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  - Bridal Bazaar: Free admission
  - Collwood Terrace: $1500 off retirement living
  - The Comedy Store: 2 for 1 admission
  - Formakay Dance Academy: 2 free classes
  - Gem Fair: $1 off admission
  - Hombrow Cruises & Events: Free harbor cruise
  - Kita Ceramics: $10 off lessons
  - Miramar Speed Circuit: Free race
  - Pacific Coast Skydiving: $125 tandem skydive
  - San Diego Harbor Excursion: $5 off cruise
  - San Diego Jet Ski: $25 off daily jet ski rental
  - San Diego Jet Ski: $25 off daily jet ski rental
  - Skateworld: 2 for 1 adults only
  - Sky Sailing: $115 off aerobatic glide ride
  - Skydive San Diego: $50 off weekday tandem skydive
  - The Social Place: $10 off admission
  - Spanish Language Center: Free language book
  - Theatre in Old Town: $25 tickets
  - Vertical Hold: 2 for 1 Introductory lesson
  - Voice Mail Depot: Free voice mail first month
San Diego needs Napoleon III. To be sure, he may have been a bastard. Literally and figuratively. Because of his mother's fondness for recreational adultery, it is not clear that he was, as claimed, the son of Napoleon I's younger brother. No matter. Napoleon III used his purported uncle's fame to get elected president of France in December 1848. Three years later he staged a coup and assumed dictatorial powers, soon declaring himself emperor in a maneuver of dubious legality.

His foreign adventures were disastrous, and he was deposed in 1870. But while in power, Napoleon III launched the building of Paris' now-renowned infrastructure. He created a modern sewage system, parks, and housing for the masses. He built the French railway network and connected it strategically to the city. He widened the streets, creating the great boulevards of today. In 1900, those boulevards made possible the construction of a vast underground transit system, the envy of the world.

"From an architectural point of view, all great cities are created by strong rulers," says Jim Mills, former president pro tem of the California State Senate and for ten years chairman of the organization now called the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System.

"There is an absolute requirement for political leadership," says Duncan McFetridge, head of Save Our Forests and Ranchlands, the group that recently filed a suit challenging the City's downtown community plan because it relies too heavily on the automobile and ignores the key to San Diego's survival: high-density downtown development served by a transit system. While McFetridge admires the transportation system of Paris, he is especially enthusiastic about current activities in Bordeaux, France. Back in the 1970s, leadership of this wine-producing metro would likely have been led by Napoleon III.
Ruff, Ruff, Ruff
In Imperial Beach

By Ernie Grimm

Diana Cartman (a pseudonym) suffers from a recurring nightmare. The dream runs like this: Cartman watches television in her living room a few blocks from the ocean in Imperial Beach. It’s getting late, and she has to get up early for work. So she walks to her bedroom at the other end of the house and climbs into bed. As she nods off, she’s shocked back into wakefulness by five large dogs barking over the fence less than ten feet from her bedroom window. Over the barking she hears a male voice yelling, “Shut up! Shut up!” Though the yelling stops in a few minutes, the barking continues. Sometimes it lasts another hour or so, then resumes at dawn. Sometimes it lasts all night.

There’s no waking from Cartman’s nightmare, because it’s not a dream. It’s her life, and she says it’s gone on for so long that her health, relationships, and work are suffering. “At first,” she recalls, “the guy had two little old dogs that barked a little bit. As the years passed, he bought more and more dogs. Right now he’s got five large dogs. I don’t know what breed they are, but they’re big short-haired dogs. Their barking has gotten worse over the years to the point where I think the dogs are neurotic. They just bark. It could be 3:00 in the morning. They wake me up at 6:00 in the morning. But when he comes home from work around 11:00 p.m., they bark like mad for ten minutes. Then he goes out and lets them out. That’s when the real barking begins. And most of the time he leaves them out all night.”

Cartman gets up from the living room couch and walks through the kitchen to a side door. The steady but distressed barking crescendos to mezzo forte at the sound of the deadbolt snapping open and surges to a fortissimo roar. The barking isn’t the only thing that’s unbearable. Despite the prevailing ocean breeze that blows from Cartman’s toward the dogs’ owner’s yard to the east — Cartman asked that he not be named — the smell of dog feces is overpowering. A peek over the fence reveals why. Nearly every square meter of the yard is covered in dog feces. The windows and doors are all shut, a defense against the barking, which can be heard regardless. “And they’re not even outside,” Cartman says. “He goes to work at 2:00 or 3:00 in the afternoon, and I think when he’s at work he leaves them inside. He comes home from work about 11:00 and lets them out. That’s when the real barking begins. And most of the time he leaves them out all night.”

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Unclog freeways
continued from page 6

area of one million people preferred the auto. It didn’t work. In the late 1990s, stronger politicians went the tramway route, as other French cities had been doing since 1985. By next year, Bordeaux will have a tramway system that will serve 37 percent of the population in the metro area and 50 percent of workplaces. “In a short period of time they turned away from the chaos of an auto-based system and put in a comprehensive tramway with all the linkages and interconnections,” says McFetridge. The first Sunday of each month is labeled “a day without cars” in the heart of each month is labeled “a day without cars” in the heart of the city.

Councilmember Donna Frye, who voted against San Diego’s community plan this year, says, “It is more auto-based than transit-based. It is not forward-looking enough to address public transportation.” In 2000, according to the San Diego Association of Governments, transit usage accounted for less than 5 percent of trips between home and work.

Mills, McFetridge, Frye, and many others fear that San Diego’s transportation network is headed for a crackdown similar to the one Los Angeles has already suffered. Road rage has reached epidemic proportions here. But politicians in San Diego, the county’s outlying cities, and Sacramento are making it worse. They are pushing for billions of dollars to “relieve congestion” by widening freeways, when experience has shown that this just leads to more housing development far from the city, or sprawl — and more congestion.

“If you increase capacity of a freeway, that capacity will soon be gobbled up by more growth and development,” thus clogging the freeway even more, says Frye.

Mills remembers attending a recent seminar on San Diego’s transit inadequacies. A planner from Los Angeles said, “You should learn from our experience,” Mills remembers. “L.A. built freeways everywhere it could, supposedly to solve freeway-congestion problems. All that happened was congestion got worse. The freeways opened new areas for development and generated more traffic. Finally we got around to public transit. It would be too bad if you do what we did,” said the Los Angeles transportation official.

But the California Department of Transportation plans to widen portions of I-5 and I-805 to 14 lanes at a cost of up to $3.5 billion. The I-5/I-805 merge will be 23 lanes wide.

State Route 905 will be made 6 lanes. A widening of I-15 is on the planning boards. It doesn’t stop.

The urban area of San Diego is 800 square miles, and one-fourth of that is paved — roads, freeways, and parking places, says McFettridge. Under the newly approved community plan, the downtown population would grow from 27,500 currently to 89,100 by 2030. But because transit is given short shrift, it will decline. Thus, instead of telling developers they must provide a certain number of parking spaces, developers should be told they can’t exceed a maximum number of parking spaces. The current plan reduces parking for high-rises, “but this is not done to facilitate transit,” says Frye. "In areas targeted for increased den-
continued on page 10
I knew that the dog wasn’t too nice. Sure enough, the dog came running for me and came that close to biting me. If he had come one more step after one of my little dogs, I would have kicked the shit out of him. I told the owner, ‘You get that dog on a leash.’

Garrison worries that Imperial Beach is in danger of gaining a reputation—if it doesn’t already have one—for lax rules regarding dogs on the beach. “If you go to Coronado,” she says, “you know you have to keep your dog on a leash or you are going to be fined. So people think, ‘Hey, let’s go to IB, nobody cares.’”

“Nobody cares” is the feeling Cartman has about her barking-dog dilemma. In addition to talking to the offending neighbor and calling the sheriff—Imperial Beach doesn’t have its own police department—she’s written letters and placed phone calls to the Imperial Beach City Council, the city attorney and, when she felt the city attorney was unresponsive to her needs, to District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis. Animal control officers have been to her house and, Cartman says, have agreed that there is a problem. But animal control and the city attorney’s office could never coordinate efforts well enough to prosecute the matter. The barking continues, and Cartman is selling her house. “I don’t know what else to do,” she says.

A few years ago I got a loan for a car, but the credit union told me my insurance wasn’t good enough and I needed theirs, so I dropped my insurance and used theirs for $250 a month. Then I got into an accident and was told it was only gap insurance. So the courts charged me with driving with no insurance.

From there things started going downhill. So I wasn’t supposed to drive for 6 months, but to live I had to get to work, so I kept driving. Getting caught meant losing my license for even longer and even more of a fine.

I want to join the Marines but can’t until my court bills are paid off. If someone puts up the money for my court bills ($3,700), I will double it when I get my signing bonus, which should be in about 8 months. This would be a great investment and would save my life.

Shawn Raschke
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Help!

All of my friends are going crazy trying to figure out who the historical figure is on the left side of your cover last week (June 22). The others are reasonably obvious. Help! The coffee group at Pacific Beach will appreciate it!

Name Withheld by Request

The Man In The Corner

It was an interesting article on history textbooks in the June 22 issue (“A Tenth Grader’s History of the World,” Cover Story). Several of us found the cover to be fascinating as we could not figure out who the man in the upper-left corner was. The others were easy! Please enlighten us.

Melody Fleetwood via e-mail

The figure on the left is Jefferson Davis. — Editor

Larson’s Outdone Himself

I am a fan of Tom Larson’s cover stories, but he has really outdone himself on the one on the teaching of high school history and history textbooks (“A Tenth Grader’s History of the World,” Cover Story, June 22). The article was brilliant, entertaining, and very relevant.

I have always admired the Reader as the only voice of truth and fairness in San Diego periodicals. Thank you so much.

William A. Rosen via e-mail

Horrifically Dead On

Thomas Larson’s exhaustive critique of history textbooks and the monopolies held by these mega-publishing dynasties should be required reading of all educators, legislators, and parents (“A Tenth Grader’s History of the World,” Cover Story, June 22). His analysis of text materials and their “sanitization” of major historical eras and the dominant world religions should be shouted from the mountaintops (but watch your back, thou treads on lethal ground). Unfortunately, one would have an easier time taking down Exxon than these monsters, due to recent and growing educational “reforms,” which have cemented their place so firmly in our educational system.

It surprised me that Larson didn’t bring up the Williams Law, which purports to guarantee a textbook in every child’s hand at school and home. While having the appearance of serving students, the fact is, it is now law that school districts are held hostage by the biggest publishers of educational materials. And yes, there’s irony. Is it surprising that Bush’s first visitor after being elected was the CEO of McGraw-Hill and that McGraw-Hill’s robotic and ridiculous “scientifically proven” reading programs began sweeping the nation? The use of the term “adopted” regarding text materials is far too benign and inaccurate; these materials are mandated, and teachers can face serious reprimands for “supplementing” mandates in a struggle to engage their students with more interesting materials. Teachers have been written up and even suspended for bringing in relevant, age-appropriate reading (yes, literature, and more): they’re bright, knowledgeable, and committed educators.

What do we do, as the public, in the face of Larson’s evidence? If we were as willing to commit the time and resources committed by the forces that created this content-thin textbook- and standards-driven curriculum, we could move the system toward more authentic and rigorous history-social studies teaching and learning.

Leif Fearn via e-mail

Cup Of Coffee Cost $35

Regarding “Free Speech and Fair Parking” (“City Lights,” June 22). Having been in business in La Mesa from 1952 to 1980, and having purchased our first home in the area in 1953, I feel a certain emotional attachment to the city. However, those feelings have faded with the passage of time and the changes that have occurred of late.

Let me relate an experience we had several weeks ago when we fed the meter the newly posted 200 percent increased fee (tax, if you will) and enjoyed a wonderful breakfast at the Village restaurant. We carefully noted that the meter was paid to exactly 11:00 a.m.

Unfortunately, we chose to enjoy a second cup of coffee and returned to our car, which was directly across the street from the restaurant, at 11:05, to find the officer just finishing writing a parking ticket. That second cup of coffee cost me $35. My fault, without question, but I suddenly realized that I have many, many other choices of locations at which to enjoy a meal, or any other activity offered by the wonderful merchants in the city. Would it not have been good public relations for the City to continue the practice of issuing warnings for a period of time, especially considering the 200 percent fee (tax, if you will) increase?

Too bad that the City “lost” $200,000 in meter revenue over the past 12 years, a mere $16,667 a year. What percentage of the City’s budget does that represent? Has anyone put a figure on the amount of business that the merchants, property-tax payers, voters of La Mesa will lose in business over the next 12 years? What percentage of the business owners’ annual revenue does that represent? One can only imagine.

By the way, is “effing” a verb, an adjective, or what? And is that any way for the mayor of La Mesa, or of any city, to be talking? Also, I imagine that the “loyalists” who frequent Pete’s Place also pay taxes and vote, or at least I hope so.

R.W. Maches

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**Straight from the Hip**

**BY MATTHEW ALICE**

Matt:
I was recently thinking about cows. Not sure why, but then wondered where did they come from? I know about the vast herds of buffalos in America but have never heard mention of the vast herds of cows. They must have been a wild animal at some time, where were they, what were they called, and how did they get to America?

— Too much free time, Out There

Everybody’s got to be thinking about something, so why not cows? During the peaceful days before the last ice age, I’m sure everyone’s got around to pondering a meadow full of bovines at one time or another. To find a meadow full of cow ancestors, we have to go back a couple of million years to India and the Middle East. Among the other primeval things lumbering around would be aurochs, huge cow- or ox-like animals six or seven feet at the shoulder, weighing close to a ton. Over the millennia they gradually pushed their way into Africa, Asia, and Europe. Depending on where the aurochs herds ended up, they evolved with slightly different characteristics.

When people got tired of chasing wild animals for food, milk, and hide and decided to domesticate a few beauties, we wisely started with small things that are easier to boss around: sheep, goats, pigs, dogs. Between 8000 and 10,000 years ago, we were ready to tackle something as big as the aurochs. The ones that had wandered into Europe were bred for milk and meat and slowly became the familiar and smaller Jerseys, Guernseys, Ayrshires, etc. Domestication in general tends to reduce the size of the resulting animal.

In the early 17th Century, just about the time the last wild aurochs was going under in Poland, Europeans bound for the New World were herding their milk cows onto ships for the long, smelly trans-Atlantic trip. Domesticated animals from England, Scotland, Holland, and Switzerland are the source for today’s American cows. It wasn’t until after the Civil War, when people began congregating in cities, that the dairy and beef industries evolved and large herds appeared.

Scientists know all this because they’ve tracked the genetic history of bovines and can say with some certainty that your dreamy cows originated with the aurochs found in the Middle East. (The aurochs are cousins.) Some German scientists recently tried to “breed back” aurochs by genetic selection, with mixed success. Aside from strawberry yogurt and Chunky Monkey, all this gene tinkering and downsizing has contributed most to rural recreation. Can you imagine the frustration of primitive man sneaking out to the fields for a night of aurochs tipping?

Matthew Alice:
I’ve seen signs along the roads leading to San Diego stating that the elevation is 11 feet. Exactly where is the spot where the measurement was taken? Or is it an average elevation? And who gives a darn, anyway?

— Bruce W., La Mesa

Don’t be misled just because it’s painted on a sign. “San Diego: elevation 11 feet” seems to be a facet without a source. At least a source that anyone can identify. A check with the offices of the city and county surveyors drew a blank, so we’ll have to work with best guesses. First of all, the elevation, whatever its source, is undoubtedly a single-point reference. Deriving a reliable average elevation in the city would be tough, given our up-and-down terrain. A lot of work for a figure nobody much cares about. We’re close enough to actually view sea level, so a foot more or less isn’t going to make a difference.

Odds are that our elevation was measured at city hall or Horton Plaza, Santa Fe station, or other civic landmark. This is a longtime tradition dating back at least to the days when railroad surveyors marked up the Midwest and West during the mid-1800s. An elevation for a town in Iowa or the Rockies, where there would be no sea level visible for reference, would have been a practical value for residents and especially railroad builders than does an elevation for a coastal city like San Diego. But because elevation is a traditional descriptor for a city, San Diego would have its height measured just like Des Moines or Denver. The county surveyor’s office holds topographical maps done by U.S. government geologists that date back to 1848, and there’s a chance that the 11-foot measure derives from such a source but it still would be a single-point reference from one of several benchmarks around the city.

As for how the unknown surveyor arrived at 11 feet, it’s likely that it was done with an altimeter, depending on how long ago the measure was taken, just like an airplane’s altitudes reckoning device. But the fact is inescapable that nobody much cares, so that 11-foot figure will probably remain on the signs until the big one finally hits and they change the sign to read, “San Diego: elevation -100 feet.”

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

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**Not Responsible for Mistakes**

**San Diego Reader Jan 25, 2006 15**
Jailbait

Due to media info glut I will forego World Cup references save for one thought. World Cup games begin with 45 minutes of commercial-free soccer followed by an intermission long enough to prepare a wholesome snack, crack a beer, make a phone call, and check e-mail. This is followed by another 45 minutes of commercial-free soccer. There are no timeouts during the game.

Forty-five minutes between commercials, and ABC television executives are on their knees, praying that Americans won’t notice. Since soccer is the world’s game, and since the rest of the world doesn’t care whether we like it or not, ABC has zero leverage as to how the game is presented.

Quite unlike the spineless, one-legged dog that is the NFL. That greedy corporate puppet will do anything for money. There are five commercial timeouts mandated during every NFL quarter. That’s guaranteed, that’s minimum. Now, add an orgy of commercials mislabeled as “halftime.”

There are about 12 minutes of action in a typical NFL game. The other 18 minutes are spent on penalties, injury timeouts, getting to one’s feet, zombie-walking into a huddle, substitutions, change of possessions, coaches’ timeouts, and... commercials.

The U.S. Women’s Open begins Thursday at Newport Country Club in Rhode Island (ESPN and NBC). There is a weird, pulchritudinous professional golf, which I’ll get to in a minute, but first, here are a few players to watch.

Birdie Kim (Korea) won the Open in 2005. One year later, she’s ranked 77th in the Rolex World Rankings. But, she’s back anyway.

Annika Sorenstam (Sweden) is the Tiger Woods of women’s golf down to what is laughably called her current slump. She’s entered nine tournaments this year and won one. (Tiger entered eight tournaments and won two.) Her last tournament win was in March, ditto for Tiger. She’s 6th on the money list. Tiger Woods is 7th on the PGA money list.

You don’t have the time to read Sorenstam’s résumé, so I’ll skim it for you. Born in Sweden in 1970. Swedish National Team. World Amateur Team Championships team. University of Arizona. Won the 1991 individual NCAA National Championship. Turned pro in 1991, played on the LPGA Tour and won a major Championship and earned rookie of the year. She’s won 2, finished in the top 10 ten times, but tied for 9th at the LPGA Championship and lost a playoff to Karrie Webb (Australia) at the Kraft Nabisco. Aforementioned Karrie Webb is two-time Open champion, number 2 money-winner, and second at the 2005 LPGA Championship. She’s in the Open by way of a sponsor’s exemption.

Take a look at Lorena Ochoa (Mexico) number 1 money-winner ($1,204,987) on the tour this year. She’s entered 13 tournaments, won 2, finished in the top 10 ten times, but tied for 9th at the LPGA Championship and lost a playoff to Karrie Webb (Australia) at the Kraft Nabisco. Aforementioned Karrie Webb is two-time Open champion, number 2 money-winner, and someone to track.

Now we come to rub of it all, the pulchritudinous part. What is it about LPGA and young girls?

Playing in the Open will be Paula Creamer, 19, Morgan Pressel, 18, Ayaka Kaneko 16 years 9 months, Michelle Wie 16 years 8 months, and Stephanie Kono 16 years 7 months. Oops — I almost forgot Kimberly Kim. She’s 14.

Somebody will go to jail over this.

Rookie of the Year over here. She won the U.S. Women’s Open in 1995 and was named Player of the Year.

She’s been first on the ADT Official Money List eight times, Rolex Player of the Year eight times, the LPGA Championship three years in a row, has the lowest single-season scoring average (68.69) ever recorded, and has won the most money ($18 million). She’s been Golf Writers Association of America Female Player of the Year eight times and Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year three times. Last year she entered 20 tournaments and won 10. That’s impossible. There is Sorenstam and there is everyone else.

...when that one person beats her head-to-head, people are going to believe, “Hey, I can do this, too.” Just like what happened with Tiger. She’s the best player in the world, but, you know, we’re all pretty good, too, and we’re all ready to challenge.

And then there is 16-year-old Michelle Wie. She’s criticized for wanting to play on the men’s circuit before she’s won a single tournament on the LPGA Tour. There might be a touch of jealousy over her fame and the tens of millions of dollars in endorsement fees Wie has corraled BEFORE THE BITCH WON A SINGLE TOURNAMENT! Wie did, however, at the age of 15, finish second at the 2005 SBS Open and second at the 2005 LPGA Championship. She’s in the Open by way of a sponsor’s exemption.

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Somebody will go to jail over this.

The Vegas Line

United States Women’s Open • June 29–July 2, 2006
Newport Country Club, Newport, Rhode Island

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**Denomination:** Assembly of God

**Address:** 8404 Phyllis Place, Mission Valley, 858-560-1870

**Founded locally:** 1923

**Senior Pastor:** in transition

**Congregation size:** 1,100

**Staff size:** 8 pastors

**Sunday school enrollment:** 200

**Annual budget:** $1.8 million

**Weekly giving:** $33,000

**Singles program:** yes

**Dress:** dressy-casual

**Diversity:** 60% Caucasian, 15% Latino, 5% African-American, 20% other

**Sunday worship:** 9:00 a.m., Classic service; 10:45 a.m., Contemporary service and Kids Alive worship; 6:00 p.m., Celebration service (1st Sundays only)

**Length of reviewed service:** 1 hour, 15 minutes

**Website:** [www.SDFamily.org](http://www.SDFamily.org)

On June 21, the first day of summer, San Diego First Assembly Women's Ministries held their first meeting of Hot Summer Nights ("Fun in the Son"). The walls in the spacious meeting room were tan, but the low lights and salmon-colored carpet gave the space a pink hue. The Beach Boys’ "California Girl" played over the sound system. Chiffon, fuchsia, and gold tablecloths made bright circles. Cardboard flowers and flip-flops adorned the walls. Many women wore plastic leis.

After the opening limbo session, Pastor Edie Chapman told the women about the prayer journals they had been given. "We are expecting God to do amazing things in our hearts and lives this summer, and we want you to have a place where you can record how God is going to touch your life." She invited them to submit cards stating prayer needs, which would be picked up by another attendee so that the two could pray together. Chapman cautioned against letting the details of such needs become "sanctified gossip."

"Then they sang: ‘Every breath that I take/Every moment I’m awake/Lord, have your way in me/Lord I give you my heart.’ The singer urged the women to trust God and give Him ‘that situation that’s just gnawing at us, that’s just holding us back... We ask for freedom in our hearts tonight.’"

Meanwhile, Pastor Mark Allen preached to the youth in the Student Center, a clublike space with black-and-red walls, dark-gray carpeting, and bright fluorescent lights over the stage. "Where we’re going to camp out tonight is this: God is love, and His will is always best... Our prayer simply needs to be this: ‘Father, don’t ever allow me to look at circumstances and question Your love for me because Your love was already settled on the cross.’"

On a landing outside a classroom, Missionettes received instruction. One girl turned to another — “Transcendent,” she said, fingers to temples, concentrating on the word. Inside, Royal Rangers worked on a beard project beneath posters stating the Ranger Code, its Pledge, and the Golden Rule. In the main worship space, about 30 people gathered for the Heritage Service — more traditional, aimed at an older crowd. Pastor David Houghton stood at the foot of the stage, talking about God and time. "Time does not have the same meaning to God as it does to you and me. God is omniscient... That God is an eternal God... is confounding to me. But it also defines me to think that God is eternal, that there’s nothing that can escape him. He is able to do what I cannot, if I trust him."

Houghton cited a fellow who didn’t think we should get caught up in the suspense of movies “because it’s all on film; it’s all pre-determined... When we put our trust in God, we do not have to be fearful because He knows how it’s going to come out. I can live with the full assurance that God is going to make it come out okay eternally because he’s an eternal God.”

Back at Hot Summer Nights, children’s pastor Wendy Griffith sounded a similar note as she discussed God’s sight vs. human sight. (In the prayer journal, divine sight was linked to sunglasses. Another week, God’s protection was linked to sunscreen.) "I can see today, but God sees your tomorrows," said Griffith. She cited Elizabeth, who was thought to be barren but conceived John the Baptist in her old age: “She spent her whole lifetime preparing to be John’s mother. All of her life, God prepared her.” She quoted Jeremiah: “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.”

What happens when we die? “You get one life,” says Pastor Ed Chapman, who served as my guide. "When you die, you basically stand before God and you pretty much answer to him with your life. God is all-knowing, all-loving, and perfectly just. Because of that, He’s not going to make any mistakes, but He will hold people accountable for what they did and for what information they had available about Jesus Christ. If they had no information, He will exercise his loving, all-knowing, perfectly just nature in that instance. If someone has been given the opportunity to accept eternal life and doesn’t accept it, He’ll take that into account. We can’t really know from this end what the decision will be in such cases. But we can be certain within our own hearts what will happen when we die.” The “avenue of certainty” is: you confess Jesus Christ as Lord, confess your sins, and accept Him as Savior. That’s a condensed version of what the Bible teaches.”

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com
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(Year of 2006 Your name)
Around the Kelly household, husband Patrick is called “Barbecue King.” As the days grow longer, our kids tramp about the back yard later into the evening, and the Barbie gets smoking. Tri-tip and sausages are his usual fare, though he has done turkeys and the occasional filet of fish.

At his family’s annual Father’s Day party, I saw him eyeball his brother’s barbecue tool set. Patrick, though not usually the covetous type, talked with envy about the set on his drive home that evening. With his birthday a few weeks away, I thought I would give him a quality set of tools for his craft.

I started my quest with Barbecues Galore in La Mesa. “If you are buying a set,” explained the salesman, “go stainless steel because they are durable, low maintenance, and they are not going to rust. Look for overall quality with the set. Look at the workmanship and the handles. Stay away from stuff that looks cheap, and look for the variety of tools inside the case. Any set also has one of the barbecue silicone bastet brush, which are great, ” she added. “They don’t break often because of the Santoprene handles. “The set (which comes with bamboo skewers) is $12.99 each that you can use with your grill, like our silicone brush, which is fun and really popular in our stores. ”

Lyons continued, “We also sell other things you can use with your grill, like our Handle Mount Grill Light [$17.94], which has a timer on it to help save the battery. It comes in a black molded case, and the set includes a few sets. All-Clad is a popular brand, and we carry a set of theirs [$99.94] that is stainless steel and has the fork, the basting brush, the tongs, and the turner. “

“Remote Meat Thermometer [$17.94] is a good one because it has a very large digital display and it is backlit, which is always nice when you are barbecuing at dinnertime.”

Beldon Lyons, assistant store manager at Brookstone, touted their Heritage Professional Barbecue Grill Tool Set ($100). “It was recognized by the Wall Street Journal as the best overall tool set on the market,” he explained. It comes in a black molded case, and the set includes “ten tools and also a cork screw, our Super-Brite Chef’s Fork, which has a lighted thermometer in it, and a grill light that you can attach to the barbecue. The tools have rosewood handles and stainless steel parts to them, and they are dishwasher safe.”

Lyons continued, “We also sell other things you can use with your grill, like our Handle Mount Grill Light [$50]. It’s a handle-mounted grill light that uses a fluorescent bulb in it, and it can help provide extra light while you are grilling at night. It also has a timer on it to help save the battery.”

“We also sell a wireless talking grill thermometer called Grill Alert Talking Remote Meat Thermometer [$79]. There’s a little probe that you put in your meat, and it has a little wireless sensor so you can walk up to 300 feet away and it will show you how your meat is doing. If you are mingling through the party, you don’t have to worry about your food burning.”

If you are mingling through the party, you don’t have to worry about your food burning.”
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I arrived at Armando’s 40th birthday party in a bad mood. I was invited by his girlfriend Laurie. She and I talked on the phone, and I learned that they had worked together and dated for years and that both had kids from previous relationships. I also learned that Armando liked Harley-Davidsons.

I decided to bring him a Harley mug as a gift, and I went to a mall where I knew they were sold. Backing out of my space in the mall’s parking lot, I smashed into another car that was backing up. It was a huge SUV, and it did a dent and scratched my car.

On the way, I was behind a redneck who threw a cigarette off the street, and decided to get out, pick the cigarette out his window as he was choosing to volunteer to do some community service. I knew he couldn’t have started a fire. As I opened my car door, I saw a rifle on a rack in the back. Plan aborted.

I got lost driving through Spring Valley and called Laurie’s cell phone, but she wasn’t answering. I drove around for 30 minutes before I saw her driving around aimlessly. She led me back to their place.

On the way, I was behind a redneck who threw a cigarette out his window as he pulled up to a red light. I decided to get out, pick the cigarette off the street, and throw it back into his car because not only was he littering, but he could’ve started a fire. As I opened my car door, I saw a rifle on a rack in the back. Plan aborted.

I noticed that there weren’t many people dressed in ‘80s attire. The crowd consisted of older family members at first. You don’t expect to see a 70-year-old with Flock of Seagulls hair.

I met a guy with a Raiders hat. His name was Julian, and he was the cook. Laurie laughed and said, “Yeah, he was chosen to volunteer to cook.” The poor guy never left the grill. Since he was a Raiders fan, I had little sympathy and left him to stand there in the smoke.

He tried to hand me a piece of meat he had cooked, but I told him it grossed me out to eat food with my hands. He grabbed another set of tongs, handed it to me, and I threw it in my mouth. Armando made fun of me because of that and asked if I were a vegetarian.

As Armando and I spoke, it came up that I volunteer for the Make-a-Wish Foundation, and he introduced me to his daughter, who had recently beaten her battle with cancer.

Through Make-a-Wish, she was able to meet Raven, who was on The Cosby Show and has her own clothing line. Armando’s daughter was shy, so he told the story of meeting Raven, having photos taken with her, being given clothing, and how nice Raven was.

The majority of the crowd at the party was Latino, but a few Anglo neighbors showed up. One of the neighbors was wearing what looked like an African shirt, and I told him he had a Steven Seagal look with his hair up in a rubber band. Someone else said it was more of a Stevie Wonder look.

I asked him if neighbors partying bothered him. “The bassist of the Cowsills used to own this house. In fact, we’re going to see him in San Francisco next week. We are used to loud music. One neighbor had an aviary, though, and that was really loud. We also had a neighbor who used to be a heroin dealer. So, loud music is the least of our worries.”

Laurie spent most of her time in the kitchen mixing drinks. She said, “This party is for Armando, so I told him I’d be the bartender. But I said I was only learning how to make one drink — mojitos.”
When Laurie argued with her sister about someone forgetting an ingredient in the beans, she said, "You aren’t going to put that in your story, are you? Damn, we should start talking in Spanish." As they talked in Spanish, I went to talk football with Julian.

It was an interesting back patio they had, with steep stairs going down to another section where the food was cooking. There was a band setting up, but one guy was late. I wondered if he got lost. Armando joked about getting the band for free. "One of the benefits when your brother-in-law is the bassist.... This band is ethnically diverse. The drummer is from Italy. The keyboard player is from Africa. The bass player, well, he’s just a brother from the ‘hood."

The band played for an hour and then a DJ set up. He played ’80s songs that went with the theme. A group of ten women showed up dressed in ’80s outfits and rock T-shirts. One had her three-year-old wearing a tiny Siouxsie and the Banshees T-shirt. There was a girl wearing an off-the-shoulder Duran Duran T-shirt and another wearing a Ramones T-shirt, who asked me who Wall of Voodoo was. I sang, "I wish I was in Tijuana/Eating barbecued iguana."

I went back into the house and Laurie asked if I wanted another mojito. I said, "I’m tired of spitting those mint leaves out of my mouth. Plus, I’m going to a concert." We hugged, and she said, "Thanks for bringing Armando a gift. A lot of cheap people come to parties and don’t bring presents." I said, "Well, I don’t usually buy gifts for people I don’t know."

I left the party in a better mood than I arrived in, and I didn’t back into any cars on the way out. ■

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It’s not uncommon to worry about an abnormal Pap test result, which could be caused by a number of things. This includes high-risk HPV (Human Papillomavirus), a common sexually transmitted infection which may cause problems of the cervix, and rarely, even cancer. A medical research study for women with cervical high-risk HPV is being conducted by physicians in your area. To find out more, call Teresa Juarez with Medical Center for Clinical Research at (619) 521-2813 or visit www.indigo4women.com today.

“I can’t buy a Harley® because I don’t know how to ride a motorcycle.” While that may be technically true, let’s sit on that for a second and follow that train of thought to its logical conclusion, in terms of your personal development thus far: “I can’t leave my crib because I don’t know how to walk.” “I can’t take off my diapers because I don’t know how to control the natural urges of my bladder.” “I can’t French kiss because I don’t know anything about France.” “I can’t get a job because I don’t know how to work.” “I can’t buy a Harley because I don’t know how to ride a motorcycle.” Truth is, if you never learned anything new, you would never amount to squat.

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Dana and Goliath

by Barbarella

No one can be as calculatedly rude as the British, which amazes Americans, who do not understand studied insult and can only offer abuse as a substitute.

— Paul Gallico

I should have felt something: a premonition perhaps, wherein tiny hairs all over my body stand on end from an icy feeling that has seized my bones in a chilling grip, a terrifying grasp that refuses to let go until it is confident I have sensed the danger ahead.

Instead, I learned that the whole “women’s intuition” thing is a farce. Basking in ignorant bliss, I looked from the purple calla lilies in my lap to David, as he maneuvered the borrowed car into a small suburban development north of Boston, and parked in front of a small house nestled between its white-painted, aluminum-sided, colonial-style siblings.

If my life were a movie, I might have hesitated when the string section of my personal soundtrack pushed its way front and center, its notes increasing in volume and pitch, heightening to a shrill, Psycho-esque frenzy. As I approached the front door, an innocent smile on my face and a gift of lilies held aloft, an omniscient audience member might have unconsciously kissed in a quivering breath, “Don’t go in there!”

I had been looking forward to this visit. I like David’s brother Dana. He’s the kind of guy who will forgo a first slice of his favorite pie if somebody else wants seconds. I have never heard him utter the word “no,” and have observed the alacrity with which he serves his family — how he wouldn’t think twice before throwing his body onto a puddle of mud so that his in-laws were in town. “The more the merrier!” I’d said to him.

Now, as we cross the threshold into his home, a golden retriever accosts us with imposing sniffs and an excited swishing tail. Dana’s house is like a petting zoo, where creatures big and small wait patiently for their share of attention. Two cats saunter in and out of the room, one a black, hairy leviathan, the other a small, shorthaired tabby. To the right of one sofa, a guinea pig laps at the metal tube of a plastic water feeder affixed to the side of its cage. Beneath a small table in the dining room, frogs perform the dead-man’s float in a tank, kicking their way to a new area of water every few minutes to prove they are still alive. At the bottom of the cellar stairs, a hamster sleeps in a cocoon carved from cedar shavings. Upstairs, in one of the girls’ bedrooms, a large wire cage holds a giant, blacklop-eared bunny. And, less than five minutes away, a stable houses three horses, one a black, hairy leviathan, the other a small, merrier!” I'd said to him.

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south are stupid," I had meant this as a joke, but Ann had clearly taken offense, recoiling like an elephant confronted by a mouse.

"So how’s your new home coming along?" Dana asked in an expertly move to change the subject.

"Well, the Starbucks just opened," I answered. "I think you’re like ‘I’m British, I don’t want to be touched,’ how do I handle this woman rubbing me with her arms open wide?’ Well, I’m a hugger, so you’ll have to deal.”

She remained stiff as I gave her a brief squeeze. "I am not British," she hissed when I stepped back. Her face became a satisfied smirk and I knew enough from the past few hours that she was about to launch another snide broadside. "I’m from New Zealand. That’s even farther south than you live." I had known that would come back to bite me. If I had detected any semblance of humor in her voice, I would have played along and said, "Wow, then you must be really stupid." But the boring truth is that I was rendered speechless. Eventually, when the shock of her scalding tone and blatan, almost comical spitefulness wore off, I muttered, "New Zealand, huh? Oh." Then I took David’s hand in mine, and left.

later, when it was time for us to leave, Ann stood with her back against the sliding glass door, her arms firmly at her side.

"I’m a hugger. I also have a habit of thinking out loud. So, as I approached Ann, my arms outstretched in anticipation of giving this clearly unhappy woman the hug of her lifetime, I said, "Look, this is killing you, isn’t it, you’re like ‘I’m British, I don’t want to be touched,’ how do I handle this woman rubbing me with her arms open wide?’ Well, I’m a hugger, so you’ll have to deal.”

She remained stiff as I gave her a brief squeeze. "I am not British," she hissed when I stepped back. Her face became a satisfied smirk and I knew enough from the past few hours that she was about to launch another snide broadside. "I’m from New Zealand. That’s even farther south than you live." I had known that would come back to bite me. If I had detected any semblance of humor in her voice, I would have played along and said, "Wow, then you must be really stupid." But the boring truth is that I was rendered speechless. Eventually, when the shock of her scalding tone and blatan, almost comical spitefulness wore off, I muttered, "New Zealand, huh? Oh." Then I took David’s hand in mine, and left.
ONE SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER 1989, BARRY LALL, an Indian-American doctor, was driving over the Coronado Bridge with his wife Hema, their four-year-old son Arjun, Lall’s father and mother, and a real estate broker. They were on their way to inspect a 12-room motel for sale at the corner of Third Street and Orange Avenue, which, if priced right, Lall hoped to buy. Beneath them was the beautiful blue and iridescent channel, the port of San Diego where ships off-load containers from as far away as Hong Kong. At the time, Lall, who was practicing family medicine at Kaiser Hospital in Chula Vista, was not yet a citizen. He was here by way of a transnational diaspora common to many Indian immigrants. Lall’s route had begun when his parents left the state of Gujarat, India, for the East African country of Nyasaland, where Lall was born; later, after medical studies in England and Scotland and an arranged marriage, he, his wife, and his parents (“she married them, too”) emigrated to the United States in 1980, settled first in Georgia and then in San Diego. Lall wanted to believe that the long geographical road that he and his family had traveled to get to America had prepared him for the longer personal road he was now on in America.

Pulling the Lalls, Barry more than Hema, was the Holiday Motel. An ad in Sunday’s San Diego Union offered under “Business Opportunity”: Beach Motel, Coronado, priced to sell. Lall had pretty much decided that he would buy the place, fix it up, staff the front desk after work, if necessary, and make the beds himself. Owning a property was one thing; managing it another, a sore point between him and Hema. Hema, a petite woman with a boy’s haircut, wanted no part of it. One of six daughters of a hotelier in San Francisco’s Tenderloin, she grew up “on property,” changing sheets and checking in guests. “I hated it,” she recalls. “All I wanted was to get an education” — which she did, a degree in accounting from UC Berkeley — “and not marry a hotelier.” Lall’s father, whose name is Lalbhai, was opposed to Barry’s dream, too. It was, after all, his hard work, savings, and relocation to four continents that helped insure his son’s future as a doctor. But Lall was restless. While he hoped to leave medicine for what he calls the “risky world of business,” he didn’t want the family’s security to suffer.

Today, much of his struggle is past. At 56, the millionaire motel mogul is flanked by his family in their La Jolla home. Lall sits beside a picture window, a Santa Ana–clear view of La Jolla Shores and the sandy coastal cliffs beyond, and discusses his life. “I had a yearning,” he says. “I wanted to do something. I’d come to America, the land of opportunity. I was ready to go!” His son in college, his wife an employee, his father a homebody, Lall is revered like a chieftain, his venture capitalism having birthed agency in him and approbation in his family.

Seventeen years earlier at the Holiday Motel, Lall examined every room, pulling shower curtains aside and plunking onto beds. He recalls that Sunday with zeal: “It was like giving birth to
a child.” But the others who saw the motel were unimpressed: it was “a real dive,” “totally dilapidated bathrooms and carpets and furniture, no telephones.” The family conferred. Lalbhai wasn’t sure what his son wanted. His son, he says now, has an intuition for the organizational. But he doesn’t tell people what he wants to do. Lalbhai, who is 80 and a mathematical savant, remembers that, at the time, “inside his wishes, my son is regretting something, but he also has a vision. When he decides, he decides soon.”

Going from room to room, Lall was guided by a past moment’s imprint, the day he stepped off the plane in Dallas in 1980. “That day I felt free,” he remembers. “I felt like this is my country. I never felt like that in Africa, England, or Scotland. And that freedom was tremendous. Maybe it was psychological, but I came to the country that offered me freedom.” Lall knew he’d have to risk something to make good on that feeling. It had been nearly ten years, and this motel was his first real personal foray into what could happen if he’d only act on his gut. He’d done something like it before. In 1984, after being hired by Kaiser Permanente in San Diego, he bought a house in Clairemont, which neither his parents nor his wife had yet seen. “I first took my parents and my wife down Interstate 8 to Mission Bay, showed them how beautiful San Diego was. And then took them to the house [in Clairemont], and they said, ‘Huh? Oh my gosh, what did you buy?’ But they got used to it.”

A half-hour spent perusing the motel and Lall realized this was it: “I got excited. Here’s my opportunity to own my own motel!” Today, these words burst from him with lottery-winning laughter. He’s otherwise a careful, unruffled man; a receding hairline gives him a pronounced forehead and a near-perfectly round face. He wears a black leather jacket; he sticks to a strict exercise regimen (undertaken because he was scared at turning 50). Standing next to him, one feels his impatience; he’s still the distracted doctor who has a dozen more people to see before lunch.

Financing the Holiday wouldn’t be easy. “Motels are considered very high risk by financial markets,” Lall says. “They’re not just real estate, they’re also a business.” During the 1980s, he made money on property; a condo sale netted him $40,000. He was itching to invest a couple hundred thousand dollars, but he needed twice that: the Holiday was $450,000. On Monday, he called a vice president he knew at Sumitomo Bank. The woman (who prefers anonymity) was his patient at Kaiser and had already gotten Dr. Lall to open an account at Sumitomo. Lall had once confided to her that he wanted to invest in commercial properties. One day, high blood pressure and a regimen of pills, prescribed by another doctor, brought her into his office. She was tired of the side effects, the tiredness, and the headaches. He rec-
ommended that instead of medication, she try exercise to control the hypertension. Every day for one month, she should take a morning walk and stop by his office to be monitored. Weeks later, her blood pressure was back to normal. “He saved my life,” she says.

The woman at Sumitomo consulted with Ron Chapman, another loan officer. She argued that Lall’s honesty made him “creditworthy.” Chapman says he “wasn’t wild about the deal. The economics for 12 units are very challenging — more units mean you spread your overhead over more revenue points.” Besides, Lall had no business experience, nothing like managing a motel. On the other hand, the motel’s location, blocks from the Navy base, meant steady customers, families of service members who’d like the motel’s basic rates. Better still, Lall could benefit from the late-1980s savings-and-loan crisis. Ever since the government stepped in, bank-owned properties, including many motels, had glutted the market. “Even good properties were going for a song,” Chapman recalls.

And then there was Lall’s promise, in Chapman’s phrase, “of leveraging his family’s resources.” Family money and family labor pledged was good enough for Chapman. He said yes. Lall got the loan and bought the Holiday Motel. He hired workers to replace the windows, paint the walls, and relandscape the grounds. New carpet and furnishings were added. Lall moved in. “By now,” he remembers, “we had a very nice home over-looking Mission Bay, in Bay Ho, and I left the home and my family to stay at this junky motel. My hours were such that I could do both jobs. At nighttime, I would rent you a room, and by day, I would treat your high blood pressure. Honest to God. If I do something, I have to do it well. That’s what my parents taught me — be fully committed.” At the corner, Navy personnel late for curfew, racing off the bridge toward the base, screeched to a halt at the Third Street stoplight. Some nights the street noise — and the noise in his heart that he missed his family — rattled him.

His wife and his father remember backing him in the motel purchase, albeit “reluctantly.” Lall’s memory is that “neither of them supported me. They wanted me to stick to medicine.” Lall says that he wanted for once in his life to make a decision on his own. His single regret was that “I had forced myself to become a doctor only because I said I would.” He reasoned that because he was unhappy in medicine he could, therefore, leave the profession: in fact, that’s exactly what being in

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Barry, Hema, Lalbhai, and Arjun Lall
America was commanding him to do.

After Lall had moved into the motel, his cleaning person sometimes called in sick. So he'd rush over midafternoon, run a load of wash, and clean the toilets himself.

An Indian-American cousin from Canada came in, at a small salary, to staff the desk during the day. Every morning when his shift began, the man saw a pile of torn cards in the trash can, the previous night's receipts.

The cousin told Lall, “Look, this is a business. You can’t be throwing your records away. You’ve got to have proof for taxes.” Lall had no idea about taxes and balance sheets, overhead and cash flow. He figured he’d learn everything as he went along. Yet he needed help. Which meant making his “inside” wishes known, lowering his financial risk by letting his father and mother assist. The road was still long, but the path was clear: to be free he would have to depend on his family, the way of an Indian, as much as he would have to depend on himself, the way of an American.

II

And yet, as Lall may or may not have known, he was not alone in his desire to own a motel. Underpinning his dream is a cultural and commercial empire of Indian-American hoteliers, the clan of the motel people. Today, Indian-Americans (sometimes called South Asians) own more than 20,000 hotels in America, more than half of the economy properties, and nearly 37 percent of all hotels. (There is an Asian American Hotel Owners Association, whose membership is 8700 and whose annual confabs have featured President Bush and Senator John McCain.) Not only have Indian-Americans dominated U.S. hotel ownership as an ethnic group, but they’ve done so by sponsoring and installing immigrant relatives in the properties as managers. Chances are you have stopped at a Travelodge in Winslow, Arizona, tired of the great desert drive, all chaparral to Albuquerque. You may have smelled curry or wondered at the shrine to Krishna in the lobby. An overbusy Indian man no doubt rented you a room. He seemed (if you noticed) American and Indian and to be everything and everywhere at once: owner, manager, night clerk, housekeeper, maintenance man, plus husband and father of a family you may have glimpsed in the apartment behind the front desk. Chances are the Indian and his brood (his wife in a sari) were recent arrivals, having waited 10 or 15 years to get in, and now here, work this opportunity 24/7 with the efficiency of a short-order cook.

How is it that Indian-Americans, who are roughly one percent of America’s population, not only own these hotels and motels in such high numbers but also are niched into the hospitality business as managers? The phenomenon begins with the security of family-based immigration to America and in the subtle changes in immigration policy over the past century.

The two most critical years in American immigration policy are 1924 and 1965. In 1924, following the unregulated tide of foreign arrivals between 1880 and 1920, the government passed the National Origins Act, ostensibly to check the tide, but, as Gordon Clanton, sociology professor at San Diego State University says, actually...
India has slowed the exodus: many educated Indians are staying put, answering phones for Dell in Mumbai.

Indian-Americans took immediate advantage. They had money and a few relatives who began sponsoring countrymen to emigrate. They also showed that they would employ those new arrivals, often in hospitality. Of course, other groups from Eastern Europe, Central America, the Caribbean, and Asia have also benefited from the new rules. In fact, the law has not changed but refined the human-relocating system of chain migration, in which families help family members emigrate. One result is the continued solidarity and organizational drive of ethnic groups, evident in such businesses as the Vietnamese nail salons and the Korean corner markets.

Chain migration means clustering. For example, Clanton says, “Iraqis are concentrated in Detroit and San Diego, more than other cities. I had an Iraqi student, whom I asked, ‘How did your family get over here?’ — and I’ve heard this so many times — she said, ‘My uncle Ben was already here and had a jewelry store in Palm Springs.’ I should add that there’s been a new measure added on — in the same spirit as the 1965 law. In the late 1980s, when Bush Senior was president, we added a footnote, a Republican version of economic viability. It says, ‘If you come into the country with a million dollars to spend on a business that will employ at least some Americans, you move right to the head of the line.’ ” In contrast to the late-1970s “boat people” from southeast Asia, such millionaire or highly skilled immigrants are called “yacht people.”

These days what America wants in its immigrants, beyond the...
service worker, is to be educated already. “The new 1965 law,” Clanton says, “is better than the old law, but it’s certainly a self-interested law. We can congratulate ourselves that it’s not as implicitly racist and religiously discriminatory as the old law. But what we’ve basically said is, ‘We don’t want “the huddled masses yearning to be free” anymore. What we want is Sayyid with an M.A.’ This creates significant problems in the sending country — basically a brain drain. Who leaves Pakistan? Not some poor guy named Ali who sweeps up down at the barbershop. It’s going to be somebody with a master’s degree or enough money to start a business in this country or, at least, education of the sort that gives them viability.”

The dynamics of chain migration are fascinating. For a couple of decades after 1965, most Indian arrivals were professional and technical workers in medicine, technology, engineering. This has changed. Two factors are reconfiguring the diaspora: one, a new law requires that, before applying immigrants need a job offer in writing, be it in hotels or circuit boards; and two, the outsourcing of jobs to India has slowed the exodus: many educated Indians are staying put, answering phones for Dell in Mumbai. But because of the desire for family reunification and because of the need for cheap labor in service sectors, foreigners, mostly brown-skinned, keep streaming in, legal or not. After all, who will do the jobs — field-picking, bed-making, cab-driving — we lazy, fat natives won’t? One argument made by those who study the less-than-benign aspects of transnational migration is that over the last century, American immigration law has never been about fairness but, rather, rotating the supply of indentured workers from one poor country to another — China to Eastern and Southern Europe to Mexico — as economically necessary. Indian-Americans seem to have scripted their own part in this play, in part because they have built, based on their families’ and the law’s largess, what is an efficiently managed, highly profitable, and kinfolk-dependable ethnic niche.

III. What the sociologist studies, Barry Lall’s father, Lalbhai Patel, has lived. It was he who began the family’s odyssey, as thousands of others before him had, by leaving his home in the Indian state of Gujarat. (Gujarat — a people, a language, a place — did not become a state until 1960.) With its long coastline at the western edge of India, Gujarat borders the Arabian Sea to the west and Pakistan to the north. It is renowned for three things: its lowland agricultural fertility; its strong economy of merchants and farmers, making Gujarat the second most prosperous state in

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off of the British

class housed and profited
tality business, at least in
the origin of the hospi-
direction may have been
erignty. Limited self-
trolled by England but
feudal-like enclave con-
British suzerainty — a
of 1859, after which the
pany administered much
India; and its birth home
of Mahatma Gandhi. Originally, the Gujarati
came from northern
India, moving over the
centuries by ox and cart
to escape the ravages of
war. During the time of
the Moguls and Sultans, Gujarati port cities were
bustling stops on oceanic
trading routes. From
1818 to 1947, the year of
Indian independence, the
British East India Com-
pany administered much
India, moving over the

Gujarati port cities were
the Moguls and Sultans,
centuries by ox and cart

the English surname of a
community surname. “The
Patels are members of
the third of the four
Hindu castes, the
Vaishyas, who are mer-
chants, traders, and
farmers. Most Patels were
originally farmers and
landowners, a “semi-edu-
cated people,” as Lalbhai
says, who, over time,
grew to dominate
Gujarati life by employ-
ing the Sudra caste, the

We weren’t aware of many
careers to go into. The options
I thought I had were being a
lawyer, an engineer, or a
physician. Business was out of
the question.”

lowest caste and the one
beneath theirs, as labor-
ners. Today, the Patel
name is common among
American innkeepers.
One writer estimates that
nearly 70 percent of all
Indian motel owners are
Patels. One-third of the
nearly 2 million Indian-
Americans are Patel —
extended family, and to
pursue his own sense of
adventure, the male pre-
rrogative. He was follow-
ing other Gujarati who
went to East Africa to
work on the railroads, to
open banks or, like
Gandhi in South Africa,
to practice law. (Lalbhai,
an acolyte of Gandhi,

one reason why Barry
Patel became Barry Lall.
Lalbhai, who was a
farmer and an English
teacher in Gujarat, left in
1949 for Nyasaland, a
British Colony in east-
Africa for Indians was as
the American West once
was, though limited in its
opportunities. Lalbhai
began teaching elemen-
tary school and sending
money home. In 1950,
his son Barry was born; a
daughter soon followed.
Fourteen years later,
Nyasaland became
Malawi, in the independ-
ence movement that
swept Africa. When black
Malawians took over
most professions, Lalbhai
was fired. He wasn’t
expelled from the coun-
try, as 50,000 South
Asians would be in
nearby Uganda, after Idi
Amin’s coup. But Lalbhai
saw the writing on the
wall. He moved the fam-
ily to Zambia where,
pooling his savings with
other out-of-work Indi-
ans, he opened a clothing
store.

Barry Lall remem-
bers that in his father’s
Zambian store “is where
it all begins — the entre-
preneurial spirit. Even as
a 12-year-old, I remem-
ber working in his store,
selling to customers, and
when my father went to
India for a vacation, he
left me in charge with my
mom. I enjoyed that. For
me it was not a pain, a
chore, you know, how
children think, ‘I’ve got
to help Dad in his busi-
ness.’ For me it was fun.”
Lalbhai’s business ven-
ture expanded with his
importing and distribut-
ing other items for Zamb-
ian retailers. “His true
affinity,” his son recalls,
“may have been in busi-
ness, making one cus-
tomer at a time feel
good.” Lalbhai says,
“When the customer
wants a small thing, it’s a
big thing for me.”

Soon Lalbhai saw
that his son and daughter
had no educational
future in Zambia. He
insisted they attend col-

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To be a success, Lall saw the imperative of the Indian model: to spread the risk throughout his family.

Lall eventually enrolled in medical school, in Glasgow, Scotland, graduating in 1979. It was time, so Lalbhai counseled, that he and his son “make a marriage,” meaning, per tradition, the father would assist. He arranged for Barry to meet several potential brides; some were flown in from India. None worked out.
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“IT’S not like we were in love with each other; the romance didn’t come before our decision to get married.” After three weeks of interviewing, they tied the knot.

“Thirteen years later, we’re still married. It’s worked out.”

In 1981, Lall began a medical internship in Augusta, Georgia, where he and Hema moved. (In his pocket was $74,000, a gift from his father, an investment egg for buying a home.) The Lalls also did what most Indian families do — they had his parents move with him. Lall says that for his father, “We’re his India.” Lalbhai, whose wife died several years ago, calls his son “brother,” a term of endearment Indian families use.

In 1990, when Lall was 40, he realized that he was feeling the same pull away from his profession (medicine) and toward business that his father had felt when he was 40, pulled away from his profession (teaching) and toward business.
Both were in the “nurturing” professions, and both left. Meditating on this attraction to risk, Lall thinks it’s “something in the blood. How can a teacher like my father become a businessman?”
The answer is, the blood and the family. When Lall asked his parents for help in running the Holiday Motel, they moved right in and managed it. They were thrilled to still be a part of their son’s dream.
During 1991 and 1992, they ran the motel, freeing up Barry to invest its profits in other properties. Now cash-fat, Lall has a realization. To be a success, he saw the imperative of the Indian model: to spread the risk throughout his family. At the same time, he saw that he had to chase down new opportunities himself, the American plan. So he told his family that he would leave medicine and invest all their money — and all
and saving a person's life is gratifying. "But with that one success in medicine, there are multiple other experiences that are average. If I were a neurosurgeon, I probably wouldn't have left. Family medicine wasn't challenging for me after a while. There wasn't much for me to do; eight out of ten patients were normal. But there's no doubt: When I've stabilized a hotel and made it successful — and success is not necessarily about finances — that gave me a great deal of satisfaction."

In 1993, Lall and two Indian friends, one of whom was unhappy as an engineer, formed a hotel company. Riding the recession of the early 1990s, they pursued distressed hotels, many in foreclosure. "We were like the Three Stooges, who didn't know much about big-time development and hotel management. But who cares? I didn't care." Buying hotels throughout the west, each partner was responsible for a different region; Lall's was New Mexico and Arizona. Lall bought a Days Inn, with 115 rooms and a restaurant, in Tucson, and moved in by himself (going east now as his father had once gone west). Hema, their young son, and his parents soon joined him. They carved out three rooms for their apartment and lived there for two years. He recalls their tenure as the "sacrifice the whole family was willing to make to help my dream succeed." That first year, "I bought myself a BMW 740i — I could never afford that as a doctor." He recalls watching the San Diego Chargers in the Super Bowl on a tiny TV in their apartment and being "so happy." Hema didn't mind, she says. Growing up she had to clean; now she managed, eventually joining Lall's company as an accountant. During the 1990s, Lall and his partners reinvested continuously; within three years, they "were running 35 underperforming hotels. When we took over, we had to spend significant capital to renovate these hotels — change the lais-
sez-faire attitude of the local management, most of the general managers, and the brand or affiliation of the hotel. By doing these things, we were immediately able to make these hotels successful."

Out and about with Lall today in his Mercedes S500, we drive by squalid or plain motels that he describes as "having no love. Nobody has shown that property any love." Loving a motel, Lall says, striding into corporate-speak, is "not about numbers. It's about taking pride in every asset we own. It's about the satisfaction that we get from our guests being happy with their stay with us." Since 1997, Lall has been co-owner, with Suresh Patel, of Pinnacle Hotels, a company of 420 employees with 15 people at their corporate office in Kearny Mesa. Pinnacle has built or bought 20 midscale hotels — Hilton Garden Inns,
For the new immigrant, it’s all about who’s here and who’s established themselves before you came to America. Which is to say that the 1965 reform described what was self-evident — the ethnic niche business, in which extended families and countrymen are concentrated, is the conduit from homeland to newland. An ethnic niche is an enclave in which newly arriving ethnic groups organize their livelihood: Chinese laundries, Jewish sweatshops, Portuguese tuna boats. Indian immigrants have flowered in high-tech jobs, in medicine, and in hospitality. Today, notes University of California at San Diego sociologist Tomás Jiménez, “They are by no means poor. They come here and make six figures. They’re economic migrants, but not in the same way as Mexicans or Central Americans.” By phone Jiménez tells me that ethnic niches develop “when a handful of pioneering migrants come to an area for reasons that are random. They end up in a particular job. They become respected workers and trusted employees. They are relied upon to bring over other employees whom the employers hope are also pioneering migrants. There’s a sort of ethnic recruiting that takes place.” Once the initial phase happens, new arrivals, many thrice-migrants, look for work not because they have an affinity for picking cotton or cleaning rooms but because that’s where their ethnic brethren are established.

But Americans, whether recent immigrants or from immigrant families themselves, too often believe the counterintuitive claim about the other, namely, that there’s something about the work itself that fits the ethnicity. Jiménez debunks this notion: “A common misperception is that people come to the U.S. and do jobs that are familiar to them because of where they come from. They come seeking economic opportunity in whatever form they can find it. Mexicans, for example, dominate in beef-packing in the Midwest. It’s highly unlikely they were beef-packers in Mexico. It was also believed that Italians came to the West Coast because they were familiar with the climate and then worked in garbage-collecting. These folks weren’t garbage-collectors in Italy. They also didn’t come because of the climate but because there was already a substantial Italian population that could plug them into various social, political, and economic situations that could plug them into various social, political, and economic niches.

Rather than having a cultural predisposition to entrepreneurship, it might be their level of education that allows them to navigate their opportunities.”
opportunities," only one of which was the trash business.

Needless to say, the next group of questions is delicate. What about "innateness" and long-term success? Is there some centuries-old aspect of Gujarati sensibility that allows him to come to America without a background in hotel-motel management, knowing instinctively that the niche exists and how best to take advantage of it? Can one quantify a kind of pioneering spirit among Indians that has come from their parents by way of Africa and pushed the idea of opportunity upon the most adventuresome of the bunch? Does hotel-motel management demand one be thrifty in order to succeed, or is that thrift-mindedness built into the people who become hoteliers?

"I'm wary of those interpretations," Jiménez says. "In a similar way, people have made arguments about why Chinese and Japanese workers were so good at agriculture or things that required fine motor skills. They were docile; tiny hands allowed them to do certain things." Such stereotypes are half-truths for Jiménez. At times, he believes, certain groups can bring advantages from the home country. "It might be that Indians who emigrate from India are better educated relative to other groups. Rather than having a cultural predisposition to entrepreneurship, it might be their level of education that allows them to navigate their opportunities."

Jiménez thinks that the genotypical argument — Mexicans are predisposed to pick lettuce, Koreans to overcharge for basic goods, Indians to manage motels — is spurious. People, he says, get "racially coded, identified with a particular group, knocked down. Some people call it a psychological wage. The psychological wage which that job carries is lessened. Americans are less apt to do that type of work not only because the pay is low and there's a supply of willing workers but also because there's a psychological wage that American-born individuals are not willing to accept." Jiménez cites the "classic case of construction. At one time those jobs were unionized and paid well; now you see at any construction site Mexican immigrants working. Construction work gets ranked accordingly."

What happens inter-generationally to immigrant families? As much as the parents may be identified with the job, Jiménez notes, the children, more susceptible to assimilation into American culture, do not identify themselves with the job. They reject the notion...
that immigrant families wear uniform badges. Owning hotels is a lucrative business; the capital earned means parents can afford elite colleges or provide their offspring with cash to start their own businesses. Most children of Indian-American hoteliers will go to universities because of the family's stress on education; the kids, who must work in the motels, are under their parents' thumbs and usually stay out of trouble.

An eclectic American culture steadily alters the culture of immigrant sons and daughters. "The kids," Jiménez says, "have a lot to do with that — they are moving outside the ethnically specific circles, hanging out with kids who are not Indian. And these are the folks among whom we see intermarriage, friendships across racial and ethnic lines, movement out of ethnically concentrated neighborhoods. We'll see a lot of intermarriage in the next 25 years. Particularly if the kids are doing well." In the process, immigrant children become invisible as they blend into the middle class. Which is also to say that they move out of the job where their ethnicity has been branded and they move into the professions or trades that appear open to all.

Sociologists make two claims, Jiménez says, about niches. "The more recent one is that niches are advantageous, precisely because they are launching pads. Ethnic solidarity may allow a newly arrived individual to find a job and be shielded from the harmful effects of discrimination in the labor market. Niches also allow a social and economic base in the new society that ultimately leads to economic ascendancy." This ladder ing is often seen in those Indian-Americans who court a relationship between their hotel/motel ownership here and their relatives who come here, often willingly. In a sense, the

"In India, I am the boss.
In America, I am the peon.
Psychologically, I didn't like it, but I didn't complain and I didn't cry."
class divisions within these communities,” Jiménez says, “are just as pernicious as the racial discrimination they might encounter outside their niches. Thus, hotel owners might exploit their own just as any other owner would. Some sociologists really tout this idea of ethnic niches and enclaves; some say newly arrived people get exploited in these niches. In other words, niches are not a panacea. Exploitation is hard to measure: the poverty rate for Indian-Americans, for example, is significantly less than the U.S. average, so, in economic terms, Indian immigrants may be less victimized than they would be in jobs outside the niche.

V.
Seventy-five miles east of Los Angeles, Interstate 10 bisects Banning, a town most of us miss as part of the no-where-there-between Riverside and Palm Springs. And yet changes are afoot. A new Native American casino, in gravity-defying post-modern design, interrupts the commercial thoroughfare, making Banning more destination than drive-by. The Days Inn is locked beside the on-ramp, across the street from All Star Dodge and a Frisbee toss from Subway. From the parking lot, the freeway noise is unremitting. On the second story of the property, maids from Mexico, who speak very little English, push carts from standard room to sheets. The Gujarati and the Spanish speakers know, billed on the sameness of days, what needs communicating.

Lall and I have come to visit the Patels and their motel, Naresh, Prabha, and three of his four children live on-site, in the family room behind the front desk where a visitor, guided to a cushy couch and given chai tea, hears the frequent ding of the bell, calling for service. (Made welcome, one recalls the Sanskrit proverb, Arthi Devo Bhava — “The guest is like God.”) There’s a smell of curry, a Panasonic TV broadcasting college basketball, and a heavy silver shrine to Krishna, too big for its end table. Mornings and evenings Naresh and Prabha (and sometimes the kids) sing a devotional song to Krishna. As they sing, Naresh shakes a small bell and stirrs the air with a candle flame. The song is finished after a praying-hands, waist-bowing prayer and Naresh’s proscription on the floor to the deity. (Worship for Hindus is typically an individual rather than a communal experience.) The Patels are devoted to India, where their hearts are, but they are in America, where the money — and the future — lies.

Since 1993, the Patels have settled only in tight quarters in several modest motels. The eldest sister, Rina, is married and gone, but the three younger kids, Pharmisha, Bhavika, and Kevin, live at home (at the motel) and help out. In India, Naresh used to farm sugarcane and rice and polish diamonds. He owned land and employed many workers. But he brought his family to America, so his children could be educated and so he could establish himself in business. Even with a cousin in Philadelphia who sponsored them, it took 11 years before the Patels’ application to immigrate to America was approved. The children went to live with a relative and began school in Florida, while Naresh and his wife headed for Sacramento.

In Sacramento, Naresh and Prabha were housekeepers at a Patel-
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his. It’s always been ours. Even until today.” The kids helped cook and deliver the tiffins and assisted in motel duties on the busier weekends. Naresh saved. Something better, he felt, was coming.

One year there was a family get-together in Florida. Naresh and his family came from Memphis, as did relatives from other parts of America. Among them was Barry Lall, who was the talk of the family because of his success as a hotelier out west. That day Naresh’s father, a man whose austere portrait hangs above the living-room shrine, grasped Lall’s arm with both hands and whispered to him in Gujarat a sentence of intense softness: Will you do something for my son, Naresh? “That’s how he asked me, and I said, ‘I will.’ He couldn’t stand his son

For the past five years, Lall has averaged, by his account, between 12 and 15 percent annualized returns for his investors.

property small enough, with a small enough down payment, where they could have a substantial investment.”

Lall found the Banning Days Inn, which he says looked “terribly distressed.” Lall called Naresh. He put one condition on letting Naresh invest in the property as a part-owner. “I will allow you to join me on this adventure only if your daughter sacrifices at least one year of college.” (She was at San Diego State and had to commute every week.) “I wanted someone who spoke English to take charge of the business. He was excited. He didn’t ask me where the town was, how big or little it was, or do they have any Indian restaurants.” The family was very happy.

Today Naresh says, “Barry did well for us.”

From 1993 to 2000, Naresh and the family saved $40,000, largely from housekeeping. Of course, they saved on rent by living in the motel; and, when the whole family works for the family business, labor costs are nil. Still, the family seldom went to a movie, seldom ate out. “Eating at Taco Bell,” Kevin says, “was like eating at a five-star hotel.” The kids wore hand-me-downs. They shopped at Wal-Mart, never the mall. An aunt gave them an old car. Except for living expenses, the family saved everything they earned.

Naresh borrowed $100,000 from relatives. Short-term loans are common in the Indian community; cash, delivered to friends, with no contracts or interest timetables. Just a handshake. And then that money, banded and stacked in a suitcase, is delivered in person to a bank’s loan officer as the down payment: Yes, sir, I’d like to buy a motel. So common is this practice of bypassing banks that Lall was approached after Hurricane Katrina by a cousin from a small town near New Orleans. Her motel was heavily damaged, and she needed money to make it viable — a place for

For the past five years, Lall has averaged, by his account, between 12 and 15 percent annualized returns for his investors.
DO YOU HAVE DEPRESSION THAT KEEPS RETURNING?

Do you know someone who has depression that keeps returning?

If you or someone you know experiences recurring episodes of sadness, sleep disturbance, low energy, feelings of worthlessness, emptiness or guilt...

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study for an investigational medication for Major Depressive Disorder. You must be between the ages of 18-64. You will receive study medication or placebo, study-related care, and diagnostic exams at no cost.

For more information and a prescreening evaluation, please call:

PCSD ~ Feighner Research
1-877-FOR-INFO (367-4636)
We believe we can help.

Well-known pharmaceutical companies are conducting important research studies for a limited number of qualified participants.

### Schizophrenia

**Outpatient Research Study**

Is it hard to focus and get motivated?

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.

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

- You receive up to $1105 for your time and travel.
- You receive no-cost research study-related medication and medical care.
- No reports are made to your employers, schools, or insurance companies.

### Depression

Steals more than your mood; it robs you of life's pleasures.

Are you over 18 years old and finding life hard to tolerate? Has your energy and motivation to enjoy your life decreased? Do you find even simple pleasures empty?

California Clinical Trials has been assisting the pharmaceutical industry with finding new medications for depression over the past 20 years.

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

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

- You receive up to $2300 for time and travel.
- Receive study-related medication and study-related medical care at no cost to you.
- No reports are made to your employers, schools, or insurance companies.

### I fall asleep, but once I wake up, I am 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 sleep difficulties become a regular problem it can affect your health.
- If you wake up in the middle of the night and can't go back to sleep, you are not getting a full night of sleep.

If you have chronic problems returning to sleep after waking up in the middle of the night, 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 $2300 for time and travel.
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- No reports are made to your employers, schools, or insurance companies.

### Anxiety
don't just stress your mind.

We know it can...

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

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

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

Qualified participants:

- Will receive up to $450 for time and travel.
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I let Edward drive. He didn't have his permit, but he felt confident about driving because he was arrested for stealing his friend's mom's car a while back.

Crystal called and invited me to come over because she had marijuana. Knowing that my grandparents would not let me out of the house, I snuck downstairs in my pajamas, avoiding all the creaks in the floor. I stood inside the garage for ten minutes. Once it seemed like nobody would be coming down to check on me, I slipped out the back door and began my journey.

It was freezing outside, and all the dogs started barking. Everybody in my neighborhood knew me, which made the trip dangerous. Walking down the street, I encountered drunk Marines who didn't mind hitting on 13-year-olds like me. Some followed and taunted, but all were gone after a while.

When I made it to Crystal's, nothing sounded better than smoking some marijuana. I went inside through a window, and we spent the next 30 minutes smoking. We were having fun until ten of Crystal's friends crawled through the window with booze and more marijuana. I began to get a little paranoid and was uncomfortable around Rick, one of Crystal's friends, so I decided to head home.

Due to the amount I had smoked and drank, walking by the Marines was not as scary as before. I then passed Justin's house, where there was a party going on. When some people saw me, they asked me to come in and drink with them. I agreed, but regretted it right away. There was cocaine and heroin everywhere. I had been around cocaine before, and it makes me uncomfortable.

As they were all shooting up, I continued to drink. Once I was barely able to walk, I snuck out a window and jumped off the roof because I was paranoid and thought that they wouldn't let me leave.

I woke up with a splitting headache and with my ankle throbbing. Confused, I slowly recalled the night before. I didn't get in trouble because nobody found out about my escape. Even though I didn't get caught, I look back on that night and all the dumb things I did and realize I was lucky I only got a hangover and twisted ankle.

— Cami Perrington, Helix Charter H.S.

For our friends and I left a black-and-white dress-up party one Saturday night after I'd recently turned 16. I'd had trouble parallel parking and seeing through my back window, but continued to back out until I felt my car smack against something.

Luckily, the car behind me was a huge Jeep, so the only injury it suffered was a slightly dented license plate. My little white Civic was not as fortunate. The paint along the entire bumper chipped off so that the gray metal showed. My dad didn't know that I was at the party, and there was no way the damage could pass for a hit-and-run. So, I needed some car paint.

Wal-Mart has everything, but the only Wal-Mart open was the one in National City, which meant we had to take the free-way to get there. But I had never driven on the freeway by myself. There's a longer back-road route to get there, but I was low on gas and none of us had money. We
Type 2 Diabetes Study

Are you...

- A type 2 diabetic controlling your diabetes with diet only or Metformin alone?
- Age 30-65 years old?

If you answered yes to the above questions you may qualify for this clinical trial.

Qualified participants will receive:

- Study-related physical exams and lab work at no extra charge
- Compensation up to $2500 (some overnight stays required)

Call Today:
- Toll-free: 866-308-7427
- Local: 619-409-1244 or 619-409-1257
- E-mail: studies@profil-research.com

Profil Institute for Clinical Research, Inc.
855 3rd Avenue, Suite 4400
Chula Vista, CA 91911

Do You Have Type 2 Diabetes?

If the answer is yes, Profil Institute for Clinical Research invites you to participate in a clinical research study.

You may qualify for this study if you:

- Are age 30-70
- Have had type 2 diabetes for at least 2 years
- Are controlling your diabetes with no more than 2 oral medications
- Have no major health problems
- Are able to stay at our facilities for an overnight period

Qualified Participants May Receive:

- Volunteer stipend up to $5100
- Study-related physical exams, lab tests and EKGs at no charge
- Study-related care from our experienced physicians, nurses and research staff

For more information please call:
- 619-409-1244
- studies@profil-research.com

Profil Institute for Clinical Research, Inc.
855 3rd Avenue, Suite 4400
Chula Vista, CA 91911
needed to hurry because it was almost 11 p.m., Wal-Mart’s closing time. So, I let Edward drive. He didn’t have his permit, but he felt confident about driving because he was arrested for stealing his friend’s mom’s car a while back.

We walked into Wal-Mart, all wearing black and white, looking like hoodlums. Because we didn’t have any money, we had to steal the car paint. I was too scared to do it, so my friend pocketed it and gave it to me when we got back to the car.

I was excited when we got to my friend’s home because everything was working out — so excited, that when I took the paint out of my purse, I dropped it and it shattered all over the garage floor. I fell to the ground and tried scooping up what was left of the paint with my car. I felt ridiculous because all I had to use was that little thin brush attached to the paint bottle’s cap. Only after the bumper was done did I realize that I had gotten the wrong shade of white. On top of that, the new paint was bumpy and thick, making it even more noticeable. But I am a lucky girl. I went online when I got home at 2 a.m. and told my friend Kurt why I was never going to see daylight again. Kurt turned out to be some kind of car guru and said he could fix my bumper.

I spent the entire Sunday afternoon sanding and painting my car with the correct (and paid for) shade of white paint. The labor was worth it because my father still doesn’t know what happened.

— Jacqueline Le, Bonita Vista H.S.

My first driving experience was not a typical one, considering that the male side of my family has a mild obsession with off-road-ing. Furthermore, my brother, two years my senior, has been a stellar driver pretty much since the day he was born. When my father announced it was time for me to master the art of driving, I felt somewhat intimidated.

I was taken to an off-road trail on Los Coyotes Indian Reservation, northeast of San Diego, a site my father and brother could maneuver with their eyes closed. The chosen car was a yellow ‘79 Jeep Cherokee that already bore the scars of many battles with rocks, trees, and any unfortunate creatures that had gotten in its way. Once we were as isolated as possible, my dad hoisted me — a lightweight eighth grader — onto the driver’s seat while my mother and brother looked on, worried (in my brother’s case, terrified).

For reasons unclear, my dad decided I would learn best on a curvy, narrow trail that was flanked on the right by a slanted hill and, on the left, a steep drop-off. I reached a speed of 12 miles per hour when my dad, frustrated yet somewhat amused, asked whether it was possible to go any slower. I gripped the oversized steering wheel with sweaty hands and was not in the mood...
Healthy Volunteers WANTED for CLINICAL RESEARCH

To qualify you must:
• be a man or woman
• be 18 to 45 years of age
• be able to participate in overnight stays

If you qualify to participate, you may be compensated up to $2,000 for your time and travel.

Call Mon-Fri for more information
1.866.818.3253 (English)
1.866.977.8322 (Spanish)
9665 Chesapeake Dr., Suite 200, San Diego, CA
www.radiantresearch.com

Do you or someone you care for suffer from DEPRESSION?

Common symptoms include:
• Sadness and/or irritability
• Loss of pleasure or interest in usual activities
• Changes in sleep patterns, appetite, and energy levels

Optimum Health Services is conducting a clinical research study in depression. If you are between the ages of 18-65 and are experiencing symptoms of depression you may be eligible to participate. Eligible participants will receive:
• All study-related procedures, including psychiatric assessments, physical examinations, laboratory tests, monitoring and ongoing evaluations, and experimental study drug at no cost.
• Compensation for time and travel may be available.

For more information about this clinical research study, please call: 888-290-9255

Do You Consider Yourself Healthy?

Accelovance is seeking healthy volunteers to participate in upcoming research studies for vaccines.

To participate/qualify, you must: be between the ages of 19-64 and be in general good health.

Participants may receive study-related medical evaluations and study vaccination at no cost. Compensation for time and travel is typically provided.

If interested, call: 619.291.2845

Do You Have Diabetes and Pain in Your Arms or Legs?

Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy can affect the nerves in the arms, hands, feet, and legs.

Symptoms of Peripheral Neuropathy include:
• Numbness or insensitivity to pain or temperature
• A tingling, burning or prickling sensation
• Sharp pains
• Extreme sensitivity to touch
• Loss of balance and coordination

Pacific Sleep Medicine is conducting a research study to evaluate the effectiveness of an investigational medication for the treatment of painful peripheral neuropathy.

All study-related exams, tests, labs, and an investigational formulation of a currently marketed medication will be provided at no cost. Subjects will be paid for their travel expenses.

If you have Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes and have pain in your arms, hands, feet, or legs, ask your doctor about joining this study.

For more information on these and other clinical studies, call (toll-free): 877-927-5337

Pacific Sleep Medicine Services
Bridging the paths of medicine and science™
Are You Post-menopausal and Concerned About Osteoporosis?

If you are:
• 40 to 64 years of age
• have not had a period for at least 6 months
• have not had a hysterectomy

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study to explore an investigational medication to treat the symptoms of menopause and prevent osteoporosis.

Qualified participants will receive at no cost:
• study-related tests and investigational medication
• study-related physical and gynecological exams
• mammograms
• bone density scans, if eligible

Compensation for time and travel is available for qualified participants.

Call Mon-Fri for more information
1.866.818.3253 (English)
1.866.977.8322 (Spanish)
9665 Chesapeake Dr., Suite 200, San Diego, CA
www.testwiththebest.com

Insomnia
Sleepless Nights
Exhausted Days

A clinical research study for insomnia is now underway. Doctors are enrolling patients in a study of an investigational drug for insomnia.

To qualify for participation in this study, you must:
• Be 18-64 years of age
• Have had trouble falling and staying asleep for more than 3 months

Study participation includes, at no charge:
• Study visits with a medical professional
• Investigational study drug
• Study procedures and tests

Qualified participants could receive compensation for incidental costs and travel.

For more information, call (toll-free):
877-927-5337
Pacific Sleep Medicine Services
Bridging the paths of medicine and science.

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
1231 Morena Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92110
Visa/MC accepted • ASA approved

Do you get nervous in social situations?

☐ My fear of embarrassment causes me to avoid doing things or speaking to people.
☐ I avoid activities in which I am the center of attention.
☐ Being embarrassed and looking stupid are among my worst fears.

If you answered YES to any of the above, you may be eligible to participate in an experimental research study using an investigational drug compared to placebo to treat social anxiety disorder at UCSD. Your participation will include a physical exam and may include the use of brain imaging techniques. To receive more information, call 1-877-UCSD-SHY (1-877-827-3749) or e-mail: ersvsh@ucsd.edu
Clinical care will be provided and you may receive monetary compensation.
For Men and Women Who Suffer From...

Genital Herpes

A 1-year clinical research study is underway to evaluate an investigational medication for genital herpes. Approximately 22% of adults in the United States are positive for genital herpes. Genital herpes is one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases in the world. If you are a male or female suffering at least 4 episodes a year, over the age of 18 and in good health, you may be eligible.

To qualify you must:
• Have had 4 or more episodes of genital herpes in the past year (or 4 or more in the year before you started suppressive therapy in the past)
• Be a healthy adult 18 years or older

Qualified participants will receive:
• Examination and consultation with a board-certified physician
• All study-related medications, labs and cultures
• Compensation for your time and travel

The Medical Center for Clinical Research
Call 619-521-2841

Are You Still Experiencing Pain Even Though Your Shingles Have Healed?

Pacific Sleep Medicine Services is conducting a research study of an investigational medication for the treatment of pain following shingles (post herpetic neuralgia).

Qualified participants receive:
• Study medication and examinations
• Reimbursement for time and travel

For more information, please contact: 877-927-5337

Pacific Sleep Medicine Services
Bridging the paths of medicine and science.
Just Flop

The first thing I needed was a skateboard. I’d seen them at Big 5, but I suspected the ones they sold were the skateboard equivalent of the Yugo. Instead, I called the downtown skateboard shop Street Machine and told store owner and pro skater Eric Obre my plan to try the Robb Field Skateboard Park.

“Great,” he said with a French accent. “We’ve got a guy working here who’s a local there. I’m sure he’ll be happy to show you the park.”

He gave me the name of Tim Amerine, who would be working the next day. I called Amerine and told him my Robb Field plan. I said I needed a board and confessed that I had no idea what they cost these days. “We can get you set up,” Amerine said, “for about $90. The park requires helmets, knee pads, and elbow pads, but you can rent them there. How much skateboarding have you done?”

There was no point in lying. “Very little,” I told him. “And that was 15 years ago.”

It was still close to a lie. True, it was 15 years ago, but it was a point-A-to-point-B, no-frills brand of skating. I never learned any tricks. I could never do that “ollie” thing, where skateboarders snap their boards into the air to jump up curbs and onto park benches or stair rails. I suspected Amerine’s definition of “very little” would include these things.

Next day, I rode my bike down to Street Machine on the west side of Fifth Avenue, just south of Broad-
the type placed on stairs for grip, covered the top surface. Both ends of the board angled upward. “Try this,” Amerine said.

I set it on the carpeted floor and climbed aboard. The board had a lot of lateral play in it. “Trucks are too loose,” Amerine said, motioning for me to hand him the board, which I did. He flipped it over on the counter and glanced at my but not jiggle. “That should so that they would spin freely the wheels with the wrench trucks further, then adjusted it makes the wheels stop…”

It happens while you’re going, touching the wheels. If that

Amerine tightened the

“Do I need shoes?”

“Exactly.”

He leaned over the

“Those will be fine.”

“I paid for the board, $96.70 after tax, and Amerine and I agreed to meet the next day, around 10:00 a.m., at the Robb Field Skateboard Park. “Keep it real,” he said as I walked out. I wasn’t sure how to respond and stammered, “Right on.”

I took my new board and rode back to my office, where the parking-lot attendant, Sean, asked to see it. I gave it to him and he stood on it for a minute and shook his head. “When I was a kid,” Sean, who is 38, said, “our boards were much narrower than this. And they had bigger wheels, and we used to cut the front into a point.” He skated off toward the other end of the park.

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**Bipolar Disorder/Manic Depression Study**

Affiliated Research Institute is currently seeking volunteers for a clinical research study of an investigational medication for the treatment of Bipolar illness (Manic/Depression).

**Qualifications include:**
- At least 18 years old
- Currently experiencing a “manic” or “mixed” (depression and manic symptoms at the same time) episode of your illness

**Qualified participants:**
- Receive all medication and study-related medical care at no cost.

To learn more about this study or to schedule an appointment with our staff, call us today:
(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com

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**ANXIETY STUDY**

Signs and Symptoms:
- Experiencing persistent worry?
- Feeling restless, irritable, or tense?
- Having difficulty sleeping?
- Having difficulty concentrating?

If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these symptoms, you may be suffering from Anxiety.

Affiliated Research Institute is conducting a research study for people with Anxiety. If you qualify, you may be eligible to participate in a study testing the effectiveness of an investigational drug for the treatment of Anxiety at no cost to you.

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**BIPOLAR DISORDER and ALCOHOLISM STUDY**

Signs and Symptoms:
- Do you have mood swings or difficulty concentrating?
- Feeling trapped in either a manic “up” episode or a depressive “down” episode?
- Do you find yourself drinking to cope with your mood swings?
- If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these symptoms, you may be suffering from Bipolar Disorder (also known as Manic Depression) and Alcoholism.

Affiliated Research Institute is conducting a research study for people with Bipolar Disorder and Alcoholism. If you qualify, you may be eligible to participate in a study testing the effectiveness of an experimental medication for the treatment of Alcoholism at no cost to you.

If you would like additional information regarding this study and are between the ages of 18 and 65, please contact:
(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com

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**Social Anxiety Disorder?**

- Do you Fear Meeting New People?
- Do you Fear Social Events?
- Are You Worried About Being at the Center of Attention?
- Are You Worried About Being Around People?

Affiliated Research Institute is evaluating an investigational medication for Social Anxiety Disorder.

Affiliated Research Institute has 25 years of experience in managing clinical studies. To qualify for this research study, you need to be at least 18 years of age. If you qualify, you will receive study-related medical care at no cost. You may be compensated for time and travel as well.

For more information about how the study works please contact:
(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com

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**Are you sad due to Bipolar Disorder?**

We are currently seeking volunteers for a clinical research study of an approved medicine under investigation for the treatment of DEPRESSION due to Bipolar Disorder.

To qualify, you must:
- be at least 18 years old
- have been diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder
- be experiencing symptoms of depression

Qualified participants will receive at no cost:
- Monitoring of bipolar and depressive symptoms
- Medical and lab exams
- Study medication

For more information or to schedule an interview to see if you qualify, please contact:
(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com

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**adolescent depression**

Does this sound like your 12-17 year old child?
- doing poorly in school
- crankiness
- sadness or anger
- loss of interest in normal activities or friends

**It may be more serious than you think.**

He or she may qualify to participate in a research study for adolescent depression.

Children who qualify will receive study-related examinations, lab tests, and medication at no cost from a doctor who specializes in adolescent depression. Health insurance is not needed to participate.

For more information, please call:
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THE SPEED AT WHICH ALL OF THEM SKATED AND THE AERIAL MANEUVERS THEY EXECUTED WERE IMPRESSIVE.
way — to get to it. It sits wedged into a triangle formed by the San Diego River, jetty, Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, and a soccer field at the north end of Robb Field. A few skaters were already there when I walked up to the box office at the park gate at 10:05. After signing and initialing a few forms waiving the City of San Diego’s liability in case of an injury to me — even if I could prove it’s their fault — I paid $5 to get in; helmet and pads are free. The helmet they loaned me — bigger than a hockey helmet, smaller than a football helmet — was a bit tight. “Biggest I got,” said the man who gave it to me. The straps on the elbow and knee pads had been tied into knots by previous renters, rendering them too short for me to fasten. “The kids do that to make them shorter,” the man in the office said as he looked around until he found some that hadn’t been tied.

With helmet and pads on, my skateboard beneath me, I surveyed the layout of the skateboard park. Immediately in front of me, to the east side of the box office, two ramps led down into a sculpted concrete bowl. It was 50 yards from this end to the far end, and 20 or so at its widest point. The bottom of the bowl was flat except for three concrete structures. The first was a four-sided pyramid with the top cut away and

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to side. “Your weight should be back as you come up to the wall, then you turn on the wall. Your front foot should be ready to slam the board back down as the front wheels come off the ground.”

Armed with this advice, I started down the ramp again, hit the same high-banking wall, rode up about halfway, turned as instructed, and started heading back down the wall. But as the board started to roll down the wall again, I fell off in the direction of the wall, giving myself a healthy raspberry on my right calf. Peeling myself off the concrete, I chased my board all the way across the bottom of the bowl to the other side, while other, more talented, skaters whizzed by.

My next two attempts to turn on the banked wall ended up in disaster as well. So I found Amerine talking to his bride, Vanessa, who was sitting on a bench outside the fence. “I keep falling off the board to the wall side,” I complained, “every time I try to turn on a wall.”

“You have to lean in, away from the wall as you turn,” he explained.

My fifth try to execute a simple turn on a wall, something even the few ten-year-old boys in the park had no trouble with, succeeded. I continued across the left side of the course. This time, I would have to make a turn to the left, which, since I skate right-foot-forward — “goofy” as surfers and skaters call it — would be a back-side turn. Up the wall I rode, and when I kicked into my turn, my board went to the right as I turned to the front side. “Your weight should be on your front foot,” I explained. "Your left foot should be on your back foot, and your board started to roll down the wall. But as the board started to roll down the wall, Y our front foot should be ready to slam the board back down as the front wheels come off the ground.”

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look so many skaters exhibit, but I’d expected to feel unwelcome — maybe experience some of the hostility surfers often exude toward nonlocals. But there was none of it. Kevin Thatcher, publisher of the San Francisco-based skateboarding magazine Thrasher, spoke to me about that. “Skaters do have much more of a come-one-come-all attitude — the more the merrier and all of those clichés — despite the outer vibe,” he said. “For the most part, your average everyday skaters, and even guys at the pro levels, they’re a bunch of sweethearts. There’s new asphalt being poured every day. There’s plenty of skating terrain out there. It’s not like surfing or skiing, where you’ve got to go searching for a wave or a slope and make a big effort to set aside a weekend to do it. You drop off your porch, and you’re skating.”

One skater I talked to at the park, 15, maybe 16, described the general mood at Robb Field. “It’s usually pretty mellow here. You don’t see a lot of tempers flaring. Sometimes, in the afternoon, when there are a lot of kids around, it gets crowded, and guys will get frustrated and you will hear words. But if you come early, like this, everything is cool.”

Amerine added, “The only time they’ll get upset is if you get in their way. Even then it’s just for a second.”

It wasn’t even that bad when I was there. When I skated unaware into the path of one advanced-level skater, causing him to hurtle off his board onto the concrete floor, he got up and blamed it on himself: “My fault, bro. Are you okay?”

According to Thatcher, the camaraderie among skateboarders goes beyond advanced skaters tolerating beginners and into the realm of solidarity. “Totally,” he said, “because there’s an us-against-the-world feeling. It’s the last kind of rebel-spirited outlaw activity that hasn’t sold out. Surfing... sold out. Snowboarding... start at the beginning of the season, and you’re a pro by April. There’s much more of a dedication and a cultural vibe with skateboarding. And part of that is because skating is not for everybody. That’s what glues the skaters together is that it’s a rough-and-tumble deal.”

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parison with surfing, Thatcher added, “Surfers resist any contact with anybody else. When a surfer sees you paddling out at his break, he’s thinking, ‘Get out of the water, get in your car, and get the **** out!’ With skaters, the vibe is, ‘Hey, you’re welcome because we’re all skaters.’”

The last thing I wanted to learn before I left the skate park was how to “drop in” to the bowl. Dropping in is when you start on the rim and skate down the side wall into the bowl. I asked Amerine to show me. He took me to a section of his board, pinning it to the rim of the bowl so that the wall wasn’t too steep and only four feet tall. “Hold the board with your back foot like this,” he said. He stepped on the tail end of his board, pinning it to the rim of the bowl so that the rest of the board hung out over the wall. “Then, you put your weight forward onto your front foot and...” he plunged down the wall to the floor of the bowl, turned, and came back. “Give it a try.”

I held the back end of the board in place with my left foot, took a deep breath, and stepped forward onto the overhanging board with my right foot. But, fearing I would fly forward ahead of my board and into the concrete floor, I didn’t commit enough of my weight to the front foot and the board slipped forward, out from underneath me. I fell backward and ended up on my side, scraping my right forearm and thigh. “You’ve got to get your weight on your front foot,” Amerine instructed, “or you’re going to fall off backward like that.”

My second attempt was an instant replay of the first. “Watch me,” Amerine performed another perfect drop-in. I paid closer attention to the weight shift this time and noticed that he was so far forward that his head was above his front foot, as if he was eager to put all of his weight forward in order to get the front wheels onto the concrete as quickly as possible.

On my third drop-in attempt I imitated his weight shift and was successful, though a little bit wobbly, and ended up on my front foot, “Amerine said, bestowing the universal skater word of praise upon me. “Now you’ve just got to keep practicing it.”

— Ernie Grimm

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“Why am I so soft in the middle when the rest of my life is so hard?”
— Paul Simon


Stomach. Gut. A little corporation up front. Spare tire. No, you’re not fat, you just look a little, well, pregnant. In fact, someone once said to me after not having seen me for some time, “Jeez, what happened to you? You been eating chili dogs and donuts again? You look like you swallowed a tympani drum!”

In a group therapy session once, we were all asked what part of our bodies we would change if we could. Some said their noses, others, their thighs or butts, ears, toes. I wasn’t called on, but I was prepared to say my liver. More recently I was asked by a friend, “What’s the ugliest part of your body?” Which put me in mind of the Mothers of Invention song by the same title: “What’s the ugliest part of your body? / Some say it’s your nose, some say it’s your toes, I think it’s your mind…” I didn’t hesitate long before I said, “My gut.”

At 50, I suppose it’s not an unusually proportioned part of my anatomy. I do crunches once in a while but get easily bored, and the dimensions of my midsection swell almost immediately back to where they seem to want to be — and that’s about six inches ahead of the rest of me — making it, at times, difficult to see my penis. Years of beer drinking are, no doubt, in part responsible. But my father wasn’t much of a drinker, and at about my age he developed the same configuration. So I think it’s as much genetic as anything else.

Recently, I noticed that when my girlfriend rested her head on my abdomen to have a good cry about something, her head was elevated a good inch or two above mine. For years it has not been uncommon for me to loosen my belt after a good dinner. I never thought much about it; the phrase that came to mind was “a prosperous girth.”

On the odd occasions when I force myself into a gym, I’ll notice the flat-board, six-pack abs on younger guys and even a few in my age range. I overheard a couple of men talking about how women love that V-shaped torso: broad shoulders, flat stomach, no love handles to interrupt the eye’s flow to narrow hips. I remember thinking, These guys sound like a couple of chicks. This kind of vanity struck me as effeminate and unseemly.

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nifying glass, I am only able to squint out the highlights: “Belly: bellie, hyly, bally, bealy; earlier bulge…bag, skin, envelope, hul! (of beans and peas) identical with bulge, skin, bag, sack…inflated or swollen thing…to be inflated, swell up…the same word of which the plural appears as bellows. Original sense in OE (Old English): skin bag, purse, pod, meat bag, wine skin, leather bottle…of the body of man and animals…the body as the shell or integument of the soul, the shell or husk of the soul…worm sack…etc.”

Well, there we have it. The meat of it, the wine of it, the essence of what I am now looking down upon as it eclipses the space bar on my keyboard: the very housing of my soul. I’m a soul man. Ever notice how B.B. King’s guitar rests almost at arm’s length from the rest of him? This then, may not be such a bad thing, although that “worm sack” business does carry a charge of mortality, doesn’t it?

To a large extent (no pun intended) it all comes down to a matter of vanity, I suppose. I would prefer to revert to my whip-thin rock ‘n roll weight of 150 pounds when I was 25 years old. It would be preferable not to hesitate in taking off my shirt at the beach. I would rather see my profile in the mirror as more Brad Pitt than Alfred Hitchcock. And it is humiliating to find myself winded after lacing up my shoes. Possibly this is the price of the growth of the soul.

A touching and funny scene in Richard Price’s screenplay of Mad Dog and Glory takes place on Robert DeNiro’s couch. DeNiro plays a middle-aged forensic detective who’s been fixed up with the much younger Uma Thurman. As they begin to make love awkwardly (and I think) DeNiro removes his shirt, he looks down self-consciously at his stomach and says something like, “I should do some sit-ups or something.”

To which Thurman replies, “Now?”

This was moving and true and I howled. Often an older man with a younger woman is mistaken for “trying to feel young.” In fact, a young woman will only make an older man more aware of things like the hair sprouting from his ears.

It is close to dinnertime and I’m going to do a scientific experiment. Stomach as metaphor (soul, guts for courage, prosperity) is all very well, but can be measured! Simple enough. I’ve never done this, but it’s time. I’m going to the Rite-Aid pharmacy just down the street. I’ll be right back.

All right, I have a tape measure, the kind tailors and seamstresses use. I am measuring myself at my widest point, just at that area where my father used to hitch his pants up, about four inches below the nipples. I get a measurement of 46 inches. Now, this is not where I wear my pants, they’re usually buckled much lower. I wear comfortably, a size 38 waist. I can get into a 36, but it’s a little restraining. In either case, tucking a shirt in is out of the question; it will sum-
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my food overnight, I should be back to 46 inches if not 45 or even 44 after my morning constitutional to the library and back. I may do some sit-ups, but to be honest, probably not. The activity is not only tedious, it seems vain and vaguely masturbatory.

It might be worthwhile to examine the history of my belly. I weighed seven pounds and six ounces when the umbilical cord was cut at Saint Ann’s Hospital in Chicago 50 years ago. I imagine the dimensions of my baby tummy were appropriately round and protuberant in a conventionally cute way. I have little recollection of stomach awareness until the eighth grade. It was a graduation party in June held at the Illinois Dunes State Beach, and I remember being mortified at my love handles. This period coincided with the final shedding of “baby fat” and coming off a long donut binge to fill the aching preadolescent emptiness and alienation I suffered. The only other memory I have is of picking cherries off a tree from a ladder at my grandmother’s house in Berkeley, Illinois. I ate a pound or two of the things and got a pit caught in my throat. Grandma pounded my back and it went down. I can’t remember if I was crying or not. Probably she tried to make light of the experience by telling me that a cherry tree was going to grow inside me now, and while I sensed it was bullshit, I still would feel around down there once in a while, just in case. Anyway, for years afterward, she called me Cherry Tummy, which I hated as it evoked the image of a red, bulbous misdirection, which could be the foundation of what may seem to the casual reader an inordinate fixation on the matter to this day.

* * *

It is now morning of the next day. As I predicted, the evidence of last night’s potato-and-chocolate dinner has dwindled, I now measure 45 inches, and I haven’t even gone to the library yet. (Today I intend to research para-

sylology. I suspect something like this is going on with me since I went walking the other day too close to Imperial Beach, and an onset of the runs has ensued — the upside is, it may help me reduce.)

In the meantime, I have other interests. I am not fixated. For example, I have recently taken up an interest in Eastern religions. I have some Hindu material, the Tibetan Book of the Dead, and a comprehensive primer on Buddhism titledZen to Go. According to Zen philosophy, the desired state of mind is that of “wanting nothing and rejecting nothing.” So I will have some breakfast at Harry’s Pancake House and not worry about it. There seems little I can do about the size of my torso anymore. Before I left, I look over at the ceramic Buddha I got at a deal on in Tijuana, reach over, and pat his belly for luck. While I’m sure it is a momentary illusion, I am briefly convinced that the little figure has winked at me in approval of my soul’s progress.

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He liked his peanut butter and banana sandwiches grilled in butter. He wouldn’t sunbathe without an electric fan blowing directly on his body. He saw the faces of Stalin and Jesus in cloud formations. These are some of the things I know about Elvis Presley: a man of arguable talent but a cultural icon nonetheless. His life and music have been analyzed in more than 200 books written by people who knew him well, pretend they knew him well, barely knew him, and never even met him. All of these would-be biographers seem to agree on one thing, however: Elvis, the man, was a lost soul. Elvis, the King, was looking for something that he never found.

But what do we know about Elvis, the impersonator? Who are the men who try to fill the King’s jumpsuits? Are they searching for meaning in a world without Elvis? Or are they just lounge lizards in need of an act? Do they have families, pets, lawns to mow? Will they be around in the 21st Century? Are their sideburns real or glue-ons?

The E.P. Impersonators International Association, a group based in Aurora, Illinois, has identified 210 Elvis Presley imitators. There could be as many as 2500 worldwide, according to the group’s secretary. (“That doesn’t mean they’re all good,” she warned.) At the association’s first convention last spring, no one was there to represent San Diego. This saddened me. A town without an Elvis impersonator is no place to live. So I set out to find any and every living effigy of the King. My search took me down many disconnected phone lines, but in the end, I turned up a Mexican Elvis, a New Wave Elvis, an Elvis who arrives in a limousine with bodyguards, an Elvis team (two brothers), an ex-Marine Elvis, an ex-cop Elvis, a midget Elvis, and the ex-cop Elvis, the real talent, the one who’s going to out-Elvis the other impersonators because of his particular emphasis: Albert specializes in early Elvis. This distinction may pay off someday. It proves disastrous, however, on Albert’s first tryout. The evening was enough to make any Elvis impersonator head for a bottle of Seconal.

Bob and Albert, aged 32 and 26, come from a Mexican/Italian/Jewish family with origins in Texas. Bob has sported a ducktail since he was

Mexican Elvis, a New Wave Elvis, an Elvis who arrives in a limousine with bodyguards, an Elvis team (two brothers), an ex-Marine Elvis, an ex-cop Elvis, a midget Elvis, and the 1980 Minnesota State Vocal Champion. Just when I thought I had found them all, someone told us to go over to the county courthouse and look for a bailiff with a pompadour.

Some of the Elvis impersonators I got to know, others I talked to briefly. Some I hope never to meet. There is little camaraderie among Elvis imitators; very few knew each other and most preferred it that way. But when I asked why they walk out in public in beaded jumpsuits, the answers were almost identical. They loved Elvis. He was the greatest performer of all time. They’re just paying homage to the King’s memory. Yet lots of people loved John Belushi, and you don’t see them wearing bumblebee costumes. My Elvis encounter told me that there’s something else going on here, something you can’t put your finger on.

Elvis Aaron Presley had a twin, Jessie, who was stillborn. While Elvis’s numerous biographies disagree over which brother came first, this much is clear: only one baby survived. But what if things had been different? What if there were two men to carry the heavy burden of being Elvis? I look to Bob and Albert Fisher of El Cajon for what could have been. Bob, the older brother by six years, wears his hair like Elvis. Albert, the younger one, sings like Elvis. Together, they are an Elvis team. “I’ve got the look, but my brother has the voice,” explains Bob, the elder, the promoter, the brains behind the Elvis brothers. Bob has no desire to go up onstage, he says. This is the plan for Albert, the real talent, the one who’s going to out-Elvis the other impersonators because of his particular emphasis: Albert specializes in early Elvis. This distinction may pay off someday. It proves disastrous, however, on Albert’s first tryout. The evening was enough to make any Elvis impersonator head for a bottle of Seconal.

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a teenager; Albert is losing his hair and often wears a baseball cap. The brothers, who grew up in El Cajon, share an apartment, a body builder’s physique (both lift weights), and an impressive memory of singers, bands, record labels, flip sides, and other music minutiae of the 1950s and 60s. But nobody, and they mean nobody, ever came close to Elvis in terms of talent. This is why Albert, who works in an auto detail shop, wants to imitate the King. And why Bob would quit the T-shirt business in a hot second if it put him and Albert on the Elvis circuit.

But before they hit the big time, the Fishers are facing a dues installment. The first payment is on a warm Wednesday evening last July, Bob and Albert are sitting in Mr. D’s, a nearly empty cocktail lounge attached to a completely empty steak and seafood restaurant in El Cajon. The debacle to come is still an hour away. Several other Fisher siblings and their spouses are already here to watch Albert, the baby of the family, during his debut. They sit at various fake wood-grain tables drinking beer, teasing each other. In the meantime, Bob draws a distinction between the young vibrant Elvis and the fat guy in the white stretch T-shirt that hangs below his trademark baggy pants, pegged at the bottom. For Albert’s appearance at Mr. D’s, however, he is dressed in jeans and a white T-shirt that hangs below his corduroy jacket. On his feet was considered obscene at the time. Because of this, Ed Sullivan only showed Elvis from the waist up. (The King was also banned from performing at the Ouachita Valley Fairgrounds in Louisiana because he wiggled his leg too much, according to a book written by an ex-girlfriend of Elvis’s and the mother of his alleged illegitimate child.) Much later in his career, Elvis adopted some of the seductive poses of Tom Jones. Although he found the Welsh singer’s tight pants and protruding genitals to be “vulgar,” Elvis was impressed by the effect it had on the audience.

Albert needs to practice the shaking and the shimmying, his brother admits, but the Elvis voice has always been there. Still, every night, they’ve been going over the music for two or three hours. All they need to round out the act is a 1950s Elvis outfit: black or grey silk suit, shirt open at the neck, no tie, and the trademark baggy pants, pegged at the bottom.

For Albert’s appearance at Mr. D’s, however, he is dressed in jeans and a white T-shirt that hangs below his corduroy jacket. On his feet...
are weathered tennis shoes and on his head a baseball cap worn backwards. This is, after all, only a tryout. The manager of Mr. D’s is thinking of booking a ‘60s act, and Bob saw an opening for Albert. He made arrangements with the house band for Albert to sing three early Elvis songs: “Blue Moon Over Kentucky” “That’s All Right,” and “I Forgot to Remember to Forget Her.” Bob’s efforts included buying the sheet music, delivering it to the band, and gently reminding the musicians (three times) that they had to learn the songs by tonight. “No problem,” he was told (three times) that they had arrived at Mr. D’s, and Bob’s anxiety swells. All along he’s wanted his brother to do well; now he’s worried in the opposite direction. “I don’t want him to fall down, that’s all. He’s my brother. I care about him.” Three or four songs into the second set, the bandleader invites Albert up onstage. He introduces him as an Elvis impersonator, adding, “There’s only 199 of them in the world. Someday, there’ll be 200.” In the background, the band emits a confusing cacophony. Bob starts jerking around in his chair. “I can’t believe this! They’re trying to practice the stuff now!” Meanwhile, the bandleader tries to persuade Albert to sing “Blue Suede Shoes” or “Hound Dog” — the only two Elvis songs the band knows. Albert resists, and Bob leans over and yells, in a stage whisper, “He’s supposed to be doing the Sun session stuff, not RCA!” It soon becomes apparent that Albert has two choices: sing the two songs the bandleader suggested or sit down. Unfortunately, he doesn’t know the lyrics to either song. The guitar player tries to feed him the words, and Albert attempts to muddle through “Blue Suede Shoes.” But he can’t hear the rest of the band and sings ahead of the music. A few Elvis infections break through the noise, but overall, everyone is relieved when “Hound Dog” is over. Albert, wearing a pained smile, slumps into a chair next to his brother. “That was messed up,” he says. “We died.” The other Fisher siblings offer their condolences and chargrin at the band’s incompetence. They all get up and leave. Out in the parking lot, Bob and Albert try to be upbeat. After all, Elvis bombarded at the Grand Ole Opry and made a bad first impression at Sun Records too. Recalling his...
first professional recording session, Elvis once said: "The day was a complete wreck. I couldn’t do anything right. Probably because I kept trying to do what I thought they wanted and not what I wanted.”

* * *

Elvis’s taste in movies ran toward two extremes: fantasy films with feel-good endings or limp, maudlin tearjerkers. He and his wife Priscilla (author of Elvis and Me) would watch Miracle on 34th Street and It’s a Wonderful Life again and again. They would cry themselves to sleep over Bette Davis’s cruel fate as a mislabeled harlot in Mr. Skeffington.

Elvis even talked about doing a remake of The Way of All Flesh, a riches-to-rags story about a banker who loses everything through no fault of his own. Elvis wanted to star as his father, a perpetually out-of-work check forger, in the film.

The rise of Robert Lopez is also Hollywood material, though the movie may need subtitles. A man of humble origins (Chula Vista), Lopez made it into the big leagues of Elvis impersonation with a little ingenuity and a lucky break. “I do Elvis from the Hispanic perspective,” he says, explaining his success. Using the Spanish pronunciation of Elvis—"El Vez"—and quite a bit of artistic license, Lopez has rewritten the titles and lyrics to numerous Elvis songs. Among his repertoire are “In El Barrio” (“In the Ghetto”), “Está Bien, Mamacita” (“That’s All Right, Mama”), and “Viva la Raza” (“Viva Las Vegas”).

Lopez, now a 30-year-old Los Angeles resident, is a full-time impersonator with bookings around the country. He plays Las Vegas, of course, and also does conventions, benefits, state fairs, and beauty pageants. His local appearances are rare, unless you count visits to his parents’ house. “I spent my formative years in San Diego,” he states flatly. As fame sometimes gets to Lopez’s was instant. After graduating from Chula Vista High School, he moved to Los Angeles, started working in the import business (mostly South American folk art), and played bass and keyboards for various local bands. In 1988, on a lark, he went to Graceland for
the anniversary of Elvis’s death. Lopez entered the Elvis impersonator contest, a highlight of the week-long festivities. He was one of 100 performers, but the Hispanic angle caught the interest of the national press. Then the television networks picked up the story, and by the time Lopez got home, he was the subject of international attention.

The L.A. area is replete with Elvis impersonators; one agent counted ten of them in Orange County alone. Lopez does not pay much attention to the competition, but he does remember hearing about an unusual Elvis act in San Diego. “Someone told me there was a short guy playing at a bar there. He was a midget, an old guy midget.” I grill him for more information, but that’s all Lopez can remember. He considers himself to be in a different category than the other impersonators. His costumes, for example, are made in Mexico; they aren’t replicas of those worn by the King. Lopez uses a design that is part mariachi, part bullfighter, part Elvis. One of his favorites is a purple crushed-velvet suit with Our Lady of Guadalupe embroidered on back. “Elvis was so much more than a jump-suit,” he says.

Lopez always wanted to be a cop. He collected sheriff and police department badges and once attended the funeral of a slain Denver officer while wearing a police captain’s uniform. (This recollection is from a book written by his stepbrother.) One of the King’s greatest thrills was being sworn in as a federal narcotics agent as part of President Nixon’s “War on Drugs.” But despite all his honorary titles and his extensive weapon collection (revolvers, automatics, an M-16 rifle, a .357 magnum, and a Thompson submachine gun), Elvis was just a police impersonator. The only people he shot were those appearing on his television screen. The King went through a lot of TV sets this way, according to a book written by his bodyguards.

Elvis would have liked Von Dishong, the Superior Court bailiff who moonlights as the King. Sitting in an empty courtroom on his lunch hour, Dishong (pronounced Djon, like the rundown, pack a .357 revolver today. Despite the green wool uniform, he has that unmistakable Elvis look. Mostly it’s the pompadour, which is molded, sprayed, and shiny. The Escondido resident dyes his hair black and then pencils in his eyebrows to match. The coloring clashes with his fair skin and blue eyes; one glance tells you that a rule of nature has been violated. But no law has been broken, so the county marshal’s office allows Dishong’s altera persona. So does Superior Court Judge (and former city councilman) Dick Murphy, who requested Dishong for his cramped courtroom in the Hotel San Diego. “His other attributes make up for his…hairstyle,” says Judge Murphy.

Dishong’s coworkers don’t make an issue of his appearance (“We don’t kid him about it,” says one, snickering), but the jailhouse defendants can be a little insensitive. “I’ve had them come out and sing Elvis songs right in the middle of the courtroom,” recalls Dishong, who has grown his sideburns near-Elvis length. Everytime he goes, people stare. His face developed a skin rash because of it, according to a biography written by his former nurse. “I’m a perfectionist.”

So why, I ask, does he take this abuse? Ah, yes. He

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loves Elvis. “I was raised on Elvis,” says the Hoover High School graduate. “I started learning the moves when I was five years old.” Dishong was a San Diego police officer when he first started impersonating the King at private parties; this is going back five, six years. He wore a wig and played with a band, but the hobby pins started hurting and the act stalled. So early this year Dishong got serious. He now has a manager, a trio of female backup singers, and a calendar that is booked (on weekends) for several months to come.

“There’s worse things you could do than be an Elvis impersonator all your life,” he says. One of them, apparently, is being a county marshal. Dishong’s dream is to give up his day job and devote himself to a singing career. Not necessarily as Elvis, though. Even now he prides himself on not being a clone of the King, he performs songs that Elvis might have sung (like Roy Orbison’s “Only the Lonely”) as well as songs that Elvis actually recorded. And he doesn’t ham up the inflections. “I just use my natural voice, which happens to sound like Elvis,” he explains. “I could sing ‘The Star Spangled Banner,’ and it comes out like Elvis.”

Dishong does mimic the King’s sexy movements, and the female fans respond in kind. This bothered his wife at first. “She was a bit leery because of the screaming women,” he recalls. “I was scared, too, the first time 10 or 15 of them came running up [to the stage].” (Among the gifts Elvis received in the mail was an athletic supporter belonging to a fan’s deceased husband. Women also sent hundreds of provocative photographs of themselves wearing negligees, underwear, or nothing at all. The King flipped through them dispassionately, according to a book written by one of his secretaries. Most were put in a desk drawer, unless one of the staff members wanted to take them home.) Now that he is a more seasoned Elvis impersonator, Dishong has grown accustomed to the overly excited females that go along with the job. He doesn’t seem to mind being treated like a showroom stud, a sex toy, an object of erotic fantasy. He puts up with the adulation because it’s all part of being Elvis.

When Elvis Presley died in 1977 at the age of 42, the cause of death was listed as cardiac arrhythmia. But word soon leaked out that Elvis died from a massive drug overdose. The latest theory involves suicide. Not surprisingly, the Elvis impersonators I interviewed tend to overlook the King’s flaws. They point out that all his “medications” were prescribed by doctors. Elvis had a weight problem, they say, so he took diet pills. The amphetamines kept him awake at night, so he needed sleeping tablets. How about the narcotics and painkillers? I ask. Well, Elvis was sick. “I would have some Demerol in me too if I had cancer of the colon,” says the Elvis impersonator at Knott’s.
Berry Farm. But he is an out-of-town Elvis that I strayed to one afternoon, looking for solace when I was still reeling from “The Resurrection of Elvis,” the impersonator show I attended on the last anniversary of the King’s death.

The date was August 16, and I showed up at the Casbah on Kettner Boulevard expecting a tribute to the King. Instead I got Harley Davidson. The real Elvis was lying cold and clammy in his grave and smack these pompadours ride the buses of Rolling Rock, yuck-yuck-yuck at the velvet painting of Elvis, the string of skull lights, and the other “decorations” in honor of the King. If Elvis could see this, and if he wasn’t too doped up, he would rise out of his grave and smash these silly kids all the way to Memphis.

Outside the Casbah, Harley Davidson (his real name: Al Shapannon) tells of his limited background as an Elvis impersonator: Two years ago, at a Halloween ball, he appeared as Elvis back from the dead — complete with casket and hearse. Sometime during the course of the night, red dye from the coffin’s velvet interior leached into his rented Elvis outfit. The costume shop tried to charge him $200 and wouldn’t even let him keep the jumpsuit. Davidson ignored the shop’s threats (including a phone call from its lawyer), and a cheesy Elvis impersonator was outfitted. Says Davidson: “I do Elvis as he’d be today — broke and appearing at shopping centers.” He adds up his paid Elvis gigs, and the total is five. More often, he performs with Deadbolt, his rockabilly band. They will put on a normal show tonight, he says, and then “do the Elvis thing” before the second band comes on.

Halfway through the set, the ducktails get antsy. A few cans for Elvis can be heard above the din of Deadbolt’s music. I can’t understand a word of the lyrics; every song sounds like the theme to Secret Agent Man. But the band plunges through and then vacates the stage to restrained applause. Davidson disappears, and a few minutes later, a Mitsubishi pickup truck pulls up on the sidewalk in front of the bar. Friends of the band have a

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grey casket out of the back and carry it inside. Now the crowd is happy. Onstage, the top half of the coffin lifts up and David-son pops out, stretches, and warms up with a few karate chops. (Elvis studied karate for years and persuaded his wife Priscilla to take up the sport. She eventually left him for her karate instructor.) From the neck down, David-son is clothed like the average Kmart shopper. But the gold chains, the amber aviators, and the $8000 diamond ring... all things Elvis abandoned on his knees and sings to the sister of a friend from his manager — during a brief conversation with Lentz's manager, and she offered press releases, photos, and an interview — I noticed that this woman wasn't returning my phone calls. Lentz himself was incommunicado. "Are you calling about the Elvis impersonator?" asked the piqued wife of the only Robert Lentz in the phone book. I apologized and hung up. Next I tried local agents; one told us about the middle-aged Elvis impersonator who arrives with limo and bodyguards. But no one else I talked to ever heard of this Elvis. Or Bob Lentz, for that matter. Then I got A.J. Sagman of Celebrity Suppliers on the line. "A.J. (as I loved calling him) has 11 Elvis impersonators in his Rolodex, all shapes and sizes, living all over the country. ("I recently got a call from A.J. Sagman from San Diego Bay? Anyway, talent is not one of A.J.'s major..."

In a videotape supplied by Blecha, I hear Lentz talking in the back of the limo about his various brushes with the stars. The accent is New Jersey, maybe Philly. "...then I spent two days in Quincy Jones’s house, along with Barbara Streisand and Gregory Peck. Oprah was there. Spielberg..." The tape switches abruptly to a dimly lit cocktail lounge at the Holiday Inn. Lentz is up onstage, doing a more sedate variation of Elvis than I’m accustomed to. No hip swaying, no seductive flir ting, very few karate chops. Lentz substitutes romanticism for animal appeal. He gets down on his knees and sings to individual ladies. He hands out long-stemmed roses. It's the country-boy charm that Elvis once had but lost somewhere along the line. "He is one of the nicest people I’ve ever met," says Blecha. "There are so many people who don’t know that he had a talent. Whose fault is that? I ask, somewhat exasperated. After a brief conversation with Lentz's manager — during which time she extolled the talents of her client and offered press releases, photos, and an interview — I noticed that this woman wasn’t returning my phone call.

ELVIS, and Me

Davidson banters with friends of his friends. He gave lavishly to charities and money and fame brought insatiability. In the end, his excess. Even Miss Tennessee (he dated two of them) couldn’t fill the Elvis void. The woman of Celebrity Suppliers on the line. "A.J. (as I loved calling him) has 11 Elvis impersonators in his Rolodex, all shapes and sizes, living all over the country. ("I recently got a call from A.J. Sagman from San Diego Bay? Anyway, talent is not one of A.J.'s major con-
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siderations, “I don’t care if they’re bad, as long as they’re reliable,” he told us.

Before I closed the book on Bob Lentz, I placed a final call to devoted fan Edna Blecha. She had recently heard from Lentz and had a phone number for him. He and his manager had parted ways, she said. (It is widely believed that Elvis’s manager, the greedy Colonel Parker, contributed to the King’s demise by subjecting him to a grueling concert schedule. Elvis often threatened to fire the Colonel but stuck with him to the end. A theory put forth by Elvis’s second cousin, author of The Boy Who Would Be King, is that Colonel Parker was blackmailing his client with a pornographic video, à la Rob Lowe.)

So I’m on the phone to Graceland one afternoon, getting the brush-off from...

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because he looked and sounded like Elvis, or the other way around? This is a good starting point for the Eddie Powers story.

Born and raised in Minnesota, Powers became enamored of Elvis at an early age. Like most of the impersonators I interviewed, he has a room in his house devoted to the display of Elvis memorabilia. “I had my Elvis room by the time I was eight,” recalls Powers. Every night little Eddie would sing along with his live Elvis records, pretending he was the King in concert. The whole performance took three hours. “I didn’t go to bed without doing my Elvis show,” he says. “But I was just having fun. I didn’t realize that I could grow up and become an Elvis impersonator.”

The infatuation didn’t subside with puberty. “Being a devoted [Elvis] fan was not real popular in [high] school,” he recalls. “Other music was going on, like the Beatles, Kiss, the Rolling Stones.” Powers couldn’t interest himself in those groups. “I never saw any other performer that excited me like Elvis. He just had a way of drawing people to him.” (Lisa nods her head knowingly.) “His love for his fans came across. Even in the late ’70s, when he was performing in the jumpsuit, those jumpsuits were hot and uncomfortable. They must have weighed 30, 40 pounds. Yet he didn’t care. He was that devoted to his fans.”

Powers was in the Navy when he saw his first Elvis impersonator, Elvis as a career choice had never occurred to him. As soon as he finished his enlistment, the former Minnesota State Vocal Champion put on a show and some costumes together. His costume charges $1000 and up for replicas of Elvis’s famous outfits. Powers owns ten of them, including the Blue Eagle, the White Phoenix, the Las Vegas White Fringe, and Red Burning Love. Like many Elvis impersonators, Powers finds work at grand openings, theme parties, military bases, and bar mitzvahs. He has also appeared on many TV sitcoms. This past summer, he was interviewed on The Joan Rivers Show along with two other Elvis impersonators. “I gave her one of my scarves,” recalls Powers. “She loved it.”

When it comes to the other Elvis imitators, Eddie has only nice things to say. He liked Bob Lenz’s act at the Earthquake Café and also compliments Von Dishong. Powers and his wife (who acts as his manager) are personally acquainted with “Kinickie,” who performs at the Del Mar Fair. But Kinickie is not really an Elvis impersonator; he does an Elvis tribute show. (“I try to listen as Powers explains the difference, but there’s a voice screaming in my subconscious. It’s saying, “No more Elvises!”) Powers also sorts the impersonators according to who, as far as he can determine, really loved the King. Loves the King. In fact, Powers applies this standard to everyone he meets. “Am I an Elvis fan?” he asks.

On the show, Powers gives the audience everything he’s got, Elvis-wise. A particular part of him reminds me of Tom Jones. Grey-haired ladies approach him cautiously, pop off a flashcube, and scurry back to their tables. Others squeal with each pelvic thrust. Two women sitting towards the stern scream continuously, no matter what he does. One feisty lady throws her napkin at him. The show ends with “My Way,” a song that Elvis often sang in concert during the last year of his life, holding up a cheat sheet because he couldn’t remember the lyrics.

Powers figures he has 20 good years left as an Elvis impersonator. “After that, I’ll probably have a traveling museum, take it around the world. I’ve got quite a bit of memorabilia,” he says. Elvis scarves, Sunglasses! A lock of his hair? “No, just [dinner] plates, wall hangings, pictures, things like that,” says Powers. His mission in life is to keep Elvis’s memory alive. He tells the story of a young boy, no more than six years old, who watched him getting into his car tonight. “He never took his eyes off me,” says Powers. He’s convinced that the kid, on some level, recognized Elvis. Do I understand the significance of that?

I venture a guess: There’s a new generation of Elvis fans on the way up? That’s right, says Powers, eyes aglow, that dazzling smile turned up bright. And he’s going to be there for them.

— Brae Carden

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Skewered
The Brazilian restaurant review’s phrase “The staff are” in the June 15 issue (“Rabelais in Rio,” Restaurant Review) only made me wince, but Bedford’s butchery of Bosnian food (“Tin Fork,” June 22) made my blood boil. First, that “sexy red sauce,” a.k.a. Bosnian ketchup, is not at all esoteric. It is sold in jars in local ethnic markets as well as chain supermarkets. It’s called avar and is pronounced I-var. Burek (not “burrk”) is not sausage at all. It is phyllo (or filo) leaves layered with either herbed feta cheese or ground meat topped with yogurt and is a breakfast favorite (along with a half pack of Marlboros).

Thanks For World As Cactus
Thanks for the great article on cactus and other succulents — well done (“The World Is a Cactus,” Cover Story, June 15)! I wish it had been published three weeks ago so people could have learned about the big June show on the 3rd and 4th. Would like to assure people who found this compelling, all are welcome at the monthly meetings of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, at Casa del Prado in room 101; next meeting is Saturday, July 8. Sales start at 9:00 and go till 1:00, when the meeting starts. There are lots of interesting people, plants, and information.

Pam Badger
Past President
SDC&SS

Reprint Re-Gift
I read J.K. Amtmann’s article (“The Evidence of Her Sorrow,” Feature Story, June 15) when it was first published as a winning entry in a writing contest back in 1991. Thank you so much for this great gift. Seldom do I read something as memorable as that article. It brought much joy and laughter.

Dennis Engel
via e-mail

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*Stories and Art at Timken Museum*

I have a wall of books in my office that is 90 percent fairy tales from around the world,” says professional storyteller Harlynne Geisler. Geisler has divided her books into subcategories: “Hispanic, African, African-American, Spooky, Celtic, East Indian, Animal…”

On Saturday, July 1, Geisler will demonstrate her storytelling prowess at the Timken Museum of Art in Balboa Park. This will be the second of five planned storytelling events at the museum, each story inspired by a different painting in the museum’s collection. The paintings that have been selected are Cho-looke, the Yosemite Fall, by Albert Bierstadt; Mrs. Thomas Gage, by John Singleton Copley; The Cranberry Harvest, Island of Nantucket, by Eastman Johnson; The Return of the Prodigal Son, by Guercino; and Blindman’s Buff, by Jean-Honoré Fragonard.

Geisler’s first gig as a storyteller was for a women’s business association for which she told the story of Molly Whuppie, an old English tale. “It’s the female version of ‘Jack and the Beanstalk,’ the differences being [Molly] steals a sword, a bag of gold, and a ring, and escapes on a single strand of hair placed across a chasm instead of [climbing down a beanstalk],” Geisler enjoys finding stories to which she can relate.

“This is the story of my life: A girl is lost in the forest, pursued by giants, doesn’t know what’s going on. First she steals a sword, which represents personal power, then a bag of gold, which is success — however you define it — before she can have the ring, which is love.”

For Cho-looke, the Yosemite Fall, painted in 1864, Geisler spoke of Bierstadt’s life (“how he made Yosemite famous through his paintings”) and El Capitan, a 3,000-foot-tall chunk of granite that is an attraction for rock climbers. After describing the setting, Geisler shared a legend from the native Miwok people, who believed the huge rock grew from a small boulder.

“The Legend of the Tul-tok’a-na begins, ‘There were once two little boys living in the Valley of Ah-wah-nee who went down to the river to swim.’ The boys fell asleep while lying on a boulder to dry off in the sun. As they slept, the boulder grew, until the boys ‘scraped their faces against the moon,’ though this did not wake them. Many animals tried unsuccessfully to help them down, but none could jump high enough. Finally, the tul-tok’a-na, an ‘insignificant measuring worm, despised by all the other creatures, began to creep up the face of the rock.’ The measuring worm eventually makes its way to the top and brings the boys down from the rock.

Mrs. Thomas Gage is the subject of Geisler’s July 1 presentation. Geisler researched John Singleton Copley, who lived from 1738 to 1815, and his real-life subject, Margaret Kemble Gage. American-born Margaret Kemble married British-officer-turned-General Thomas Gage. “She’s a New Jersey girl; she’s an American. There are her people who are going to be murdered in the street. Is she going to be loyal to her husband or to her country?” Geisler’s research reveals, “There is a very strong suspicion that [Mrs. Gage] passed military information she got from her husband to the American forces. I’m going to say, ‘Do you think all spies look like James Bond? Look at this picture — would you even begin to guess that she was a spy?’”

For The Cranberry Harvest, Island of Nantucket in August, Geisler will compare wooly mammoths with cranberries to tell “a fruitful story.” For The Return of the Prodigal Son in October, children will learn how a boy’s overspending leads him to have to eat pigs’ food. In November, for Blindman’s Buff, the story will be about “rich peoples’ games 300 years ago.”

During the pilot program at the Timken last summer, Geisler told a story inspired by Portrait of a Lady by Nicolas Maes. The painting is of a young woman (thought to be Mary Stuart before she married William III, with whom she ruled England) and features a King Charles spaniel. Geisler began her presentation by telling dog-related riddles. She then told a British fable about a man who, with the help of a dog’s ghost, regains his family’s lost fortune. After the story she sent the children on a scavenger hunt to count every image of a dog that they could find in the museum. Finally, she taught the group how to make an origami dog. Each child was able to take his or her paper dog home, the prize they received for counting…though not one of them had come up with the correct number.

— Barbarella

**Storytelling with Harlynne Geisler**

Saturday, July 1

11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

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**Reader**
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Bullfights planned on Saturday, July 1, 1 p.m., at Monumental Bullring by the Sea. 011-52-664-686-1510. Please call for information.

“Alien Volunteers in the Mexican Revolution,” lecture by Lawrence Taylor, Wednesday, July 5, 7 p.m., in Reading Room at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, in Zona Río). 011-52-664-687-9666. FREE.

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Along San Diego’s coastline, lingers, despite the lack of rainfall and warmer, drier days. In the older, landscaped neighborhoods of Coronado, Point Loma, Pacific Beach and La Jolla you’ll find oleander and hibiscus blooming in many shades and colorful bougainvillea creeping over garden walls. Look for the magnificent clusters of red flowers adorning the crowns of the flame eucalyptus (red-flowering gum) trees.

Magnolia, the southern U.S.-native commonly planted as a decorative street tree in many of San Diego’s older neighborhoods, continues to bloom this month. Called the “flower of the flowering broadleaf evergreens,” branches carry leathery, dark-green leaves and large, white blossoms of pleasing fragrance.

June Bugs are emerging as summer’s warmth is finally upon us. The green June beetle, only one of some 300 species of scarab beetles found in Southern California, flashes a metallic green underbelly as it buzzes about ecstatically. The mature scarabs flying about have spent at least a year underground in larval form munching at the roots of lawns or your favorite ornamental plants.

Agaves (a.k.a. century plants), are coming into bloom in many summer gardens this month. After a decade or more (not a century) of growth, the larger kinds of agave send up a tall, yellow-blossomed flower stalk from a base of flabby, succulent, thorn-tipped leaves. The stalk and basal leaves die, but suckers make new plants and begin the cycle anew.

Black-Chinned Sparrows, Lawrence’s goldfinches, mountain chickadees, and many other birds to see when Audubon Society birders head to Agua Dulce Creek on Saturday, July 1, 1 p.m. Meet at old parking area for Agua Dulce Creek Group Camp. Carry water, lunch, insect repellent. Considerable hiking of moderately strenuous nature. Free. 619-692-3246. A Forest Service Adventure Pass is required. (MOUNT LAGUNA)

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OUT & ABOUT

HOME SWEET HOME? "Mount Exchange," Wednesday, July 5, San Diego Public Library. (See Lectures)

Guided Nature Walks, Saturday, July 1, 9:30 a.m., in Marian Bear Memorial Park (at west side of park, at Regents Road entrance). 858-581-9661. Free. Bring binoculars, drinking water. (CLAREMONT)

History Walks, Off-Roading Tours offers hour-long history walk, blending Balboa Park history with its wealth of architectural and botanical treasures, Saturday, July 1, 10 a.m., from visitors’ center. Free. 619-235-1211. (BURBANK)

Friends of Ruffin Canyon are looking for help cleaning up the canyon, maintaining native garden Saturday, July 1, 4:30–7 p.m. Easy 1.5-mile walk. Free, but National Forest Adventure Pass is required to park. Directions: 619-235-2010. (LEWISVILLE NATIONAL FOREST)

Enjoy a Panoramic Mountain hike along Roosevelt Hill nature trail with Canyoneers, Saturday, July 1, 4:30–7 p.m. Easy one-hour hike with views of the adults, children, and the surrounding area. Free. Call 360-339-4255.

Nature Hike, mountain naturalist at Claremont Resort leads nature hike around Lake Cuyamaca. Join us for a 1.5-mile walk around the lake. Bring binoculars, a water bottle, and a snack. Free. Call 760-778-5807.

Independence Day, July 4, features a moon dance just one day past first quarter. Hovers over the southern horizon as darkness falls, the moon’s glow will not significantly interfere with the much brighter displays of fireworks.

DANCE

Salsa Centrail! Dance to salsa and Latin club mix, Thursday, June 29, 8–11 p.m., in Mission Room above Valley Tavern at Valley Mission Resort Hotel (875 Hotel Circle South). $7. Dance lesson: 8 p.m. 619-596-9777 (MISSION VALLEY)

Contra dance with old-time fiddling, band, and caller Steve Barlow, Friday, June 30, 6 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church (3030 Thorn Street). Beginner’s dance workshop: 7:30 p.m. $3. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. (MOUNTAIN GROVE)

Bellydance Dinner Show — Jasmine and Mimi perform to live music by Middle-Earth Ensemble, Saturday, July 1, 7 p.m., at Greek Palace (887 Claremont Mesa Boulevard). $15.95 includes dinner buffet. Reservations: 858-373-0155. (MORMON MEADOW)

USA Dance Party with wide variety of music, first Saturday of each month, including July 1, at Dance North County (353 Encinitas Boulevard, suite 100). Lessons at 7 p.m., dancing 8–11 p.m. All ages, abilities. $7. 619-525-5124.

Israeli Tropical Dance Party — Dally Dallal leads Israeli lines, circles, couples dance program, Saturday, July 1, 7:30 p.m., at Folk Dance Center (4569 30th Street). $6. 619-278-4619. (CIVIC CENTER)

LATIN EVENTS

Music in the Park—Latin club mix, Friday, June 29, 8:30–11 p.m., at Tesoro Vista Clubhouse. $5 adults, kids 11 and under free. 760-657-5533.

CIVIC CENTER

Dance & Wine—Chili and salsa, Saturday, July 1, 7–10 p.m., at Hotel del Coronado. $9 general admission, $14 preferred, $20 premium. 1-800-HOTEL-DEL.

CIVIC CENTER

USA Dance Party with live music, Saturday, July 1, 7 p.m., at Toscana North (545 Toscana Drive). $20, under 18 free. 619-445-6401.

CIVIC CENTER

Bellydance Dinner Show — Jasmine and Mimi perform to live music by Middle-Earth Ensemble, Saturday, July 1, 7 p.m., at Greek Palace (887 Claremont Mesa Boulevard). $15.95 includes dinner buffet. Reservations: 858-373-0155. (MORMON MEADOW)

Israel Tropical Dance Party — Dally Dallal leads Israeli lines, circles, couples dance program, Saturday, July 1, 7:30 p.m., at Folk Dance Center (4569 30th Street). $6. 619-278-4619. (CIVIC CENTER)

Latin Ballroom Dance Party, Saturday, July 1, at Pattie Wells Danceazine Center (1253 West Morena Boulevard). Dancing for singles and couples of all ages, 7:30–10 p.m. Lesson: 8 p.m. $7, first time free. 619-275-5333. (BAY PARK)

Sunday Afternoon Ballroom Dance and lesson, July 2, at Check2Check Dance Studio (909 Grand Avenue). Waltz lesson at 2 p.m., general dancing 2:30–4 p.m. In addition, dance party, July 2, 8 p.m., at Balboa Park (1640 Park Drive). $5. 858-270-7100.

Sunday Swing Dance with Doctor Swing playing “hot” dance music from the ’40s, ’50s, and ’60s, Sundays, 5–9 p.m., at Cask ’n Cleaver (3797 South Mission Road). No cover. 760-728-2818.

Bellydance Show featuring Mariahanna, Maggie, Kantara, Elisa, and others, Saturday, July 2, 6:30 p.m., at Med Grill (1263 University). Free. 619-683-2233. (MISSION VALLEY)

Meditation in Motion, Toni Michael leads Sufi dancing to live music on Monday, July 3, 5:30 p.m., at First Unitarian Universalist Church (4100 Front Street, room 112). $3. 619-692-3079.

Noche de Flamenco, Rafael Argudo, Gabriela Garza, Kambiz Pakamand, Marco Emtesali, Briseida Zarate, Roscio Fonce in concert, Thursday, July 6, 8 p.m., at Sherwood Auditorium Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (700 Washington Street). Free.
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CURRENTLY SCREENING IN THE IMAX THEATRE

Cooper Canyon Falls roars with the melting snows of each spring season, and then settles down to a quiet whisper by summer. This year’s near-normal rainfall, but unusually late rainfall and snowfall in the San Gabriel Mountains means that you can cool off in the spray of the 25-foot cascade through July at least. These falls are one of the best unheralded attractions along the Angeles Crest.

“The Burnt Trail takes you quickly to the falls, downhill all the way (an 800-foot drop in elevation), and then uphill all the way back. The forest traversed by the trail is dense enough to give plenty of cool shade for most of the uncoiling climb back up.

From Interstate 210 in La Canada, drive 34 miles up Angeles Crest Highway (Highway 2) to the Buckhorn Campground entrance road — at mile 98.3, according to the roadside mile markers. Drive all the way through the campground to the far (northeast) end, where a short bush of dirt road leads to the Burnt Trailhead.

You must display a National Adventure Pass on your parked car there.

The trail takes off down the west wall of an unnamed, usual- ly wet canyon gar- nished by two water- falls. The first — a little gem of a cascade dropping ten feet into a rock grotto — is easy to reach by descending from the trailside. The second, some 30 feet high, is dangerous to approach from above, but is reachable from below by scrambling up the canyon bottom from Cooper Canyon.

At 3.2 miles, the trail bends east to follow Cooper Canyon’s south bank. Continue another 0.3 mile, down past the junction of the trail (Pacific Crest Trail) that doubles back to fol- low the north bank upstream. Look or listen for water plunging over the rocky declivity to the left. A rough pathway leads down off the trail to the alder-fringed pool below.

Soak your feet in the shallow pool, or get right under the spray of water itself, which is likely to be icy 2006 until later this summer.

This article contains

COOPER CANYON FALLS

Discover majestic Cooper Canyon Falls in a secluded canyon near the Angeles Crest Highway.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 163 miles

Hiking length: 3.0 miles round trip

Hiking difficulty: Moderate

Information about a pub- licly owned recreation or wilderness area. Trails and pathways are not neces- sarily marked. Conditions can change rapidly. Hikers should be properly equipped and have navigational skills.

The Reader and Jerry Schad assume no respon- sibility for any adverse experience.

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Ohio Touring Artist Brian Henke is on hand for San Diego Guitar Society meeting, Sunday, July 2, 4 p.m., at Acoustic Expressions (2552 University Avenue). Steve White presents Revolution with Kirk Franklin, along with P.O.D., Lauren Silva, Kin Soi in concert, Tuesday, July 4, at Coors Amphitheatre (2020 Entertainment Circle). Activities, BMX bike demonstrations, fun zone for kids, graffiti art exhibit, skateboarding expo, music, drama, “message from Miles McPherson,” fireworks. Activities begin at 3 p.m., concert at 6:30 p.m. Free admission, $10 parking, 619-223-4622.

THE ULTIMATE SELF-CONTAINED BAND! Steve White in concert for San Diego Folk Heritage, Saturday, July 1, 7 p.m., at San Dieguito United Methodist Church (4650 Mansfield Street). $20, $22. 619-303-8176. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

Miles Ahead Crusade presents Twilight in the Park summer concert series promises swing music by Rey Vinuela on Wednesday, July 5. Mariachi Chula Vista takes stage on Thursday, July 6. Concerts run from 6:15-7:15 p.m. in Spreckels Organ Pavilion. Free. 619-239-0512. (BALBOA PARK)

Four-Time Gold-Medal Olympic Diving Champion Greg Louganis discusses, signs Breaking the Surface, Thursday, July 6, 7 p.m., at Claire de Lune Coffeehouse (2906 University Avenue). Free. 619-459-3247. (NORTH PARK)


South American Harp Music on tap when Carmen Barreiro performs for First Thursday Concert on July 6, 7 p.m., in Escondido Library’s Turrentine Room (239 South Kalmia Street). Free. 760-839-4329. (ESCONDIDO)

World-Beat Dance and Music, Abdoulaye Camara performs, along with bellydancers Sabrina and Shalimar, music by Damaru, Thursday, July 6, 8 p.m., at Claire de Lune Coffeehouse (2986 University Avenue). Free. 619-459-3247. (NORTH PARK)

Stand-Up Comedy Maestro Jerry Seinfeld performs on July 7 and 8 at San Diego Civic Theatre (202 C Street). Performances begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, at 7 and 9:30 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets: $45–875, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (DOWNTOWN)

In a Galaxy Far, Far Away, Canadian writer and solo performer Charles Ross presents his “One-Man Star Wars Trilogy,” July 19–23, at Spreckels Theatre (121 Broadway). Ross plays all characters, recreates effects, sings music, flies ships, and fights both sides of battles of first three Star Wars films. Curtain rises at 8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday; 2 and 7 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets: $12.75–3775, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (DOWNTOWN)

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The greatest Fourth of July Sidewalk Sale in San Diego awaits your arrival Saturday, July 1 through Tuesday, July 4. Put some great fashion into your holiday weekend and save up to 75% off on the brands you love at more than 125 stores. Located just 20 minutes from downtown, The Shops at Las Americas is closer than you think.

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management. Free. 619-660-0614. (DOWNTOWN)

Celebrate the Independence of the U.S.A., during lawn program by House of United States at International Cottages, Sunday, July 2, 2 p.m. Folk dancing, Bar- bara Sprigg performing on “Stan- ley Stradivarius” (a musical saw), music created on traditional Amer- ican instruments. Free. 619-234- 0739. Food for sale. (BALBOA PARK)

Play Duplicate Bridge every day of week except Thursday and Sun- day, 12:15 to 3:15 p.m., at Red- wood Bridge Club (1111 Sixth Av- enue). $2 per play. 619-296-4274. (BALBOA PARK)

“Beyond Superheroes and Sidekicks,” offbeat worlds cre- ated by artist/writer Donna Barr chronicled in display of work on view through Friday, August 18, in Special Collections and University Archives at San Diego State Uni- versity Library. Exhibition includes works by Robert Gregory, Chynna Clugston Major, others. Free. 619-394-3499. (SDSU)

Calligraphy and lacquer objects created by Ayako Stott are on ex- hibit through Sunday, August 27, at Japanese Friendship Garden. Gardens open at 10 a.m. each day, close at 5 p.m. Monday–Friday, 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Gen- eral admission: $3. 619-232-2721. (SAN MARCOS)

The “One and Only Truly Fab- ulous Hat Contest” is Wednes- day, July 2, part of opening-day festivities for 2006 seaside racing season hosted by Del Mar Thor- oughbred Club. Hundreds of guests expected to compete. Meet continues through Wednesday, September 6, with racing every day except Tuesday. Post time 2 p.m. except Fridays, when racing begins at 4 p.m. Find Del Mar Race- track at San Diego County fairgrounds, Jimmy Durante Boulevard and Via de la Valle. 858-793-5553. (SAN MARCOS)

26th Annual U.S. Open Sandcastle Competition is Sunday, July 23, with professional and am- ateur sandcarving teams compet- ing. Competition: 9 a.m.–2:30 p.m.; street festival, live music, en- tertainment. Festivities get under- way with parade at 10 a.m. on Sat- urday, July 22; Imperial Beach Op- timist’s Kids-n-Kastles competition at 2 p.m. Fireworks at 9 p.m. Free. 619-424-6663. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

FOR KIDS

“Seussical the Musical” pre- sented by Moonlight Stage Pro-"
The night is darkening round me, The wild winds coldly blow; But a tyrant spell has bound me And I cannot, cannot go. The giant trees are bending Their boughs weighed with snow. And the storm is fast descending.

And yet I cannot go.
Clouds beyond clouds above me, Wastes beyond wastes below;
But nothing drear can move me; I will not, cannot go.

— Emily Brontë

Poetry

The Magic of Ventriloquism
explored by comic ventriloquist Lynn Trimble through Sunday, July 2, in Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater. There’s a “July 4th Special Tuesday Show” planned on July 4. Big Joe’s Fireworks continues July 3-6.

Showtimes: 11 a.m., 1 and 2:30 p.m. Find theater near Aerospace Museum. Admission: $5 for children, $4 seniors, $3 general. 619-544-9203. (Baldas Park)

“My Emperor’s New Clothes” presented by actors and crew of San Diego Junior Theatre, June 30-July 16, in Casa del Prado Theater. For all ages.

Curtain rises at 7 p.m. on Fridays, 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Performance on July 15 is ASL interpreted. Tickets: $9–$12 adults, $7–$10 seniors and children 13 and under. Reservations: 619-239-8355. (Balboa Park)

“Snoopy: The Musical” presented June 30–August 6, at Coronado Playhouse, Wednesdays–Saturdays, with 2 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Find theater near The Timken Museum of Art. Admission: $10. 619-435-7242 for further information. (Coronado)

Heritage Walk Museum, the museum includes the restored Victorian House. Find the museum on exhibit. The museum is free. Admission includes audio guide. 619-544-9600. (La Mesa)

San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum onboard the decommissioned USS Midway is open for tours, now berthed at 910 North Harbor Drive. Exhibits include Navy jet simulators, carrier and flight deck tours, captain’s sea cabin, pilot house, navigation bridge. Admission fee includes audio guide. 619-544-8250. (San Diego)

Indian artifacts from the Kiniery family on exhibit. The museum is located at 2116 Tavern Road, 619-659-8740, (La Mesa)

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OUT & ABOUT

BEYOND SUPERHEROES
and Sidekicks, exhibit of work by artist/writer Donna Barr, SDSU Library, through August 18. (See Special)

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La Mesa Depot Museum, located in a restored 1894 wooden train station, exhibits include original telephone and telephone equipment, pot-bellied coal stove, period furniture. The adjacent freight train display features 1923 steam locomotive, 1957 refrigerato r car, 1941 caboose. Find the museum at La Mesa Boulevard and Spring Street. 619-465-7776. (La Mesa)

SUPPER HEROES

The Desert Peach, Donna Barr, San Diego Reader, June 29, 2006

The Desert Peach, Donna Barr, San Diego Reader, June 29, 2006
Magee House Museum, built in 1887 and surrounded by rose gardens, the site includes “one of the last barns still standing in Carlsbad.” Docent and self-guided tours of historic house and gardens. Find Magee House at 258 Beech Street; 760-434-9189. (CARLSBAD)

Museum of Making Music, “Howe-Orme: Forgotten Voices Remembered” is exhibit of rare and historic mandolins, mandolas, and guitars manufactured by Elias Howe Company of Boston over 100 years ago. Howe-Orme were awarded a series of patents for “the uniqueness of their functional design features and style.” Through April 2007.

The past 100 years of American music and music making are highlighted at the museum, with over 450 vintage instruments, hundreds of audio and video clips, and an interactive stage. Find the museum at 5790 Armada Drive; 760-438-5996. (CARLSBAD)

Ramona Pioneer Historical Society and Guy B. Woodward Museum is a complex of historical buildings, including the Verlaque House (the only Western adobe home of French provincial design still in existence), wagons, antique exhibits, and artifacts. There is a cowboy bunk house, women’s clothing and accessories from 1700 to 1800, a ranch blacksmith shop and tack room. The Casey Tibbs Memorial Exhibit is dedicated to Tibbs, a local resident who was a world-champion rodeo rider. The Bancroft Memorial Rose Garden is on the grounds. Rare documents, historical exhibits, books, photographs, and a research library are also part of the complex. Find it all at 645 Main Street. 760-789-7644. (RAMONA)

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

Stephen Birch Aquarium-Museum, an aquarium and museum under one roof, the facility is a component of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD. Look for 33 tanks containing marine life of the Pacific Northwest, the California coastline, Mexico’s Sea of Cortés, and the South Pacific. One highlight is the La Jolla Kelp Tank, a two-story-high tank with giant kelp plants and nearly 30 species of local marine life. “Sea of Genes” offers visit “to the genomic frontier,” “Earthquake! Life on a Restless Planet” explores earthquakes and their impacts on life. “Wonders-of-Water” waterplay area includes three interactive stations. The Lynne and Howard Robbins Shark Reef Exhibit features a 13,000-gallon shark tank with black tip, white tip, nurse, and wobbegong sharks. The aquarium is located at 2300 Expedition Way (off North Torrey Pines Road, south of La Jolla Shores Drive). 858-534-7226. (LA JOLLA)

**San Diego Reader June 29, 2006**
WHAT THE CRITICS SAY: Booklist: Hirsch celebrates poetry as a “human fundamental” in his incantatory introduction to this mesmerizing collection of 130 masterfully distilled essays based on the famed “Poet’s Choice” columns he wrote with passion and imagination for the Washington Post Book World for three years, beginning soon after 9/11. As his cherished best-seller, How to Read a Poem (1999), Hirsch, a natural-born teacher as well as a poet, shares his extraordinary erudition and love for poetry with lucidity and intensity, empathically summarizing the lives of poets past and present, and offering poems to readers as though they are food or benedictions, gossip, or prescriptions. The first half of the book is international in scope, and Hirsch writes with particular ardor about Russian, Spanish, language, Muslim, and Jewish poets who shed light on some of the worst of humanity’s countless tragedies. The lament essays in the book’s second half form a new map of American poetry as Hirsch stakes out territory for underappreciated and emerging writers, reveling in works of humor as well as gravitas. Hirsch’s aesthetic is unerring, and his interpretations are profound as he considers our “collective destiny” and takes measure of poetry’s encompassing vision.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Edward Hirsch is the author of six books of poems and three books of prose, among them the national bestseller, How to Read a Poem: And Fall in Love with Poetry. He has received the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Prix de Rome, and a MacArthur Fellowship, and is president of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. He lives in New York.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR:
On the morning of our interview, Mr. Hirsch is in his office at the Guggenheim Foundation on Park Avenue in New York. We exchange pleasantries and sing the praises of mutual friends and acquaintances, including Juris Jurjevics (my writing partner for the “Reading” column of the San Diego Reader) and Judith Moore. I tell Mr. Hirsch that Poet’s Choice was the last book Judith gave me to read before she passed away.

“She had responded very warmly to my work a couple of times, and it meant a lot to me. I’m really sorry she’s gone.”

“Originally the pieces in this book appeared in ‘Book World’ in the Washington Post. When you were preparing a weekly column on poetry, how did you go about selecting the pieces, and from all of those, how did you decide what to include in the present book?”

“I think that a poem’s meaning exists in the relationship between a poet, a poem, and a reader.”
“One, there were many poems I loved and poets that I’m deeply committed to, and I knew that at one time or another I’d want to bring them forth to readers in Book World.” Sometimes I would just write about these poets. Other times there would be a poem that had a kind of topical connection, or be related to a season or to something that had happened.

“Then, there were new books that were coming in, and I would try to respond to them. Sometimes they were by poets I cared about already and sometimes by poets I didn’t know or sometimes anthologies. My goal was to bring forward poems and poets that readers of the Washington Post wouldn’t necessarily come across on their own.”

“Did you have quite a bit of freedom in those choices?”

“I had total freedom to choose what I wanted. It is a newspaper, though, so I’d have a length for the columns. I started to treat that length as if it were a poetic form. I knew that if I had more commentary, I’d have to have a shorter poem, and if I had a longer poem I could have less commentary.

“Then, when I came to structure the collection as a whole, I reshaped the columns so that they didn’t have any particular ties to dates, weren’t particularly linked to the seasons, and had nothing to do with the news. I’ve heard you describe a poem as a message in a bottle addressed to the future and to an unspecified reader. In other forms of writing — in prose, for example — authors often have a specific readership or type of reader in mind. Without knowing your reader, as a poet, how do you know if you’ve been successful in a particular poem? I don’t think a poet can know. I think you can do your best, and I think you can make something that you believe is true and well made. At times, Emily Dickinson must have known, ‘this is great,’ some of those Shakespeare sonnets — he must have known. And yet, on some other level, you can’t know, because it’s not just up to you as the writer. You are making something that stands apart from you.”

“What do you mean when you talk about the reciprocity between poet, poem, and reader?”

“I don’t think that poems have meanings unto themselves. I think that a poem’s meaning exists in the relationship between a poet, a poem, and a reader. The poems really only take place when that circuit of communication is completed. That’s why I like Martin Ruber’s notion that ‘in the beginning is the relation.’ The relation precedes the word because it is authored by the human. A poem is an event in language. It is completed when the reader fulfills the experience by reading and internalizing a poem.”

“As readers we encounter poems that speak to us, or dramatize our own inner life, at various times, but we all change with age and experience. Are there poems whose voices no longer speak to you?”

“Yes. I think that one of the oddities of being a reader — and this isn’t just in poetry — is that there are things that speak to you deeply when you are young that, as you get older, no longer seem to have the same hold on you.”

“Are there poems that you have never outgrown?”

“Oh, yes. I don’t think I could ever outgrow Keats’s Odes, which I read as a teenager and which have a tremendous lasting power and poignancy.”

“Who read to you when you were young and couldn’t yet read yourself?”

“My mother’s father came to New York when he was eight years old. He was the one person in my family who was a reader, and he was the one person that read to me. He also wrote poems. He died when I was eight years old. The knowledge that he wrote poems, later, was a great comfort to me. Even though the poems were lost, the fact that he had written them struck me as a reasonable thing that someone could do.”

“Would you please retell the story of your encounter with the Brecht poem in his anthology? (See page 96) I’ve read it in a couple of places.”

“I’ve written about it a few times, most extensively in How to Read a Poem. But I guess also in Responsive Reading. It’s a meaningful story to me: ‘After my grandfather died...’ (continued on page 100)
When I was eight years old, I lived down to the basement of the house. We had some books there in a library, and I pulled down a book and read a poem that I somehow thought my grandfather had written. I knew that he had written poetry, and it struck me that it sounded just like him, and I was very moved by the poem. It was very consoling to me.

"I never spoke about this experience. I just walked around feeling that I knew, very well, one of my grandfather’s poems, which were otherwise lost. I kept this as a kind of vague inarticulate notion...but real to me. Some time in high school I was looking through a poetry anthology, and I started thinking. ‘This poet writes so much like my grandfather’...Then I thought, ‘Oh my God! Here’s my grandfather’s poem.’ It turned out it had been written by Emily Bronte and is often given the name ‘Spellbound.’"

"In a lecture you gave at Wellesley a few years ago, you said, ‘The history of poetry is a maelstrom of forms.’ What did you mean by that?"

"There are certain forms that spoke very powerfully to readers at a given moment in time, but when that time passed, the form wasn’t flexible to the new conditions of life that prevailed, like reptilian creatures that can’t adapt to a new environment.

"I would oppose that to certain forms that have been endlessly malleable—the sonnet, for example. From the time it was first invented, in Provençal Europe, it became a repository for the subject of love, and people have been writing sonnets ever since. There have been times when there were greater sonnets and times when there were lesser sonnets, but the form speaks to something in our condition (in many different languages) that seems to be, if not permanent, at least lasting. No one knows exactly why. Who knows why a particular 14-line structure could speak so much about the nature of love?

"When did you roll up your sleeves and say to yourself, ‘OK, I need to master form?’"

"That happened very powerfully when I was a freshman in college. I had been writing poetry through high school. Well, it’s to call a poet, I was writing things down. I had feelings and thoughts, and I thought that was poetry.

"In college I began to encounter poems and read them and think about how they were structured. Then, I tried to imitate that way, I did. I began to see that poetry is a form of making, and a poem is a made thing. It’s not just a form of self-expression. Now, I’m not saying I mastered it, but from that time I started to become a poet rather than a person who was just writing poetry."

"Are there forms that elude you or remain particularly challenging yet interesting to you?

"Yes, I haven’t myself been able to write a good ghazal or pronounced gypsies.

"And what is that?

"It’s an Arabic form that was brought very strongly to the fore by a poet, whom I write about in Poet’s Choice, named Shahid Ali. Shahid edited a book—Flashing Disabilities—of ghazals. It’s a very rigorous form—very common in the Arab world. Because of the number of repetitions in the form, I haven’t been able to do anything with it to my satisfaction; though, God knows, I’ve tried.

"Poetry seems to be increasingly popular. Does it surprise you, given the country we are?

"The culture has such a short attention span. And it is a celebrity-driven culture, so it does seem very odd disposed toward serious art. At the same time, it’s not surprising, then, that a significant number of people are seeking something more significant, deeper, and more meaningful and that these people are turning to art, in general, and to poetry, in particular.

"On the one hand, poetry is very alien in the larger culture. On the other, people are really trying to make some kind of meaning out of their lives. Some people, at least, are finding that mass culture can’t supply all their needs. And so they are turning to other forms of communication, and poetry is one of them."

— Jerry Miller

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Reading

(continued from page 98)
**CLASSICAL LISTINGS**

Events that are underlined occur after July 6.

**ART LISTINGS**

Events that are underlined occur after July 6.

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

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**GALLERIES**

**Three-Dimensional Wall Sculptures** created from foam core by Spanish painter and printmaker by Karen O'Brien are on view through Sunday, July 2, at San Diego Art Department (3800 Ray Street). Art and talk: Saturday, June 30, 7 p.m. 619-299-8728 (ext. 121) or 619-299-8510 (event line).

Clasically Trained Artist Thomas Stiltz appears to sign and dedicate purchased artwork. Saturday, July 1, 5 p.m., at Chuck Jones Studio Gallery of Old Town (2501 San Diego Avenue). 619-294-9880 (ext. 200).

**MUSEUMS**

**California Center for the Arts Museum** of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla, “Strange New World: Art and Design from Tijuana/Extradio Nuevo Mundo. Art y diseño desde Tijuana” documents recent exploitation of matter with experimentalists in Tijuana. Exhibit explores “subtle shift in focus from art about the border experience to art that takes advantage of a new type of accelerated urbanism being pioneered in developing cities around the world.” Show features 150 works of art by 41 architects, artists, designers, and filmmakers (at both downtown and La Jolla locations). Closes Sunday, September 3.

**Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla** presents “Breaking the Frame: Pioneering Women in Photojournalism” examines photographs, films, newsreels, and cameras from the late 1920s to mid-1980s that changed the world. Exhibit celebr- ates first women in photojournalism such as Margaret Bourke-White, Grace Robertson, Thérèse Bonney, Hansel Miethe, others. Through Sunday, September 24. Discover how the introduction of 35mm cameras and faster film sped the development of photography. Through Sunday, September 3.

**San Diego Museum of Art** presents “Tracking and Tracing: Contemporary Strategies in Photographing the Border” documents recent exploration of the U.S. border experience to art that takes advantage of a new type of accelerated urbanism being pioneered in developing cities around the world.” Show features 150 works of art by 41 architects, artists, designers, and filmmakers (at both downtown and La Jolla locations). Closes Sunday, September 3.

Over four decades of work made by artists from Los Angeles to Tijuana, the Mexican border showed in “Southern Exposure,” continu- ing through Sunday, September 3. Some of the art is politically moti- vated, some is concerned with form; highlights include important early works by John Baldessari, Ed Ruscha, Robert Irwin.

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**CHORUS BREVIARII—SAN DIEGO**

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**JULY 2006 EVENTS**

Saturday Morning, July 8, 9:30 am **LADYMASS**

The Mass of Our Lady on Saturdays “Salve Sancta Parentes” Celebrated according to the Novus Ordo, in Latin, Ad Orientem, music to include Gregorian Mass VI, sung propers and antiphon “Salve Regina” Fr. Rex Defore, C.S.S.P., Celebrant

Saturday, July 8, 7:30 pm **SOLEMN SUNDAY VESPERS**

Office of Evening Prayer for the 6th Sunday after Pentecost and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

(Approximate length of service: 45 minutes)

**St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church** 1638 Polk Ave.

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San Diego Reader June 28, 2006

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Harry Kondoleon and Christopher Durang wrote about dysfunction long before it became fashionable. And in many ways the hordes of warped comedies produced since feel like footnotes to Durang and to the gifted playwright who died of AIDS in 1994, aged 39.

Christmas on Mars is pure Kondoleon: some ties bind with concertina wire. A New York apartment's become available. Bruno and pregnant Audrey want it. Both are broke and need her estranged mother, Ingrid, to sign the lease and pay the rent. Enter Nissim, Bruno's gay roommate with minus-self-esteem. Though his name is Hebrew for “miracles,” his life's been anything but. He wants to move in; so does Ingrid, who abandoned Audrey as an infant. When she hears a child's in the offing, Ingrid sees a window for redemption.

Nick Fouch, on a scenic design roll in San Diego, suggests the story’s complications on the bare Cassius Carter Stage. The dull, rose-pink apartment — surrounded by a moat of detritus — is empty. But traces of its former inhabitants linger on the hardwood floor. Like footprints, beige rectangles and an elongated oval show where bookcases stood by the walls, and chairs and a throw rug close to the heater. The apartment has a history that no scrubbing, apparently, can gloss over. So does the quartet eager to rent it: each brings emotional furniture that may cramp the space.

As the play unfolds, hope and despair do a snake dance. Surely, you want to say, all four could coexist in the apartment. It's big enough, and bonds do form. Maybe each could bring something special to the child, and each other: the whole, like the characters in Philip K. Dick's Clans of the Alphane Moon, becoming greater than its parts. But look closer, another part of you says: Bruno's a bug-eyed narcissist who never met a mirror he didn't adore; Audrey's an emotional black hole (“I am here to say there is no love”); Ingrid wouldn't know a boundary if she slammed into one; and Nissim, whose parents “knifed each other,” is need personified.

So no chance. But then they'll be alone. And none demonstrates the slightest aptitude for that. Beneath his absurdist, unsweetened veneer, Kondoleon honors each character's point of view. When one speaks, you understand that person, maybe even empathize. When others speak about him or her, they become goofy as all get out. One point of view's “Christmas”; another, pure “Mars.”

The Old Globe production suffers from an antsy, sometimes forced, physicality. Actors stretch, and double over, and roll on the floor, as if the script were a foreign language needing visual translation. And Angela Calin's costumes opt for the cartoonish, especially in Act Two: Nissim and Audrey, pregnant enough for quadruplets, dress like elves.

But what Kondoleon's menagerie says is bizarre enough. And the actors work best when their characters try to explain themselves. For
David Furr’s peppy Bruno, Sarah Grace Wilson’s cold Audrey, Colette Kilroy’s daffy Ingrid, and Jack Ferver’s near-(and sometimes over-) the-top Nissim, trying to sum up who they are becomes an exercise in subtraction.

***Claudio Raygoza’s Ion Theatre has a brand-new, richly deserved space — New World Stage — on Ninth, half a block south of Broadway. The one-story structure has a lobby; raked, comfortable seats; good sightlines; and a fairly deep stage with some elevation. Raygoza’s inaugurating his new home with Samuel Beckett’s Not I and Krapp’s Last Tape, running in repertory with Ionesco’s The Chairs. One can imagine much easier works for a shakedown cruise, but not Raygoza. His Endgame in 2003 was the best staging of Beckett I’ve seen in San Diego since Alan Schneider directed at UCSD two decades ago. The current production validates Raygoza as San Diego’s foremost interpreter of Beckett.

Not I pinspots a mouth, talking nonstop. Across the way stands an “Auditor,” who gestures on occasion but doesn’t speak. Neither is a “character” in any conventional sense; nor do they signify anything familiar. The temptation is to connect this non-landscape with common ground. So it could be a confessional (Ion makes the “Auditor” a 12-foot monk or abbess)? Beckett was aggressively Other. “No symbols,” he wrote, “where none intended.” What you see is just a disembodied mouth, talking at a Morse code clip, saying uncontrollable things about how it became this way, and a mute listener. You can almost hear Beckett shouting from his grave, stern as Hamlet’s father’s ghost, “That’s all there is, folks; deal with it!”

The first tests of a new theater: acoustics and lighting.

San Diego Reader June 29, 2006

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J demands both, and New World passes the exam. Beck-ett, who loathed even slight deviations from his scripts, might object to the voice on video, rather than live, but he would appreciate the piece’s somber look and how it honors his verbal spillway that holds puzzled spectators hostage: “she who but a moment before… but a moment!… could not make a sound… no sound of any kind…now can’t stop… imagine!”

Compared to Not I, which has no theatrical references, Krapp’s Last Tape feels almost like plain old realism. But it isn’t. A 69-year-old man celebrates his birthday by eating a banana, slurping from an off-stage whiskey bottle, and performing an annual event: he sits on the wrong side of a derelict life. And Raygoza suggests that possibility. But, in a complex, arresting performance, the actor also suggests that Krapp, really enjoying that banana and making several slow trips for more whiskey, might also be having — on his terms at least — a pretty good day.

Amadeus
Lamb’s Players Theatre celebrates Mozart’s 250th birthday with Peter Shaffer’s tale of “genius, envy, and betrayal.” Kerry Meads directed. LAMB’S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1542 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO, THROUGH JULY 23; TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M., FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M., SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-437-0600.

Awaiting Judgement
Common Ground Theatre presents a staged reading of Art Cribb’s drama: in a prison cell, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Dietrich Bonhoeffer discuss theology and debate their decisions. A discussion follows the reading. MISSION HILLS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, 4070 JACKDAW STREET, FRIDAY, JUNE 30 AT 7:00 P.M. 619-296-2169.

The Chairs
Ion Theatre premieres its new space with Eugene Ionesco’s absurdist drama. Claudio Raygoza directed. ION THEATRE, 307 NINTH AVENUE, DOWNTOWN, THROUGH JULY 9. THE CHAIRS RUNS IN REPERTORY WITH KRAPP’S LAST TAPE AT 8:00 P.M. THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, AT 2:00 P.M. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. CALL 619-437-0600.

Chiang Kai Chek
Anyone expecting a biographical look at Mao Zedong’s Christian arch-enemy should steer clear of Sledgehammer’s poetic multimedia piece. Also anyone expecting a major work by Charles Mac, one of America’s few major playwrights. Chiang Kai Chek is minor Mac, a 12-page, glancing meditation on power and violence stretched by director Scott Feldsher to 90 minutes of Noh-draw movements and long, aggravating gaps: home movies of children swimming, at least two minutes of screams and blinding lights; the central figure bearing pyramids of cards, forever, it sometimes fades (will he ever run through those decks?). A series of monologues that move from exquisite things to forms of torture described in cold detail. Chiang is something more to see, when arresting images finally coalesce, and hear — especially Tim Root’s eerie music, performed on guitars and a red balloon — then ponder. (Mac deftly blurs the transition from freedom to fascist state control, but other than that the script’s easy to get ahead of. Individual elements are often quite strong: Markee Rambo-Hoog sings impressively in various voices and languages, gifted Ericka Moore sways with grace; in whiteface with red warpaint across his cheeks, John Polak’s an undeniable presence whose often smug, distant readings give descriptions a needed sting. And Christopher Hall lights Nick Fouche’s set (three playing spaces, like piers on pylons) with Sledgehammer bravura.

Work & Joy
TENTH AVENUE THEATRE, 30 TENTH AVENUE, DOWNTOWN, THROUGH JULY 2; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M., SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. 619-544-1484.

Christmas on Mars
Reviewed this week.
CASSIUS CARVER CENTRE STAGE, SI- NON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PERFORM-ING ARTS, BALBOA PARK, THROUGH JULY 9; TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND SUNDAY AT 7:30 P.M., THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-230-2223.

Collected Stories
North Coast Repertory Theatre stages Donald Margulies’ tale of a mentor and her student. David El- lenstein directed. NORTH COAST REPETOIRE THEATRE, 619-437-0600.

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SAN DIEGO THEATER

LISTINGS

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

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The Moustrap

Snowbound travelers. A murder. Agatha Christie's enigmatic whodunit gets a staging at Patio Playhouse. Conrie Boyd directed. PATIO PLAYHOUSE, 201 EAST GRAND AVE., DOWNTOWN, THROUGH JULY 23; TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY AT 7:30 P.M.; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M.; MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-295-4999.

San Diego Theatresports: The Funhouse

A cross between improvisational comedy and Family Food. Improv, making up a funny scene as you go along, is tough enough. Add competitive scene making, with the audience awarding points to the winning team. Purists might balk at the audacity of comparisons used in this format, but the “game show” — on Fridays — is a hoot. The 90-minute evening offers different bits. The show I caught had “Team Sports” — two pairs of players competed, taking suggestions from the audience, and “Go-Rilla Theatre” — five directors invented scenes, using the other four as actors. The winner got a banana, the loser a “forklift” (other formats include “Micro” and “Improv Survivors”). Some attempts went nowhere (1 repeat: improv is tough; I did it in my, as hindsight reveals, callow youth). Others made amusing twists and turns. The group makes the hits much more frequent than the misses. Their guru, Keith Johnstone, wrote one of the very best books I’ve ever read about making theater. And they put his peers to good use. Their motto “Remember, when it’s not funny, it’s art.” Worth a try.

The Moustrap, 2802 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, BETWEEN 68TH AND 69TH COL. AREA, FRIDAY AT 7:30 P.M. SATURDAY AT 7:45 P.M. AND 9:45 P.M. 619-236-4999.

San Diego Theatresports: Seussical, the Musical

Lerner and Loewe's classic about a Cockney flower girl becoming a British sophisticate. Jon Engstrom directed.

WILHELMINA THEATRE, 8808 LAWRENCE WELK DRIVE, ESCONDIDO, THROUGH AUGUST 27; TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M.; THURSDAY AND SUNDAY AT 1:45 P.M. 619-488-8740.

National Comedy Theatre

Improvisational comedy, making up funny stuff on the spot, is difficult enough. Years ago, however, Keith Johnstone thought it’d be more exciting if done competitively. He got the idea from pro wrestling (“where Terrible Turks mangled defrocked priests while mums and dads yelled insults and grannies waved their handbags”).

National Comedy Theatre, an offshoot of Johnstone’s TheateSports (artistic director Gary Kramer says the two compare like “rugby and American football”), resembles an athletic event more than an improv. Teams wear uniforms and compete on ArticTurF. The night I caught the show, three San Diego comedians played a challenge match against players from the San Loco Tree. Using suggestions from the audience, they played “Emotional Sympathy,” “Blind Line,” and “Freeze Tag,” with judges awarding points to the best scenes. Klunkers and groans got booted; quick wit reigned (one of the most refreshing parts of the contest: people acknowledge failure, abundantly, then forget it). It made for a lively, often quite funny, evening. And Gary Kramer is one talented comedian.

Win, Place or Die…My Jockeys Are Killing Me!

Mystery Cafe Dinner Shows. The show presents famous Pascarella and Patricia Harris-Smith’s interactive “race-track room.” It’s opening weekend at Upson Downs, and the thoroughbred Club E never be the same. Pascarella directed.

IMPERIAL HOUSE RESTAURANT, 505 HILAND STREET, HILLCREST, OPEN-ENDED RUN; THURSDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-544-1600.

Zhivago

Boris Pasternak’s 1955 novel and David Lean’s movie have a cinematic sweep. By contrast the La Jolla Playhouse’s musical version, now in its world premiere, feels cramped, truncated, like trailers of Dr. Zhivago performed on a sound stage. Metallic girders dominate the look. No matter where the story goes, from Alexander Gromeko’s New Year’s Eve party to far Yarvinsky, the set always resembles a high-rise under construction. The story feels even more cramped. Michael Weller’s book speed-reads the novel so quickly that the characters have no time to breathe. Although Jessica Burrows tries to suggest depth, hers is a little more than a blonde object of male desire. As written (and except for the songs Ivan Hernandez sings beautifully), Yuri comes off as a shallow romantic lead in a melodrama. Moustache-twisting dialogue also makes for melodrama, as do the musical’s facile hero- versus-terrorists opposition (Joe McCarthy would approve the message). The production goes for big effects, including a railroad flatcar turning around, but Lucy Simon’s melodies, Russian-tinted score is a star. When Zhivago breaks into song we get pages of needed backstory and characters suddenly have inner lives so different from their non-singing selves you wonder if they’re the same person. The music’s such quality it doesn’t need to be sung — as just about every song is — at full summer-blockbuster volume.

Worth a try.

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, MANDELL WEISS THEATRE, 2010 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DRIVE, THROUGH JULY 9. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 858-550-1010.
June

Linda Ronstadt
Thursday, July 6

Blues Traveler
with special guest Hapa
Monday, July 10

Lyle Lovett
Sunday, July 16

July

Bruce Hornsby & The Range
Friday, July 7 • 7:30

Herman’s Hermits
with special guest Peter Noone
Sunday, July 9 • 7:30

Terri Clark
with special guest Ryan Shupe
Thursday, July 13 • 7:30

Celtic Woman
Friday, July 15 • 8:00

August

Boz Scaggs
with special guest James Hunter
Tuesday, August 1 • 7:30

The Rippingtons
Saturday, August 14 • 7:30

David Bromberg
with special guest The Subdudes
Thursday, August 19 • 7:00

Foreigner
Friday, August 28 • 7:30

Ian Anderson
with special guest Joe Bonamassa
Friday, August 4 • 7:30

Olivia Newton-John
Sunday, August 15 • 7:30

September

Joe Cocker
with special guest Billy Thompson & Daryl Johnson
Tuesday, September 5 • 7:30

Eddie Money
with special guest Firefall
Thursday, July 13

Lyle Lovett
Sunday, July 16

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Linda Ronstadt
Thursday, July 6

Hapa/Barefoot Natives: Willie K. & Eric Gilliom
with very special guest Ledward Ka’apana
Sunday, July 9

Blues Traveler
with special guest Hapa
Monday, July 10

Lyle Lovett
Sunday, July 16

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San Diego Reader June 28, 2006
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The U.S. Bombs weren’t being cooperative at all,” says Camp. “We told them to quit playing, that we had to get the crowd out of the building, but they wouldn’t quit… [Security was] nowhere to be found. We had to become the security. Promoter Willie Carter says he’d hired security until 9 p.m., when the show was supposed to end. Though Carter has presented about 15 shows at Heartland Masonic Lodge, he won’t host any more of what he calls “gutter punk” bands in San Diego. “At the Masonic Lodge, someone smashed the mirror in the girls’ bathroom and one of those porcelain china dolls in the lobby… It’s just way too much of a liability. I’ll still do shows, just not any underground punk… There is mayhem at every show. And it’s not that bad in other cities. People in San Diego just don’t get it. I heard rumors that some bands skip San Diego entirely.”

Other punk shows put on by Carter have included one at Bringle Terrace Park in Vista (“The cops came with mace” after reports of vandalism) and at the now-closed Hindquarter restaurant. “The owner [of the Hindquarter] said to me, ‘No more punk shows.’ Then, the next promoter came in and the same thing happened to him. The bathrooms were destroyed again; there were more holes in the wall.”

About the victim of the recent attack, Carter says he was helped by his friends. “It looked like part of his head was split open. Police were called to the scene, but no arrests were made.”

— Ken Leighton

Big Government by the Sea
Hank Williams III’s recent obscenity-laced appearance at the Fiesta del Sol was a topic of discussion at the June 14 Solana Beach City Council meeting. Although no action was taken, some councilmembers suggested that the city should not allow the event to be held next year. At the council meeting, Fiesta chairman Dan Herberg said he had been assured by Williams’s agent that Williams’s four-hour-long show would be family-friendly. But Williams repeatedly said “fuck” over the P.A. One city councilman said he could hear the obscenities at his home, six blocks away. Another Solana Beach councilman commented on a couple of other bands that performed at the weekend-long event. “The San Dieguito Alliance for Drug-Free Youth said Hank Williams III, ” said councilman Dave Roberts. “The San Dieguito Alliance said look at other groups. Common Sense [and] Stone Senses, these are drug groups. They have drug references in the music.”

Common Sense lead singer Nick Hernandez responds, “There is not one drug reference in any of our five CDs.” Ford Motor Company sponsors Common Sense and helped finance their last album. Hernandez believes Roberts’s assertion could impact the band’s relationship with Ford and other potential sponsors.

Stone Senses sax player Mike Flanagan says, “We have one full-length CD and one five-song EP, and we’ve never had any drug references in any of our lyrics.”

How did Councilman Roberts formulate his “drug group” charge? “I talked to a number of people. That’s what one parent told me who was screaming at me.” When told that the bands said they had no drug references in their songs, Roberts said, “That’s great to hear. If I was wrong, I will publicly admit it... I am not a musical person.” At a previous Solana Beach City Council meeting, Roberts asked if there was anything the city could do to keep Showtime’s Weeds series off Solana Beach TV sets. (The comedy series is about a single mom who sells pot to support her family.)

— Ken Leighton

Ken Leighton is Fiesta del Sol’s talent coordinator.

Disneyland amidst Wildflowers and Border Patrol
Promoters of the TeleMagica Art and Music Festival (held in Jacumba June 16–18) say, “The highlight of the event was ‘The Return of the Buffalo’ opera spectacle: a Scottish killed-dressed narrator followed by children twirling light sticks as the giant buffalo effigy rose out of the darkness with blazing eyes illuminating the crowd just as the narrator announced, ‘We have returned and we will come again next year!’”

Though promoters anticipated around 1500 attendees, they say “about 600 people including bands and vendors” showed. (Some patrons estimate the total at 200.) Marketed as “a perceptual Disneyland created amidst the boulders and wildflowers,” the festival featured drug circles, art exhibits, vegan food vendors, and around 20 bands and DJs (including 7 San Diego acts).

“The main stage was only about six inches [high] off the dirt and 15 feet wide, with a really old PA and maybe three lighting poles,” says one local player who performed. “It was 110 degrees, with bloodsucking bugs the size of Volkswagens, and there were tons of cops and Border Patrol guys everywhere, especially at the campsites where [police and security guards] were confiscating liquor but leaving potheads alone… All the kids were tripping on acid or E.”

Zindu drummer Salvatore Foulis says, “We played our set at three in the afternoon on Saturday, just after the pinnacle of the heat of the

Blurt

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Mayhem at Every Show
“He looked like a Tijuana skinhead,” says Allen Camp, the soundman who worked June 18’s all-day show at Heartland Masonic Lodge in El Cajon. Camp describes the primary assailant who led the charge to beat a patron.

There were three or four guys who jumped a guy, punched him, knocked him down, and started kicking him. Camp estimates 300 people paid $12 to see U.S. Bombs, the Ignorant, Orange, Born to Lose, Media Blitz, Tim Raldo and the Filthy Fucks, Dreaded Solution, and

the inside track
day.... It was so hot out there, I felt kinda like TeleMagica was a modern version of the Native American sundance ritual, where you sweat your prayers and purify your soul and body through release and surrender to the heat.” He confirms the event’s high trip’ quotidian and mentions flying-saucer devotees who attempted to levitate an RV in a late-night anti-gravity demonstration (they failed). “I saw some chick in a towel flashing her friends,” reports Zindu saxophonist Jeffrey T. Seeley. “And one of the exhibits had Styrofoam art. I thought, ‘Isn’t this supposed to be an eco-friendly festival?’”

Zindu appears July 1 at the Casbah. — Jay Allen Sanford

GoGoGo to Work “Yes, it is true, we have broken up,” says GoGoGo Airheart drummer Andy Robillard on the band’s MySpace blog. “At least I can say without any reservations whatsoever that we never put out a shitty record, and we never sold out to The Man.” The group has been around, with various members, since 1996. “[Money was] the biggest problem with being in this band,” bassist Ashish Vyas told Pitchforkmedia.com. “Everyone who had a job quit before the U.S. tour in February. We didn’t come home with any money, and that reality, which we were aware of at the start of the European tour, fueled our decision to stop this band.”

GoGoGo’s last gig was at the Casbah on May 22. Mike Vermillion has moved to Long Beach to play guitar with area bands, while guitarist Ben White has relocated to L.A. to DJ at the Echo on Sunset Boulevard. Robillard still plays drums here, and Vyas will spend the summer touring with the Thievery Corporation, which appears at 4th & B on July 21. There are no plans to issue unreleased tracks recorded in 2003 with John Reis.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Hip-Hop is Worse “I just got a bill for $8000, and that was just for the orthopedic surgeon,” says Ben Labrake. “I haven’t even received the hospital bill.” Labrake attended the June 2 Battalion of Saints and Dirtbag show at the Jumping Turtle in San Marcos.

“We were leaving and there was a commotion on the patio. People were jumping over the railing and throwing chairs in the parking lot. We started walking back to see what was going on. People started running out the front door. It seemed like there was a fight. This big guy — over 240 pounds — took a dive right onto my leg. He snapped it on impact.” Both the tibia and fibula broke. “They cut my leg right onto my leg. He snapped it on impact.” Both the tibia and fibula broke. “They cut my leg right onto my leg. He snapped it on impact.” Both the tibia and fibula broke. “They cut my leg right onto my leg. He snapped it on impact.” Both the tibia and fibula broke. “They cut my leg right onto my leg. He snapped it on impact.” Both the tibia and fibula broke. “They cut my leg right onto my leg. He snapped it on impact.” Both the tibia and fibula broke. “They cut my leg right onto my leg. He snapped it on impact.”

Labrake, 22, says someone from the Jumping Turtle told him “chances were slim” that the venue’s insurance would cover his medical costs because the incident occurred outside the bar. “I didn’t witness it, but I heard he was trying to break up a fight,” says Sulo King, promoter of the show. “I believe it is security’s responsibility to break up a fight.”

Jumping Turtle owner Matt Hall says his bar is “fully covered” with insurance but that it doesn’t apply to Labrake. “He got involved in a fight, and he hurt himself in the fight,” says Hall, who notes that no claim has been submitted by Labrake. With such potential liability, does Hall consider the type of bands he allows to play his club?

“We turn down a lot of punk shows. We don’t want the ‘oi’ crowd. We don’t want any part of that…. We screen the crowd to the best of our ability, but fights do happen, covered with insurance but that it doesn’t apply to Labrake. “He got involved in a fight, and he hurt himself in the fight,” says Hall, who notes that no claim has been submitted by Labrake. With such potential liability, does Hall consider the type of bands he allows to play his club?

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Acid-Drenched Analog Party
“Our music is sometimes heavy, sometimes gentle, but always freaked.”

You’re not having an LSD flashback. The psychedelic sounds of Silver Sunshine come courtesy of guitarist Richard Vaughan, bassist Stuart Slater, and guitarist/organist Conor Riley, who frequently whips out a vintage Mellotron, just in case anyone misses their intent to supply the missing link. Recently recruited drummer David Hurley (formerly of Dura Mater) brings his own flute and a fully operational sci-fi Moog synthesizer to the acid-drenched analog party.

The band formed in 2001 and is currently recording a CD for Rhode Island-based Empyrean Records. “Our music is sometimes heavy, sometimes gentle, but always freaked,” says Vaughan. “Lately we’ve been digging on heavier, progressive, and wyrd-folk sounds.”

WHAT’S IN YOUR CD PLAYER?
Richard Vaughan
1. Comus, First Utterance (“The most beautifully evil, psychedelic/progressive folk album ever made.”)
2. Premiata Forneria Marconi, Storia di un Minuto (“Italian prog…epic songs with soaring psychedelic sounds of Silver Sunshine and loveable little pervert, and ‘Yakety Sax’ is the best TV theme song ever.”)
3. Caravan, self-titled (“Gives good insight into the future of the Earth.”)
4. Dragonhead (“Same as Threads.”)
5. Xanadu (“Sometimes, when I’m alone, I like to pretend I am in this movie.”)

Stuart Slater
1. Freedom’s Children, Astra (“Hear it for yourself.”)
2. Quella Vecchia Locanda, self-titled
3. Caravan, self-titled

Conor Riley
1. 2001: A Space Odyssey, soundtrack (“A beautiful epic.”)
2. Aphrodite’s Child, 666 (“Ethnic psych-rock sung in broken English.”)
3. Whitney Houston, Just Whitney (“What can I say, it’s Whitney.”)

DESSERT-ISLAND DVDs?
Richard
1. Zardoz (“A post-apocalyptic sci-fi film starring Sean Connery in a red diaper…one of the most psychedelic movies I’ve ever seen.”)
2. Zoolander (“There’s nothing more funny than watching male models explode in a gasoline fight montage to the tune of ‘Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go.’”)
3. The Wicker Man (“Paganism vs. Christianity, with a brilliant creepy-folk soundtrack.”)
4. Evil Dead II (“Work shed. That’s all I have to say.”)

Conor
1. Shock ‘Em Dead (“This movie represents everything I am about and live for.”)
2. Threads (“Gives good insight into the future of the Earth.”)
3. Dragonhead (“Same as Threads.”)
4. Xanadu (“Sometimes, when I’m alone, I like to pretend I am in this movie.”)

FAVORITE TWILIGHT ZONE?
Richard “The one where there is a human-looking Martian hiding out in a diner from the police [“Will the Real Martian Please Stand Up?”]. When all of the humans finally leave, the Martian brags to the cook about his species’ plans to invade Earth. However, the cook then reveals that he is in fact from Venus and his species has interrogated the Martian fleet.”

Conor “The episode where a lady is living on Earth and it’s heading towards the sun [“The Midnight Sun”]. It turns out to be a dream, and when she wakes up, the earth is moving farther away from the sun.”

MONTY PYTHON OR KIDS IN THE HALL?
Richard “Monty Python, although I always preferred The Benny Hill Show. He was such a funny and lovable little pervert, and ‘Yakety Sax’ is the best TV theme song ever.”

Stuart “Monty Python. Are you kidding?”

Conor “Monty Python. Although I grew up watching the Kids every day, nothing can beat Monty Python’s The Meaning of Life.”

WORST TREND IN ROCK?
Richard “When we played Scolari’s Office, and Conor had to stop our set to go to the bathroom. He said he had to piss, but I definitely caught a whiff of something when he came back. I think he ate some bad shellfish.”

Conor “An art show in Orange County where everyone in the audience was 5 to 12 years old.”
**THURSDAY**

**Ringo Starr and His All-Starr Band:** Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Thursday, June 29, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

**Counting Crows** and the Go-Go Dolls: Cox Amphitheatre, Thursday, June 29, 2030 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista, 619-671-3600.

**FRIDAY**

**America** and **Richie Furay:** Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Friday, June 30, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

**SUNDAY**

**Fairport Convention:** Saturday, July 1, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar.

**Kenny Loggins:** Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Friday, July 7, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

**UPCOMING CONCERTS**

**JULY**

**Linda Ronstadt:** Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Thursday, July 6, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

"Vans Warped Tour" with NOFX, Saves the Day, Anti-Flag, and many more: Coors Amphitheatre, Tuesday, July 4, 121 Broadway, downtown. 619-235-9500.

**The Indigo Girls:** Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Friday, July 7, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

**Pearl Jam** and **Sonic Youth:** Cox Arena, Friday, July 7, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

**Teena Marie:** Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Friday, July 7, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

**Antonio Banderas:** Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Friday, July 7, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

**Ray Davies:** Munich, Germany, Sunday, July 9, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

**Marc Anthony** and **Marco Antonio Solis:** Cox Amphitheatre, Sunday, July 9, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

**The Foo Fighters:** San Diego Civic Theatre, Monday, July 17, 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-995-1398.

**Nils Lofgren:** Belly Up Tavern, Monday, July 17, 143 South Cedars Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.
Calendar

CONCERTS

The Beach Boys: Humphrey's by the Bay, Thursday, July 20, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

The Beach Boys: Humphrey's by the Bay, Wednesday, July 19, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Slayer: Concerts by the Bay, Thursday, July 20, 3500 Sports Arena Blvd, San Diego.

The Beach Boys: 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Thursday, July 20, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-231-4343.

Herman's Hermits: Concerts by the Bay, Friday, July 21, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-299-2583.

Diego. 619-231-4343.

The Thievery Corporation: 619-226-7662.

Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.


Rascal Flatts: Coors Amphitheatre, Saturday, July 22, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego. 619-299-2583.

Bruce Hornsby: Humphrey's by the Bay, Friday, July 21, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.


The Game: Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, Saturday, July 29, 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Tuesdays: The Rippingtons, Thursday, July 27, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Tuesday, August 1, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-445-5400.

Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Friday, August 4, 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

The Rippingtons: Humphrey's by the Bay, Thursday, August 10, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

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Tuesday, August 1, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Sean Hannity

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4th of July Weekend

The Red, Blue & White

To get VIP privileges, come dressed in:

Red on Saturday
Blue on Sunday
White on Monday

Party starts at 9PM

Drink specials

Crantini $5
Bluestar $5
Almond Joy $5
Jager Blasters $5
Sam Adam’s Lager $4

Be a good patriot & celebrate the 4th of July weekend at The Bitter End.

www.thebitterend.com

Ever worked at The Bitter End?

In celebration of our 10th anniversary, The Bitter End is throwing a reunion party. We hope to see all our employees both past and present to share in some great memories and great times.

Please contact the bar for more information and to RSVP. 619.338.9300
Email: info@thebitterend.com

July 9th 2006

Please pass this along to anyone you know who has worked at The Bitter End!
**SEPTEMBER**

**Ozomatli:** Canes, Friday, September 1, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

**Ozomatli:** Canes, Saturday, September 2, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

**James Brown:** 4th & B, Saturday, September 2, 345 4th Street, San Diego. 619-299-2583.

**Steve Poltz:** Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, September 2, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

**Robert Cray:** Humphrey’s, Thursday, September 7, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

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**Los Lobos:** Humphrey’s, Friday, September 8, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

**James Gang Rides Again:** Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Saturday, September 9, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

**Linda Eder:** San Diego Civic Theatre, Saturday, September 9, 3rd Avenue and F Street, 619-570-1100.

**The Wailers:** House of Blues, Sunday, September 10, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

**Ricardo Arjona:** Coors Amphitheatre, Sunday, September 10, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

**Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes:** The Fabulous Thunderbirds: Humphrey’s, Monday, September 11, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

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**Linda Eder:** San Diego Civic Theatre, Saturday, September 9, 3rd Avenue and F Street, 619-570-1100.

**The Wailers:** House of Blues, Sunday, September 10, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

**Ricardo Arjona:** Coors Amphitheatre, Sunday, September 10, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

**Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes:** The Fabulous Thunderbirds: Humphrey’s, Monday, September 11, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

**Matiyahu:** Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, September 12, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.
Enjoy Dos Equis® Responsibly.
**CONCERTS**

Bonnie Raitt and Keb’ Mo’ at Bayshore Concerts at the Embarcadero, Wednesday, September 13, Embarcadero Park South, 619-445-5400.


The Mother Hips: Belly Up Tavern, Friday, September 15, 145 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.


Brian Culbertson and Keiko Matsui: Humphrey’s by the Bay, Sunday, September 24, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Ani DiFranco: Humphrey’s, Wednesday, September 27, 2500 Mission Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

**OCTOBER**

Emmylou Harris: Humphrey’s by the Bay, Tuesday, October 3, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Caif Foox: House of Blues, Wednesday, October 4, 145 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Queenzhych: Humphrey’s by the Bay, Wednesday, October 4, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.


The Young Dubliners: Belly Up Tavern, Friday, October 6, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Bobby Caldwell: Humphrey’s by the Bay, Friday, October 6, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Cecil & Kaponos: Humphrey’s by the Bay, Sunday, October 8, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

The Larry Carlton Blues Project: Humphrey’s by the Bay, Thursday, October 12, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Matt Sharp: The Rentals, Friday, October 13, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Susan Werner: Acoustic Music San Diego, Thursday, October 20, 8550 Manchester Street, Normal Heights. 619-305-8716.

**MUSICALS**

*By William Crain*

I listened to the *Rentals* first album the other day, smiled at its saucily, self-consciously early ’80s reminiscence keyboards, and suddenly got nostalgic for the ’90s. The new-wave revival album, confusingly titled *The Return of the Rentals*, was released in 1995 during some downturn in the career of Rentals leader Matt Sharp’s other band, Weezer. Yes, Weezer has been around that long. More to the point, the ’80s revival has been around that long. Marx said that history repeats itself first as tragedy, then as farce. But pop-culture revivals usually begin with the farce. Back in the mid ’90s, Sharp got together with Petra and Rachel Hansen and some other L.A.-scene friends and called themselves the Rentals. They pulled out an old Moog Source keyboard and played some goofy arpeggios in catchy songs, and it made them laugh. At the time, alternative rock was full of bellowing grunge bands, each attempting to be more miserable than the last. The Rentals thought it was good to laugh again. Other people thought so too, and the Rentals had a hit with the silly song “Friends of P.” Eventually, Sharp decided he was having such a good time that he left Weezer altogether. But the Rentals released only one more album, 1999’s Seven More Minutes.

Since then, Sharp has been expanding his Rolodex a little more, working with Tegan & Sara, among others. He performed solo for a while but decided recently to announce the return of the Rentals, again. And so, in a sea of new bands aping the darker sounds of ’80s post-punk, the Rentals bring us the cheerier revival of the new-wave revival.

**RENTERALS**, Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, July 2, 9 p.m. 858-481-8340. $18.

**CLUBS**

If you would like to include your DJ event, e-mail me at wcrain@san diego union tribune.com for information to 619-610-5460 by 5 p.m. Friday, the week prior to publication. The listings are free.

**DJ EVENTS**


Club de Sade: Third Saturday of the month, gothic, industrial, and EBM with DJs Darkman and Graf. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. San Diego Sports Club, 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-536-7772.

Club 90s: Second and fourth Saturday of the month, DJs spin indie, electro, and Britpop. Go-go girls, manicures, and body art. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., 21 and up. No cover. The Beauty Bar, 4716 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area. 619-536-7772.

Darkwave Garden: Wednesday, punk, gothic, and darkwave with DJs Bryan Pollard, Anyhow, and Tropic. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., 21 and up. Kadan, 4650 30th Street, North Park. 619-445-2929.

Decade: First Saturday of the month, DJs Tom King and Brendan Cahir spin the best of ’90s new romantic and post-

**VENICE**

Acoustic Music San Diego, Thursday, September 28, 4650 Manchester Street, Normal Heights. 619-305-8716.

Na Leo: Humphrey’s by the Bay, Friday, September 29, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.

Ellis Paul: Acoustic Music San Diego, Friday, September 29, 4650 Manchester Street, Normal Heights. 619-305-8716.

**DJ EVENTS**

**ACOUSTIC MUSIC SAN DIEGO**

First Saturday of the month, gothic, industrial, and EBM with DJs Darkman and Graf. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., 21 and up. Kadan, 4650 30th Street, North Park. 619-445-2929.

Second Friday of the month, gothic, industrial, and EBM with DJs Nick Soxante, Saul Q, and Björn Wiebe. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. San Diego Sports Club, 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-536-7772.

Second and fourth Saturday of the month, DJs spin indie, electro, and Britpop. Go-go girls, manicures, and body art. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., 21 and up. No cover. The Beauty Bar, 4716 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area. 619-536-7772.


619-445-2929 (Kadan), 4696 30th Street, North Park.

No cover; bar till 2 a.m., 21 and up. The Kava Lounge, 2812 Kettner Boulevard, 2812 Kettner Boulevard, 20th Street, North Park. 619-445-2929.


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BUDDY GUY
ROBERT CRAY
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 16 7:30PM
GEORGE BENSON
AL JARREAU
RAUL MIDÓN
THURSDAY AUGUST 24
RANDY TRAVIS
FRIDAY AUGUST 25
REGGAE SUNsplash
UB40 :: TOOTS & THE MAYTALS
MAXI PRIEST :: THIRD WORLD
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$5 Burger & Beer
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Live Reggae 6pm-8pm
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JULY 21
VIOLENT FEMMES
JULY 28
COMMON SENSE
AUGUST 4
PINBACK
AUGUST 11
ALICE IN CHAINS
AUGUST 18
MATT COSTA
AUGUST 25
LOUIS XIV
SEPTEMBER 1

SATURDAY INCONCERT CONCERTS

BILLY IDOL
AUGUST 12
★ Heineken

JIMMY EAT WORLD
AUGUST 26

MATT COSTA
AUGUST 25

LOUIS XIV
SEPTEMBER 1

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July 2 • 8 pm-2 am • 21+
$20 includes luau admission, interactive games, food & entertainment
$4 drink tickets Five for $18
Hawaiian drummers & fire dancers, Keni, DJs, dancing, prizes

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HOT NIGHTS. RSVP. GET ON THE LIST.
Wednesday, 6/28
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TWO EVENTS
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Thursday Latin Night
DJ Miijangos
Friday Hip-Hop
Da Nice & Big Dude
Friday @ Heatgaslamp.com
Saturday Hip-Hop & House
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858-271-4000. Music is
reggae. Wednesday, call club for information. Thursday, call club for information.

Riverside, 1410 Mission Center Road, San Diego.
619-688-1120. Friday, the Debutantes, reggae.

Winston's, 14321 Mission Bay Drive, San Diego.
619-226-2001. Thursday, the Surfboards and Stone Temple, alternative rock.
Friday, John Daniels, the Rockstars, and Howie York, reggae, Saturday, Aphrodite Sunday, call club for information. Monday, the Electric Waste Band, classic rock. Tuesday, Pot O'Water, rock/grungyreggae-hop.

SUNSET CLARES
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August 3 7:30pm
$50/$60/$70

Smokey Robinson
August 24 7:30pm
$45/$55/$65

Marco Antonio Solis
August 27 7:30pm
$70/$80/$90

Kenny G
September 22 7:30pm
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Engelbert Humperdinck
September 27 7:30pm
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Upcoming Shows

Thursday, June 29
2241 Shelter Island Drive 619.224.3577
www.humphreysbythebay.com

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.
Palm Court: Thursday through Saturday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Ray Blu. Also, Sunday, noon to 4 p.m., Joe West.

Crown Room: Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., John Cain.

Island Sports and Spirits, 161 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-5200. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, call club for information. Friday, the Stelletta, rockabilly, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Steve Brewer, acoustic, 9 p.m.; Baywalk, classic rock. Sunday, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., the Stelletta, rockabilly; 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., the Jokers! Blues Friends, blues. Monday, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Nether, classic rock. Tuesday, 2 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Stelletta, 8 p.m. to midnight, Jackson & Swan, acoustic. Wednesday, Gert Warren, Irish folk.

Over the Border, 1688 Main Street, Olga Yuna, 619-427-5089. Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Erica Jones, rockabilly.

EAST COUNTY

Borders Books and Music, 159 Parkway Plaza, El Cajon. 619-793-9119. Thursday, open mike. Friday. 7 p.m., Joan Luc, folk.

Cosmos Cafe, 8278 La Mesa Boulevard, La Mesa. 619-698-4217. Friday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.; the Stelletta, classic rock. Saturday, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Steve Brewer, acoustic; 9 p.m.; Baywalk, classic rock. Sunday, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., the Stelletta, rockabilly. 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., the Jokers! Blues Friends, blues. Monday, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Nether, classic rock.

Don’s Cocktail Lounge, 1552 Ramsay Highway #8, El Cajon. 619-443-8278. Monday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Steve Brewer, acoustic; 9 p.m.; Baywalk, classic rock. Tuesday, 2 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Stelletta, 8 p.m. to midnight, Jackson & Swan, acoustic.

The German-American Societies, 1077 South Mollison Avenue, El Cajon. 619-273-7263. Friday, 7-3 p.m., the Ray Barrie 12-Piece Big Band featuring Jr. Dark.

Renegade Inn, 14555 Old Highway 91 (half mile east from Lake Jennings turnoff), Flynn Springs. 619-361-4105. Friday and Saturday, Whiskey Ridge, country.

Second Wind, 8528 Magnolia Avenue, San diego. 619-596-8350. Friday and Saturday, Blind Daze, classic rock.

Silty 7 Bar and Grill, 10130 Marine Avenue, Lakeside. 619-596-8350. Friday, 8 p.m.; DJ Dirty Pat, Top 40/hop-hop. Saturday, 9 p.m., diamond, Difficult Henry, O’Connell’s, Irish. Sunday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., the Sam Johnson Trio.

THE ANGRY SAMOANS
Promotions presents MURDER NO MOTIVE
Geezer, rockabilly; 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Los Ingratos, rock en español.

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Battalion of Saints:
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THE CARNIVAL BARKERS
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Char Star: The Kemington Club Closed Eyes Take Lives: The Jumping Turtle Cloudland Canyon: Chi Café

the Ray Barrie 12-Piece Big Band featuring Jr. Dark.

Renegade Inn, 14555 Old Highway 91 (half mile east from Lake Jennings turnoff), Flynn Springs. 619-361-4105. Friday and Saturday, Whiskey Ridge, country.

Second Wind, 8528 Magnolia Avenue, San diego. 619-596-8350. Friday and Saturday, Blind Daze, classic rock.

Silty 7 Bar and Grill, 10130 Marine Avenue, Lakeside. 619-596-8350. Friday, 8 p.m.; DJ Dirty Pat, Top 40/hop-hop. Saturday, 9 p.m., diamond, Difficult Henry, O’Connell’s, Irish. Sunday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., the Sam Johnson Trio.

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SanDiegoReader.com
Lei Lounge has been generating a lot of buzz lately. Like last week’s Confidential, it serves a summer-friendly menu of creative global tapas meant for sharing, along with a drink list of what I’d call “candy cocktails.” You remember Ogden Nash’s quip, “Candy is dandy but liquor is quicker.” Today’s hip bartenders combine the quick and the dandy into easy-drinking cocktails that appeal to the newly legal set.

Lei also serves up comfort with an underpinning of cool. In front, it’s a minimalist-chic room with a faux-waterfall behind the bar, a dozen-plus barstools, and a few tables set around the room. But the real action is through the back door. On a generous-sized outdoor patio, groups of six or more cluster into thatch-roofed white-weather cabanas, each furnished with white-leather benches and a low table for grazing — plus all the mod-con: chandeliers, fans, heaters, speakers, and flat-panel monitors showing peaceful tropical scenes. The cabanas even have filmy white curtains that theoretically can add nothing. Smaller parties sit in the center of the patio at umbrella-shaded tables decorated with pink paper-flower leis or can lounge by the fire pit on a white-leather banquette in front of a well-tended garden wall. If it’s chilly, the patio is warmed by heat stanchions and flaming metal tiki torches. The mood lights and video projections come on after darkness falls: Welcome to South Beach — or is it Waikiki? — or is it just spring break in Rosarito?

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Arriving with my partner and the Lynnester, it seems closest to a spiffed-up version of the newly legal set. Although the menu lists 37 tapas plus nine starch side dishes, many choices offer only slight variations on a theme, e.g., coconut shrimp vs. coconut calamari, or pistachio-dusted mahimahi vs. pistachio-crusted squid. Three of Lei’s main food groups are dumplings, skewers, and spring rolls — all available either solo or grouped as samplings.

“Dumplings” are actually Japanese-style fried wontons. (“You can get them steamed if you prefer,” said our waiter, making a sour face. As it turns out, the chef himself prefers them steamed, like Chinese dim sum.) The flavors lean China-ward: Wontons. (“You can get them steamed if you prefer,” said our waiter, making a sour face. As it turns out, the chef himself prefers them steamed, like Chinese dim sum.) The flavors lean China-ward: Wontons. (“You can get them steamed if you prefer,” said our waiter, making a sour face. As it turns out, the chef himself prefers them steamed, like Chinese dim sum.) The flavors lean China-ward: Wontons. (“You can get them steamed if you prefer,” said our waiter, making a sour face. As it turns out, the chef himself prefers them steamed, like Chinese dim sum.) The flavors lean China-ward: Wontons. (“You can get them steamed if you prefer,” said our waiter, making a sour face. As it turns out, the chef himself prefers them steamed, like Chinese dim sum.) The flavors lean China-ward: Wontons. (“You can get them steamed if you prefer,” said our waiter, making a sour face. As it turns out, the chef himself prefers them steamed, like Chinese dim sum.) The flavors lean China-ward: Wontons. (“You can get them steamed if you prefer,” said our waiter, making a sour face. As it turns out, the chef himself prefers them steamed, like Chinese dim sum.) The flavors lean China-ward: Wontons. (“You can get them steamed if you prefer,” said our waiter, making a sour face. As it turns out, the chef himself prefers them steamed, like Chinese dim sum.) The flavors lean China-ward: Wontons. (“You can get them steamed if you prefer,” said our waiter, making a sour face. As it turns out, the chef himself prefers them steamed, like Chinese dim sum.) The flavors lean China-ward: Wontons. (“You can get them steamed if you prefer,” said our waiter, making a sour face. As it turns out, the chef himself prefers them steamed, like Chinese dim sum.) The flavors lean China-ward: Wontons. (“You can get them steamed if you prefer,” said our waiter, making a sour face. As it turns out, the chef himself prefers them steamed, like Chinese dim sum.) The flavors lean China-ward: Wontons. (“You can get them steamed if you prefer,” said our waiter, making a sour face. As it turns out, the chef himself prefers them steamed, like Chinese dim sum.) The flavors lean China-ward: Wontons. (“You can get them steamed if you prefer,” said our waiter, making a sour face. As it turns out, the chef himself prefers them steamed, like Chinese dim sum.) The flavors lean China-ward: Wontons. (“You can get them steamed if you prefer,” said our waiter, making a sour face. As it turns out, the chef himself prefers them steamed, like Chinese dim sm...
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About Lei Lounge
Lei Lounge opened in late April. Its owners are brothers Bill and Michael Weiss, who also own several restaurants and nightclubs in Philadelphia as well as the popular Bourbon Street bar next door. They’re partnering at Lei with Mike Mack and Michael Skueish. “San Diego being known for an outdoor climate, me and Katrina it was not. Made with only one type of dark rum (rather than several, in the classic style) and lots of passionfruit juice, it tasted heavier than the authentic N’awlins rendition. I passed on a Blue Hawaii when I saw the ingredient list and discovered that it included coconut and (gasp!) cherry liqueur. (The true Blue Hawaii that grows up on the islands consists of pineapple juice, vodka or rum, blue curaçao, and a squeeze of fresh lime — nothing more, unless you count ice.) Meanwhile, my partner explored the international beer list, featuring brews from nine countries, plus Hawaii. Next round, Lynne and I both switched to pomegranate martinis, which taste something like Kir royal, bright and not too saccharine. If you’re still sitting up straight at the end of the meal and you want a dessert other than crème brûlée or “dim sum donuts,” the drink list can furnish that course, too. Something called a “frozen coconut” (made with ice cream and coconut-flavored booze and served in a coconut shell) sure looked like dessert as the waiter walked by.

Most of the dishes we tried were fun and tasty but not predictable, less cutting-edge than they were at Confidential last week. Even so, as the meal ended, Lynne (who lives nearby) was scribbling a list of things she wanted to try again. “I’d return for those,” she said. “It’s a great place to hang out.” Indeed, it’s an absolute hoot. I’d love to come with a gang some warm summer night, snug a bar, graze and down cheap silly drinks until we’re all silly, too. That’s what Lei Lounge is there for.

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At the Nexus

“You’ve got to distinguish between your id and your superego.”

A

h. This is the life. Kicking back at 30th, Fern, and Juniper. I’m at Rebecca’s. Outside. Caviar, $150 (30-cent refills). This guy Mike Hernandez sings softly under the jacaranda tree. “Your ma said you cried in your superego. “

Say to this guy. “Welcome,” says this guy with a French accent. “But I don’t know your wife yet,” a woman says to this guy. “San Diego’s best steakhouse” — United Airlines Magazine

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The Place: Vagabond, 2130 31st Street, South Park, 619-255-1035
Type of Food: French, with Caribbean, Asian, Moroccan influences
Pricing: House blue cheese salad with black olive crackers and pine nuts, $6.50. Caesar salad, $6.50; with chicken, $8.00; with shrimp, $8.50; calamaris salad with grilled and crispy garlic calamari, $8.50; grilled scallops and skewered-shrimp salad comes in at $9.50. The gent to my left has the grilled calamari salad, and it looks huge.

They have a section of panini and sandwiches. Grilled chicken panini, $8.50, or, yeah, Kobe beef burger, also $8.50. Half-poundatty. Dollar more with cheese.

Then, oh Lord, further down the list are things like Assiette Francaise. Get this: “The traditional French plate of charcuterie; assorted pâtés, imported sausages, cornichons (gherkins), and olives. Served with a fine selection of Imported Cheeses and a Small Vagabond House Salad.” It’s $9.50.

I’m pretty much set on the burger when Emilie appears. French. And very cute. I order a coffee ($1.75 with refill), ask her what the menu is. “The filet mignon sandwich is more interesting,” she says, I check the menu. “Caribbean Filet Mignon Sandwich with Avocado,” it says. “Thinly Sliced Filet Mignon Marinated in a Caribbean Dressing with cheese.”

The best Argentine restaurant in San Diego! — United Airlines Magazine

“The traditional French place of charcuterie; assorted pâtés, imported sausages, cornichons (gberkins), and olives. Served with a fine selection of Imported Cheeses and a Small Vagabond House Salad.” — United Airlines Magazine

I might be able to handle this. Long as I don’t blow it on drinks, figures! $6.50, $7.50…$12.50, tops.

Grilled chicken panini, $8.50, or, yeah, Kobe beef burger, also $8.50. Half-poundatty. Dollar more with cheese.

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Country of Smarties

“Some people talk a good talk, but in the end, they don’t really know much.”

For once, it didn’t start in Europe — not exactly, anyway. Yes, Wine Smarties’ Lindsay Pomeroy did spend a year teaching English in Italy; but, she says, she “didn’t drink much wine. I went on some vineyard tours, but I had, for whatever reason, some allergic reaction to the wines that were poured in the region. So I avoided wine.”

It started here in San Diego, after she moved here from Boston to join her sister. “The first job I had was as a wine broker — selling wine over the phone. I thought it sounded fun — drink wine all day, talk on the phone. It was a crash course in basic wine-tasting — you had to have some sort of knowledge in order to say anything about the wines.”

After nine months of that, she wandered past Wine Steals in Hillcrest, became a customer, then a part-time employee, then full-time, then assistant manager. The big lesson from her time there: “People need education — there’s really a thirst for it. No pun intended. Some people talk a good talk, but in the end, they don’t really know much. But what I hear an insane amount of times is, ‘I really like wine, but I have no idea what I’m doing.’ Or, ‘I don’t know what I’m doing. My husband always orders the wine for me.’”

Statements like that aroused the teacher in Lindsay Pomeroy — that part of the Italian experience did have some influence. If people said they liked sweet whites, she introduced them to Moscato d’Asti. She built flights based on what they said they liked, choosing wines that were similar but not the same to their stated favorites — “not so different that they would be closed to them.”

And in the beginning, business was slow enough that she could take time to not only prepare flights but discuss individual wines. But business did not stay slow, and she began to miss the in-depth discussions. “Along the way, she had become a certified wine specialist through the Society of Wine Educators, and now she was working towards becoming a certified wine educator. It occurred to her that there’s really no company devoted to educating the population about wine through events and consulting. There are individuals, but no company. Thus was born Wine Smarties, a company devoted to helping folks enjoy ‘thoughtful drinking.’”

Her end goal is to have an entire country of Wine Smarties, complete with a TV show. “I want the TV show. I am for sure a visionary and for sure a dreamer, but Luckily, I have a good work ethic and I’m slightly relentless.”

The time in Italy plays a part here, but it’s more about the teaching than the wine. “I understand you need to break information down and present it in a logical way. As ESL, there are levels. Some people may want to take just one or two classes; some may want to come along for the whole ride.” Even a basics class can quickly require division. “We can do a Basics of New World vs. Old World, a basics class on the classic varietals and what they’re supposed to express, a basics of winemaking. … I want to be flexible and to gauge people’s interests and cater to them. What I’ve found most successful is my ‘Drink Smarter’ series, which are the introductory wine courses.”

A more experienced group might prefer something like her “Lamo Bus Wine Bar Crawl.” “We did Wine Steals and the Third Corner; it was part of the ‘Buy Smarter’ series that I do. We walk around the shop — I focused on France and Italy, because those are the scarcest to new wine drinkers. I teach people who have no idea what a Vouvray is how to decipher labels. They’re usually excited to discover a new wine, as long as you put it so they can relate to it.”

For now, she is casting her net wide, seeing what catches. “I’m working with a couple of restaurants, helping with the wine list, doing events, training the staff. I’m working on a curriculum for industry professionals. Part of the reason I started the company is because I was sitting in this restaurant, asking simple questions of the waiter, and he didn’t know anything.” Too often, she says, “They haven’t even had most of the wines that are listed on the menu, let alone having enough basic wine knowledge to be able to recommend something. I, really, really want to help industry professionals.”

She is hosting parties, together with chef Sean Magee. It’s the “Unchained Your Palate” food and wine series. “I’m fun and spunky, and they really learn stuff.” The food and wine pairing smart-chart offers tips on creating matches (a rich Chardonnay with a lobster risotto), contrasts (a high-acidity Champagne with the same dish), and disasters (a fruity New World Sauvignon Blanc with same). After that, students/partygoers assess the style of four wines and then attempt to pair them with two different dishes. “If I say, ‘Here’s this creamy risotto and this Champagne, and they’re a perfect match,’ they’re going to believe me. Instead, I bring the food, pour four different wines, and have them play and determine what is the match. The contrast! The disaster! Maybe it doesn’t quite match my chart, and that’s interesting, and we discuss why. It’s interactive, it allows them to be a part of the process, and it’s really fun.”

Direct marketing to consumers has produced the most response so far — nothing like networking, actually dropping your fliers in wine bottles.
A Little Moore Coffee Shop

Beach House 2530 South Coast Highway 101 (at Loma Santa Fe), Cardiff-by-the-Sea, 760-753-1321. This beautiful restaurant, with its breezy seafood patio, is a branch of an upscale beach mini-chain (others are in Dana Point and Laguna Beach). Its main menu features steaks, seafood, and some Continental warehous (lobster thermidor, etc.) that are best avoided. The view is exceedingly spectacular from the upstairs “Top of the House” which features pub grub and Hiltons in a picturesque setting. On Sundays, locals flock in for the moderately priced à la carte champagne brunch featuring the standard dishes of the genre plus some un-successful fancied-up ones, with endless Freixenet champagne. (Wycliff is its house champagne, though). Whatever the meal, stay simple here — burgers, steak, unlabelled eggs — and enjoy the atmosphere. Reserve for a table or outdoor seating at Sunday brunch. Daily brunch/lunch and dinner. Top of the House” serves until 9:30 p.m. in winter and 11 p.m. in summer. “Early bird” cut-price dinners daily. Brunch moderate, dinner lower moderate to very expensive. — N.W. (5/00)

Charlie’s by the Sea 265 South Coast Highway 101, Cardiff by the Sea (a long block south of the stoplight), 760-942-1000. This nice spot offers a shabbily-painted restaurant and a terrific, authentic Louisiana-style chowder to match the menu — it’s light, creamy, and loaded with clams, unpeeled red potato chunks, and bits of honey-cured bacon. The kitchen’s good with simple dishes, including fresh raw oysters and the lovely “Bayou Burger” with Cajun seasonings and well-made spicy fries. The dinner menu includes more ambitious items, but the weekly event here is Sunday brunch, with a menu of standard brunch dishes at affordable prices, featuring endless refills of champagne. (Hint: Veuve Clicquot is not one). Huge wine list. Full bar. Free valet parking. Brunch reservations advisable. Monday through Saturday, lunch and dinner; Sunday, brunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive. — N.W. (5/00)

Jamroc 101 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-486-3162. At this former site of D.B. Hickey’s, you can still get good fish if it’s cheap — but the first basket you order gets its lift from Jamaica’s Red Stripe beer, bun. The shock by the truck now sports bright tropical designs on its back guts walls, and the fish is usual Jamaican (plus a couple of Cajun dishes). Check out the bargain-priced samplers which include locaus soft fried plantain and splendid patties (empanadas to you and me) with a choice of beef, chicken, or veggie. The pricing of the jerk(s) and curry entries are down to suit tourist tastes, but the full bottle of Walkwooded Scotch Bunt Hot Sauce can kick that right up. Don’t miss the fresh coconut water, served out of a young Thai coconut. Kiss the (clean) craggy set the mood, and there’s live steel put some weekend evenings. Beer, wine, Stagg soft drinks. Open Sunday through Wednesday until 8 p.m., Thursday through Saturday until 9 p.m. Inexpensive. — N.W. (4/05)

Kim’s Restaurant 745 First Street, La Jolla Shores, 858-459-6900. This wonderful restaurant serves the sophisticated Vietnamese cuisine of two Vietnamese brothers and the owners’ daughters serve it in the flower-beddecked dining room with grace, intelligence, and evident pleasure in teaching everyone about the cuisine. Appetizers (most of them designed for rolling with fresh herbs in lettuce leaves and eating with your hands) are varied and of superb quality. Few restaurants do the royal delicacy of “ground shrimp on sugar cane” so well. Most of the house specialty entries are equally accomplished. Locatie duck, spicy shrimp or scallops in tamarind sauce, and “Star of the Sea” curry are outstanding. The gently priced wine list aboard in the trayy whites that go so well with this cuisine, while beer-文化-ers can enjoy Vietnam’s own “33” brand. Lunch Tuesday through Friday; dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Moderate. — N.W. (6/05)

A Zafira 1001 South Coast Highway 101 (at West Street), Oceanside, 760-433-8010. This place just feels Cuban, with its echoey inside, bongos, washed orange walls, and giant Cuban mural. We’re talking Caribbean-style food, not by Mexican standards. Most delicious intro to traditional Cuban pressed sandwiches, hot-pressed to mix the juices of avo, smokin’ ham, roast pork, cheese, mustard, pickles (“Cubano #2”), or roast pork (latchet) with a mayo (garlicy-citrus) sauce that makes it juicy. The bread, baked right here, is news in itself — crusty and sometimes sweet (ask for redscience). You get a lot, but don’t leave without trying a plantain dish or the cheese flan. Or a cup of Cuban coffee. Lunch and dinner. Closed Monday. Inexpensive. — E.B. (5/00)

Lamborghini Shopping Center #103, Encinitas, 760-492-4186. Both Vietnamese and Chinese dishes are offered in a calm atmosphere with quick, pleasant service. The menu lists 265 items, including many Vietnamese house specialties, 28 seafood dishes, and a whopping 45 vegetarian/vegan dishes, many made with seitan (mock poultry). The seafood isn’t necessarily fresh catch — some shellfish is evidently obtained frozen, scallops are phosphate-preserved, and the reasonably priced abalone dishes involve slightly dreary,伊始-looked abalone from Asia. On the other hand, portions are enormous, and the cooking is careful and tasty, although some flavors have evidently been adapted to American palates and ingrained. Open Tuesday through Sunday. Continuous service lunch and dinner; closed Monday. Moderate. — N.W. (6/05)

Le Bambou Del Mar Village, 2061 Del Mar Heights Road (turn north on Mango), Del Mar Heights, 858-259-4138. Monmouth “Le Bambou” of lovely restaurant serves the sophisticated Vietnamese cuisine of two Vietnamese brothers and the owners’ daughters serve it in the flower-beddecked dining room with grace, intelligence, and evident pleasure in teaching everyone about the cuisine. Appetizers (most of them designed for rolling with fresh herbs in lettuce leaves and eating with your hands) are varied and of superb quality. Few restaurants do the royal delicacy of “ground shrimp on sugar cane” so well. Most of the house specialty entries are equally accomplished. Locatie duck, spicy shrimp or scallops in tamarind sauce, and “Star of the Sea” curry are outstanding. The gently priced wine list aboard in the trayy whites that go so well with this cuisine, while beer-文化-ers can enjoy Vietnam’s own “33” brand. Lunch Tuesday through Friday; dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Moderate. — N.W. (6/05)

The only one and only true THAI BUFFET IN SAN DIEGO

Thai Cafe

Weekday Lunch Buffet $6.50

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Thai Tea or Soda 75¢

Chinese, Thai & American Cuisine

DINE IN, TAKE-OUT & DELIVERY* Open Mon - Sat, 11 am - 8 pm, Closed Sundays. * Within 5 miles.

1/2 Price Cocktails and Beer & Wine Specials

Happy Hour 4:30PM-7PM Mon-Fri

Late Night Happy Hour 10PM-Close Sun-Thurs

Happy Hour

1030 North Highway 101, Leucadia, 760-753-8228. How did this place slip by unnoticed for so long? Inside, with its low ceiling and miniscule counter, it could be out of an Early California movie. The specialties are named after recent local characters. “The Bill” is an omelet with ham, avocado, and cheese, plus home fries or hash browns (or cottage cheese or rice). “The Candy” is two French toast with two eggs and spuds. A plate of grilled vegetables and beef or beef on a mountain of rice is “The Pablo.” It’s standard but generous fare, a formula that’s kept the place humming since at least the 1930s. Breakfast and lunch, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B. (10/04)

Azran 1001 South Coast Highway 101 (at West Street), Oceanside, 760-433-8010. This place just feels Cuban, with its echoey inside, bongos, washed orange walls, and giant Cuban mural. We’re talking Caribbean-style food, not by Mexican standards. Most delicious intro to traditional Cuban pressed sandwiches, hot-pressed to mix the juices of avo, smokin’ ham, roast pork, cheese, mustard, pickles (“Cubano #2”), or roast pork (latchet) with a mayo (garlicy-citrus) sauce that makes it juicy. The bread, baked right here, is news in itself — crusty and sometimes sweet (ask for redscience). You get a lot, but don’t leave without trying a plantain dish or the cheese flan. Or a cup of Cuban coffee. Lunch and dinner. Closed Monday. Inexpensive. — E.B. (5/00)

NORTH COASTAL

A Little Moore Coffee Shop

San Diego Reader

June 29, 2006

143
...Continued from page 1.

by David Sedaris

DAVID SEDARIS

Mediterranean food fits the foodie lifestyle, but it doesn’t have to mean heavy, stodgy dishes.

The neuroscience of food


No coincidence it’s near the famous surf break and the Baja California dining area. You gotta love the very

Encinitas, 760-634-3350. Chef-owner Chef Susan Sbicca (“speeka”) also resides on the second level upstairs. The

Sbicca American Bistro 1315 South Coast Highway, Del Mar, 888-518-101. Though characteristic as an “American Bistro,” Chef Susan Sbicca (“speeka”) also reveals Asian and Mexican influences in her creative menu. Set in a one-time private home a block from the Del Mar Coast, this tightly restaurant is in a suburban setting. Lunch Wednesday through Friday, dinner nightly. Moderate. — S.M. (11/10)

Hernandez’ Hide-Away 1930 Lake Drive (off Del Dios Highway), Esconsido, 760-746-1444. The founder of Hernandez’s claims he invented the margarita in his previous restaurant in Baja. Now at the mission. (Note: “margarita” is a tequila-based cocktail made with lime juice and triple sec.

Cabo Cava Harrach’s Rincon Casino, Valley Center, 877-777-2457. This fun eatery brings Pacific Beach to Valley Center with its cheerful (make that gorgeous) surfer deco and menu of classy surfer grub. With glass walls looking out on the surf, and two cars swimming pools, this is the only restaurant in the county to offer views of the outer world. The eclectic menu, from “surfing spots around the world,” includes wonderful, smokey pork, as both a taco and an entrée, plus pristine seafood cocktails. Breakfast Monday through Friday; lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. — N.W. (4/05)

The French Market Grille 61710 Rancho San Diego Parkway, San Diego, 858-485-8035. Ambiance is served in generous portions at this romantic like establishment with elegant indoor dining or charming garden setting. The menu list has over 70 selections, including those available by the glass, and the varied menu features local dishes of fish, lamb, fish, veal, frog, and more. Most dishes are served with the usual French cuisine, but if you’re daring, they’ll gladly serve some ingredients. The entry includes, among others: Inconceivable (some nights the fish is overcooked or the meat is tough, other nights they’re fine) but the crab-cake appetizer is always outstanding. Reserve room for dessert, especially the excellent crème brûlée. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Moderate. — S.M. (11/10)
Wine Sellar and Brasserie

California roll with sushi rolls. Among the winners are the egg-omelet sushi tine. If you appreciate subtlety, try the Philadelphia roll. Skip the dry egg rolls—spongy, with fried soft shell crab topped with kimono stands and bamboo forests. The food is fresh, the presentation artistic, and the staff friendly and efficient. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Expensive. — S.M. (8/04)

Cliff Hanger Cafe

Teppanyaki Pana Glad report, 2050 Teppanyaki Ame Cuisine, La Jolla, 858-452-9808. "You should never leave the ground on an empty stomach," says the sign near the cliff, which is where this fume hop is. What is to be at the Cafe at the End of the World? You sit, munch, and watch men becoming birds, jumping off the cliff beside you. The view of the Pacific Ocean is spectacular. But, hey, grill's good too.

The launch is a breakfast burrito with scrambled eggs, bacon, cheese, onions, bell peppers, and salsa (or the Mile High omelet; bacon, cheese, and bell peppers). Also great and grilled right there—green beans and potato hash. Open daily for breakfast and lunch. Inexpensive. — E.D. (1/03)

Forever Fondue

2295 Prospect Street 621, La Jolla, 858-531-4309. Also at 6110 Friars Road, Mission Valley, 619-295-7792. Once every thirty years, a special dietary requests accommodated, including vegetarian menu. Reserve, and hope for a table for the raucous bar. Open nightly. Very expensive. — N.W. (8/04)

Sky Room

Top floor of La Valencia Hotel, 1322 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-6771. The stunning ocean view offers three essentials for a memorable evening: privacy, intimacy, and the ability to talk without the interruption of noise. The food is a feast in the eyes as well as the palate. Best bet: abalone and scallop steak appetizer, the daily soup, dessert salads, such as emitter, dinner only, with two seatings on weekends. Very expensive. — E.W. (1999)

MISSION VALLEY & THE MESA

Korea House

4620 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-560-0080. Korea House offers floor seating or a table if you want to barbecue your own food. The menu offers fine “down-home” Korean food, such as traditional num (shredded) dumplings, gark guk (lucky), or raw crab, and youk seo, a snack tartare worth racking. Make a meal from enormous appetizers like egg buns (raw oysters, pork, and cabbage leaves). Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — M.N. (8/99)

Nijya Market

380 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-266-3832. If you’re not willing to sacrifice quality for convenience when eating fast food, try this Japanese market in Kearny Mesa. Nijya Market offers prepared box lunches, or bento, that are pretty to look at, appraising, and a real bargain. I suggest, however, passing by Nijya’s steamed buns and hot tea. Open every day, with two seatings on weekends. Expensive. — E.B. (1/05)

SUNDAY BRUNCH IN PACIFIC BEACH

10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

$18.95

Brunch and 2 glasses of champagne or mimosa

$8

Bottle of champagne

$2

Glass of mimosa or champagne

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VEGETARIAN fusion cafe

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Vegan Sushi

Now available exclusively at San Diego’s number one vegetarian restaurant.

The most extensive all-vegetarian menu, from Thai Spicy Curry Chicken to Sicilian Summer Lasagna.

Buy Two Sushi Rolls or Specialty Rolls & Get the Third One FREE*

You will receive the equivalent of one free roll of sushi with this coupon. For valid only at Nijya Market.

For use only on 25 sushi rolls or specialty rolls. If order is $25 or more, you will receive one roll. If order is $25 or more, you will receive one roll. Not valid with any other coupons, offers or specials. Discount does not apply to sushi rolls purchased from Nijya Market.


10% off the world’s largest all-you-can-eat Japanese seafood buffet

Seniors (over 65) 20% off

Children (5 feet and under) 50% off or more from adult price

45 kinds of sushi | 120 selections of salad | 120 sushi | 18 different hot food entrées including beef, chicken and pork shrimp tempura | 1 green lip mussels | Japanese noodle soup | fresh seasonal fruit | 20 delicious French-style desserts

Evening menu selections also include: Maine lobster, jumbo shrimp, crab legs and oysters

Hours

Lunch
Mon-Fri 6:10 pm to 7:30 pm
Sat & Sun 11:30 am to 2:30 pm

Dinner
Mon-Thur 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Fri & Sat 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

8238 Camino del Rio S. S (off Pky B @ Texas St S, left on Camino del Rio S, under the 805 overpass)

619-295-8996

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Over 400 more restaurant listings at SanDiegoReader.com

Pampas Argentine Grill

8600 Aero Drive (at Montgomery Field), Kearny Mesa, 858-237-8971. The Argentine specialty features grilled grass-fed beef, including a somewhat Americanized version of the gauchos’ great parrilla (mixed grill) with a great horchata, but minus any exotic organs. The nat-
**The Beaches**

Baleen Paradise Point, 1404 Vacation Circle (off Ingram Street); Mission Bay, 88-490-5894. Take a quick trip to clip Miami at the local branch of Florida's famed new resort restaurant. Whimsically tropical decor features a monkey motif carved in the chandelier, peeling from the paintings) and numerous play-on-words. But the unlimited prices for chilled shellfish may make a monkey out of you unless you stick to the menu. Seafood and land creatures are retained in a refrigerated section, including generous lobster bisque, salmon with a clever sauce that's just right: sweet, tangy, and spicy. Most original idea? A BBQ burrito — beef, pork, ham, or chicken, smoked in a baguette, or spicy, but fresher-baked rosemary-garlic bread (ac-}
Asia Cafe

lunchtime dishes. Open daily, 6 a.m. to

exhibit in its own right, especially if

Antique-land’s favorite eatery is a serious

chicken salad with hot peppers, lemon
noodles and vegetables). Closed Tues-
pork soup, Crying Tiger (ground beef
dishes include the famous

conversation around you — is Lao. Lao
to find it. The menu’s Southeast Asian,

shop at this all-Laotian shopping center

BBQ shrimp, crawfish bisque, and étouf-

The fried chicken is beyond compare,

cajun, Creole, and soul food specialties.

you’ll find generous hospitality, huge

mama’s Bakery and Lebanese

4710 Market Street (at 47th

4237 Alabama Street, North Park,

Lebanese

shawerma

Sang Dao

ghanoush (“sweet daddy” eggplant dip)

4212 National Avenue, Lo-

Wright Brothers, the Blues Brothers, the

Waring Road (at Orcutt Avenue), Allied

Grandma Jennie’s pancakes with ham,

Cheers 4.0 Deli

Inexpensive.

American. Inexpensive.

and his origins are written all over the

claim to make real New York pizza in

with sautéed mushrooms. Or a massive

dish like eggplant parmesan or chicken

volone cheese, spinach, tomato, and

The owner’s a retired Navy medic, one

The palm and ficus trees have replaced

Grand Opening!

The Biggest Buffet In San Diego!

Seafood • BBQ • Sushi Bar • Cocktails • Mongolian Grill • Dim Sum

All You Can Eat! Over 200 Items Daily

$10 Off Moroccan Cuisine

La Jolla 634 Pearl St 858-454-2500
Costa Mesa 637 405-8354
Studio City 818-788-6354

Expires 7/6/06.

One per table. With this ad.

Please call for reservations. Order one dinner and receive $10 off the total dinner. One coupon per party. Dine in only. Not sharing. This offer cannot be combined with any other offers or on-line specials. Expires 7/5/06.

$2 OFF BUFFET

Buffet is with this coupon. Dine in only.

$1 OFF BUFFET

Not valid with Senior Discount.

Not valid with Senior Discount.

Eastern Buffet

Over 60 years old 10% OFF

OPEN 7 DAYS LUNCH & DINNER

Sun.-Thurs. 4:30-10:30 pm

5:30-10:00 pm

Monday-Friday

Monday-Friday

Lunch Buffet $729

$25 Off

One person. With this ad.

$10 Off

$24.99 tax incl.

$24.99 tax incl.

Grossmont Student Center Cafeteria

Grossmont College, El Cajon,

1-415-690-7007. Surely the best Jewish deli

varado Plaza, College Area,

1-415-690-7007. Surely the best Jewish deli

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619-281-4040. This

619-265-0218. Surely the best Jewish del-

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DOWNTOWN

Acqua Al 2 325 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-230-0382. Despite its moniker, this isn't a seafood restaurant, but a near-fishbowl of a restaurant filled with the design elements showing the standard French menu while maintaining Tuscan pastry touches. Chef-owner Martin GPS trained there and serves as charging host of the local best bets are the vegetarian pasta and rice dishes made with aromatic pumpkin in mushroom. The testing of five pastas may sound tempting, but they're the chef's choice — and he tends to choose the dull ones. "Tastings" of ads, ad condiments, and desserts are also offered. Many are merely rather plain. Lunch weekdays, dinner daily. Moderate (pasta) to expensive. — N.W. (3/00)

The Blarney Stone 610 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-233-8519. This hand-some establishment, made of dark wood from the Emerald Isle, includes a large, good-looking separate dining room that opens when the dining public forms a critical mass, or around 8 p.m. Like most local Irish pubs, the menu is mainly American and firmly-Mex-Mex munch foods, including "Irish quesadilla" (corned beef and cheese on a flour tortilla). The three wannabes Celtic dishes are an in-dinner meal, antipasto, quail with lentils, and "fish and chips Liffey," match your order. Euro-pop plays loudly inside; noise-sensitive may prefer patio between); open until 11 p.m. on weekends. Moderate to expensive. — N.W. (3/00)

Chopaholic Authentic Afghan Cuisine 780 Sixth Avenue (near F Street), Gaslamp, 619-233-4335. Lunch: Mon.-Sat. 11:30 am-3 pm. Dinner: Mon.-Sat. 5 -9:30 pm. $5 Off Lunch or Dinner. With this ad. Expires 7/31/06. — E.B. (6/04)

Coco’s Restaurant and Jazz Bar 2020 Fifth Avenue, downtown, 619-233-4335. Music live is complimentary. This is an elegant dinner di- nite at the restaurant and bar by Imp. Award winner Chef Marco Laben. Fans of Jazz Appreciate art and style and often choose them, we can do this daily, turn and pulled for some of the spaciest service in town. — N.W. (3/00)

E.B. (6/04)

Chopaholic Authentic Afghan Cuisine 780 Sixth Avenue (near F Street), Gaslamp, 619-233-4335. Artistic music live is complimentary. This is an elegant dinner di- nite at the restaurant and bar by Imp.

Prime Rib Friday-Sunday Snow Crab Every Night

Seafood | Sushi Bar | Hawaiian Barbecue | dim sum

Restaurant sits for some of the spaciest service in town. — N.W. (3/00)

Prime Rib Friday-Sunday Snow Crab Every Night

Seafood | Sushi Bar | Hawaiian Barbecue | dim sum

Restaurant sits for some of the spaciest service in town. — N.W. (3/00)
**BAJ**

**From the United States use the prefix 011-52-664 when calling Tijuana; when calling in Japan use only the restaurant’s seven-digit number.**

**El Rincon del Oso Marco Handley Cafe Vaticano and El Rincon del Oso are two bars, a restaurant, and a pool in San Diego County.**

**Free delivery from 11 am-3 pm with equal or greater value and two drinks. One coupon per table. Some restrictions may apply. Expires 7/13/06.**

**Michele's Deli-BOO 455 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-296-8767.**

**Primavera Restaurante 932 Ocean Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-8066.**

**Valhalla's Healthy Choice Chula Vista Wholesale Fish Market, Center Street, (between 3rd and Del Mar Street), 619-962-9925. Valhalla calls her food Greek, but actually it's Italian. Not that there's anything wrong with the concept itself, munching away with people jostling, food smells wafting, maybe munching on a hot corn tortilla, adding cilantro, lime, grated onions, and a splash of salad, and chomping in. It's messy, slightly ticky, almost gamey, like deer or buffalo, except the juices round out that gourmety atmosphere. Come early morning for the best and the biggest market scenes. Open seven days. Inexpensive — E.B. (10/00)**

**La Pecora Family Restaurant 100 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-222-8853.**

**Rhinoceros 166 Ocean Avenue (at Loma Avenue), Coronado, 619-435-2211.**

**Ruffino's 1100 Adella Avenue (just off 1120 Adella Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-0454. A handsome dining room is the setting for the kind of fine Italian cooking of many restaurants.**

**The Barbecue Pit 520 East Plaza De Lihue, National City, 619-477-2344. This is a great place to relax, in the view, a meeting hall. Roomie, rustic, knotty pine, a set of Texas longhorns on one wall and an eight-point buck on the other.**

**3.**

**Free Breakfast or Lunch**

**With purchase of any entree of equal or greater value and two beverages, or 2-for-1 coffee. Mon-Fri.**

**100% CADDY**

**Free delivery from 11 am-3 pm (in O.B. proper).**

**SUSHI FOR TWO ONLY $12.50**

**Includes: Nigiri (10 pieces), Tekka Maki (6 pieces), Kappa Maki (6 pieces) & California Maki (6 pieces) & two California rolls.**

**Choose 2 items for $8.00.**

**Serving breakfast all day and lunch from 6-7 am daily.**

**50% OFF lunch or dinner**

**With purchase of any small or large dish and with ice cream and one drink. Expires 7/13/06.**

**50% off with purchase of one entree of equal or greater value and two beverages. Expires 7/13/06.**

**“Great service, great food and affordable prices” — Universe/Empire Voted Best Neighborhood Restaurant — San Diego Reader Zagat Certificate of Distinction 1999 — San Diego Restaurants 2000.**

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**“Great service, great food and affordable prices” — Universe/Empire Voted Best Neighborhood Restaurant — San Diego Reader Zagat Certificate of Distinction 1999 — San Diego Restaurants 2000.**

**TASTE**
My slight disappointment in Jean-Pierre Melville's Army of Shadows in no way diminishes my gratitude to Rialto Pictures for dusting it off, buffing it up, and sending it around for the first time in these United States. (Arriving at the Ken on Friday.) Had it been the "masterpiece" that several critics have branded it, I might have felt, in the first place, a certain inevitability that it would have surfaced sooner or later, and, after second thoughts, a degree of resentment that it took so long to have done so. Because I see it as not one of the filmmaker's best, I feel more fortunate to have gotten to see it at all. It likelier might never have escaped oblivion.

In Melville's filmography, Army of Shadows falls between Le Samourai and Le Cercle Rouge, both of which have previously been reissued by Rialto and both of which I had already seen beforehand. (Lower level of gratitude.) We can now say with some assurance that Le Samourai stands as the last great peak of Melville's career, a twin peak with the immediately preceding and fractionally taller Second Breath, thus far neglected by Rialto. In some ways, at least superficial ways, this latest release would appear to be the filmmaker's most "personal" project, deviating from the archetypal, abstract, imitation-American gangster films with which he is most identified, veering instead toward his first-hand experiences as a Jew in the French Resistance. Granted, he had deviated before his primary course was quite set. His first feature, Le Silence de la Mer, an outside-the-system shoestring production that presaged the New Wave, is likewise a tale of the French Resistance. And Leon Morin, Priest, with Jean-Paul Belmondo cast against type in the title role, parrying the advances of Emmanuelle Riva, is again set against a backdrop of WWII. And Les Enfants Terribles is a Cocteau chamber piece. Army of Shadows, however, is the only deviation in the final decade of the director's career, the only deviation after his reputation was cemented.

Accounts of his exact involvement in the Resistance tend to conflict, and
it would be inadvisable to demand cold hard facts about a relentless self-promoting genre that has no interest in the truth, only in its capacity to enhance the image of its respective protagonists. The tautness and unity of a Melville story, as well as the narrative's cumulative effect, are qualities that would be lost in a film version.

There are admittedly many arresting images and scenes: the opening shot of a depopulated Arc de Triomphe on a gray morning, a column of marching Nazis entering from the left and taking a right turn directly toward the camera; the prison escaper's foot- pounding flight down the street through a gentle snowfall; the pathetic, horrific execution of a resigned and unresisting traitor; the first-time parachute jump for which the be-spectacled hero, in a telling detail, has taped his glasses to his face at the temples and bridge; the comically toasting of a cigarette pack around a circle of condemned men in a holding cell. And doubtless many others.

But there are also bits of silliness: the reverential treatment of the shaw- lowy figure of de Gaulle in a private medal ceremony in London, reminisc- ent of the faceless Jesus Christ giving drink to a parched Ben-Hur; the im- possible sight of Resistance heroes than of dime-novel gangsters. There are admittedly many arrest- ing scenes: the running of disguises in front of her mirror (a streetwalker, an old lady) in preparation for an upcoming caper (she settles on a nun); the improbably staged, instantly recovered of the hero (he's a Nazi shooting gallery. Silliest, if I could confirm it, possibly -178- be truly involved, and in order to convey a strong conviction of a 1950s rock- and-roll's pompadour for special occasions but favoring otherwise something resembling a scoop of hot fudge, creating continuity problems when he huffs out of dinner parties looking like Fabinho but, a bit later at his favorite watering hole, looking more like Tony Bennett. Jennifer Aniston, Miss Coppertone 2002-06, does better at trying-on of disguises in front of her mirror (a streetwalker, an old lady) in preparation for an upcoming caper (she settles on a nun); the improbably staged, instantly recovered of the hero (he's a Nazi shooting gallery. Silliest, if I could confirm it, possibly be that the lost bit of his grip after Le Samourai and that he never fully secured his grip until Le Doulos. Inasmuch as Ruiz has announced plans to reissue that one in the near future (it was already reissued in the not too distant past), as well as plans to re- issue its immediate predecessor, Leon Morin, Priest, we ought to soon have a better ability to judge.
The Devil Wears Prada — Working, girl comedy in the vein of, oh, say, Working Girl, the eager, gifted, underemployed and underpaid secretary (“A million girls would kill for that job”) and the imperious, capricious queen bee boss. An ice queen, more descriptively, with snow-white hair, just a bit of sleight looking through at the neck, and an anemic, cryptic complexion. Meryl Streep, in the latter part, is interesting as always, talking in a narcotized, uninflected voice that betrays no emotion deeper than a sigh. But Anne Hathaway, talking with a clothoquin on her nose, doesn’t quite fill the bill as “the smart fat girl.” Or to put it more flatly, the offensiveness of her weight and her wardrobe are not overstated. Disappointingly, the possibilities of the fashion industry setting, from Lauren Weisberger’s fang-baring novel, largely go by in a blur of montages and a blizzard of name-dropping. With Stanley Tucci, Emily Blunt, Simon Baker, and Adrien Grenier, directed by David Frankel. 2006.

★ ★ ★

Winner, winner, chicken dinner. For once an audience has the satisfaction of feeling the movie it’s paying for. Ditto the critics. What a pleasure to see a film that is not mutilated by a top-heavy marketing team that has no idea what it is selling. Ditto the performances of Meryl Streep and Anne Hathaway, who estimates that he has delivered the preception. This is laid out explicitly as less a political issue than “a moral issue,” and laid out, tacitly, as a doomsday science-fiction scenario (think The Day After Tomorrow, think Waterworld, or if you’re a reader, think The Drowned World, The Kraken Wakes), with a wealth of facts and figures for substantiation. “I’ve been trying to tell this story for a long time,” remarks our lecturer, who estimates that he has delivered the presentation a thousand times around the globe, “and I feel as if I’ve failed to get the message across.” Thus the movie. A new medium, a new certainty. Needless to say, the identity of the messenger will be itself self be enough to persuade a large fraction of the public to stay clear, on the presumption that all he wants to do is to take away from their annual stock dividends. They will miss an interesting, entertaining, and alarming show. 2006.

★★

An Inconvenient Truth — A documentary for the Don’t-Blame-Me-I-Voted-for-Gore crowd. It has a nominal director, Davis Guggenheim, but it’s Al Gore’s show, a self-described “slide show,” or illustrated lecture, and not really a movie, to do with the causes and effects of global warming. This is laid out explicitly as less a political issue than “a moral issue,” and laid out, tacitly, as a doomsday science-fiction scenario (think The Day After Tomorrow, think Waterworld, or if you’re a reader, think The Drowned World, The Kraken Wakes), with a wealth of facts and figures for substantiation. “I’ve been trying to tell this story for a long time,” remarks our lecturer, who estimates that he has delivered the presentation a thousand times around the globe, “and I feel as if I’ve failed to get the message across.” Thus the movie. A new medium, a new certainty. Needless to say, the identity of the messenger will be itself self be enough to persuade a large fraction of the public to stay clear, on the presumption that all he wants to do is to take away from their annual stock dividends. They will miss an interesting, entertaining, and alarming show. 2006.
The Devil Wears Prada

Piven, James Gandolfini, Samuel L. Jackson, Meryl Streep, Minnie Driver, Alfred Molina, Emily Blunt, Julie Andrews, Stanley Tucci

- Directed by: David Frankel
- Year: 2006

The Devil Wears Prada is a comedy-drama film about the fashion industry, telling the story of Andy Sachs, a recent college graduate who lands a job as an assistant to the demanding editor-in-chief Miranda Priestly. The film explores themes of ambition, professionalism, and the cutthroat world of fashion. It features a star-studded cast and is known for its sharp dialogue and behind-the-scenes commentary on the fashion industry.
A Prairie Home Companion — Its title and its credo have been taken from a novel by John Baran (a/k/a Garthulka) of Kollau’s weekly public-radio show. But there is no mention of the imaginary world of Lake Woebegone, MN. The solo setting is the Fitzgerald Theatre in St. Paul, named after native son F. Scott, and ticketed for the wrestling ball, and the plot situation is closing night of a long-running old-fashioned live radio variety hour, mixing gospel music, cowboy songs, bluegrass, and blues. A fragile audio fantasy made heady and unconvincingly concrete. Director Robert Altman brings, along with his drifting, disengaged cameras, a deep-seated condescension that makes the less seem no big loss. And it goes without saying that he also brings an ensemble cast of Nick Nolte, Harry Dean Stanton, Kurt Russell, Tommy Lee Jones and the heartless new landlord and a host of nonsingers as singers, Meryl Streep, Gene Hackman and a team of almost all-stars.

Chef! —A Hong Kong film released in theaters on August 08/06 (i.e., $66, get it?) but, not heaven forbid, a fourth sequel, an Onex 3, but rather a straight remake of the 1976 original, about the advent of the anti-hero (presaged now by the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster, 9/11, the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004) in the form of the 1972 sequel. Same story, same actors, and the plot is closing night of a long-running old-fashioned live radio variety hour, mixing gospel music, cowboy songs, bluegrass, and blues. A fragile audio fantasy made heady and unconvincingly concrete. Director Robert Altman brings, along with his drifting, disengaged cameras, a deep-seated condescension that makes the less seem no big loss. And it goes without saying that he also brings an ensemble cast of Nick Nolte, Harry Dean Stanton, Kurt Russell, Tommy Lee Jones and the heartless new landlord and a host of nonsingers as singers, Meryl Streep, Gene Hackman and a team of almost all-stars.

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Desean cruzar

Mari Paz Ortega Rosales, de 45 años, ha intentado cruzar sin suavemente tres veces de forma ilegal a Estados Unidos. Su sueño americano no se ha cumplido, gracias a un ser humano que se ha dejado ver. Un niño, a quien hace seis años despedía en su infancia, salió. Hace unos meses habló por teléfono con su hijo, me dijo que no se sentía bien, que había bajado de peso y que se sentía muy cansado. Después volvió a hablar con él y me dijo que lo había visto un médico y que no era nada grave. Mi hijo trabajaba de 12 a 14 horas en una fábrica en Houston, explicó Ortega Rosales.

 otras 200 mujeres que se encuentran en el Instituto para mujeres migrantes “Casa Madre Asunta”, han intentado llegar clandestinamente a la Unión Americana hasta ocho veces. Doce cobran entre mil y mil 500 dólares por persona, ahora los polacos cobran 3 mil dólares.

Con sabor a uva

Elenar López
Diario San Diego

Y llegó el Día Baco para escuchar sonidos rancios, rancheros, huapangos, canciones de José Alfredo Jiménez y músicas mexicanas en el Valle de Guadalupe con el que se considera como el mejor mariachi del mundo. El Mariachi Vargas de Tecali, en lo que fue el segundo evento para celebrar la Guadalupe. No podia ser un mejor escenario la Plaza de Torres Guadalupe en la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de la plaza de 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No crecieron

México se revindica ante Argentina y enmovió que este año podría ganar el Mundial de la Copa del Mundo de Alemania 2006. Los mexicanos se sacaron la mano de frente a Argentina, pero otra vez han tenido que marcharse de un torneo eliminado porque el futbol es el ritmo de una gran gloria. Mexico que no despidió su rendimiento y su mérito. Ya es una frase común de que jugó como nunca y perdieron como siempre, pero su comportamiento en el Central de Leipzig fue así. Todo el mundo, presionó al equipo en momentos fuertes e injustos, pero lo amaron la boca en no poder superarlo. Este partido fue lo mejor que ofreció en esta Copa del Mundo, tras una primera ronda irregular en la que salieron perdedores y clasificaron a los octavos de final con un triunfo en la nación. México 2006 será para México el Mundial del que confirmó su crecimiento y su presencia constante en los octavos de final, pero también a un saber un poco amargo porque se preparó como nunca para hacer historia.

Urgen hispanos

Américo Barceló-Feldman

En Estados Unidos hay sólo 3,1 por ciento de abogados de origen hispano, lo cual refleja la carencia de estos profesionales en la nación. En California, el estado con mayor número de hispanos, solamente hay 3,8 por ciento de abogados latinos que atienden una población cuya mayoría es minoritaria y necesita estos servicios con urgencia. “No hay abogados hispanos, existe un gran número de personas en California que requieren de sus servicios pero son muy pocos los profesionales que los pueden atender”, aseguró Beth Kramberger, asistente del rector de la Escuela de Leyes Thomas Jefferson en San Diego. Según cifras de la Asociación Nacional de Barra de Abogados, los grupos minoritarios estan mal representados en la profesión legal en la nación. El problema se agrava en California, entidad que cuenta con el mayor número de grupos étnicos. Apenas una quinta parte de los 1.1 millones de abogados que hay en el país practican la ley en California, de ellos sólo una mínima parte son hispanos de otro grupo étnico minoritario. “Los enfermos de admisión no son equitativos”, explica Isabel Mendoza, profesora de leyes de origen cubano.

Descontentos

Abraham Nadelstejner

Que mal asentambados están los mexicanos. El equipo TriColor pasó a los octavos de final del Mundial para el Mundial de futbol y los aficionados están molestos. Claro que México entro a la segunda fase mundialista en revés tras la derrota ante Portugal, pero... ¿eso qué importa? Qué importa si el Tri pasó a la siguiente ronda del mundial con el segundo lugar de su grupo. De cualquier manera ya se sabía de antemano que el cuadro que dirige Ricardo La Volpe iba a tener que jugar la vida ante Holanda o Argentina. Finalmente el dudel fue contra los sudamericanos. Parece que los seguidores del Tri ya no se conforman con solamente paso a la segunda ronda del Mundial. Esto se debe, en mi opinión, a que algunos medios de comunicación nos han hecho creer que México es una potencia futbolística. A mí me han tocado ver todos los mundiales desde 1970, y no fue hasta 1986 que tuve el gusto de disfrutar el pase de la selección mexicana. A una segunda fase mundialista. No se me olvidan las goleadas que le ponían al Tri en los mundiales. Por eso que yo si celebré el pase de México a los octavos de final en el Mundial 2006.
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June 29, 2006

Reader

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July 18, San Diego

Seating is limited, so reserve your seat for this intriguing presentation. RSVP by faxing your résumé to 661-663-2619 or contact us at 877-573-9125.

Bilingual candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

State Farm is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Accounting Manager

Palacio Hospitality Group is seeking an experienced Accounting Manager for their San Diego corporate office.

Some of the Accounting Manager’s responsibilities will be:

- Verifies, allocates and posts details of business transactions to subsidiary accounts in journals or computer files from documents such as invoices, receipts and computer printouts.
- Prepares monthly closing, bank records and other G/L account reconciliations.
- Prepares revenue and tax reports for various outside agencies.
- Summarizes details in separate ledgers or computer files and transfers data to general ledger.
- Reconciles and balances accounts.
- Completes reports to show cash receipts and expenditures, accounts payable and receivable, profit and loss, and other items pertinent to the operations of each property.
- Computes, prints and mails monthly statements to customers.
- Prepares revenue and tax reports for various outside agencies.
- Summarizes details in separate ledgers or computer files and transfers data to general ledger.
- Completes reports to show cash receipts and expenditures, accounts payable and receivable, profit and loss, and other items pertinent to the operations of each property.
- Computes, prints and mails monthly statements to customers.
- Prepares revenue and tax reports for various outside agencies.
- Summarizes details in separate ledgers or computer files and transfers data to general ledger.
- Completes reports to show cash receipts and expenditures, accounts payable and receivable, profit and loss, and other items pertinent to the operations of each property.

Salary based on experience. Apply in person or fax/e-mail résumé along with salary history to:

Palacio Hospitality Group
10505 Sorrento Valley Road, Suite 250
San Diego, CA 92121
Fax: (619) 550-4004
E-mail: blanca@palaciohotels.com

We Have Temporary and Temp-to-Hire Positions!

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Data Entry Clerks (Temporary)  
- Must be 6000+ kshp on the 10-key  
- $10/hr.

San Diego Metro Area 
Receptionists (Temporary & Temp-to-Hire)  
- Prior Receptionist experience REQUIRED  
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- $12/hr. and up

Downtown San Diego 
Exam Coordinator Assistant (Temp-to-Hire)  
- For large university  
- Administrative experience REQUIRED  
- Excellent computer skills a must  
- $16/hr.

For fastest consideration, send your résumé to:

lejolla@ultimatesstaffing.com

fax: (619) 629-2026
phone: (619) 625-2025

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San Diego Reader Jan. 23, 2006 71
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- Retail

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North County: 760-591-9740

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Call businesses to set appointments for our Sales team. This is an excellent full or part-time opportunity in itself, or a great stepping stone to an Outside Sales career. Extensive training provided.

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Entry-level full-time career opportunity with an extensive six-month training program leading to a realistic $100K+ income.

Join our Miramar office. You will be working with and learning from some of the most successful sales professionals in our industry.

Call us at: 858-693-3354 ext. 305 or e-mail your résumé to: sales@daledelta.com

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For more information call: (619) 531-COPS or visit our website at: www.sandiego.gov/police

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- **Manager/Clerk/Cashier** (Seasonal)
- **Market Shift Leader**
- **Airbrush Tattoo Artist**
- **Sales Clerk** (Seasonal)

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Call Alan at: 619-683-9360.
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SECURITY, $800 sign-on bonus through 7/31! Team, Drill, Grow! Qualif- 2nd to 4th Floor Inspector, Site Supervisors. High Security Services, Inc. 1810 Mission Grove Drive, San Diego, CA 92120. Fax 619-292-6724. Robert - 700 North County; 619-420-7971. Rick - 1120 S. 42nd Street, El Cajon; 619-575-7048. Security Services, Inc. is seeking detail-oriented individuals to clean our high rise office building for steady hourly work at our San Diego CA location. These positions are part-time, 10-12 hour shifts, Monday through Saturday. No experience necessary. On-the-job training and supervision. There is a light to moderate amount of lifting and walking involved. Call: 619-575-7048. Interested candidates must have a high school degree or GED and a valid driver's license and a minimum of three years of customer service experience. The starting hourly wage is $16/hour plus benefits. For more information call 619-575-7048. Opportunities are available for shift replacements. For more information call 619-575-7048. Opportunities are available for shift replacements.

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San Diego Reader June 29, 2006

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The image contains a page from a document related to career training and education. The text is about attending various colleges and training programs, including courses on casino dealing, bartending, and other related fields. The document also includes contact information for these programs.

Here is the natural representation of the text:

**CALIFORNIA COLLEGE: San Diego.** Gain the skills you need for a better job, faster! See our ad in Job Giant, Page 5. Offering programs in Computer and Business. We offer Associates and Bachelor's degrees, including online courses. (858) 461-2800 or 1-877-681-2536.

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**FREE CAREER NIGHT!** Pacific Career Institute, Thursday, July 13, 2006. 7:30pm at the La Jolla Marriott, 4240 La Jolla Village Drive. (858) 255-9110. College of Automotive Management, the world's premier automotive management and lending school. Need a high-paying career? Would you like to start next month? Work in the Automotive, RV, Motorcycle, and Financial Service Industry. Learn a new career in only 1 week or train for 8 months. (Automotive, RV, Motorcycle) Financial Services, Special Finance Manager, Loaning Sales Manager. Internet Sales Consultant, Service Department Manager. Professional Music Instruction. For more information visit: www.collegeofautomotive.com or call 800-255-9110. College of Automotive Management.

**FREE CAREER NIGHT!** San Diego Career College, Thursday, July 6, 2006. 7-9pm at the La Jolla Marriott, 4240 La Jolla Village Drive. (858) 255-9110. College of Automotive Management, the world's premier automotive management and lending school. Need a high-paying career? Would you like to start next month? Work in the Automotive, RV, Motorcycle, and Financial Service Industry. Learn a new career in only 1 week or train for 8 months. (Automotive, RV, Motorcycle) Financial Services, Special Finance Manager, Loaning Sales Manager. Internet Sales Consultant, Service Department Manager. Professional Music Instruction. For more information visit: www.collegeofautomotive.com or call 800-255-9110. College of Automotive Management.


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**Average incomes according to information published by the National Automobile Dealers Association, McLean, VA, for the year ending 2004.

*Average incomes according to information published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics website. These statistics are not meant to be an expressed or implied claim of what our graduates can earn, which may be higher or lower than these figures. Individually results vary.
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NORMAL HEIGHTS/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large bedroom, fridge, 2 car garage, washer/dryer. All included, off-street parking. Quiet. Desirable location. 858-483-8100, ext. 10, agent.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large yard, 2-car garage. Nearby Shopping. 951-514-9912.


NORTH PARK. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Very private location on property. Very large yard, 2 car garage. Pets OK. 858-483-8100, ext. 10, agent.

La Jolla, 1919. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 619-235-2415.

NORTH PARK. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Pets OK. 858-483-8100, ext. 10, agent.

KENSINGTON. Large 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath home. Vaulted ceilings, huge master bedroom, 2 walk-in closets. 858-759-5151.

La Jolla, 1910. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Pets OK. 10278 Empress Avenue. Low maintenance yard. 2 car garage. Manager, 619-370-5122.

MISSION BAY. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 619-235-2415.

MISSION BAY. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 619-235-2415.

La Jolla, 1928. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 619-235-2415.

La Jolla, 1915. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 619-235-2415.

La Jolla, 1920. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 619-235-2415.

La Jolla, 1915. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 619-235-2415.

La Jolla, 1928. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 619-235-2415.

La Jolla, 1918. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 619-235-2415.

La Jolla, 1912. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 619-235-2415.

La Jolla, 1906. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 619-235-2415.

La Jolla, 1908. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 619-235-2415.

La Jolla, 1920. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 619-235-2415.

La Jolla, 1922. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 619-235-2415.

La Jolla, 1914. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 619-235-2415.

La Jolla, 1912. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 619-235-2415.

La Jolla, 1910. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 619-235-2415.

La Jolla, 1929. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 619-235-2415.
I don’t really look at the front page at all. It’s not really a constant, unless there’s some sports I want to follow. To tell you the truth, I’d rather read magazines; I read food magazines and some gossip magazines. I’ll thumb through those at various magazines every day I go to the store. I read e-mail every day; I read all the books I need to for school. I once read a book for fun and it was a pretty sick book, but I’m not one to go look for books.

I read MySpace every day. I see more trends on the news, a lot of people are downloading books. I totally read books for fun; I don’t read newspapers. I think they’re more interesting. I just pick it up sporadically. I just read The Picture of Dorian Gray for the hell of it because I like that book. I don’t know, reading can be relaxing and so escape. It gives you things to laugh about, it’s good for conversation. You can always reference something from a book.

I usually read only one for class. Literacy isn’t funny, but I don’t read a lot.

I read a book every day. I see more trends on the news, a lot of people are downloading books. I totally read books for fun; I don’t read newspapers. I think they’re more interesting. I just pick it up sporadically. I just read The Picture of Dorian Gray for the hell of it because I like that book. I don’t know, reading can be relaxing and so escape. It gives you things to laugh about, it’s good for conversation. You can always reference something from a book.

There’s something you read every day? I read MySpace every day. I see more trends on the news, a lot of people are downloading books. I totally read books for fun; I don’t read newspapers. I think they’re more interesting. I just pick it up sporadically. I just read The Picture of Dorian Gray for the hell of it because I like that book. I don’t know, reading can be relaxing and so escape. It gives you things to laugh about, it’s good for conversation. You can always reference something from a book.
COLLEGE AREA.


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Cozy rooms, $450-$500. 1348 square feet. 2 side by side underground parking spots included. Pool/spa. Basketball courts and recreation room. 858-815-1700 x192.


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I lost 22 1/2” waistline

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**HOTEL & FARM**

Ben Katcher ©2006

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**PROFILE**

- **Hotel**
  - **Location:** Downtown/Little Italy
  - **Address:** 315 Fourth Avenue
  - **Phone:** 619-231-1505 x12
  - **Website:** thebillboardlofts.com
  - **Description:** Street-level lofts, ground floor parking, community equipment, beautiful building. **Agent:** Sharna (sharna@thebillboardlofts.com)

- **Farm**
  - **Location:** Downtown/Little Italy
  - **Address:** 315 Fourth Avenue
  - **Phone:** 619-231-1505 x12
  - **Website:** thebillboardlofts.com
  - **Description:** Street-level lofts, ground floor parking, community equipment, beautiful building. **Agent:** Sharna (sharna@thebillboardlofts.com)

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**Services**

- **Hotel Services**
  - **Features:** Street-level lofts, ground floor parking, community equipment, beautiful building.
  - **Agent:** Sharna (sharna@thebillboardlofts.com)

- **Farm Services**
  - **Features:** Street-level lofts, ground floor parking, community equipment, beautiful building.
  - **Agent:** Sharna (sharna@thebillboardlofts.com)

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**DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY.**

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**quiet, residential neighborhood. Utilities**

**sharna@thebillboardlofts.com, www**.

**Agent, 619-469-7790. www**.

**ground parking. Cats OK. $1655. 760-**

**Broadway, 1023 Fourth Avenue. 619-231-**

**Controlled access. Pets welcomed! On**

**Air conditioning. Cable/Internet ready.**

**ton Plaza, Petco Park, House of Blues,**

**ing-heart of Gaslamp District. Live/work.**

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**Office visit, examination, x-rays, cleaning, fluoride.**

**All at no charge!**

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**HOTEL & FARM**

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In celebration of the Navy’s 150th anniversary, this month, the Navy had built its first aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. Langley.

— by Robert Marushi
AQUARIUM SALE
7pm. Saturday, 10am-6pm. Sunday, Behind Superior Courthouse, off Claire 5466 Complex Street #204, San Diego. Expertise not found in Southern California 9000 square feet. Low warehouse prices! Saltwater fish. Extensive reef animals. www.isaiahsbulldogs.com or 619-421-0192 or 619-934-0863.

Dogs.

Selling the trio for $1495. 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex, 1 year, 1010 sq. ft, 2 garage spaces. Great location, quiet street. Very good with kids. $500 deposit. 619-917-6309.

GREAT DANE, 2 year old female, great with kids, nice dog, dog house is included. Needs friendly, very loving. Needs great home with lots of love and attention. $800-1000.

GUINEA PIGS, 2 males, 2 females. All pet for adoption, very well socialized, great with kids. Need loving home with lots of love and attention. $200.

KITTEN, 2 black females, 4 months old, very nice. They get along with other cats. $200 each. 619-888-6604.

UMBERLLA COCKATOO, 4 months old, white, black, and yellow. Very talkative, needs a lot of love and attention. $700.

PUPPIES, tabby, 2 males, 2 females. Just adorable. Born 5/30/06. 3 pounds, very healthy. $350 each. 619-804-3325.

TEACUP PUG, 3 months old, black, just adorable. Need loving, caring home. $500.

WILD CAT, 2 males, 1 female. Wild cat, outside. $200 each. 619-588-2930.

LOST CATS
Siamese mix, medium, young, female. Found by 4/15/06 in the 2800 block of 33rd Street. Contact 619-588-2930.

Lost, female, 1 black/white female. ADBA registered. 11 weeks old first set of shots. $600 deposit. 619-421-0192 or 619-934-0863.

PUPPIES, tabby, 2 males, 2 females. Just adorable. Born 5/30/06. 3 pounds, very healthy. $350 each. 619-888-6604.

PAPER TRASH TANK, 4 month male, 10 pounds, 8 weeks old. Loves to play. $50. 619-888-6604.

PICKLE, 4 month female, 8 pounds. Great with children. $50. 619-888-6604.

PASCAL, 10 week old, 3 pounds. Great with kids. $150. 619-583-5122.

PAPILLON, 10 week old, 3 pounds. Great with kids. $150. 619-583-5122.
**THE DINETTE SET**

by Julie Larson ©2006

"My Boss Told Me Today That My Motivation Speech at the Employee Seminar Was the Best He's Heard In Years."

**Hold On, Patty, I Wanna Get This Down In Your Baby Book. Was This Your Very First Speech?**

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$300,000 Home/Condo for $1531/month
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$400,000 Home/Condo for $2042/month

Down Payment Assistance $15K (no payment required)
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Low Credit Score No Problem (620 or above FICO)

CALL TODAY...MOVE IN NEXT MONTH! 800-736-5126

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**Point Loma**

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- prop.com
- 619-692-4121

**Point Loma**

- 619-222-9308

**Point Loma**

- 619-297-5100
- 1-year lease. 3140 Midway Drive. 858-224-9308.

**Point Loma**

- 619-225-2372; 858-488-4919;

**Point Loma**

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**Point Loma**

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**Point Loma**

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CARMEL VALLEY, 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath condo with 2-car garage. New hardwood floors. $260K. 858-940-3077.

CLAREMONT, Immaculate Spanish style 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-car garage. New granite countertops, walk-in closets, and gated parking. Close to shopping and hiking trails. 12620 San Lucas Dr., San Diego, CA 92131. 858-405-6467.

CLAREMONT TOWNSHIPS, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, $350K. New carpet, new ceiling lights, new paint. Close to shopping and walking trails. 10695 Capistrano Rd., La Jolla, CA 92037. 858-456-3119.


DOWNTOWN-PARK BOULEVARD WEST! Bright 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with pool and jacuzzi. Monthly rental $1650. $175K down. APR only 5.5%. Call Agent, Elizabeth, at 858-455-6697.

FIFTH AND BROADWAY! Prices start at $299,000. Beautiful 2 bed, 2 bath at 2121 Fifth Ave. $465,000. Call Agent, Elizabeth, at 858-455-6697.

GALVESTON MANSIONS! Amazing Downtown Condos! 5972 University Ave., San Diego, CA 92110. 858-945-1158. For more information, please write. A&P Realty, 619-425-4555.


LA COSTA, 2 bedrooms from 1285 to 1340 sq ft. Close to UTC, shopping and restaurants. $275K-375K. Call Tibet, 858-749-9454.

LA JOLLA. Sunny, lovely 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Assumable financing 5.5% APR only 5.9%. Call Agent, Elizabeth, at 858-455-6697.

LA JOLLA, Large closets, Controlled access, Private balcony/patio. 4032 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla, CA 92037. 858-456-3119.

LA PARKS, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, $375K. New carpet, new upgrades and paint. Resort townhouse. Assumable financing 5.5% APR only 5.9%. Call Agent, Elizabeth, at 858-455-6697.


LINDALE, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, $325K. New lighting, new paint, new sliding glass doors. 5644 Lindale Dr., La Jolla, CA 92037. 858-456-3119.

LINDENHURST, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, $250K. New lighting, new paint. 4114 Fallbrook Rd., La Jolla, CA 92037. 858-456-3119.

LUGANO, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, $220K. New lighting, new paint. 3626 Kensington Rd., La Jolla, CA 92037. 858-456-3119.

MAPLEWOOD, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, $200K. New lighting, new paint. 9738 Kensington Rd., La Jolla, CA 92037. 858-456-3119.

MARINE TRAIL, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, $300K. New flooring, new paint. 3027 Edgewater Pl., La Jolla, CA 92037. 858-456-3119.

MIRANDA, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, $250K. New lighting, new paint. 6231 La Jolla Ave., La Jolla, CA 92037. 858-456-3119.

MIRANDA, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, $250K. New lighting, new paint. 7385 La Jolla Ave., La Jolla, CA 92037. 858-456-3119.

NEWPORT BEACH, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, $300K. New lighting, new paint. 4410 Channing Pl., San Diego, CA 92107. 858-456-3119.

NEWPORT BEACH, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, $400K. New lighting, new paint. 6629 La Jolla Ave., La Jolla, CA 92037. 858-456-3119.

NEWPORT BEACH, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, $200K. New lighting, new paint. 6915 La Jolla Ave., La Jolla, CA 92037. 858-456-3119.

NEWPORT BEACH, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, $220K. New lighting, new paint. 9193 La Jolla Ave., La Jolla, CA 92037. 858-456-3119.

NEWPORT BEACH, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, $150K. New lighting, new paint. 12724 Via Estria, La Jolla, CA 92037. 858-456-3119.

NEWPORT BEACH, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, $250K. New lighting, new paint. 12724 Via Estria, La Jolla, CA 92037. 858-456-3119.

NEWPORT BEACH, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, $250K. New lighting, new paint. 9757 Via Estria, La Jolla, CA 92037. 858-456-3119.

NEWPORT BEACH, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, $150K. New lighting, new paint. 12724 Via Estria, La Jolla, CA 92037. 858-456-3119.

NEWPORT BEACH, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, $250K. New lighting, new paint. 9757 Via Estria, La Jolla, CA 92037. 858-456-3119.

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NEWPORT BEACH, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, $250K. New lighting, new paint. 9757 Via Estria, La Jolla, CA 92037. 858-456-3119.
SINGER WANTED,
asap. Interested, gstringmn@yahoo.com.

SINGER NEEDED,
lessoninpain.

MUSICIAN AVAILABLE.
or band. Michael, 619-742-7774.

band, breeznstuff@att.net, 858-578-4754.

LEAD SINGER/FRONT,
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sessional gear. 1 gig and 2 rehearsals/

Cool jazz, R&B,

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(1,000) starting at $925. Serving San

San Diego classic rock band. Gigging band

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San Diego Reader June 29, 2006 204
The other day I was tangled in dog leashes and poop bags when I was pulled up short by the sound of a cat clawing on a window. "Francis? Is that you?"

Bebe, I sponsored her six years ago, listening to her lose 20 pounds and justify binges in that scratching voice: her son's choice of major, the contents of her husband's mail, a bat mitzvah she hadn't been invited to. My advice was to keep her nose out of everybody's business.

"I didn't even recognize you!"

Obviously my advice hasn't stuck.

I assume she was referring to my weight gain, although I wasn't looking reunion-ready, either. My hair, probably unbrushed and stuck up any old way off my neck, needs to be colored, and my face was shiny with sweat and dog kisses. My dog-walking clothes can be fresh from the dryer and still look like I've just planted an acre of corn.

Of course, she doesn't know I've lost 23 pounds or that I walk dogs for four hours a day. I've been studying the obese bodies exposed by the sullen pre-solstice — the woman so fat she walks in fifth position, numerous canes, the man waddling with aplomb as his shorts hitch an inverted V. Boom's trainer who splatters sweat stains after a few blocks of heel. Once upon a time I was one of them, looking away quick as quick, not wanting to see myself.

"These days I look with a certain adoration and a good deal of sadness. Who knows what their stories are? Who knows what they crave and dread?"

I'm about to be one of them for a night. My erstwhile best friend from high school (which isn't saying much) is in town on business. Raeane and I are either on or off, speaking or not speaking. At 18, she was what I wanted to be: 5'7", 98 pounds, long blonde hair, big firm tits, sleeping with my oldest brother and itinerate poets.

I love her — who else do I have to talk with about Iris Murdoch, Scarletti, and who turned up gay at our 30th high school reunion? Equally, my hatred of her was in every wail to my college shrink that even if I were thin I was still 5'8". (I never did admit that since my brother was fucking all my friends, I wished he'd, at least, tell me I was fuckable too.) Raeane was my template.

Dick Hugo loved her poetry. She moved to New York and worked in a literary agency. She lived in Brooklyn Heights, which is where she lost me in her course of marriage, kids, divorce. She's become the queen of Montana arts funding and married a novelist, who was among my stable of authors.

His alchemical tantrum one Saturday night induced me to get an unlisted phone number and, yet again, drop my best friend.

We've met a couple of times since the rupture, written a few letters, attended some of the same parties. The last time I saw her, three years ago, I was wearing a J. Jill dress, size medium.

She'll come out to the Heights after her day of seminars and after I've hauled three dogs back and forth from the park. I'm praying my fat clothes don't make me look fatter, but unlike Bebe, she'll recognize me and say I look great. As laughable as it sounds, she's only seen me thinner than my current weight twice.
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North Park, Men’s 9’5’’ pitch league in expanding. Teams and individual players welcome. 819-231-8269.

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Pitch league is expanding. Teams and individual players welcome. 619-253-6620.

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Surfboards, ‘89 XTR (closed cell foam) epoxy resin, 6’x19”x2.25” swallow tail, FCS model, XTR (closed cell foam) epoxy resin, 6’x19”x2.25” swallow tail, FCS future fins and deck pad, Al’s all-time board, 2-5/8 thick 21-1/2 wide. Brand new, surfed once, Tri-fin, no dings, perfect condition, this kayak rips! $325, 858-952-9156.


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Surfboard, 9’6” Leucadia single fin

Surfboard, 9’2” Clark blank, pintail, too much to list. All in excellent condition, this kayak rips! $325, 858-952-9156.

Surfboard, ‘91 Steve Bloom $325, 99030 rental condition. 858-558-3535. Call for service.

Surfboard, 858-652-3426. (Miramar Auto Center, 2 miles east of UTC mall)

Surfboard, 858-558-8569

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LEAD STORY
A five-year-old boy in Broward County, Fla., preparing to enter kindergarten, is believed by gender-identity experts to be the youngest kid in the country whose family supports his decision to live completely as the other sex (according to a May profile in the New Times of Broward-Palm Beach). The parents doubt that the unnamed now-girl, dubbed "Nicole Anderson" in the article, is "just going through a phase," because of her "early" constant, and insistent feminine preferences and comments, e.g., "I want the fairy princess to come and make my penis into a vagina."

Government in Action
In May, Nevada officials said they were hopeful of persuading the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to allow the family of a soldier who was killed in Afghanistan and is buried in a federal cemetery to have a Wiccan symbol on his headstone. The department has approved headstone symbols for more than 30 religions, as well as one for atheists, but so far not for Wicca.

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Bright Ideas
New Scientist magazine reported in May that the Pentagon’s cutting-edge research agency, DARPA, was considering a human-launching device that works something like a cannon, to blast special-forces troops (and maybe firefighters and police officers) at just the right trajectory so that they land on hard-to-reach locations, such as rooftops.

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The Continuing Campaign to Make Everything Perfect
(1) The principal of Liberty Elementary School in Colleyville, Texas, authorized an enlarged photo of a nickel on this year’s yearbook cover, but with "In God We Trust" deleted so as not to cause offense — but then handed out stickers with those four words so that students could place them on the cover photo if they wished. (2) A British government agency recently decided to spend the equivalent of $35 million over ten years to encourage good habits among women and encourage them to become fisherwomen (or fishermen) because many too-angry anglers are white, male, and middle-aged; a Welsh pilot project, for example, teaches Muslim women and children to fish for trout.

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Beware of Human
(1) Robert L. Mays, 64, an associate dean at the University of Southern Illinois, agreed to plead guilty in June to bting a man on the leg. The victim had stopped to help Mays after a March traffic accident. (2) Louisville, Ky., middle-school teacher Caroline Kolb was fired in March after a January incident in which she bit a 14-year-old student on the back as punishment. (3) Janet W. Strong, 53, was charged by police in April with biting a toddler at her Loving Touch Child Care center in Milton, Fla. (4) An assistant to boxer Mike Tyson revealed in March that he had settled his lawsuit stemming from a May 2003 incident in which he had accused Tyson, who was angry about a road-rage incident, of punching him and then biting him on the leg.

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Photograph
New Scientist
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Thirty Years Ago
In San Diego, even the big agencies are having their share of troubles. The local Pinkerton Agency hires only two full-time detectives, while Wackenhut supplements investigative work with security guard service and the sale of electronic gear.

—“THE DEMISE OF THE SMALL-TIME DICK,” Bruce Gahney, July 1, 1976

Twenty-Five Years Ago
Your sentimental piece about Oakwood Gardens East (June 17) drew a warm, romantic picture of a close-knit community thriving in this apartment complex. Unfortunately, you did not draw a sharply focused, in-depth picture of the realities of life for the permanent tenants here.

I am speaking of the 200 of us who are over 62 years of age and the 100 of us who are disabled in various ways. We are now paying from $350 to $550 a month for a range of apartment accommodations which at this time, in San Diego, must be considered a moderate rent.


Twenty Years Ago
What follows are [Raymond] Chandler’s own words.

“What do I do with myself from day to day? I write when I can and don’t when I can’t; always in the morning or the early part of the day. You get very gaudy ideas at night but they don’t stand up. I have no theories about writing. I just write. If it doesn’t seem good to me, I throw it away. I have studied writing, the kind of thing that stands off and admires itself.”

—“CHANDLER STYLE,” Jeff Smith, July 3, 1996

Fifteen Years Ago
January 10. My father, in a red American Motors 440, drives north through the Sonora desert, ticking off towns as the sun rises to his right. Santa Ana, Caborca, Tijayo. He is on his way to Tijuana, to his mother’s house, where he has lived since my mother threw him out of our home. He left Cuculican yesterday, in the morning. He’s been driving alone, nonstop, pausing for gas and two terrible roadside meals. The cheap tape recorder nestled among packs of cigarettes on the seat beside him has been playing Mexican songs that call forth all his ghosts and memories. Miguel Prado, Agustín Lara, Pedro Infante, Lola Beltran. Mile upon mile, the car has gradually filled with the dead and forgotten. The back seat is crowded with 100 girlfriends, lovers, and wives. Time swirls around him like smoke.

—“I WILL TAKE SPIT ON THE TIPS OF MY FINGERS AND DRAW TEARS DOWN MY CHEEKS,” Luis Urrea, July 3, 1991

Ten Years Ago
Daniel Duane hooked me. Perhaps it’s his precise descriptions of natural life. “Otters can live their whole lives without coming to land, with fur four times as insulating as fat keeping them warm, buoyant, and waterproof.” Duane’s history of the surfboard I recommend to anyone who imagines himself uninterested in surfing.

One of Caught Inside’s dedications is Duane’s uncle, Jim Duane, a San Diego resident for two decades. Jim Duane introduced Daniel to surfing. “My first time ever on a surfboard,” said Duane, “was at San Onofre when I was about 12. San Diego is really the surf landscape of my dreams. It looked like California was supposed to look. Water was warm. There were actually people on the beaches in swimsuits instead of people in wool sweaters walking their sheepdogs.”

—READING: “CAUGHT INSIDE,” Judith Moore, June 27, 1996

Five Years Ago
The Sacramento Bee reports that Steve Peace, the state senator from Chula Vista blamed for that 1996 utility-derigation bill, is making big money out of the ensuing power shortage. His media company, Four Square Productions, whose clients have included SDSU and other power companies, has made a video offering tips on how to cope with blackouts this summer.


Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com
Dear Saffron,

I've been on eight dates now with a guy I like lots. We talk well, have fun, and he says he really enjoys my company. But except for a peck on the cheek, we've had no physical contact at all. I'm not a sex friend, but I'm very attracted to this man and a big fan of physical affection. Last date I worked up my courage and told him I was attracted to him. He said, "I think you're really cool." I was like, "Hmmm, what does that mean?" So I came out and said, "But is there any erotic component in your feelings about me?" He hesitated and said, "I'm not sure." Now I feel kind of crushed. I went out again, but not sure if I should keep seeing this guy if he isn't going to be attracted to me. Should I keep dating him and hope chemistry will develop? 

Into Hugging and Kissing in Kensington

Dear Into Hugging and Kissing,

You have to use your people-sense and intuition to determine whether to take it slow, or is shy — or whether he just wants to be friends and you need to look elsewhere for sex and romance. I'm not encouraged by what he said. After eight dates, if he still doesn't know if he's attracted to you, chances are very good that he's not. You want to be with someone who is capable of being demonstrative with you. If something doesn't change in this department during the next date or two, look elsewhere for a man who doesn't keep you starved for affection.

Dear Saffron,

My mom, who lives in Northern California and is in her mid-50s, recently lost her job. Mom has been married a few times but nothing stuck. She never has much money and has been doing well for a while, but she's a little unstable — she sometimes doesn't make the best decisions and isn't always too practical. Many years ago she was wrongfully railroaded out of a job, but that hasn't recurred. So she is eccentric, but charming, and perfectly able to hold down a job and take care of herself. People like her, and she has friends. She can be a bit like a kid, though — she lost her job because the company she was working for is having financial problems, and they had to let her go. The day she lost her job she went to her landlord immediate and said she couldn't pay the rent anymore and unemployment was moving out. I had a new address and gave him my number, so he called me and told me what she had said. He knows it took my brother and I a while to find her this perfect living situation in a really nice, big rented duplex with an old couple upstairs who adore her. She checks up on them, and they keep an eye on her. I called my mom to see what had happened, and she was packing up her stuff. "Where are you going to go?" I asked. She said, "I'm coming to San Diego to move in with you or Bobby," as if it had all been discussed and decided. (Bobby is my brother.) When I told my brother about this, he freaked out. Neither my brother nor I are in a position to have Mom come live with us! Bob just moved with his girlfriend to a tiny apartment, and I am getting married on September 1st, and my fiancé and I live in a very small rented house. Neither of us can pay Mom's rent for her either. We give her a little money when we can, but it's not enough. The landlord is very generous and willing to work with us to keep Mom where she is, but obviously he can't afford to let her stay there for nothing for the foreseeable future. Suggestions?

Worried Santee Siblings

Dear Worried,

Sounds as if you and your brother are going to be going up north to help Mom find a wonderful, trustworthy roommate. You said Mom's place is big, so there must be plenty of space for friendly, comfortable cohabitation. Mom sounds social, and she needs someone to pay half the rent till she gets another job. The big-hearted landlord is acting as if he might approve such a plan. Be proactive about helping Mom screen prospective roommates since she sometimes acts impulsively or has trouble making good decisions. This could be a blessing in disguise; Mom gets financial relief and company and doesn't have to move, and you don't have to deal with Mom tagging along on your honeymoon.

Write to Saffron, c/o the San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego CA 92198-5803; call her at 619-213-3000 ext. 413; fax her at 619-881-2401; or e-mail to saffron@sdreader.com

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LEATHER CHAIR. Black, 1 1/2" thick leather chair, leaf, $75. Two coffee tables, $50 a piece. $35/each. (off Miramar Road) expires 7/13/06.

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4. Only accept payment through a secure method, such as a money transfer or a third-party app.

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WHERE WE ARE GOING

It's 5:39 a.m. on the day of the rehearsal dinner. I'm sitting here typing what will be my last blog before my wedding and subsequent honeymoon.

I'm tired. My feet are swollen, and my knees are ready to crack with their next subtle bend. My hands and elbows burn with brittle suggestion that arthritis may be setting in. My neck and shoulders are not yet relieved of the fatigue from here typing what will be my last blog before my wedding.

Today is paramount. We've been at this wedding-planning table for 18 months. In these next 36 hours, we will pull every detail together. Time is short. Polish has been poured for application to every detail that remains incomplete. Every minute between now and 4:30 this afternoon has been appropriated. It is a day for finishing touches—haircuts, cutting tuxedos.

Tonight is practice, a puzzle for family and friends who have been conversing and debating for months about this wedding. For those family and friends, their envisioned landscapes and ocean backdrops will be repainted into a wedding site that they will all be told where and how to stand. They will be told when or when not to proceed with their piece of the wedding puzzle. The open spaces to complete the puzzle will be filled tonight, placed carefully so that a picture of tomorrow is complete.

Tomorrow is the day. It is a day that for me begins with a full. The morning is slated to provide a rested and relaxed start. I won't need to be anywhere or do anything until noon. And from there I will be consumed in a whirlwind of activity that will culminate in a joyous celebration of matrimony. Mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles, sisters, friends will witness a union of two people...two souls. Glasses will be raised, and music, dancing, and blessing will follow. As will pictures of smiles, hugs, kisses, tears, perhaps a few happy tears. Memories will be created and forever written in our minds.

Sunday, a new life begins. When I used to envision myself in the future, I saw myself alone. That vision has evolved. Now, though I stand alone, someone appears at my side and grabs my hand. It is unknown just where we will go. It is known who will be there by my side. This person I love and cherish gives me comfort and understanding. She gives me reason and rationale and balances me out. She makes me smile, even when she is in a different room. She gives me strength and a deep sense of belief and belonging. She loves me unconditionally and does not judge or belittle me for the decisions I make. She makes me laugh and love. Yes, indeed, a new life begins. Her life and my life are now our life for today and always.
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ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON
Location: 4001 Market Street, Mt. Hope
Time/Date: 8:45 p.m. on 6/4/06
Report: A 42-year-old woman had observed her husband with another male in the driveway while she was doing yard work. She warned her husband of the situation, but he took no action. She then called police and went inside her home. When she returned to the driveway, she found her husband standing with a .45 caliber handgun and a .22 caliber handgun. She grabbed a phone and contacted police. The suspects fled in a black Toyota 4Runner, possibly 1996 model. The suspects fired shots at the car. One of the suspects was shot in the leg and taken to the hospital. The other suspect fled on foot. The victim was transported to the hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.

PEDESTRIAN ROBBERY/STABBING
Location: Camino de la Reina and Qualcomm Way, Mission Valley
Time/Date: 6:45 p.m. on 6/1/06
Report: A white male pedestrian was walking along the sidewalk near the San Diego River and... [passed] a man standing near the sidewalk. The man noticed the pedestrian and followed him. The pedestrian ran up to the man, grabbed his purse, and fled on foot towards the river. Officers searched the area but were unable to locate the suspect. The victim was transported to a local hospital with a non-life-threatening stab wound.

AUTO THEFT
Location: Mission Boulevard and Ventura Place, Mission Beach
Time/Date: 5:07 p.m. on 6/4/06
Report: The victim saw his vehicle being driven away, borrowed a bicycle and gave chase. He caught up with the suspects and confronted them. The suspects fled in a black Toyota 4Runner, possibly 1996 model. The suspects fired shots at the car. One of the suspects was shot in the leg and taken to the hospital. The other suspect fled on foot. The victim was transported to the hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.

ROBBERY/ATTENDED MURDER
Location: 3412 College Avenue, Oak Park
Time/Date: 8:49 p.m. on 6/5/06
Report: The suspect, Christopher L., switched prices tags on merchandise, placing tags from inexpensive items on higher-priced items, sold the self-checkout lane [in Walmart]. A clerk noticed the prices being run up did not match the items being checked out and notified store security. A store loss prevention officer contacted L. outside and placed him under arrest. L. resisted and fought with the loss prevention officer during which L. pulled out a knife and stabbed and slashed the employee on the neck and face. The employee was able to subdue L. and hold him for police. The employee was transported to a local hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.

BURGLARY
Location: 1600 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont Mesa East
Time/Date: 4:07 a.m. on 6/9/06
Report: The suspects used an unreported Chevy El Camino to back through the front glass door of the Mobil Gas Station. It appeared that they were attempting to take the ATM machine from the store...because they had blocked the frame of the door with the car, they couldn’t reach the ATM. The suspects fled when the alarm activated.

SHOOTING
Incident: A black male gang member was challenging a Hispanic male gang member to a fight. The Hispanic male beat the black male and left him in the street. The black male and his friends confronted the Hispanic male with a .45 caliber handgun and shot several rounds. The Hispanic male was hit in the leg and taken to the hospital. The wound was non-life-threatening.

KNIFEING
Location: 4000 Mailbrough, Teulot West
Time/Date: 2:43 a.m. on 6/11/06
Report: A Hispanic male, 14-years-old, affiliated with gangs, was picked up for curfew. He then told the officers he was stabbed in the back earlier in the evening at 44th and Orange Avenue by another gang member. The stab wound was covered over by a roll of toilet paper, secured with duct tape. He was transported to the hospital for treatment. The wound was non-life-threatening.

—Michael Hemmingson

VERBATIM POLICE REPORTS

ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON
Location: 4001 Market Street, Mt. Hope
Time/Date: 8:45 p.m. on 6/4/06
Report: A 42-year-old woman had observed her husband with another male in the driveway while she was doing yard work. She warned her husband of the situation, but he took no action. She then called police and went inside her home. When she returned to the driveway, she found her husband standing with a .45 caliber handgun and a .22 caliber handgun. She grabbed a phone and contacted police. The suspects fled in a black Toyota 4Runner, possibly 1996 model. The suspects fired shots at the car. One of the suspects was shot in the leg and taken to the hospital. The other suspect fled on foot. The victim was transported to the hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.

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KNIFEING
Location: 4000 Mailbrough, Teulot West
Time/Date: 2:43 a.m. on 6/11/06
Report: A Hispanic male, 14-years-old, affiliated with gangs, was picked up for curfew. He then told the officers he was stabbed in the back earlier in the evening at 44th and Orange Avenue by another gang member. The stab wound was covered over by a roll of toilet paper, secured with duct tape. He was transported to the hospital for treatment. The wound was non-life-threatening.

—Michael Hemmingson

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"I always seem to love in two women at the same time."

_by John Brizzolara_

“We'll, there's what I really did Friday night and then there's this version.”

This large stranger and I were in one of my favorite coffee houses that's too far away from where I live now but close enough to my pharmacy, kind of my second home on Friday afternoon, payday. Slow turning fans are overhead above rifles, about 30 of them that hang on the walls—old Mauers, Mannlinchers, and carabiners. Winchester's, Martini's or Enfields. I don't know what all else, but they looked as if they could have been taken anytime over the past 100 years from Afghan troops. All are above the glass counter tops displaying teas, coffees, cigars, and French, North African, Southeast Asian, and Middle Eastern brands of cigarettes, some of them packed with clive, others, commonly sold in commercial arc-matics that are like smoking food salad vie with that of the tea and coffee always brewing and the smell of car exhaust from the street, mingling indiscernibly. I do doors with mundane cigarette and cigar smoke (or maybe burned curl.).

He then withdrew a blank one from an equally large stack of two dozen cards, set it before him and clicked his ballpoint pen over a photo of the Coronado bay bridge as if deciding his epigraph before jumping off of the thing. “How would you describe Coronado?” he asked me, seeming to duck my earlier question, “How did you spend your Friday night?” He was not really. I described Coronado, using phrases such as, “A lot of retired admirals living with their parents,” and “Even the gas stations have window boxes.” He laughed. I didn't think he'd get it.

I'll call him Bert because I remembered me of the Sesame Street character complete with a Fuller Brush mustache, if anyone still recalls that reference. As I spoke, he filled the card with handwriting—small script you'd not expect from a big guy—and it filled every centimeter of white space, even along the sides, top, and bottom of the rest of the text. Finally, he explained what he was doing.

“I'm sending this to my chick in New York. I fly for [some airline I hadn't heard of] and met her then overheard her talking to her girlfriends about how she would only date men who had good relations with their mothers. Well, I don't, but I wanted to take her out. I started talking to her and brought up my mother and started talking about how I'd better get going, that every afternoon at that time I'd go home and call my mother and we'd watch Oprah together on the phone. My mom, I told her, was in a nursing home in L.A., but because I'm a pilot I got to see her pretty frequently. Lisa, that's my girlfriend, won't even know in reservations or something. Now, she loved him. Bert is real mother lives in Binghamton, in upstate New York, and Bert lives in Manhattan. They haven't seen each other or spoken since Christmas of '96. He didn't tell me what happened that Christmas, but he told me about meeting Pam from San Diego in the airline's first class, V.I.P. Lounge. He fell in love with her, too, and he was still in love with Lisa. “Does that happen to you? It happens to me all the time. I always seem to be in love with two women at the same time. Maybe it's because I'm a Gemini.”

He then withdrew a blank card for each of the next seven days. On every card, he would describe what he and his mom did together on their trip to San Diego. The previous week he had written in a card that he had picked up his mother from Shady Haven or whatever it was supposed to be in Beverly Hills, had driven down the coast together, stopped at Capistrano, saw the sparrows or swallows, whatever they were being warded in the Pacific while she was always wanted to do, then spent the night at the Hotel Del in La Jolla. He said he took her shopping, frolicked in the tide pools, etc., etc. All of this fiction sounded so idilly that I figured Lisa, if she was buying this crap, was an idiot. At any rate, a gullible romantic—all the same thing to me now, sad as that may seem.

He finished writing about his stay with mom at the Hotel Del on the card he had just cramped with writing, describing how his mom howled with laughter at Triple Espresso at the famous Old Globe Theater, a point on which I did not correct him. And then he gave me a rundown of his and the imaginary mater’s projected activities at the zoo and how he'd send her a picture of himself and Ma on one of those donkey caddies down in TJ.

“How I really spent my Friday night? Well, it was how I spent every other night pretty much since I got into town. Banging the lights out of Pam. She lives in Pacific Beach, and we've only left apartment to party at this bar that's really cool. Oh, we went to Horton Plaza and I made some purchases at Victoria's Secret you would not believe. This one thing has got this little thing right here that when you...” He was gesturing at his crotch, and I coughed and got up to leave. I didn't think he'd get it.

The man at the next table who had addressed me about his Friday night, dressed in Hawaiian shirt and sunglasses, cap, pretended to hand me a fistful of “Greetings From San Diego” postcards featuring Shamu or some fossil from an equally large stack of two dozen large to read at any one sitting. He took completely, others blank, was clearly too much for me. I then withdrew a blank one that when ignited burn and smell for hours. As new, $250. 619-922-7538. 760-789-4372.

“Bert, I gotta go.”

“Yea, nice meeting you.” He turned back to the remaining blank cards and slated them out before him, entresed as it in some weird conjuncion of solitaire and Tarot card reading. He set quickly to writing another one with Bore Pines Golf Course pictured, and I made a mental note with bet that he was having a better time right now, contemplating apparently impossible fun with his mother, than he had last night, Friday night, regoring the lights out of what’shername from P.B.

Wading through sheets of smoke on the way out, I imagined Bert and Pam sharing some kind of French cigarette, Gauloise maybe, after doing the dance of the study airman and the trembling, lovesick girl shop. Sometimes I can't turn that sort of thing off.
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