Retired American Airlines pilot Barry Martin has been called the best animal tracker in San Diego County. I asked how he first came to be interested in this arcane discipline.

A lanky athlete with probing eyes and a cleft in his chin, the 54-year-old Martin told me his interest was born when he was about 9. His family lived on a hillside overlooking Lake Sammamish, east of Seattle. Their house stood in a clearing surrounded by forest. Not long after the family moved in, Martin and his brother were roused from sleep by their sister, who whispered that two deer were in their back yard. Martin remembers rushing downstairs and sitting beside the sliding glass door that faced the rear of the house. It was dark, but he could make out shapes of a white-tailed doe and her yearling, nibbling grass near the family’s patio. The sky grew lighter, and the sun began to rise. The doe looked up, and she and the fawn began to head for the woods. But she stopped and turned to look straight at Martin. He says it felt as if she were asking him, “Well? Are you coming?”

(Story continued on page 26)
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the group mailed 39,000 copies of its Sanders endorsement to voters. The flier also backed a ballot measure to keep the cross atop Mt. Soledad, as well as a plan to curtail illegal immigration from Mexico, and, for good measure, featured a photo of George W. Bush.

According to the stipulation she signed with the Ethics Commission, Scott Hart, the Orange County political consultant who put out the piece, originally argued that it was a slate mailer and thus exempt from city-campaign-disclosure laws. But the stipulation says that wasn’t true: “The subject mailer did not qualify as a slate mailer because it did not support or oppose a total of four candidates and/or measures.” Caught in the act, Hart ended up paying $17,000 fine, but none of the other defendants was sanctioned. Ethics Commission director Stacey Fulhorst says she has no evidence that any of the donors to the piece, including Jeff Silberman, all hardened veterans of San Diego’s political-money derby, had the slightest inkling that the scheme they contributed to was in any way illegal. Sanders himself also pled ignorance.

Pigging out

The San Diego City Council keeps eating up the freebies, according to personal financial filings at city hall. Scott Peters, who is married to a multimillionaire, got a $150 ticket this January 19 to a chamber of commerce dinner thanks to SAIC, the giant government contractor that among other things has been criticized by the federal government for contract irregularities in Iraq. Tom Shepard and Associates — the hardball-playing political consultant to Mayor Jerry Sanders, the pro-Miramar San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, and Padres owner John Moores — Scott Peters $100 to attend a San Diego County Taxpayers Association dinner on May 17. Councilman Kevin Faulconer got $125 from the Corly McMillin Companies to go to the same event. His colleague Tony Young was paid $66 in food and beverage by the Building Industry Association to speak at a dinner on May 18.

Meanwhile, in the Eighth District, Ben Hueso’s best friend seems to be Otay Ranch Company’s Kim Kilkenny. On January 28, Hueso got a $500 ticket to attend a San Diego County Taxpayers Association dinner. On May 17, Councilman Kevin Faulconer got $125 from the Corly McMillin Companies to go to the same event. His colleague Tony Young was paid $66 in food and beverage by the Building Industry Association to speak at a dinner on May 18.

Over the Hedge

By Don Bauder

It’s time to jettison “America’s Finest City” for a new moniker: “The Capital of Cognitive Dissonance.” What, you ask, is cognitive dissonance? To a psychologist, it’s the acute discomfort you feel when there is a discrepancy between a cherished belief you have clung to for years and a new piece of information.

Depending on your personality structure, you may react to the painful new information in a number of ways: you may set aside the old beliefs, reject the new information no matter how persuasive it is, give your old belief a new spin, or just blank out the whole messy topic. The first course requires courage and the second requires stupidity. The last two are the coward’s way out.

The theory of cognitive dissonance was developed in the 1950s when a social psychologist observed cult members who believed that a flood would destroy the earth and the cultists alone would be rescued by aliens from another planet. When the flood never came, the courageous ones admitted they had been duped, but most members came up with a new interpretation of the earth’s fate because of improving rather than imperiling their health.

Today, a case of cognitive dissonance is rattling county psyches. In recent years the county has been smug about its pension investment strategy. While the city’s pension plan slid down the toilet, the county’s was celebrated nationally. For example, the January/February issue of Alpha, a magazine for hedge fund investors and managers, featured the county’s chief investment officer, David Deutsch, on its cover. Boomed the headline, “Making Waves: San Diego County CIO David Deutsch Is Creating a Splash, Using Hedge Funds to Power Returns at America’s Top-Ranked Public Pension Fund.”

Yeah, he has created a splash — like a two-ton boulder crashing into a river. As the article explains, the county pension fund has $1.3 billion of its money — one-fifth of its holdings — in hedge funds, the unregulated, secretive, often-offshore pools of money designed for the superrich but now being peddled to dice-rolling pension and endowment funds. By contrast, the state’s conservative pension system has only 1 percent of its money in hedge funds.

The county plunked about $175 million in Amaranth Advisors, which has taken a bath in natural gas futures contracts. That $175 million is a big chunk of the $7.7 billion portfolio, especially since there is a question about how much the county will recover.

continued on page 8

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

Neal Obermeyer
Exodus of the Rich
By Ernie Grimm

It takes American eyes a minute to see the signs of wealth in Tijuana’s Zona Diamante (Diamond Zone), high-end neighborhoods that cling to the hills south of downtown, above the country club and racetrack. Nowhere to be found are the front lawns of Southern California that stretch back from the sidewalk. Here in Agua Caliente, Chapultepec, Colonia Cacho, and other colonies of the Diamond Zone, houses sit close to the street, maximizing safer, more private back yards. Front yards, which lie behind ten-foot walls and wrought-iron gates built straight up from the sidewalk’s edge, are usually just deep enough to park cars inside the gates. Those cars, luxury sedans and SUVs, are one hint of wealth. Enormous carved-wood front doors, stained-glass windows, cupolas, and hotel-scale fountains are others. But alongside the indications of wealth are a growing number of signs that state se vende and se renta (“for sale” and “for rent”).

One day in early September, on the main drag through Chapultepec, four houses were for rent and two for sale. On a block in Colonia Cacho, two were for rent and one was for sale. And within sight of the main entrance to Lomas de Agua Caliente hung two For Rent signs and six For Sale signs. On many trees and telephone poles fliers were stapled that advertised real estate agents and property management companies.

The spectacle of these signs is a novelty for the Diamond Zone, where Tijuana’s older, moneyed families have lived with discretion. But are they evidence that upper and upper-middle classes are shrinking? Luis Serrano, president of the Tijuana Association of Real Estate Professionals, doesn’t think so. “The upper classes are still strong,” he says, “and getting stronger. Right now you have in Tijuana all kinds of high-end cars: Mercedes, Volvo, Audi, BMW. The class shirt, he’s pressed, polished, and groomed. His hair and complexion are light enough to earn him the nickname gierno, which Mexicans apply to their fair-haired, fair-skinned countrymen. Despite his belief that the well-to-do classes in Tijuana are growing, he acknowledges that at least a minor exodus from the Zona Diamante is under way.

Sergio Otañez, an agent who has sold real estate for 25 years in the Diamond Zone, says “Five or 10 percent more” houses are for sale there than usual.

Serrano is quick to point out that not all of the For Sale signs are due to people leaving the area. Speaking mostly in English, occasionally consulting a translator in the room, he says, “People change in their job or something. Another point is the insecurity in Tijuana. It’s very true that we have a lot of problems with insecurity right now. It’s the reason that many people have decided to cross the border and live in San Diego. They feel they are a lot more secure there than in Tijuana. It’s a fact of life in Tijuana. We cannot hide that.”

Asked what he means by “insecurity,” Serrano answers, “Mostly kidnapping. Yes, it’s true. The business of kidnapping is they go for the money. They try to make a good business by kidnapping people with money and collecting big ransoms. It’s a real problem right now. We cannot hide that fact. We are here to serve the people, so we do not hide anything from our clients. We understand that we cannot lower the number of kidnappings by ignoring them. So we are very honest about the risk. But I tell the people that it’s not easy to move to the United States. We hear from people all the time who changed their place of residence to San Diego, then came back again because the style of life is very different, and the cost of living is very high there.”

Hard statistics on kidnappings in Tijuana are impossible to come by as most are not reported to authorities. A study by the National Autonomous University of Mexico concluded that less than 10 percent of kidnappings are reported. A paper on Tijuana kidnapping for ransom published by the Carlsbad-based international security and crisis-management firm Clayton Consultants says, “Authorities state there [were] only 17 reported kidnaps in the city during the first six months of 2006. However, the Citizen’s Council for Public Security reports that the number is well over 40, compared to 21 in 2005 and seven in 2004. More worrisome is that this year’s cases have resulted in the death of six victims following the payment of a ransom. Since most cases are not reported to the police, other observers estimate that the number could be as high as four to five weekly. As a result, many local wealthy businessmen have moved to other Mexican states or across the border to San Diego.”

Though he insists again that it isn’t an indication of a weakening upper class, Serrano says there are also financial reasons for the exodus. “People can’t service the credit they have on that big house. They have problems paying the mortgage, so they decide to sell the house.”

Serrano says prices in the Diamond Zone run from..., continued on page 10...
Over the hedge
continued from page 6

In the article, Deutsch boasted about the county’s “alpha engine,” which uses exotic investment strategies like hedge funds to try to make the portfolio immune to the usual risks of stocks and bonds. It’s “the hottest thing around,” bragged Deutsch to the reporter. Now it’s the hottest thing around, as the seat Deutsch has been sitting in.

The county’s crashhopping partly results from its big ego. It assumes it can make 8.25 percent a year on its portfolio — high by standards of other pension funds.

So it gambles to hit its target. Bad strategy.

Like other pension funds, the county’s has a large unfunded liability. It has now become larger. It would be larger still if the county had not sold those dubious pieces of paper known as pension obligation bonds in 2002 and 2004. What has really become larger is the cognitive-dissonance discomfort of county government — not to mention employees and retirees. Will the county continue to plunk 20 percent of its money into hedge funds? Will it stick with its so-called revolutionary approach and choose different kinds of hedge funds? Or will it confess to itself that its money-management skills aren’t so ingenious after all and go back to conventional stocks, bonds, and real estate?

The county will now go through the cognitive dissonance that the city has suffered. Just think about all the cherished beliefs that have crashed in the last couple of years. In 1996, the city was proud to host the Republican convention, which was to spotlight its mayor, Susan Golding, ambitious for higher office.

Then came an expensive makeover of the stadium for the Chargers, who promised to stay until 2020. In 1998, the electorate voted for a new ballpark. The city would put in $300 million, and surrounding development — retailers, office buildings, and particularly hotels — would pay debt service on the bonds. It was during the giddy bull market of the 1990s. City leaders and the Union-Tribune assured the citizenry that San Diego was loaded with money and government was superefficient. City employees were granted wonderful new benefits: they could retire with both a monthly payment and a pot of money on the side. They could purchase years of benefits for a song, as if they had been on the payroll. The city won awards for good government. National publications hailed the city for its low ratio of city workers to population, as well as low taxes and fees, neglecting to point out that the city was ignoring infrastructure and basic services.

In 1997, author Joel Kotkin declared in City Journal that San Diego was “a city for the new millennium.” Following the 1996 Republican convention, “San Diego stepped forward into the limelight as a model for today’s urban America — a prosperous, confident big city, perfectly adapted to the new information-age economy,” he penned rapturously. The primary cause of the city’s success was “a pro-business, small-government political culture” that had been fostered by the dynamic Mayor Golding, whom Kotkin proclaimed a new hero.

But will it confess to itself that its money-management skills aren’t so ingenious after all and go back to conventional stocks, bonds, and real estate?

The county’s crashhopping partly results from its big ego. It assumes it can make 8.25 percent a year on its portfolio — high by standards of other pension funds.
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Over the hedge continued from page 8

agonizing cognitive dissonance. Citizens learned that the city had never accounted for that Republican convention on its books. Worse, it had drained money from the pension fund to help pay for it. In return for underfunding the pension pot, city employees were granted those juicy benefits. So those government workers did not get those generous benefits because the city was rich, as people were told. It was because the city was in fact poor.

Some people in city government realize that bankruptcy looms unless these ultraliberal employee benefits are reduced. But the municipal employee unions — the ones Kotkin claimed were impotent — are putting up a helluva fight.

The city's supposedly spotless government was illegally failing to report the pension underfunding in its bond prospectuses. It was also overcharging residents for sewage service and undercharging businesses. This practice subjected the city to a possible $266 million in grants and loans, and that was not reported in bond prospectuses, either.

The beloved Chargers reneged on their agreement to stay and now want a new stadium, although they really want a home in the Los Angeles area. The Padres never built the promised hotels and retailers, instead selling the land to developers who built condos, which provide insignificant tax benefits. So Petco Park is a big drain — $300 million down and $20 million a year. The great irony is that both teams could make the playoffs in their current seasons, generating excitement except among those who realize the city has been cuckolded. Such agony.

Just as many city residents are finally realizing they had clung to fairy tale beliefs, the county's façade begins to crack. Such agony.

Another cause of the unusually high number of For Sale and For Rent signs in Tijuana's wealthy neighborhoods, Serrano believes, is brokers who are not part of our association who don't make any market studies to determine the true price for a home. They just use whatever price the owner decides on, hang the sign up, and try to sell it. But the houses are often overpriced. So instead of the true market value of the house, you get someone's sentimental value on the house. They think, 'My house is worth a million dollars,' but it's only worth half a million.
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Not The Average Joe
This is with regard to Patrick Daugherty’s article “Getting Their Stories Straight!” (“Sporting Box,” September 21). First of all, Patrick, Steve Foley’s blood alcohol level was .23, which I believe is almost triple the legal limit, if my math is anywhere near correct. He also was clocked at going over 90 miles an hour, weaving in and out of traffic and almost hitting one or more parked cars. Now, perhaps Foley could have avoided this horrible tragedy by just staying in his car and asking to see the officer’s police badge, but he didn’t do that, and I’m guessing probably because he was too drunk to think about that. Maybe drunk driving is the least of it, but it shouldn’t be. It wouldn’t have been for average Joes like you or me.

Mike McAlister

That’s What Adolf Did
Thanks to Don Bauder, we now have another Brooklyn bum named Harvey Pitt as the monitor, or fox in the chicken coop, in the City of San Diego’s ongoing financial mess, which will last into the year 2080, probably (“A Born Bureaucrat Shifts the Blame,” “City Lights,” September 21). The first Brooklyn bum, former superintendent of schools Alan Bersin, then became secretary of education for the Fuhrer Schwarzenegger. By the way, Arnold is following Adolf’s political progression to the G. First he asks for a plebiscite. This is what the Fuhrer did when he asked for supreme political power from the great voters of Deutschland. Well, in the United States we’re not that stupid, so Schwarzenegger lost on all those so-called proposals that would have given him the Fuhrer’s power in California. So after that, Arnold Fuhrer switched over to the Democratic Party, which obliged him by nominating the molotov-cocktail Angelides so that Arnold would be sure to win. That’s the way it works. That’s what Adolf did. He kept switching sides, because Adolf was a switcher, even sexually. So on and on he goes. Now you’ve got a mayor who doesn’t know his ass”* from his elbow, but he’s still going to botch up the works. That’s San Diego for you. If anything can go wrong, it will go wrong.

So Mr. Lionel Van Deerlin is 92 (“The Trick Is to Benefit Your District,” “City Lights,” September 21). What else is new? I’ve been reading, or trying not to read, his trash in your fellow newspaper, the Union-Tribune. For some time now he’s been polluting their pages, which are polluted beyond redemption already. Now we receive Mr. Joe Deegan’s glorification of the great Lionel. Now Lionel is the elder statesman. He can do no wrong. He’s glorified. He’s put on a pedestal, when he’s nothing but a slimy liberal. And worse. So we’ve got Deegan to thank for that, and the Reader too.

When are you going to start interviewing some decent people? How much of Van Deering can we endure! Until he’s 102? He’ll probably live to be 112. That means we’re going to be exposed to his nonsense for another 20 years. Give me a break. Reader.

Name Withheld

Ancient History
It’s hard to believe that you aren’t so short of current material that you would dedicate only 12 pages to a story trashin City Heights that had to be redeveloped into shopping centers! Anyone reading this article would think it was current news, when it actually belonged in your “Back When” section.

Toni Petrone via e-mail

“They’re All Bad” was first published on August 9, 1990. — Editor

True Intentions Revealed

Geoff Bouvier’s amusing portrayal of an industrious, hardworking illegal immigrant from Guatemala was the perfect description of a capitalist (“Guatemalan Dream of American Green,” Cover Story, September 14).

Consider: he took risks; educated himself (investing in human capital); worked like crazy; sent money home to buy land, buildings, and cattle; and employs vaqueros in Guatemala. Knowing his talents and hard work would not be fairly rewarded in his feudal economy, he risked his life to work in capitalist America.

The author, unfortunately, demonstrates he just doesn’t get it. His venomous swipe at George W. Bush shows he is more intent upon Bush-bashing than understanding the true meaning of his own article.

Bob Spaulding

On The Plantation

Re “Guatemalan Dream of American Green” (Cover Story, September 14). I love your paper. However, once again here we cry for the poor, oppressed Latino just barely existing on our charity, blah, blah, blah. There are so many others who have suffered and were born right here. In fact, I got here in a stolen car with 26 cents in my pocket and made it through hard work and determination, actually having to compete with illegals for the odd job. I finally made it after 15-odd years and am successful now. But this (San Diego) is a plantation-type society that caters to slave labor.

I have no respect for the people who hire illegals and detest the politicians who have created this atmosphere. As H.G. Wells said at the end of the 19th Century, “America will absorb Mexico and be destroyed.” We will fall, as did Rome and Egypt, by the arrogance of slavery, in any form.

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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE

Your Smartness:
I’m nearsighted, and when I look in the mirror without my glasses, I can see myself okay but things across the room look blurry. But if the mirror is close enough for me to see my own reflection clearly, then why can’t I see the reflection of things across the room? I’m seeing both reflections from the same distance. I’m sure you can clear things up.

— Four Eyes, El Cajon

Yeah, I can. But you’re not going to believe me anyway. Nobody ever seems to buy this story, so here goes nothing.

We see objects by focusing the light that bounces off them and travels to our eyes. To say you’re nearsighted means your eyes can’t focus light that travels farther than a certain short distance.

When you look at a reflection in a mirror, and the object is eight feet from the mirror and you’re, say, two feet away, you’re not seeing light coming from just two feet away. You’re seeing light that has traveled from the object to the mirror, has reflected from the surface of the mirror, and then traveled another two feet to your eyes. If your eyes can’t focus light that’s traveled ten feet, they won’t be able to focus light that has traveled eight feet to the mirror and two feet more to your eyes. In terms of distance, the image in your mirror is an exact duplicate of the reality it is reflecting.

Ever wonder how an eye doctor can test your distance vision in his tiny examining room? He puts the eye chart behind you, then projects the chart onto a mirror across the room. That mirror reflects the chart onto a mirror behind you, and so on. The light zigzags back and forth among a series of mirrors, and the final reflection is directed toward your eyes. By the time you see it, the light from the chart has traveled several times the length of the room. Otherwise, he would have to give you an eye test in a bowling alley.

Hi, Matt:
How do you spell whatever word is shortened to Mrs.? Please tell me it isn’t “missus.”

— Keith, Antioch, Illinois

So this is what’s on the minds of you flatlanders. The soybeans are in, so the mind wanders, eh? So, yeah, it has nothing to do with missus. It’s an abbreviation for an even better word, mistress. And if you have more than one mistress, they’re mistresses (in French) or madams in Illinois.

Help!
In his novel Galapagos, Kurt Vonnegut describes the dining habits of the iguanas in the region. Basically, he says they make their way down the rocky cliffs to the sea, where they eat a large quantity of indigestible seaweed. So they lie on the rocks, bake in the sun, and thus become the cooking vat for the seaweed. Is that true, or is it another Kurtism? I’ve been to libraries, had friends check it out, made a fool of myself by asking a ridiculous array of people, and now I’m even resorting to asking you!

— H.R., Solana Beach

Take it from me, nothing builds character faster than making a fool of yourself in print. Think of your inquiry not so much as a desperation move but as one more hour on the great psychic cooking vat for the seaweed. Is that true, or is it another Kurtism? I’ve been to libraries, had friends check it out, made a fool of myself by asking a ridiculous array of people, and now I’m even resorting to asking you!

— Four Eyes, El Cajon

Vonnegut’s fan should hardly be surprised when he extends fact beyond “ridiculous.” The science of Galapagos was based on Kurt’s background in anthropology and a trip he took to the islands in the early 1980s, escorted by several biologists. But of course, he’s a novelist given to tweaking reality, so a Vonnegut fan should hardly be surprised when he extends fact into the realm of imagination. The animal in question is the marine iguana, the only marine lizard, found nowhere else in the world. As Vonnegut says, it does “waddle down to the ocean” to feed. The marine iguana eats a certain kind of readily digestible red-brown algae; and as a cold-blooded creature, it must bask in the sun for many hours after a dunk in the ocean to raise its body temperature. But it is not “using itself as a covered stewpot, getting hotter and hotter while the sunshine cooks the seaweed.”

If literary imagination isn’t enough of an explanation for Vonnegut’s scenario, here’s my guess about the origin of lizard-baked seaweed. If he were on the islands in the early ’80s, he would surely know about the sudden die-off of marine iguanas caused by the rise in ocean temperature from the severe El Niño condition. The iguanas’ primary food became scarce, and as they began eating a type of seaweed that for them was indigestible. For a long time afterward, biologists found marine iguanas stuffed full of food but dying of malnutrition. Vonnegut perhaps extended the image of the dying iguana into an image of resourceful iguana as convection oven. The pea-brained animals in Galapagos, after all, were not uncommonly more noble than the vicious, venal, big-brained humans.

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By Patrick Daugherty

What’s Up Down There

If you had any doubts about the power of emotion or whether there is such a thing as a home field advantage in professional football, they were taken care of Monday night. New Orleans played eight or nine clicks over their collective head, played like a Super Bowl champion, and destroyed a good Atlanta team. Utterly.

Which got me to thinking about Louisiana sports, in general. Which caused me to call the Houma Courier sports desk. The Courier is a 20,000 circulation daily entering its 128th year of publication. Houma, the city, is the parish seat of Terrebonne Parish, located 58 miles southwest of New Orleans.

Sports writer Ray Legendre, 21, is on the phone. He’s been working there, “since I started college part-time. Started full-time this year, after I graduated.” We trade opinions about the Saints and then I ask, “How would you compare local sports before Katrina versus now?”

“The schools closest to New Orleans aren’t back at full speed yet,” Legendre says. “You’ve got John Curtis [Christian School] — I’m sure you’ve heard of them; they’re nationally known for their football program. They’re back to full strength. But, a lot of high school teams in New Orleans share stadiums. They’ve been hit hard. The Catholic League schools, there’s Rummel [High School], there’s Jesuit [High School], they’re back to normal. ESPN just did a piece on the John Ehret [High School] basketball team from New Orleans. They stepped up and came together after Katrina. John Ehret is a public school, and they won the state championship in 5A basketball, which is the top classification in our state. They pulled together the best players from a lot of different teams to do that. It’s an amazing story.” Legendre takes a breath. “I think sports got back to normal in the spring, with baseball. You could see the schools in New Orleans got together after Katrina were dominant before Katrina. They’re pioneers living in a new land. They had five murderers in one night and that got people going crazy.”

“The Saints are back to normal. ‘The Superdome is sold out for the season,’” I say. “But, this swine Benson [team owner] is still going to move the team. Don’t you think?”

“That’s the question. Before Katrina happened, you couldn’t trust him as far as you can throw him. And now people, all of a sudden, are blindly having faith in him. I’ll be honest: the signing of Reggie Bush did a whole lot for the team because if they would have been stuck with, say, somebody like A.J. Hawkins in the draft, I don’t think they would have sold out,” Legendre says. “But, if the Saints have a few losing seasons, and for some reason he’s not able to turn a profit, he’d look somewhere else. I don’t think he cares about New Orleans anymore. Benson is looking at a base population of 230,000. He can’t leave now because of Katrina, he can’t leave now because of Katrina, but I wouldn’t book any bets after this year.”

“I mention the Monday-night game again,” Legendre says. “I’m kicking myself. I didn’t buy season tickets. I travel with the local college team. We travel, and a lot of times I don’t get back until Sunday afternoon, so I miss the Saints game. But, these [Monday night] tickets were selling for between $1000 and $2000. I could have bought season tickets for $200.” Legendre laughs. “I was looking at it the wrong way. Where’s my business sense?”

The Vegas Line

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Bye Week: Denver, New York Giants, Pittsburgh, Tampa Bay

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Saint Gregory the Great might be an Arts & Crafts arborium, with its huge slatted dome of a ceiling, its preponderance of windows framed by great beams of wood, its grey-green tile floor, its trickling baptismal font, its potted orchids and planted palms. The great cross that marks it a church is a similarly stylized blend of wood and glass. The rounded space is slightly disconcerting; there are a number of pews from which, if you look straight ahead, you will not see the altar or the lectern, but rather, other pews.

The music, woven throughout the fabric of the Mass, added piano, guitar, trumpet, and organ to the choir, resulting in a sound that combined folk, show tunes, and the “Hallelujah Chorus.” “We gather to see the right place. That’s my hope and my faith,” says Clavin, “and by the grace of God, we go to the altar, they also bowed their heads in reverence before receiving the basket of donations — some bearing pewter cups. Many congregants assisted in the distribution — some bearing bowls of Hosts taken from Clavin’s bigger bowl, others, formula, etc. “Lord,” said Clavin, extending his hands over the bread and wine on the altar, “may these gifts which we now offer to show our belief and our love be pleasing to you. May they become for us the Eucharist of Jesus Christ.” He closed with a quote from Jean Vanier, founder of L’Arche, a community devoted to care of the handicapped: “Our society often sees the world in the form of a ladder. Everyone encourages us to climb to seek success, but where we live, with the handicapped, our model is not the ladder, but the living body. Each is important, even the smallest and weakest.”

He closed with a reference to James’s letter: “The exercise of charity became essential to her as the ministry of the sacred. “Our society often sees the world in the form of a ladder. Everyone encourages us to climb to seek success, but where we live, with the handicapped, our model is not the ladder, but the living body. Each is important, even the smallest and weakest.”

The Liturgy of the Word was full of foreboding and strife. From the first reading taken from Wisdom: “The wicked say, ‘Let us beset those who seek, for the poor and for all the homeless/ A strength redeems/ A home for our prisons, God’s mercy a stream/ From all of that justice may roll like a stream/ From all of that justice may roll like a stream/ From all of that justice may roll like a stream’.”

Saint Gregory the Great
Scripps Ranch
★★★★

Poor to satisfactory: (none)
Good: ★★★☆☆ Very good: ★★★☆☆ Excellent: ★★★☆☆ Extraordinary: ★★★★☆

He closed with a quote from Jean Vanier, founder of L’Arche, a community devoted to care of the handicapped: “Our society often sees the world in the form of a ladder. Everyone encourages us to climb to seek success, but where we live, with the handicapped, our model is not the ladder, but the living body. Each is important, even the smallest and weakest.”

The congregation professed the Creed, and then offered prayers of petition. The first: “That we learn and accept even the hard lessons of our faith, through love and compassion.” The congregation replied, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

As Clavin prepared for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the congregation sang and the ushers took up the collection. When they brought the basket of donations to the altar, they also brought a basket of packaged food — crackers, formula, etc. “Lord,” said Clavin, extending his hands over the bread and wine on the altar, “may these gifts which we now offer to show our belief and our love be pleasing to you. May they become for us the Eucharist of Jesus Christ your Son.”

Communion provided an interesting juxtaposition. Around ten Eucharistic ministers assisted in the distribution — some bearing bowls of Hosts taken from Clavin’s bigger bowl, some carrying power cups. Many congregants bowed their heads in reverence before receiving the body of Christ. “Amen.” “The blood of Christ.” “Amen.” Afterward, three or four ministers huddled at the back of the church, rinsing and drying the cups like hosts after a dinner party.

What happens when we die?
“Go before the judgment seat of God,” says Clavin, “and by the grace of God, we go to the right place. That’s my hope and my faith.”

— Matthew Lickona

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If you can read, you can cook here.
~ Eve Kelly

Shawn has been sick for weeks. My dear friend can’t get to the bottom of her illness and has been struggling to keep her household running. Her life is busy. Half a year ago, she took in four foster children, which, added to her own daughter, raised the family size to seven. “I can’t keep up with the laundry or the cleaning,” she complained to me last week. “But for meals I am set because my friend Julie brought me a month’s worth of Dinner Studio meals,” she said. That perkled Eve’s curiosity. “It’s really something you should look into for yourself,” she continued. “The meals have been delicious, and it is such a time-saver.”

The next day I spoke with Gloria Otten who, along with Katherine Christensen, founded Dinner Studio, located in Vista, Tierrasanta, Eastlake, and Murrieta. “Kathy and I both had our own personal-chef businesses,” Otten explained. “It was a great gig, but it was very expensive for customers and a ton of work for us. Plus we couldn’t afford to cook for our own friends, people with normal jobs. It was out of their reach. We thought there had to be a better way.” So Otten and Christensen decided to do a little research. “We looked around the country at what other personal chefs and businesses were morphing into, and this concept of people cooking together in a community kitchen became more and more apparent. And in talking to our own customers, we found that most of them really didn’t want to be replaced. They just didn’t have the time or the know-how to cook the way they wanted their family to eat. And so we wanted to include them into the equation, and that is how Dinner Studio was born. We founded it in March 2003.”

This is how it works: the customer chooses the menus and lets the Dinner Studio know what they want to cook and when they are coming. The kitchen has the food all prepped and ready for the menu to be put together once they arrive. There will be a list of everything that you had ordered along with a master recipe of all the help. Big commercial kitchens are fun. We are privy to quality meals, which you can’t always get in the grocery store; the quality of our food is really good.”

For those too busy to come in and prepare food themselves, the Studio will prepare whatever size package you order for an extra $40.

It all sounded great, but I was worried about my finicky family getting bored with the menu. Otten quelled my worries. “Every month we change the menu. We offer about 17 different recipes each month.”

There are some constants — meatloaf and lasagna are offered each month, she explained. But each month, it’s a different recipe. “If your family loves a particular recipe, you can make several. The recipes are designed to freeze well, so you keep a few out to use that week and throw the rest of them in the freezer. We tell people to figure that they will eat Dinner Studio meals two or three nights a week. We don’t want to replace their routine but to enhance it.”

The Dinner Studio can accommodate people’s food sensitivities as well. “We make everything from scratch,” she said, “so if people are sensitive to certain ingredients we can easily accommodate them by leaving those out and adjusting the recipe to make it taste great without gluten or without salt.”

Serving sizes for meat typically are from six to eight ounces of lean protein. And the cost?

“A TV news program did a piece on us,” Otten answered, “and took one of our recipes and put themeal together and reported that we were far cheaper than how much they could cook it for. If you make a recipe that has an ingredient in it that your family usually doesn’t eat, you have to spend $5 on that ingredient of which you only need a teaspoon. Here we are able to share those costs with other families and so keep our costs pretty low. And the bigger the meal package order, the cheaper the cost (per serving).”

Here are a few Dinner Studio meal plan options starting with their cheapest per-serving plan: Plan one, $249 for 12 entrées with six servings in each entrée, costing $3.46 per serving. Plan two, $179 for 12 entrées with three servings in each entrée, $4.97 per serving. Plan three, $99 for six entrées serving three, $5.50 a serving.

Otten noted that people can split meal plans. “If you want to get our biggest package to get the better price, but you are just a family of three people and think that would be too much food, bring your neighbor with you and split it. The Dinner Studio also offers private sessions where a group of friends with ten separate orders can come in at the same time and prepare meals — get a big chore done while chatting with friends.”

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com

1. Customer at Dinner Studio
2. Gloria Otten and Katherine Christensen
**Crasher**

**RHYMES WITH KUWAIT**

by Josh Board

Last week a guy called my voicemail to tell me that I got the NBA logo wrong. I wrote that it was Jerry West, and the caller insisted it was Pete Maravich. He should have Googled it, because he would’ve seen I was right. Another guy called about a story I wrote in which a person lost an ear to an ocelot. He said that he had the same surgery as that guy and had never heard of anyone else having the procedure done, which involved cartilage from his ribs and skin from his back. He finished his message by saying he got kicked out of the service because he didn’t reveal that he couldn’t hear out of that ear. The same day, a guy who was in the service called. Tony got the call to go to Iraq and was having his picture taken next to a sign in the living room. He said that he had the same party downer by sharing his thoughts with a soldier ready to deploy.

Autumn organized Tony’s party, and she had food tables set up in every room. She mingled and apologized to the people across the street, who had seen her and Tony...uh, being romantic one afternoon. When a couple came leaving, she insisted that they spend the night and not drive home in their condition. She said, “I’ll make eggs and bacon in the morning. It’ll be great.” I noticed an older lady who was drunk. She was eating M&Ms and was talking about the number of police shootings in the news lately.

Several people were discussing the weirdest food they had ever tried. One person said sea urchin. Another had oysters and explained why.

Autumn came over with a tray and said, “These Jell-O shots cannot go to waste.” I grabbed one and said, “There are kids starving in China that would love these” and slipped it into my mouth. I told Autumn that they were the best Jell-O shots I’ve ever had. A woman named Natalie said, “Just when you think they couldn’t improve beer, along came Sam Adams. And just when you thought Jell-O shots couldn’t be improved, along came these. The key is to use flavored vodka. Also, I use cupcake holders, so you don’t have to squeeze them out of little plastic Dixie cups or use your tongue like a snake. You just peel these back and suck them down.”

After eating a few, I went to hang out on the patio. Since everyone was smoking, I made a run to the 7-Eleven near SDSU for cheap cigars. There was a long line, so I asked him why, and we ended up talking about the number of police shootings in the news lately.

A few people were discussing the weirdest food they had ever tried. One person said sea urchin. Another said that oysters tasted gross and that the texture made them difficult to swallow.

I met one guy who told me that he had met at a previous party. He said that he lied about his profession because he didn’t want me to know he was a cop. I asked him why, and we ended up talking about the number of police shootings in the news lately.

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girls were trying to buy beer. They had thick accents and showed the cashier their passports, but he wouldn’t accept them. A guy in front of me volunteered to buy them the beer. I wasn’t sure if he was hoping he’d get lucky or if he just wanted to get the girls out of there so that the line would move.

As I made my purchase, I watched the girls climb into a car that looked to have about eight people in it. It reminded me of the old college prank where people stuffed themselves into a phone booth.

I headed back to the party and was surprised to find that there was still a large crowd. As I went to use the bathroom, I noticed Autumn had a sign on her child’s bedroom door. It said that the last time she had a party, a couple was making out on her five-year-old’s bed, and she didn’t think that was cool.

I heard that earlier there was a Marine who showed up late. He told me that he had been to Iraq and is going back. And then we got a call from Iraq. It was Tony’s cousin. He called us at 11:30 p.m., but it was 10:30 a.m. over there. We talked for a few minutes, and maybe I’ve watched too many news programs, but I was expecting to hear explosions during our conversation. He didn’t want to say much about what he was doing and mentioned things being classified.

One guy at the party was being pestered to talk about his acting career. I think he said he was on a show called The Real O.C. He talked about when Tony and he went on the show Blind Date.

“They hooked me up with a woman who was hefty and had a bad attitude. She had four drinks she sent back. One was a margarita, [and she sent it back] because it was on the rocks and not blended. She was ridiculously. I ended up being in their Hall of Shame. A friend of mine was on the show, and he ended up on their video Too Hot For TV.” I asked if they paid extra for those things. “I had to sign some papers, and, well, I don’t want to discuss those details.” Classified info that I couldn’t discuss with the cop or with the guy in Iraq I understood, but a TV show that was just cancelled...

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Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com
Dear Bankers Pen:
I've heard a lot of banks offering "free checking." But then, they all have different ideas of what "free" means. For example, WaMu offers free checks for life, but other banks don't. What do you think a bank really means when they say "free"?

-Dumbfounded in Dallas

Dear Bankers Pen:
It was really your next-door neighbor’s garage sale. I can’t imagine any God-fearing bank manager offering services for no cost and actually meaning it. Hogwash!

Dear Bankers Pen:
I'm in a real pickle here! I'm a bona fide cat lover, but my husband has severe cat allergies. He starts to sneeze and his throat closes up if he's within 200 yards of a cat. Bless his heart, so I've learned to live without felines in the house. But my sister, who lives across town, just adopted the most adorable pair of kittens ever. After antiquing on weekends, I'll follow her to her house and play with her kittens. Then, as soon as I walk through the door at home, my husband goes into a sneezing fit and accuses me of bringing cat hair into the house. I don't want to hurt him, but I can't help my love for these adorable little creatures. Is there any help for me?

-Hopeless in Houston

Dear Hopeless:
Shut up. Just shut up.

Ask The Bankers Pen

The Bankers Pen holds 30 stoogey bankers who generally oppose the beliefs of Washington Mutual, especially WaMu Free Checking™. Their advice column runs nationwide. Find out more about the pen at trappedbanker.com.
can offer when in the hands of a trusted lover. As the drizzle settled on my cheeks, I paused for a moment to reflect on those pages from my youth, then grabbed David’s arm and led him through the metal cage that marked the entrance of Mr. and Madame S’s fetish fortress. Once through the door, our nostrils were bombarded with the heady, industrial aroma of leather and latex. Black seemed to be the color of choice; silver, adorning the black as buckles and studs, was a close second. The store was warehouse-huge, with one giant main room and four smaller (but still very big) ancillary rooms. Wanting to appear knowledgeable, I strode purposefully to one section, bobbing my head to the beat of the techno music that filled the air. “Want to try this on?” I asked David, pointing to a menacing black article that hung on a silver hook. “I think it’s like the stocks: your wrists go through these little ones and the whole thing goes around your chest.” David acquiesced with a playful smile. We managed to get the thing down from the wall, and around his chest, then on his wrists; I tightened and buckled, but something looked wrong. I beckoned to a surrealistically attractive man for help. His face lit up, and his walk as he made his way toward us was the beautiful love-child of strut and saucy. When he reached us, he examined David and said, “It’s on upside-down.” For some reason, I was ashamed, the way I am when someone catches me counting on my fingers. “No problem!” interjected our new friend, “I’ll show you how it’s done.” David looked wary; his eyes opened wide in my direction and I shrugged at him. “Sure, sounds good. Let’s see how this baby works,” I said, winking at David. I hadn’t taken into consideration that this young, strapping man was a lot stronger than me. Once the “chest-to-wrist restraint” was on right-side-up, he pulled on the straps so hard that David’s entire body jerked toward him. “Here, I’ll hold him steady,” I offered, earning myself an appreciative flash of perfectly straight, sparkling white teeth. Once finished, the man stepped back to survey his work. With his wrists bound to his chest and his hands hanging free, David kind of looked like a mini-T. Rex. He waited patiently while I laughed, although it’s not like he had other options. “Looks good! Let me know if you need anything else,” said our helper, before returning to his post in the middle of the main floor. Behind me, two women (in the Madame S section of the store) organized strap-on accessories and chatted with each other, as relaxed as if they had been stocking shelves at Bed Bath & Beyond, rather than shelving stocks at Bits, Ball-Gags & Bondage. David looked helpless. I took pity and unbuckled the many straps that contained him. But, before I unbuckled the final straps that held his wrists, I was struck by an excellent idea. “I’ll let you out, if you carry my books back to San Diego,” I said. He laughed at me, which didn’t get him anywhere. I waited for a proper response. I even left him for a few minutes while I investigated the ladies’ half of the store. Finally, acknowledging his predicament, David gave me his word — he would carry my books. Triumphant, I set him free, and handed over my shopping bag.
He says he realized that the marks on the ground were the tracks of the deer he’d seen that morning. He could see how the doe’s were larger and the yearling’s were smaller. “I could follow these tracks and figure out what they were doing during that day! That began my secret life.”

That year Martin spent as much time as he could in the woods. “I tried to figure out what was going on, what animals were there.” He endeavored to follow the tracks he encountered. He’d sit for hours in the top of a pine tree, observing the world below him. His family then moved several times, but “I would always seek out the natural places.” He studied raccoon tracks in the almond and walnut orchards near Modesto.

After college, he became a Navy pilot and flew on active duty for seven years. In 1985 he was hired by American Airlines. Based in San Diego, he and his family settled in Rancho Peñasquitos in 1987. He says it took him only a few days to discover how close he was to one of the entrances of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, the city’s 3200-acre nature park that stretches from Interstate 5 to Interstate 15. He began venturing into it.

Martin says one day he brought along his daughter, who was about 12. As the two of them wandered into a riparian area, Martin marveled at the animal tracks he was seeing: coyote, bobcat, raccoon. Father and daughter came upon the 170-year-old adobe ranchhouse that serves as...
the preserve headquarters, and Martin began chatting with a couple of rangers. When they told him they were setting up a volunteer patrol group, the pilot signed up.

Around this time, Martin learned about the work of renowned tracker Tom Brown Jr. Two years older than Martin, Brown grew up on the edge of the Pine Barrens wilderness in New Jersey. A few months after his seventh birthday, he met his best friend’s grandfather, an 83-year-old Apache elder named Stalking Wolf. “His dress, his mannerisms, and everything about him exuded intense and limitless knowledge,” Brown has written of the Indian. “To me he was the spirit of the wilderness and possessed all the knowledge I could ever hope for.”

After Stalking Wolf’s death in 1967, Brown reportedly spent another ten years perfecting his wilderness skills, and by the late 1970s law-enforcement agencies called him for help in finding missing persons and fugitives. In 2003, some of those skills were fictionalized in a movie called *The Hunted* starring Tommy Lee Jones and Benicio Del Toro. Brown founded a tracker school in 1978 in New Jersey. The school has instructed thousands of students in tracking, camouflage, and spiritual healing. After reading several of Brown’s 16 books, Martin journeyed to New Jersey for instruction. He says he found Brown to be “an interesting character. I think as a sort of a defense mechanism he comes across as being almost mysterious and moody and deep.” Over the next few years Martin took eight of the classes, including both technique and philosophy.

Martin’s studies of Peñasquitos Canyon were also unfolding. “I decided, well, maybe I need some help with this.” He wrote an article for the Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve newsletter, soliciting volunteers to help him with an animal survey. “Back then, development was threatening to totally cut off Peñasquitos Preserve from the adjoining open-space areas,” he recalls. He thought a survey of the wildlife could help prove that the preserve was a healthy ecosystem and show that “one of the reasons it was healthy was that it was connected to other areas.”

Fifty volunteers responded to Martin’s call, and he condensed Brown’s week-long “standard” class into a weekend training session. From that group of 50, “We eventually derived the Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Tracking Team.” Since then, additional teams have been organized at Mt. Woodson in Ramona, Preserve Calavera in Carlsbad, Rose Canyon, Daley Ranch, Mission Trails Regional Park, Blue Sky Ecological Reserve, Box Canyon, and Volcan Mountain.

The San Diego volunteers cover 50 or so “transects” identified by the San Diego Tracking Team, the umbrella group that coordinates all the individual tracking teams’ activities. “For our purposes, a transect is a trail,” Martin explains. “We’ll take an established trail, and at specific
intervals we’ll walk down it.” Trackers record tracks, animal droppings (known as scat), and other evidence of the animals’ presence. “If you have a little side trail that runs into that trail, you go down it approximately 10 or 15 feet…to see what animals are using it.”

Teams cover each transect two to four times a year. I joined a 7:00 a.m. tracking excursion through Lopez Canyon, the large side canyon that branches off the western end of Los Peñasquitos Canyon. In a parking lot off Sorrento Valley Boulevard, I met Uli Burgin. A quick-moving woman in her early 70s, Burgin moved to San Diego in 1962, shortly after getting a Ph.D. in zoology.

She started leading surveys in 1997 and took over the Lopez Canyon transect about five years later. Two more volunteers joined us: another older woman named Vernie McGowan, who learned about tracking at Torrey Pines State Park, where she was working as a docent, and Gary Seiser, a lawyer for the county who heard about Tom Brown’s tracking school when the subject came up in a writing class. Seiser took Brown’s standard class in New Jersey in the spring of 2004.

Burgin pulled out the form that all the wildlife survey teams use. Each transect is divided into sections, and for each section, transect leaders record tracking conditions, topography (flat, sloping, etc.), and habitat (chamise chaparral, oak riparian, grassland, or 1 of 11 other possibilities). They note evidence for the presence of 14 species of animals: black bear, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, mule deer, pack rats (a.k.a. wood rats), opossum, raccoon, badger, black-tailed jackrabbit, mountain lion, long-tailed weasel, ringtails, and roadrun-

ner. (The presence of skunks, cotonmouths, ground squirrels, and small rodents is recorded though not extensively documented.) Because other local groups conduct surveys of reptiles and birds, the tracking teams have decided to concentrate on the mammals. According to Martin, “If you’ve got a wide cross-section of mammals, that is in and of itself a good indicator of the health of the overall ecosystem.”

Burgin led our group to the start of the transect, next to a kiosk bearing information about the preserve. A few dozen feet down the trail, she stopped to scrutinize a sharp-edged teardrop-shaped impression that was little more than two inches long — the hoofprint of a mule deer. The challenge, Burgin explained, was to decipher whether it was more than two
weeks old, one of the facts to be recorded on the survey form. Nimble as a teenager, she dropped to all fours and blew on it to disperse dust and other debris. Based upon the hardness of the ground, she marked it down on her sheet as “historic.”

Another problem, Burgin told me, was to distinguish coyote tracks (which the survey teams record) from the paw-prints of dogs (which they ignore). Dogs are everyday visitors in the preserve, and the basic shape of both species’ tracks — an oval composed of two forward-pointed inner toes, two outward-canted outer toes, and a triangular heel pad — are so similar as to confound beginning trackers. But differences can be discerned. As we came upon marks left by both types of animals, Burgin, McGowan, and Seiser showed me how the dog tracks tend to be more splayed. They almost always include little holes made by the animals’ claws. Although coyotes have claws, more often than not, theirs don’t leave a mark upon the ground. In the center of many coyote tracks, you can discern more of a mound, as if the muscle tension in the animal’s toes had squeezed the dirt between them into the shape of a little hummock. “The dog tracks tend to wander all over the path,” Burgin added. Coyotes meander less.

We moved past thick stands of mule fat and goldenbush, and Burgin halted to study another mark. The overall shape resembled that of a deer’s track, but somehow it didn’t look right to the transect leader. “Always what I do when I’m not quite sure is to look for more,” she declared. “All of us have been tricked — and keep getting tricked — by shoe patterns.” In this instance, the three trackers discovered another set of fresh deer tracks farther down the path that confirmed the nature of the first track, so Burgin recorded this animal on her sheet, then resumed moving forward, eyes trained downward.

“What’s this?” McGowan asked about a delicate tangle of lines snaking through one patch of damp ground. Burgin and Seiser joined her to puzzle over it, but no one could identify the marks, so the group moved on. “We have mystery tracks that we can never solve,” Burgin said. A moment later, Burgin and Seiser’s attention was engaged by a second set of deer tracks when McGowan’s voice rang out. She announced that she had found the perpetrator of “that weirdo track” — a beetle whose shell was creating more of the twisting pattern as the tracker looked on.

Sycamore leaves — leathery copper on one side and furry tan on the other — littered the trail in places, obscuring our view of the dirt and making it harder to see tracks. We passed 3-story homes – direct entry from 2-car garage
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through clear sections, too, where no animals seemed to have trod.

“Some trails the animals use, and some they don’t,” Burgin said with a shrug. In other places, though, so many deer tracks clustered that, in my mind’s eye, a herd rose up and took shape. It struck me that if I had hiked this trail the day before, all these marks would have been too chaotic to catch my attention. But now I was spotting the deer tracks with ease.

More than tracks conjured up the animals’ presence. Their droppings took on significance. In some of the scat, Burgin called my attention to a graininess that she said betrayed the kibble-based diets of domestic dogs. When she used the tip of her trekking pole to break open the twisted and pointy-ended piles of what she said was coyote scat, we could see tufts of fur and bone fragments. “Sometimes you see gopher teeth,” someone commented. Burgin cautioned that coyote scat could look anomalous when it had been rained on or run over, and a pile that we encountered under some oak trees confirmed her words. When Burgin poked at it, it seemed to separate into segments, a characteristic of the leavings of bobcats and mountain lions. “But it has so much bone,” the transect leader noted, sounding dubious. “I’m not used to seeing that much bone in bobcat scat.” She drew closer to it and sniffed and judged it to be coyote.

Burgin says she once found a deposit of what she thought was mountain lion scat next to one of the streams on one of the Lopez Canyon transects. The dark, blunt-ended chunks were broken into segments reminiscent of thick ‘Tootsie Rolls, typical of the local lions’ droppings. But since cougars are rare within the preserve, Burgin bagged the fecal material and took it in for review by some of the most experienced trackers in the group. They confirmed her call.

Burgin’s group didn’t find signs of mountain lion or bobcat on the morning that I accompanied them, but they did come across a delicate seed-filled pile of raccoon scat. Burgin thought that a fox had produced the thin, dark excrement that we found amidst a drift of fallen sycamore leaves. However, the volume of that pile seemed greater than a fox might be likely to leave, so she scraped it into a plastic bag and vowed to get additional opinions. When I saw her a few days later, she told me, laughing, that she had heard several conflicting pronouncements, and each person she had asked seemed confident he was accurate. “It happens,” she said. “These are open-ended things. When it’s inconclusive,” she added, “I usually don’t write it down.”

Ann Hunt is
another local tracker who seems ill at ease with imprecision. Hunt spent her career working as a consultant for IBM, and she projects an attitude businesslike and scientific when she's leading a transect, as she did on Mt. Woodson a few days before the winter solstice. The outing had been delayed by rain in the preceding weeks. It would be one of the last of the tracking teams' fall survey efforts.

Mt. Woodson is the mountain that looms over the north side of Highway 67 between Poway and Ramona. A community has taken shape on the mountain's lower northern slopes over the last 10–15 years, and Hunt's house is located there. But most of the mountain has been preserved as open space, including the spot where Hunt's group assembled, higher up the northern side. The participants included a gray-haired woman named Betsy Brack, who learned about the tracking group through the Sierra Club in the spring of 2004 and took the one-day introductory session. “Ever since I was a kid, I had wondered what all the tracks were and how you tell one thing from another.” Poway resident Tylene Williford had been involved with the tracking team for about 2 years, by her estimate. The fourth member of the group, Cindy Rozell, had come to San Diego County from Oklahoma to care for her ailing grandfather and heard about the transect training. She then took three naturalist classes. “This is what I'm going to do for the rest of my life.” If she couldn’t find a tracking group when she returned to her home state, she planned to start one. “It’s a passion for me. It’s all about the circle of life. And it’s so important!”

Hunt came armed on this morning with a list of 26 GPS coordinates. These corresponded with descriptions of wood rat nests along the transect that had been compiled by previous groups. “We’re supposed to be recording them every time,” Hunt explained. The tracking conditions she judged to be “poor.” A few weeks had passed since the last heavy rain, and the decomposed granite underfoot had dried to an unyielding temper. By late summer, the ground would slough off layers of dust that would make for excellent tracking. “Dust is our friend,” Hunt commented. But for the present, the group would probably have to detect the presence of the animals living here through their dung, she said. Almost immediately, one large deposit snagged Hunt's attention, but when she poked at it with her walking stick, she lost interest. “There's no fur in it. Not a stitch of fur. That was a dog masquerading as a mountain lion.”
A little farther along, the group identified a pile of twisty black ropy material. “Now that looks like fox,” someone said.

Brack took in the sight of several specimens up ahead and exclaimed, “My goodness! This is scat central!”

To some of these deposits, Hunt applied what she called “the roll test,” loosening sections of the feces under the treads of her aging gray Sauconys. “Barry tends to leave scat alone out of respect to the animal. I don’t,” she said. One gray-colored sample exuded a cloud of fine powdery dust when she tapped it underfoot. “That’s bloodmeal,” she said. “It means the animal ate a lot of blood.”

Fur was present in that sample, along with tiny chunks of bone. All this made the transect leader feel confident that a bobcat had produced it.


Other members identified nearby fox and coyote scat, but three strands of dark brown fecal material puzzled Williford. She pulled out a pocket field guide that Martin has compiled for the trackers, flipped through the pages, then declared, “Ah-ha! Longtail weasel! Looks just like it, doesn’t it?” she asked, comparing the sketch to the objects in front of her. The presence of weasel excrement was hardly surprising, according to Hunt. “Weasels have been seen here. Live ones — raising their young in people’s yards.”

In a thicket of oak trees and chaparral, the group came upon an even more abundant concentration of scat in varying shades of gray and charcoal. “It’s a bobcat latrine,” Hunt pronounced. Not only bobcats but other animals, including coyotes and raccoons, sometimes choose to defecate in the same areas as their fellows. “In mating season, they can do it as a sign of marking,” Hunt says. The range of colors and textures resulted as the material aged. After some study, Hunt decided seven separate specimens were present.

“You look at the colors, the age, what looks like it belongs together, the freshness, the quantity. And where it’s located.” Even considering all those factors, “It’s still a judgment call. And I’d rather under-call it than over-call it.”

Scat was remarkable, the women concurred. Rozell talked about seeing skunk droppings crammed with the remains of insects back in Oklahoma. Williford reminisced about coyote scat loaded with snake scales that she had once encountered.

Hunt’s group did finally find more than droppings. They came across scraped areas where skunks had pawed the ground in search of grubs and insects. Not far from a natural stream, they spotted the first of the

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Bobcats, coyotes, deer, raccoon, and fox tended to hold steady or increase from 1996 through 2002, but then decreased in 2003 and 2004.

pack-rat nests, a dome-shaped collection of twigs and other debris, set back from the path, amidst tree branches and shoots of poison oak.

After almost two hours, the trackers emerged from the woods and approached the back yards of a line of large, well-maintained houses. To the northeast we could see the Ramona Grasslands. “Eight thousand acres of some of the last pristine grassland left in Southern California,” Hunt said. The Santa Maria Creek runs through the area, which hosts a small number of grazing cattle, along with several endangered species.

Although threatened by development pressure, a portion of the grasslands was recently acquired by the Nature Conservancy, and the San Diego Tracking Team launched a new transect there at the beginning of the summer.

A few steps farther down the trail, the first good tracking conditions of the day drew Hunt’s gaze away from the grasslands. Mountain bikes had roughened up the surface, and on the sandy ground, Hunt soon spotted a bobcat track: four oval toe pads pointed straight ahead above a deeply lobed heel pad. At first it seemed to be the only track from this animal that had survived. But a few minutes later, Hunt exclaimed as another bobcat track
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By the end of the morning, Hunt had recorded evidence for five of the animals on the survey list: coyote, bobcat, gray fox, pack rat, and weasel. One of the jobs that Hunt performs for the tracking team is to collect forms from survey leaders, then send them to whichever volunteer is entering all the data into the group’s database.

Martin says that for a long time the San Diego Tracking Team avoided analyzing the results of its animal surveys. Then, in June of 2004, the organization received the first of three Blaster Grants offered through the San Diego Foundation. The team has been using the roughly $53,000 to pay San Diego State University graduate students like Shea Valero to help make sense of all the survey findings. A third-generation San Diego County resident, Valero told me she had found at least a couple of clear trends. "We have more raccoons in winter, and we have more possums in summer. It might be an activity level. It might be migration into a certain area." Valero said coyotes appear to decrease in summertime. “I’m not sure where they go, but they drop off. That was

“The deer are actually crossing at grade, and there have been kills along the road.”

migration into a certain area.” Valero said coyotes appear to decrease in

summtertime. “I’m not sure where they go, but they drop off. That was
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are interesting,” she con-
tinued. “Their numbers
decrease in winter. They
drop more in spring and
in summer, and then
they boom in the fall. In
the fall they’re going to
move around more
closer to the edges of
open-space areas, they’ll
be browsing on succu-
cent growth that spills
out from the back
yards.”
Valero said she
hadn’t detected unam-
biguous correlations
between the seasons and
the evidence left by gray
fox, bobcat, cougars,
and some of the other
species. “But blacktail
jackrabbits appear to
increase in spring and
summer and drop off in
fall and winter.”
When she looked at
how the survey results
have varied throughout
the years, Valero found
the year 2002 to be
something of a high-
water mark. She said the
evidence of bobcats,
coyotes, deer, raccoon,
and fox tended to hold
steady or increase from
1996 through 2002 but
then decreased in 2003
and 2004. (For opos-
sums the numbers
began to decline one
year earlier.) The excep-
tions to this rule were
cougars, weasels, and
wood rats, whose pres-
ence in the surveys has
held more or less steady
since the tracking teams
began functioning. Evi-
dence of black-tailed
jackrabbits and road-
runners tends to be
uncommon, Valero said,
but for both species it
also spiked in 2002, then
dropped. Badgers were
only noted in 1999 and
2001, while ringtails (a
raccoon relative that’s
also known as a miner’s
cat) only showed up in
the 2001 and 2003 sur-
veys. “But in 2003 there
were a bunch.” Valero
acknowledged that this
could be because the
trackers got more profi-
cient at recognizing
ringtail signs that year.
Expanding the
number of survey areas
is a major goal of the
San Diego Tracking
Team, according to Mar-
tin. Last year the
umbrella organization
helped to create the
teams in Blue Sky Eco-
logical Reserve, Box
Canyon, and Volcan
Mountain, and this year
the trackers have vowed
to set up new groups in
more areas. In the long
run, Martin and the
other leaders want to
establish transects in all
the key wildlife corri-
dors of the county’s
open-space preserve
system.
<table>
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<th>Price</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monroe Villas</td>
<td>$309,900</td>
<td>2 Br/2 Ba for 5% Broker Co-op! Located in the Normal Heights area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Villa Toscana</td>
<td>$189,900</td>
<td>Prices Starting at 1 bedroom residences with garages in the College area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adelaide Gardens</td>
<td>$189,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helix de Oro</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>Starting in the Low $200,000s Four Different Floorplans.</td>
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<td>$339,900</td>
<td>Prices Starting at 2 Bedroom Residences with Garages &amp; Yards.</td>
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<td>Harbor View</td>
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That system, which includes the Multiple Species Conservation Program covering the southwestern portion of the county and the Multiple Habitat Conservation Program in the northwestern portion, has involved “a total paradigm shift,” according to Jerre Stallcup of the local Conservation Biology Institute. The idea behind these programs, which were conceived in the late 1980s, was to set aside areas of interconnected open space to preserve native plants and animals, while streamlining development outside those areas. The federal government would no longer police developers with regard to endangered species, but local authorities would make sure development met state and federal regulations. Environmentalists and developers would have to make concessions, but both could gain much more than they would otherwise.

For six years, a 30-member working group wrangled over the Multiple Species Conservation Program. “It was really a stressful time for a lot of people,” recalls Stallcup. “Some went through divorces and heart attacks. There were people in the hospital.”

A plan for implementing the preserves was developed and approved by the San Diego City Council and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors in 1997, and SANDAG (the San Diego Association of Governments) signed off on the North County program in 2003. Will the open-space areas and the corridors be sufficient to ensure the survival of all these different key species that are indicators of the healthy habitat? The data being collected by the survey teams should help to answer that, Martin asserts. “If we see a great drop-off in the variety of species and a die-off in 10 or 15 years from now, we can say it didn’t work.” But if the numbers haven’t changed that much since the tracking surveys began in the mid-1990s, it may be possible to declare the open-space network a success.

East of Poway, the Iron Mountain recreational area and some land formerly owned by the Boys & Girls Clubs lie on the east side of Highway 67, while the 1800-acre Sycamore Canyon Open-Space Preserve runs up to the west side of the road. This land accommodates a lot of wild animals, and their natural flow is through the ravines crossed by the highway, according to Martin. On a busy weekday morning, it can be hard to imagine a human being braving the car and truck traffic, let alone a mule deer or an opossum.

So the trackers have been watching metal and concrete culverts that run under the high-
way. They've been searching for animal tracks on both ends of these tunnels, and within them; sometimes they spread gypsum throughout the culverts to help record the animal crossings. Martin says it appears as if only bobcats, coyotes, and some of the smaller species have been braving the passageways. “We haven’t had any evidence of either lions or deer going through those. The deer are actually crossing at the grade, and there have been kills along the road — of not just deer but coyotes and ringtail cats and other animals.” Caltrans plans to widen the highway at some point, and the trackers hope to use their survey findings to help the road planners design more animal-friendly underpasses.

Besides working with the local tracking efforts, Martin says he’d love to help set up other tracking teams throughout the West Coast and the rest of the country. He also is working to establish an institute here that will offer an intensive nine-month tracking course. The goal is to produce graduates who can be hired by the Bureau of Land Management, the Department of Fish and Game, and other public and private agencies that are looking for individuals with tracking skills. Martin has targeted the fall of 2007 for the start of the first classes. He’s hoping to inspire the enrollees with experiences like the one he had one morning in the eastern end of Penasquitos Preserve. He was following some fresh tracks belonging to a female deer and a fawn. He says the animals worked their way into a thicket, and after he had advanced as close as he could, he settled down to observe them. While he was lying there, he realized he was stretched across a trail bearing the tracks of wood rats. One of the creatures came heading down the trail like it probably did every day for who knows how long. It was looking at its business when it found itself face to face with this human lying along the trail. There we were, nose to nose.” Martin says the animals’ reaction reminded him of something he might see in a cartoon. “Its eyes got big, and it sat up on its haunches, and it looked at me. I expected it to turn tail and run the other way, but it just sort of sat there, tilting its head for, like, five minutes.”

Martin says he’s become convinced that “the biggest key to becoming a good tracker is an overall propensity to want to be quiet. To quiet yourself in such a way that you can really be aware. And when I say awareness, you’ve got the five senses, but they’re just a doorway to a deeper awareness. It’s so important to be able to stop and listen deeply, with your whole being.”

— Jeannette De Wyze

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1. EL CAMINO REAL. For many years, El Camino Real was just a horse trail, rarely wider than a single lane and a misery in rainy weather. When he worked in Sierra Gorda in northern Mexico, Father Junípero Serra helped establish a chain of missions approximately 25 leagues (65 miles) apart. The distance enabled traveling priests to rest at a mission every third night. For California, Serra wanted a similar linkage on the “King’s Highway” — but not, as many believe, a day’s walk apart.

James A. Sandos: “A Spanish league of 2.6 miles meant that in Serra’s plan the priest would travel about 22 miles each day. Since priests generally had to travel with a military escort and since soldiers never walked, the distances Serra reckoned were based upon travel by horseback” — not on foot. “That the missions were spaced one day’s walk apart is a 19th-century American myth.”

Ronald L. Inspeels another. As a youth Father Serra was an inveterate walker — once traveling 250 miles from Vera Cruz to Mexico City. But “despite oft-repeated folklore, Father Serra did not walk” most of the Sacred Expedition from Baja to San Diego in 1769. Owing to an inflamed leg, cured by a hot poultice of crushed tallow and green herbs, he rode “a broken-down mule, as is clearly shown by several contemporary diaries.”

2. THE CALIFORNIAN YEARS. In the early 19th century, people who lived along the King’s Highway rarely inspected approaching travelers, often through field glasses. Whether they came on foot, horseback, or in a wagon, the question was always: friend or foe?

Amigos and neighbors were easy to spot — by their clothes, how they sat on a horse, or by the size of their rig. After the greeting, they’d be encouraged to dismount, “quita la silla” (take off the saddle), and let the animal graze. A meal was often part of the visit.

Strangers were less welcome at first. Writes Marje Howard-Jones, “The old Spanish style was for a visitor never to dismount unless asked to do so. And if one came who was not welcome, he simply sat upon his horse and stated his business and then went his way.”

3. THE STAGECOACH ERA. Before the railroads came west in 1869, whenever rode shotgun for four- or six-horse stagecoaches also carried a pick and shovel. His job description included road repair and scraping mud from wheels.

The finer hotels hired someone to dust off passengers on their way from the coach to the lobby (George Marston got his start in San Diego as a “duster”). And the ride? Imagine the opposite of comfort. Josephine Clifford took a nighttime journey in 1886: “Of sleep there was no thought, such jolting and jumping over rocks and boulders; I ache all over.”

John McCain came to Boulevard, California, from Arkansas in 1850 and lived in Julian for 35 years. During its brief tenure, from 1857 to 1861, McCain drove the Butterfield Stage (from Warner’s Hot Springs, via San Felipe, Vallecitos, Carriso, Sackett’s Wells) to Yuma and back.

Some Butterfield way stations posted a sign: “You will be traveling through Indian country and the safety of your person cannot be vouchsafed by anyone but God.”

Butterfield used Concord stages, considered plush in those days. They had three seats and often carried as many as nine passengers. A cross-country ticket cost $200. Raphael Pumpelly made the trek. He writes: the six people in the front and middle seats, which faced each other, had “to interlock their knees; and there being room inside for only ten of the twelve legs, each side of the coach was graced by a foot, now dangling near the wheel, now trying in vain to find a place of support.”

Unlike the movies, where outlaws chase down the stagecoaches amid clouds of dust and blazing pistols, most hold-ups happened when the vehicle was stationary. As a result, writes Ella McCain, Butterfield stages rarely stopped, “day or night. A mile or so from each station the driver would sound a horn, a fresh team would be harnessed, ready and waiting for the stage to pull in.”

And off they’d go. John McCain (“a gruff outspoken man with a few swear words thrown in”) rarely left his driver’s seat, including the 24-hour trek across the desert from Yuma to Sackett’s Wells.

Cross-country Butterfield travelers got per day, a 40-minute rest period, only enough time for a meal and stretching the legs. The food, by all accounts, would repulse a coyote.

4. LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY. Julia Flinn De Frate grew up in the back country, “bouncing and jolting” up and down dusty roads in a spring wagon. Born in 1876, she thought it ironic that, for much of her life, although “growing up only a comparatively few miles from the Pacific’s beaches, I had never seen seashells.” The reason? The road east from San Diego was a muddy slosh in winter, and a narrow, deep-ripled and dangerous cart path in summer. Loaded wagons — except for the intrepid, such as John McCain, who often took ten days to make the trip from San Diego to Julian — steered clear. “They had to go south to Tia Juana and east along the border to Tecate and Campo, then turn west to reach Pine Valley.” In good conditions, “the 75-mile trip took four days over the steep, rocky road.”

5. AT CENTURY’S TURN. By 1909, cars could make the trek from mission to mission in the back country. As William Harlan Marston got his start in San Diego as a “duster”).
to mission in less than three hours. But people often missed their exits or got lost. So the Automobile Club of Southern California joined with the San Diego Advisory Board to post the first road signs from Los Angeles to San Diego.

Touring Topics Magazine (April, 1909): “[W]hile the route is now practically impassable owing to recent rains, it will, when properly posted, be one of the most picturesque runs in Southern California.” And most dangerous.

San Diego was such a “booming Mecca for motorists” in 1909 that speed became a problem. The district attorney issued an edict: “Fast racing between Los Angeles and San Diego must stop.” The DA deputized farmers along the “Coast Line” to report lawbreakers. “This network of road-watchers,” Touring Topics assured readers, “would do away with the record-breaking speed...”

In 1912, the American Automobile Association published the first of its “strip maps” outlining the route from San Diego to San Francisco. That same year, the California State Automobile Association (founded in 1900) published a Tour Book, not of continuous roads — there weren’t any — but directions: how to navigate through a city, where bridges stood, intersections, steep grades.

“The advantages of information reading in both directions are so...
obvious as to require no special comment, the introduction claims: “The maps will be found especially accurate since they were drawn from the seat of the Kissel Pathfinder Car, by an expert graduate Civil Engineer. Nothing has been done ‘by guess.’”

6. HORSES, BIKES, AND MOTORCARS. In 1909, San Diego Police Chief Reno Wilson hired H.E. Hill to become the city’s first motorcycle patrolman. Hill became the first of the “Iron Horsemen,” as traffic control officers on cycles came to be known. They strictly enforced the speed limit of six miles an hour.

The change from horses to cars on the police force took a decade, from the first death by automobile in 1905 — Mrs. W. Adelaide Preston, hit while riding her bicycle at 5th and Market streets — to 1916, when the last patrol horses received their walking papers.

But even in 1916, most officers drove their own cars, especially in residential areas. They received a small gas allowance.

7. THE ROARING TWENTIES. By 1920, the inland route to San Diego through Temecula and Escondido was made of concrete. But the roads that forked from it and meandered through canyons and creekbeds, and often into chuchholes or stray boulders, were still just scraped dirt. Most weren’t macadamized, paved with layers of crushed stone and granite, until the 1930s.

At the conclusion of a “Back Country Idyll” he wrote for Touring Topics — in which he noted that the “apple growers of Julian have not yet learned the gentle art of profitmaking” — Willard Wood injected a word of warning: “If you are of that class of motorist whose sole enjoyment lies in the number of miles you can record on your speedometer in a day’s travel, do not visit the back country of San Diego. It is a leisurely land — it should be traveled leisurely. If it is your sole pride to average 30 miles an hour, why, stay away, for you won’t enjoy yourself.

8. THE LITTLE WHITE LINE. In 1917, Dr. June McCarroll bought a Model T Ford. The Coachella Valley resident loved the “free feeling” of driving a car, especially on paved roads, but didn’t like that most were only one lane — 15 feet across — and had no shoulders. When a truck was coming the other way, she had to pull off the road, often getting stuck in eight to ten inches of soft sand. Roads needed not only widening, she became convinced, but some sort of visual divider as well.

“Believing that something should be done, I began talking about a central road line to nearly anyone who would listen.”

Except for the Escondido Chamber of Commerce, which passed a resolution supporting the idea, for the next six years, not many did. McCarroll persisted. In 1923, she petitioned the state legislature “to enact a law authorizing the State Highway Commission to paint a line down the middle of all state roads.”

To gain support, she spoke at various women’s clubs around California. Each wrote their state representatives urging passage of the law.

“When I gave this idea to a needy world,” McCarroll wrote in A Bouquet of Memories, “it was with no thought of honors, only safety for drivers of automobiles.” She thanked the women’s clubs of California for support “through all the hard uphill years.”

9. PROGRESS? By 1933, highways began to stretch across the countrywide, a new problem arose: “despoliation of our landscape.” Often taking the shortest, least-troubling distance between two points, the roads gouged through scenic areas with no thought for natural beauty. An editorial in Touring Topics advocated change.

“Highway improvement still is a relatively new venture in these United States,” the author wrote. “Highway beautification is even newer. As it has been practiced in the past it has not been an unmixed blessing.”

Whenever a new road was in the planning stages, the editorial urged input from a council of landscape architects to guide its making. She wrote: “This is a fact that has learned the hard way by the United States.”

Literature Cited


A research study with a pharmaceutical company evaluating the effects of an investigational drug for Type 2 Diabetes is being conducted.

Eligible participants must:
- Have Type 2 Diabetes
- Be between 18 and 80 years of age
- Currently be taking a stable dose of Metformin (≥1500mg) alone for your Diabetes

If eligible, you may receive at no cost study-related items:
- Physical examinations • Laboratory tests • Electrocardiogram • Office visits • Dietary and Diabetes consultation • Study medication

To learn more about the diabetes research study, please call:
Dr. Quinonez at: 619.291.2845

Are you depressed?

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study of depression if you meet the following criteria:
- At least 18 years old
- Have a history of depression
- Currently depressed for at least 2 months
- Current episode of depression has not lasted more than 2 years

Please call:
DEPRESSION STUDY
For more information and an initial pre-screening contact:
SYNERGY CLINICAL RESEARCH
888-619-7272

Eligible participants will receive study medication or placebo, study-related care and diagnostic exams at no cost.
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 employers, schools, or insurance companies.

**Depression**

steals more than your mood; it robs you of life’s pleasures.

Are you between the ages of 18 and 64 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, caring 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 $450 for your participation.
- You receive no-cost study-related medication and medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

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

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

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

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

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

Qualified participants:

- Will receive up to $2150 for time and travel.
- Receive no-cost study-related medication and medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

California CLINICAL TRIALS

Finding Answers Together – Since 1982

San Diego • Los Angeles • Glendale • Anaheim

858-571-1188
Toll-free 800-571-1188
www.cctstudy.com
Drinking too much? STOP!

Find out if you qualify for a research program that may help you stop drinking and start a new life!

Is your Pap smear abnormal? ...

Told to wait ...

A research study is available now!

A research study is underway to evaluate an investigational gel placed vaginally for women with mildly abnormal Pap smears.

The study is 26 months long and will include (at no cost) all study-related examinations by a board-certified gynecologist, colposcopy, laboratory testing, study medication, and compensation for time and travel.

To possibly qualify you must:

- Be a female 18-40 years of age
- Have untreated low-grade Pap smear (ASCUS or LSIL)
- Have regular periods and using acceptable birth control

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

examine the project for harm to the surrounding area.

Someday, the editorial concluded, “proven methods will have been devised that will eliminate much of the original disfigurement, and remedy such as can’t be avoided. Even the most offensive of today’s scars, we may expect, will disappear with proper treatment or judicious planting of cuts and fills.”

SOURCES:

Heavy Drinkers Not Seeking Treatment

Earn compensation for completing a 4-visit laboratory study of situations associated with drinking.

This program does involve medications.

Do it legally!
IT’S STILL LEGAL!
Protect Yourself Under California Law.

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

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

$75 Renewals

Located in Mission Valley
Offering the least expensive clinic evaluations in San Diego.

Save $10 by mentioning this ad.
Do you have trouble sleeping?

Are you:
• 18 years of age or older?
• History of insomnia for at least 4 weeks?
• Having difficulty staying asleep?
• Sleeping less than 6.5 hours at least 4 nights per week?
• In good general health?

Synergy Clinical Research is looking for volunteers for a medical research study of an investigational medication for insomnia.

Qualified participants may receive investigational medication, study-related physical exams and compensation for time and travel.

If interested, please contact:
Synergy Clinical Research Center
619-327-0155

Are you suffering from Schizophrenia?

If you have been diagnosed with Schizophrenia and your current medication is not helping you, you may qualify to participate in a research study being conducted by doctors in your area.

To participate, you must be willing to switch from your current therapy to an FDA-approved study drug.

What is Schizophrenia?
A disorder of the brain that can cause abnormal thinking, hallucinations (seeing things or hearing voices), emotional withdrawal, and other symptoms.

What can I expect if I participate?
You will receive the following at no charge: professional medical examinations and study drug, lab results, and other information about your health.

To learn more, call:
Synergy Research
1-888-619-7272 or 619-327-0155

Depression Research Study

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

Those symptoms may include feeling sad or empty, feeling worthless or guilty, decreased interest in activities you once enjoyed, difficulty concentrating, weight loss, difficulty sleeping or lack of energy.

Call
Synergy Research
1-888-619-7272

BIPOLAR DEPRESSION

Do you...
➢ Feel sad or anxious
➢ Have feelings of hopelessness
➢ Feel tired, lack energy or are unmotivated
➢ Have difficulty concentrating or making decisions
➢ Feel restless or irritable
➢ No longer have interest in once pleasurable activities

If you are experiencing some of these, you may be eligible for a research study.

Some qualifications are:
➢ Aged 18-65 years
➢ Non substance/alcohol dependent
➢ Using reliable contraceptive
➢ Not pregnant or lactating
➢ Non diabetic

For more information, please contact:
Synergy Clinical Research
1-888-619-7272

Listen to “Tomorrow’s Health Today Show” on CASH 1700 AM Radio every Saturday morning from 11 am to 12 noon, sponsored by Synergy Clinical Research Center.
Those who know marvel at how close we are; and we are. Yet months can pass without our speaking, often a year without seeing each other. Despite the sure love and the near distances, we remain, oddly, day-to-day strangers. There are five of us, black men.

We are brothers, and we are brothers.

I pull out my snapshot.

Christmas 1977. I bought as gifts five identical bracelets made of heavy brass, thick and roughly hammered. I was 33 then and flew in from New York, where I lived at the time. The Harlem merchant who sold the bracelets warned that the yellow metal would turn green, then black, unless polished with brass cleaner. As it happened, even with the instructions for their upkeep, the bracelets were a hit. I am the second born. York (older than me by five years) called for a picture. Marcus (three years my junior) angled his camera on the tripod, set the timer, then joined us on the floor. We lay in a circle, our right arms extended inward. The automatic timer whirred, tripping the photographic eye that opened and closed once, capturing in a blink the image of five arms extended, five hands clenched in fists.

Because I’m what is called pre-diabetic, the sugar kicks in images that one day may be my reality — daily insulin injections, blindness, amputation, death.

Hokey. I remember thinking the photograph was sure to look hokey. And when I got my copy in the mail, I saw that I was right. But when I later lost my bracelet, I was glad we took the picture, for today it is all I have. At the time, both York and Marcus wore pinkie rings. In the picture, because of those rings, I know their hands. But to this day I pause, uncertain, when I come to distinguish my hand from that of my youngest brothers, Shawn, 24, and Andre, 23, at the time.

I happened to be born colored, like York. By 1950, with Marcus, we had become Negro. Today we are African Americans. However, when the snapshot was taken with Shawn and Andre, we were all known as black — black men with brown arms, wrists, and hands. When I look at the photo I pause, engaged in distinguishing whose hand belongs to whom. And there is something else. Sometimes those solid bands of metal look like what they are, jewelry made of heavy beaten gold. But sometimes I think of them as handcuffs or shackles. It depends.

I am not sure it happened that Christmas, but sometimes we find it necessary to shut ourselves off in a bedroom — tall, full-grown men sprawling across the bed and on the floor — talking about what needs talking about. Maybe I cry; others do too. An hour later the crisis has been addressed; if a private hurt, soothed. We then stand and go into a kind of huddle, with shoulders touching and hands held. We offer a prayer of thanksgiving, for what we have found together lies beyond reason; where we have come to has no name.

This worries me, for I am a writer who holds to the New Testament line, “In the beginning was the Word.” That is, without a word, a name for where my brothers and I come to, there is no certainty for me that this place exists, no matter how much I tell myself to trust that it does.

Which is why I decided to interview my brothers.

I could not much explain my reasons, but my brothers agreed to be interviewed anyway.

I take off from Oakland at 7:00 in the morning. My knee is killing me. The week before I’d injured it, and so for the trip I have wrapped it tightly with an Ace bandage. Still, as I stand and pull my stuff out of the overhead and make my way off the plane onto the ramp and into the terminal, I am in agony. With each step, the ball-and-socket of my knee rub together, raw bone against raw bone. I find a phone booth and make a
call. Five minutes later I am resting outside the terminal when a white van rolls to a stop. A man wearing a badge that reads “Hector” leans over and opens the sliding door. He asks if I called for the shuttle to the rent-a-car. I say yes. “Well, fall in,” he says, and I do. We take off. Hector has meaty good looks and ink-black hair. The windows are down. The air rushing in smells of ocean, a smell that always tells me that I am back. “Welcome to San Diego!” Hector brakes in front of the office and slides open the door. I make my way inside. To explain what happens next, I must first share the fact that my great-great grandfather Weaver was a Plains Indian from the Blackfoot tribe. For him, a dragonfly flitting past his face in sudden iridescence, or a blue-black raven rising out of tall summer grass, offered a foretelling. Sadly, the Blackfoot blood must run thin in my veins, for if animals bring me what my forebears called “medicine,” I don’t catch it. I may have lost the eye, so to speak, but I’ve been recompensed with a writer’s ear. Words teach me. They are my medicine, holding for me a magical power, which I hope helps to explain why when Sue, the rental-car lady, assigns me a sporty red number and I explain that red cars make me feel hot, sorta like I’m driving an oven, and her response is that the Ford Aspire is the only small car they had on the lot — like great-great grandfather Weaver, I stop dead in my tracks. “What was that name?” I ask. “What do you mean?” she says. “The Aspire…” saying the word synonymous with breath, with longing — the stuff of life and spirit.

Ten minutes later I turn the key in the ignition of my red Aspire. A deep bass thrums through the speakers. The radio is set to a jazz station. Fusion, cool jazz, Ahmad Jamal and Miles, Paul Simon and Coltrane, a bossa nova beat and the classic stuff, perfect for that morning with its shelf of big white clouds pasted onto the windshield. I take I-5 heading north, stepping on the gas. The speedometer climbs. The Aspire is soon trembling. Forty years ago James Dean smashed his silver Porsche into a tree. Not long before he died, he starred in East of Eden, a drama of youthful despair, rebellion, and sibling rivalry. I’d catch the movie on the tube later that evening. I make it to Vista in no time. My parents are separated, and my mother lives there now. While my father was serving in the Navy, she ran the house, kept rein on five boys, oversaw the construction and management of several apartment buildings, and went undercover for the government in the 60s to help identify housing discrimination. Today, at 74, that long-ago woman has been replaced by a quiet soul, pale and almost timid, who answers the phone with “God bless you,” stays indoors all day with her drapes drawn, usually with the TV on, and who slowly, inexorably, like a label peeled away from a jar, finds herself being separated from what was once familiar as herself.

I use her phone to call Shawn. I tell him I am on my way. While he gives me directions, on my mother’s TV a talk-show host gets personal...
with her three young guests. The show’s theme is “Out of Control,” and these girls are. One girl, at 16, is pregnant for the third time. Another girl, also 16 and also pregnant, holds up for the camera and studio audience a list of 72 boys she’d slept with since the age of 11, when she began having sex.

To a wide-eyed host, she explains that there were too many, but she couldn’t remember their names. My mother shakes her head in wonder. “What is this world coming to?”

I wonder too, even though I have a pretty good idea of what is about to happen to mine. You see, I nab a handful of Hershey chocolate kisses before I take off for Shawn’s house; and as I make for the freeway, I tear at the silver foil with my teeth, popping those babies at the silver foil with my a handful of Hershey chocolate kisses. I you see, I nab an idea of what is about to happen to me. I know the ride, and still I jump on. What can I say? I am in San Diego to interview my brothers. I have two full workdays ahead of me. And I eat those kisses.

Man is a long time coming. Man will yet win. Brother will yet line up with brother:

This old anvil laughs at many broken hammers.

There are men who can’t be bought.

— Carl Sandburg

Shawn opens the door and then hurries back to the fish tank that he is cleaning. It is an elaborate ritual involving hoses, sponges, and drains, because the tank, unlike any I have seen, sits on the floor and is maybe two feet square and just shy of six feet tall. He drains the murky water three times and sends a clear rinse through. Then the goldfish are returned. Most fish in most tanks swim round and round in a pattern of endless lassitude. Not here. Behind their walls of clear Lucite, these fish take to the vertical, scaling the great distance of a tall man’s full height, breaking the watery surface like coins dropped into a fountain, except here they rise in a glimmering reversal before plunging back down to the bottom, where they nudge among the tiny blue stones before heading back up again for the top. It looks like hard work.

Shawn regularly speaks before large crowds. When he does, he is often plugged into a mike that wraps around the ear and mouth, like a rock star in concert. Charismatic, he can hold any stage and seems, up there, larger than life. Up close, however, Shawn is small boned, almost delicate. He has many responsibilities, and his thoughts sometimes drift; then he appears to blur at the edges. He was the fourth, born with a ruby underglow to his complexion and eyes that even then held a piercing depth.

Careful of my knee, I sit with Shawn at the dining room table. The house is a large, rambling affair, contemporary, in colors of white and pale blue, with lots of glass and polished surfaces. Shawn married Laurie when he was in his early 30s; now he is 41. They have lived four years in this house. I take out the tape recorder. At my back, the goldfish steadily climb that watery pillar and drop.

“Let’s offer a prayer before we start,” he says, and we do.

To get us going, I ask what prayer means to him.

The question comes like the report from a starter’s gun, with Shawn off and running. I have forgotten that he has answered questions like this thousands of times since April 17, 1971, when, as he recounts, “I asked Jesus into my heart.” Now, with the tape going, he moves easily, making reference to John 15:5, “…for without us ye can do nothing.”

He speaks of his church, the public figure. I am seeking out the man, my brother. He speaks of his church, which (I know) was newly built at a cost of $4.2 million and draws up to 2500 weekly attendees, all in less than five years of his and Laurie’s settling here in the Oceanside community. According to him, the ethnic and socioeconomic diversity seemed an ideal spot for a kind of church like New Venture Christian Fellowship. “We chose to target people of all backgrounds, because that was the kind of exposure I had as a child.”

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

For more information, please call the Clinical Research Center at (858) 694-8350.
Do you have Type 2 Diabetes?

If the answer is yes, you are one of the 18.2 million people with diabetes in the United States. Diabetes is approaching near-epidemic proportions across the country. Profil Institute for Clinical Research is doing additional testing in a research study with an approved inhaled insulin for diabetes.

If you are:
✧ age 18 or older
✧ controlling your diabetes with two oral agents (insulin with 2 oral agents is OK, too)
✧ NOT a smoker

You may qualify for this clinical research trial.

Study-related care provided at no charge.
Compensation up to $5,700. (Some overnight stays required.)
Shuttle service from the H Street trolley in Chula Vista available if needed.

Call: 619-409-1257

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

PERIODS

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

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

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

Participants may receive:
• Exam and consultation by a board-certified physician
• Study-related lab studies, sonogram, and mammography (if over the age of 34)
• Compensation up to $1150 for your time and travel

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

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Compensation up to $5,700. (Some overnight stays required.)
Shuttle service from the H Street trolley in Chula Vista available if needed.

Call: 619-409-1257

Profil Institute for Clinical Research
855 3rd Ave., Suite 4400
Chula Vista, CA 91911
Smoking too much pot?
WE WANT TO HELP YOU STOP!

Researchers at the Scripps Research Institute are working to develop treatments to help you quit smoking marijuana. This 12-week program involves medication.

For more information and to see if you qualify, please call 858-784-7867 or visit www.pearsoncenter.org for more detailed information.

Problems with HEAD LICE?

Head lice are parasites that affect millions of families every year and are most common in children between 3 to 10 years of age. Therapeutics Clinical Research is conducting a research trial to evaluate the effectiveness and safety of an investigational non-pesticide head lice treatment.

If you and/or any members of your household:
• Currently suffer with head lice
• Are in good health
• And are at least 6 months of age
You may qualify to participate in this study and receive compensation for time and travel.

Call today to find out more about this important study.

THERAPEUTICS
CLINICAL RESEARCH
Call: (858) 571-6800 or e-mail: lice@therapeuticsresearch.com

Research Study on DEPRESSION

Do you suffer from these symptoms?
• Difficulty concentrating/remembering
• Difficulty sleeping/eating
• Fatigue/loss of interest
• Persistent sadness/hopelessness

The UCSD Psychopharmacology Research Initiatives, Center of Excellence, is conducting research study on major depression. The research study involves the use of an investigational drug compared to placebo.

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

For more information and to find out how you can participate, call:
1-866-UC PRICE
(1-866-827-7423)

International Drug-free Wellness Research

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are interested in helping to evaluate the effect of drug-free chiropractic care on overall health and wellness, you may be eligible to participate in a global research project conducted by RCS, Inc. – Research & Clinical Science.

As a participant, you will receive, at absolutely no cost, a:
• Physical examination by an authorized chiropractic RCS researcher. This may include an X-ray, physical examination and report of findings explaining the results of the evaluation.
• Customized Vitality Wellness Index™ report comparing the results of your wellness evaluation with those of the larger population.

A follow-up appointment is needed to review the results of the evaluation and receive the Vitality Wellness Index™. Participants are under no obligation to accept any health care services and may withdraw from the study at any time.

Call: 858-794-4007
UTC Location

Volunteers may help us to advance medical research.

Covance seeks volunteers to participate in a clinical research study. Participants in this study will complete a health screening questionnaire and may take a single dose of an approved medication. This study will screen for a disease that affects a significant portion of the U.S. population 45 and older.

To qualify you must be age 35 or older.

This study involves one clinic visit and qualified participants may be compensated up to $80 for time and travel.

Call Mon-Fri for more information
1.800.949.8518 (English)
1.866.977.8322 (Spanish)
9665 Chesapeake Dr., Suite 200, San Diego, CA
www.testwiththebest.com
tle. Later they’d come up to me and say how grateful they were for what I’d said, how their impressions of black people had been changed.”

“For the better?”

“Oh, definitely. While most had never met a black person before, they still had plenty of negatives in place.”

Just then, Little Shawn flies into the room, a sky-blue balloon tied to his wrist. Laurie comes in with the groceries. Wearing slacks, her dark hair pulled back, she lays her bags on the counter, greets me with a hug, and at once goes about getting the child lunch.

“See my balloon, Hawkins?” I sweep the three-year-old up in my arms.

“Do you know the color of your balloon?” I ask. His answer is that it is blue.

“Good,” I say. I decide to make an educational game of this and point to the carpet. “Blue!” I point to the yellow stripe on his T-shirt.

“And what color is this?” He looks down, studying that stripe. “Blue…!”

We move to Shawn’s study for privacy. His desk is covered with papers, open books, pens, a Rolodex, pink message slips on a spindle. There is a fax machine, an answering machine, and behind it a wall of books spilling off their shelves. He takes a seat on the swivel chair with padded support for his back. I sit opposite him, on the other side of the desk. At my left a window overlooks the front yard. It is a quiet street. No cars would pass during the entire course of the interview. Far off, Little Shawn is heard settling in for lunch.

I ask if he remembers his first experience of overt racial abuse. It occurred, he answers, as he and Andre were crossing the street, walking home from school their first year in La Mesa.

“Suddenly there was a sound like an engine revving behind us. We turned. There was a pickup on top of us. We jumped onto the curb as a truck roared past. The two men were maybe in their 20s. They were yelling the ‘n-word.’” (Shawn, visibly uncomfortable with expletives, does not say “nigger.”)

Later, he says, there were other incidents — bullies in school, whites firing a pellet rifle at him while he jogged in Balboa Park, an incident of harassment by the Los Angeles police following the Rodney King incident.

(Compare my New York cop-harassment incidents with his. Most black men I knew there had similar stories.)

“How do you feel about this?”

“When, for example, I saw the videotape on Rodney King, and later, when the police were acquitted, I did feel rage. But it was short-lived, because I was able to keep in mind the fact that the root of racism, prejudice, bigotry, hate, is the fruit of our sinful human nature.” He quoted from Ephesians 6:12 (“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood.”)

UCSD Research Study

Have pimpls taken control of your face?

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

Qualifications include:

• Kids ages 12 and older
• Must have at least 17 pimples and 20 blackheads and whiteheads on your face

If you would like additional information regarding this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com

If even happy things leave you down and blue you may be suffering from a medical condition called depression.

Some other symptoms of depression may include: hopelessness, sadness, insomnia, loss of interest in daily activities, loss of energy and difficulty concentrating. If you or someone you know is at least 18 years of age and has been experiencing the above symptoms and has been treated in the past with medication, please call Affiliated Research Institute at 619-688-6565. If you qualify and choose to participate in this investigational research study, you will receive a medical evaluation, study-related care and study medication or placebo at no cost.

Please call for more information:

(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com

We are looking for men and women diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder.

Volunteers at least 18 years of age are needed to participate in a clinical research study testing the safety and effectiveness of a marketed drug for the treatment of Bipolar Disorder, also known as Manic Depression. Patients suffering from Bipolar Disorder must be currently experiencing a major depressive, mixed, or manic episode. All necessary office visits, medical evaluations, and study drug will be provided at no cost to qualified patients.

Please call for more information:

(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com

Bipolar Disorder/Manic Depression Research Study

We are currently seeking volunteers for a clinical research study of an investigational medication for the treatment of Bipolar Illness (Manic/Depression). To qualify for this study you must be at least 18 years old and currently experiencing a “ manic” or “mixed” episode of your illness. Symptoms include: irritability/agitation, sleep disturbance, racing thoughts, concentration difficulty, changes in energy level and feeling more talkative. Compensation will be provided for time and travel as part of your participation in this study. In addition, all medication and study-related medical care is offered at no cost to those who qualify.

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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San Diego, October 24, 2003 53
Many whites are scared or confused about African-American life. "Isn’t one aspect of that burden the sense of being under constant scrutiny? Maybe I should say ‘surveillance’? It seems as if you do not belong.”

“Your know,” he says, changing the subject, “I always thought when I visited Africa I’d feel this was home and that I belonged. Then I did visit and discovered that I was an African American, with an emphasis on the American.”

He is not alone. Keith Richburg, in an account of his time in Africa as correspondent for The Washington Post, reported critically of his experiences there, concluding that “by accident of birth, I am a black man born in America, and everything I am today — culture, attitudes, sensitivities, loves, and desires — derives from that one simple irrefutable truth.” Kafka said it more broadly, “You are not from the Castle, you are not from the village, you aren’t anything, or rather, unfortunately, you are something, a stranger.”

Unable to call Africa home, uncertain of what to make of his situation here in America — what does this foretell for his African-American son? “I had a wonderful childhood. I hope that my son will say the same thing one day.” This may help account for his spearheading a new youth-center project, with gym and classrooms, which will emphasize the care of abused children. “And for the rest, I hope he grows to love God, know Christ, and never fails to like himself.”

A merciful God has seen to it that Shawn’s son is in a school district where teachers are sensitive to the different needs of a multicultural community. Children less well-placed find that the home behaviors that help them survive on the streets trap them in special ed and a scholastic dead end. Today African-American educators and their supporters face this challenge of contradictions. Using texts like Countering the Conspiracy to Destroy Black Boys, by Jawanza Kunjufu, they are advancing new curricula, training teachers and volunteers, and revamping local school districts in an effort against flesh and blood, but against principalities.”

“What I’m saying is that I could take it personally or I can recognize there is something going on behind all this.”

Outside, the lawn is a deep green. Beyond it, the street is empty and quiet. At my back, in the next room, goldfish are climbing. I asked Shawn wonders too. “We live in such a color-conscious world. So many blacks are angry, and so many whites are scared or want everything to be loving and happy.”

“What about members of the Christian community?” “I’m not sure how much race comes into play,” he says, “but I am sure that it does.” He repeats what Arthur Ashe had said, that it is more difficult to be a black man in this country than it is to have AIDS. “That sure says something, doesn’t it?” he says.

Isn’t one aspect of that
to stem the tide of black school dropouts. God, it is said, helps those who help themselves.

“Even so,” I ask, “isn’t it hard to like yourself in a culture like this one, which sets you always apart as the unloved stranger?”

Shawn thinks about this for a minute. “Sure,” he agrees, “there are negatives that come from being a black man in America. But I feel that with the help of the God that Laurie and I both know and the confidence we each have together, we’ll be able to help him in this. It may not be easy,” he adds, “raising a cautionary finger, but his time, the new age, the way I see it, will be the majority. My son will soon represent the majority. People of color will be the majority. My son will get directions to Andre’s. God, it is hard to like yourself in a culture like this one, which sets you always apart as the unloved stranger.”

“Bye-bye, balloon,” he said, helps those who help themselves. By saying, “there are negatives that come from being a black man in America. But I feel that with the help of the God that Laurie and I both know and the confidence we each have together, we’ll be able to help him in this. It may not be easy,” he adds, “raising a cautionary finger, but his time, the new age, it will be the majority.” My son will be able to help him in this. It may not be easy, “he adds, “raising a cautionary finger, but his time, the new age, the way I see it, will be the majority. People of color will be the majority. My son will get directions to Andre’s. God, it is hard to like yourself in a culture like this one, which sets you always apart as the unloved stranger.”

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repeats — and then almost at once he says it again, but this time with pleasure. “Bye-bye, balloon!” I stare in astonishment. His child’s disappointment is forgotten. The tears are gone. He is smiling.

Which of us has known his brother? Which of us has looked into his father’s heart? Which of us has not remained forever prison-kept? Which of us is not forever a stranger and alone?

— Thomas Wolfe

I grab a handful of graham crackers on my way out Shawn’s door and an hour later am turning into Andre’s driveway in Lakeside. He is standing there when I pull myself out of the car.

Which’s wrong with your leg?” he asks, giving me a hug. I explain matters to this man whose diapers I used to change, now taller than I am, now, thanks to Nauti- tus, more buffed than I will ever be. Our family carries age well, and Andre looks 30, a full decade younger than he actually is. He wears gray sweatpants and a black LA Raiders T-shirt that reads, “Real Men Wear Black.”

Inside, a taupe-colored carpet covers the living room floor. I take off my sneakers. Creamy four o’clock sunlight streams through the windows.

“Did you eat? How about an egg sandwich?” This sounds good to me. He goes to work toasting a couple of pieces of whole-wheat bread while I check out his place. I ask how long it has been since I’d last been there. We compute that it was maybe ten years before.

The living and dining rooms form an L. Between them stand an immense umbrella tree, a schefflera, and an airy ficus. From the kitchen, butter hits the heated pan with a hiss. On the dining room table sits a glass bowl filled with chocolate-covered peanuts. I reach out and take one, pop it in my mouth, crunch down and swallow; I admit that I am ready for sin. I reach out and take another. And another. Finally I take a handful (I have large hands), put the bowl on a shelf (out of sight, out of mind), and move through the house, crunching and favoring my right leg. The second bed- room has been converted to a gym, with free weights and a Nautilus machine. The master suite, with bedroom and bath, are shipshape. Tidiness and order. These seem to me signs of a confirmed bachelor, a man grown unsuited to the messiness of relationship. On the king-size bed, a teddy bear wears a “Love” T-shirt. A woman’s pair of gold hoop earrings are on the dresser.

“How’s Cathy?” I call to him in the kitchen.

Andre does not invite inquiry into his private life. He says “Fine,” and that, as they say, is that.

Back in the dining room, I retrieve the bowl of candy from where I’ve hidden it. I gobble up another handful and once again replace it. A photograph on the wall, a black-and-white sports shot, shows Sonny...
Liston on his back looking up at Muhammad Ali, who stands over him. His mouth guard loose, Ali is yelling at the downed man. His face is sweaty and distorted, his leather gloves held high and folded in like a couple of huge portobello mushrooms.

“It’s ready,” Andre sets the plate with his sandwich on the table. I have a choice of what to drink. Milk or a Coke translates as an actual choice between more fat or more sugar. With butter in the skillet and mayonnaise on the bread, I’m already getting plenty of fat. Besides, I’ve got a rush going from those chocolate-coated peanuts, and why, I ask myself, should I mess with a good thing?

I wash a mouthful of egg sandwich down with Coke and ask about the photograph. Andre says he hung it because he likes Ali. “He was his own man. He changed his name and became a Muslim. He said he wasn’t going to Vietnam, and the country went crazy on him. Then he won his championship back, on his terms. You have to respect a man like that,” he says.

The photograph follows the moment when Liston fell, downed by a phantom punch that no one saw and a review of the tapes would never goddamn well throw. But if Liston was selling the fight, from the look of things, Ali was not buying. In the shot, he towers over an ensnared Muslim Jesus ordering his downed Lazarus to rise, goddamn it, and don’t let up. Andre hurried over and found the man turning blue.

“Was he dead?” I ask.

“No. He didn’t get up. Andre hurried over to talk about the death of his next-door neighbor. I explain that while I did not recall much of the story, I remember how upset he was at the time and that this seems a good place to start.

“I was upset,” he admits, and goes on to recount the story of how he and Bill and their next-door neighbor had been on the phone with Eleanor, his elderly neighbors, in the next room on the phone with Eleanor, his elderly neighbors, in the next room. “I was upset, ‘he admits, and goes on to recount the story of how he and Bill and their next-door neighbor had been on the phone with Eleanor, his elderly neighbors, in the next room. “I was upset, ‘he admits, and goes on to recount the story of how he and Bill and their next-door neighbor had been on the phone with Eleanor, his elderly neighbors, in the next room.

Meanwhile, I had to tell her to stay away from her dog because they were hoping the new baby, who was due any day, would not come until they had a chance to do some last-minute shopping. In the shot, she stood in the doorway. I asked her if she was all right, and she said, “I was upset, I had fallen and could never prove was I doing was going to be enough. But at the moment, I recall—

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San Diego Reader September 29, 2006 57
ing the incident with the paramedics has stripped Andre of his fabled good nature. He is angry, and like a fire catching, his anger spreads. He speaks of the petition that circulated before he bought his place in 1982. His neighbors worried that a young black man would bring in an undesirable element. (A similar petition had gone around 15 years before, when my parents bought their home.) Andre moves forward in time, from the past to the present; he complains that he is always being watched. “Like when I go into a store, I can feel being watched.”

I say that when I go into a store, I can feel being watched. “Nothing. He said he was sorry, but the man was just doing his job. So I left. Which is what they wanted. The security guy was just doing his job, and his job was to keep people like me out of Tiffany’s.”

Neighborhoods worried that the store manager because the community — which means what he was thinking, however, until he started hanging out with friends at Chris’s Barber-shop. “I’d be there every week hanging out and talking, smoking,” he said, referring to that easygoing banter that has served as a healing balm to black men for generations.

The sun is setting; inside, the changing light washes orange color over the walls. Ali and Liston, behind glass, have caught fire.

Our conversation drifts to his job. A few years ago, a racial incident deprived him of a management position, but just this week, he’d been invited back into management. The offer brought with it a substantial hike in salary, but he declined. “They were looking to fill a quota. So they weren’t seeing me. They knew I could do the job — I’d performed well before. But what they were looking for was a black person to fill a spot. And that’s the problem. When you’re black, you’re a part of a quota, a part of a problem, or a pain in the butt. You are not a person.”

Given his feelings, I wonder about his politics. I ask, for the record, if he would be willing to declare how he votes. “I don’t,” he answers. “The telephone rings. It is Laurie. She has found my glasses on the window sill in the kitchen — which means I have to drive back to Oceanside tomorrow. I show Andre the photograph, which (without my glasses) is a blur to me. He cannot make out whose hand belongs to whom, so it’s more or less a blur to him too. That seems about it. I thank him, mentioning that I am especially grateful for his cooperation, knowing, I say, how much he values his privacy, how shy he is.

“I’m not that shy,” he responds. “You just don’t know me.”

Sometimes in the course of an interview there is a moment that opens up like a big hungry mouth and swallows all the air. It happens now. It feels like a bell jar has been dropped over me. I look at him and say, “What do you mean I don’t know you?” My voice sounds flat, like I am speaking behind glass.

Andre smiles at me. “It’s all right,” he says. “It’s not that important.”

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But of course it is. In the movie made from the popular romance *The Bridges of Madison County*, the mother writes a letter read by her children at her death. In the letter she confesses to a secret infidelity. She expects that this information may leave her children, troubled, but, she explains, she does so because “what is important as we get older is to be known.”

Early on we learn to determine our worth from the reactions of others. If my response to Andre ignores who he really is (or has come to be), then am I mistaken in his very reactions to me? Am I then who I have come to suppose myself to be? Am I the name I call myself?

Throw out the lifetime across the dark wave, There is a brother whom someone should save. — Edward Smith Ufford

Is there a “maleness” factor at work that encourages distance and engagement, being at once cool and yet connected? If, I ask myself, I knew my brothers so well, would I have had to come down and interview them? John Edgar Wideman writes that the “bedrock issue raised by the paradigm of race…is whether [one] can be someone other than a white person in this society and stay healthy, stay alive.” Is there another aspect to this paradigm of race? Are we all, white and black alike, caught in early definitions of self? Do we freeze-frame our perceptions into stereotypes and limit the full uncalculated humanity of each other?

What have I done to my brothers? I park the Aspire at my brother York’s and get out. All that is left of the sun is a deep crimson color rimming the western sky. I knock and enter, and within ten minutes (seven used up by the microwave) I am chewing and swallowing food without much noticing, because that what I am feeding at this stage is a binge craving, not hunger. I want sugar — and I don’t want to call my father, who is unhappy about an article I wrote.

I tap out his number, and he picks up. He says hello, and I say, “Hi, Dad.” This is the first time we have spoken since the article was published. We get into it quickly enough. He tells me his feelings; I tell him I’m sorry that he is unhappy and hope he will enjoy the story about my brothers. But I wonder. I have come here to find members of my family and to report those findings. His role, as he saw it, was to provide for and protect his family. He understood that as a black man this was best done by quietly going about one’s life, remaining essentially anonymous. Am I my job as a writer and his life as a black man and father at odds? The question saddens me, for I love my father.

York Mitchell, Sr., is smart, generous, and widely liked. He grew up in Alabama, at a place and time where a man might be lynched for distinguishing himself, for being known. Today, at 80, my father sometimes recounts stories of his childhood. In one of those tales, about the Alabama mines, he speaks of the mules that were born and died miles underground, working their entire lives without ever seeing the light of day. So used were they to those dim caverns underground, he likes to say, that if ever one saw daylight, the shock would instantly blind it.

My father left Birmingham as a teenager. He carried one small suitcase and the only sure ticket out: military service. He never looked back, and there was no need to, for he carried, like each of us, his history with him. Now as I listen to him on the other end of the line, I think of those overworked mules and the blinding sunlight they would never see.

I imagine a single mule guided by straps running as a halter under his hard belly, drawn slowly out of the dark, climbing upward where it smells the air as thinner, with a sweet fragrance. Pale light hovers ahead. The mule drops its head as it is brought forward into the light.
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I've only been coming for 3 months and I can tell my hair feels thicker, styles easier, and my hairdresser noticed it also! She said it seemed thicker and healthier to her. I'm very encouraged!
—Cindy M., St. Paul

We sent our TV producer to try the revolutionary new hair loss treatment called laser hair therapy in February 2001. His hair had been thinning for years and nothing he tried—from Rogaine to Propecia—seemed to work. A year later, Joe's progress is impressive. You can see hair regrowth at every angle. —Victoria Snee, WB33 Reporter, story featured on WB33 Feb. 26, 2002

By the time it is outside the mine, in full daylight, it is rendered blind. This has happened, as I imagine, not from the sudden brilliance of unaccustomed sunlight. Rather, the mule is blinded from that first vision of the world, a wondrous spectacle hovering not far beyond the first pale light. Here is a landscape stretching to the horizon line, and the mule will never see it.

My father and I chat a little longer, then we hang up. I turn to York, setting the tape recorder down on the coffee table in the living room.

A span of 16 years does not explain what separates my oldest brother from my youngest. I think of it this way: York was born two years before the U.S. officially entered World War II. He was a teenager in the '50s, a soldier in the '60s, in Vietnam in the '70s, and already looking at retirement from the service at the same time that Andre, not long out of his teens, was dancing the robot to disco hits like Brick's “Good High.”

In the muted light, York's hair and beard are silvery. He wears the trim quality of decency I associate with him. He is a handsome man with a strong Asian cast to his features. He sits near the door, on one of the pair of leather sofas set at angles to each other. Mahogany paneling covers the walls. The furniture is dark. If Andre's place offered after-noon luminescence, night has rendered this a dark cave with a promise of ancient rites and mysteries. From my seat on the other sofa, I can make out, in silver frames set all over the room, photographs of Thelma's children and grandchildren. Thelma is a pale blonde who speaks quietly and laughs easily. She does so now, inviting me to feel free to use the kitchen. Then she retires to their bedroom. I hear the TV set go on.

York is silent. Even as the interview begins, in the early pauses before it picks up and takes its rhythm, there hovers about him a stalled quality, a weariness that has more to it than exhaustion at the end of a workweek. He seems to hold within a sadness, an unspoken grief. At these moments he looks haunted. I turn on the tape recorder. My first question is about his marriages. “Your first wife was black, and Thelma is white.”

“Yeah.”

“Do you feel anything about this?” I ask.

“That my first wife was black and my second is white? No, I can't say that I do. I loved my first wife, and I love Thelma. They are both good women.”

“Is it that simple?”

“If it’s your life, it is,” he says, laughing. “I know some think by marrying Thelma that I put down black women and probably more who look at it like it’s proof that white is better, because I’m with a white woman. The fact is, I married a black woman and lost her because I was young with a macho attitude. Now I’m blessed to have Thelma. She is my support and my best friend. And between the two of us, our hearts don’t see color.” I wonder if...


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in this mellow neighborhood at 19th and L Streets. Not with the kinds of stresses you find now." Indeed stress has wrought havoc with York. As a child, he was severely asthmatic (said to be a psychosomatic response to stress) and had to undergo a lifesaving tracheotomy; his skin, today, is a sensitive barometer of his emotional ease; a dyslexic, he has only recently learned that his stress-filled years of school were the consequence of a learning disorder. A sickly childhood, a tour of duty in Vietnam and contact with Agent Orange, a full-time job, the demands of service as an assistant pastor, and the responsibilities to his wife and family have all taken their toll. He takes medication to control a heartbeat that is sometimes erratic.

I turn off the tape and show him the photograph. He pauses, considering, when Thelma, on her way to the kitchen to brew a cup of chamomile tea, glances over his shoulder at the snapshot and at once correctly attaches names to hands. Unbelievable! Asked how she did it, she explains about size of wrist, shape of hand, and so forth — elements of a feat of perception I choose to assign to some arcane and mysterious womanly power. Later, with the pair in bed, I raid the kitchen and destroy the recipe. They said it was the white man’s war. "I was their sergeant," York has said, "and they felt that I should ease off on them. They said it was the white man’s war.” Did he ease off? No. I have another story: When Marcus enlisted in the Navy and was sent to Vietnam, York searched until one afternoon he found him stationed near Da Nang. Having pulled duty the night before, Marcus was on the bottom bunk sleeping when York stepped inside. He bent close and spoke low, “Hey! Bro! What’s happenin’…” Marcus opened his eyes, crying out for joy at the sound of that familiar voice.

These are my Vietnam stories, because I did not go there. Instead, I marched in protest up New York’s Fifth Avenue. Later, when I was living in Germany and working as an archivist for the American military newspaper Stars and Stripes, I saw photographs of war atrocities on both sides. That same year I was notified to report to the Frankfurt induction center, where I declared the war unjust, its induction patterns racist, and both sides culpable. My interviewer assured me that with my attitude I should not expect to be called up again. That this turned out not to be the case is a different story, just as, it seems to me, is the fact that 30 years later, in Washington, Robert McNamara, the hawkish secretary of defense, waited more than

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20 years to release his memoirs and say of the war that “we were wrong, terribly wrong.” But I had two brothers who did what they were told and went to Vietnam.

It is late. The house is quiet. I'm glad when East of Eden ends. Dean, the bad son, gets both the girl and his father’s love; and I get to go to sleep. I’m exhausted. But as soon as the credits run, another movie, Naked Prey, comes on. The story is a simple one: Cornd Wildel, buck-naked, without shoes or weapons, runs across Africa in flight from a nation of trained warriors, black men trying to catch his (quite literal) white ass. This movie, made in 1966, has “a cast of thousands,” all trying to outwe our lone hero. I don’t think I have to wait to find out if the good (i.e., white) guy wins out. Besides, it’s after two. I use the remote control.

The sofa is soft and the leisure is hot. Careful of my knee, I slide onto the thick area rug, where, almost at once, I am asleep.

I wake up once. It is something after five, I think; too dark to read my watch, but light enough for objects in the room to begin to separate from their shadows. A large abstract painting in deep red and blue floats off the wall, drifting with me into sleep, where it becomes part of a dream I remember only for the inclusion of the painting itself. The next thing I know, the room is light and York and Thelma are in the kitchen. I misplace my dream somewhere between sleep and awakening. There was the red-and-blue painting in it — I remember that — and I come back as well understanding something of what lay in the exhausted, haunted look I’d seen pass over York’s face before the interview began the evening before. This, I recognize in retrospect, is what had troubled me.

James Wolcott has written that the tragedy for the black man in America remains that he is “perceived not as a life-size figure of humanity, but as a moody archetype of animal and shadow, all appetite.” I agree with Wolcott insomuch as I recognize his observation has translated in my own life, as smiles lifted like white flags toward anxious ladies.
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San Diego Reader September 22, 2006 65
to burritos. This one had balloons and a helium tank. I am in the station collecting my change when a young black man enters. He takes a bag of mixed nuts from the shelf and brings it to the counter. Next he goes to the back and selects a root beer. He lays this on the counter. Lastly, he fetches a package of Oreo cookies. This is set down as well.

Here at the gas-station stop, the attendant eyeing the young black man has no reason to suspect him of even attempting to shoplift. He has his stuff, and I have my change. We nod at each other, brothers. He leaves my change. We nod at each other.

A large black bird kites low overhead. I can’t tell if it’s a crow or a raven. I point, asking Laurie if she knows. She looks up, shading her eyes. “Aren’t ravens smaller?” “Balloon!” says Little Shawn, reaching for his present. I loop the balloon around the baby’s wrist. Shawn joins us. “How’re the interviews going?” They were going well, I say, adding that Andre and York left me wondering if I knew them as well as I thought. I had come to interview my brothers hoping that in understanding them, I’d better understand my place in the world. I had not come to have my world, my perceptions, threatened.

Laurie shades her eyes, looking up at me. “You know, a person can communicate well without being intimate.” I feel as if I am losing it. “What are you talking about?” Shawn says that communication and intimacy are difficult when we come loaded with assumptions, with prior histories and reputations. I look at them, wondering if I’d come to San Diego to have my assumptions about my brothers validated, my aggregated world valorized. I’m not sure and can’t say more, because just then the baby pipes up.

“Bye-bye, balloon…” I look down to him and then up to where the yellow balloon is sailing over the rooftop. “Bye-bye, balloon!” he calls, wavering. “He must have untied the string,” Laurie says, laughing. “Yesterday was a near-tragedy. Today it’s a game.” I’m not laughing. My head feels like that yellow balloon.

Marcus is standing outside his building when I drive up. His flight from Phoenix was delayed, and he had arrived home late the night before. He looks tired as he gets in his car. I follow as he zigzags through cross streets. At Pacific Coast Highway, we turn right, heading for the rental-car center. Because they close early on Saturdays (making it impossible to deliver the car on my way to the airport), I plan to deliver the Aspire, then come back with Marcus and spend the afternoon with him. He’d take me to the airport that evening.

He drives into the lot, his German-made sedan and vanity plates embossed with his initials (MEM) setting him apart, a yacht among rowboats. I sign off and jump in with my luggage. We return to his home on the 11th floor of a building that had the year before gone co-op. Inside, beyond the wall of windows in the living room, lies a sweeping view of Balboa Park, downtown San Diego, and Tijuana.
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I remember yesterday Shawn saying that it was in this park that he had been fired at by someone with a pellet rifle.

The glass coffee table is massive. A vase of blown Italian glass (a gift from my mother) sits on the corner. Against the wall, a banquette stretches as long as a white limo. A baby grand piano holds one corner. The framed prints of classical Roman architecture look ready to slide down the walls from the sheer weight of their images.

Marcus takes me onto the back deck that overlooks the airport. A jet roars past overhead. It flies so low I feel I could reach up and touch its great cargo belly. A mile away, another airplane, its wingtips gleaming, is taking off directly into the sun. “We saw the America Cup trials from here.” He points below to the blue harbor. It is Saturday, and Rhonda, who had spent the morning at the architectural design firm where she works, is now in the bedroom taking a nap.

My knee aches. I sit on the sofa and stick my leg straight out. I show Marcus the photograph. He picks out himself and York, because of the rings. I put the tape recorder on the coffee table. With my first question, we’re in trouble.

“You ask me,” he says, “about my experiences growing up black in San Diego, but my problem is that I can’t remember back before I was 13 or 14.” (His earliest memory of racism, he says, was with his second wife when, while living in El Cajon, a truck passed, and some young whites yelled out “Nigger lover!”)

“You can’t remember anything before that?”

He answers that he can’t. “My memory is foggy.” Today there are many children’s therapies, techniques for working with unhappy kids. When we were young there was only one generally approved method: the rod. And as a child, Marcus was famous for being on its receiving end as well as for the rice and bananas, milk, and slices of white Langendorf bread — “comfort” food — he ate to assuage the pain of “therapy.”

I did not play a varsity sport in high school. My brothers did. Shawn was on...
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a championship football team at Grossmont. Andre played basketball. York teed off for St. Augustine. Marcus played both golf and football. He was skinny then and until he went into the Navy. He came back from Vietnam muscled and heavy, as if he were wearing armor. He has remained a big man ever since.

While growing up, he says, he does not remember being close with blacks, with whites, or (as the middle child) with us, his brothers. (I take this remark full in the gut.) Feeling isolated within the home and outside in the community has meant, he says, that he has had to work for everything he has achieved.

I don’t get the logic here or the rationale behind his conclusion, “That’s why I make a point of surrounding myself with people who do not think in terms of color.”

I suggest that he does think in terms of color. “You have married three white women. So what are we talking here, coincidence?”

He reminds me that his earliest relationship was with a black woman. “But as for my wives, I think each one was a very fine person who happened to be white.” He calls himself a product of his environment. “If I’d grown up in Los Angeles or Oakland, where there is a large black middle-class community, the choices I made, from the women I met and fell in love with to the work I do, all that would have likely been different.” I explain that as a black businessman married three times to white women, driving a Mercedes-Benz, and living in a condominium overlooking the park, he represents a certain social type. Whether he sees himself as fortunate or having worked for what he has, does he not feel that oppressive conditions still hold for the black man?

“I play the names in my head:
Stars & Stripes. Young America.
Black Magic. With the right verbs, they combine nicely as a metaphor for U.S. race relations.

Oakland, where there is a large black middle-class community, the choices I made, from the women I met and fell in love with to the work I do, all that would have likely been different.” I explain that as a black businessman married three times to white women, driving a Mercedes-Benz, and living in a condominium overlooking the park, he represents a certain social type. Whether he sees himself as fortunate or having worked for what he has, does he not feel that oppressive conditions still hold for the black man?

“Certainly prejudice and racism continue to exist. But I try not to let it bother me.”

Unlike my two younger brothers, neither York nor Marcus acknowledges deep connections within the black community. I ask what the police beating of Rodney...
King that sparked the L.A. riots meant to him.

“It told me that our liberal justice system is in trouble.”

Maybe the system is a mess, but I’m not sure the trouble. “Statistics,” I say, “show that the judicial system, however you characterize it, is more likely to work in favor of a white person over a black.”

Probably so, he answers, but cautions that statistics can be used any number of ways. I ask and am told that he does not approve of affirmative action. (“Do you think a quota system is good?”) I suggest that the...
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white good-old-boy network is also a quota system. “Racism,” he replies, “will always be with us.” As we ramble over the conservative landscape, he makes approving sounds about Clarence Thomas, the black Supreme Court justice; about welfare cuts and the strict monitoring of the poor. (“They could get a job if they really wanted to.”) Marcus calls himself a moderate. He believes in the power of the individual to create his destiny. “I am beside myself. “You’re nuts!” I tell him, and he laughs.

Marcus seems to me to speak in the way of so many Americans who currently find themselves disaffected. He exposes a political position while remaining essentially nonpolitical, thus seeing the world in terms of personality and individual responsibility, hence, of praise or blame. While he speaks with breathtaking assurance that puts my own wobbly liberal views to shame, his views are inconsistent. For example, his ethic of individual determinism is at odds with his claim that he, himself, is a product of his environment. “This country,” he says, “faces dangers from unions, the welfare state, and unemployment. The big three that brought England down.”

(‘I tell myself the danger is real. I’m just not sure bucking the unions, drastically reducing aid to the poor and unemployed is the way to address it.) “Hi!” Rhonda appears, sleepy-eyed. A honey blonde, warm and affectionate, she is from Down Under and even her “Hi” has that Australian twang. She goes into the kitchen to fix dinner. Marcus and I wind down the interview.

He says that growing up in San Diego allowed him to follow what he calls a moderate path, and he’s glad for that. He quotes Martin Luther King, saying he has been lucky that he has been judged not on the color of his skin but the content of his character. (I remember that yesterday Shawn said the same thing, offering it as a hope for his son.) Maybe, Marcus admits, he has been like the ostrich burying his head in the sand, but “life is difficult enough as it is without having to agonize over the issues of race that you seem to be troubled by.”

He goes over to the baby grand that turns out not to be a piano but a synthesizer housed to look like a baby grand piano. If objects speak symbolically of their owners, and Shawn with his fish tank, Andre with his photograph of Ali, and ‘York the dark painting hanging in the air are in a sense described by these, then surely this electronic sound system speaks of Marcus. It is advertised as completely self-contained, with an 88-note keyboard and 100 sounds of “breath-taking authenticity, including flutes, brass, basses, and drums…and other special effects as chorus, tremolo, and vibrato…and it never needs tuning.” Because Marcus has not yet mastered the playing of it, the thing sits there, certainly not a baby grand, but even a synthesizer, more a costly, unused toy. It
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falls into the same class as comfort food, vanity plates, and a prized bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon 1986 Silver Oak (Alexander Valley) that he shows me.

Because I know him to be both intelligent and sensitive (despite what he has chosen to say in the interview), I wonder how much he truly cares about these things. Are they diversions, narcotics used to ward off the pain of everyday life?

Rhonda announces supper. We sit down to a creamy pasta primavera, tossed salad, and white wine. Over our meal, the pair trade remarks, gently chiding each other. They have been married a year. In their give-and-take, two things become clear: They are enormously happy, and Marcus, who holds some opinions that I think are wrong-headed, maintains a kind of integrity evidenced in the quality of their relationship. What am I to make of this?

For dessert Rhonda has baked flaky apple tarts, topped with big scoops of vanilla ice cream that for me provide a sugar rush that has not subsided by the time I take off from Lindbergh Field two hours later, strapped in and accelerating fast into the night air, on the way home.

The guide pattern of lights of the airport drop away. Air flight leaves me restless. Tonight, however, my feelings of distress are acute. I feel small and lonely. Earlier, Marcus had pointed from his back porch to where the America’s Cup defender finals were held. Now far below lies the water route taken in the elimination trials. Stars & Stripes, capturing the Citizens Cup over Mighty Mary and Young America, had won the right to sail against the New Zealand team’s boat, Black Magic. It has been a strenuous two days. I wonder how close New Zealand is to Rhonda’s Australia. I play the names in my head: Stars & Stripes, Young America, Black Magic. With the right

The research team concluded that every man now on earth is related to every other man, that we each share a common ancestor who lived among the earliest members of the race now called Homo sapiens.

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verbs, they combine nicely as a metaphor for U.S. race relations.

There was another metaphor that had made news earlier in the spring, when a team of molecular biologists published their findings on genetic ancestry in *Science*. The researchers had examined a tiny portion of a single gene from the Y chromosome in 38 ethnically diverse men from widely scattered parts of the world. Determining the rate at which human genes mutate and analyzing the genetic snippets, the research team concluded that every man now on earth is related to every other man, that we each share a common ancestor who lived among the earliest members of the race now called *Homo sapiens*. This “father of us all” lived in Africa roughly 270,000 years ago. "Thus, in a sense, "writes Svante Paabo, translating the findings into that single metaphor I remember months later,"everyone on this planet looks like an African. "That each human wears the face of Africa is to say that all men, everywhere, are African. Thus, all who reside in the U.S. are African-American — black, white, yellow, red, and brown.

I ran through my list of African names for “brother”: Ndugu (Swahili), Aburo (Yoruba), Dan’Iwaw (Hausa). Genetics, I know, doesn’t much matter. We are what personal histories and daily behavior make of us. But it was pleasant thinking that Africa, condemned for centuries as backward and uncivilized, should have been the place of our origin. When I think about it, I’d left home early the day before to interview my brothers. Returning, I feel I’d somehow lost a little of each of them. (This is why I feel small and lonely.) But if I had lost them — or at least some assumptions about them — recalling those research findings and recognizing their implications means that at some level I am returning with a couple of billion more. What a trip.
go cold turkey. And why?

Standing on Portola Hill, overlooking the city where jeweled hills rise and drop in an ocean of pastel-colored buildings, where the steel-trellised bridge snaps ahold of the distant lowlands of Oakland like a giant claw, and the bay is set adazzle with afternoon sunlight, worry over some tacky compulsive behavior seems small stuff indeed. I had gone in search of the name for the mysteriously luminous feelings my brothers and I sometimes shared when we all got together. I’d come back not only empty-handed but with hands and body trembling with fired nerves. Why is it not enough to know that we love our families and that they love us? Why cannot such knowledge free us of the tensions that love sometimes arouses?

My knee hurts. I make my way down toward the Castro, hoping to walk out the pain.

We each, my brothers and I, live in homes with pleasing and attractive things at hand. No one has spent a day in jail. We are not afflicted with AIDS, drug addictions, or (for the moment) unemployment. Karl Marx claimed socio-economic class more strongly influences behavior than race, and it seems that he was right. But how does middle-class status account for our wide stretch across the political spectrum, from lib-

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— Hawkins Mitchell
I'm Not from a Place, I'm from a Group

Fractured Lives of Military Brats

One of the things that military children get that is very positive is that sense of mission, a sense of doing something for somebody more than just yourself,” says writer/director Donna Musil. On Friday, September 29, Musil will screen her documentary BRATS: Our Journey Home at the Civic Center in Oceanside. Musil interviewed 50 of the 500 military brats who responded to a questionnaire on her website. The film, which took seven years to produce, was funded by donations from military brats worldwide.

“We got $1000 from a guy who said, ‘Anybody who can get Kris Kristofferson and [retired General] Norman Schwarzkopf in the same film deserves my money,’” Kristofferson donated his music to the film and served as narrator.

“When children are raised in families where their needs are secondary to something else, it doesn’t matter what it is, it affects them the same,” says Musil. “With missionary kids, God is number one; with brats, the military is number one. Children [whose family’s needs are secondary] grow up to have the same symptoms of adult children of alcoholics.”

Because of having to change locations frequently throughout their formative years, many military brats develop trust issues. “There’s so much loss in a military child’s life. [When you move] you lose friends, your reputation, teachers — and that’s if nothing happens to your parent. Animals! People didn’t take their dogs with them. I met some brats who went through 20 dogs.”

One of the military brats featured in the film, Catherine Howard Reed, says, “I had two disastrous marriages...I’ve not learned the skills that it takes to keep a relationship going.”

Heather Wilson DeSpain, another woman interviewed by Musil, says, “Trust is a really big issue in my life. I don’t issue it out to people very easily. And when I do, I think there’s always this thing in the back of my head that they’re going to break it.”

Musil describes a segment of the film in which a psychologist explains a coping mechanism inherent in many military brats: “They don’t fully invest. If you did fully invest in everything, you’d get your heart broken every year or so [when it’s time to move again]. You’re not stupid; so you survive that lifestyle by taking the good and learning to walk away from the bad.”

“But,” Musil explains, “it’s counter-productive as an adult — you don’t work through difficulties very well. When I grew up, I had to teach myself to have confrontations with people [with whom relationships] are workable.”

The structure of a military family is different from that of most other families. “Everything is saturated with the military culture,” says Musil. In the documentary, Schwarzkopf shares, “I remember my dad talking to me about honor and integrity when I was seven. When he left home to go to Iran, he ceremoniously presented me with his West Point sword and said, ‘You’re the man of the house, and you have to take care of your mom and sisters.’

I took it very seriously.”

The most significant disadvantage for military families, Musil contends, is the lack of medical confidentiality. Families that are really suffering from abuse or alcoholism, which are things that happen in every culture, feel this pressure not to tell anybody. Here you are a ten-year-old kid, and Dad’s drinking too much, but we don’t want to get him in trouble, so Mom doesn’t get any help. You’re told as a child that you represent America, particularly when you go overseas. That’s a lot of pressure.”

According to Musil, many men handle post-traumatic stress disorder with alcohol. “I did find in my research that older brats reported tons of drinking problems, and then there was a period of time — related to peacetime — where it wasn’t much of a problem. Now [the military] is trying to get people not to drink [as much]. But studies have shown both smoking and drinking have now gone back up because of Iraq.”

Musil’s father was a JAG officer and a military judge, and her family had to move 12 times in 16 years. “I wouldn’t have traded it for anything in the world,” she says. “To be able to live in different countries, to be exposed to different cultures and not be afraid of change — those are wonderful things! I’m not from a place. I’m from a group of people, and I found my home in that group of people. I can sit down with any brat and have a great conversation.”

— Barbarella

BRATS: Our Journey Home
Friday, September 29
7 p.m.
Oceanside Public Library
Community Room
Civic Center
330 North Coast Highway
Oceanside
Cost: Free
Info: 760-435-5575 or www.bratsfilm.com

Local Events

Local Events

I'm from a Group

I'm Not from a Place,

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Local Events

Local Events

Romantic Mountain Getaway

In-room Jacuzzis • Fine Dining • Cocktails • Lodge • Near Acorn Casino
Fireplace, 2-story, A-frame cabins, AC, HBO, microwave, refrigerator.

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Sunday–Thursday
1 night, breakfast for 2 ............................... $99
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Sunday–Thursday
Breakfast for 2, dinner for 2, therapeutic massage ............................................. $179
Weekend Specials
2 nights, breakfast for 2 ................................. $258
2-night breakfast package with dinner & massage one night ............................... $338

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Fleet Week Cruises

Sea ’n Air Parade Spectator Cruise
The annual Sea ’n Air Parade is a spectacular to behold and the best way to see it up close is on board Hornblower’s Spectator Cruise.

Saturday, September 30, 2006
Boarding 11:00 am  Cruising 11:30 am – 2:30 pm

Cost: $23.50 per child (age 4-12)
$29.00 per adult
Children (2 and under) are free

Champagne Brunch
$49.95 per adult
$69.95 per child (age 4-12)
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10% Gratuity Additional

For more information, please visit our website:
www.hornblower.com

San Diego Reader • September 28, 2006
OUT & ABOUT

TROLLEY DANCES 2006
Jean Ibarra San Diego Dance Theater plays along Metropolitan Transit System, September 30 and October 1
(SEE DANCE)

O U T D O O R S

Fall Migant Birds such as wood warblers can be seen at Cabrillo National Monument and its vicin- ity on Point Loma, Torrey Pines State Reserve, and other parks and open spaces near the San Diego coast. Cooper’s or marsh hawks and even peregrine falcons may be seen following or pursuing these smaller birds.

The Smoggiest Days of the Year are most likely to occur dur- ing the next several weeks. Persistent temperature inversions (warmer air over cool marine air) are frequent this time of year. These inversions conspire with the mountainous topography of East County to trap locally generated air pollution under a low-lying lid. During the worst episodes, San Diego County’s coastal area is the hazel recipient of additional smog sneaking down from the Los Angeles Basin. This often occurs when a Santa Ana wind condition begins to weaken. L.A.-strong, blown offshore by a Santa Ana may get pushed back our way when the normal sea breeze returns.

The Zodiocal Light, which can appear as a diffuse, pillar-shaped glow in the eastern sky for up to an hour before dawn, will be quite conspicuous at dark locations this weekend through Tuesday, Octo- ber 3 (when bright moonlight beats out the subtler). The glow is caused by the sun’s light reflect- ing off dust particles floating in space in the plane of our solar system. In the sky, this reflected light appears superimposed along the string of constellations we know as the zodiac, and especially those zodiacal constellations closest to the direction of the sun. An old name for this phenomenon is “false dawn” — a good description of the effect under clear and very dark skies.

Trail Repair Work in Passo Picacho at Coyamato Ranch State Park, Saturday, September 29, 8 a.m.

Basic Birding program by Tom Troy, Saturday, September 30, 8:30 a.m., at Buena Vista lagoon landing. Emphasis on using binocu- lars, spotting scopes, field guides, local resources. Free. Directions: 760-439-2473. (RIMILLAR RANCH STATE PARK)

Gold Rush, seeing blazes of Western sycamores, cottonwoods, and goldrush during guided na- ture walks on Saturday, Sunday,
Are You a VIP? 8123. way 79. 877-581-9904, 619-447-
Park District center, 15027 High-Lake Cuyamaca Recreation and binoculars. Day-use fee: $6 per car.
Oct 1, 1 p.m. Three-hour hike around Lake Cuyamaca the first
ist Clint Powell leads nature hikes
Nature Hike, 619-921-6044.
South Kalmia Street). Free.
2 p.m., at Escondido Library (239
ition is Saturday, September 30,
section Trails Regional Park (One Fa-
ber 1, and 4, 9:30–11 a.m., in Mis-
Wednesday, September 30, Octo-

dance on Friday, September 29,
in

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For Group information call: (619) 308-4311
TICKET PRICES: $13.50 - $17.50 - $20.50
Limited number of Front Row and VIP seats available. Call for details. (Service charges, facility fees, and handling fees may apply.)
FILM

The Original “King Kong” screens Thursday, September 28, 7 p.m., at San Diego Natural History Museum, with presenter Bob Burns discussing the film, displaying “the original King Kong armature used in the film.” $11 general. 619-232-3823. (BALBOA PARK)


“The Japanese Film Festival continues with “Forging New Paths to Conflict Transformation in Serbia and the Former Yugoslavia” is subject when Svetlana Kijevcanin speaks for Women Peacemakers event, Thursday, September 29, 7 p.m., at Italian Community Center (4227 Fairmount Avenue). Free. 858-452-0276.


Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, currently screening in the IMAX theater: Deep Sea and Greece: Secrets of the Past.” Fridays at the Fleet” features Amazing Journeys (6 p.m.), Bugs (7 p.m.), Greece: Secrets of the Past (8 p.m.), Deep Sea (9 p.m.) on September 29. Ticket prices and showtimes: 619-238-1253. (BALBOA PARK)

LECTURES

“Adaptations of Buddhist Sects to Shintoism in Japan” is subject for Cornelia Feye when Asian Arts Council gathers for lecture, Thursday, September 28, 1 p.m., at San Diego Museum of Art. $10 general. 619-696-1946. (BALBOA PARK)

“Forging New Paths to Conflict Transformation in Serbia and the Former Yugoslavia” is subject when Svetlana Kijevcanin speaks for Women Peacemakers event, Thursday, September 28, 12:30 p.m., at Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at University of San Diego (3998 Alcalá). Free. 619-260-7509. (SAN MARCOS)

“Healthy Cooking Techniques” divulged, along with samples, when Joey Nerenberg of Infusion Culinary leads class, Thursday, September 28, 6 p.m., at Macy’s School of Cooking (in Mission Valley shopping center, 1555 Camino de la

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12th Annual San Diego International Orchid Fair

Friday, October 13, 1-5 pm
Saturday, October 14, 9 am-5 pm
Sunday, October 15, 9 am-4 pm

• Hundreds of orchids and hybrids from around the world
• Official American Orchid Society (AOS) judging and ribbon judging

All profits from the San Diego International Orchid Fair go directly to the betterment of Quail Botanical Gardens.

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We create memorable events in the cuisine of your choice to celebrate the milestones of your company or personal life.
Mangoes! Learn of their varieties, culture, and lore when California Rare Fruit Growers meet on Thursday, September 28, followed by tastings of exotic fruit ice creams from south of the border. Gathering starts at 7 p.m. in room 102 of Casa del Prado. Donation: $5. 619-846-3337.


Charting Her 28-Year Journey with the Concept of the Book, Mary Ellen Long plans lecture, Friday, September 29, 7:30 p.m., at Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street). Long has worked with college, artist’s books, installations in gallery and in nature. Free. 858-454-3872. (LA JOLLA)

Garden Design Seminar on principles and techniques of Japanese garden design led by Ken Siers, Saturday and Sunday, September 30 and October 1, 8 a.m.–3 p.m., at Japanese Friendship Garden. Fee: $50 for Saturday only, $90 for both days. Reservations: 619-232-2780. (DEL MAR)

“Simply Succulent Wreath-Making” led by Elizabeth Ramos, Saturday, September 30, 9:30 a.m., at Cuyamaca College’s Water Conservation Garden (12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West). $35 fee includes materials. Reservations: 619-660-0814. (EL CAJON)

Decorative Arts Lecture Series co-hosted by Palladian Society and Athenaeum Music and Arts Library commences with talk at “Design at the Dawn of the 20th Century: The International Arts and Crafts Movement” by decorative arts historian Emily Zaiden, Monday, October 2. Continental breakfast, 9:30 a.m.; lecture, 10 a.m. $27. Reservations: 858-434-3872. Find Athenaeum at 1008 Wall Street. (I-80/80)

Boating Skills and Seamanship Course offered by Fortuna County Health Building (3851 Rosecrans Street). Subjects which boat right for you, trailering, handling, rules of road, inland boating, more. $25 materials charge for nine-week course. Registration: 619-446-2145.

Fortuna 16-03 also offers ten-week basic coastal navigation course, beginning Tuesday, October 3, 7:30 p.m., at same location. Subjects include: marine magnetic compass, nautical chart, navigator’s tools, dead reckoning, tides, more. Fee for materials and test. Registration: 619-462-6305. (I-80/80)

“Los Angeles Times” Political Reporter Joe Mathews discusses and signs The People’s Machine.

The Punisher Tour, comedian Carlos Mencia brings his social commentary to Civic Theatre (at Third Avenue and B Street) on Friday, September 29, with shows at 7 and 10 p.m. Tickets: $40, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TICKS). (DOWNTOWN)


Contemporary Folk Singer-Songwriter Kevin Burke brings his music for AcousticMusicSanDiego on Friday, September 29, with Antje Duvekot opening. Next up: Bruce Molsky and Marley's Ghost, Sunday, October 1 ($18, $22). Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. at Normal Heights Methodist Church (4650 Mansfield Street). 619-303-8176. (SAN MARCOS)

The Manhattan Rags Time spectacular plays classical music and "other related forgotten American popular music from the ragtime era," Friday, September 29, 7:30 p.m., at Maxine Theatre (3132 Cole Grade Road). $25. 760-749-7390. (VALLEYSIDE)


"Playing with the Enemy," A Baseball Prodigy, a World at War, and a Field of Broken Dreams" signed, discussed by author Gary W. Moore, October 2, 6 p.m., at Barnes and Noble Bookstore Hazard Center (7610 Hazard Center Drive). Moore will talk about his father’s baseball career during World War II. Torpedo author Jeff Edwards will also be signing. Free. 619-220-0175.

Day of the Dead Drumming Drum Series features Kusun Ensemble from Ghana, Saturday, October 30, 8:30 p.m., at WorldBeat Center (2100 Park Boulevard). $19. 619-230-1990. (EAST VILLAGE)

Musician and Author Laura Preble signs, discusses The Queen Gool Social Club, Sunday, October 1, 2 p.m., at Borders Books and Music (11160 Rancho Carmel Drive). Free. 619-618-1814. (SAN MARCOS)

Debut Author Keith Jones is joined by Mars Society author Mark Meyer for "Mayan Calendario" event, Saturday, September 30, 2 p.m., at Mysterious Galaxy Books (7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard). 619-268-4747. (CLAREMONT)


Page by Page," Broadway star Ken Page "originated some of Broadway’s most beloved roles in including the Cowardly Lion in The Wizard of Oz," Tats Watters at Anthony's, Saturday, September 30, 5 p.m., at Borders Books and Music (7461 Girard Avenue). Free. 858-456-1800. (LA JOLLA)
ROOTS AND SHOOTS:
Conservationist Jane Goodall, Wednesday, October 4, La Jolla Library.
(SEE LECTURES)

that contrary to propaganda promoting nuclear power as a ‘clean and green’ alternative energy source, nuclear power in fact does contribute to global warming.’

Booksigning follows. Reservations: 619-260-7509. (LEMMY VISTA)

Author and Raconteur Daniel Reveles reads from his works (Aquí, Lemon, and Safe: Salta and Chips) for Lemon Grove Historical Society’s History Alive series on Thursday, October 5, 1:30 p.m., at H. Lee House Cultural Center (3205 Olive). $2. 619-460-4353. (MONTAUG)

A Song and a Smile presents barbershop quartet entertainment for First Thursday Concert on October 5, 7 p.m., in Escondido Library’s Turrentine Room (239 South Kalmia Street). Free. 760-839-4329. (LA JOLLA)

Take a Group Fitness Class (cycling, yoga, pilates), see new equipment demonstrations, tour facilities during community open house, Saturday, September 30, 7 a.m.—7 p.m., at Mission Valley YMCA (5015 Friars Road) and Toby Wells Facility (5105 Overland Avenue). Free. 619-298-3576. (MISSION VALLEY, MERRY MEA)

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

MADD Strides for Change 5K, Saturday, September 30, 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. General admission ranges from $12—$30, depending upon day and seats selected. 866-PRORODEO. (POWAY)

The Glory Choir from Wichita Falls, Texas, in concert on Wednesday, October 4, 9 a.m., at Pacific View Baptist Church (1845 Santa Fe Drive). Free. 760-753-4937. (GARDINER)

Poetry Unlimited features protagonist-turned-vocalist Josh Liefman and open readings, Wednesday, October 4, 5 p.m., at Florence Broidford Library (7535 Diaper Avenue). Free. 858-552-1657. (LA JOLLA)


Dr. Helen Caldicott speaks and discusses her forthcoming book, Wednesday, October 4, 7 p.m., at Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park). Caldicott “maintains that contrary to propaganda promoting nuclear power as a ‘clean and green’ alternative energy source, nuclear power in fact does contribute to global warming.’ Booksigning follows. Reservations: 619-260-7509. (LEMMY VISTA)

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Juice Newton Concert benefiting Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, Thursday, October 5, 7 p.m., at Salvation Army Kroc Community Center Performing Arts Theatre (6845 University Avenue). Newton’s hits include “Queen of Hearts,” “Angel of the Morning.” Tickets: $20—$45. 858-822-4309. (CLAIREMONT)

“Nuclear Power Is Not the Answer,” Dr. Hélène Caldicott speaks and discusses her forthcoming book, Wednesday, October 4, 7 p.m., at Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park). Caldicott “maintains that contrary to propaganda promoting nuclear power as a ‘clean and green’ alternative energy source, nuclear power in fact does contribute to global warming.’ Booksigning follows. Reservations: 619-260-7509. (LEMMY VISTA)

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“Demetri Martin: These Are Jokes” — Comedy Central Live, 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. General admission ranges from $12—$30, depending upon day and seats selected. 866-PRORODEO. (POWAY)

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Ocean Beach Antique District’s HUGE Sidewalk Sale & Storewide SALES EVENT! Saturday, Sept. 30 & Sunday, Oct. 1 10 am to 5 pm 4800 & 4900 Blocks of Newport Avenue This is the time to SHOP & SAVE in San Diego’s largest antique destination! 100’s of antique dealers! Free parking! Two blocks from the ocean For more info: 619-222-8886
A GUIDE TO UNEXPECTED SAN DIEGO AND BEYOND | BY JERRY SCHAD

Summer’s hottest hot siege of the Anza-Borrego Desert is nearly over, and Agua Caliente Regional Park (adjoining Agua Borrego) is back open for business. For the next couple of weeks the demand for Agua Caliente’s campsites won’t be intense — but sooner or later, you’ll have to reserve a spot if you intend to stay overnight (858-565-3800 is the county parks department reservation line). There are two ways to get to Agua Caliente, both about equidistant from central San Diego. Option one: East on Interstate 8 to Ocotillo, then northwest on County Highway S-2 for about 27 miles. Option two: Eastward through Julian, down State Highway 78 to Scissors Crossing, then southeast for 22 miles along Highway S-2. It’s best to make the journey a loop trip, so you can maximize the scenic variety.

Agua Caliente is San Diego County’s best-known, open-to-the-public geothermal area. An offshoot of the Elsinore Fault is responsible for the upwelling of warm to hot water here. The Elsinore Fault itself passes through the Lake Elsinore area and Warner Springs, where hot springs are also found. Agua Caliente’s outdoor bathing pool is kept at a natural 96 degrees, while the indoor “therapeutic” pool is heated to over 100 degrees. A small network of trails radiates outward from the bathing pool and campground area. Moonlight Trail is a great one to start with, particularly (this time of year) during late afternoon, when evening shadows arrive early due to the sharply rising mountains to the west. The well-marked, 1.5-mile trail starts from the south end of the campground, and climbs abruptly to a rock-strewn saddle. It then drops into a small dry wash named Moonlight Canyon, descends past some seeps and a little oasis of willows, and finally circles back to campground. Moonlight treks on the Moonlight Trail are not only possible; they’re simply magical this time of year, when the nighttime air is pleasantly warm (85 degrees or so) and, most importantly, dry. The weekend of October 6–8 coincides the full moon, which should rise after twilight and work its way upward to illuminate most of the trail by around 9 p.m. This article contains information about a publicly owned recreation or wilderness area. Trails and pathways are not necessarily marked. Conditions can change rapidly. Hikers should be properly equipped and have safety and navigational skills.

MOONLIGHT TRAIL,
AGUA CALIENTE REGIONAL PARK
Bathe in the womb-like waters of Agua Caliente Regional Park, and try a moonlight trek on the Moonlight Trail.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 100 miles
Length: 1.5 miles
Hiking difficulty: Easy

San Diego Reader September 28, 2006
10–30 a.m. at Camp Cuyamaca (12561 Highway 79). Riders need to turn in their hands by 1 p.m. Fee: $15 adults, $20 juniors. 619-885-9826. (Cuyamaca Ranch State Park)

La Jolla Gallery and Wine Walk is Thursday, September 28, 9 a.m.–noon, at Del Mar racetrack. $25 fee includes viewing at more than 25 galleries, wine tasting at each gallery, food from local restaurants. Locations: La Jolla Village Drive. Free. 619-423-5008. (La Jolla)

Help Revive the Lost Art of Conversation! “Understanding the Greek Orthodox Church” is topic on September 28, and “The Massachusetts Experiment — The Future of Health Care?” examined on October 5. Conversations begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday at

LOCAL EVENTS
SAN DIEGO READER.COM
of chills. Ticket prices, hours: 883-755-1161. (D.FM)

Fleet Week San Diego gets underway with Sea ‘N’ Air Parade on Saturday, September 30, noon–2:30 p.m., along San Diego shoreline. Aircraft carriers, guided-missile destroyers, frigates, Coast Guard vessels will parade through San Diego Bay.

Navy ships tours offered 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, September 30, October 1, 7, and 8, along Broadway Pier. Free. Photo identification required for those over 16; minimum age is 4. 619-296-0605. (D.PW)

"Sand Blastem: The Extreme Sand-Sculpting Championships" promises "eight of the world’s greatest sand-sculpting teams" competing for cash. Teams carve in Pacific Beach (between Reed and Thomas Streets) on Saturday, September 29, and Sunday, September 30 and October 1, 8 a.m.–4 p.m., but every few hours one of the sculptors will be "blown to bits by an expert Hollywood pyrotechnics team." Free for spectators. 310-945-1044. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Alpine Art Festival, Saturday, September 30, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., at Alpine Community Center Park (1830 Alpine Boulevard). Original art, hands-on art projects for all ages, community art exhibits and sidewalk art displays, food, festivities, live entertainment. Free. 619-445-3960. (ALPINE)

Deaf Awareness Day celebrated Saturday, September 30, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., at Balboa Park Club (2080 Pan American Plaza). ASL telling of "tales from the deaf world," information booths, more. Admission: $10 general, $5 seniors and students, $1 for those 5–13, free under 5. 619-398-2441. (BALBOA PARK)

Used Book Sale, Saturday, September 29, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., at Lemon Grove Library (10753 Broadway, Lemon Grove). Free. 619-463-9819. (LEMON GROVE)

_used book sale_ (SAN DIEGO COUNTY)

"Exploration and Surveys of Public Lands" chronicled during living history reenactment, Saturday, September 30, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park (San Diego Avenue at Twiggs Street). How did exploration in West lead to national parks, monuments, refuges public knows today? Authentic 19th-Century survey instruments on display. Free. 760-231-4461. (OLD TOWN STATE PARK)

Ninth Annual Heart Ride and Heart of Gold Chili Cook-Off, Saturday, September 29, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., at Del Mar Fairgrounds. Charity fundraising event includes motorcycle and classic car show, International Chili Society-sanctioned district chili cook-off, music, barbecue, "Road Kill Rodeo" safety event. 760-481-7300. $35. (DEL MAR)

See a Rare "Dinosaur Tree"! The Wollemi pine is considered one of world’s oldest plants, dating back to time of dinosaurs; fewer than 100 adult trees are known to exist in wild. View four young specimens on Saturday and Sunday, September 30 and October 1, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at Quail Botanical Gardens (5 Quail Gardens Drive). Included in regular admission ($10 general). 760-436-3036. (QUAIL GARDENS)

Solar Homes Tour 2006, showcase of residential solar technologies is Saturday, September 30, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Self-guided tour of over 30 homes demonstrate photovoltaics (solar electricity), solar water- and pool-heating technology. Free. Locations: 866-SDENERGY. (SAN DIEGO COUNTY)

“Fun Run” starts at Jack-in-the-Box at 9:30 a.m., Bonitafaire parade starts at 10 a.m. at Otay Lakes Road and Bonita Road, heads west to Willow Road. Craft and food booths (9 a.m.–5 p.m.) in shopping centers on Bonita Road; entertainment behind Wells Fargo Bank (11:30 a.m.–5 p.m.), Bonitafaire barbecue at Bonita Sundowner Library (3–9 p.m.) Free admission. 619-267-5141. (BONITA)

Alpine Art Festival, Saturday, September 30, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., at Alpine Community Center Park (1830 Alpine Boulevard). Original art, hands-on art projects for all ages, community art exhibits and sidewalk art displays, food, festivities, live entertainment. Free. 619-445-3960. (ALPINE)

Deaf Awareness Day celebrated Saturday, September 30, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., at Balboa Park Club (2080 Pan American Plaza). ASL telling of “tales from the deaf world,” information booths, more. Admission: $10 general, $5 seniors and students, $1 for those 5–13, free under 5. 619-398-2441. (BALBOA PARK)

Used Book Sale, Saturday, September 29, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., at Lemon Grove Library (10753 Broadway, Lemon Grove). Free. 619-463-9819. (LEMON GROVE)

_used book sale_ (SAN DIEGO COUNTY)
O U T & A B O U T

COWBOY UP!
Poway Coors Rodeo,
September 29–October 1.

(SEE SPORTS)

FOR KIDS

Decorate Garden Pots
During Botany for Kids class, Thursday, September 28, 2:30 p.m., at Coastal Sage (6068 Voltaire Street). $10. Registration: 619-696-7227. (Balboa Park)

“Peter Rabbit” performed by Utah Backroads and Puppet Express through San Diego Junior Theatre presents The Storyteller March through October 1, at Theatre on Third (250 3rd Avenue). Recommended for all ages. Performance begins at 7 p.m. on Friday, and 2 and 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets: $10 adults, $8 for youth. 619-238-8355. (Balboa Park)

Be a Fossil Detective, Dennis Schatz reads from his fossil detective books on Saturday, September 30, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., at San Diego Natural History Museum. Participants will touch real fossils, reconstruct bones from an ancient animal and figure out what caused its demise. Included in museum admission. 619-235-0203. (Balboa Park)

“Picking Up the Pieces: Collage and Construction” is theme for family open studio event on September 28, 10:30 a.m., at San Diego Humane Society and SPCA (5501 Gaines Street). Free. Reservations: 619-243-3432. (Sandra Vista)

Take a Topsy-Turvy Tour through some famous fairy tales when South Bay San Diego Junior Theatre presents The Storyteller March through October 1, at Theatre on Third (250 3rd Avenue). Recommended for all ages. Performance begins at 7 p.m. on Friday, and 2 and 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets: $10 adults, $8 for youth. 619-238-8355. (Balboa Park)

Have a Story to Tell? San Diego Public Library’s digital community storytelling station remains available through Saturday, December 30.

Gather reminiscences of your neighborhood, memories of interesting jobs, tales of special interests and activities, to record San Diego history as told by general public. Find library at 520 E Street. Requirements, reservations: 619-236-3821 or 619-230-1938. (Downtown)

Earth-Shaking Explosions!

San Diego’s newest on-the-water attraction. Enjoy an unforgettable and thrilling ride aboard an authentic Navy S.E.A.L. RIB boat exploring Diego Bay and its dramatic coastline.

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MUS EUMS

California Surf Museum, “The Surfer-Shapez,” on exhibit through 2006, showcases several surfers whose conceptual abilities and crafting talent radically altered surfboard design. The search has always been for lighter, faster, more maneuverable boards, from Duke Kahanamoku in early 1900s to Tom Blake in 1920s to Simon Anderson in early 1980s.

The museum features surfing artifacts and memorabilia — such as surfboards and clothing — of local legends Phil Edwards, John “L.1” Richards, and Peter Jenson, and Duke Kahanamoku. The museum is located at 223 North Coast Highway, 760-721-6876. (Ocean Beach)

Bancroft Ranch House Museum houses indigenous Indian artifacts and memorabilia of early settlers in the area, run by the Spring Valley Historical Society. The home, built in 1863, was registered as a National Historic Landmark in 1962 and is on a spot where Kumeyaay Indians camped more than 1000 years ago beside the spring that later gave the area its name. The museum is located at 9050 Memory Lane; 619-469-1480. (Spring Valley)

Barona Cultural Center and Museum is located at 1095 Barona Road, 619-443-7005 x2. (Lame Creek)

Coronado Museum of History and Art, “Profoundly She Serves: Women of the Military,” continuing through September, chronicles the careers of women from Revolutionary War through current conflicts in Middle East. Women’s experiences in the military, as well as contributions of civilian volunteers, support staff, war industry workers presented. Many Coronado residents are represented in exhibit.

Ongoing exhibits explore the overall history of Coronado, Navy and Army, Tent City, and the Hotel del Coronado. Find the mu-
“My background in science is that I have no background in science. I was an English major in college.”
Reading (continued from page 91)

“My background in science is that I have no background in science. I was an English major in college and went into book publishing and did literary fiction and serious nonfiction at Doubleday. As a result of the research I had to prepare for the Great Discoveries series, I became conversant with a lot of what was happening in science writing. Although I’m not a scientist, I feel in some ways that’s to the good. I come to this as our ideal reader would: not an expert, but somebody who is interested in the subject and wants to be told what’s going on in a way that isn’t dumbed down, but isn’t so technical that it can’t be understood.”

“Do you see a significant difference between the way Americans write about science and the way writers from other nations approach the topic?”

“I haven’t read that much of foreign science writing. The great thing about the anthology, though, is that we’re open to anything that is by scientists, science writers and journalists and all sorts of other people. Sometimes we even include a poet or two who’s pretty eclectic in terms of the writing. The ‘American’ side of it is a little bit loose. Sometimes a British writer or a Canadian writer will find their way in.”

“How do you decide who will be the guest editor for a particular year?”

“Dan Halpern and I brainstorm. We try to think of science writers or scientists who people know because they’ve written best-selling books or who are on the radar somehow. This year Atul Gawande is our editor, and he’s a remarkable guy. He wrote a wonderful book called Complications a few years ago. He writes regularly for The New Yorker, in addition to being a surgeon and a professor at Harvard. He’s a brilliant mind and a brilliant man and

...
“It’s very interesting, because a few years back we ran an amazing article by Greg Christer on obesity and how doctors were so concerned at seeing certain symptoms, like juvenile diabetes, increasing. That was a very different take.

Because we don’t have a point of view, we can put forth these robust arguments and very strong stories — it’s akin to the scientific approach, in some ways — allowing the storytelling and the facts to make the case.”

I ask Mr. Cohen if there is a piece in the series that is particularly interesting to him.

“They’re all intriguing for me, because the process of doing this is interesting to me. It’s helpful from a much larger set. Then I submit 50 or so to our guest editor, and he whittles it down further. So, these are among my favorites for the year.

“One thing that happens a lot is that I will find, in the months after the book comes out, stories in the newspaper that speak to a story or theme or issue that was in the anthology. In New York right now everybody’s talking about this rather bizarre story about a Brooklyn Astor, the millionaior socialite who is 104 years old, and her 80-year-old son. There has been a huge dispute as to whether he is or isn’t providing appropriate care for her, whether he’s bilking her out of money and so on. The story is particularly strong to Charles C. Mann’s article, “The Coming Death Shortage.”

He used the example of Anna Nicole Smith and that whole fight, but you just get the feeling that if he had written the article one year later, he’d be seeing on this Astor stuff. It’s a complete demonstration of the kind of generational warfare that Mann is predicting.

“The location of Pluto from planet status and the identification of a California redwood as the world’s tallest tree are also news stories from the past that are presaged in The Best American Science Writing, 2006. I also note that an article from a previous issue, two or three years ago, has haunted me. It was a story about genetically altered goats that could help people with disease, or a few years ago, has got me looking at certain symptoms that happen epigenetically that affect the color of the cat’s coat. The article is a real plunge into the obscurities and ambiguities of genetics.”

“Walk me through your year. There must be a cycle, at this point, in putting together the anthology.”

“There’s definitely a cycle. Throughout the year I collect and clip articles from various magazines. Around summertime I put together a group of articles that I think deserve the guest editor’s attention and send it to him or her. The first few batches of articles I send and get feedback on are very important because then I have a better sense in what to look for. Each guest editor wants to promote or highlight a certain kind of article. Tim Ferris (2001) wanted to make sure there was a good sampling of astrophysics and astronomy articles, because that’s his particular bent. Oliver Sacks (2003) made sure that we had a good array of articles from scientists he liked.

“There’s always a bit of a scramble at the end of the year. The guest editor makes the final selections and writes an introduction. Then, I have the happy duty of telling all the contributors they’re in. I gather from them a short statement about the article and their bio. By early in the year everything is in to Harper Collins and gets put together for the fall.”

Hoping for hints about the 2007 edition, I ask, “So, what’s the pile of articles for next year looking like?”

Mr. Cohen laughs deeply. “My pile for next year is looking good. There have already been a few really interesting articles, but I don’t want to give anything away.”

— Jerry Miller
**CLASSICAL LISTINGS**

Events that are underlined occur after October 5.

**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 858-566-7550. You may also submit information online at sandiego-reader.com by clicking on the events section.

**Pacifica Quartet**

Pacifica Quartet submit information online at San DiegoCA 92186. Or fax to area code, and a phone number prior to publication for (

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O.B.’s New Heart

When Jeff Fagan (“Dr. Jefe”) began piercing noses in 1994, he says there was one other body piercer in town. During his 21 years on the job, Fagan has made a connection with the Rock paper Scissors (Fagan’s favorite band). “We’d go to Qualcomm stadium.” Fagan says, “The heart of O.B. has changed since then.”

When he decided to get out of the business in 2004, there were 100 body piercers in town.

“I would say 25 percent of the population of San Diego has heard of me,” says Fagan. “I figured out once we did enough piercings to fill Qualcomm stadium.” Fagan says there was one other body piercer in town.

Jeff Fagan (“Dr. Jefe”) began piercings in 1994. During his glory years (1994–’98), Fagan’s shop would have 50 to 60 customers per day. When he decided to get out of the business in 2004, there were 100 body piercers in town.

“The beach.” “We brought in sand and palm trees and made it look like Hawaii. If there is a band, we can hold about 100 people.” So far, six bands have played there. Event organizers have to hire their own security or pay Fagan to provide it. The space is available for four hours for $100, and Fagan says he can obtain a one-day liquor license for 21-and-up parties.

Matthew Hyder of the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control says one-day liquor permits are available through catering companies, but “There is a limit to how many you can get in one year.”

Fagan says, “The heart of O.B. used to be the Strand movie theater. It’s been remodeled, and now it’s a tourist shop. No locals will go in there. I want my shop to be the new heart of Ocean Beach.”

— Ken Leighton

Rock Band None
Scolari’s Office, the North Park bar on 30th Street that has hosted local and touring bands for five years, won’t be offering music for at least a little while. “The entertainment license ran out,” says a bartender who declined to be identified. The last set of free live music was September 16. “There are no other bars that are as easygoing as Scolari’s,” says Long Live Logs singer Danny Castro. “You just go in and set up and play. And they pay you at the end of the night. They are actually pretty generous.”

The bar was to be sold by owner George Scolari by June, but undisclosed complications stalled the sale. “The bartender believed the music would resume under new ownership. An investigator with the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control says a transfer date has not been set. A clerk with the SDPD vice department says details about the entertainment license are not public.”

Some regulars wonder if Scolari’s will be embraced by new residents of the half-million-dollar condos across the street. — Ken Leighton

This Is Not a Rock and Roll Town

Ten days before the San Diego Music Awards ceremonies, a former L.A.-based limo-company owner hosted a two-day music event at Squid Joe’s in Carlsbad. Al Bowman describes his “Rockfest” as part of a showcase series that leads up to the 16th annual L.A. Music Awards ceremony on November 9.

Of the 24 local bands that played, 12 scored well enough to become nominees for L.A. Music Awards.

Bowman says he included San Diego bands because “of the laid-back attitude of San Diego talent. There’s not a lot of L.A. haughty, snooty, ‘I’m a rock star, I’m great’ attitude. There’s nothing worse than dealing with a little prick of a singer.”

The 12 local nominees won a framed certificate. The eventual winners in 20 categories will get a plaque.

According to Bowman, No Doubt, Sugar Ray, the Black Eyed Peas, and Alien Ant Farm won LAMA plaques before getting signed to major labels.

Local bands became nominees based on how Bowman rated the bands; each one needed 75 points out of 100 to make the cut. “Crowd response” was one of the rating categories, so bands were told it was important to make sure their fans showed up at Squid Joe’s. Admission cost $10 on the day of the show and $6 through presale tickets sold by bands. Bowman admits he didn’t have to pay to use the venue, but he covered $700 in

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Get Dio! It was billed as “Hell and Heaven United,” with Satan-loving Slayer co-headlining with Christian rockers Stryper. However, the September 23 Monterrey Metal Fest in Nuevo León, Mexico, was delayed “due to Slayer not wanting to share the stage with Stryper,” according to an e-mail from show promoters.

This came as a shock to us after eight months of long and very complicated negotiations with Slayer’s booking agent… We are looking at Saturday, November 18, 2006, as the new festival date.” Before Slayer’s cancellation was announced, the band’s website indicated that they’d be appearing in Mexico City on the same day as the Monterrey festival. A band press release cites “personal reasons” for the pullout. “I was literally booking our plane and hotel reservations when they sent word not to confirm anything yet,” says Veronica Freeman, singer for Benedictum, which includes Dio vet’s Craig Goldy (guitar) and Jimmy Bain (bass).

Slayer’s new album, Christ Illusion, was released 6-6-06; on their website that day, the band urged fans to “desecrate a few churches.” The entreaty was removed a day later, after several churches reported being defaced by depictions of the band’s logo.

— Ken Leon
goards you have to have, it’s hard to make a go of it in North County unless you are a tiny place like Pounder’s [in Escondido].”

Goettle says the Longshot closed over three months ago in the aftermath of a wet T-shirt contest.

“They had a deal with [Rok 105.3] that they would do a wet T-shirt contest, but they lost their cabaret license the day before. The city strictly told them not to do it. But they didn’t listen and the City of San Marcos got an injunction…”

“You can make money at this business, but you have to be prepared to beat the hell out of your [vendors]; You have to know what a goddamn olive costs. You have to know that one marachino cherry costs nine cents. If a kid comes in and wants a Coke with five goddamn cherries, you have to know you are losing money.”

— Ken Leon

Hippies Love Their Money Thirty-eight years ago today (9-28-68), Big Brother and the Holding Company were scheduled to play a sold-out show at downtown’s Community Concourse. The afternoon before the show, Janis Joplin announced to the press her intention to quit the band.

“I told you, you remember, that I was going to do a thing of my own,” she wrote in a letter to her family dated the same day (and published by her sister in the book, Love, Janis). “There’ll be a whole lot of pressure because of the ‘vibes’ created by my leaving Big Brother and also how big I am now.” (The band’s album, Cheap Thrills, was number one on the Billboard charts, where it remained for eight weeks.)

Joplin explained in the letter that “It’s to be set up [so] I’m a corporation called Fantality, which will hire all the musicians and pay all the bills. Much more responsibility, but also much more chance of making money for me as my price goes up…. Albert [Grossman, manager] told me — are you ready? — that I should make a half million next year, counting record royalties.” Her final gig with Big Brother took place in San Francisco two months later.

— Jay Allen Sanford

For more information: www.sdmawards.com.

— Ken Leon

murals were removed, and the Longshot will no longer be a bar.

“I had [the Longshot Saloon] from 1980 until 2002,” says Tom Goettle, who owned and operated the building, Paul Eckert, says the S.D. club scene. “We played the Whisky one night, and we found we had an easier time getting people from San Diego to go to L.A. than to come to a San Diego club. People hate the clubs down here… This is just not a rock and roll town.”

For more information: www.sdmawards.com.
Back when singer/guitarist Steven Bradford was in Waiting for Autumn, it looked like the power-punk band was about to break big, with write-ups in *Alternative Press* and a tour opening for Underoath. Many were surprised when he quit the group in 2003 to form Get Back Loretta, a decidedly more soulful and psychedelic outfit.

"(The breakup) was all about women, and of course the usual creative differences," he says. "I liked that Waiting for Autumn played the all-age clubs, like Soma and Epicentre — that's a great crowd to learn your chops in front of — but I wanted to go in a more funky, layered direction and do more of a Queen-meets-Jeff Buckley kind of thing. And I wanted a beer."

With his band named after a line in a Beatles song ("Get Back"), one may wonder what Bradford's cousin Lars Fredrickson (of Rancid) might say of his defection from punk to pop. "I've only met him twice in my life," laughs Bradford, "and I didn't even know who he was at the time. I doubt anyone will ask him if he's related to me anytime soon." Get Back Loretta won the Best New Artist award at last year's SD-MAs and won Best Pop this year. Their new album *Over the Wall* was released in July on Pacific Records.

**WHAT'S IN YOUR CD PLAYER?**

1. *Beach Boys, Pet Sounds* ("What can you say about such genius?"

2. *Radiohead, Amnesiac* ("I save this album for long, droning rides.

3. *Ben Kweller, Shaboogie* ("This album makes everyone tear up and think of all their exes.

4. *Queen, Greatest Hits* ("Normally, a hits compilation wouldn't be in my top five, but this album makes you crap yourself and laugh at the same time.

**DESSERT ISLAND DVDS?**

1. *Dumb and Dumber* ("The funniest movie ever.


**BEST BEATLES SONG (BESIDES "GET BACK")?**

"'A Day in the Life,' because it's a perfect blend of the songwriting styles of John and Paul. Listening to this song still makes the hair on my arms stand up."

**FAVORITE TWILIGHT ZONE?**

"The one with the guy who has the watch that stops time, and then it breaks and he's all alone ['A Kind of Stopwatch'].

**MONTY PYTHON OR KIDS IN THE HALL?**

"Kids in the Hall, 'cause Canadians are funnier than the British."

**WORST CURRENT MUSICAL TREND?**

"The fact that disco kind of came back. What's that all about?"

**SOMETHING ABOUT YOU FEW WOULD KNOW OR GUESS?**

"All of us in the band are dating each other."
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Method Man: 8th & B, Wednesday, October 18, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4586.
Placebo: House of Blues, Wednesday, October 18, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-594-6947.
Galetic: House of Blues, Thursday, October 19, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-594-6947.
Method Man: 8th & B, Wednesday, October 18, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4586.
Placebo: House of Blues, Wednesday, October 18, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-594-6947.
Galetic: House of Blues, Thursday, October 19, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-594-6947.

San Diego September 28, 2006
Reader

Joan Baez: [Image 450x-74]India.Arie: [Image 450x-2]campus, College Area. 619-594-0429.
Arena, Saturday, October 21, SDSU
20, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal
AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, October
Marta Topferova: [Image 450x339]Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.
October 19, 3105 Ocean Front Walk,
Method Man: [Image 850x770]Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.
the Bay, Wednesday, October 18, 2241
for the Arts, Saturday, October 28, 340
Wynton Marsalis: 619-671-3600.
Thursday, October 26, 2050
October 21, 3350 Sports Arena
Saturday, October 21, 121 Broadway,
Veruca Salt: [Image 394]'Canes, Thursday,
Sunday, October 29, 143 South Cedros
Saturday, October 28, 4650 Mansfield
HIM: [Image 619x765]Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.
Friday, November 10, 5469 Casino Way, Dehesa. 619-659-3380.
Saturday, November 11, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-594-0429.
HIM: [Image 619x765]Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.
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If you would like to include your DJ events, e-mail sella@sdbox.com or fax information to 619-301-2801 by 3:00 p.m., Friday, the week prior to publication. The listings are free.

**Ascension**
Second Friday of the month, Robin Roth and Tom King spin the best in dark underground dance music. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. The Vue Lounge, 1407 4th Street, North Park. 619-295-4163.

**BrokenBeat Night**

**Club de Sade**
Third Saturday of the month, gothic, industrial, and fetish with DJs Darkman and Creep. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. San Diego Sports Club, 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-295-7372.

**Club 80s**
Thursdays, nuwave, new romantic, and punk synthpop with DJs Bryan Pollard, SickleBoy, and Stern. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. and 21 up. Shooters, 3815 30th Street, North Park. 619-576-0710.

**Club Fashion Whore**
Second and fourth Saturday of the month, electroclash, Brit pop, and indie dance punk with DJs Nate Saxonite, SQueen, Rupert Weaver, and more. Theme nights with fashion contest. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. San Diego Sports Club, 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-295-7372.

**Club Pussy Galore**
Wednesdays, Robin Roth and other female DJs spin indie rock, electro pop, and 80s. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. No cover. San Diego Sports Club, 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-295-7372.

**Deep**
Thursdays, drum ’n’ bass with DJs Wallraver, Edible Canoe, and Skyler Mic. 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. Honey Bee Hive, 1409 C Street (corner of 14th Street, across from City College), downtown. 619-640-2500.

**Dj/Deep**
Second and fifth Saturday of the month, gothic, industrial, and dark 80s with DJs Robin Roth, Adam Atom, and Diskdroid. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. The Flame, 3780 Park Boulevard, Hillcrest. 619-295-4163.

**Salsa/Latin Night**
Saturdays, live dance music with DJ Misha and world guest. No cover. 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Jack’s Lounge, 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-456-8111.

**Friends Chill**
Wednesdays, downtempo, electronic, and ambient with DJs Wreck Chops, Lurch, and guests. DJs with music, board games, and projected videos. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. No cover. The Whistle Stop, 2226 Fern Street (corner of 10th and Juniper), South Park. 619-284-0794.

**Gimmie Gimmie Gimmie**
Fridays, punk, goth, and rock with DJs Bryan Polland, Morgan Young, and guest. Dino’s, 3025 30th Street, North Park. 619-284-3466.

**Husky Boy Allstars**
Sundays, hip-hop, funk, and old skool. 710 Beach Club, 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-7844.

**Inferno Young Adult Nightclub**
Fridays and Saturdays, DJ Kool T spins hip-hop, house, and reggae. 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. High school sophomore and up. 775 Metcalfe Street, Escondido. 760-741-1277.

**Liquid**
Sundays, liquid funk and drum ’n’ bass. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. No cover. The C Lounge, 756 3rd Avenue, downtown. 619-215-2018.

**Mistake Sessions**
Wednesdays, underground hip-hop, downtempo, and breakfast with DJs Ricky Wreckz and Mada. 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. No cover. Honey Bee Hive, 1409 C Street (corner of 14th Street, across from City College), downtown. 619-702-6010.

**One Nation**
Second and fifth Saturday of the month, new wave, hip-hop, and bootleg remixes with DJs Blackstone and Alarti. The Whistle Stop, 2226 Fern Street (corner of 10th and Juniper), South Park. 619-284-0794.

**Programme Zero**
Second Thursday of the month, indie, Brit pop, and soul. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. No cover. The Whistle Stop, 2226 Fern Street (corner of 10th and Juniper), South Park. 619-284-0794.

**Sabbath**
Second and fifth Saturday of the month, gothic, industrial, and dark 80s with DJs Robin Roth, Adam Atom, and Diskdroid. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. The Flame, 3780 Park Boulevard, Hillcrest. 619-295-4163.

**Salsa/Latin Night**
Fridays, DJ Carlos and Raymond spin salsa, merengue, and reggaeton. Free salsa lessons from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; 21 and up. Charlestown’s Bar and Grill (inside La Jolla Marriott), 4690 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla. 858-597-6397.
In Show & Concert!

BOB DYLAN
and his Band

with
KINGS OF LEON

in person

~ 22 October, 8pm ~

TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE AZTEC CENTER BOX OFFICE

SOMA San Diego

ON SALE FRIDAY
3:00PM!

SAN DIEGO

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12

TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT Soma Box Office AFTER 2PM

Good Charlotte

THIS MONDAY!

SPECIAL GUESTS
PINK SPIDERS and YOUNG LOVE

OCTOBER 2

SOMA San Diego

ON SALE TODAY
10:00AM!

SOMA San Diego

SEPTEMBER 20, 2006

Senses Fail

with special guests
SAOSIN

BLEEDING THROUGH

SATURDAY DECEMBER 16

TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE AZTEC CENTER BOX OFFICE

Jimmy Buffett

& the Coral Reefer Band

PARTY AT THE END OF THE WORLD
2006

OCTOBER 26 • 8PM

Tickets available all Ticketmaster outlets, charge by phone at 510.220.TIXS, www.ticketmaster.com and hob.com
Planning a special event?
Let Jimmy Love’s help you out. From 10 to 500 guests. Let Jimmy Love’s relieve the stress of planning your party with the perfect banquet facility, extraordinary contemporary American cuisine and live entertainment that’s second to none. Jimmy Love’s is the place to be!

Become a Lifetime VIP – Details at www.JimmyLoves.com
Jimmy Love’s presents Live Jazz & Dinner!

**NEW SHOWS ADDED!**

**UPCOMING SHOWS:**

**10/21**
- Ray Michael & The Sons of Nepal
- Peter Popovitch & Guitar Extravaganza

**10/22**
- Easy Star All-Stars 9:00 pm
- Annie Stern & The Bandit Show 8:00 pm
- Donavon Frankenreite 8:00 pm
- The Robert Cray Band 8:00 pm
- The Heartbreakers 8:00 pm
- Polka Band 8:00 pm

**10/23**
- John Brown & The Demons 9:00 pm
- The Levellers 9:00 pm
- The Mescaleros 9:00 pm
- The Black Crowes 9:00 pm
- Circle 8 9:00 pm

**10/24**
- Peter Popovitch & Guitar Extravaganza
- The Robert Cray Band 8:00 pm
- The Heartbreakers 8:00 pm
- Donavon Frankenreite 8:00 pm
- The Levellers 8:00 pm
- The Mescaleros 8:00 pm
- The Black Crowes 8:00 pm
- Circle 8 8:00 pm

**10/25**
- Peter Popovitch & Guitar Extravaganza
- The Robert Cray Band 8:00 pm
- The Heartbreakers 8:00 pm
- Donavon Frankenreite 8:00 pm
- The Levellers 8:00 pm
- The Mescaleros 8:00 pm
- The Black Crowes 8:00 pm
- Circle 8 8:00 pm

**10/26**
- Peter Popovitch & Guitar Extravaganza
- The Robert Cray Band 8:00 pm
- The Heartbreakers 8:00 pm
- Donavon Frankenreite 8:00 pm
- The Levellers 8:00 pm
- The Mescaleros 8:00 pm
- The Black Crowes 8:00 pm
- Circle 8 8:00 pm

**UPCOMING SHOWS:**

**11/10**
- Common Sense
- Boogie Nights–Dance Party!

**12/5**
- Fourgoodman
- Aimee Mann’s First Annual Christmas Show

**FEATURED SHOW**

Belly Up presents “Artists on the Edge.” Visit bellyup.com for details on how to win VIP passes to Mofro, Ladytron, the Rainforest, and the World-Famous Foundation 3-DAY WALK. Free Parking! Low Service Charges! Free Coat Check! Great Bar Prices! Great Food!
If you’re a music-loving anthropology or sociologist looking for a thesis subject, you could do worse than to study the subterranean popularity of José González. González, a young Swedish-American with an Argentinean heritage, writes songs in English—songs whose quiet vocals and rhythms sometimes call to mind Brazil’s Antônio Carlos Jobim, Britain’s Nick Drake, or our Elliott Smith. So there’s plenty of material if you want to talk about globalization. You could also talk about how the Internet, while making so much of life faster and lighter, has been a boon for quieter, slower music like that of Zero 7 (with whom González has sung and toured). If you want to, you could argue that, while aggressive sounds may be made for car stereos, downtempo music is well suited to the intimacy of iPod headphones and dorm-room PC speakers. González is ripe for research by business students, too. His career really took off when Sony chose his song “Heartbeats” to accompany a TV commercial that featured lovely footage of a surfer with an 250,000 rubber balls bouncing in slow motion down a San Francisco street. (Hmm…might be something in there for film and physics students, too.) Whether it did anything for Sony is an open question, but the clip became an Internet phenomenon. Cue your examination of the advantages and disadvantages of musicians lending their work to advertising firms and how the artist taboos against the practice has broken down over the past 20 years.

José González

The Inn Suites, 2223 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego: 619-296-2150. Wednesday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., workshop/concert with the Inn Suites Concert Jazz Band.

Kadan’s, 6096 30th Street, San Diego: 619-440-2500. Friday, 10 p.m.; DJ event, funk/house/hip-hop. See downtown.

The Kensington Club, 1079 Adams Avenue, Kensington: 619-284-2848. Music is rock/metal/alternative rock. Friday, Saturday, the Lockers. Saturday, the Mirror's. Sunday, the Grooves. Monday, the Lockers. Tuesday, the Grooves.

Kilkima Thai Restaurant, 4071 30th Street, Clairemont: 619-289-2929. Monday, Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Pacifica Jazz Band.


Humphrey’s, Half Moon Inn, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island: 619-224-5577. Backstage Lounge: Thursday, 8 p.m. to midnight, Criminal Code, 90’s dance. Friday, 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., Visu Santana. Latin rock. Saturday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Blue Rock. Sunday, 9 p.m. to 11 p.m., The Royal, classic rock. Sunday through Wednesday, live music. The Imperial House, 655 Elkins Street, San Diego: 619-234-3525. Friday, Saturday, 7 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., Zilk Zion, pop standards/Top 40. Variety.

The Sand Dollar, 4155 Mission Boulevard, San Diego: 619-409-8132. Saturday, 9 p.m. to 11 p.m., one to three. Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Monique, entry/b. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Soul Revue, jazz/blues. The San Diego Blues Trio. 4155 University Avenue, North Park: 619-448-9845. Friday and Saturday, live music. Call club for information. Dino’s Nite Club, 3806 30th Street, San Diego: 619-291-3646. Thursday, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., DJ Matty Mac, 80/90/hip-hop/Top 40. Friday, 9 p.m., Groove Gunner, Thursday, DJ event, funk/house/Top 40. Saturday, 5 p.m., live music. Sunday, 7 p.m., DJ Salazar, hip-hop/hip-hop/Top 40. Sunday, 11 p.m., DJ Carlos Culture, rockinc/blues. Call club for information. Blamey Stone, 5601 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont: 858-279-2033. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, DJ Guest. Friday, 9 p.m., DJ Alfonso. Saturday, 9 p.m., DJ Kiuth. Sunday, 9 p.m., DJ Tony. Sunday, 11 p.m., DJ Kiuth. Monday, 9 p.m., DJ DJ event. Wednesday, DJ event.

The San Diego Blues Trio.

The Bahia Breeze, the Bahia Breeze, 986 West Mission Bay Drive, Mission Bay: 619-779-7777. Tuesday, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., DJ Matty Mac, 80/90/hip-hop/Top 40. Friday, 9 p.m., Groove Gunner, Thursday, DJ event, funk/house/Top 40. Saturday, 5 p.m., live music. Sunday, 7 p.m., DJ Salazar, hip-hop/hip-hop/Top 40. Sunday, 11 p.m., DJ Carlos Culture, rockinc/blues. Call club for information.

The Beauty Bar, 3030 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego: 619-291-4810. • 3450 Kurtz St., Ste. D (Opposite Dixieline)

On Broadway, 615 Broadway Avenue, downtown: 619-231-0011. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, call club for information.

Onyx, 852 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp: 619-235-6099. Friday, house/hip-hop/house/Top 40/dance. Thursday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Soule Revue, jazz/blues.

Patrick’s ii, 428 F Street, downtown: 619-235-1017. Music is brand new unless otherwise noted. Thursday, DJ Chum, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., Alex Boss, downtown.

Samba Grill, 541 Horton Plaza, San Diego: 619-236-1000. Monday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Azul Boss, Brazilian jazz.


The Shouts House, 615 Fifth Avenue, downtown: 619-592-9770. Rock and roll singing during lunch.

The Westgate Hotel, 1055 3rd Avenue, downtown: 619-238-1818. The Plaza Bar: All music on piano. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, music to 1 a.m., midnight. Friday and Saturday, Karaoke.


Blackstone Pub, 5601 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont: 858-279-2033. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, DJ Guest. Thursday, 9 p.m., DJ Angel. Friday, 9 p.m., DJ Kiuth. Saturday, 9 p.m., DJ Leroy. DJ Kiuth.


Blamey Stone, 5601 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont: 858-279-2033. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, DJ Guest. Thursday, 9 p.m., DJ Angel. Friday, 9 p.m., DJ Kiuth. Saturday, 9 p.m., DJ Leroy. DJ Kiuth.

C lima de luz, 2090 University Avenue, North Park: 619-448-9845. Friday and Saturday, live music. Call club for information.

Dino’s Nite Club, 3806 30th Street, San Diego: 619-291-3646. Thursday, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., DJ Matty Mac, 80/90/hip-hop/Top 40. Friday, 9 p.m., Groove Gunner, Thursday, DJ event, funk/house/Top 40. Saturday, 5 p.m., live music. Sunday, 7 p.m., DJ Salazar, hip-hop/hip-hop/Top 40. Sunday, 11 p.m., DJ Carlos Culture, rockinc/blues. Call club for information.


Epicentre, 8420 Mission Blvd, San Diego: 619-271-0100. Music is rock/metal/punk/thursday. Thursday, DJ event. 9 p.m. to midnight, Criminal Code, 90’s dance. Friday, 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., Visu Santana. Latin rock. Saturday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Blue Rock. Sunday, 9 p.m. to 11 p.m., The Royal, classic rock. Sunday through Wednesday, live music. The Imperial House, 655 Elkins Street, San Diego: 619-234-3525. Friday, Saturday, 7 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., Zilk Zion, pop standards/Top 40. Variety.
O’Connell’s Pub and Nightclub, 1310 Morena Boulevard, Bay Park. 619-276-0637. Friday, 8:30 p.m.; the Ireland, Agnew, and the Blooms. rock. Saturday, 9 p.m.; One Inch Punch, Silver Side, and Caravelle. rock. Monday, 7:30 p.m.; Mystery Train, blues. Tuesday, 9 p.m.; Dinner with Lee, Firebird, Budweiser, and Todd Bernard. rock. and Off One Eye, rock/metal/punk. Wednesday, 9 p.m.; Brian Helvenda, Lee Tremain, and Lindley Cook. acoustic rock.

The Ould Sod, 3071 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-284-6594. Friday, Grew Warrer, Irish folk. Tuesday, traditional Irish jam session.

Padre Cold, 2425 Linda Vista Road, San Diego. 858-277-8601. Monday, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; the Jazz Project Big Band.

Pal Joey’s, 3147 Waring Road, Allied Gardens. 619-286-7935. Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m.; Night Shift, classic rock.

Red Fox Steakhouse, 2228 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-297-1313. Thursday through Sunday, and Wednesday, Eddie Ross and Joe Soprano. pans. Monday and Tuesday, the Dead State Ours.

Rosie O’Grady’s, 3402 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-284-7666. Friday and Saturday, live rock.

San Diego City College Theatre, 14th and C Street, downtown. 234-1062. Saturday, the Paul Jackson Jazz Extravaganza.


Second Wind, 8515 Navajo Road, San Carlos. 619-465-1730. Friday and Saturday, Uptown Grooves, classic rock.

Sham Rocks Shack, 2019 El Cajon Boulevard (ball block east of 70th Street), College Area. 619-463-2263. Friday and Saturday, DJ events, hop hop/R&B/Rap.

Sogno Di Vino, 1607 India Street, San Diego. 619-531-8887. Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Able Nelson, solo jazz guitar.

Soma, 3305 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-SOMA. Performances start at 7 p.m. Music is rock/metal/alternative. Thursday, the Yoko Yoko Yoko, the Eagles of Death Metal, and Iron and Vinyl Friday, Ac/Blown Roof Black, DJ Heroes of Shadows, Fate of a Friend, Terrorprop, and the Brothers of Autumn. Saturday, Mindology, Convey, and the Bronx Sunday, Destroy the Banner, Your Tiny, The Carol Ernst, a Love Eno Ensemble, and Dark Horse Monday, Good Charlotte, Pink Spotlight, and Young Love Tuesday, the Still, and guests.

Static Lounge, 614 Broadway, San Diego. 858-536-2311. Thursday, 9 p.m.; Accessible Entertainment, DJ event, hop hop/R&B/Rap. Saturday, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 15 events, electronic/house/hard dance beats.

Terra, on Vermont, one block north of University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-293-7208. Thursday, 9 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Eileen Kozlowski, solo blues/jazz.

Tio Leo’s Lounge, 5302 Napa Street (at Aloma Boulevard), Bay Park. 619-342-1487. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, call club for information, Monday, tango. Tuesday, east coast blues. Wednesday, 7 p.m.; the High Society Jazz Band.

The Tower Bar, 4757 University Avenue, San Diego. 619-284-0158. Friday, call club for information, Monday, tango. Tuesday, east coast blues. Wednesday, 7 p.m.; the High Society Jazz Band.

Tutto Mare, 4965 Executive Drive, La Jolla (Golden Triangle area. 858-397-1188. Wednesday, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Carrie Vala, and guests.

Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company, 600 Park Boulevard, University Heights. 619-298-0516. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, 8 p.m.; Aaron Bowen, Brian Brown, Dave Brookins, and Robert Manneux. Friday, 8 p.m.; Alex Esler, Brian Berryman, Epic-eh-eh-eh, and the Jokers. Saturday, Drew Garverini, Matt Jones, Matthew Levette, Rachel Koi, Randi Dunick, and Ryan Nolly. Sunday, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.; the Celtic Ensemble. Wednesday, open-mike hosted by Tim Malin.

Vesuvio Gourmet Restaurant, 2023 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-282-7040. Thursday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.; the B-3 Four featuring vocalist David Morley. jazz

Whistle Stop Bar, 2236 Fern Street, San Diego. 619-284-6784. Friday, 9 p.m.; the Fremonts, blues Saturday, One Nation featuring DJ Alist, rock.

The Zombie Lounge, 3131 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-284-DEAD. Music is rock/punk/metal/alternative. Thursday, DJ Marz-0 Zer0, the High Rollers, Zombie Surf Camp, and the Jones King 101’s. Saturday, the Rythym Stompers, Talladega, and Vagary Dead. Sunday, a Serbe, Arnold the Lion, the Ninja Academy, and a Work’s Worth. Tuesday, Fast Fredly. Wednesday, DJ event.

North County

The Alley, 421 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-444-1173. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the Love Kangaroos, Top-40 pop.

Beach Grass Cafe, 119 South Highway 101, Solana Beach. 858-509-6032. Tuesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Sashmazz, Brazilian jazz.

Belly Up Tavern, 145 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022. Thursday and Friday, 9 p.m.; Dark Star Orchestra, Genesis Dead tribute. Saturday, 8 p.m.; the B-Side Players and Aneas Delz, Latin jazz. Tuesday, 8 p.m.; the Shadows of Knight, the Romantics, and the Champs, new wave. Wednesday, 8 p.m.; the Michael Tiernan Trio, the Country Roads, Simon Pick, Ken Drone, and Lee Coulter, pop/rock/acoustic.


Boar Cross’n, 390 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-2889. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, call club for information.

The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe, Flower Hill Mall, I-5 at Via de la Valle. 858-735-3733. Friday, 8 p.m.; live jazz/blues/acoustic.

Borders Books & Music (Carmel Mountain), 11160 Rancho Carmel Drive, Carmel Mountain. 858-618-1814. Saturday. 8 p.m.; Kevn, rock/jam/bank.

Carvers, 11600 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-386-2401. Friday and Saturday, Nite Hawk, classic rock.

NEW 2007 CHEVY AVEO With 37 EPA estimated highway MPG. And room to seat five comfortably. The Chevy Aveo LS Sedan is one surprisingly big car. Starting at just $12,515.† LT as shown $14,125.$ Go big at chevyaveo.com

INFORMATIONAL ADVERTISEMENT
**NORTH COUNTY continued**

- **The Comstock Bar and Grill**, 318 West Mission, #15, Escondido. 760-747-9235. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Billy Watts, harmonica blues. 10:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., DJ event. Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Bledsoe Street, rock/blues/folk. 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., DJ event. Saturday, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Billy Watts. 6:30 a.m., 10 a.m., Noon to Noon Rock'N'Roll, reggae/rock; 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., DJ event. Sunday, 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., the Steamers; 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Peter Spragge, jazz. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Johnny “B” Blues.

- **Del Dios Bar & Grill**, 20145 Lake Drive, Escondido. 760-449-4800. Friday, Grand Canyon Sundowners, Americana/roots jam band; Saturday, Peter Spragge, jazz.

- **Fallbrook Golf Club**, 2375 Golf Road, Fallbrook. 760-724-4534. Hukilau Restaurant: Friday, 9:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Doc, Hawaiian steel key guitar. Sunday, 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Kefalouis family.

- **Game Time Tavern**, 1275 Poway Road, Poway. 858-740-0135. Friday, American Music, rock; Saturday, Tumble 'N Dice, classic rock.

- **Hennessey’s Tavern** (San Marcos), 2727 Bentz Street, Carlsbad. 760-728-6951. Thursday, DJ event. 8 p.m. music. Friday, Lee Kring, rock; Saturday, the New Breed Band, jazz/popc. The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, 5911 La Encuela Rd, Rancho Santa Fe. 858-756-1133. Thursday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Jerry Jaluder, jazz/vaety piano. The Jumping Turtle, 1660 Capitola Road, San Marcos. 760-471-7778. Music is rock/metal/alternative unless otherwise noted. Friday, 7 p.m., the Center, Children of the Grave; 8 p.m., Noz, and the Birds of Yore. Saturday, 8:30 p.m., The Independents and the State of Revolution. Sunday, 7 p.m., Ayla We're Falling, Entice, Jokers Nest, and Rich in Poverty.

- **La Playa Cantina & Grill**, 1820 West San Marcos Boulevard, San Marcos. 760-744-7350. Saturday, 8 p.m., Moonlight, acoustic pop. Longshot Saloon, 643 Grand Avenue, San Marcos. 760-744-8786. Thursday, hip-hop; Friday and Saturday, live bands. Wednesday, R&B.

- **Mas Fina Cantina**, 2780 State Street, Carlsbad. 760-434-3487. Wednesday, 6 p.m., Mike Gardner, acoustic rock/folk.

- **McCabe's Beach Club**, 1145 South Tremont Street, Oceanside. 760-450-6846. Friday, 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., the California Brethren, country.


- **Ocean House**, 300 Old Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-728-4313. Friday and Saturday, live rock/blues. Sunday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Credit Union, swing. Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., blues jam.

- **Rancho Bernardo Inn**, 17500 Bernardo Village Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-673-8500. El Bolicho Restaurant: Friday, 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.; Saturday, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., Jerry McBride and Tom Bishop, jazz/vaety.

- **Surf N'Saddle**, 123 West Plaza Drive, Carlsbad. 760-434-1130. Saturday, 8 p.m., the Steamers; 10 p.m., Desert Harvest, acoustic. "North County's True Music House" 860 Garnet Avenue Pacific Beach (858) 298-2818

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  - Upstart Destructo
  - The Crickets

- **Tuesday 10/3**
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  - Locked & Loaded
  - Richard in Poverty

- **Wednesday 10/4**
  - All ages until 10 p.m. • presents SCA'S SANITY
  - Slefwoot + Legions

- **Saturday 10/7**
  - All ages until 10 p.m. • presents STRAY CRUSIN'
  - Dirty Head

- **Monday 10/9**
  - All ages until 10 p.m. • presents THE MENTORS
  - Upstart Destructo

- **Tuesday 10/10**
  - All ages until 10 p.m. • presents THe INDEPENDENTS
  - STATE OF REVOLUTION (SOS Records)

- **Wednesday 10/11**
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  - LOCKED & LOADED

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**The Butcher Shop**, 356 Broadway, Chula Vista. 619-426-9440. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday. 8 p.m., Ray Cerrus, standard/op/Latin.

- **Cafe LaMaZe**, 1441 Highland Avenue, National City. 619-474-3222. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. to midnight, Sandy Clapp and Sandy Coronado, jazz/blues, Sunday, 8:30 p.m. Barrett Anderson, Robert Schoen and Scott Wallington, jazz.

- **Coronado Island Marriott**, 2000 Second Street, Coronado. 619-435-3000. Friday, call club for information. Saturday, 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., the Jams Valley R&B, Jazz Quartet.

- **Galley at the Marina**, 320 Maritime Park, Chula Vista. 619-422-5714. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., the Justie Brothers, rock and roll. Saturday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Dermal Hansen, acoustic. Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Gary Seiler, acoustic.

- **Hotel del Coronado**, 1860 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-6611. Babcock and Story: Thursday through 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Tony Laskey, Latin jazz. Friday, 8:30 p.m., Barbara Jameson and Joe Tartare, jazz; Saturday, 8:30 p.m., Solids & Dave Lindsay; Tuesday and Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Jim Gilbert.

- **Palm Court**: Thursday through Sunday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Ray Blu. Also, Sunday, noon to 4 p.m., Joe West.

- **Crown Room**: Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., John Car.

- **Sun Deck**: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Ray Correa, acoustic. Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Gary Seiler, acoustic.

- **The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe**, 7778. Music is rock/metal/alternative unless otherwise noted. Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Center, Children of the Grave; 8 p.m., Noz, and the Birds of Yore. Saturday, 8:30 p.m., The Independents and the State of Revolution. Sunday, 7 p.m., Ayla We're Falling, Entice, Jokers Nest, and Rich in Poverty.

- **Wescott’s Bar**, 3232 South Centre City Parkway, Escondido. 760-725-8599. Friday and Saturday, Paul Daddy & Uncle Johnny.
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**SOUTH BAY/ CORONADO**

(continued)

**SOUTH BAY/ CORONADO**

Sunday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Ron’s Garage, classic rock.

**Island Sports & Spirits,** 104 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-3461. Friday, Ron’s Garage, classic rock. Saturday, Merry Road, rock.

**McP’s Irish Pub and Grill,** 1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-5280. Thursday, The Jordan Brothers, acoustic. Friday, Big City Summer blues. Saturday through Wednesday, live music.

**South Bay Fish & Grill,** 570 Marine Parkway, Chula Vista. 619-720-7234. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the Third Coast Jazz Band, classic jazz.

**East County**

**Borders Books & Music (El Cajon),** 219 Parkway Plaza, El Cajon. 619-531-3110. Friday, 7 p.m., Marie Haddad, folk.

**Cosmos Coffee Cafe,** 5279 La Mesa Boulevard, La Mesa. 619-486-4217. Friday, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., the Sam Johnson Jazz Duo.

**Dirk’s Niteclub,** 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove. 619-469-6344. Friday and Saturday, Zone 6, rock.

**Don’s Cocktail Lounge,** 1331 Lassen Highway, El Cajon. 619-443-2445. Friday and Saturday, the Taylor Harvey Band, acoustic rock.

**Fannie’s Nightclub,** 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley. 619-698-2204. Friday, Better Borrowed, rock. Saturday, Solis, Noise God, Mercury Legend, and GFI, rock.

**The German-American Societies,** 1017 South Mission Avenue, El Cajon. 619-272-7203. Friday, 7:30 p.m., The Ray Barrie 12-Piece Big Band Featuring Jo Dark.

**Renegade Inn,** 1433 Old Highway 80 (half mile east from Lake Jennings turnoff), Flynn Springs. 619-561-8100. Friday and Saturday, Juice Radio, country.

**Tommy’s Italian Restaurant,** 1100 North Second Street, El Cajon. 619-440-2658. Friday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., the Wise Guys, swing standards.

**Viejas Casino,** 5000 Willows Road, Alpine (off Interstate 8). 619-445-5400. Thursday, 8 p.m., Emerald River, country. Friday, 9 p.m., Makai, pop/Top 40/dance. Saturday, 9 p.m., the 80’s Allstars, pop rock.

**Wagon Wheel,** 8861 Magnolia Avenue, Santee. 619-448-8550. Country music, call club for information.
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Artist: Manganista
Label: self-released
Where available: price: M-Thursday (South Park) and Off the Record (North Park) for $12.99 Online at CDbaby.com for $12.99
Band: Kyle Portier (marimba, percussion), Travis Wingo (vocals, keyboard), Ryan McMullen (guitar), Matt Rhea (lead vocals, percussion), Dusty Norton (drums), Drew Kent (bass)

This is a new wave album. In case you’re not old enough to remember it, new wave is that early-’80s sound that is predicated upon and driven by the intent to irri-
tate the listener.

Manganista isn’t so much Devo-style new wave, but more like Oingo Boingo. I Make You Look Like Movie Star offers high-pitched vocals over a range of percussion instru-
ments, fronted by a synthesizer.

The subjects of the songs are all over the place. “Spencer’s Accordian” is about a kid’s accordian. The songs “Medi-
ocrity” and “Entertainment” are about the trappings of modern life. A couple of tracks and the cover art are about Cambodia. (I’m guessing the album title has to do with the “Cambodian Hairdresser” track.)

It’s not that Manganista is a bad band; the instruments are played well. But what I hear is an alternative sound-

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SanDiegoReader.com
**Calendar**

**ACOUSTIC / FOLK**

Joe Ryall/Hot Monkey Love Cafe
Kate Reynolds: Beattune’s
Lisa Sanders: Hot Monkey Love Cafe
Gary Sailer: Galley at the Marina
Stan Silver: Leisure’s Coffee House
Skibbereen: Border Books & Music (Carlsbad)
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Concert Calendar

Jimmy Buffett
Thursday October 26

Aerosmith
Motley Crue
Thursday November 9
Anatomy of a Song

Gershwin pored over a song...laboring Beethoven-like, all night and half the day.

The speculation can boggle the mind: what would artists who died young have done if they lived, say, 25 more years? What poetry was the world denied when John Keats died at 25? Some say his thoughts were turning to theater. And Anton Chekhov, who succumbed to TB at 44, wanted his next play to be a science-fiction fantasy. The question persists throughout Hershey Felder’s 90-minute George Gershwin Alone. Gershwin died of a brain tumor in 1937. The composer of Rhapsody in Blue (1924), An American in Paris (1928), Porgy and Bess (1935), and over a thousand songs—many of them now ingrained in our collective genetic code—was 38.

At the time, he was working on a song his lyricist brother Ira and composer Vernon Duke knows? Felder says in a program note, “That Gershwin Thing.” Biographers and musicologists who have interviewed his friends and combed Gershwin’s letters have him envisioning classical concertos, operas, symphonies, and, of course, Broadway shows. And it boggles the mind to imagine how many had with Gershwin: his music was never one thing. They couldn’t cubbyhole him. Gershwin’s works are plural, hybrid—his “rhapsody” is a “blues.” So critics complained that his “serious” compositions had too many popular elements, and vice versa. He simply wouldn’t hold still.

At the end of Gershwin Alone, Felder plays Rhapsody. He hammers the Steinway keys like an anvil and generates a raw beauty from the often prettified score. You’ll hear everything from Debussy to ‘20s jazz to Shostakovich to Scott Joplin. Throughout Gershwin’s works, the influences are discrete, or played contrapuntally, or fused, and there’s always this other, indefinable quality: his distinct voice—That Gershwin Thing.

Like Ella at the Rep, and countless others, George Gershwin Alone’s another concert with biographical patter: the greatest hits joined with facts about the artist’s life. But where Ella opts for expose and personal trival, Alone is protective of its subject: was Gershwin an egomaniac? Well, maybe yes and maybe no. Felder touches on details and often assumes the audience already knows them (when he mentioned Gershwin’s “rhapsody” is a “blues.” So critics complained that his “serious” compositions had too many popular elements, and vice versa. He simply wouldn’t hold still.

The life story’s a sketch, at best (Felder includes a talk-back session after to fill in selective details). Felder prefers to give biographies of individual songs. In 1921, Gershwin wrote “Swanee” in 15 minutes. He started humming something (“I hear music in the heart of noise,” he once said) and wrote it down in F minor. Then, enter the Gershwin genius, he added a “hook.” He made a key change for a genre unaccustomed to the tactic. He and Irving Caesar gave the tune some lyrics, and Gershwin performed the song uptown. A man in the audience asked to hear it...
Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given to us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

Ain’t You Heard? A biography should give us a sense of the life of the famous lawyer, you begin to wonder who the “defender of the underdog” didn’t represent. Darrow’s cases constitute a who’s who of American legal history: socialists Fugus V. Debs and “Big Bill” Haywood, the McNamar brothers’ bombing of the L.A. Times, the Scopes “Monkey” Trial, Leopold and Loeb. In each he fought injustice—and paid an emotional price for every battle (including his marriage). It doesn’t take Neeson long to become Darrow, a gentle, engaging rapport with his audience, a rage at stupidity and intolerance, and, most of all, a fearless conviction. Nothing stood in his way. Would this true of David W. Rintels’s wordy, overlong, badly paced script. The play moves chronologically through Darrow’s life and feels compelled to cover it all. The result is a two-hour, episodic tale that bogs us down for a major edit (Rintels often takes longer than an hour). After a while, the script works against Neeson’s finely etched performance. The playwright’s words upstage him.

Bach at Leipzig
Directed by Joel Zwick
Music & Lyrics by George Gershwin

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make the show, at best, intermit-
tuently funny, but they don’t over-
take the script’s rammacking of 
Teno or taking its sweet time to 
unfold a bit.

Hemmingway’s Rose
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comedy about Max and George, 
opposites forced to spend time to-
gether and discover a surprise. An-
gela Miller directed. 

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Six Women with Brain Death, or, Expiring Minds Want to Know
Forte Playhouse offers the popular, "take-no-prisoners satire" of life and popular culture.
Forte Playhouse, 201 E. Grand Avenue, Suite 10E, Escondido, through October 7, preview and Saturday and Sunday at 8:00 P.M. 760-747-6489.

The Smell of the Kill
Drama presents Michelle Lowe's comedy about three "malicious wives" and their three "inevitable, unloving husbands." Stephen A. Rich directed.
Steve Stone's Theatre, 355 E. Grand Avenue, Escondido, through October 7, preview and Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 P.M. Saturday and Sunday at 8:00 P.M. 760-735-2481.

The Sopranos' Last Supper
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Titus Andronicus
This is the runt of Shakespeare's litter. Most likely it was his first attempt at tragedy, and most critics wish the "lamentable" (in the modern sense) problem'd never been penned. The murders, rapes, and massacres of revenge tragedy rule with such ferocity it's almost as if the play's a deliberate satire of the whole "inevitable" (in the modern sense) type, to which one should never be exposed. Kenzler's too "Halloween goblin. Kenzler runs Iago all over the map, warrior is at once primal, infuriating, and comic in equal parts. Dressed in Elizabethan garb, including white circular collar and black vest, he's at once imposing, terrifying, and funny. He makes Othello's schemes seem laughable, and his "act of love" to Desdemona battles for life against the mob of the night. When she realizes Othello means to murder her, Julie Jesneck's Desdemona battles for life all the way, while Michael A. Berger-directed production's best moments come in the final scene. When she realizes Othello's intentions, Desdemona's "Have you prayed tonight, Desdemona?" — one of Shakespeare's great lines, is delivered with great fierceness. It's moving. The only irksome moments come when she sings about "sustainable agriculture, the federal government, and mythic portrayals of the American hero." — Matt August directed.
Christopher R. Walker creates another fine performance.
Cassius Carter Centre Stage, September 24; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday at 7:30 P.M. Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 P.M. 760-747-6489.

Readings of August Wilson's Plays: Seven Gods
The San Diego Black Ensemble and Cygnet Theatre could do for the late August Wilson what "Grassroots Greeks" did for ancient Greek dramas in San Diego. The companies present a series of staged readings of one of the American theater's rarely performed but most important playwrights. Twice winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1987 and 1990, Wilson wrote a cycle of dramas that probe the African-American experience through the decades of the 20th Century. In concentrated, he said, on the "largest idea that confronted blacks in each decade.
"The readings will also be staged at the Performance Annex in City Heights and other locations. The series will culminate in a week-long staged reading festival of all the plays in Gethsemane in 2007. Next offering: "Angela's Ashes.
Led by Claudes Eady, director.
Cassius Carter Centre Stage, September 24; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday at 7:30 P.M. Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 P.M. 760-747-6489.

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Christopher R. Walker creates another fine performance.
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Triple Espresso: A Highly Caffeinated Comedy

Hugh Buttermilk’s done his lounge act at the Triple Espresso Coffeehouse 20 years to the day. While patrons sip a house blend—“Grape,” “Scandinavian Blizzard,” or “Mokoko Cocoa Mocha”—Hugh plays ’70s tunes on the piano. He and his companion, here to celebrate Hugh’s anniversary, got stuck in the ’70s. The trio used to be Maxwell, Buttermilk, and Bean, a comedy group that never went far. They’re “losers,” they admit, but not “ordinary” ones. And, hey, their reunion could help them face serious issues from their mediocre pasts. A formulaic story line? Yep. Straight from Former Place.

There’s also the Forever Plaid problem: the three comedians are far too talented to play inept characters. One’s a whiz at the piano. Another’s a First-Rate mime, and the third’s a crackerjack magician. The trio is so talented, when the plot has them complain of difficulties to overcome, you wish they’d quit trumping up the pseudo-drama and get on with this highly entertaining, if lightweight show. (Note: the original cast members have been replaced.)

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

Mystery City Disney Theater presents James Pascarella and Patricia Harris-Smith’s interactive “race-track romp.” It’s opening weekend at Upson Downs, and the Thoroghbred Club’ll never be the same. Pascarella directed.

Imperial House Restaurant, 505 Kalmar Street, Hillcrest. Open-ended. Fri. and Sat. at 8:00 P.M. 619-544-1600.

FORBIDDEN BROADWAY

SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

—CRITIC’S CHOICE — “Bring oxygen; the laughs are non-stop!” — Ed Unwin

—CRITIC’S PICK — “It’s a winner...amazing performances!” — Peter slit

—$25 Weeknights! — North County Times

“Your bed is crazy to miss it!” — AFPB

“A non-stop laugh fest!” — North County Times

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The pleasures of the Brazilian table go beyond the orgies of skewered meats served at rodízios such as Rei Do Gado and Samba Grill. But unless you spend most of your time lurking at the side-dish buffets, getting a taste of what Brazilians eat at home has been, in San Diego, close to impossible.

With the opening of Brazil by the Hill (and its Point Loma parent restaurant, Brazil by the Bay), you can finally eat like a real carioca (a native of Rio), sampling typical dishes of Bahia, Rio, and São Paulo — a tour of the country’s central coast. As a famous blonde felon says, “And that’s a good thing.” The bad thing is that to do so in Hillcrest, you’ll have to tolerate serious noise along with your food. This is not the joyous noise of Carnaval in Rio or the exultant yawns of Brazilian soccer fans, but the din of cruel design. (The Point Loma mother ship is less loud and has a similar but not identical menu.)

Formerly an Italian restaurant, Brazil by the Hill’s corner location is bounded by a wrought-iron fence that girdles the sidewalk patio tables out front, then runs along the Third Avenue side. Even there, you can hear the rock and disco that the restaurant pipes out to the street. Inside, in place of the former booths, there are high wooden bar-tables for six or eight, with wooden stools, and regular tables for four with hard chairs, as well as seats at the wooden bar. Two large flat-screen TVs play mutually (except, I guess, when a soccer game is on). The flooring is linoleum and the tables are naked, while the tall windows on two sides give a view of the street action. All these hard surfaces bounce every sound, including the bass thump of the ambient music. One loud voice at a nearby table can drown out every other conversation in the room.

My partner and I headed there on a Saturday night with our friends Scott and Mike, because two corners north of restaurant on Third Avenue, Feijoadas offered Saturdays and Sundays only. Reservations accepted, not usually needed. A scant handful of vegetarian dishes, most with cheese. Sidewalk patio seating available. Interior is painfully noisy. Note: Bill may include 18 percent tip added automatically, regardless of party size.

Ratings reflect the reviewer’s reaction to food, ambience, and service, with price taken into consideration. Menu listings and prices are subject to change.

Go to SanDiegoReader.com to find hundreds of past reviews.

**REVIEW**

NAOMI WISE

Ratings reflect the reviewer’s reaction to food, ambience, and service, with price taken into consideration. Menu listings and prices are subject to change.

The first major influence on Brazil’s cuisine was African, with dishes brought or improvised by the slaves on the sugar plantations of Bahia. We tasted echoes of this ancestry in the croquettes, deep-fried potato puffs with an interesting, faintly gluttonous texture and an odd taste from a Brazilian version of cream cheese. In the center was a tight filling of shredded chicken and cheese, flavored and tinted pink with pureed tomato, onions, and spices. The texture of the potato reminded me of the West African staple starch dish, foo-foo, and the more I ate, the more I liked it. It came with a pale coral dipping sauce tasting of lime juice and a touch of hot pepper, just the thing to cut the richness of oil and cheese. Brazilians, says Ceci, the manager, eat these fried snacks with bottled hot sauce. Some tables have Tapatio (Mexican) hot sauce on them. If you’d like to try the real thing, ask for Brazilian hot sauce — they do have it, hidden from the gringos. The primary Brazilian hot pepper, the malagueta, has a different flavor from Mexican peppers (and is way hotter, too). Rissoles offer another taste of the tropics, with chopped heart of palm, tomatoes, onions, and spices deep-fried in a thick yeast dough shell, while kibe is your Lebanese classic (kibbe minus a b). Many Middle Easterners have settled in Latin America. (The last time I was in Merida, in the Yucatán, two corners of the town square were occupied by Lebanese restaurants, and vendors sold kibbe on the overnight bus to Quintana Roo.) Wherever they went, Lebanese brought these sausage-size pieces of seasoned ground beef wrapped in a cracked-wheat coating and deep-fried crisp. Here, these come with the same sauce as the croquetas, plus lime quarters.

Croquettes de Carne have a yeast dough shell filled with shredded beef and potato, with the texture of soft meatballs. These are tasty, but we were glad of the dip to lighten their meatiness. The Pastel resembles a huge, deep-fried wonton, with a crisp skin. We tried the chicken version, which has the same filling as in the croquetas. The pastels are also available filled with cheese, or with a mixture nicknamed “pizza,” a combination of melted cheese, tomatoes, and oregano. Above all, don’t miss the Milanese fried banana. These are ripe whole bananas coated in flour and bread crumbs and rapidly fried. Sweet and succulent, they bear no resemblance to the thin-sliced fried plantains of the Caribbean. Should you want to make a whole meal of snacks, you can also order a portion of sautéed beef, chicken, or sausages with onions, a sea-
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Son of the Sun

“Here’s the problem. The Aztec cook? He left, along with his wife, Michelle.”

A ll that blood sacrifice stuff! I don’t believe it,” says Rogelio Franco. “Because, who ever heard of the Aztec culture? The Church. The Aztec culture is not well defended.”

I can believe it. We don’t hear the Aztec version. And he who tells the story wins. Right? We’re sitting here in Plaza San Angel, just on the other side of the footbridge across the Tijuana River. It’s amazing how I’ve walked past this place a thousand times, on the way up to Revolution, and never stopped.

This time, everything looked the same. Guys stood outside their souvenirs stalls, hawking glass-bladed swords and sombreros and bracelets they swore came from the silver mines of Taxco. But this time, I stopped beside a bunch of hammocks a guy named Oscar had strung up for sale. Because, this time, I stopped beside a bunch of hammocks — empty so far — with narrow umbrella tables, past a new stand. It’s amazing how you can’t imagine a world without French fries. Come to think of it, what da heck did the rest of us eat before Columbus sailed the ocean blue?

And then, upstairs, above Aztec Food Michelle. I saw what looked like a kind of Aztec nightclub. It was decorated with realistic figures and mythical creatures, iguanas, Kokopelli (the Hopis’ prankster god) toped by a giant Aztec calendar hung between metal-sculpted words: “Mangos Tijuana.”

So I ambled over through a bunch of Coronas and Sol umbrellas, past a new golden-green copper fountain with water curling sexily over the top of a giant olla. It hits me what a perfect Old Mexico plaza this is. They have recently added little two-story traditional buildings — empty so far — with narrow streets, bushy green rows of ficus trees, and two fountains.

Right now, for us gringos, George Harriman, a guy named Oscar had strung up for sale. Because, this time, I stopped beside a bunch of hammocks a guy named Oscar had strung up for sale. Because, this time, I stopped beside a bunch of hammocks — empty so far — with narrow umbrella tables, past a new stand. It’s amazing how you can’t imagine a world without French fries. Come to think of it, what da heck did the rest of us eat before Columbus sailed the ocean blue?

I asked which items are, like, really Aztec, they call over the counter of the open-air kitchen. But when I tell them I’m from out of town, they say, “You ask me what I don’t know. Tlacollos, pambazo, huitlacoche.”

“Well, I’ve seen this cook make,” he says. “I thought he couldn’t.”

“Here’s the problem,” says Augustin, when he’s got me seated at a Sol beer table. “The Aztec cook? He left, along with his wife Michelle.”

Great. Well, they have all the normal things, like sopes, guisados (stews), empanadas, gorditas, and tostadas. But then I start spotting words I don’t know. Tlacollos, pambazo, huitlacoche.

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“My father was a traditional Aztec chiropractor.” Turns out he owns the Son of the Sun. Teotihuacán. My father was a traditional Aztec chiropractor.” Turns out he owns the Son of the Sun. Teotihuacán. My father was a traditional Aztec chiropractor.” Turns out he owns the Son of the Sun. Teotihuacán. My father was a traditional Aztec chiropractor.” Turns out he owns the Son of the Sun. Teotihuacán. My father was a traditional Aztec chiropractor.” Turns out he owns the Son of the Sun. Teotihuacán. My father was a traditional Aztec chiropractor.” Turns out he owns the Son of the Sun. Teotihuacán. My father was a traditional Aztec chiropractor.” Turns out he owns the Son of the Sun. Teotihuacán. My father was a traditional Aztec chiropractor.” Turns out he owns the Son of the Sun. Teotihuacán. My father was a traditional Aztec chiropractor.”

“Okay, Pancho,” Augustin says. They’re eating sexily over the top of a giant olla. It hits me what a perfect Old Mexico plaza this is. They have recently added little two-story traditional buildings — empty so far — with narrow streets, bushy green rows of ficus trees, and two fountains.

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“I’m 100 percent Aztec,” says Rogelio. He sits down. “I was born at the Pyramid of the Sun. Teotihuacán. My father was a traditional Aztec chiropractor.” Turns out he owns the Son of the Sun. Teotihuacán. My father was a traditional Aztec chiropractor.”

I will definitely be back. Mold as delicacy! Who knew? And I wanna taste more from this culture that — let’s face it — gave us half of the food we eat today. Makes you wonder who really won that culture war.
Cult Wine

“There was a real need for a little wine guide for gringos.”

Three years ago, Steve Dryden arrived in Baja’s wine country, looking for a niche — a way to spend his retirement living close to the wine world, preferably on the touring/writing side of things. It didn’t take him long to notice “that there was a real need for a little wine guide for gringos. There was no information in English. People would kind of hear about the wine country, but they’d be asking, ‘Where are all these places? How do you find them?’ ”

Dryden had a resource that Joe Tourist didn’t — Ralph Amey’s Wines of Baja California. He borrowed the book’s regional map and set about putting together “a six-page newsletter, which I still publish, called The Guadalupe Grapevine. It had explicit directions on how to get to each winery, phone numbers, hours, everything.” As a bonus, the quarterly publication “used to feature a different winemaker in each issue, and I always had a different artist’s wine-themed piece on the cover.” (Dryden notes that he always credits Amey for providing “the basic information I needed. I met him at the Discover Baja Travel Club in Clairemont and told him, ‘By the way, I used your map.’ He was really cool about it.”)

Distribution was a matter of driving winery to winery and setting up a clear- plastic rack in the tasting room. If you made it to one winery and were willing to plunk down five bucks, you could get to the rest with relative ease. “I gave free ads to the wineries who supported me. It worked out well for both of us. It was kind of small, but I had good graphics and good information.” Eventually, people started subscribing.

The newsletter got the word out about the wineries. It also got the word out about Steve Dryden. “The newsletter started getting me some attention from the locals, some respect from the wineries” — an important gain in a winery culture that doesn’t go out of its way to curry favor with wine writers. World Talk Radio host Ted Donovan “picked up a copy of the Grapevine in the valley. He e-mailed me and said, ‘Come be on my show.’ I was the first person to talk about Baja wine on Baja talk radio.”

Dryden gave a spiel about the region, answered questions, and generally established himself as an authority. “I took his cred as a radio commentator and tour-guide author to the news world. ‘I approached the Baja Times.’ ” The biweekly newspaper, aimed primarily at Americans living in Baja, was delighted to hire him. His first column appeared on April 15, 2005: an introduction to the Guadalupe Valley, segueing into a brief history of winemaking in the region, starting with the Molokan immigrants from Russia in 1905. Profiles of wineries followed: Bodega Santo Tomás, L.A. Cetto, Monte Xanic...and also newer, smaller operations. “I’m going to start doing a whole series on artisan wine-makers. First, it was the big boys — Cetto and Domecq. Then came this revolution — it kind of started with Monte Xanic, and then came Hugo D’Acosta.”

D’Acosta, who currently makes wine for Adobe Guadalupe, Casa de Piedra, and Paralelo, has also gotten into the education business. “He started this little wine school in El Porvenir in an old, abandoned winery. He teaches 50 or 60 people a year how to make wine — Americans and Mexicans.” A few of his students have gone and started up their own boutique wine operations and are meeting with some success. “Most of the Baja wine is consumed in Mexico City, and I’m hearing that they’re really into these artisan wines; they’re selling like crazy.”

And in at least one case, they’re selling with a little help from Dryden’s column. Earlier this year, he profiled Three Women winery, a wine collective run by Ivette Vaillard. “They’re on such a limited budget that they chip in and buy one barrel, and then they keep records: ‘Oklay, Ava, you’ve got 90 days.’ They pump the wine from an old barrel into the new French oak.” One of the women, Ava Cotero, “makes a Cabernet that’s become a cult wine; it’s gone in 30 days. I did this article about them; then I didn’t see them for about a month. When I did, Ava said, ‘No more articles.’ ”

“I thought, ‘Now what?’ “We sold everything,” said Ava. “We had 400 people come from that Baja Times piece. We sold all of our inventory, all of our artwork.”

By way of thanks, Cotero invited Dryden to dinner. “Word got around the valley. That was a really interesting experience.” Again, Dryden’s credibility rose, which helped on the tour-guide end of things. “The tours are where I make my money. But the newsletter gives me knowledge, because you’ve got to do the research. Nobody’s covering the wine industry in depth. I think that will be my niche — personal conversations” with the people who make the industry work.

Of course, when you start to succeed, you run the risk of imitators. “Some people from Mexico City went and did what I’ve been doing with The Guadalupe Grapevine, only they did it right,” he says, meaning something not only informative, but also glossy and attractive. “It’s a Sunset magazine-type guide. It’s in Spanish, and next year, there will be one in English. It’s going to affect us. But I still have a little niche. I turned the Grapevine into a self-guided tour book,” featuring “the people who actually sell the newsletter, who work with me. I have a five-winery tour and lunch. It’s made life easier for me, and it’s selling like crazy, because I put ‘Self-Guided Tour’ at the top of the page.”

And he’s still got the local thing working for...
Bish shoulders with surfers, students, yuppies, and locals. Pizza Port brews their own beer (try Sharkbite Red! and flag their own pizzas. New York style filling combos can be great, like the pot, mosquito grilled chicken, sun-\n\ndressed tomatoes, artichoke hearts, and feta (“Pizza Carlbad”), or shrimp, clams, onions, shrimp, bell peppers, and mushrooms (“Pizza Solana”). Inexpensive. — E.B. (4/03)

Poseidon (1670 Coast Boulevard (just of 18th Street), Del Mar, 858-735-9545. The two dining rooms and the beer bar are stylish, sterling decor and ocean views, and the SHO umbrella-
dressed patio is right at water’s edge. Lunches run to sandwiches, burgers, and an enormous selection of ordinary appetizers and entrees. Fire up the canoe, or chow down on the sealife compound, a mix of fresh, local seafood, and a New American cuisine — from scratch. — N.W. (8/05)

Aquatic View Cafe (417 Coast Boulevard, Encinitas, 760-436-5001. You can’t beat this place. — E.B. (4/03)

Grill (1310 South Coast Highway 101 (at I Street), Encinitas, 760-754-3411. Despite the Parisian name, the food here is all-American.

Lunches run to sandwiches, burgers, and some very expensive seafood of ordinary competence — but it helps. Roxy was made for the veggie spirit still rules. Most popular item here. Full bar. Open daily, lunch through Saturday. Moderate to expensive. — N.W. (8/05)

Vise-versa Four Seasons Resort Aviara, 10000 Aventine Point, Carlsbad, 760-603-3773. If you ever wished to eat like the Medicis did, here’s the place to do it. This highly rated restaurant at a gorgeous resort showcases Italian haute cui-

Harrah’s Rincon Casino, Valley Center, 877-777-2457. This is where Valley Center comes to celebrate special occasions. An island of serenity in the cacophonous casino, the restaurant offers fine certifed—Angus grilled steaks and chops of various spices and a fine slow-roasted duck. For starters, the salmon tower and shrimp margherita are delicious. Choices include numerous seafood entrees, and for lighter eating there’s an Oyster Bar attached. The best attraction is the long, adventurous wine list, offering international bottles at bar-
gain prices with by the glass choices galore. Half the fun is matching wines to foods. The bar list is sophisticated, too, as are well-priced cognacs and aged ports. Business-casual dress code. Kids allowed in casino restaurants, not in gambling area. Reservations advised for weekends. Open for dinner daily. Moderate at Oystar Bar; upper moderate to very expensive in restaurant. — N.W. (8/05)

As of this writing, the day of the three-day weekend, the hotels are jam-packed and it’s not unusual to see the famous scarfed cowbell. These days, that includes surfers, vegans, and even visiting Hollywood stars picky about their food. Actually, it is not unlike strictly a vegetarian eatery: the owners have added chicken and fish for Encinitas’s “new people” — the flatbread menu is similar to the veggie menu in every way. But the veg-\n
Northern Inland

Asia You! 417 West Grand Avenue, Encinitas, 760-434-3300. Chef-owner Biko Bartolomie produces outstandingly fresh, pure, and healthy food, using seasonal, organic ingredients, the classics with fresh twists and super ingredients, including nut-

San Diego Reader September 28, 2006

134
L A J O L L A

buck breakfast ain’t dead. Not in Sor- fis and seafood. Moderate to expensive.

soup, not duplicated anywhere. Fresh with California influence. Menus change Jolla, 858-454-9616. The unobstructed are served with vegetables and potato.

chop, or a delicate Australian rack of naise, and peppercorn sauces are avail-

beefsteaks are seasoned with sea salt and among them a cocktail of giant shrimp Golden Triangle, 858-450-6666. At this Donovan’s Steak and Chop

brunch) and dinner.

ations essential on weekends. Validated

plenty by the glass or half-bottle, while

carpaccio, date-marinated Colorado

“bad carbs” than most. Some frequently

Italian/regional cooking shines here, es-

especially the fish and seafood dishes. Fresh seafood specials are available every night, in addition to those on the menu. Ex-

cellent pasta with mushrooms, asado with quail, and lamb chops. Separate

room for bar, separate private dining room. Lunch Monday through Satur-

day, dinner nightly. Enclosed patio for lunch. Not to be missed. Moderate (pus-

tax) to expensive. — E.W. (499)

Tapeada 7624 Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-531-7000. This is not only one of the finest restaurants in the county but in the country. Featuring sunny Provençal flavors, famed chef-owner Jean-Michel Dot offers superb seasonal ingredients treated with the consummate ease of a master chef. Among the special josper box are a sophisticated five-pork roulade, luscious thin-sliced veal, and top-quality seafood, with garnishes that dis-

play an impressive balance of restrained creativity and rigorous technique. Desserts are worth the calo-

rices and appetizers. Reservations a

is Italian for “saint,” and the Northern

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tax) to expensive. — E.W. (499)

Come On In! 1030-B Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, 858-531-1063. Clunky name, but sure Euro-bistro feel with outside tables under trees. This is your escape to “Paree” anytime you can af-

ford La Jolla. Actually, they keep the price of breakfasts — like two “plain and sim-

ple” steamed eggs with fresh fruit and toast, or the “Poppy” omlet, with spinach, Parmesan cheese, prosciutto ham, and diced tomatoes, fruit, and toast — down to a small price. Of course, everybody in this neck of the woods is trying not to eat, so expect lots of fruit plates and healthy lunch sandwiches like roasted eggplant with miso, bell pep-

pers, tomatoes, and mozzarella. Open
daily, weekends to 8 p.m. Inexpensive to
delicious sauces. Each dish is

complex, delicious sauces. Each dish is

just south of the Torrey Pines Hilton; look for road signs to golf course and lodge. Three

rooms. Among the house-made desserts — the highlights are a light, creamy cheese-

take with fresh strawberry sauce and a traditional creme brûlée. The service is

intent, friendly, and knowledgeable, in a masculine setting with dark wood-pat-

ting, dim lighting, and only a moderate noise level. Cigar room of the bar. Open

Monday through Saturday. Very expensive. — N.W. (1902)

Roppongi 873 Prospect Street (at Fay), La Jolla, 858-531-2322. The hard part is
deciding whether to sit in the drop-dead gorgeous interior or to people-watch on the large, heated street patio. Then you have to decide what to eat from the long Euro-Asian fusion menu, with its vast choice of tapas and sushi options, as well as
tapas and sushi rolls are inexpensive, but if you enjoy grazing the bill can mount quickly. Entrées are

expensive. — N.W. (346)

Santo Ristorante 7811 Herschel Avenue, La Jolla, 858-454-1313. The name

is Italian for “saint,” and the Northern

Italian/regional cooking shines here, es-

pecially the fish and seafood dishes. Fresh seafood specials are available every night, in addition to those on the menu. Ex-

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day, dinner nightly. Enclosed patio for lunch. Not to be missed. Moderate (pus-

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filled with big chunks of chicken meat,
painted, even feathered. Hundreds.

love this place? Count the chickens lin-

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2633 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park,

Chicken Pie Shop of San Diego

La Dona

fine entrées. But the focus is on the side

prizes. Walls filled with pictures and

California beauty pageant out of town, and

universe — and Judy “The Beauty” For-

restaurant, it’s the social center of the

cent of customers still order that same

90 percent of chicken, burgers and steaks, but 90 per-

good, tangy green sauce. Lunch and din-

wrapped in tortillas and doused with

counter from the bitter liqueur in the

Kitchen station — such atmosphere! And

lous Old California Spanish, it’s because

updated from its original 1960s-fabu-

11 p.m. Moderate.

EAST COUNTY &

COLLEGE AREA

Antonio’s Hacienda 700 North Johnson Avenue, El Cajon, 619-442-9827. If the decor hasn’t been updated from its original 1960s-fabu-

los Old California Spanish, it’s because

there’s been no need. The enormous
dark-wood chandeliers, the padded-

leather-wooden chairs, the chainmail-

weathered wood beams — all top-shelf

and aging well. Families abound, re-

ding in the guitar trio and the exposed

kitchen station — such atmosphere! And

the flavors are uni-uni, sometimes

muting the space in the sales and the

Banchen sales. The Camarones Equilis

a little more exciting the sweetness of

its bacon-wrapped shrimp gets a fine

counter from the bitter liqueur in the

mature. Excellent Enchiladas Suaces

pale, multi-tender shredded chicken

in tortillas and doused with good, long-pot-own sauce. Lunch and din-

ner daily. Champagne brunch on Sun-

9 a.m. to 1 p.m., all-day buffet Sun-

EAST COUNTY &

COLLEGE AREA
Among the highlights are the five different usual Mexican specialties in an intimate atmosphere of pale pink walls. Diners are treated to tastes from across the Mexican peninsula, from Chiapas, where the food is characterized by its use of locally grown ingredients, to Baja California, where the cuisine is influenced by the maritime region.

The menu celebrates three great pre-Hispanic cuisines — Aztec, Mayan, Nahual — with dishes that offer a unique perspective on the flavors and traditions of these ancient cultures. Among the dishes you can expect to find are:

- **Chiapas**:
  - Local sea bass in tangy jamaica sauce
  - Dishes that incorporate the unique tropical cuisine of Guam, and the chicken stews are equally good, as with chicken liver mousse pâté.
  - The menu offers a mini menu at the dining room stretching wall art. Formerly Roger’s on Fifth, this cozy establishment boasts faux-Victorian decor and amusing wall art. Formerly Roger’s on Fifth, it now offers an intimate dining experience with a modern twist.

- **Baja California**:
  - Grilled seafood, prepared honestly from scratch. Don’t miss the day’s choice of freshest fish and seafood, prepared honestly from scratch. Don’t miss the day’s choice of freshest fish and seafood.
  - The global wine list is extensive and changes frequently, but you can always count on a good margarita and a plateful of iced butterfly peaches.
  - The menu offers a mini menu at the dining room stretching wall art. Formerly Roger’s on Fifth, this cozy establishment boasts faux-Victorian decor and amusing wall art. Formerly Roger’s on Fifth, it now offers an intimate dining experience with a modern twist.

- **Guatemala**:
  - Dishes that incorporate the unique tropical cuisine of Guam, and the chicken stews are equally good, as with chicken liver mousse pâté.
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The Accidental Tourist — Single-handedly, William Hurt damn near ruins the movie. Always a strange, always a man-lover, always a tortured actor, he would appear here to be making a concerted effort to find out how close he can get to being the World’s Worst Actor without sacrificing the good opinion of his fans and the critics. Of course the role itself affords him a certain length of rope for strangeness, mangledness, tormentedness: he’s a travel writer dedicated to the gods of smoothness and comfort, a fantastuous seeker in foreign lands of that which is most like home, except that at his untranquil home he has lately suffered the death of his only son and the departure of his wife. With Hurt, however, withdrawal nudges up to clinical catatonia, and eccentricity lapses into lunacy. Where he ought, in other words, to arouse concern and sympathy, he arouses exasperation instead. Fortunately Hurt is not the whole movie. There is also Geena Davis, more than an equal counterweight, as its most unlikely romantic heroine — a teacher of Dog Obedience and an aggressively available divorcée, undiscourageably chipper and chattery, so garish on the surface as to blind us at first to her depths. The gradual revealing of this character, starting with her not too promising miniskirts and press-on fingernails, and continuing on to her quite unattractive canine-communication techniques, and to her truly unsettling neighborhood and sickly son, restores some real meaning, some most unmovie-ish meaning, to the concept of Getting To Know Someone. She is, like anyone genuinely gotten to know, a singular creation. And Davis, no longer just filling the void left by Paula Prentiss, but striking out into an adjacent and uncharted void as well, is very much up to the job, every measured step of it. With Kathleen Turner; directed by Lawrence Kasdan. 1988. ★★★ (CINEMA UNDER THE STARS, 9/28 THROUGH 30, 8:30 P.M.)

All the King’s Men — Steven Zaillian’s new version of the Robert Penn Warren novel, with Sean Penn, Jude Law, Kate Winslet, and Anthony Hopkins. (CARIBBEAN MOUNTAIN: ENCINITAS 5; ENCINITAS 8; GROSSMONT CENTER: HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; NAVAJO MESA 16; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; DARBY 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POMHY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Bamyard — Formulaic computer cartoon rounds up a group of pop-acculturated, smart-mouth, bipedal farm animals who all look like kitch knickknacks from a souvenir shop, a menagerie of cream pitchers, salt shakers, piggybanks, paperweights, and toothpick holders; rubber, plastic, ceramic, felt-covered, feathered, frosted. The focal figure is a bovine party animal who is expected to follow in his father’s hoofprints after the latter has been torn to bits by coyotes and measured for half a day. Father and son each appear to have a plumber’s helper affixed to their abdomens (males with udders?) and more closely resemble gorillas than cows. Director Steve Oedekerk brings some experience, if not exactly expertise, from live-action films, Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls and Nothing to Lose most notably. Or rather, most notoriously. With the voices of Kevin James, Sam Elliott, Courteney Cox, Danny Glover. 2006. ● (PALM PROMENADE 24)

Accepted — A seven-time college reject (Justin Long) creates his own fictitious college — South Harmon Institute of Technology, or SHIT for short — to appease his parents and to accommodate fellow rejects. “A bad idea from the get-go,” counsels a close friend — a movie review within the movie. A couple of appealing young actresses, Maria Thayer from the movie. A couple of appealing young actresses, Maria Thayer from Candy and Blake Lively from The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants, are held down in a class of dunces. Jonah Hill, Adam Hershman, Columbus Short; directed by Steve Pink. 2006. ● (PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18)

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The Black Dahlia — James Ellroy’s the-

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LANCE M. MITCHELL, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

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Hollywoodland — The speculative investigation into the death of Superman — i.e., the man who played him on television, George Reeves — by gamut on June 16, 1959, divides itself into the present-tense, but in no other sense, moving around a shady private eye (Adrian Brody) and a past-time review of the third-tier career of the deceased actor (Ben Affleck, a stiff even prior to death, several degrees colder and less supple than the real Reeves). An on-the-set vignette of Fifties grade-Z special effects is amusing in an Ed Wood sort of way; and the digital insertion of Affleck alongside Burt Lancaster in footage from From Here to Eternity, although not quite an exact match, is amusing in a different sort of way: a Dead Man Don’t Wear Plaid way. And the vintage clothes and cars are nice. However, the parallel plotlines take a long time to shed any light on each other, and never very much light even by the end, and the present-tense one, padded out with the case of an extraneous jealous husband, doesn’t hold up its end of things, is more of a nudge-inspector, despite the anecdotal interest of the reported suicide on the detective’s young son. None of the three possible scenarios restaged for the cameras alter the essential facts of the matter: Rashomon this is not. Suicide, for an actor imprisoned in a single role, made sense at the time. Suicide still makes sense. The further speculation never seems more than idle. First-time filmmaker Allen Coulter (a TV veteran, albeit “quality” TV, The Sopranos, Six Feet Under, Sex and the City, etc.) keeps trying and trying to make it more of a story. And failing, failing. With Diane Lane, Bob Hoskins, Robin Tunney, Molly Parker. 2006.


The Illusionist — Ponderous amplification of a Steven Millhauser short story about a变装士 in turn-of-the-century Vienna (a fiercely swelling if not terribly intimidating Edward Norton), arrested on stage in the film’s first scene and fast start. There follows a tedious childhood flashback to a forbidden friendship across class barriers and a cliché shot of clutching fingers poignantly pulled apart. The separated friends are destined to meet again in adulthood when Crown Prince Leopold (Rufus Sewell with a puke-shop mustache) volunteers his presumptive fiancée as a pi-geon in the magic act, whereupon the magician immediately recognizes his long-lost sweetheart (Jessica Biel), while she fails to return the favor, perhaps because of his beard or perhaps he has aged at twice the rate. The entire story, until at long last it makes its way back to its starting point, is ostensibly told to the Crown Prince by the Chief of Police (the unpre-possessing Paul Giamatti), including information he couldn’t know or wouldn’t show. Questions of whether the magician’s powers are supernatural or just prestidigitation cannot be answered without Plot Spiders, or Bean Spillers, though it’s fair to say they are answered with trivial trickiness. Production and photography, nevertheless, are sufficiently evocative of bygone times, even bygone Viennese re-creations and photography, nevertheless, are answered with trivial tricksiness. Production and photography, nevertheless, are sufficiently evocative of bygone times, even bygone Viennese cin-ematics he couldn’t know or wouldn’t show. 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San Diego Reader, September 28, 2006

San Diego September 28, 2006

The Illusionist
Wayne Rooney, Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush, Ewan McGregor, directed by Neil Jordan, in 2006. (Same year as that purely fictional open tryout under new coach Dick Vermeil pale, earns a spot on the Eagles roster at an band in South Philly, name of Vince Pa- part-time bartender, and abandoned hus- wherein a thirtyish laid-off schoolteacher, starring Kristin Scott Thomas, Maggie Rowan Atkinson as a preoccupied vicar, co-

Keeping Mum
PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEAN- MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MIS-

Mont Center; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEAN- HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSS- ERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CIN-
directed by Jeff Tremaine.

Jackass Number Two — Don’t-try-this-at-home hijinks with Johnny Knoxville, Bam Margera, Chris Pontius, and Steve-O, directed by Jeff Tremaine.

(CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CINERAMA D; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS B; ENCINITAS B; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MIR- SION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEAN- SIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MAR- COES 18; SANT-A TEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Kepting Mum — British comedy starring Rowan Atkinson as a prissified vicar, re- starring Kristin Scott Thomas, Maggie Smith, and Patrick Swayze, directed by

Niall Johnson. (LA JOLLA VILLAGE, FROM 8/29)

The Last Kiss — Americanization, and if it doesn’t go without saying, vulgarization, of the Italian film of the same name, a fear- of-adulthood seriousness centered around a tight-knit group of pushing-thirties. The young cast has some glaring weak spots — Zach Braff looks as if he’d prefer to turn it into a lighter comedy, Rachel Bilson can barely deliver a line — and all of them are outshone by the oldsters, Tom Wilkinson and Blythe Danner. With Jacinda Barrett, Casey Affleck, Michael Weston, Eric Chris- tian Olsen, and Marley Shelton; directed by Tony Goldwyn. 2006.

(CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 16; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; HILL- CREST CINEMA; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MAR- COES 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Monster House — Computer-animated

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There is no earthy reason, outside of the bold harmonies between the whiny older man and the throaty young woman, why the Allen character should be dragged along by the Johnson on this Nancy Drew adventure ("Excitement in my life dinner without heartburn after it."). And that the manufacture of amusing lines runs out of steam toward the finish, and the plot premise will not stand up to scrutiny from the vantage point of the denouement. But none of that detracts from the generous supply of chuckles and chuckles strewed along the way, still less does it detract from the calm and assured camera that Allen brings to the proceedings (in the right place at the right time for the right duration), and still less does it detract from his mastery and durability, at age seventy, as a comic leading man, defying every precept of polish and precision, creating a personal depend upon verbal gossiping and fumbling and spattering and stumbling, mining a private vein we might label as Lifelike Stilization. With Hugh Jackman and Ian McShane.

The half-year interval between their reappearances in the past by Diane Keaton or chop-chop Woodman. Nor is the repeat appearance in the film, and you know their share it with others. There is no sugar coating here. It’s painful, but you feel you must share it with others.

SILENCE OF THE LAMBS (USA)
1991, MGM
List price: $14.98
MISERY (USA) 1990, MGM
List price: $14.98
REQUIEM FOR A DREAM (USA)
2000, Artisan Entertainment
List price: $16.98

** KARL KOZAK Programming director, San Diego Film Festival, www.SDFP.org

KARL KOZAK Programming director, San Diego Film Festival, www.SDFP.org

ROBIN MACKENZIE Associate programming director, San Diego Film Festival

ROBIN LAATZ Executive director, San Diego Film Festival

Jonathan Demme’s Silence of the Lambs is a brilliant study in psychology with a chilulized serial killer played by Anthony Hopkins. If I didn’t run a film festival, I would have Clarice Starling’s job.

Misery, directed by Bob Reiner, is another tension-filled study in psychology with an obsessed fan (an Oscar-winning Kathy Bates). One of the best adaptations of a Stephen King novel, Misery has a digitally simple plot, but it leads you on an emotional rollercoaster.

Darren Aronofsky’s Requiem for a Dream is a raw, revealing, disturbing, and painfully true depiction of addiction. There is no sugar coating here. It’s painful, but you feel you must share it with others.

THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION (USA) 1994, Warner Home Video
List price: $9.98
NO TIME FOR LAMPOON’S ANIMAL HOUSE (USA) 1978, Universal
List price: $12.98
APOCALYPSE NOW (USA) 1979, Paramount
List price: $19.99
THE DEER HUNTER (USA) 1979, Universal
List price: $26.98

THE Shawshank Redemption: The perfect movie. You could watch this one over and over and over again. It stars Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman.


Michael Cimino’s The Deer Hunter is a modern film noir. It’s got everything — over-the-top male bonding, anti-heroism, doomed love, betrayal. Each and every one of the characters changes dramatically by the end of the film, and you know their lives can never be the same again.

HAROLD AND MAUDE (USA) 1971, Paramount
List price: $14.98
THE PIANO (Australia/New Zealand) 1993, Lions Gate
List price: $14.98
THE DEER HUNTER (USA) 1979, Universal
List price: $26.98

** ** ** ** LA JULLA VILLAGE, 9/20 MIDNIGHT

Who Killed the Electric Car? — Documentarist Chris Paine investigates the automobile murders, and finds, as in Agatha Christie’s Murder on the Orient Express, many bloody hands: the oil industry, the car companies, the federal government, the consumer, et al. Essentially this is in the nature of a TV news-magazine talking-head rant, but it doesn’t do a very good job (any more than the original advertising did) of explaining the praticalities of oper-
The Wicker Man — A needless remake, though not as big a time-waster for the viewer (an hour and three-quarters) as for the writer and director, Neil LaBute, known for lesser stuff like The Writer and his transplanting of the audience) has come on a personal mission from his former fiancé to track down his missing child. Further, the pruning of the protagonist’s Christian faith and the go-getting of a fresh mental trauma is offset by his transplanting of the ancient folk tale into his best behavior, both civically and cinematically, toning down his camera work and his cutting along with his bellow. 

— Looking on the bright side of 9/11: the fact-based story of two Port Authority policemen (Nicolas Cage, Michael Peña, roughly four hundred closures between them) who, together with a couple of unlikable comedians, dauntlessly entered Tower One with the intention to help evacuate it and survived the collapse of it on top of them. This feel-good approach seems a particularly endearing one, a particularly cautious and safe one, to be taken by Oliver Stone, professional heat rock and wave-maker, who for once is not looking to cast an accusation or an aspersion (i.e., a stone), but rather to recast himself as the champion of Men in Uniform he became so briefly and incongruously with Platoon. Needless to say, there is no counterpart here to the James Jonessa abuse-of-authority figure played by Tom Berenger. The freshness of the fall has the film’s half-a-dozen viewers worrying about the families (Mallo and Charlie Goodfellow as the wife), and of suffering and swearing with the immobilized men (calling to mind the forgotten Ladder 49; that post-9/11 tribute to firefighters everywhere, elsewhere, especially Baltimore), are incalculably more tense-free, more routine, more titchy, more mockish, more TVish. Soft Stone, if you will. You might be surprised how much you miss the hard one. 2006.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; LA GRANDE 14; GASLAMP 15; QUINTANA 18)

MUSIC SHOWTIMES

Call 444-FILE or the theater for missing information. Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

CENTRAL

CLAIREMONT

Town Square 14
4603 Clairemont Drive (858-274-1234)
Call theater for program information

DOWN TOWN

Gaslamp 15
717 Fifth Avenue (619-232-0400)


Grossmont Trolley
8051 El Camino Parkway (619-696-1401)
Call theater for program information

RANCHO SAN DIEGO
San Diego

San Diego

SANTEE
Santee Drive In
8999 Santee Boulevard (619-448-7247)

SOUTH BAY
CHULA VISTA

CHULA VISTA 10
Brookfield II and I (619-338-4214)

SANTEE


NORTH COASTAL
CARLSBAD
Plaza Cinema
2004 Mission Road (760-729-7469)
Call theater for program information

DEL MAR
Del Mar Highlands
2600 Van de Vaal (619-646-9425)
All the King's Men (PG) Fri., Sat., Sun. School for Scoundrels (PG-13)

ENCONITAS
Encinitas

Eccentric C (PG-13)
Fri., Sat., Sun. School for Scoundrels (PG-13)

OCEANSIDE
Mission Marketplace
13 College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-600-1970)
The Black Dahlia (R) The Covenant (R)

OCEANSIDE 16
461 Mission Avenue (760-439-2735)
All the King's Men (PG-13) Fri., Sun. 1:00, 4:00, 7:30, 10:15

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The Black Dahlia


SOUTH BAY

CHULA VISTA

The Black Dahlia

On sale: 2003

The Black Dahlia

Sin piedad

Omar Millán González
Diario San Diego

Minutos después de abandonar su casa, el subdirector de la Policía Municipal de Tijuana, Arturo Rivas Vaca, fue asesinado por un comando de sicarios que le disparó más de 170 veces. Los hechos ocurrieron cuando el funcionario viajaba en su auto oficial a la salida de Playas de Tijuana, desde donde fue llevado al Hospital General donde los médicos no pudieron hacer nada por salvarle la vida.

En el atentado del jueves 21 de septiembre, un escolta de Rivas Vaca fue herido de gravedad al igual que un civil que se encontraba en la zona. El grupo armado dispuso con armas de grueso calibre en contra de sus víctimas y huyó.

Rivas Vaca tenía dos décadas en la corporación policiaca de Tijuana y un hecho reciente fue designado subjefe de la Policía Municipal.

Escribe historia

Abraham Nudelstajer
Diario San Diego

El campeón fue largo, 16 años para ser exactos, es el tiempo que le tomó a Hoffman, el recordista de todos los tiempos al sumar sus record de 438 salvamentos y su dominio rompió el record de todos los tiempos al sumar sus rescates de 438 de la temporada. Con el Parque Petco lleno a su máxima capacidad, un sol radiante y un ambiente de fiesta, el relevente de hoy no tuvo problemas para entretener a los tres equipos en la parte alta de la novena entra.

La marca de Lee Smith, Hoffman inició la temporada 2006 con 438 salvamentos y el total de todos los tiempos al sumar sus rescates de 438 de la temporada. Con el Parque Petco lleno a su máxima capacidad, un sol radiante y un ambiente de fiesta, el relevente de hoy no tuvo problemas para entretener a los tres equipos en la parte alta de la novena entrada.

Luce Pepe

Eleanor López
Diario San Diego

Complicación, gasto, estafas, divirtiéndote... Habló en inglés. Así se puede resumir el concierto de Pepe Aguilar que ofreció este sábado pasado en el Embarcadero de San Diego. Con una noche un poco fría, se encontraba al escuchar la peculiar voz del zacatecano al entrar a su escenario, donde colgaban dos enormes lámparas con flores multicolores y una bella escenografía adornada por caras de diablo, inició uno de los más memorables conciertos hasta este momento en la región.

Después de interpretar “Toro serrano”, “Por una mujer buena” y “Directo corazón”, dijo el cantante: “Un mes más claro from Zacatecas” y prometió cantar hasta el mediodía. A las 10:30 dejo de cantar para regresar dos veces e interpretar “Puebla niosa”, pero al público quería más tanto que el coro de su mariachi con once integrantes, dos coros y seis músicos.
Viven realidad

América Borcelo
Dicho San Diego

Se convierte en una realidad la construcción de complejos habitacionales en edificios de condominio en National City.

El Gobierno local, inversionistas y constructores junto con la Comisión de Desarrollo Comunitario de la ciudad, inician el primer proyecto de construcción de viviendas en esta área de San Diego. Con la construcción de 75 unidades habitacionales se pone en marcha el Plan Específico de Revitalización del Centro de National City.

El ambicioso proyecto urbano está valuado en dos mil millones de dólares. La construcción del complejo de Condominio Harborside de inicio a los planos de reconstrucción de viviendas e impulso económico del centro de National City.

Se trata de un proyecto mixto que une viviendas y comercios en un moderno edificio de condominios al estilo de las estructuras en ciudades como San Francisco, San Diego y otras metrópolis. Este edificio de condominios contará con 75 unidades habitacionales de una a tres recamaras y de 700 a 3 mil pies cuadrados.

El costo de este proyecto de viviendas de Harborside es de 20 millones de dólares.

Orgullo latino

Sixto Gaspar
Dicho San Diego

Un día dedicado a la mujer, en muchas de las ramas que son más que necesarias en estos tiempos para la mujer de hoy.

Moja, finanzas, salud, belleza, hogar y entretenimiento, fueron los temas del evento "Mujer Latina" organizado por el estación de radio más importante en la región, Radio Latina.

Además, la joven cantante puertorriqueña, solista del "reality" Operación Triunfo, un tanto nerviosa por ser "la primera vez que me presento de esta manera", decía la cantante, sólo una guitarra acompañó a Anaís, tres temas y un público poco frío pero sin dejar de aplaudir.

El público esperaba muy ansioso a "la presentación especial de la noche", otro cantante, producto de los "reality", Yahir, un joven que goza de mucho éxito.

Madre aguerrida

Por primera vez en la historia militar de San Diego una mujer de 40 años decidió enlistarse en las fuerzas armadas junto con sus dos hijos de 21 y 18 años.

Nico Padgerr-Torres describió que quería servir en las fuerzas militares y por más de 18 años guardó esa posibilidad como un lejano sueño.

"Ya me había resignado pero me casé con mi oficial de la marina estadounidense, conviviendo con él me pegó en la idea de la milicia, y luego vino el cambio en la edad para enlistarse y lo vi como mi última oportunidad para ser militar", dijo la nueva recluta.

La madre de familia explicó que sus dos hijos planean convertirse en oficiales de la armada, Joshua como piloto y James especialista en artillería. Lo tres estarán en diferentes lugares capacitándose.
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MORTGAGE LENDER

• Professional 23,000 sq.-ft. windowed office

• In-house processing, 24-hour underwriting

• State-of-the-art lead contact system

• We provide 200+ new leads per day

We seek candidates with great sales skills and a positive personality (some mortgage experience required). This is a fantastic opportunity!

E-mail: Reader@eq1lenders.com

Fax: 619-225-0799

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The Best Part-Time Job in Town For 2nd-Incomers!

NOW HIRING SALES/CUSTOMER SERVICE REPS

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS ON ALL Shifts!

AVERAGE $9-14/HOUR
TOP PAY $14-22/HOUR
BILINGUAL A PLUS!

- Flexible AM/PM Hours to Fit Your Busy Schedule!
- Paid Training, Weekly Pay, Base Salary
- Fun, Relaxed Environment
- Supervisory & Management Opportunities

Let us put your 49 years of experience behind you and show you how to maximize your earning potential.

We’re looking for motivated and articulate people seeking an excellent income opportunity.

DON’T WAIT ANOTHER MINUTE!
858.292.8822

www.dialamerica/sandiego
9332 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, San Diego 92123

Exam Date: October 7, 2006
6:30 am Arrival
Southwestern College Cafeteria
900 Otay Lakes Road
Chula Vista, CA 91910

The San Diego County Sheriff’s Dept. is hiring qualified men and women.

- Be of good character • No upper age limit
- High school graduate or GED required
- Willing to work nights, weekends and holidays

Now hiring two positions. Take one exam, apply for either or both!

Deputy Sheriff
- Must be 20.5 years old
- Current annual salary $47,316 - $72,793 plus yearly benefits package

Deputy Sheriff Detention/Courts
- Must be 18 years old
- Current annual salary $37,924 - $61,110 plus yearly benefits package

Applications are handed out at the door – first come, first served.

Bring valid photo ID, a $2 processing fee and $3 for parking at Southwestern College.

Call: (858) 974-2000
E-mail: recruit@sdsheriff.org
www.joinsdsheriff.net

San Diego County Sheriff’s Department
SHERIFF WILLIAM K. KELLER
“Keeping the peace – since 1850”

MedImpact
Delivering选手’s choice

LANDSCAPERS, Background/Drug test re-quired. Fax resume to 888-369-8229. E-mail capesti@MedImpact.com or call 858-292-8822.

CAREER FAIR
IT, Operations & Medicare Programs
Wednesday, October 4, 2006, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
6070 Trena Street, Suite 100, Scripps Ranch
Prepared to make job offers on-the-spot for qualified candidates!

MedImpact is the largest Independent Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) Company in the nation that does not sell drugs. As a leading-edge, healthcare technology company, we are committed to delivering flexible choices to our customers to manage drug benefits and achieve better health outcomes at a lower net cost. We are seeking:

• Business Analysts
• Project Managers
• Windows Systems Administrators
• Database Administrators
• Mgr./Dir., Application Development
• QA Engineers

POSITIONS:

• FillNet Software Engineers
• Software Engineers
• Application Architects
• Technical Solutions Consultants
• Systems Architects

OPERATIONS POSITIONS:

• PIM Operations Trainee
• Prior Authorization Coordinator
• Project Managers, Healthcare
• Project Managers, Medicare Programs
• Manager, Formulary Operations
• Medicare Program Specialists
• Manager, Medicare Programs
• Manager, Medicare Part D Quality Analyst

If you want to further your career in the dynamic, expanding healthcare industry and become part of a diverse team, MedImpact is the Right Fit for you.

Can’t attend? Want to learn more? Visit us online at: WWW.MEDIMPACT.COM

No Agencies Please

The Right Fit

TEAM MEMBERS

- Deliver fast, fun and friendly service to Target guests.
- Help keep the Target brand experience consistent, positive and welcoming.
- Make a difference by responding quickly and responsively to guest and team member needs.
- Positions available in the following departments: Logistis & Backroom (Stocking, Overnight and 4-11 am) and Sales Floor

TEAM LEADERS (HOURLY DEPARTMENT MANAGERS)

- Lead teams that provide fast, fun and friendly service to Target guests, both face-to-face and by supporting sales floor teams.
- Help keep the Target brand experience consistent, positive and welcoming for guests.
- Positions available in the following departments: Logistis & Backroom (Stocking, Overnight and 4-11 am) and Sales Floor

See the rewards:

- Target merchandise discount
- Competitive pay • Flexible scheduling

To apply, come interview at our Job Fair:

- Sun., October 1, 10 am-7 pm & Mon., October 2, 10 am-7 pm
- Sports Arena Target
3245 Sports Arena Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92110

- Employment kiosks are located near the front of the store.

Target is an equal opportunity employer and is a drug-free workplace.

©2006 Target Stores.

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The Right Fit
CHAFEURS
Transportation company needs experienced, dependable, on-call Chaufeurs. Allowing hiring: DISPATCHER • ACCOUNTING CLERICAL
Computer and telephone skills.
For more information, call: 619-224-1141 or e-mail resume to: ray@careandsandiego.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE
APPOINTMENT SETTERS
Other positions available. No sales!
• Hourly pay + bonuses
• Paid weekly
• AM/PM shifts
• Full- or part-time
• Up to $500-$1,000 weekly!!
• Next to Granville trolley station
Mission Valley: 619-516-4276
Call today, start today!

Inside Sales Manager– Fast Track Your Career
AppStar Financial, one of North America’s premier electronic payment processors, seeks several high-quality in-house Sales Managers/Coordinators to work with our outside sales representatives during regular business hours. First-year expected income $75,000 (salary + bonus + commission).
• Strong benefits package
• Paid training in all areas of the industry/products
• Positive, team-oriented, fast-paced work environment
• No evenings, weekends or holidays; no travel required
• Convenient location – Kearny Mesa, San Diego

Requires at least 2 years’ business-to-business sales experience, proven track record, excellent communication/interpersonal skills, high level of integrity, ability to multitask and handle multiple outside sales reps in front of merchants requiring assistance over the phone to CLOSE the deal.

Housekeepers Needed Now!
Eam up to $462 weekly after 5 weeks full-time!
Paid weekly
Part-time or full-time. Must have own car and home phone. Work near home.

Call today, start tomorrow!
San Diego County: 760-591-9740
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PERFECT PERSONNEL
Call: (619) 794-5654

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$360 Per Week Plus Commissions
Fun Sports Promo Products
Great Training & the Tools to Help You Succeed
Not Just a Job – a Great Long-Term Opportunity
Our Top Rep Last Year Earned Over $160,000!
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San Diego
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Temporary contracted 6-4-4 tour
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1 year experience
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MDI offers paid holidays after 530 hours and vacation bonuses after 2000 hours.
Immediate openings • Experience required Various shifts, call or come now!
Job Fair for People with Disabilities
October 3, 10:00am to 2:00pm
Balboa Park Club, Balboa Park
Accessible to people with disabilities
Networking opportunities
Workshops & More
Bring your Resume Dress for Success

Full-time or transitional positions available. Must be 18 and over. Right now hiring for the following positions:

• FRONT OFFICE AGENT (FT)

• GUEST SERVICES BELL ATTENDANT (FT)

• HOUSEKEEPING ROOM ATTENDANTS (FT)

• MICHAEL’S BARTENDER (PT)

• ROOM SERVICE ORDER TAKER (FT)

• SECURITY OFFICERS (FT)

• STEWARDS (FT)

Apply online at: www.lajolla.hyatt.com

Excellent benefits!

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Part-time, flexible hours, competitive pay, medical benefits.

San Diego Police Department is hiring! Ready for a career change? Upcoming test block dates are:

- November 14-15, 2017
- December 18-19, 2017
- January 18-19, 2018

Police Recruit earns $34,899-$42,411/year. Police Officer I earns $43,596 per year. Police Officer II earns $61,110 per year. For more information, call 619-531-COPS or visit our website at: www.sandiego.gov/police.

Sales/Customer Service Reps. Bilingual a plus! Immediate openings on all shifts! For more information, call 619-239-5828 or e-mail: sales@rescuerooter.com. AA/EOE.


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Sales/Customer Service Reps. Bilingual a plus! Immediate openings on all shifts! For more information, call 619-239-5828 or e-mail: sales@rescuerooter.com. AA/EOE.
**For Home Care Business-22 years.**

San Diego September 28, 2006

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Correctional
www.jobs.volt.com. EOE. Volt Services
semblers and Electronic Technicians.
shifts. Carlsbad/Oceanside areas. Also
with daily cash bonuses. Must be money
$43,430/year. www.sdcounty.ca.gov/
&ion. New office in Chula Vista hiring Real
age. U.S. citizen or becoming a citizen.

Higher pay, flexibility, growth, multiple jobsites all over San Diego, U.S.A. All positions require a pre-employment physical, drug

FOOD SERVICE WORKER
We are seeking qualified applicants for the following areas:

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER
This is an excellent
program leading to a realistic
or e-mail your résumé to: sales@dialdelta.com
Come grow with us!

Labor $10 and up

Drivers
Apply or call
9 am-1 pm Mon.-Thurs.
5956 Distribution Ave., Suite K
San Diego 92121
858-547-4427

Deliver AT&T phone books to new customers in San Diego County. North County positions also available.

• Good pay
• Yearround job
• Full or part-time hours
• Daytime only
• Paid vacation
• Paid holidays

Must bring with you:
• Driver’s license
• Social Security card
• Proof of insurance

Transportation required
Drug screening required

Home Care Aide • Childcare
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Immediate Openings • Great Pay • New Hire Bonus
Beginner and Experienced Training • Benefits • Flexible Schedules
New-12 and 24-hour shift • Independent Care
Named one of the top 50 women-owned businesses in San Diego County San Diego Business Journal.

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In home care business 22 years.

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GILA RUT
New South Bay location opening in October...
Both locations now hiring for the following positions:
Sales Coordinator | MakeUp Artist
Hyalistylists | Colorists | Assistants
If you have a positive attitude, a great look, and are looking for a promising career, send your résumé to: employment@gilarut.com
Upland/Hillcrest: 1010 University Ave, Suite C211, San Diego
Otay Ranch Town Center: 2015 Birch Rd., Suite 1604, Chula Vista

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

Extensive training provided.

**OUTSIDE SALES**
Full-time career opportunity with an extensive training program leading to responsible sales positions using communications technology.
You will be learning to sell business telephone and data services and systems from the top sales professionals in our industry.

Call us at: 858.693.3534 ext. 305 or e-mail your résumé to: sales@dialdelta.com

**CONTRACTORS & BUILDERS**
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Come grow with us!
Our EXPERTS are here to help you find the best job possible!!

Hiring:

Hvac $42
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Higher pay, flexibility, growth, multiple jobsites all over San Diego, immediate benefits. 401k, gym discounts, personnel consulting
888 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite J
858-874-7500

**OPEN HOUSE FOR SATELLITE TECHNICIAN**
Thursday, September 28, 2006 from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Ironwood Communications for Direct TV
6370 Nancy Ridge Drive, Suite 125, San Diego, CA 92122

Several Communications & Direct TV home service provider is looking for positions in San Diego and Imperial Counties. We will be conducting on the spot interviews & providing on the spot benefits. Please apply today or come to our open house later this week.

We offer excellent earning potential!!

If you cannot attend the open house, please call and make an appointment to visit: Ph: 858-835-8421 or 760-403-4921
Fax: 888-657-6033
kfowler@123connect.net

**APPLY TODAY, WORK TOMORROW!**

• Mortgage Company CAs & Inbound Call Ca – Korone Mesa, OK
• Publishing Co. Collections – In part, may require: 11-12/16 hours
• Get Out the Vote Door Knockers – No exp. required, 1-12 hours
• Part-Time CAs – Call center: 9am-12pm
• Law Firm Collections – 12 hours/week
• Game Testers – Somers Valley: 9am-12pm
• Lead Generation – Downey, 9am-12pm
• Outreach Sales – Poway, 12-5:15/30 hours

Walk-in welcome 8 am-2 pm.
1-800-690-8367
E-mail: webpub@216.com

**ACRW STAFFING**
2525 Camino Del Rio South
Suite 125, San Diego CA 92108
Want to Work with Animals?

Apply now at: www.petco.com/jobs

PETCO is Opening Stores in:

• San Marcos
• San Diego (Sports Arena Blvd.)

Want to Work with Animals?

Apply now at: www.petco.com/jobs

PETCO is Opening Stores in:

• San Marcos
• San Diego (Sports Arena Blvd.)

We are now hiring:

Sales Associates
Animal Specialists
Team Leaders
Assistant Manager
Grooming Manager
Groomers
Grooming Assistants
Dog Trainers
Cashiers & Stockers

Qualifed candidates will be notified of the next Job Fair.

PETCO is the place for people who love animals and want to make a career out of it! We offer a casual, fun environment and excellent benefits!

SAN DIEGO POLICE SGT. SCHMIDT are you ready for a new challenge? We are looking for a comprehensive and experienced professional to join our team as a Supervisory Sergeant and Detention Team Leader. 

Sgt. Schmidt is responsible for the overall supervision of the Detention Team, including the management of personnel, facilities, and operations. 

Requirements: 
- Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice or related field 
- Minimum of 5 years law enforcement experience 
- Experience in supervisory roles 

If you are interested, please submit your application to: 
San Diego Police Department, Attn: Human Resources, 1000 Howard Street, Suite 1200, San Diego, CA 92101. 

Contact: 619-531-COPS or visit our website at: www.sandiego.gov/police.
SECURITY PROFESSIONALS and Lobby Ambassadors needed countywide. Universal’s hiring Security Pros with fantastic customer service skills. Great pay/benefits. Free training. Apply: Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm at Universal Protection Services, 7380 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, #206, San Diego, CA 92111; or apply online: www.universalpro.com. 858-874-4493.


SECURITY: Dunbar Armored has immediate openings at our San Diego branch for Driver/Guards, full and part time. We offer: $12/hour, medical coverage, 401(k), the Insurance company pays 3/4 of flexible healthcare costs, quarterly safety bonus. To qualify: Gun permit (up to 90 days to obtain), must be 21 years of age (DOT regulation), pass physical and drug screen, clean criminal and driving record, acceptable work history. Apply in person Sundays 9am-3pm: 4757 Cardin Street, San Diego, CA 92111. Call 858-503-0270; fax 858-503-0821. www.dunbararmored.com. EOE/M/F/D/V.


FULL-TIME WORK. Senior Marketing Specialist (job order TB06) and Senior Software Engineer (job order NJ06) needed by DivX, Inc., at its San Diego offices. Fax resume (quoting job order numbers) to: 858-882-0602.

SENIOR SENIOR SCADA/INSTRUMENTATION Technician ($28.46-$35.58 and SCADA/ Instrumentation Technician ($24.59-$30.74). The Otay Water District is looking for a proactive, innovative and dedicated individual to work on field and rela- tion facility equipment that includes performing highly skilled electrical, electron- ics, and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) work in the repair, maintenance and/or installation of District-owned systems and equipment. Visit our website at www.otaywater.gov or call the job line at 619-670-2740 or visit us at Otay Water District, Attention: H.R., 2554 Sweet- water Springs Boulevard, Spring Valley, CA 91978 by fax: 619-460-7266; or e-mail: hr11@otaywater.gov. Position open until filled. EOE.
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In as few as 9 Months
you can have a career as a...

Dental Assistant*

Train now for the best Healthcare careers!
NEW! • A.S. in Respiratory Therapy • Insurance Coding & Billing Specialist* • Medical Assistant* • Surgical Technology • Vocational Nursing • Massage Therapy • Dental Assistant*

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clean DMV: 619-295-6892, attention HR-Driver, or apply in person with the same.

Western Towing, 4370 Pacific Highway, San Diego, 92110.

TRANSIT SECURITY. North County.
$11.45/hour with guard, gun, baton and mace cards. (Will assist with gun card.)
$13.45/hour with 832 PC and first aid.
Great benefits. Apply weekdays, 9am-4pm, 2185 Faraday Avenue, #110, Carlsbad; 760-272-1517.

TRANSITION SPECIALIST. Assist Teachers in group and community-based instruction for developmentally disabled adults. $8.75/hour to start, depending on experience. 30 North County. Bilingual preferred. Apply weekdays, 9am-4pm, Stein Education Center, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego 92120. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org.

TRANSITION SPECIALIST. Assist Teachers in group and community-based instruction for developmentally disabled adults. $8.75/hour to start, depending on experience. 30 North County. Bilingual preferred. Apply weekdays, 9am-4pm, Stein Education Center, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego 92120. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org.

TRAVEL/SALES. Publication Company hiring 18 sharp, enthusiastic individuals to travel the entire U.S. 2-weeks all expense paid training with daily cash bonuses. Must be money motivated. Call today! 1-800-781-1344.

VALET ATTENDANTS. Fun and rewarding jobs at Viejas Casino! Flexible schedule and great tips! Clean DMV, customer service skills required. Swing and graveyard shifts available. $7.25 plus tips. Apply at www.sunsetparking.com or call 760-753-4004 x333.

VALET. Full and Part-time, some nights/weekends. Luxury high-rise condos in La Jolla. Clean DMV and California driver’s license required. Must be courteous and neat. Call Herrin, 858-454-0311.

VETERINARY ASSISTANT. Will train, no experience necessary. $8.60/hour. Apply in person, Monday-Friday, 12pm-3pm. Harmony Animal Hospital: 3994 Park Boulevard, 92103. No calls!

VOLUNTEERS. ArtWalk on the Bay, a free Art Celebration sponsored by the Port of San Diego, will be held simultaneously with the San Diego Sculpture Show. Volunteers needed, minimum 18 years, for event setup, breakdown and cleanup, staffing information and merchandise booth, distributing event maps. October 14-15, 10am-6pm, Embarcadero Marina Park North (behind Seaport Village) near downtown San Diego. Please contact Carmen Dallal at cdallal@artwalkinfo.com or 619-615-1090 x204; www.artwalkonthebay.com.

WANTED: 29 serious people to work from home using a computer. Up to $1500-5000 part-time/full-time. 1-888-277-8062 or www.homebiz4ne1.com.

WAREHOUSE LOADERS/PRODUCT Pickers needed for the Pepsi Bottling Group, Inc. Kearny Mesa. $7.50/hour. Very physical bending, lifting, twisting, night shift/Saturday day shift. www.PBG.com

WAREHOUSE/DELIVERY. Must lift heavy furniture. Valid California license, good driving record. Drug screen required. Full time. Bayside Valley Furniture, 416 East Main Street, Escondido. E-mail: enroll@baysidevalleyfurniture.com

WAREHOUSE/MATERIALS. Immediate North County openings. Great shifts. MDI offers paid holidays after 520 hours and vacation bonus after 2000 hours. MDI staffing. San Diego. 8131 Claverton Mesa Boulevard, #204. Fax 858-277-5621. Call 858-277-5658.
**San Diego Reader**

**ADVERTISE WITH US**

AAA BARTENDERS SCHOOL: ACADEMY OF BARTENDING. 0600. is required, training provided. Call 877-888-3325.

Make $200-$300 per shift. No experience needed. Part time and full time shifts available.


WINDOW CLEANER: Full time weeks. Evenings/weekends to supplement full time income. $18 hour. Years of experience. Sporadic, contract, or hourly basis. $15/hour. jamiyam.com.

**EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

PLACE PRINTED ADS in Job Giant and Post Free Online Ads with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. See thousands of classified ads not printed here!

PART-TIME: Great opportunities. Full time and part time shifts available. Make $15-$20 per hour. No experience required. Training provided. Call 877-960-5228. CALL TODAY!

GOVERNMENT 2013: For those interested in beneficial training. Work available in areas like homeland security, law enforcement, and intelligence. Call 1-800-424-2222.

**CAREER TRAINING**

PLACE PRINTED ADS in Job Giant and Post Free Online Ads with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. See thousands of classified ads not printed here!

ACADEMY OF BARTENDING. Make $80-$100 per shift. No experience needed. Part time and full time shifts available. Make great money. Call 858-689-4388 or visit san-diego-barschool.com.

CONTACT: ACADEMY OF BARTENDING. 13696 Waring St. San Diego, CA 92121. Call 858-689-4388 or visit san-diego-barschool.com.

BARTENDING SPECIALIST: Make $90-$120 per shift. No experience required. Training provided. Complete your bartending training in as little as 9 months. Visit: www.cardsandcocktails.com. Call 858-560-MIXX.

BARTENDING, Mix it up with us. Calling all bartender specialties: 小. Make $60-$100 per shift. No experience required. Training provided. Call 858-278-DEAL.

BARTENDING, Make it rain. Make $80-$120 per shift. No experience required. Training provided. Call 858-278-DEAL.

BARTENDING, Mix it up with us. Calling all bartender specialties: 小. Make $60-$100 per shift. No experience required. Training provided. Call 858-278-DEAL.

BARTENDING, Make it rain. Make $80-$120 per shift. No experience required. Training provided. Call 858-278-DEAL.

BARTENDING, Make $80-$100 per shift. No experience required. Training provided. Call 858-689-4388 or visit san-diego-barschool.com.

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BARTENDING SPECIALIST: Make $90-$120 per shift. No experience required. Training provided. Complete your bartending training in as little as 9 months. Visit: www.cardsandcocktails.com. Call 858-560-MIXX.

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BARTENDING, Mix it up with us. Calling all bartender specialties: 小. Make $60-$100 per shift. No experience required. Training provided. Call 858-278-DEAL.

BARTENDING, Make it rain. Make $80-$120 per shift. No experience required. Training provided. Call 858-278-DEAL.

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San Diego Reader September 28, 2006

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From this page, click on “Matches.”

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From this page, click on “Matches.”

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When celebrities make statements, they are no better off than the average human. They just have more jobs than the average person. Instead of driving around in a normal car, they might be driving around in a Lamborghini. There is no more importance than what we do. They are coming from a tight island, oppressed on their life in the film. Like asking George Bush what he thinks about having a number painted on the curb of his sidewalk. He has no idea about those things. For some reason, everyone seems to listen to what action is all on all these various topics. I take what they say with about as much credibility as asking a blind person what he thinks of a certain painting.

Londiyo Bogan
Bartender
Mira Mesa

I think those guys can say what they want to say, but the public eye doesn’t make them more important than anyone else in society. If it’s going to hurt their career, then they should be more careful. Tom Cruise lost that movie deal because of various things he said. Those things should have a chance, so that people can talk. You have a choice. I really like Mel Gibson, and there was this controversy about The Passion of the Christ and now his new movie might stir up controversy. I saw Passion and liked it. What do you think about their politics or comments in the media.

Jeet Pay
Sales Support
Mira Mesa

Yes, as well as whether or not I’ll see their movies. They are absolutely not, because he’s an idiot. Mel Gibson, yeah, I’ll watch his films. I guess it really depends on how what the movie was, and who else was in it because he was going to make a movie again. I usually couldn’t care less about his movies anyway. Even though the most part, celebrities are idiots. They have an iota of talent, and they can do certain things on the screen. It doesn’t mean that their views mean anything or that they are authorities on any particular subject. And it doesn’t matter what subject it is that they decide to talk about.

Jeffrey L. Morgan
Construction Worker
San Diego

I remember Mel Gibson from the old television. Obviously, he was the original First Amendment; free speech. I think if they are going around campaigning, and say whatever they want to say, it’s up to you if you listen to your radio and listen to what they say. I have a choice to switch the station if you are offended or don’t like their take on things. You can turn off your TV. If you’re on the Internet, you can close the window. You have a choice. I really like Mel Gibson, and there was this controversy about The Passion of the Christ and now his new movie might stir up controversy. I saw Passion and liked it. What do you think about their politics or comments in the media.

Kara Kinslehfer
Student
Uptown New York

Everyone’s entitled to their own opinion. Obviously, he was the original First Amendment; free speech. I think if they are going around campaigning, and say whatever they want to say, it’s up to you if you listen to your radio and listen to what they say. I have a choice to switch the station if you are offended or don’t like their take on things. You can turn off your TV. If you’re on the Internet, you can close the window. You have a choice. I really like Mel Gibson, and there was this controversy about The Passion of the Christ and now his new movie might stir up controversy. I saw Passion and liked it. What do you think about their politics or comments in the media.

San Diego Reader
September 28, 2006

We do get upset at things Mel Gibson and Tom Cruise say!

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LEAD STORY
— Carry-on Blues: (1) Just after the Aug. 10 restrictions were imposed, British Airways refused to allow disabled New Zealand runner Kate Horan (once a top paralympic wheelchair athlete) to join her team for the 2008 paralympic games in Beijing. (2) The Transportation Security Administration’s ban on carry-on liquids, gels and ointments apparently does not apply to small quantities of “personal lubricants,” such as the gels popular as sex aids.

Cultural Diversity
— Leave No Animal Unstoned: Colombia’s exports of “hormiga coluna” (“big-butt queen ants”) are down this year due to a harsh winter and agricultural pesticides creating steep prices for chocolate dipped ants in Lima and anti-frogs leaves and spreads at home, according to an August Associated Press dispatch. A July Reuters story on the Explorers Club in New York City called it virtually the only place where gamers enjoy such delicacies as scorpion, tarantula and insect, and pigeon, as well as the “blood-sugar packed” food and paper models of items they can use to allow disabled New Zealand runner Kate Horan (once a top paralympic wheelchair athlete) to join her team for the 2008 paralympic games in Beijing.

— The world’s largest “harrowing ghost” month, during which the gates of hell supraopenly and create widespread fear. Many Buddhists seek to appease the ghosts (and acquire lucky lottery numbers) by offering them food and paper models of items they can use when they resume being dead.

Questionable Judgments
— Problem Solved: (1) Darrell Rodgers, 40, was trouvé a guilty plea in March after shooting himself in the left knee because he felt he had to try to end the pain there (pain permanent since the knee injury that he ten years earlier). (2) Electrician Paul Trotman, 51, was arrested in Clay County, Fla., in August after allegedly rigging an electrical device to shock a 3.5 year-old boy who lived with Trotman and his wife. Trotman got fed up when he was forced to urinate on electrical outlets to solve fly.

— The New South Wales state government in Australia will soon propose the installation of voting booths in bars, according to a July Australian Associated Press dispatch. The government would have to be in non-serving rooms with entrances separate from the bar, but the government said that all small bars are popular community gathering points.

— In an attempt to raise environmental awareness, the police in Tampa have been parking cars in front of homes of residents who hosted a “pump-party” in June, with wine and cheese, to encourage neighbors to keep their sept systems in good order. The hosts allowed their own neighbors to use their homes, keeping the environment, although the drinking and eating portion of the party came to a halt at that point, according to the Daily News Transcript of suburban Boston

Latest Religious Messages
— Accommodating Your Parishioners: (1) Rabbi Yair Silverman recently declared a ring eight miles in circumference around his Berkeley, Calif., synagogue, to be an “eruv,” or “home,” so that his parishioners could move about more freely on the Sabbath, when Jewish law imposes some “home”-based restrictions. (2) Some Sunni Muslims in Saudi Arabia practice the religious, cultural, and legal (though revered), “miyain” contract, which permits a couple to be married but live separately, joining only sometimes for sex, and then the couple’s payments can be paid according to a July Reuters dispatch from Riyadh.

— Sarah Yule was fired as a receptionist at a hotel in Pennsylvania after a year because she refused to remove her lip ring at work, which she said was integral to her religion, the Church of Body Modification. Yule insisted that her several piercings are spiritual, giving her control over her body, and she declined to accept an alternate job at St. Mary’s, away from public contact.

— John Batts is in jail in Franklin County, Mo., the result of being caught with 338 pounds of marijuana in a traffic stop, but according to an August St. Louis Post-Dispatch report, he informed the arresting officer that hassling him would be a “hate crime” because he was a special courier transporting religious instruments between member churches of the Church of Body Modification, which uses marijuana as a sacrament.

Least Competent Person
— Kaleb E. Spangler, 21, was badly hurt by fire- works in August when, according to his girlfriend, he decided to duct-tape a large “mortar-style” firework to his torso, light the fuse, and run it in his car, while riding with friends in a car. According to a story in the Herald-Times of Bloomington, Ind., alcohol was involved in Spangler’s decision.

Recent Armament Headlines
— (1) “Shootings Reported at Firing Range” (an August story on mischief at Shooter’s Choice, in The State newspaper of Columbia, S.C.), (2) “Hong Kong Man Found Beaten ‘Alive by Maggots’” (an August story in the Sydney Morning Herald about a 67-year-old man who discovered just in time and is recovering), (3) “A Religious Correction Official Sent for Prison for Sex With Innatee” (an August story in the Winston-Salem Journal, which seems like welcome punishment for the official, but actually it was a female official who had sex with a man and was shipped to a women’s prison).

Creme de la Weird
— A recent documentary produced for Aus- tralia’s Channel 4 (and described in a July story in Sydney’s Daily Telegraph) caught up with a Ukrainian woman, now 23, who had been “for- gotten” by her mother and father and raised by dogs until discovered at age 8. Oxana Malaya (one of about 100 known feral children) has the tested mental age of 6, stilted speech, and an uncoordinated gait, and still buries any gifts she receives and runs into the woods. Malaya showed she can still run, all fours, pant with her tongue out, and dry herself off by shaking.

Recurring Themes
— “News of the Weird” reported in 1993 that a New Zealand man died in a more serious injury (according to a police officer) when a gunshot to her chest was deflected by her breast implant. In August 2006, an Agence France-Press report from Nairobi, Kenya, credited a young woman’s silicone breast implant with saving her from a more serious injury from shrapnel from a Hezbollah rocket during the recent war.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 8903, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@yahoo.com
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We work with Down Payment Assistance programs. Fix or Sell.

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**Eagle Motors**

**San Diego Reader September 28, 2006**
BACK WHEN

**Thirty Years Ago**

Needle’s Eye. The secret about Needle’s Eye is why more surfers don’t get their lunch there. Located below Sunset Cliffs Boulevard on the north side of Luscomb’s Point and breaking into No Surf Cove, it is visible to everyone who walks by. Yet there are rarely more than two or three surfers. Why? Because the wave sucks off a rock ledge that can do terminal damage to your fin, tail block, or crucian if you project too far out on the flat.

—“SECRET SURFING SPOTS” Mark Weiler, October 7, 1976

**Twenty-Five Years Ago**

Shortly after opening his barbershop in Eden Gardens, Fidel bought the shop of a South Oceanside barber, and he employed a customer hair there in the daytime, and evenings Fidel worked alone in Eden Gardens. In 1962 Fidel put a beer bar in the Eden Gardens barbershop.

With the beer bar, he started spending more time at the Eden Gardens location and it wasn’t long before he was in the food business. As Martha tells it, “I would pack him a lunch and he would say, ‘Honey, pack an extra one. I always have a customer there that — I hate to eat my lunch and he watches me.’ So I always packed an extra sandwich or an extra burrito.”

—“THE MAN WHO MADE IT” Steve Shepherd, October 1, 1991

**Twenty Years Ago**

I was outraged by your pet advertisement in the September 11 issue entitled “Dog Training Collar.” Why would anyone want to shock their animal? I thought the best way to train an animal was through positive reinforcement.

—LETTERS: “ZING AROUND THE COLLAR,”
Carol Reynolds, October 2, 1986

**Fifteen Years Ago**

I asked my mother to make green ham (no eggs, they made me gag) and she refused — “I’d just use food coloring, honey. It wouldn’t change the taste.” This was the beginning of one of life’s big disappointments.

Theodor Seuss Geisel died on a Tuesday October 7, 1991.

San Diego Reader, October 7, 1991

**Ten Years Ago**

A guy downsstairs with a cellular phone, a hearty, jovial voice — a future lawyer and compulsive, tuneless whistler. He’s a nice enough man, but he begins whistling early in the morning and continues all day, pausing only to speak into his cellular phone in his hearty, thrusty tones on his balcony just beneath my window. Maybe I’m envious of people who are happy all day every day, but he makes me feel like Raskolnikov in Crime and Punishment.

—CITY LIGHTS: “I DIDN’T HIT YOUR WIFE,” John Brizzolara, September 26, 1996

**Five Years Ago**

The Sunday People, a London tabloid, is out with what it says is a true account of the local strip-club revels of Khalid al-Midhar, Nawaf Alhazmi, and Hani Hanjour, the three terrorist hijackers with San Diego connections. According to the paper, the trio “blew at least $15,000 off of women in dozens of strip bars in San Diego on America’s West Coast. A Sunday People investigation has discovered how the terrorists made a mockery of their strict Islamic beliefs by... SHAMELESSLY stuffing banknotes down the bras and knickers of the dancers. The paper quotes two exotic dancers, Kerry and Monica, as saying the men told them they were pilots with Royal Saudi Airlines. “Of course, I feel cheap and ashamed — we may not be nuns, but Kerry and I aren’t alley-cat sluts. I’ve watched those terrible images on TV. It makes me feel sick to my stomach that I entertained them. I cleared maybe $12,000 from these beasts.”

—CITY LIGHTS: “TERROR PARTY,” Matt Potter, September 27, 2001
Dear Saffron,

I was married to a man who apparently felt that any female staying under our roof owed him sexual favors. It happened to my sisters and a good friend that I know of. I had no idea he was a night prowler.

Thank you for your letter. Of course you don’t have to tell me the story. Call for pieces available and classified ads not printed here!

Write to Saffron c/o the San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803; call at 619-235-300 ext. 413; fax her at 619-881-2401 or e-mail to saffron@sdcityreader.com

Columns archived at SDCityReader.com

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Dear Saffron, I recently moved to the East County. My neighbor/landlord takes in animals from people who don’t know what else to do with them. The problem is, she doesn’t take care of them, especially the cats. She leaves them out at night to fall prey to the coyotes. In the month I’ve been here she’s lost 13 cats that I know of. Yet she will still accept them when people bring them out. I stay up as late as I can at night to try to run the coyotes off, but of course I can’t do this every night. I don’t want to make an enemy of this person. She is my landlord. I’ve tried talking to her about it, but she really doesn’t care. I’ve found good people to adopt the kittens, but she won’t give them up. What can I do?

Dear Animal Lover,

What an awful situation. This woman sounds as if her judgment is impaired. She is not helping these animals by setting them up to become a coyote Happy Meal. I think it’s time for an anonymous report to the San Diego Humane Society/SPCA. You can call them at 800-899-8304, or you can file a report of cruelty to animals online. There’s no need to identify yourself. The report will be investigated. To report animal mistreatment online, go to: sd humane.org/animalrights/complaintforms.cfm. You’ll be doing your four-legged friends a big favor.

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Dear Still Wondering,

You dealt with a horrible experience, and I thank you for your letter. Of course you should have been told immediately about your responsibility to help protect a wife and her children?

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ME SO KOOKY

First, the office is really big on this pupil-dilation thing. I know, preventive care blah blah but it’s just never convenient and I hate it, so I declined this time around. And it was a big freaking deal, like, the optometrist’s feelings were hurt, and there was this weird pressure to reschedule it for another time. The guy was hissing like an after-school special, “Tryyyyy it, you’ll liiiike it. The first one’s freeeee.”

Then I had my vision exam. This or that? A or B? The usual drill. Except for one thing: I have an ingrown eyelash on my top left lid. The eyelash is a small, flesh-colored lump on the lid, skinned over and not visible unless you are putting makeup on me or getting right up in my face while I tell you what to look for. Which, don’t. Get away from me, freak.

Suddenly the eye doctor is pulling at my eyelid, then he’s using a cotton-swab thing to keep it in place, then he says, “Hold still,” and he grabs some kind of instrument and starts poking. Soon I realize that he is working on the ingrown eyelash. I think about saying, “Hey, you can’t get that with tweezers, I tried,” but what if he has special optometrist tweezers?

What if he has tweezing skills acquired at optometry college? So, I stay quiet and let him poke, even though it hurts like fuck. I can sense that we are not getting anywhere, and the eyelash, though moderately unsightly when viewed in extreme close-up, is not painful and not troublesome and probably should just be left alone. After a few minutes of alarming and unproductive tweezing, the optometrist tosses the tweezers aside and says, “I can’t extract that eyelash. If I had a scalpel I could, but I forgot to bring it today. You could see a dermatologist or something, or make another appointment and I’ll make sure to have a scalpel here.”

(A) He wants to take a scalpel to my eyelid.

(B) If a scalpel had been available, he would have been slicing and dicing faster than you could say “Buñuel film” or “Pixies song” or “Pixies song about a Buñuel film.” With no warning or informed consent.

(C) I could go see a “dermatologist or something.” (Who’s the “something” who would be good at such things? A manicurist? A surgeon? Freddy Krueger?)

(D) The optometrist normally travels with a scalpel! But he forgot to bring it today! Oh, damn, I left my scalpel in my other pants!

I tried to recover from my near-scalpel experience by picking out new eyeglass frames. Flirty eyeglass guy was being helpful with narrowing down my choices, when all of a sudden he said, “You know, I lived in Wicker Park for seven years.” We were not talking about neighborhoods but about eyeglass frames, so I’m not sure why he suddenly felt the need to establish his Chicago hipster cred with me. I hope it wasn’t his influence, but I did end up with glasses that are even more wacky and cat-eye-shaped than my current ones. I am going to have to calm my vision-to-glasses and the petticoat with glasses and the petticoat is screamingly recognized by picking out new eyeglass frames! And this stuff is hideously aware of home on a crowded train near four middle-aged, South Side black guys, all wearing various forms of blue-collar dress — work shirts, overalls, hard hats. They seemed tight with each other and were having a loud, lively conversation about the old neighborhood, politics, basketball, and current events. The conversation turned to Michael Jackson and how jaw-droppingly freakish he is, and there was some amusing speculation on how long he would last in prison. Then:

Guy #1: I heard he was even messing with disabled kids. Chorus Of Guys: No way! That’s sick!

Guy #1 (looking at me, also starting to laugh): Am I right? Isn’t that sick? Michael Jackson messing with disabled kids?

Me: Oh, it’s sick. You got that right.

Guy #1: Disabled kids. Damn.

Then we were both laughing, for hard-to-explain reasons, and soon it was my stop and we exchanged first names and he called me “baby girl” and told me to have a good day, and I wished him the same, and it was just a nice little stranger-bonding moment. It is slightly unfortunate that the nice little stranger-bonding moment took place in the context of the alleged sexual abuse of disabled children by a batshit-insane, hideously deformed skeleton of a multimillionaire, but there you go.

smartypants.diaryland.com
VERBATIM POLICE REPORTS

OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING
Location: (8000) Singing Wood Way, Santee
Time/Date: 9:10 p.m. on 9/17/06

Investigation: Sheriff’s Communications Center received a call of an intoxicated male physically resisting a female. Based on directions provided by the reporting party, deputies contacted a female. She told deputies that she had been involved in an argument with a man who was inside the residence. She additionally stated that the male had attempted to commit suicide.

Deputies entered the residence in order to check on the welfare of the male. Once the two deputies were inside the house they saw an adult male standing in the kitchen area. He raised his right hand, which held a butcher knife, above his shoulder, shouted something and advanced toward the deputies.

When he was within a few feet of the deputies, they both fired their handguns at the subject. He immediately fell to the floor.

Paramedics transported the subject to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 10:42 p.m.

MURDER SUSPECT
Location: 405 Tecate Road, Tecate
Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. on 9/8/06

Report: Customs and Border Patrol officers encountered 40-year-old Gonzalo P., a Mexican citizen, as he entered the U.S. as a passenger in a Chevrolet Trailblazer. CBP officers became suspicious when P. was hesitant to answer their questions. His vehicle and occupants were referred to the secondary area for a more intensive examination.

During the secondary inspection, CBP officers uncovered and confirmed that he had an outstanding felony warrant for attempted murder out of Downey, CA. P. was attended over to the custody of the San Diego Sheriff’s Office and transported to the San Diego County Jail.

SUSPICIOUS DEATH
Location: 6966 El Camino Real, Carlsbad
Time/Date: 10:22 p.m. on 9/20/06

Report: Communications received a call to check the welfare of a man in a car who had not moved in some time. The car was parked in the parking lot. Responding officers found a deceased male subject lying across the front seats of the car. The victim had sustained major trauma to his head.

Detectives were called to the scene and the death is being investigated as a homicide.

AWOL FUGITIVE
Location: International Border at San Ysidro
Time/Date: 1:00 p.m. on 7/15/06

Incident: Customs and Border Patrol officers encountered 63-year-old Victor A., a U.S. citizen, as he entered the port, driving a Mitsubishi Montero. CBP officers decided to refer the vehicle and occupants to the secondary area for a more intensive examination.

During the secondary inspection, CBP officers conducted law enforcement queries that positively verified A.’s identity, and revealed and confirmed the warrant for his arrest as active and outstanding.

The felony warrant was issued in 1966 when A. was 23 years old. A. was turned over to the custody of the Marine Corps Abenteer Collection Unit to prepare him for extradition to Washington, DC for prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

UNLAWFUL DISCHARGE OF POLLUTANTS
Location: Various locations in Santee
Time/Date: Various times between December, 2001-November 2003

Report: Victor Z., the owner of a local electroplating firm, was sentenced...in federal court in San Diego by United States District Judge Napoleon A. Jones, Jr. to serve 24 months in custody and ordered to pay a $120,000 fine. The sentence followed the conviction of Victor Z. and his firm, Victor’s Premier Plating, Inc., of Santee, California, by a federal jury on May 10, 2006, of 24 violations of the federal Clean Water Act.

Judge Jones also ordered Victor’s Premier Plating, Inc., to pay a $120,000 fine, jointly and severally with owner Victor Z.... The evidence at trial established that Victor’s Premier Plating, Inc. and its owner and operator, exceeded the legal limits on discharging wastewater contaminated with zinc on 18 occasions, wastewater contaminated with chromium on 1 occasion, and wastewater with a low (acidic) pH on 4 occasions, all between December 2001 and January 2003. The defendants were also convicted of discharging wastewater at a second location between October 2003 and November 2003, without first obtaining a discharge permit...wastewater that exceeds the limits for heavy metals such as zinc and chromium is likely to pass through the sewage treatment plant and be discharged into the ocean because the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant is not designed to treat heavy metals.

LEWD BEHAVIOR
Location: [1800] Kettner, Little Italy
Time/Date: 8:35 a.m. on 8/20/06

Victim’s Statement: I had just arrived to work and was opening the office up. This man walked into the office. He is a black male about 6’3” tall, with a gray beard and long dreadlocks. From his clothes and smell he seems to be homeless. From the way he was acting he seems to be intoxicated.

I asked if I could help him and he said to me, “I want you to take your clothes off.” I told him to leave. I was polite about it. He said again, “I want you to take your clothes off.” I said no and told him to leave. He then said, “How much I can pay you.” He then started to fondle himself and hum a song. I told him he did not leave now I would call the police. I picked up the phone. He left the office. I closed and locked the door.

— Michael Hemmingson
Suzuki Intruder VS 800, runs and looks the part. $1,000 miles. Black, lots of chrome, liquid cooled V-twin engine, gorgeous bike. $950. 858-729-5520.

Harley-Davidson project bike. Lots of chrome. $2500. 619-243-6565.

Honda Shadow. 9,800 miles, original miles, beautiful bike. Hate to sell, but engine/transmission excellent. 23K miles, original owner, $13,000/best. 858-212-3500.

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2000, 85,000 miles, with leather saddlebags and wind protection. Runs and drives great, must see to appreciate. $18,000. 808-989-3858.

Other services: • Factory scheduled maintenance • Clutches • Replace fuel filter • Replace oil filter • Adjust dwell angle • Replace brake pads • Road-test • Check exhaust system • Check battery (if necessary)

It includes Freon R-134, $24.95. Plus Freon. semifluidic pads extra. Most cars and light trucks. $26.95.

$21.75 $31.75

Mercedes-Benz C230, 1999. 4-door, automatic, air conditioning, power steering, windows, disc brakes, alloy wheels, leather, new tires, power steering, purchased $29,900.-Owned and maintained by family since 1994. 225,000 miles, $16,985. 858-243-0756.

Honda Accord, LX, 1993. 2-door, automatic, air conditioning, power steering, windows, disc brakes, alloy wheels, leather. Mint condition, beautiful, well maintained, great mpg, new bumper factory warranty, 29,900 miles, automatic, $18,000/best, 619-589-1591.

Mitsubishi Eclipse, 1993, V6, 2-door, automatic, air conditioning, power steering, windows, disc brakes, alloy wheels, leather, new tires, power steering, purchased $29,900.-Owned and maintained by family since 1994. 225,000 miles, $16,985. 858-243-0756.

Mitsubishi Eclipse, Convertible, 1993, V6, automatic, air conditioning, power steering, windows, disc brakes, alloy wheels, leather, new tires, power steering, purchased $29,900.-Owned and maintained by family since 1994. 225,000 miles, $16,985. 858-243-0756.

Nissan Maxima, 1995, V6, automatic, power steering, air conditioning, power windows, new tires, leather, power locks, power windows, remote keyless entry, $16,985. 800-346-4662.


Volvo 850 Turbo, 1994, leather, sunroof, alloys, all power, airbags, alarm, remote lock, only 100,000 miles. Excellent condition, $18,900. 858-243-0756.

Brake Special

$59.95 Savings: $55.55

Front or rear. Semi-metallic pads only. Most cars and light trucks. $75.55 (10% off) Save 15%.

$59.95 Savings: $55.55

Incl. brackets & labor. Most cars and light trucks. $75.55 (10% off) Save 15%.

$179.95 Savings: $119.95

Incl. brackets & labor. Most cars and light trucks. $259.95 (10% off) Save 15%.

$95.95 Savings: $85.55

Incl. brackets & labor. Most cars and light trucks. $145.45 (10% off) Save 15%.

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ZIPPY

“Draft Pick” by Bill Griffith ©2006
There were those days. When I was young and there was violence in my blood. There were those nights.

Pulling a friend from the double yellow line of a busy road while he screamed, “NO! Let me go!” Taking a punch to the mouth and giving back one. Smacking bottles on a Wednesday night in Foggy’s Notion bar in Point Loma. Wednesdays at Foggy’s was dollar-drink night, and I’ve got a good hook around his elbow and shove him under a bench and kick his ribs. Another pop in my yap, and before I can return the favor, a bouncer hems up my arms over my head and pushes my chin into my chest, and the rear door is opened with the top of my head. Bank, my noggin pushes the long bar latch on the door and then I’m outside in the alley.

“Hey! My friends are still in there!” I scream at the slammed metal and rivets.

Oh, there were those nights.

We knew it would happen. Every Wednesday night. A bar situated between three military bases. Nothing good can come from booze for a dollar.

After we got kicked out and the moon stretched toward the ocean in the morn-
ing, there were girls in a lot of makeup and bracelets at a house. Whose house was it?

Didn’t matter because it was all we needed.

That was us. When we were young and dramatic.

Now I stand in my bedroom, flipping channels on my tiny black TV, trying to decide between America’s Pissiest Celebrity Catfights or Real Life People Doing Stupid Crap That Nobody Does in Real Life, and if I shut the set off and look into the black glass, I can see the scattered bits of bottle and the streaks of fuming liquor against the glowing neon-green exit sign of my 20s.

WHAT I WILL AND WON’T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

THE MEGAN MULLALLY SHOW

TBS 8:00 A.M.

How do you do it? How do you sleep at night with the stink of soccer-mom makeovers still in your clothes and the crushing heartbeat of knowing you did a “vacuum cleaner special.”

How do you, Wal-Mart and the Olive Garden, sleep at night knowing you raped (RAPED!) a once-great nation?

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL: CORTEO

BRAVO 8:00 P.M.

Svetlana! Ling Pao! Natashka! Put your knees behind your ears and get back in your damn car! How do you do it? How do you sleep at night knowing you raped (RAPED!) a once-great nation?

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

CHARLIE’S ANGELS

ISAT 9:00 P.M.

Magnum PI’s mustache against Farrah Fawcett’s fluffy hair in a no-balls-barred grudge match. The Ferrari vs. the Grand Prix racer. The tiny .22 tucked into the stiletto boots or the diver’s watch, the Tigers baseball cap, and the Island Hop-

is and a good cry now.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

CRISTINA’S COURT

FOX 11:30 A.M.

Is this that show where the judge is wearing all that pink makeup? And she slams her gavel and says, “I hereby find the defendant guilty...of being sexy!” and then she says, “Bailiff, cuff him and bring him to my chambers,” and the bailiff is that other girl in a black garter and leather holster, but, brother, that ain’t a gun she’s carrying. Because that’s one of my very favorite shows. If this show isn’t that show, then it should be. This show is probably very stupid compared to you, you know, “that” show. Wink!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

JOYCE MEYER: ENJOYING EVERY DAY

CASD 12:00 P.M.

Yay. Joyce Meyer wants to teach me how to enjoy life. Here, all this time, I thought icy bourbon, the headstrong invulnerability of cocaine, and a table full of my friends in a Bangkok strip club were fun, but Joyce tells me that it’s all about quilting, cats, and Lemon Zinger tea. I’ve been so wrong all this time. According to Joyce, I’ve never really enjoyed life. How embarrassing.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

PROOF POSITIVE: EVIDENCE OF THE PARANORMAL

SCIF 10:00 P.M.

Every show on the Sci-Fi Channel should, in the spirit of honesty, be called Afraid to Talk to Girls.
It has a utopian atmosphere that reminded me of what was best in rock clubs in the 1960s.

Mention the words "club owner" to me and you can watch my eyes narrow. I’m probably picturing a beer gut sausaged into a too-small T-shirt, a few days’ growth of beard from which sprouts an unlit cigar butt, greasy hair (well past the ears) with an overlarge monk’s scruffy, bald patch. This is not Alma Felan. Ms. F. is such a looking-40 she is more likely to pass as one of the college kids she serves at her cafeteria out-let than any conventional notion of a concert promoter, dance venue facilitator, patron of the arts, singer/songwriter/performer, band manager, or in any other way like the popular music industry professional she has been for over two decades.

Sitting in her office at the new location for her business that has its grand opening October 1, Felan appears to be an odd cross between an adolescent social worker and deceptively inno-cent-looking, girl- pirate captain at the helm of her ship. Hot Monkey Love. “I feel like I’m 20,” she says in response to a complaint regarding her whole-some looks in a business where that is the second thing to go. Is it music that keeps her young?

“Maybe. I’m a percolationist, actu ally; that’s how I started.” At a little Latin, pizza café in New Jersey: “She pronounces it, ‘New Yersey,’ as it is pronounced in Puerto Rico, where Felan happens to be from.” “And no alcohol, kind of like this.”

August of this past year, a neighbor of the word “Latin,” August of this past year, a neighbor had finally made life so difficult for Felan that was compelled to relocate. HML’s had finally made life so difficult for Felan that was compelled to relocate. August of this past year, a neighbor of the word “Latin,” August of this past year, a neighbor had finally made life so difficult for Felan that was compelled to relocate. HML’s had finally made life so difficult for Felan that was compelled to relocate. All kinds of it here.

It’s not. “Giving it too much energy,” the diminutive entrepreneur chooses not to discuss the unpleasantness, but the bottom line is that she was pretty much screwed by one of those perennial enemies of music, the disgruntled neighbor with no life. Felan has been in San Diego since 1997, and according to her, the “unpleasantness” turned out to be a blessing in disguise. The new digs at 6875 El Cajon Boulevard (four blocks west of SDSU) are more spacious; that is to say, with enough room to contain the dimensions of her dream as it comes to fruition. Elements of that dream include recording a studio (in the works), a dance studio, rehearsal space, lounge and meeting rooms, and of course the café/concert venue for (mostly) acts from a broad spectrum. HML will provide a vehicle for folk, country, rock, blues, salsa, and pretty much anything else. While musical animal acts, Serbo-Croatian martial music revision, and possibly klezmer cover acts of early Black Oak Arkansas may not get the exposure they demand, Hot Monkey Love will be your one-stop shopping destination for the largest variety of popular music at café prices in San Diego.

For the grand opening, Sunday, October 1, Felan has booked the Positive Energy Dance Group, Manny Cepeda and Trece de la Suerte (the Lucky 13) with an appearance by city councilman Jim Madaffer for the reception. The nature of the councilman’s musical act is uncertain at press time. On the second of the month, HML will host Argentine tango (malamagia) Night: Thursday, the 3rd, you can catch an evening of hip-hop with Young C, Generik, Achteck, Trankeiel, Kandi Cole from L.A., Diction, Scribe and DJ, with a special performance by West Bound (Melody Mo & DapShot) from San Francisco. On Wednesday (and Wednesday nights thereafter) a continuation of Joe Rathburn and Lisa Sanders Acoustic Showcase kicks off. Thursday nights will continue as blues night at the new location; some other bookings lined up include, Stolen, Faded Glory, the Dinge, Supernova, Plane Without a Pilot, and Squiddo, to name but a few.

To be enthused about any local music endeavor that also is a business is to risk waning passion, and I am not nor have I ever been a press kit writer, but I think not an under-assistant West Coast promo flak of any kind. Something good enough comes along, let me be dismissed as a mindlessly pathetic cheerleader rather than die a saint.

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