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But the doctor has a funny look on his face. *Story continued on page 28*
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Positive Publicity, Negative Returns

By Don Bauder

“Who is Woody Norris? Quite simply, Woody Norris is a visionary, a futurist.” Those are the opening words of the website www.woodynorris.com. It is exaltation and exultation, paean and panegyric — all for Elwood (Woody) Norris, San Diego inventor and sponsor of the website that leads him so lavishly.

He is a “creative mastermind,” enthuses an essayist quoted on the site. He has “reinvented acoustics,” raves another writer. Prestigious publications such as the Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, USA Today, the New York Times, Popular Science, and Forbes have sung his praises for inventions in the field of acoustics and, more recently, a single-passenger helicopter that he is co-developing in Las Vegas.

Last April, the day after he was featured on TV’s 60 Minutes away, and only he or she can hear the message, like pinpoint ventriloquism. Norris says it will eventually be almost ubiquitous in advertising, retail stores, and vending machines (as you pass, a voice will say to you alone, “Wouldn’t you like a Coke?”).

Referring to himself, Norris told Newsweek in 2002, “It’s rare when you have a Thomas Edison who actually gets fame and success in his own life.” It isn’t the only time his career has come under scrutiny. He used to show reporters around his 20,000-square-foot, $4.4 million Poway hilltop mansion until it burned down in the fire of fall 2003. He’s building another mansion and boasts about how rich he is. Yeah, Woody, but what about the people who have invested in you? Have they become rich?

Not the ones who stuck with you, Woody. Norris’ inventions make great copy in popular publications, but they haven’t yet panned out in the marketplace. His publicly held companies pour money into research and development, hoping one of his inventions will pay off. But it doesn’t happen. Red ink flows for years — and so, too, does the hype. Effervesces Norris on his website: “If you’re an inventor and you start out poor the way I did, you need to know how to speak publicly, to convince continued on page 8”

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

Neal Obermeyer

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

Old moneybags

Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who’s the richest San Diego city council aide of all? Based on recently filed financial disclosure statements, that honor goes to Geoffrey W. Lipsey, a “council representative” for new GOP councilmember Kevin Faulconer. Typically, council representatives’ jobs go to aspiring twentysomethings politicos looking to work their way up the patronage ladder. But Lipsey, 60, reports 89 various investment holdings with a total value somewhere between $77,000 and $7.2 million. They include stock valued between $110,000 and $100,000 in such outfits as oil and gas driller Nabors Industries; Barrick Gold; mortgage provider Countrywide Financial; oil giant Kerr-McGee; oil driller Noble Energy; defense contractor Lockheed; and media power Viacom. Former technical director of the Mitre Corporation’s Center for Integrated Intelligence Systems in McLean, Virginia, Lipsey lives on tony San Antonio Place in Point Loma. His previous jobs at Mitre included associate technical director of national command and control systems. Lipsey’s wife Jill is co-chair of the annual Point Loma Concert Series founded by Bridget Cantu Wear, wife of onetime Republican councilman Byron Wear, whose departure from office in 2002 was shadowed by ethics investigations that resulted in fines of onetime Republican councilman Randy Cunningham.

CSI might be less expensive

The cost of forensic digging at San Diego’s city hall never seems to end. Yet another bill was recently submitted by a Seattle high-tech outfit called Breakwater Security Associates, which back in March of last year was given an initial $50,000 and then another $30,000 to cull through desktop computers, trolling for information about possible incriminating activity erased by city workers. “The new request is for $174,052,” a staff report says, “for searching of the GroupWise mailboxes and additional hard drives files and H Drives data to identify responsive documents and to acquire hard drive data from computers.” … Those old green and white Border Patrol boats used by the feds to haul illegal aliens around the county are a thing of the past, replaced by gleaming new white and blue models bearing the logo of the Homeland Security Department, the patrol’s parent agency. And dark windows concealing the passengers from public view. … The website of the Angelica Foundation, a Rancho Santa Fe charity run by Suzanne Gollen, the daughter of late Las Vegas wise guy Moe Dalitz and mentioned on these pages two weeks ago in a story about her links to James Waring, San Diego’s new development czar, has been shut down. Visitors are currently greeted with the message “Under Construction.”

Defense fund

Disgraced GOP congressman Randy “Duke” Cunningham has disbanded his American Prosperity Political Action Committee but not before it paid out $28,335 in Cunningham legal fees to the Washington office of the big Los Angeles law firm O’Melveny and Myers. The PAC was shut down on February 6, according to documents filed with the Federal Election Commission. The check to O’Melveny was cut on December 31; the only other expense was listed as a $100,000 contribution to the Kirk of Congress campaign. In addition to the Cunningham PAC money, O’Melveny received a total of $570,000, also in December, from Cunningham’s now-defunct reelection campaign fund. Sixteen individuals gave to the PAC, all before the Union-Tribune made public Cunningham’s potential bribery issues in June. They included car dealer Bob Baker, who gave $290, hotel mogul and GOP maven Sam Hardage ($1500); lobbyist Leticia White of the firm Copeland Lowery ($1000); and Dan McKinnon, Republican son of the late Democratic congressman Clint McKinnon ($1500). Cunningham has been hounded at McKinnon’s Lakeside ranch awaiting his sentencing … Meanwhile, fellow GOP congressman Duncan Hunter’s Peace Through Strength PAC is still out collecting funds. Last year, according to filings, it took in a total of $49,600 from such donors as the late Corky McMillin ($1500); his son Mark McMillin ($1500); and La Jolla aerospace company owner Anthony duPont ($500). Corporate donors included the Titan Corporation PAC ($5000) and BAE Systems United Defense Employees PAC ($5000). Peace Through Strength’s biggest contribution was $15,000 to the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund of Oceanaide. It also spent $9823 on a golf tournament at Barona Valley.

Neal Obermeyer

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

By Joe Deegan

He started to notice the problem while driving at night. “Quite rapidly my eyes deteriorated,” says Art Seamans, professor emeritus of literature at Point Loma Nazarene University, “and I drove when I shouldn’t have. Finally, I was at a restaurant, drove out of the parking lot, and hit some cones in the street. I didn’t know what side of the street I was on.

And I said, ‘That’s the last time I’ll sit behind the wheel.’ But I was so terrified, because I had ridden the bus only one or two times. ‘Oh, it’s going to be impossible to get around. What am I going to do?’ ”

Twelve years ago Seamans was diagnosed with macular degeneration, which has left him partially blind. (He can see rough outlines of things, but “I have a hard time seeing people’s faces,” he says.) Since he taught full-time until 2001, he had no choice but to take the bus back and forth to work. Now, he says, “I am very high on bus service in San Diego. It’s been great. The buses are regular and dependable, and they go fairly frequently. This is a great place to ride the bus. In North Park, where I live, I’ve got Routes 908 and 7 going east and west on University Avenue; the 2 downtown, the 15 along El Cajon Boulevard, and the 6 to Mission Valley.”

There are those who have asked Seamans whether he’s safe on the bus. “What are you talking about? People get the funniest ideas,” he says. “Bus passengers mind their own business for the most part.” He believes more people should take the bus.

According to records kept by the transit system, the average number of bus rides each month is 912,093. “Governor Schwarzenegger,” says Seamans, “keeps talking about spending more money on freeways. What about public transportation instead?”

Seamans still goes regularly to Point Loma Nazarene University, where he participates in campus life, substitutes for current faculty, and Sundays attends First Church of the Nazarene on the college’s grounds. So he is concerned about changes the Metropolitan Transit System recently has been proposing to one of his most crucial buses. From his home he now takes Route 908 to the Old Town Transit Center. There he transfers to the 26, which takes him to within two blocks of the university. The trip, he says, takes about an hour and 15 minutes.

Since many blind people take buses all over town, the transit system held on January 11 an outreach meeting at the San Diego Center for the Blind. The purpose was to explain potential bus-route changes the agency was contemplating. One hundred twenty people attended the meeting led by six transit system employees. The meeting was one of 45 community outreach events the agency has been holding.

Seamans came away from the meeting worried that Route 26 was going to be eliminated. Nevertheless, he says he appreciated how transit-agency employees broke the crowd into smaller groups to discuss the changes and seek feedback. Seamans felt that the changes were not carved in stone.

Conan Cheung is the transit agency’s director of planning and performance monitoring. In an hour-long phone conversation he explains to me how his department is looking at changing the entire system of almost 100 bus lines. The changes will affect 90 percent of the lines, from rerouting a block or two to complete elimination. On March 9, Cheung says, he will present to the agency’s board a comprehensive plan. “We haven’t addressed the whole system in 30 years,” he says.

Due to shifts in demographics, new transit travel patterns are emerging in San Diego. In response, Cheung has three main goals: to meet market demands better; to increase ridership throughout the system; and to remove unproductive elements. He admits that the plan involves putting more traffic onto the city’s main arterials. Often, he says, routes have “added direction movements,” which usually are excursions away from arterials and into neighborhoods, where only a few people are
Negative returns
continued from page 6

people to invest in you. So the drama that I did in high school was the best thing I ever did.”

So true, snorts Wall Street.

In Norris’s companies, “There always seems to be a lot of hype and very little, if any, real meat behind it,” says Bud Luedem of San Diego’s California Stock Report. “There may be a quarter or two of good results and then they are back where they started. He is the master salesperson. A small group of people jump on whatever he is talking about.” In the madcap 1990s, those who listened to Norris were day traders. Stocks of his companies would run up and down on big volume. Now they are down and their results are uniformly dismal.

Norris controls 16 percent of the stock of San Diego’s American Technology Corporation – chairman of the board. This is the company that is developing the hypersonic sound technology that Norris touts as his invention. The company has lost money every year since 1996, the year Norris started work on the technology.

American Technology manages to lose about as much as it takes in. Last year, it lost $9 million on revenues of $10.2 million. The prior year, it lost $6 million on sales of $5.8 million. Not surprisingly, it has a cumulative deficit of $52.2 million.

Last year’s sales rose sharply because almost 90 percent went to the military, which uses a variation on hypersonic technology called a long-range acoustic device. The military – particularly in Iraq – is testing it to warn people approaching checkpoints, among other things.

However, in American Technology’s most recent quarter ended December 31, 2005, government business plunged 86 percent as total sales plummeted 57 percent. Military business is often volatile quarter by quarter, so it’s too soon to say that armed forces are souring on the long-range device. The same quarter, commercial business – such as use of the hypersonic technology for point-of-sale promotions — did pick up, but it’s also too soon to say that this increase is sustainable.

On his website, and in interviews with the media, Norris has claimed that his hypersonic technology will have uses in the field of music. In a car, the parents in front hear Bach while the kids in back hear rock. On the dance floor, each individual could be hearing different music, and bumping and grinding — or waltzing — appropriately. (Saturday Night Live could have fun with that one.)

That’s all hogwash, says F. Joseph Pompei of Watertown, Massachusetts, who has a Ph.D. from MIT and is a longtime critic of Norris’s proclama-
tions. “There is no way [hypersonic] could be used for music,” says Pompei, whose company, Holosonic Research Labs, has its own product, Audio Spotlight. Hypersonic’s “audible distortion is 20 to 50 percent. Most loudspeakers are 1 percent. It doesn’t hit low notes. The listening experience is absolutely atrocious.”

Floyd Toole, vice president for acoustics at Harman International, has similar reservations. “It’s awfully hard to get anything at low frequencies,” says Toole. “It is only useful for speech communications. This is not a hi-fi device. There is lots of distortion. It is a niche product.”

American Technology’s early hypersonic model “was essentially a prototype of the one published in 1985 in the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America,” says Pompei. Two large Japanese companies looked at the technology in the 1980s and abandoned it because of poor sound quality, he says. Then American Technology attempted to improve its prototype by picking up ideas from a paper that Pompei published in 1998. “They are not interested in selling hype, selling stock.”

Pompei says that American Technology’s military long-range acoustic device “is a large loudspeaker, not focused sound. The military could get the same thing for a third the price.”

Back in 1999, when he was still a grad student, Pompei went on Internet investor chat rooms to refute American Technology’s scientific claims. “It was hilarious,” says Pompei. “Not an authorized Kenwood dealer. Free labor. Parts additional. From sale purchase financing available $259 Installation charges not included.

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Sensitive riders

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served. Cheung cites the example of Route 13 leaving Fairmount north of Home Avenue to serve a residential neighborhood before continuing on the main route. “As an automobile driver,” he says, “you don’t wander into side neighborhoods on the way to your destination. We don’t want buses to do it either unless there is demand for service in those areas.”

I ask Cheung how the transit agency assesses demand for service. New computerized fare-box records suggest how many people are traveling a route, he says. That approach is limited, however, because many passengers use monthly passes rather than paying fares. To know which particular stops are popular, the agency sends out riders to count passengers who are boarding and exiting. It also conducts onboard surveys.

For planning-route changes Cheung’s department also seeks “underlying factors” with an analysis that is geographically based and tries to identify what “sensitivities” riders in different regions have. Low-income workers are primarily sensitive to speed, flexibility, and cost. They have a low sensitivity, says Cheung, to “having their own space.” People from affluent areas of town are discretionary riders who have the option of using their own cars. So their sensitivities involve comfort and, possibly, environmental concerns. In the future the transit system may try to attract them with more spacious buses and seats with higher backs.

The general trend of the changes that planners will present to the transit board on March 9 is to increase service over the coming year in urban locales and decrease it in rural and suburban areas. Santee is going to have Routes 832, 833, and 834 discontinued. “The problem in Santee is that only during schooltimes do the buses get enough passengers. We will probably provide a hybrid to replace the three lost routes with service at specific times,” says Cheung.

In most urban areas of San Diego, bus routes will be modified rather than eliminated. But even small modifications can be painful. Bob Swail at the Center for the Blind complains bitterly that a change to Route 908 he heard discussed would mean he can’t visit the business area near the intersection of Midway Drive and Rosecrans. Currently the route turns at that intersection on its way to the Old Town Transit Center. In the future, however, it may follow the more direct path to the line’s end by continuing on Pacific Highway. The change would eliminate a stop across from the main post office on Midway.

As a blind person, Swail deals with problems most riders never consider in negotiating the bus system. “Cara-vanning” is the name he uses to characterize a bunching of buses at stops. “Three buses will pull up, one behind the other,” says Swail, who uses a white cane. “I can’t see the route numbers, so by the time I figure out which bus is mine, I might miss it. The bus in the row sometimes pulls out and passes the other two before I even get down to it.”

In the context of an entire transit system, details like that might strike some as small, but Conan Cheung says his planners are trying to address them, if possible. A problem that irks many riders is that different buses traveling along the same streets often are scheduled to arrive at stops at about the same time.

Passengers boarding at the SDSU Transit Center tell me that the 955 bus commonly arrives immediately after the 11. From there both buses go west on Montezuma Road, diverging at the intersection with Colusswood Boulevard. One woman told me that she can take either bus to that intersection, which is near her apartment, but she wishes the two buses left at different times so that she had more options for when she could depart SDSU. Fortunately, however, both the 11 and the 955 leave every 15 minutes during most of the day. The inconvenience is greater when service intervals are an hour or half hour.

Even though three buses travel El Cajon Boulevard, on weekends riders still can wait 30 minutes to catch one — and that’s when the buses are running on time.

In regard to the upcoming route alterations, Point Loma Nazarene’s Art Seamans takes a different approach than the one taken by the transit system. Instead of asking which routes attract the most riders, he wants to know how many different communities the various lines serve. Even though a small number of people ride it, Seamans identifies five different groups served by the Route 26 he takes to the university. Few professors ever ride the bus, he acknowledges, but a substantial number of students and university service workers do. The route also serves civilian workers and a small number of military personnel at the submarine base toward the southern end of Point Loma. Both tourists and locals can use the bus to reach Cabrillo National Monument at its tip. There are also visitors to the Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery along the way. And many Spanish-speaking women, says Seamans, ride the 26 to houses they clean for Point Loma residents. Still, the transit agency considers the farthest extension of the route, beyond Sports Arena Boulevard, to be unproductive.

According to Conan Cheung, the Metropolitan Transit System earns approximately $73 million annually in operating revenues from fares and advertising it sells. Additionally, California’s Transportation Development Act and the San Diego Association of Governments provide most of another $140 million in public money to help the local transit system to operate. The latter suggests that, as much as it wants to, the transit system cannot take a completely free-market approach to updating its plans. Perhaps that is why it does listen attentively to bus riders like Art Seamans. Already, after initially floating the idea of closing Route 26’s extension to the end of Point Loma, the agency is now considering a compromise. According to Cheung, it will probably end up reducing only the frequency of trips the 26 makes to the end of the line.
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**LETTERS**

We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader. Phone them in at 619-235-3000, ext. 400, or e-mail them to letters@SanDiegoReader.com. Include your name, address, and telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

**Waste Of Time**

I find your Reader dated February 16 about “Mushballe: Riding the Big Apple’s Little Waves” to be trash. I’m surprised with such a big city that we have to outsource a news story out in New York. It’s pathetic. For a local paper to reach out and write a story about somewhere else in another city really shows poor taste in who your focus is. If I wanted to read something about New York I would buy a New York Times. That’s the problem with a lot of your local papers here. For some reason they think we’re interested in outside sourcing news stories, and we’re not. It’s really sad and I’m glad you’ve made your decision not to ever read your magazine again. I used to do it on occasion, but now it’s just a waste of time.

— Manuel Mission Valley

**Coincidence And Similarities**

Nice call from Ken Leighton on the guitar-riff similarities in music by Agent 51 and Green Day (“Blurt,” February 16), but I also want to point out that the song in question, “Boulevard of Broken Dreams,” is actually a dead ringer for Oasis’s “Live Forever,” and the two tracks have been mashed up by DJs that way for some time now. There are other moments that are “reminiscence” of other tunes on the GD album: “When September Ends” has a similar intro and vibe to the Tearaways’ “Jessica Something,” found on Rhino Records’ Popotopia power-pop series, for instance. There are only so many chords, so coincidence happens as sure as “All Day and All of the Night” is “Hello, I Love You”; “La Bamba” is “Twist and Shout”; and so on…

— Bart Mendoza via e-mail

**Upset With Barb**

I am so upset with Babarella’s fictional recall of the Tickled Trout (“Everyone Can Be a Star,” February 9)! We were there one night when she was there! Greg would never wave his arms around in frustration! We get to have fun! Do you want the true story of karaoke? The CD thing was a lie! I may not be twentysomething anymore, but when I asked her if she had seen our friend’s CD case, no one accused her of stealing, and I sure didn’t hug it to my chest in love, as it wasn’t mine! I was asking about!!!!!!

— Rosemari Janssen via e-mail

**Cop Kills Drunk**

Can we have more of an elaboration on this story (“It’s a Crime,” Officer-Involved Shooting,” February 9)? A sober cop pulls over a drunk driver who tries to escape and the cop kills him. This only got a blurp in the news!

And what’s with the words “service weapon” instead of what it really is a gun? I assume it is politically incorrect to say that a sober cop shot and killed a fleeing drunk guy with his gun!

— Megan Cash via e-mail

**Zese Are Sted Not French**

In Kari Nansen’s letter (“Zese Are Not French,” February 9) regarding Mr. Bouvier’s article (“Pardon the French,” January 26), I ask myself, “What inconsistencies?” The article analyzes the French, their character, their ways. It has absolutely nothing to do with those things that have been named after the French or not, save for those now-historical French fries that originated in French-speaking Belgium (a big staple in France) that have been renamed “freedom fries.”

As for the “African braids,” did Ms. Nansen mean nattes Africaines, not nattes African, since it is feminine? Even in today’s best Franglais (spoken French-English) we wouldn’t use the term nattes African.

I am one of those who wouldn’t teach French to their children; we assimilated.

— Danielle Boyd Santee

**Arrogant Wise**

Naomi Wise seems arrogant, condescending, and full of herself. She frequently denigrates anyone who does not share her personal preferences. (For example, she apparently prefers her fish undercooked. Fine. This is no reason to disrespect those of us who prefer fish more thoroughly cooked.) A couple weeks ago she insulted her out-of-town guests; in this week’s review she attacks “Zonies” (“Moonlight on the Bay,” February 9). As long as she has been writing for the Reader, she has included these gratuitous insults.

Please, Ms. Wise, just describe the food, service, ambiance, etc. Leave out the cutey references to your posse. Get over yourself and stop insulting people.

— R. Carroll La Mesa

**Barbarella’s World**

I just want to thank the Reader for finding such a talented writer, Babarella, and providing us such a great read every week with “Diary of a Diva.” The stories are always captivating and seem to draw me right into Babarella’s world as if I am right there beside her in every escapade. I look forward to each story, so keep up the great work, Babarella!

— Michelle Johnson via e-mail

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**San Diego Reader** February 23, 2006

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Matt:
I was recently looking online at the Yahoo! Maps map of the intersection of I-5 and Highway 32 and found the single word “Elvira.” Then I was on a jog under this very intersection, only to see a sign near the railroad track labeled “CP Elvira.” So, what’s the story behind this? Is there some strange tie between this area and the Mistress of the Dark?

— Jim in La Jolla

Not unless the Mistress of the Dark had a day job as a train crewman or a shepherd. Control Point Elvira (at the edge of Marian Bear Park) used to be a busy place. The railroad went through Rose Canyon in 1881. Sometime in the 1920s Elvira flag stop station was built, with bunkhouses, a water tank, equipment sheds, and other railroad necessities. The rumor is, Santa Fe’s flag stop stations and sidings were named after people in the company. Elvira was the wife of some railroad bigwig. In the 1930s they built a siding at Elvira to serve the sheep stockyards in the area and the other businesses in the canyon. The station eventually became obsolete and was torn down in 1959, though the sign remains. So, how did it end up on a Yahoo! Map (and Mapquest and other area maps)? According to Mapquest, their published maps are made up of all kinds of documents, including railroad maps. Any landmark on the railroad map will be used. And that’s all we know about Elvira, Mistress of the Park.

Dear M.A.
This doesn’t seem right. The CRV is taxed. The price of the beer and the CRV are lumped together and this amount is taxed.

— Unsigned, Chula Vista

Oh, good. We get a chance to pick apart the logic of the state tax board. Always a thrill ride. So, Matt, you say, when I buy a can of beer they charge me the recycling fee and tax the beer and the CRV. But if I’m feeling flush and spring for a keg, I pay tax on the beer and a refundable deposit on the keg, but they don’t tax the deposit. If I buy water in a plastic bottle, they don’t charge me a CRV and they don’t tax it. Oh, that wacky Board of Equalization.

Let’s start with the keg. There’s no CRV on the keg because the container itself is reused. Not recycled. Reused. Refilled. So you just pay tax on the contents. Your old beer can is recycled, not reused, and beer is taxable, therefore you pay CRV. The tax guys in this case consider the CRV part of the price of the item, and they’re glad to take your sales tax.

You don’t pay CRV on water because water isn’t taxable. So have the privilege of paying tax on CRV you have to buy a product that is taxable in the first place and is packaged in a recyclable container.

Dear Matt:
If muscles can only contract, and every pushing motion is only a series of muscle contractions working against levers, how do muscles without levers (e.g., octopus arms, elephant trunks, and your tongue) create a pushing motion?

— Jorge, faxland

Dr. Doctor, staff quack, is an anatomy whiz. So, for once he has an answer. Since tongues are so important in vital life functions such as eating ice cream, telling jokes, and making strange faces, they contain fully eight different groups of muscles. There’s also a little connective tissue to keep things tidy. Four groups of outer muscles on the underside and sides of the tongue anchor it to structures in the mouth and partially enclose four groups of inner muscles. These are arranged in bundles that run in three different directions: across the tongue (transverse), lengthwise (longitudinal), and from the upper surface to the under surface (vertical).

The other crucial tongue fact is that the structure is noncompressible; its volume always remains constant. So suppose you’ve formulated the idea that you want to lick a surface (vertical).

Dear M.A.

— Jim in La Jolla

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The other crucial tongue fact is that the structure is noncompressible; its volume always remains constant. So suppose you’ve formulated the idea that you want to lick a surface (vertical).
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- computer/technical
- customer service
- domestics
- driver/delivery
- education
- health care
- jobs wanted/resumes
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- miscellaneous
- office/administrative
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- security
- trades/labor
I might be interesting, but not for the reason they think. I’m talking about the World Baseball Classic, an oddball tournament set to begin during MLB’s spring training, to the disgust of Major League executives, featuring national teams from 16 countries. This is the first go-around of what organizers say will be a quadrennial event. Of course, the World Baseball Classic has nothing to do with the unfortunate fact that baseball will be dropped from the Olympics following the 2008 Beijing Games.

The tournament, which kicks off on March 3, is produced by Major League Baseball/Major League Baseball Players Association and sanctioned by the International Baseball Federation (IBAF). It’s supposed to be a Hands-Across-the-Border-Thrill-of-Victory-Agony-of-Defeat deal meant to move Major League Baseball merchandise into the hands of gullible foreigners.

So, 16 national teams — Australia, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Italy, Netherlands, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, South Africa, South Korea, United States, and Venezuela — play in a four-round tournament. The first round will be played in Tokyo, Puerto Rico, Phoenix/Scottsdale, Orlando, and consist of four pools of four teams each. Teams within each pool will play each other once and the best two teams from each pool will move on to Round 2.

Round 2 will be played in Anaheim and Puerto Rico and will consist of two pools of four teams. Each team will play each other once. The best two teams from each pool (four teams), move on to the semifinals, which, ahem, will be played in Petco Park. The winners of the semifinal games play for the championship on March 20, again at Petco Park. The winning team is promised a championship trophy. All players on the top two teams are promised a medal, and you can imagine how thrilling that’s going to be for a 38-year-old Red Sox right-hander making $16 million a year. Follows are the first-round pools:

**Pool A:** China, Chinese Taipei, Japan, South Korea

**Pool B:** Canada, Mexico, South Africa, United States

**Pool C:** Cuba, Netherlands, Panama, Puerto Rico

**Pool D:** Australia, Italy, Dominican Republic, Venezuela

Now, I could list millionaire American ballplayers who backed away from the honor of representing their country blah, blah, blah, and quote their lame excuses, or franchise owners bitching about their stars missing training camp and risking injury, but I think, as in most things, Barry Bonds says it for us. Bonds told USA Today, “I just don’t want to do it. Come on, the World Cup [Classics] isn’t the Olympics. Who cares? Does it mean anything?”

Well, Barry, there is something that might make this tournament worth watching, Cuba. Yes, that commie island just 90 miles off our shore. We should keep in mind that the rest of the world doesn’t share our obsession about Cuba. At least 165 nations recognize Cuba, including our last remaining best buddies: Britain, Canada, Australia, Poland, and Qatar. The current U.S. embargo against Cuba has been in place since 1962, and I can state for the record that it does not appear to be working.

The embargo has not affected Cuban baseball. Cuba has had a professional baseball league since 1878. World Cup Baseball (another international baseball tournament) has been around since 1936, although few fans have heard of it. Its tradition is national teams and amateur athletes. The first World Cup consisted of two teams, but it has grown. There have been 16 teams in the tournament since 1994. The usual countries are members: U.S.A., Britain, Venezuela, Mexico, Colombia, South Korea, Japan, Italy, Chinese Taipei, and so on. Cuba has won gold 25 times, silver once, and bronze twice. Baseball has been in the Olympics since 1992. Cuba won gold in 1992 and 1996, silver in 2000, and gold in 2004. Over 150 athletes born in Cuba have played in Major League Baseball.

There is no way you can host an international baseball tournament and not invite the country who is the defending world champion and has won three of the four Olympic gold medals ever awarded in that sport. So, Cuba was invited.

And the United States Treasury blocked their participation. After Cuba was disallowed, corporate baseball lobbied for reconsideration and reversal knowing that without Cuba their tournament was over. The IBAF said it would withdraw its sanction if Cuba were not allowed to play. Without Cuba, Puerto Rico said it would not host the games. U.S.A. Olympic Committee chairman Peter Ueberroth asked the administration to reverse its decision and so forth. After a month of this, the government folded.

What turned them around, officials claimed, was Cuba’s offer to donate any profits from the tournament to Hurricane Katrina victims. The tournament money, if any, is nothing…is laughable, is a fig leaf. Cuba’s offer was a slap at Bush, a reminder to the world how badly the American government treated, and continues to treat, its own citizens.

Cuba vs. U.S.A. at Petco Park. Now, that would be a game.
Senior pastor: Rev. Douglas Swagerty; over downtown site, Dr. Richard P. Kaufman
Founded locally: 1999
Location: 200 Avenue, Downtown, 619-699-5950
Address: 619-699-5950
Website: www.harborpc.org

Denomination: Presbyterian Church in America
Address: Pacific Gaslamp Theater, 701 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-699-5950
Founded locally: 1999
Senior pastor: over all sites, Rev. Douglas Swagerty; over downtown site, Dr. Richard P. Kaufman
Congregation size: 200
Staff size: 5
Sunday school enrollment: 10
Annual budget: $400,000
Diversity: mostly Caucasian, but a number of Asian-, Arab-, and African-Americans
Weekend giving: $8,000
Dress code: wide ranging — hipster to casual to Sunday formal
Length of reviewed service: 1 hour, 20 minutes

"You are our shield and protector, the lifter of our head," prayed site Pastor Mark Maliepaard, quoting the song that the band — guitar, bass, keyboard, drums, and saxophone — had just finished. "We thank you so much that you protect us from the evil one...that in you we will not be defeated by Satan and his demonic forces."

"To experience that saving power in a fresh, new way," the congregation confessed their sins as one, reading from the words projected on the movie screen and admitting to "hypocrisy" and "evil thoughts" and enslavement to "sinful habits." They begged for help to "live out the freedom from evil we have in You."

The Gospel told the story of the Gerasene demoniac — a man possessed by multiple devils who lived, naked and alone, among the tombs. Jesus drove the devils out of the man, but when they begged not to be thrown into the abyss, Jesus allowed them to go into a herd of pigs, which then plunged into the sea. When the people heard of this and saw the restored man, they were afraid, and asked Jesus to leave. As he left, Jesus told the former demoniac to "return home and tell how much God has done for you."

In his sermon, Pastor Richard P. Kaufman said the central teaching of the story was "the authority of Jesus over evil." That authority, he said, should give us hope, courage, and purpose.

Hope: "If ever there was a hopeless case, it was this guy. Lies enslave us, and perhaps the most deadly lie of all is this: It's hopeless.' If Jesus can cure this guy like that, then there are no hopeless situations and no hopeless cases."

Courage: Kaufman noted that Jesus granted the demons' request not to be thrown into the abyss. "Deliverance from evil is now — and not yet... 'The now-not-yet' Christians have great hope that Jesus can do anything right now, but when Jesus doesn't, they have confidence that one day, He will."

Purpose: "In the New Testament, when Jesus does miracles, people are filled with fear. They know that God has showed up. The authority of Jesus demands a response. You cannot say, 'Okay, God, I'm going to let you into this spiritual portion of my life — but don't mess with my pigs.'"

Kaufman called Jenny — young, tall, and striking — to the microphone. She had "known that Jesus was something" from a young age, but had found religion unhelpful in finding Him.

"As I was continuing this push toward Christ, I was beginning to struggle and have a lot happen to me. On January 12, I was brutally raped. I began shaking constantly.... I was completely out of control of my life and my thoughts. I began hearing bells, seeing lights. I was, like, 'Oh, my gosh, I am so headed for a padded room.'"

On January 31, a coworker found her in a terrible state and brought her to a Harbor church. "I realized how many of these people had been praying for me, and I was suddenly surrounded by all these people who cared about me and knew me.... I felt so comforted.... I asked them to help me bring Jesus into my life. As I began to pray, I began convulsing and flailing around the room. I could feel two demons leave my body, and there was a third — and a four-hour process began for me to try to get to Christ and get rid of this evil. They all stood and prayed and rebuked. It was the most beautiful experience and the most horrifying experience at the same time."

When, at the end, "God was sealed inside of me," she said, "it was ecstasy.... He gave me myself back, so that I could give myself as a complete back to Him."

At the end of the service, the band kicked into the Doobie Brothers' "Long Train Runnin." "Without love/where would you be right now/without love."

What happens when we die?
"We either go to be with the Lord or we don't," says Kaufman. "The determining factor is that we are saved by grace alone — it's a gift. We receive that gift through faith alone. It's not just a general faith; it's a faith specifically in Jesus. Those people who have never heard the name of Jesus, I leave in God's hands, and I trust that He will be both merciful and just. For those who have heard, the determination is in how they respond."

— Matthew Lichona
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-Eve Kelly

Every mom seems to have a marker catastrophe at some point in her mothering career. It’s natural that childhood curiosity should seek to explore different mediums and uses for the coloring utensil. “Why draw on an 8- by 11-inch piece of paper when you could draw on an 8- by 11-foot wall?” thinks the curious child. “And why not use my body as a canvas?”

Then there’s the 12-month-old who sees the marker more as a snack than a writing instrument, and he eats the tips off of a whole box of markers only to pop into Technicolor the next day. And don’t forget the traditional markerization of the brand-new birthday outfit. But it’s markers on wall that turns Eve loco. And just last week, my two-year-old left another Sharpie fresco on the entry hall wall. I called my sister Meg for suggestions on how to get the permanent marker off. Turns out she was wondering the same thing. “My daughter has an alter ego,” she explained, “a superhero name for herself — Chauncey Yellowstone. She wrote her emblem — a capital C with a Y inside of it — all over my newly painted hallway walls and curtains. Sort of like the mark of Zorro, except it was the mark of Yellowstone. She used indelible markers.”

My sis was exasperated, and not ready to take up the paintbrush again. I thought I would try to save her — and me — a few gray hairs and research cleaning ideas.

“The two times my kids wrote on walls,” replied my other sister Cathy, “happened when we were guests in someone else’s home. The first time was when my three-year-old scribbled all over Mom’s new wallpaper. The following year, during a visit to my mother-in-law’s home, my two-year-old marked up her wallpaper. I am not sure why both times were on wallpaper. I figure it was because we had no wallpaper at our home, so the kids thought they were adding to the drawing already on the wall. I can’t remember what I used to clean it off, but I did manage to get it off. The fact that I washed it immediately after it happened must have helped.”

Friend Margaret, always the superb tipster, had a winner. “My two-year-old Grace has been on a marker kick,” she explained. “She finds David’s indelible markers he uses for school, and she draws everywhere. She has marked up so many of our walls. I use Mr. Clean Magic Erasers [$1.88 for a two-pack at Wal-Mart]. I give them five stars,” she touted. “Or perhaps I should say, ‘five rubber gloves.’ They feel like memory foam, and you scrub them on the wall and the sponge wears away until it’s gone, just like an eraser. It’s trippy. It has worked on enamel and flat paint in our house. Every mom with would-be artists should have this product.” Wal-Mart also sold Mr. Clean Magic Eraser 2-in-1 with absorbent wiping layer [$2.42 for a two-pack].

I added her advice to my notes and called several stores to get more product suggestions for Meg.

The Ace Hardware salesman warned me about different paints. “You should realize that if the marker is on flat paint, since flat paint is porous, the marker goes right through it, so it won’t come off. Also keep in mind that some cleaners might take the shine off of some paint surfaces.”

The Dunn-Edwards salesman offered more advice. “You don’t want to use too much of the cleaner, because then it could take off your wall paint,” he said. “Put a little of it on a cloth, and just dab it on the mark. I have a cleaner called Krud Kutter [$5.92 for 40 ounces at Dunn-Edwards]. I use it at home and it works. Or you could try Goof Off [$3.11 for 4.5 ounces], but that is harsher. I’d try the Krud Kutter first. If the marker does not come off the wall, he added, ‘repaint. Spot primer the area first, because if you just repaint without priming, the marker color will bleed through.’

CM Supply pointed me in the direction of Cleanup Solvent 22 by Titan Laboratories [$4.74 for a 16-ounce bottle]. “This has less chemicals than our other cleaners,” she offered. “I would try this.” If the marker paintings still don’t come off, I guess I will drag out the old paint can and roller.

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San Diego Reader
February 23, 2006

Crasher

PARKER NUT FARM

by Josh Board

Aretha Franklin thought there should have been more Motown artists performing at this year’s Super Bowl in Detroit, but I think it was fitting that the Rolling Stones played the halftime show— the band and the games were better in the ‘60s and ‘70s, yet both still sell out stadiums. However, any non-fan can say he saw Mick and Keith; ask a non-football fan to name the game’s two quarterbacks (both with names so long, they barely fit on the back of their jerseys).

The popularity of the Super Bowl party makes my job easier. I got several invitations this year, including one from a Seahawks fan who was going to have a Seattle theme, with Starbucks coffee and salmon. Another invitation was to the “Parker Nut Farm,” which is what the Parkers call their house during a party.

The Parkers’ invite promised “beer, lunch, beer, snacks, a jumper and craft activities for the kids, and beers were consumed...due to last year’s incident.”

It wasn’t the jumper at fault at the Parkers’ this year; it was a guy throwing rubber balls at the kids. We laughed as the kids toppled over from the force, until one of them ended up with a bloody nose. I got to do the old joke with him as he cried. “How many fingers do I have?” I was holding up six, and he answered six. I then said, “Nope. I’ve got ten. I was only holding up six.” The other kids laughed. He looked as if he wanted to give me a bloody nose.

“Does that mean you can kick her butt?” Gabby laughed but knew better than to answer.

Inside, the food spread continued. One table looked like Thanksgiving. I helped myself to turkey and mashed potatoes, gravy and stuffing. Another table was set up with more traditional sporting event foods, like hot dogs and macaroni and cheese. I sat down with my food. (There was a TV outside and me belts she has from tae grader who was proud to show little things in life.

There were more commercials, one woman mercials, one woman

As we laughed at the commercials, one woman

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announced, “I’m recording the game at home. That way, I can fast forward and watch all the commercials again.” An advertiser’s dream.

I noticed a few hardcore fans arguing about the game. They were rooting for opposite teams, and I asked them how they became fans. One said, “I was a Steeler fan back when they had Lynn Swann in the Super Bowl against the Rams. I’ve been a fan all my life.” The score was 0 to 0 near the end of the first quarter, and I asked them if they had any money on the game. They didn’t.

I grabbed a plate of nachos and got ready for the second quarter. I noticed a dog kept walking in the Super Bowl against the Rams. I’ve been a fan all my life.” The score was 0 to 0 near the end of the first quarter, and I asked them if they had any money on the game. They didn’t.

And the game did get more exciting. Unfortunately the yelling and screaming was directed at the referees and their horrible calls. I had my money on Seattle with the points, and the questionable calls were bothering me a lot more than they normally would.

I watched as the Steelers QB landed on the one-yard line but was awarded a touchdown. Then Seattle scored a TD, but a bad call ruled it a dead play. Someone said, “It ain’t over till the fat lady sings. Oh wait, Aretha already sang.” We then got into a discussion as to why she and Aaron Neville sounded so bad singing the national anthem.

The Stones sounded bad at halftime, and two of their three songs were edited. Why book a band that has lyrics you need to edit?

Someone asked why the second half didn’t have as many funny commercials. I said, “If a game is a blowout, a lot of people probably tune out in the second half. I’m sure most companies pay more to have their spots in the first half.” A lady corrected me, saying she heard that everyone paid $1.6 million per 30 seconds, no matter what half. She added, “I know, that’s a lot. Especially when everyone is too drunk in the second half to even know what product is being advertised.”

I watched as the Steeler fans rooted for the game. They were rooting for opposite teams, and I asked them how they became fans. One said, “You can’t have their spots in the first half. She added, “I know, that’s a lot. Especially when everyone is too drunk in the second half to even know what product is being advertised.”

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**Party Pushers**

I believe all suffering is caused by ignorance. People inflict pain on others in the selfish pursuit of their own happiness or satisfaction.

— Dalai Lama

I need your advice,” I said. Jennifer and Grace looked at me expectantly as I took a sip of my caramel apple martini. The blue-lit shelves behind the bar cast a cool glow over them. Our ladies’ night out was in its adolescent phase; Crush, the hip Hillcrest bar, was the second of the three venues we’d lined up (the first being Grace’s house and the third being the Beauty Bar). I let my tongue soak up the flavors in the vodka before I swallowed and then ended the suspense: “I’ve been asked to host some kind of candle party.”

“God, I hate that!” said Grace. Her face contorted as though she had just been fed a piece of flatbread. Grace spread hummus on a kind of candle party.”

Jennifer spread hummus on a piece of flatbread, Grace sampled the calamari, and I served myself some of the pecan-crusted goat cheese salad.

“I like candles,” Grace finally said, after our second round of drinks arrived. Jennifer and I had opted for replacements for my caramel apple martini and her Ketel One with three olives, while Grace casually progressed from flavored champagne to cosmopolitan. “I’ve seen these PartyLite candles; they’re nothing fantastic. ‘Ooh, they burn longer!’ You want a candle to burn longer? Buy a bigger candle. I don’t need help from a ‘candle consultant’ to buy candles. I can go to Ikea, Target, or Illuminations. Or I don’t have to go anywhere. I can order what I want online and have it sent to me!”

“Yeah, no shit,” Jennifer contributed, reaching across the table for a few french fries. “My friends will guilt 15 more, and so on, until all of Betty’s friends resent one another.”

**“Betty will guilt 15 of her friends into buying something, and each of those friends will guilt 15 more, and so on, until all of Betty’s friends resent one another.”**

I think it all comes down to greed.” I

“I’ve seen these PartyLite candles; they’re nothing fantastic. ‘Ooh, they burn longer!’ You want a candle to burn longer? Buy a bigger candle. I don’t need help from a ‘candle consultant’ to buy candles. I can go to Ikea, Target, or Illuminations. Or I don’t have to go anywhere. I can order what I want online and have it sent to me!”

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“Yeah, no shit,” Jennifer contributed, before working another olive off of the toothpick with her lips. “Then again, I’m not one to talk because I do the same kind of thing.”

“That doesn’t count, Jen,” Grace said, reaching across the table for a few french fries. “Those are trunk shows. You tell people you’re having a trunk show and they can come look at stuff. You don’t push them to buy or sell; it’s like a store — if they like something they can get it. If not, no worries.” A few times a year, Jennifer will host a party at her house to give her friends first dibs at goods she’s purchased abroad before she sets up shop at two local farmer’s markets.

“Well, thanks,” said Jennifer. “I don’t like feeling obligated to do anything at anyone’s house, no way, uh-uh. It’s lame and annoying.”

“It’s not the obligation that annoys me,” said Grace. “It’s that the products are stupid and sub par. I’ve also seen those Pampered Chef products — it’s crappy stuff. Why not just go to Williams-Sonoma and buy good stuff! Or if you can’t afford it, go online, wait for a sale, shop at Macy’s and choose from a ton of brands. Why get crappy shit that costs a lot?”

“If we all hate this so much,” I said, “then who the hell likes it!”

“It’s the Wal-Mart crowd,” answered Grace. “For them, this is fancy shopping.”

“The whole concept is housewife-y,” offered Jennifer. “Like, ‘Oh, we’re bored, middle-class housewives, and we’re off soccer today so we decided to have a candle party.’”

“The thing that bugs me the most is the way these things are sold,” I said. “You never see this happening with men. It’s like these corporations target women because they know they can count on the ‘guilt factor’ — Betty will guilt 15 of her friends into buying something, and each of those friends will guilt 15 more, and so on, until all of Betty’s friends resent one another, but only after they have turned a profit for the Candle Queen.”

Grace ordered a third drink, a martini, straight up. I unearthed the last fry from behind the aioli was the last one.

“I think it all comes down to greed,” I

**DIARY OF A DIVA**
said, "Everybody knows that everybody hates these parties. People don’t offer to throw them, they are subject to them." Jennifer and Grace waited patiently as I fished the apple slice from the bottom of my glass, popped it in my mouth, and chewed thoughtfully. "Therefore, if somebody pushes a party on a friend, they can’t be doing so because they think, 'I bet my friend really wants to do this'; they’re asking a favor. The party pusher is saying, ‘Put yourself out for me because I want to make money.’ Why not just ask for a donation and save everyone the guilt, the time, the hassle, and the closeness of crap?”

“Here here!” Jennifer and Grace raised their glasses and clinked them to mine, which I then held above my lips and waited for the last sugary drop to make its way onto my tongue.

After Jennifer shared with us the saga of how she had randomly had her hair done by a “drunken midget woman” in Little Italy the night before, it dawned on me that I had not yet received the advice I’d been seeking.

“So we all agree that people who ask you to host parties at which they will aggressively sell things to you and your friends suck, right?” I said, receiving nods from Jennifer and Grace. “But what do I say to my friend who wants me to host this candle party?”

“I would just say no,” said Grace. "Having a salesperson in my home would be too intrusive. I make it very clear to my coworkers that I am not interested in this kind of thing. I wouldn’t go to one, and I definitely wouldn’t host one. If someone said, ‘Hey, I have some products here that I’m selling,’ and if it’s stuff I couldn’t get anywhere else or that I knew would be of great quality, and if I knew I wouldn’t be obligated to buy anything, then maybe I’d go.”

“I would just be super irritated if anyone ever bothered to ask me to host a candle party,” said Jennifer. She paused for a moment to count the cash in her hands. “But a good reply? Huh. How about, ‘Are you kidding me? Or you can choose the easy route, make up anything to get out of it, just because going would be, like, totally annoying. Nobody needs to be selling that stuff in your house when you can get it at the store. By the way, if you end up getting sucked into doing this, please don’t invite me.”

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The blood in your body feels heavy and thick.

If only you could wish yourself into another fate. The doctor looks happy. The test is negative. Your baby is fine. All dreams and anticipations can resume, and for you, Down syndrome will remain something you see at a distance, whenever you pass a small clump of adults holding garbage bags and rakes, cleaning pine needles from the front lawn of the public library.

Statistically, you can abort this baby without censure. Only 47 percent of women say they accept the idea of abortion in the right circumstances. But if a baby tests positive for a genetic disorder, that figure jumps to 78 percent. It jumps still more if the genetic disorder is Down syndrome. A 1996 study found that 88 percent of women who have a confirmed prenatal diagnosis that they are carrying a Down’s fetus choose to abort.

But what information do they receive first? A 2002 study in the Journal of Special Education asked 69 women who knew they were at risk for carrying a fetus with a disability what they planned to do and what kind of genetic counseling they received. Sixty-five percent said they would choose to terminate a pregnancy that tested positive for Down’s or spina bifida. But when the researchers asked the pregnant women if they had been encouraged to meet with a parent of a child with a disability, 91 percent said no. When asked if they had been given information about future quality-of-life issues for a child with a disability, 87 percent said no.

If you wanted, in San Diego, to see a form of your baby’s future, if you wanted to see what kind of work your middle-aged Down syndrome child might do when he’s 30 and you’re 60, where would you go?

The national rate of job turnover among caregivers for the mentally handicapped is 50–75 percent a year.
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**The North County center for the Arc of San Diego is a set of blue-and-white buildings on a little road called Ridge, not far from the Vista courthouse. Between 8:00 and 9:00 weekday mornings, vans and buses pull in and out, dropping off 69 adults who have cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy, and/or some form of mental retardation, including Down syndrome. Some of the adults roll across the asphalt in wheelchairs, some grip walkers, some stride, but they are always within reach of the abled.**

**Arc stands for Association for Retarded Citizens, a national, private, nonprofit organization founded in 1951. San Diego is home to six Arc facilities, which receive funds from the Department of Health and Human Services and pledge to provide “positive experiences for persons served, in a safe environment that allows some risk-taking with no preconceived limits on achievements.” This is one of the paradoxes of Arc care. The organization that boldly sought rights for retarded citizens dropped the use of the word “retarded” from its name in 1991 because the word had become a pejorative, and although the developmentally disabled are, by the state’s own definition, permanently restricted in their development, the Arc presumes those limits can’t be foreseen. Each person, given the right care, may develop, and to that end, Arc clients are called “consumers” and care providers are called “job coaches.”**

**Laura Orcutt, the director of the North County Arc, has worked with consumers for 37 years, and she is neither discouraged nor embittered. In fact, she sees nothing to be discouraged about, except possibly our failure, as a culture, to value human life with whom I can correspond as a pen pal. It is my intention to get to know a handful of servicemen/women and come to understand the ins and outs of life while stationed abroad, and the thoughts and feelings of those who are on the front lines in this war. These communications may be referenced and quoted for a story I am working on regarding a day in the life of an American servicemn/woman. I will respect the wishes of any servicemn/woman who prefers to withhold his or her identity from the public.**

If you can put me in touch with such a servicemn/woman or are one yourself, please contact me either by leaving a voice mail at 619-235-3000 ext. 403, or by e-mail at sdreaderbarb@yahoo.com with the servicemn/woman’s name, address abroad, or e-mail address.

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enough.

“These people contribute just as much as I do, if not more,” she says. “I believe that they have made me the person that I am. I appreciate every single day because of them. I can honestly say that I never feel depressed. They are amazing people. Some of them smile, and I think, ‘What did they go through to get here?’ I think that’s what motivates those who stay in the business.”

* * *

I enter the business as a volunteer on a Tuesday in April, and I attach myself to Helen, the only job coach who seems happy to see me. (The names of all job coaches and consumers have been changed.) The others say very little, perhaps foreseeing my imminent departure — in mid-June, when my children get out of school for the summer. Perhaps Orcutt has told them I’m a journalist, and they hate reporters. Perhaps they see that I’m a dilettante, somebody who’s interested in doing their work but has no knowledge or experience.

In December of 2004, the Wall Street Journal reported that there were 4.5 million developmentally disabled adults in the United States, and 90 percent of them lived in private homes, not institutions. This means that during the day they would likely need the services of a place like Arc. Of the 800,000 people employed as their direct caregivers, at least half annually quit those jobs.

For one thing, the pay is low. Starting pay in the nonprofit private sector was $8.68 in 2004. Between 1992 and 2000, wages for direct support workers like Helen increased 82 cents an hour, while the average increase for a fast-food worker was $2.11.

Helen has raised a family and seems to have come here, like Orcutt, out of compassion. She wears comfortable girlish clothes to work: a T-shirt with rolled sleeves, denim overalls, and tennis shoes. Sometimes she wears her long, curly blonde hair in a ponytail.

Tabitha, the second job coach in Helen’s room, is younger. Her boyfriend did a tour in Iraq, and while he was gone, she lived with his family. This is her second time working at Arc — she was a job coach at 18, moved away, then came back, so she’s not one of those who, in Orcutt’s words, “come in and think it’s easier than it is.”

If Helen is the nun of Arc, Tabitha is the camp counselor who’s seen too many strands of toilet paper in the trees and too much salt in the sugar bowl. She’s efficient and sarcastic and knowing and reliable, and nobody’s going to drown on her watch.

Some 25 job coaches are employed here at any given time, and they move in and out of Helen and Tabitha’s room, one at a time, looking for roving consumers, coffee, staplers, or paper towels. Mostly, they’re young. Statistically, at least half of them will quit. The national rate of job turnover among caregivers for the mentally handicapped is 50-75 percent a year.

“It’s a very emotional job,” Orcutt says. “If you take your job seriously, it’s a very tough job.”

Most of the people she hires have worked with or lived with the disabled, Alzheimer’s patients, children, or the elderly. Sometimes, she has to fill in with temps. “If they don’t look like they’re going to be respectful of our consumers, I don’t hire them,” she says.

A blind, shaved-
headed man who looks 14 is holding the little ring from inside the microwave like a tambourine. He shakes it as if it makes a sound so small only he can hear. He touches it to his face, and he rocks.

A 34-year-old consumer named Sarah is sitting meekly in her wheelchair. She has asthma, cerebral palsy, and mild mental retardation, functioning at the level of someone aged 2 to 5. Her black hair has been braided into a plait that reaches her waist, and her nails are Platinum Pink, worn and chipped at the edges. She keeps a white towel on her lap, and occasionally, when her mouth fails her, she uses the towel to dry her chin.

A 6-foot five and massive man comes toward me with his hand out. He could grind my bones to make his bread. Instead, he lifts up his shirt to show me his belly and says, “Ah way!”

A slender job coach in the corner explains, “That’s Jay. He’s lost weight. He’s telling you he’s lost weight.”

Jay tells me his name, points to his own chest, shakes my hand, says my name, and then, as if the Arc were his house and he’d invited us all to a grand party, he introduces everyone in the room.
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cornflakes. Luz is 33, and for ten years she’s spent her weekdays here. Although she graduated from high school, her estimated grade level is below first. She can shampoo her fine black hair, brush her teeth, and write her name. It’s not possible to describe each consumer’s history in detail because their histories are confidential, but to be in a room at Arc is to be in the presence of concentrated hope and concentrated grief. X has a boyfriend, is interested in the Special Olympics, and worked for a time folding boxes. Until Y was two months old, her growth and development were normal, but then she began to suffer from seizures and high fevers. Z would like a job working at a cash register. A was given a total hysterectomy at 15. B fell out of a two-story window at the age of 2. X is 22. She enjoys riding her bicycle, dancing, music, and coloring. D, who has a mental age of 3, would like a job working in a store. "Ita!" Jay says, and Conchita giggles. Conchita is hearty, giddy, and large. She is crazy about picking the colors, and it makes her giggle. Luz doesn’t giggle. She seems not to smile at all, ever. But she is the one with working fingers. She can control the loom, the hook, the loom. Gravely, she pulls a red one through. "Ram," Jay says, but Hiram declines. He watches from his wheelchair with amused detachment. If Helen is attached to any one consumer, if one of them absorbs her thoughts more than another (and all of them seem to hold sway there), it is Hiram, and it’s not difficult to see why. Hiram sits every day in his slim black wheelchair, holding up his heavy head. He is a quadriplegic with cerebral palsy. His shins are so slender you could encircle them with finger and thumb, and his hands bend into themselves like tree roots. Helen asks him if he wants to do his hand exercises, and she extracts a pair of shiny black stones from the pouch on the back of his wheelchair. "No," he says, though it sounds more like "Oooh." Hiram has epileptic seizures, sometimes daily, and Helen tells me, out of his hearing, that each one leaves a scar. Meanwhile, something goes wrong in the bathroom. Pam was in there, sad-faced Pam with the eyes that don’t face the world together. Pam has Down’s, too. She’s had an accident and soaked everything, even her shoes. It takes most of an hour for Helen to clean up the floor, the toilet, and Pam. But Helen never acts annoyed. She mops and mops and mops. She looks up at the consumers who are watching her and says gently, "I’ve got ten pairs of eyes on me! It’s called a mop, you guys. I’m mopping!" She laughs again and tells Jay, "Probably you could do this better
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than me, Jay. This mop weighs about ten tons."

While she’s still cleaning and we’re making the potholder, there’s a huge shattering pop. A window that was propped open with a stick has crashed down and broken, throwing shards into the room. A job coach named Keith comes in with a broom. He’s wearing lowrider, wide-legged shorts, looped with a chain. His hair is buzzed. It’s as if a member of a white-skinned rap group has dropped by to help. He goes out on the roof to remove the shards, and Tabitha helps until the Arc is safe again.

* * *

I arrive the following Thursday with a toy called the musical tower, a two-foot-high structure composed of brightly colored wooden petals. The petals are smaller at the top and larger at the bottom, arranged like a spiral staircase so that a marble set at the top will roll drip-drip-drip to the base, making a sound like fat raindrops on a barn roof. I thought Blind Brian might like it, thought that many of them might take a child-like pleasure in the sound, but I have forgotten to think of them all as adults who are trying to join the adult world.

I also bring nail polish remover to do Sarah’s nails, a children’s atlas, and paper-making supplies because Helen had said to me, when we were making potholders, that she’s always wanted to try making paper at the center.

My arrival has its ridiculous aspect. I have brought way too many things. Tabitha gives me the sort of look popular girls give nerds in sitcoms. So does Keith.

Helen makes a polite remark, then moves on. “Most of us are going on outings today,” she says. She’s taking three people to Wal-Mart on the bus at 10:30. You have to plan two days ahead, she says, to reserve a bus with a lift that can raise and lower Hiram’s wheelchair.

Tabitha takes Sarah and two other consumers out to eat. Jay leaves, too, but Helen’s group waits for the bus like the unblinking characters assembled in Dr. Seuss’s illustration for the terminal called the Waiting Place. Although there are objectives for each consumer, and some of them are posted on the wall, and although there’s a poster of the five W’s (Who are you working with? What are you doing?), the coaches’ efforts are subject to the ratios of the day, the compatibility or incompatibility of the patients grouped together, and unforeseen events.

A consumer I’ve never met before, a frail and stooped woman wearing a leather helmet to protect herself from seizures, wanders in. Her name is Charlene. Her face is tanned and middle-aged — she’s maybe 50 — and the helmet has the curious effect of making her seem like a 1920s football player. She shakes my hand. She hears that Helen’s taking Hiram on the bus, and she sits right
down to join in the waiting.

“Bus,” Charlene says. “Bus!” She says it happily, like a spell, but she can’t actually go with them on the bus. Helen can only take three people. A problem is brewing.

Pam can’t go either. Pam is round-bodied, round-faced, and round-fingered. She doesn’t smile much, doesn’t speak, and follows her own quiet routines in her own quiet way. Every morning, she brings a hairbrush to Helen, who helps Pam brush her soft, blonde hair into a ponytail, a ritual they both seem to enjoy. Then Pam draws a tiny, almost invisible flower on a large sheet of colored construction paper and hands it to Helen, who smiles and thanks her.

Helen is trying to teach Pam, who is scared of new things, to go out shopping, to trust her, and to make coffee at snack time. Helen tells me that Pam might think she wants to go out, but probably, once the bus comes, she won’t want to get on. The experience is still too new.

I try the musical tower. A consumer named Wendy drops the marbles down the scale for a while. Her lower lip, swollen and trembling, makes her look desperately sad, so we stop. I turn the pages of the illustrated atlas, and she repeats the names of the animals I point out. “Reindeer.” “Moose.” “Bear.” She likes the reindeer best.

In and out of the room move consumers I haven’t met, including a very tall man whom I take at first as a caregiver because he has no features of Down’s and he wears a polo shirt and faded jeans and leather shoes. Such clothes are rare among consumers, who tend to wear the easy-care polyester fashions of the elderly. He’s slim and handsome, his black hair and black mustache precisely trimmed and clean. There is nothing unusual about his features, his gait, or his eyes. But then I say hello and ask his name. He doesn’t give it. I hear someone call him Nestor.

“I’m Nestor!” I say. “Nestor doesn’t smile, answer me, or interact with anyone. He just gives me a suspicious look, turns away, and leaves the room.

Another consumer comes in, a woman with the trademark elastic-waist pants and a flowered poly-blend top. One eye faces the wrong way and is all blue iris and white, no pupil. She smiles and seems friendly enough, sitting at the table with us, until all at once a voice comes out of her. It’s a groaning, angry voice, like a poltergeist. It chills the room. The demon voice comes out of her, and then it stops. I ask if I can put on the tape of Mother Goose songs I have brought in my dilettante kit. Helen had said, the first time I was there, that she thought they ought to listen to something that would help them with their speech. Helen slips the cassette into the player, and sad-faced,

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trembling Wendy is delighted. *Three blind mice. Three blind mice. She dances.

See how they run.
The woman in the helmet, Charlene, likes it at first. Helen tries to make it a noncompetitive game of musical chairs because one of the Arcade objectives is to “walk and roll” — to exercise more. Wendy shuffles around the line of chairs Helen drags into place, and Pam acquiesces, and Hiram allows his black wheelchair to be pushed around the circle a few times. “Don’t shout at me, Hiram!” Helen says merrily as she pushes the handles of his chair, and he smiles, but Charlene sits under her helmet and simmers.

Helen sees this right off. She tells me she needs to warn me about what to do when they’re “a-n-g-r-y.” “Fuck you,” Charlene says. “Kick you, Gonna kick you!” Charlene’s rage is trackable; the bus has arrived, and now there’s Charlene’s rage to contend with, brought on by the childish music, maybe, or the idea of the approaching bus, or something unknowable. Helen says she’ll go and tell Keith, the tattooed tough one. “He’ll know how to calm her down,” she says.

By the time I leave at 11:00, the sun has come out. The bus has come. Keith is sitting outdoors with Charlene, who is no longer threatening to kick anyone’s face. Somehow, he has helped her become calm and happy again. The music is over, the face-kicking stops. Helen says she’ll go and tell Keith, the tattooed tough one. “He’ll know how to calm her down,” she says.

When I arrive the following week, Helen is intent on helping her consumers meet objectives. The center has a computer lab outfitted with devices that are supposed to make it possible for consumers like Hiram to hit buttons and choose answers. Helen’s group
today consists of Hiram, Pam, Frank, and blind Brian, so she has only one consumer, Frank, who works consistently at tasks and needs no assistance or reassurance. The other three can't work alone.

Blind Brian sits in front of a computer that asks him over and over to touch the screen. He's prompted to find the ball, to find the cat, to find the ball, to find the cat. He can hear the voice and find the screen, but he can't see the ball or the cat.

He begins to cry, "I need a hug," he tells Helen.

"I can't do that," Helen says.

"You're mean," Brian says.

"Because I won't hug you?"

"Yes. I miss my grandma."

He bends at the waist in his chair, sucking his thumb. As if he learned to chew on a comic strip, he says, "Wah," and then moans. "Need a hug," he repeats. Time passes and the cat stays on the screen.

Helen calmly tells him it's not her job. She can't hug him, but she can't touch him, that it isn't appropriate. She tells him firmly that he can't hug her, and how often she has to be hugged.

Brian tries, reaching out more physical. Brian's needs are getting more physical. Helen tells me that she can't hug him, but she has only one boylike Brian, so she has only one boy's job. She can't hug him, but she can't touch him, that it isn't appropriate. She has only one boy's job.

"Grandma."

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Loompa bodies, pick it up, roll it again. A stoop-backed woman wearing a leather helmet like Charlene's is curled over a thick wooden jigsaw puzzle, the kind with just 10 or 12 pieces. Several other chunky puzzles are stacked beside her, and all of them have been assembled so many times the paint has rubbed off the edges.

"It's harder than it looks," Helen says, referring to the puzzle but to the job itself, the world in which we stand, the three droning, flashing computers that are not simultaneously treating blindness, longings, cerebral palsy, and two very different forms of Down syndrome.

I tell her, apologetically, truthfully, that I never thought it was easy. Perhaps it was my dilettante kit, my bag of activities and grooming supplies, that made me seem like a know-it-all Mary Poppins.

"There are so many things to think about," Helen continues. "There are the objectives, and then there's 'Did we have a g-o-o-d day? And did we have an s-a-f-e day?'"

Good. Safe. I think of this, and then I think of the report that said Big Jay was still having trouble distinguishing between $20, $10, $5, and $1, a long-standing primary learning objective. The job coach who had been helping him wasn't sure he understood the concept of money, or that he could ever understand it.

I wonder, as I leave the center, if it's better to believe that Jay will one day learn the value of money, or to believe that he will never, no matter what, learn the value of money. Will Jay someday ride the bus alone, shop alone, make a sandwich for dinner, and grow up, if someone works long and hard enough to teach him those things? Or is it merely in everyone's best interest, especially Jay's, to act as
though he will?

* * *

Roberto is wearing his red T-shirt and straw hat, dressed to work, as always, at a beach resort hotel. He rides there on the bus each morning with his job coach and two other consumers, Betty and Joe. The job coach uses a blower to clean the tennis courts, and the consumers rake the leaves into bags. Sometimes they hit tennis balls with members, who buy them ice cream.

Roberto is not obviously different, at first, from the job coaches. His teeth are straight and his eyes move in the usual ways, as do his arms and legs. He is, at first glance, a genial middle-aged man in a straw hat. One morning he comes up to me and opens his wallet. He makes sounds that are like words, and he holds out a picture of a baby girl. “Eh-ah,” he says cheerfully. “Eh-ah.”

On the back of the picture, someone has written, “For Uncle Robby from Ella.”

This gives me enough clues so I can say the right things, and he can nod and beam some more. Then he shows me another picture, this time of a gray-haired Hispanic woman sitting in a flower garden.

“Is this your mother?” I ask.

He nods happily. The photograph is laminated, and I decide that someone has thoughtfully done this for him so he can carry it around without wearing it out, but then I turn it over and see that it’s a funeral card. She died two years ago, En memoria de nuestra querida madre, the card says.

Roberto’s job coach is gathering his things into a backpack, checking the wall clock, checking his watch. Roberto’s ready, Joe’s ready, but Betty’s not here yet. It’s a fair walk to the bus stop, and the consumers don’t walk with uniform or predictable speed. The resort lies in a far corner of Carlsbad, and although the Arc (not the resort) pays the consumers what they earn, it’s a job just the same, important both to the resort and to the consumers.

The job coach looks out the window at the parking lot, checks his watch again.

Finally Betty speeds in, thin and blue-eyed, her face small and eager. “Go change your shirt in the bathroom, Betty,” her job coach says. “Remember to close the door. Then we’ll go.”

Tabitha says that yesterday Betty’s shirt was inside out and backwards. She turned it right side out, then had to be sent back into the bathroom to turn it around again.

Another time, Tabitha told me that...
Betty is in love with her job coach, has been in love with him for years. Many of the consumers have boyfriends and girlfriends, about whom they talk with shy affection, but none of the others have, to my knowledge, placed their affections where they can’t be returned. When Betty comes out of the bathroom, her red T-shirt is on right side out and forwards.

“Good job, Betty,” Tabitha says.

Betty puts on her straw hat, which is covered with artificial daisies and has a little chin strap. Her job coach hoists his and has a little chin strap. Betty gives him a look of adoration, the daisies trembling slightly on her hat, and she follows him out the door.

* * *

It’s flower-pressing day. Since it’s hard for Helen to take her group out, she’s going to try an on-site job. Handmade paper. It was her idea, but I have a flower press, a screen, a deckie, and slight experience with tearing paper, pulping it with a blender, and filtering the soggy mess to form thick, rippled sheets of handmade paper.

I bring lavender and roses and the flower press, and we pick more flowers from the Arc flower garden. Then I sit at a big round table with Conchita, giddy and giggling, Sarah, demure in her wheelchair, and Big Jay, who’s once again in charge of making sure everyone takes turns, with two exceptions. Hiram sits in his wheelchair doing math. His mother has sent, according to her usual routine, two Dr Peppers, a plastic mug with a bendable straw, a stack of white hand towels, lunch, and a page of neatly written four-digit addition problems. Hiram uses his pen to punch the numbers into his calculator, and then slowly, carefully, he writes the answer to every single one, even though the numbers are so hard for him to write that the lines come out loose and wide, like individual strands of hair. Frank sits nearby with an equal air of businesslike concentration, preferring to copy by hand the words he finds in his magazine, flipping the pages and looking carefully for his next headline.

The rest of us rip flowers off their stalks.

“I got my hair cut,” Sarah says shyly. “Two feet came off.”

“What did you do with it?”

“Put it in the trash can.” She shows me the pink barrettes and fuzzy ponytail holders she picked out afterwards. For her, stripping blossoms from the stalks is complicated because her eyes play tricks on her. The flower always appears to be in a place other than where it is. Conchita, though, can see the flowers perfectly, and she rips them up compulsively, tearing off every last tiny leaf.

For some reason, Roberto’s group isn’t going to the resort today. He sits at the table and tears flowers until they’re all pressed between sheets of white paper and the wooden press is crushing them flat on the window sill. We’re finished. I pull out my knitting because I, like Frank, can’t sit still without something in my hands. Roberto gently touches my hair.

“Does your mother knit?” I ask Sarah.

“No,” she says.

“Does yours?” I ask Roberto, remembering too late the memorial card in his wallet.

“Died,” he says. He takes no offense, smiles anyway, takes his hand away from my hair. He pulls out a family photo of a father, a mother, and a little boy. He says he lives with his sister, and he points at the smiling mother in the picture.

Blue-eyed, hopeful Betty, unable to follow her usual routine of dressing the flowered hat and following her beloved coach to the bus stop, is stuck indoors like Roberto. She paces, then sits. Conchita has brought a music cassette with her, and it’s playing scratchily, noisily, on a portable stereo. The sheer number of people in the room makes it seem hot and loud. Betty covers her ears with her hands and walks nervously around the room some more.

“She doesn’t like loud noise,” Tabitha says.

Finally the clock says 10:00, and 10 o’clock is Coffee Time, when a consumer and a job coach walk through both rooms like waiters, taking coffee orders, counting cups. The coffee, creamed with white powder to the color of sand, is the elixir of life, the warm bearer of both sugar and caffeine.

Pam, the very quiet one with Down’s,likes coffee as much as everyone else, but during coffee hour today she starts to scream. Short, ferocious sounds like a car alarm come out of her. Everyone at my table, even the perpetually laughing Conchita, is unnerved. Conchita grabs her head, says it hurts. Roberto looks distressed. Sarah bows her head, drinks her coffee through a straw, then says, “Thank you.” Not even this disturbance can make Sarah impolite.

“It’s the crowd.” Helen says quietly. “Pam’s not used to this many people.”

Helen quickly takes her group outside, and the problem is solved. Pam stops screaming.

* * *

The following Tuesday is supposed to be paper-making day. The flowers are dried and flat, and Frank has been busy with the Arc center’s motorized paper shredder. But we can’t find a blender to make pulp out of the shredded yellow incident reports and confidential medical forms. Unable to work, we talk. I pour nail polish remover onto a...
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<tr>
<td>Guitar Trader Guitar strings: $3 for the price of 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Ching Feng Shui $50 off feng shui evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilumina Smoke Shop Nokshah $40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep Max 10% off to 50% off instruments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mema Furniture Free floor sample sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean Hydromedics 10% off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off The Record $25 off any new or used CD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plaza del Paseo Free tote bag and mug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relax the Back Up to 40% off floor models</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spin Records 25% off used records &amp; CDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunglass &amp; Optical Warehouse $15 off sunglasses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tara Picture Frames Free frame</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELECTRONICS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brunetto Video Services 10% off any service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car Audio Heaven Autopage car alarm $699 installed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laptops Plus Free computer diagnostic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego Auto Stereo Outlet $39 off labor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soundedge Headrest monitors, DVD $299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WickedWorks Auto alarm system $99 complete</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>EVERYTHING ELSE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Balloon Flight $20 off hot-air balloon rides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Av Truck &amp; Car Rentals Rent a Harley $300/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Royal Limousine Free hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur Murray Dance Studio Free private lesson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlas Tickets Free delivery ($10 savings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Box Storage, Inc. One month free storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Sky Motorcycle Rentals $25 off Harley rental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boomer Family Fun Park Free ticket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridal Bazaar $25 off admission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Comedy Store 2 for 1 admission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>888 Softubs Inc. $50 off hot tub rental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gem Fare $11 off admission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horsepower Cruising &amp; Events Free harbor cruise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roll over to Up to $10 more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kita Ceramics $30 off lessons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miramar Speed Circuit Free race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi Media Arts Free voiceover class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Coast Skydiving $325 tandem skydive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego Limo Buses 50% off peak rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skateworld 2 for 1 adults only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sky Sailing $15 off aerobic glider ride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Social Place $10 off admission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Learning Center Free language book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spectrum Limousines 50% off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatre in Old Town $25 tickets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top Cat Limousine 1 Free hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertical Hold 2 for 1 Introductory lesson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voice Mail Depot Free voice mail first month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cotton ball and dissolve Sarah's chipped nail polish, then Conchita's and Wendy's and even Charlene's. Charlene, her head encased in its leather shell, lets me do just one hand, then she loses interest, and I'm relieved that my presence doesn't upset her and get her swearing again.

There's a new guy sitting with us, a man who normally spends his days in the big room next door. William looks like a creative writing professor in a wheelchair. His black hair is neatly cut and fashionably gelled, silver only at the temples. He wears glasses and a jean jacket, black jeans, black leather shoes, and black leather biking gloves. "I don't speak Spanish," he says.

"Do you speak any other languages?" I ask.

"Norway," he says. "We have a farm there."

"This is within the realm of possibility, I think," I say.

"A ranch," he adds. "We raise cows. I'm a cowboy."

I don't know much about ranching, Norway, or cows, so I just smile and say that sounds great.

"My aunt's coming to visit," he says.

"Where do you live?"

"With my mother."

He pauses, then says, "My father died."

"Mine, too," I say.

"My dog died," he says.

"When?"

"Last June."

I'm impressed that he knows an exact date. Maybe there's a farm in glacial Norway, a dark green ranch dotted with cows.

"What kind of dog?"

"Big," he says.

While we wait for coffee hour, a job coach gets ready to take three yellow-shirted consumers to their job site, a small, old-fashioned grocery store. They will put on their sky-blue ball caps, ride the bus for a mile, work for an hour each weekday, and earn what the Arc pays them: a small hourly wage. There they will stand in a group within the narrow aisles and neaten up the bags of pasta, dust cans of Lechera with a feather duster, spray window...
We believe we can help.

**WELL-KNOWN PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES ARE CONDUCTING IMPORTANT RESEARCH STUDIES FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF QUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS.**

I sleep, I wake up, I sleep, I wake up...

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

- Restless sleep disturbs the normal rhythms of the body.
- When poor sleep becomes a regular problem it can affect your health.
- If you wake up tired or feel sleepy during the day, you are not sleeping well at night!

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

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

**Qualified participants:**
- Will receive up to $2850 for time and travel.
- Receive no-cost study-related medication and study-related medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Depression</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loss of interest or pleasure? Sadness or hopelessness? Sleep disturbance? Are you or someone you know over the age of 18 and suffering from Depression? If so, you may qualify to try an investigational medication being studied for Depression.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

If you participate, there is no cost to you...instead:
- You will receive up to $700 for your participation.
- You receive no-cost study-related medication and medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schizophrenia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If you are between the ages of 25 and 65 and in good health spend 1 night in our sleep lab and be compensated up to $350. If you are between the ages of 25 and 65, in good health and interested in participating in a sleep research study for healthy adults with normal sleep, call California Clinical Trials at 858-571-1188 for additional information.</td>
</tr>
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Qualified volunteers will be compensated up to $350 depending on level of involvement in the study. Enrollment is limited, so call now.

**If you are between the ages of 25 and 65 and in good health**

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Many treatments for schizophrenia focus on the voices and fears, but what about how hard it is to do simple tasks? We are studying an investigational medication that focuses on the lack of motivation and energy associated with schizophrenia.

Are you currently taking Zyprexa, Risperdal, Seroquel, Abilify, or Geodon and still not functioning well? If so, you may qualify to try an investigational medication for the low-energy symptoms associated with schizophrenia.

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

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- You receive no-cost study-related medication and medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies. |

We know it can...

- Decrease your immune response
- Decrease your physical and mental functioning
- Increase fats in the bloodstream
- Be mistaken for medical conditions
- Interfere with sleep

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

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

**Qualified participants:**
- Will receive up to $450 for time and travel.
- Receive no-cost study-related medication and study-related medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

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<td>Is it hard to focus and get motivated?</td>
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If you participate, there is no cost to you...instead:
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cleaner on the freezer
doors, and rub smudges
off the meat case. “It’s
better than sitting on
your butt all day!” a
cheerful consumer
named Sally tells me. “I
got paid, too,” she says.
“That’s nice.”

Paper-making day, take
two. I bring a blender
from home this time, and
Helen helps me set up a
hopeful little assembly
line at the long Formica
counter. We align a
blender, a tub of water,
two screens, two deckles,
some sponges, a mound
of cloth squares onto
which each square of
pressed pulp will be
transferred, new wooden
clothespins for hanging
the paper out to dry, and
a roll of curling ribbon
for making clotheslines.
It’s not exactly Ford
Motor Company. It’s hard
to picture venture capital-
ists laying down cash.

Still, we try to make a
paper factory. Sarah, in
her wheelchair, holds a
colander on her lap. She’s
supposed to tear the long
strips of paper produced
by the shredder into
smaller bits and drop
them in the colander.
First she must painstakingly
grasp each one. She
is always reaching into
the air one inch beyond
the object, but she
reaches again and again
until what she sees and
what she feels are one.
When she’s finished, she
says, “Thank you.”

Charlene, the volatile
one in the leather cap, is
game for turning on the
blender, except that the
blender I’ve brought
from home is not oper-
ated in the usual way, by
pushing buttons. Instead
there is a lever that you
have to push upwards.
Over and over I say, “It
goes up. You have to push
up.” I try to help with my
fingers on her fingers but
am afraid that this will
enrage her and she’ll
want to kick me in the
face. Finally, in a fortu-
nate accident, we discover
that the electrical outlet
we’re using is defective,
and the only way to make
the blender go on is to
hold the plug-end of the
blender cord and shove it
deeper into the outlet.
This way, the consumer
can seem to be turning
the blender on and off
whether she is or isn’t.
San Diego Reader
February 23, 2006

Do You Have Type 2 Diabetes?

Profil Institute for Clinical Research is looking for volunteers with type 2 diabetes to test an investigational medication that may help regenerate islet cells in the pancreas.

You may qualify if:
• You are age 30-60, inclusive
• You are treating your type 2 diabetes with metformin and/or Actos or Avandia
• You currently self-monitor your blood glucose levels at home

Benefits of participation include:
• Study-related medical care at no cost
• Compensation up to $3600 for time and travel (some overnight stays required)

For more information about this research study, call: 619-409-1244 or e-mail: studies@profil-research.com

855 3rd Avenue, Suite 4400
Chula Vista, CA 91911

We are located on a major bus line (929) and a shuttle is available from the H Street trolley center.

---

Insomnia?

Do you regularly have trouble falling asleep or waking and are not able to get back to sleep?

We understand how difficult this can be, both day and night.

If you are 65 years of age or older and have a history of insomnia for at least 3 months, you might qualify to take part in a research study of an investigational new medication for Insomnia.

Eligible participants receive study related care at no charge, including a physical exam, sleep exams, laboratory services and study medication.

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

For more information, call (toll-free)

Pacific Sleep Medicine Services
877-927-5337

Bridging the paths of medicine and science.

---

"You mean, I may help advance medical research?"

Yes.

Radiant Research is seeking healthy volunteers to participate in clinical research studies. To qualify you must:
• be a man or woman
• be 18-45 years of age
• be able to participate in overnight stays

You may be compensated up to $1,700 for your time and travel.

Call Mon-Fri for more information
866.818.3253
9665 Chesapeake Dr., Suite 200, San Diego, CA
www.radiantresearch.com

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**PROTECT YOURSELF UNDER CALIFORNIA LAW**

**DO IT LEGALLY!**

If you suffer from: AIDS, Chronic Pain, Depression, Migraines and many other medical disorders.

Qualified patients in need of a medical marijuana recommendation will receive a low-cost, expert evaluation by a licensed medical professional.

**MEDI-MAR**

FAST, SIMPLE AND CONFIDENTIAL
Call: 619-207-3800
www.medimarclinic.com
Located in Mission Valley

Offering the least expensive evaluations in San Diego.

Save ‘10 by mentioning this ad.

---

**BIPOLAR DISORDER**

If you or someone you know:
✓ Has been diagnosed with Bipolar 1 Disorder
✓ Has been treated for manic and depressive episodes
✓ Is currently suffering from symptoms of major depression...

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

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

---

**Attention Alcohol Drinkers:**

Researchers at The Scripps Research Institute are working to develop new treatments for alcoholism. Volunteers are needed to participate in clinical research testing different drugs: both drinkers who want to stop, as well as drinkers who are not trying to stop. Qualified participants will be paid.

For more information and to find out if you qualify for any of these studies, please call 858-784-7867 or 858-784-7325, or visit www.pearsoncenter.org for more detailed information.

---

**RESEARCH STUDIES**

**MORENA CARE GROUP**

We are an organization specializing in compassionate, discreet assistance to patients in compliance with Health and Safety Code 11362.5 under Prop. 215 and SB 420.

For more info: 619-276-1146
1931 Morena Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92110

---

**Bothered by psoriasis?**

This may be something to consider

As many as nine million people in the United States and Canada have psoriasis, a chronic skin disease resulting in itchy, flaking, inflamed red patches on the skin.

A research study of an investigational psoriasis treatment is now being conducted at research centers throughout the United States and Canada. The purpose of this research study is to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of an investigational topical treatment for plaque psoriasis.

Participating in this research study may include the following at no cost:
- Sixteen weeks of participation
- As many as nine visits to a local physician’s office
- Study-related examinations
- Study-related laboratory tests
- Study-related medication

People (ages 12 or older) diagnosed with plaque psoriasis may be eligible to volunteer:

For more information, contact:
Skin Surgery Medical Group
858-292-8641

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**Considering Dental Implants? PLEASE READ**

California Dental Implant Center is seeking qualified patients willing to assist with our ongoing evaluation of new and improved Dental Implant Systems. Participants will be offered reduced fees. All work will be performed by a credentialed member of the American Academy of Periodontology with 15 years’ experience.

San Diego: 1-888-201-3538
**Do you have trouble falling and staying asleep?**

Pacific Sleep Medicine is conducting a clinical research study of an investigational medication for the treatment of Insomnia.

You may be eligible if you:
- Are between 18 and 64 years of age
- Have had trouble falling and staying asleep for more than three months

Qualified participants receive all study-related care and study medication at no charge and could be compensated up to $1,775 for incidental costs and travel.

For more information, call (toll-free)

Pacific Sleep Medicine Services
877-927-5337

---

**PERIODS**

...Too Long?
...Too Heavy?
...Too Frequent?

If your periods have increased in length, gotten too heavy, or seem to be coming far too often, a research study is underway using an investigational oral medication taken daily to address one or more of these issues. If you are over 18 years of age and struggle with any of these menstrual problems you may want to consider this research study.

To possibly qualify:
- Be at least 18 years or older
- Have either heavy, long, or too frequent menstrual periods
- Not presently on oral contraception or willing to go off

Participants may receive:
- Exam and consultation by a board-certified physician
- Study-related lab studies, sonogram, and mammography (if over the age of 40)
- Compensation up to $1150 for your time and travel

For more information, call:
619–521–2841
MEDICAL CENTER FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH

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**Does asthma have you in its grip?**

If you are a person with mild to moderate asthma but are otherwise in good health, you may qualify for a clinical research study of an investigational medication for asthma.

To qualify you must be:
- age 18 to 50
- diagnosed with asthma for at least the past year
- a non-smoker or a previous smoker (for at least 2 years)
- currently on inhaled corticosteroids

Qualified participants will receive all study-related exams and investigational medication at no cost and may also be compensated up to $2,200 for their time and travel.

Call Mon-Fri for more information
866.818.3253
9665 Chesapeake Dr., Suite 200, San Diego, CA
www.radiantresearch.com

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**BIPOLAR DISORDER**
**DEPRESSION**
**SCHIZOPHRENIA**

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

For more information, please call the Clinical Research Center at (858) 694-8350.
under the goal and tosses William the ball. Keith then finds the thin, bird-like man named Kyle, who wishes only to toss his tennis ball into the air over and over again, and talks him into playing. Then Keith comes back into our makeshift paper factory to ask Sarah if she wants to come outside, and she shyly accepts, grinning as though she’s just been asked to dance by the very boy she likes best.

In the warm, gentle sunshine, beatific after the morning fog, Keith starts tossing the basketball at the hoop, twirling it, then passing it to William as he sits in his wheelchair below the net. He keeps up a kind of streetwise patter, and it occurs to me that Keith talks differently to consumers than anyone else. Helen is motherly and sweet. Tabitha is sardonic, like a bossy sister. Others are quiet and grave. But Keith looks like the sort of person who wouldn’t talk to handicapped people, if there is a type. His piercings, the chain that loops from belt loop to belt loop on his low-slung, loose denim shorts, his crew cut, his speech, all of these things establish him as someone who is tough, rebellious, and streetwise. When he talks, he’s the authentic user of slang. “Hey, Frank,” he’ll say. “What’s up, man?” If he wanders into our room, searching for Big Jay or Suspicious Nestor, he’ll say, “Have you seen my seven-foot giant?” Keith can say dude, brother, and girl and make the cloistered world of the Arc seem like a high school where everyone likes you. When he talks to William and Sarah and Hiram, all of whom are in wheelchairs, he is inviting them into a club of sorts, the club of hip outsiders, careless and wise.

As I press hard on the sponge, forcing water out of the pulp and onto the surface of the screen beneath my fingers, they smile with the most extraordinary joy. They look at him with transforming happiness, and they stop, for a stretched-out space of time, seeming handicapped.

I keep making paper,
swooshing the empty frame down in the slippery pulp, sieving it up, extracting every drop of water from the fibers of dead flowers and shredded files, all the words too small to read now, inextricable, and then Helen and I hang the torn sheets of cloth that hold the soft, soggy pages in the sun.

It’s a June day and most people are going out. The red shirts are going to the tennis courts, the yellow shirts are going to straighten grocery shelves, and Tabitha is taking a trio to Wal-Mart and McDonald’s.

Helen tells me that Laura Orcutt and the administrative staff are very excited about the handmade paper project. They’re going to approve funding for a blender. They think the paper could be made into folders holding sheets of stationery, and the stationery could be sold. We discuss ribbon ties, methods of attaching the pockets for holding paper, the size the pieces of paper should be.

Meanwhile, we’re waiting to go out ourselves. There’s no lift for Hiram and his chair, so he can’t leave, and if he isn’t reassigned to another coach, Helen can’t leave either. Lots of shifting is done. A supervisor reassigns Hiram to Keith, who comes in doing his “Man, you’ve been waiting for time with me and now you got it” routine, and Hiram

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haps recall Helen’s assurance that the Coke is in the trunk and that she’ll get to drink it at lunch.

*Dee my Di Co.*

*Diet Coke.*

*Diet Coke.*

Diet Coke.

Helen pulls over at the Wave water park and asks the ticket-taker if we can just go in for a minute and look. The uniformed employee looks uncertain, but she waves us in. She watches Frank and Pam and knows, as everyone knows, that they are what used to be called Mongoloid. She watches Sadie shuffle along with her walker, a faded hunch-backed woman in a faded old man’s shirt, perhaps just elderly and sad. Progress is slow. The uniformed girl decides we’re not going to strip and jump into the Rio Loco, and she turns her attention elsewhere.

It’s early in the season and blissfully warm. The pale blue water slaps the white sides of the pool. We sit down on the foot-ends of loungers and contemplate the alluring and nearly vacant water. A few children shriek and swim at the edges, their bodies brown and muscular, their faces confused, briefly, by our presence.

Pam stares, silently fascinated by the water, the children, the weather, or the simple freedom of the larger world. Sadie curls over her walker, her face dejected, but her mind temporarily distracted from the Diet Coke she can’t yet have. Frank is contented but not enthusiastic. He can take it or leave it.

“Show us what’s in your net!” Helen says, stopping an employee who’s scraping the top of the pool with a round white net.

Puzzled, the pool man turns over the net to display bits of wet leaves. Helen asks him about his work, and Frank and Pam look into the net for a second. Then the pool man quickly departs.

“Jasmine f-f-farted yesterday,” Frank tells me.

I stare at the smooth blue water, the green palm trees. “Did she say excuse me?” I ask.

“No,” he says indifferently. “She’s a dog.”

As usual, Frank is not preoccupied by what isn’t. He’s not wishing he

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America, is crowded?

It isn’t, though, and Pam plunges ahead as though she knows what she wants and where it is. Behind her, Miguel comments on everything in two languages, as if he’s his own translator.

“Mirá,” he says, “Look! Cookies! GALLETAS!” He strides like a teenager, his corduroy shorts fashionably loose and long.

Frank is, as usual, businesslike. While Miguel is saying, “CHOCOH-ALAT!! Chocolate!” and pointing out the candy aisle, Frank quietly strolls down the aisle with two dollars tucked into a handmade paper wallet, one of the sample products from last week’s assembly line.

Helen leads them to the pen aisle, and Frank selects a set of pens that costs $2.57. He mistakes the price, says it’s $2.07. Helen tells him he probably has more money in the director’s office, so she’ll loan him a dollar.

“Okay,” Frank says. He’s cheerful but not antic. Helen tells me that he sometimes dashes off alone and she has to look for him, but it’s hard to picture. “That’s cute,” he says mildly, pointing to a display of toys.

Pam is here to buy construction paper, which is conveniently near the pens. She has $2, too, in Helen’s wallet. (I’m not sure that it’s Pam’s money, actually. Helen might just be giving her the money, because that’s the kind of person Helen is.) But in the middle of the process, Pam bends over in a significant way. “She has to go to the bathroom,” Helen says.

Helen, not in the least bothered by the detour, leads Miguel and Pam all the way back to the entrance, where the bathrooms are, while I walk with Frank to buy his pens. We line up behind a mother and her son who are buying a great many things, so
Frank chats a little. He points to the current issue of *Glamour*, which shows Debra Messing and much of her cleavage. A headline says, “12 things men want to say to you but don’t.” “I have that at home,” Frank says. Then he points to a magazine with a Disney character on the cover. “That’s coming to my house,” he says.

I think about Frank’s secure and happy life, so different from Pam’s. She lives in a group home, and he lives with his mother. She seems to have so few interests, and he has so many. He has his magazines. He goes to family parties, takes family vacations. He’s like a middle-aged bachelor who hasn’t quite found the right girl.

He points behind us at the rows of candy bars, at the Snickers display. “I don’t like those,” he says. “Me neither,” I say. “I can’t eat them,” he adds. “They make my poop not come out.” He makes a quick gesture to demonstrate where this bodily function would occur had the Snickers not intervened.

The mother and her boy and the checker are listening to this. I realize they are feeling the pity-laced fear I feel when I see a handicapped stranger in public. But of the 12 Things Men Want to Say to Me but Don’t, this is the funniest. Being with Frank is more interesting than being with most people.

I say something trite and socially acceptable, like “You don’t want that,” and Frank nods. We buy his pens and return with Helen to the office-supply aisle so that Pam can pick out her tablet of colored paper. Now, though, Miguel has to go to the restroom, so Helen leaves me in charge of Pam. I’m a little scared of Pam, frankly, but I try not to show it. We stand in front of the big pads of colored paper.

“This one costs less than two dollars,” I say, and point to the paper she uses at the Arc to draw a picture, one a day, for Helen.

Pam picks it up, seems content to start walking out. But then she stops before the shiny packages of colored markers. She looks at them longingly. She wants to buy some. She never smiles or speaks, just stares at them and yearns. I tell her she can’t buy them this time because she’s spending the whole two dollars on her paper. “Next time,” I tell her. She doesn’t move. She’s standing like an oak tree before the pens.

I’m thinking about what I’ll do if she starts the car-alarm scream, which is nothing, since I have no idea what to do, when for some reason Pam gives up on the pens and starts walking, and Helen comes back, and we all progress to the checkout aisle.

Miguel has picked out an adult purchase, too: he is buying (with Helen’s money) individually wrapped packages of peanut-butter crackers. Pam pays. Miguel pays. Helen helps them with all the steps, introducing them to the checker.

“This is Michelle!” Helen tells the consumers, reading Michelle’s nametag.

“Hi,” Michelle says. Helen privately tells me she’s glad Miguel chose these crackers because they can share them with Kyle, the bird-thin consumer, during the day. Kyle tosses his tennis ball and waits, but he doesn’t eat well. She says Kyle has a problem that starts with a “T.” “Tetra-something?” she asks herself. “Anyway, it keeps him from gaining weight.”

She tells me about a consumer whose parents left him in foster care and moved to another state. “How could someone one do that?” I ask. The sky stretches out above us again, the sky over the island of loneliness.

“I don’t know,” Helen says. “At first, I didn’t know if I could work here. It’s so sad.” She pauses, then adds, “You know, some of them — the consumers — look so young, but they’re not. Their parents might be 70, so you don’t know what might have led them to their decisions.”

We’re walking to the car when it becomes clear to me what we would lose if we tried to avoid or

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even prevent the existence of all people who won’t look like Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen, if we spent even more of our disposable income and attention on the likes of Angelina Jolie, if we continue to think that beauty, grace, skill, and intelligence are the only true source of happiness. I know, suddenly, what Pam and Hiram and Roberto and Frank and Jay and even Sadie contribute, and it’s a contribution able people, people in what’s known as their right minds, can’t make.

It comes to me when Helen says that Pam got herself a bit wet in the bathroom, and she’s debating with herself whether she should take the consumers back to the Arc or go out to lunch as planned. She indicates the small wet spot on the back of Pam’s pink pants. Pam seems unaware of it, and it seems unlikely to me that anyone would notice, given Pam’s more conspicuous handicaps.

I’ve spent the last seven years of my life making shopping trips with two small children who had roughly the mental age of Pam. A small spot like that I would absolutely have tried to get away with, just so I could finish my list of errands, follow through on my plans.

Unless the spot were on my pants. This I would have had to think about more. The standards of shame are different for adults and children. We often presume children and the handicapped have less dignity to mar.

Not so long ago in our civic history, Robert F. Kennedy made a speech to a congressional committee: “We visited a state hospital for the mentally retarded on a bright April day when you would have expected all the children to be playing outside. The children were inside, standing in a room bare but for a few benches. The floor was covered in urine.

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Severely retarded patients were left naked in cubicles, which suggested kennels. Patients were washed by a device resembling a car wash. The only toilets for the approximately seventy patients in a large ward were located in the middle of the room, permitting no privacy.

That was 42 years ago, within Helen’s lifetime and the lifetimes of many Arc consumers.

Helen looks at Pam again, and she helps Pam get in the car. “Normally, I don’t like to let them be out in public like that,” she says quietly, and then adds, “but maybe it’s not too bad.”

But Helen’s grave consideration of Pam’s adult dignity, and how to preserve it at all times, stays with me. It’s ennobling in a way that gives me hope for us all, and that is, for me, the contribution: a chance to treat even the most vulnerable, shackled, voiceless humans as if they were of great value and worth, a chance that, when taken, proves over and over again that they are.

* * *

On my second-to-last visit in mid-June, we make paper again. The new blender is here: a model with a button you push in. Consumers sit at tables punching holes in colored paper, making confetti to stick in the pulp. Job coaches hover around the counter, helping each consumer in turn to make a piece of paper, carry it out to the makeshift clothesline, and pin it up. The wind is strong and the sun is bright, and within an hour the first sheets of paper are curling off the strips of sheet like potato chips.

A supervisor comes to take a Polaroid picture. We smile beside the flapping bits of paper and the torn squares of white sheet.

Back on the assembly line, desperate Sadie cries about her lunch, so worried about the possibility of missing out on Diet Coke that she can think of nothing else. Helen tells Sadie it’s okay, she’ll talk to the supervisor, but meanwhile why doesn’t Sadie make colored designs on the clothespins and hand them out? Sadie draws with a fine green marker on a clothespin the approximation of two eyes and a smile.

“Lift your head up, Sadie,” says Larissa, a job coach I’ve never seen before. “Let the world see your pretty face.”

—Laura McNeal
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POOR BEAST

Little kids are fascinated by animals as soon as they become aware of the world around them. I was no different, but I did have more to go up against than many kids because my mom did not want pets in the house. This meant that I faced an uphill battle in convincing her that, like practically every family in America besides us, we needed to have a pet!

For the longest time, I had to imagine pets of my own, turning my stuffed animals into living, breathing creatures in my own mind, aided by the pet-care advice of numerous books that I found on the subject. However, by the time I turned seven, I somehow pressured Mom into allowing my acquisition of a hamster. I named her Honey, after the color of her fur. I got her on a Saturday, but it was not meant to be a permanent claim on her. The day of the week is significant because exactly one week later I arose from my bed, hurried to gaze at the exciting thing that had recently become my own, and opened my mouth in terror. Apparently, the pet store did not keep the male and female hamsters in separate cages; Honey had given birth overnight to six hamsters. More disturbing was the fact that she subsequently ate all of her babies over the course of the next several weeks. This would each live for a year or two, but after the last one died, I decided that it was much too traumatic to have a pet only to have it die. So, for the past four years I have been content to entertain myself with stuffed animals.

— Michelle Diaz, Poway H.S.

My family has had a fair share of pets. Zakes Mokae was in the family before me. This cat joined my parents in 1988, four years prior to my birth. I don’t have anything more than snippets of memory about Zakes, except for his death. Zakes died while my family was in Oregon. The kennel called and said that our cat was having seizures. He died while we were on our trip home. We buried him under a pine tree at my grandparents’. It was my first experience with death. I was seven. I sat in Grandma and Grandpa’s yard and sobbed for 15 minutes.

We got Luna, an Australian Shepherd, when I was five. She is still with our family. She has a passion for playing tug-of-war with stuffed hedgehogs. In the act of replacing Luna’s toys, our family has caused a shortage of hedgehogs in the Petco of San Diego County.

Cosmo was also called “The cat formerly known as Zoe,” partly in homage to Prince, but more due to the quick wit of a vet’s assistant. When we purchased Cosmo, he was listed as a female. After a dip into the baby-name books, he was named Zoe. The vet walked into the room and asked, “How do you feel about Zoe as a boy’s name?” Cosmo was promptly renamed. Upon our return, the assistant asked about the cat formerly known as Zoe. The moniker stuck. A little less than a year after he came into our lives, Cosmo didn’t come home when called. One night turned into three or four. Now the Prince-like cat resides only in our memories.

After Cosmo’s demise, we got a kitten (a male, for sure) who we named Taj. There is a huge stereotype about dogs chasing cats, right? But Luna and Taj take turns chasing each other. They tear around, and the chaser becomes the chased. Cosmo preferred my brother and me to our parents, but Taj is definitely my mom’s cat.

— Kyle Landau, Valley Middle School

Among all the living creatures that have resided in my house, few have survived. In the past, my family and I have owned two dogs, a hamster, three rabbits (and a million bunnies after that), and two goldfish. We currently have one dog. Yes, that says it all—I am a horrible caretaker. It all began when, at the age of seven, I spotted a little yellow hamster in the pet store. Of course, the moment I laid eyes on it, I wanted to keep it as my own. My mom gave in, so we bought a colorful plastic cage and took Peanut home. After I learned that she would pee in my hands if I wanted to hold her and bite if I wanted to cuddle, I soon neglected her. I grew accustomed to the reeking smell in my

THE GOLDFISH
STARTED OUT
FINE; I FED
BUBBLES AND
POP, AND THEY
SWAM HAPPILY
IN THEIR LITTLE TANK. ONE
DAY, THOUGH,
THEY BEGAN
GROWING
MOLD ON THEIR SCALES.
bathroom, where her cage was located. Throughout her life, Peanut was anything but content (I can’t blame her), which led to a chewing habit. So, when we applied duct tape to a hole that she had chewed in her cage, she chewed through that. When my family and I went on vacation, we placed the cage in the garage with a fresh layer of duct tape. The story ends with us arriving home to find a stiff Peanut lying in the bathroom, where her cage was located. I mean, we pre-vented a pet’s death. The medical care that we have given our pets may seem odd to other people, but the thought of them suffering or living in pain was enough for us to be sure that we were doing the right thing.

When two of the cats died — one was put to
sleep and the other one disappeared — I was not as sad as I thought I'd be. I enjoyed their company but was never extremely attached to them. It seems like the world is divided into “cat people” and “dog people.” I definitely like having cats around. I can't imagine living without pets — the house would be too quiet. But I'm still waiting for my dog.

— Naomi Serling-Boyce, Mt. Carmel H.S.

When I was little, we had two cats: Alan Ladd and Magic Johnson. Magic, a light-cream-colored cat with a white belly, was one of a litter of stray cats my mom found, and she gave him to my dad while they were dating. When Magic and then Mom moved in with my dad, Alan was jealous and temperamental. But I remember him as old and sweet with moody bouts. Both cats' deaths were most traumatic for my mother. One morning, she went out to get the newspaper and found Alan's body torn to pieces across the lawn. Alan was a feisty cat that would hiss at approaching dogs.

Unfortunately, his bravery cost him his life. Several years later, Magic became temperamental and needy in his old age and would sit in the middle of the street and wait for us when we went out, sometimes darting under cars. We always worried a car would hit him. One morning, my mom was pulling out of the drive-way and Magic ran under her wheel.

While Magic was still alive, my sister got an orange kitten from her second-grade teacher. He was a monstrous creature that attacked everything, so we named him Beast. Like Alan and Magic, he was allowed outside. One day, when our family was playing catch with some neighbors in the front yard, a big yellow dog snapped up poor Beast by his hind legs and shook him. Although Beast survived, he was never again allowed outside and has become fat, lazy, and loving. He occasionally tries to escape, but only half-heartedly.

After Magic died, we found Zoe at a pound. She's a little gray monster, who is even splotchier than Beast was. No one in the house can sleep with the doors open because she will jump on you and bite your nose. She is also a kleptomaniac who regularly steals game pieces, hair ties, pens, and Christmas ornaments and stashes them inside couch cushions. My mischievous friend, Heather, adores Zoe and Zoe's traits remind us so much of Heather that we often call her Heather. I complain about her daily, but she's so little and rebellious that I love her as much as Heather does.

— Megan Zapanta, El Capitan H.S.
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We waited for dawn. It was 38 miles back down the highway to San Diego and only three to the Mexican border, closed and deserted now at five in the morning. In this part of the country, there are no distractions at this early hour; the radio is full of static, no businesses are open, and it’s too dark to walk. Anyway, we had to have enough light to find our trail, for beside us loomed Cuchama, the “high, exalted place” of the Diegueño Indians.

It was silent around Cuchama — it usually is, even in daylight. A deep, unbroken collection of star clusters hovered over us. A bright quarter moon created an ethereal slackness, a continuum of reflected glare from the broken country. The dry, barren aspect of this area prevailed through the dark; slices of raw earth (new fire trails) appeared as luminescent veins snaking over the ground; massive white boulders dotted the dark ridges.

At first glance it doesn’t look like much. Made of Jurassic rock and formed about the middle of the Mesozoic era, 135 million years ago, Cuchama stands somewhat rugged and forbidding on the boulder-strewn line of the international boundary. However, Indians (Diegueños, Luiseños, and Cochomís) used it in secret initiation rites long before the white man arrived.

And the power here is still to be reckoned with. It comes on subtly at first, in the clarity of the air. To city dwellers so accustomed to the sick halftones of what passes for the atmosphere, the cloudless, clean-smelling intensity is a bit overpowering. Dust and plants take on different perspectives. They belong here more than we; it is we who are the intruders, much as they are in our cities. There is little of the 20th Century to deal with at Cuchama; only a few ranches are scattered at her base and the border town of Tecate is some five miles away. There is nothing else around.

In the early years of this century, Dr. Walter Evans-Wentz, pioneer editor/translator of The Tibetan Book of the Dead, discovered the spiritual power of this mountain while horseback riding. It impressed him enough that over the years he bought approximately 3000 acres here. Decades later he claimed to his friends that though he might not be very psychic about people, he was attuned to places. One San Diego acquaintance of his, John Theobald, remembers he would come into a house sniffing, just to get the current spiritual reading.

For the last 25 years of his life, Evans-Wentz divided his time between the Keystone Hotel on Tenth Avenue in downtown San Diego and Cuchama. He stayed in a small wooden house on the lower slopes during his meditation retreats and practiced the Dharma, the Buddhist “way of truth.” He was a devout vegetarian, a practitioner of an obscure yoga, and a scholar of arcane religious practices. He keenly felt the power of this place known as Tecate Mountain and renamed it Cuchama in honor of the redmen.

Cuchama lies surrounded by the foothills near the high desert, by weirdly shaped defiles and mesas. It’s hard country and quite often looks as though the devil plowed it up. This morning Isa Tercero, daughter of a Nicaraguan healer, and I were far up the fire line of the international boundary. However, Indians (Diegueños, Luiseños, and Cochomís) used it in secret initiation rites long before the white man arrived.

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Evans-Wentz was no stranger to the vastness and mountain itself. The overwhelming presence of the sun had beaten down all thought of sound or movement. Our smallness slowly became greater the longer we were in the over-whelming presence of the mountain.

Evans-Wentz was no stranger to the vastness and solitude of mountains. He spent more than 20 years ranging around a great triang-ulation of holy spots in India, mostly in moun-tainous areas — Kashmir, central Ceylon, and Darjeeling-Sikkim. It was in Gangtok, Sikkim, where he met the Lama Kazi Dawa-Samdup, whom he worked with and who started him on his journey in pre-paring for the Western world. The

Tibetan Book of the Dead, Tibetan Yoga and Secret Doctrines, and The Tibetan Book of Great Liberation. Cuchama and Sacred Mounta-ins was his last work. After being in publishing limbo for more than 15 years, it will be out shortly. Before his death in 1965, Evans-Wentz and his friends tried to arouse some interest in it, but without success. John Theobald, pro-fessor emeritus of San Diego State University, feels it may have been due to the late doctor's denunciations of the white man for what was done to the Indians. The entire third section of this manuscript contains his commentaries on the su-periority of the redmen's spir-ritual life and the paucity of the Europeans', and the bloody history between the two. (The first two sections of Cuchama and other sacred mountains of the world serve almost as introduc-tions to the third.)
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Before
After

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The Man Who Bought Cuchama
continued from page 67

Mission 20 sets of ears from a band of Indians he slaughtered.

“Mountains grow and decay, they breathe and pulse with life,” Lama Anangkara Govinda, a German-born Tibetan lama, writes in the introduction to the work. “The worshipful or religious attitude is not impressed by scientific facts…nor by the ambition to ‘conquer’ the mountain. Few who hear the call keep alive through the ages the arcane knowledge of these terrestrial sources of divine inspiration.

The approach to this mountain must be made with a reverential attitude, for its immensity dwarfs most efforts. Gargantuan rocks, some three stories high, point toward the crest like giant fingers. Many appear shaped as animals—lizards, squirrels, roadrunners — and take the place of the real but absent residents. Though tracks abound in the road dust, none are seen.

Evans-Wentz believed and reported in Cuchama and Sacred Mountains that though lightning struck frequently around Cuchama (3887 feet), it was not known to hit the mountain itself: “It may be due to a protecting envelope of terrestrial magnetism or to an emanating psychic force,” he declared. This theme on the sanctity of places he had developed over the years; he felt holy areas had psychic protection. “In varying degrees,” he wrote in May 1942 for The Theosophical Forum, “[they] have been made holy by that same occult power of mind to enhance the psychic character of the atom of matter; they are the ripened fruit of spirituality, the proof of thought’s all-conquering and all-transforming supremacy.”

Cuchama was reportedly an island once, a spot that Evans-Wentz says sheltered local Indians during a great flooding in historical times. Further, he wrote, other tribes throughout Southern California spoke of this and told of other mountains in the vicinity that provided similar services. Indians in this area, he reported, also believed there was a lake within the mountain which allowed the “oldly green shrubbery” on the north and west sides to be watered. (While “oldly” and “green” appear to be stretching descriptions of the nearly barren north and east sides, there are remarkable differences. While the opposite sides are covered with boulders and brush, the north and east have an almost topiary, heatherlike ground cover.) Even a “thermal belt” is spoken of. While thermal normal refers to a warm or hot condition, in this case it refers to a psychic-climatic shield. Not far below the ridge line the fog stops, as though halted. While it may be explained away by wind conditions and temperature changes, Evans-Wentz thought otherwise. Whatever the reasons, this “fog line” allows a strange panorama of unlimited scope, with the

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closer peaks pushing through, like the tips of islands in a tide of low-lying clouds.

Evidently, Indians came here to invoke the great mysteries and the guardian deities of the mountain. For years Evans-Wentz wrote of the high places where religious figures received their instructions and their visions of guidance. He reported that after proper mental preparation and three or four days of eating only the purest foods prepared by themselves, these initiates climbed up and lay down to sleep through the darkness. For Indians this was common; it was part of their psychic education, Evans-Wentz reported. They were capable of psychically controlled and connected dreaming, much like Tibetan Buddhists.

The late doctor reported these came to them “in the vision of the shining beings, clothed in the radiance of the sun, to behold in the dazzling splendor the various lots in life from which men may choose.” They were guided, he says, in their own innate tendencies inherited from past lives; each had “no difficulty or hesitation in making the right choice.”

Isa and I continued to climb in silence. A slight breeze came from the mountains, clearing the heat. At last we reached a high place where religious ceremonies and their visions of spiritual guidance. He reported that...
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Western ways. While living in the ‘20s in a grass hut above the Ganges, a few miles from Rishikesh, a holy city north of New Delhi, he considered the pristine quality of the area to be due mainly to the lack of Western influences. He commented favorably on the “solid miles” of saffron (Hindu holy men) surrounding him.

Though a man of immense learning, one who was greatly sought after, Evans-Wentz preferred the quiet byways. “Although the work of the teachers must be chieflly with dwellers in towns and cities, they ever seek, as all mankind should, solitude for meditation and restoration of physical and psychical energies in the aura of high places. Mankind is fettered,” he lamented, “bantering away their bodily strength and health and length of days for the things that pass away. If our civilization is to endure, it must deplete an area of its sacredness. Though holy people can infuse a place with their presence, it is also true their polar opposites can deplete an area of its sacredness.

Though holy people can infuse a place with their presence, it is also true their polar opposites can deplete an area of its sacredness.

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center of the world to many Buddhists, who felt it was a primary source of power. Though a difficult and dangerous place to journey, it attracted a great number of pilgrims. The surrounding hills were strangely shaped and the colors of the earth and the light were bizarre. Great rivers (Brahmaputra, Indus, Sutlej, and the Karna) radiate out from it like spokes of a massive wheel. Visitors have reported great visions in the powerful silence and solitude. Strange sounds and voices have been heard. Arunachala, the “hill of light” in South India, Evans-Wentz circumnavigated himself barefoot in 1936. Adherents believe it is the divine light of Shiva (Hindu god of destruction), and, as such, at the base is the ashram of the late Sri Ramana Maharishi, one of the greatest Indian holy men of this century. The physical mass of the mountain is viewed as the lingam, the phallic symbol “of the ever-becoming which sustains the never-ending pulsation of the cosmic heart of Brahma.”

Closer to home is Mt. Rainier, which was the redman’s “holy land of peace,” Evans-Wentz reported. Tribal members who were found guilty of infractions were sent there to do penance. No weapons were allowed on this mountain, which the Indians called Tacoma, “the mountain that was God.” Evans-Wentz did not like Europeans desecrating mountains with their Western names. In the early 1960s, he felt the oncoming American renaissance would have to correct these faults and give the redman his due after repressing him for so long.

After two hours and four miles we arrived on top of Cachama, where the panorama is limited only by “the immense circle of the world’s horizon,” as Evans-Wentz so aptly put it. The main peak is conical and capped with a small, humming telephone relay station. A great ring of treeless, distorted mountains surrounded us.

Mexico was below, Tecate a stone’s throw away. The smoke from her morning fires, the blue, scabby haze from her shacks and huts created the feeling of an abandoned central Asian city edging toward total abandonment.
destruction, a place peopled with refugees. Ribbons of road led nowhere. Small farms stretched into the canyons. The impression was that of being surrounded by an endless deserted country that man had only touched temporally. To the west, stretching infinitely toward and over the Pacific Ocean, was a carpet of fog, covering all but the nearest and highest peaks.

For more than an hour we rested and meditated. A slight wind brought occasional sounds from the ranches — sounds of dogs, chickens, and of braying donkeys. Three times Isa paced the top, chanting, her fine, strong Indian face set in reflection. How appropriate that she, whose ancestors were Mayan, cousins of the initial visionaries of Cuchama, should pray and give the thanks for being on the mountain.

We walked down about a quarter mile to the second level of Cuchama, a slightly rounded mesa, and experienced a profounder silence. Tilting slightly north, with long streamers of grass, with bushes and with boulders in a rough circle, this area is easily missed. No trails lead to it; in fact, it can be overlooked because it appears so insignificant. Perhaps by design this is so. No one was around — no animals, no birds, barely a whisper in the air. The wind kept moving, however, causing a slight rattling in the vegetation. Here is where the Indian shamans came. Here is where the visions were given.

“The redman believes only that which they realize through their own psychic experience, mainly in dreams and the disembodied state of astral-body projections,” Evans-Wentz wrote. “Dogmatics, Bibles, are not essential to the inner vision.”

There is orenda here, which he describes as an Iroquois word meaning “holy chant” or “holy song.” Great magnetic forces attracted the awakened medicine man to these areas. Long interested in dealing with the supernatural, Evans-Wentz spent some years (1907–11) wandering over Celtic countries, where he gathered lore for his first book, The Fairy Faith in Celtic Countries. While there, he discovered the great local healing areas. William Butler Yeats himself introduced the American scholar to some. Cryptically, Evans-Wentz describes in several places in his notes that he believed there were three major healing centers in America. Though loath to speculate on the possi-
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San Diego Reader, February 7, 2006
dos; however, a vertical line bisected it, perhaps indicating more importance.

Was this slightly built man, who lived in an obscure hotel and who caused the local librarians (my aunt among them) to feel he was playing an ironic joke by checking out his own books (he hadn’t any copies; he was forever giving them away), and who often dressed in a suit without a tie — was he a shaman himself? Or was he just an advanced pilgrim without need to worry over externals? A frugal man, sparse in his habits and somewhat short with those not on the Path, Evans-Wentz felt the need to protect such places as Cuchama. However, he considered himself merely the caretaker of such, not the owner.

He lived near the main branch of the public library (in which he studied constantly) and a short walk from the House of Nutrition on Sixth Avenue, for years the only vegetarian restaurant downtown. He was quiet, according to Cliff Lucas, former owner of the Keystone Hotel. He said only “good morning” or “good evening” as he entered or left. Evans-Wentz had few needs, only space and privacy to continue his work. Early in life he knew he was to be a wanderer. In his unpublished autobiographical notes, written in Sikkim in 1920, he tells of his first “ecstatic-like vision.” He had been alone on the upper Delaware River (mid-1890s) in the midst of “wild daisies and buttercups in one of my secret retreats communing with nature. As I walked home slowly, I fell to singing a song of ecstatic rapture, composed as I sang it. There came flashing into my mind with such authority that I never thought of doubting it, a mind-picture of things past and to come. No details were definite, there was only the unrefutable conviction that I was a wanderer in this world from some far-off unfathomable and undescribably yet real realm; that all things I looked upon were but illusionary shadows. And there came to me a vague knowledge of things to be. I knew from that night

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that my life was to be that of a world-pilgrim, wandering from country to country, over seas, across continents and mountains, through deserts to the end of the earth, seeking, seeking for I knew not what.”

As if in fulfilling this prophecy, he spent most of his life on the move. From his home state of New Jersey he went to Florida and successfully speculated in real estate. Katherine Tingley, founder of Lomaland, the Point Loma Theosophical Society, drew him to San Diego and he became a member in 1902. Then he spent five years at Stanford (surviving the devastating 1906 earthquake on that campus), where he earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English. Then he took off for Oxford, where he became the first American to be awarded a doctorate in comparative religion. A windfall of property rentals allowed him in 1913 to start world-traveling in earnest. From this date until 1941, when he settled into the Keystone Hotel, he traveled constantly, moving in a great circle from San Diego, through Oxford, to India, and back again. He rarely spent more than a few months in any one place.

However, up on Cuchama all this seemed so far away and from another time. The immensity of the horizon, along with the compelling nature of the silent circle of boulders on top, demanded from one more attention. There was a distinct magnetism here, a feeling of power and peace. The attraction that had for the Indians became more evident the longer Isla and I stayed there. However, it was apparent to us that the white man was once again attempting to scatter and diffuse this energy, despite the mountain’s relative isolation.

Though holy people can infuse a place with their presence, it is also true their polar opposites can deplete an area of its sacredness. Drunk vandals regularly hurl their beer cans into the shrubs while spray-painting their names in Spanish on the rocks. Trash on the top is much in evidence despite a heavily locked gate. A group of businessmen, headed by former San Diego City Councilman Tom Horn, have plans for “developing” a new town just this side of the border crossing. At alarming intervals, signs pop up along the old Highway 80 announcing vertical acres on Cuchama at moderate prices. It is fashionable for San Diego land speculators to trade on the area’s beauty, handily dodging the fact they themselves are contributing to its demise. When the condos are up, the highways in, and the traffic flowing, what will there be worth seeing from the mountain’s sacred heights? Carl Jung could have been referring to Cuchama’s uncertain fate when, in his commentary on Evans-Wentz’s The Tibetan Book of Great Liberation, he said, “I have serious doubts as to the blessings of Western Civilization.”

Dr. Walter Evans-Wentz died in 1965 near the Self-Realization Fellowship in Encinitas. Its founder, Parma-
hansa Yogananda, whom he had met as a young man in India, once told him he could stay in the ashram as long as he felt the need. Sadly, it was only for a few months. Long plagued with a nervous condition, Evans-Wentz found himself increasingly more unable to write or take care of himself. His notes and his diaries became more and more difficult for the man himself to copy, let alone anyone else to read.

His last months were spent in a small bungalow, which he shared with his secretary, Lou Blevens, near the main Fellowship grounds. Far from being a sad time for him, the learned scholar had many visitors he spoke with cordially, and he busied himself as best he could in disposing of his letters and belongings. Occasionally, he would sit in a chair and quietly meditate. When he knew he was dying, Evans-Wentz “sniffed out” a local rest home and told Blevens to take him there.

Now his ashes rest in a magnificent white stupa in northern India overlooking the “abode of snows,” the Himalayas he so often wrote of and had studied in for so many years. At the local funeral service, Lou Blevens read in the traditional Tibetan liturgy: “Ob nobly born...listen. Now thou are experiencing the Radiance of the Clear Light of Pure Reality.”

— Ken Winkler

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More citizens hitchhiked cross-country in the period 1965 through 1972 than in all the other 200 years of our national history combined. The '60s brought a veritable hitchhiking revolution, but Kerouac’s *On the Road* was published in 1957 and folks had been building a transient subculture out of the superhighways, on-ramps, and University Avenues for generations. Old-time hitchhikers had gone prosperous and were out picking up the kids in new Cadillacs. Human cooperation, the pure share and share alike. Besides, it was cheap, FREE, and the mobility was fantastic.

There was history as well. Woody Guthrie hitching with his guitar, and later, young Robert Zimmerman on the road to see his hero. With Cassady and Kerouac direct lines existed to the Beat Generation. Wobblies and Hobos who had earlier traversed this country on top of, inside of, and underneath railway boxcars were being reincarnated as hitchhikers. Hallelujah, I’m a Bum. Combine romance with economy and watch America react.

The late '60s were my introduction to cross-country hitchhiking. I hitched extensively up into 1972. Route 70 cross-country, San Francisco to CHI, CHI to Denver, Denver to the East Coast, and round-trip San Diego to St. Louis a couple of times. I gained a genuinely good feeling about the people of my country, a pride in the social revolution of the period, and a sense of personal fortitude acquired in 13-hour stints south of places like Pueblo, Colorado, no traffic, and surrounded by millions of potentially hostile (?) prairie dogs.

I used to have so much fun that I swore I would hitchhike cross-country once a year for the rest of my life. But natural laziness and a middle-class tendency toward comfort have kept me kicked back in San Diego for the last couple of years. Temporarily flush, I had bought a car and become addicted to the security a regular means of transportation provides. When the energy crisis came down I began hitching again, locally, to save money. I had forgotten how much fun hitching could be. This summer I decided to take a trip up to Canada to see if long-range hitchhiking was still as fascinating and functional as I remembered.

I left San Diego at 1:00 p.m. on the 21st day of July for Vancouver, British Columbia. A minimum of planning, a small amount of reefer, no maps, a sleeping bag and backpack, mosquito repellent, and I was on the road. Attitude is all-important in hitchhiking and I had been rapping about how much fun I was going to have for so long that the night before takeoff, my good friend Mike signed on for the expedition. Solo hitching is easier, there's more opportunity to wheel and deal. Two people seldom get a ride in a Volkswagen bug, and Volkswagen bugs...
give a disproportionate amount of the rides to hitch-hikers (perhaps in keeping with their owners’ obvious intelligence and appreciation of the energy shortage). In all my years of hitching I’ve only gotten one ride in a Cadillac. He got me lost in the Bay Area.

Anyway, now there were two. Mike’s brother offered us a ride to Port Hueneme, the other side of L.A. We zoomed onto I-5 heading north, riding in the back of a pickup. All right. We would avoid the first obstacle for any hitcher heading north from Diego, the L.A. pass-through. Camp Pendleton was foggy, as usual. The Vietnamese refugees must think the sun never shines in Southern California. San Clemente, from the back of a pickup, is an upper-middle-class kind of place, an ex-Presidential town — the U.S. Versailles. Farewell, Southland.

Mike’s brother dropped us in Port Hueneme and we waited 15 minutes for our first official pickup. It was short, from a biker with a van full of motorcycles; he dropped us at the 101 on-ramp in Ventura. The ramp was crowded; summer hitch-hiking season was in full swing. A few ramps like this one convinced me that more people are hitching right now than ever before. I’m happy to report the state of hitchhiking in these United States is good. Movement is perhaps a little slower than before, the on-ramps are definitely more crowded than I’ve ever seen them, and the pool of freak-driven automobiles has been lessened by the recent economic hardships. All of which means nothing to the hitcher who has been stranded in Bumball, Idaho, for 20 hours. His next ride could well be a beautiful blonde driving straight through to the East Coast.

There is an etiquette observed by the hitchhiker when faced with a small, crowded on-ramp. The people there first are usually the ones who will get out first. Others wait their turn. The exceptions to this general rule occur when a car stops right in front of a specific hitcher or when the hitcher first up on the corner refuses a ride, perhaps because it’s too short. Another obvious exception occurs when a female, solo or escorted, walks aboard the on-ramp. She will get the next ride out. This isn’t due to any chivalry on the part of her fellows. It’s strictly the way the driver wants it. Every male hitchhiker has spent hours on an on-ramp only to see some lady walk up and get a ride out in ten minutes. For some, sexism has its positive aspects.

Eight or nine people were clustered on the small on-ramp in Ventura, even more on the other side of the street, heading south to L.A., and on the back of the freeway entrance sign someone had written, “Patience is the name of this game.” Again acknowledgement of the fact that attitude is all-important. First up on the corner, sitting, symbolically, next to the freeway entrance sign, was a young Navy kid, L.A. to the Bay Area. It was apparent to veteran hitchers that

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the kid didn’t know how to do it. He sat there, lethargic and shorthaired, in no particular frenzy to return to the military but obviously frustrated by his slow progress hitching. There is a Zen aspect to hitchhiking. Vibrations are all-important. When a ride is desperately needed the only way to find one is by not caring. Enjoy the on-ramp view, laugh, sing or dance, jive with fellow hitchhikers. Be free, and the people will fall all over themselves to pick you up. This Navy dude was looking so sour and frustrated that I might not have given him a ride. And I always pick up hitchhikers. Finally, some freak headed for Big Sur walked by. People who don’t hitchhike at its worst. Particular frenzy to return to hitchhikers. My spirits were temporarily raised when a local alcoholic walked up and said, “Don’t worry, boys, you’ll get out of here. I’ve been a wino in Santa Barbara for the last 25 years and I’ve never seen the same face twice.” The old dude had sensed we were down. I felt better until he came back 20 minutes later with a bottle of white port and went through his 25-year same-face routine again. Suddenly I realized the dude never saw the same face twice because he couldn’t recognize the same face twice. Mike asked him if he had hitched into Santa Barbara originally. Seven hours after arrival in Santa Barbara, it was night and most of our competition had retired behind roadside shrubs. We still flogged the highway. Around 11:30 we scored two bank couriers making their nightly run to San Luis Obispo. They dropped us off just north of San Luis. We camped for the night a short distance from the road. In the morning I woke up under a plum tree; we had slept in someone’s abandoned orchard.

Next day we waited 30 minutes for our first ride, then Mike started flashing a reeler at passing cars. It worked. Jim from Sacramento was an ex-con working as a halfway house counselor. He advised (he was in) advising us to go to Sacramento with him and then take I-5 on up. Super-highway and all, it sounded logical. Until we came to the heat. We went inland at paso Robles through a crunch-dry desert. Jim said he’d almost gone bananas coming down the desert country with no companions. The heat was vicious. A forced acclimation was our only choice. We stopped by Jim’s house in Sacramento, briefly, then he took us downtown to what he said was a pretty good on-ramp. “Take rides to Woodlands, Redding, or into Oregon, only, all the other freeway ramps are bad.” Be cool, Jim.

An hour and a half later, the heat (105 degrees F.) had driven us under the freeway-ramp bushes when two kids in a pickup stopped. They lived in Sacramento but were willing to take us anywhere within reason if we would buy them some beer. We opted for Woodlands, about 25 miles away, on Jim’s recommendation. After buying the beer we were dropped at a very hot and nowhere on-ramp. Forty-five minutes and two cars later we noticed a magic-marker note on the freeway entrance sign: “Dear Hitchhiking Brothers and Sisters,” etcetera.

This was disquieting. The heat was intolerable, traffic was nil, the four other hitchhikers were obviously ahead of us and beginning to quarrel among themselves. Mike and I walked, found the shade of a black walnut tree, and smoked a joint. The heat began to recede, sunset was coming with practical as well as aesthetic significance. A sign on the tree read Woodlands Hitchhikers Camp, and toilet paper was scattered around. We invited the other hitchhikers over and smoked another joint. My heat-stroke headache began to dissipate and I scribbled some notes about black walnut trees and the utter freedom of

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We sat in Denny’s about an hour waiting for the one-ramp to empty, but more hitchhikers kept piling up. Redding turned into a convention: two of the guys from Woodlands eventually showed up — the other two had broken down and caught a bus. At first, irritable by Denny’s air conditioning and food, we had pranked and laughed, but soon enough, Redding began to feel like Woodlands. By 9:00 p.m., six hours after our arrival, there were 15 hitchhikers spread out along the ramp. Mike had begun suffering from a toothache and I was getting so pissed that even dope didn’t help.

Then salvation arrived in the form of a rainbow-fan-hippy driving a battered ’59 pickup with Arkansas plates. His truck was named Stardriver. He walked onto the two-mile back to the ramp to empty, but more hitchhikers kept piling up. Two girls got out within ten minutes, a trucker. Truck drivers will got out within ten minutes, to the local Denny’s and degrees. Mike and I repaired was again well over 100 maybe 100 miles away, it Sacramento Valley. By the heat never lets up in the is enough for anyone. The Fifteen hours in Woodlands and forth. They stopped. Mike was ready. As they drove into the on-ramp he frantically waved a joint back and forth. They stopped. Fifteen hours in Woodlands is enough for anyone. The heat never lets up in the Sacramento Valley. By the time we reached Redding, maybe 100 miles away, it was again well over 100 degrees. Mike and I repaired to the local Denny’s and watched three or four hitchhikers get rides. Two girls got out within ten minutes, a trucker. Truck drivers will cross three lanes of radical traffic to pick up an ugly woman. I have never seen one give a ride to a male.

“Rocks. Rocks,” one excited individual gleefully repeated, thinking he meant cocaine.

“Yeah, beautiful rocks.” Mike, this other guy, and I quickly joined up with Stardriver. We walked to a nearby gas station where Red Star was waiting, pushed her to start, filled up with engine running, and moved into the heated night. Stardriver felt bad because he couldn’t ride more than three persons in his truck. The driveshaft had a tendency to rub noisily on the frame when carrying a relatively small load or even when hitting dips.

Stardriver talked to his truck the way I talked to my cat. Pureanimism. Mike crashed in the back most of the way, still toothached. The rocks turned out to be exactly that. They were kind of pretty. We made good time going over Mt. Shasta at night. The brakes were bad. Then Oregon, sweet Oregon, all-time together state. The freeways and roads are actually empty of trash. They look naked. Oregon
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Hitchhiking is as wonderful as ever. Trains, planes, and buses are crowded with sourpusses. Hitchhikers meet the nicer people. My fellow countrypeople have reassured me about America.

— Robert M. Cook, Jr.
Sci-Fi Troopers
Star Wars at Mysterious Galaxy

The general rule has been that no one can kill off somebody else's character without their permission. Everything I do is owned by George Lucas, so technically [Lucas Films doesn’t] need our permission to do anything, it’s more of a courtesy,” says bestselling author Timothy Zahn. On Saturday, February 25, Zahn will sign and discuss his seventh novel in the Star Wars universe, Outbound Flight, at Mysterious Galaxy Books.

Zahn first entered the Star Wars genre with the “Thrawn Trilogy”: Heir to the Empire, Dark Force Rising, and The Last Command. Then came the “Hand of Thrawn duology” with Specter of the Past and Vision of the Future. Next was Survivor’s Quest, a story that begins shortly after Luke Skywalker and Mara Jade, a character of Zahn’s creation, are married. In this novel, the newlyweds are invited to investigate the wreckage of Outbound Flight, “a project to send an expedition to another galaxy in the days before the Clone wars.”

When asked to do Survivor’s Quest, I could have the story of the end of Outbound Flight and leave some mysteries as they were. Then, years later, Outbound Flight would come out, [set] fifty years earlier, and show how [the flight] had gotten in that position,” explains Zahn.

There are over 70 authors of Star Wars novels and short stories. Each story must go through the “Lucasfilms editorial process” to be approved, and each author must stay true to the Star Wars story line, characters, and time line. With hundreds of books in print it became necessary to develop a method to assist authors in keeping track of Star Wars information. “Now we have the Holocron, a word taken from one of the books, meaning ‘biographic encyclopedia.’ Lucasfilms has one of these things and keeps it as up to date as they can with a listing of planets and characters.”

The Database Content Administrator, or “Keeper of the Holocron,” is Leland Chee. Chee is responsible for cross-referencing Star Wars novels, comic books, games, trading cards, and any other form of merchandising. In a recent interview for the gaming company Wizards of the Coast, Chee explained how he determines which “truth” to accept when he comes across contradictory information: “Everything is looked at on a case-by-case basis. Among the factors we consider: In how many sources does this particular fact appear? Which source has the largest audience? Which explanation is the coolest? Have we been told by George Lucas to avoid this topic? If, after weighing all those variables, the answer isn’t yet clear, the issue is presented to an internal group that makes the final determination as to which source is correct.”

When the publishing company asked Zahn to write the Hand of Thrawn duology, he said he would agree on two conditions: He wanted to end the war between the New Republic and the Empire and to marry Luke Skywalker to Mara Jade. When his conditions were approved, other writers were required to keep the path clear for these events. On scifi.com Zahn writes, “...it was highly amusing to hear the speculations as to why Luke’s girlfriend friends kept vanishing offstage. It was a wonderfully well-kept secret, and I tip my hat to all the people who kept it that way.”

The only problem for stormtroopers is I don’t think they can sit down in their armor,” says Zahn. “Because of the way the armor’s put together, if you sit down, you’re going to crack it, so they’re basically standing up as long as they’re in the outfit.” Zahn has worked with members of the 501st before. “They add panache to any event. It just feels better when you have them with you.”

Fans may dress up as well. “You get the costumers — people who like to dress up at a convention who kept it that way,” says Zahn. “They are some of the nicest people you will ever meet. So polite.”

Jade, Zahn insists that all of his fans “have a perfectly good grip on reality. It’s just a fun thing to do, like being on Broadway and pretending to be the Phantom of the Opera. The acts are very convincing.” — Barbara Wilde


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SAN DIEGO READER
LOCAL EVENTS

San Diego Reader
February 23, 2006

The Family Play Yo Madre, Yo Hijas, presented at 7 and 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1, at Tijuana Cultural Center (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Río). 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

Visceral Cripto Geologico Site, found south of Mexicali, at crown of Colorado River Delta on San Andreas fault — adventure hosted by San Diego Natural History Museum, February 27, 8 a.m.—8 p.m. Electricity from steam wells is “exported to U.S.”(92) fee includes transportation, meal, guide. Reservations: 619-255-0203. (MEXICAL)

Mardi Gras Carnaval celebrated with parades, bands, music, family entertainment through Tuesday, February 28. Details: 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

LOCAL EVENTS

How to Send Us Your Local Events

San Diego CA 92186-5803. Or fax code) for public information to held (including neighborhood), a complete description of the event, prior to publication for

Baja

Baroque Concertos promised when Orchestra of Baja California performs Thursday, February 23, 8 p.m., at Tijuana Cultural Center (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Río). Orchestra also presents concerts on Friday, February 24, 8 p.m., at Centro Es- tatal de las Artes, Mexicali; and Saturday, February 25, 7 p.m., at Teatro de la Ciudad, Ensenada. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA, MEXICALI, ENSENADA)

Invasión,” Ignacio Solares reads from and signs his new book, Thursday, February 23, 7 p.m., at Tijuana Cultural Center (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Río). 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

“UFOS” discussed during lectures by Jaime Maussan and Giorgio Bongiovanni, Friday, February 24, 7 and 9:30 p.m., and Saturday, February 25, 6 and 8:30 p.m. Talks presented at Tijuana Cultural Center (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Río). Tickets: $20, $25 U.S. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

So Cal Helicopters presents concerts on Friday, February 24, 7 p.m., at Tijuana Cultural Center (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Río). 011-52-664-687-9636.

Outdoors

Ice Plant is responsible for many of the carpet-like splashes of yellow, pink, red, and purple we’re now seeing around San Diego. Popular as a ground cover for colonizing ugly cuts or stabilizing steep, easily eroded slopes, ice plant covers the shoreline bluffs at Roatón, road embankments in Rancho Santa Fe and Balboa Park, and front yards from Point Loma to El Cajon.

Hummingbirds are swelling over San Diego County’s backyard gardens, scrub-covered coastal bluffs, and the warm Anza-Bor- rego Desert. Red monkey flower (which is only beginning to bloom now) is a favorite source of nectar near the coast, while red-blos- somed chuparosa and ocotillo normally play the same role in the desert. Keep an eye out for the male hummingbird’s mating “dance,” which involves soaring ascents followed by dramatic downward dives.

Very Low Tides this weekend and early next week coincide with optimal times of day for tide- pooling: Saturday, February 25, at 1:49 p.m. (–1.5 feet); Sunday at 2:24 a.m. and 1:47 p.m. (–1.6 feet); Monday at 2:59 p.m. (–1.6 feet); and Tues- day at 3:32 p.m. (–1.2 feet). Very high tides will also occur within that string of days, most notably on Sunday at 7:22 a.m. (–6 feet); and Monday at 8:08 a.m. (–6.4 feet).

Visit the Best Birding Side of Lake Hodges with Audubon Society birders, Saturday, February 25, 8 a.m. Look for geese, kites, oryx, California and Blue- gray gnatcatchers, and golden eagle. Meet in parking spaces just past Joslin Senor Center (18402 West Bernardo Drive). 619-280-7710. Considerable hiking of a moderately strenu- ous nature. Bring a scope. Free. (REGALO READER)

Explore “Volcanic Neck” of Mt. Calavara during hike led by MiraCosta professor John Turbeville for Preserver Calavara, Saturday, February 25, 9 a.m. Moderate hike with “some elevation gain and great view from the summit” starts at 9 a.m. at Oak Riparian Park (off Lake Boulevard). Free. 760-724- 3887. (ORLIGÜS)

Long-Gone Ancient Beaches may be seen, along with variety of wildflowers, from vantage point of Fortuna Mountain, where the...
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Rosarito Beach

Rosarito Calendar of Events:

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<td>February 18</td>
<td>Electronic Music Festival</td>
<td>Municipal Art &amp; Culture Center</td>
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<td>March 11 &amp; 12</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Beer Festival</td>
<td>Rosarito Chamber of Restaurants</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bajafoodrosarito.org">www.bajafoodrosarito.org</a></td>
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<td>April 22</td>
<td>Rosarito-Ensenada 50 Miles Fun Bicycle</td>
<td>Rosarito-Ensenada Bicycle Ride</td>
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<td>April 28-30</td>
<td>Investing in Baja’s Ocean Front</td>
<td>Rosarito Beach Hotel &amp; Spa</td>
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<td>May 14</td>
<td>1st International Food Festival</td>
<td>Rosarito Chamber of Restaurants</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bajafoodrosarito.org">www.bajafoodrosarito.org</a></td>
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BIZARRE TREES, cacti, and succulents star this Offshoot Tours hosts its monthly hour-long guided stroll to the desert garden on Saturday, February 25, 10 a.m., starting from park’s visitor center. Free. 619-235-1122.

Visit Ramona’s Grasslands and witness winter migration of hawks, falcons, and eagles during outings led by Wildlife Research Institute every Saturday through February, 9 a.m. to noon. Walks are led by trained biologist, participants usually observe trapping and banding of birds of prey.

Visit Ramona’s Grasslands and witness winter migration of hawks, falcons, and eagles during outings led by Wildlife Research Institute every Saturday through February, 9 a.m. to noon. Walks are led by trained biologist, participants usually observe trapping and banding of birds of prey.

San Diego Sunflowers during guided nature walks on Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday, February 25, 26, and March 1, 9:30–11 a.m., in Mission Trails Regional Park (One Father Junipero Serra Trail). Free. 619-688-3281.

An Expert Birder from San Diego Audubon Society leads bird walk in Tecolote Canyon on Saturday, February 25, 9 a.m., at Tecolote Nature Center (5180 Tecolote Road). Free. Bring binoculars and drinking water. 858-381-9944. (SAN DIEGO)

Trekking the Refuges, view migratory waterfowl and wildflowers of San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge during outing hosted by Chula Vista Nature Center, Saturday, February 25, 8:30 a.m. Free. Required reservations: 619-409-5903. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

Basic Birding program by Tom Troy, Saturday, February 25, 8:30 a.m., at Buena Vista Lagoon landing. Emphasis on using binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides, local resources. Free. Directions: 760-439-2473. (OCEANIDE)

Small Things of Nature, look for mushrooms, liverworts, and lichens when (former president of San Diego Mycological Society) Lee Braden leads hike, Saturday, February 25, in Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve. Adventure starts at 9 a.m. in Mercy Road staging/parking area, at junction of Mercy Road and Black Mountain Road. Free. 858-484-3219. (OCEANIDE)

Salt Works Cleanup, help remove trash at salt works area of San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Saturday, February 25, 9 a.m. Endangered Belding’s San Pedro's Canyon Preserve. Adventure starts at 9 a.m. in Mercy Road staging/parking area, at junction of Mercy Road and Black Mountain Road. Free. 858-484-3219. (OCEANIDE)

Borreño’s Niche: The Ancestral Colorado River — field trip led by Paul Remalia for Anza-Borrego Institute, Sunday, February 26, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Visit old shoreline bed deposits of Borrego Badlands, looking for fossils and petroglyphs. Fee: $25. (OCEANIDE)

Look for Life Along Coastline when a naturalist from Birch Aquarium-Museum leads “Tidepooling for All,” Sunday, February 26, 1:30–3:30 p.m. Fee: $12 for adults, $8 for children 6–13. Required reservations: 858-534-7336. (SAN DIEGO COUNTY)

Fire Recovery, naturalist Carol Stanford leads moderate to strenuous walk in Daley Ranch to see gains plant communities have made since 2003 wildfires. Hike starts at 9 a.m. on Sunday, February 26, in main parking lot on La Honda Drive. Requested reservations: 760-839-4880. Free. (ESCONDIDO)

Observe Nature Restoring Itself in San Diego Audubon Society’s Silverwood Sanctuary, which was burned extensively during 2003 wildfires. Guided walks offered at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Sundays by reservation (619-682-7200). The sanctuary is located at 1,003 Wildcat Canyon Road (five miles from Ashwood-Mapleview turn). Free. (ESCONDIDO)

Placentioca plays deposits of Clark Dry Lake, more. $5. Trip requires four-wheel-drive vehicles. Wear hiking attire. Reservations: 760-767-0446. (ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK)

A Thin-Grown Crescent Moon returns to easy visibility in the evening sky on Wednesday, March 1, hovering prominently over the last glim of twilight. On the dark portion of the moon — the part that does not include the bright crescent — look for “earthshine” (poetically called “the old moon in the new moon’s arms”). This faint glow is our view of sunlight reflected back into space by the earth and reflected once again by the moon.

DANCE

Bellydance Gala by Thresa Nadirah, and Violeta, Friday, February 24, 8:30 p.m., at Lurix Cafe (1100 Fifth Avenue). $5–$6. 858-405-2388. (GALAPAG QUARTER)

Dick Crum Memorial Dance, Saturday, February 25, 7:30 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church (3030 Thoren Street). Beginner’s workshop at 7:30 p.m. Wear soft-soled shoes. 858-283-8550. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

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(HIP-HOP)

Evoke Dance Company presents excerpts from Hip-Hop Is Everywhere, Soul of a Young Girl: Dances of Anne Frank, Tuesday, February 28, 8 p.m., in Arts 113 at CSU San Marcos (335 South Twin Oaks Valley Road). Free: 760-750-4366. (SAN MARCOS)

Hip-Hop, Don’t Stop, hip-hop instructor Prince leads classes on Thursdays, 7:45 to 9 p.m., at 4569 30th Street, $10 per class, $35 for four. 858-635-1211. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

**All Things Swing Dance Party with music by Jump In, workshops, dancing, performances, games, on Saturday, February 25, at Dance North County (555 Encinitas Boulevard, suite 100). Intermediate “Shadow Charleston” workshop: 7:15 p.m., beginners: 8:30 p.m., open dancing 8:30 to midnight. Dance only: $13; additional fee for lessons. 619-291-3775. (ENCINITAS)

**English Country Dancing** takes place every Sunday, 5 to 9 p.m., at Jean Hart Academy of Dance (Oak Knoll Plaza, 12227 Poway Road). Ellen Riley and Steve Maranto call on February 26. Beginner’s instruction at 6 p.m. $6 per class, $20 per month. 858-486-9160. (POWAY)

**Belly Brunch** presented by Schra-za's Soak, Sunday, February 26, 11 a.m.–4 p.m., at Egyptian Tea Room (4644 College Avenue). Games, live music, belly dance lessons. $5 cover. 858-581-0135. (SRIA)

**San Diego Swing Club** hosts West Coast swing dance party every Sunday, 3–7 p.m., at La Mesa Women’s Club (5220 Wilson Avenue). Beginner’s lesson: 3–4 p.m. $7. 858-274-6422. (LA MESA)
**FILM**


“The Yogis of Tibet: A Film for Posterity” screens Friday, February 24, 7:30 p.m., at Art Produce (3319 University Avenue). Learn of “true meanings of richness and life.” Donation. 619-692-2148. (North Park)

Silent Film Fest with live music by pianist, silent film expert Philip Carli, February 24 and 25, 7:30 p.m. Each night includes film screening with original composition by Carli, lectures highlighting history, pertinent facts, anecdotes of each movie.

Enjoy Frank Capra’s “Submarine on Friday, 7 p.m., in room 3601 of MiraCosta College (One Barnard Drive); Mantrap, one of Clara Bow’s first films, is shown on Saturday in room 204 at MiraCosta’s San Elijo campus (3333 Manchester Avenue). Film also screens at 7 p.m. in room 3601 on campus at One Barnard Drive. Requested donation: $5. 760-775-6613. (Oceanside)

Cine Club! Monthly Latino Film Festival continues with Miror Dance, on Friday, February 24, 6:30 p.m., in P-32 at Palomar College (1140 West Mission Road). It’s story of Cuban twins ‘forever linked through birth and dance but separated by a revolution.’ Free. 619-230-1938 x101. (San Marcos)

El Cajon Video and Film Festival, Saturday, February 25, at East County Performing Arts Center (210 East Main Street). Screenings begin at 9 a.m., continue until awards at 7:30 p.m. Entries in student and open divisions compete for cash awards. All-day pass: $10. 619-444-3770. (El Cajon)

How About a “High-Tech Take on the Euphoria of Love”? See Mark Derraja’s Dancescape when it’s shown for Film Forum, Monday, February 27, 6:30 p.m., at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). 619-236-5800. Free. (Downtown)

Legendary Filmmaker George Kuchar — director of 214 films vying “from the scatalogical to the sublime” — visits CSU San Marcos arts building room 240 on Wednesday, March 1, 6:30 p.m. Kuchar will show and discuss his films, recognized as “paving the way for…David Lynch and John Waters.” Free. 760-750-4000. Find campus at East County Performing Arts Center (210 East Main Street). McGilchrist for Meet the Masters programs at San Diego Museum of Art on Thursday, February 23. Lectures begin at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. All-day pass: $12. Reservations: 619-696-1966. (Balboa Park)

Propagating Fruit Trees by Grafting, budding, and cuttings discussed when California Rare Fruit Growers gather, Thursday, February 23, 7 p.m., in room 102 of Casa del Prado. Free. 619-226-6469. (Balboa Park)

Lectures

“Under the Volcano: The Buried World beneath Vesuvius” explored by art historian Nigel McNicholl for Mexican Masters programs at San Diego Museum of Art on Thursday, February 23. Lectures begin at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. All-day pass: $12. Reservations: 619-696-1966. (Balboa Park)

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**THE BEATLES**

**ARE COMING TO TOWN!**

March 3, 2006 • 7:30 p.m.
East County Performing Arts Center
210 E. Main Street, El Cajon

This is one of the BEST Beatles Tribute Bands worldwide flying in from their tour in Germany to play at the East County Performing Arts Center. This show offers a special experience for Beatles fans and fan lovers of their music alike!

The Beatles Musical Tribute is a concert and show that will take the audience through the most important stages of the life of this well-known famous four. The “Twist and Shout” band play more than 30 of the Beatles immortal hits, while the Beatles story is told in a series of scenes and episodes against a backdrop of archive pictures and film clips from their first American tour to their last concert together.

Some hits include:
- The Twist
- The Hucklebuck
- Pony Time
- Let’s Twist Again
- The Fly
- Slow Twistin’
- Dancin’ Party
- Limbo Rock
- Laddie Lo

You definitely do not want to miss this show if you are a TRUE BEATLES FAN!

**TICKETS**

$20.00 per adult (Bronze section) $35.00 per adult (Silver section) $45.00 per adult (Gold section)

Go to ecpalive.com (NEW website) to purchase your tickets ON-LINE or call the box office at (619) 440-2277

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**CHUBBY CHECKER**

An American Legend
Thursday, April 27 • 7 p.m.

Chubby Checker: The “King of the TWIST!” has been packing the crowds the past four decades. His ability to electrify audiences of all ages puts him in a class of his own. To date, Chubby has sold over 25 million records worldwide!


**Evolution and Divine Providence: Are They Really Compatible?**

John F. Haught, distinguished research professor in the Department of Philosophy at Georgetown University, addresses the question on Thursday, February 23, 7 p.m., at Manhattan College Center at University of San Diego (5998 Alcala Park).

Learn why "False Memories Matter" when Lofts speaks at same spot on Friday, February 24, 12:30 p.m. Admission is free to both programs. 619-260-4003, ext. 1072.

*You’re Not From Around Here,* photographer Mike Smith discusses his career, work, and current exhibition, Thursday, February 23, 7 p.m., at Museum of Photographic Arts. $10 general. 619-238-7559 (BALA PARK).

**Birding Adventures in Ecuador,** world-class border bird Proctor systems illustrated lecture for Audubon Society on Friday, February 24, 7:45 p.m., at Tocotito Nature Center (3180 Tecolote Road). Free. 619-682-7210. (CLAREMONT)

Eyeing Bulbs, Singing Dinosaurs, Flames of Enlightenment*? presented by Oxford University lecturer and Rhodes Scholar Nigel McGilchrist, Friday, February 24, 10 a.m., for Docent Guest lecture at San Diego Mu-seum of Art. $10. 619-686-1966. (BALA PARK)

**Solidity to Sensuality: The Story of How Stone Becomes Sculpture**? presented by Oxford University lecturer and Rhodes Scholar Nigel McGilchrist, Friday, February 24, 7:30 p.m., at First Unitarian Universalist Church (4190 Front Street). Requested donations: $5. 858-274-5844 (ODRCH).

**Giverny** is focus when San Diego Museum of Art director Derrick Cartwright speaks (in English) for Alliance Française, Saturday, February 25, 2:20 p.m., in room 107 of Hahn University Center at University of San Diego (5998 Alcala Park). 619-838-6694. (LINDA VISTA)

**Great Bulbs for California-Friendly Gardens** explored by Mary McBride, Saturday, February 25, 10 a.m., at Cuyamaca College’s Water Conservation Garden (12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West). No digging up, no chilling! Reservations: 619-660-0614. $8. (MADERA)

Parrot Education and Adoption Center offers seminars on variety of topics on February 23 and 26. “African Greys” are sub- ject at 1 p.m.; “Behavior Problems” explored at 3 p.m. on Saturday. "Macaws" take center stage on Sunday at 1 p.m. Followed by a look at “Feather-Destructive Behavior” at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Classes offered in room D at San Diego Marina Village Conference Center (1936 Quijara Way). $10 in ad- vance, $15 at door. Reservations: 619-287-8200. (PACIFIC BEACH)

**California-Friendly Plant Landscaping** is focus for Dave Ehrlinger, Saturday, February 25, 10 a.m., at Quail Botanical Gar- dens (230 Quail Gardens Drive). Free. 760-436-7986 x121. (SAN MARCOS)

**Composting for the Health of Your Soil** by “com- post professional” Rich hammer on Saturday, February 25, 10:30 a.m., at Jack’s Pond Nature Center (986 La Mesa Road). Free. (SAN MARCOS)

Busy on Saturday? Whitney Duece repeats workshop, Tues- day, February 28, 6 p.m., at Santa City Hall (10601 Magnolia Avenue). Free. 760-436-7986 x121. (SAN MARCOS)

**Favors and Necessities**

10% off to Brides and Bridesmaids. Allergy, skin and hair sensitivities. Balboa Park location (021-2231 Quail Gardens Drive). Call 619-227-3219. (SAN DIEGO)

**San Diego Reader wedding**

Wedding Guide

A free, 24-hour line for planning your wedding.

**How will “Clean Elections” clean up city hall and “return city government to the neighborhood?” Find out when San Diego Clean Elections Initiative organization gathers, Friday, February 24, 7:30 p.m., at First Unitarian Universalist Church (4190 Front Street). Requested donation: $5. 858-274-5844 (ODRCH).**
THE COOLEST GAME IN TOWN
San Diego Gulls

Get Your Tickets Early...
They’re Going Fast!

Saturday, February 25, 7:05 pm vs. Long Beach Ice Dogs
FREE GULLS LONG-SLEEVED T-SHIRT GIVEAWAY
(First 8,000 fans)
GAME-WORN JERSEY AUCTION
(After the game)
Benefit for Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation

Wednesday, March 1, 7:05 pm vs. Las Vegas Wranglers

PINK IN THE RINK
Benefit for Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation

Friday, March 3, 7:35 pm vs. Las Vegas Wranglers
FREE GULLS LONG-SLEEVED T-SHIRT GIVEAWAY!
(First 5,000 fans)

Saturday, March 4, 7:05 pm vs. Las Vegas Wranglers
MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT!!
Call before March 1 and you can purchase tickets for military personnel to enjoy. $60 gets 10 military personnel into the game! (min. purchase)

DISCO NIGHT!!
Don your disco duds and get your groove on with the Gulls!
FREE Disco ‘Fro Giveaway!
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Call for details.

San Diego Reader February 23, 2006
95
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San Diego Reader February 23, 2006
Tucked live oaks and sycamores and pungent bay laurel trees Highlight the brief trek up the L.A. coast’s most easily accessible water-bearing canyon. The goal is an 18-foot cascade tucked into an upper branch of Santa Ynez Canyon. A maximum seasonal flow of water over the falls is likely during the next couple of months. Both the trail and the falls, however, may be rendered inaccessible if too much rain arrives at one time.

From Pacific Coast Highway in Pacific Palisades, take Sunset Boulevard north 0.5 mile to Palisades Drive, and follow Palisades north for 2.4 miles into the Palisades Highlands housing development and to the street called Vereda de la Montura. Turn left and within a long block find the Santa Ynez Canyon trailhead on the right — a narrow gate unlocked during daylight hours. There’s an abundant curbside parking in the surrounding neighborhood.

After a short descent, pick up the trail going up into Santa Ynez Canyon. Before long, you’re dodging stray branches of willow and bay trees, stepping across the soggy crevices, and learning about the civilized world behind you. The California bay (bay laurel) trees here are commonly found in shady, moist canyons throughout coastal California. Crush one of the dark, elongated leaves and sniff it to get a whiff of the minty/pungent scent.

Over 0.5 mile, the wide mouth of Quarry Canyon, site of an old limestone quarry, opens to the right. Stay left and go another 100 yards to a second canyon on the right. The main trail going straight leads to the Trippet Ranch headquarters of Topanga State Park. Take the less-traveled trail right (north) up the second canyon, which is actually the major fork of Santa Ynez Canyon.

After some foot-wetting creek crossings and a slippery scramble over some conglomerate boulders, you arrive at a grotto below the falls. With their orientation subject to deep shadow, the falls are difficult to photograph properly — unless the day is cloudy-bright, in which case the lighting is fine. The cool, damp air here is always refreshing, whether or not the falls are whispering or hissing loudly.

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

**How to Live Happily Ever After With Your Dog** is a topic on Wednesday, March 1, 6 p.m., at San Diego Humane Society and SPA (5300 Gaines Street). Workshop covers house-training, socialization, nutrition, more. $15. 619-299-7012 x2247.


**Decisions, Responsibility, and the Brain,** learn of “debate (SDSU)” on Wednesday, March 1, 7 p.m., in room 2203 of Malcolm A. Love Library at San Diego State University. Hewes is professor emeritus of child and family department at SDSU. Free. 619-394-5000 (SDSU).

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Discover San Diego

San Diego Reader February 15, 2006
27
San Diego
February 23, 2006

Performance Art Show by performance artists from all over San Diego, February 26, 7 p.m., at North Park Vaudeville and Candy Shoppe (2011 El Cajon Boulevard). $5, 819-647-4958. [NORTH PARK]

Slave Music of Colonial Perú brought to life by PerúNego. The 26-member song-and-dance ensemble hits stage of UCSD’s Mandeville Auditorium, Sunday, February 26, 8 p.m. $34.50–$48. [SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO]

A Scintillating Night of Expressions! San Diego Poetry Slam, Monday, February 27, at Voo Alta (1344 Broadway). Signups for poets at 8 p.m., slaming 8:30 p.m. Participate by slaming, judging, or lending vocal support. Donation for spectators, $5 for poets. 619-293-3872. [EAST VILLAGE]

Poets “Old and New” beckoned to open-mike poetry night, Monday, February 27, 8 p.m., at Twig Tea and Coffee (4590 Park Boulevard). Free. 619-296-0616. [SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO]

Fat Tuesday Show presented by Comedy Grill, with comics Scott Bowman, Joe Pallo, members of Comedy Under Construction, February 28, 8 p.m., at Rosie and Joe’s Grill and Cantina (7986 Ar- mour street). Cover $5. 858-550-8088. [HARRY MESA]

The UCSD Gospel Choir performs variety of gospel music and “other forms of sacred music of the 20th-century African-American experience” on Tuesday, February 28, 8 p.m., in UCSD’s Mandeville Auditorium. $8 general. 858-534-4830. [LA JOLLA]


Poetry Unlimited showcases poet Dana Porter, music by De- vora Susman and others, Wednesday, March 1, 7 p.m., at Borders Books and Music (11160 Rancho Bernardo Road). Free. 858-532-1657. [LA JOLLA]

Author Paul Eno plans seminar on “Understanding the Supernatural: How to Investigate and Ac- cess the Paranormal,” then signs and discusses Faces in the Window and Footsteps in the Air, Thurs- day, March 2, 7 p.m., at Borders Books and Music (11160 Rancho Carmel Drive). Free. 858-618-1814. [ESCONDIDO]

San Diego Siege professional women’s basketball team plays San Francisco Legacy on Saturday, February 25 (7 p.m.), Colorado Chill on Sunday, February 26 (4 p.m.), and San Jose Spiders on Tuesday, February 28 (7 p.m.). Home games played in Harry West Gymnasium at San Diego City College (1313 Park Boulevard). Tickets: $10 general; $7 students. 619-398-8399. [DOWNTOWN]

ImaginBicycling Past Two Dozen Coffeeshops if one of them is a Starbucks! Head out on “Giro d’Expresso” ride led by
**Cycle the Hills of Fairbanks Ranch,** Santa Luz, Rancho Penasquitos, Poway, and Escondido with Sierra Club bicyclists, Sunday, February 26. The 53-miler starts at 8:30 a.m. behind Barnes and Noble Bookstore (Del Mar Highlands Town Center, 12833 El Camino Real). Bring money for snack stop. 760-479-0187. www.sierraclub.org. 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 PM.

**Doggie Café** hosted by San Diego Humane Society on Friday, February 24, 6 p.m., at San Diego Humane Society and SPCA (5000 Gaines Street). Bring friendly, on-leash dogs to socialize with other canines. Dog-friendly trainers offer training tips on keeping dogs calm, civilized around distractions. Donation: $5. Reservations: 619-299-7012 x2230. (MISSION VALLEY)

**15th Annual Heritage Day Parade**, Saturday, February 25, starts at 10 a.m. at 49th Street and Logan Avenue, traveling to Market Creek Plaza. Celebrity guests: Raven, Kyle Massey, Booker T and Sharmell, others. Arts, crafts, vendor booths, live entertainment following parade. Fee: 619-286-9989 (EAST SAN DIEGO)

**Blossoms of Spring,** 3rd Annual flower show and bazaar presented by Ohara School of Ikebana, February 25 and 26, 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., in Casa del Prado room 101. Flower arranging demonstrations: 12:30, 1:30, 2:30 p.m. Fee: 619-683-2432. (BALBOA PARK)

**Dog Days,** Silver Bay Kennel Club of San Diego’s AKC All-Breed Dog Shows. Saturday and Sunday, February 25 and 26, 6 a.m. – 6 p.m., at Del Mar Fairgrounds. Terrific fun to watch. No unentered dogs are allowed on show grounds. Fee: 619-588-8057. (DEL MAR)

**A Way We Go,** the PhotoArts Group exhibit works at Peñasquitos Library (13330 Salmon River Road). Closing reception: Saturday, February 25, noon. Fee: 858-538-8159. (SAN DIEGO)

**San Diego Brazil Carnaval 2006,** Saturday, February 25, 8:30 p.m. – 2 a.m., at 4th & B (345 B Street). Music by SambaDa, Super Sonic Samba School, Mindinho, Capoeira Brasil, samba show, more. $30 at door. 619-224-4684. 21 and older. (DOWNTOWN)

**Pup and Circumstance,** Canine Companions for Independence hosts graduation ceremony when humans graduate with their new helper dogs — Saturday, February 25, noon, at Mission San Luis Rey (4900 Mission Avenue). Fee: $800-572-BARK. (DOWNTOWN)

**California Wolf Center** hosts public programs focusing on North American gray wolves every Saturday at 2 p.m. Programs include slide show, visit and tour with resident wolf pack. Tickets: $35 general, $5 for seniors, $4 for children ten and younger. Required reservations: 619-234-7202, x2230. (MISSION VALLEY)

**Little Italy Carnevale,** Saturday, February 25, 5–9 p.m., along 33rd Avenue. See! (MISSION VALLEY)

**“Raising Kenya,”** students raising funds for Martin’s Day Nursery (a school in Kenya) have planned “Rhythms of MiraCosta” event, Thursday, February 23, noon, on south lawn at MiraCosta College (One Barnard Drive). Youba House performs, authentic Kenyan food for sale. 619-795-6891. (OCEANSIDE)

**“Black to the Future”** — Healthy, Strong, and Conscious is theme for 14th annual Kuumba Day, February 23, at 5 p.m. at San Diego MoAD. Calif. Theater presents a day of positive celebration where humans and non-humans work together. Fee: $15. 21 and older. (OCEANSIDE)

**“Wrong Place at the Right Time”** (9:05 p.m.). $15.

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**Little Italy Carnevale,** Saturday, February 25, 5–9 p.m., along 33rd Avenue. See! (MISSION VALLEY)

People who have experienced a traumatic childhood sometimes have trouble moving forward later in life. Dr. Laura Schlessinger offers some approaches to addressing childhood issues so readers can take on the world as successful, well-adjusted adults.
A SUPERMARKET IN CALIFORNIA

What thoughts I have of you tonight, Walt Whitman, for I walked down the streets under the trees with a headless self-conscious looking at the full moon. In my hungry latitude, and shopping for images, I went into the neon fruit supermarket, dreaming of your enumerations!

What peaches and what pomegranats! Whole families shopping at night beside of all husband and wives in the avocados, in the tomatoes and in you, Garcia Lorca, what were you doing down by the watermelons?

I saw you, Walt Whitman, childless, lonely old grubber, poking among the meats in the refrigerator and eyeing the grocery boys. I heard you asking questions of each: Who killed the pork chops? What price bananas? Are you my Angel? I wandered in and out of the brilliant stacks of cans following you, and followed in my imagination by the store detective.

We strode down the open corridors together in our solitary fancy tarry articles, possessing every frozen delicacy, and never passing the cashier.

Where are we going, Walt Whitman? The doors close in a hour. Which way does your head point tonight? (I touch your book and dream of our odyssey in the supermarket and feel absurd.) Will we walk all night through solitary streets? The trees add shade to smoke, lights out in the houses, we’ll both be lonely.

Will we stroll dreaming of the lost America of love past blue automobiles in driveways, home to our silent cottage?”

Ah, dear father, graybeard, lonely old courage-teacher, what America did you have in the avocados, babies in the tomatoes! — and you, García Lorca, what were you doing down by the watermelons?

I Have Before Me a Remarkable Event includes presentation of play February 26, 2–5 p.m., at Institute of Contemporary Art, San Diego (4151 0cean Boulevard). General admission: $5. 619-236-3847. (DOWNTOWN)

Mardi Gras in the Gaslamp, Tuesday, February 28, 7 p.m.– midnight. Five stages with continuous entertainment, masquerade parade (8:30 p.m., “secretly judged” costume contests. 619-233-5227. (GASLAMP QUARTER)

February is Museum Month — with half-price admission offered at 30 area museums. Museum month passes are free at all county Robinson’s-May stores. 619-276-0101. (SAN DIEGO)

Hillcrest Mardi Gras 2006 is Tuesday, February 28, rain, shine, in Uptown area (near University and Sixth Avenue). Tootie and the Lips Girls, Candy Kane, Cashdout, the Monicas Show, more, Party, stage shows start at 6 p.m. 619-299-3330. (HILLCREST)

40th Annual Local Authors Exhibit on display through February at San Diego Public Library (820 E. Street). 619-236-3847. (DOWNTOWN)

Recently Remodeled, Hosting International San Diego’s downtown hotel is open for free tours, Thursday, March 2, 5:30–7:30 p.m. Learn role hotels play in local, international community. Multicultural dinner available; $5 (reservations required). 619-338-9981. (GASLAMP QUARTER)

Creating an Oral History of America is goal for StoryCorps hitting Balboa Park for recording through March 5. At StoryCorps mobile booth, participants record in pairs, with one person interviewing the other. At end of each 40-minute session, participants receive CD of interview, with second copy sent to American Folk-life Center at Library of Congress. KPBS will air selection of local stories; select stories will air nationally on NFV’s Morning Edition. Requested donation: $5. Record- ing reservations: 800-850-4406. (BALBOA PARK)

Witness the Gray Whale Migration during outings hosted by Birch Aquarium and San Diego Harbor Excursions through Friday, March 31. Trips naturalist and assistants are on hand during cruises to search for whales, on their way to lagoon in Baja California to calve. Fee: $25 weekdays, $30 weekends for adults, $15 for those under 16. Reservations: 619-481-1055. (PACIFIC OCEAN)

For Kids

Make “Three Wishes” with Puppet Express at Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater through Sunday, February 26. Next up: Slepping Beauty performed by Weaver’s Tales, March 1–5.

Show hours: Wednesday—Friday, 10 and 11:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 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)

Musicals for Children...By Children, singers, dancers, and actors aged 8–18 perform in Christ- yan Youth Theater productions. Tom Sawyer presented at Texas Theater (El Cajon Highway), 400 Rancho del Oro Drive), February 25–March 5. Tickets: $12 for adults, $10 for kids 3–19. Reserva- tions: 619-588-0206 or 800-696-1929. (GROUNDSIDE)

Learn About Beach Critters when Birch Aquarium hosts tide-pooling for Tots led by aquarium naturalist, Friday, February 24, noon. Fee: $12 per adult, $8 per child (6–13 years old). Required reservations: 858-534-7336. (SAN DIEGO COUNTY)

“Kinderfasching,” a German children’s Mardi Gras party — games, dance, performance by German preschoolers, more, Saturday, February 25, noon–3:30 p.m., at Santa Clara Recreation Center (1008 Santa Clara Place). Requested donation: $3 per parent. 619-894-2697. (MISSION BEACH)

Magic Show planned by J.P. Scirica for Kids 5–12 and younger, Sunday, February 26, 9–10 a.m., at Grand Magic Shop (1687 South Escondido Boulevard). $5. RSVP: 760-741-0855. Free workshop for adults at 6 p.m. (ESCONDIDO)

Nature Scavenger Hunt for all ages at Botanquio Lagoon, Sunday, February 26, 3 p.m. How many creatures and features at lagoon will you find? Free. 760-931-8080. (CARLSBAD)

“Berenstein Bears On Stage,” original musical by Stan and Jan Berenstein written for and pre- sented by Omaha Theatre Company for Young People on five you Bright Bear shows, Thursday, March 2, 7 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). $10. 800-988-4233. (ESCONDIDO)

“Rumpelstiltskin,” based on Brothers Grimm fairy tale, pre- sented by theater school students at North Coast Repertory Theatre March 2–5. Find NCRT at 987-D Lomas Santa Fe. Curtain rises at 7 p.m. Thursday to Saturday, with 2 p.m. matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets: $12 general, $9 for children. 858-481-1055. (ULAMA BEACH)

Museums

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

Bancroft Ranch House Museum houses indigenous Indian artifacts and memorabilia of early settlers in the area, run by the Spring Val- ley Historical Society. The home, built in 1863, was registered as a
Frantic Transmissions to and from Los Angeles: An Accidental Memoir

By Kate Braverman

FROM THE DUST JACKET: Kate Braverman grew up in Los Angeles in the late 1960s, the time when glitz was just beginning to be manufactured. It wasn’t a destination city yet, it was the end of the line, the last outpost with an ocean view.

Frantic Transmissions to and from Los Angeles, chosen by Robert Polito as winner of the 2005 Gaylord Press Nonfiction Prize, chronicles the trajectory of Braverman’s Left Coast generation with a voice of singular power. Born in 1950, Braverman grew up in Los Angeles and Berkeley. She graduated from Berkeley High School and UC Berkeley with a degree in anthropology. She was an antiwar activist in Berkeley, a punk poet, a single mother in the East L.A. barrio, and a woman in and out of recovery at AA meetings. In her 40s, Braverman left Los Angeles for a six-year odyssey in a 150-year-old farmhouse in New York’s Allegeny Mountains.

In wide-ranging transmissions, Braverman deftly confronts the social histories of Los Angeles with her new, traditional and isolated rural community; describes the effects of the changing seasons on sun-informed psyche; and is astonished that a remote dwellings surrounded by an apple orchard can offer surprising consolations and disappointments.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR: Her 1989 Palm Latitude remained, I said to Kate Braverman, one of my favorite California books. She answered, “It was my true love song to Los Angeles. I felt it was the real Los Angeles novel not about white people. As I became more and more an Angelino, and more indigenous, and spoke only Spanish in my baby, there felt the winds of García Márquez. I wrote Palm Latitudes as a survival book, a textbook for my daughter on how to survive, as if I was leaving it in a time capsule for her.”

I asked about the title of this newest book. “Get it was important to say that it was an accidental memoir. It had not occurred to me that the book formed a memoir, until I had taken essays, short stories, stand-up comedy routines, and laid out sequences of poetry.

“As a California writer, I am an experimentalist. I believe in genre-demolition. I think that the work that Joan Didion and Hunter Thompson did in demolishing the patrician vestiges of privilege, that call themselves ‘genre,’ that all that happened quite some time ago. And, yet, these changes don’t seem to resonate through the culture the way one might think they would.

“What I have discovered is that unless a reader is headlined into taking on a book that is complex and demanding, if they don’t think that it is desirable, they simply won’t. My work always needed to be framed and presented to people because I think it is too complex for a reader to take on unless it is adequately framed for them. There was no infrastructure in Los Angeles, or probably in California at all, to provide the context that my work needed.

“I expected that as time went on that a context would appear. Frantic Transmissions is part of an attempt to make a map of my fictional poetic terrain, in a way that might make navigating the waters of Braverman more accessible and also not seem as dangerous as perhaps it has in the past.

“I give you a map of the country, and when you go back and read the fiction you will understand something about the region, the kingdom, the era, the currency, dialect, delites, of which I am speaking. So, that was the idea for Transmissions.”

The trip itself, from California to New York, said Ms. Braverman, “was a very interesting odyssey — embarking on the classic, mythic American road trip. We packed up our whole life in Los Angeles and drove across the country to the extreme remote world of the Allegeny Mountains. We went looking for the Great American Dream, and like Hunter Thompson we saw things along the way that were beyond belief.

“We went looking for the Great American Dream, and like Hunter Thompson we saw things along the way that were beyond belief.”

National Historic Landmark in 1962 and is on a spot where Kumeyaay Indians camped more than 1000 years ago. The spring that later gave the area its name. The museum is located at 4850 Memory Lane, 619-469-1480. (SPRING VALLEY)

Barona Cultural Center and Museum is located at 1095 Barona Road, 619-443-7003 x2. (LAMEDEE)

California Surf Museum, “The Surfer-Shapers,” on exhibit throughout 2006, 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 “J.T.” Richards, and Peter Johnson, and Duke Kahanamoku. The museum is located at 225 North Coast Highway, 760-721-6876. (OCEANSIDE)
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San Diego’s Aerospace Museum, the technological advancements made in aircraft propulsion over the last century are showcased in "100 Years of Aircraft Engines," including a functional reproduction of the 1903 Wright Flyer Engine; a Rolls-Royce liquid-cooled Merlin V-12 that powered the Spitfire and P-51 Mustang fighters; and a rare German Junkers Ju 88A, one of the world’s first operational jet engines.

Concurrently, see "The History of Commercial Aviation in America." A new section of the exhibit celebrates the 40-year history of PSA, with original graphics, a re-creation of the airline’s first ticket booth at Lindbergh Field, and uniforms and memorabilia donated by former employees. Ongoing.

"P-51 Mustang" celebrates the legendary Air Force fighter plane during both World War II and Korea. The museum’s Mustang is painted in the red-sail livery of the Tuskegee Airmen, who distinguished themselves flying bomber escort and ground attack missions during World War II.

The museum offers exhibits of over 15 aircraft — including an RQ-1 Predator UAY (unmanned aerial vehicle) on indefinite loan from the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, which “saw action over the Balkans in the late 1990s”, a replica of Spirit of St. Louis, a Fokker Scourge (or Fokker Eindecker E-I), a World War I spd VII, flight deck of the USS Yorktown, and a Lockheed Blackbird spy plane — 1400 scale models, 10,000 aviation-related items, and memorabilia from Montgolfier hot-air-balloon era to Space Age, along with an International Aerospace Hall of Fame. The museum is located in the Ford Building in the Palisades area. 619-234-8291.

When women exhibit similar behavior, when women engage in risky endeavors, when women respond to the lore of pharmacologically conscious discussions, we call them mentally ill. They can be disposed of. For a male, risk and devotional war wounds, men receive metaphorical purple hearts, while — for the same behavior — women are locked in institutions.

"For the 35 years of my writing life, I have battled stereotypes with original graphics, a exhibit celebrates the 40-year history of PSA, with original graphics, a re-creation of the airline’s first ticket booth at Lindbergh Field, and uniforms and memorabilia donated by former employees. Ongoing.

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San Diego Natural History Museum, "Genome: How the Secret of Life Works," continuing through April, explores the human genome, revealing the mysteries of the genome, probing powerful forces (such as socioeconomics).

"How is your meatloaf?"
"My meatloaf is spectacular."
"But it is good to be back in California. After this self-exile, I'm able to see Los Angeles and California with a clarity and an appreciation that I don't think I could have before."

– Judith Moore

On Friday, March 3, at 7:00 p.m., Kate Braverman, winner of the 2005 Graywolf Press Nonfiction Prize, will read from Frantic Transmissions to and from Los Angeles at D.G. Wills Books, 7461 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-1800. Free and open to the public.

Wells Fargo History Museum, the museum features a working agent's office staffed by guides in period costumes and contains a working telephone for visitors to send and receive messages. Short films on California and Wells Fargo history, a gold display, part of the collection assembled by Wells Fargo agent Samuel Downey at the end of the 1800s; an exhibit of Concord Coach #251, a restored stagecoach built in 1867, and the Davis Watch. The museum is located in the reconstructed Colorado House, at 2733 San Diego Avenue.

San Diego Electric Railway, located at historic National City Santa Fe Depot (922 West 23rd Street), offers exhibits, video displays, trolley equipment, restored passenger car from National City and Otay Railroad. 619-474-4400. NATIONAL CITY.

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**CLASSICAL LISTINGS**

Mainly Mozart Spotlight Session on the events section.

- **San Diego Symphony**
  - Performances at 8 p.m. on Friday, February 24, and 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 26. Tickets range from $27-$114. Enjoy the opera at San Diego Civic Theatre, 202 C Street. Reservations: 619-333-7000.

- **Silent Film Nights**
  - Sunday, February 26, 2 p.m., in Smith Recital Hall at San Diego State University. Free. 619-594-6060.

- **Wu Han**

- **Hyperion String Quartet**
  - Performs for mini-concert at noon on Monday, February 27, in Luce Recital Hall at San Diego State University. Free: 858-534-TIXS.

**ART LISTINGS**

Events that are underlined occur after March 2.

**HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING:** Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER CLASSICAL MUSIC, Box 58503, San Diego CA 92186-5803. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at Sandiegoreader.com by clicking on the events section.


― "Genius" provides theme for Ca-marada’s “Candelight Concert,” Saturday, February 25, 6:30 p.m., at Botanics (2310 Kettner Boulevard). Beth Ross-Buckley (flute) and Fred Benedetti (guitar) will celebrate Einstein’s centenary with his favorite composer, J.S. Bach. $50 fee includes wine, hors d’oeuvres. 619-231-3702.

Southern California Premiere of Lera Auerbach’s “Sonata No. 1 for Violincello and Piano” when cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han perform for ArtPower! in Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD, Saturday, February 25, 8 p.m. Also on tap: “Sonata for Cello and Piano in C Major” by Prokofiev, Rachmaninoff’s “Sonata for Piano and Cello in G Minor.” $36. 858-534-TIXS.

Music by Hugo Wolof, Shostakovich, and Brahms promised when Hyperion String Quartet performs Sunday, February 26, 2 p.m., in Smith Recital Hall at San Diego State University. Free. 619-594-6060.

Sunday Soirée, classical “open make” opportunities with concert pianist John Danke planned on final Sunday of each month, including February 26, 7-8:15 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church (3450 Clairemont Drive). Free.

Piano Students of Alex Karis present their recent work, Thursday, March 2, 8 p.m., in Recital Hall at UCSD’s Mandeville Center. Free. 858-534-4830.

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**Thursday:**
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**ART MUSEUMS**

Minglo International Museum, more than 90 bottles, bowls, platters, and tiles made between 1940 and 2004 are included in retrospective “The Art of Vivila and Otto Heino” Vivila Heino died in 1995, but Otto Heino continues to make pots in his Ojai pottery, throwing 100 pounds of clay at a time. Closes Sunday, March 19.

“Norway — Art of the Land and the People” celebrates 100 years of Norwegian independence. Exhibit includes arts of daily life such as metalwork, jewelry, bunad (festival costumes), textiles, rosemaling (decorated pottery and furniture), and Norwegian-American immigrant chests from 18th Century. Closes on Sunday, May 21.


“Elemental Art of the Indonesian Archipelago” includes more...
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Thursday Night Package: Enjoy a 3-course dinner at The Prado Restaurant with wine and 2 tickets to the San Diego Museum of Art to see In Stabiae for only $79.95. For reservations, please call 619.238.7559 ext. 1.

In Stabiae

www.sandiegomuseumofart.org

San Diego Museum of Art

March 19. Find the museum at 700 Prospect Street. 888-454-3541. (LA Jolla)

Museum of Photographic Arts, "Eye to Eye: Photographs by Graham Nash," on view through Sunday, April 30, includes works from the rocker's recent book "Eye to Eye" and new additions from his current work. Raymond Pettibon's work, often showing darker side of society and American hypocrisy, is also on view through Sunday, September 3. Pettibon — known for "his idiosyncratic renderings and room-sized installations" — exhibits a large-scale wall drawing. Find the museum at 790 Prospect Street. 888-454-3541. (LA Jolla)

Museum of Contempory Art San Diego, La Jolla, over four decades of work made by artists from Los Angeles to the Mexican border showcased in "Southern Exposure," continuing through Sunday, September 3. Some of the art is politically motivated, some is concerned with formal considerations. Highlights include important early works by John Baldessari, Ed Ruscha, Robert Irwin.

"La Dolce Vita: Selections from the Ruth and Murray Grabin Collection," continuing through Sunday, May 7, features a broad range of works by Southern California artists including John Altoon, Balesarsar, Vija Celmins, Robert Therrien, Irwin, and "a seminal 1958 painting by Ed Ruscha."

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**Tickets Soon?**

The Reader offers $25 for news price tickets at what the lower prices, ever. Even if they House of Blues will never "Major corporations like who declined to be identified. artist will theoretically get paid the same artist. Because the two work to the benefit association may took over booking agreement with 4th & B owner Two weeks ago, in an arena Productions. "Friday nights local company Polka Dot promoter David Dean and night produced by L.A. promoter David Dean and "In no way does anyone associated with E Street Café support censorship," says Nanninga. "We have a bigger problem of people hanging out, sprawled all over the café and not buying anything." He says Harmon was ejected because "It's just us being greedy capitalists."

Harmon admits that by the time he went up to play he did not have a cup in front of him. "I go in there and buy one cup of tea. Usually, by the time I go on, that cup is gone and I don't have money to buy anything else. I guess they are thinking of me as a bum."

"Bad gutter hippie," says Nanninga. Nanninga says his Tuesday-night open-mike is on hiatus but will resume next month, when the café secures its entertainment permit from the city. Harmon appears Wednesday at Twiggs.

**Gratitude for Switchfoot**

On the way to town last year, Gratitude’s van broke down in a Ralphs parking lot about 30 miles from their show at Mira Mesa’s Epicentre. "An axle had broken on our trailer, or something odd and unfixable," says the band’s former singer, Jonah Matranga. "It was a show that had been booked very last-minute, and we knew we’d be back to San Diego soon, so there was a strong argument for just canceling, but…it just seemed stupid to not make it there, bring us close."

Then, a "clean-cut suburban dad sort of guy" approached them and asked if they were in a band.

"If you’ve been on tour a lot, especially in Middle America at some awful restaurant at 4 a.m., with the staff and clientele looking at you like you’re aliens, you know that this is the most boring, annoying question..."
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Lee was part of a panel discussion about independent music labels. To his left he saw John S. Hall (King Missile’s singer), and to his right was Steve Gottlieb, owner and founder of TVT Records, the largest indie label in the country. Lee took note that he, at age 25, was dwarfed by the industry folks that surrounded him, all of whom had at least 10 to 20 years of age and experience on him.

Gottlieb was going on and on about how music sales are down because of ripping, burning, and file-sharing,” Lee says. “I piped in and said I thought music-industry sales are down because music is really bad these days. I made some comment about the Ying Yang Twins (who are on TVT) and said that if labels would start signing bands with actual talent maybe sales would go back up again. (Gottlieb) didn’t take too kindly to this and pretty much tore me a new one. Needless to say, he had the upper-hand when it comes to industry smack-talk session.

John Hall kind of got my back by agreeing that music is pretty weak these days,” Lee continues. “But all I could think about was how he was talking was [the King Missile song lyrics] ‘I saw my penis laying on a blanket next to a broken toaster oven.’"

On February 25, Lee’s Loud and Clear Records celebrates its fourth year at the Cashbah with Adam Gnarde, Goodbye Blue Monday, Via Satellite, Manouk, and neontief.

— Jeremiah Griffey

Not Strange Bedfellows
At All
OB’s Defamation League calls itself “the official band of the Bryan Barton for Congress Campaign.” The onetime Arizona Minuteman volunteer hopes to win the seat to represent California’s 33rd District. “Barton’s opponent is [incumbent Democrat] Susan Davis,” says Nick Slezin, “and she’s sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League, so it seemed like a good fit.”

Barton, a self-described “conservative Christian,” earned headlines last year for allegedly detaining a Mexican man at the border and forcing him to be photographed with a T-shirt that read, “Bryan Barton caught an illegal alien and all I got was this lousy T-shirt.” Authorities decided that Barton didn’t hold the man against his will.

“We don’t necessarily align ourselves with his political positions,” says Khernicle Ali. “I mean, it’s not like we endorse pro-life and shit like that. We think the guy’s cool, though.”

The band is tied to Barton via campaign supporter Steve York, who gained notoriety after he used UCSD’s closed-circuit campus-TV channel to broadcast video of himself having sex.

“A lot of the instrumental tracks on our first CD were used in the soundtrack to [York’s] porno, Rising Fees and Popping Bxs,” says Dune Murderous. That CD, Anatomy of Grit-Hop, was released last month. “We also did some songs just for the porno that aren’t on the CD ‘cause well, ‘cause they’re porno songs.”

— Jay Allen Sanford

Pauper’s Ransom
Miller operates a recording studio out of his two-bedroom apartment in North County. The studio consists of a Mac and a PC, a Pro-Tools software program for digital recording, and a collection of microphones. He says it cost him $10,000 to $12,000 for all the equipment. With such low overhead, he is able to charge bands $25 per hour.

Advertisements for small studio operations have been popping up in the musicians’ listings on San Diego’s Craigslist website. Rates usually run about $20 to $30 per hour, with some exceptions. Miller claims to have seen a posting that listed a $10-per-hour rate.

Hourly studio rates at established studios have been closer to $50, but a recent glance through the classifieds shows that traditional studios may be cutting rates to stay competitive. King’s Ransom, Audioquest, and Hobartrax all advertised hourly rates as low as $30 per hour, while CV Studios charges $20 per hour.

“A lot of my recordings, quality and production-wise, totally hang with the million-dollar studio sound,” Miller says. He admits that some of the comforts of a traditional studio are sacrificed; a recent session consisted of a 15-piece children’s choir (and all of their parents) crammed into Miller’s living room. “I had to kick the parents out onto the porch,” Miller says.

— Dryw Keltz

CONTRIBUTORS
William Crain, Dave Good, Jeremiah Griffey, Larry Harmon, Michael Hemmingson, Ken Loghton, Ryan Libby, Derek Plank, Erin Riello, Jay Allen Sanford

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  - MAR 03
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  - MAR 07
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  - MAR 08
- **Bruce In The USA**
  - MAR 10
- **Black Apple Motorcycle Club**
  - MAR 11
- **Kristian Prettyman**
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- **Opeth**
  - MAR 13
- **Kottonmouth Kings**
  - MAR 16
- **Roots & The Maytals**
  - MAR 18
- **Metric**
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Eric Beard’s musician credits stretch back some 20 years, though it’s his recording degree from Chico State that allows for some of the bigger technological leaps in his stage act as Angerhead, the one-man metal band. “First of all, I never was a singer, and some people probably would say I’m still not,” he laughs. “But singing and playing guitar at the same time is still a crazy, stuff.”

WHAT’S IN YOUR CD PLAYER?
1. Unwritten Law, “the Black album” (“There’s something really catchy and heavy about this record and drums that I program, so synching everything up is definitely the most trying and challenging thing.”
2. Megadeth, Greatest Hits: Back to the Start (“I would have to say Dave Mustaine is one of my favorite metal songwriters of all time. I love this stuff.”)
3. Dr. Chunk, Dr. Chunk (“I wrote this record with some friends, and I haven’t heard it in two years until a week ago. Now I’ve been listening to it a lot.”)

WRITTEN LAW
1. Slayer, Reign in Blood (“One of the best metal albums of all time.”)
2. Megadeth, Rust in Peace (“Another of the best.”)
3. Pink Floyd, The Division Bell (“Just a beautiful record.”)
4. “The best of Led Zeppelin, AC/DC, or Menudo would fight it out for the last spot.”

WORST GIG?
“In San Marcos at the Longshot Saloon — I was so pissed and stressed. I had just got back from Vegas, and nothing was going right. Guitars sucked, video wouldn’t work, amps sucked, just awful… I guess I lived up to the name Angerhead that night.”

BRUSH WITH THE FAMOUS?
“I hung with James Hetfield and Jason Newstead of Metallica back in the day. Jason had just been asked to join Metallica, and he was really cool. He let us take pictures and was buying us beers all night.”

FAVORITE CARTOON?
“Pink Floyd cartoons are amazing. You feel like you’re taking LSD or something just watching that stuff.”

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU FEW WOULD KNOW OR GUESS?
“I fix and sell dental equipment as a real job. I’ve also done studio work with Dr. Dre.”

GREATewearT DISCS?
1. Slayer, Reign in Blood (“One of the best metal albums of all time.”)
2. Megadeth, Rust in Peace (“Another of the best.”)
3. Pink Floyd, The Division Bell (“Just a beautiful record.”)
4. “The best of Led Zeppelin, AC/DC, or Menudo would fight it out for the last spot.”

“I like to keep things intense and heavy.”

Eric Beard
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THIS WEEK’S CONCERTS

THURSDAY
Robyn Hitchcock (309): Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, February 23, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140 or 619-220-8497.

FRIDAY
Los Lobos (476): House of Blues, Friday, February 24, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.
Jamie O’Neal: California Center for the Arts, Friday, February 24, 340 N. Escondido Boulevard, Escondido. 800-988-4253 or 619-220-8497.
The Derek Trucks Band (950): Belly Up Tavern, Friday, February 24, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140 or 619-220-8497.
“Brazilian Carnaval 2006”: Canes, Friday, February 24, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

SATURDAY
“San Diego Brazil Carnaval 2006”: Canes, Saturday, February 25, 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343 or 619-220-8497.
Sevendust (261): House of Blues, Saturday, February 25, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.
Dave Mason: Poway Center for the Performing Arts, Saturday, February 25, 15498 Espola Road, Poway, 858-748-0505.

EXTENSION 4001

UPCOMING CONCERTS

MARCH
Styx (3283): House of Blues, Thursday, March 2, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.
The Asylum Street Spankers (569): Acoustic Music San Diego, Friday, March 3, 4630

Listen to sample songs of bands in upcoming concerts free on your phone: 619-233-9797. Call night or day 7 days a week.

Concert Soundboard
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Press the 4-digit extension above the category that interests you (for example, 4000 for this week’s concerts).

At the next prompt, press the 3-digit code that is next to the performer you wish to hear. (Performers without codes currently do not have recordings.)

EXTENSION 4000

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Styx (3283): House of Blues, Thursday, March 2, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583 or 619-220-8497.
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**EPICENTRE**

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**THE JUMPING TURTLE**

**IN REVERENT PEARL**

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**JONNY WAX**

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**KORENA**

**CANOES**

**KILL ME TOMORROW (152)**

**EPICENTRE**

**THE KNEE HIGH S**

**THE CASBAH**

**LEAF (KOLL)**

**DREAMSTREET**

**THE LOST DISCIPLES (208)**

**LONGSHOT SABOTAGE**

**MACHINE**

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**MANUSCRIPTS**

**THE CASBAH**

**MUST**

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**THE MINUS ST**

**BELLY UP TAVEN**

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**DREAMSTREET**

**THE MOVIES**

**THE CASBAH**

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**THE CASBAH**

**THE PLOT TO BLOW UP THE EIFFEL TOWER**

**EPICENTRE**

**PLUMP**

**BELLY UP TAVEN**

**THE PRIME MINISTERS**

**BLIND MELONS**

**RADIO 1**

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**Canoes**

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**SONS**

**SEVENDUST (281)**

**HOUSE OF BLUES**

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**SONS**

**THE CASBAH**

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Thursday, February 23

8 pm-12 am • Original Rock

“Indie Limelight”
featuring Carol Ames, Annie Bethancort
and The Cory Wilkins Band

Friday, February 24

Two Shows: 7 pm & 9:30 pm

Rockola’s Tribute to George Harrison’s Birthday

Saturday, February 25

5-9 pm

Challenged Athletes Foundation
Singles Auction and Silent Auction

9:30 pm-1:30 am • Motown & Dance

Detroit Underground

Sunday, February 26

98.1 Smooth Jazz with Kelly Cole
The only place to be on Sunday night!!!

8 pm-12 am

Jose Molina Serrano

Monday, February 27

7-11 pm • Mainstream Jazz

Glen Fisher Trio
Michele Lundeen
Burt Brion

Tuesday, February 28

8 pm-12 am • Scorchin’ Blues

Wednesday, March 1

Upcoming Shows

Saturday, March 11

40th Anniversary Tour

Savoy Brown
featuring Kim Simmonds

Thursday, March 16

Jacqui Naylor

Saturday, March 18

Novameno

Wednesday, April 5

Legendary Singer-Songwriter

Jesse Colin Young

Sunday, April 9

Second Generation Jazz Legend

John Pizzarelli

Tickets for “Upcoming Shows” available at Ticketmaster and Humphrey's. Reserved seating for “Upcoming Shows” available with dinner. All shows are 21 years and up.
BY WILLIAM CRAIN

Robyn Hitchcock’s lyrics about insects, fish, and failed relationships (and insect or fish metaphors that explore failed relationships) seem designed to put off the casual listener even as his melodies are designed to rope them in. That’s sort of how he conducts his career.

Like Syd Barrett, to whom he’s often compared, Hitchcock inhabits the time-honored role of eccentric Englishman. Unlike Barrett, Hitchcock has kept his sanity and his career going for 30 years, veering from psychedelic-flavored rock to folk and other less classifiable sounds. Many of his albums — with the Soft Boys, solo, or with the Egyptians — have fallen out of print and been reissued, only to fail out of print and be reissued again. Each reissue will often feature different versions of some songs. One album, Groovy Decay, later spun off an alternate-takes album called Groovy Decay before both were bundled together as Groovy Decay — and this is the album that Hitchcock has said he likes least!

Although he has lots of dedicated fans (most famously, the members of REM), even his greatest admirers admit that his output over the years has been hit-or-miss. His career waxes and wanes, his most artistically satisfying periods corresponding with the times when he is least well known, while his brief stints with a higher profile (a major-label deal in the ’80s, the release of Jonathan Demme’s documentary film Storefront Hitchcock in the late ’90s) inspire him to come out with some of his most forgettable music.

These days, Hitchcock is flying under the radar, which could mean he’s at his best.

The Minus Five open.

ROBYN HITCHCOCK, Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, February 23, 8 p.m. 858-481-9022 or 619-220-8497. $27.

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Calendar

Bands

The High-Rolling Loners:
O’Connell’s Pub and Nightclub
Railroad Empire: O’Connell’s Pub and Nightclub
Shoe String Strap (778):
O’Connell’s Pub and Nightclub
Southbound Jonny: Renegade Inn
Whiskey Tango (779): Wildwinds

EXTENSION 4008

A C O U S T I C / F O L K

Joel Ackerson: Lestat’s Coffeehouse
Joseph Angelastro: The BookWorks/Pannikin Cafe
Amy Ayres: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Heather Baker: The Hot Java Cafe, The Metaphor Coffeehouse
Evan Bethany: Lestat’s Coffeehouse
Bill: The Casbah
John Bosley: Borders Books and Music (El Cajon)
Brax: The Ould Sod
Steve Brewer: Blarney Stone Pub, McP’s Irish Pub and Grill
The Celtic Ensemble: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Tony Cummins: Blarney Stone Pub
Brian Dolzani: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Jim Earp: Borders Books and Music (Gaslamp)
Tim Easton: (AM) Belly Up Tavern
Ryan Fergusson: Soma
Josephine Foster: The Casbah
4-Way Street: McP’s Irish Pub and Grill
Grand Canyon Sundown: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Josh Hall: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Rusty Jones: Lestat’s Coffeehouse
The Kennedys: Acoustic Music San Diego
Katherine: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Joanna Matranga: Soma
Tim Mudd: Lestat’s Coffeehouse
Andrew Norworthy: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Tonya Panneton: The Hot Java Cafe
Doug Petibone: Belly Up Tavern
Kyle Phelan: Borders Books and Music (El Cajon)
Lee Tyler Post: Island Sports and Spirits
Tommy Price: Island Sports and Spirits

San Diego Reader February 23, 2006

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MARDI GRAS in the GASLAMP

“Fat Tuesday”
February 28, 2006
7:00 p.m. to Midnight
Five Stages Only $20
Over 21 with I.D.

Masquerade Parade
8:30 p.m. - 5th Ave.

G Street Party Stage
DJ Marc Thrasher “between sets”
NRG
Polyester and the Platforms
KC and the Sunshine Band

E Street Club Stage
DJ’s Erick Diaz & Adam Salter
with Siesta Records
Scooter & Lavelle
Miss Lisa

4th Avenue Tipitina Stage
DJ Mac “between sets”
The Frappe’ Brass Band
The Wild Apache Mardi Gras Indians
The 504 Brass Band
Kirk Joseph’s Backyard Groove

K Street Gaslamp Stage
DJ Scott Martin “between sets”
Dirty Sweet
Lady Dottie and the Diamonds
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Main Gates:
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The Bayou Brothers: [948]

The Big Mo Band: Dizzy’s

The Blues Brokers: The Kraken

The Blues Connection: Island Sports and Spirits

Buddy Guy: House of Blues

The Charles Burton Blues Band: [943]; The Kraken

Tomcat Courtney & the Blues Dusters: [942]; Chateau Orleans, Big Jim’s Old South Bar & Grille, Turquoise Cafe

The Credit Union: Neiman’s Bar and Grill

Taryn Donath & Mojo Rising: Patrick’s II

The Pelicans: Bally Up Tavern

The Freemonts: [943]; Lestat’s Coffeehouse

Robin Henkel: [944]; Lestat’s Coffeehouse

The Hoodoo Blues Band: Blind Melons

The Ironworkers: The Jumping Turtle

L.A. Jones & the Blues Messengers: Patrick’s II

Candy Kane [939]: The Calypso Cafe

Lady Dottie & the Diamonds: Henry’s Pub

Michelle Lundeen & Blues Streak: Humphrey’s

The Bill Magee Blues Band: [947]; Patrick’s II

Jeff Moore: The Calypso Cafe

The 145th Street Deluxe Blues Band: [932]; Blind Melons

Lydia Pense & Cold Blood: Bally Up Tavern

Plato Soul: The Kraken

The Reverend Peyton’s Big Damn Band: Bally Up Tavern

The Rockin’ Blues Hounds: Tiki House

The Peter Rutman Blues & Jazz Band: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

J.J. Style & the Blues Talkers: Squid Joe’s

Dean Smith: The Calypso Cafe

3 EZ Pieces: The Kraken

Triple Shot [938]: The Calypso Cafe

The Derek Trucks Band [950]; Bally Up Tavern

Uncle Bob & the Earthmovers: House of Blues

Billy Watson: The Gordon Biersch Brewery

EXTENSION 4010
EVERYTHING ELSE

Armenta de San Diego: La Valencia Hotel

AWOL One: The Metaphor

Coffeehouse

Balaos: ‘Canes

The Boston Pops Repertoire: Carlsbad Community Church

J.D. Boucharde [985]; Princess Pub and Grill

The Capriccio String Quartet: Tutti Mazz

Chicharones Guapos: The Calypso Cafe

Crash Carter [991]; ‘Canes

D-Styles: The Metaphor

Coffeehouse

Daddy Key: The Metaphor

Coffeehouse

Vicki Erigat: Edelweiss Restaurant

The Fantasy Cirque Arts: ‘Canes

Jim Gibson: Hotel del Coronado

Kjell Holmes [994]; Edelweiss Restaurant

Jaski: Martini Ranch (Gaslamp)

Javid: Borders Books and Music (Missions Valley, Carmel Mountain)

Gordon Kohl [993]; Edelweiss Restaurant

Bradley Leighton [987]; Game Time Tavern

Ricardo Lemva y Makina Loca: Sevilla

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FEB 25
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MAR 3

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MAR 4

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Tony vs Jorge
MAR 11

Dimitri from Paris
MAR 18

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The Masters Series
MAR 19

Steel Pulse
MAR 23

Into You Tour
UB40
MAR 29
KEM
MAR 28

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MAY 2

Icey’s Official Album Release Party

Saturday, March 4th 2006
4th&B San Diego

DJ Icey

Baby Anne
(System Recordings/Orlando)
**DJ EVENTS**

If you would like to include your DJ event, e-mail sell@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, eclectic and gothic with DJs DarkAngel, Notljanghansom, and guest. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. 21 and up. The Kava Lounge, 2812 Ketner Boulevard, midtown. 619-543-0933.

**Club de Sade:** Third Saturday of the month, gothic, industrial, and EBM with DJs Darkestman and Creep. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. San Diego Sports Club, 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-284-2747.

**Club '80s:** Third and fifth Saturdays of the month, synthpop, industrial, and goth with DJs Nate Fontaine, Saul Q, Barry Weeco, and more. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. San Diego Sports Club, 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-284-2747.

**Club Fashion Whore:** Second and fourth Saturday of the month, electroclash, Brit pop, and indie-dance with DJs Wank Chops, lstr, and Skyler Mic. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m; 21 and up. No cover. The Beauty Bar, 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area. 619-536-4746.

**Dj Music Works:** Second and fourth Saturday of the month, electro, downtempo, electronic, and ambient with DJs Nite Fontaine, Saul Q, Barry Weeco, and more. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. No cover. The Beauty Bar, 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area. 619-536-4746.

**Deep:** Thursdays, drum ’n’ bass with DJs Yakkawork, 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. 619-702-4455.

**Liquids:** Sundays, liquid funk and drum ’n’ bass. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. No cover. Red C Lounge, 776 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-2838.

**MixLab:** Thursdays, DJ Drex spins an eclectic mix of music: alternative hip-hop, urban soul, and Latin grooves. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. No cover. Candelas, 619 Third Avenue, downtown. 619-702-4855.

**Moondoggies Pacific Beach:** Saturdays, Saturday Night Mix, hip-hop and R&B with DJs Jiggy and Goss. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. No cover. 852 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-6550.

**One Nation:** Second and fifth Saturdays of the month, new wave, hip-hop, and hoedown mixes with DJs Backstone and Atari. The Whistle Stop, 2286 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. to 2 a.m. Broderick Sports Bar, 2236 El Camino Real, Oceanside. 760-757-1123.

**Sabbatical:** Second Saturday of the month, new wave, gothic, and darkwave with DJs Barry Weaver, and more. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. Shooterz, 3815 30th Street, North Park. 619-702-4455.

**Stars and Strangled Bastards:** Third Saturday of the month, alternative rock and roll with DJs Barry Weaver and Sickboy. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. Shooterz, 3815 30th Street, North Park. 619-702-4455.

**The Weekend Mix:** Fridays and Saturdays, DJs Blackstone and Atari. The Whistle Stop, 2286 Fern Street (corner of 30th and Juniper), South Park. 619-284-6784.

**UPCOMING SHOWS**

See website for other upcoming shows.

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**THE ANTIQUE ROW**
San Diego Reader.com also submit information online at San Diego CA 92186-5803. You may schedules, fax to 760-788-1309 or mail publication. To send weekly or monthly Friday, and Saturday, The Alley, 619-235-3000, ext. 405, night or day by

CLUBS BY AREA

Belly Up Tavern, 143 South Cedars Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-481-9622 Thursday, 8 p.m., Ruben Hitchcock and the Minus 3 and Plump. Friday, The Derek Trucks Band and the Reverend Peyton’s Big Damn Band, soul/rock/blues. Saturday, 9 p.m., the Romans and Jack the Original, rock. Sunday, 8 p.m., Lucinda Williams, Doug Pavitt, and Tom Eaton. Wednesday, 8 p.m., Carlos Perez & Gold Blood, funk/soul/blues, and the Pelicans, soul/rock.

Big Jim’s Old South Bar & Q, 100 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas. Sunday, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Formal Courtyard at the Blues Dusters, blues.

Bistro 221, 221 Grand Avenue, Escondido. 760-737-9798. Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Carlos Russ, jazz.


Boar Cross’n, 390 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-2089. Friday and Saturday, live classic rock.

The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe, Tower Hill Mall, 1-3 Via de la Vida, Del Mar. 858-755-5735. Friday, 8 p.m., Joseph Angeluppi, solo guitar.

Borders Books and Music, 1905 Calla Baraniana, Carlsbad. 760-479-0042. Friday, 8 p.m., Max Tyler Post, acoustic rock.

Borders Books and Music, 11600 Rancho Carmel Drive, Carmel Mountain. 858-618-1014. Friday, 8 p.m., Aruba Double, acoustic, folk. Saturday, 8 p.m., Javel, flamenco.

Bob’s Whiskey Dive, 301 Paseo View Way, Ocean Beach. 760-757-0585. Monday, 6 p.m., Sassy Shots, rock.

California Center for the Arts, 340 N. Escondido Boulevard, Escondido. 1-800-988-4253. Thursday, 7 p.m., Shubham Nair and Hafez Nazer, modern Persian music.


Carlsbad Community Church, 3179 Harding Street, Carlsbad. 760-729-2531. Sunday, 2 p.m., the Chinese Pipe Repertoire.

Carvers, 11940 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 838-366-2860. Friday, Lagos, classic rock. Saturday, the Ides, classic rock.

Del Mar Hilton, 11675 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 792-5000. Friday, 3 p.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., San Diego Jazz Party, classic jazz.

Game Time Tavern, 12735 Povay Road, Poway. 858-748-0015. Friday and Saturday, live classic rock. Tuesday, Bradley Leghtsp, R&B/soft dance.

Hennessey’s Tavern (Carlsbad), 2777 Bosuerstreet, Carlsbad. 760-729-4951. Thursday, Triple X, rock. Friday and Saturday, call club for information.

The Hot Java Cafe, 11738 Carmel Mountain Road, Suite 182, Carmel Mountain. 858-475-7111. Saturday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Heather Baker, Brenda Parsonet, and Jaime Roth, acoustic rock.


The Jumping Turtle, 1650 Capulina Road, San Marcos. 760-471-7778. Music is rock alternative, Thursday, the Left Lights, the Antique Bow, IT Ten Eleve, and Machine Friday, the Sea Points Experience, 51 Guns, the Underhills, and the Wastels. Saturday, the Wagon and the Jerk Works. Sunday, the Zenith Zone, GarANCE, Parkhurst, Reason to Rebel, and Jenoyce. Monday, the Iron Workers Local 66 blues. Tuesday, DJ

If you wish to submit a listing, call 619-235-3000 ext. 405, or by fax to 760-788-1309 or email to Readers Music Scene, P.O. Box 48303, San Diego CA 92186-3003. 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. 405, or e-mailed to sdinfo@sdreader.com, or faxed to 619-232-2401.

NORTHERN CA

The Alley, 421 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-434-1175. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the Love Junkers, Top 40 pop.

Brewery and Bistro, 312 K Street, San Diego. 619-220-2040. Monday, the Nighthawks, Top 40. Tuesday, the Dells, R&B. Wednesday, the Right Shop, R&B. Thursday, the Sillyard, R&B.

Mai Tai Mondays 5:30-7:30 pm
$7 mai tai carafes

Sushi Thursdays 5:30-7:30 pm
$4 sapporo 20 oz.
$2 sushi specials
$3 sake carafes

Freaky Tiki Happy Hour
Sun-Wed & Friday 5:30-7:30 pm
$3 well drinks
$3.50 miller lites
$7 volcano bowls
$4 coconut kiss martinis
half price pupu menu

For more information, call 619-233-1183.

Monday, hip/hop. Wednesday, country.

Largo, 12735 Poway Road, Poway. 858-748-0015. Friday and Saturday, live classic rock. Tuesday, Bradley Leghtsp, R&B/soft dance.

Hennessey’s Tavern (Carlsbad), 2777 Bosuerstreet, Carlsbad. 760-729-4951. Thursday, Triple X, rock. Friday and Saturday, call club for information.

The Hot Java Cafe, 11738 Carmel Mountain Road, Suite 182, Carmel Mountain. 858-475-7111. Saturday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Heather Baker, Brenda Parsonet, and Jaime Roth, acoustic rock.


The Jumping Turtle, 1650 Capulina Road, San Marcos. 760-471-7778. Music is rock alternative, Thursday, the Left Lights, the Antique Bow, IT Ten Eleve, and Machine Friday, the Sea Points Experience, 51 Guns, the Underhills, and the Wastels. Saturday, the Wagon and the Jerk Works. Sunday, the Zenith Zone, GarANCE, Parkhurst, Reason to Rebel, and Jenoyce. Monday, the Iron Workers Local 66 blues. Tuesday, DJ
RUSTY LIKE

I get the need for pop groups. I do. I’m not prejudiced toward “happy” supermusic or bubblegum, but this is terrible. Rusty Like plays sweet, sentimental music that’s a little folk, a little punk, and a little They Might Be Giants or — if you’re familiar with them — local band, Bunky.

But, Bunky can raise a little hell, whereas Rusty Like seems to be stuck in second gear. They irritate me. The childish, unintelligible vocals are maddening and stick in a gravely alto. (Is that a wimpy guy, a woman, or Herve Villerchaize?)

Okay, I don’t hate pop music. Hell, a couple of the songs on this CD show signs of taking off — in a style similar to the glam punk band Tsr — but they always fall short. They plink along with tambourines and cheesy key- board and those horrid vocals. I listen carefully for the unpolished guitar work and clunky transitions in pace.

Kitsch and irony are no substitutions for talent and well-executed. If you wanted a handcrafted confection from me, “Stay Back Black Kitty Cat” in my head would work quicker than a 16-penny nail through my scrotum.

To hear a sample from Pirouette, call 619-233-9797, wait for the prompt, then punch in ext. 4615.

Friday, live blues. Saturday, 9 p.m. to 11 p.m., DJ events, call club for information. The Inn at the Park, 3119 Evergreen Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-284-7666. Friday and Saturday, live rock/alternative. The Rockoholics, 5373 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-284-7666. Friday and Saturday, live heavy rock/alternative music. Klima Thai Restaurant, 406 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-284-2092. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday, live heavy rock/alternative music. Lestat’s Coffeehouse, 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-284-9437. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, Tom Bethny, Rocky Jones, and Gabe, Robert Hotal, Saturday, Jaid the Original, Sunday, Renate Youngblood, the Sister Siers, and Tim Mudd, Monday, open mike. Wednesday, Amber Rasbath and Joel Germaine. Magnolia’s, 336 Euclid Avenue, San Diego. 619-260-4005. Sunday, 11 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Jazz Beat Perspective, jazz.


Saturday, live heavy rock/alternative music. Sunday, 8 p.m. to midnight, Joe Melina Serare, Latin jazz. Monday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Glen Fisher Trio, mainstream jazz. Tuesday, 8 p.m. to midnight, Michel Landem & Blues Brink. Shen, Wednesday, Bert Brun.

The Imperial House, 503 Kalma Street, San Diego. 619-256-5125. Friday and Saturday, 11:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., Rick Lyon, pop standards/Top 40 music.

In Cahoots, 3373 Mission Center Road, Mission Valley. 619-291-8635. Call club for information.


Second Wind, 8151 Navajo Road, San Carlos. 619-865-1780. Friday and Saturday, The Redholics, classic rock.


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Big Rig Deluxe, the Peter Rickert, INFLUENCE OF GIANTS, Loud & Clear Records, 275 5th Ave. @ K Street, the Jaime Valle Quartet, the High Society Jazz Band.

Noches Rockeras #5, Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., Dakota Grill and Spirits, downtown. 619-239-9991. Saturday, 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., the Witnesses, Bill, and Terrence Hale.

Mediterranean bistro, bar, billiard room. 502 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-595-0123. Thursday and Sunday, 9 p.m., the Ghost of Sada, Reggie Smith & the Big Mo Band, San Diego, CA 92108, 619-291-1184. Tuesday, 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., the Big Mo Band, Amy Ayres, Grand Canyon University Heights. 619-296-0616.
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Born on the Bayou

Mardi Gras is next Tuesday — sad to miss the place they used to call “the City That Care Forgot.” But if you want to celebrate by eating authentically and well, there’s a new destination, aptly named Fix Me a Plate, where you can enjoy a satisfying soul-food dinner to the sound of N’awlins blues and Cajun prairie zydeco.

The chef/owner is “Jimmy P.” — James Pomier, from Lafayette, Louisiana. Jimmy was executive chef at the Gaslamp’s late, lamented Juke Joint Cafe. I heard it through the grapevine (e-mail from a Reader reader — thanks, Denise!) that he’d opened his own place and headed out to a strip mall at the farthest reaches of La Mesa, half a block short of the El Cajon welcome sign. It was worth the trip. The cafe’s overall rating is just two stars, but if you choose right you can have a four-star meal.

Fearing we’d get lost en route, we first ventured out by daylight for lunch. The oyster po’ boy turned out to be the best I can remember outside of NOLA. The fried oysters are tender, plump, and of fine flavor (with no hint of oiliness), the batter is light, and the dressing flawless, with zesty remoulade, crisp lettuce, and ripe tomatoes. True, you can’t get real Louisiana French bread in San Diego, but the warm, fresh local French roll is a credible substitute.

Every Cajun (and every Creole) has his or her own recipe for gumbo. Jimmy P’s chicken and sausage gumbo is both wonderful and highly personal. It’s different from his Juke Joint gumbo but none the worse for it. At the bottom of the cup is a scoop of rice. Over that is a tomatoey broth with a touch of gumbo file (ground sassafras), loaded with diced chicken, zesty andouille sausage from Louisiana, near-melted green peppers, firm okra rounds — a fried chicken drumette perches on top. The flavors grow more compelling with every spoonful. As Jimmy says, “The last bite is as good as the first.”

Summoning reinforcements — Marty and Dave, who live in the neighborhood — we returned soon afterwards to assault the dinner menu. There’s lots to choose from, starting with ten appetizers, including a sampler plate of any three. Right now, you can’t go the boiled crawfish because it’s out of season (wait until next month), but there are four different preparations for chicken wings. We chose “Cajun wings” — unbattered fried wings in slightly diluted Louisiana-style hot sauce. This is the original version of “Buffalo wings.” The dish was common in black households throughout the South well before the Buffalo gals reinvented it (with melted butter to smooth out the hot sauce and celery sticks and ranch dressing on the side). Fix Me a Plate’s rendition, spicy but not killing, mainly tastes very tart from the vinegar in the sauce. While authentic, we decided that we like the battered Buffalo version better.

Heading deeper into soul territory, my partner wanted the chicken gizzards. Jimmy P’s version — which we loved at Juke Joint — reminded me why my guy is so fond of them. Swathed in seasoned batter and deep-fried, their crisp exteriors and chewy-soft meats make them fun to eat, especially dipped in the garlic aioli that arrives alongside. (It goes well with the wings, too.) Our party also took a chance on the Cajun egg roll. What, you may ask, is a Cajun egg roll? Careful analysis by our laboratory muse (me and mine tearing one apart in our kitchen) has determined that it’s a deep-fried Chinese egg roll wrapper stuffed with collard greens, carrots, and cabbage — a near-exact replica of a Tibetan vegetarian momo but with a thicker skin. (What, may you ask, is a Tibetan momo? See “Cajun egg roll.”) It’s served with a light, sweet-spicy tomato-onion dip resembling Thai chili sauce. The dip makes the dish; don’t take a bite without it.

The jambalaya here is served farmhouse style — that is, the rice, sauce, and toppings are all cooked separately and then stirred together at the last moment (this method ensures that the shrimp won’t overcook). It’s a firm (not soupy) version, the way I like it, and the sauce is savory. The toppings consist of chicken, shrimp, and the gumbo’s andouille sausage, which starts out tasty but lasts a long time.

Pork ribs are tender, if rather fatty. They’re glazed on one side with a sweet-tart BBQ sauce, and napped in a cream gravy that’s light and simple. Alas, there’s no smoker in the house: The ribs are merely oven-baked, so they don’t gain the depth of flavor you get with genuine smoked barbecue. If you want to try before you buy, check out the “rib tips” appetizer portion of the same. Fried chicken emerges with moist meat in a light and simple batter, seasoned with salt, black and white pepper, and a touch of cayenne, but no other perceptible secret herbs or spices. Smothered pork chops are lightly rimmed with fat (which makes them more delicious, sorry to say) and napped in a creamy gravy that’s light and bright. You’d welcome this gravy on your break-
fast biscuits — it wouldn’t weigh you down for the rest of the day.

There’s plenty more here to eat, so much that you practically need a road map to the menu — and here it is. The entrees start with fried seafood selections: crab cakes, stuffed shrimp, and combination platters as well as various fish species such as cat and snapper. Next come “Mo Betta” seafood platters, with your choice of Creole or étouffée sauce. Upon request, you can get your fish “blackened.”

“Yardbirds’” (chicken) are available in BBQ sauce, “Moo Betta” with étouffée or Creole sauce, blackened, fried, smothered, or baked with rosemary and garlic — and — at the bottom of the menu — fried and served on sweet potato waffles.

“Southern Traditional Platters” include smothered pork garnishes (sauage, hocks, bacon, whatever). Yams, too, are oddly one-dimensional, flabby and light but missing some needed spice (e.g., nutmeg or allspice). Most entrees come with corn muffins (they were delicious at Juke Joint), but on a slaming Saturday night, our waitress forgot to bring ours, and we were in no danger of starvation without them.

For dessert, the same yams are piled high on a thin shortening crust in the sweet potato pie. One evening’s bread pudding was very plain and barely sweet, with no raisins or other fruits. (I’ve tasted a very similar one at a restaurant in the Crescent City.) Other choices include pecan pie, apple pie, and cheesecake, although not all of them are available every day.

The restaurant is housed in the former Trattoria Nost rana. Outside, the roofed patio is painted with an exuberant mural that distills the joys of southern Italy. Inside, it still looks like a trattoria — molto Italiano with lots of booths, wine racks above them, and vino wallpaper and decorations. That doesn’t mean that you can get a decent glass of wine. There’s Fetzner, Sutter Home, and a jug product, Emerald Something-or-Other. All the beers are from Anheuser-Busch: Bud, Michelob, Miller, and O’Douls. Want to bring in something better? No way — no outside beverages are allowed, not even that proverbial 61 Chateau Latour you’ve been aging in your cave all these years, waiting for just the right smothered pork chops to serve it with. However, Jimmy is thinking about expanding his wine and beer selection, so stay tuned.

I spent 15 years in the Navy, and that brought me to San Diego some 25 years ago. At night, he attended the San Diego Culinary Academy. “I realized I had a real love for cooking. Other people read magazines — me, I read cookbooks. My mentors are Paul Prudhomme, Emeril…” He taught food service in the Navy and, after leaving, went to work for the Department of Defense. “The last three wars we’ve been in, I’ve been in all of them,” he says.

“I wanted to spend more time with my family, so I finally left. I started managing restaurants — I managed Jenny’s, IHOP, Carrows. Then I decided to start cooking, I was executive chef at the Juke Joint Cafe, and then I was the chef at the Sycuan Buffet and put that prime rib on the map there. I had a small restaurant called Cajun Express near the 32nd Street base. But these people get paid twice a month, the 1st and the 15th, and the rest of the time, they’re broke and they eat on the base. So I had to think about where I’m investing my dollars, how I’m investing my dollars. That’s when I chose this location.”

I asked him why he decided to open a soul-food restaurant in a mainly white neighborhood. “I’m next to Souplantation, and Souplantation does a lot of my marketing. I spent a night in this parking lot before coming here. They put that prime rib on the map. People come back that don’t have to eat, so much that you practically need a road map to the menu — and here it is.

The answer is always, the main ingredient is L-O-V-E, love.”
Easy Choice

“Gangs, knifings, deals, the pier was one tough area.”


Uh, this is the breakfast menu? I’m standing at the counter of this cozy, booksy, wired, sofa-strewn little place on Seacoast, in Imperial Beach. Hank and I ended up here a few months back at sunset one evening. We got a coffee, sat out on the back patio, and watched Ye Olde Sun descend angrily into The Pond. Back then, the place was called Hubbard’s Cupboard.

This morning, I saw the new awning, IB Coffee & Books, and had to pop in. The idea was to grab a coffee, something to eat, then hive out to the back patio and watch for morning dolphins.

“We’re for coffee, really,” Raquel says. “Food-wise, we just want to keep it simple. But we have cheese, chocolate chip cookies, 75 cents — and that breakfast bagel [$3.50].”

I fully intend to go out back and sit with my cawi. But first, I want to snack around. They’ve got tautie tag-wiped walls, overhead fans with blades carved to look like big troppo leaves, alcoves with comfy chairs, settees, and shelves packed with books. Plus they have paintings by local artists, including a whopping print of a painting of Ye Olde Plank, the venerable pub on the next block. “I’m selling the original for $10,000,” says the artist, Linda Kristine, who just happens to be in for a coffee, too.

“Breakfast bagel” announces Raquel. I grab the blue plate with my simple egg, ham, and cheese. I’m about to head outside, when — what the heck? — I cave in to the comfort of the chairs and, especially, the chance of conversation. “Cause there’s plenty of that flying around. “Some people paint or draw to get rid of their frustrations,” this guy Todd is saying. “Me, I play full-contact football.” Turns out he plays full-contact football.

“Guy named Roger comes in from cleaning the windows. Raquel hands him a note. “He does it on a poetry night, too.”

I head out for the 933 bus. God. What is it about IB?! I feel like I’ve just come out of a really car accident. I became an orphan, here in San Diego. I feel kinda strongly about it.

The books in the back section are second-hand, and each sells for $1. I notice they have whole shelves filled with Alcoholics Anonymous books, like 12-step instruction manuals. “A lot of folks meet here casually,” says Raquel. “I know about this. My father drank. My mom died in a car accident, I became an orphan, here in San Diego. I feel kinda strongly about it.”

I head out for the 933 bus. God. What is it about IB?! I feel like I’ve just come out of a really complicated family movie. I mean, let’s face it, Gastronomy Central it’s not, yet I feel as if I’ve just had one of the best meals of the year. Maybe choice is overrated.

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Columnist and Advocate

“I haven’t really come to the point where I’m a wine critic.”

Like many good Italian boys of his generation, Frank Mangio, wine writer for Copley’s Today’s Local News, started drinking wine somewhere around age four. “My granddad had a big cellar in Boston, perfect for keeping wines. He had barrels in the cellar, and he would buy the grapes somewhere and crush them right there in the house.” His other relatives did the same and would bring their bottles to family gatherings, which gave people a chance to argue about whose wines were better.

Mangio didn’t stay in Boston, however, and he didn’t stay too close to the world of wine. He headed west to Alaska, then south to California and radio work. “I was national music director for KYNO, got to go backstage with all the bands. Chino led to a new station in Vista, which in turn led to KYNO, got to go backstage with all the bands. Copley’s Today’s Local News took over from around the age of five. “I was national music director for KYNO, got to go backstage with all the bands.” Chino led to a new station in Vista, which in turn led to KYNO, got to go backstage with all the bands.

“Once he returned, the old PR instincts started to kick in. “I started to publicize the story of my visit there — the wines, the hospitality, the ambience. I took some pictures and donated them to places like the YMCA — they’ve fetched $500–$600 apiece at fundraisers. One was printed in the Union-Tribune as the Photo of the Week from around the world, with a nice caption. I call it ‘added value.’” His story made it into L’Italo-Americano, “the largest Italian newspaper on the West Coast. I knew I had something the public was reacting to in a positive way. Editors started coming around.”

Mangio kept adding “added value.” “I found out about Wine Spectator, how they were helping subscribers to elevate themselves with their online program for becoming a certified wine connoisseur. I jumped all over that — studied the texts, went through it all.” After he completed the course, he could add “certified wine connoisseur” to his list of credentials. Serendipity struck when a friend, Wendy Evers, took over as the column’s editor. “I got myself hooked up as a lecturer, a photographer, and a writer. This all happened within about six months.”

His break came at the end of 2004. “Copley News Service was throwing a lot of money into the shopping center parking lots through events or special sales. I know the end-user part of business.”

A few of those shopping centers included wine shops, and Mangio helped them set up tastings to attract business, but what got him writing was a trip to Italy in 2002. He had become fascinated by the wine industry. “At the time, it was just beginning to rear its head,” to use a term he learned as a philosophy professor at the University of Florence who married into the Mazzocolin. “He was a philosophy professor at the University of Florence who married into the wine business in the 70s. Now, his hands are dirty from the soil. I got my epiphany over in Italy. Everything revolves around wine and food. They like nothing more than to sit for hours and just wax poetic about love, life, food, wine, and their land. You can go to any piazza in the smallest town, and it’s the same thing. I don’t know what they do for a living.”

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I'm a wine critic," he admits. "I don't feel I'm really qualified yet to do that. Now, I'm a wine advocate. If I'm going to say something, it's generally going to be positive." (This "highlight the good" approach was similarly favored by pioneer wine writer Robert Lawrence Balzer.) "We all ganged up on two-buck Chuck...but I really feel that you gained a lot more advocates for wine.

And when he does find something good about "wines or wineries or wine shops," he lets them know. "If there's anybody who may find the information useful, I send it out to them. I know how valuable a mention can be." On top of that, the column goes out via e-mail to some 350 "aficionados, people in the wine business, media people, people that really live and breathe the wine industry." — including Felsina's Maccolini. "He comments a lot about it."

The networking may be paying off. "There's a cable TV production company that's hired me to go and do interviews and emcee work in Temecula. We've got a few in the pipeline. He says he's been focusing on a...special-events kind of thing, where I can in and capture an audience. That's where it's going."

**RESTAURANT LISTINGS**

The Reader's Guide to Restaurants are recommended listings written by our reviewers (Ed Budolf, Barbara Davel, Ambrose Martin, Shari McCullough, Max Nash, Eleanor Webber, Naomi Wise). Each entry contains a fraction of over 350 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**

**Big Jim's Old South Barbecue** 376 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-632-4522. Jim’s block north of Encinitas Boulevard, Encinitas, 760-433-1106. At this outstanding barbecue, you can "Put Some South In Y’Mouth." The smoking-wood is hickory, and such type of meat (under "pulled pork", smoked skewer shrimp, huge pork ribs, chicken, beef rib, steak) get individualized treatment, including a tangy Alabama-style mustard sauce for pork and chicken. (Beef gets the more familiar tomato-based Texas-style sauce.) You don’t just get the entrée; the expanding menu now includes a delicious, spicy blackened grilled salmon steak. Side dishes are superb: Don’t miss the thick, smoky-sweet Brunkoww stew (you’ll not find its like anywhere on this coast), exemplary hush puppies, corn muffins with honey butter, well-balanced slaw…. Oh, just taste everything you can fit under your belt. Lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Low moderate. — N.W. (9/01)

**The Bird House Grill** 236 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-944-2802. A great place to check out real Turkish cuisine. The menu has a fine collection of blue- and white plate walls and blue glass vessels to add or equal art. Try the house specialty, Iskender kebab (ground meat kebab, rice, tomato sauce, and house-seasoned yogurt). The "Iskender" means "Alexander." Or the kebab (ground meat kebab, rice, salad, pits, and taratzio sauce). The staff is bouncy and its delicious Tommy-ilucci’s Pizzeria in Leucadia, and Vigilucci Cucina in Carlsbad. Vicki-lucci’s Pizzeria in Encinitas, and Vigilucci Seafood and Steakhouse in Carlsbad. — N.W. (10/01)

**Paul’s Place** 8671 Mission Avenue (at El Camino Real), Oceanside, 760-712-0142. This restaurant looks like a McDonald’s or Wendy’s (the building used to be a franchise) and the food comes fast, but it’s no chain. The menu strikes a balance between American and Greek fare. The baked Greek halloumi cheese, the special grilled chicken sliced up on a salad with pita bread, and the greens (all at earthy prices) mix with all-American three-egg breakfast specials with home fries. Lunch offerings include meaty hamburgers, growthy fries, or a surprisingly tasty turkey-burger open-face sandwich. And they offer iced and cream teas. Inexpensive. — P. (9/01)

**Tertullian** 230 North Coast Highway 101 (between Encinitas and Leucadia Blvds.), Encinitas, 760-632-8881. A great place to check out real Turkish cuisine. The menu has a fine collection of blue- and white plate walls and blue glass vessels to add or equal art. Try the house specialty, Iskender kebab (ground meat kebab, rice, tomato sauce, and house-seasoned yogurt). The "Iskender" means "Alexander." Or the kebab (ground meat kebab, rice, salad, pits, and taratzio sauce). The staff is bouncy and its delicious Tommy-ilucci’s Pizzeria in Leucadia, and Vigilucci Cucina in Carlsbad. Vicki-lucci’s Pizzeria in Encinitas, and Vigilucci Seafood and Steakhouse in Carlsbad. — N.W. (10/01)

**The Village Grill** 2833 State Street (at Carlsbad Village Drive), Carlsbad, 760-729-3601. This little cafe is famous for two things: its vintage Coca-Cola decorations and its delicious Tommy-ilucci’s Pizzeria in Leucadia, and Vigilucci’s Pizzeria in Encinitas, and Vigilucci Seafood and Steakhouse in Carlsbad. — N.W. (10/01)

**P 760-632-4520. This geranium-splashed blue-and-white Bavarian chalet is more than a butcher’s shop. It’s a combination butcher–deli–diner. Enter through the building’s dual windows for the shouts and clatter of serving ladies. Look for the ‘Es & Wendes’ sign on the door. Breakfast is built of home fries, bacon, eggs, sausages, ham, and toast. The place plate: Jam tarte, know how to avoid a long, hungry wait. Other locations include Vigilucci Cucina in Carlsbad, Vigilucci’s Pizzeria in Encinitas, and Vigilucci Seafood and Steakhouse in Carlsbad. — N.W. (10/01)

**Tip Top Meals** 6118 Paseo Del Norte, Carlsbad, 760-438-2620. This geranium-splashed blue-and-white Bavarian chalet is more than a butcher’s shop. It’s a combination butcher–deli–diner. Enter through the building’s dual windows for the shouts and clatter of serving ladies. Look for the ‘Es & Wendes’ sign on the door. Breakfast is built of home fries, bacon, eggs, sausages, ham, and toast. The place plate: Jam tarte, know how to avoid a long, hungry wait. Other locations include Vigilucci Cucina in Carlsbad, Vigilucci’s Pizzeria in Encinitas, and Vigilucci Seafood and Steakhouse in Carlsbad. — N.W. (10/01)

**Top Meats** 6118 Paseo Del Norte, Carlsbad, 760-438-2620. This geranium-splashed blue-and-white Bavarian chalet is more than a butcher’s shop. It’s a combination butcher–deli–diner. Enter through the building’s dual windows for the shouts and clatter of serving ladies. Look for the ‘Es & Wendes’ sign on the door. Breakfast is built of home fries, bacon, eggs, sausages, ham, and toast. The place plate: Jam tarte, know how to avoid a long, hungry wait. Other locations include Vigilucci Cucina in Carlsbad, Vigilucci’s Pizzeria in Encinitas, and Vigilucci Seafood and Steakhouse in Carlsbad. — N.W. (10/01)

**North Inland**

150 Grand Café 150 West Grand Avenue (between Broadway and Maple), Encandiana, 760-634-7514. The chef, a “culinary wizard,” cooks up a seasonal American-Mediterranean menu with a few touches of Asian-flavor. The staff is bouncy and its delicious Tommy-ilucci’s Pizzeria in Leucadia, and Vigilucci Cucina in Carlsbad. Vigilucci’s Pizzeria in Encinitas, and Vigilucci Seafood and Steakhouse in Carlsbad. — N.W. (10/01)

**La Jolla** 1534 Pearl Street 858-483-2500

Costa Mesa 760-942-7332

Studio City 818-788-6354

Please call for reservations. Order one dinner and receive $10 off the second dinner. This coupon for one person per party. Brunch only. No sharing. This valid with any other offer or in bundles. Expires 3-21-06.

**San Diego Reader** February 23, 2006

**THE TASTE OF ALOHA
50% Off Entree**

Buy one entree, get the second of equal or lesser value 50% off. Must present coupon. Expires 3/2/06.

**HAWAIIAN LANDMARK BARBECUE**

1767 Garnet Avenue • 858.483.9330

(behind Starbucks in Vons Plaza)

www.hawaiianlandmarkbarbeque.com

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**RESTAURANT & BAKERY**

A San Diego Landmark since 1944

**$2 OFF ENTREE**

Minimum entrée is $10. Good for up to 2 people. Not valid on weekends or holidays or with other offers. Offer good through 9/30/06.

or 7 am till 9 pm • 7 days a week...call for daily specials • reservations accepted

2271 First Avenue, San Diego 619.239.8176

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**SEAFOOD RESTAURANT**

675 I Street • At the Omni Hotel

Adjacent to the Gaslamp Quarter & Petco Park

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**$10 off Moroccon Cuisine**

MARRAKESH

La Jolla 858 544-3800

Costa Mesa 714.767.8394

Richmond 804.358.0383

Please call for reservations. Order one dinner and receive $10 off the second dinner. This coupon per person per party. Brunch only. No sharing. This valid with any other offer or in bundles. Expires 3-21-06.
Best quality and best selection in town.

**All-you-can-eat buffet**

seafood | sushi bar | Hawaiian barbecue | dim sum (oysters, Dungeness crab, ribs & jumbo shrimp served after 4 PM)

**lunch buffet $7.99**  
**dinner buffet $11.99**  
**prime rib special with buffet $12.49**

FRI. AND SAT. | DINNER: 4-10 PM  
SUN. AND HOLIDAYS: 11 AM-9:30 PM

Includes beverage.

**BUFFET TO-GO AVAILABLE: LUNCH & DINNER | GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE | PARTY TRAYS AVAILABLE**

| Lunch or dinner Minimum | $13 purchase. Expires: 9/10/W. Web ad. Not valid with any other offer or on holidays. | Holiday Parties 20% off  

**Daily Special:**

| $14.95 per person | Lunch or dinner Minimum | $13 purchase. Expires: 9/10/W. Web ad. Not valid with any other offer or on holidays.  

**Soup or Salad, Main Entrée and Dessert Between 4:30 & 6:30 pm**

**FREE TICKETS TO THE COMEDY STORE**  
- Must call in advance for reservations.  
- Wed. & Thurs. 5 pm shows only!  
- For credit card payments: 858-454-9176  
- Pick tickets up at Cafe Milano on the night!

**CAFE MILANO**  
711 Pearl Street, La Jolla  
858.454.3806  
www.cafemilanola jolla.com

Lunch: M-F 11:30 am-3:00 pm  
Dinner: 7 days 4:30-10:00 pm

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**Cafe Milano**

8484 Black Mountain Road, Mira Mesa, 858-695-6228.

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**Madras Cafe**

8948 Black Mountain Road, Mira Mesa, 858-695-6228.

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**Thai Dinner Buffet**

$8.99

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**Thai Chinese Cafe**

1166 Avenue Place (at Webb Park), Rancho Bernardo, 858-487-8131. This family-friendly café features the same strip mall as Ashoka the Great, Madras Cafe — N.W. (8/04)

Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive.

Limited-English. Over 20 vegan entrées.

Once; the staff is accommodating but time or everything will be served at your pace. But you're unlikely to learn them here. But you don't already know the difference between its provinces, Szechuan and Hunan — spicy sauces are on the table. No alcohol. Open daily, breakfast and dinner. Inexpensive — N.W. (9/03)

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**Thai Tea or Soda 75°**

Lunch only. With coupon.

4722 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard • 858-270-8303

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**I-805 & I-8 Mission Valley • (619) 280-7115**

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**Dave & Buster’s® Power Combo**

Get a $10 Game Card and a Full-Size Entrée. Choose any one of 9 delicious entrées and get a $10 Game Card so you can play tons of video games in our Million Dollar midway. It’s a huge value you can’t get anywhere else!

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**Dave & Buster’s® Power Card** is valid Sunday through Thursday from open to close on Friday & Saturday with $10 spa and does not expire and potentially three hours free parking. The card is void where prohibited by law. See card for details. Visit www.daveandbusters.com. Guests under the age of 11 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. One power card per family is accompanying as is a maximum of four additional guests.
San Diego Reader

GOLD COAST

American House 1454 Camino Del Mar (southwest corner at 15th Street), Del Mar, 858-794-9883. Housed in a historic building, this casual breakfast/lunch spot turns into a serious dinner house at nightfall. The cooking represents the American melting pot, featuring world-wide flavors. Mornings, along with bottomless eggs benedict and upturned waffles, you can get a “Roman breakfast” of porcini, mozzarella, and fried egg on English muffin. At dinner, don’t miss the lamb chop and eggplant tapenade or the duck breast with fig sauce. Some of the veggies come from chef-owner Randy Gob’s own home garden; the French fries (which don’t come from his garden) are world-class. To finish, a banana tart with apricots shouldn’t be resisted. Thoughtful, reasonable wine list. Breakfast (until 3:30 p.m.) and lunch daily, dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Kids’ menu available. Breakfast and lunch inexpensive to moderate; dinner moderate to expensive. — A.M. (185)

Cafe Europa 667 San Dieguito Drive, Suite 133, Marshall’s Shopping Center, Solana Beach, 858-793-4469. The menu in this gemshinful dining room is mainly Continental with bits from France and Italy. The Purveyor owns sometimes offer a South American special at lunch, and Cupeño is among the bottled beer brands. The standard German preparations here encompass sausage plates, rather thin-cut schnitzels, meat stews, etc. Lighter dishes include chicken breasts, sautéed, and three vegetarian entrees. The outstanding side dishes include succulent home fries, delicately sweet red cabbage, and a house-salted featuring pickled cucumbers in sour cream. Nice, quiet service with no put-up-on-pub-pub thrilled and generic woes. Breakfast and lunch Sunday, Monday, Wednesday; closed Thursday. Breakfast from 7-11 a.m.; lunch served Monday through Saturday. Closed Tuesdays. — N.W. (12/04)

Epresso Southwest Restaurant 1555 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar Plaza, Del Mar, 858-288-9986. Patrons frequently call this establishment the New American melting pot. Some of the dishes include chicken breasts, seafood, sausage plates, rather thin-cut schnitzels, meat stews, etc. Lighter dishes include chicken breasts, sautéed, and three vegetarian entrees. The outstanding side dishes include succulent home fries, delicately sweet red cabbage, and a house-salted featuring pickled cucumbers in sour cream. Nice, quiet service with no put-up-on-pub-pub thrilled and generic woes. Breakfast and lunch Sunday, Monday, Wednesday; closed Thursday. Breakfast from 7-11 a.m.; lunch served Monday through Saturday. Closed Tuesdays. — N.W. (12/04)

Garibaldi Mediterranean Restaurant 2349 Carmel Valley Road, Del Mar, 858-248-1676. Seasonal Californiamediterranean cuisine, builder and more reminiscent than at the original, now-closed La Jolla branch. Cuisine is designed to accompany an interesting, affordable wine list. Menu suggests wine pairings for each dish. All bottles are also available by the glass; you can even get a tip before choosing. A reserve list includes fancier choices, still at minimal markups. Low corkage for RYO, too. Reservations urged. Dinner 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Moderate. — N.W. (12/04)

LA JOLLA

910 Restaurant Grand Colonial Hotel, 910 Prospect Avenue, La Jolla, 858-964-5400. Chef Jason Krebs, a protege of Trey Foshee (of George’s at the Cove) carries on the 910 tradition of classic, flavorful Cal cuisine, based on the seasons and showcasing the fabulous foodstuffs of local farms. Dessert chef Jack Fisher contributes superbly happy, avant-garde endings. The room is usually noisy. Open daily, dinner Tuesday through Saturday. — N.W. (10/01)

French Pastry Shop 5550 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, 858-454-5994. Patrons frequent this place in the morning for its coffee and get-out-of-bed pastries and in the evening for its wine selections. This is a unique, high energy, young crowd and exciting place. The entire room is usually noisy. Open daily, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Moderate. — E.B. (10/01)

Epazote Southwest Restaurant 667 San Dieguito Drive, Suite 133, Marshall’s Shopping Center, Solana Beach, 858-793-4469. The menu in this gemshinful dining room is mainly Continental with bits from France and Italy. The Purveyor owns sometimes offer a South American special at lunch, and Cupeño is among the bottled beer brands. The standard German preparations here encompass sausage plates, rather thin-cut schnitzels, meat stews, etc. Lighter dishes include chicken breasts, sautéed, and three vegetarian entrees. The outstanding side dishes include succulent home fries, delicately sweet red cabbage, and a house-salted featuring pickled cucumbers in sour cream. Nice, quiet service with no put-up-on-pub-pub thrilled and generic woes. Breakfast and lunch Sunday, Monday, Wednesday; closed Thursday. Breakfast from 7-11 a.m.; lunch served Monday through Saturday. Closed Tuesdays. — N.W. (12/04)

Breckton Villa 1225 Coast Boulevard, La Jolla, 858-454-7393. Pretty and romantic, this sprawling cottage perché above La Jolla Cove and offers heated terraces as well as semi-enclosed tables indoors to admire the view. The culinary masterpiece is “Grand Toast,” invented for breakfast but now served all day — it’s the French toast of your happiest dreams, puffy and airy with a lovely orange-flavored (and the coffee is excellent) Lunchtime features sandwiches on Bilingual Bread & Caro bread while dinner runs to San Diego international eclectic cooking that can be hit-or-miss. Affordable wines and corkage. Steep stairs to all dining areas. All nearby parking is uphill in a parking garage under Trattoria Acqua or up on Prospect. Meals run around $20; open three meals Tuesday through Sunday. Breakfast/lunch Mondays. Moderate to expensive. — N.W. (3/04)

The Cheese Shop 1165 Avenue del Pacifico, La Jolla, 858-497-0921. Used to be the Cheese Shop had 100 varieties of cheese from all over. No more. “The cheese trade is dead,” says owner Phil Schatz. They still have all-cheese sandwiches with mixes of provolone, Monterey Jack, cheddar, Swiss, Munster, Danish Havarti, or Norwegian Jarlsberg. But today this small, busy café is more famous for its “Grand Toast,” meat sandwiches. The leg of lamb, top round beef, and roast pork loin are all offer cards right beside you as you walk in, to wakeen your taste buds. Cheeses like crumbled Greek feta add tang to the taste. If you’re into salmon and ham, try the fool-proof. Free peanuts while you wait. Inexpensive. Other location: 427 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-232-2830, open daily breakfast to late lunch, with delivery to downtown offices. — E.B. (10/01)

Lotus Thai Cuisine 30% Off 2nd Entrée Downtown location only. 25% Off 2nd Entrée Hillcrest location only. Lunch Specials from $6.95 served with salad, soup &/or egg drop &/or miso soup &/or miso soup weekdays Dinner Entrees from $12.95

10% off* the world’s largest all-you-can-eat Japanese seafood buffet

**lunch or dinner with this ad. Not valid on holidays or with any other offers. Expires 3/30/06.

Weekday Specials Bagel & Regular Coffee $1.89 (Tax included) — only with your own travel mug

Lunch Menu 1st Saturday of the month

Tap Dancing Jam 2nd Saturday of the month

Open Mic Night 3rd Saturday of the month

Open (to book) 4th Saturday of the month

Prime Rib Buffet Night

Tender roast prime rib, carved to your order, salad bar, slow-baked potatoes, and garden-fresh vegetables. 5:30–9:30PM

**25% Off Buy one sandwich, salad or entrée and receive the second item of equal or lesser value at 25% off. With coupon. Expires 3/9/06.

Indian Desserts

Prime Rib Buffet Night

Every Saturday Night

$21.95 Adults $11.95 Children

Reservations 858.539.7635

At the Bahia Resort Hotel • 998 West Mission Bay Drive

Rooftop Bar & Restaurant

Downtown location only.

1st Saturday of the month

10% Off

2nd Entrée

Downtown location only.

25% Off

2nd Entrée

Hillcrest location only.

Lunch Specials from $6.95 served with salad, soup &/or egg drop &/or miso soup weekdays

Dinner Entrees from $12.95

Offer not available for lunch specials or delivery. Dine-in only. One coupon per party. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 3/9/06.

Downtown: 966 Market Street 619-595-8185
Hillcrest: 3706-63 Sixth Avenue 619-289-8272

Catering available. Free delivery within two miles radius of either location. www.lotusthaicuisine.com

Next to the old garage under Trattoria Acqua or up on Prospect. Meals run around $20; open three meals Tuesday through Sunday. Breakfast/lunch Mondays. Moderate to expensive. — N.W. (3/04)

The Cheese Shop 1165 Avenue del Pacifico, La Jolla, 858-497-0921. Used to be the Cheese Shop had 100 varieties of cheese from all over. No more. “The cheese trade is dead,” says owner Phil Schatz. They still have all-cheese sandwiches with mixes of provolone, Monterey Jack, cheddar, Swiss, Munster, Danish Havarti, or Norwegian Jarlsberg. But today this small, busy café is more famous for its “Grand Toast,” meat sandwiches. The leg of lamb, top round beef, and roast pork loin are all offer cards right beside you as you walk in, to wakeen your taste buds. Cheeses like crumbled Greek feta add tang to the taste. If you’re into salmon and ham, try the fool-proof. Free peanuts while you wait. Inexpensive. Other location: 427 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-232-2830, open daily breakfast to late lunch, with delivery to downtown offices. — E.B. (10/01)

French Pastry Shop 5550 La Jolla Boulevard (at 2nd Street), La Jolla, 858-454-5994. A longstanding fixture of the Bird Rock area, this bakery/restaurant includes both a simple, spacious dining room and a shaded patio (especially San Diego’s “first dinning patio). Breakfast — a highlight of the menu — is served until 6 p.m. The whopper-than-whopper breakfast items include omlets, egg Benedict variations, and fine-juice broiches and croissants. Pastries are moist, fairly light, and very sweet. Dinner entrees focus on updated French classics, e.g., duck breast à l’orange, with “early bird” bargains. Open daily for breakfast through early dinner. — N.W. (5/02)
**Sportsmen’s Seafoods**

1417 Quivira Road, Mission Beach, 858-244-3551. Fifty years ago this street restaurant was established by Chef-coffee Dr. Joseph Choudo, a “Peace Blossom,” or boarding his ship, to La Mesa where he now cooks his imported prime, free-range, 100% natural imported Angus beef. Enjoy Live Music!

**Sushi & Coastal Cuisine**

619-544-8867. Monday through Saturday; dinner seven days. Excellent Enchiladas Suizas: pale, wrapped shrimp gets a fine counter in this authentic Mexican restaurant, with “salsa cream aioli,” the tender chicken, friendly, sweetness muting the spice in a corn sauce. Lunch and dinner inexpensive; dinners moderate to expensive.

**Redondo’s**

8950 Reading St., La Mesa, 858-544-0369. A Mexican-style tribute to La Mesa, Redondo’s is short on the August trimmings, long on the beans, tempura, or the traditional Teishoku ent. Also delish: Brahma Burrito, “Infinite Breeze” (interesting brown rice salad with blue cheese dressing), and “Horseradish Crusted Salmon” and “Neatloaf” bursts with nutty, intriguing flavors. Even the accompanying mashed potato and gravy tastes different.

**Central San Diego**

Just Fabulous Kensington 4162 Forster Street, Kensington 858-594-2929. A century-old restaurant that is optioned as a 1906 building, but fell in love with barbecue on a trip to Mexico who learned to cook in Israel.

**Chocita**

1404 Garnet Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-282-4116. Oh what a delight to find a “Peace Blossom,” or boarding his ship, to La Mesa where he now cooks his imported prime, free-range, 100% natural imported Angus beef. Enjoy Live Music!

**The Surfside**

Sushi & Coastal Cuisine

Half-Price Sushi Rolls Every Monday (5:30-7:30 pm)
12 to choose from including: rainbow roll, caterpillar roll, spicy roll and crunchy roll
$1 small sake with purchase of 6pc of Kirin draft beer

**The Best Argentinian restaurant in San Diego!**

“San Diego’s best steakhouse”

— United Airlines Magazine

**“The Surfside**

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**The Biggest Buffet In San Diego!**

Seafood, BBQ, Sushi Bar, Cocktails, Mongolian Grill, Dim Sum

All You Can Eat! Over 200 Items Daily

**East County & College Area**

Antonio’s Hacienda

701 North Johnson Avenue, La Mesa, 619-442-9872. If the dice haven’t been updated from its original 1960s fabulously Old California Spanish, it’s because there’s been no need. The enormiteous dark-walled chandeliers, the padded-leather wooden chairs, the chain-smawed-weather wood - all top-shelf and aging well. Families abound, revelling in the grandiose and the exposed kitchen station — such atmosphere! And the flavors areuser-friendly, sweetness muting the spice in a corn sauce. Lunch and dinner inexpensive; dinners moderate to expensive.

**Downtown Cafe**

182 East Main Street, El Cajon, 619-440-3867. Surprising! Not far from downtown Sonny and Maime French-style sidewalk cafe. The successful “Pe” Favor” patrons’ owner launched this as a kind of Mexican patio restaurant, but serving gospel food. And it works, maybe because...
reasonably priced for baby-back pork ribs, giant burritos, or Louisiana Chicken strips. Or even the veggie burger. But it’s partly where you dine: out on the patio. The place has lots of ancient doors and wooden and wood-window frames, laced with creepers. Inside is a beautiful log bar with a counter on the street and chez sets or you can play and watch the world go by. Lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B. (3/00)

| ALPINE INN | 225 Alpine Boulevard, Alpine, 619-445-3172. Beef lover’s haven! It’s all Certified Black Angus here. Try the house special, the Texas burger, ground in-house and served on a Kaiser roll with steak fries. Dark interior with large booths. Very crowded for dinner on Sunday. Inexpensive barby-bird dinner Monday through Thursday. No lunch, but dinner 365 days a year. Moderate to expensive. — E.W. |}

| PABLO’S DESERT | 905 Palm Canyon Drive (at the Circle), 498, Borrego Springs, 760-767-3513. Pablo’s claims “Authentic Mexican Cuisine, patio dining, and great tequila margaritas.” Well, the gorgeous patio is open only during busy hours but the cuisine runs to genuine Mexican food. The most authentic dishes get your taste buds going including a chile verde (pork in green chile sauce), numerous varieties of enchiladas, and several kinds of tacos. Full bar, including sangria, margaritas, Mexican beers, Open daily, lunch and dinner (with break between). Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W. (4/03)

| RAMON’S SMOKEHOUSE BBQ | 170 Alpine Boulevard, Alpine, 619-445-1008. The smell of mesquite wood burning under fresh-cut beef rib is beyond romance. The secret Texas recipe draws crowds. Go Sunday morning, especially in fall when maroon aprons dance around the fat-spitting fire, disappearing into the clouds of fragrant smoke to flap the racks of beef and pork ribs. In good weather you can eat out back next to an authentic chuck wagon. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/00)

UPPER & OLD TOWN

| BERTRAND AT MISTER A’S | 250 Fifth Avenue (at Laurel), 12th floor, Bankers’ Hill, 619-236-1377. Bertrand Hugo’s airy, open renovation of this formerly “secretary’s paradise” eatery offers a fabulous panoramic city view with a casual-dish, highly romantic ambiance. Chef Stephanie Voit’s new-style, modern French cuisine is a fine fit for the setting, including bistro classics and fresh inventions, emphasizing top-grade seasonal ingredients. A huge, intelligent wine list covers a full range of prices, ages and origins, including “rare” first-growth Bordeaux. Smoking and fine weather dining on wraparound terrace/observation deck. Note: parking entrance on Fourth Avenue; wheelchair accessible. |

| ALPINE INN | 3715 India Street San Diego, CA 92103 619-295-3600 |}

### Mediterranean Cuisine

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cornucopia of fruit above the entrance, the ornate white and black checker tile, or the flower box bursting with blue, green, and yellow astilbes. And then some come for both: the stuffed cabbage, the black and white checkered tablecloth, and the green, crossed-stemmed wine glasses.

**DOWNTOWN**

**Band of Fortune Chinese & Vietnamese**

2840 Third Avenue (at W Street), Gaslamp, 619-234-0668.

This comfortable setting features no-frills Chinese and Vietnamese cuisine within the Gaslamp area. The menu offers a variety of main courses, including stir-fried vegetables, beef lo mein, and sweet and sour pork. Appetizers such as fried dumplings and General Tso's chicken are also available. The atmosphere is casual and inviting, with a range of prices to suit various budgets.

**Osheaga**

2104 Pacific Street (at F Street), Gaslamp, 619-230-7228.

This restaurant offers contemporary French cuisine in a warm and inviting atmosphere. The menu features a variety of dishes, including salads, soups, and entrees such as steak frites and coq au vin. The wine list is extensive, offering a wide selection of wines from around the world. The service is attentive and friendly, making it a great choice for a special occasion or a night out.

**Brockton Villa Restaurant**

OVERLOOKING LA JOLLA COVE

1325 Cove Boulevard, La Jolla

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SOUTH BAY & CORONADO

Bistro D’Alia 1301 Orange Avenue (at B Avenue), Coronado, 819-437-6677. The relaxing restaurant attached to the hardly “Lizard Lounge” serves gentledown dishes from all over East Asia. Among the tastiest are delicate lemon shrimps, vegetarian “monkey’s curry,” and ice creams from frozen Creamery. Filing Dock is accorded the full service, with a wait-er garnishing the table’s first round of “delicate flower” bloom with crackly skin, scallions, and tamarind sauce. Lizard Lounge next door now houses a sushi bar as well as a liquor bar. Re- serve for weekend dinners. Street park- ing. Well-chosen wine list. Lunch and dinner daily. — N.W. (10/04)

Lizard Lounge 1301 Orange Ave- nue, Coronado, 619-437-8167. This venerable saloon, a Navy old- timers’ favorite since the era when lounge ladies in leisure suits stalked the out, now houses a good little sushi bar as well as a liquor bar. The rice is well-seasoned, the seafood tastes sparkling-fresh, and each roll is given its own individual garnish (e.g., lemon with the hatchet roll). Most of the tri- side-out party rolls are variations of the California roll formula, with the same center of sweet crab and avocado, but there’s also a lovely mango-albacore roll, featuring tempura shrimp, avo- cado, and tuna. For best sushi and peaceful eating, come early; the bar fills fast and the room can get downright noisy as the night rolls on. Street park- ing. Lunchdaily. Moderate. — N.W. (10/04)

Lydia’s Cafe and Nightclub 1628 Palm Avenue, San Diego, 619-249-2294. This yearlong danc- ing/eatery has a faithful following that goes back to 1987. But before you dance, eat! Check out the live en viu juego (pot in at juses) with bees, rice, and tortilla, or enjoy filling staudes like (unusual, cucumber (a corn tortilla stuffed with ham, cheese, and sour cream), or the snack Lydia says she in- vented: Javiscos (beets, pork, and melon cheese over corn chips). From early breakfast to early dinner Sunday through Wednesday, until midnight Thursday and Friday. Inex- pensive. — E.B. (10/04)

McP’s Irish Pub & Grill 1107 Or- ange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-3428. With a crowed ranging from Navy retirees to singles barely over age, McP’s is powered by the atmosphere. Several Scotch, potato skins, nachos, etc.). The Irish fare includes a pleasing McP’s pull: passenger, potato skins, nachos, etc.). The Irish fare includes a pleasing McP’s pull: passenger, potato skins, nachos, etc.). The Irish fare includes a pleasing McP’s pull: passenger, potato skins, nachos, etc.). The Irish fare includes a pleasing McP’s pull: passenger, potato skins, nachos, etc.). The Irish fare includes a pleasing McP’s pull: passenger, potato skins, nachos, etc.). The Irish fare includes a pleasing McP’s pull: passenger, potato skins, nachos, etc.). The Irish fare includes a pleasing McP’s pull: passenger, potato skins, nachos, etc.). The Irish fare includes a pleasing McP’s pull: passenger, potato skins, nachos, etc.). 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Thirty years after Watergate, Bob Woodward wanted to interview Mark Felt, the mysterious “Deep Throat.” Woodward vowed never to disclose his key source until after Felt’s death, or until Felt consented. When they met, the 86-year-old Felt had dementia: he barely remembered Woodward, couldn’t remember Watergate or being “Deep Throat,” and couldn’t even remember his age. Woodward wondered if he still owed allegiance to a man “who is no longer that man who you knew and gave your word to.”

In Lee Blessing’s Body of Water, Moss and Avis — which may or may not be their names — find themselves no longer the people they knew. They wake up in a house on a hill, surrounded by water. Their robes fit but their lives don’t. Where are they? Who are they? Are they married? She doesn’t have a ring or an indentation on her ring finger. He’s attracted to her, but his flirtations put her off. Each has only one memory: of someone else’s inability to remember. Chronic amnesia isn’t “normal” behavior, she suggests. According to A Body of Water, maybe it is.

Somehow Avis and Moss have been cast adrift. The play offers reasons for this identity theft — Alzheimer’s, trauma-induced amnesia — but doesn’t specify. And now everything becomes a potential clue, or ruse. But can the contents of a wallet define you (and was the wallet yours)? Moss and Avis share some things in common but also act like complete strangers. If they were married, were they always this distant?

Enter Wren (if that’s her real name). But every time she shows up she’s someone else. She’s either their daughter, a caregiver, a doctor’s assistant trying to “flip” their memory switch with shock treatments, or the lawyer defending the couple for the brutal murder of their 11-year-old daughter (“Everyone in the world thinks you did it”). In a moment of candor that feels heartfelt, Wren says she lives to see fear on their faces. A clue? Not really. The lab assistant could say it about the treatments, or the lawyer, or the frustrated daughter who has sacrificed her life tending to parents who don’t recognize her.

A Body of Water overstates its point and feels like a shorter play stretched to two acts: lulls occur when the author writes about — long descriptions and a lengthy letter — rather than dramatizes his subject. The play is ultimately Existentialism Lite and Lemonade

Some of the best local theater is produced by homeless companies.
for a dazzling, four-wall rain effect. York Kennedy’s flexible lighting and Michael Roth’s music transform moods, in an instant, from clarity and order to netherworld dissonance. A local actor begins researching a role by stick-pinning the character on a map — here’s where X came from — and builds from there. Sandy Duncan, Ned Schmidtke, and young Samantha Soule don’t have that luxury. Yet all three create credibly fractal characters, almost a new being for each scene. Beneath her signature smile, Duncan’s got the chops for comedy and drama. As Avis, she delivers both. Though a mite mannered, Schmidtke’s Miss could be a judge, or even more delusional than first appears. And Soule’s character(s) — Wren, et al. — may conceal profound depths of caring by trying not to. Or maybe they just don’t. Soule’s crafted work resembles the blurry windows. She seems to provide access to easy answers. Instead she raises new perplexities.

Some of the best local theater is produced by homeless companies. Because San Diego has no venue for them, their productions too often close before audiences they deserve. Will their excellent production be a three-week fling, or could it extend into something more lasting? The show’s such a charmer and thought-provoker it could run six months. But unless Diversionary Theatre, where it’s being staged (and which has its own full season to honor), can work out schedules, Limonade must close this weekend.

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**Theater Listings**

San Diego Reader, March 23, 2006

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**Calendar THEATER**

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

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### A Body of Water

Reviewed this issue.

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### Readers

**6th@Penn Theatre stages Howard SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-239-2255. 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 1:45 P.M. 603-549-3488.**

**14th Annual Kuumba Fest — Black to the Future: Healthy, Strong, and Conscious**

The African-American Council of the San Diego Repertory Theatre is presenting Howard SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-239-2255. 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 1:45 P.M. 603-549-3488.

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**Evita**

Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice’s musical — Eva Peron Superstar — has less substance than a tabloid expose. It shallows through the rise of Eva Duarte so fast because it wants to make the Argentine singer/vaint a mystery, when it turns out the composing team just didn’t know much about her (or Chi Guevara, or the evils of poverty, for that matter). Evita has a splashy style and rousing music, and those stand out in the 6th Resort Theatre’s production. Slick-haired Doug Baitch is easily un- derstood as Juan Peron (whose draconian tactics raised murder and ‘disappearances’ to a new level and who had Evita mummified). Aided by Amba Wakefield’s comic costumes and Jennifer Ed- wards-Northover’s red-lavender lighting, Laura Dickenson looks and sings Evita capably, though she could stroke the flame a bit more. Jean Giraudais makes the most of a cameo as Peron’s rejected mistress, she sings one of the show’s best tunes. “Another Suit- case in Another Hall.” Danny Bolero’s Guevara fascinates. He has the requisite annoying poutiness but also throws in a mocking, down-in-the-mouth attitude that fills in some of the book’s wide gaps. To Bolero’s credit, and also director/choreogra- pher Shana Newman, this is the first Evita I’ve seen (out of maybe five or six) that gets the point of view right — it’s a story about Guevara’s mind. Newman also deserves credit for bisex stage movement, a textual umbr- ah, and rich Latin spirit. Worth a try.

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**Hitchcock Blonde**

South Coast Repertory Theatre stages Terry Johnson’s “part-cin- ema, part-theater” inquiry “What was the dark secret that caused Al- fred Hitchcock to obsess over beautiful blondes in ‘psuedo’-SEIGERSTROM STAGE, SOUTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 799 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, THROUGH FEBRUARY 26, AT 8:00 P.M. AND SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 714-503-5555.”

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**I Have Before Me a Reproduction of a Document Given to Me by a Young Lady from Rwanda**

An odd couple? Maybe not. Both Ya Ya and Andrew, an American woman who survived the genocide in Rwanda and went to the UK as a survivor and these stand out in the Welk Theatre and director Esther Emery presents this drama about a young woman who survived the genocide of Rwanda and went to the UK as a refugee. Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO, THROUGH APRIL 2; TUESDAY, THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 858-578-7728.

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**Joey and Maria’s Comedy Italian Wedding**

The Daly Theatre hosts “not-so-ar- duous interactive dinner theater,” as Joey and Maria tie the knot. LOUVRE HAVEN AND SUITES, NORTH PARK, OPENENDED RUN, FOR DAYS AND TIMES CALL 800-934-5363.

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**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 KALAMA STREET, KANAYA’S, OPENENDED RUN, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 858-544-1000.

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**Limonade Tois Les Jours**

An odd couple! Maybe not. Both Ya Ya, a French woman who hates surprises, and Andrew, an Ameri- can who craves them, are in “re-covery.” Each has recently ended a relationship — Ya Ya with an older, controlling man; Andrew by di- vorcing his wife. They meet at a Parisian cafe. This, along with other things, about being “dam- aged goods.” They deny a growing attraction to each other. Mostly to their ages: she’s early spring, he, midwinter). The more they argue against it, the more they fall for each other. Charles L. Mee’s splendid chamber play is an 80-minute dance in words. With- out a single hint of didacticism, he lays out every clunky premise, existing, and yielding to, adult love. See, one of America’s finest play- writers, shakespeare under the stars, in both Ya Ya and Andrew, reason and intuition flip-flop faster than a spinning top. The Morris Theatre and director Esther Emery have given Comedians a superb pro- duction. The show is a mini- mal and elegant (curtains with slides projected on them), and the performances top caliber. D.W. Ja- coth’s Andrew and Joanne Cleaver’s amazing Ya Ya just might achieve something beyond the moment — could enjoy their lemon-ade together.

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**The Lion in Winter**

Scipio Ranch presents James Goldman’s epic about King Henry II, his wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine, and a dysfunctional Christmas. David Edward directed. SCORBS RANCH THEATRE, ALLIANT UNI- Versity, 35405 POWERROAD ROAD, SCORBS RANCH, THROUGH MARCH 11; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 805-657-7728.

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**Moliere: A Cabal of Hypocrites**

USCD Theatre and Dance presents Mikhail Bulgakov’s tale about the site of the old military expression, and Film presents Jim Wann and Patricia Miller’s musical comedy about the trial of Mona Mac Kay, accused of murdering her husband on their wedding night. Paul Kalustian directed. CCO FOLEX THEATRE, SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY, FEBRUARY 24, THROUGH MARCH 11, WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 858-554-8884.

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**Quidam**

Cirque du Soleil’s jaw-droppers beguile: gymnastic strength moves of Jerome La Bist and Asia Ku- ba’s “Natar”, the human pyra- mids of “Banquine”, and the spin- ing, yo-yo-like spoons of “Diablos.” The story of Quidam makes more sense in the program notes than onstage, however: something about strangers and anonymity; and Zoe, who thinks she’s seen everything (then her family, reading newspapers, sud- denly flies into the air). Zoe, her guide, and the audience are in for extraordinary treats and, surpris- ingly, more mundane sections than usual. Though the music’s loud as ever, the show also has dull spots. People walk on and off wearing the latest fashion — hy- brid-ward — and there are two audiences participation scenes that are mildly funny but feel like filler between the special acts. The lan- guage pace conveys up the oppor- tunities of the old military expression, “Hurry up and wait.” You want to shout, “How up and punctuation!” But then out come the “diablos,” or 17 Slavic artists shaping human towers, and your notion of the humanity possible demands re- thinking.

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**The Grand Chapiteau, DEL MAR FAIR- GROUNDS, THROUGH APRIL 2; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 5:00 P.M. 708-634-3050.**
The group makes the hits. They switch roles. The group makes the hits. They try to make the audience laugh. They work to get the audience to laugh. The group makes the hits. They try to make the audience laugh. They work to get the audience to laugh.

**The Sopranos’ Last Supper Comedy**

Mike Andreevo’s three-act new material has a theme that the songs can be written about anything except the Ninth Symphony. The trio used to write songs about the Ninth Symphony. The trio used to write songs about the Ninth Symphony. The trio used to write songs about the Ninth Symphony.

**The Old Globe Theatre**

The Sopranos’ Last Supper Comedy. Mike Andreevo’s three-act new material. The trio used to write songs about the Ninth Symphony. The trio used to write songs about the Ninth Symphony. The trio used to write songs about the Ninth Symphony.
Borderland

The general effect was a bit like looking at the image in the Wicked Witch of the West’s crystal ball.

Given the available options — the documentaries Why We Fight, Ballets Russes, and Neil Young: Heart of Gold, not to speak of the unspeakable Date Movie — this week would seem to be as ideal an opportunity as any to confess that I finally broke down and attended a show at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, thus crossing off the oldest item on my professional list of Things To Get Around To. (That leaves, in order of succession for the spot of oldest item, Read Film Language: A Semiotics of the Cinema, Defend Betamax, and Find Out About Laser Discs.) Some years back, I had thought about going to the Fleet for an anniversary reissue — the twentieth? the twenty-fifth? — of 2001: A Space Odyssey, but I never got past the thinking stage. Another time I went so far as to turn up for a lunchtime press screening of something or other, but a technical delay and a tight schedule sent me packing without ever seeing the inside of the auditorium.

The final breakdown occurred way back in mid-October on the occasion of the premiere of Mystic India, and inasmuch as its four-month run happens to be coming to an end next Tuesday, February 28, the timing could hardly be more fortuitous. My time will not have gone wasted. Regular patrons of “the world’s first IMAX dome theater” (as I find I jotted down on my note paper during the introductory remarks) might immediately cry out that I could have made a better choice of occasion on which to break down. Better, that is, than this undramatic re-enactment of the late-18th-century pedestrian odyssey of an eleven-year-old yogi by the name of Neelkanth, traipsing the length and breadth of India, 8000 miles in seven years, making him an eighteen-year-old yogi by the end of it, a storyline that serves as a mere pretext for dispensing little tastes, little glimpses, here and gone, of temples, mountains, rivers, festivals, anything Indian, while Peter O’Toole reads through the narration as if for the first time, very, very slowly, placing heavy stress without regard for the meaning of the text. I don’t doubt I could have made a “better” choice. I do doubt I could have made one that would have convinced me I belonged there.

My frame of reference is perforce not other IMAX films but other films. The qualifying term for what gets shown in an IMAX theater (if I can further dust off my notes) seems to be “large-format” or “giant-screen.” I concur that, whatever it was, it was big. The concave screen, although you cannot get far enough away from it to take in its dimensions all at once, appears to be in the shape of an orb, an ovoid, a flying saucer or flying platter of some type, having no straight edges or square corners. It has been quilted together in small triangular sections whose webwork of seams remains faintly visible, at least in the lighter areas of the picture, throughout the projection. There is a good deal of stretching and bowing of the image, a good deal of splaying it out like Greenland on a flat map, particularly noticeable nearer the edges and whenever
the camera is moving, creating an impression something like that of a Dali

timepiece oozing over the edge of a tabletop on an August afternoon as if
made of taffy. Nowhere is the image sharp or bright, seeming to call for
somebody to turn out the lights in order to achieve proper clarity and
saturation, except that the lights have been turned out already. On the ad-
vice of veterans, I sat in the upper tier of seats, centering myself in front of
the screen as best as possible, from which aerie it was still necessary to
crane my neck to see the top of the screen, tuck my chin to see the bottom,
and even though there were moving pictures all around me, nor did I con-
sider that a movie, either. I can start making allowances for misshapen
ones. In a nutshell: the military-industrial complex; money; profit; corporate
greed. The film takes the form of a forum, with views expressed
across a broad spectrum (Gore Vidal on the left to Richard Perle, “the Prince
of Darkness,” on the right), but there is no mistaking toward which end of
it the filmmaker is nudging us. Rang-
ing as far back as the Second World
War and as up to the minute as Iraq,
lingering admiringly (and surpris-
ishly) over Eisenhower’s admonitory
farewell address in 1961, embracing
both the eminences (John McCain, Dan
Rather) and the Little Guy (a retired
New York cop who lost a son on 9/11,
a callow new Air Force recruit), Jarecki
matches Michael Moore’s scope but
not his nimbleness, his sprightliness.
Like-minded viewers can feel some
fellowship within their powerlessness.

The second, directed by Dayna
Goldfine and Dan Geller, offers an in-
troductory lecture (Marian Seldes, the
not overly familiar narrator) on the
post-revolutionary Russian refugees
who laid the foundation of modern
ballet, namely the Ballet Russe and its
warring spinoffs, the Ballet Russe de

**TRISTRAM SHANDY:**
_A COCK & BULL STORY_

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EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT
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In the tradition of State and Main, Day For Night and The Larry Sanders Show*

**“DIABOLICALLY CLEVER AND NOTHING SHORT OF HILARIOUS.”**

Being John Matuszczak musical, and you’re in a world of comedy.

**“A GENUINE GUT-BUSTER.”**

Oscar nominated funny bone.

**“TERRIFIC...”**

A hilarious comedy about the perils of filmmaking.

**“MARVELOUSLY ENTERTAINING.”**

A film that is intelligent and funny.

**“PERFECTION...”**

The first great, mind-tickling treatment of the new movie year

**“UPROARIOUS”**

Steve Coogan is perhaps the funniest comic actor in Britain.

**“AN INVENTIVE HORROR HEADSPINNER...”**

A MANIC SHOCKER.”

GLENN KENNY

**THE FIRST CHAPTER IN AN EPIC FANTASY TRILOGY**

**NIGHT WATCH**

**NOCHKOI DOZOR**

**A WILDLY ENTERTAINING FANTASY THRILLER**

that propels Russian cinema into the 21st century.”

RUTHE STEIN

**“SIN CITY,’ Moscow-style.”**

KYLE SMITH

**QUENTIN TARANTINO**

**“FANTASY MASTERPIECE.”**

Like Ridley Scott, Timur Bekmambetov
is an astonishing visionary and
‘Night Watch’ is AN EPIC OF EXTRAORDINARY POWER.”

PREMIERE

**“AN INVENTIVE HORROR HEADSPINNER...”**

**A MANIC SHOCKER.”**

GLENN KENNY


**A WILDLY ENTERTAINING FANTASY MASTERPIECE.**

Like Frank Capra’s series of seven
WWII propaganda films. The reac-
propagation is, needless to say, ironic.

Eugene Jarecki, maker of The Trials
of Henry Kissinger, adduces no less
definite reasons why, just less noble
ones. In a nutshell: the military-
industrial complex; money; profit;
corporate greed. The film takes the
form of a forum, with views expressed
across a broad spectrum (Gore Vidal
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who laid the foundation of modern
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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 is particular, with all its triumphal pomp and circumstance, call that film to mind. The beginning. Some boys pack off during the London Blitz to a ghomme mansion of rigid rules (‘No improper use of the dumbwaiter,” et cetera), where they soon discover, at the back of the wardrobe in the spare room, a portal to the alternate 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 been told of their coming as well as their overthrow of the wicked White Witch, wonderfully visualized — an icicle crown, frozen-stiff hair, snowman’s lump-of-coal eye, clumsy, oyster skin — and mandingly 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 as brutal as it could be without becoming as sadistic as The Passion of the Christ. His immediate 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 of the regeneration of casualties on that field. The logic of a completely different sequel that's really just an alternative version, a completely different cast of characters in a parallel series of completely different, chain reaction-accidents with gory finishes, all to test the diatribe that you can’t catch death. Death, evidently, will go to great serpentine lengths to see that you don’t. Gross lengths. Rubo Goldberg lengths. You wouldn’t think death had so much time. With Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Ryan Merriman, Amanda Crew, and Kris Lemche, directed by James Wong. 2006.

Curious George — Juvenile monkey-drama, scrupulously animated, monotonously voiced by Will Ferrell as the primates adopted human, and accompanied by a posse of inquisitive songs. Based on the books by Margret and H.A. Rey, directed by Matthew O’Callaghan. 2006.

Date Movie — In the mode of Sour Men, a witless collection of references to, thefts from, and spoofs of, assorted romantic comedies, nonromantic comedies, non-comedies, anything at all, My Big Fat Greek Wedding to Lord of the Rings. The assumption seems to be that mere recognition will bring forth laughter. With Alyson Hannigan, Adam Campbell, Jennifer Coolidge, Fred Willard, Tony Cox, and Eddie Griffin; directed by Aaron Silver. 2006.

Final Destination 3 — Commonplace instance of a sequel that’s really just an alternative version, a completely different cast of characters in a parallel series of caused chain-reaction accidents with gory finishes, all to test the diatribe that you can’t catch death. Death, evidently, will go to great lengths, to see that you don’t. Gross lengths. Rubo Goldberg lengths. You wouldn’t think death had so much time. With Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Ryan Merriman, Amanda Crew, and Kris Lemche, directed by James Wong. 2006.

Firewall — Ridiculous heist-and-hostage thriller that requires the retirement-aged Harrison Ford to shoulder altogether too much of the burden of heroics — all of it, to be exact — as much as Jean-Claude van Damme shouldered at half the age. And this in the role of a family-man Seattle banker! Not an ex-Navy SEAL banker, not even a former FBI agent banker, but a plain old banker, a computer geek. The clichés come in bunches. Because the story is set in Seattle, it must rain ninety percent of the time, and the Space Needle must be visible out the banker’s office window, and he must live with his wife, his TV-addicted teenage daughter, and his peanut-allergies in a sun-splashed waterfront home that would be the envy of Bill Gates. In a slight modification of a cliché, the architect who designed the place is not the man of the family but the woman (Virginia Madsen in her first post-Sideways job opportunity, let’s hope a lucrative one). The fishiness masteredminded of the caper is a cultivated Brit (not Alan Rickman, not Jeremy Irons, not Sean Bean, but Paul Giamatti), and the action is a twitch’s delight (computers, cellphones, security systems, fountain-pen video camera, GPS dog collar). It is not an aesthetic’s delight, but it is as such in which the viewer can’t get a decent look at it. Robert Forster, Robert Patrick, Mary Lynn Rajskub, directed by Richard Loncraine. 2006.

Freedomland — From a novel and screenplay by Richard Price, directed by Joe Roth, a copied-from-today’s-headlines thriller that amounts to a virtual collage of newspaper clippings: child abduction, domestic violence, police brutality, racial profiling, graffiti, rioting, and whatnot. Julianne Moore is once again a bereft mother, but in trying out, for a change of pace, a hussey accent and low-rent grammar, she shows that she can broaden her range only at a cost of broadening her performance. Samuel L. Jackson, as the streetwise cop on the case, is able to incorporate an asthma inhaler without losing his equilibrium. And Edie Falco looks startlingly disguised as the plain-Jane Brunette who hands up the volun-unteer search party. She has one very interesting dialogue with Moore, or anybody her end of it is very interesting, which is when she is telling Moore the loss of her own child but beneath the surface is in fact probing Moore about her own. With Ron Eldard, Aunjanue Ellis, William Forsythe. 2006.

Fun with Dick and Jane — Fast and loose remake by Dean Parisot of the all-but

NOW PLAYING
ff the American Nightmare reimagined—yet another Disney raid on Richard Jenkins), and their antiseptic sentimentalization for a double-disc collection of golden agefication. Nor can it benefit from its intrinsically good one (what took so long to wrent its source of the all-white Kentucky Wildcats. In 1942, the regional (today, UTEP) sent out five blacks for the first time, but Expressionistically matching the old, it’s too short a measure to make up for the little amount of speechifying; and for all the measure such effects might be “better” than catching a ride on the trolley. In whatever way you look at it, 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 futility of stiffness and creakiness has simply been replaced by the falsity of fluidness and facility: Exhibit A: the stampeded of brontosauruses, an enlarged replica of the running of the bulls at Pamplona, wherein these nimble, 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, flitting like shadows and creating a timely diversion that affords the bumbling romantic couple (Naomi Watts, Adrien Brody) a means of escape by hanging 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 falling in imagination. 2001. • PALM PROMENADE 24: LA JOLLA VILLAGE

Hoodwinked — A fractured fairy tale, the Red Riding Hood tale, told in a fractured narrative after the fashion of stuff like Pulp Fiction, the hipness. If that’s what you want from your fairy tales. With the voices of Anne Hathaway, Glenn Close, Patrick Warburton,Delayed. 2006. • PALM PROMENADE 24: VOGUE

King Kong — Fresh from The Lord of the Rings, Peter Jackson could presumably have done anything he wanted. What he appearely wanted was to do a remake. Check that, a second remake. A 21st-century Kong. A CGI Kong. A Kong-fu Kong. (Three T. rexes at a time, one hand tied up by a putty nose to rival the one he wore as Ali Rush Limbaugh, Oliver North, and Co., the sitting duck of the past were taken to be a matter of survival. With Derek Luke, Austin Nichols, Michael Brooks directed by James Gartner. 2006. • (GALAXIP 13)

Good Night, and Good Luck — United Pictures’ SDM (the “cranding”) CBS newsman 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 surname countenance, speaks with his cadence, and goes through a full carton of his coffee nails.) Framed by a literal “Salute to Edward R. Murrow” in 1958, and by the guest-of-honor’s sodomizing assessment of the current state of TV journalism, it centers on his famous face-off four years earlier with In McCarthy, now known in ever widening circles as the Bogeyman. (McCarthy, seen only in grainy archive footage, looks even cruider than usual in opposition to the cruelly crisp photographe thopian smoothes.) Clooney, son of a TV news caster 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 flabby lord 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 careful, George; what you wish for the network that appears to come close to Murrow’s stance of abdication, 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 Lummert-Frankenheimer generation (he had already done so in his live-television experiment of Fall. 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-Selring-Schubberg screenwriters. In truth the message is gotten across with an altogether unacceptable amount of speechifying; and for all the feebly overlapping dialogue and the occasional hustle-bustle of cast or camera it is steadfastly a static film, nailed to a plat form. With Robert Downey, Jr., Patricia Clarkson, Frank Langella, Jeff Daniels. 2005. • CAMEL MOUNTAIN, HORTON PLAIN (1-4)
The Pink Panther — The resurrection of the pearl-fumbled Inspector Clouseau can hardly be judged a degradation of the original Blake Edwards film of the same name, seeing as how Edwards himself deemed it in the process of doing seven sequels, including a posthumous patchwork with the peers Peter Sellers, a substitution of the madrodent Frenchman by an unrelated American cop played by Ted Wass, and another substitution of him by his bastard son, the very Italian Roberto Benigni. Plus, Alan Arkin had a go at the character under the direction of Bud Yorkin in the Inspector Clouseau of 1980, before Edwards saw the wisdom, or the profit, in reusing the series itself. So now — and so what? — we get a game Steve Martin under the direction of Shawn Levy (Cheaper by the Dozen, again starring Martin) for another round of broken English, broken furniture, broken bones, etc. Political correctness has dictated that the function of the Oriental漫 wan Cato will here be filled by a deadpan cop, Jane Reno; and a rather halfhearted Kevin Kline takes the place of the wholehearted Herbert Lom in the part of Clouseau’s hair-braining superior. Beyoncé Knowles pitches in some pulchritude, and Emily Mortimer reminds us that a French accent can also be cute. The whole business is a more matter of maintenance than invention, more hard work than humor, like some TV sitcom that has outstayed its welcome long ago. Amid the thickening grail of remakes and sequels, however, there is no cause to come down particularly hard on this one. Theunderlining will not be disappoint ed. 006.  GARMER MOUNTAIN: CIAULA VISTA: CIN EMA 6:0, MAR DIAMOND B, EDDIE 8:0: RARES K.


Pride and Prejudice — By this time the Jane Austen novel qualifies as a repertoire piece, a must-see for would-be Darcy and Elizabeth Bennetts, little different from Roman and Juliet. The team behind the present production of it, apart from their attempt to replace the titular conjunction with a leading apostrophe, care 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 her fault in failing for them in full, 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 gump up the works, with an anec dote-heavy approach, and a lot of mushy telephoto camerawork: a pale substitute for the MGM shot of 1940. And Matthew MacFadyen makes a dapper, a blank, more stuporous than brooding, a kind of w omanless San Laurel. Any doubts, however, as to the potential of Keir Knightley — and after the likes of Domino and The Jacket and King Arthur, how could there now be no doubts? — are decisively routed. She may be too pretty for Elizabethan, she may be too young, but she is just sufficiently feisty, just stiffly enough claremont.

The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada — Tommy Lee Jones directs himself in a slight variation on the last act of Lonesome Dove, once more hauling the carcasses of a close friend on horseback to his chosen resting place. This time he has the unsavory help of the farmer’s killer, a car-pathing Border Fascist from Cincin nati, who is made as unsympathetic as possible, brutalizing Mexican illegals, reading Hootie on the job, forcing himself on his own wife from behind when she’s trying to fix dinner and watch her favorite soap. The story is told non-sequentially and with a touch incoherently, but Jones has a knowing eye for Tex-Mex squalor and ugliness, and he snuffs out some pungent quizzical details e.g., setting the corpse’s head on fire to beat back an attack of ants. With Barry Pepper, Julio Oscar Mechoso, JD Evermore, and James Jones, Melissa Leo. 2005.  CHULA VISTA: SANDIEGO: CHULA VISTA 10: CINEMAS: MIRA MESA 18: ORANGE DESERT: PALM PROMENADE 24: RANCHO DEL REY: 16: RANCHO SAND DIEGO 15: SAN MARCOS 18: (FROM 2:24)

The New World — Very well done, beautiful despite the unconventional nature of the follow-travel.
**Tristram Shandy: A Cook and Bull Story** — Michael Winterbottom's free adaptation of the Laurence Sterne classic, starring Naveen Andrews. (LA JOLLA VILLAGE, FROM 2/24)

**Underworld Evolution** — Kate Beckinsale, back again in the blue-hued sequel as the black-leather vampiress and werewolf slayer, demonstrates fidelity if not taste as the director, Len Wiseman, is her hubby. Fidelity in this case could indicate no taste at all. With Scott Speedman, Derek Jacob, Steven Mackintosh, and Bill Nighy. 2006. (FASHION VALLEY 28; GALAPAGOS 30; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

**Walk the Line** — The same line, that would be, as the previous year’s Ray, a musical biopic on a recently fallen giant of pop culture. C&W instead of R&B, Johnny Cash instead of Ray Charles, two years dead instead of more months, but the same background tale of early poverty and tragedy, meteoric ascent, marital discord, drug abuse, salvation. Fewer songs this time, in describing Joaquin Phoenix’s impersonation of the Man in Black, will be inculcated to link the adjective “uncanny” to the noun “likeliness.” Though he has obviously studied hard for the part, copying the hoarde-like head-toss and brastrondier’s air-gulp in performance on stage, he lacks both the structure 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-howlng caliber. Reese Witherspoon’s June Carter — a ten-year-old voice on the radio in Cash’s cotton-picking childhood, a touring mute in the mid-Fifties along with Jerry Lee, Buddy, and Elvis, and finally her second wife in the late-Sixties, when the movie ends — dances rings around him. And sings them, too.

*With Jennifer Goodwin and Robert Patrick, directed by James Mangold. 2005. ★★★★ GROSSMONT TROLLEY; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA PALOMA.*

**When a Stranger Calls** — Simon West’s remake of a decent little well-structured somber thriller, vintage 1979, indecently increases the budget, the scale, the affluence, and the sound effects, while dragging things out interminably and destroying the structure. Camilla Belle, Brian Geraghty, Katay Cassidy, Clark Gregg. 2006. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROCEC ORDER CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 24; MISSION MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARFARDY WAY; RAMDO DEL REY; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MAR COS 18; SANTINE DR; PL TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE.)

**We Try to Fight** — Reviewed this issue.

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**North Coast Inland**

**Carmel Mountain**

10220 Carmel Mountain Road (858-674-9970)

**Escondido**

1620 W. Valley Parkway (760-209-4119)

**NORTH COASTAL CARLSBAD**

**Plaza Camino Real**

2385 Harrison Road (760-729-7499)

**Curious George** (PG) Fri., Sun. 11:00, 1:00, 3:10, 8:15, Doogal (G) Fri., Sat. 11:00, 8:00, 10:00, 3:00, 4:45.

**Del Mar Highlands 8**

El Camino Real at Del Mar Highlands Road (760-664-0090)

Firewall (PG-13) Fri. 1:15, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15; Sat., Sun. 10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 4:30, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45.

**Flower Hill 4**

2300 Via de la Valle (858-686-4925)

Big Momma’s House 2 (PG) Fri., Sat. 10:00, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30.

**Freedomland**

(12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sat. 10:15 (12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. 10:00 (12:15, 2:30) 4:45, 7:00.

**Firewall** (PG) Fri., Sat. 7:30, 10:15, 12:00, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 9:00, 11:00.

**Freedomland**

(12:30, 3:45, 6:00, 9:15, 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00, 12:00, 3:00) 6:30, 9:45, Sun. 10:15, 12:30, 2:45.

**Horiarty**

626 Main Street (760-789-3422)

**Pink Panther**

The (PG) Fri., Sat. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00; Sun. 10:00.

**Flower Hill 4**

2300 Via de la Valle (858-686-4925)

Breakback Mountain (R) Fri., Sat. 10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 4:45, 6:45, 8:45.

**Horton Plaza 14**

220 North El Camino Real (760-942-5544)

Mrs. Henderson Presents (PG) Fri., Sat. 10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 4:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45.

**breaking Burger (R) Fri., Sat. 10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 4:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45.

**Freedomland**

Fri., Sun. 10:00, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00.

**Freedomland**

Fri., Sat. 10:00, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00.

**Freedomland**

Fri., Sat. 10:00, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00.

**Freedomland**

Fri., Sat. 10:00, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00.

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**Freedomland**

Fri., Sat. 10:00, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00.
Pasaron más de 200 migrantes

Américo Barcelós-Feldman
Diario San Diego

Durante la semana que recorrió Diario San Diego obtuvo información de que más de 200 migrantes cruzaron en un convoy de cinco camionetas el día en el que un vehículo se volcó y dejó a 24 indocumentados heridos.

―Este acto deja claro que existe una vinculación entre el crimen organizado y las redes de traficantes de indocumentados," dijo el vocero del consulado mexicano Alberto Lozane.

El pasado viernes 10 de febrero 24 migrantes resultaron heridos al volcarse la camioneta en donde viajaban.

Al ofrecer explicaciones de los hechos, la Patrulla Fronteriza cayó en contradicciones con respecto a los reportes de la Patrulla de Caminos. La Patrulla Fronteriza no afirmó que la volcadura de la camioneta fue producto de la persecución de inmigrantes por agentes federales, como lo hiciera la Patrulla de Caminos.

La Patrulla de Caminos afirmó que el cruce fue catalogado como una mala conducción, no un robo con violencia o armas.

Nelly Covantes E.
Diario San Diego

La demora en los cruces fronterizos no solo representa pérdidas de tiempo sino de dinero y trabajos relacionados con el comercio. Uno de los principales impulsores de la economía regional, según un estudio de la Asociación de Gobiernos de San Diego (SANDAG), es el cruce de mercancía por la Garita de Otay, y consideró el más importante de la frontera entre California y Baja California.

Los informes de camiones y de camiones de carga en toda la frontera México-Estados Unidos ha costado cerca de 6 mil millones de dólares en pérdidas. En San Diego, los inmigrantes que esperan en la frontera abren el comercio y donde se registran demoras en el cruce de mercancías por la Garita de Otay, y considerado el más importante de la frontera entre California y Baja California, se pierden 4.5 millones de dólares anualmente y más de 2 mil 400 trabajos.

Para terminar con el número de botellas en las garitas de San Isidro y Meso de Otay se han hecho pequeños proyectos que se han hecho un poco por problemas financieros.

"Lo más difícil de estos proyectos es el financiamiento", explicó Pedro Orsio Delgado, director del departamento de transporte de California (Caltrans) en San Diego.
El “oso” de la semana

La selección mexicana de fútbol apenas comienza a aclarar las lecciones del error cometido por su portero, Osvaldo Sánchez y la derrota ante Corea del Sur en su ruta al Mundial de Alemania 2006.

“Imagine que va a aprender mucho de esta situación, porque son errores que a veces se cometen”, comentó el seleccionador Ricardo La Volpe sobre el gol recibido por Osvaldo Sánchez, titular de la portería desde el 2003 y con 85 juegos internacionales. Cerrará el minuto 15 del partido en el Coliseo de Los Ángeles y Sánchez atajó un disparo pero enseguida saltó el balón al pensar que el árbitro había marcado un supuesto fuera de lugar, entonces un coreano metió la pelota a la portería y sentenció la derrota de México. Además del error de Sánchez, los expertos consideraron que México fue superado por Corea y que no fue capaz de entender al rival, y que tuvo problemas con la posesión del balón y la velocidad del rival.

La Volpe, quien volvió a México tras finalizar el partido, señaló que su mayor interés después de este partido es conservar con los jugadores y reforzar la inteligencia que hay que tener contra equipos tan rápidos como Corea.

Reviven la Sentri

Si usted es uno de los más de 20 mil usuarios que tienen permiso para usar las líneas de tránsito rápido Sentri y se venció su credencial, ya puede renovarla.

De acuerdo a cifras del Departamento de Aduanas y Protección Fronteriza (CBP), cerca de 20 mil usuarios tienen su credencial de acceso vencida; pues el trámite de renovación estuvo detenido durante varios meses, sin afectar los usuarios cuyas credenciales expiraron.

La razón, según voceros de la agencia federal, es que fue necesario detener las renovaciones pues existían muchas solicitudes de inscripción pendientes y se buscaba mejorar la tecnología utilizada en los carrales de acceso rápido a los Estados Unidos. Si usted llama para realizar su trámite de renovación podría tener su tarjeta nueva dentro de unas semanas, pues el martes empezaron a renovarse las credenciales. Para realizar el trámite de renovación para el uso de las carreteras Sentri, deberá necesariamente llamar a la oficina de la Garita de Otay para pone la cita y entregar la solicitud de inscripción/renovación junto a copias y originales de su licencia, registro vehicular, comprobante del seguro de su auto, pasaporte, visa o comprobante de ciudadanía, comprobante de empleo y residencia.

El trámite de inscripción es de 25$ dólares que cubren el costo del trámite, chip y tarjeta de huellas dactilares, pero sin embargo, esta cifra podría ser menor para realizar el trámite inicial ya cuenta con las huellas dactilares.

¡Tragedia!

En el inicio de esta semana se informó que al menos 60 personas quedaron atrapadas tras la explosión de una mina en el poblado mexicano de Piedras Negras.


La agrupación había ejercido presión para que se mejoraran las condiciones y el salario de los mineros. Autoridades investigan las causas que produjeron el accidente y el ministro de la empresa fue responsable.

Además de sus operaciones en minas de carbón, Grupo México es el tercer mayor productor de cobre a nivel mundial.

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Senior Loan Officer Sales Agent

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MAIL: Ads must be printed clearly on 3x5 cards or postcards and are limited to 25 words. Additional words may be charged. Each ad must arrive at our PO Box by 7 am, Monday. Mail all ads to Reader 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/Reader Web site. See below for instructions on placing online ads that also appear in the paper.

BUSINESSES

include paid services or functions, rentals, and profit-making enterprises. For rates and discounts call (619) 235-8280, Monday-Thursday, 8 am-5 pm.

DEADLINES: Business classifieds are accepted until 6 pm Tuesday, two days prior to the issue. Call by Friday for early-placement discounts. Ads may be placed by using a credit card (619-235-8280) or in person (1703 India Street, at Date Downtown). Hours are 9 am-5 pm, Monday through Friday, and until 6 pm Saturday.

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.

$8 ADS BY INTERNET, FAX OR IN PERSON

Write your ad below, listing the item for sale first, followed by its description (including price) and ending with the phone number. Each item may count as one word, ads over 25 words will not be accepted.

Deadline: 6 pm Monday

To provide online viewers of your ad with a map of your neighborhood, we need:

NAME: ___________________________

CARD NUMBER: __________________

EXP DATE: ____________

CATEGORY: ______________________

SIGNATURE: ______________________

The Reader will not be responsible for failures to run an ad, or for errors in an ad except in the event of the cost of the ad.

Make up to $30/hour working 30 hours a week! These pay $5/hour plus bonus paid per set appointment. Average hourly paid $70/hour. Shifts are Monday-Friday, 4-7 pm. Part-time work is available. Call: 858-894-3783. Training available. Please call for details. 858-640-8564.


PAYROLL BOOKKEEPERS. Full-time. $15/hour. New Dawn temp agency. 619-233-0966 or email to hjohnson@newdawn-temp.com.

To be a successful autoparts counter person, you need great people skills and have the ability to work in a fast paced environment. $15-20/hour. Call today: 858-667-9530 or email to melinda@fparserv.com.

No experience necessary. $600 plus commission. EOE. Call Steve, 858-455-0633.

FREE ADS BY MAIL OR INTERNET

$8 ADS BY INTERNET, FAX OR IN PERSON

Write your ad below, listing the item for sale first, followed by its description (including price) and ending with the phone number. Each item may count as one word, ads over 25 words will not be accepted.

Deadline: 6 pm Monday

To provide online viewers of your ad with a map of your neighborhood, we need:

NAME: ___________________________

CARD NUMBER: __________________

EXP DATE: ____________

CATEGORY: ______________________

SIGNATURE: ______________________

The Reader will not be responsible for failures to run an ad, or for errors in an ad except in the event of the cost of the ad.

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FAMOUS FORMER NEIGHBORS
by Jay Allen Sanford ©2006

San Diego Reader
February 23, 2006

FAMOUS FORMER NEIGHBORS
by Jay Allen Sanford ©2006

CHILD CARE
Full-time hours for childcare department at Pacific Athletic Club. Must have at least 3 years childcare experience. Hours 8-12 days. E-mail resume with availability. bgutierrez@paclifeddies.com or call 858-539-3454.

CHILD CARE DUCATION
Mandarin: Attend to 25 hours per week. Must be flexible and available at least 2 mon-
tings. Pay rate: $7.50 to $11.00/hour. The Parents’ Room, 7316 W. Rancho Pe-
nings Rd. De. 635-446-3178. Extention 201.

CHIROPRACTIC ASSISTANT.
Top local office seeks responsible go-getter. 30-35 hours/week. General office, billing/collec-
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Work with developmentally disabled children in a nonpublic school. Experience preferred. Allied Gar-
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Contact: 858-453-4682. Or apply at 10666 Pacific Heights Boulevard #181.
**HOTEL & FARM**

_Hotel/Restaurant_: The San Diego Marriott-Hilands and Marina is seeking experienced personnel for the following positions: Banquet Server, Banquet Captain, Restaurant Supervisor, Business Center Supervisor, General Attendant. Competitive hourly wage, paid time off, tuition reimbursement, group health coverage. Call: 619-298-6700.

_Housekeeping:_ The Country Inn & Suites, Mira Mesa is hiring for the following: Banquet Stewards, Catering Servers, Room and Laundry Attendants. Competitive hourly wage, paid time off, tuition reimbursement, group health coverage. Call: 619-298-6700.

_Corrections Officer:_ The San Diego County Jail is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Corrections Officer. Application period: February 17, 2006, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact: 619-401-1524.

_Housecleaners Wanted_: Make Your Heart Their Home. We are a non-profit organization seeking friendly, talented, energetic people for the real estate professional, is now hiring! Merry Maids, South Coastal and all areas: 858-535-9500; 760-434-5150.

_In addition to the above positions, we are accepting applications for the following positions: Food Service Workers, Room and Laundry Attendants, Front Desk. Full-time. EOE. Apply in person: 5975 Lusk Boulevard, San Diego, 92121.

_Schools:_ Colma Education Center, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego, 92122. To schedule an interview: 619-232-9221.

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_Homes.com_, a leader in Internet marketing for the real estate professional, is now hiring Sales Account Executives. These people will be the main points of contact for our customer base to create opportunities for additional product offerings while maintaining a good service relationship. Sales Account Executives will also be required to develop new business within a defined territory. 1-2 years’ business-to-business sales, Internet sales and/or phone experience preferred. Industry experience a plus.

_Base Salary + Commission_ Send resume with cover letter to: ed@homes.com

_Homebase_ Reference job code: ‘SAE’

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_San Diego County Jail_ is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Maintenance Technician. Application period: February 17, 2006, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact: 619-401-1524.

**Food Service Workers**

_San Diego Marriott-Hilands and Marina_ is seeking experienced personnel for the following positions: Banquet Server, Banquet Captain, Restaurant Supervisor, Business Center Supervisor, General Attendant. Competitive hourly wage, paid time off, tuition reimbursement, group health coverage. Call: 619-298-6700.

**Make Your Heart Their Home**

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- _Carlsbad_ – Customer Service Reps, Inbound, $14/hour
- _North County_ – Staff Accountants, Degree, Up to $50K

**Career Center**

To schedule an interview: 888-999-3320 x110
Fax resume to: 619-299-9775
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Applicants must have lived legally in the U.S.A. for the last 5 years and must be currently legally eligible to work in the U.S.A. All positions require a pre-employment physical, drug screening, background investigation and other employment conditions. All positions receive additional $2.87/hour in wages in lieu of benefits. Group health coverage available.

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GENTLE TAI CHI in Balboa Park. Free on every Saturday morning at 9am. 6th and Upas down in the Eucalyptus Grove. All levels and ages welcome! For more information call Chris, 619-504-1557 or c.endres@cox.net.

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San Diego Reader
February 23, 2006

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Across
1. MTV show hosted by Ashton
2. "The Godfather" author Mario
3. Make funny faces
4. Stick out like ___ thumb
5. Paris Hilton
6. This Sunday's early gathering
7. "Dead Soul" author Nathan
8. Buck's partner
9. Threaten
10. Beach memento
11. Slapstick
12. A lot of sex!
13. Test mineralogically

Down
1. Must like a ghost
2. No longer bothered by 3
3. Demand 4
4. Juggling vocalists
5. The tiniest site
6. 1994 campy comedy
7. Samovar
8. Tablets
9. Weight limit of some pickups
10. East Asian antelope
11. Have good intentions

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San Diego Reader
November 23, 2006

187
NAME This Place

Clue: Mission's musical shortcut

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 85863, 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: Kitchen is studio?) Outside kitchen, Estudillo house, Old Town Plaza, Old Town. According to Parks staff, Lisa Husher, this horno — oven was placed outside to keep heat and fire danger away from the house. All the neighborhood women would come regularly to bake breads, cook meats, and socialize, at what was the heart of their community. Last week's winners: Karen Broderick, Carol Parrett, John Palumbo, Chris McGearry, Jennifer Fisher

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SanDiegoReader.com
From this page, click on "Matches."
**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
- Use on SanDiegoReader.com
- Use of a 24-hour voice mailbox service
- Placement on the Roommate Hotline

**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.

**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.**

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**4. To provide online viewers of your ad with a map of your neighborhood, we need cross-streets and zip code:**

**5. The system dictates a mailbox number and security code.**

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<tr>
<th>MAILBOX NUMBER</th>
<th>SECURITY CODE</th>
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**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.

6. **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.

**Point Loma, Room available.** $650: 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath townhouse. Washer/dryer, Olympic-size pool. Pets negotiable. Call immediately. (619) 830-1817.

**Spanish Village, 3 bedroom.** $675: 1 bedroom, 1 bath, available immediately. (619) 572-1861.

**Belly Up, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, secure, quiet cul-de-sac, great location.** No pets/smoking. (619) 290-5173, (619) 235-2415, x18450.

**San Diego Reader: February 21, 2006**
San Diego

POINT LOMA.


COLLEGE AREA.

619-222-4071. 3104 South Osborn Road. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1,000 square feet. $925. 362-1902. www.sandiegobestrentals.com.

CLAUDE."
Midway aerial photo, 1966. In 1963, Bob Breitbard of San Diego Sports Enterprises requested a lease to build a sports arena on city property. Breitbard hoped approval and construction would occur quickly enough so San Diego could have a hockey team in 1966.

— by Robert Mizrachi
## RENTALS

### Apartments / Condos

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
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<tr>
<td>128 Maple Street</td>
<td>1 bedroom, 1 bath, quiet neighborhood, new every-month specials! $1350. Reis and Company, Inc. 858-272-1348.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>313 Clive Street</td>
<td>1 bedroom, 1 bath, Garage, laundry room, large deck. Available now. $1350. Reis and Company, Inc. 858-272-1348.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108-2282 Pacific Avenue</td>
<td>1 bedroom cottage, private bath, shower, microwave, refrigerator. $895. 1-2 bedroom cottage, private bath, shower, microwave, refrigerator. $1150. 858-292-9090.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10627 Villa Bonita</td>
<td>3 bedroom, 2 bath, large yard. 858-759-9017, 858-205-2000.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1059 Alexandria</td>
<td>2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-car garage. 2 master bedrooms, fireplace, wrap-around closet. $1600. Gina, 619-231-2600.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>313 Clive Street</td>
<td>1 bedroom, 1 bath San Francisco-style flat. Utilities paid. Park or harbor/downtown views, quiet neighborhood. $1350. Reis and Company, Inc. 858-272-1348.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2204 Albatross</td>
<td>3/4 bedroom, 2 bath, large corner lot. Near trolley. 619-262-6278 or (pager) 888-234-5055.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1707 Pacific Avenue</td>
<td>1 bedroom, 1 bath, quiet, close to UCSD. $1050. Large view windows look to Sea Shell. 619-591-7371.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2204 Albatross</td>
<td>2 bed, 2 bath, closed-in balcony. $1400. La Jolla Village. $1500. San Diego U. $1600. $1700. 619-262-6278 or (pager) 888-234-5055.</td>
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### RENTALS / Apartments / Condos / Studios

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CAJAMARCA. Charming 2 bedrooms. All appliances, gas fireplace and upgrades, balconies, pool, jacuzzi. Move-in ready. 1128 Magellan Avenue. 858-251-0030.

CAJAMARCA. Beautiful 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 blocks from Old Town. Walk to all amenities! Pet friendly. 858-688-1000.


CARMEL VALLEY/SOLANA BEACH. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Great location! 858-748-8850.

CARMEL VALLEY. Move-in special! 619-464-8343.

CARMEL VALLEY. Relaxing 2 bedroom around Pechanga. Washer/dryer included. Lowest prices and immediate service! For free estimates call 619-279-7895.


CARMEL VALLEY. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Quiet, bright. Balcony, 2 bedroom apartment. wilderness. 858-748-8850.


CARLSBAD. 1 bedroom, patio, washer/dryer. Available now. 3331 Luna Avenue. 858-270-3036.

CARLSBAD. Charming 2 bedrooms, 2 bath. 2 bed, 2 bath apartment, washer/dryer, parking, walking distance to everything. Amazing amenities. No pets. Call for details. 619-232-6360.


CARLSBAD/Greenfield. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, balcony, laundry, air conditioning, dishwasher, washer/dryer hookups. Gated! Near all amenities. 1169 W. Avocado, 619-251-4577.

CARLSBAD. 1 bedroom.LEASE SPECIAL: $499. Located near Del Mar. Stunning lake. No pets or smoking. 619-823-6727.

CARLSBAD. Charming 1 bedroom. Close to public transportation. Section 8 OK. 619-269-6929. Senior discounts.


CARLSBAD. 1 bedroom plus den. Spacious 1 bedroom plus den. Washer/dryer, fridge, microwave, gas. 760-721-0911; 760-721-0911; 858-414-5800.

CARLSBAD. Furnished 1 bedroom plus office. Appliances and garage included! Quiet area. First and last plus $500 cleaning fee. Call 619-222-7212.

CARLSBAD. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 bed, 2 bath condo with ocean views. New appliances, carpets, electric paid. $785, $600 deposit. Available now. 1128 Magellan Avenue. 858-251-0030.

CARLSBAD. Studio. $595/month plus utilities, includes cable, water, parking. 619-934-1594.


CARLSBAD. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Ground floor unit. 1210 H Street. 619-597-3637.


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CARLSBAD. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Quiet, bright. Balcony, 2 bedroom apartment. wilderness. 858-748-8850.

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CARLSBAD. Move-in special! 619-464-8343.
San Diego Reader
February 23, 2006


College Area/Talmadge.


Colonial Village. 205 9th Avenue. 858-236-7267.

Colleges, $820. Large 1 bedroom, garage, dishwasher, stove, refrigerator, microwave, TV, cable, balcony, parking, street parking, $40/month. 52nd Street. 619-287-1996; 619-461-4144.


Post free ads and photos!
Backpage.com

Community
- actors/auditions
- classes/lessons
- counseling/support
- events
- groups
- lost & found
- missed connections
- notices
- parent resources
- rides to share
- volunteer

Services
- business
- biz ops
- computer
- financial
- health/wellness
- home
- legal
- therapeutic massage
- personal
- travel
- wedding

Automotive
- cars
- trucks/suvs/vans
- classic/custom cars
- rvs
- auto parts
- auto services
- motorcycles

Buy/Sell/Trade
- antiques/collectionibles
- appliances
- boats
- clothing/accessories
- bicycles
- computer
- electronics
- free
- furniture
- garage sales
- miscellaneous
- pets/supplies
- photo
- sports
- tickets
- tools
- wanted/trade

Musician
- available/wanted
- equipment/instruments
- instruction
- services
- plug the band

Rentals
- apartments/condos
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- houses
- rentals wanted
- roommates
- vacation

Real Estate
- commercial
- condos/townhomes
- financing
- houses
- land for sale
- miscellaneous
- open houses
- wanted

Employment
- accounting/finance
- call centers
- career training
- computer/technical
- customer service
- domestics
- driver/delivery
- education
- health care
- jobs wanted/resumes
- management/professional
- miscellaneous
- office/administrative
- part-time jobs
- research studies
- restaurant/hotel/club
- retail
- sales/marketing
- salons
- security
- trades/labor
Lower Payments with .5% at 40-year Amortization

Loan Amount 1st Year Minimum Payment APR 6.218%
$250,000 $574.76/month
$550,000 $1,149.52/month
$750,000 $1,724.28/month

1st American Mortgage and Realty, Inc.
E-mail: info@firstamericanmortgagelenders.com
www.firstamericanmortgagelenders.com
Se habla español • California Department of Real Estate-California Broker license number 01185526

Call Jaydee Schiller: 619-988-1977
Call Terry Jannik: 858-699-1330

Call today for a free prequalification.

Rates are subject to change without notice.

Se habla español

ENJOY LIFE...

EVERYTHING’S INCLUDED!
At Seabreeze, everything is included - stainless steel appliances, including refrigerator, washer and dryer and microwave...window coverings throughout...granite slab countertops in kitchen and baths. And your gated community is fully landscaped and finished.

SPECIAL $15,000 INCENTIVE*
Buy now and you’ll get an $15,000 incentive. Buy down your interest rate for more savings...apply to closing costs...take a vacation or buy a car. It’s yours to use however you want.

(619) 934-0355
2 BR CONDOS FROM THE LOW $300s
OPEN FRI.-TUES., 10-5 (closed Wed. & Thurs.)
Bilingual sales and lender representatives are here to serve you.

*Incentive for homes purchased by March 31, 2006, and subject to change without prior notice. Prices, specifications, features and details subject to change without notice. Map not to exact scale.
and beautiful corals. Protein skimmers.

cials also. Lots of healthy saltwater fish

Even a 60E is just $60. Other tank spe-

20H aquarium $20; 29 for $29; 40R $40.

with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. Also, see thou-

ESCONDIDO, now, Andy, 619-405-7800.

ENCINITAS/LEUCADIA.

760-931-1012.

ENCINITAS.

melroyproperties.com.

1950.

$925, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, deposit $900.

1701.

0021.

EL CAJON.


EL CAJON.

985-3900.

Cats allowed. Courtyard with Palm trees. 711

cated near Moonlight Beach! $795 and

Lushly landscaped, near all. 294 Ballan-

tonic temperament. Really beautiful.

GOLDEN HILL.

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396-6663, 619-624-2031.

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$100 Off Look and Lease Special! (6, 9 or 12 month leases available)

**San Diego**

Point Loma Towers
3811 Marquette Place | (619) 223-6577
Deposit Special! 1 Bedroom Apt. $925 & Up
Elevators, Fitness Centers, Pool, Spa, Sauna
Ocean, Bay & City Views
PointLomaTowers@att.net

Villa De Flores Apts.
7707 Mission Gorge Road | (619) 583-0821
1 Bedroom Apt. $825 & Up
1 Bedroom Apt. $970 & Up
Pool, Spa, Sauna, Gym, Fitness Center, Clubhouse, Patio or Balcony
Near Mission Trails Park
VillaDeFlores@att.net

Southridge Apts.
7200 Saracen Street, La Mesa | (619) 462-1940
1 Bedroom Apt. $900 & Up
2 Bedroom Apt. $1,100 & Up
Pool, Spa, Sauna, Clubhouse, Fitness Center, Patio or Balcony
Walk to Trolley
SouthridgeApts@att.net

San Carlos Apts.
6687 Golfcrest Drive | (619) 460-8343
Deposit Special! 1 Bedroom Apt. $975 & Up
2 Bedroom Apt. $1,300 & Up
Balcony/Patio, Air Conditioning, Clubhouse, Gym, Pool, Spa, Sauna
Near Lake Murray
SanCarlosApts@att.net

### College Area - 1 bedrooms from $855

- **PACIFIC BEACH**
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $1,095. 4236 Bacon Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $1,050. 4238 Bacon Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. $1,395. 4233 Bacon Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. $1,495. 4232 Bacon Ave. 619-221-4400.

- **OCEAN BEACH**
  - 2 bedrooms. 1 bathroom. $1,295. 5117 Santa Monica Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $875. 4825 Santa Monica Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $975. 4823 Santa Monica Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $995. 4821 Santa Monica Ave. 619-221-4400.

- **PACIFIC BEACH**
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $850. 4134 Bacon Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $875. 4133 Bacon Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $925. 4132 Bacon Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $895. 4131 Bacon Ave. 619-221-4400.

- **OCEAN BEACH**
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $900. 4820 Santa Monica Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $950. 4821 Santa Monica Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $975. 4822 Santa Monica Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $1,000. 4823 Santa Monica Ave. 619-221-4400.

- **PACIFIC BEACH**
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $1,075. 4133 Bacon Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $1,150. 4134 Bacon Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. $1,395. 4132 Bacon Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. $1,495. 4131 Bacon Ave. 619-221-4400.

- **OCEAN BEACH**
  - 2 bedrooms. 1 bathroom. $1,295. 4948 Santa Monica Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $850. 4947 Santa Monica Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $875. 4946 Santa Monica Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $925. 4945 Santa Monica Ave. 619-221-4400.

- **PACIFIC BEACH**
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $1,100. 4236 Bacon Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $1,150. 4238 Bacon Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. $1,450. 4232 Bacon Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. $1,550. 4231 Bacon Ave. 619-221-4400.

- **OCEAN BEACH**
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $1,050. 4946 Santa Monica Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $1,100. 4947 Santa Monica Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 2 bedrooms. 1 bathroom. $1,350. 4948 Santa Monica Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. $1,450. 4949 Santa Monica Ave. 619-221-4400.

- **PACIFIC BEACH**
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $900. 4133 Bacon Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $950. 4134 Bacon Ave. 619-221-4400.
  - 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. $1,350. 4132 Bacon Ave. 619-221-4400.
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  - 1 bedroom. 1 bathroom. $925. 4945 Santa Monica Ave. 619-221-4400.
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PACIFIC BEACH. $875. Upper 2 bedroom, 2 bathmis, ocean view from living room, 7890 Paseo De La Playa, 858-698-3674.

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206 San Diego Reader February 23, 2006

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MAYA LINDA CONDOS! 20% OFF! 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 parking spaces, on-site laundry, gated parking. 2nd floor. $275,000-$295,000. Call Top Agent, 619-358-4904.

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MUSicians WANTED: Japan Dave & The Devil’s Advocate is looking for a 3rd member. Must be able to play all types of music from rock to reggae. Must have at least $2k in cash. Send your information to Japan@devilsadvocate.com.

Slick PIANO, looking for a keyboard player to add to our band. We play in downtown San Diego and we travel up to 3x a week. Must be able to play 50 songs by heart. Send your information to SlickPianoUS@gmail.com.

TENs WANTED, Male singers for backup vocals. Must have good stage presence. Must be available to perform 3x a week. Call: 619-445-6025.

VOCALIST Auditioning, looking for a female singer. Must have experience and a great voice quality. Send your information/evidence to VocalistAudi @hotmail.com.

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Inspect and test all lights.

Inspect and test all emissions systems.

Inspect and test all belts & hoses.

Inspect and test all electrical systems.

Inspect and test all drivetrain components.

Inspect and test all exhaust systems.

Inspect and test all electrical systems.

Inspect and test all steering & suspension.

Inspect and test all brakes.

Inspect and test all fluids.

Inspect and test all lights.

Inspect and test all belts & hoses.

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LEAD STORY

— Dave “The Dragon” Lockwood and his tournament-tested sons (Max, 16, Jon, 13, and Ben, 10, of Silver Spring, Md.) might become to competitive tiddlywinks what the Manning family of quarterbacks is to football, according to a January Washington Post story. Dave was previously ranked No. 1 in the English Tiddlywinks Association (and is currently No. 8, with Max No. 52). “Tiddlywinks doesn’t sound very serious,” said Max, but “there’s so much strategy. (For the tournament) you have to "squop" it onto the opponent’s wink to temporarily disable it.” Dave said he plans to get British tiddlywink expert Prince Philip, a winner of the 1978 London Games, to suggest tiddlywinks as a demonstration “sport” at London’s 2012 Summer Olympics.

Cultural Diversity

— In November, the military ruler of Myanmar, Gen. Than Shwe, ordered his entire government to immediately pack up and move from Rangoon to a new capital 200 miles away in the small town of Pyimana, based on dire warnings from his astrologer (though the move had been long-rumored). (Myanmar/ Burma has a history with astrology and numerology, and in fact, democracy activists presumably commenced their most propitious demonstrations on Aug. 8, 1988, at 8:08 a.m.) Shwe was just named the world’s third-worst dictator by Parade magazine.

Programmed Norriцы

— The fish of maludove is smoked sheep’s head with all parts except the skull itself counted as delicacies. Especially tasty are the eyes, said a restaurateur quoted in a November Agence France-Presse dispatch from Voss, Norway, since they are the most-used muscles in the face: “Eyes just melts on the tongue.” A visiting Englishman, served lips, tongue, and ears, remarked that it is “a bit of a visual challenge, but the meat is very good.”

Recent News About the Scottish Meal That Melts on the Tongue

— In September in Bethle-

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Newsworthy

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BACK WHEN

WASHER/DRYER, wringer type. Think it’s from the 50s.

Twenty-Five Years Ago
We’re standing on the corrugated steel deck-
ing six floors above Columbia Street, and Joe Silva, the weldig supervisor, is shouting.
There’s no heroes here! he yells over the clattering of an impact wrench. “Don’t dram-
atize this!” Around us, above and below, ironworkers are erecting what will be the tallest high-rise building in San Diego. Behind Silva orange droplets of hot metal shoot down in a shower, and the buzz of fry-
ing steel descends from a welder perched on
a beam two floors up.

— "29 STORIES: THE RISE OF COLUMBIA CENTRE,“ Neal Matthews, February 26, 1981

Twenty Years Ago
Once in a while Ryan receives mail addressed only to “The Oak Lady, Escondido, California” — confirmation of her status as a defender and propagator of Engelman oaks. In her refrigerator she keeps a jar of ground Engelman oak acorns that she uses to make wrench, a gruel that sustained the local Indi-
ant. “You can make a drink out of the larger ground pieces,” she said. “You boil up a few of them in water and add honey. It’s nutritious.”

— "THE OAK LADY,” Gordon Smith, February 27, 1986

Fifteen Years Ago
When Union-Tribune publisher Helen Copley was fingered by a story in the Los Angeles Times last Friday as the city’s biggest resi-
tential water user, her response was simple: “I don’t doubt for one minute that I might be the biggest user. How many people have 9-12 ace?”

The next morning, Copley’s Union took another approach, shrinking the size of the estate from the Tribune’s previously reported 9 1/2 to 7 1/2 acres. “This place supports 15 peo-
ple,” the publisher revealed. “It has 10 garden-
ers. We sell warehouse direct. Come
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Most vehicles $179.95

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San Diego Reader, February 19, 1976

My mother’s job was to care for my brother, father, and me. My mother made my bed, washed the sheets and pillowcases. She woke me in the morning. I put on clothes she had bought, washed, and ironed. She never complained. Once when I was very young she was standing at the kitchen sink washing dishes. I said I wanted to go outside and play. She said, “I’m lonely. Please stay with me and talk.” I didn’t.


Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com
**Dear Saffron,**

Sounds like your sister meant well. Probably just forwarded the email at a busy moment, without thinking it through. Let’s give her the benefit of the doubt. She was trying to make sure that you got your car complications addressed. She also might have very different ideas about what’s too personal to communicate. In any relationship, you do not tell someone that you love them by acting like a total creep! In any case of abuse, intervention is the key. “Hurtful Hubby” needs a hard-edged reality check. He needs to know that bringing home the bacon does not entitle him to treat his wife like a house slave! If this man really wants to make the marriage work, he’d better realize that he is responsible not only for helping around the house, but also for helping raise his own children. You might wonder why I am so vehement about this. From my over 42 years on this madball we call Earth, I have seen what happens when some fool decides that since he is “man of the house,” his wife/girlfriend is no better than domestic chattel, and acts accordingly! When I married my wife, I did not do to her what I wanted to do to my sister. I must do to her what I want to do to her. To keep this marriage that we share going, if I do not do to her what I do to her, we both win; but if I do to her what I want to do to her, then we both lose.

**Red Faced,**

I am really mad at my sister just forwarded him my entire e-mail (they see the entire text of my personal e-mail right now. It was so obvious some of the things I wrote to her were of a highly sensitive nature. It would have been easy for her to take that part out of the e-mail out or just tell me what I wanted to know. I’m feeling as if I can’t confide in her any longer. I didn’t tell her that what I said was between us, but I feel she should have known better to just turn my whole e-mail over to her husband. Don’t you agree?

**RED FACED IN CARLSBAD**
CARMEL KID

Jacob came home from school and asked me what color he was. Since the day he was born, I knew this day would come. I consider myself to be an honest person, and I thought that when and if Jacob ever came to me with the race/identity question, I’d tell him the truth.

So what’s the truth? His dad is white and I’m black. What does that make Jacob? I can’t tell him he’s white, because he’s not, and I can’t say he’s black, because he’s not that either. I could go with the flow and tell him he’s mulatto, but is that really something you want to have to tell your child? That he’s been dubbed a certain name by the world for lack of anything better? And even if you could tell your child that, what kind of word is that to call a person? I looked mulatto up in the dictionary: “Small mule; person of mixed race; mulatto, from mulo, mule, from Old Spanish, from Latin.”

Are you kidding me? Small mule! I realize mulatto’s a word that he’ll have to get used to, but I’ll be damned if it’s the answer to a question that has the potential to define how he views himself for the rest of his life!

Anyway, there we were in my bedroom, my five-year-old and I, staring at each other. I patted the bed and asked him to sit, but he was too upset to settle down. He shook his head no and asked me again. Hoping to buy myself time to find a more appropriate answer, I told him he’s caramel. “Like candy?” he asked. The look of bewilderment on his face brought tears to my eyes. “Well, sort of,” I answered. “But why can’t I look like you...or daddy?” he asked. I sighed, and told him that he is like his dad and me. That he’s got little bits of both of us in him, and that’s what makes him Jacob.

My son pondered this, and I had never seen anything so endearing. His little face scrunch as though he thought deeply about what I’d just said to him. After he’d digested this information, he looked at me and asked if he could ask me something. I told him he could ask me anything at all, and he asked me if Zach, a kid from our daycare, was better than him because Zach’s white like daddy.

Whoa. Where was this coming from? I told Jacob that no one is better than anyone else because of his color, and I assured Jacob that Zach was NOT better than him. I put Jacob on my lap and told him that he was the smartest little boy in my book and that I could not be more proud of him. The smile he gave me was priceless; everything was right with the world.

So it begins...slowly but surely, it begins. As parents, we try to protect our kids from everything that we think might hurt them, but I guess there’s only so much we can do. A couple of months ago, I went grocery shopping with Jacob. He was walking ahead of me as I chose items from the shelves. An older Caucasian woman in the aisle dropped her folder on the floor. Jacob bent to pick it up for her, and when he handed it back, she thanked him in Spanish. She asked him what his name was (also in Spanish). She apologized when I told her he wasn’t Hispanic, but all the way home, Jacob wanted to know why that lady had spoken to him in Spanish. “Because she assumed you were something you’re not, just because you look a certain way, honey.” I know there’ll be more questions, and I know there’ll be more experiences for him — some not as easy to get over. I hope that whatever the case, I’m able to make Jacob understand that his color doesn’t define him or his life.

http://www.bentoufoshape.blogspot.com/

MORENKE AKINLAWON
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ARMED ROBBERY
Location: 2525 El Camino Real, Carlsbad
Time/Date: 11:03 a.m. on 2/14/06

Investigation: Carlsbad P.D. dispatch began receiving multiple phone calls reporting a robbery in progress at the Royal Maui jew-elry store inside the Plaza Camino Real Mall.

Three male subjects dressed in dark clothing, masks or hoods and gloves, entered the store brandishing handguns and hammers. They smashed multiple display cases while customers and store employees sought cover. The subjects took an unknown quantity of jewelry and high-value watches, then exited into the mall’s central courtyard and out through doors on the south side.

The suspects had a vehicle waiting outside. The vehi-cle is described as a white sedan, possibly a Honda Accord. The vehicle was occupied by a fourth suspect who was dressed similarly to those who entered the store. This suspect was also armed with what appeared to be a handgun.

BATTERY
Location: [5000] Lang Branch, Ocean Beach
Time/Date: 8:15 p.m. on 2/5/06

Report: I responded to a call to investigate a distur-bance. Upon arrival, I contacted Randy R., who lived at the residence with his girlfriend, Janet G. They had hosted a Super Bowl party.

Statement of Randy: I had some buddies over, all of them ex-Maries. One was Trevor S. I have known Trevor for six years now. He’s had drinking problems. He drank too much tequila and vodka today. I kept telling him to keep it cool and not drink so much but he wouldn’t listen. Finally I picked up the phone to call the police.

Time/Date: 11:56 p.m. on 2/5/06

Officer’s Investigation: I received a radio call to investigate a possible domestic violence incident phoned in by Harold H. When I arrived I met with Harold on the street. He told me the male half of the incident was still inside his white Ford pickup parked in the dirt. He told me the female half left the area, and did not want any police involvement. Her name was Sharon, later identified as Sharon T. Her boyfriend.

She told me Sharon went to a girlfriend’s place (down the street). H. told me Sharon was screaming, but he was not sure if she was screaming because she was being assaulted. Sharon and her girlfriend returned to the pickup prior to our arrival for a short period. Sharon’s girlfriend said she wanted to return and “shoot” Sharon’s boyfriend. The two women left for an unknown location. H. told me he wanted to place the male half under citizen’s arrest for domestic violence.

I contacted the male half, later identified as Karl S. S. was asleep in the pickup truck. S. told me he had been arguing with his girlfriend of seven years. [He] told me the two of them got into an argument over the pickup truck. She was driving, and she tried to crash the truck into a dump-stre. He said she had been drinking. He took the keys away from her, and she hit him on the head. He showed me what appeared to be a red mark on his forehead (left side). He told me Sharon started screaming to get attention. He said a bystander (H.) came up to the pickup and threatened to hurt him.

— Michael Hemmingson
FREE Classifieds!
Tercels and Stuff

Lately even George Bush talks about conservation and cutting our reliance on Middle East oil. So I'm convinced it's time we ask ourselves if living more like Olga Savitsky wouldn't be preferable to the way we're living.

Olga's a minimalist. Though plenty educated and able to follow a more lucrative career, she chooses to work only a few days a week cleaning houses. She shares an apartment and pays less than $400 for rent and utilities in a pleasant neighborhood near a commercial district. On most of her errands, she can walk. When she needs to drive, she uses her 1994 Toyota Tercel.

She tells me, "It's not like a sacrifice. I just don't need much. A person with a family more than needs to do. Usually what somebody needs depends upon their function. A corporate CEO, maybe he's got to throw parties and he needs a bigger house. But I don't throw parties, so what good is a big house to me? The only reason I'd want one is because the media tells me I ought to have one. See, before television, poor people didn't even know they were poor. But now we see all this stuff and the desire gets over- and commercials come on and convince us we need it all, and so on, until we've beyond debt and into distress."

Olga wears jeans and T-shirts. "That's all I own. They're comfortable, they last. I just bought two new pairs of jeans for $16 each, and they'll last two years. To me, the key to living well is living in a way that gives an opportunity for appreciating nature and friends and taking time for prayer and helping people. And unless you inherit a pile of money, the way to live by not letting myself want a bunch of stuff, but to save or invest or buy some insurance so they'll be sure they'll always have lots of stuff. We need a bit more money. I mean, I don't have AAA or any kind of roadside service insurance because every time a car

mine has broken down, it's been a block or so from my mechanic's house. Except one time.

"The one time my car broke down in an inconvenient place, a guy stopped to help me, and he happened to be the handsomest man I ever saw. Maybe he was an angel. I don't know. But it sure was fun breaking down."

To suggest future Driven stories, e-mail ken@kenkuhlken.net
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“DICE ARE OUT!” THE STICKMAN HOLLERS. “Same lucky shooter, number’s eight, point eight, hard or easy.”

Two bucks on hard eight,” a black transvestite yells and tosses down two blue chips. She makes eye contact with me and nods. The dice roll around my palm.

“All right,” Steve breathes. “The point is eight. We’ve got a $5 Come bet with $15 odds on the number six, a $5 bet in odds on the six, and five on the Come line. Roll us a number.”

My hand shoots toward the back wall and the dice come free. They draw a tight arc from my fingertips to the soft foam beneath the silky blouse and lacy bra of the dark man in need of a shave opposite me at the table. Tumbling with clicks and clacks from where they ricocheted to the foot of the Washington monument, I had a dream where I took the little brunette and I share a high five and he turns around in his seat. Ignoring the slaughterhouse stains of her unitard. Watch her new video. I defy you to resist hypnotization by that thing. I DEFY YOU!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

SKELETON STORIES

DILUTHER S P M 7
I have a show for Discovery Health. It’s called The Fourth Dentist, and it follows the life of the dentist who doesn’t recommend brushing your teeth, chewing gum, or rinsing your mouth out with anything other than LSD.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

INSIDE THE STUDIOS

BRAVO 8:00 P.M.

Douche.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

KING OF THE HILL

FX 5:30 P.M.

If I were Brittany Murphy’s husband, I’d make her use the Luannee voice anytime she wanted to speak. If I could have her normal voice, I’d hold my hands over my ears and yell, “I can’t hear you! I want to talk to Luannne!”

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

AMERICAN IDOL

FOX 8:00 P.M.

I had a dream where I took the little brunette woman on a jet-ski trip across the reflecting pool to the foot of the Washington monument, and we covered the spire in motor oil and wool sweat socks. What do you think that means?

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

FORD EXPLORER

FORD EXPLORER XLT


REMOTE CONTROL KING

Sheepskin sweat socks. What do you think that means?

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

THAT ’70S SHOW

FOX 8:00 P.M.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

WHAT I WILL AND WON’T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

THAT ’70S SHOW

FOX 8:00 P.M.

I had a dream where I took the little brunette woman on a jet-ski trip across the reflecting pool to the foot of the Washington monument, and we covered the spire in motor oil and wool sweat socks. What do you think that means?

WATERWORLD

DIRECTV

PASS OR DON’T PAY

$34.95

PASS OR DON’T PAY

$24.95

DSC 10:30 P.M.

Survivorman is rad! This goofy Canadian guy gets dropped off in some forsaken sinkhole and has to make it out alive. The show is an hour of this guy falling off cliffs, cutting his fingers, starving, dying of thirst, and getting the holy snot bitten out of him by bugs and spiders. It’s like Survivor without the group dynamics, moca latte rewards, and high-pitched whining from San Francisco bank executives in loincloths. If they figure out a way to add a woman in a bikini to Survivorman, it will be the only thing I ever wanted to watch for the rest of my life.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

PROJECT RUNWAY

BRAVO 10:00 P.M.

Project Runway is an hour of men with thin wrists and floating hands standing in doorways with their heads cocked back, yelling, “It’s sss time, people. Let’sss go. Let’sss show everyone how fabulous you are.”

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

SMALLVILLE

ABC 8:00 P.M.

The kid on Smallville who plays teenage Aquaman is the best looking guy I’ve ever seen. His presence could make my grandmother pop out of the grave and apply lipstick. I simultaneously want to slap his face and congratulate him on the volume and quality of wood he will be pulling.

A written record of his.

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“So good luck with your Wall of Shame.”

By John Brizzolara

Spending a Friday night in Tijuana may have once sounded like a good time, but if so, distanced enough in memory to seem now a conflicted desire, a state of mind impossible to reconstrue. Still, on a recent Friday I found myself confronting nearly half a mile of pedestrians in line for Customs and the U.S., a wait longer than any I had seen since just after 9/11. At least three hours, I judged, four more likely, possibly longer. I tried my strictly legal cardiac meds with me to a seafood joint in that plaza just past the taxi stands and the Caliente betting parlor. I ordered caldo de pescado, a Coke, sat assaulted by metallic/norteño/disco/rap, a fusion of hellish styles to qualify as torture to an old gringo. I read Graham Greene and watched the plaza turn shades of charcoal studded with party lights: wake up—noon—seem to have nothing to do. A merchant next door to my table, leaning against a glass counter, looked over at me, “Hey! Al Pacino! Serpico! Scarface!” He had side burns I would have been Elvis, longer hair and different shades maybe John Lennon. “You’re waiting for the line, eh? That no good thing. Wait till they build the Wall.”

His name was Tomas. It probably isn’t, but you don’t know. He was wringing something in between husting customers; a soft hurtle, not in your face. We talked. He asked if I could get him a copy of the Wall into an American paper. After reading his piece and talking with him, I am still no closer to establishing details, a timetable for instance, regarding Tomas’s Wall, or as he calls it, Bush’s Wall.

After a while, I didn’t matter, it already existed, I was waiting to cross it myself.

“Border Line ‘Wall’

“Shame in [sic] the wall between U.S.A. vs. Mexico.

“First of all, shame on you, Mr. Bush.

“I can [sic] believe you want to build a wall — between two cities — two nations, neighbors, it’s so SAD and so bad idea [sic].”

The rest is edited as best I can for readability. The preceding may serve as color if it’s needed.

“What are you trying to do to your neighbor, a very honorable and hardworking country which is Mexico?

“Supposedly this wall is to stop illegal immigrants and undocumented people, like terrorists. It is understandable because of the war. But you know what it well that none of that is happening in Mexico. Number one, this is not Germany. If you want to build a wall go to Germany and build as many walls as you like. Besides, nobody believes you about all those weapons of mass destruction you claim to be found in Iraq’s territory.

“Now, a few countries are against the wall, they even called it ‘the Shame Wall.’ So since no country believes you about these weapons of mass destruction, now they know you were only after the oil. Even Americans don’t believe you and are against war in Afghanistan. In exchange for your [illegible] invasion of the Middle East a lot of innocent people were killed for no reason whatsoever. Now U.S. Americans don’t want no more war. We want our troops to come home as soon as possible.

“Check out this: the fact is very simple: people will keep on crossing with a wall or without a wall. Because people in Mexico and Latin America don’t make enough money. Check this out: a regular worker with two kids makes from $7 to $10 a week, but that portion is only enough for two or three days. What about the rest of the week? What if your son wants a hamburger or an ice cream cone? Will there be enough for the household? Therefore people are always trying to reach the States. In other words...[illegible]...so much shit crossing the border...if you build a wall there will be another wall there will be another way...not going to work and will not be enough...[illegible]...you’re not going to have enough workers to build your [illegible] wall....I remind you this is not Germany. I don’t know what you do with no Mexican workers. You need to think it over and consider the States you claim to be found in Iraq’s territory. They do not wanna go to Iraq’s territory. It already existed. I was waiting to instance, regarding Tomás’s Wall, or as to establishing details, a timetable for instance, regarding Tomas’s Wall, or as he calls it, Bush’s Wall.

So good luck with your Wall of Shame. Hopefully the next one is a good one because this one already has a curse (cure?) on it. This way of crossing.

It was the tunnels. That was the way I was sitting here eating extraordinarily good fish soup, smoking a supposedly Cuban cigar (I believe it might have been, too), and reading one of the best novels in the English language, a thoroughly enjoyable interlude in the day and an irony that did not trouble me.

Tomas (that is if his real name) is waiting for a probationary period to pass so that he may enter the U.S. legally once again. He was apprehended almost five years ago crossing without papers. He has lived and worked in several U.S. cities, notably Chicago, for a long period, and as his editorial letter reveals, considers himself something of an acculturated American.

Later that evening, it seemed clear that the Friday night line would lengthen before shortening, and I took a hotel room off Revolución.

As the night wore on and I finished the Greene beneath a single harsh bulb, I let the sound of disco/hip-hop and sirens echo through the room along with the swearing of gleeful American children getting as bombed as Baghdad. Waters blew shrill whistles, not fireworks, but the even more toy-ish popping of handguns free-stuttered down street bobbies. Families waiting to cross the border beneath an absence of moon watched TV sets. The younger ones cried, and their crying echoed again through the common stairwell up five floors. The older brothers or fathers or uncles patrons in the women in the building if they could afford it.

I slept for maybe 15 minutes and dreamed of Tomas stabbing his countryman with one of his pockethkives for sale. He was stabbing El Diario or the TJ newspaper and speaking to George W. “What’s it gonna be, Mister Bush? It’s gonna be reform. You gotta reform your way of thinking. You gotta reform. You need to reform. You need to reform. You need to reform. You need to reform.”


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