character voices, microphone technique, more for radio/TV. www.voiceacting.com; 858-484-0220.

COUNSELING & SUPPORT GROUPS

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ABSOLUTELY ANY PROBLEM can be discussed with a professional therapist in complete confidence. Call for an office consultation at no charge. I can handle most issues. Banker's Hill location. Available nights/weekends. Patricia J. Snyder, MFT (MFC-37588), 619-990-4717.

ARE YOU MAD? Learn how to manage your anger constructively. Gain power, control, reduce conflict and improve your relationships. Classes begin soon. Mission Valley. Jay Schneider, LCSW. Lic-9573. www.manageangerdaily.com. 858-538-5587.

CLINICAL HYPNOTHERAPY. "What the mind can conceive, the body can achieve." All issues addressed. Free consultation. Patricia R. Parlin, Ed.D. CHT403-250. Call 619-442-3661 or 619-504-1935.

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST (PSY7103) offers psychotherapy by Peter Glasheen, Doctor of Psychology/psychological assistant. \$50/hour. Sliding scale. 619-884-6273.

COLLEGE CHOICES CAUSING PARENT-CHILD STRESS? Family Counseling for Teen, Child, or Adult Behavior Problems. University City office. Jerry Rey, Psy.D., LMFT (MFC39595), 619-846-5018.

COUNSELING/DREAM STUDY. Curious, unsettled by your dreams? Jungian dream study helps with life issues, transitions, relationships. \$40/session. Paul Hartsuyker, MFT-15896. www.sandiegotherapist.com/hartsuyker.html. 619-269-8939.

COUPLES/FAMILY THERAPY. 26 years' experience. Marriage counseling. Specializing in relationships, individuals, substance addictions/abuse, depression, anxiety. Samuel A. Newman, M.A., MFT-25066. Sliding scale. 619-944-1346.

FEELING STUCK? STRESSED? Experiencing crisis? Relationship issues? Career problems? Family conflicts? Grief? Sexual issues? Take back your power. Free consultation: 619-723-9244. Trish Deignan, LCSW21861.

GAY/BISEXUAL MEN. Supportive individual therapy. Depression, anxiety, confusion, addictions, spiritual/religious issues. Married, closeted welcome. Discretion, confidentiality assured. Mel Karmen, PhD, MFC-12709. 619-296-9442.

HEALTHY ADULTS learning to heal childhood traumas. Free preview group Mondays, January 9 and 16, 6:30pm. Emotional recovery from wounds of dysfunctional family. Includes Thought Field Therapy for eliminating anxieties and traumas. Counseling for individuals, couples and families. Sharon Goodlove, TFT Diagnostician, and Glenn Goodlove, LCSW-1450. Goodlove Counseling Center, 858-569-8975. www.goodlove-online.com.

LIFE COACH. Reinvent yourself in 2006! Love, fitness, finance-balance. Coaching you to where you want to be tomorrow. Francesca Supple, M.A., IMF35567. \$40-\$65/session. 858-551-4510.

PRIVATE COUNSELING. Your journey can be clearer, more peaceful: relationship issues, body image, self-esteem, anger. I can help. Work toward acceptance of yourself. Fee. 619-838-6817.

NOTICES

PLACE FREE ONLINE ADS with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. Also, see thousands of classified ads not printed here!

ADDICTED to Internet pornography/sex? Out of control? You are not alone. Call Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, a 12-step fellowship. PO Box 3791, San Diego 92163 or 619-685-7211 or www.slaa-san-diego.org.

ADDICTION PROBLEMS? Women for Sobriety is a non-12 step self-help program meeting Monday, Wednesday, Saturday. www.womenforsobriety.org or 858-549-3533.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS. Get group support at San Diego Area meetings. Open to adults who grew up in alcoholic or other types of dysfunctional households. Feel better about yourself in a supportive 12-step environment. 619-276-6232. www.adultchildren.org.

ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE. Spring 2006. Register a new team. Information: <http://www.softballsd.com>. Registration: <http://www.softballsd.com/tmreg.html>. Our website align players/teams. E-mail: johnng@softballsd.com or 619-261-0826.

ADULT SOFTBALL UMPIRES. No experience needed, we have been providing officiating services to San Diego Adult Softball Community over 40 years. Contact johnng@softballsd.com or 619-261-0826.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL works for human rights. Meetings: 7pm, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. First Unitarian Church, 4190 Front (opposite UCSD Medical Center). Information, 858-576-3811.

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS! Be a Guardian Angel! Join our safety patrol. On foot or on bike, we "Dare to Care." Free, self defense lessons, ages 16+. 619-529-1904. www.guardianangels.org. email: sdguardianangels@yahoo.com.

BHAGAVAD-GITA CLASSES: Monday through Thursday 7:15-8pm. Discourse and discussion, by a Vedic scholar. Hare Krishna temple, 1030 Grand Avenue, Pacific Beach 92109. Friday evening vegetarian feast. 858-483-2500.

CANNABIS PATIENTS ACT. (Association Cannabis Therapeutics.) Nonprofit. Please read, follow Proposition 215 local guidelines! No wording for dispensing! Caregiver, 2 patients maximum, 48 plants, 619-528-0907. edzpepp@yahoo.com.

CROSSDRESSER/TRANSGENDERED? Nonprofit support group. Monthly meetings/ newsletter. Education, socializing, friendship. Neutral Corner, PO Box 19008, San Diego 92159. www.geocities.com/neutral-corner or 619-685-3696.

DIVORCED WITH PROBLEMS. Shared parenting initiative ballots are now available. Join the coalition of parent support to protect the rights of children. Call, 619-465-2677.

FREE BIBLE STUDY course by mail. Nondenominational. Increase your knowledge of God's word. Palomar Church of Christ, Minister Bill Sisco, Postage paid. PO Box 1473R, San Marcos 92078. 760-436-3730. San Diego. 619-299-6812.

FREE PSYCHIC HEALING. Lecture Clinic. Free readings for new visitors. Mondays, 7:30pm, 1/2/06, 2/6/06 by Vessa's Clairvoyant Program students. 4305 Gesner #200. 858-509-7582.

HEALTHY HIV+. Individuals living without HIV meds. Group starting to help others who are positive and want to live healthier life without meds. For more information, call 858-353-3134.

HELP FOR YOUR LIFE. Lonely? Dial hope 858-277-8060. Scripture, new thought, prayer, helpful messages 858-277-2389. Sunday service, 10 a.m., Linda Vista Pres-



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Men learn:

- What women want from men
- How to set a date
- How to approach and start conversations
- How to handle rejection

Women learn how to:

- Attract good men who care
- Stay safe while dating
- Get asked out more
- Keep him intrigued and interested

Please R.S.V.P. for location in San Diego for seminars on Sunday, Jan. 8 & Saturday, Jan. 14, from 1:45 to 5 pm. Optional \$10 workbook and/or \$10 CD.

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Ages 28-38, 37-49 & 48-62

Thursday, Jan. 26
Bitter End • Downtown
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Events at 7:30 pm

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byterian Church, 2130 Ulric Street, San Diego, 92111. 858-277-0523.

MEDITATION. Free classes Tuesdays 7pm, Wednesdays 7:30pm, Saturdays 11:30am. Dharma Center, 5059 Newport Avenue, Suite 303, Ocean Beach. www.dharmacenter.com or 858-616-6308.

MOVIE BUFFS: Interested in watching movies then discussing it afterwards, like book clubs? Ages 25 to mature welcome. Please call 619-850-6075 or 858-272-8727.

NATIVE COUNCIL PROGRESS Incorporated, non-profit, wishes to thank Hanger Prosthetics for everything. Seeking sports wheel chair, dental surgeon for unusual dental dilemma. Dharma basket, 619-248-8291.

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE Anonymous 12-step meeting for people with OCD. Mondays, 6-7pm, Department of Health Services Complex, 3851 Rosecrans Street, Mission Room, San Diego. Free. Information, 619-757-6603.

PARENTS, FAMILIES, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). Find help, support, and understanding. Meetings monthly in Hillcrest. www.pflag.com or call for further details, 619-579-7640.

PRAYER LIST NOW FORMING. For life challenging thoughts/occurrences, send letters to Pious Ministry, 2871 University Avenue #152 San Diego, CA 92104.

SUPPORT YOUR GUARDIAN ANGELS. Safety Patrol, Tax-deductible, we need headquarters, equipment, funding. S.D. Guardian Angels, 6161 El Cajon Boulevard #404, San Diego, CA, 92115, non-profit, 619-529-1904. www.sdguardianangels.org.

SURVIVORS OF INCEST Anonymous. Free 12-step support groups for men and women molested as children. Call Tim, 619-282-4798; www.slawso.org.

TAGALOG LANGUAGE CLUB, Want to practice your Tagalog and increase fluency? Come join students and speakers of Tagalog at http://tagalog.meetup.com/25.

TOUCHED BY ADOPTION? Concerned United Birthparents is a support group for birthparents, adoptees, and adoptive parents. Information at www.CUBirthparents.org or 619-685-7673.

TWELVE STEPS NOT working for you? Try a self-empowering, skill-building approach with S.M.A.R.T. Recovery, free support groups. 858-546-1100.

3 Ways to Respond to READER MATCHES ADS!

Call 1-900-844-6282

The cost is \$1.99 per minute. You must be at least 18 years old to call. Call and enter the number at the end of an ad to hear the advertiser’s introduction and leave a message. The date in the ad is the last day to reply. The charge will appear on your phone bill as “Dating.” Questions? 619-235-8200 x416

Use your credit card

No 900# access? Call anytime day or night to purchase a block of calling time and charge it to your Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express... for as little as \$1.25 per minute.

Call 1-800-360-9496 24 hours

No refunds. You may also purchase time at our office with cash or check only.

Send an e-mail

Matches ads are now on the Web. You may search them by specifying criteria such as age, ethnicity and nonsmoking. Respond to most ads by sending an anonymous e-mail for a nominal charge. You may also listen to intros online.

SanDiegoReader.com

From this page, click on “Matches.”

VOLUNTEERS. San Diego’s abused/neglected children need you to serve as a Court Appointed Special Advocate. All training provided. Information sessions: Wednesday, 1/11 and 2/8. Voices for Children, 858-569-2019, www.voices4children.com.

WHAT THE BLEEP, Do we know? Discussion group explores ideas based on movie. Range of topics. Meets weekly 6:30, Hillcrest/North Park, more information xxxlogosxxx@yahoo.com.

TRAVEL & GETAWAYS

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DISCOVER COSTA RICA Paradise! 35 lovely hotel/apartments. Best area of San Jose. From \$195 weekly. www.hotels.co.cr/scotland.html or for investment, www.2buyrentsell.com. Call 760-822-1508.

PARK CITY, UTAH Beautiful 4 bedroom log home. Lake and ski resort views. Sleeps 9-16. Conveniently located to all. Available year round. 858-495-9334; 858-472-3567. www.parkcity4u.net.

SACRIFICE TIMESHARE. Lawrence Welk Resort Villas, Escondido. Week 25, beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, sleeps 6, overlooking lake and mountains, all recreation, golfing. Owner 951-672-3297.

PERSONALS

PLACE FREE ONLINE ADS with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. Also, see thousands of classified ads not printed here!

DAVIEBABE, Is on the East Coast! From the first New Years Eve to the last I only wanted you! Still crazy after all these years!

EVERY CIVILIZATION That comes after great cataclysmic event, comes with adversary (anti-freedom, anti-righteousness, anti-goodness) presenting in different ways, concept, how destroy you, mean-

while your soul changes not one iota. Aton.

HGS, Having your eyes fixed means you can see very clear. Now maybe you’ll see why I hold you so dear. TYS MICHAEL IRDLY 24/7/365.

SAINT JUDE TADEO, Thank you for your quick answer to my desperate situation and putting my life back on track!

THANK YOU, Holy spirit for prayers answered. 4 P.

SHARED INTERESTS

LADY IN PACIFIC BEACH, Wants to find a movie pal over 40. I like comedies, documentaries, children’s movies. I like Fashion Valley theatres on weekends. (1/18) ☎49880

WOMEN SEEKING MEN

COSMOPOLITAN, EUROPEAN, attractive, intelligent, health-oriented. Interested in masculine scholar, gentleman, cultured, refined, financially stable, generous, genuine. Downtown San Diego, Seaport Village. 50-70 if useful. (1/18) ☎49406

HAPPY 2006 AND GOD BLESS America. Mature, Caucasian, kind, caring, active woman. To meet tall, Caucasian, 70+, active, nonsmoker man. For possible long-term relationship. (1/11) ☎49382

BRONZE, VOLUPTUOUS, attractive female, black/Spanish, 40s, Seeking quality relationship with a handsome, kind, romantic, loving professional male who would pamper me like a queen. (1/11) ☎49383

ATTRACTIVE, ROMANTIC, Sensitive, down to earth lady, 53, wanting to share movies, dining out, walks. Simple life with a special

gentleman to enjoy happiness together. (1/18) ☎49393

GREAT CATCH! Asian, 59, attractive, passionate, loyal. Seeks friendship/more, with 60-70 successful gentleman with good values, desired traits, sincerity, thoughtfulness, humor, commitment, generosity. (1/18) ☎49399

SWEET LOVELY LADY, 67, pretty, curvaceous, fun loving, kind, 5’6” San Diego South 150. Kind, sincere, lighthearted gentleman, 70-78 years, 5’10”+, for long-term relationship. (1/18)☎49391

PHOTOS ONLINE. Attractive, smart, cheerful, affluent, Chinese, 53, 5’3”, slim/toned, retired pharmacist. Seeks intelligent, flat-ab, nonsmoker male, in exploration of mutually enriching/fulfilling friendship. (1/18) ☎49411

ATTRACTIVE REAL ESTATE Agent, 59, slim, petite, enjoys outdoors, travel, arts. Seeks a reasonably fit companion for conversation and a glass of wine. (1/18) ☎49396

THE DALAI LAMA is not available, but if you are good-natured, loving, tallish, over 58, North County Coastal man, call this pretty, quiet, athletic blonde. (1/18) ☎49405

SEXY FUN CURVY, Brunette ready for fun, laughs, adventure with Mr. Right. Honest, handsome, between 48-55 with time to give the woman in his life. (1/18) ☎49394

FEMALE, 53, OCEANSIDE, Enjoys ocean fishing, long walks, travel local/overseas, humor, conversation, Christian, 5’, thin, inner beauty more important, not superficial, no phonies, loyalty. (1/18) ☎49403

ATTRACTIVE FILIPINO WIDOW, 60, sexy, educated, secure, homeowner. Enjoy dancing, travel, dining, cuddling, movies, will kiss away your lonely nights. Seeking tall, white, handsome, financially secure gentleman. (1/18) ☎49408

SLENDER, ATTRACTIVE, Beauty, well-educated, professional woman. Seeks attractive, well-preserved “got their act together” male 45-60 for romance, companionship, possible long term relationship. Is that you? (1/18) ☎49400

A NEW YEAR, A new you and me, Cuban female, 48. Seeking gentleman 43-53, intelligent, sincere, wanting to start a beautiful relationship. (1/18) ☎49401

Try online placement for your Reader Matches Ad!

Meet Your Match. Get a free ad in the *Reader* and on the Web at SanDiegoReader.com, and a free voice mailbox for recording and receiving messages. Questions? Call 619-235-8200, 8:30-5:00, Mon.-Fri.

Free Online Placement: Ads submitted online receive e-mail responses and voicemail responses. Tell more about yourself and upload a photo, too! These features are free. Online placement deadline: 7 am, Saturday.

More Free Placement Options: Can’t get online? Fill the form below and mail or fax it to us. If faxing, please photocopy first. Fax/mail deadline: 7 am, Saturday.



Meet your match! Use the form below to place your free, 2-week Reader Matches Ad and get your free Voice Mailbox.

OPTIONAL HEADLINE: 20 characters per line including spaces; the first initial of each word is capitalized; abbreviations and unusual punctuation will not be accepted; the cost of each line is \$12. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

1	2	3	4
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PRINT CLEARLY: First 25 words are FREE. \$1.20/additional word. Do not abbreviate words. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25/FREE	26	27	28	29	30

FREE AD DEADLINE: 7 am Saturday

Mail: Reader Matches, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 **Fax:** (619) 233-7907
Online: SanDiegoReader.com

LATE AD DEADLINE: 5 pm Tuesday

Fax: (619) 233-7907 **Phone:** (619) 235-8200

Walk-in: 1703 India St. (at Date St.) downtown

Matches ads are available for any 18+ single person who is seeking a sincere relationship with a member of the opposite sex. Ads containing explicit or implicit sexual/anatomical language will not be accepted. Ads in the “Shared Interests” category must list the primary interest as the first words; these ads will be sorted alphabetically. Either gender may be sought in “Shared Interests” ads; however, physical descriptions are not allowed. No last names, addresses or personal phone numbers will be permitted. No dating services, singles clubs or commercial businesses may advertise in this section. The San Diego *Reader* does not assume any liability for the content or reply to any Reader Matches advertisement. Advertiser assumes complete liability for content of, and all replies to, any advertisement or recorded message and for any claims made against the San Diego *Reader* as a result thereof. The advertiser agrees to indemnify and hold the San Diego *Reader* and its employees harmless from all costs, expenses (including all attorney fees), liabilities and damages resulting from or caused by the publication or recording placed by the advertiser or any reply to any such advertisement. By using Reader Matches, the advertiser agrees not to leave his/her telephone number, last name or address in his/her voice greeting message.

We must have the following information. Please print.

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☐ Shared interests ☐ Man seeking a woman

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MR. PERFECT, Move on this 50s, 5'3", Goya's Maja, 150, 'Average Joe' for casual dates, early evenings. You: honest, happy, sincere. (1/11) ☎49389

ATTRACTIVE ASIAN professional, 45, 120lbs., 5'4". Love outdoor activities, outgoing, financially secure, homeowner. Seeking professional nonsmoking, 45-55-year-old male. (1/18) ☎49407

BEAUTIFUL, STRIKING blonde, intelligent, genuine, unique, sophisticated, sexy, elegant, glamorous, great figure, 47. Desires extremely accomplished, upscale, stable, sincere, single gentleman who appreciates the best. (1/18) ☎49390

NEW YEAR, New friend. This young 49 Hispanic lady is interested in meeting a healthy, loving man of quality, open to fun and no games. (1/18) ☎49395

START THE NEW YEAR Right, with me, blonde, blue eyes, 5'3", looking for relationship, dating, movies, horseback riding, dinner. Seeking an honest man aged 40-55. (1/11) ☎49386

SEEKING USMC Officer, 40-60, never married. Would you appreciate a loyal, talented, beautiful, exotic, intelligent lady who is USMC at heart, respected by USMC leaders? (1/18) ☎49397

ASIAN SEEKS TENDER-LOVING care for long relationship, possible marriage. I'm faithful, sincere, honest, expect same. Like to go out for drinks, dancing, out of town. (1/11) ☎49380

ATTRACTIVE, PETITE, honest, Caucasian lady, Canadian born, desire to meet 70s old-fashioned gent for companionship to enjoy walks, biking, movies, travel, dance. Nonsmoking. (1/18) ☎49409

ADVENTURESOME, FREETHINKER, music, pretty, 50s, slender, interesting, conversation with my wine. You are confident, spontaneous, attractive, tall, professional, fit. Looking to share good times. (1/18) ☎49410

35, GREEN EYES, Brown hair, 5'8", plus size, attractive, loving, caring, honest, faithful, affectionate. Seeking male, 35-40, relationship minded, likes children, family-oriented, enjoy time together. (1/11) ☎49388

TOP PRIORITY IS Finding you. Let met know if you are 58+, tall, needing TLC and fun loving. Pretty lady, nice figure, awaits your call. (1/18) ☎49402

(619) CHRISTIAN LADY, (40) attractive, exciting, various interests. Seeking Christian white gentleman possible long-term relationship, tall 40+ positive, professional, humorous, goal oriented, intelligent, no addictions. (1/18) ☎49404

BIG BEAUTIFUL, Mature Christian lady, 42. Seeks mature Caucasian Christian man, 42-55 to grown old and build a good life with, no games. (1/18) ☎49392

ATTRACTIVE ASIAN FEMALE, 37, 5'6", tall. Seeking single Asian/Caucasian male, 30-42, 5'10"-6'2", adventurous, romantic, funny, a good heart a plus for friendship, date, marriage. (1/18) ☎49413

FRENCH, SEXY, ATTRACTIVE, fit, 41, 5'6", blonde/blue, 130lbs., golden-hearted, romantic, outdoor/indoor, sports,

3 Ways to Respond to READER MATCHES ADS!

Call 1-900-844-6282

The cost is \$1.99 per minute. You must be at least 18 years old to call. Call and enter the number at the end of an ad to hear the advertiser's introduction and leave a message. The date in the ad is the last day to reply. The charge will appear on your phone bill as "Dating." Questions? 619-235-8200 x416

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Call 1-800-360-9496 24 hours

No refunds. You may also purchase time at our office with cash or check only.

Send an e-mail

Matches ads are now on the Web. You may search them by specifying criteria such as age, ethnicity and nonsmoking. Respond to most ads by sending an anonymous e-mail for a nominal charge. You may also listen to intros online.

SanDiegoReader.com

From this page, click on "Matches."

travel, dancing. Gentleman, 41-55, hand-

some, athletic, same, (1/11) ☎49384

ATTRACTIVE, JEWISH, Lady, 39, enjoys the outdoors, theatre, travel, movies. Seeks 39-49, adventurous, honest, caring man for friendship, fun and perhaps more. (1/11) ☎49387

RECENTLY RETIRED, Poetlady, new to this area, would love to meet Sir Poet to discuss life and explore new places. (1/18) ☎49398

ARE YOU INTELLIGENT, handsome, sense of humor, gent, 48-60, who desire friendship, romance and fun? This 57, intelligent, funny, sweet lady wants to meet you! (1/18) ☎49412

MAKE TODAY COUNT! Plus-size woman seeking man to enjoy pleasures of life. You: 30-40, honest, trustworthy, love kids. Are you ready for adventure together? (1/11) ☎49381

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

BLACK, ATTRACTIVE, Excellent shape, 42, very laid back and confident. Seeks intelligent, attractive, easy going lady for a mutually enriching fulfilling friendship. (1/18) ☎49889

FULL-BODIED WHITE FEMALE, 180+lbs., wanted by attractive black artist, property owner, building mountain home. Seeking to share it with large passionate woman wanting permanent relationship. (1/11) ☎49862

57-YEAR-OLD MAN looking for a nice lady for long-term relationship. I'm a nonsmoker. I enjoy working out, movies, quiet times together. (1/11) ☎49866

INTERESTING, FUNNY, curious, quick, fun, good listener, conversationalist, literate, aesthetic, sensual, entrepreneurial, ideals-

tic, secure, intuitive, integrity, 56. Desire smart, moral, selective, genuine, best friend. (1/18) ☎49895

EASY-GOING, 55, looks 45, 5'10", 185lbs., multiple homeowner, travel, sports, concerts, movies, sport cars. You: slim, smart, beauty, to enjoy great adventures together. (1/11) ☎49855

NORTH COUNTY BACHELOR! Trim, great shape, educated, financially secure, homeowner. 50ish, light brown/blue, 5'9", 150lbs. No kids! You: 40ish, attractive, not overweight and available! (1/18) ☎49890

6'2", EYES OF BLUE. Seeking Jewish woman, 35-50 with similar interests. Tennis, swimming, movies, theater, concerts and travel. (1/11) ☎49865

BLACK MALE with disability seeks black female for companionship. I am ready so be patient. (1/11) ☎49857

PRO JAZZ MUSICIAN, debonair, 6'1", 165lbs., 53, blue/red, bald, swing dancer, bicycle road racer, Buddhist, child-free. Seeking someone with the right chemistry/connection. (1/11) ☎49863

ARE YOU SPIRITUAL, romantic, and sensual, loving and affectionate? Are you petite and shapely with long dark hair. Spiritual soul, seek mate for eternal relationship. (1/16) ☎49874

KICKBOXING, MUAY THAI, extreme fitness, dancing. 54, divorced white male, part-time dad, emotionally and spiritually ready for that special lady for long-term, monogamous relationship. Smooch! (1/11) ☎49859

YES MA'AM. Strikingly handsome, 50, 6'1", 190lbs., emotionally/financially secure. Seeking mature, assertive, beautiful, sublime woman to show her the respect she deserves. (1/11) ☎49861

53, SLIM, FIT, humorous, divorced, father, degreed, mannered, fun, varied interests. Seeking 43-53 lady, nonsmoker, sincere, feminine, trim, North County, for conversation, outings, possibly more. (1/18) ☎49898

57, CAUCASIAN, 5'8", medium built, brown hair, blue eyes, mature, young attitude, spiritual, eclectic, upbeat. Enjoy music, film, metaphysics, dining out, teacher, author, student, joyful. (1/18) ☎49877

HEALTHY OLDER WHITE widower. Seeking woman for companionship, dining out, plays, etc. Nonsmoker. House sharing possible if we are mutually interested. Carlsbad location. (1/11) ☎49856

59-YEAR-OLD MAN seeks nice nonsmoker woman with good sense of humor, who

likes her life and herself. In North County who wants same. (1/11) ☎49854

HONESTY, TRADITIONAL values, lasting relationship. Intelligent, professional seeking nonsmoking woman to enjoy weekend adventures, casual entertainment, travel, good music, good friends, my cooking, life. (1/18) ☎49896

IVORY MALE, Seeking Ebony female who likes being spoiled with love, honesty, and simple romance. Me tall, 43, attractive, shaved head, hazel eyes, big heart. (1/18) ☎49887

70s GENTLEMAN, enjoys dancing, dining out, theatre, bridge. Seeks personable lady, thoughtful, sincere, rather full figured, with interests that are similar. (1/11) ☎49872

SEEKING A GOOD GIRL who wants to be bad! I'm Hispanic, 39, 5'11", 165lbs., attractive, fit, humorous and easygoing. Let's enjoy it together. Race unimportant. (1/18) ☎49893

MEXICAN WOMEN WANTED, 6'1", white male, La Mesa, divorced father, romantic, sexy. Seeks hot lady for intimate, passionate sexy evenings, candles, kisses, soft music, me. (1/11) ☎49870

TOMBOY, COUNTRY GIRL, Or from a small town: I'm 6'2" home in the country, 45, hike, nature, classic cars, passion, hot springs, singing around campfire. (1/18) ☎49878

NEW YEAR WITH ME, Healthy fun guy, 61, good shape, wants counterpart for fun, as in travel, tennis, ocean, lakes, movies, adventure, and eventually love. (1/11) ☎49869

BOYISHLY HANDSOME, AFRICAN- Scottish ancestry, soulful, considerate. Love jazz, learning saxophone, 49, 5'10", 177lbs. Needs mature, thoughtful, playful, shapely, sexy woman with no hang ups. (1/11) ☎49831

NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNING, New romance, new adventure, divorced white male, 60s, enjoys all life has to offer. Seeks nice Caucasian lady for nice relationship. (1/11) ☎49868

IF YOU'RE 45-49, White, slender, nonsmoker, smart, playful; enjoy sunsets, candlelight dinner, wine, music, good conversation, laughter, sunrise, call me, 54. (1/18) ☎49883

SPIRITUAL PATH, Humorous, caring, honest, intelligent, 51, 5'8", 170lbs, black/grey, enjoy coffee houses, conversation, movies, rock music. Seeking someone to share life with. (1/18) ☎49884

BOYISH GOOD LOOKS, 6'2", eyes blue, slim, athletic, college educated, profes-

sional, enjoys surfing, sailing, travel, conversation, family, friends, music, kids. Seeking slim, 35+, friends first. (1/18) ☎49888

NICE LOOKING, YOUNG 56, 5'8", 160lbs., loving, active, healthy lifestyle, dancing, dining, cruising, uncumbered, financially secure. Seeking attractive, fit, soulmate for a lasting relationship. (1/18) ☎49891

TALL, ATTRACTIVE, BLUE eyes, 54, white male; fun, fit, romantic, financially stable. Seeking slender to average woman for quality time together. Is that you? (1/11) ☎49867

SINGLE DAD WITH LITTLE girl looking for a lasting relationship. Please be slender and nice. I am 48, 160lbs., blond, blue, my daughter is 8. (1/11) ☎49858

I AM 33, I LOVE SPORTS, football, soccer, boogie boarding, poker and any other sport you can think of. Looking for a fun Asian girl. (1/18) ☎49885

IF YOU ARE THE GIRL Next door, the one in my dreams, white picket fence, flowers. Easy going guy, early 60s, waits for you. (1/11) ☎49871

WANTED: WOMAN, 55-70+, voluptuous, by 66-year-old gentleman, 6'2", gray/hazel, average build, retired, secure, funny, easy-going, walks, movies, TV. (1/18) ☎49892

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Have you made a wish for New Years. This single white male 6'4", Chef. Seeking female of 2006, 35-45, let's talk, meet. (1/18) ☎49879

49, POLICE OFFICER. Healthy Caucasian, secure, gentleman's standards/morals, live in Fashion Valley. Seeking 42-50, content, fit, motivated lady to enjoy life with, relationship. (1/11) ☎49860

COSMOPOLITAN, ADVENTUROUS, 49, white, open to age. Seeking smart, confident, humorous woman for passionate romance. Theater, movies, art, music, ethnic foods, hiking, dancing, travel, conversation. (1/18) ☎49886

NO RUNAWAY BRIDES- quest for fit, Catholic/Christian, 29-39, ready to start family with handsome professional, athletic, 6', 170lbs., white, 50, outgoing, fun, world traveler. (1/18) ☎49897

ATTRACTIVE WIDOWER, TALL, healthy, fantastic looks, educated, virile. Retired businessowner, homeowner, financially secure, genuine! Seeking attractive, affectionate, sensual, curvaceous lady, 48-65. Dates, fun, romance, trips. (1/11) ☎49864

ALL AROUND GOOD GUY looking for long-term relationship. Look for love hugs and kisses. No games, nonsmoker, call me. (1/18) ☎49881

ATTRACTIVE BLACK MALE, 38, looking for serious relationship, serious only need reply. Age and race not important, honestly is. Looking for true love? Call! (1/18) ☎49882

ARE YOU READY FOR THE country? Because it's time to go! Artistic, thin, 53, 5'10". Seeking mate for quiet country living. No more freeway traffic! (1/18) ☎49894

ROMANTIC, SINGLE, HONEST Italian, hard worker. Seeking lady, 35-50, to enjoy life, long-term relationship. Nonsmoker/nondrinker. Race open. Enjoy music, travel, dining and more. (1/18) ☎49875

21-35, WILL WINE, DINE, and whatever. No purple hair, no facial piercing, no extra weight, no beauty queens. Beauty is only skin deep. Sexy is good. What's your pleasure? Soon. (1/18) ☎49899

HISPANIC PROFESSIONAL, South Bay, 52, divorced, healthy, fit. Enjoy life, travel, theater, concerts, movies, all sports. Clean, neat, homeowner, a gentleman, live alone with pets. (1/18) ☎49876

ROOMMATES

PLACE FREE ONLINE ADS with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. Also, see thousands of classified ads not printed here!

BAY PARK, Nice good-sized room in 3 bedroom, 1 bath house. Big yard, ocean view, furnished, washer/dryer, parking, \$700/month plus utilities, \$700/deposit, 858-354-6756.

BAY PARK/MISSION BAY, Very nice home, \$600, near 5, UCSD, stores. Quiet, big canyon garden, perfect male, nonsmoker, \$200/security deposit, lyricstudents@hotmail.com. 619-276-1966.

CARDIFF, Private entrance/bath, \$675 plus utilities/deposit. Community living with privacy. Vegetarian/seafood kitchen, organic garden, jacuzzi, laundry, distilled water. Nonsmokers, no pets. 760-753-0321.

CARLSBAD, \$850 master bedroom, or \$795 second room. Private bath. Leo Carrillo Park. Pool, 2-car garage, washer/dryer, split utilities. Mark, 619-823-3675; 619-235-2415, x22593.

CARMEL MOUNTAIN, \$550. Bedroom and full house privileges in clean, quiet beautiful home. Utilities, WI-Fi, cable included in room. Smoking outside. No pets/drugs. 619-933-8686.

CARMEL VALLEY, 2 rooms available for \$1400 plus half utilities. Private bathroom. Luxury apartment, resort living, spacious, quiet, laundry, pool, fitness, no smoking. Must see! Available 2/1/2006. 858-509-4737.

CARMEL VALLEY. Room in luxurious 2-bedroom townhouse. Beautiful, carpeted master bedroom with track lighting, phone line. Features bright wood flooring, large kitchen, modern appliances, washer/dryer, fireplace, cable, patio. Pool, jacuzzi, clubhouse, shopping, restaurants. Freeway access. Torrey Pines beach nearby. \$725/month, \$725 deposit. Available now. Paul, 858-481-9551.

CARMEL VALLEY/DEL MAR. Female preferred. \$600/month, plus deposit. Private room with own bath. Pool, jacuzzi, tennis courts. Parking. No pets, nonsmoking. Sean, 619-847-5555.

CARMEL VALLEY, Master suite, \$795, plus deposit, new home, near 56/Camino Del Sur. Non-smoker/drinking/drugs. Own phone, share utilities, clean and quiet. 858-449-7499.

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Christian Mendoza
Restaurant Worker
Chula Vista

Overdressed. I like to dress more formally because I think it reflects positively on me. Ideally, I'd dress to fit the occasion, but there are those times like weddings or *quinceañera* [15th birthday party for girl] when you don't know if it's boots and cowboy hat or sneakers and cap. Everyone knows handsome is better than ugly; I'd prefer to have people think of me as handsome. I don't care if I'm at a party or wherever; I want to look good. My kids like the fashion with the big pants, but I tell them, "I don't allow lazy pants in my house." Clothes say a lot, and I don't want my kids to give off the wrong message.



Kathleen Pedro
Food Server
Point Loma

I'd say overdressed because you can always do things to tone down an outfit; if you're underdressed, there's not much you can do. You can tuck in your shirt [when you're underdressed], but you'll still be uncomfortable. About a year ago I shaved my head and donated my hair to a charity that makes wigs for children with cancer; having a shaved head as a girl kind of takes the attention away from what you're wearing. You think more of what you're going to wear because you want to try and compensate; you want to dress a little more girly or cutesy. When you have a cute little hairdo, you can wear a sweatshirt and people know that you're a girl. I was probably mistaken for not being a girl a couple times, but those were usually young kids. Before I shaved my head, I didn't realize that I was going to have to consider what I was going to wear that much; I didn't think things would change that much, but they did. A lot of people who first met me put me in a feminist or butch stereotype, and that's not the case. It put me in a glass box for people to give me whatever title or preconceived notion.



Bethany Tinley
Student
Pacific Beach

Underdressed. I'm a casual, low-maintenance person, and I'm not likely to overdo myself. When I was in junior high, I showed up to a few parties overdressed, and it was quite embarrassing; it was semiformal and I was very formal. I had on one of those puffy sleeve and velvety material dresses, and the other girls were wearing cute little sundresses. I never like to be the center of attention; I hate it. I tend to be shy around large groups of people; I don't like a lot of focus on me. I've been caught once by a cop and a few times by bouncers drinking underage with some sort of fake ID, and every time it's happened, I've been underdressed. When I've been dressed up, I usually get away with it. If you're underage, you should probably dress up. Heels always help when you're not 21.



Diego Itzit
Cook
Barrio Logan

Overdressed. It really depends on the occasion; I mean, I think the only one at a party who should be wearing a sombrero and studded sequins is the mariachi band. When you're a kid, you have to be careful going to parties because there can be things like burro rides or piñatas that can mess up your good church clothes. People think better of you when you're dressed better, and it's more comfortable to be better dressed where you're somewhere on display. I see people dressing like *cholos* and *vatos* [Mexican gangster style] at church, and it makes you think that these people aren't thinking when they get dressed because it's a lack of respect to dress this way in a place of worship.



Jon Gonchar
Volleyball Coach
Vista

As a rule, I'd always rather be overdressed for any occasion; you'll find me at a wedding wearing a nicer tux than the groom if there's a chance that it's black tie. If you look like a slob, everyone knows you look like trash. If someone talks shit about me when I'm overdressed, it's usually some guy in a mullet wearing a pair of Oakley wrap-around sunglasses. Some people don't have a knack for putting together outfits, but that's why stores have mannequins. Also, I don't know what it is with guys thinking they can wear football jerseys everywhere; it makes me want to ask them if they had too many drinks watching the big game that they made the mistake of going out in public dressed in cartoon colors. Don't get me wrong, I love sports and respect the players, but you gotta remember players get millions of dollars to wear that jersey. If I had to give people one word of advice, it'd be to dress your age, but you're only as old as you feel.



Ann Bingham
Family Counselor
Clairemont

I like to dress for however I'm feeling. Sometimes I like to dress up, but it takes so much time. Young people put a lot of time into their appearance; when they get older, they realize what's important and things like children and work become priorities. It can be a problem when adults put things like their appearance and vanity processions ahead of their children. Some people want things like expensive purses and nice cars but fail to put money aside for their children's college education. Things like clothes can make you feel good, but the feeling is fleeting.

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Place your Reader roommate ad today and get responses tomorrow!

Call (619) 235-2415 day or night.

For just \$20 per week, you receive:
► A 25-word printed ad in the *Reader*
► Also on SanDiegoReader.com
► Use of a 24-hour voice mailbox service
► Placement on the Roommate Hotline

1. **Pay with Visa, MasterCard, Discover, check or cash.** The cost is \$20. No matter which payment option you choose, you must first call (619) 235-2415 to place your ad.

2. **Write your 25-word Roommate ad** on this form and be ready to dictate it when requested. You will have one minute of recording time. Begin with the neighborhood, then describe the property and list the rent. After dictating your printed ad, continue to describe your roommate situation. When you are finished recording, press 2.

3. **Your print ad may not describe you or the person you are seeking.**

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25

4. **To provide online viewers of your ad with a map of your neighborhood, we need cross-streets and zip code:**

_____ & _____
NEAREST CROSS-STREETS ZIP CODE

5. **The system dictates a mailbox number and security code.**

_____ MAILBOX NUMBER _____ SECURITY CODE _____

6. **To retrieve your messages** call (619) 235-2415. Messages are erased after you hear them, so have pen and paper ready. Your mailbox will expire at midnight Wednesday, six days after publication.

7. **Deadline** for placing voice mail ads is 6 pm Monday; however, print/online ads can be placed until 6 pm Tuesday by calling (619) 235-8200. Voice mail ads will be placed on the Hotline within 24 hours. No cancellations.

8. **Renew your mailbox and ad** if you don't need to make any changes in your ad copy or mailbox recording. Call (619) 235-2415 and choose the renewal option. You may renew your mailbox any time Thursday through 6 pm Monday.

9. **Advertisers are responsible for** checking their Roommate ads for accuracy and reporting errors by 6 pm Monday, following publication. Call (619) 235-8200.

Mail-in payment: *Reader Roommate Line*
P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186

Walk-in payment: 1703 India (at Date),
Downtown San Diego

For questions regarding Roommate ads, call (619) 235-8200.

CHULA VISTA/OTAY LAKES. \$595. Clean room for rent with view and private bath in house. Parking, washer and dryer. Close to Southwestern college. Female preferred. 858-334-5930.

CHULA VISTA. \$470, \$200 deposit. Available now. Share bathroom with 1 person. Utilities included. Quiet neighborhood. Near everything. No smoking/drugs. Near Southwestern College. 619-421-9274; 619-235-2415, x11987.

CHULA VISTA. \$500. Large 3 bedroom home. Furnishings available. Utilities paid. Off-street parking. Full privileges. Washer/dryer, cable TV/Internet. No drugs, smoking, pets. 619-852-2995.

CLAIREMONT. Near Mesa College, \$475 including utilities, nonsmoker, male preferred, call after 5pm 858-337-2677.

CLAIREMONT. Affordable 2 rooms (shared bath) in 3 bedroom house. \$550 and \$590, plus deposit/utilities. Washer/dryer. Nice area. Available now. 858-483-3704; 619-235-2415, x31965.

CLAIREMONT. Quiet neighborhood. Near Madison High School. 5 bedroom, 3 bathroom, furnished. Female only. No pets. Available 1/1/06. \$500 plus security deposit, utilities included. 858-278-7829; 619-235-2415, x28554.

CLAIREMONT. \$495. Clean, quiet, nicely furnished home. All amenities. High-speed Internet, phone, large closet. Convenient location. Deposit, 1/3 utilities. No pets. Available 1/29. 858-277-8775; 619-235-2415, x10237.

CLAIREMONT, 4 bedroom, 2 bath house, near 805/Balboa, 2 miles from Mesa College. Nice patio, big kitchen/dining room, \$575, includes utilities. Deposit, 858-361-2576.

CLAIREMONT. \$550. Nice room, great area, big yard, washer/dryer. Shared utilities. Pets considered. \$350 deposit. Call evenings 858-505-9034, or day 858-292-6153.

CLAIREMONT. \$500. 4 bedroom, 2 bath home, laundry, cable, Internet. Near buses 25 and 44. Great location. No smokers or pets. \$400 security. 858-279-5053; 619-235-2415, x23586.

CLAIREMONT. Room with kitchen privileges/laundry in quiet, clean, renovated house. Short walk to Balboa and Gene-see. Direct bus to UCSD and Mesa. No smoking, pets, drugs. \$550, share utilities with 2 others. Contact B.J., 858-277-2044; cell, 858-525-1993.

CLAIREMONT/MISSION BAY. \$480/month. Large furnished master bedroom, private bath, quiet, rental is room only. No cooking or microwave. Great area. 858-270-9038; 858-504-1760.

CLAIREMONT, NORTH. Roommate for large house near buses, freeways 52/163/805/I-5. Kitchen/laundry privileges. \$450/month plus shared utilities. Need first/last/\$100 cleaning deposit, male, 858-274-5234.

CLAIREMONT/PACIFIC BEACH. \$630, near park/beach. Share spacious 2 bedroom, utilities, laundry, garage. Secure

cozy community, pool/jacuzzi. No smoking/pet. Speak slowly. 858-270-6146.

CLAIREMONT. \$500, plus deposit, 1/3 utilities. Clean, quiet, 3 bedroom, 1 bath house on canyon. Washer/dryer, cable. No smoking/pets/drugs. Call Dave, 858-449-4691.

CLAIREMONT. 3 bedroom house, in quiet neighborhood, central location. Storage space, laundry facility, hot tub. Utilities included. \$600/month. 619-454-3735.

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COLLEGE AREA. Quiet, clean, private entrance and bath, utilities included, microwave/refrigerator in room. Includes cable/TV, furnishing includes bed/desk/couch/dresser. 619-582-8412.

COLLEGE AREA. Share 3 bedroom, newly remodeled house. 1 master (20x16), marble entry, 2 closets, \$790. House has fireplace, jacuzzi, washer/dryer, yard, alarm. 858-337-7417.

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COLLEGE AREA. \$650, includes utilities, plus 1/2 deposit. Room for rent in house. Own bathroom. Laundry. No smoking, pets, or drugs. Quintin, 619-993-1671.

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ENCINITAS. Wanted, 1 roommate to share 3 bedroom house with 2 males, quiet, clean, neighborhood. No drugs/pets, \$500/month, plus 1/3 utilities, application required. 760-994-6880.

ENCINITAS, Bedroom in 5 bedroom house, 1 mile to beach, oceanview, fireplace, cable/wireless DSL, washer/dryer/more. Female only. Available 1/20/06, \$750, www.sandboxgraphics.com/room.

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OCEANSIDE. On lagoon, ocean view. 3 bedroom, 3 bath townhouse. Firepit on 3rd floor balcony. Washer/dryer. \$900 (includes satellite TV, all furnishings), deposit \$450. 760-419-2617.

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PACIFIC BEACH, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 floors, 2 parking, patio. Near beach, restaurants/more. Near I-5, I-8. Lease through August, no pets. \$747.50, 603-866-6812.

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PACIFIC BEACH. Furnished bedroom with own bathroom in modern 3 bedroom townhouse. Walk to park, beaches and shops. Nonsmoking. Available 1/20. \$850 and deposit. 619-398-5044.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$550/month, room available in 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. \$500 deposit plus utilities. Quiet room. No smoking/parties/pets. Available Now! Paul 858-273-8770.

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PACIFIC BEACH. Large master bedroom with full bath. Fireplace, pool, spa and gym. Walking distance to Vons shopping center. \$750. Available ASAP, Sean 858-274-5983.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$650. Share 2 bedroom, 2 bath quiet apartment. 4 blocks from beach. No smoking/pets. Photos online. 619-889-3851; best to reply: DonnaByczkiewicz@aol.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, blocks from bay/beach. Female only, no smoking/drugs/pets, \$475/month, \$575/deposit. Best location. Available now, 858-731-4822.

POINT LOMA, \$560, large 2 bedroom apartment, utilities included, \$250 deposit, female only, nonsmoker, no pets. Secured building, leave message, 619-222-1023.

POINT LOMA. 2 rooms (\$725-\$825) in 3 bedroom home with own full baths, skyline/bay/ocean panoramic views. Minutes to beach and downtown. WirelessBand/TiVo. Pool room, weight room, laundry, yard/garden, balcony, fireplace, garage. Jon, 619-222-3366.

POINT LOMA, PARK. Room available. \$650. 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhouse. Garage, washer/dryer, Olympic-size pool, spa. New carpet/paint. 619-994-1617.

POINT LOMA/OCEAN BEACH, \$700/deposits, 1/2 utilities, laundry, share 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Quiet neighborhood, nonsmoking/drugs, pet? Available 1/15/06, Tad 619-223-8002.

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RAMONA. \$800/month. Beautiful large country home with panoramic views, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, spa, on 1/3 acre. Full house privileges. Utilities included. Deposit \$800. 760-789-6121.

RANCHO SAN DIEGO. \$550. Roommate needed to share 5 bedroom house overlooking golf course. Includes maintenance, water, trash. Utilities divided evenly. Female preferred. Amanda, 619-820-2881.

SABRE SPRINGS, Share 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, washer/dryer, dishwasher/parking. Pool/jacuzzi, half utilities, nonsmoker, no pets, available, 2/1/06, \$800/month, \$400/deposit, Darryl, 858-391-0454.

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SCRIPPS RANCH. \$600, 1/2 utilities. Private room in a 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom condo. Washer/dryer, pool, dishwasher, air conditioning, garage. Female preferred. No pets. 858-530-8171.

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TIERRASANTA, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath house. \$675/month, \$100/utilities, \$500/deposit. 13x12 bedroom, bright/light/airy, great location, near Albertson's, Starbucks, restaurants/more. Quiet cul-de-sac, parking. 858-205-8898.

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DOWNTOWN/SOUTH HARBOR. Artist's live/work space. Lots of natural light! Freestanding building. 1000 square feet. Concrete floors. Commercial kitchen. Fenced yard. \$1200/month. 1754 National Avenue. 619-236-8159.

BANKER'S HILL. \$1495. Approximately 850 square feet of storefront. 3010 Fifth Avenue. 2 bathrooms. Private office. Great location with lots of exposure. Contact todd@xilarent.com.

NORTH PARK. Office space available between 315 to 1130 square feet. Great for new business or expanding. 3930 Oregon Street. 858-598-1111 x193, www.utoapiamangement.com.

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TIERRASANTA. 4926 la Cuenta Drive, Suite 201. Tierrasanta Professional Building. 450 square foot, 2 room office space. Available in January. \$575. 858-483-3221.

MISSION BAY. Office suite. 481 square feet at \$1.10. Next to I-5. Easy access. Free parking. Near shopping center. 2445 Morena Boulevard, #204. Juno, 619-275-3455.

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OCEAN BEACH. Retail space. 1100 square feet. \$1600 per month. 619-222-2799.

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OCEANSIDE. Newer home, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 2 car garage. Pool, exercise room, tennis court, quiet, cul-de-sac, pet ok. \$1900. Available now Herb, 760-433-9904.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2200. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Upstairs master suite. New appliances. Garage. Laundry hookups. Private backyard. No pets/smoking. 1-year lease includes gardener. 619-846-7585.

PACIFIC BEACH/NORTH. 2 bedroom, 2 bath house newly remodeled, office/studio. Quiet neighborhood, secured back-

yard, laundry, 1 year lease, \$2500, plus utilities, 858-922-1528.

PACIFIC BEACH/BAY AREA. \$2350. Spacious, modern, 3 bedroom 2 bath. Fireplace. Enclosed central atrium. All are king-sized bedrooms. Laundry. Fenced yard. Garage. No pets. 858-382-7676.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Parking. Patio. Laundry facility. Walk to bay. No pets. 4115 Ingraham Street. Pacific Crown Villas. 858-270-4674.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2800, rent. \$2800, deposit OAC. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, 3 level. 2050 square feet. 2-car garage. New carpet. No pets. At 2338 Walmar Lane. 619-299-4034.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$3950. 5 bedrooms 4 bath. 3 large decks with views. Jacuzzi. Laundry. Near beach. 4500 square foot. 912 Tourmaline. No pets. 619-261-4793.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1800. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, parking, hookups, fenced yard, large private patio, cat OK. 1735 Oliver. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2200. 3 bedroom, 1 bath house. Granite counters, new appliances, washer/dryer, parking. No pets/smoking. Available now. 2660 Figueroa Boulevard. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2700 rent. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house, 2-car garage. Fenced patio. Washer/dryer. Microwave, dishwasher. Garbage disposal. Tenant pays utilities. Available for viewing by appointment only. Birdrock School District. 5340 Cass. 858-490-1600. www.kandroperties.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. Panoramic views, private, luxury large 2 bedroom, fireplace, hardwood, steps to bay, in-unit washer/dryer, large deck, garage, \$2200. 858-395-7157.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1700/month. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 1/2 block to beach. Short-term rental, weekly/monthly. Fully furnished, hardwood floors, yard. Washer/dryer. No pets/smoking. Quiet. Available. 858-483-5151.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2795. 3 bedroom 2 bath home. 1900 square feet. Carport. Loft den and family room with wet bar. Wood and carpet flooring. Laundry room with appliances. 1721 Reed Avenue. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

PACIFIC BEACH/MISSION BEACH. \$2000. 3 bedroom, 1 bath cute beach cottage. Steps to sand. Hardwood floors. Washer, dryer. No parking. Available now. Coldwell Banker Property Management. 858-488-2228.

POINT LOMA. \$1875. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house with 2-car garage. Large fenced yard. Laundry room. Selected pet OK. Stove, refrigerator, 2222 Bolinas. John A Reis & Company, Inc., 858-272-1348.

POINT LOMA. \$1195. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, charming Spanish style. Laundry hookups, fireplace, breakfast nook, storage parking. Near all. Cat OK. 2165 Catalina Boulevard. 619-698-6913.

POWAY. \$2275. 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. Upgrades. Large yard. Pets OK. Walking distance to Valley School, park, shopping and library. Community pool. Panda Realty, 858-748-8850.

POWAY. 4 bedroom, 2 bath house. \$1950. Large corner lot. Fenced yards, (landscaper included). Small dog or cat OK. 12545 Buckskin Trail. 619-793-4010.

POWAY. Move-in special! \$1800/month. 4 bedroom, 2 bath. Covered patio, all appliances, shed, fenced view lot, Poway School District. 12616 McFeron Road. Agent, 858-395-4596.

RANCHO PENASQUITOS. \$2100/month. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-car garage. Refrigerator, washer/dryer, no pets. Poway School District, 15260 Amalia Street. 858-518-4082. 858-722-9710.

RANCHO SAN DIEGO. 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath house, 2 story, newly remodeled, huge lot. Close to freeways. \$2500. Call 619-250-2530.

ROLANDO. \$1850 includes trash/water. 3557 Glade Street. Upgraded 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Large deck, fenced back yard. Carport, 2 storage sheds, washer/dryer, tiled kitchen, black appliances. Pet negotiable. Available 2/1. Agent, 619-463-2971.

SAN CARLOS. \$1995. 4 bedroom, 2 bath. 2 car garage. Water/trash and landscaping included, large yard. 8824 Highsmith Lane. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

SAN DIEGO, SOUTH EAST. \$1250. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Dining room. Remodeled, washer/dryer. Fenced parking. \$800 deposit. Available now. 4170 Jamul Avenue. 619-203-4493.

SAN DIEGO. 1 bedroom, 1 bath-\$675-\$800. Single level. New paint inside. Gas stove. Patio. No pets/drugs/smoking. Near trolley. 619-262-6278 or 619-801-6278 (Pager).

SAN MARCOS. San Elijo. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. 2300 square feet. Quiet cul-de-sac. Near I-5/78 Highway. Fenced yard. Pets OK. View mountains/ocean. \$2100. 619-519-5150.

SANTEE. Beautiful 5 bedroom, 3 bathroom home, close to all, 2 story, open floor plan, fireplace, new appliances, garage, landscaped yard, deck, jacuzzi, pets? \$2400/month, move in special \$2000, plus deposit 619-504-1648.

SDSU/COLLEGE. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, garage, fireplace, hardwood floors, jacuzzi tub, large yard. Month-to-month \$1500. Available, 6122 Madeline Street, 92115. 619-269-7255, 619-952-3298.

SOUTH PARK. \$1195. Charming, quiet, 1 bedroom cottage with office and hardwood floors, overlooks canyon. Off street parking. Laundry on site. 3021-1/2 30th Street. 858-366-8515.

SOUTH PARK. \$995. 1 bedroom cottage, great area, courtyard. Hardwood floors, laundry. 700 square feet. 3363 30th. AMI Property Management. 619-697-6314.

SPRING VALLEY. \$1650. 1 month free! 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. 2-car garage, easy freeway access. Nonsmoking. One pet under 25 pounds. 113 Royal Drive. Agent, 858-560-1178.

SPRING VALLEY. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1300. Cute home with beautiful views. Yard, lots of storage, stove and washer/dryer. Call 619-231-2727 x222.

SUNSET CLIFFS. 2 bedroom 2 bath, 2 car carport, yard, pet ok, panoramic ocean view. New carpet, linoleum, paint, laundry. \$2250, 4653 Orchard, Lance, 619-222-6020.

SUNSET CLIFFS. Move-in special-\$500 off 1st month! Surfer's paradise! \$3600, 3 bedroom, 2 baths. Beautiful views, recreation room, garage plus 1 parking spot. 817 Cornish Drive. Gina, 619-231-2727.

TALMADGE. \$3500. Mediterranean canyon view home. 5 bedroom, 3 bath, 3600 square feet. Remodeled gourmet kitchen and bathrooms including new appliances/fixtures. Hardwood floors throughout. 2nd floor master retreat. End of cul-de-sac with 2-car detached garage. Robert, 619-518-7622.

UNIVERSITY CITY. Quiet house. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Family room, fireplace, dishwasher, disposal, gas stove. Pool and service. Yard, gardener, laundry, garage. Available now. \$2150. 619-224-7322.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom Spanish Craftsman house, gleaming hardwood floors, remodeled and upgraded bathroom and kitchen, stainless steel appliances. Entertainers' delight! Over 1000 square foot deck. 619-296-2787.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$945. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Very nice cute cottage in court-yard setting. Laundry on site. Gated with garage. Hardwood floors, quiet complex. Available 2/7/06. 4651 Georgia Street. 619-295-1100; www.cethron.com.

VISTA. \$725. Cozy 1 bedroom, attached guest house. Private entrance. Driveway parking. Patio. Utilities, cable included. Refrigerator. Microwave. Near shopping, freeway. 1 cat OK. 760-758-1536.

VISTA. \$900 including utilities and cable. 1 bedroom, 1 bath detached guest house. Living room with fireplace. Private yard. Plenty of parking. Lease. 760-801-1072.

RENTALS APARTMENTS / CONDOS

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BALBOA PARK. Clean, quiet, furnished studios from \$59/day or \$210/week. Private bath, shower, microwave, refrigerator, phone, cable TV. Air conditioning, laundry, barbecue. Weekly maid service. Downtown/Banker's Hill location near trolley/bus/freeway. Ideal, affordable, short-term stays. 1840 4th Avenue. www.westparkinn.com. 619-236-1600. www.sdrreader.com/rent/2037.

BALBOA PARK. \$1995. All new 2 bedroom, 2 bath luxury southwest top floor, view condominium overlooking "the park"/"zoo." Garage, plus 1 additional parking space. Laundry and pool. 3421 Park Boulevard. Carol, 619-282-2617.

BANKER'S HILL/HILLCREST. Location, location, location! 511 Juniper/corner 5th Avenue. Elegant, spacious, upgraded hardwood throughout. 1 block from Balboa Park. 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhouse, pantry, attached 2-car garage, washer/dryer. Second floor skylight, 2 patios. Cat OK. \$2300/month. Agent, 619-463-2971.

BANKER'S HILL. \$895. 1 bedroom in quiet, 9-unit, older building. Hardwood and ceramic, high ceilings, laundry, cat ok, nonsmoking. 2245 2nd Ave. 619-239-4846.

BANKER'S HILL. \$745. 1 bedroom apartment. Some utilities paid. Laundry. 2330 Union Street #15. Xilar-ent.com, 858-429-8744.

BANKER'S HILL. Spacious, updated studios from \$795, 1 bedrooms, \$1095. Half off first month's rent! Historic building, hardwood floors, high ceiling, complete kitchen, laundry on site, gated community. Small pets OK. Available now. 2311 4th Avenue. 858-259-1217.

BANKER'S HILL. 1 bedroom, \$900. All utilities paid. Harbor/Downtown views, beautifully landscaped, laundry. Available now. 2142 Fifth Avenue. Agent, 619-230-1261; 619-260-1368.

BANKER'S HILL. Furnished studios starting at \$720 and up. Close to park and downtown. Some utilities paid. Laundry facilities. 619-234-7572.

BANKER'S HILL. \$625 studio. All utilities paid. 619-234-7572.

BANKER'S HILL. \$670-\$720. Lovely remodeled studios. Classic building designed by Gill. Gas included. Laundry in building. Near bus. 619-236-0452.

BANKER'S HILL. Studios. Private bath, kitchen. \$700 month/\$500 deposit. Utilities included. Laundry on site. Cats OK. Minutes from downtown. First Avenue. 619-325-7332.

BANKER'S HILL. 2142 Second Avenue. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$800. Studio, \$700. Both upstairs units. Off-street parking. Laundry facilities. Chris, 619-698-0945.

BANKER'S HILL. \$995. 1 bedroom apartment, view, laundry. Close to all. 2117 Front Street #4. AMI Property Management. 619-697-6314.

BANKER'S HILL. \$2200. 3 bedroom, 2 bath duplex. Fireplace, hardwood floors, all appliances. Recently remodeled. No pets. Available now. 2418 Brant Street. 619-301-0874.

BANKER'S HILL. 1/2 month off with 6 month lease, \$695-\$1650. Furnished/unfurnished

ered patio. No pets/smoking/drugs. 760-466-7260.

CARDIFF. Beautifully remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath duplex. Panoramic ocean views. New kitchen, granite, stove, hardwood, tile, bathrooms. 2-car garage. No pets. \$2900. 760-533-2115.

CARDIFF. Cozy studio located near Old Highway 101 and beach. All new paint and carpet. \$825. 1/2 off 1st month's rent on approved credit. 858-598-2222 x190, www.utopiamanagement.com.

CARDIFF. White/bright, 2 bedroom 1.5 bath plus garage. On Manchester. Private patio, green belt, lagoon trails, walk to beach. \$1800. 760-550-1801.

CARLSBAD. 3 bedroom, 3 bath penthouse, Ocean Pointe condo. Awesome ocean/lagoon views. Hardwood/granite, parking. No smoking/pets. 1 year lease. \$2500. Available 1/15/06. Renny 760-310-1988.

CARLSBAD. Fantastic ocean and lagoon views! Fresh ocean air, just steps from the beach, beautifully remodeled 2 bedroom apartment homes. 2303 Ocean Street. Judy, 760-434-7721.

CARLSBAD. \$1000. Nice 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New paint and carpet, refrigerator, gas stove, coin laundry, off-street parking. No pets. 858-361-3374.

CARLSBAD. \$1125. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Completely renovated. Beautifully landscaped. Carport, on-site laundry. Close to village/beach. No pets. Lease. 760-505-7736.

CARLSBAD. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, \$1375. Will consider pet. Refrigerator, stove. Fee. Free search at www.sdrentals.com. 858-324-1780.

CARLSBAD. Charming 2 bedrooms. Manager's special: First month \$1000! All appliances, gas fireplace and upgrades, blinds, mirror doors and much more. Intimate garden community, 2 blocks from beach and "Village." 327 Walnut Avenue. 760-729-2155, sandcastle.rasnyder.com.

CARLSBAD. Spacious, sunny and bright 2 bedroom apartments. Manager's special: First month \$1000! Small, secluded community, just a hop, skip and jump from beach and Village. Lovely, well cared for gardens. Pool, spa, balcony, dishwasher, fireplace. Beach livin' at its best! 760-729-8128, cypresscove.rasnyder.com.

CARLSBAD/OCEANSIDE, SOUTH of 78. \$1100-\$1200. Some ocean views, all rooms, quiet, bright 1000 square foot, 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. No pets/smoke. 699 Eaton Street. 760-967-8121.

CARLSBAD/OCEANSIDE, SOUTH of 78. \$975. 3 blocks to ocean, quiet, private, bright, newly renovated, large 1 bedroom apartment. No pets/smoke. 699 Eaton Street. 760-967-8121.

CARLSBAD/LA COSTA. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo in Sea Point Tennis Club. Super quiet setting overlooking scenic Box Canyon. No pets. \$1450. 760-436-7696.

CARLSBAD/LA COSTA. \$1295-\$1325. Large, luxury 2 bedroom, 2 bath in premiere garden complex with golf course views. Fireplace, washer/dryer, air conditioning, pool/spa/sauna. Ailcante Views. 2391 Caringa Way. Torrey Pines Property Management, 760-431-7575.

CARMEL MOUNTAIN RANCH. \$1695. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo in gated Provencale. Fireplace, central air. Attached 2 car garage. Laundry. Minutes to Ted Williams freeway and 15. 619-992-1271.

CARMEL MOUNTAIN RANCH. \$1495. Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Washer/dryer, 1 car attached garage, pets OK. Near shopping/golf. Available now. 858-354-7924.

CARMEL VALLEY. Luxurious 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath East Bluff townhouse. Sits on greenbelt. Attached 2-car garage. Approximately 1668 square feet. Vaulted ceilings. Large kitchen. All appliances. Washer/dryer. Hardwood. Large master. Community pool/spa. Freeway close. \$2550. 858-829-2185.

CARMEL VALLEY. Looking for affordable luxury living? 1, 2 bedrooms from \$1225! Move-in specials! Quiet! Near Del Mar beaches, shopping, easy freeway access, award winning school district! Free tennis, swimming lessons! Washer/dryer. Parking. Fitness center. Pool. No pets. Club Torrey Pines, 12646 Torrey Bluff Drive. 1-866-354-2096. www.sdreader.com/rent/2106.

CARMEL VALLEY. \$1700. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1-car attached garage. All appliances. Air conditioning. Washer/dryer.

Large deck. Pool, spa, tennis. No pets. 858-945-4590.

CARMEL VALLEY. \$3,190. Brand new furnished Townhome. 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 bath, 2 car garage. 1,500 square feet. Call for showing. No pets 858-538-8604/cell: 619-818-6936.

CARMEL VALLEY. \$2,600. Brand new Townhome. 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 bath, 2-car garage. 1,500 square feet. Washer/dryer. Amazing amenities. Call for showing. 858-538-8604/cell: 619-818-6936.

CARMEL VALLEY. \$1600. Pets OK! 2 bedroom, 2 bath end-unit, ground-floor condo, patio, stainless/granite kitchen, new carpet/paint. 12510 Carmel Creek #11-199. Jenna, 619-778-9808.

CASA DE ORO. Mount Helix. 1 bedroom from \$795, 2 bedroom, 1 bath from \$995. Park/garden like settings. Pool. Spa. Close to all shopping. Cats welcomed with deposit. Conrad Villas Apartments. 3917 Conrad Drive. Visit our website: www.progressmanagement.net or call 619-697-6323.

CASA DE ORO. \$1150-\$1300. Large 2 bedrooms and 3 bedrooms. Near Highways 94 and 125. Central location. Laundry, balconies, pool, jacuzzi. Move-in special! 619-464-8343.

CHULA VISTA. Travelers Inn & Suites. Very comfortable furnished 1 and 2 bed suites with kitchenettes, microwave, refrigerators, cable. Convenient location, 235 Woodlawn. Easy access to E street trolley station. Starting at \$345.03+tax per week. 619-427-9170.

CHULA VISTA. Starting \$820, including garage, large 1 bedroom apartment. (2 bedroom, patio \$1050 all utilities paid.) Walk-in closets, laundry on site. Pool, jacuzzi, gas grill, park-like setting. 619-425-0670

CHULA VISTA, NORTH. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1050. Beautiful courtyard building near village. Sorry, no pets. 122 Third Avenue. 619-426-5233. www.WexfordLiving.com.

CHULA VISTA. \$300 discount off first month! 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, swimming pool, laundry, gated parking. \$995/month. 615 Moss Street. Call 619-420-5228. www.melroyproperties.com.

CHULA VISTA/OTAY RANCH. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome. 2-car garage. New-built 2002. 1,837 square feet. Call Alma Fernandez, 619-409-8552.

CHULA VISTA. \$100+ move-in special! Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry, pool, barbecue, ceiling fan, dishwasher. \$805, \$600 deposit. Available now. 581 Arizona Street. 619-691-9415. www.melroyproperties.com.

CHULA VISTA. \$865. Beautiful 1 bedroom. Refinished hardwood and Spanish tile floors, new windows, appliances. 6 unit complex in quiet neighborhood. 270-B Church. 858-366-8518.

CHULA VISTA. Move-in special! \$725. 1 bedroom. Laundry, parking. Convenient location close to freeways and Navy Base. No pets. 660 Sea Vale Street. Agent, 619-298-7724.

CHULA VISTA, NORTH. Near 3rd Avenue downtown. Very quiet, new carpet, clean 1-2 bedroom apartments from \$795. \$200 off first month. Garages available. 619-934-4473; 619-559-0694.

CHULA VISTA. \$725/month. \$150 deposit. 1 bedroom, fully furnished. 2 blocks

from Chula Vista Center. Off-street parking. Laundry room. Lots of trees. 521 Park Way. Office open daily (near Fifth and G). 619-420-5084.

CHULA VISTA. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Gated, central air/heat, dishwasher, balcony, laundry, off-street parking. Available now. No pets. \$1095. Deposit \$600. 619-425-6511.

CHULA VISTA. Great location! 1 bedrooms starting at \$775. Renovated interior. Single story apartment, patio. 619-420-2205.

CHULA VISTA. Newly remodeled! Condo style. Deluxe 1 bedroom from \$820. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath from \$950. Very spacious 2 bedroom, 2 full bath from \$995. New custom carpet, dishwasher, appliances, fireplace, walk-in closets, fireplace, much more. Gated community. Garden setting. Excellent location. Easy freeway access. Must see! No pets. Reserved parking. Garage available. 619-427-1122.

CHULA VISTA. \$795, 1 bedroom. Beautiful garden courtyard setting. Pool, controlled access, air conditioning. 540 Naples. Torrey Pines Property Management, 619-422-5709.

CHULA VISTA. \$995, 1 bedroom. Award winning complex. Washer/dryer, 1-car garage. Torrey Pines Property Management, 619-585-1959.

CHULA VISTA. \$825, 1 bedroom, 1 bath in beautiful garden setting. Controlled access. Coin laundry. Parking. No pets. 144 Garrett Avenue. Torrey Pines Property Management, 619-585-1959.

CHULA VISTA. 1 bedroom, \$725. Two weeks free rent! Downstairs unit with on-site laundry and parking. Great freeway access. Section 8 OK. 583 Park Way. 858-200-9408.

CHULA VISTA. \$900. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Brand new carpet throughout! Brand new paint! Upstairs unit. Parking and laundry onsite. No pets/smoking. \$400 deposit! 267 H Street. Manager, 619-990-0364.

CHULA VISTA. \$750, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Utilities included! Entire unit completely renovated! Parking and laundry onsite. Great location! Move-in special! 318 G Street. Manager, 619-990-0364.

CITY HEIGHTS. Cute studio. Large room with kitchenette. Private fenced yard. Washer/dryer. Large workshop area. Outdoor covered area with view. Pets OK. \$750. 619-847-9125.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$875. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, new carpets, ceramic tile, paint and blinds. Off-street parking, laundry. 4245 Central Avenue #4. 619-561-3618.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$895. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs corner unit in great complex! Nice environment. Laundry on-site. Won't last! 619-640-9812.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$1025 rent. \$600 deposit. OAC. Large, 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhouse-style apartment. Nonsmoking. Underground parking. No pets. At 4245 47th Street #B or 4243 47th Street #A. Agent, 619-299-8515.

CITY HEIGHTS. Newly remodeled studio, \$500/month. Nonsmoking. Call 619-540-5827.

CITY HEIGHTS. Newly remodeled senior community! 55/ups! \$200 off first month. 12 month lease! \$625. Studio available now. Garden setting. Secure gated entry.

Underground parking. Near shopping, freeways, bus lines. www.sunriseliving.com, Russ, 619-583-5409.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$950. Deluxe 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath apartment. Laundry hookups, refrigerator, dishwasher, balcony. Secure. \$500 deposit, 4102 Marlborough Avenue. Habla espanol. 619-281-5140, 619-981-2770.

CITY HEIGHTS. Move-in special, \$200 off first month's rent! Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$750, 4270 47th Street. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$900, 3770 42nd Street. Good location near shopping center. Available now. 619-701-1221.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$495 move-in special first 3 months! 1 bedroom, 1 bath, gated, up-stairs, laundry. 64-/disability income/ Section 8. Available now. 4154 46th Street #8, #11. 619-295-1100. www.cethron.com.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$700, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Large lower unit. Located at 34th and Adams. Laundry on-site, parking. Available now. 4669 34th Street #4. 619-295-1100, www.cethron.com.

CITY HEIGHTS. Private, quiet canyon setting. Newly remodeled 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse near Redevelopment area. Parking. Laundry. 4485 Quince, #9 (near 45th and Redwood). \$999. 619-236-8159.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$950. 4265 Chamounne Avenue. 2 bedroom, 2 bath built like townhouse. New carpet, new refrigerator, dishwasher, laundry room. No pets. Ample parking (not assigned). Section 8 OK. Phillips Realty. 619-291-6686.

CITY HEIGHTS. Ask about holiday special! \$650. 1 bedroom, 1 bath in quiet complex. Refrigerator and stove. On-site laundry. 858-598-1111 x193. www.utopiamanagement.com.

CITY HEIGHTS. Spacious, clean 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse style unit, in small gated complex. Wood floors, large mirrored closets, \$990. Open house 1/7/06. 619-278-9718.

CITY HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, 1 bath-\$750. Move in special: 2 weeks free rent! Upper unit in small complex with on-site laundry. 3722 Marlborough. 858-200-9408.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$825. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs end corner unit. Brand new carpet throughout. Fresh paint! Gated. Laundry and parking onsite. 3686 Marlborough. Manager, 619-847-6698.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$725. Spacious 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Bottom floor unit. Brand new carpet throughout. Fresh paint! Gated. Laundry and parking onsite. 3686 Marlborough. Manager, 619-847-6698.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$850, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Pet friendly spacious unit with assigned off street parking. Close to school and shopping. Section 8 OK. 619-291-5555 x192. www.utopiamanagement.com.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$695, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet and paint. Laundry and parking on site. No pets. Deposit \$500. Call 858-483-5111 x41.

CLAIREMONT. 1 bedrooms, \$1000 and up. 2 bedrooms, from \$1250 and up. Looking for clean, quiet and homey? Our lovely complex is peaceful and quiet day and night! Walk to all your needs. Patios and courtyard. Garages available. 619-276-3222. For photo, floor plans, directions, see website: www.sdreader.com/rent/1028.

CLAIREMONT/MISSION BAY. Coral Bay Park. Traditional 1 bedroom, 1 bath from \$890, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, from \$1035. Designer 1 bedroom, 1 bath from \$980, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, from \$1180. \$300 deposit per pet. 25 meter lap pool, spa, sun-deck. 3309 Cowley Way. 888-500-0471. Visit: www.sdreader.com/rent/ 1070.

CLAIREMONT/KEARNY MESA. Wexford Manor. Large 1 and 2 bedrooms in beautiful complex with pool, spa, laundry, air conditioning, dishwasher. Sorry, no pets. \$925-\$1195. www.WexfordLiving.com. 7870 Stalmer Street. 858-277-4843.

CLAIREMONT. \$875. Clean and cozy 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Lots of privacy. No pets. Garage. Yard. Ample parking is available. 858-274-3351.

CLAIREMONT. 3150 East Fox Run Way. 4 bedrooms, 2-1/2 bath. Washer, dryer, fireplace, 2-car garage. Great area! Beautiful. \$1995. app@a1prop.com. A & J Property Management. 888-826-6050.

CLAIREMONT/MISSION BAY. Coral Bay Canyon, 3309 Cowley Way. Call for specials! Traditional 1 bedrooms starting \$890; Designer 1 bedroom starting \$980. Traditional 2 bedrooms from \$1035. Designer 1 bedrooms starting \$1180. Pets welcome. Cool breezes, Olympic size pool, gym, movie theatre. Reserved garages. Toll free: 888-500-0471. www.sdreader.com/rent/1031.

CLAIREMONT. \$835-\$1150. 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms. Parking, on site laundry, very centrally located. Month-to-month lease. 5252 Balboa Arms Drive. Ask about move in special. 858-277-3562.

CLAIREMONT. \$1095 rent, \$900 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. 4910 Longford Street #3. Large lower unit with stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer, off-street parking. New paint and vinyl. 619-804-3325.

CLAIREMONT/KEARNY MESA. Junior 1 bedroom, \$900/up. 1 bedroom, \$1030/up. Air conditioning, tennis courts, volleyball, gym. Pool, spa, sauna. Clubhouse. Patio or balcony. Laundry facilities. Colima Linda Apartments. 7575 Linda Vista Road. Please call 858-279-7410 or email colimalindaapts@att.net. Photos, floor plans: http://www.sdreader.com/rent/1005.

CLAIREMONT. \$1400. Move-in special! 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath, up and down unit. Laundry on-site. 1 parking space, pool. Near Mesa College. 3262 Ashford #D. Available now. 858-490-1600, www.kandproperties.com.

CLAIREMONT. \$1225 plus deposit. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Off street parking. Balcony. Wood burning fireplace. Laundry room. Indoor cat OK. New appliances/ carpet. Gated. 858-569-8607.

CLAIREMONT. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, \$1195. Washer/dryer, fireplace, garage parking, storage, vaulted ceilings, skylights, new appliances, carpet. No pets. Credit check. 5170 Clairemont Mesa. 858-571-1331.

CLAIREMONT/MISSION BAY. \$200 off first month! Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath with view of bay. Dishwasher. Pool. Laundry. Off-street parking. Cat OK. \$1200. 2920 Clairemont Drive. 619-276-5937. www.rasnyder.com.

COLLEGE AREA. 1 bedroom near SDSU and shopping. Gated entry, elevator, parking, Lush gardens, quiet. \$850/month. Beth Jacobs Apartments, 619-229-1953. Manager, 619-801-0204.

COLLEGE AREA. 2 block walk! Studios, \$850. View, quiet, Berber, free cable/Internet, laundry, parking, jacuzzi, air. Shared utilities. 619-665-1650 or http://members.cox.net/dorothystudio.

COLLEGE AREA. \$1100/up. 2 and 3 bedrooms. Carpets. Appliances, newly refurbished. Laundry facilities. Off-street parking. Near all. Pet? 858-455-5956.

COLLEGE AREA. 1 bedrooms available from \$795. Half a month free! Air conditioning. Pool. Barbecues. Gated access. Laundry. Parking. Near bus, shopping, freeways! Cat friendly. Near SDSU. Saturday and Sunday by appointment. 6, 9, 12-month leases. Aztec Pacific Apartments, 6663 Montezuma Road. Toll free: 866-807-3191. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/rent/1042.

COLLEGE AREA. \$1300. Nice 2-story, 2-bedroom condo. Private patio, security system, gated parking. Near SDSU, freeway access. Section 8 OK. No Pets. Call Keith, 619-813-3303.

COLLEGE AREA. \$1550. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath, walk-in closets, painted, carpeting. Pool, laundry, storage, parking. Year lease. No pets. Security deposit. Available now. 619-840-4546.

COLLEGE AREA. From \$795. Spacious 1 bedrooms. Kitchen pantry, onsite laundry, pool. Close to all. Upper & lower units. 6295-6305 Stanley Avenue. 619-255-0758.

COLLEGE AREA/LEMON GROVE. \$975. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Garage. Stove, refrigerator. No pets. Fenced yard. 3549 College Avenue. Agent, 619-298-7724.

COLLEGE AREA. Gigantic 3 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Fireplace. Huge fenced patio. On-site laundry. Garage available. No pets. Nonsmoker. 5940 Streamview. \$1290. 619-251-0030.

COLLEGE AREA. \$1095-\$1295. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Balcony/porch. Gas stove, refrigerator. Air conditioning. Dishwasher. Washer/dryer hook-ups. Gated. Near all/ golf course. 619-285-3822.

COLLEGE AREA. \$1350. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. 2-car garage. Central air. Fireplace. Newer carpet/paint. Balcony. Available now. No pets. Benson Properties, 858-272-4990.

COLLEGE AREA/SDSU. \$1100. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, fenced backyard, parking, kitchen nook, mirrored closets, new refrigerator/stove/carpet/paint. No pets. 619-741-4023.

COLLEGE AREA. \$750-\$775. 1 bedroom, \$850, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Near shops. Laundry room. No pets. 6769 El Cajon Boulevard. Apartments in rear courtyard. 619-464-0901.

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COLLEGE AREA/TALMADGE. \$700. Nice 1 bedroom. Upstairs, large rooms, new carpet, coin laundry. Quiet building. No pets. 4438 Menlo Avenue #4. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

COLLEGE AREA/TALMADGE. \$775. Gorgeous 1 bedroom, 1 bath with newer carpet/vinyl. Private patio. Remodeled kitchen. Quiet complex. On-site laundry. Off-street parking. 619-287-2282.

COLLEGE AREA. \$750/month plus \$500 deposit. 1 bedroom apartment, on-site laundry, water and trash included. Please call 619-582-0575.

COLLEGE AREA. From \$825. Remodeled 1 and 2 bedrooms. Near shopping. Pool. Air conditioning. Parking available. Laundry. Barbecue area. Pets considered. 3635 College Avenue. 619-582-3993.

COLLEGE AREA/SAN CARLOS. Luxury 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Gorgeous ocean views. Designer kitchen. Hardwood floor. Balcony, pool/spa, washer/dryer. \$1590. www.coastwayrealty.com. 858-442-8195.

COLLEGE AREA/ROLANDO. 1 bedroom, \$995. Gorgeous condo in gated paradise, granite counters, stainless steel appliances. Pool, gym, carport and storage room. Must See! Agent, 619-296-3189.

COLLEGE AREA. From \$730. 1 bedroom. Pool, on-site laundry. Off-street parking. No pets. Central location. Nice area. Call for details. 4333 College Avenue. 619-287-8380.

COLLEGE GROVE. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator, laundry. All new inside. Good storage. Tile, kitchen & bath. Light. Near all. \$900. 619-840-1080 or 619-265-8842.

COLLEGE. \$1000. Large deluxe 2 bedroom, 2 bath, condo-quality. All amenities, parking, controlled entry, laundry on-site, storage, park-like grounds, near all. No pets. 619-287-1996; 619-461-9415.

COLLEGE. Spacious 1 bedrooms, \$820. Gated building, pool, air conditioning, laundry, parking. 4601 63rd Street. 619-229-9248 or 619-850-6197.

CORONADO. \$995. Downstairs corner 1 bedroom, 1 bath located in Coronado with ceiling fans, laundry facilities and a courtyard. Parking available for small fee. Within walking distance to ferry landing. 139-1/2 D Avenue. 858-270-5500 x49. www.msbrrowar.com.z

CORONADO/IMPERIAL BEACH. Gorgeous, new 2 bedroom beachfront condo. Parking. Fireplace. Hardwood. Granite. Jacuzzi tub. Water/trash paid. Pets ok. \$1800. Available now. 760-943-0302. 949-246-2697.

CROWN POINT/Pacific Beach. 2 bedroom, \$1395! Walk to beach. Parking. Ceiling fans. Gated entry. Laundry. Peaceful. Barbecue. 3833 Jewell Street. 858-483-2869.

DEL MAR, SEA POINT. \$2900. Walk to beach. 2 master bedrooms. Two fireplaces. 2-car garage. Ocean view deck. Panda Realty, 858-748-8850.

DEL MAR. Old Del Mar: Studio, quiet neighborhood, view, walk to center and beach. Nonsmoking, no pets. Includes utilities. 858-755-3883.

DEL MAR/SOLANA BEACH. Live west of I-5! Low \$500 deposits! 1 bedrooms from \$1215. 2 bedrooms from \$1450. 3 bedrooms from \$1845. Ocean views! Patio, balcony. Pool. Tennis court. Sports, picnic areas. Parking. Near entertainment, shopping. Pets welcome! Solana Highlands, 701 South Nardo. www.solanahighlands.com, 1-888-637-8571. <http://www.sdreader.com/rent/1057>.

DEL MAR/CARMEL VALLEY. From \$1695. 3613 Bernwood Place, #90. 1552 Camino Del Mar #601 (almost ocean-front). Some ocean views. Interior laundry. Pets OK. Free rental/buying information by e-mail. Pictures at www.ILoveDelMar.com. Kohn & Burke, Inc., 858-755-8580.

DEL MAR/SOLANA BEACH. Starting from \$1175! Studio/lofts, 1 bedroom/loft, 2 bedrooms, 2 bedroom/lofts. Ask about our specials! Dishwasher. Balcony. Pool. Jacuzzi. Sauna. Fitness center. Laundry. Garages available. Near freeway/beach. Cat OK. Ocean Crest Apartments, 873 Stevens Avenue. 858-481-1155. www.sdreader.com/rent/1038.

DEL MAR/SOLANA BEACH. Studios, \$1100. Newly remodeled. Close to beach, Cedros Design District, race track. Full kitchen and bath, breakfast

bar, ceramic tile. 833 South Cedros. 858-755-1466. www.rasnyder.com.

DEL MAR/SOLANA BEACH. Beautifully remodeled 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhomes from \$1465. Crown molding, small quaint community, heated pool, on-site laundry, assigned covered parking. Close to shopping, fine dining, beach, race track. 766 South Nardo. 858-755-0533. solanapointe.rasnyder.com.

DOWNTOWN, MARINA DISTRICT. CityFront Terrace. 1 bedroom luxury condo with den. Fireplace, washer/dryer, stainless, granite. Pools, fitness center, spa, concierge, valet included. \$2150/month. 619-449-1498.

DOWNTOWN, EAST VILLAGE. Brand new! \$250-\$500 off with 6-12 month lease! Studios, 1, 2, 3 bedrooms from \$1000. Near Petco Park, Gaslamp, more! Rooftop terrace. Controlled access. Underground parking. Washer/dryer. Microwave. Patio/balcony. Walk-in closet. Air conditioning. Fitness center. Pets welcome. Entrada, 453 13th Street. 1-888-521-0878. www.sdreader.com/rent/2102.

DOWNTOWN. Hip new loft, 1380 square feet, 1 bedroom, optional second, 2 bath, 11 foot ceiling, great views, stainless appliances, hardwood floors, washer/dryer, secured parking, small pet, \$2500, 619-303-9706.

DOWNTOWN, EAST VILLAGE. Real warehouse live/work loft. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Laundry. Parking included. Spacious, private 3-unit building. \$2500 month/lease. Appointment, 619-994-6991.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. January move-in special! Only \$603-\$724/month for 6 months! Utilities included! Monday-Friday 8am-6pm, Saturday 8am-3pm. Near Petco Park, bus/trolley. Fully furnished. Bay/ballpark views. Underground parking. Air conditioning. Laundry. Internet. Clubhouse/library. Income qualify! Island Village. 1245 Market Street. For details, 1-800-351-0613. www.sdreader.com/rent/2070.

DOWNTOWN. Comfortable rooms and studios near Gaslamp District. \$450-\$650, very quiet and clean. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, community kitchen, shared bathrooms. Near shopping, restaurants, movie theatres and Horton Plaza. No pets. Arlington Apartments, 701 7th Avenue. Hughes Management. 619-231-2385. www.sdreader.com/rent/2097.

DOWNTOWN. Cozy rooms, \$450-\$625, grab these little jewels today! Very comfortable, convenient location, historic building near C Street trolley. Choice of shared or private bathrooms. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, modern elevator, no pets. Southern Hotel, 1159 6th Avenue at B, Hughes Management. 619-239-3808. www.sdreader.com/rent/2099.

DOWNTOWN. Economical furnished rooms, \$400-\$500, best price, save money. Conveniently located on C Street trolley line, near restaurants, free cable TV, shared bathrooms, on-site laundry facilities, vending machines, elevator service, no pets, 636 C Street (between 6th and 7th). C Street Inn, Hughes Management. 619-234-4165. www.sdreader.com/rent/2098.

DOWNTOWN. 1 year old, 1 bedroom loft, Union Square, granite/tile, washer/dryer, balcony/courtyard view, security building/parking, spa/gym, storage. Easy freeway access. Lease. \$1395. 619-669-1470.

DOWNTOWN. Brand new cool urban loft at M2i. In heart of Ballpark district. 2 story, 2 bath with spiral staircase and concrete floors. 1 garage parking. Pet considered. Available now! \$1895. 619-820-9564.

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DOWNTOWN. Huge studio-\$575. 1 bedroom-\$800. Vintage building. Just restored apartments, 10 blocks from water, authentic hardwood floors, fresh paint, new tile, new appliances. Call now 619-230-0998.

DOWNTOWN. Beautiful building, new furnished rooms. Free wireless Internet! Refrigerator, microwave, TV, cable. \$175, weekly. 920 Beech Street. Call 619-234-1952.

DOWNTOWN. Luxury 2 bedroom plus den furnished, 16th floor of Discovery. Spectacular views. Fireplace. Flat screen TV. Concierge and maid service. \$3200. Call agent, 619-303-0821.

DOWNTOWN. Views, views, views! Luxury condo at "The Grand" (south building). 24th floor, 2 bedroom plus den, all amenities. \$3700/month. 619-306-8193.

DOWNTOWN. Condo, Discovery, 2 bedroom plus den, 2 bath, large deck, 2 parking spaces. Storage unit, fireplace, pool, spa, gym, no smoking/pets. \$2850/month, 619-522-0469.

DOWNTOWN. \$895. Beautiful studio. Classic building. Hardwood floors. Full kitchen, bath. Murphy beds with built-in drawers and shelves. Laundry/storage on site. Cat friendly. 619-233-3973.

DOWNTOWN. 1 bedroom, 1 bath at Metrome. Brand new, views. For pictures, go to www.TheEquityCompany.com. Call 619-528-2337.

DOWNTOWN. \$1350. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. 2-car garage. Washer/dryer. Secure building. Quiet. No pets/smoking/drugs. Available 1/1. 1650 8th Avenue. 619-286-7133.

DOWNTOWN. Near City College. Single rooms with kitchenettes from \$160/week plus deposit (long-term). Includes utilities/cable. Quiet, secure. Shared bath/laundry. Hotel Mediterranean. 619-231-8656. www.hotelmed-sd.com.

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DOWNTOWN. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Gaslamp City Square. Views, hardwoods, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops. Washer/dryer. Pool, spa, no pets. \$2000/month includes utilities. 619-847-6877.

DOWNTOWN. 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath 10th floor Renaissance condo. Panoramic bay view, marble bath, gourmet kitchen, granite counters, subzero/stainless steel appliances. \$2690/month. 619-306-1065.

DOWNTOWN. \$750. Studio. Stove, refrigerator, carpet. All utilities. Laundry, street parking. No pets. Close to Balboa Park. 1758 6th Avenue. Agent, 619-298-7724.

DOWNTOWN. Studios, historic building, full kitchen and bathroom. \$600-\$700, includes utilities. No smoking or pets. 901 10th Avenue. Hughes Management, 619-531-1616.

DOWNTOWN. Outstanding furnished rooms. \$400-\$500. Heart of Gaslamp. Shared bathrooms. Community kitchen. Free cable TV. No pets. 843 4th Avenue. Windsor Hotel. 619-235-6068. Hughes Management.

DOWNTOWN. Attractive rooms. Shared bath. Utilities included. Near San Diego City College. No pets. \$375-\$550. 719 14th Street, Villa Victoria. Hughes Management. 619-231-2385.

DOWNTOWN. New 1 bedroom 7th floor luxury condo. Gorgeous downtown/bay views. Granite, stainless appliances, washer/dryer. 1-parking. Year lease. No pets. \$1590. 619-980-6708.

DOWNTOWN. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1100 square feet, bright, sunny, hardwood floors, granite countertops. Underground parking. Balcony, view. Gym, spa. No pets. Nonsmoking. \$2000. Jennifer, 619-347-1004.

DOWNTOWN. Brand new cool urban loft at M2i. In heart of Ballpark district. 2 story, 2 bath with spiral staircase and concrete floors. 1 garage parking. Pet considered. Available now! \$1895. 619-820-9564.

DOWNTOWN. Newer 2 bedroom, 2 bath condos available now. Views, balcony, parking and gated property. No pets. Appliances include washer/dryer. 801 Hawthorn Street. \$1750-\$1800. 619-749-6545. www.orionproperty.com.

DOWNTOWN. \$825. 1 bedroom apartment home with laundry facilities on-site and plenty of storage space. Great location, close to everything San Diego has to offer! \$500 gift card at move-in for your holiday shopping. 843 13th Street. 858-270-5500 x50. www.msbrrowar.com.

DOWNTOWN. \$1095. Studio condo. Brand new unit on the 5th floor in Metrome building. Located in Gaslamp District. Gated entry. Washer/dryer and stainless steel appliances. 619-291-5555, x192. www.utopiamanagement.com.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. Modern lofts, only for the urban at heart! Cool 1 bedrooms! \$1050 and up. High ceilings,

huge windows. Patios/balconies. Stained concrete or wood floors. Euro kitchens. Washer/dryer. Pets OK. Highly desirable location! Near trolley, restaurants and shops. Wendy, 619-733-9181. Candace, 619-750-9642. www.sdllofts.com.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. From \$675-\$800. Beaumanoir mini lofts, located blocks from Petco Park. Unique urban lofts with approximately 250 square feet, 12-foot ceilings, exposed brick, redwood floors. Solid wood furniture available. Paid cable/electric/water. Most spaces include sleeping lofts. Includes refrigerator and microwave. High speed Internet access available via Cox or PacBell. On-site laundry, barbecue deck. Impeccable renovation. 927 6th Avenue. No pets. www.sdreader.com/rent/2127. Michael, 619-232-1517.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. From \$760. Private bath, cable TV, microwave, refrigerator. Utilities included. Secure, quiet, charming. Efficiency apartments with laundry. Near trolley/bus lines, blocks from harbor. On-site manager, Villa Cateira, 1654 Columbia Street. 619-232-3400.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. \$1295. Spacious 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment with 9' ceilings, central heat/air, all appliances, controlled entry, parking included. William Penn Building, 511 F Street. Agent, 619-298-7232; www.sbayproperties.com.

DOWNTOWN/BANKER'S HILL. Brand new hotel just opened! Grand opening special! Weekly rates starting at \$220 and daily rates starting at \$49. Close to everything Downtown has to offer. Fully furnished. Kitchenettes. Free cable TV with DVD players, DVD library. Free local calls. Free high speed wireless Internet access. Air conditioning, high ceilings, ceiling fans. Safety deposit box in room. Guest laundry, ATM, vending area. Military, student, senior, AAA discount. Call today, 619-232-1336. www.hoteloccidental-sandiego.com.

DOWNTOWN/CORTEZ HILL. \$995. 1 bedroom, 700 square feet. Secluded. Walk to Petco, Gaslamp. Near all. 8-unit colonial brick. No pets. 947 Date Street. 619-670-7484. 619-917-3121.

DOWNTOWN/CORTEZ HILL. Studio. \$645. Limited access building, charming, quiet residential neighborhood. Utilities paid. On-site laundry. No pets. EOH. 619-299-8746.

DOWNTOWN/EL CORTEZ. 942 Beech (10th/Beech). Clean studio apartments, new carpet, from \$800. Walk to City College and Downtown. 619-239-3527.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. Studios. \$675 and up. Clean, nonsmoking building. Hardwood and ceramic floors. Charming built-in storage. Laundry. 1-cat ok. On trolley line: 830 Park Blvd. (12th). 619-236-9117.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. Brand new spacious studio, gourmet kitchen, secured parking, washer/dryer inside unit, clubhouse, gym. Walk to Gaslamp/Petco Park. \$1300 plus \$650 deposit. 619-987-3903.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. Las Flores Hotel. Small, quiet, \$121/week and up. Four-week minimum. Color TV with basic cable. Refrigerator in most rooms. Secure. 619-235-6820.

DOWNTOWN/GOLDEN HILL. \$1995. All new spacious interior 2 bedroom, 2 bath with unbelievable city views. Granite counters, elevator building, laundry, on-site workout room. Parking: single car garage plus 1 additional space in gated area. No pets! Call for appointment, 1233 22nd Street (Cityscape). R.A. Properties, 858-483-3989.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. Move-in Specials. Live/Work Lofts in the heart of The Gaslamp from \$1,100! Roof decks with barbecue. Laundry on every floor. Parking available. Seven locations Downtown. Select pets OK. Visit loft leasing office: 315 Fourth Avenue. 619-231-1505 x12. www.trilogymanagement.com. Also visit www.sdreader.com/rent/2064.

DOWNTOWN/GOLDEN HILL. Nice big 1 bedroom duplex unit, panoramic views of downtown, Florida Canyon, park, private yard, gas heat. Walk to Petco. \$925. 619-222-4071.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. \$1400. Loftly living-heart of Gaslamp District. Live/work. Gorgeous historical building. Walk to Horton Plaza, Petco Park, House of Blues, Seaport Village, Convention Center, bay. Hardwood floors. Air conditioning. Cable/Internet ready. Controlled access. Pets welcomed! On Broadway, 1023 Fourth Avenue. 619-231-1333. <http://www.sdreader.com/rent/2109>.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. \$2100. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo in Trellis. 5th floor, 2 parking spaces. Practically new! No pets. 530 K Street. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. Lofts starting at \$1250. \$300 off first month's rent with a 3 month lease. In the heart of Gaslamp. Washer/dryer in units. Dogs and cats OK. Underground parking. 777 6th Avenue. Torrey Pines Property Management, 619-544-0017.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. \$1050-\$1850, unfurnished 2 level lofts and 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhome. \$1800-\$2100, furnished luxury loft with bay views and parking. Call 619-255-0526. www.sdurbanliving.com.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. Bright corner studio-\$795, one bedroom-\$995. Bearclaw tub-shower. Charming, secure, quiet building with laundry. 1534 Front Street, near Beech. 619-233-7428.

DOWNTOWN/PARK PLACE. 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath townhouse. Balconies and rooftop deck, two parking spaces, fireplace, hardwood floors, washer/dryer, all amenities. \$3395/month. 619-306-8193.

DOWNTOWN/SHERMAN HEIGHTS. Bright charming renovated studio. Separate kitchen and bath, new paint, washer/dryer, parking, laundry, good location, tile/wood floors. Cats OK. Year lease. 233 20th Street. \$645. 619-233-5663. www.innorenventerprises.com.

DOWNTOWN/SHERMAN HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom apartment. In old Victoria. Must see! \$1300. No pets. 408 21st. 619-223-3495.

DOWNTOWN: Luxury condos in the Downtown area. No hidden fees! Call Patty Doyle/agent, 619-379-0275.

DULZURA. Ranch-style living. Duplex. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Fireplace. Washer/dryer. Land for horses, pets, large toys. \$1200. 619-807-0359.

EAST VILLAGE/DOWNTOWN. Brand new, 1 bedroom, 1 bath loft, block and a half from ballpark. Includes walk-in closet, washer/dryer, refrigerator, \$1550/month. Anthony 619-347-6742.

EASTLAKE/CHULA VISTA. Move-in special \$995: Beautiful, 2 story 3 bedroom, 2 bath, attached 2-car garage. New carpet. Pool, jacuzzi. \$1495. 619-370-3426.

EASTLAKE/CHULA VISTA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo with attached garage. \$1800/month, 1 month free with signed 1-year lease. San Diego's Best Rentals, 619-696-7368; www.sandiegobestrentals.com.

EL CAJON. Fabulous 7 Motel. Furnished rooms starting \$199 per week. Parking. Pool. Cable. Maid service. Laundry. 24 hour security. 1527 East Main Street. 619-42-0457.

EL CAJON. \$725. 1 bedroom. Ask about move-in special. Clean, quiet, off-street parking. Pool, barbecue, laundry room. Gated. Air conditioning/heating. 718 South Magnolias. 619-401-8063.

EL CAJON. \$1200-\$1300. Condo style living. Spacious, 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome. Laundry hookups, central heat/air, quiet, gated, private patio. Lush gardens, 8 unit complex away from busy streets. No pets. Military discount! 858-353-6112.

EL CAJON. \$900. Large, deluxe 2 bedroom. Amenities. Pool, park-like grounds. Parking. 743 South Magnolia Avenue. Near town, shops, bus. 619-579-0174.

EL CAJON. \$970. 2 bedrooms. Community complex. Gated pool. Parking. Air conditioning. No pets. Central location. 933 Peach Avenue. 619-823-5527.

EL CAJON. \$1195. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-car garage. Condo with central air. Secure gated community with pool and laundry. Easy freeway access. 619-665-3490.

EL CAJON. \$750. 1 bedroom. Ask about move-in special. Clean, quiet, off-street parking. Pool, barbecue, play area, laundry room. gated. Central air and heat. Wheelchair accessible. 346 South Mollison. 619-312-0606.

EL CAJON. \$99 deposit on approved credit! Limited time offer! \$799, extra large 1 bedrooms. \$999, extra large 2 bedrooms. 6 month lease. Ceiling fan. Linen closet. Garbage disposal. Pool. Clubhouse. Barbecues. Pet friendly. Dog exercise area. Assigned parking. Evergreen Gardens, 291 Jamacha Road. www.sdreader.com/rent/2113. Call 619-442-9935.

EL CAJON. \$850. 1423 Peach Avenue. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs, new carpet, assigned parking, laundry room. No pets. Section 8 OK. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686.

EL CAJON. \$725-\$925. 1 bedroom and 2 bedrooms. Pool, laundry, parking on-site. Month-to-month lease. 1019 Peach. 619-588-4773. Ask about move-in special.

EL CAJON. \$810. 2 bedroom. Beautiful garden setting with sparkling pool. No pets. 1072 East Madison. Torrey Pines Property Management, 619-985-3900, www.fourwindssapts.info.

EL CAJON. \$715. 1 bedroom. Quiet garden setting. Washer/dryer on-site. Barbe-

cue. Controlled access. No pets. 340 Orlando. Torrey Pines Property Management, 619-818-9939. www.northwindssapts.com.

EL CAJON. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhomes with attached 2-car direct access garage, full-size washer/dryer connections, wood-burning fireplaces and swimming pool for a limited offer or \$1390 per month. Call Canyon Springs today at 1-888-725-3695 or visit us at 2000 East Main Street in El Cajon.

EL CAJON. \$750. Deposit \$500. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. All appliances, on-site laundry, gated community. Sorry, no pets. 140 Wells Avenue. 619-444-1851, 619-804-3325.

EL CAJON. \$885. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Pool. Off-street parking. Near park. 963 Estes. Section 8 OK. No pets. 619-464-7957 or 619-749-3415.

EL CAJON. \$1325. Manager's Special! Very large, nice 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Washer/dryer hookup. Patio. Pool. Play lot. 1065 East Washington Avenue. 619-447-4205. 619-708-2324.

EL CAJON. 1 bedroom-\$725. Studio-\$630. Large upstairs apartments in quiet complex. Air conditioning, pool and secure parking. Month-to-month lease. Call about our move-in special! 1362 East Main Street. Jason 619-334-3151, 858-200-9408.

EL CAJON. \$950. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, Lincoln-Washington Apartments. Very large units, pool, on-site laundry, covered parking, in great location. Clean and quiet. 685 South Lincoln Avenue. Agent, 619-444-8191 or 858-560-1178.

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ENCINITAS. 1 bedroom, 1 bath-\$1095, 2 bedroom, 2 bath-\$1295. Small complex. Assigned parking. Balcony. Skylights. Laundry. Bright and airy. Garden setting. 1-1/2 blocks to beach. Close to shopping, freeway, Coaster. No pets/smoking. 760-929-1950.

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GOLDEN HILL. \$1100. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, newly remodeled Victorian apartment. Bay view, fireplace, optional garage, cat OK with deposit. \$1100 move-in deposit. Agent, 858-279-8925.

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HILLCREST. Spacious 2 bedrooms starting at \$1295. Berber carpet, fireplace, spa, gym, intercom, elevator. Sorry, no pets. 4134 4th Avenue. See photos at www.WexfordLiving.com. 619-299-0047.

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HILLCREST. \$950. Large apartment. 1 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Hardwood floors. First floor unit. 401 Spruce Street. 619-435-2700. www.mckeecompany.com.

HILLCREST. Two bedroom, one bath. Hardwood floors, washer/dryer, completely remodeled. Deck in yard overlooking canyon. Block from Balboa Park. Pets OK. \$1495/month. Call 619-549-4959.

HILLCREST. Elegant apartments! Starting: 1 bedrooms, \$995 and up. 2 bedrooms, \$1020 and up. Elevator, clubhouse, gym, pool, sauna, air conditioning, dishwasher. Ceramic tile. Laundry. Microwave. Floor-to-ceiling windows. Covered parking. Locked bicycle storage. No pets. Park East Apartments. 111 West Pennsylvania Avenue. ParkEastApts@att.net. www.sreader.com/rent/1006. 619-298-3225.

HILLCREST. \$1695. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 3rd floor condo. All appliances. Washer/dryer. Patio. Pool. Spa. Gym. Garage

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HILLCREST. \$1225. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Quiet, gated, fireplace. All appliances, washer/dryer hookups, skylight, patio, 2 parking. Cats OK. Nonsmoking. 3680 Alabama Street. Available early to mid-January. 619-269-5237.

HILLCREST. \$695. Second floor studio. Hardwood floors, parking, no pets. 4030 3rd Avenue. 619-295-6005, agent.

HILLCREST. \$725 rent. \$600 deposit on approved credit. 1 bedroom duplex. Open parking. No pets, at 3853-1/2 First Avenue. 619-299-8515.

HILLCREST. \$1995. Special: 1/2 off first month's rent! 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath, 1920s classic charm with a modern flair. Located in small quiet complex, this unit has gone through extensive renovation in excess of \$40K. Over 1100 square feet of living space. Upgrades include new hardwood floors in main areas. Natural stone surfaces in kitchen and bath. Granite countertops, all new fixtures, stainless steel appliances, all new windows, custom closets, crown moldings, formal dining area, cove ceiling in living room, gas log heater in a natural stone hearth. Washer/dryer hookups. Includes a 1-car garage. Water/trash paid. Sorry, no pets. \$2000 deposit and year lease required. 3610-3616 Park Boulevard. 619-846-6615; 619-952-5374.

HILLCREST. \$995, 1 bedroom with balcony. Canyon views. Pool. Laundry on-site. Assigned parking. Small pet on approval. 4053 8th Avenue. 619-297-0269.

HILLCREST. Senior complex. 55+. \$795. 1 bedroom apartments. Gated community. Convenient location. Near hospitals, restaurants, shopping. No pets. 4042 Albatross Street. 619-574-0784.

HILLCREST. Studios from \$815. 1 bedrooms, \$890. In the heart of Hillcrest. Newly renovated! Controlled access. Hot tub. Barbecue, picnic area. Dedicated management. Don't miss out on Hillcrest living at its best! Near bus, shopping, freeways. Nightingale Apartments. EHO. 619-295-4351.

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HILLCREST. \$925. Huge studio, 1920s Spanish charm. Hardwood floors, French doors. 3 big closets. Front and back porches. Quiet canyon area. 4185 5th/Ave. 619-698-4915.

HILLCREST. \$1500. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Washer/dryer. Detached garage.

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55-59	\$239	\$248	\$298
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Level 1 monthly rates for No Rx (P958), Generic Rx Option (PE48) and Comprehensive Rx Option (PE49) effective 3/1/05. The rates shown are for 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 more complete list of coverages, conditions, restrictions, limitations and exclusions.

Michael Freeman

Authorized Independent Agent

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Balcony. 3727 Richmond Street #8. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

HILLCREST. \$800. 3820 Georgia Street, between Robinson and University Avenue. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs, carpet, laundry, assigned parking. No pets. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686.

HILLCREST. \$1595. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, gorgeous, washer/dryer. Fireplace. Garage. Lots closet space. Cat ok. 900+ square feet. Balcony. 4520 Campus #6. AMI Property Management. 619-697-6314.

HILLCREST. \$1025. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, large unit. Parking, laundry, completely remodeled. 4559 Campus Avenue #9. AMI Property Management. 619-697-6314.

HILLCREST. \$1195, large 2 bedroom (equal size), 1 bath, Berber carpet, vaulted ceilings, 1 parking, laundry. No pets. Walk to Balboa Park. 3828 Third Avenue at Robinson Avenue. 619-295-7113.

HILLCREST. \$825. 1 bedroom apartment, parking, laundry. Quiet building. 4419 Cleveland Avenue #3. AMI Property Management. 619-697-6314.

HILLCREST. \$775. 1 bedroom apartment, gated, quiet, laundry. 4450 Cleveland #8. AMI Property management. 619-697-6314.

HILLCREST. \$750. 1 bedroom apartment, completely remodeled. Parking, laundry. Close to all. 4035 Normal #3. AMI Porperty Management. 619-697-6314.

HILLCREST. \$995, 1 bedroom. Bright, downstairs apartment in small complex. Remodeled bathroom. New carpet and kitchen floor tile. Coin laundry. Excellent location. No pets. 639 Pennsylvania by 7th Avenue. Torrey Pines Property Management, 619-296-8802.

HILLCREST. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, air conditioning, microwave, dishwasher, fireplace, vaulted ceilings, upper unit. 4094 Georgia Street #6. CCPM, 619-296-6699.

HILLCREST. \$965. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Immaculate, bright second floor apartment. Barbecue patio. Coin laundry. No pets. Near Henry's Marketplace. 4219 Georgia Street. Manager, 619-299-1004.

HILLCREST. \$1395. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Laundry, controlled entry. Huge patio. Near hospital. 4046 First Avenue. 619-286-1777, 619-708-7267.

HILLCREST. \$1325. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs unit. Air conditioning. 1 parking space, laundry on-site. Dishwasher, ceiling fan. 1033 Robinson. Available for

viewing by appointment only. 619-295-1210. www.kandrpproperties.com.

HILLCREST. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1295 and up. Pool, view, laundry. Heart of Hillcrest. Sleepy Hollow Apartments. 4149 6th Avenue. Harry, 619-298-1059.

HILLCREST. 3650 Florida Street. 2 bedroom with beautiful hardwood floors, \$1195. All new paint, appliances, counter-tops, cabinets and more. \$500 gift card at move in! Call 858-270-5500 x48. www.msrbrowar.com.

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HILLCREST. Studio, \$795. 1 bedroom, \$895. \$100 off 1st month! Great location, quiet area. Off-street parking, laundry. Cat OK. 4166 4th Avenue. 619-298-7868. www.rasnyder.com.

HILLCREST. \$1375. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Upper with balcony, fireplace, parking, laundry. Quiet complex. Close to all. 1402 Pennsylvania Avenue. 619-303-0325, www.rasnyder.com.

HILLCREST. \$1075. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Move in special-1/2 off first month's rent! On-site laundry and subterranean parking. Close to medical center, shops and restaurants! Arbor Place Apartments, 4202 4th Avenue. 619-291-8060.

HILLCREST/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. Charming 1 bedroom apartment in well maintained 1940s court. Beautiful hardwood floors, patio and laundry. \$850 includes utilities! Also spacious, light and airy 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs in 1920's building, \$1025. 619-291-0147.

HILLCREST/MISSION HILLS. \$750 rent, \$600 deposit with approved credit. Studio. Parking spot #6. Laundry. No pets. 4030 Front Street #6. 619-299-8515.

HILLCREST/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Pet friendly, great location, garden setting, gated/intercom, 2-space off-street parking, air conditioning, dishwasher, wood floors. Available February 1. 4359 Florida Street. 619-220-7138.

HILLCREST/MISSION HILLS. \$975. Upper, 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Washer/dryer. Covered parking. Balcony. Great location. Cat OK. 3782 First Avenue. 858-273-6429.

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HILLCREST/UPDOWN. \$1100. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Brand new carpet. Large bedrooms! Small balcony, walk-in closet, parking and laundry onsite! Available for move-in now. No pets. 3620 Georgia. Agent. 619-283-2144.

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KENSINGTON. \$795. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Wood floors, 9' ceilings, balcony. Available 1/23/06. 4118 Adams Avenue #2. 619-295-1100; www.cethron.com.

KENSINGTON/NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1150 rent, \$1150 deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Remodeled condo style, hardwood floors, cove high ceilings, granite countertops, Garage available, additional \$75. 5137 34th Street #5. 619-804-3325.

LA COSTA. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Berber carpet, washer/dryer in unit, spacious floor plan. Pool/spa. Nice quiet community. Near freeway. No pets! \$1275. Call Rayleenne today! 760-944-6201. www.utopiamanagement.com.

LA JOLLA VILLAGE. Best ocean front location. 1 bedroom, 1 bath-\$1750 or 2 bedroom, 1 bath-\$2150. Gated, gardens, decks, barbecues, pet walk. 600 Prospect. "In Eden." 858-551-8893.

LA JOLLA. \$500 off first month! 2 bedroom, New carpet. Walk to shops. Balcony. Garden window. No pets. \$1425. 8849 Villa La Jolla Drive. 858-457-4509.

LA JOLLA. Studio. Amazing location 1 block to ocean in heart of Village on Prospect! Kitchen with appliances. Walk-in closet, laundry. \$1095-\$1375, includes utilities. 619-645-8082.

LA JOLLA. Special: \$600 off! Beautiful, luxurious 4-story, 1 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhome. Garage. Roman tub, 2-patios. Fireplace. Cats ok. \$1650. 408-839-7431, 408-623-6325.

LA JOLLA. \$1500. Move-in special: \$500 off first month! Quiet 1 bedroom corner unit. Walk to UCSD. Washer/dryer, patio, gated underground parking. Pools/gym. 619-517-3822.

LA JOLLA. \$1850. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Canyon view. Near shopping/restaurants. Granite countertops, marble kitchen/bathroom. Washer/dryer, parking, pool, spa. Pets? 619-987-3396.

LA JOLLA. Large, luxurious 1 bedroom or 1-1/2 bedroom condos. Washer and dryer. All appliances. Fitness center. Gated parking. Security patrol. 2 pools. Minutes from UTC/UCSD. \$1400 or \$1600. Dave, home, 858-458-3589; cell, 619-204-5740.

LA JOLLA. Condo, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, all new kitchen and bath. Just remodeled. For pictures, go to www.TheEquityCompany.com. 619-528-2337.

LA JOLLA. Studio, \$975. Ocean view. Upstairs. Controlled access. Pool. Secured parking. Laundry. No pets. Steps to beach. 6655 La Jolla Boulevard. 858-882-7494.

LA JOLLA. Heart of the village. 7434 Herschel. Lovely 2 bedrooms 2 bath. Views, fireplace, patio, elevator, 2 underground parking. 1 year lease. \$1995. 858-551-8189.

LA JOLLA. \$1850. 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhouse. Fireplace, wood floors, attached garage, 2 patios. Great location. Walk to shops/restaurants/theater. Must see! 619-884-2689.

LA JOLLA. Regents Road condo. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, beautiful complex. Full service amenities. Pets OK! \$1500/month. www.sandiegobestrentals.com. 619-696-7368.

LA JOLLA. \$1450. 1 year lease. Townhome. Near UCSD. 2 bedroom 1 bath with attached garage. New paint and carpet, washer/dryer, 2 lighted tennis courts, pool and jacuzzi. Call 619-647-9689.

LA JOLLA. 2 bedroom, 2 bath top floor condo. Ocean view, vaulted ceilings, garage parking, 2 blocks to Windansea. Reduced to \$1900. Small pets OK. Alice, 858-336-4478.

LA JOLLA. \$1695/month. Unfurnished 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex. Lease. Fireplace. Parking. Laundry. Block to WindanSea. No pets. Available now. 858-459-8943.

LA JOLLA. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Near UCSD, shopping, restaurants, theater. Clean, elegant. Fireplace, patio, new carpet/appliances. Tennis, clubhouse, pool. \$1795/month. 619-218-8221.

LA JOLLA. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, \$1400. Pet OK. Refrigerator, stove. Fee. Free search at www.sdrntals.com. 858-324-1780.

LA JOLLA. \$1600. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath. 1053 square feet, up and down unit. Patio, underground parking, washer/dryer, Spa, tennis courts. Nonsmokers only. 8268 Gilman Drive #10. Available now. 858-490-1600, www.kandrpproperties.com.

LA JOLLA. Ocean view, 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, block to ocean, \$1995; 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1350; 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$2650. One-year lease. 858-531-1150.

LA JOLLA. \$1400. 1 bedroom condo near UCSD. Quiet, pet OK. Full size washer/dryer. Walk-through closet. Claw foot tub, fireplace. Recently remodeled, very clean. 619-857-2278.

LA JOLLA. Huge downstairs 1 bedroom apartment home with gorgeous hardwood floors and new fixtures throughout. The bedroom is able to accommodate a king-size bed, dresser, and much more comfortably. 350 Palomar Avenue. 858-270-5500 x57. www.msbrowar.com.

LA JOLLA. \$1750. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Ocean view from your private balcony. Air conditioning, new blinds and dishwasher. Must see! 407 Birdrock Avenue. 858-751-6333.

LA JOLLA/UTC. Up to 5 weeks free! Open Saturday, Sunday 12-3pm. Studios, 1 bedrooms, 2 bedrooms, 3 bedrooms from \$1250! Low deposits! New Mediterranean community. Patios/balconies. Washer/dryer. Cable/Internet. Fitness center. Racquetball. Aerobics. Pools. Top floors. Parking. La Jolla Crossroads, 9085 Judicial Drive. 1-866-829-8271. www.sdreader.com/rent/2112.

LA JOLLA/UTC. Move in specials for January 2006! Low deposit! Open Saturdays, Sundays. 1 bedrooms, 2 bedrooms, 3 bedrooms available! Panoramic ocean, mountain views! Travertine marble floors. Granite countertops. Valet parking. Spa. Pool. Tennis. Fitness club. Towers at Costa Verde, 8775 Costa Verde Blvd. 1-888-300-8450. cveleasing@gardencommunities.com. www.sdreader.com/rent/2119.

LA JOLLA/BIRD ROCK. \$900-\$945. 1 bedroom. Small, downstairs. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher. Shared courtyard. Coin laundry. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available now. 415 Colima. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, www.delsolpm.com.

LA JOLLA/UTC. \$1800. Gorgeous 2 master bedrooms, end unit, view. Remodeled: Granite counter tops, appliances, carpet, washer/dryer. 2-parking, pool/fitness center. 858-523-0476; 858-663-1643.

LA JOLLA/UTC. \$1950 New Verano condo 2 bedroom 2 bath. Near pool/spa, deluxe, marble, granite, stainless steel appliances, washer/dryer. Ready now! 858-967-3697.

LA JOLLA/UTC. Call today for move-in specials! Italian style, newly remodeled! Washer/dryer. Granite countertops. Hardwood flooring. Resort pools, spas. High-tech fitness center. Underground parking. Central location. \$1290-\$2400. Studios, 1 bedrooms, 2 bedrooms, 3 bedrooms. Villages of Renaissance, 5282 Fiore Terrace. Toll free: 1-888-218-0377. www.villasofrenaissance.com, www.sdreader.com/rent/1051.

LA JOLLA/UTC. Condo. Large 1 bedroom remodeled, new stainless appliances, paint, hardwood, tile, washer/dryer, fireplace, patio, 2 pools, spas, sauna, gym, garage, \$1395, 619-379-4567.

LA JOLLA/UTC. Deguenos. Near park & shops. \$1550. 2 bedroom, 1-1/4 bath, 1-car garage/extra parking space. All appliances. Patios. Community pool. Panda Realty. 858-748-8850.

LA JOLLA/UTC. Move-In Special: \$500 off move-in on approved credit. Gorgeous 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhome. Private deluxe master suite, marble fire-place, upgraded fixtures, 2-car garage, near shopping. \$1895. 858-598-1111 x190, www.utopiamanagement.com.

LA JOLLA/WINDANSEA. \$1125, 1 bedroom. Walk to beach and shopping. New carpet, coin laundry, street parking. 6619 La Jolla Boulevard. Torrey Pines Property Management, 858-699-3851.

LA MESA move-in special! Newly renovated 1 bedroom \$875, 2 bedrooms \$1200. Quiet, park-like, gardens, pool, laundry. No pets. 4700 Williamsburg. 619-464-7676.

LA MESA. \$1375. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, parking, 1100 square feet. Air conditioning, microwave. Balcony. Pool, 24 hour laundry. Cat OK. No Section 8. 619-464-5557.

LA MESA. \$850. Large 1 bedroom condo. Pool, spa, laundry, 2 parking spaces. Close to Highway 8, shopping, SDSU. Available now, 7502 Parkway Drive. 619-660-6048.

LA MESA. \$1295. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 1-car garage, private view deck, laundry room. Walk to village! 619-997-8807.

LA MESA. \$725. 1 bedroom. Deposit \$500. Air conditioning, parking, pool, laundry. 7481 Mohawk. Call 619-466-6149. www.melroyproperties.com.

LA MESA. \$900. Spacious 1 bedroom with garage. Upper unit. Air conditioning, ceiling fan, onsite laundry. Available now! 4757 Jessie Avenue. Colonial Apartments, 619-460-8011.

LA MESA. \$695 rent. \$600 deposit. OAC. Studio cottage with yard. No pets. At 4859 Jessie Street (at El Cajon Blvd). Agent. 619-299-8515.

LA MESA. \$880. 1 bedroom apartments. Across Grossmont Center, trolley and Costco. Quiet, spacious units. Resort living pools. Mellmanor Apartments. 8750 Mellmanor Ave. Call 619-461-1940.

LA MESA. \$1365, 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex. Vaulted ceilings. 2-car carport. Near Grossmont center. Great neighborhood. Convenient to all! 5545 Morro Way. 619-985-3500.

LA MESA. \$795. Spacious 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Newly remodeled, brand new everything. Quiet complex, part residential, part commercial. Live and work in the same building! Call Donna, 619-820-6035.

LA MESA. \$795. Newly remodeled 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Quiet complex. Off-street parking. Utilities included. Call Donna, 619-820-6035.

LA MESA. \$795. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Large upstairs unit. Great location. Close to all! Parking, laundry. Available 1/17/06. 4763 Jessie Avenue #18. 619-295-1100. www.cethron.com.

LA MESA. \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, balcony, \$1095, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, upper, balcony, \$1150, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, downstairs, yard. 619-697-3285. For photo, floor plans, map and directions, see website: www.sdreader.com/ rent/ 1035.

LA MESA. \$1090, 2 bedroom, \$500 deposit. Carport space. Storage. Laundry. Pool. Gated. No pets. Available 1/06. 5365 Marengo Avenue. 619-698-7926.

LA MESA. \$800. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Gated, parking, laundry on-site, dishwasher, air conditioning, walk-in closet, yard and pool. Please call resident managers for appointment at 619-697-8458. 4905 73rd. www.kandrpproperties.com.

LA MESA. \$1500. 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhouse. Fireplace, view, balcony, washer/dryer. No smoking. 5580 Lake Park Way. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

LA MESA. \$995. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath, deck, fireplace, washer/dryer, parking. 8041 Lemon Avenue. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

LA MESA. \$755. 1 bedroom. Air conditioning, dishwasher, laundry, community barbecue, parking. 7334 La Mesita Place. 619-466-6450.

LA MESA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$895. Move-in special: 1/2 off first month's rent! Pool, parking, on-site laundry. Close to shopping and Joan Kroc Community Center. Section 8 OK! 4382 Rosebud Lane. Call 858-571-1970.

LA MESA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. \$1250. Move-in special: First month's rent moves you in! Extra large upstairs apartment with on-site laundry and parking. 3603 King Street. Call Sunrise Management. 858-571-1970.

LA MESA. From \$995. Spacious 2 bedrooms. Small, quiet, gated complex. Vill-age area. Air conditioning, ceiling fan, upgrades, onsite laundry. 4641 Date Ave. 619-469-3809.

LA MESA. Move-in special! Good credit equals first 2 months at \$725 each. \$900 security deposit. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Water included. Pool, parking, laundry. 7629 Normal Avenue. 619-303-0895.

LA MESA. Move-in special. \$995. Deposit \$800. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath upper with balcony. Stove, refrigerator, off-street parking. New paint. 6006 Lake Murray Boulevard #E. 619-804-3325.

LA MESA. Starting \$1445/up. 2 bedroom, luxury apartments, fireplace, laundry hookups, patio/balcony, pool, spa, garage parking. 5519 Lake Murray Boulevard. For pricing, 619-698-7600.

LA MESA. Studio unit. 1 parking, laundry on-site, air conditioning, pool. Rent \$675. Available for viewing by appointment only, call 619-697-8458. Available early to mid-January. 4905 73rd. www.kandrpproperties.com.

LA MESA. Two duplex units-\$1175 & \$1375. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. One with garage. Fireplace. Patio. No pets/smoking. 619-994-5577.

LA MESA/CASA DE ORO. Special: 3 bedroom, 2 baths, \$300 off move-in, from \$1325! 1 bedrooms from \$850! 2 bedrooms from \$1075. Elegant, sculptured flower gardens, fountains, gas lamps, park benches. Charming, New Orleans style community. Patios/balconies. Restricted access gates. Small pet OK. 3903 Conrad Drive. 866-894-6343. www.sdreader.com/rent/1017.

LA MESA/SAN CARLOS. \$1625. 2 bedroom 2 bath condo. Downstairs unit, 1252 square feet. New carpet, paint, appliances, covered patio, and more. Pool, jacuzzi, billiards, ping pong, laundry, No pets. 6888 #B Hyde Park Drive. 619-471-2216.

LA MESA/SDSU. 1 bedroom, \$900/up. 2 bedroom, \$1100/up. Walk to trolley! Convenient to all. Air conditioning. Dishwashers. Disposals. Patios/balconies. Fitness center. Laundry area. Clubhouse, billiards. Barbecue. Heated pool, Spa. Sauna. Month-to-month lease. SouthridgeApts@att.net. Southridge Apartments. 7200 Saranac Street. www.sdreader.com/rent/1001. 619-462-1940.

LAKESIDE. \$895. 2 bedroom, 1 bath in quiet fourplex. Totally renovated, new appliances, near 67 Freeway. On-site laundry. Newly landscaped, barbecue. Section 8 OK. 619-957-7272.

LEMON GROVE. \$1325, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, clean, quiet, secure. Ready now. Air conditioning, dishwasher, etc. If you can find one better, rent it! 3262 Buena Vista #2. 619-291-1044.

LEMON GROVE. \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Cute, centrally located, close to all. Parking, laundry onsite. Available 1/10/06. 3320 Vista Avenue #1. 619-295-1100. www.cethron.com.

LEMON GROVE. \$1150. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath duplex. Yard, ceiling fans, newer carpet, laundry facilities. Storage room. Pets OK. 1909 Ensenada Street. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

LEUCADIA. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Patio. Parking. Laundry on site.

Available approximately 1/25. 243 East Glaucus Street #F. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

LINDA VISTA. \$675. Studio, utilities included. Laundry, gated parking. \$400 deposit. No pets. Astro Vista Apartments, 2285 Ulric Street. Call Monday-Friday for appointment. 858-565-6400.

LINDA VISTA. 2 bedrooms, \$1435. 3 bedrooms, \$1635. 2 bedroom special, \$599 moves you in! 3 bedroom special, \$899 moves you in. Large, newly remodeled. Stainless steel appliances, fitness center, 5 pools. Garage, carport parking. Pet friendly. Referral fee of \$200! Cabrillo Palisades, 7901 Harmarsh Street. 888-264-0594. www.sdreader.com/rent/2067.

LINDA VISTA. \$950. Ground level duplex, 2 bedroom, near all, fenced-in patio, stove, refrigerator, laundry. 858-541-7852.

LINDA VISTA. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 1 bath townhouse. 2 story with fenced yard! Beautiful wood floors throughout. Completely renovated with new paint/appliances. No pets/smoking. Available January 2006. 2273-2281 West Dunlop. Agent. 619-279-2183.

LINDA VISTA. Save on gas, move to central San Diego! 2 bedroom, 1 bath with backyard, \$995-\$1075. Hardwood floors, assigned parking, townhouses and single level apartments. Office at 2451 Ulric Street. 858-278-3610.

MIRA MESA. \$1495. First month free with 1-year lease! 2 master bedrooms, 2 bath condo. Remodeled. New appliances, granite countertops, washer/dryer, hardwood floors, fireplace. Pool/spa/gym. Call 858-270-8921; 858-485-1566.

MISSION BAY. \$2200. Luxury 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Bay view, washer/dryer, fireplace, decks, 2 car garage. Quiet neighborhood. No Pets. 821 Balboa Court. 760-634-1746.

MISSION BEACH, SOUTH. \$850. Cute studio. Wall bed, parking, utilities paid. Year round. Steps to beach & bay. 2826 Mission Boulevard. 858-488-0690 or 858-488-5463.

MISSION BEACH/SOUTH. \$800/lease. Studio apartments, available now! Off-street parking. All utilities paid. No pets. 2980 Mission Boulevard. Call 858-488-5463 or 760-912-9552.

MISSION BEACH. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet, new paint. \$1000/month. Pet friendly! 814 Queenstown Court. See photos at www.vipreetreats.com or call 858-353-5555.

MISSION BEACH/SOUTH. 2 bedroom 1-1/2 bath duplex. 2 car garage! Furnished or unfurnished. \$2000 plus utilities. 619-226-1315.

MISSION BEACH. \$1500. 2 bedroom, 2 bath upstairs unit. Garage, dishwasher, 1 block to the ocean. Year-round. No pets. 777 Isthmus Court. 858-488-2006.

MISSION BEACH. \$1150. \$750 move-in special. 1 bedroom. Just steps from beach at Mission Boulevard and York Court. Must sacrifice due to transfer. No on-site laundry. On-street parking. Close to entertainment, shopping, restaurants. Robert, 619-518-7622.

MISSION BEACH. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, 2 story, \$1750/month. 6 month lease. Ceramic tile, gas fireplace, steps to beach. No smoking/pets. Available now. 7111 Island. 619-922-6034.

MISSION BEACH. \$1300, including utilities. 2 bedroom. Tiled floors. 1 parking. Available now! Walk to beach. No pets. 811 Portsmouth Court, near Santa Clara. 619-301-9958.

MISSION BEACH. \$2100. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, water/trash and landscaping included. Large yard. 3261 Ocean Front Walk. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

MISSION BEACH. Oceanfront condo, 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Luxurious North Mission Beach location with stunning ocean views. Year round lease. No pets. \$2750/month. 760-213-2461.

MISSION BEACH. \$1550 rent. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upper unit. 1 parking space, 1 year lease. Pet on approval. 3710 Bay-side Lane. Available now. 858-490-1600. www.kandrpproperties.com.

MISSION BEACH. \$800. Studio. Bayfront building with access to bay. New carpet, paint, blinds. Free laundry. 3282-1/2 Bay-side Walk. Torrey Pines Property Management, 858-699-3851.

MISSION HILLS. \$1450. Darling 1 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Quiet canyon cul-de-sac. Big front porch, tree-filled back yard. New carpet. Available. 806 Bush. 619-688-1631, 619-435-2362.

MISSION HILLS. \$1200/up. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Laundry. Parking. Pets OK. La Paloma Apartments. Open daily, 1-5pm. 3911 Dove. 619-297-1134.

MISSION HILLS. \$1695. 2 bedroom plus office, 1.5 bath duplex. Lower unit. Limited bay/city views on California Street. Hardwood/tile floors. Fireplace. Dishwasher. Washer/dryer. Nice backyard. Street parking. Small pet. 619-846-4055, 760-839-0200.

MISSION HILLS. \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. On canyon, quiet, near shopping and bus lines. No pets. 619-298-6436.

MISSION HILLS. \$750. Furnished studio apartment, private patio, screened porch. Utilities paid. Coin laundry, off street parking. Pets allowed. 1770 West Washington. James 619-895-2357.

MISSION HILLS. \$1150. Cute front duplex, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New paint, tiled floors, shared laundry, small fenced yard. Small pet negotiable. 3278 Ibis Street. Agent, 619-463-2971.

MISSION HILLS/HILLCREST. 1/2 month free on 1 bedroom, 1 bath units! Lofts, 1, 2 bedrooms from \$1580. Underground parking. Crown moldings. Vaulted ceilings. Fireplaces. Walk-in closets. Full size washer/dryer. Internet. Elevator. Fitness center. Great location! Cats welcome. Mission Hills Commons, 4021 Falcon Street. missionhills@sbcglobal.net. 619-220-0707. www.sdreader.com/rent/2032.

MISSION HILLS. \$995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, new carpet/paint. No pets. Near Downtown! Laundry. 3549 Reynard Way. 619-464-1652.

MISSION HILLS. Spectacular City views! Bright and sunny! Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath with huge deck, laundry facilities. Enclosed 1-car garage. Great location. \$1650. 619-988-0705.

MISSION HILLS. \$1795. 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse with city views, hardwood floors, fireplace, storage unit, dishwasher, air conditioning, 2 parking spaces in underground, gated garage. No pets. 909 Sutter Street #304. CCPM, 619-296-6699.

MISSION HILLS. \$700. Quiet Studio with city views. Close to Downtown and Hillcrest. No pets. Laundry room. Near bus stop. 2722 Reynard Way #C. CCPM, 619-296-6699.

MISSION HILLS. \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 parking, laundry on-site. 6-month lease. 1767 Torrance. 858-483-3534, www.cal-prop.com.

MISSION HILLS. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1795. Drop dead gorgeous. Corner unit, 3

Heated pool, spa, saunas, gym. Club-house with billiards and TV. Patio or balcony. Covered parking. Near Mission Trails Park. Villa De Flores Apartments, 7707 Mission Gorge Road. 619-583-0821. www.sdreader.com/rent/1008, VillaDeFlores@att.net.

MISSION VALLEY. The Lido community. \$2100. 2 bedroom 2 bath. Brand new with patio and appliances. River view. 1 year lease preferred. 858-442-0196.

MISSION VALLEY, EAST. Nice 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$900. Pool, amenities, and garage. No pets. Call 619-977-8861.

MISSION VALLEY/PLAYMOR. \$1795. Condo. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. 2 story, river view, 2 fireplaces, all amenities. Best location. 858-967-3697.

MISSION VALLEY. Condo, 2 bedroom plus loft, 2 baths, 1228 square feet. At Rio Del Oro. For pictures, go to www.TheEquityCompany.com. 619-528-2337.

MISSION VALLEY. Huge 1 bedroom condo, fireplace, stackable washer/dryer, large private patio, pool, spa, weight room and clubhouse. 619-296-2787.

MISSION VALLEY, WEST. \$1200. Upgraded 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Excellent condition. 700 square feet. Underground parking. Amenities: pool/spa, gym, tennis. No pets. 619-559-0754.

MISSION VALLEY. \$2000. Luxury 2 bedroom plus office/den, 2-1/2 bath condo. 1350 square feet, 2-car garage, gated community. All appliances provided. Near trolley and shopping. 7585 Hazard Center Drive. People Helping Others Property Management. 619-282-5400.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1350. Midway Drive, move in special. Beautiful, 2 plus 2, granite countertops, tiled floors, new appliances, balcony, washer/dryer, small pet ok, 858-270-5533.

MISSION VALLEY. 1/2 off first month, 6 month lease. 3 bedroom, 2 baths from \$1645! 2 bedroom, 2 baths from \$1245. \$300 deposit! Tropical. Dishwasher. Microwave. Pool. Spa. Sauna. Fitness center. Central air. Balcony, patio. Gated, parking. Laundry. Cat OK. Mission Pacific, 4454 44th Street. 1-866-813-5684. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/rent/1010.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1200. Beautiful 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Mission Plaza. Totally remodeled. Carport plus 2 more spots. All amenities. No pets. Benson Properties, 858-272-4990.

MISSION VALLEY. 1 bedroom furnished. Near trolley & SDSU. Amenities. Covered parking. \$995. Please call agent, 619-303-0821.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1050. 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Patio. Washer/dryer. 1 off street parking. No pets. 2210 River Run Drive #59. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

MISSION VALLEY. Remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Parking space. Central location. New appliances/carpet. Ceiling fans, all rooms. Pool/jacuzzi. Available 2/1/1. \$1800. 858-531-4604.

MISSION VALLEY/COLLEGE AREA. 1 bedrooms from \$940! Minutes to shops, dining, transit. All amenities. 4929 Collwood Boulevard. 619-287-3020. collwoodpines.rasnyder.com.

NATIONAL CITY. 1 bedroom, \$725. 2 bedroom townhomes, \$995-\$1050. Very spacious. Views, balconies, garages, washer/dryer hookups. Must see! No pets. 940 Palm Avenue. 619-336-0436.

NATIONAL CITY. \$100 off move-in special! Large upgraded 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$895 with \$500 deposit. 1 bedroom, \$775. Parking. 116 Palm Avenue. 619-474-4441.

NATIONAL CITY. Move-in special: 1/2 off first month's rent! 1 bedroom, on-site laundry, off-street parking. No pets. \$700. Gabby, 619-336-1776.s

NATIONAL CITY. \$695/month. 1 bedroom fully furnished. Low \$150 deposit. No SDGE deposit or hookup required. 624 East 24th Street. Office open daily. 619-474-3787.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$850. 1 bedroom. \$1075, 2 bedroom. Remodeled units. Tile, ceiling fans. Off street parking. Laundry on site. Near busline. Cat OK. Available 12/1. 619-284-2092. www.floft.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Studio apartment, \$595/month, gas and electric included. Deposit plus \$25 credit check. Laundry, off-street parking, gated community. Available January 5. 619-282-6910.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$740. 1 bedroom, deluxe apartment, air conditioning, dishwasher, ceiling fan, tiled countertops, walk-in closet. Reserved parking, no pets, 4343 Cherokee Avenue, 619-229-9060.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$925. 2 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs apartment in client gated building. New paint, laundry, ceiling fan, reserved parking. No pets. 4319 Copeland. 619-265-8680.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$725. Upstairs, corner 1 bedroom apartment. Dishwasher. Parking/garage. Laundry. 4443 36th Street #8. Xilarent.com, 619-683-7638.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$895. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs apartment. Spacious kitchen. Parking. Laundry. Air conditioning. 4527 39th Street #11. Xilarent.com, 619-683-7638.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1295. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Front house. Hardwood floors, fireplace, washer/dryer, driveway parking. Xilarent.com, 619-683-7638.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$895. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs corner apartment. Spacious. Sunny. Parking. Laundry. 4652 33rd Street #4. Xilarent.com, 619-683-7638.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$895. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Spacious unit. Parking. Laundry. 4748 Mansfield Street. Xilarent.com, 619-683-7638.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$800-\$825. \$250 off first month! 1 bedroom. Spacious. Pool, off-street parking, on-site laundry. Close to major freeways. Sorry, no pets! 4841 West Mountain View Drive. 619-282-6440. Sunriseliving.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. New gated community. 2 units, first floor, 2 bedroom, 2 baths condos with parking, large balconies, all appliances. Cats OK. \$1450 and \$1550 plus security. 619-296-8555.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$825. Cozy 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Charming 6 unit courtyard complex. New carpet/flooring/paint. Stove, refrigerator. Near Adams Avenue cafes and shops. 619-865-2180.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$750. Bright, spacious 1 bedroom near Adams Ave. Assigned parking space. Onsite laundry. Gated community. Near shops, restaurants. No pets. Available February. 619-300-0576.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$815. 1 bedroom apartment available, close to 805 freeway on Monroe Avenue. On-site laundry, off-street parking. \$400 deposit on approved credit. Call today for appointment. 619-280-0061.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$750. Large deluxe 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Newly decorated. All amenities, air conditioning, parking, controlled entry, laundry, near shops/bus. 619-521-1901; 619-461-9415.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1025. 2 bedroom. Air conditioning. Gated. Parking. Laundry. No pets. Available 2/1. 4429 Idaho #6. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1025. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Laundry. Gated. Parking. Available approximately 1/15. No pets, 4371 Swift Avenue #3. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$800. Large 1 bedroom. End unit. Parking. Garden setting. Gated. Caring management. Available 1/25. No pets. 4724 32nd. 619-584-7790.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$975. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Walk-in closet, new appliances, gated community, off-street parking. Available now. 619-255-1472.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1050. Deposit \$750. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Upstairs. New paint/carpet/flooring. Off-street parking. No pets. Available now. 4681 35th Street. 619-226-7368.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 4356 McClintock. \$800. New everything! Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Off-street parking. Secured building. Laundry facilities. Chris, 619-698-0945.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$745. (\$200 off first month's rent!) 1 bedroom. New carpet and paint with patio, on-site parking and laundry. Close to Adams Avenue shops and restaurants. Stop by 4655 33rd Street #6. If interested, call 619-226-7368.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$895 rent, \$800 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove refrigerator, off-street parking, on-site laundry, 1/2 off first month's rent! 4625 35th Street #2. 619-804-3325.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$775 rent, 600 deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Cottage style, single level with fenced patio. Stove, refrigerator, off-street parking with garage. 4581 Hawley Boulevard. 619-804-3325.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$875. Sunny, bright, upstairs 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 carport. On-site laundry. Small complex. Refrigerator. Near freeways. No pets/smokers. Available now. 619-440-0783.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom apartments. \$750. Very nice, on-site laundry, off-street parking. No pets. 4263 42nd Street. 760-672-0425.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$100+ move-in special! 1 bedroom, \$750/month. Small complex. Laundry facilities. No pets. 4561 Hawley Boulevard #4. 619-405-5379. www.melroyproperties.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 4774 33rd Street #5. Spacious 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Dishwasher, air conditioning. Washer/dryer. Off-street parking. No pets. \$795. www.timcassidy.com. Available 12/15. Cassidy, broker, 619-275-LIST.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$750. Cute 1 bedroom. Brand new carpet throughout! New paint! New appliances! Laundry on site. Pet on approval. 4546-4558 Boundary. Agent, 619-283-2144.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Studio, freshly painted. New carpeting. Private entrance. Small deck. \$785 per month. Gas and electric included. Off street parking. 619-847-3633.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$675. Upgraded studio, new carpet, vinyl flooring, vertical blinds. Available now. Small pet under 25 pounds/Section 8 OK. 4633-1/2 33rd Street. Agent, 858-560-1178.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath. \$1295. 2nd floor. Black granite fireplace. Near freeways. Refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, laundry facility. 1-car garage. 858-598-1111 x111. www.utopiamanagement.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$775. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Move-in special! 1/2 off first months rent! On-site laundry and parking. Available now. 4580 33rd Street. Sunrise Management, 858-751-6333.

NORTH PARK. West of 805. \$1695/month. Spacious contemporary upstairs 2 bedroom, 2 bath with high ceilings, fireplace, laundry, air conditioning. Quiet 16 unit gated property. One car garage plus space. Near upscale North Park shops, eateries, theater and easy access to Freeway 805. No pets! Call for appointment, 3954 Bancroft Street #16. R.A. Properties, 858-483-3989.

NORTH PARK. \$985. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs. Bright & cheerful. New carpet & paint. Laundry facilities. No pets. 4330 Arizona Street. 619-298-9237.

NORTH PARK. \$995. Large, upgraded 2 bedroom, 1 bath with patio. Assigned parking space. Laundry facilities. Cul-de-sac location; lots of trees. 2030 Cypress Ave. 619-688-1678.

NORTH PARK. \$1000. 2 bedroom, renovated, clean, new carpeting, new blinds. Eat-in kitchen. 10-unit building on 32nd Street. Laundry on premises. Available soon. 619-838-3358.

NORTH PARK. \$1100. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Cats OK with deposit. Patio balcony, fireplace, dishwasher, lots of storage, underground parking, laundry on-site. 619-546-6732.

NORTH PARK. \$825. Charming upper 1 bedroom handcrafted cottage-style duplex. Lush "secret garden" with fountain and artistic touches. Gated. Laundry. Squeaky clean! No pets/smoking. 4146-1/2 Utah. 858-454-2024.

NORTH PARK. \$1150-\$1450. Deluxe, condo-quality, gigantic 2 bedroom and 3 bedroom, 2 bath, upstairs apartments with private garages plus parking. Gated. Fireplace, dishwasher, microwave, air conditioning, deck. Squeaky clean! New decor. Quiet! Laundry. No pets/smoking. 4158 Utah Street. 858-454-2024.

NORTH PARK. Near University Heights. New Year, New Home! 1 bedrooms from \$775! Refrigerator. Disposal. Stove. Dishwasher. Picnic area. Barbecue. Gated underground parking. Easy freeway access. Near shopping, entertainment, Navy base, downtown, Mission Valley. Las Palmas/Laurel Towers Apartments.

3810 Wabash Avenue. www.sdreader.com/rent/2132. 619-285-9910.

NORTH PARK. \$1500. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse in 4-plex. New kitchen, washer/dryer, dishwasher, garage space, covered patio. Nonsmoking. Available 2/1/06. Shown by appointment. 3929 33rd Street. 619-284-7446; 619-618-6340.

NORTH PARK. \$695. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Laundry room, parking, close to everything. 3766 Swift Avenue. 619-435-2700. www.mckeecompany.com.

NORTH PARK. \$1695. Clean, spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. 1200 square feet. Washer/dryer in unit. 2-car parking. Fireplace. Quiet neighborhood. 3618 31st #4. 619-670-7046.

NORTH PARK. 2 bedroom, 2 bath newly renovated apartment. Gated, parking, pool. No pets. \$1290. 3929 Kansas Street. Call Steve, 619-543-0730. www.melroyproperties.com.

NORTH PARK. 2 bedroom, 2 bath newly renovated townhouse. Gated, parking, pool. No pets. Move-in special: \$1350--1/2 off first month's rent! 3929 Kansas Street. Call Steve, 619-543-0730. www.melroyproperties.com.

NORTH PARK. 1 bedroom 1 bath. Remodeled upstairs. \$700 deposit, \$795 month. Small pet OK. 619-890-7934.

NORTH PARK. \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs apartment. Dishwasher. Parking. Laundry. 3927 Mississippi Street #1. Xilarent.com, 619-683-7638.

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NORTH PARK. 1 bedroom, \$950. Newly renovated apartment. Gated, parking, pool. No pets. 3929 Kansas Street. Call Steve, 619-543-0730. www.melroyproperties.com.

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NORTH PARK. \$675 rent. \$600 deposit OAC. 1 bedroom duplex. Parking lot. No pets. At 3037 Monroe Avenue. Agent, 619-299-8515.

NORTH PARK. \$750 rent. \$600 deposit OAC. 1 bedroom apartment. Parking. No pets. At 4222 Alabama #15. Agent, 619-299-0951.

NORTH PARK. \$815. Spacious 1 bedroom is available for your consideration. This clean, quiet unit is located in a 3-unit complex. Centrally located, close to all, easy access to 805, 163, and 8 freeways. Unit has all new paint and carpet. Range, refrigerator, and microhood only 2 years old. On-site laundry and one off-street parking space. \$700. Lease required. 4185 Texas Street. Call 619-846-6615 or 619-725-3648.

NORTH PARK. 1 bedroom. \$750. Upstairs. Parking. Laundry. New paint/carpet. Dishwasher. 4160 36th Street #3. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

NORTH PARK. \$1275. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator. Large downstairs unit in duplex. Fenced yard. Parking. Dog/cat upon approval with extra deposit. Canyon view. Available now. 2343 Boundary. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, www.delsolpm.com.

NORTH PARK. \$725. 1 bedroom 1 bath apartment. Laundry on site. Assigned parking. Courtyard. Quiet. Gated. No pets. Available now. Manager on site. 619-563-9727.

NORTH PARK. \$725. Upper 1 bedroom, gated complex, on-site laundry. No pets. Nonsmoking. 3119 Howard. 619-281-4698.

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NORTH PARK. \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Quiet, tile floors, new carpet. Lower unit. Gated, parking, laundry. Available now. 4177 Illinois Street #3. 619-295-1100. www.cethron.com.

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NORTH PARK. \$975. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, off-street parking, dishwasher, on-site laundry. 2805 Polk Avenue #1. Call CCPM, 619-296-6699.

NORTH PARK. First month rent free! \$725. Spacious upper 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Refrigerator and stove. Laundry facility. Assigned parking. Section 8 OK. 858-598-1111 x193. www.utopiamanagement.com.

NORTH PARK. \$725. 1 bedroom apartment, large good location, parking, laundry. 4161 Arizona #4 and #7. AMI Property Management. 619-697-6314.

NORTH PARK. \$200 off first month's rent. 1 bedroom, 1 bath (\$850 rent/\$700 deposit), 2 bedroom, 1 bath (\$950 rent, \$800 deposit). Stove, refrigerator,

on-site laundry, off-street parking. 4036 Oregon Street. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. \$825. Deposit \$700. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath upper with stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, air conditioning, garbage disposal, on-site laundry, gated. 1/2 off 1st month's rent! 4360 Hamilton Avenue #6. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. \$825, deposit \$700. 1/2 off first month's rent! Upper 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator, on-site laundry. Near all! 4325 Texas Street #7. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. \$1650. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome. 2-car garage. Fireplace, balcony, patio, new paint/carpet. Lease. No pets. 951-300-6231, 951-780-8032.

NORTH PARK. \$100 off first month's rent! 1 bedroom, \$750/month. Small complex, gated, laundry, parking. No pets. 4128 Wabash Avenue. 619-281-0579. www.melroyproperties.com.

NORTH PARK. \$100+ move-in special. 1 bedroom, \$825; 2 bedroom, \$1025. Small gated complex. Laundry. No pets. 4070 Mississippi Street. 619-405-5379. www.melroyproperties.com.

NORTH PARK. \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs, laundry on site. 4085 Idaho Street. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

NORTH PARK. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Small quiet apartment complex. Laundry room. Off street parking. \$695 rent/\$500 deposit. 3674 Nile Street #2. Bruce or Carlos, 619-284-3324.

NORTH PARK. Studio. New tile floors, laundry room, off street parking. \$595 rent/\$500 deposit. 3970-1/2 32nd Street. Bruce or Carlos, 619-284-3324.

NORTH PARK. \$950. 2 bedroom,, 2 bath upstairs apartment with parking and laundry. No pets! 4146 Swift Street #9, #1. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

NORTH PARK. \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, recently remodeled. Tiled living room, kitchen, bathroom. Elevator, on-site laundry, security building. 3949 33rd Street. 619-962-1887.

NORTH PARK. \$725. Large 1 bedroom, upper. Gated building. Courtyard. Laundry on site. New carpets, flooring, paint. Blinds. Great building. Near all. No pets, please. 4245 34th Street #9. John A. Reis and Company, Inc. 858-272-1348.

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NORTH PARK. \$725. Studio. Move-in special: 1st month's rent moves you in! Pet friendly! Newly remodeled, pedestal sinks, pergo flooring, new appliances, utilities included. On-site laundry, off-street parking. Please call Derek, 619-584-4928.

NORTH PARK. \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Large upstairs corner unit. On-site laundry, off-street parking. Close to public transportation and shopping. 3984 32nd Street. Call 858-571-1970.

OCEAN BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry. No pets. Garage. 6 month lease. 5072 West Point Loma Boulevard. \$1375/month. 858-273-4820 or 858-525-5238.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1445. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. New carpet/paint, laundry. Street parking. Pets: additional rent \$100. Drive by, 4625 Brighton Avenue, then call 619-417-4392.

OCEAN BEACH. \$950. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. All amenities. Dishwasher. Fireplace. Large closets. Pool. Laundry facilities. Barbecue area. Parking. Quiet neighborhood. 4825 Del Mar Avenue. 619-224-0306.

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OCEAN BEACH. \$1100. 1 bedroom, downstairs in south Ocean Beach. Ocean view. Laundry. No pets. 4946 Del Mar Avenue. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

OCEAN BEACH. \$895 and up. 1 and 2 bedroom, apartments. Gated entry, pool and laundry. No pets. 4990 Del Monte. Call 619-226-7425.

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OCEAN BEACH. \$925. Deposit \$700. Large, downstairs 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Dishwasher, large closets, parking, laundry, security building. Block to ocean. Pool. 4978 Niagara. 858-273-8369.

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OCEAN BEACH. \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs apartment in south Ocean Beach with laundry! Blocks to beach! No pets! 4852 Santa Cruz #8. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Large downstairs apartment with parking and laundry. Near Robb Field! No pets. 4918 West Point Loma Blvd #B. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs apartment with laundry! Close to all! No pets. 4154 Udall Street #2. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1195. 2 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs duplex with patio and parking. Near beach and pet on ap-

proval. 5081 West Point Loma Blvd. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1325. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Large upstairs apartment with dishwasher, parking and laundry. Blocks to beach. No pets. 4878 Cape May #9. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1800. 3 bedroom, 1 bath plus bonus room. Parking and laundry. Blocks to beach. Deck. Pet on approval. 5032 Brighton. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$995. Large 1 bedroom plus den, 1-1/4 bath, upper unit. View. Laundry. 2 blocks from beach. 5060 Muir Avenue 2B. 619-698-6913.

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OCEAN BEACH. Spacious newly remodeled. 1 bedroom, \$1010 and 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1425. Close to beach! New carpet, ceramic tile, and all appliances. Gated, courtyard setting, laundry, parking and more! Cats OK. No dogs. 4940 Del Monte Avenue. 619-226-3171. delmontepalms.rasnyder.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1250. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 3 blocks to beach. Carpet, no pets. 4974 Muir Avenue. 619-222-6427.

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OCEANSIDE. Golf view! Remodeled 2 bedroom, 2 bath (dual-master), granite kitchen, \$1385. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$875. Pool, spa, laundry, gated. Cat OK. 760-439-5728. www.casavistaapartments.com.

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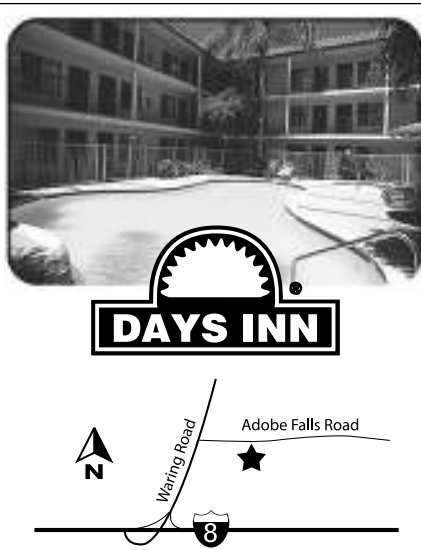
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PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1695. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Downstairs condo in 4-unit building. Appliances, laundry hook-ups. Attached garage plus extra space. Fireplace. New carpet. No pets. 1 year lease. 956 Sapphire. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1425. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large, downstairs. Stove, refrigerator, remodeled bathroom, coin laundry. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. 2-1/2 blocks to ocean. Available 1/10/06. 959 Chalcedony. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$945. 1 bedroom. Large, downstairs. Stove, refrigerator. Coin laundry. Parking. Shared courtyard. 7 blocks to ocean. No pets. Available 1/10/06. 1452 Grand. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, www.delsolpm.com.

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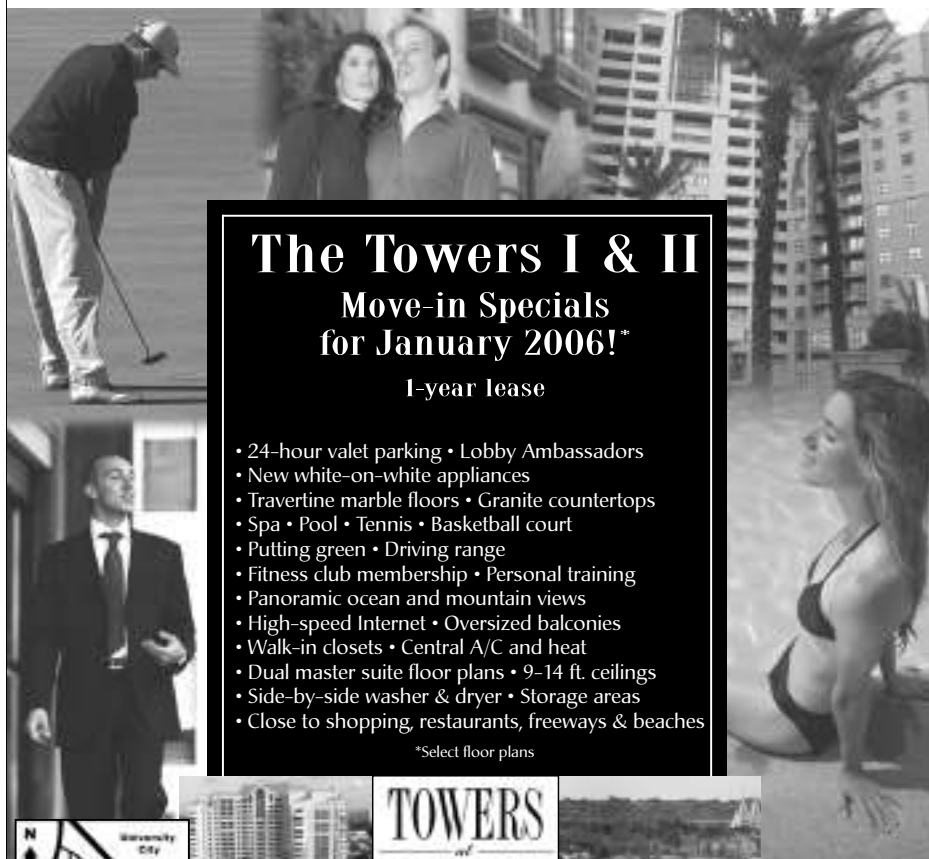
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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1800. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, two story, parking, 2 blocks to beach. 915 Diamond. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

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PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1100. 1 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Parking. No smoking. 1025 Opal. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$2175. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, parking, washer/dryer, 2 blocks to beach. 842 Agate Street. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Close to all. Pets OK with extra deposit. 1 parking space, laundry. 2112 Balboa. Torrey Pines Property Management, 858-699-3851.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1425. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Great townhouse located between Ski Beach and Sail Bay. Laundry. 3710 Yosemite Street. Torrey Pines Property Management, 858-699-3851.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1600. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 3 blocks to ocean. Nice and clean. Off-street parking. Laundry room. No pets. Available mid-January. 1050 Hornblend Street. 858-270-4492 x203.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1400. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 3 blocks to ocean! Garage. New carpet and paint. Shared yard. Laundry facilities. No pets. 957 Tourmaline Street. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2195. 3 bedroom, 2 bath upper unit with 1 car garage. Fireplace in living room. Washer/dryer. Close to shopping. No pets. Coldwell Banker Property Management. 858-488-2228.

PACIFIC BEACH/MISSION BEACH. \$2500. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Views of the Bay. 2 parking spaces. Washer, dryer. Fireplace. Lovely unit. No pets. One year minimum lease. Coldwell Banker Property Management. 858-488-2228.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1050. Spacious, charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment

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POINT LOMA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Great location. Laundry. No pets. Underground garage. Fireplace. Minimum 6 month

lease. 4484 West Point Loma Boulevard. \$2000/month. 858-273-4820.

POINT LOMA. \$995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, refrigerator, on-site laundry, parking. Pet OK. 3033-1/2 Hugo Street/Rosecrans. Starting 1/7/06 open Saturday/Sunday, 10am-5pm. 619-846-1201.

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POINT LOMA. Great specials! 1 bedrooms, \$925/up. Ocean, bay, city views (select units). Dishwasher. Tile counters. Air conditioning. Covered parking. Elevators. Pool. Spa. Sauna. Rooftop sundeck. Fitness center. Laundry. Internet. Barbecue. Picnic park. No pets. PointLomaTowers@att.net. Point Loma Towers. 3811 Marquette Place. www.sreader.com/rent/1003. 619-223-6577.

POINT LOMA/OCEAN BEACH. \$900, deposit \$500. Studio. Ocean view. 1/2 block from ocean. New carpet, windows, tile floors, appliances, paint. 619-583-5124 or 619-957-1969.

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POINT LOMA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upgraded unit available now and mid January. Quiet complex and close to beach. No pets. 3834 Voltaire Street. \$1025. Orion Property Group. 619-749-6545.

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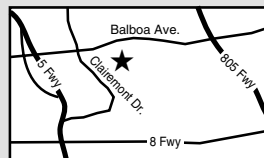


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POINT LOMA. \$1075 rent. \$600 deposit, OAC. Upper 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Garage. No pets, at 2839-1/2 Shelter Island Drive. Agent, 619-299-8515.

POINT LOMA. Studio, all amenities, close to all. Great resort-like living, gated community, parking, storage. \$850/month. 3050 Rue d'Orleans, 92110. 619-656-2539.

POINT LOMA. 1 bedroom, balcony, off-street parking, storage, all amenities, gated community. 3050 Rue d'Orleans, 92110. \$1050/month. 619-656-2539.

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GOLDEN HILL. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, 915 square feet, \$330,000. Agent, 619-339-1429.

HILLCREST BUYER INCENTIVE! No payments until 2007! New conversion. New: cabinets, concrete countertops, stainless appliances. Walk to Mary's. *Max \$30,000. Only one 2 bedroom left! Open 11am-5pm, Saturday/Sunday. Anna Marie, Prudential California Realty, 619-840-MOVE(6683).

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In the Reader

Twenty-Five Years Ago

HEY YOU OUT THERE, let's in memory of John Lennon give peace a chance. BEATLE FANS. Did anybody out there do any home videotaping during December 9 through the 14th? If so, see Wanted section, duplicate, etc. IN MEMORY of John Lennon (1940-1980). You will be missed. I love you. FAREWELL JOHN LENNON. We of Sphaera remember. Your message will not be silenced. JOHN LENNON died for your sins, don't let it be in vain, ban all guns. Jim Noel. —CLASSIFIEDS, *January 8, 1981*

Twenty Years Ago

Ray is a predator, a night stalker with hot blood and a smooth delivery. I've seen him work his magic on 16-year-old girls and 40-year-old women.... Of course, Ray left a trail of broken hearts and hurt, angry women behind him. A lot of the things he did I didn't like. He lied constantly, coldly. More than once we'd be back at Ray's house with a couple of women after a night on the town and one of them would say to me, "Gee, I think it's terrible what Ray said happened to you guys in

Vietnam" (neither of us was there), or "Are you guys really football players at USC?" Most of the time I played along; my own blood is not much cooler than Ray's at times. —"WITH A FRIEND LIKE RAY," *Glen Wallace, January 9, 1986*

Fifteen Years Ago

During his three-year marriage to Esther, my father and I rarely saw each other. In an attempt to "turn over a new leaf," as he so often put it, he summarily jettisoned from his life those people and things that bound him to the past: my mother's jewelry — she'd made no provision for it in her will — was pawned; the house was repainted a pale chartreuse with chocolate trim (Mrs. King would have been appalled); and as for me, his 35-year-old baby, I was, so to speak, tossed out with the bath water. —"THE WIND DID IT," *Bernard Cooper, January 10, 1991*

Ten Years Ago

I trace my passion for the orange grove to a northern childhood of Tang and frozen concentrate, tract houses where trees were too young to stand without green tape and

crutches. Once a year, when the electric heaters dried our skin and ticked like pressure cookers in the rooms, the cold, sweet oranges would arrive by parcel post. They came around Christmas, when my Phoenix grandparents would send a white cardboard box of Valencias to Utah. For this annual occasion, we owned an electric juicer.

But my husband, Tom, was born in Orange County, California, in 1947, when oranges were as common as sun. In his black-and-white childhood photographs, citrus leaves are dark and eye-shaped, like leaves in a fable. —"DIARY OF AN ORANGE GROVE," *Laura McNeal, January 4, 1996*

Five Years Ago

What's a guy like me doing in a place like this? Well, hic, uh, heck, it started with an ad I saw. Free hors d'oeuvres with a \$6.00 martini every Thursday night. Hors d'oeuvres! We all know how the rich snack. Big! I'm thinking *ooh la la*. La Valencia. La Jolla. This could be a nice expensive-looking birthday treat for Carla. So, test run. Number 30 drops me off at Torrey Pines and Exchange on the edge of town. Few blocks to walk. It's dark, of course. I



San Diego Reader, January 10, 1991

pass Gucci boutiques and boutique hotels. Then, the high Spanish dome, the low red-tile walkway, the garden café. Like an alley cat I'm in under the canopy past the valets. I turn right and right again into a dark bar. People huddle over triangular glasses with cherries or olives in them. Those code words pop out. "Dividends." "Options." And then long alpha-male laughs. This is the Whaling Bar.

—TIN FORK: "CASTLES ON A BUN," *Ed Bedford, January 4, 2001*

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com

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Dear Saffron,

My mother is going to be 80 years old in February. She is having a large birthday bash with 75 people in attendance. She is an outgoing, flamboyant person and is really hyped up about this party. For this dinner she has demanded that her children and grandchildren pay tribute to her by making speeches for the assembled throng. (Some of the grandchildren are playing “happy birthday” on various musical instruments as their tribute.) I am by far the shyest one in the family. My brothers and sisters are all at home in front of a microphone, whereas speaking in front of a group is painful and difficult for me. My mother knows this, and while we love each other and have a pretty good relationship, she is unwilling to excuse me from this obligation and insists I make a speech at this event. I am often tongue-tied talking to even one or two people and am no speechmaker. I dread this party and

have no idea what to do. Terror at the idea of having to make a speech has turned what should be the prospect of a happy event honoring my mom into a nightmare. Help!

SHRINKING VIOLET IN CHULA VISTA

Dear Shrinking,

I feel for you, and wish your mom could be more flexible and let you off the hook. Here are a few things you could try to help you cope with this tough assignment.

1) Write a loving, appreciative speech that one of your more public-speaking-oriented siblings can deliver for you at the celebration. 2) If you have time and money, find a sympathetic acting coach and see if they can help you prepare for your talk and lose some of your stage fright. 3) Record your speech and play it at the dinner (rather than having to perform it live). You can make a nice little production of it and include snatches of mom’s favorite music, whatever. Get the help of a technically savvy friend if necessary. 4) Write your ode to Mom and have it beautifully printed, perhaps in a small booklet with some great pictures of her from over the years, and distribute this to all guests at this event.

Dear Saffron,

My boss is killing me. I took this job a few months ago and everyone told me the boss was a real go-

getter — intense, obsessed, a type-A personality. I thought, “Fine! I like people who are serious about their job.” I didn’t realize they were trying to warn me. The job sounded great on paper, and I was enthused about the boss when he interviewed me. He’s dynamic and super-energetic. His job is his life, and he works a million hours a week. He has loaded so much work on me it’s like I’m doing the job of seven people. And I’m not the only one who thinks so. Various coworkers have taken me aside to say they can’t believe how much work the boss has piled on me and that they’re afraid I’ll drop dead or quit. A couple of them have even gone to him and expressed the opinion that no human can do the workload he’s saddled me with. He’ll respond, “Oh, I have confidence in him. He’ll be fine.” Well, I’m not fine, and I am going to have to quit if this doesn’t let up. My wife is whining that she never sees me anymore. How can I tell the boss that I appreciate his confidence in me, but that my workload must be sane or I’ll have to hit the road?

TRAPPED IN THE LA MESA SALT MINES

Dear Trapped,

You need to have a private meeting with your boss, the purpose of which is to explain that you need a more reasonable workload, and you need an outline — a specific plan — detailing how this work can be achieved in the time allotted. Work out, in writing, a real-

istic plan that details the duties and projects you can complete on a daily or weekly basis and which tasks need to be shifted to someone else. In other words, you present Mr. Workaholic with not only the problem but a workable solution he can implement right away. Go over this document together so you’re sure he takes it in. There’s no guarantee he’ll go for it, but you’re in an impossible situation — you must come to an understanding with him or seek your fortune elsewhere.

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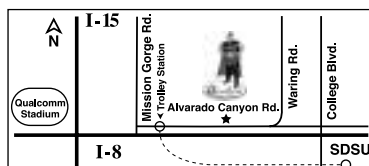
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www.suspensionplus.net

Factory Scheduled Service

•15K	\$59⁹⁵	•30K	\$99⁹⁵	•60K/90K	\$139⁹⁵
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15K or 30K may not require all services or parts listed.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Install new spark plugs• Change engine oil and filter• Lubricate chassis• Inspect fuel filter• Inspect air filter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rotate & balance 4 tires• Check suspension• Tighten and inspect belts• Check ignition system and timing• Clean battery terminals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check all hoses• Inspect differential brake• Flush brake system• Inspect and adjust brakes• Check radiator and radiator cap	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drain and refill cooling system• Inspect differential fluid• Check manual transmission fluid• Adjust idle to factory specs• Road-test vehicle
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Premium plugs extra. Most 4-cyl. cars and light trucks. Some trucks and 4x4s slightly higher.

Timing Belt

\$79⁹⁵

Most cars.
Plus parts. A/C extra. Recommended every 60,000 miles to avoid costly repairs.

New Radiator

AS LOW AS **\$159** PLUS LABOR

Most cars.

Oil Change

\$15⁹⁵

Includes 5 quarts oil and new filter. Most cars.

FREE CAR RENTAL

One day with any repair over \$380

Computerized Alignment

\$29⁹⁵

Thrust Angle **\$39⁹⁵**
4-Wheel Alignment **\$49⁹⁵**

Most cars. Shims & cams extra.

Complete Axles

AS LOW AS **\$99⁹⁵**

Lifetime warranty.
Plus labor. Most cars.

Maintenance Tune-up

AS LOW AS **\$24⁹⁵**

Install plugs.
Premium plugs extra. Call for details.

Clutch

\$239

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FWD and 4WD extra.

Shock & Strut Special

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GOOD	BETTER	BEST
\$69*	\$89*	\$129*

Front or rear. Call for details! Parts & labor.
Resurfacing rotors additional for the \$69 price.
\$89 or higher includes resurfacing rotor.

30K/60K/90K FACTORY SERVICE

\$109*

starting at 4-cyl.

- Install new plugs
- Replace engine oil & filter
- Check timing
- Inspect air filter
- Rotate tires
- Replenish all fluids
- Drain & refill radiator fluid
- Inspect brake system & adjust brakes

TIMING BELT

starting at **\$99***

4-cyl.

AXLES

\$99

Installed!
Most cars.
12-month warranty!

COOLING SYSTEM WATER PUMP

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"Check engine" light on?

FREE* diagnostic with shop repair.

REBUILT TRANSMISSION

\$699*

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Labor only.

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\$190

Installed.
Most cars.

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starting at **\$1025***

6-cyl., 8-cyl. extra. Call for details.

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\$49⁹⁵

TRANSMISSION SERVICE

Includes filter **\$79⁹⁹**

Most cars.

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Rear wheel.

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JERI KEMPLE



THE YELLOW CADILLAC

I live in a small town (population 1500) with big skies and no hills. If I climbed the 100-year-old oak tree in my yard, I would see endless fields, now barren of corn or soybeans. I like it here, and I have lived many places to compare it to. I live with my three children, husband, and dog. As I write, they are all warmly tucked in bed. I have nurtured, fed, bathed, read, or laughed with each of them today. At the end of the day, I take a deep breath and fall asleep as soon as my head hits the pillow. My life is rich with family and friends, and I often wonder who made this all possible.

It occurred to me today that I am no longer in control of anything, which is something I believed I had a couple of years ago, control. Let me take you back to the day I met my husband, one of my favorite stories. The year was 1997. I was 20 years old and getting ready for an event-filled evening of ringing in the New Year. I had expressed to my friends at the time, when they invited me out for the night, that I was going out on my own. I needed to be free of everyone else's agendas. I needed to float around on my own, be the leader of my own destiny that evening, which seems fitting when I look back on it. I was in college studying to become an art therapist and working at a pizza place. I was feeling confident that I would continue to follow the path I paved.

I went out to a favorite bar and saw friends there. We danced and then ended up at a party that my ex-lover had invited me to. Being a young, partying woman, I headed for

the beer when I arrived, which was in the kitchen. Here is where the music would get soft, and the lights would dim with a spotlight on me as if I were in a play. When I got to the kitchen, there he was, this man, this face, this soul — I knew him intimately. I recognized him from recurring dreams (now the spotlight is on the two of us). We were standing across the room from each other; everything in the room dropped out of focus. He smiled at me, and I was petrified. I remember turning around and leaving the kitchen to look for a bathroom. In the bathroom, I started talking to myself in the mirror. I felt like a complete idiot, but I knew I had just met my future husband, I just knew it.

After regaining my sense of reality, I left my haven with the locked door in search of that beer. While pouring myself a cup of ale, my ex-lover approached me with "him." Crap, here we go again, the spotlight, head spinning, weak-kneed stuff. My ex-lover introduced him,

and I recognized his name. He was freshly divorced. He had kids. I wanted to run away as fast as I could, but me being me, curious and crazy for romance, I stayed. That night he followed me everywhere I went. I wandered onto the porch — he found me. I sat at the end of a sofa packed with people — he got a folding chair and sat next to me. He talked inces-



santly, but I don't remember much about anything he said. It got late and I got tired. I was ready to go home to my sanctuary, my sweet little haven I had made for myself. I said, "Goodbye. See ya later." He said, "Let me drive you." I declined and left.

Heading home, he pulled

up next to me in what I thought was the coolest car ever, a yellow Cadillac. I got in and told him where I lived. He took me to the woods where we later got married. He asked if he could lay his head down on my lap, and I knew this was it. No turning back now. After hours of talking, he took me home and I invited him in. He stayed the night and into the next day, only to return in the evening with a ring. I said yes. We were married nine months later.

I'm settled in the first house that I've ever owned. Two of the children are in school, and one little guy stays with me at home. My husband works for a university as a piano technician. It has been a hard road getting here, and I'll fill you in on the gory details later. For now, I am content, happy, and stimulated. My life is an unguided stream of cosmic coincidences.

<http://mommio.blogspot.com/>

COMPAQ, 1.7 Ghz Intel computer, 256mb RAM, 20 GB hard drive, compact desktop form, XP Pro, \$125. Monitor \$15, 858-345-1236.

COMPUTER CIRCULATION CENTER. Buy, sell, trade. Laptops, PCs. Repairs, upgrades, virus/spyware removal. 24-48 hour turnaround. 9350 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, San Diego 92123. Call 858-573-0411.

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BICYCLES

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BEACH CRUISERS, His and hers, \$25/each, Ken 619-846-5776.

BICYCLE, Men's Murray Phoenix 10-speed. Needs pedal on right side. Runs fine. Only

\$8. East San Diego near I-15, speak slowly - hearing impaired, 619-283-1767.

BIKE, Recumbent custom made long 21 speed, excellent shape \$595/best. Trek 7000, \$225. Peugeot \$125. All in great shape 760-432-8274.

BIKES, Youth boy's, 3 available, 16 inch, 20 inch, 22 inch, will need attention, \$25 all 3. Bike carrier \$10, Escondido. 760-522-8199.

ROAD BIKE, Serotta CRL, 57cm white. Dura-Ace/Ultegra, Easton, Reynolds, King, Speedplay, \$1800/best, 619-741-9082.

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Smog Check \$15⁷⁵
FREE RECHECK If repairs done here.
With DMV renewal. Plus \$8.25 certificate and \$3 transfer fee. Most cars. SUVs, V6s, vans & trucks additional. Smog diagnostics/repairs available.

Tune-Up \$24⁹⁵ 4-cyl. \$34⁹⁵ 6-cyl. \$44⁹⁵ 8-cyl.
Most cars. Some models slightly higher.

Alignment Inspection \$12⁹⁵
Alignment reading. Front-end safety inspection. Check ball joints, tie rods, steering box & steering links.
LIMITED TIME OFFER.

30K/60K/90K Service \$99⁹⁵ 4-cyl.

- Replace spark plugs (platinum plugs additional)
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- Radiator service
- Tire rotation
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- Suspension inspection and more!

Oil & Filter Change \$14⁹⁵
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Timing Belt starting at \$53⁹⁵
Labor only. Most cars, with coupon.

Brakes from \$49⁹⁹ Most cars.

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Dox coolant extra.

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FREE RETEST with repair

BRAKE SPECIAL \$69⁹⁹
Includes semi-metallic pads.
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"Check Engine" Light On? \$24⁹⁹
Diagnostic. Most cars.

TIMING BELT \$89⁹⁹
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Includes new filter and up to 5 qts. oil. Most cars.

COMPLETE AXLE-SHAFT SPECIAL \$99⁹⁹
Parts & labor. Most cars.

30K • 60K • 90K SERVICE
Most cars.
from **\$99⁹⁹**

- Install new spark plugs
- Change engine oil
- Change oil filter
- Adjust idle to factory specs
- Check ignition system and timing
- Lubricate chassis
- Inspect brakes
- Check all hoses, radiator and cap
- Drain and refill cooling system
- Rotate 4 tires
- Check suspension
- Inspect air and fuel filters
- Tighten and inspect belts (exposed only)
- Clean battery terminals
- Adjust emergency brake
- Inspect manual transmission fluid
- Inspect differential fluid

All services done same day. All services may not be applicable or necessary for your vehicle. Some trucks & 4x4 slightly higher. Timing belt replacement extra if required. Most cars. Please call for details.

TUNE-UP SPECIAL
Includes: new plugs, check timing, inspect hoses & belts. Most cars.
\$24.99 4-cyl. • \$35.99 6-cyl. \$45.99 8-cyl.

We also do: Engine Rebuilds • Valve Jobs • Drivability Problems
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3425 Midway Dr. (Behind Shell station)



Oil Change Most vehicles.

\$13⁹⁵*

Basic

Includes up to 5 qts. 10W-30 oil, new oil filter, and maintenance inspection.

\$19⁹⁵*

Premium

Basic service plus top off fluids and maintenance inspection.

\$24⁹⁵*

Premium Plus

Premium service plus tire rotation, check and adjust tire pressure and brake inspection

\$30 OFF BRAKE SERVICE

Replace pads or shoes, resurface drums or rotors, inspect entire system.

Headlight Restoration \$79⁹⁵*

Wheel Alignment \$39⁹⁵*

2 wheels. Includes front toe adjustment.

Timing Belt from \$99⁹⁵*

'Check Engine' Light \$19⁹⁵*

Pull computer codes, provide written description.

Coupons must be presented at time of service. Substantial extra cost may be necessary. Not valid with any other offer or discount or for prior service. *Additional services may be necessary at substantial additional cost. See manager for details. All coupons expire 1/31/06.

ROAD BIKE. 55.5 cm. Center to center. Custom built. Powdercoated aluminum frame, King headset, carbon fork, Mavic Open Pro rims with hand built wheels, new tires. Various stems available. Ultra-gra components. In excellent condition, \$1000/best. 714-612-1155.

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WANTED / TRADE

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CASH FOR JEWELRY. We buy gold, diamonds, platinum. We buy it all old and new. Cash paid today! Call: 732-266-7051.

FISHING TACKLE. Wanted. Collector wants for his personal collection

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HANDBELL RINGERS Wanted, beginning to experienced, to ring in volunteer choirs in Escondido. Rehearsals on Wednesday PM. Play monthly for Sunday morning services, 760-745-5100 x 19.

INDIAN ARROWHEADS. Artifacts. Must be authentic. Steve, 619-222-8562.

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MILITARY MEDALS. Many old military medals are worth hundreds of dollars. I have \$3000 to spend. Other old military items wanted, especially USMC. 619-280-8089.

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Old plastic vehicles: Pyro, Renwal. Dave, 858-756-2411.

VW BUS. Wanted. Will pay cash for your 1955-1979 VW bus, camper, Westfalia, panel, single-cab, double-cab, split window, any VW bus running or not, 619-654-9328.

WANTED, BOAT. Rowing or sailing Sabot type dinghy, under 10 feet, 619-656-2831.

WANTED, Daybed, 619-231-5939.

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VINTAGE SURF AUCTION. S.D. Convention Center, Room 6A. Saturday, January 21. Preview 4pm-7pm. www.classicsurf.com. 949-496-8611.

GARAGE SALES

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CORONADO, Designer items, toys, wrought iron entertainment accessories, golf bag, many more. 1100 Adella #6, Coronado in the alley. Thursday thru Saturday 8am-12.

POINT LOMA, Yard sale, 9am, 1/8/06. Furniture, household goods, sporting goods, VCR, computer, bike, knick-knacks, books, records, tools, clothing, antiques, collectibles, 3021 Quimby Street/Rosecrans.

POWAY/CARMEL MOUNTAIN, Ranch. Saturday 1/7/06, 8am-1pm. Items include tools, housewares, CDs, games, toys, electronics, camping gear, sports equipment. 13673 Essence Road, Ted Williams/I-15.

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- Inspect rotors or drums
- Inspect calipers
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- Road-test

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Starting at \$179⁹⁵ Plus parts.

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- Inspect clutch cable
- Inspect clutch hydraulics
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- Inspect clutch pedal

A/C Special \$95⁹⁵
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30K SERVICE \$89⁹⁵* STARTING AT
60K SERVICE \$119⁹⁵* STARTING AT
90K SERVICE \$145⁹⁵* STARTING AT

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*PER MANUFACTURER'S SPECIFICATIONS. TIMING BELT EXTRA IF REQUIRED.
Some services may not require all items listed.

- Maintenance tune-up
- Replace spark plugs
- Replace air filter
- Replace oil filter
- Replace engine oil with up to 5 quarts
- Replace fuel filter
- Check distributor points
- Drain & refill coolant
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- Compression test
- Adjust timing
- Valve adjustment (if adjustable)
- Adjust dwell angle
- Adjust carburetor
- Adjust fuel-to-air mixture

- Inspect clutch
- Adjust clutch
- Inspect brakes
- Adjust brakes
- Adjust emergency brake
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- Inspect cooling system & hoses
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Axles \$89⁹⁵
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Timing Belt Special \$159
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It's a CRIME

FORGERY

Location: 5006 El Cajon Boulevard
Time/Date: 4:18 p.m. on 11/13/05

Officer's Investigation: I was dispatched to Check Zone check cashing to investigate a forgery. Upon arrival, I went inside the business and saw a female matching the suspect's description. I made contact with the female, identified by her driver's license as Thaisha M. I asked M., "What's going on?" M. said, "I'm cashing a check. Is there anything wrong?" I asked, "Is it your check?" M. said, "No, it's not my check. I found it."

The teller behind the window handed me a paycheck and a Check Zone application card. The paycheck was from Starwood Hotels & Resort. The check was issued to Whitney H. The Check Zone application card was signed as Whitney H. The back of the check was signed as Whitney H.

I called the phone number on the check and asked if Whitney H. worked at the hotel. A manager answered the phone and said yes. The manager said H. was currently working. I asked to speak to H.

Victim's Statement: I lost my paycheck yesterday. I think I may have threw [sic] it in the dumpster by accident. I got a new paycheck issued to me and cancelled the check I lost.

Suspect's Statement: I found the paycheck yesterday in downtown. I know it was wrong but I needed the money. I thought it was a sign from God to help me out.

AUTO THEFT

Location: Fanita and Mission Gorge Road, Santee
Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. on 12/16/05

Résumé of Incident: The victim called police on his cell phone to report he was following his stolen work truck [from El Cajon] and needed assistance. The 911 Operator kept him on the line and provided updated information to responding patrol officers.

The vehicle continued traveling through El Cajon and into the city of Santee. The vehicle pulled into a gas station at Fanita and Mission Gorge. As the suspect driver exited the vehicle, he was contacted and detained. The vehicle was confirmed to be stolen and the driver, later identified as Jeffrey D., D.O.B. 12/08/64, was taken into custody.

The vehicle was released to the owner at the scene. Fortunately, most of his work tools were still in the truck.

ARSON

Location: [3800] 33rd Street, Normal Heights
Time/Date: 1:15 p.m. on 12/1/05



Narrative: The incident involved an arson fire to a 1999 Honda Civic. I was dispatched...to determine the origin and cause of the fire. I arrived at the scene at approximately 3:36 p.m. to find the fire had been extinguished and firefighters securing the scene pending our arrival. The weather was cool and calm.

This fire occurred within [a] 1999 Honda Civic four-door sedan that was black in color. The vehicle was located in a parking space adjacent to the rear of the apartment building where the registered owner lives with his parents.

Exterior examination of the vehicle revealed the doors were locked and the windows rolled up. The victim indicated the vehicle had been in this

condition prior to the fire. Fire damage was observed to the rear spoiler and trunk lid. The passenger side rear window was broken out and the trunk lock was punched in. Fire crews had caused this damage while gaining access to the trunk and passenger compartment

Based on fire scene examination, evaluation of the indicators observed, and the evidence found, it is my opinion the fire resulted from a person(s) igniting the exterior rear of the vehicle with an open flame ignition source, such as a match or a lighter.

Damage estimate: \$5,000.

HOSTAGE/BARRICADE

Location: [2400] Kelly Avenue, Ramona
Time/Date: 1:45 a.m. on 12/25/05



Incident: Dispatchers received a telephone call on Christmas Day from a woman reporting her husband had threatened her with a handgun. The woman was calling from a pay telephone near her home in Ramona. A Ramona Patrol Deputy met her within four minutes and she told the deputy her husband, Gaylen R., was distraught over his lack of steady employment and their current financial challenges. She said she fled her home after R. threatened her with a handgun. Two deputies went to the residence and unsuccessfully attempted to speak with R.

Patrol Sergeant J.T. Faulkner

responded from the Sheriff's Poway station with additional units. Dispatchers from the Sheriff's Communications Center made several unanswered attempts to telephone R. R. remained in his residence with his 6- and 9-year-old [daughters]. He did make eye contact with deputies although he refused to speak with them.

Negotiators from the Crisis Negotiation Team established a telephone conversation with R. at 4:30 a.m. R. surrendered without incident at 4:45 a.m.

BURGLARY

Location: [4500] Cove Drive, Carlsbad
Time/Date: 5:40 a.m. on 12/19/05



Report: Officers were sent to check on a report of subjects looking into vehicles in the underground parking garage. Responding officers observed a vehicle leaving the area with two occupants aboard who matched the suspects' descriptions. The car was stopped. Jarrett P. and a 15-year-old female were contacted. Inside the vehicle were several items that appeared to have been recently stolen. Several victims were located at the Cove Drive complex and the property inside the suspects' car was identified as their respective property. Both subjects were arrested.

The female was a runaway from Oceanside and was released to her parents. P. was booked into the Vista jail.

— Michael Hemmingson

APPLIANCES

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APPLIANCES: Refrigerator frost-free energy saver, stove, washer/dryer: \$135

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ELECTRONICS, Technics, SA-424 re-
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ARMCHAIR/MODEL HOME FURNITURE
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Call: 619-260-8000.

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FURNITURE, Sofas 3, sleeper, floral \$85.
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Hazardous material fee \$3

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**15K/45K/75K
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4-cyl. 6-cyl. 8-cyl.

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- Inspect all belts
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\$89⁹⁵

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• Replace air filter • Replace spark plugs • Change oil up to 5 quarts • Replace oil filter • Check & adjust all fluid levels under the hood • Rotate and balance tires if applicable • Check all drive belts • Check front discs & calipers • Check brake hydraulic system for leaks • Check parking brake operation & adjust if applicable • Adjust rear drum brakes if applicable • Check clutch operation if applicable • Check steering system • Check shocks & struts for leaks • Change brake fluid • Check clutch hydraulic system for leaks if applicable • Check front-wheel drive axles & boots if applicable • Drain and refill coolant • Check exhaust system • Check air conditioner system operation • Check engine for leaks • Service transmission and differential (drain & refill)

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Starting at **\$69.95***

Plus labor. Most cars.

CLUTCH

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Starting at **\$179***

Includes factory parts.

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Brakes in 2 hours or less

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A Hyundai and a Healing

I ask Darlene Watson what made her choose a Hyundai.

"Well," she says, "They're not a high-priced car, and they get good mileage, about 35 mpg on the freeway. That's a big selling point for me because I need to keep on a budget.

"They were asking more, but I only had so much to spend. I made them an offer and they turned it down, and I said, 'Oh, well, I can't offer any more.' Each time they would make a concession, and the third time they agreed. The budget is important to me because I have such an appreciation for the healing God has done for me, I don't want to take it for granted. What money I have, I want to use for the right purposes."

"Healing?" I ask.

"Uh-huh. I used to have

fibromyalgia and pain throughout my whole body that led to depression. I was taking mega prescriptions, pain medication, muscle relaxers. I had lived that way for 25 years and nothing I tried helped. Therapy, diet. I couldn't exercise because I had a herniated disc in my back. I was just waiting to die.

"About March of 2004, I started getting deeper into the Bible and learning about our Jewish roots and the festivals and stuff, and I started having more of an awakening to the love of God. I got baptized again. And shortly after that, God called me to fast. I looked up in the Bible, in Isaiah 58, what an acceptable fast is. It's 'to set the oppressed free and break every yoke' and 'to share your food with the hungry and to provide the wanderer with shelter.'"

"When I was fasting I prayed for people I knew were in trouble. And I heard the spirit of the Lord say, 'The day of your deliverance is set.' I didn't

understand what that meant, but soon I felt like I had to get off my pain medicine, which was awfully scary. I was wearing a narcotic pain patch. I took it off and withdrawals started and I got scared and put another one on. And then I took that off and told myself, 'God gave me permission to stop taking the pain medication and I'm going to do it.' I went through agonizing withdrawals, but the whole time I felt like I wasn't alone.

"When you're on that much medication for that many years, it's dangerous just to stop. So I would never have had the courage unless I had heard from God. But I got through it and after about three days, the Lord spoke to my heart and told me, 'Your diseases are gone.'"

"There was one last medication I hadn't stopped. It was an anti-seizure medication. I'd had scar tissue on my brain from two brain surgeries. The scar tissue caused excess electrical activity



--- DRIVER: DARLENE WATSON
--- VEHICLE: 2003 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
--- BOUGHT: MOSSY NISSAN IN SOUTH BAY
--- PRICE: \$8900 ON DECEMBER 8, 2003
--- MILES: 33,400

in the brain, so stopping the medication was dangerous. But I believed I was healed. So I stopped.

"And I have not had one seizure. I have been medication-free for one year now. During that time, I sold my house and bought a condo and cut my hair short. It feels like God has given me back my life and I'm living it as a new person. And now I'm a new person with a new car."

To suggest future Driven stories, e-mail ken@kenkuhlen.net

FURNITURE. Coffee table, solid oak, needs refinishing \$20. Full/queen foldable mattress \$10. 5 patio chairs \$13. TV/DVD/microwave stand or cart \$10. 760-685-8291.

GREAT FURNITURE. At great price! Contemporary black leather coach set \$800. Matching coffee/end-tables included. 27" flat screen \$450, not LCD/Plasma. much more, christopherbergendahl@htmail.com.

IKEA BED. Black suede headboard with caramel colored platform. Full size mattress, photo available, 3 months new! \$190, 619-291-4065.

LANE CEDAR CHEST. Flat top, colonial, maple, 44L x 16W x 18-1/2H, \$75. Chest, 3 drawers, antique finish, 30L x 16-3/4W x 29-1/2H, excellent condition, \$40. 619-461-8350.

LIKE NEW. 1 full size Sealy Posturepedic box spring and mattress with light wood frame, \$400/best, contact Steve 619-838-4500.

MATTRESS \$100 ABSOLUTE bargain! The Furniture Warehouse now open to the public. We sell warehouse direct. Come see our large showroom. We have over 70 sets in stock from \$89! 995 Bay Boulevard, Chula Vista, 91911. Open 11am-7pm daily. Closed Monday. Credit cards accepted. Legitimate warranties in writing! Fast delivery. 619-426-2727.

MATTRESS \$139 A BARGAIN. Beautiful Ortho-Pillow set, new in plastic, warranty, Queen \$139. King \$239. Credit cards ac-

cepted. Can deliver. Call 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

MATTRESS A DISCOUNT store-Mattress World in Hillcrest sells new beds at warehouse pricing lower than regular stores. Student specials, legitimate warranties, fast delivery or pickup, name brands. Member of the Better Business Bureau. Authorized Sealy, Simmons, Spring Air, Aireloom dealer. Also Latex, chemical-free and Swedish style Visco-Memory! Mattress World, 1601 University Avenue, 2 blocks west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest. Check: www.sandiegobeds.com or email to: info@davisworld.com. Call: 619-260-8000.

MIRROR. 33 1/2"x57 1/2", walnut frame, thick glass, \$65. Mirror 51 1/2"x29 1/2", walnut frame, Tudor Rose engraved \$65. Dresser, 9 drawer/mirror, walnut finish \$100, 619-224-0499.

OFFICE CHAIRS. 12 almost new office chairs. All in perfect condition, available in navy blue, green and mauve \$5-\$15/each, 619-654-0226.

OFFICE CHAIR. Royal blue fabric. No side arms, excellent condition \$45/cash, call p.m. 760-471-4301.

SOFA \$250. A Pottery Barn style brand-new Ultrasuede sofa, still in original wrap. Loveseat and chair available. Can deliver. 858-688-2781.

SOFA AND LOVE SEAT. Awesome, never used, in original packaging. Must see! Can deliver. Both only \$295. Call 11am-7pm, 619-426-2552.

SOFA. Love seat, easy chair with ottoman set, green leather, \$495, 619-286-5966.

TABLE OR DESK. Wood lodge pole, white-washed handcrafted L60"xW27. 5"xH31", beautiful \$299. http://www.dejavuandcompany.com/misc/desk/, Cherie 760-214-3695.

TWIN BED. With Trundle. Includes headboard, footboard, 2 mattresses, 2 sets of sheets. Headboard is solid wood-light, natural color, \$250/all. In Vista 760-941-0541.

UNIQUE ENTERTAINMENT Center, plasma mount on back, metal/glass/wood combination. Cable management system hides cables. Willing to sell entertainment center/plasma-mount separately, \$500. 619-819-5097.

MISCELLANEOUS For Sale

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ART. Beautiful framed pictures from our North County home. Contemporary style, original art, small to very large, dozens at giveaway prices \$20-\$120, 858-668-1723.

BED \$139 A BARGAIN! ORTHO-PILLOW Orthopedic mattress/box, new in plastic, warranty. Queen \$139. King \$239. Credit

cards accepted. Can deliver. 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

BOWLING BALL, bag, shoes, like new, size 8, \$25/all. Bookcase, oak finish, \$45. Coffee table with matching end tables, light oak, \$50/all. 858-277-7197.

CARPET AND PADDING, Beige plush, 1100 square feet, newly taken up, never used, Dupont Stain Master, paid \$3900, selling for \$1500, 619-994-5577, 619-464-8901.

CHINA. Noritake, Verna, 90 pieces never used, 12 settings, 7 piece setting, many serving pieces, beautiful gold trim \$495, 619-296-9415.

DAHON FOLDING BICYCLE, Cost \$349, \$110. Toilet for recreation vehicle \$45. Encyclopedias, 1990/medical set \$10. Motorcycle, 17" tires, 2, \$35. Compound bow \$75, 858-581-1869.

DESIGNER CLOTHING, Chanel skirt, black pleated silk, original \$1200, asking \$300. Several St. John pieces. More! Great prices, 760-753-6996.

DESK. Bookcase, coffee-table, end-table, computer, printer, fax machine, bathroom

vanity, skis, 1984 Honda wagon. Yard sale preview, \$10/items, patio table, wicker plant-stand, trampoline, beanbag. 858-270-0565.

DUCK CARVERS HANDBOOK, By Richard Lemaster, hardback with jacket 1978, first print, 9x12, illustrated, black-white photos. 244 pages, near new condition, \$25, 760-845-3024.

EGGERMAN LAYERED CRYSTAL. Vase, brilliant green, signed with Eggerman decals. Very unique, gorgeous spirals, fluted top \$125. See pictures/description at www.bbrd.net or call 619-425-6340.

FLAG POLE, white, 21' high, 2-3/8" diameter, galvanized, new with all ac-

cessories, except flag. \$230 installed. Steve, 858-279-0492.

FOR SALE. Metal detector \$55. Kirby vacuum, Heritage \$50. Makita drill kit \$45. Black leather jacket. \$45. Original oil painting, John Wayne, \$100, 619-449-8069.

FREE CLOTHES. Shoes, furniture for flood people only. Thanks. 619-233-8815.

GARAGE CABINETS, 22, plastic, laminent cabinets. Perfect for garage storage and customized build-out. Upper and lower matching sets available, \$15/each, great condition, must sell! 619-654-0226.

AUTOMOTIVE

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(on the north side of Clairemont Mesa Blvd., between Convoy & Mercury, behind The Car Store). WE HAVE OUR OWN TOW TRUCK.
Expires 1/26/06. All offers valid with this ad.

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CLAIREMONT MESA BLVD.		
805	CONVOY	163

SMOG CHECK SPECIAL \$14⁷⁵
All car models and years. SUVs, pickups light trucks & minivans \$10 extra. No hidden fees. No appointment necessary. Bring DMV papers if available. Plus \$8.25 certificate and \$2 transfer fee

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(New!) Top of the line. Experience truly straight steering. Printout before and after.

Starting at
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3-Way Induction Service & Clean Injectors

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Cooling System Power-Flush

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30K, 60K, 90K SERVICE

Done according to manufacturer's specs, and we use only factory parts.

AXLE SPECIAL \$99 Installed
Parts and labor. Most cars.

Castrol GTX Premium Oil Change Special **\$21⁹⁵**
Most cars.

GTX Castrol/high-mileage oil change \$31.95.
BMW, Mercedes, Volvo \$29.95. Includes reset service oil light.
Non-Castrol oil change \$19.95.
Castrol synthetic oil change \$49.95.

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Includes Freon R134

• Evacuate system
• Replace compressor oil
• Check system pressure
• Check for major leaks
• Check A/C lines and belt
• Charge system with Freon
• Rear A/C \$15 extra
\$99⁹⁵
Complete

COMPLETE FRONT BRAKE JOB

Includes resurfacing rotors. Parts and labor included. **\$99⁹⁵**

Window Tint

Lifetime warranty • Most cars • Some restrictions apply

Rear 3 Windows
\$59

Mobile service, pickup & delivery available

COMPUTER CUT

• FASTER SERVICE
• CLEANER INSTALLATION
• PRECISION FACTORY CUTS

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3.5K SERVICE

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Includes:
• Oil change • Tire rotation • 38-point inspection

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15K • 45K • 75K • 105K FACTORY SERVICE

Includes:
• Oil change • Tire rotation & balance
• Transmission drain & fill • 38-point inspection

\$109⁹⁹

Most cars

30K • 60K • 90K FACTORY SERVICE

Includes:
• Change spark plugs • Transmission drain & refill
• Maintenance tune-up • Inspect PCV valve (if applicable)
• Drain & refill radiator • Inspect fuel filter
• Change air filter • Top off all fluids
• Inspect brakes • Clean battery terminals
• 4-tire rotation • Check & tighten all belts
• Inspect suspension • Free 38-point inspection
• Change engine oil & filter

\$189⁹⁵

4-cyl.

\$209.95

5-cyl. & 6-cyl.

Most cars. Platinum plugs extra. With coupon. Plus hazardous waste fee.

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Think you're FAST?
4-Wheel Dyno Available!

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Don't call any other auto repair company until you listen to this **FREE** recorded message! Learn 4 costly misconceptions about auto repair and the questions you MUST ask any repair shop before you set up an appointment. **FREE CONSUMER INFORMATION (Toll-Free): 1-866-387-5557**
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How can you get over \$400 worth of auto repairs for only \$89?
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Standard muffler. Labor from \$30.

\$29

BRAKES

• Inspect drums/rotors
• Install pads or shoes
• Inspect hydraulics

from **\$39**

Labor only.

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Includes: • 68-pt. inspection • 5 qts oil & filter

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with any other service

ALIGNMENT (computerized)

Most cars. Ask about our lifetime alignments.

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from **\$129**

4-cyl.

FUEL INJECTION SERVICE

3-step service.

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plus installation from **\$89**

San Diego's Most Complete 30K/60K/90K Major Service

Looking for quality? There is a difference. Compare our service with other shops.

\$149* 4-cyl.

\$179* 6-cyl.

\$199* 8-cyl.

Includes:
• Maintenance tune-up
• Drain & refill radiator
• Inspect air filter
• Install spark plugs (premium plugs extra)
• Inspect brakes
• Clean & adjust rear brakes

• Change engine oil
• Change oil filter
• Change master cylinder brake fluid
• Check suspension
• Top off fluids
• Check radiator, radiator cap & all hoses
• Check tire balance

• Inspect fuel filter
• Check differential fluid
• Check manual transmission fluid
• Clean battery terminals
• Check & tighten all belts
• Rotate four tires
• Check tire balance
• Adjust tire air pressure

Most cars and light trucks. We also honor extended warranties. We follow manufacturer's service schedule on inspection. Timing belt extra. Removal of plenum, injectors, etc. extra if necessary. Platinum plugs additional.

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GENERATOR. Electric Coleman Powermate Max3000-OHV. Used one time. \$300/firm. 619-670-5734.

LAWNMOWER. Sensation rear bagger, high quality, with front aluminum deck and metal screen rear bag, like new, \$140. Very nice McLane lawn edger \$95, 760-732-1315.

LOVESEAT ROCKER. Excellent \$35. Push lawn-mower \$25. Surfboard 7' excellent, \$110. Quality expensive exercycle \$85. Antique hutch 5' cabinet, \$145. Camp stove, lanterns \$25, 858-581-6223.

MARINE STUFF. Marine alternator, Prestolite, New, 51 amps \$75. Anchor chain 5/16" and 1/4". High tensile double galvanized \$2/pe foot, and \$1, per foot, 619-303-6175.

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MISCELLANEOUS. Top Nordic Track, near new, \$350. Beautiful brown faux suede, 4-1/3 plus 4 yards. Gorgeous velour ocelot pillow/tassels, new African pillow cases, 858-270-8990.

MISCELLANEOUS. 8 new Rubbermaid blue stack chairs or 2-green rattan chairs with cushions, \$25. Aluminum folding walker or commode, \$20. La Jolla Shores. 858-454-1422.

MISCELLANEOUS. Push button commercial door lock, \$150. Air compressor,

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MODEL TRAINS HO SCALE. Lifelike Proto, 2000 E6, A&B units Santa Fe, with 8 passenger cars, \$175 new, CNW ABA with 10 car passenger set \$225. 858-483-4615.

MOEN BATHROOM SINK. Fixtures, 2, old fashioned style, silver with white handles, excellent condition, both for \$100, 619-426-9319.

MOVING SALE. All items like new! 34" Phillips wide screen TV, \$450. Tall round dining table/chairs, \$150. Black leather/vinyl sofa, \$200. Full size bed/headboard, \$100. 4 deep metal bookcases, \$50 each. Desk, \$50. 3 piece coffee/end set, \$150. Entertainment stand, \$150. Call Michael 619-871-1094.

MOVING SALE. Stereo/speakers, TV/stands, VCR, refrigerator, washer/dryer, stove, office, dishwasher, microwave, dinette/chairs, couch, games lamps, neon signs, bookcases, beds, dresser. 619-670-7821.

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Any Shade!
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Starting at
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\$26⁷⁵
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Tires • Alignment • Balance • Smog And More



SMOG CHECK

\$13⁹⁵

Offering consumer assistance program. With coupon only. Plus \$8.25 for certificate and \$3 transfer fee. Retest free when repair done on site. VIP service, 2 machines. No appointment necessary. Most 4-cyl. cars only. European cars extra.



OIL CHANGE

\$16⁹⁵

With free brake and 32-point inspection. Most 4-cyl. cars. Plus \$2.50 disposal fee.

TRANSMISSION FLUSH

\$49⁹⁵

Complete transmission flush by Trans Tech 2000 flush machine, unique in its class, flushing 100% of old fluid out and adding new fluid in. Labor only. Most 4-cyl. cars. Ask for details.

A/C SERVICE

\$19⁹⁵

Most 4-cyl. cars. Freon extra.

ENGINE FLUSH

\$49⁹⁵

State-of-the-art engine flush machine built by Bilstein. Complete engine oil flush from top to bottom. Labor only. Most 4-cyl. cars. Ask for details.

MAJOR SERVICE 30K/60K/90K

Most 4-cyl. cars. As low as

\$139⁹⁵

Includes:
• Install spark plugs
• Drain & refill radiator
• Change engine oil and filter
• Inspect brakes
• Clean & adjust rear brakes
• Check all belts

COOLANT SERVICE

Includes 1 gallon of coolant. Most 4-cyl. cars.

\$29⁹⁵

COMPUTERIZED 4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT

Most 4-cyl. cars. Camber and shim extra.

\$39⁹⁵

BRAKE SPECIAL

Most 4-cyl. cars. Front or rear. Install new pads or shoes. Resurface rotors or drums.

\$89⁹⁵

AXLE SPECIAL

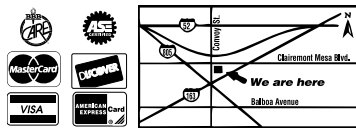
Parts and labor. Most 4-cyl. cars.

\$109⁹⁵

OFFICIAL BRAKE & LAMP CERTIFICATION

Most 4-cyl. cars. Includes brake & light certificate.

\$59⁹⁵



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Lifetime Warranty on Brake Pads! From **\$99⁹⁵**

Includes:
• Brake pads or shoes
• Machine rotors or drums
• Flush system

• Repack bearings
• Adjust emergency brake

Good thru 1/19/06.

Limited time offer.
Free Inspection!

30K • 60K • 90K MAJOR SERVICE

Winterize Your Vehicle Now!

Includes:
• Maintenance tune-up
• Drain & refill radiator
• Change air filter
• Install spark plugs (premium plugs extra)
• Inspect brakes
• Adjust emergency brake
• Flush brake fluid

• Check suspension
• Top off fluids
• Check radiator, radiator cap & all hoses
• Lubricate chassis
• Change engine oil
• Change oil filter
• Inspect fuel filter
• Check timing

• Change differential fluid if drainable
• Change manual transmission fluid
• Adjust idle to specs
• Clean battery terminals
• Check & tighten all belts
• Rotate four tires
• Balance four tires

From **\$139⁹⁵** 4-cyl.
From **\$149⁹⁵** 6-cyl.
From **\$159⁹⁵** 8-cyl.

Most cars and light trucks. We also honor extended warranties. We follow manufacturer's service schedule on inspection, adjustments, and replacement parts. Timing belt extra. Good thru 1/19/06.

CATALYTIC CONVERTER

(1995 & older)

From **\$89⁹⁹**

MUFFLERS

High Performance Custom Muffler and Pipes

CLUTCH JOBS

From **\$275**

Parts & labor. Most cars.

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\$14⁹⁵

Plus haz. waste fee and tax. Most cars.

TUNE-UP

From **\$24⁹⁵** 4-cyl. Most cars.

RADIATOR SERVICE

From **\$24⁹⁵** Most cars.

TRANSMISSION SERVICE

From **\$49⁹⁵** Most cars.

TIMING BELT SPECIAL

Call for details!

SHOCKS & STRUTS

Buy 3, get the fourth FREE

"Check Engine" LIGHT ON?

OBDII DIAGNOSTIC **\$19⁹⁵**

ADVANCED AUTO TECH

SERVICE & REPAIR ALL JAPANESE & DOMESTIC

SMOG CHECK

\$18⁹⁵ Most cars. Vans, trucks, SUVs extra. Plus \$2 transfer fee and \$8.25 certificate. Free retest with repair.

TUNE-UP

\$22 4-cyl. Install 4 new spark plugs (Platinum plugs extra.) • Top-off fluids • Inspect air filter & ignition wires • Adjust idle to spec • Check cooling system • Road test

6- & 8-cyl. slightly higher.

30K, 60K, 90K, 120K MAJOR SERVICE

\$130 4-cyl. • 40-point inspection
• Factory-scheduled maintenance
• Replace spark plugs (platinum extra) • Replace oil & filter
• Replace transmission fluid • Replace air filter
• Replace differential fluid • Replace distributor rotor
• Lube chassis • Replace PCV valve if necessary
• Valve adjustment • Inspect front & rear brake

CATALYTIC CONVERTER

From **\$95** Parts & labor. Most cars.

FRONT BRAKES

\$60 Parts & labor. Most cars. Includes rear brake adjustment if necessary. Vans, trucks, SUVs extra. Machine rotors extra.

COOLANT SERVICE

\$29⁹⁵ Drain and refill radiator up to 1 gallon coolant.

• All Work Guaranteed
• Quality Parts
Honda & Toyota Specialists

Offers expire 1/19/06.

301 16th St., Downtown S.D.
(Corner of 16th St. and K St.)
619-235-8819 VISA MASTERCARD

BRAKE CO

11 years at this location

15K/30K/60K Major Service

\$138* from Includes maintenance tune-up, oil change, install spark plugs (premium plugs extra), inspect brakes, check fluids and more. *Most cars. 6-cyl/8-cyl. extra.

brake special

\$99 and up Includes free safety inspection (most cars). Installation of new pads or shoes. Repack non-drive wheel bearings. Inspect rotors or drums, master cylinder, wheel bearings, hardware, lines, hoses & seals. Front or rear. Semi-metallic pads \$20 extra. Valid with this coupon. Not valid with other offers. Large vehicles extra.

tune-up from **\$24⁹⁹** 4-cyl. With this coupon.

axles • alternators starters much more Call for details.

oil change Includes up to 5 quarts oil & filter. EPA extra. from **\$24⁹⁵**

timing belt Power steering & A/C extra. from **\$99**

Additional parts & labor may be required at substantial extra cost. **5812 Miramar Road • (858) 546-1200**
Near UTC, 1 block east of I-805, next to Enterprise
Mon.-Fri. 8-5, Sat. 8-4 • All offers expire 1/19/06.

SHE SITS LIKE A STACK OF DELI MEATS, all mounded up and sliding off of herself. Purple straps and black straps from tank tops and bras try to restrain her soft bubbles of flesh. Engorged orbs sit atop pregnant belly and roll around when she moves. And straps catch and tug and hold like a suspension bridge, crossing her neck and fastening behind.

Her auburn pony-tailed head turns toward me and I see that she's drinking water not coffee, eating spinach and eggs, not pancakes and syrup. She's telling her friend, "I've been eating so well. For the baby. I'm not even THINKING of bad foods. I don't even crave chocolate." And, she beams in her friends' approval. Her skin is hot and lemon in the crashing sunlight from the front window of the café.

She is a teenager, a daisy of spring. Her boyfriend has braces and holds her hand across the table and his head turns to one side and his eyes are blind with a milky film that prevents him from seeing what is really happening. And, he grins a chrome grin. In my mind I grab his ear and pull it back and yell, "What are you, stupid? You didn't have a condom? She couldn't get the pill? You have GODDAMN BRACES!" But that wouldn't help.

I open my notebook to start a letter to someone, a senator, a school board supervisor. It starts:

Dear Sir,
Roll back the sexual revolution. Roll it back to the 1940s. Roll it back past the '60s. Put Will back in the closet and make Grace a pudgy housefrau. Confiscate all copies of *Laugh In* and burn anything remotely involved with James Bond. Start television shows about how teens ruined their lives with pregnancy.

Teach kids that sex will make them prematurely gray and make their skin break out. Teach them that they'll go blind. The ones who do get pregnant? Mail them off to nunneries.

Is this the wisest course of action? No. Does it show the benevolence of a thinking society? No.

But, kids are too stupid to understand anything else. By the time they're in their 20s they'll figure out, "Hey, all that was a bunch of bull. Let's do it. All the time. A lot." And by then they'll be smart enough to handle it. But, until then, keep them dumb and scared. Because, look. Look at the pretty girl with the round belly in the front window of the café and think of the tears she'll cry in 15 years when she's still young and her ass is fat and she's a grandmother.

WHAT I WILL AND WON'T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE
WB 6:30 P.M.

I'm not trying to creep you out, but "Agent Cody" here is 20 years old. I'm not saying he's Michael Jackson yet, but let's see how this goes.

You know, let's not leave him alone on a Ferris wheel with a chimpanzee and a soda can of wine.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

ANNIE (1982)
FAM 8:00 P.M.

Not a lot of people know this, but I played one of the orphans. Carol Burnett didn't get much money for her role so she supplemented her income by selling us kids bags of baby laxative. We bought them, but it was more for her benefit than ours. We knew it wasn't good junk. We knew it was bunk stuff, but she needed the money more than we needed the smack.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

FULL HOUSE

FAM 12:00 P.M.

I don't want the Olsen twins to fall down a well, but the ensuing swell in national pride when they are retrieved would be a nice pick-me-up.

THE NANNY

WB 1:00 P.M.

I got you a present. It's a hundred-dollar gift certificate to the Sit Down and Shut the Hell Up Store.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

LEAN ON ME (1989)

AETV 12:00 P.M.

I confuse *Lean on Me* with *Stand by Me*. One stars Corey Haim and the other is a movie about Lou Gossett Jr. as a school principal. Or is that Morgan Freeman? Which one is in the new *Star Wars* movies?

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

NEWS 8 AT 6:30PM

CBS 6:30 P.M.

Is Ted Leitner still alive? Man, I'd love to slap the pie out of him. I'd raise my hand up and bring it down over and over. SLAP! SLAP! SLAP! And



The Nanny

there. Look. PIE! It'd be the first worthy thing Ted has ever produced.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

WWE MONDAY NIGHT RAW

USA 9:00 P.M.

Little known facts about China. China's real name is Joanie Laurer. China can pee farther than you. She can start a dead diesel engine by giving it a stern glare. And, she doesn't need matches to light a campfire. All she has to do is strike her leg hair with a flinty rock and stand back.

SUPERNATURAL

KTLA 9:00 P.M.

Supercrapular

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

GOLF CENTRAL

GOLF 8:30 P.M.

In the coming revolution, your golf bag will double as a rifle holster. Your ability to carry a heavy duffel for several hours in a woody environment will come in handy, but your brash, colorful, striped shirt will be your enemy's boon and your undoing.

PLANTS, 8' variegated ficus benjamina, 7" Mexican bird of paradise, amaryllis, white, blue, lavender/white iris, fig, pineapples, epidendron orchids, good prices, 619-589-9071.

PRIDE LEGEND ELECTRIC, Mobility scooter, 3-wheel, paid \$2700, sacrifice \$1630/best. Also Pride Rally 4-wheel scooter, paid \$1800, sacrifice \$1300/best. Bankers Hill/Downtown, 619-218-6325, E-mail dieneuewelt@hotmail.com.

REFRIGERATOR, Freezer top, works good \$75. Bookcase antique look \$25. VCR Panasonic \$30. 3x6 feet dining table \$50. http://acdk.tripod.com/or 858-273-2290.

RIDING MOWER, \$295. Unicycle \$35. Tire chains \$15. Omega enlarger \$75. Drill press \$125. Antique ice cream parlor, iron stools \$50/each. 760-788-9368.

RYOBI LINE CUTTER, With brush cutter attachment. Powerful 4 cycle, easy start engine, like new \$100, 619-479-1470.

SHED/GARAGE STORAGE, Or workshop, L16'xW6'5'xH8'5", mobile with wheels, wooden, waterproof, locking double

doors, pitched tan roof, rafter storage, great condition \$999, Cherie 760-510-8344.

SMITHVILLE CEDAR, Over 300lbs. of cedar coasters, candle holders, and various other shapes from Texas, \$2-\$39/each. Pictures available online. 619-890-5880.

SPA-HOT TUB, Therapy pump jets, air blower, heater, lights, multi-seating, redwood siding, manual, L91"xW91"xH32", manufacturer Hurricane, great condition, delivery options \$1599. Dan, http://www.dejavuandcompany.com/misc/spa/760-798-1878.

SPA/HOT TUB, Deluxe 2006 model! Neckjets, therapy seat, many jets. Never used! Warranty. Can deliver. Worth \$5750. Sell \$1750. 858-530-0384.

TIME-LIFE, Books, The Seafarers, 22 indexed volumes, beautifully illustrated. Handsome bindings, near-perfect condition, \$6 per volume, \$100 for set, 760-945-8613.

TOOLS, Rockwell door plane, works great \$175. Wood tools, pro quality 760-941-9371.

VERTICAL MILLING MACHINE. With stand, vise, boring head and many accessories. 120/240 volts, like new, \$565, 619-825-9778.

WALL SHELVES, Pair of small Italian pine, price \$80, 619-296-7185.

WOOL YARD, Maine Bartlett 4 oz skeins, 210 yards, cornflower and medium sheep grey. Retains natural lanolin so as you knit your hands soften \$5/each, 619-656-7840.

WRISTWATCH, high gear altimeter. Time, day, date, month, 50m water resistant, mineral glass, barometer, compass, chronograph, ski chronograph, brand new. \$137 firm. Joe, 619-948-5370.

MOTORCYCLES

PLACE FREE ONLINE ADS with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. Also, see thousands of classified ads not printed here!

ABOUT TO SELL your motorcycle? We pay top cash price, running or not. Out of state, expired tags, lost titles-- all are considered. Will pick up today. Call 619-218-2723.

BEGIN TO RIDE YOU BEFORE BUY! Beginner Motorcycle Training. Teaching people to ride at our Kearny Mesa facility for over 20 years! 858-874-5888. www.BeginToRide.com.

BUCKS FOR CYCLES, ATVs and classic cars from perfect to projects. Loans also available. We make housecalls too! Call 619-464-2131.

DUAL SPORT KAWASAKI, KLR 650, 2000, 17,000k miles, kn filter, 2 brothers racing pipe, never been off roading, \$2,700 call 619-993-1846.

HONDA, 1964 Trail 90 project bike, apart, not running, good title, includes 2 extra engines, huge box of spare parts. Must take all, \$325, 619-239-9564.

HONDA, 200X, 3 wheeler, starts and runs good, desert or dunes! Sacrifice \$775, Al, 619-275-0691.

LEMON ROAD BIKE, 1999, Chambrey 55cm Saturn team, red/black. Lightweight aluminum/BSC carbon fork, Shimano-UL-tegra components, gorgeous. Only \$825 for what costs \$2000+. 760-591-9700.

MOTOBECANE MOPED, 150 miles per gallon, \$1100, Mike 619-980-7834.

MOTORCYCLE, 2001 KX 80, Engine totally rebuilt by Quincy, fmf gold, precision concepts suspension, tag bars, new radiator, have all stock parts \$2,000, 619-561-8332.

AUTOMOTIVE
CARS

PLACE FREE ONLINE ADS with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. Also, see thousands of classified ads not printed here!

ACURA TL, 3.2, 1999, loaded, mint condition, 96k miles, new brakes, battery, tires, \$10,500, 858-435-4852.

BMW X-3 3.0, Euro dream from Stuttgart, Germany. Built to American specifications. 30,875 miles. Mystic blue, grey leather. AWD, sports package, 6 speed. \$30,500/best. 619-955-0511.

BMW, 33ci, 2002, black, automatic, power all, sport package, 42K miles. Dealer price around \$30,000, excellent condition, \$26,400. 858-472-0499.

AUTOMOTIVE

PACIFIC BEACH

SMOG

SMOG

TEST ONLY

\$24⁹⁵

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T.G.I.F.

I have often made the flippant (and erroneous) comment that reading has saved my sanity.

By John Brizzolara

Maybe this happens to you: I've been going through a period of, now, more than three months during which I have been unable to complete more than three book-length works of prose. To neither brag nor apologize, it is customary for me to read more like a dozen books in that time. To some, that will sound like a lot, like bragging; to others, not at all but three or four — at least mentally disposable novels — books of some kind normally pass (I want to say beneath my scan, but I've long since given up the practice of reading something only because I have started it) across my ken from cover to cover. These slumps have occurred often in the past and I haven't worried much about it, but this is an abnormally long period of time we're talking about and it makes me wonder.

Old age? A heightened sensibility now so acute that anything less than "great" is no longer acceptable? Laziness? It must have more to do with old age and laziness than the other thing, because while I do not make a habit of reading the work of others less accomplished than myself with a sentence, I rarely find a shortage of authors better than I am — at least at something. Whatever it is, my attention span is challenged and this worries me. I have often made the flippant (and erroneous) comment that reading has saved my sanity. Certainly it has not, but I suppose what I mean by that is that I would be far loonier, that

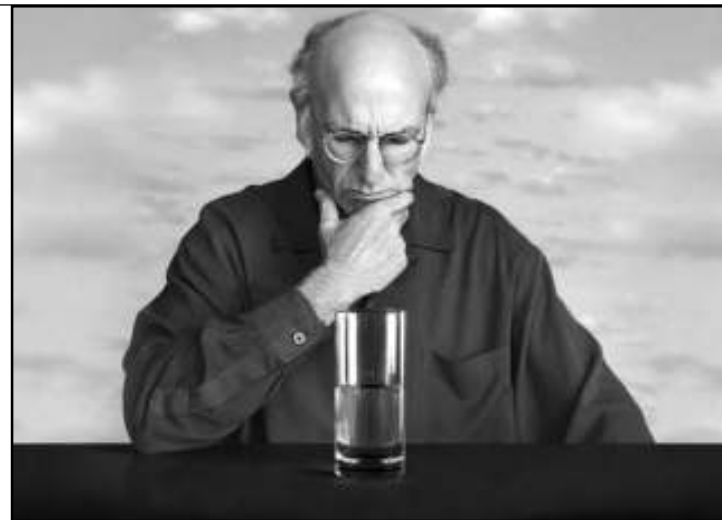
is, exhibiting behavior born of being restless, irritable, and discontent, than otherwise. Books have been friends, of course, but also babysitters for a man with a huge streak of the infantile, and a psychiatrist among other things.

I have a lot of books, but probably fewer nowadays than at any other period in my adult life. This is due to moving a lot, failed storage payments, selling valuable books during lean times, and general carelessness or worse. I still have several hundred or so, and I'll tell you, really, what is on the nightstand next to my bed. I will include the embarrassing ones in hopes of eliminating charges of pretentiousness. Deserved as they might be, I still wish to avoid them.

Here is *The Nightmare Reader*, an anthology of supernatural horror fiction with contributors like Madame Blavatsky, Washington Irving, Thomas De Quincey, H.G. Wells, and Aleister Crowley among others. Beneath that *Santa Steps Out* by Robert Devereaux; *Escape From Sonora* by Will Bryant; *Storm Front* by Jim Butcher (birthday present); *The Tale of the Body Thief* by Anne Rice (read almost half); *The Poetry of Boris Pasternak* ed. by George Reavey; *Hard as Nails* by Dan Simmons; *My Wicked, Wicked Ways* by Errol Flynn; *The Chasm* by Victor Canning; *No Man Is an Island* by Thomas Merton; *Marchers of Valhalla* by Robert E. Howard; *Master-at-Arms* by Rafael Sabatini; and *Raymond Chandler: A Biography* by Tom Hiney.

Those are on one side of the bed and some of them half read, all of them dipped into at some length. Why do I feel I need to make excuses? I haven't done anything — or rather my lack of reading them fully should require no excusing. I suspect this has to do with mortality and the desire to make every expenditure of time count. This is absurd when compared to the amount of time I spend watching *The Sopranos* or *Curb Your Enthusiasm* on DVDs borrowed from the library, the hours at my friend Bill's house trying to record on his four-track (or is it eight?) a definitive version of a — flatly obscene in spots — country and western song I wrote called *I'm a Queen in a King-Sized Bed*, and the amount of time (now comparable to a man-sized ball of string collected for no reason) spent doing absolutely nothing in the shower while I wait for the hair conditioner to really sink in.

And I keep buying books. The acts themselves of browsing for and buying them are gratifying in a way almost similar to reading them. Freud would have my father all over this issue, the buying of books: a pleasant association with him and this ritual. On the opposite nightstand I have books I have recently bought, mostly used. Here is V.S. Naipaul and Tobias Wolff alongside more Anne Rice and interesting Brit fantasist Neil Gaiman, *Cash* by Johnny Cash, a Stephen King and a Robert Silverberg on top of Ursula K.



From *Curb Your Enthusiasm*

LeGuin and Joseph Conrad.

Sooner or later I have to deal with the concept of commitment, or rather the fear of commitment. As it ties in with mortality I think it is ineluctable. The issue of commitment in relationships with women has blessedly passed. At 55, no one is shrilly demanding my commitment to him or her. My girlfriend (joke of a word at this age) probably spends more south of midnight reflection on the whys of her commitment to me than anything else. So do I want to commit hours, days, weeks of a diminishing supply in something less than Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past* or all the Anthony Trollope novels? Stephen King's multi-volume *Gunslinger* series, for example, or *The Da Vinci Code* when I've never even read a decent biography of Da Vinci?

The honest answer to that one is most surely, "Yeah, I guess so. Why not?" Because no matter how long I stall, what I say, or what my intentions may be, I will, in fact, read more crap if there's any fun to be had in it. And if I miss Trollope or Proust and have to console myself with William Boyd, Richard Price, re-reading (even!) Graham Greene and James Joyce (because there is fun to be had there as well, oh yes) then so be it. I won't die broke.

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