We’re on Vacation, Here to Play. Don’t Let Facts Get in Our Way.
NEWS & FEATURES

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Cracked Streets, Crooked Pols

By Don Bauder

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inancially, the City of San Diego is going down a rat hole. Make that a pothole. That’s because years of infrastructure neglect — both the shirking of maintenance duties and the shelving of critical construction projects — have created a monster that could be larger than the pension mess. It certainly causes more citizen distress.

There are two kinds of neglect. Deferred maintenance is the backlog of necessary repairs — replacement of roofs and cooling systems, filling of potholes, repairing of police and fire vehicles, painting, reflowing, and the like. A second deficiency is postnonelement of capital improvement programs — big sewer and water projects, new buildings and parks that are usually financed through bonds or tax and fee increases. Since the City is currently shut out of the bond market, most such projects are on hold, as the city decays alarmingly.

The City’s pension and health-care deficit is now $3.1 billion. That figure is likely to rise. But deferred maintenance is probably $2 billion and delayed capital improvement programs another $2 billion, according to David A. Bainbridge, associate professor of sustainable management in Alliant International University’s business school. Council-member Donna Frye believes Bainbridge’s figures could be close to correct, as do others. But the entire proposed 2007 city budget is for $3 billion, and only $1.3 billion of that is for general fund operations.

“Deferred maintenance leads to more and more expensive repairs the longer it is put off — pay me now or pay me later,” says Bainbridge. “The City must replace miles of storm-water pipe. Roads and parking lot maintenance are even worse.” According to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee, 60 percent of the city’s 2735 miles of streets are in need of repair. A recent story in USA Today concluded that San Diego has the sixth-worst roads of U.S. cities, adding $618 a year to every vehicle’s cost.

Ancient cast-iron water pipes are on file with the county clerk, was Brian White, the former San Diego pension fund correction chief, and his office of the city’s 2735 Next year, a new lobbyist and TV commentator, gave $500. Another donor was Jean Denton, who at the time of her $1000 contribution on July 14 was listed as an attorney with Copeland Lowery. Jacquez and Denton, the controversial D.C. lobbying outfit being investigated for its relationship with San Bernardino congressman Jerry Lewis. In late June it was announced that the firm’s three Republican partners — Denton, Dijkstra contributed $1150.

Neal Obermeyer

Pension fund "deficit" Two weeks ago it was incorrectly reported here that county retirement fund chief Brian White received gifts from financial-services firms doing business with the fund. The actual recipient of those gifts, according to a financial disclosure form on file with the county clerk, was Brian Johnson, one of the fund’s investment officers.

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

By Joe Deegan

The San Diego Police Department is either resuscitating affirmative action or its promotion practices are meant to reward “team players.” So thinks Sergeant Mark Sullivan, whose highest possible promotional rating of “exceptionally qualified” the department has overlooked several times in selecting lieutenants. Sullivan defines a team player as one whose loyalty is to particular leaders in the department. “A good team member,” he tells me, is loyal to the department.

In early February, the sergeant vented his frustrations in a letter to Mayor Jerry Sanders. A 24-year San Diego police veteran, Sullivan has served in numerous capacities, from SWAT-team and vice-squad member to administrative and teaching roles. He has been a sergeant for 12 years and represents police officers in the city’s pension board. Sullivan was not asking the mayor to promote him outright, he wrote, but to assist in arranging an appeal hearing that “will decide whether I was denied a promotion on factors other than merit.” He made the request in reference to the police chief’s July 6, 2004 promotions. On that day, William Lansdowne, who became police chief in August 2003, promoted five sergeants and five lieutenants. In each case, the breakdown was three white males, one Hispanic male, and one black female. For the fourth time, Sullivan was overlooked, and at least one of those promoted, he maintains, was less qualified.

Sullivan opened his letter by appealing to concerns Mayor Sanders had voiced in his January 12 “State of the City” address. “You said,” wrote Sullivan, “that too often ‘important’ problems were swept under the rug by city leaders. As best as I can tell the operating philosophy around City Hall involved one of these three words: delay, deny or deceive.” Sullivan argued that the problems at the police department went far beyond his own case. “It is an issue of public safety,” he wrote, if the police department makes a habit of advancing less-qualified personnel over the more qualified.

Sullivan went on to elaborate his situation to the mayor. In November 2002, he said, the San Diego Police Officers Association (the police union) had chosen him and several other officers with similar histories to participate in a lawsuit to make the promotional process fairer. At the time of filing, charged the lawsuit, “The promotion decisions are routinely based on a myriad of improper considerations, including personal whims, animus, relationships to candidates, group affiliations, and worse, the candidates’ race, sex, color, ethnicity, age, and national origin.” In May 2004, the association and police department settled the lawsuit by establishing a new merit-based promotional process.

Chief Lansdowne announced his selections for promotion two months later. Wrote Sullivan, “I truly believed that I was passed over…in retaliation for participating in the lawsuit. On July 20, 2004, I made a formal request through the Chief’s office for an administrative appeal for denial of promotion on factors other than merit.”

California’s Police Officers Bill of Rights grants officers in Sullivan’s situation the right to such an appeal. So does Article 41 of San Diego’s memorandum of understanding with its police personnel. Nevertheless, wrote Sullivan, “the chief’s office fought my request for administrative hearing for ten months.” Finally, through the work of the Police Officers Association’s attorney, the department granted a hearing “on condition that the chief would not have to answer any questions related to the qualifications of the subsequent conduct of the other candidates.”

Meanwhile, during August 2004, Channel 7/39 correspondent Tony Shin did a series of reports on the Central Division’s investigative team. The team’s leader had failed to complete investigating 900-plus criminal cases assigned to her division. It turned out, reported Shin, that the department had recently promoted the officer in question to lieutenant. On a day shortly after her promotion, she came back to Central Division to reclassify 160 of the late cases as “No Contact Required.” That action prejudiced any subsequent investigation into the cases, a number of which were serious felony cases.

Shin later won a News Emmy for his reports. By phone, he tells me that his investigation relied largely on anonymous conversations with several officers who witnessed the former team leader redclassifying the cases after her promotion. “The officers were appalled at what they perceived as a clear cover-up,” says Shin. On the video of his reports, I watch Shin stand first with Chief Lansdowne, then with executive assistant chief William Maheu, and ask them what the department planned to do about the incident. Maheu attempts to downplay its significance, arguing that most of the cases had already been finished and needed only official sign-offs. But Lansdowne acknowledges that improprieties may have occurred and promises to conduct an investigation whose results he will announce at a later news conference. “The news conference never happened,” Shin tells me.

On May 26, 2005, Mark Sullivan went to the police chief’s office for the start of his administrative hearing. The hearing officer was deputy city manager Bruce Herring. (Herring was later named in the Kroll report as having breached fiduciary responsibilities in the city’s recent pension crisis.) “None of the discovery information requested by my counsel was produced, including my own promotional file,” Sullivan wrote Sanders. “Chief William Lansdowne was the first witness to be interviewed.”

The sergeant and his attorney learned the following. First, a committee of the police department’s assistant chiefs, not the police chief’s promotions board, made the choices during the July 6, 2004 selection process. Second, all the assistant chiefs that day had pic...
Crooked pols
continued from page 6

pipes are in desperate need of replacement, says Bainbridge. “The sewer treatment facility is still using primitive tech-
nology. Recreation facilities are often barely kept func-
tional. Maintenance of city trees and landscaping is wo-
efully underfunded. Many city buildings are patched together instead of properly repaired,” he says.

The San Diego Association of Governments notes that regional planners want to channel growth into the metro areas such as the city of San Diego, but an inordinate amount of infrastructural spending is being done in the unincorporated areas.

Despite the desperate infrastruc-
ture needs in the city, the mayor’s budget to tackle deferred maintenance is a mere $20 million for 2007, and that figure is dependent on issuance of pension obli-
gation bonds, which are a long shot. Thus, the actual expend-
iture will be more like $8 mil-
lion — about enough to fix the hole in Harry Belafonte’s bucket. The City is now com-
piling an inventory of the deferred maintenance backlog.

The root cause of the dilap-
dation is politics. As the coun-
cil spent money willy-nilly on glitzy corporate welfare pro-
jects such as the ballpark, the budget was perpetually out of balance for a decade. So San Diego plundered its pension fund, diverted money from sewer and water operations, and delayed mainte-
nance and construction proj-
ects. “Politicians love ribbon-
cutting ceremonies — opening 
new fire stations, libraries, 
balkparks — but they don’t like to provide money for maintenance,” says Carl DeMaio, president of the 
Performance Institute think tank. He, too, believes that the City’s deferred maintenance and delayed capital improvement programs “are in the multi-bil-

loons of dollars.”

Alan Gin, associate pro-

fessor of economics at the University of San Diego, teaches a course in urban economics. “One of the things that helps economic growth is infra-
structure; it’s good for busi-
ness,” says Gin. With adequate infrastructure, “it’s easier to produce goods and services, easier to transport things.” That’s one reason he believes that streets and roads are San Diego’s “most pressing needs” now.

But Steve Erie, professor of political science at the University of California, San Diego, says, “You have to fix the water and sewer systems first. When those go, everything goes. Next are roads.” Such things as parks and libraries will have to wait, he says.

“The most critical needs are downtown,” says Jim Mills, former president pro tem of the California Senate. Sewer and water mains are far too old. “Unacceptable levels of pollution are being delivered to the bays and ocean. Yet part of the City’s plan for expend-
ditures is for that goddamned new library.”

Mills notes, “Along with Philadelphia, we are the most expensive city in the U.S. for transit. It costs $2.25 for a bus ride here. A lot of poor peo-
ples can’t afford it, and those are the people you want to take transit, so they can apply for jobs and go to and from jobs. Los Angeles has a full one-cent sales tax to support transit, and we have one-third of one-half a cent.” He is con-
cerned that the track is break-
ing up on the trolley to the border because heavy freight is going over it. Yet the San Diego Association of Gov-
ernments still advocates more highway construction. “The planning is terrible, the pri-
orities all wrong. Jerry Sanders was elected by developers who didn’t want an environmen-
talist to interfere with urban sprawl.”

Says Frye, the environ-
mental consultant who lost to Sanders, “The first thing we should look at is what we are required to do by law.” The City must comply with the State’s drink-
ing water laws and the Amer-
icans with Disabilities Act, for example. There has to be ade-
quate sewage monitoring to remain in compliance with the law. The potential liabil-
ties are huge.

In assessing the needs, the City must try being honest for once. Bainbridge says that two dissimilar candidate pools could yield the same promotional results regard-
ing race and gender,” says Sul-
ivan, “was just coincidental, 
according to the chief of police.”

In his letter to Mayor Sanders, Sullivan wrote that later in the hearing, “shortly after these revelations, the deputy city attorney representing the chief of police advised my counsel that the chief had an important lun-
cheon engagement and would need a break. As a courtesy to the chief, my counsel agreed to reschedule the remaining portions of the chief’s inter-
view at a later date. That date has never occurred. The chief’s office advised my counsel we would have to take the chief of police to court to finish the interview.”

Sullivan says he didn’t know ahead of the hearing that Lans-
downe would need the so-
called break. I ask him if shortly before the deputy city attor-
ney announced the break, the chief’s lawyers were whisper-
ing in his ear. “They were,” he tells me, “but we had no idea what it was all about. We did notice that the attorneys were grimacing a lot at what he was telling us.”

Mayor Sanders did not respond to Sullivan’s letter. Eventually, the sergeant did go to court seeking a contin-
uation of the hearing. In Janu-
ary of this year, Judge Judith Hayes ordered the police chief to finish the hearing and to release Sullivan’s promotional file. But “in an apparent act of defiance to the judge’s order,” Sullivan claims, “only half of my promotional file has been delivered.”

On June 15, Sullivan com-
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Public safety continued from page 8

grounds other than merit.” But Kendall did not address how little merit-based information the chiefs used when they made promotional choices.

Sullivan argues that the role of the assistant chiefs and their selection method violated the settlement terms of the Police Officers Association lawsuit. On July 23, he wrote back to Kendall. In a point-by-point recitation, he painted a picture of the assistant chiefs committee usurping the primary role of the police promotions board. The way the process ought to work, according to the city’s appointing authority manual, is that the promotions board is to recommend officers for promotion. The board is to decide on the basis of merit determined by written tests, oral interviews, and work history and evaluations. It can take community and department needs into consideration too.

According to San Diego Police Officers Association president Bill Nemec, “Nothing forbids the chief from accepting the advice of others in making his determination.” Nevertheless, argued Sullivan in the letter to Kendall, “the addition of the chiefs executive committee [between promotions board and chief] seriously compromised the integrity of the promotional process.” He later tells me that their role in the 2004 selections was not to advise the chief. “They made the selections for the chief,” he says.

Sullivan contended in his response to Kendall that as a result of leaving out the promotions board, which takes promotional ratings into consideration, “no merit-based promotional information was ever used by the [chiefs executive committee] during the selection process.” Prior to his second hearing, Sullivan thought that the assistant chiefs had at least used candidates’ promotional ratings in making their choices. I listen to a recording of the June 15 appeal hearing. Sullivan is questioning Patrick Drummy, the police department’s director of administrative services and human resources. Drummy tells a different story. The day the chiefs executive committee decided the promotions, Drummy states, “The committee doesn’t know what the ratings are.”

This made it more likely that the committee would use “pictures of candidates in a discriminatory manner,” argued Sullivan in his letter to Kendall. The appointing authority manual, he said, does not authorize such use of pictures. “One candidate’s picture showed him with the long hair and scruffy beard he wore as an undercover cop,” Sullivan tells me. The picture he shows me does have the appearance of a scraggily hippie.

In the letter to assistant chief Kendall, Sullivan speculates that “the chiefs executive committee selections matched a promotional formula.” The successful 1996 California ballot proposition 209 forbids discriminating against persons in public employment on the basis of race. I call Scott Fulkerson, executive director of the police Citizens’ Review Board. Fulkerson says he does not recognize the term “promotional formula” but assures me that currently “affirmative action” in public employment is “not being practiced in any city department.”

“I think we get a formula,” asks Sullivan, did the chiefs use the pictures, which have no legitimate role in the promotion selection process? The way it was explained to me was that Chief Lamm, a newcomer to the department, needed the pictures to get acquainted with the officers. But why did every assistant chief and the lawyer need to have the pictures too?”

In the end, wrote Sullivan, the chiefs executive committee selected a less qualified candidate than myself. That candidate, according to Sullivan, is the officer responsible for what has become well known on the police-department grapevine as “Late-Case Gate.” Sullivan does not know her departmental rating, but he claims she was less qualified by virtue of experience, not to mention her performance in the late-case scandal. Assistant chief Kendall, however, wrote in his appeal denial that “there is no evidence that the Chief of Police knew the information [about the late-case debacle] at the time he made the promotional decisions.”

Sullivan’s letter to Kendall brings up additional points relating to retaliation. Given his participation in the San Diego Police Officers Association lawsuit, Sullivan wrote, the chiefs were negligent in failing “to report and investigate [my] allegations of discrimination and retaliation.” He added that “the department has a history of retaliating against officers who file discrimination complaints.”

The reference is to at least four personnel retaliation lawsuits against the department in the last several years. In one case that stands out, a Latino undercover narcotics detective was awarded a $1.3 million court judgment for police discrimination and retaliatory practices. The retaliation took place, according to attorney Joel Golden, after his client complained to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that the department discriminated against him when he sought promotion to sergeant. The officer had been on special assignment in Del Mar with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration when his superiors transferred him to an area near his home in central San Diego. Given the sensitivity of his work, that decision put him at great risk, the attorney argued.

Golden tells me that the original promotion request had been denied for racial reasons. The department, he says, was overworking the officer because he was one of the few Latino detectives it had to do effective drug-enforcement work. His superiors did not
I speak with Sergeant Carlos Medina about the racial problems the police department gets into when it promotes within the ranks. Medina is president of San Diego’s chapter of the National Latino Peace Officers Association. "Chief Lansdowne’s heart is in the right place," he tells me, "but his hands are tied. On the one hand, the department’s mission and goals statement gives lip service to diversity. Mayor Sanders responded positively when I wrote him recently promoting diversity. But when I wrote similar concerns to the assistant chiefs, they said, ‘We can’t talk about diversity.’"

Like Mark Sullivan, Medina thinks that the police department does promote according to a rigid racial formula. But he thinks the formula works to reduce the number of minority officers needed. When I recite “three white males, one Hispanic male, and one black female,” he replies, “Yes, that sounds like one of the familiar ones.” Medina believes that “promotions need to be made according to the requirements of community policing. We’re getting dangerously close to the kind of parochial department people associate with Los Angeles,” he says, “rather than the community policing we used to excel at.” The promotions should serve “cultural competencies.” Policing needs of Latino neighborhoods are not identical to those of Asian, black, or Anglo neighborhoods. So when it comes time to promote, the department should be thinking of what the communities need. There are some assignments that are defined better by female officers,” says Medina. "And just because an officer has a Latino name is no guarantee that he is culturally competent in a Latino community. A black or Anglo officer might be more qualified."

In the meantime, on September 25, Sergeant Sullivan received a letter from Jill Olen, the city’s deputy chief operating officer for public safety/homeland security. In the letter, Olen promises that Sullivan soon will receive a final Article 41 review, not by the mayor, but by Ted Martinez Jr., head of the mayor’s Neighborhood and Customer Services office. Olen alerts Sullivan, however, that in the new hearing “there will not be any testimony or review of new evidence.”

Not one to go quietly, Sullivan is pursuing a concurrent case with the San Diego Civil Service Commission. And he has written a complaint to Olen about her restrictions on testimony and new evidence when his next hearing comes. On June 15, hearing officer Kendall did not allow “any testimony or evidence related to the Central Division late case investigation,” says Sullivan. On top of that, Kendall did not reveal a conflict of interest he had in his role. Sullivan says he recently discovered that Kendall had been the late-case officer’s supervising captain during a significant portion of the time she failed to manage her caseload. “The commanding officer bears responsibility for the failure of his subordinates to properly manage their caseloads. In addition, during this same period, the [late case] I intended to question was at one time a direct report to Captain Kendall. . . . As a consequence, Captain Kendall had submitted a recommendation for her promotion. I assume that recommendation was positive.”

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Well Remembered
As I reach for my Reader faithfully every week, I had to take a double look. Oh my God! It’s Mr. Thompson (“Dig a Little Deeper,” Cover Story, October 12). What memories started shooting through me. You see, I worked with Mr. Thompson. He had an office on Market Street and 47th that he shared with Great American Bank, known also as Neighborhood Home Loan Counseling Center, a center for low-income homes, financing, etc. So I knew Mr. Thompson very well. Charles Davis and I went to school together. When Mr. Thompson was out of the office, I would handle his calls, any visitors, etc.

What I want to say is, I am so glad he wasn’t forgotten. He indeed had his flaws, like we all do. He certainly didn’t deserve to go the way he did. And he is still thought of today, with a smile.

Ms. D.
San Diego

Best In 30 Years
Having been out of town for the past couple of weeks, I got a copy of the October 12 issue when I returned. Your cover story, “Dig a Little Deeper: Cold Murder Case Heats Up,” was fantastic. I have been reading the Reader for over 30 years, and this is what I remember it for. My congratulations to the author.

Keep up the good work.
Herb Holmes
via e-mail

Second Chance

John Mood
via e-mail

Photo Bias
The demonstrations at the Escondido City Council meeting where it passed an ordinance prohibiting renting to illegal aliens were lively, and Bruce Kauffman’s report (“The Heart Meets the Law,” “City Lights,” October 19) on them quite fair. At least in the eyes of this observer, who was both there and quoted in the article.

The photos selected to accompany the print version of the article injected strong bias, however. Of the dozens of signs on display at the demonstration, the two featured in the Reader’s photos are those implying that courageous Escondido Councilwoman Marie Waldron and her supporters are racists and Nazis.

Such personal attacks were abundant in the sign- nage used by pro-illegal immigrant advocates at the event. In contrast, the sign- nage of Minutemen and other Waldron supporters was focused on policy and law enforcement, not name calling.

My sensitivity to such bias has been sharpened recently. According to the Union-Tribune, I have been accused by SDSU administrators of the heinous crime of using university resources (i.e., computer and e-mail system) to communicate with Minutemen — and threatened with punish- ment.

The same administra- tors have no problem with the SDSU website being used by the faculty union (CFA) to bash Schwarzenegger or being used by MECHA to present racist, separatist propaganda and organize anti-Minutemen rallies. But let a professor send personal e-mail mes- sages to Minutemen, and the hammer comes swiftly down.

Stuart H. Hurlbert
via e-mail

We All Feed At The Same Bloating Trough
Bruce Kaufman’s article (“The Heart Meets the Law,” “City Lights,” October 19) about the perverse desire of Escondido City Council members Sam Abed, Ed Gallo, and Marie Waldron to poke their noses into the private business of property owners who rent to immigrants reveals much about homegrown U.S. hypocrisy on the “illegal alien” issue.

The first bit of hypocrisy — and humor — was supplied by a retired biology professor from San Diego State University named Stuart H. Hurlbert. With a straight face, he informed us that the environment is not able to withstand the rapid growth of population brought by rampant illegal immigration. First of all, population growth is caused by procreation, not immigration. One expects better from a professor — espe- cially a biologist. Conse- quently, I suspect SDSU students aren’t getting their money’s worth. But if the birds-and-bees-challenged professor is trying to say that ill-conceived govern- ment social policies pro- mote population growth, perhaps he and the other immigration opponents should look at their own U.S. government as the source of the problem — not at immigrants who did not create these policies. But this would expose the hypocrisy of those who op- pose open borders and free enterprise. You see, as an employee of SDSU, Profes- sor Hurlbert lives entirely off of California taxpayers in the same fashion as all welfare recipients and gov- ernment employees. Is it possible that Professor Hurlbert resents the fact that some immigrants are cutting in on his action by slopping from the same tax- funded pork barrel that he feeds on so richly? And if he really is concerned about population growth, why not oppose tax policies that make it easier for parents to breed children at taxpayer expense — such as “free” public schools that taxpay- ers are forced to subsidize whether they have children or not, including SDSU and other tax-subsidized state universities? Surely parents would spare us that second or third chip-off-the-old- block if they had to be financially responsible for their progeny. So why doesn’t the professor go to the source of the problem — bad gov- ernment policies — instead of picking on the result of bad policies?

Even more laughs and hypocrisy were provided by former U.S. Marine Jeff Schwilk. He has mutilated the proud historical tradi- tion of the real Minutemen by founding an absurd group of San Diego minute- men. These scyphants of the overgrown welfare-war- fare state have completely re- versed the meaning of min- utean. Let’s take a look:

— The original Minute- men responded to the call of the Massachusetts Provin- cial Congress and opposed the overgrown British Em- pire. They supported the re- bellion of the colonists against the high taxes and loss of liberty imposed by the government of King George III. They sought freedom, not a false sense of security.

— Today’s ersatz minute- men are the opposite. They oppose the individual right to life, liberty, and the pur- suit of happiness — which includes the right to peacefully engage in free trade and work to support a fam- ily. These fake minutemen defend the bloated, criminal U.S. government and its marauding army of tax- rapists, warmongers, and bureaucrats — and their counterparts in Sacramento. They have Big Government dependency and obedience
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Hey, Matt!

Why is it that most service stations around here don’t offer free air and water? Isn’t it California law that gasoline retailers must offer free air and water? Pissed. I have to pay 50 cents to fill up my leaking tire!

— Steve Cavadi, San Diego

The elves went into our Room of Laws and scrambled through file cabinets and wastebaskets for the relevant piece of paper for your case. They found it under somebody’s old cup of latte. Best we can see through the coffee rings, Section 13651 of the California Business and Professions Code backs you up. Most gas stations have had to offer air and water by law since 1984, but the law didn’t say anything about it being free, so mostly we had to pay. Station owners argued it helped them cover the costs associated with the new machinery.

The air-water-giveaway legislation went into effect in 2000. It says if you buy fuel for a passenger car or a commercial vehicle with an unladen weight of less than 6000 pounds, tire and radiator refills are to be available at no charge. (If you wheel in for air or water only, you’ll have to pay.)

In contrast to their mood in 1984, station owners and makers of air and water dispensers were bummed. They challenged the law, arguing that it deprived them of their property without just compensation. The court snickered and ruled against them, reasoning that air and water are matters of safety for the motoring public. Underinflated tires and overheated engines are dangerous.

Let’s pause here to savor the rare moment of clear thinking by Sacramento. It’s not only commonsensical, it favors the consumer, a double miracle.

Somewhere on or near the air-water dispenser there must be a sign indicating that they’re free with a fuel purchase. The sign also needs to display the 800 number you can call to report a station that is out of compliance. Because Sacramento loves paperwork more than almost anything, there is a form available for downloading to make your official notification (www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/awform). Of course, at the moment, Sacramento has plenty of other fires to douse. No telling where a consumer’s air-water outrage might rank on their to-do list.

Heymatt:

This week our local paper had in its sports headline something about the Mets and a New York minute. What is a New York minute? Are there only 58 or 59 seconds in their minutes? I know it’s supposed to represent something faster, but was it invented by a New Yorker who wanted to get the hell out of that city, in a hurry?

— Ann of San Diego

We haven’t visited the word-and-phrase-origin squad in a while. Glad to see nothing’s changed much with them. You slide your question under the door then listen to all the haggling while they try to agree on one answer. First we tossed out the “nobody knows where it came from” answer. They always try that, and we don’t fall for it. Next we get “nobody knows exactly, but it didn’t originate in New York.” Very popular with the experts. The phrase is slightly disparaging, suggesting that things in New York City move so fast and New Yorkers are so impatient (ever ridden in a New York taxi?) that they can’t even tolerate a 60-second minute. Regional insults, even mild ones, usually don’t come from the region in question (e.g., Southern California’s Zonic jokes). Their third answer is cagey but a little more helpful. The Dictionary of American Regional English dates the phrase to the mid-1970s (at the latest), where it crops up in print references from Texas. Originator? Not a New Yorker. And that’s all we could squeeze out of the cranky loafers on the word-origin committee.

Hey, Matt:

I was paying bills and realized that because I had a bad cold, maybe I’d be giving my germs to people on the receiving end. Can my bad germs affect them after a few days in the post office machines?

— Letter Licker in La Mesa

Oook. Well, I’d guess no, but you never can tell. Science guys have measured virus and bacteria life span on lots of hard, dry surfaces, and they vary all over the lot—a few seconds to a few days. Viruses don’t fare very well, since they need the cell of a living organism in order to replicate. Bacteria handle that function by themselves, so all they need is a comfortable environment. And no matter which organism you have, the potential infectee would need to touch the germy spot, then stick fingers in mouth, nose, or eyes to get the bugs inside. Once your mail gets to your credit card company, again it’s handled mostly by machine. But even if someone handles the mail, to risk illness they’d have to open an envelope, poke themselves in the eye, open an envelope, pick their nose, open an envelope, suck their thumb. You’ll have to come up with another plan to wipe out your creditors.

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

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**SportingBox**

By Patrick Daugherty

---

**World Series Special**

Often, when national sporting events take place (Super Bowl, NCAA Final Four, NBA Finals, World Series), the Box goes to the people for analysis and commentary. And if there was ever a time to have someone explain how the St. Louis Cardinals, a team that finished the regular season with 83 wins and 78 losses, a team that lost 9 of their last 12 games, a team that finally clinched the NL Central because Houston lost to Atlanta on the last day of the season, how that train wreck of a team came to be playing in the World Series, that time is now.

Therefore, I am placing a telephone call to Goddess Helena, “Dominatrix. Warm, honest & discreet. Mon...Friday Appt only — no same day. 40 & up.” I get the goddessship’s phone number from the classified section of the Riverfront Times, an alternative newspaper serving the citizens of St. Louis and surrounding tax-revenue-sucking municipalities.

Before we begin, I should warn you that this looks to be a hard sale. The lady’s calling me professionals, and being pros they expect a scam from everyone they encounter. Like the rest, I want something for nothing; in this instance, a free interview that I will use in a paid-for column. Add their natural reticence to being ripped off to the fact that they’re doing is technically illegal, and I foresee communication difficulties. I say “technically illegal” because every big city permits sex-for-hire ads in their newspapers and phone books, and, as far as I can tell, no one is ever arrested.

Whoa. Someone has picked up the receiver. I gush, very fast, wanting to get everything said as quickly as possible, “Goddess, look at your receiver and you’ll see this call is coming from California. I’m a sports columnist, want to get your thoughts on the World Series. That’s it, that’s everything. Nothing personal, we’ll just talk baseball.” I project manly, but sensitive, sports enthusiasm.

Click

The woman has a neutral, nonsexual, master’s-degree-in-psychology tone of voice. I say, “Well, I’m not a sports fanatic.”

“No,” she laughs. “Sometimes, they’ll want to get a score.”

I decide to hold the Wisdom of the People for a minute, “Well, I know the manager likes animals.”

The woman thinks for a minute, “Maybe, Tony La Russa runs an animal-rescue foundation. How about a prediction? Who’s going to win?”

I can almost see BT&A make a little girl’s face. She says, mimicking a 1940s bookie, “St. Louis in seven.”

---

**The Vegas Line**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Denomination</strong>: Chaldean Catholic</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Address</strong>: 1627 Jamacha Way, El Cajon, 619-579-7913</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Founded Locally</strong>: 1973</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Senior Pastor</strong>: Father Michael J. Bazzi (Cathedral is also seat of Bishop Sarhad Yawsip)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Congregation Size</strong>: Together with St. Michael’s, St. Peter’s serves the 25,000 Chaldeans in San Diego County</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Staff Size</strong>: N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday School Enrollment</strong>: Various levels of school, but 600 children on Saturdays</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Annual Budget</strong>: N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Weekly Giving</strong>: N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Diversity</strong>: Almost entirely Chaldean</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday Worship</strong>: English and Chaldean, 9:30 a.m.; sung Mass in Chaldean, 11:15 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Length of Reviewed Service</strong>: 1 hour, 20 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Website</strong>: <a href="http://www.kaldu.org">www.kaldu.org</a></td>
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At the Mass's opening, Father Felix Shabi's voice sounded from behind the red curtain concealing the Sanctuary. "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." The curtain hung from a frame, painted — like the rest of the church — with a sweet, homespun piety. A Paschal lamb at the center, surrounded by angels in the Fra Angelico mode.

After the introductory prayer, the congregation broke into song — a chant, in Chaldean and full of minor intervals — and the curtain opened to reveal Shabi, dressed in red robes, standing before the altar with his back to the people. He faced a stained-glass cross, upon which hung a Corpus, and around which painted angels hovered, surrounded by clouds and sky. Streams flowed from the foot of the cross, giving life to the surrounding earth, and bringing forth grapes and wheat. A chalice and host stood amid the fruit of the earth.

The readings, taken from Genesis and Corinthians, were presented by a young man and a young woman. Later in the Mass, they offered songs ("My Jesus, my Savior, Lord there is none like you...") that sounded a little less modern and accompanied by classical guitar. Shabi intoned much of the Mass (in both English and Chaldean, 9:30 a.m.; sung Mass in Chaldean, 11:15 a.m.)

---

**St. Peter Chaldean Catholic Cathedral**

**El Cajon**

★★★★

**Sermon**

Content: ★★★★★
delivery: ★★★

**Liturgy**

★★★★

**Music**

congregational: ★★★ band: ★★★

Snacks: no snacks

Architecture: ★★★

Friendliness: ★★★

Poor to satisfactory: (none)

Good: ★★★★★

Very good: ★★★★★

Excellent: ★★★★★

Extraordinary: ★★★★★

Later, once again with his back to the people, he presented the stained host by elevating it slightly and then stepping aside and bowing — the host never moving as he did so. The final blessing quoted the Gospel: "Amen, amen, I say to you, any one who eats my body and drinks my blood dwells in me and I in him, and I shall raise him up on the last day."

What happens when we die?

"When we die," says Father Shabi, "we will go immediately to the last judgment. But, in our time, not God's time.... If you are a good man, you will go to heaven; if you are a bad man, you will go to hell.... But there is no pure man. The Bible says that even the righteous man makes seven sins a day. So we have to go to Purgatory to purify our sins. Then, at the last judgment, Jesus will lead us to heaven. If we are bad people, we will never see heaven, even though we are Christians."

— Matthew Lickona

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**BestBuys**

“**It gives the room sort of a smoky atmosphere.**”

**Eve Kelly**

Last year’s Halloween festivities involved policemen of the wrong sort: instead of water guns and plastic badges, we got the real thing. My dear friend Bernice was summoned down to the station to pick up her 17-year-old son. A brawl had broken out at the party he attended, and alcohol had been involved. He was clean, but Bernice decided to keep the party closer to home this year.

I was assigned special-effects detail, and it didn’t take long for my thoughts to grow foggy. I needed a fog machine that would cover the ground like a KISS concert. I called Rob Torstrom, who does installation and repairs at Miramar’s California Sound and Lighting (www.calsound.com 1-800-4NODSOUND). “To work a fog machine,” he began, you pour in the fluid, which is basically water with a chemical added to thicken it up. The fluid is pumped into a heating chamber, where it is superheated until it forms a fog. Then the machine shoots the fog out through a tiny nozzle. If there’s nothing to cool the fog, it’ll start to lift into the air as soon as it shoots out. So, some fog machines have a big ice chamber in the front. That cools the superheated gas as it comes out, but not to the point of re-liquefying it. The fog then actually hugs the ground, kind of like dry ice.

California Sound also offers a haze generator. “It’s more like a mist — it delivers a much lighter gas — it’s not as thick a fog. It gives the room sort of a smoky atmosphere. If light shines through it, you can pick up the beams. A haze generator can be good for an indoor party,” he did note that “if you use a fogger outside, you’ll get the hazer effect. And even with inside use, the gas from a fogger will start to warm up and spread apart.”

Fogger weights range anywhere from 10 to 50 pounds. (The heavy one has the ice chamber that gives the low-fog effect.) “Our rental foggers will put out a lot of fog; you press a button on the controller, and they release a stream of fog. The small ones rent for $15 a day, and the larger one, which has a fan so you can direct the fog, rents for $20 a day. We also sell foggers. People who like to throw parties year-round buy them, and clubs buy them because they have light effects that don’t work without fog. The 400-watt mini-fogger is $39.99, the 1000-watt is $99.99, and the 1300-watt, which allows you to change the direction of the fog stream, is $199.99. They last a long time. People bring them in to be cleaned more than they need to clean, because they just pick up the beams. A 400-watt fogger will start to warm up and spread apart if you use the fog machine indoors, it does tend to leave a sticky residue on everything. Once or twice a year isn’t bad, but if you use it over and over again, it can build up a layer of sticky gunk that can damage stuff, especially sound equipment.”

I decided to put in a call to Aang’s Dry Ice in Mira Mesa (888-535-0460). Employee Steve told me, “dry ice is CO₂. We get it as a liquid and change it into a solid by injecting it into a big press and compressing it. You don’t want to touch it with your bare hands. It will touch your skin, it’ll freeze it.” Prices are $1 per pound with a 25-pound minimum and a $7.50 hazardous materials charge.

To figure out how much I would need, I checked www.dryiceinfo.com and found that for 15 minutes of fog, I would need to put five to ten pounds of dry ice into four to eight gallons of hot water. The hotter the water and the smaller the chunks of dry ice, the more fog (and the faster the ice would dissipate). The website suggested keeping the water hot with a hotplate and warned to be ready for some bubbling over.

Other places to find foggers:
- Party City, multiple locations around San Diego. The sales clerk at the Sports Arena store (619-523-9200) said, “We have a fogger with a strobe light attached for $29.99 and a 400-watt fogger for $17.99. Fog liquid runs $9.99 for a half quart and $14.99 for a full quart. We also carry timers for $19.99. They help make the juice last. It controls how much fog comes out and when.”
- Spirit Halloween Superstore, multiple locations around San Diego. The clerk at the Escondido store (760-480-9600) said, “We have a hanging fogger for $39.99. It’s more like a smugger, and you can get a remote timer for $14.99. Our ground fogger runs $59.99. It says to use the manufacturer’s fog juice, but if you use our juice ($7.99 for a small jug, $20 for a large) and add ice, it works perfect.”

Other places to find dry ice:
- Baskin-Robbins, 5501 Balboa Avenue (858-292-5600). Up to 20 pounds, $1.79 per pound; over 20 pounds, $1.35 per pound. “We always have 500 to 600 pounds of dry ice,” said the sales clerk, “but on Halloween, we’ll have something like 1000 pounds. You don’t want to put it loosely in a drink;” she warned. “Put a smaller bowl of it outside the punch bowl so that it billows up outside of the punch. If it disintegrates into smaller pieces and somebody swallows one, it’ll burn a hole in them!”
- Jolly lug Liquor Store, Santee (619-448-3773). $1.19 per pound, with eight-pound minimum.

San Diego Ice Company, Sports Arena (619-688-1999). $6.90 per pound (available in ten-pound blocks). Delivery available with a minimum of $15.00 per pound.

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com
San Diego Reader
October 26, 2006
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i had to interview a bartender in PB for an article that I was working on, and as I walked back to my car around 9:00 p.m., I overheard a group of people talking about a party they were going to. I followed them around the corner where I introduced myself to Charles, the birthday boy. He said, “I don’t mind you crashing the party. But at 10:00, we’re all going over to the Typhoon Saloon. The band Metal Shop is playing there, and we have a VIP section.” I told him that I had seen Metal Shop’s heavy-metal parody before. Charles said, “When I’m there, they let me on stage to do Ray Charles songs.” I asked if he had the sunglasses to complete the look. “No. I just go up there and yell.”

The first people I met at Charles’s birthday party were sisters who looked nothing alike. One was six feet tall with blond hair. The other was about 5’5” with black hair and a Middle-Eastern look. She said, “Well, we are sisters. But we have different dads. Our mom got around.” I asked the blonde if she played basketball. She said she did, “...for a private school in Point Loma. I quit to be a cheerleader. All the scholar- ship went out the window.” She told me that she dated one of Bill Walton’s sons. I overheard her later in the evening talking about Halloween costumes. “Last year I was a sexy race-car driver. I wanted to write ‘Want to go for a test drive?’ on the back. This year, all the women at Tio Leo’s, we’re going to be Disney princesses.” I have a stepbrother who’s short and complains that tall women won’t go out with short guys, so I asked her about this. “All my boyfriends have been 5’8”.

“My name’s Desiree. That’s ‘desire’ with an extra ‘e’.”

Although, this teacher I’m in love with, he’s 6’5”.

I discovered Charles worked at Trader Joe’s when I heard someone asking him about their products. It was funny, because I heard a guy who worked at 24 Hour Fitness answering questions about their membership fees. No matter where you work, people at parties will pepper you with questions. There were five people at the party from out of state.

Charles told me he was from South Central L.A., and we talked about L.A.’s basketball teams. He said his dad loved the Lakers but that he was a Clippers fan. When I heard him talking about the movie Love and Basketball, he mentioned that he had a part in it. I forgot to ask him if he caught the mistake in the movie, where the kids were supposed to be at an L.A. Clippers game, but it was the early ’80s, when the team was still in San Diego.

Charles brought me a screwdriver that was strong. A few minutes later he offered me a shot of vodka. I said, “Do people drink vodka straight up?” He said, “Yeah, man, the Russians. We’re gonna do it like the Russians.” Me and a group of five downed our shots in the small, crowded kitchen. Charles shook his bald head and said, “My alcohol tolerance has gotten way too high.”

When I started snapping photos, the blonde said something about her breasts in one of the shots. She called them “Mary Kate and Ashley.” When I wrote that down, she said, “Oh, no. I’m going to have to keep my mouth shut.” She laughed when I said, “They probably weigh more than the Olsen twins do.”

I get a kick out of eavesdropping on people who are trying to pick up on each other and the awkward introductions. One woman had it down, though. She said to one guy, “My name’s Desiree. That’s ‘desire’ with an extra ‘e.’”

When people started to head over to the Typhoon, someone said, “That guy is our designated driver? He’s got a flask!” A few girls left and said they’d meet everyone over there. I went to the patio to talk with the smokers.

I met a woman from Point Loma who told me she was Portuguese, and we talked about the large Portuguese population in that area. She has a computer job, and we talked about technology creeping into current movies. I said, “I saw The Departed the other day, and they used computers in crucial
scenes a few times, and cell phones were a bigger star than Nicholson." She said, "Yeah, and sometimes you can find things out..." She told me about a boyfriend she had for a long time and that she discovered on MySpace that he had a wife and kid. "Then I checked a baby registry and saw that his wife was pregnant at some point when we were still seeing each other.”

A guy came out on the patio and handed his friend a drink called a Scooby Snack. I asked what was in it, and they spent ten minutes debating it. I said, "Are you guys bartenders?" And they said, "No, we're alcoholics." One guy complained that the people inside were too loud, so he shut the patio door and said, "Let's get rid of the white noise by shutting the door. It's all physics, baby.”

I was talking to two guys who thought it was weird we all had the initials "J.B." When a big woman standing nearby chimed in, someone asked her what she did. "I play professional football." I said, "For the Scorpions?" Her eyes lit up and she said, "Give me a high five, motherfucker! Nobody ever knows our team.” I asked her what position she played, and she said she was a DL and tackle. She had a shirt that said "Sharing is caring.” When someone mentioned it, she laughed and asked that person to share the joint he had. I heard her later talking about a big hit she put on someone in a game.

I met a guy who sells rental cars for Enterprise. I said I thought buying a rental car was a bad idea because people tend to drive them hard. As he was convincing me of how they are better maintained, I was distracted by a guy peeing over the balcony. Someone asked him why he didn’t just go inside. He laughed and mumbled something about the trees needing to be watered.

There was one girl who confessed that she was underage. As she sipped her beer, she’d ask whoever was nearby to hit her on the back so she could burp. A guy said, "She is cute as hell, but that burping is just grossing me out.”

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**San Diego Reader**

October 26, 2006

23
Three-Hour Tour

This wasn’t just plain terrible, this was fancy terrible. This was terrible with raisins in it.

— Dorothy Parker

It’s not fair to say I was dragged here. The embarrassing truth is that I came willingly. I gave this day away to them — boat volunteers the pudgy one. The other one, tenuous of figure and disposition, lifts her head in agreement — a practiced, gentle motion; her slender neck, I suppose, cannot support any sudden moves.

“Well, it’s been great talking to you both, but I need to go...uh...over there.” I rise to my feet and make my way, with no small amount of effort, past the dynamic duo — the thought of stepping aside clearly does not occur to them; they watch in silence as I squeeze between their immobile bodies and the table.

I stand at the bar and count seconds as Mr. Flair demonstrates his bartending prowess. When I reach 23, he catches the neck of the bottle and says, “Oh. Sorry. I guess I’m in my own world.”

“Aren’t we all,” I say. Then, handing off my empty glass, I mutter, “Red. Please.”

Did you want to eat?” Jane gestures at the spread — chicken, fish, rice with almonds and raisins, two types of salad, and a basket of buns, all packed onto a white tablecloth. Did you want to eat? Jane gestures at the spread — chicken, fish, rice with almonds and raisins, two types of salad, and a basket of buns, all packed onto a white tablecloth.

“Hi! Are you a spouse?”

Such a strange question requires a cautious response: “No,” I say. “Oh. Do you work here?”

“Nope.” Those faces, staring at me, so expectant. Okay, fine! I’m here with my sister, Jane. She works with the company. I just came along for the ride. You know, free food and wine and all that.

They nod in unison. “I’m a sister-in-law,” volunteers the pudgy one. The reddening of his face. I want him to drop it. Because that would mean something interesting has happened.

Oh, no, what’s this? Not these two. They’re walking toward me with that look of determination and there’s nowhere I can —

“Hi! Are you a spouse?”

“Okay, catch. Flip, catch. Flip — OH!”

Where is she now? Nowhere to be seen, as I sit, alone, at one of several dozen round banquet tables, staring at a young bartender whose vivid gaze makes me wonder if he just snuck a green puff. He flips an empty wine bottle into the air — not very far — and catches it. Flip, catch. Flip, catch. Flip — OH! Okay, catch. I want him to miss next time. I want to hear the crashing of glass, see the jerking of heads and the reddening of his face. I want him to drop it. Because that would mean something interesting has happened.

“Hi! Are you a spouse?”

“I’m a sister-in-law,” volunteers the pudgy one. The reddening of his face. I want him to drop it. Because that would mean something interesting has happened.

“Okay, catch. Flip, catch. Flip — OH!”

I stand at the bar and count seconds as Mr. Flair demonstrates his bartending prowess. When I reach 23, he catches the neck of the bottle and says, “Oh. Sorry. I guess I’m in my own world.”

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I throw a buck in the fishbowl of dollar bills off my empty glass, I mutter, “Red. Please.”

“Red? You’re not going to eat with me?”

“Is that your family?”

Bella’s up there with the pirates, she was running in circles and ran right into a pole. Smacked her face. She’s okay now. Did you want to eat? Jane gestures at the spread — chicken, fish, rice with almonds and raisins, two types of salad, and a basket of buns, all packed onto a white tablecloth.

“Can you eat first.”

“Are you having fun?” Jane asks, out of breath. “Bella’s up there with the pirates, she was running in circles and ran right into a pole. Smacked her face. She’s okay now. Did you want to eat? Jane gestures at the spread — chicken, fish, rice with almonds and raisins, two types of salad, and a basket of buns, all packed onto a white tablecloth.

“You can eat first.”

“Can’t. Just...if you start, if you eat now, then maybe you can keep an eye on Bella while I eat. I’ll only need 30 seconds.” As quickly as she appeared, my sister vanishes in the direction of the platform at the front of the boat. I don’t see, but can hear the squeals of at least two-dozen children, including my niece, delighting in the antics of pirates, those costumed professionals...
paid to entertain the employees’ progeny with props and a puppet show.

I look to the banquet table just in time to see a girl drop a ball of bread from her plate, chase the bun across the carpeted floor, and finally retrieve it from under a table. She rejoins her mother at the buffet and I am terrified she might plop the bun into the basket. Don’t do it, I silently will her. My eyes do not leave her plate, her hands that are all over that bun — I’ll have to intervene if she makes a move. There’s no way I’ll be able to tell which is the tainted bun. And even if I could, how will I know how many others it’s touched? I sigh with relief when the girl reaches the end of the table, the bun still in her sticky grasp. To avoid another near miss, I grab a plate and get in line.

Back at my table, I am joined by Ed; for the first time today I am happy we were all made to wear nametags. Ed’s wife, Regina, is keeping an eye on their son on the platform.

“She wants me to ‘switch off’ when I’m done eating. I told her I wasn’t coming along to baby-sit,” I say, aware of the shrill defensiveness in my voice.

“I mean, I love my niece, but I don’t want to be, you know, responsible right now. I just want to chill. Drink some wine, eat some of this...”, I look at my plate, “chicken.” Ed nods, smiling, like me, he’s family. He knows we shouldn’t have to do anything but eat and drink and smile when we’re introduced to company folk.

In a conspiratorial tone, I say, “Let’s get more. Ed. Do it with me, let’s get more food and keep eating — that way we’ll never have to switch off.” Ed smiles in agreement. I decide I like Ed. I’m on my first bite of plate two when Jane returns, exhausted, carrying Bella in her arms. My niece’s face is painted — is she a glittery, pink and purple kitty with a mane of corn-silk spirals. I’m appreciating her cuteness when I hear, “Where are our plates?”

Regina is staring at the table, her brows furrowed in either anger or annoyance. Ed looks to me for help — we had been charged with the duty of watching Jane and Regina’s plates while they were away, but we had abandoned our post for selfish gains, leaving our loved ones to suffer the casualty of lost food. I talked him into it; this was my fault. How to make things right?

“We did our best to protect it,” I blurt. “There were, like, four people who tried to take it away and we fought them off as best we could.” Ed nods and beseeches his wife with innocent eyes. Encouraged, I continue: “We turned our heads for two seconds — two — and when we looked back, the plates were gone. That’s when I caught sight of them — boat employees, dressed as ninjas, flipping and somersaulting toward the kitchen, and they never once dropped their goods.

It was pretty amazing to watch, actually.”

Ed is no longer smiling, just looking at me with his head cocked to one side, as if to say, Where the fault are you going with this? “Anyway, you should just get more,” I suggest to Regina. “I mean, the buffet’s only a few feet away.” When she rises to replace her meal, she does so backwards, as if to keep a wary eye on me.

“Come on, Bella,” I say, setting my empty glass on the table and lifting my niece into my arms. “Let’s play ‘Which Server Has the Best Desserts on Their Tray.'”

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**Dear Bankers Pen:**

My husband is a big-time barbecue enthusiast. So, I planned a barbecue-themed party for his birthday and ordered a fancy new grill from an online vendor. Long story short: it arrived late, and our barbecue party had no grill! I know I can’t have that day back, but what can I do?

— Ticked Off in Tampa

**Dear Ticked:**

Stop cooking your food outside. What is this?

**The dawn of man? Here in civilization, we cook our food indoors. In a kitchen. Now, I’ve never actually seen this happen, but my personal chef assures me this is how it’s done.**

Dear Bankers Pen:

I’m a busy working mother of three. After a full workday and running the kids all around, the last thing I have time for is stopping by the bank. I heard you can open a checking account online with no paperwork at wamu.com. What do you think?

— Ticked Off in Tampa

**Dear Swamped:**

I think you’re out to brunch. If you keep raving about banking without paperwork and mythical “online” accounts, people will think you’re one olive short of a martini. Listen, if you want to open a checking account, just walk into the bank and talk to the men with suits. I’ve never heard of this “wamu.com” bank though. Is it near the expressway?

— Swamped in San Diego
I HAD TAKEN EIGHT OR NINE GUIDED TOURS OF SAN DIEGO IN TWO WEEKS WHEN A FRIEND ASKED if I was tired of sightseeing. I had to say no. Being out on buses and boats and trolleys with tourists, I felt like a tourist too. On my mission to see San Diego as tourists see it, I was reminded of how pretty the pretty parts of the city are. And I never got bored because although most tours cover the same ground, guides tell the tourists different — sometimes contradictory — stories.

Big Buses
No one was more hilarious than George (not his real name), the driver/guide on the $29 Contactours city tour. George’s audience that morning included African...
Americans, white Americans, Hispanics, a Chinese couple from Australia, and a sprinkling of Europeans. We filled about three-quarters of the 47-seat bus. It had huge tinted windows but lacked seatbelts or buttons for reclining. There were upper baggage compartments and overhead consoles for directing airflow and turning on reading lights. A bathroom had been built into the far rear of the vehicle, though George warned us, “It has standing water only, guys. Standing water only! That means it doesn’t flush.”
As George drove the bus south on Harbor Drive downtown, approaching the convention center, he pointed out condominiums across the street whose value “from the 13th floor up” was $15 million (or so he claimed, but a property agent said that was “ridiculous”; they average $1 to $1.5 million). “That’s where the movers and shakers live,” he said. The convention center, he continued, “was built with a nautical theme in mind.” When he challenged us to guess what its curving glass windows might represent, one passenger ventured, “Waves,” prompting George to cry out, “You’re absolutely right. Tidal waves, guys. It represents tidal waves.”

Soon we were passing through “what they call the barrio. The Barrio Logan. This is where a large concentration of the Hispanic culture resides. Now, incidentally, the Hispanic culture in San Diego accounts for about 32 percent of our total population of 1.2 million people,” George informed us (he was close: 27 percent and 1.3 million, per SANDAG). He praised the beauty of Chicano Park’s murals, “painted by amateur artists that live right here in this neighborhood.” (Some murals were, though others were painted by professional artists from outside San Diego.)

We were heading for Coronado. Coronado, George announced, is “the crown city,” a term he deemed appropriate “because the prices here are fit for royals. Oh yeah! They’re fit for royals, you guys. See, this is a sought-after area to live… If you want to live here, you must first submit your name to the homeowners’ association [there’s no such thing]. Then you can put a number in, and anytime a property becomes available, they hold a lottery. If you’re lucky enough, they’ll pull your name, and you can bid on the property. The property always starts at $1.5 million [another exaggeration]. One point five mill! And then when you buy your house, you don’t get to live in it. You tear it down! Then you build something else!”

All around me, people shook their heads and looked flabbergasted.

Out the left-hand side of the bus he directed our attention to the cottage at 1116 Third Street. The previous month it had sold for a bargain price, $1.2 million, according to George ($645,000, according to a realtor). But it “was the former summer cottage for a woman who made a movie here called Some Like It Hot. Her name was Marilyn Monroe. Yes!” (“No, it’s absolutely not true,” said the deputy director of the Coronado Historical Association.)

Despite the stratospheric prices, Coronadans had “a real laid-
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Back attitude,” George said. “You’ll notice nobody’s in a hurry.” We passed a café on Orange Avenue. “You’ll also notice that they sit outside to have their breakfast and lattes and read the paper. But with that comes a very strange mindset. It really does.” George told us to notice the towering Norfolk Island pine tree surrounded by a little circle of grass just south of Tenth Street between Isabella and Orange. He announced that it was “the smallest state park in all of California.” People guffawed at this, but George again gave no hint that he was making it up (he was). As further testimony to the attitudes of Coronado’s residents, he mentioned a requirement that all building plans be submitted to the homeowners’ association. “They will look at your plans over and over and over again. They will look at your plans over and over and over again.” They have a plant police. They have a plant police.” he insisted. “You see, there are volunteers that are issued police cars by the Coronado Police Department. One of their functions is to drive the city of Coronado and look for structures that don’t have plants outside. Yeah! If you don’t have plants outside, you’re gonna get a knock on your door, and there will be someone there to write you a ticket. It’s a $50 fine, all right? It’s a $50 fine to not have plants outside!” You could contest this in court, he added, but “they’ll give you community service. And anybody want to guess what the community service is gonna be? Planting flowers! That’s right. That’s right.”

George let the group disembark for a 15-minute bathroom and picture-taking break at the Hotel Del (“one of the last large all-wood structures that’s still in operation”). Then he hustled us back onto the bus; we had a lot of ground to cover. On the way to the Gaslamp Quarter, George peppered us with more spicy tidbits, including the “fact” that “the serum for polio” was discovered here in San Diego. “Sure enough, In La Jolla!” (Although Jonas Salk established the Salk Institute here in the early ’60s, he developed his polio vaccine in Pittsburgh in the ’50s.) Entering lower Fifth Avenue, George assured us of the Gaslamp Quarter’s extreme safety, then added that it “was actually started back in 1900 by a gentleman named Alonzo Horton.” (Horton purchased his 800 acres downtown in 1865, but didn’t start development until after the Civil War.)
George's sketch of Wyatt Earp's history in the Gaslamp was a classic example of tall-tale storytelling, including such highlights as the fact that Earp's common-law wife was known as “Big Nose Kate” for her propensity to meddle in other people's business (Big Nose Kate was not Earp's wife and was never in San Diego); that she was a prostitute who became the madam for a bordello Earp ran above a saloon, gambling hall, and oyster bar (“Do you people realize that oysters were the poor man's Viagra? Oh yeah! Oh yeah!”); that Earp himself had assumed the job of having sex with all his prostitutes to check their “quality”; and that Kate had been assembled to do just that. However, the buildings they remain standing. “Remember when Zorro was being chased by the soldiers and Sergeant Garcia? He'd be jumping from rooftop to rooftop. This was where it was done, gang. Right here! Now you can see how he was able to jump from rooftop to rooftop!” Not all of George's outlandish statements were historical or cultural. When we headed

happened, our governor and mayor mandated that all of our public buildings had to be able to withstand an earthquake of 7.1. So all these buildings had to be photographed. Taken down to the ground and rebuilt with steel I-beams.” “Really!” someone on the bus exclaimed, impressed. (In fact, most of the 1915 Exposition buildings were temporary, and most were torn down after the exposition; of those left standing, some have been rebuilt in recent decades but not in response to the 1989 earthquake.) The Museum of Art was built in 1927.) Passing the House of Pacific Relations International Cottages, George claimed, preposterously, that they had been used in the filming of the old television show Zorro. “Remember when Zorro was being chased by the solder and Sergeant Garcia? He'd be jumping from rooftop to rooftop.”

From downtown, we drove to Balboa Park, where George stopped the bus for a moment in front of the San Diego Museum of Art. He explained that the park's Spanish-style structures, built for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, were all “supposed to be torn down by 1917. But San Diegans loved these buildings so much that we demanded they remain standing.” However, the buildings had been assembled using “baling wire and chewing gum, so in the ‘60s, they were falling apart.” But then an earthquake had saved all the buildings. “Yeah, you heard me right!” George declared. “An earthquake!” That 7.1-magnitude temblor had struck at 5:04 p.m. on October 17, 1989, he said, and though “it only lasted 15 seconds, guys, it almost leveled San Francisco! Well, when that...
for the freeway again, he directed our attention to some unkempt Washingtonia palms and told us there was a reason for their shaggy appearance. "They're more affectionately known as Samson palms," he said; like the biblical Samson, they suffered from any attempt to shear them. "If you cut those dead limbs away from the trunk of the tree, you know what happens? The tree weakens and dies, 'cause it loses all of its insulation." He mangled facts about geography ("Do you know that Interstate 5 is the longest freeway in the United States?") as well as local industry. When our bus passed a car carrier loaded with new Volkswagens, he announced, "All these cars are assembled in Tijuana. They put 'em on trucks like this and bring them back over...and some of them go into the yard, where they're put on big ships and shipped out to the rest of the country."

Our next-to-last stop was La Jolla, "the living and playing area for sports figures, movie stars, playwrights, and entrepreneurs," according to George. Although we might think those structures up on Mt. Soledad were small hotels and motels, they were "actually single-family residences!" A small one-bedroom cottage built during the 1940s might run us about $995,000, he warned. "But count yourself lucky, because you could pay as much as $46 million for a home here." People were sucking in their breaths at that news, but George dropped a bigger bomb-
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San Diego Reader October 26, 2006

“...and I probably already know more about San Diego than a lot of natives.”

medicracy has no place on Prospect Street.” Old Town, too, offered gas-

shell when we motored past La Jolla Cove. “If you would like to get yourself a little bit of investment property while you’re here quick, let me show you a couple of fixer-uppers right here on our left.” He was indicating the historic Red Roost and Red Rest cottages, long deteriorated because of disagreements over their renovation. But in George’s version, they were “on the market right now. They’re running for 1.8 mil each.” The petite Chinese Australian woman behind me blurted out, “No way!”

Dining in La Jolla made more sense than investing in its property, George advised. Especially on Prospect Street, we couldn’t go wrong. “Wherever you decide you want to eat, it will be a fine, fine meal, because tronomic wonders about which George rhap-

sodized as he steered the bus onto Interstate 5 and headed for the historic state park. The steak burrito at Fred’s was “a man’s dish,” he told us — two and a half pounds of steak strips, guacamole, sour cream, beans, and other tasty ingredients. “It’ll hurt you!” he said, in admiration. The chicken chingaderas, he continued, looked like a hockey puck, “and like they say on television, it’s a mouthful of joy. Oh yes, it is.” But we should be mindful that restaur-

ants in Old Town all closed at 9:30 p.m.,

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Patrick, and me aboard. "We haven’t been packed a lot," Patrick acknowledged. “But usually we have more than this," I didn’t mind. I asked Patrick about his background.

Now 40, Patrick had gotten a “hospitality degree” in tourism and destination development, he told me. "But I used to work for TWA as a flight attendant. That was the best job I ever had." A baseball fan, he’d been able to visit ballparks all over the country. But when American Airlines bought TWA, he’d dropped to the bottom of the seniority list. "That’s when I got involved with stand-up comedy." He’d lived in Denver and aspired to comedy. "That’s when I got into comedy. Mike picked me up at the bus stop in front of the Kings Inn in Hotel Circle in a bus that was less plush than Contactors’ bus. A scuffed rubber mat ran up the aisle, and there was no toilet. We made..."
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We have come to a half dozen other hotels, collecting Mike’s passengers. Some
would spend the next ten hours with him, not only touring the city but also
taking a harbor cruise and then procuring, to an afternoon visit to
Tijuana. Mike asked the retired couple from Syd-
ney, Australia, to show
him their passports, and
he did the same for the
three high-spirited cou-
ples from Turkey who clambered aboard in Old
Town. Although the
Turks had their docu-
ments, Mike warned the
men that when they later
reentered the United
States, one of them
might be pulled over to
the secondary inspection
station. If that happened,
the interruption might be
brief, but it also might
consume several hours.
Mike would be able to
wait for about 15 min-
utes, but beyond that, any
Turk who was delayed would have to
make his way back
downtown by trolley.
“Every now and then, it’s
been a little more
touchy,” the driver said,
apologetic. But the Turks
shrugged their shoulders
and said they’d take the
risk.

As we came down
the Front Street exit off
Interstate 5, heading
south into downtown, we
passed an old man
holding a sign announc-
ing his lack of shelter.
“Are there a lot of home-
less people in San
Diego?” the Australian
matron inquired.

“Plenty!” Mike
replied. But that had a lot
to do with San Diego’s
climate, he said. “After
all, would you rather be
homeless in New York
or Chicago or in San
Diego?” he asked the
woman.

“It’s sad,” she com-
mented. Mike didn’t
seem to be losing sleep
over it. Many of the dere-
licts more or less chose to
be on the street, he told
the woman, adding that
plenty of work was avail-
able for those who
wanted it.

I later learned that Mike had been born in San Diego, and though he'd lived in several other places, he'd spent a dozen or so years here as an adult. He seemed happy to brag about the city's accomplishments ("only the second in the nation to set aside a large parcel of land for a city park," largest outdoor organ in the world) but also at ease deflating its pretensions. When our bus moved north of Broadway downtown, for example, he offered, "If I were to tell you we had a financial district, this would be it. Nothing but a bunch of banks and attorneys' offices. A far cry from Wall Street, right?" Later he informed the group, "We do have a Little Italy. But let me emphasize how little it is. There's basically just a couple city blocks dedicated to some fine Italian restaurants." The Maritime Museum he characterized as "kind of heard before (but later substantially confirmed with a 1988 article in the Journal of San Diego History). San Diego de Alcalá (a.k.a. St. Didacus) "worked at a Franciscan friary back in the mid-1400s, and evidently when he was there, several miraculous events took place due to his efforts," the guide explained. One of the most significant wonders occurred 100 years after he died. King Philip's son Carlos had suffered a small but quaint.

He did boast, "We've got the nicest climate in the world" but won points from me for the accuracy of his rainfall figure ("like, 11 inches a year, if we're lucky!") and for pointing out that the natural disaster San Diegans most fear isn't earthquakes but wildfires. (No other guide mentioned that, and statements about the average annual rainfall ranged from 5 inches to a foot.)

Mike shared a story about San Diego's namesake that I had never serious injury, and desperate to save him, the king had ordered the Franciscan's corpse dug up and "put it in bed with his son…. The next day Carlos was healed. That's a true story," Mike informed the group, adding, "I know I'd be healed, too, if I had a 100-year-old corpse in bed with me, wouldn't you?" The Franciscan was canonized 22 years later, and in 1602 the Spanish explorer Sebastián Vizcaíno arrived here in a ship that bore the new saint's name. Vizcaíno changed the name of the bay from San Miguel (as Cabrillo had called it) to San Diego.

By 11:30, Mike had dropped off most of his passengers at the waterfront for their harbor cruise. He took a few others to Seaport Village, where they ambled off to browse. I asked Mike about the Tijuana portion of the package. His passengers would have only about 90 minutes on their own to explore Tijuana, he said. The trip down and back would consume the rest of the afternoon. Some people felt disappointed. "They kind of expect it to be so much more. But depending on your perspective,
it’s changed so much! Hugely!” Other visitors delighted in Tijuana’s anarchic hurly-burly, he said. “I made almost $120 in tips alone yesterday, just because my Tijuana group had so much fun.” He added that when the tips were combined with his base pay of $12 an hour, “It makes this job fairly lucrative.” As a four-year veteran, he was at the top of his company’s pay scale. Other drivers might earn a base of just $9 or $10 an hour. “But a lot of these guys are basically losers,” he said. “I hate to say that. But they’re really lazy. They don’t want to hustle it or work it.”

**Boat People**

The boats are so big that many people can’t even see the guide; as a result, the commentary can sound like a voice on the radio — easy to ignore without appearing rude. So people chat or line up at the snack bars or use the restrooms or direct their attention to the panoramas.

On the Hornblower cruise, I tried to concentrate on what the guides were saying, but I had to work at it. Two young men handled the narrative duties (one on the north bay and the other on the south), and while they were professional, their dispassionate delivery made me feel they wouldn’t take it personally if no one was listening. At one point, the guy who delivered the north-bay spiel appeared not to be paying attention to his own words. He mentioned that the Shelter Island public boat-launching ramp was “fairly close to the only entrance to the bay,” then minutes later said the same thing about the public fishing pier. “I’m north part of the bay to the north bay and the other south), and while they were professional, their dispassionate delivery made me feel they wouldn’t take it personally if no one was listening. At one point, the guy who delivered the north-bay spiel appeared not to be paying attention to his own words. He mentioned that the Shelter Island public boat-launching ramp was “fairly close to the only entrance to the bay,” then minutes later said the same thing about the public fishing pier. “I’m

**Excursion cruises follow** and San Diego Harbor Excursion cruises follow the same format: the boats motor from their berths next to Broadway Pier up through the north part of the bay to the mouth of the harbor; then they return to their bases. After discharging some passengers and taking on others, they head south, passing under the Coronado Bay Bridge and down to Naval Station San Diego at 32nd Street. Both charged $17 for half the bay and only $5 more for the second hour of touring. On both I observed that it was easier for passengers to tune out the guide’s spiel than it was for passengers on the tour buses.
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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.

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

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rounded by palm trees near the top of Point Loma was once the home of Reuben H. Fleet ("the one who set up the first airmail system in the United States in 1917"). Ballast Point, he tells his listeners, "got its name because the Yankee traders and sailors used to come out here, and they would have cobbles-stones in the keel of their boats. They needed those as ballast to make the trip around the Horn. Then when they got here, they would dump 'em out and load up with things like whale oil. We 'em out and load up with here, they would dump the oil. Then when they got to point Loma, the Nimitz and Rugar aircraft carriers, the Mulway, Jayhawk Coast Guard helicopters hover, S-3 Vikings take off and land at North Island, and SEAL insertion boats slice through the water. Coates sounded proud when he pointed out the Navy ammunition bunkers at North Island.

"Rosie the Riveter and her fellow women were able to make 11 B-24 bombers in a 24-hour period."

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.
When the vehicle pulls out of its base at the Seaport Village parking lot, the crew plays the theme from *Gilligan's Island*. The Pirates of the Caribbean music accompanies every launch, and other musical selections carry the cornball theme further.

“First Mate Kimmy” was our guide the morning a young family of four and I climbed aboard. Kimmy explained that unlike the converted World War II landing craft used for tourism on the East Coast, our conveyance had been built in upstate New York four and a half years ago and cost about $250,000. “So you break it, you buy it!” she chirped.

Kimmy made a number of statements I’m pretty sure were true (that *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes* was filmed in the parking lot of the old police station next to Seaport Village, for example, or that San Diego’s once-large tuna industry had relocated to Mexico and other countries such as Samoa to escape excessive American regulation). But she mixed these in with gems that seemed to go over the heads of the touring family but boggled me. Kimmy told us that Little Italy was a “mostly residential” neighborhood located “on the hillside” adjoining Lindbergh Field and formed when “hundreds of thousands” of Italian Americans had migrated there to work in the tuna industry. She said the reason Charles Lindbergh had had to use a periscope on his famous transatlantic crossing was that “even the windshield [of the *Spirit of St. Louis*] was used to hold fuel.” She identified Point Loma as “a 500-foot-long hill jutting into the Pacific” and pointed to concrete patches on its face that she claimed sealed up the mouths of pollutant-leaking abandoned coal mines. She declared that Scripps Institution of Oceanography conducted its research on the institute’s pier on San Diego Bay. When we passed the helicopter hangars on North Island, she said, “During World War II, 40 percent of our workforce was women, and just beyond those hangars there were a couple of factories. That’s actually where Rosie the Riveter worked;” she exclaimed, as if Rosie had been a real person. “As some of you may know, her and her fellow women were able to make 11 B-24 bombers in a 24-hour period.”

The tourist family looked as though they were loving the SEAL tour. The weather was halcyon, and we spent a long interval off Point Loma circling the bait dock where sea lions lolled. The Navy dolphin trainers were working that morning, and that provided more grist for Kimmy’s mill. Although we caught no clear sight of the dolphins, the guide held up a picture of a dolphin and said, “That’s a bottlenose dolphin. They’re not as fast as the rough-toothed dolphins, which are faster, but they’re more common.”

There is hope...

Pacific Sleep Medicine Research Centers offer hope, and help, for patients who suffer from a wide range of medical conditions. Transportation may be provided to qualified participants, and qualified participants may receive compensation for their time and travel.

Do you have trouble falling asleep?

A research study is being conducted to evaluate two approved medications in an investigational use in the treatment of insomnia.

If you have been diagnosed with chronic insomnia and experience difficulty falling asleep and staying asleep, you may qualify for participation in this study. Qualified participants will receive study drug and study-related physician visits at no cost and could be compensated up to $2,750 for time and travel. If you would like more information or think you may be eligible for this study, please contact the physician’s office below.

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

Pacific Sleep Medicine Services is conducting a research study of an investigational medication for the treatment of pain following shingles (post herpetic neuralgia). Qualified participants receive:
- Study medication and examinations
- Reimbursement for time and travel

Do you experience constipation caused by your pain medication?

Constipation is one of the most common effects of pain medications, and it can be very uncomfortable—even debilitating. We are currently involved in a clinical research trial of an investigational drug to relieve constipation caused by pain medicine.

You may be eligible if you:
- Are 18 years or older
- Have had non-cancer pain for at least 2 months
- Experience constipation caused by prescription opioid pain medication

All study-related care is provided at no charge, including study-related physical exams, lab services, and study medication or placebo.

Participants may be reimbursed up to $600 for time and travel.

Insomnia

Sleepless Nights Exhausted Days

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

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

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

Qualified participants could receive compensation for incidental costs and travel.

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

877-927-5337

Pacific Sleep Medicine Services

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of one with a camera affixed to his fin. “That’s one of the ways the Navy’s utilizing these guys in Iraq right now,” she said. “They can patrol the harbor. If they see something that’s not supposed to be there, they can go up and tell the sailors. The sailor will then give them a buoy to put on the obstruction, and then we can send one of our frogmen down there to destroy it. But dolphins and sea lions use sonar, and they’re able to detect what our computers cannot detect. So they’re happy to be working with the U.S. Navy.”

I talked to Lorin Stewart, the director of operations for Historic Tours of America’s San Diego arm. Poised and gracious, Stewart grew up in suburban San Jose and studied theater in college, then worked in London as an actor for several years (including three with the Royal Shakespeare Company). When he returned to the United States in 1989, he took a job as a guide and trolley driver for the tour company’s newly opened San Diego branch. It seemed like a move that would allow him to use his skills. That proved true, but his enthusiasm soon caught the eye of the company’s higher-ups, and he began a quick climb through the management ranks. (This year Stewart is serving as chairman of the board of directors for the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau, a volunteer position.)

He says planning for the San Diego SEAL tours began in 1999, and the initial cruise took place in August 2001. “It was one month before 9/11,” he points out. The aftermath of the New York terrorist strike rocked leisure-travel operations across America, and for the San Diego amphibious operation, “It was a very challenging time.” Stewart says at times the company let passengers ride for free to keep the vehicles out in the public eye. Besides needing to attract customers, the operation required fine-tuning. For about two years, it covered both Mission Bay and San Diego Bay, an itinerary that took at least two hours, sometimes more. “The on-and-off trolley tour is unique in that if you have to go to the bathroom, you can get off,” Stewart says. “But asking a group of people to stay anywhere for two hours was a problem.” Stewart solved it by eliminating the Mission Bay leg and extending the time on San Diego Bay. At 90 minutes rather than two hours-plus, the tours have gotten a “phenomenal” response, Stewart told me. Over the Fourth of July weekend, the amphibious vehicles each day had carried some 500 people, the majority of whom had filled out comment cards testifying to their satisfaction, he claimed. The company’s Old Town Trolley tours transport almost twice that many customers on the busiest days. When the trolley tours were introduced in Key West, Florida, in the early 1970s, they were an innovation, according to Stewart. Up to then, the Gray Line bus model — four-hour (or so) city surveys in which the tourists got off the bus only for a break at some of the tourist sites — had filled out comment cards testifying to their satisfaction, he claimed.

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

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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
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• 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
programmed destination — had dominated the guided-tour business. "You stayed together as a group," Stewart says. But in the do-your-own-thing, have-it-your-way climate of that era, people seemed thrilled by the option of getting off their tour vehicle when they came to an attraction they wanted to explore, then rejoining a later one. This was the fundamental twist the Historic Tours of America founders offered. The biggest challenge of running such a business is having enough vehicles on the street so that people don't have to wait long once they're ready to reboard. (About two dozen Old Town Trolleys are moving through San Diego's streets during the busiest times of the year.) But the trolleys have never been merely a transportation service. As long as they're on the trolley, riders are treated to patter from their driver about Cabrillo's discovery of the bay, Kate Sessions's role in developing San Diego's horticultural landscape, Alonzo Horton's development schemes downtown — the usual subjects. (Another fixture is the prerecorded voice of impressionist Rich Little giving safety injunctions in the famous cadences of John Wayne, Richard Nixon, Humphrey Bogart, Kermit the Frog, and other one-time celebrities.)

Unlike my experience on the SEAL tour, I didn't hear any gross exaggerations the day I took the Old Town Trolley. But I confessed to Stewart I wasn't sure what difference it made if someone goes back to Missouri thinking coal was once mined on Point Loma or Horton founded downtown in 1900 rather than 1867. Does it matter? I asked him. "The darnedest things can come out of our cast members' mouths," he acknowledged. "But personally, I think it matters," he continued. "The content has to be accurate." At the same time, "We don't want people who are historians. We want people who can tell a good story. Have a great time. Tell a joke or two… It's a balancing act."

**Ghostly Tours**

Stewart's Ghosts and Gravestones tour was another balancing act, but one upon which he brought down the curtain last year. "We started the ghost tour right around the same time as the SEAL tour," he told me. It began as a straightforward narrative of the history of sites like the Whaley House that over time have become associated with supernatural phenomena. "A bunch of people liked that," he said. "But an equal number of people thought it was absolutely boring. They expected ghosts to come down and fly at them." The latter tended to be nonbelievers celebrating a special occasion with their ghost-believing spouses or children or friends.

Stewart says the nonbelievers pelted him with negative feedback, and he eventually added elements to the tours "to engage their brains." He and his team created costumes, scripts, lights, stagecraft, and magic. "It grew to this huge thing," he says. "And all of a sudden, the comment cards soared. The nonbelievers started loving the tour." But the believers for the first time started writing "not cards but letters!" They contained angry accusations: "You were making fun of this most important subject. I was having a spiritual experience, and your clown came and scared the spirits away. I want my money back!" they demanded.

"It was a nightmare," Stewart says. Another realization also was troubling. Stewart says in all the market research ConVis has done over the years into what draws visitors to San Diego, "No one in any survey anywhere associated death and fright and ghosts with San Diego." That might be the case for a city like London or Boston or Savannah (where Stewart claims 18 different ghost tours operate). But he came to believe that ghost tours in San Diego were "a square peg in a round hole," and on October 31, 2005, he decided to close that part of his operation.

Thirty-six-year-old Charles Spratley was on...
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As part of your study participation you will receive at no cost:
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- Study medication
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- Laboratory work for the study

After your initial visits, study participants will be seen approximately every 2 weeks.

If you are interested in finding out more about this research study, or if you know someone such as a family member or friend who might be interested in this study, please contact the person listed below.

Accelovance
Dr. William Shapiro

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- Have regular menstrual cycles with heavy bleeding
- Not have any other bleeding disorder

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his honeymoon in Las Vegas when a friend text-messaged him about Stewart’s decision. Spratley and this friend had both worked for Stewart’s ghostly operation, and they’d been yearning to launch a version of their own. “We’d wanted to put a darker spin on it than Historic Tours of America did,” Spratley recalls. “Theirs wasn’t bad, but it was Disneyish, and I’ve always found that history is rarely Disneyish. I always say I like to tell the good, the bad, and the heinous.”

At the end of March, Spratley, Andrea Rustad, and a third friend named Sean Shirai (a former curator for the San Diego Historical Society) started Ghostly Tours in History. Every Thursday through Saturday evening they conduct an excursion that’s been likened to “what would happen if Edgar Allan Poe ever did the Jungle Cruise at Disneyland.”

Customers ride in a rented “limo bus” that itself hints of macabre decadence. The interior is plush and black, and the mirrored ceiling reflects passengers’ fractured images. Banquette seats line the perimeter, except for an area where a full bar has been arranged. On the night I joined them, mournful organ music played in the background; I thought of Disney’s Haunted Mansion.

Spratley was the lead guide that evening, though Shirai (accompanied us. The three principals take turns shoulderling the group-leading tasks. Spratley had donned a broad-pewter handle. Everything we would visit that evening dated from between 1850 and 1900 — “the age of the reign of Victoria,” he announced. “It’s a very interesting time in history.” While prizing gentility and invention, the Victorians had also

“An abdominal wound is quite a leaker, and his assassin managed to follow the bloody trail up the street to his room.”

brimmed black hat, a black rifle coat over striped brown pants, and a yellow silk waistcoat. A red coral fob in the shape of a Buddha’s head dangled from the waistcoat, and Spratley grasped a walking stick with a bloody handle. Everything non-operative fat removal. Complimentary consultation.

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and bled to death. In recent years when teachers chaperoning students’ overnight stays on board had slept in the cabin, some had reported feeling “a presence in the room with them,” Spratley claimed. “One even left in the middle of the night because the bed sheet got violently ripped off her bed twice. She left the ship never to return.”

“Whoa,” someone in our group mumbled.

Spratley recounted two more tales — one about a Chinese fellow who’d been “literally ripped to pieces by the anchor chain” and another about a Scottish stowaway who’d fallen off the main mast, shattered both legs, and died a protracted death. When alive, this boy had loved playing a Scottish variation of tag in which the tagger draws an S (“for Scotland”) on his target’s back, Spratley said. “And many people who have worked here have felt an S on their back. Or a slight shove away from the main mast, perhaps to serve as a warning.”

“I study the paranormal,” Spratley said to me as we strode back to the limo. “I don’t like the term ‘ghost hunter.’ Because when you use the word ‘hunter,’ it implies aggression, and I don’t like that. It is what it is. Why look for it? Anyway, the watched pot never boils. Sometimes you find the most interesting things without looking for them.”

We didn’t find ghostly activity down in the Gaslamp Quarter, but Spratley told more stories there. After our group had assembled at the intersection of Third and Island avenues, the guide instructed us to look up at the corner room on the third story of the Horton Grand Hotel — the most haunted room in the place, by his account.

“The story goes that there was a gambler by the name of Roger Whitaker who was caught cheating at cards one night. Shot in the gut after a fight broke out in a saloon, he escaped in the melee. “Unfortunately an abdominal wound is quite a leaker, as you know, and his assassin managed to follow the bloody trail up the street to his room.” The pursuer kicked down the door, found Whitaker covering in the armoire, and shot him dead. Since then there’d been reports of people being kept awake all night by the sounds of a phantom poker game and other mysterious phenomena, Spratley said. Today it was possible to stay in Room 309, he asserted, “but you’re looking at about a year-long wait. It seems like there’s a long list of people that revel in hauntings and paranormal phenomena. Let’s hope we don’t run into any of those sick bastards tonight, okay?”

At Tesoro, the Mexican restaurant at 5A8 Fifth Avenue, Spratley talked about how the basement, now a night-club, had served as one of San Diego’s first mortuaries. The furniture store on the building’s first floor had helped supply the coffins, and a furniture-store employee had once used a Smith and Wesson .38 to “turn his head into a canoe” in the small room he occupied at the back of the store. Since then tenants had described feelings of being watched and reported strange problems with the elevator, according to Spratley.

“We went to a couple of other places during the course of the evening, but to my surprise, our itinerary didn’t include the Whaley House. “A lot of the stories about the Whaley House are simply not true,” Spratley sniffed. “They’re not historically possible.” The house’s owners over the years had promoted it as a haunted structure, and that had generated revenue that had gone toward preserving it. Spratley thought this was a good thing. He’d
worked as a docent in the house, and he appreciated its historic importance, he indicated.

At the news that Spratley had worked in the house, one of our group, a young blonde from Yorba Linda, perked up. “What did you experience working there?” she pressed. “Did you see any paranormal activity?” He answered, “I will say in all honesty there is something about the house…. I’m a firm believer that energy resides, and it stays, and all energy is emotion.” Having worked inside the house, Spratley said he had sensed “a lot of anger…a lot of oppression…. There is something weird about the house. But what it is has to be investigated first from a historical perspective.”

Walking Tourists
Another enterprise competes with Spratley and his partners. It’s run by Michael Brown, a native San Diegan who, unlike Spratley, has no qualms about calling himself a ghost hunter. Brown leads tourists on foot through Old Town twice a night every Thursday through Sunday during the summer months, charging $19 a head for these outings. “I’ve been ghost-hunting in Old Town for over six and a half years now,” Brown told the group of 30 or so on the night I took the tour. “I had my first two experiences at the Whaley House. Anyone not familiar with the Whaley House? No one spoke up.” That home is listed as one of America’s top ten most haunted houses.

A tallened, athletic-looking man who wore shorts and a sport shirt, Brown has a rapid-fire, no-nonsense delivery style. “If you believe in ghosts or if you don’t, that’s okay with me,” he stated. “I’m not here to change your mind or your opinion. I’m just here to share some of my experiences.” In front of the Racine and Laramie Building, he told us about the ghostly footsteps he’d heard one night. “Another night I made several loops around Washington Square and the plaza.” He pointed to the bench he had sat on while panning the scene with his camera. “It was early in the morning. There was no one here. One pan I started from the left and worked my way around very slowly to the Colorado House and the Wells Fargo Building. To the left of the double doors, there was a small child standing. It was not a shadow. It was the solid-block form, standing away from the wall. I could see the arms, the legs, the head, the torso. As I focused in, it disappeared.”

Brown never joked, and he doled out only snippets of history; instead, the subject of this tour was all the weird stuff Brown supposedly has seen and heard during the last half-dozen years. Throughout the evening, he maintained the same take-it-or-leave-it tone. But after an hour, he shepherded our group into the Jolly Boy restaurant and had us take seats set up in rows in one of the dining rooms. He passed around photographs where most of the evidence of the ghostly presences took the form of a white blob on the print. Then he opened a laptop computer and played examples of “electronic voice phenomena” (“EVPs”) that he claimed to have recorded. Lots of people on the tour seemed impressed by this documentation.

I felt more entertained by the walking tour of Banker’s Hill I took a few weeks later. It was led by an amiable fellow named Marc Menkin. Born and raised on the East Coast, Menkin and his wife Darlyrne moved to San Diego in 1990 when she got a job as the producer of a consumer-news unit at Channel 8. Marc found work as a sales rep, but in his spare time he explored San Diego. He made notes as he did so, and before long, “I knew about a lot of hidden stuff,” he says. He’d show friends these sights when they came to town. He says friends began telling him he should start a

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Business. He took the plunge in July 2003, and by November 2005, Darlynne had decided to give up broadcast journalism to help Marc with his enterprise, Where You Want to Be Tours. On their website, you’ll see an elaborate schedule showing walking and biking tours at least twice every day to locales including the “neighborhoods of Balboa Park,” downtown, Pacific Beach, and La Jolla. I called to make reservations, but Darlynne told me she and her husband had recently been propped up with private groups. A couple of weeks passed before the Menkins had a tour open to the public.

That was the Banker’s Hill excursion. Our group included three middle-aged Hispanic couples from Bakersfield who’d heard about the tour from friends, as well as a San Diego couple who were friends of the Menkins. Marc introduced the neighborhood. “It’s called Banker’s Hill because in the early 1900s, a lot of people who built up downtown San Diego built their mansions and big homes up here,” he said. Even at the busiest times of the year, it remained tranquil. We’d experience that tranquility this morning, he promised, as well as see another important feature of the city. “A lot of people think of San Diego as the beach and the bay and the swaying palm trees,” Marc said. “It is all that, but it also has almost 70 canyons.”

Over the course of our meander, the Menkins led us across the suspension footbridge that crosses the canyon interrupting Spruce Street between Front and Brant. On the wooden structure that unites Quince Street over Maple Canyon, the couple had everyone toss pebbles at a target below. But most of the sights that Marc brought to our attention were smaller in scale. He had us pause to admire the elaborate gate in front of the house at 3340 Second Avenue. “It’s got the Asian influence going,” he noted. “Very Feng Shui.” In the next block, he told us that the garage of one residence had formerly been a carriage house. He pointed out impressive stands of bottlebrush and giant bird-of-paradise and bamboo. “It just amazes me how something can grow and look so polished,” he marvelled about the latter.

Twice that morning, we got an unexpected bonus. When someone in our group admired a house we were passing, the owner, who happened to be putting in his front yard, told us he and his wife had just completed a major remodel. He wound up inviting us into his courtyard to see the new construction, disclosing as we lingered that the late San Diego Union sportswriter Jack Murphy had resided there. At another point, Darlynne stopped to chat with a fellow she’d met on previous rambles. He was the property manager at the Asian-influenced home inhabited by Golden Door—owner Deborah Szekely, and he invited us in for a peek at the grounds. One of the couples from Bakersfield snapped photos.

A few streets farther along, we stopped in front of a Palladian Banker’s Hill excursion. Menkins had a tour open for Leg Veins. A couple of couples from Bakersfield invited us in for a peek at the grounds. One of the couples from Bakersfield snapped photos.

It occurred to me later that the plaque might be inaccurate. Perhaps the house hadn’t been built back then. Or maybe it had been, and that year someone had had a heart attack in it or burned a baby or come up with an idea that changed people’s lives. Who would know? On the other hand, there was no disputing that it amused the passing sightseer. And who could argue with that?

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The first lesson I learned in church was that a finger thins itself to hold a wedding ring, making a bed for the metal that slips back and forth all day, smooth and familiar and half-forgotten. Most Sundays from the age of five, I removed or desired to remove my mother’s heavy ring and examine the square diamonds set in silver metal she called white gold. Underneath the ring was the under-ring, the bare line below the lightly freckled knuckle of my mother’s third finger.

Primarily I was interested in jewelry. I wanted the diamonds to flash rainbow sparks all over the chapel, for the ring to be yellow gold, and, in pursuit of such daily pleasures, to get married right away.

But the ring was a solemn object, as sacred as the sacrament tray. I was permitted to wear it for 30 seconds, then it went back to its pale, waist-like hollow on my mother’s finger.

“I used to run him around and fight him, beat him up,” Mary says. “I done all kinds of things. But I liked him a lot, and I fell in love with him.”
When I went away to graduate school and lived among feminists, I learned that the ring signifies a girl, not given away but sealed for time and all eternity, ‘’was uttered above our heads. My mother’s genealogy chart shows Joshua Adams living with his Elizabeth from their wedding day in 1803 until the Civil War, Weeden Van der Hakes sticking with Eliza from 1822 to 1884, and so on. In my lifetime, both sets of sealed grandparents lived to the 50th wedding anniversary, though my mother’s father passed that fluorescent afternoon in a hospital bed, his left side paralyzed.

The ring he gave Geneva Crosby in middle age was yellow gold with three diamonds like salt flakes in the band. Though my grandfather raised cattle most of his life, for a few years he ran a gas station in Red Hill, New Mexico, where the story goes that a man traded the ring for a tank of gas. The ring is gone now, like all the particulars, but when I passed it to the paper, linen, and titles anniversaries to gold, which lies under the numeral 50 like a rainbow’s pot. Better it should be iron, which marks number six. Iron is a better symbol of love that 50 years ago promised, ’’With this ring,‘’ 50 years later is still saying, ’’I thee wed.’’

Mary and Arlistir Tillory, Logan Heights
Mary Emma Jackson was born in Washington-on-the-Brazos, Texas, to a family of eight children. Her father raised cattle on his own land, and everyone in the family picked cotton for cash — 25 cents per hundred pounds. When Mary Jackson was 16, she could pick five or six hundred pounds of cotton in a day and still leave the sun in the sky.

She met Arlistir Tillory at a school function in Brenham in the fall of 1937, on the day he came back from a cotton pick. In a graduation photograph, Pickard High School is a clean, white, two-story building with black gowns. Tillory, the class vice president, grandson of a Methodist minister, stands solemnly in the front row, identified by his last name and his office. Mary Jackson isn’t there. She says the photographer took her long time that she and her girlfriend went off to do something else.

Tillory liked Mary right away. ’’She was always such a beautiful person, ’’he says, ’’had such beautiful skin.’’ Though no high school picture is available to prove this, no proof besides Mary is necessary. At 76 she holds herself erect to a height of 5’10”, and her skin is ageless. If you see her, you’d wonder how she has the gold and emerald anniversaries — she

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looks as if she could pick five or six hundred pounds of anything and still leave the sun in the sky.

At Pickard High School, this energy was directed at Tillory. “I used to run him around and fight him, beat him up,” Mary says. “I done all kinds of things. But I liked him a lot, and I fell in love with him.”

After high school, Mary left home to get a housekeeping job in Navasota, and Tillory worked in his father’s shoe shop in Brenham, a 25-cent bus fare away. When he came to town, they would talk all the time about getting married and things they were going to do, how far they wanted to go in life.

They decided to marry in the fall of 1939. Shoe business was always bad in the summer, because people went barefoot, so Tillory picked cotton to get extra money. He ordered a set of wedding and engagement rings from Walter Fields for $9. His family put up fresh wallpaper for the newlyweds, who were expected not only to say their vows in Tillory’s parents’ house but to live there afterwards. The day before the wedding, Tillory received a letter saying Walter Fields didn’t have the rings in stock.

On Sunday morning, October 15, Mary put on a new purple dress and reconsidered. “When my husband came from Brenham to pick me up,” she says, “I almost didn’t go. I said, ‘Well, I’ve changed my mind.’”

But Tillory was prepared. People in Brenham had told him he wasn’t going to get married, and he just said, “Oh, yeah, I’m going to get married all right. ‘Cause I’m going over there and get her.”

“ ‘Cause I’m going over there and get her,” Mary says, “and we got along pretty well. All the years that we’ve been married, I haven’t regretted it at all.” That first year, Mary had no intention of living in Brenham with her husband’s family, so she and Tillory moved to a warden’s house in Navasota.

Mary and Arlister Tillory

“ ‘Cause I’m going over there and get her.”

Mary says, “ ‘cause he was a womanizer.”

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“ ‘cause he was a womanizer.”

“I was a cook,” Tillory says. “That was another one of my hobbies. They look in your records to see what skills you possess, and they saw in there that I had gone to cooking school.”

“I went to school for 16 weeks,” Tillory says, “and in the meantime, I wrote back and told my wife that I wanted her to come out here and bring everything that she wanted, because I’d...
found paradise.”

By then, Mary was working for a Mr. and Mrs. Greenwood, who owned the boarding house where everyone in town ate on Sundays. After she received Tillory’s letter, she went to the bank and asked Mr. Yeager, the bank president, if she could withdraw her savings. But Mr. Yeager told a woman who worked for Mrs. Greenwood, an older woman named Pearl, and she told Mary to wait a minute. She would tell Mary how to strike while the iron was hot.

They waited until Mrs. Greenwood’s daughter married a high-ranking Navy officer and left Navasota to be with her husband. “Now, do you need that much money?” and I said, “Yes, sir, I don’t know where I’m going to live or anything. Maybe I need all of it.” Mary laughs and says, “I got it all!” Then she took the train to San Diego.

In 1944, Tillory says, you could drive across the prairie where Logan Heights now stands. Pointing to a view of stucco houses, wooden fences, and yards, he says, “This was all rattlesnakes and jackrabbits.” The Tillory’s set up house at 3034 K Street and used their blue-and-red ration chips to buy meat and vegetables at the Navy commissary on E Street.

Tillory had 18 months of shore duty, which meant he cooked for seven days on the base in Oceanside and then came home for seven days. Mary took the streetcar from 30th and Imperial Avenue down to Fifth and Market, where she would get off the streetcar, walk on up the nickel washer, and cross the bay to North Island. She was a storekeeper in an aeronautics supply house, checking the shelves.

“You have to talk,” Mary says.

“You can’t be quiet and keep a marriage together 56 years.”

Mary, no, he wasn’t going to let her have the money because what was Mrs. Greenwood going to do for help? “He said, ‘All you niggers are leaving and going out to California, and I’m not going to let you.’” “I was from the country,” Mary says. “I didn’t know how to do things.” But there was an older woman who worked for Mrs. Greenwood, an older woman named Pearl, and she told Mary to wait a minute. She would tell Mary how to strike while the iron was hot.

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Tillory spent the end of the war in the Pacific. He wrote to Mary every day, and she wrote to him every day. He wrote about Okinawa and the battle for Eniwetok, but when his letters entered the mail room, censors clipped out details, slowing down the mail so that Mary received 30 or 40 letters at once, all cut up like paper snowflakes.

Those letters are gone now. Gone also is the photograph in which Mary wears a yellow suit and Tillory, his midwife, the two of them posing in a studio whose signs are engraved on secondary school plaques and awards of achievement.

The Tillory house is an expression of Mary’s passion for red, and it makes me feel that I have entered a genie’s bottle. The carpet is red, the Queen Anne sofa is red, her dress is red, and the table is set with Christmas Spode china. A red napkin has been rolled inside a napkin ring and placed in the center of the living room sheers, it is possible to see Mary’s red Cadillac car. The guy did it! I couldn’t see what in the world he could be talking about, back there when he was telling me what he was gonna do for me and what he was gonna buy me. It was just absolutely like a fairy tale.”

Sitting on the Queen Anne sofa, the Tillorys have two pieces of advice for married people like me. “You have to talk,” Mary says. “You can’t be quiet and keep a marriage together 56 years.”

“I think reminiscing is the most important thing,” Tillory says. “You go back and think of all those important dates and how you managed to get along.”

In the china cupboard are the nesting stacks of china he bought while he was in Germany during the Korean War. Mary brings over a gravy boat and says, “He knows I like dishes.”

“On the first Valentine’s when we were married,” Mary says, “he brought me this big sucker and asked me to accept this sucker until he could buy me a box of candy. I remember that. I
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Includes: 1-hour facial with 15-minute head and neck acupressure and back massage, alpha hydroxy peel (smooths and softens skin texture and appearance), European facial, plus spa manicure and pedicure. A natural face-lift that helps cleanse the skin, removes fine lines, wrinkles and blackheads.

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3 hours total. Includes: European facial, 1-hour full-body therapeutical massage, manicure, deluxe spa pedicure, and your choice of one spa body therapy below: hydroactive mineral salt scrub, enzymatic sea mud wrap, detox hydro pack wrap, detox herbal linen wrap, or aromatherapy steamer.

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Body Balance Energy $130 (REG. $150)

Includes: 1-hour reflexology foot massage, 1/2-hour stives release back muscles, 1/2-hour head and neck acupressure. Aromatherapy steamer with spa pedicure.

Pamper Yourself $109 (REG. $175)

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Body Balance Energy $130 (REG. $150)

Includes: 1-hour reflexology foot massage, 1/2-hour stives release back muscles, 1/2-hour head and neck acupressure. Aromatherapy steamer with spa pedicure.

Pamper Yourself $109 (REG. $175)

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Body Balance Energy $130 (REG. $150)

Includes: 1-hour reflexology foot massage, 1/2-hour stives release back muscles, 1/2-hour head and neck acupressure. Aromatherapy steamer with spa pedicure.

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I was working all the time,” he says. “I had quit Pearl Harbor, and I was working in my own business, and I was trying to be very successful and have things work out, and, I don’t know,” he says, looking across the end table at Rosanne, “we’d had a little spat or something?”

“Probably,” Rosanne says, laughing.

“Anyway, I went home, and she wasn’t there. She’d gone over to her mother’s.”

It turns out that Rosanne didn’t intend to worry him like that, but all day Warren thought about it, and finally the guy working for him thought about it, and finally Warren thought and, I don’t know, “he says, looking across the end table at Rosanne, “we’d had a little spat or something?”

There’s something about the look on Warren’s face when he says, “I was just devastated,” that tells me I can chalk this one up to love. Fifty-three years and counting.

**Mary and Roy Klein, Fallbrook**

She was born Mary Louise Nelson to the wife of a dentist in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Roy was born in Shattuck, Oklahoma, to a Baptist family, and he grew up among the wheat farms and cottonwood trees of Ellis County.

They met in an elevator in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She was training to be a WAC at Fort Oglethorpe, and he was a Navy recruit selected to take courses at the University of the South in Sewanee. The sailors and the WACs used to spend weekends in Chattanooga, rooming with their friends in hotels, and that’s how Mary and Roy came to be in the same elevator in 1942.

“He had his pea jacket on,” Mary says, “with the collar up, and his face tucked down in there, and his little blue sailor cap, and I thought, ‘oh, how cute.’”

There’s a picture in the hall that confirms her impression. The two of them lean together and smile — she in a dotted dress, he in a blue sailor uniform with white piping. He looks shy and is not wearing his cap. They are both dark-haired and handsome and young.

“So we got to talking,” Mary says, “and we met again some and young. “So we got to talking,” Mary says, “and we met again the next day and talked and talked.” After that, they had to write letters. After his first year at Sewanee, Roy went to study meteorology at MIT. Mary didn’t like the job she was offered after training at Fort Oglethorpe (“radio transmitting and that kind of stuff,” she explains), and she needed a reason to get out. “I had a reason at that point,” she says.

Roy Klein, the man in the elevator, wanted Mary to move to Massachusetts and become his wife. Her parents thought it was the worst thing that could happen to her — a man they hadn’t even met! — but she went to live in a little apartment across the Charles River. They intended to get married right away, but somebody in Roy’s suite got scarlet fever, and the whole floor was quarantined. Six weeks later, in a gray wool suit, Mary Nelson became Mary Klein before a justice of the peace in Quincy, Massachusetts. Mary’s landlady asked to see the marriage license before she would let Roy enter Mary’s room.
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Their hands and faces were cold from crossing the bridge over the Charles River. It was March 25, 1944.

At first they couldn’t live together. Roy’s arrangement with the Navy, a category called V-12, didn’t include a living allowance for wives, so he didn’t tell them he was married. Mary moved to Waltham and worked at the watch factory, which made detonating devices for bombs during the war. On weekends Roy hitchhiked to Waltham. “His roommates,” Mary says, “all wanted to know who was this girl he’d go visit and spend the weekend.”

Roy graduated in 1946, and the Navy wanted to send him to the Aleutians. “I’m a warm-weather boy,” Roy says. “I could see where I could be up there for quite some time.” He had enough points to get out of the Navy, so he took his discharge, and the Kleins moved to Muncie, Indiana, a region known for glass, auto parts, hogs, and soft winter wheat.

After his first job with the Ball Brothers glass company, Roy went on to design refineries for the Fluor company. He helped design the first refinery in Kuwait. Their two children were very young in Houston, a little older in La Mirada, graduated in Chino and the Netherlands, in college when the Kleins lived in London. The Kleins moved to Antwerp and then South Africa, where there is no oil, but plenty of coal, and coal, Roy explains, can be oxidized into ash, vaporized with steam, run over an iron catalyst, and turned into oil.

“At that time, you see,” Mary says, “South Africa was really being persecuted by the rest of the world…” “Apartheid,” Roy says. “They were trying to get them to change.” In South Africa, the Kleins lived in what Mary calls a small town built out of nothing, out where the coal was. “It was nice,” Mary says. “We enjoyed it. It was a real cultural shock when I came home. I mean, everything was done for you—you just had fun and socialized.”

A friend in South Africa

They did not go dancing. They did not, in fact, go anywhere. They spoke at a distance of six meters.
was driving in the right-hand lane of the San Diego Freeway.

“She had a tendency,” Mary says, “to drive in the slowest lane.”

“This truck comes past her on the other side,” Roy says, “just clean over, big semi-trailer, and before you know, it, the truck turns off to his exit, which was crossing her lane. Either she didn’t notice it, or — we don’t know what happened — but her car went underneath the trailer. And the back wheels came over and stopped on top of her. She was in there a couple of hours before they could get her out.”

Beth died by nightfall.

The Klein house sits on a ridge overlooking the golf course. The windows of the living room are filled with the green of that grass,
the dark pond, the silent motion of white carts. On the walls are oil paintings of South Africa, where the roofs, Mary tells me, are built in the Dutch style.

In a moment, we’ll go into the hall and see black-roofs, Mary tells me, are of South Africa, where the walls are oil paintings. I remember my last question. “What about the wedding ring?”

“We went together and picked it out,” Roy says. “I don’t even remember where,” Mary says. “It wore out; it wore through. It’s amazing how rings wear.” Mary tells me that the one she’s wearing is getting thin; and we study the full-color portraits of grandchildren, the black-and-white faces of Mary and Roy when they were children in tiny clothes, standing on lawns in the American Midwest.

Maria Luisa Madrigal and José Arce Alvarado, Escondido

It’s a sunny afternoon between two holy days: the day when the Virgin of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego on the hill of Tepeyac, and the day when the Virgin Mary gave birth in Bethlehem. José and Maria have been in California for eight months now, traveling to see the children who left Mexico for Escondido, Los Angeles, and cities farther north. They will spend Christmas here in Escondido with their daughter Rosa and her family, which includes their grandson Eddie, my interpreter.

My Spanish is rudimentary, a classroom Spanish that allows me to identify the past subjunctive tense of “to be” only on multiple-choice tests. I manage to shake hands and say, “Mucho gusto” to Maria and José. After these words, my American questions are polished into español by Eddie.

Thus I learn that Maria Luis Madrigal was born in the town of Las Tlazalca, Michoacán, on June 19, “Mi noviciatos veinte-seis,” Maria says, giving the year the grave length of Roman numerals on an MGM movie reel: one thousand nine hundred

“My father never dances,” Rosa says, “but he danced on that day.”

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twenty-six. She had two older brothers named David and Luis, a younger sister named Guadalupe, and a younger brother named Miguel. Their father was un comerciante, a merchant.

José Arce Alvarado was born ten years earlier, on August 14, 1916, to a family of nine. He first saw Maria in the street outside her house when he was 22. She was, he says, muy encerrada, a girl shut away from the world. It wasn’t good for her to leave the house. She was, he says, “un comerciante, a girl shut away from the world.”

But on this occasion, when he passed by in his work as un comerciante, he saw her, “No kiss, no nothing,” he says, and Eddie translates, “Delicate times.”

When Maria was 16, José and his brother went to see her father, who refused to give his consent. “I left my parents and my house,” Maria says, “to marry him.”

They were married on the Day of the Holy Kings, January 6, the day the Wise Men finally saw Jesus. It was a cold day, Maria remembers, and I picture sunlight so clear it hurts the eyes. The words of a judge were followed by the blessing of a priest, his hand drawing a cross in the air before them en el nombre del Padre, del Hijo, y del Espíritu Santo. They no special clothes, posed for no photograph. They knelt, and then they stood up together. They held a fiestacita to celebrate, at which a woman sang and two men played guitars; but her family was angry and they didn’t attend. They forgave her three months later.

For 40 years, José carried milk to the towns around Las Tlazalca, first by horse and then by truck. Maria gave birth to Etelvina, MaríaRefugio, Elisia, José, George, Fernando, and they were born. One by one their children moved to the United States. Once, when Eddie was nine, he returned with his parents to the town of Las Tlazalca, where in the plaza on Sunday afternoons a band plays, people eat peanuts, hear serenatas, watch fireworks. And once, on the 50th anniversary of the day when Maria Luisa Madrigal knelt down in the church with José Arce Alvarado, the Day
of Kings, nearly all the fam-
ily came home for Mass
and a fiesta.

“My father never
dances,” Rosa says, “but he
danced on that day.”

In the corner of the
living room is a small shrine
to the Virgin of Guadalupe.
The painted plaster hands
press together in prayer.

Her corona of holiness,
represented by yellow
spikes, radiates like the rays
of a medieval astronomer’s
sun.”

“Tiempos muy delicados,” José says, staring
gravely into the camera
with his wife, the Virgin
of Guadalupe bowing her
head behind them. They
do not think of separation.
Not in the past, present,
or future.

Outside, the sun is still
warm on the streets of
Escondido, where a boy
and girl younger than 16,
older than 12, are walking
home together. He wears
the long white T-shirt and
baggy jeans of his times,
and suspended from her
shoulders is a small, girl-
ish pendant of a backpack,
the mark of her times. They
may forget this day as soon
as it’s gone, or remember
it. The winter sun on the
grass beside them is deli-
cate, and brief.

— Laura McNeal

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San Diego Reader
October 26, 2006
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tattooed across their psyches, and they wish to preserve the welfare-warfare state because it satisfies their inherent laziness and the cruel streak that leaves them weak-kneed at the thought of watching the bullies in the U.S. Army kick the life out of third-world victims. Because they depend on social welfare programs such as public schools, social security, and tax subsidies to families with children—they assume that all immigrants are as useless as themselves. It’s called psychological projection. Never mind that anyone who lives off of the labor of another—whether born here or not—is a leech. These minutemen don’t care. All they see is someone crossing a border to cut in on their share of the tax loot.

While the Escondido City Council members may be correct in assuming the bad intentions of some immigrants, they should try to be more like the Minute-men of the 18th Century. They should call for an end to the overgrown welfare-warfare state and its hundreds of criminal programs. It is these policies that attract and create loafers and criminals of all stripes—both homegrown and from afar. It is these policies that artificially stimulate excess population growth. Above all, however, they should not seek to preserve and feed the monstrous entity of government and those who worship it and feed off of it like Mr. Schwilk and his ilk.

Lawrence M. Ludlow via e-mail

It Disappeared Into The Crowd

One of my favorite Lewis Black routines is about a conversation he once overheard. He hears a woman say something like, “If it hadn’t been for the pony, I never would have graduated college.” It is such a major non sequitur that it stuns his mental processes. No matter what else he tries to think of later in the day, his mind wanders back to ponder what “if it weren’t for the pony, I never would have graduated college” means. He can’t not think about it.

I felt the same way when I read an article in the Reader this week. There’s a section in the back of the paper called “It’s a Crime: Verbatim Police Reports.” Obviously, these are excerpts of official reports as written by the officer at the scene.

The first crime listed in the October 19 issue begins: “Incident: A male suspect under the influence [was] yelling at another male and a possum…. The officer tased the suspect. The suspect removed the barbs and walked away…. “They went into a yard where a Rottweiler came at the officer. The officer shot and injured the dog. The suspect was driven away by the owner of the dog.”

This story is fascinating, nearly surreal. The suspect pulled out the Taser barbs and walked away. What was the cop doing, standing there being amazed? The dude walked away. And the cop was following him? Trying to reason with him, perhaps? And the dog attack. This is becoming truly dramatic.
You have to appreciate the cop winging the dog. He’s our hero. Too bad he couldn’t have rescued a bunny as well. That would have been perfect.

I even noticed that the officer who wrote this introduced a very confusing sentence. “The suspect was driven away by the owner of the dog.” You mean, like, he chased him away with a broom? “Get out of my yard, you damned warrant suspect, you. Look. You got my dog wounded.” Oh, you meant driven in a vehicle. Well, why didn’t you say so?

So I’m reading the snippet and trying to think about the zaniness and weirdness of this cop’s situation, and my mind keeps going back to ponder, “A male suspect…[was] yelling at another male and a possum.” And then, not another word about the possum.

If any news story deserved a follow-up, it’s this one. What happened to the possum? What in the world did the possum do to deserve being yelled at? Were the other guy and the possum friends? The officer who wrote this is a genius. He wrote a story so great you can’t stop thinking about it.

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sum together? Was the suspect yelling at them because he disapproves of interspecies relationships? Is the possum a metaphor?

For the next two weeks, anytime I see a man yelling, I'll be looking around for the possum.

J. Eber Carlson via e-mail

A Big Boo-Yah For Bus Drivers

Thanks for including bus information in your review of Marie's Café (“Tin Fork,” October 19). As my contribution to the environment and to insure a little exercise, I sold my Prius last year and have been experimenting with San Diego's good public transportation. If you can include such information for other than cheap restaurants it might encourage people to leave their car home. Bus drivers perform a great public service and are usually courteous, punctual, and helpful. Try it!

Faye Girsh via e-mail

Matthew Lickona responds: No need to look for a higher source; God and the devil are both in the details. Somewhere between the electronic copy I turned in and the ink hitting the page, the overall rating went from two stars to three and a half. Whether this was by divine or demonic intervention, or simply because somebody goofed, I have no idea. But thanks for asking.
They've Come a Long Way since Lincoln

Log Home Demonstration in Julian

Log homes aren't just built in the woods or in the country — I’ve talked to people in Southeast San Diego who wanted to put one down in Logan Heights,” says Pam Churness. “You either like log or you don’t like log.”

On Saturday, October 28, Churness is inviting the public to witness the construction of her new log home in Julian. “Our house is going to be a D log — flat on the inside, round on the outside.” The logs will be shipped from Chesterton, New York, where they are farmed and milled. “Our D log is going to be Eastern white pine; it’s a denser, straighter pine than what we come from the Idaho area. They’re a different type of species. Those are cedar and may be lodgepole pine or Douglas fir.”

“Swedish cope” refers to the cut of the log beneath it. Caulking, known as “chinking,” is not required for this style of log homes. Churness’s home will be built using the “double tongue-and-groove” system, in which two raised sections that run the length of the top. “There’s less chance of something twisting. If you go with a different kind of log system, like the Swedish cope home, then those logs are going to come from the Idaho area. They’re a different type of species. Those are cedar and may be lodgepole pine or Douglas fir.”

Churness refers to conventionally built houses as “stick built.” She says such homes come out very similar in price. Some people think that a log home is way too expensive, but “if you take this floor plan and build it with two-by-fours, it will come out very similar in price. Some people think that a log home is way too expensive or way less, but it’s right in the same neighborhood as a custom-built, conventionally built house.”

The basement has been built, and contractors are in the process of placing the subfloor, “the part of the house that goes between the basement and the first floor.” On Saturday, the first logs will be laid, and workers will be on hand to answer spectators’ questions. The gates of Julian Estates, the gated community in which the log home is going up, will be open for the day.

Churness expects the log stacking to take up to three weeks. “If there are no huge delays, and everyone shows up when they’re supposed to, we’re looking at five to eight months from the time they broke ground to the time we’re moving our furniture in.”

Barbara

Local Events

Log-Raising Experience Saturday, October 28 1 to 4 p.m. 1068 West Incense Cedar Road Julian Cost: Free Info: 760-765-1117 or www.loghomecastles.com

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San Diego Reader October 26-2006
Baja

Events that occurred after November 1.


Nata plans rock concert, Friday, October 27, 9 p.m., at El Faro, Jai Alai Palace (on Avenida Revolución). $12 U.S. 619-734-2333. (TLAUNA)

Meet Up with World Class Winest! Wine-tasting tour hosted by Baja Vino Tours, Saturday, October 28, 8:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m., $85 fee includes bus transportation to Guadalupe Valley, visits to three wineries, lunch. Reservations: 858-539-9050. (GUADALUPE VALLEY)

“Pasión Flamенко,” wine, cheese, guitar music by Jorge López Ramos, Saturday, October 28, 8:30 p.m., at La Escala (Gigante Universidad shopping center). $10 U.S. Reservations: 011-52-664-607-5163. (MEXICALI)

Sand Drag Races with many categories ofdragsters taking part in 100 yard races on Sunday, October 29, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., at El Tinte de Los Potrillos (at km 4 on road to La Bufadora in Punta Banda 1 miles south of Ensenada). General admission: $3. 011-52-446-173-5956. (ENSENADA)

Bullfighting on Sunday, October 29, 4 p.m., in Monumental Bullfighting by the Sea. 011-52-664-861-510. (MEXICALI)

Romantic Songs from Chile promised, Wednesday, November 1, at 7 and 9:45 p.m., at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Rio). Tickets to “Pimpinela” are $60 U.S. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

Vilma Palma in Concert, Wednesday, November 1, 1 p.m., at El Faro, Jai Alai Palace (on Avenida Revolución). 619-734-2333. (TIJUANA)

Day of the Dead in Ensenada, celebrates Day of the Dead (Day of the Dead) celebrations during outing hosted by San Diego Natural History Museum, Thursday, November 2, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Participants see diverse altar sites dedicated to family members and important Mexican figures, taste a Day of the Dead meal, shop in Ensenada. $92 fee includes transportation, meals: Reservations: 619-255-0203. (ENSENADA)

Tijuana Cultural Center, the center (CECUT) offers guided tours in Spanish and English of exhibit on history of Baja peninsula after November 2.

Outdoors

Autumn Color in San Diego County’s Mountains reaches its greatest intensity late October and early November. The forested heights of Palomar Mountain are especially colorfull now.

Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Cultural and artistic exhibits. Entrance fee is approximately $2 (two for one entrance on Tuesday). Screening in the CECUT Omnimax: “Viejo a la Luna, Baja, Los Virgenes de la Naturaleza, Oaxaca Marinos.” The center is located at Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Rio. Showtimes and information: 011-52-664-867-960. (TIJUANA)

OUT & ABOUT

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Classic Phantom of the Opera and Teeny Tiny Pit Orchestra for Silent Films, Tuesday, October 31, UCSD’s Geisel Library.

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Ladytron in Concert, Thursday, October 26, 8 p.m., at El Faro, Jai Alai Palace (on Avenida Revolución). $20 U.S. 619-734-2333. (TIJUANA)

A Beer Festival boasting “beers from all over the world” takes place October 27-29. Fest takes place on Friday, 5-11 p.m., at Caliente Race Track (on Boulevard Agua Caliente). Find fun on Avenida Revolución from noon-midnight on Saturday and Sunday. 011-52-664-684-0481. (TLAUNA)

Political Cartoon Expo, Mexican artist “and their best projects” showcased through November at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Rio). Show opens with reception on Friday, October 27, 6 p.m. Free. 011-52-664-867-9636. (TIJUANA)

“Concierto Mexicanismo,” Orquesta Clasica de Mexico performs with soprano Marisol Fuentes, tenor José Medina, Friday, October 27, 7 P.m., at Salón Fuentes, tenor José Medina, Friday, October 27, 7 P.m., at Salón Tijuana, concert by Baja California Symphony Orchestra. Information: 011-52-686-638-3641. (MEXICALI)

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• Hosted by MAGIC 92.5’s Lenny B.
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• Fabulous prizes to the top dogs from GGP, REI, and Build-A-Bear Workshop; including a REI Dog Camping Package.
• Best costume, most photogenic, pint sized pooch, cutest couple.
• Pet adoption fair from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm.
• Kids come out and make your favorite pet a food dish to commemorate the day! 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm (while supplies last).
Daylight Saving Time ends this Sunday morning, October 29, at 2 a.m. With the resumption of standard time, midday (the time when the sun reaches its maximum altitude in the south part of the sky) will again be close to 12 noon on our clocks, rather than 1 p.m.

Fire Recovery, biologist/naturalist Carol Stanford leads moderate to strenuous walk in Daley Ranch to see giant plant communities that have made since 2003 wildfires. Hike starts at 9 a.m. on Sunday, October 29, in main parking lot on La Honda Drive. Requested reservations: 760-839-4680. Free. Redecorated Escondido during walking tour led by Escondido Citizen’s Ecology Committee, Saturday, October 28, 11 a.m., starting at southeast corner of Broadway and Grand Avenue. Free. 760-743-8307. (ESCONDIDO)


Halloween Evening Sensory Walk planned by Will Bowen in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Sunday, October 29. Outing starts at 4 p.m. at west end staging area on south side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard (one-half mile east of intersection of Vista Sorrento Parkway). Free. 858-484-5219. (SNEATH VALLEY)

Halloween Evening (Tuesday, the 31st) will be bathed in the soft glow of a waxing gibbous moon some ten days old (ten days after new phase). That moon will ride high overhead in the southern sky during the typical trick-or-treat early evening hours. The moon on Halloween will cast only about half the illumination of a true full moon.

The Taurid Meteor Shower, featuring about 10-15 visible events per hour when seen under clear, dark skies, peeks this year around Thursday and Friday, November 2 and 3. This year’s nearly full moon will interfere significantly with observations. The optimum period for viewing is approximately 10 p.m.–3 a.m. All Taurids seem to radiate from a fixed point in the direction of the constellation of Taurus, hence their name.

DANCE

“Garden Trilogy” presented by British choreographer Yolande Snaith and her newly formed dance company Imago Move, October 26–29, in Molli and Arthur Wager Dance Building (studio 3) at UCSD. Performances begin at 8 p.m. Thursday–Saturday, 2 and 6 p.m. on Sunday. $18 general. Suggested reservations: 619-867-8749. (LA Jolla)

“Halloween Haunt: A Wicked Dance Show” offered Friday, October 27, 7 p.m., and Sunday, October 29, 6 p.m., at Scottie’s Rio Center (1959 Camino del Rio South). General admission: $15 in advance, $20 at door. 619-444-4197. No one under 16 admitted. (ESSENDON VALLEY)

Contradance to music by Old Twine String Band, calling by C. Page and Graham Hempen. Saturday, October 28, 8 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church (3030 Thorn Street). Beginners’ dance workshop: 7:30 p.m. $7. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. (DOWNTOWN)

Latin and Ballroom Dancing on Saturday, October 28, 7:30 p.m., at Pattie Wells Danecenter Center (1255 West Morena Boulevard). Dancing for singles and couples of all ages. Basic L.A. hustle dance lesson at 8 p.m. $7; first time free. 619-275-3533. (SANDIEGO)

Sunday Swing Dance with Doctor Swing playing “best digital dance music from the ‘40s, ‘50s, and ‘60s.” Sundays, 3–9 p.m., at Cask n’ Cleaver (3757 South Mission Road). No cover. 760-728-2818. (SANDIEGO)

English Country Dancing takes place every Sunday, 6–9 p.m., at Jean Hart Academy of Dance (Oak Knoll Plaza, 1227 Poway Road). Ellen Riley, Chris Page, Karin Norlin are callers on October 29, $6. 858-766-9731. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

Rueda de Casino, Cuban-style salsa dance class, Sunday, October 29, 6 p.m., at Dance North County (355 Encinas Boulevard, suite 100). $10. 760-436-7070. (ENCINITAS)

OUT & ABOUT

An Evening of Poetry with Patricia Jabbeh Wesley, Thursday, November 2, Point Loma Nazarene University. (SEE IN PERSON)

The Slovene Theater-Dance Company Betontanc presents Wrestling Dostoevsky for Sushi Takeout series in Wagner Dance Building at UCSD, Thursday–Saturday, November 2–4, 8 p.m. Group’s work focuses on physicality of human body: $20 general. 619-235-8466. (LA Jolla)

Riverdance, celebrating Irish music, song, and dance, his stage November 14–19 at San Diego Civic Theatre (at Third Avenue and B Street). Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday, 7 p.m. on Wednesday, 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, with 2 p.m. matinees on Saturday, 1 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets: $26–$85, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (DOWNTOWN)

FILM

Cutting-Edge Climbing! Josh Lowell’s Dozyg Volume IV and Peter Mortimer’s First Ascent screen for Real Rock Film Tour, Thursday, October 26, 7 p.m., at San Diego Natural History Museum, $12. 619-232-3821. (BEACH PARKS)

Explore Italian Filmmaking during series offering “five of the best films from both the old and the new” continuing with Lina Wertmuller’s Seven Beauties (1975) on Thursday, October 26, 7 p.m., in building next to House of Italy (opposite the Speeds Or- gan Pavilion). Free. 858-831-1717. (BAY PARKS)

Creepy and Startling! See Romanian Polanski’s first English-lang- uage film, Repulsion, when it’s shown for fall film series, Thurs- day, October 26, 7 p.m., at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (700 Prospect Street). $7. 858-454-3541. (LA Jolla)
O U T & A B O U T

MASTER OF SATIRE
David Sedarn, Friday, October 27, Capley Symphony Hall.

Photograph by Robert Banks

Ticket prices and showtimes: 619-238-1233. (Balboa Park)

L E C T U R E S

The Italian Baroque of Guercino is presented by theodogen, an historian, dactist Otto Mower for "Art in the Afternoon" series lecture at Timken Museum of Art, Thursday, October 26. Getty Center assistant curator Julian Brooks offers an overview of "Guercino's Creative Process: From "The Italian Baroque of Guercino." The lecture continues through November 2. Tickets are $5. 760-644-5461.

Secrets of the Chaparral: "A View from the Daily Star" is being offered when Judy Huang discusses the natural history of the chaparral. The talk will be held on Saturday, October 28. Seats are limited, and reservations are required. 619-287-8200.

Global Governance for Public Health: How Can This Work in the 21st Century? is presented by Thomas Novotny, from UCSD School of Medicine, addresses question on Tuesday, October 26, 4 p.m., at Balboa Park. Included is admission to the USS Midway Museum.

Genetics and Genealogy: Deep Ancestry is subject when UCSD professor Stephen Baud speaks for British Isles Genealogical Research Association on Saturday, October 28, 9 a.m., at Joyce Beers Community Center (1320 Vermont Street). Free: 619-583-8352. (Balboa Park)

Landscapes Minus Lawn? Landscape designer Paul Hunt offers a mini-workshop on Saturday, October 28, 9:30–11 a.m., at City of San Diego Ridgehaven Building (9601 Ridgehaven Court). Tour of demonstration garden, learn creative possibilities for eliminating lawns. 619-741-1090. (Balboa Park)


Feather Destructive Behavior is subject for 1 p.m. seminar on Saturday, October 28, hosted by Parrot Education and Adoption Center, along with "Parrot Body Language" at 3 p.m. Understanding "Avian Basic Care" on Sunday, October 29, 1 p.m., and "Lifestyles for Successful Parrot Carers" at 3 p.m. Classes are offered in room D-4 at Marina Village Conference Center (1936 Quivira Way). $15 per day. Reservations: 619-287-8200. (Pacoima)

"Introduction to Dream Interpretation," Keith Burke speaks for California Institute for Open Studies, Saturday, October 28, 1 p.m., at Joyce Beers Community Center (1320 Vermont Street). Free: 619-299-2487. (Balboa Park)

Aerosmth V Mötley Crüe November 9

Chargers vs. Rams October 29

Panic At The Disco Oct. 27
Justin Timberlake Jan. 9
Chetah Girls Jan. 13
Guns N’ Roses Jan. 16
Christina Aguilera Mar. 2
Doodlops Mar. 4

Chargers Home Games
vs. Browns Nov. 5
vs. Raiders Nov. 26
vs. Broncos Dec. 10
vs. Chiefs Dec. 17
vs. Cardinals Dec. 31

James Sedaris Oct. 27
Jose Luis Orozco Oct. 29
Ray Lamontagne Nov. 10
The Fray Nov. 11
James Blunt Nov. 14
Trans-Siberian Orchestra Nov. 28
All-American Rejects Dec. 1
George Lopez Dec. 2
290 Jingle Jan. Dec. 2
Barenaked Ladies Dec. 3
Larry The Cable Guy Dec. 3
S3.3 Holiday Show Dec. 6
Andre Rieu Dec. 7

Chargers vs. Rams October 29

Jimmy Buffett October 26

Charge by phone.

Charge by phone.
HOSP GROVE

Hosp Grove in Carlsbad features easy hiking and a chance to spot migrating monarch butterflies.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 38 miles

Difficulty: Easy

The butterflies migrate from their summer homes in the Sierra Nevada and the Rocky Mountains, navigating to coastal California and Mexico by ocean means. After less than half a mile, the main Hosp Grove Trail descends, turns sharply left, and returns to Hosp Grove Park along city streets then Monroe Street, then Mammoth Road. Just east of here, across

To celebrate a Dia de los Muertos, Regonía Pérez presents Insight Gallery tour of “Paper Traces: Latin American Prints and Drawings from the Collection at SDMA” on Thursday, November 2, 7 p.m., at San Diego Museum of Art. Included in regular admission. 619-696-1966. (MDL0089)

El Cajon Novelist Keith A. Jones discusses his debut mystery, Mayan Equinox, when Sisters in Crime meet at Joyce Beers Community Center (1230 Vermont Street) on Thursday, November 2, 7 p.m. Free: $45 for series, or $17 per talk. Reservations: 858-454-5872.


“Taking Back Our Country from the Religious Right: The Politics and Theology of Spiritual Progressives” presented by Rabbi Michael Lerner of Tikkun magazine, Thursday, November 9, 8 p.m., in Price Center Ballroom at UCSD. Lerner will discuss “timeless theological and social issues that remain highly relevant in contemporary America.” Free. 858-453-4681. (LA AULA)

IN PERSON


Fantasy Author R.A. Salvatore signs, discusses new Sell Sword novel Road of the Patriarch, Thursday, October 26, 7 p.m., at Mysterious Galaxy Books (7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard). Dahn is author of Blood and Soap, among other books. Free. 760-268-4674. (CLAREMONT)

Literary Reading by port and fiction writer Linda Dinh, Thursday, October 26, 7 p.m., room 113 of Clarke Field House at CSU San Marcos (335 South Twin Oaks Valley Road): Dahn is author of Blood and Soap, among other books. Free. 760-730-8077. (SAN MARCOS)

On the “Razzle,” Tom Stoppard’s adaptation of Thornton Wilder’s play presented in Roundabout Theatre at San Diego State University (room 95, 800 Second Ave., near Fe Drive), October 26–November 4. Stolen identities, romantic escapades, dazzling wordplay. Curtain rises at 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. Tickets: $10 for adults, $5 for students and children. 760-733-1121 x5156. (SDSU)

“My Strange Nation” — the wonderful Susan Werner performs for AcousticMusicaSanDiego on October 26, 8:20 p.m. April Verch’s “fiddle-based band” takes stage on Sunday, October 29, 8:20 p.m. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. at Normal Heights United Methodist Church (4600 Manor Street). 619-303-8176. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)
**A 38” Earth Gong** is played by self-described “sound pioneer” Richard Rudis on Friday, October 27, 7 p.m., at Well Within (555 2nd Street). Bring mat to lie on for “transformative sound healing with the many tones, harmonics, and voices of a planetary Earth gong.” $20. 760-944-3441. **(ENCINITAS)**

**Gift Day 2006** is Friday, October 27, at Malcolm X Library (5148 Market Street). Monetary gifts — no gift too small or too large! — accepted for library starting at 9:30 a.m. Proceeds and donations matched “dollar for dollar by City of San Diego.” Benefit concert by Code Blue begins at 7 p.m. Tickets: $15 in advance, $20 at door. Reservations: 619-327-3405. **(SOUTH SAN DIEGO)**

**Ocean Beach Comedy — Steven Kendrick, Travis Taylor, Andrew Deans, Bob Hansen, Erik Klecker perform Friday, October 27, 7 p.m., at Winstons Beach Club (1921 Bacon Street). Free. 619-222-6822. **(OCEAN BEACH)**

**“The Stalwart Survivor, or the Man Who Sank the Cuyamaca Float,”** time for the Julian Triangle Club’s annual old-time melodrama and olio, presented through October 29 at Julian Town Hall (2129 Main Street). Play was first performed 49 years ago for Julian’s second melodrama. Story is loosely based on history of Julian and of course includes a villain to boo, hero to cheer. Live entertainment between acts, community sing-alongs preceding play. Performances begin at 7:15 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 1:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. $8 for adults, $2 for children under 12. 760-765-3177. **(JULIAN)**

**“Cantate,”** Point Loma Singers and Vocal Jazz Ensemble present classical, jazz, Broadway music in concert, Friday, October 27, 7:30 p.m., in Crill Performance Hall at Point Loma Nazarene University (3900 Lomaland Drive). Free. 619-849-2325. **(POINT LOMA)**

**“Bad Dad”** performed by headliner Mark Whitney, Friday and Saturday, October 27 and 28, 8 p.m., at Comedy Co-Op Warehouse Theatre (11211 Sorrento Valley Road, suite M). Tickets: $10 general, $5 students. Open-mike nights with 10–20 local comics, Thursdays, 7 p.m. (free). All shows for those over 18. 888-567-4464. **(Sorrento Valley)**

**Best-Selling Author (and Rock ‘n Roller)** Amy Tan discusses her work and signs Saving Fish from Drowning for KPBS on Friday, October 27, 8 p.m., in Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (700 Prospect Street). Tan is also author of Joy Luck Club. $50 general. 619-594-3830. **(LA JOLLA)**

**Downtown with David Sedaris,** the master of satire returns for UCSD’s ArtPower series on Friday, October 27. Among his bestsellers are Barrel Fever, Holidays on Icy, Naked, Me Talk Pretty One Day. Performance starts at 8 p.m. at Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street). Tickets: $28, $34, $40, available at 858-534-TIXS. **(DOWNTOWN)**

**Author Linda Pynaker leads “fun exercise so you may communicate with one of your spirit guides or angels,”** Saturday, October 28, 1 p.m., at Barnes and Noble Bookstore (5500 Grossmont Center). **(GROSSMONT CENTER)**

**“Saw III” Cuts into Theatres October 27**!
Shaloin Kung Fu Spectacular! San Diego State University’s Montezuma Hall hosts the 25 Shaloin warriors demonstrating various styles of kung fu, acrobatics, and weapons fighting on Sunday, October 29, at 1 and 7 p.m. Tickets: $15, $25, $40. 619-481-4374. (SDSU)

“P.I.E. Improvisational,” pianist Peter Cach “expands sonic histories” with PalomarIntrPerForm Ensemble, Sunday, October 29, 2 p.m., in Palomar College Performance Lab (room D-10 at 1140 West Mission Road). Guests: Madlyn Byrne, William Bradbury, Billy Hawkins, Michael Mufson. $12 general. 760-744-1125 x4253. (SD MUSICTOWN)

Barbary Coast Storytellers of San Diego with storytellers Michael Dahnke, Madelyn Byrne, William Bradbury, Billy Hawkins, and John Grogan (Candy from Strangers), and John Gobbell (A Call in Crisis) visit Mysterious Galaxy Books to sign and discuss their books on Sunday, October 31, at 3 p.m. Find galaxy at 7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. 858-268-4747. Free. (CLAREMONT)

Jazz in the Park, the Bandora brothers perform for series, Wednesday, November 1, 3 p.m., at San Diego Museum of Art. $20. Reservations: 619-696-1966. (BALboa PARK)

Mystery Author Donna Anderson signs her new book Not for the Wicked, Wednesday, November 1, 7:30 p.m., at Mysterious Galaxy Books. Free. 619-295-2101. (MISSION VALLEY)

Bayou Brothers play their brand of Cajun dance music for First Thursday Crafts in Escondido Library’s Turrentine Room (239 South Kalima Street) on November 2 at 7 p.m. Free. 760-839-4529. (ESCONDIDO)

Money for lunch. 619-262-3969.

The Haunted Trail, an “all-outdoor haunt” (includes old cemeteries, altar tour in Lincoln’s Hardest,” hosted by Mysterious Galaxy Books, Thursday, October 5. For complete schedule, including times and prices, call 858-755-1161. (MISSION VALLEY)

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Sculpture Garden (2955 Elmwood Street). Exhibit inspired by a piece by Italo Scanga features work by seven area sculptors. Viewing hours: 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Mondays–Fridays. 760-434-2904. Free. (CARLSBAD)

Eighth Annual Julian Open Studios Tours offered Friday–Sunday, October 27–29, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Self-guided tour of 12 private studios, showing work by 17 artists. Studios are located within seven-mile radius of Julian. Free. Locations: 760-765-2569. (JULIAN)

Harvest Festival returns to Del Mar Fairgrounds with more than 300 exhibitors offering art and craft items, October 27–29. Entertainment, food, demonstrations. Show opens at 10 a.m. each day, closes at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 5 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets good for entire weekend: $8 general, $7 seniors, $4 for those 13–17, free for kids 12 and younger. 415-447-3205. (DEL MAR)

One of the “Most Actively Haunted Mansions” in the world is said to be the Whaley House, located at 2476 San Diego Avenue. Celebrate Halloween with tours of the house — lit by oil lamps for an extra-eerie atmosphere — October 27–30. Tours begin at 5 p.m., conclude at midnight on Friday and Saturday, 10 p.m. on Sunday and Monday. Tickets: $10 adults, $5 kids 3–12, free for kids under 2. Reservations: 619-297-7511. (OLD TOWN)

Halloween Doggie Café and Costume Contest hosted by San Diego Humane Society, Friday, October 27, 6 p.m., at San Diego Humane Society and SPCA (5500 Gainos Street). Bring friendly, on-leash dogs to socialize with other canines. Trainers offer training tips on keeping dogs calm, civilized around distractions. Arrive in costume — prizes for scariest, cutest, and most original dog costumes. Donation: $10. Reservations: 619-297-7012 x2230. (SAN DIEGO)

Conversations Across the Veil, mediums of Rainy’s Mystic Books “invite you, your spirit guides, and loved ones who have crossed over” to take part in events on October 27 and 28. Messages from spirits, physical spirit phenomena, more. Events begin at 5 p.m. on Friday, 6 p.m. on Saturday. $30. Find Rainy’s at 801 Grand Avenue #3. Registration: 760-744-9818. (SAN MARCOS)

“Celebrating 30 Years in Vista” is theme for fall harvest fair, antique engine, and tractor show at Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum, Saturday and Sunday, October 28 and 29. Harvest fair includes blacksmith and wheelwright demonstrations, vintage skills, food, music, displays of antique cars and steam engines. Find the museum at 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue. Hours: 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Admission: $8.
**Lake Hodges Artists’ Show and Sale**, Saturday and Sunday, October 28 and 29, 10 a.m.—5 p.m., at Appleby International Arts (9814 Carson Place, at Cortez and DeSoto, Del Dios). Local artists display all manner of recent work. Free. 760-740-9700.

**Queen Elizabeth I and Her Royal Court** — accompanied by entertainers, food vendors, merchants, and Renaissance re-enactors — converge upon Felicita Park for seventh annual “Renaissance Faire and Shakespeare in the Park,” Saturdays and Sundays, October 28 and 29, November 4 and 5, 10 a.m.—6 p.m. Enjoy period music, battle pageants, Shakespearean theater, continuous entertainment, vendors, children’s activities. Tickets: $14 general, $12 seniors, $7 for those under 12, free for kids under 4. Find park at 742 Clarence Lane. 805-496-6036.

**Second Annual Art Festival and Sale** hosted by Southwestern Artists’ Association is Saturday and Sunday, October 28 and 29, 10 a.m.—5 p.m., in Gallery 23 at Spanish Village (1770 Village Place). Art in variety of media; live musical entertainment. Free admission. 619-232-3522.

**Vista Gem and Mineral Society Show** runs October 28–29 in Brengle Terrace Recreation Center (1200 Vale Terrace Drive). Displays dealers, demonstrations, gem identification. Show opens at 10 a.m., closes at 5 p.m. on Saturday, 4 p.m. on Sunday. Free. 760-758-4599.

**“Autumn Fantasy,” 25th anniversary ikebana exhibition and bazaar** hosted by Ichiyo School, 11 a.m.—4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, October 28 and 29, in room 101 of Casa del Prado. Demonstrations at 1 and 2 p.m. Free admission. 619-239-0512.

**Paths to Middle East Peace** explored by author Barbara Taft when Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom meets on Saturday, October 28, 11 a.m., in community room at La Jolla Village Square (8657 Villa La Jolla Drive). Free. 619-574-7674 or 858-259-5690.

**Halloween Around the World**, spirited party in main plaza of Old Town State Historic Park, Saturday, October 28, 11 a.m.—4 p.m. includes entertainment, games, crafts, contests, fortune telling, ghost stories. Sunbath, Halloween, Dia de los Muertos parade; Celtic dancing, more. Free admission. 619-220-5422. Find fun at 4002 Wallace Street. (OLD TOWN STATE PARK)

**Knitting Circle** — hook up with other knitters to “share ideas, make new friends, help each other,” Saturdays, 11 a.m.—1 p.m., at Knitting by the Beach (616 Stevens Avenue, suite B). Free. 858-509-9276. (SOLANA BEACH)
Reading

Pride of Baghdad

By Brian K. Vaughan, art by Niko Henrichon

WHAT THE PUBLISHER SAYS:
From one of America’s most acclaimed comics writers—a startlingly original look at life on the streets of Baghdad during the Iraq War inspired by true events.

In his award-winning work Y: The Last Man and Ex Machina (one of Entertainment Weekly’s 2005 ten best fiction titles), writer Brian K. Vaughan has displayed an understanding of both the cost of survival and the political nuances of the modern world. Now, in this provocative graphic novel, Vaughan examines life on the streets of war-torn Iraq. The experience is made all the more evocative by the lush, spectacular artwork of Niko Henrichon.

In the spring of 2003, a pride of lions escaped from the Baghdad Zoo during an American bombing raid. Lost and confused, hungry but free, the four lions roamed the decimated streets of Baghdad in a desperate struggle for their lives. In documenting the plight of the lions, Pride of Baghdad raises questions about the true meaning of liberation—can it be given, or is it earned only through self-determination and sacrifice? And in the end, is it truly better to die free than to live in captivity?

Based on a true story, Vaughan and Henrichon have created a unique and heartbreaking window into the nature of life during wartime, illuminating this struggle as only the graphic novel can.

WHAT THE REVIEWERS SAY:
• “Daily Yomiuri (Tokyo): "Ultimately, Pride of Baghdad is not a story meant to provide answers, but to stir thoughts. And in successfully doing that, it shows just how powerful the graphic novel format can be." The York Dispatch (Pennsylvania): "Sure, the lions talk with one another and other animals, but there aren’t any ‘Hakuna Matatas’ moments in Pride of Baghdad. Instead, this is a story about illusions and bitter truths. It’s a battle of raw nature against human violence and insanity. In that sense, Pride of Baghdad seems to channel works such as Watership Down and The Plague Dogs.”

A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR:
Brian K. Vaughan took a half hour on a Saturday afternoon recently to speak with me from his home in West Hollywood about his latest graphic novel. I asked if he was a native Californian. “I’m originally from Cleveland, Ohio. Then I lived in New York for about ten years. I was an NYU Film School nerd. My wife went to grad school in Pennsylvania. So we moved back to New York, but Hollywood stuff sort of popped up, so we sold out and are now doing our time in Los Angeles.”
• “What was your experience, as a kid, with comics?”
“Of course! I imagine, like most kids, with my parents bringing me home a couple of issues of Spider-Man when I was home sick one day. I think at first I didn’t really understand them. I thought they were an activity book, where the panels were meant to be cut out and put in a certain order. I still have photos of me as a kid cutting out valuable early issues of Amazing Spider-Man and pasting them next to panels from Batman/Galactic comics.”
• “Does that hurt to see?”
“A little bit, I guess. But it’s also fun to see the formative years of a comic-book creator. I guess from the beginning I was trying to make my own.”

“When did you first encounter a graphic novel?”
“Everyone’s definition of a graphic novel is different, but if you count the collection of indies that were beginning to circulate in the mid-1990s, I guess that’s when I first encountered them next to panels from Watership Down.”

“I found out as much about lions as possible — about their behavior — to try and accurately reflect what their personality might be like if they could communicate in a human fashion.”

Día de los Muertos

(Death Comes to Everyone: A Participatory Offering) by Sylvia Castelluzzo on beach just north of Scripps Pier on Saturday, October 28, 4 p.m.-8 p.m. Scientists and students display and demonstrate powerful microscopes, telescopes, computers, other lab equipment; planetarium show. Free: 619-594-4523. ASL and Spanish interpreters present (teno)

Partner Hatha Yoga class offered by Sylvia Castelluzzo on beach just north of Scripps Pier on Saturday, October 28, 4 p.m.-8 p.m. Scientists and students display and demonstrate powerful microscopes, telescopes, computers, other lab equipment; planetarium show. Free: 619-594-4523. ASL and Spanish interpreters present (teno)

Pam and Mark Churness host log-cabin class offered during the Iraq War inspired by true events.

Help Build a Log Home when Pam and Mark Churness host log-raising for their new home, Saturday, October 28, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at 1068 West Incenzo Cedar Road. Free: 760-765-1117. (LA JOLLA)

“The Inner Space/Outer Space” — San Diego State University’s College of Sciences annual explorato- rium and open house on Saturday, October 28, 4–8 p.m. Scientists and students display and demonstrate powerful microscopes, telescopes, computers, other lab equipment; planetarium show. Free: 619-594-4523. ASL and Spanish interpreters present (teno)

Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Street Festival, Sunday, October 29, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Port View Way and Coast Highway. Ofrendas (altars), food, music, dancing, arts and crafts. Free: 624-967-2005. (Irvine)

Hallo-Wiener Dachshund Picnic — 18th annual gathering on Sunday, October 29, noon-3 p.m., at Park Boulevard and Presidents Way. Bring dachshunds on short leash (costumes encouraged), picnic, lawn chairs, nuts and water for canines. No fees, no competition. 858-755-4270. (IRVINA PARK)

Stamp Club meets on first Wednesday of each month, including November 1, 10 a.m., at Encinitas Community Center (1140 Oakcrest Park Drive). Mounting and protecting collections, searching stamps and topical, history, appraisals, more. Free. 760-943-2250. (IRVINA PARK)

“Muerte de todos ofrenda de participación” (Death Comes to Everyone: A Participatory Offering) — Día de los Muertos: Brian K. Vaughan’s 11th annual site-specific installation at California Tower for the Arts, Escondido opens with artist talk by Tascio and community reception on Wednesday, November 1, 6-9 p.m. Participate in installation by bringing objects in memory of loved ones such as photographs, mementos, flowers. Hands-on activities offered in Studio 2. Free. The museum is located at 340 North Escondido Boulevard; 760-839-4120. Installation continues through November. (ESCONDIDO)

“Immigration Today — Are the WASP’S Days Numbered?” Discussion topic on Thursday, November 2, 1:30 p.m. Carpool begins from Parsonage Museum parking lot (3185 Olive) at 1 p.m. walking tour starts at Sophie’s Gallery, 109 Rose Avenue, 619-460-4133. (LA JOLLA)

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“Everyone’s definition of a graphic novel is different, but if you count the collection of indies that were beginning to circulate in the mid-1990s, I guess that’s when I first encountered them next to panels from Watership Down.”
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mals. I tried to independently cor-
raborate as much of the infor-
mation as I could from the small
news story, and to get as many
inside details as possible.”

“How did you come upon
Niko Henrichon, from Quebec, to
illustrate the story?”

“My editor, Will Dennis, sug-
gested him. When I pitched the
idea, we originally didn’t have a par-
cular artist in mind. If you ask
artists what they hate to draw, the
two things you’ll hear most often are
giners and animals. It’s hard to
get the perspective just right. It’s
something they’re not asked to
draw often, so usually it’s a strug-
gle for most of them.”

“Niko had done another
graphic novel called Barnum,
with a writer named Howard Chaykin.
It happened to have a few pan-
els with circus animals in it, and
the animals were good. We thought,
based on that, that we’d have
him draw a few samples. We knew as
soon as we saw the new, more lar-
gant, painterly style he was using,
and more importantly the way he
captured the characters, that he
was the one.”

“We didn’t want something
that would be too Disney or too
much of a caricature. We wanted
to be more grounded in the real
world. After that, we wanted the
animals to be able to express
emotions, in sort of the way your
dog might express emotions so
that you could tell if it’s sad or happy.
He walked that tightrope perfectly.”

“Given the fact that you are
kitty-corner on the continent from
one another, how did you collaborates?”

“It’s really the norm in comic
tales today. Most of my collabora-
tors are Canadian, but I’ve also
worked with Croatian artists and
Spanish artists. The Internet has
changed everything. It facilitates
collaboration.”

“Niko and I talked a few times
over the phone in the beginning,
but over the course of the three
years it took to make the issue,
we just dailly e-mailed. It was nice to have the
benefit of working on a graphic novel as opposed to a mini-series
or an ongoing comic where the
deadlines are really punishing.
If you release a comic 22 pages at a
time and you come up with a great
idea in the fourth issue, but you
needed to have planted something
in the first issue, you’re doomed.
We had the luxury of always being
able to go back and do exactly what
we wanted. We wanted to take as
much time as possible to make it
perfect.”

“What are some of the chal-
enges you face as a writer in
putting together a multilayered
story like this while only using dia-
logue and text bubbles?”

“My scripts work like a
screenplay. Much more descrip-
tion goes into the visual layout
than into just the dialogue. It’s
a process of editing and of trying
to say as much as possible with
as few words as possible.”

“The pictures, especially
when you’re working with some-
one as talented as Niko, convey
so much more than the dialogue.
I would get Niko’s pages, and he
would have said something with
images much better than I had
with the words, so I could just
pare away at it.”

“How do you make the
growing popularity and mass
acceptance of graphic novels?”

“It’s long overdue, I guess.
Right now there’s maybe not the
benchmark work that there was
(interview on page 35)
San Diego has a variety of museums and exhibits that cater to different interests. In the 1960s, there was no Mall or a Dark Knight Returns or a Watchmen, but, at the same time, if you loved one of those books in the 90s, you didn’t have that many to choose from. Now, there’s such an unbelievable variety of graphic novels. It’s an embarrassment of riches.

I’ve found that, for the most part, we comic book fans and creators tend to be a pretty self-sounding bunch. I think we’re always convinced that people frown on discussing the medium. I don’t think you’d have to look too far to find a comic bookLoathing bunch. I think we’re always convinced that people frown on discussing the medium.

I sort of knew that people would take it personally. I don’t think you’d have to look too far to find a comic bookLoathing bunch. I think we’re always convinced that people frown on discussing the medium.

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A border is many things: the demarcation of land masses, cities, nations; an invisible extremity to be crossed; a margin drawn with a ruler; a place in the mind we transgress at risk; an edge hard or soft, impermeable or porous. But the border, in the dyspeptic media jabberwocky of our time, means one thing: the 1951 miles of terrain that, though marked in most places by wall, levee, or barbed wire, is one of the more volatile spaces in our political imagination. In San Diego, which has 800 Border Patrol agents, its presence and socioeconomic consequences are particularly acute.

Road photographers are as anonymously footloose as Mexican crop-pickers. What would our national archive look like without photographers behind the wheel? Artists like Walker Evans, Robert Frank, and Lee Friedlander have been succeeded by contemporary wanderers like Edward Burtynsky, James Ficke, and James Nachtwey. The Museum of Photographic Arts last year mounted a blistering show of Burtynsky’s big images of globalized postindustrial waste; it’s currently exhibiting several elegiac landscapes Ficke made just before his death last month; and Nachtwey, the greatest war photographer of our time whose work MOPA showed in 2003, was recently wounded in Iraq riding with troops in a Humvee that was attacked.

The San Diego–based Don Bartletti is a member of that tribe, and MOPA has put up a broad-shouldered exhibition of his work about borders as local as Tijuana/San Diego and as far away as Afghanistan/Pakistan. The images split open a world of distressed intimacies, fateful risk-taking, harried flight, and humane devotion. The first chapter of the show (the only one, I’m sorry to report, that has an accompanying catalog) treats our border crossings. Bartletti pretty much lets political feelings about immigration fall where they will. His photos fasten instead on the suffering and endurance of the people involved, and the first picture in the show will stop your breath: in darkness, a smear of young guys is making “la brinca,” the hop over the high steel wall at San Ysidro, a couple of them just letting go, a few others already on their way down, all of them crushed shadows in some zone of free fall into illegality and the hope of an improved life. It’s not the only heart stopper. “I want to show the shadows moving,” Bartletti says, and in picture after picture we see smudged, dimly lit, fugitive figures in a landscape, nearly always on the run (in one shocker a flustered flock of men, women, and children make a nightfall sprint across the interstate, headlights bearing down on them) or at momentary rest, perfectly still nocturnal silhouettes who have nothing else to do except wait for the right moment. Some pictures dramatize the tense brinksmanship of the divide.

Consider the cutaway view of the steel fence bordering San Diego: on one side is a migra cruiser and agent; on the other, crouching immigrants wait for the cruiser to move on so they can jump the fence. In another, an overhead shot of a freight train shows a Border Patrol agent on one side of the train while, on the other, four Hondurans, risking the excruciating freight-hopping journey through Mexico to el norte, cling like lizards to boxcar ladders.

Bartletti doesn’t candy or sentimentalize his subjects. He honors the photojournalist’s code: show the facts, because the facts suffice to horrify. We see the smoky squatter camps of itinerant workers who can’t afford conventional housing, plastic containers everywhere, laundry hanging, improvised tents or shanties, blankets spread on

Born to Run
Road photographers are as anonymously footloose as Mexican crop-pickers.

The Roads Most Traveled: Photographs of Migration
By Don Bartletti
Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park
Through Sunday, January 14, 2007. For additional information, call 619-238-7559.

Two Weekends · 7th Annual Fall Escondido Renaissance Faire
October 28th & 29th and November 4th & 5th
Saturday & Sunday from 10 am to Dusk
Sponsored by Visions In Time Foundation and San Diego Parks & Recreation
Food · Arts & Crafts
Continuous Entertainment
Tournaments · Pirates Gypsy Encampment
• Hundreds of Costumed Performers
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Ticket Prices
Adults - $14.00
Seniors (65+) - $12.00
Children (5-11) - $7.00
Ticket Price Includes All Entertainment
Children 4 & under · FREE
Parking $3.00

at Felicita Park In Escondido
Directions: I-15 Exit at Via Rancho Parkway Turn West to Felicita Rd. Follow Signs to Entrance
Visit Our Website for More Information
www.goldcoastfestivals.com
the bare ground where they sleep, often in view of the well-heeled commuter communities they service. We see different sorts of industry practiced both sides of the border: enterprising Tijuana urchins peddle cigarettes, gum, and tequila shots to men waiting to cross over or to meet a coyote who for a steep price provides (always dicey) passage to the U.S.A. In one picture, Guatemalan teenagers hoping for a day’s work cluster like street beggars around a Cadillac outside the gated community of San Diego’s Fairbanks Ranch.

Be warned. It’s a jolt to move from Bartletti’s woody-textured, high-energy black-and-white images to his color-saturated pictures. The shift in part is aesthetic; color pays out an instant beauty bounty, because it more naturally and immediately pleases the senses. It also tends to theatricalize visual information. Bartletti’s work in color makes the invisible glassy pane on which photographic events un- the invisible glassy pane on which photographic events un- the invisible glassy pane on which photographic events un- the invisible glassy pane on which photographic events un- the invisible glassy pane on which photographic events un- the invisible glassy pane on which photographic events un- the invisible glassy pane on which photographic events un- the invisible glassy pane on which photographic events un- the invisible glassy pane on which photographic events un- the invisible glassy pane on which photographic events un- the invisible glassy pane on which photographic events un- the invisible glassy pane on which photographic events un- the invisible glassy pane on which photographic events un-

One series treats a migration pattern I wasn’t aware of. Honduran and Guatemalan boys as young as 12, with the barest provisions, jump freights and stowaway the 1500 miles between them and el norte, sometimes in search of their mothers. One ambiguous picture titled Sad Farewell shows a 74-year-old woman in a chair, a cat asleep on a chair beside her, ambiguous because of the flashy touristic lushness of the azure and sea-green stucco wall behind her — it’s a picture of gorgeous impoverishment. The narrative complications things even more: this Honduran woman had begged her 16-year-old grandson not to ride freights to look for his mami with only seven dollars in his pockets. Close by, another picture reveals the world that young boy was fleeing: a child slugs knee-deep in the town dump, scavenging food, clothes, anything useful, while vultures flap close overhead and stand at his elbow, ready to take whatever he turns down. Freight train stowaways call Chiapan State, which they must pass through. “The beast,” because they are preyed upon by murderous bandits, la migra, and corrupt police who, Bartletti says, “hunt them like animals.” The photographs feature all those characters and then some. The most upsetting picture in the exhibition is also the scariest: two street boys sprawled in the foreground inside a culvert — one holds his head, having just been beaten by loc- cal drunks — while deeper in the culvert a hellish ring of flame from a fire drum warms their legs.

Roughly half the exhibition dramatizes migrations in other parts of the world, and the images disclose raw intimacies. A Kenyan woman working as a nanny in Milan tends to her charge (who sits in a red- canopied industrial-strength stroller) on the Via Sacra near the Coliseum, while passersby throw scolding looks her way. (Her earnings go home to pay tuition at the private school her own child attends, a school named “Pinocchio.”)

Filipina women migrate to Japan to dance in clubs and “entertain” customers. One photo-narrative illustrates the story of a 49-year-old Haitian man, Dieusel Lundis, who works in a Miami fish warehouse by day and by night sells overstock in neighborhoods from ice chests in his car. He barely sleeps and sends most of his earnings home. When his uncle dies, he’s obligated by custom to pick up the funeral expenses, including casket, plot, funeral band, handouts, and treats for friends, all of which cost him $8000. To honor and sustain cultural tradi- tion, he has to estrange himself from it, probably for the rest of his life, and peddle fish at night. I expect viewers who spend much time at this exhibition — it’s so ample that it requires more than one visit — will be exhausted by the bruising visual information and aggrieved at all that irredeemable des- peration. Outraged, too, perhaps, by what we’re so in- frequently exposed to but which most people on the planet cope with every day: poverty, want, and enfeebled hope.

**ART LISTINGS**

Events that are underlined occur after November 2.

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

**GALLERIES**

“Fleeting Moments,” Jeffrey Clark has painted “delicate organic shapes onto layers of acrylic sheets” in this exhibit, opening with reception on Thursday, Oc- tober 26, 4-9 p.m., in San Diego Mesa College Art Gallery (D-104). Reception followed with lecture by artist at 7 p.m. in LRC-435. Find campus at 7200 Mesa College Drive. 619-388-2829. (MESA MESA)

“30 Under Thirty,” Scott Keller curated show featuring work in va- riety of media by “30 young artists” opening with reception on Saturday, October 28, 8 p.m., at D Gallery (222 Wisconsin Avenue). Closes Saturday, November 18. 760-489-0423. (MESA MESA)

“Miragoneous Zones,” pieces opening “emotional and intellectual doors of their viewers” gathered in exhibit continuing through Sunday, November 12, at La Jolla Art Asso- ciation Village Gallery (7324 Ivan- hoe Avenue). Reception for artists is Sunday, October 29, 2 p.m. 858-459-1196. Closing reception at 1 p.m. November 12. (LA JOLLA)

“Estamos Buscando A – We’re Looking For,” photographic in- stallation documenting migrant expe- rience along U.S.-Mexico border by New York artist Michael Fen- ton is on view through Tuesday, December 12, at Galerie d’Art Inte- rnational (320 South Cedros Av- enue, suite 500). Opening recep- tion for artist is Friday, November 10th, 6 p.m. 858-793-0316. (SOLANA BEACH)

**Halloween Costumes**

Costumes, costume kits, masks, makeup, wigs, leotards, hats, accessories, and much more. 10% OFF with this ad.

We guarantee the largest selection and lowest prices.

1220 Garnet Ave, Pacific Beach
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The Banda Brothers

November 1, 5:30 p.m.
The Banda Brothers Latin Jazz Ensemble perform with a deep understanding of Afro-Latin music and American jazz in the tradition of Dizzy Gillespie and Mongo Baura.

Tickets: $10-$20
Call 619-220-TIXS, visit www.ticketmaster.com, or buy at the door.
SAN DIEGO THEATER

THEATER LISTINGS

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

Agamenon: A Tribute to Kurt Reichter
As part of a tribute to the late Kurt Reichter, Chronos Theatre Group presents a staged reading of Aeschylus’s Agamenon.
NEW WORLD STAGE, 317 NINTH AVENUE, DOWNTOWN, MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, AT 7:30 P.M. 619-239-5047.

Beyond Therapy
PEPlays presents Christopher Durang’s comedy about unpredictable Bruce, nervous Prudence, and their attempt at a relationship.
MARITHEA, 3704 SIXTH AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH NOVEMBER 4; THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M., FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M., SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-888-8210.

Bug
Aphids aren’t bloodsuckers. Or are they? A Socratic government (or the Bildbergers) didn’t stage JFK and 9/11 to escalate Vietnam and invade Afghanistan and Iraq. Or did? Tracy Letts’s sleazy thriller thrums right down the middle of these questions. It’s set in an unlikely local: a motel in Oklahoma where rock cocaine-taking Agnes “hemorrhizes herself” from her abusive ex-con husband. She meets kindly, distant Peter Evans. Her potential suitor brings about even greater paranoia: he was a government subject at Groom Lake (i.e. Area 51) and may be carrying a bug virus of burrowing carnivorous aphids. Agnes gets it (or is just scratching sympathy sore?). Heli- cutters swarm overhead. Men in black? Or delusional ravings? Cigypetheatre’s crack design team does it again with a detail-rich metic- ular set (Sean Murray), costumes rendered from frump to top shelf (Veronica Murphy), and lighting (Eric Lohr even has a strobe effect) and sound (George Ye, brilliant) design that tell the story by them- selves. The production, directed by Murray, is full of tasteful suspense, in- cluding many an eloquent silence. And the performances are quite good, especially Robin Christ’s chain-smoking Angie and John De- Carlo’s flip-flopping Peter. Where the production sometimes flags as if it fears being labeled a “conspir- acy theorist” (possibly this coun- try’s most dominant stereotype), it stresses Bug’s comic moments. Letts created down-and-nearly-out characters rarely seem onstage. Em- phasizing the humor of Bug marginalizes them even more, making their reactions, real or imagined causes, often just silly. This choice gives the audience too easy an out. Sure Angie and Peter could be “hitting the pipe a little too heavy.” But then again— Worth a try.
CIGYP THEATRE, 3505 EL CAJON BLDG, COLLEGE AVENUE, THROUGH NOVEMBER 10; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M., SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-337-1293.

The Crucible
University of San Diego’s under- graduate theater arts program stages Arthur Miller’s drama about the Salem Witch Trials.
STUDIO THEATRE, SACRED HEART HALL, UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO, 5151 AL- GADA PLA, LKNA VISTA, THROUGH OCTOBER 28; THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY AT 7:30 P.M., SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M., SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-337-0894.

The Glass Menagerie
As part of its NATION Project (which includes a production of Steinbeck’s Of Mice and Men, an early reading of O’Hara’s A View from the Bridge, and Ion Theatre offers Ten- nessee Williams’ play), Ion Theatre offers a production of the Medieval
NEW WORLD STAGE, 317 NINTH AVENUE, DOWNTOWN, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2; FRIDAY AT 7:30 P.M., SATURDAY AT 2:00 P.M., SUNDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-688-9210.

The Golden-Hearted
CIVIC THEATRE, 3rd & B Street, DOWNTOWN, THROUGH NOVEMBER 5; TUESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY AT 7:30 P.M., FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-570-1100.

The Golden-Sculpted
Four performances of a play about the late poet and artist Henry Miller are presented as part of a celebration of his life and work.
CIVIC THEATRE, 33rd & B Street, DOWNTOWN, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M.; SATURDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-570-1100.

The Golden-Swiftly
CIVIC THEATRE, 3rd & B Street, DOWNTOWN, THROUGH NOVEMBER 2; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. 619-570-1100.

The Golden-Wave
University of San Diego’s undergraduate theater arts program stages Howard Rabinowitz’s world-pre- miere adaptation of the medieval Jewish legend about the man- god created to protect the community from evil. But will the community need protection from the Golem? Zoe Paulin directed.
CIVITHEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH NOVEMBER 4; THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M., FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M., SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-337-1293.

Hedda Gabler
Poor Players stage Henrik Ibsen’s drama of “the original desperate housewife.” Tom Haine directed.
WESTMINSTER THEATRE, 3586 TALBOT STREET, PORT LOMA, THROUGH OCTOBER 29; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M., SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-255-1401.

Hemingway’s Rose
The Platinum Theatre Company presents Matt Thompson’s dark comedy about Max and George, opposites forced to spend time to- gether and discover a surprise.
ION THEATRE, 3505 EL CAJON BLDG, COLLEGE AVENUE, THROUGH NOVEMBER 2; FRIDAY AT 10:30 P.M., SATURDAY AT 4:00 P.M. (SPECIAL), 10:30 P.M. SATURDAY PERFORMANCE OCTOBER 28; 619-888-9210.

I Hate Hamlet
Premiere stages a farce-ridden comedy about a TV actor cast in THE role against his will. Terri Miller Schmidt directed.
BROADWAY THEATRE, 340 EAST BROADWAY, TUESDAY, THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M., SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 760-806-7905.

Life X 3
A near-perfect mix from hell: guests arrive a day early; six- year-old (stuck in the terrible twos) tantrums; a body with a mind. “doomed” infant to a poet; Henry, Robert Smyth’s smug, contentious Hubert, Henry’s boss; Glynn Beding- ton’s inert, as deep as she is daffy and Colleen Kolf’s manic/tender, al- ways amusingly focused Sonia. The quartet does a kind of reverse ensem- ble acting. They turn 12 characters into 4 increasingly complex beings. Critic’s pick.
LAMB’S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 O- ANGE AVENUE, CORONADO, THROUGH NOVEMBER 12; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M., FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 760-723-7444.
A Match Made in Heaven
As a fundraiser for the company, Community Actors Theatre stages Liva Krancberg’s play about love and romance. Jennie Hamilton directed.

COMMUNITY ACTORS THEATRE, 2957 54TH STREET, OAK PARK, THROUGH NOVEMBER 19; THURSDAY AT 7:00 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 3:00 P.M. 619-204-3391.

Middle-Aged White Guys
6th@Penn presents Jane Martin’s comedy that “bares all” about Elvis, God, and certain high-up officials.

6TH@PENN THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH NOVEMBER 12; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-688-9210.

Miss Witherspoon
“Skylab is falling!” Chunks of warped metal clonk on the San Diego Rep stage as if the crumbling space station drew a bead on the nay-saying Miss Witherspoon. In Christopher Durang’s pseudo-metaphysical comedy, space junk bombing from the sky becomes a metaphor for her many reincarnations, which have been such messes her karma’s got a “brown tweed hue.” She’s so down she makes nihilism sound like a healing balm.

In Bardo, the Buddhist netherworld, she debates with serene Maryamma about never returning to another life. And when she does, slammed back into time by a lounge chair locked in reverse, it’s to a carnivorous dog, or smack-shooting parents — though none seems as evil as having been one of Rex Harrison’s wives. Durang’s script has many a comic highlight, and lows as well. It’s real talky (as if he had to stretch a concept to reach a 90-minute evening) and often feels contrived. Smartly, director Delicia Turner Sonnenberg and the Rep cast plow through the long speeches and over-extended dialogue and stress the play’s zany spirituality. Melinda Gift gives Witherspoon the right dour notes, especially when born again, and again. On Nick Fouch’s way split-level set (maybe five feet of difference), and wearing Jennifer Brawn Gittings’s always apt and often hilarious costumes, the ensemble cast shines. Steve Gunderson, DeAnna Driscoll (especially as THE controlling mother from Hell), JoAnne Glover’s ethereal spirit helper Maryamma, and Sylvia M’Tafi Thompson (in a cameo as an African-American Jesus) spike scenes at just the right moment.

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Calendar
THEATER

**North Park 4th Annual Playwrights Festival**
North Park Vaudeville & Candy Shoppe presents 26 new works by local and international playwrights. North Park Vaudeville & Candy Shoppe, 3035 El Cajon Boulevard, through November 4; Friday and Saturday at 8:00 P.M. 619-447-4958.

**Pig Farm**
Tom is in deep doo-doo figuratively and, in Greg Kost’s absurd satires, literally. A storm’s on the horizon, the government’s about to take its annual pig census (one too many and Tom could lose all), and his wife Tina decides she wants to make their baby on the kitchen table. NOW, Pig Farm unfolds like a hero “save the farm” movie gone haywire. Kost deconstructs movie clichés the way his Tony Award–winning “Unimportant Unimportant Unimportant” does musicals. The only lemonade in an otherwise funny, often hilarious show: the musical ends with a powerful summation (America’s “way of life is unsustainable”). Pig Farm concludes with slapstick and silliness and no major punchline. It stays what it has been all along. Director Matt August and fight director Steve Rankin turn the Cassius Carter into a manic stepdaughter of pratfalls and physical comedy; all performers and director Todd Koch’s Tom (a bulb dimmed by repeated rolling pin clubbing); Colleen Quinn’s Tina (a comic gem, more than holding her own in a testosterone-rampant environment); Ian White’s enterprising Tim (on work-release from juvenile hall with enough energy to ignite Balboa Park); Ken Land, an EPA snoop Teddy (repressing, irrepressible re- actionary thrust). “Comic intensity” should be an oxymoron, since the rule with comedies is usually the lighter the better. But the ensemble performs with such comic intensity they make minatory choreographed steps appear spontaneous. Worth a try.

**CASSIAS CENTER STAGE, 3035 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, COLLEGE AREA, THROUGH MAY 8:** **SEVEN GUITARS: HOME EN ROOTS:** Middle School, 4350 54th Street, City Heights, Monday, October 30, at 7:30 P.M. For a complete list of readings and locations, call 619-357-1525, x3.

**Ridiculous Fraud**
South Coast Repertory Theatre stages Beth Healy’s “affectionately absurd comedy” about three brothers “bonded by love and jealousy.” Sharon Ott directed. South Coast Repertory Theatre, 655 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa, through November 13; Wednesday through Saturday at 7:30 P.M.; Sunday at 3:00 P.M. 714-708-5555.

**The Rocky Horror Show**
Southwestern College performs the now 33-year-old “kitchy, rock ‘n roll sci-fi gothic” audience-participation cult classic. Susan Stratton directed. Moon Hall Theatre, 500 1st Lakes Road, Chula Vista, Friday, October 27, through November 2.

Since Africa “I tell him what my whole life story,” Ater Deng co-wrote the Playwrights Festival staging Best Healy’s “affectionately absurd comedy” about three brothers “bonded by love and jealousy.” Sharon Ott directed.

**The Piano Lesson**
Southwestern College performs the late August Wilson what “Grassroots Greeks” did for ancient Greece to a world of myth, and mystery to a world of grace, urgent dances bring ritual, actionary thug). “Comic intensity” should be an oxymoron, since the rule with comedies is usually the lighter the better. But the ensemble performs with such comic intensity they make minatory choreographed steps appear spontaneous. Worth a try.

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Win, Place, or Die...My Jockeys Are Killing Me! Mystery Cafe Dinner Theater presents James Pascarella and Patricia Harris-Smith’s interactive “race-track rump.” It’s opening weekend at Upson Downs, and the thoroughbred Club’ll never be the same. Pascarella directed. IMPERIAL HOUSE RESTAURANT, 578 Horton Plaza, Downtown. 7:00-8:00 P.M. 1-213-298-2761.

The Wiz

For this “reimagined” musical, Robert Bell has transformed the Mandell Weiss Theatre from a proscenium stage to an environmental space. Glittering black and orange petals. The production dazzles. But the story and several songs have been reduced to sound-bites. The technical alibi upstages the human. The entire cast, wearing Paul Taylor’s amazing, rainbow-hued costumes, obviously has the chops. Albert Bliss Catanza’s coting Toto and Michael Benjamin Washington’s Tinman come closest to realizing their roles. Others could amplify their characters’ traditions (Richard Naylor’s Scarecrow, David Allen Greene’s W. C. Fields/Tinman Burgess’s Lion). Others, like E. Faye Butler’s one-note, unscary Eullene and Heath Lee’s stereotypically goofy witch Adaperke, need rethinking. In Nikki M. James, the playhouse has a splendid Dorothy. But except for her stirring “Soon As I Get Home,” most of her numbers fail ably, or half-finished. You keep wondering when the show will hit its full cut lines home, since it’s obviously she can. The Wiz could use loosening as well. It’s a hip-hop remaking of Charlie Smith’s musical, where are the rap numbers, where’s the sustained funk? Opening night felt like a white “cover album” of the 1975 version. Even with a top-notch band, the show rarely suggests that it’s “been down from day one.” Worth a try.

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1200 Third Ave., Downtown. 415/442-6367 www.firsttheatre.com

Full Circle Theatre Company

3780 Harding Pl., San Diego. 619/238-1153

Groundwork College

4203 7th Ave., San Diego. 619/234-7126

The Hispanik Theatre Of San Diego

1616 Calliope St., National City 619/486-5355

H.L.T. Productions Dinner Theater
Shelby’s Kitchen, 3901 El Cajon Blvd. La Mesa. 619/461-6672 www.hltproductions.com

North Coast Repertory Theatre

400 Rancho Del Oro, Oceanside. 760/726-2386

cherche Theatre

444 Fourth Ave., Downtown. 619/238-1153

The Drama Broadway 201 E. Grand Ave., Escondido. (760) 744-1150 x2453 www.palomar.edu

California Center For The Arts

3901 3rd Ave., San Diego. 619/550-4000 www.sandiegooperastudio.com

Curie Theatre

987-D Lomas Santa Fe Dr., Solana Beach. 760/758-3922 www.pinehillslodge.com

Eisenhower’s


Emory & Alley Theatre

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Laguna Playhouse

1684 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach (949) 497-2957

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2918 La Jolla Village Dr., La Jolla (858) 595-7849 www.lajollaplayhouse.org

Lamb’s Players Theatre

4114 Orange Ave., San Diego. 619/458-4000 www.lambsplayers.org

Lamp Lighting Community Theatre

6313 University Ave., La Mesa (619) 466-4494 www.lamplightingtheater.org

Lyrae Oppen San Diego Playhouse

17930 Rancho Peppertree Rd., Encinitas. 760/839-7200

North Coast Repertory Theatre

999-38 Park Blvd., Carlsbad. 760/482-6100 www.northcoastrep.com

North Park Playhouse

2031 Market St., San Diego. 619/295-7956 www.northparkplayhouse.com

The Old Globe Theatre

2120 Wall St., San Diego. 619/434-4475 www.theoldglobe.org

Palomar College Theatre

1100 11th St., San Marcos. 760/330-4840 www.palomar.edu

Patio Playhouse

7705 Calle de Estrellas, La Jolla. 858/459-0100 www.patioplayhouse.org

Pines Playhouse

8665 Pines Bluff Rd., Encinitas. 760/758-3922 www.pinesplayhouse.org

Point Loma Nazarena University

5555 University Ave., San Diego. 619/699-2952 www.plnu.edu

Poppy Center For The Performing Arts

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Theater Of The Stars

3700 4th Ave., Downtown. 619/234-4355 www.trainwreckent.com

The Old Globe Theatre

2120 Wall St., San Diego. 619/434-4475 www.theoldglobe.org

The theatre I In Old Town

4061 Orange Ave., Old Town. 619/544-2004 www.theatreworlds.com

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155 East Grand Ave., Escondido. 760/733-9591 www.theatreofthestars.com

Tooned Productions

619/246-4853 www.toonedproductions.org

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1731 Utah Bridge Rd., Del Mar. 760/601-2142 www.towerpark.org

Tosca Performing Arts Center

430 Rancho Del Oro, Oceanside. 760/667-7919

University of California San Diego

UCSD Theatre, Studio Theatre

1250 University Ave. 619/541-4754 www.ucsd.edu

University Of San Diego

9599 Alcala Park, San Diego. 619/260-7594 www.arts.ucsd.edu/vantagens

Vantage Theatre

1200 Third Ave., Downtown. 619/238-4542 http://vantage@san.rr.com/vantaget.htm

Walkaround Theatre

8801 Lawrence Welk Dr., Escondido. (760) 749-3840 www.walkaroundtheatre.com

The Wild Pear Players Community Theatre

20927 San Mateo Dr., Point Loma United Methodist Church 1986 Salvation Army, Ocean Beach. 619/248-8946

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1214 Washington Ave., La Jolla. 760/234-9727 www.womensrep.org

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THEATRE WOMEN’S REP</now>
I grew up in this town, and kids don’t have healthy places to hang out. There’s a tiny theater with two screens. There’s no bowling alley, no arcades. There used to be an annual event called Ramonapalooza. The last one in 2001 had, like, 13 bands. It was at the middle-school auditorium, but it got shut down. There used to be a youth center called Sono that had concerts once a month; that’s gone. Then, last year, these guys tried to put on a concert in the parking lot of Blue Horse Music, Ramona’s only music store. It’s the first of a series of outdoor concerts to be held in the roped-off Saturday in a rare all-ages show in Ramona. It’s the first of a series of outdoor concerts to be held in the roped-off parking lot of Blue Horse Music, Ramona’s only music store. Portinga maintains that authorities in this unincorporated rural town of 15,000 do what they can to prevent bands from playing in public, Jon Haas, manager of Blue Horse Music, agrees. “It’s terrible,” says Haas.

Who Killed Ramonastock? “This is party central,” says 20-year-old Jim Portinga of Ramona. “Everyone you talk to says, ‘Where’s the party?’ There is a big drug epidemic up here. I would say 70 to 80 percent of the kids do drugs.” Portinga is in two bands, goes to Palomar College, and has a job. He sings and plays guitar in Dueling Dragons, one of five bands playing this Saturday in a rare all-ages show in Ramona. It’s the first of a series of outdoor concerts to be held in the roped-off parking lot of Blue Horse Music, Ramona’s only music store. Portinga maintains that authorities in this unincorporated rural town of 15,000 do what they can to prevent bands from playing in public, Jon Haas, manager of Blue Horse Music, agrees. “It’s terrible,” says Haas.

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Appalled, I'm Sure

More local performers with content on their MySpace sites some might find objectionable.

Bands with misogynistic names include "Dig a Ditch and Bury the Bitch" and "Snuff That White Bitch" (the latter band featuring photos of serial killers Jeffrey Dahmer and Richard Ramirez on their main page). Robot Nigga's "Fry Till I Die" includes the line "just trying to make that paper, your daughter might be hot when I'm not trying to rape her."

No Remorse of El Cajon posted a song called "Psychotic Cremation" (224 plays) with lyrics such as, "I'm going to smash your head with a rock, listen to the great big crunch...I'm gonna tie your body to my truck, leave it in a trail of blood and guts, bones will start to rip out your skin, roadkill will never be the same."

Songs posted by Homosexual Corpse include "Edible Lockstrap" (over 800 plays) and "Addicted to Foreskin" (around 1000 plays). "American Poo" by Justin Pider has been played around 60 times and takes an apparently anti-German stance, though he explains in his blog, "I am part German so, like, I can make fun of them for some reason."

Sample lyric: "So when they want you to eat bratwurst or Jews or whatever, at least one, say fuck that."

Standup Is Dead has video footage of a midget sniper on their main page, while the band Something Just Happened has posted a song called "Midget Sniper" ("Little fingers running down my back..."); played over 150 times. "I would be a little wary of performing the song live," e-mailed singer Ian Swanson in response to queries about the tune. "Although, at five foot four, I almost qualify as a midget myself."

— Jay Allen Sanford

as i hear it

by CONOR LASTOWKA

Interviewed: Colin Galgon, Pacific Beach
Artist: Nathan Fox
Song: "Lovers Creed" (from the CD Chasing Heaven)

Colin Galgon

He has a familiar sound. I have in my head who they remind me of; it's on the tip of my tongue. I was trying to go through the list of songs on your iPod to try to jog my memory. I want to say the Cure, but I know that's not it. It's not my type of music; but it would be good for chilling, great for sitting around a hookah.

This reminds me of the band O.A.R., both musically and vocally. It's catchy, and I'd probably like it if it stumbled across me live, because it's got an upbeat tempo. But it could also be a song that gets stuck in your head and irritates you all day long, because the chorus has some memorable nonsense lyrics, such as when "Ring, Ring, Ring" is rhymed with "Ding-a-ling-a-ling."

I think this would be best played live, but it is a little mainstream. It is good pop music; I can tell they are a good four-person band, but I don't listen to much country-type music. It has nice pieces, but I don't know if they work together as a whole, and the lyrics are forgettable. I would not go to a concert, but having some beers and hearing it I would not mind. I wish I had a beer instead of coffee right now.

Interviewed: Lauren Duffy, Pacific Beach
Artist: Clay Colton Band
Song: "Roses Don't Mean Anything" (from the CD Looking Back Ahead)

Lauren Duffy

Interviewed: Franz, visiting from Germany
Artist: Ghost Town Deputies
Song: "Backslide" (from the CD Rattlesnake)

Franz

Interviewed: Steven Kendrick, tuba player, local comedian, and host of Winstons Friday-night Ocean Beach comedy shows, was stoked to hear that Banyan would be performing at the club on October 14. Kendrick had filmed the jazz/funk/rock/experimental band (led by Jane's Addiction drummer Stephen Perkins) in Austin five years ago. The day of the Winstons show, Kendrick got the opportunity to chat with Perkins and horn player Willie Waldman outside the bar.

Kendrick Recruited by Banyan

One of Winstons' bartenders ranked the show in her top five out of all she'd seen in the 16 years she's been there. The highlight for Kendrick was when Waldman invited him up onstage along with a guest saxophonist. The six musicians jammed for about ten minutes, with Kendrick playing a solo on his WWII Army-issue tuba. After the performance, the members of Banyan signed Kendrick's tuba, each of them noting with a chuckle that it was the first time they'd ever signed a tuba.

Banyan returns to Winston's on December 1. — Kristin Condon

Pints for the Pirates

Jimmy Buffett, who appears stage left, and the band bus gets a six-pack each of Budweiser and Bud Light, two six-packs of Sierra Nevada Pale Ale, a four-pack of Guinness Pub Draught, and a six-pack of "local microbrewed beer." An additional "two cold Coronas" are required for "Jimmy's car." If Buffett doesn't get a 90-minute sound check, "Artist shall be paid full compensation without the necessity of performing."

(From themakemegun.com.)

— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS

William Conn, Dave Good, Larry Harmon, Michael Hemmington, Ken Leighton, Fran Letko, Derek Plank, Eric Rife, Jay Allen Sanford

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BUFFETT... NOT QUITE WASTING AWAY

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SAN DIEGO
READER
OCTOBER 26, 2006
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The Bouncer Saw It All

“[An] SDPD detective told me, ‘One more overdose and this event is done.’”

4th & B opened for business in 1995. Since then, approximately 1900 shows have taken place, and almost two million people have walked through its doors. Through it all there was “Dutch,” Doug Schultz, who started as a security guard and then worked his way up to director of operations. He is the only employee who worked at the club from its first concert (Crosby, Stills & Nash) until it was acquired by House of Blues in August. Here Dutch provides a rundown of the best and worst of the people, bands, and events that have rolled through 4th & B.

Coolest Artists: Ringo Starr, B.B. King, Eddie Money, Berlin, Cheech Marin, the Cult, Tommy Lee

“Tommy Lee showed up a few hours prior to his DJ club night. He was very polite in asking me for a drink, and we had a great conversation. Throughout the evening he was very accommodating to meeting people and signing autographs to those who requested, with no attitude whatsoever. He even joked about the fact that he was not the best DJ.”

Biggest Disappointment: Quiet Riot, Vince Neil, the Amazing Kreskin

“Kreskin’s mind-reading was way off, and his show became embarrassing. He did one skit where someone wrote a number on a piece of paper, and he predicted the wrong number. There were no zoohs and aalh that you would expect, just silence and some laughs when his predictions and answers were not correct. Most of the audience left before the end of the show.”

Biggest Egos: Don Dokken, Vanilla Ice, Dio, Bon Jovi, Dwight Yokum, Ratt

“During sound checks Ratt tried to bully the opening act, a local band called Cage. For instance, as the two bands crossed paths at the back door, Ratt expected the guys in Cage to stand aside and let them walk out. They ended up bumping into one another, which almost caused a fight in the parking lot. Ratt demanded that the opening band be scratched, after both bands had already sound checked.”

Biggest Jerk: Zakk Wylde (Ozzy Osbourne’s former guitarist)

“Zakk came into the office, along with his band and some of his crew, with open beer bottles, yelling at Billy Bob about the venue being 21 and up. He kept threatening Billy that he wanted his younger fans to come to the show. He didn’t ask or anything, he just came in and shouted, ‘Hey, motherfucker, don’t you know my fans are under 21?’ and ‘What do you think Ozzy is gonna say about this? You wouldn’t tell Ozzy he couldn’t have his younger fans in here?’

“I was at my desk at the far end of the office. I finally stood up and approached Zakk and yelled, ‘Who the fuck do you think you’re shouting at? This is a 21 and-up venue, and there is nothing we can do about it. You’re just pissed because of low ticket sales!’ He continued to be difficult to work with throughout the night.”

Biggest Entourage: Too Short

“He must have had about 50 or 60 people with him. They all just pulled up in an entourage of SUVs. Everyone expected to get in the back door, and when they couldn’t, they forced their way in.”

Most Lucrative Artist: Gay Pride

“Every year during Gay Pride weekend we catch about half a dozen patrons having illegal sexual contact, usually oral, in the upper part of the mezzanine or in the restroom stalls. We generally just kick them out. When the event is over we find about half a dozen patrons having used condoms on the floor.”

Most Hunted Performer: Greg Allman

“From the first time he played there, he acted paranoid. He said that someone was trying to kill him. We tried to find out what he was talking about, but he wasn’t making any sense. The second time he came, he told me there was a woman following me all over the country,” he said. He had a good description of her, though, so I went into the crowd and found her. I went up to her and asked who she was, and she said she was his daughter. I asked to see her driver’s license, and sure enough her last name was Allman.”

Weirdest Acts: The Cramps, Boy George, Gwar

“Boy George was a gay cross-dresser who came on to our male staff. Gwar had skis involving famous people being beheaded, testicles being cut off, hearts being pulled out, and fake blood squirting into the crowd. Their show consisted of four 50-gallon drums of fake blood and guts that squirited out from the bodies of different characters during the show. The cleanup was enormous. It involved six janitors and took three hours with large wet-vacs and mops. At least they covered the walls with plastic and moved the couches out of range.”

Most Weed Smokers in Audience: George Clinton

“Everyone who comes thinks it’s part of the show to light up a bomber. It’s a ritual when you see George. He plays for three or four hours, so the smoke builds up so much you can’t even see the stage.”

Most Drug Overdoses: Club Rubber

“About eight years ago the after-hours exotic club scene was peaking in San Diego. The king of all clubs back then was Club Rubber... this was a time when designer club drugs were new [on the scene], and information regarding them and their interaction with alcohol and other drugs was not well known. At our first of several Club Rubbers [we had] four overdoses. [The girls] were found either passed out or lying on the floor, their bodies twitching... each time it happened, an ambulance, fire truck, and police car would arrive and treat the victim... after the fourth call, an SDPD detective told me, ‘One more overdose, and this event is done.’ At the next Club Rubber, the SDPD vice conducted a sting operation. They had a command post set up down the street with an operative wearing a wire who would solicit patrons for drugs. When a buy would go down, several of the officers would run in through the back door and arrest the person selling the drugs.”

Most Surreal Undercover Operation: Whiplash Bash

“We rented the venue to someone who put on a fetish event called ‘Whiplash Bash.’ About 350 people from all over the world paid $50 each. They all came dressed in leather and fetish attire. There was a fashion show and booths with photographers and people selling fetish items. An undercover sting was taking place with the SDPD. They had two undercover officers present. One was a female officer with high heels and a leather leash attached to a collar around the neck of a
male officer, who was dressed with an all-leather-and-spiked outfit. Toward the end of the show, the event was raided by several plain-clothed police officers who issued citations to two female patrons—one for having her breasts exposed and the other for engaging in sexual contact with another patron. 4th & B ended up closing for a two-week period as a result.”

Scariest Moment: Super Bowl Party, Tony Yayo
“The Super Bowl party was in January 2003, when the Raiders played the Buccaneers in San Diego. 50 Cent was the biggest name playing. People rushed the back entrance. Some people who appeared to be in his entourage pulled automatic weapons to try to get into the club and VIP area. When they couldn’t get in they started throwing bottles at those who were inside. Fights erupted. SDPD surrounded the venue with 75 officers with riot sticks. They closed down the street and had helicopters flying overhead.

“Another scary moment was during gangster rapper Tony Yayo’s show. Yayo was a member of the Crips. SDPD told me [after the fact] that San Diego is more of a Blood city. 50 Cent came onstage flashing his signs and wearing his colors. We had an all-out riot, and some patrons were hurt. The bar staff were scared, some to the point of crying. Some hid behind their bars. It was an ugly scene that cost Wayne Reynolds [in-house urban promoter] his job.”

Shortest Performance: Big Pun
“Twenty minutes.”

Highest Paid: Crosby, Stills & Nash, Kenny Loggins, Ringo Starr, the Doobie Brothers

Stupidest/Weirdest Customer Complaint:
“The person who wanted their money back after the show because it was too loud…or the one who wanted me to stop the show to find the person who pushed them….”

“Another good one was when a woman and her friend stole somebody’s seats. When [the original occupants] returned, they asked the woman and her friend to move. The woman called for management, and I came over and told her to relinquish the seats.

Then I want my money back,” she said.

“Let me see your tickets,” I replied. She showed me the tickets, and I saw they were comps. So I told her, ‘Okay, no problem, just return these tickets to your point of purchase.’

“That seemed to satisfy her.”

—

San Diego Reader
October 26, 2006

103

MUSIC SCENE

San Diego Reader
October 26, 2006

103

DREAM STREET LIVE
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Live Hip-Hop
11 • The Odd Couple
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Dank3y presents
$5 Cover Fridays
High Tide • Ballyhoo
The Ska Shank
Redemption
KC Sowa
SATURDAY 10/28
No Costume Party
Motley Cried
American Hit Men
Effusive Folk
The Barroom Shakers

THURSDAY 11/2
Live Hip-Hop

THURSDAY 11/3
Halloween Show
Live Alternative
JD Romance
Gone To Oblivion
Corporate Circus
Shadows Prophecy
II Die IV
FRIDAY 11/4
Live Music
The Stooges
The Thrill Killers
Sick Stick
SATURDAY 11/5
Live Hip-Hop
The Aim
Smash Muzik
The Limelite

THURSDAY 11/9
Live Rock
Dufreign
Praying Mantix
Divebomber
Colporter
Brigade

—

DAILY HAPPY HOUR 4-7 PM
Power Hour 4-5 pm — $2 U-Call-Its — $1 off drinks till 7 pm
THURSDAY 10/26
Live Hip-Hop
11 • The Odd Couple
Dirty Twon • Lauren
FRIDAY 10/27
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THURSDAY 11/9
Live Rock
Dufreign
Praying Mantix
Divebomber
Colporter
Brigade

—
**THIS WEEK’S CONCERTS**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**
John Lee Hooker Jr.: Humphrey’s Backstage Lounge, Friday, October 27, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego. 619-299-2583.

**SATURDAY**
The Gin Blossoms and Shawn Mullins: Ice: Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, October 28, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

**SUNDAY**
April Vercho: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Sunday, October 29, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

**TUESDAY**
Ria Against: Soma, Tuesday October 31, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-228-7062.

**UPCOMING CONCERTS**

**NOVEMBER**
James Hunter: Casbah, Wednesday, November 1, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.
Shelby Lynne: Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, November 2, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.
Five for Fighting: Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, November 2, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.
Lindsay Buckingham: Varia Casino Drink: As Cash, Thursday, November 2, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.
The Blue Man Group: Cox Arena, November 4, SDSU campus, 858-534-8497.
Dramarama and Bow Wow Wow: House of Blues, Saturday, November 4, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 858-299-2583.
P.F. Sloan: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Saturday, November 4, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

**DECEMBER**
The All-American Rejects: ipaseOne Center, Friday, December 1, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-4355.
The Barenaked Ladies: RIMAC Arena, Sunday, December 3, USCD campus, La Jolla. 858-534-8497.
The Disco Biscuits: House of Blues, Monday, December 4, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.
Pink Martini: 4th & B, Saturday, November 25, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-226-4355.

**UPCOMING CONCERTS**

**JANUARY**
Dr. Jimber: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Tuesday, January 9, 5469 Arena Boulevard, 619-226-7662.

**UPCOMING CONCERTS**

**FEBRUARY**

**UPCOMING CONCERTS**

**MARCH**

**UPCOMING CONCERTS**

**APRIL**

**UPCOMING CONCERTS**

**MAY**

**UPCOMING CONCERTS**

**CANNONBALL BAY!**

**UPCOMING CONCERTS**

**JUNE**

**UPCOMING CONCERTS**

**JULY**

**UPCOMING CONCERTS**

**AUGUST**

**UPCOMING CONCERTS**

**SEPTEMBER**

**UPCOMING CONCERTS**

**OCTOBER**

**UPCOMING CONCERTS**

**NOVEMBER**

**UPCOMING CONCERTS**

**DECEMBER**

**UPCOMING CONCERTS**
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Surgeon General's Warning: Quitting Smoking Now Greatly Reduces Serious Risks to Your Health.
BEACHES (continued)

Jack’s La Jolla, 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-486-8111. Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Soul Salvation, jazz.

Kr’s Coffee On Top, 2591 South Highway 101, Cardiff. 760-436-2158. Friday, Patrul Berrogain, jazz.
The Kraken, 2531 Old Highway 101, Cardiff. 760-436-6485. Friday, 9 p.m., Costuel’s, classic rock. Saturday, West of 5, classic rock. Sunday, blues jam with the Blue Brothers.

La Valencia Hotel, 1135 Prospect Street, La Jolla. 858-486-0711. Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., Barry Levine, jazz. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday, Rock Fes, jazz.

The Lodge at Torrey Pines, 11400 N Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla. 619-436-4420. The Grill: Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., Mike Nelson, solo jazz guitar. Also, Friday and Saturday, 8:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., The Jazz 101 Band featuring Nick Fong, John Cusimano, Dave Scott, and the Cynthia Hammond. Saturday, Latin jazz.

Shooters Bar and Grill, Radisson Hotel, 3305 Holiday Court, La Jolla. 858-453-5500. Tuesday, 11 p.m. to 3 a.m., John Cusimano, Latin jazz.

St. Tropez Bistro & Bakery, 947 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas. 760-633-0004. Friday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Keith Jacobsen, smooth jazz saxophone.

710 Beach Club (formerly Blind Mole), 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-466-7544. Friday, 9 p.m., the Antiques, When I Rise, indie rock. Alfred Howard & the G20 Orchestra, hip-hop/jazz fusion. Saturday, the Morning Star and the Essentials, rock. Sunday, hip-hop. Monday, the Mitch Bud Band, rock. Wednesday, live rock.

Thruaters, 4633 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach. 858-485-6344. Saturday, 7:30 p.m., Modern Day Moonshine, soul/rock/rap, Sunday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Willowoot, smooth jazz.

Tiki House, 1152 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-273-9734. Friday, the Nards, rock. Saturday, the Stoney Dudes, rock. Sunday, open mike. Tuesday, Christopher Dale & Friends, acoustic. Wednesday, live rock.

Tower Two Beach Cafe, 5083 Santa Monica Avenue, Ocean Beach. 619-223-4059. Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., live acoustic/folk music.

Winstons, 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-322-6422. Thursday, 1 A.M. Friday, 6:45 p.m., Emanuel & the Revelations, reggae, with the Adopted Prophet. Saturday, Cape May, Grady, and the Roman Spring. Sunday, the Electric Waste.
BEST SEATS

BEACHES

Band, classic rock. Tuesday, Montreaux Church and In Perfect Agony. Wednesday, live rock.

Downtown

Blamey Stone Pub, 367 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-8519. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday, Steve Bruner, acoustic.

Borders Books and Music (Gastamp), 669 Sixth Avenue, San Diego, 619-702-4210. Friday, 11 a.m., Luc Cosley, folk, Saturday, 5 p.m., Teylon, acoustic.

Buslacchi’s Ristorante, 3683 Fifth Avenue, San Diego. 619-298-0119. Thursday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., the New Standard Jazz Trio, straight-ahead jazz.

The Casbah, 1501 Kettner Boulevard, midtown. 619-231-HELL. Music is rock/alternative unless otherwise noted. Thursday, Alvin, Turner, Electric President, and Astronauts. Friday, Deadhead, the Kooky Crap, and Their Caramel. Saturday, No Moon No, Hotline, Cheezecore, and Space Horse Monday, Hosty and guests. Tuesday, Dirty Jacket, Golden Cook, and the Jade Shades.

Croce’s Jazz Bar, 802 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-4535. All music is jazz unless otherwise noted. Thursday, the David Patrone Quartet. Friday, Tomor, Saturday, Prince, Sunday, the Archetypo Monday, Dave Scott, Tuesday, the Step Aways Quartet. Wednesday, Party in the Rain.

Dakota Grill and Spirits, 901 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-234-3334. Friday, 11 p.m. to 2 a.m., Jimmy Lavello, pop. Saturday, 8 p.m., Deadbolt, the Archetypo. Sunday-Friday, live rock.

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  - DEF IN ONE EYE
  - TERRA INCognita
  - ATLAS OF ID

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29**

- Revolt in Style & Inner Circle present
  - REDGUN RADAR
  - CARBINE • DJ 1979

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

- James HUNTER
  - RYAN SHAW

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2**

- DIRTY HEADS
  - SCAR'D Sanity

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3**

- IROn MAIDENS
  - (All-Female Tribute to Iron Maiden)
  - WAY COOL JR. (80's Metal Tribute)

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4**

- MANGANISTA

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

- LUPE FIASCO
  - THOSE DANG ROBINSONS
  - DEEP ROOTED • DJ FINGAZ

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9**

- THE JUKE KARTEL with
  - TOBY RAND
  - of the hit TV show Rock Star Supernova

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10**

- Reispekt
  - ONLI SON

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

- THE SOUTHERN CAPE
  - FEATURING THE COMEDIANS FROM THE HOWARD STERN SHOW

- MEET THE RETARDS PART 2
  - BOB LEVY, SHULLI, JIM FLORENTINE, SAL THE STOCKBROKER & YUCKO THE CLOWN

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

- Surf Music Art Show
  - BRIAN HOLWERDA
  - MOLLY JENSON
  - SEZIO

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

- Roney BenLei
  - Special Guest JOHN RALSTON

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

- Painted Love
  - (80's Tribute)

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

- B-SIDE PLAYERS
  - AGUA DULCE

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

- The BIG PROVIDER
  - REEE Deddy
  - DAREDEVIL JANE • KEMISTRY

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25**

- DIRTY HEADS
  - SCAR'D Sanity

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San Diego
October 26, 2006
Reader

BLUE MAN
Diamonds, Wednesday, Sunday, 7 p.m., Mosby, Disco Pimps. Chicago, 7:30 p.m., 619-231-9100.

Saturday, call club for information.

Henry’s Pub, 418 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-231-8554. Thursday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., live pop/rock/disco/dance.

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Oct. 28 & 31
PRIZES & DRINK SPECIALS!

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COCKTAILS
16 BEERS ON TAP!
OPEN 7 DAYS
10 AM-2 AM
21 & UP

Monday Night Football
BBQ – 1-lb. Beef Rib plus sides for $7
LIVE BANDS FRIDAYS
Friday, 10/27 @ 8 pm
BLIZZARD
Friday, 11/3 @ 9 pm
BLUE ROCKIT
KARAOKE
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday
New Hiring Servers & Bartenders!

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Mon-Fri 11 am-1 am
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THE BITTER END
10TH ANIVERSARY
FOR YOUR HALLOWEEN PLEASURE
the bitter end presents
Saturday, October 28th

House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-299-2853. Thursday, KMFDM Friday, Cynic, the Thralls, and Eastern Youth.

Jimmy Love’s, 672 Fifth Avenue (corner of Fifth and G), downtown. 619-395-0125. Thursday and Sunday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Masterpiece, jazz/R&B. Friday, 9:45 p.m., Pop Rocks, 80’s dance. Saturday, 9:45 p.m., Pop Rocks, 80’s dance. Monday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Jingle, jazz. Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Mixtape, jazz/R&B. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Air Soul Keese, jazz/dance/Top 40.

Martini Ranch, 528 F Street, downtown. 619-235-3307. Music is blues/rock. Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., The Heroin, rock/blues.

Henry’s Pub, 418 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-231-8554. Thursday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., open mic. Thursday, 8 p.m., The Quitters, jazz. Sunday, 7 p.m., Karen Blix, jazz.

Dublin Square, 544 Seventh Avenue, downtown. 619-239-5818. Traditional Irish music and live bands almost every night.

4th & B, 645 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4434.

Henry’s Pub, 418 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-231-8554. Thursday, the Brit Pack. Friday, Good Times. Saturday, call club for information. Tuesday, the Stickets, rockabilly.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., all music is blues/blues/soul unless otherwise noted.

Good Times.

October 26 • $7/$8

J.D. Martinez, 655 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-702-3021. Saturday, live pop/rock/disco/dance.

The Shout House, 1055 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-231-7000. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., rock and roll along dancing pianos.

The Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Avenue, downtown. 619-238-1818. The Plaza Bar: All music is jazz. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., the Karen Carson Trio. Friday, and Saturday, 8 p.m. to midnight, Von Locklear and Karen Gorges.

Dick’s Last Resort, 10436 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. at Santo Rd., Tierrasanta, 858-270-7467. Friday, 2-Day Halloween Party. Prizes & drink specials!

Monday Night Football
BBQ – 1-lb. Beef Rib plus sides for $7
LIVE BANDS FRIDAYS
Friday, 10/27 @ 8 pm
BLIZZARD
Friday, 11/3 @ 9 pm
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Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday
New Hiring Servers & Bartenders!

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Open Saturday & Sunday 10 am for Breakfast

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Samba Grill, 314 Horton Plaza, Gaslamp. 619-236-1000. Saturday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Edio Brazil, Brazilian jazz.


The Shout House, 1055 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-231-7000. Rock and roll along dancing pianos.

all ages! all the time!!!

Thurs., October 26 • $7/$8
Local Motion
When In My Painting
Ransack – Revenge Club
Shame And Scandal
Fri., October 27 • $7/$8
Castedoor – Lostocean
Fairchild – Armoo – Paul Wright
Sat., October 28 • $7/$8
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Slick Life – TrumLive
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BEST SEATS
BUEMAN
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Years ago I visited a random band-name-generator website, and it came up with “Hobbit Cock.” I didn’t think much about that until last year when San Diego’s prolific Rob Crow announced the formation of yet another new band, this one named Goblin Cock. According to Mark Sullins’s NC-17-rated cover art for the band’s Bagged and Boarded, gobolins are, um, much bigger than hobbits.

Anyway, Goblin Cock is Crow’s metal band. That means that the players all wear black cloaks and play pointy guitars and chum out sludgy, Sabbath-style riffs. Otherwise it sounds pretty much like Pinback or Thingy or Heavy Vegetable or one of Crow’s other projects. I mean that in a good way. Seriously, I am not complaining about Goblin Cock’s lack of double-bass-drums fills, noody guitar solos, or Cookie Monster vocals. But I do wonder if Goblin Cock really needs the riding portions of irony it serves. After all, there is no shortage of parody and self-parody (intentional as well as unintentional) in metal circles. Many metal acts are not as dumb as they pretend to be, and lately, bands like Sunn O))) have been winning admirers for their intelligence and musical ambition. (They also have been known to wear cloaks.)

If anyone else shares my reservations, it’s not hurting Goblin Cock’s business. The band is touring constantly, and I’m told that Bagged and Boarded is selling better than any Crow product save Pinback. More importantly, I’m told the band and the audiences are having a lot of fun. And hell, it’s Halloween. Time to dress up.

Dirty Sweet also performs.

GOBLIN COCK, The Casbah, Tuesday, October 31, 8 p.m. 619-232-4385. $15.
Halloween Block Party

Gaslamp Saturday
October 28th

Bass Monster Bash

6pm to Midnight
7th & Market Main Gate

$3,000 Cash Prize Costume Contest

Music

Main Stage
7th & Island

All Monster Review
Halloween Hits
The Ringers
The hippest in blue, reg. & funk
Lady Dottle & The Diamonds
The Stranger's Six
Dark, sultry punk rock
$3,000 CASH Costume Contest
Envisioned by the Infamous/ACE
Blood Wrestling (really muddy)
with the most tenacious girls!
DJ Mac between sets

Day of the Dead DJ Stage
Sponsored by Mudos
Featuring:
DJ Adam Saltor
DJ Erick Diaz
DJ Marc Thrasher
From channel 93.3
Go to:
www.signonsandiego.com
www.gaslampquarter.org or
www.myspace.com/monsterbash06
for more information.

Ticket Includes:
Free cover, drink and food specials, and costume contests at over 30 Gaslamp Hot Spots.
Time & location apply.


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Tickets:
$15 in advance; $20 the day of Main Gate 7th and Market 21 and up only.
Absolutely no refunds.
Tickets sold at:
Moose McGillycuddy's in the Gaslamp
Or call 619-233-5008
SAN DIEGO

Emery, Plant White 7th, and the Sleeping, Saturday, Heaven and Darker My Love.

South Park Bar and Grill, 1946 Fern Street, San Diego. 619-496-3096. Thursday, 7 p.m. Joe Krewski, solo Latin guitar. Friday, 7 p.m., Amanda Browning, jazz Latin standards. Saturday, 4 p.m., jazz jam session.

Terra, on Vermont, one block north of University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-283-7008. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Robert Herfel, solo blues/jazz.

The Tower Bar, 4757 University Avenue. San Diego. 619-296-0616. Company, 9 p.m., La Jolla (Golden Triangle area).

Tutto Mare, 4055 Park Boulevard, Bay Park. 619-284-0158. Friday, Swingdown and the New Room, indie pop.


Vesuvio Gourmet Restaurant, 3025 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-282-7040. Thursday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., 3.0 performing with David Moody, jazz.


The Zombi Lounge, 8519 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-284-2005. Music is rock/punk/metal/alternative. Friday, Converse, the Hallow-stocks, and the Whiskey Rebels. Saturday, Dying With and Worth Every Star. Sunday, the Renant Spring, the Tigerharks, the Wagon, and the Corna Recovery.

North County

The Alley, 421 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-416-1173. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the Lone Ranger, Top 40/pop.

Belly Up Tavern, 143 South Cedro Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022. Thursday, 9 p.m., Rob Schneider & His Band, and All Best. Friday, 9 p.m., the English Humor and the Big Provider. rock. Saturday, 9 p.m., the Artists, Pontos and Phenomenauts. rock. Sunday, the Gin Blossoms, Shawn Mullens, and Pat McGee. pop. Tuesday, 8:30 music. Wednesday, 8 p.m., Shelly Lynne, acoustic.

The Blvd., 925 West San Marcos Boulevard, San Marcos. 760-510-0004. Friday, call club for information. Saturday, 8 p.m., 30s dance/hop-hop. Tuesday, country.

Boar Cross’n, 904 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-720-2009. Thursday, hop-hop. Friday, and Saturday, live classic rock.

The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe, 1800 Vista de la Valle, Del Mar. 858-735-0735.

Thursday, the Northeaster Sonny, the Steer Crossing Band, the Preservation Kings, Tyler Streemont, and Erin’s Eyes. pop. Sunday, 4 p.m., the Celtic Ensemble, 8 p.m., Budushi. Wednesday, open mike with Tim Madal.

Friday, 8 p.m., Peggy Waters and David Belkoed, jazz.

Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad), 1905 Calle Barcelona, Carlsbad. 760-479-0243. Saturday, 8 p.m., Jennifer Hansen, folk.

Borders Books and Music (Carmel Mountain), 11150 Rancho Carmel Drive, Carmel Mountain. 838-618-1814. Friday, 8 p.m., 80s Cover, acoustic. Saturday, 8 p.m., Jim Eazy, acoustic.

Carvers, 11940 Bernardo Pass Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 808-866-2406. Friday and Saturday, live classic rock/blues.

The Cow Shed, 502 East Mission Road, San Marcos. 760-471-4591. Tuesday, 9 p.m., Karen White, new romantic/gothic/electronica.

Coyote Bar and Grill, 410 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4869. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., the New Blood Band, jazz/pop. Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Boots to Rockers, reggae/rock. Saturday, 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Blue Largo, jazz/blues. 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Jeff Mower & the Wildhearts, blues. Sunday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Johnny “B” Boy. 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Jerome Dawson, jazz. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Johnny “B” Blues.

Cueve Restaurant, 2334 Carmel Valley Road, Del Mar. 858-236-5015. Monday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Sambatours, Brazilian and American jazz.

Game Time Tavern, 12735 Ponsy Road, Poway. 858-748-6015. Friday and Saturday, Full Spoons, classic rock.

Hennessey’s Tavern (Carlsbad), 2777 Rosewood Street, Carlsbad. 760-729-6993. Friday, Lizard Pool, rock. Saturday, the Hill Magic Blues Band.

The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, 5971 Linos del Cielo, Rancho Santa Fe. 858-756-1131. Thursday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Terry Meeks, jazz/variety piano.

Friday, 8 p.m., Peggy Waters and David Belkoed, jazz.

Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad), 1905 Calle Barcelona, Carlsbad. 760-479-0243. Saturday, 8 p.m., Jennifer Hansen, folk.

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Halloween Weekend
at belo

Friday October 27
9pm - 4am

Sander Kleinenberg
Boris Mo
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presale tickets and info: www.realivzetribe.com | www.giantclub.com

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All Hallow's Eve costume party

Danny Howells
Cullan and Anthony Ross

Saturday October 28
9pm - 4am

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presale tickets and info: www.realivzetribe.com
**North County**

- **The Jumping Turtle**, 1660 Capitola Road, San Marcos. 760-471-7776. Music is rock/metal/alternative unless otherwise noted. Thursday, 7 p.m.; Metro, Bartholomew, Ink in the Eye, and Frontal Halo Fridays, 7:30 p.m.; Steve, fancy. 1220 and Ten Mile Drive Saturday, Children of the Grove. Winter and Nihits. Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Blood on the Tracks, Mom and Dad, IF, and Casey Moore.

- **Long Shot Saloon**, 643 Grand Avenue, San Marcos. 760-744-8576. Thursday, hip-hop Friday and Saturday, live bands. Wednesday, R&B.

- **Mas Fina Cantina**, 2780 State Street, Carlsbad. 760-444-2349. Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Mike Gardner, acoustic rock/folk.

- **Mccabe’s Beach Club**, 1145 South Tremont Street, Oceanside. 760-430-6648. Friday, 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., the California Ringers, country.


- **Molly Malone’s**, 1270 Main Street, Carlsbad. 760-438-9950. Friday, 9 p.m.; Living Roj, hard rock. Saturday, 9 p.m.; Meat Brigade, rock.

- **North Bar Sports & Spirits**, 200 West El Norte Parkway, Encinitas. 760-480-8289. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Mike Gardner, acoustic rock/folk.

- **Ocean House**, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4311. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, dance/rock/blues. Sunday, salsa. Tuesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.; the Cruizin’ Lutens, swing. Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.; blues jam.

- **Rancho Bernardo Inn**, 17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-635-8380. El Bucanero Restaurant, Friday, 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., and Saturday, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.; Jerry Maldon and Tom Bishop, jazz/varieties.

- **Surf N’ Saddle**, 123 West Plaza Street (James San Diego and Highway 101), Solana Beach. 858-723-9474. Friday, Melvin & Monkey Birds. Saturday, Five Alarm, rock. Wednesday, open mic.

- **Woody’s Sports Bar**, 2329 South Centre City Parkway, Escondido. 760-730-6999. Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m., classic rock.

- **South Bay/Coronado**

- **The Butcher Shop**, 356 Broadway, Chula Vista. 619-420-9440. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Ray Corvo, standards/pop/latin.

- **Cafe LaMaze**, 1441 Highland Avenue, National City. 619-474-3222. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. to midnight; Sandy Clapley and Sammy Cerraceno, jazz/mus. Sunday, 8:30 p.m.; Rupert Anderson, Robert Sabatini, and Scott Wellington, jazz.

- **Coronado Island Marriott**, 2nd Street, Coronado. 619-435-3000. Friday, call club for information. Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., the Juneau Ford Jazz Quartet.

- **Galley at the Marina**, 100 Marina Park Drive, Chula Vista. 619-422-5014. Friday, 4:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.; the Justin Brothers, rock and roll. Saturday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., free rock. Sunday, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.; David Hanson, acoustic. Wednesday, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Gary Siler, acoustic.

- **Hotel del Coronado**, 1550 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-6611. Babcock and Story. Thursday through 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Tony Luder, Latin jazz. Friday, 8:30 p.m.; Bertha Johnson and Joe Tarantino, jazz. Saturday, 8:30 p.m.; Sissela and Dave Longford, Tuesday and Wednesday, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Joe Gilson, Palm Court. Thursday through Sunday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.; Ray Briz. Also, Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.; Joey West.

- **Second Wind**, 5248 Magnolia Avenue, San Diego. 619-596-8185. Friday and Saturday, Sereno Groove, classic rock.

- **Stefanos**, 14015 Highway 94, Jamul. 619-741-8095. Sunday, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Caribbean Cowboys, acoustic rock/country.

- **Tommy’s Irish Pub & Grill**, 1212 Broadway, El Cajon. 619-447-5665. Saturday, 8 p.m.; Denver, Irish pub rock.

- **Tommy’s Italian Restaurant**, 1150 North Second Street, El Cajon. 619-440-2676. Friday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.; the Wise Guys, swing/standards.

- **McP’s Irish Pub and Grill**, 1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-5290. Main is acoustic folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, the Northern Section. Friday, the Stilettos, rockabilly. Saturday, Harmony Road. Sunday, David Hunter. Monday, Tommy Price. Tuesday, Jackson 6 Jesus.

- **East County**

- **Borders Books and Music (El Cajon)**, 139 Parkway Plaza, El Cajon. 619-593-5199. Friday, 7 p.m.; Lee Tyler Post, acoustic. Saturday, 7 p.m.; Greg Campbell, R&B.


- **Driftwood**, 9125 Mission Gorge Road, Santee. 619-362-2429. Saturday, 9 p.m., The Members of Rock, hard rock/metal.

- **Fannie’s Nightclub**, 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley. 619-698-2206. Friday, College Monkeys, the Gods of Mechanical Breakdown, and the Love Handly, rock. Saturday, 2x, Jola, and the Noise Gods, rock.

- **Habana Restaurant**, 7777 University Avenue, La Mesa. 619-713-2011. Saturday, salsa dancing.

- **Renegade Inn**, 14335 Old Highway 90 (half mile east from Lake Jennings turnoff), El Cajon. 619-561-8105. Friday and Saturday, Southbound Johnny, country.

- **Second Wind**, 5248 Magnolia Avenue, San Diego. 619-596-8185. Friday and Saturday, Sereno Groove, classic rock.

- **Stefanos**, 14015 Highway 94, Jamul. 619-741-8095. Sunday, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Caribbean Cowboys, acoustic rock/country.

- **Thorton’s Irish Pub & Grill**, 1212 Broadway, El Cajon. 619-447-5665. Saturday, 8 p.m.; Denver, Irish pub rock.

- **Tommy’s Italian Restaurant**, 1150 North Second Street, El Cajon. 619-440-2676. Friday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.; the Wise Guys, swing/standards.
Halloween Night
Tuesday Oct 31st

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Gone to Oblivion: Dreamin’ 60s
Hawthorne Heights: Sonia
Heaven’s: Sonia
The Hallowedpoints: The Zombie Lounge
Brian Holwerda: O’Connell’s Pub and Nightclub
Hostile Combover: The Casbah
Hugo Rooster: Brick by Brick
The Human Abstract: Sonia
IF: The Jumping Turtle
If Hope Dies: Sonia
In Perfect Agony: Winstons
Inertia: Brick by Brick
The Jade Shader: The Casbah
Kemistry: Brick by Brick
KMFDM: House of Blues
The Latins: Ché Café
Lovestace: Epicentre
Manganista: The Kensington Club
Monstrous Clown: Winstons
Moonshucky Rats: The Jumping Turtle
The Mortars: O’Connell’s Pub and Nightclub
Motley: The Jumping Turtle
The New Room: Whistle Stop Bar
Nihilist: The Jumping Turtle
Oh, Sleeper: Sonia
Phenomenon: Belly Up Tavern
Plain White T’s: Sonia
The Race Against Space: O’Connell’s Pub and Nightclub
Ransact: Epicentre
Razz Tip: Epicentre
Red Gun Radar: ‘Canes
Reliant K: EP’
Rev envelopes: The Revenge Club: Epicentre
Ribofflavins!: The Kensington Club
The Roman Spring: The Zombie Lounge, Winston
J.D. Romanesque: Dreamin’ 60s
Runhones?: The Jumping Turtle
Shadows Prophets: Dreamin’ 60s
Shame and Scandal: Epicentre
Sink to Swim: The Jumping Turtle
The Sleeping: Sonia

**Album:** 2nd Incarnation (2006)
**Label:** self-released

*Where available/pricing:* mail order from riververb@yahoo.com or at live performances for $7.

*Songs:* 1) 2 a.m. in the Dark 2) (One and One) Panacea 3) 4) Breath and/or (Die 5) Born Down 6) Whistling in the Dark 7) Bastard Children and the Unwilling 8) Triple Dog Dare
**Band:** Frank Melendez (guitars, drums, a.m. radio, vocals, sampling, turntable, electric cannon, mixing/editing)

*Website:* www.myspace.com/riververb

Only track 5, “Born Down,” has intelligible lyrics... something about being “dead in my tracks.” The other songs are a collection of noises with a horror-movie motif. There are electric generator sounds, crackly electronic transmissions, and squeals that seem to be produced by placing instruments too close to amplifiers. The feel of the album is a post-apocalyptic landscape with malfunctioning communication devices.

Each song starts with a random firing of the noises that eventually resolve into a simple, loosely held rhythm. The vocals are buffing or screeching or filtered through so many effects as to sound distant and as though they are being broadcast from a failing CB radio. Only a couple songs feature what could be distinguished as guitar work through the squelch and interference. One track has a heart-rate-monitor beep, a respirator sound, and an eerie thumping against a barrel that all synchronize to become the beat.

Although they’re not what I would describe as “songs,” they’re not bad. They seem to be professional sound effects I would describe as “songs,” that all synchronize to become thumping against a barrel with malfunctioning communication devices.

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ATTITUDE INCLUDED.

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**Calendar BANDS**

**ROCK** (continued)
- Compass Rose: O’Connell’s Pub and Nightclub
- The Crosswinds: Whiskey Girl
- Custard Pie: The Kraken
- Dead Man’s Party: Canes
- The Detroit Underground: Humphrey’s
- Dirty Sweet: The Cabash
- D-Train: Fanna’s Nightclub
- Effusive Folk: Dreammet
- The Electric Waste Band: Winstons
- The English Beat: Belly Up Tavern
- The Essentials: 710 Beach Club
- Everything Must Go: Tower Bar
- Felabro: The Jumping Turtle
- Five Alarm Surf N’ Saddle
- 4-Way Street: Humphrey’s
- Full Exposure: Game Time Tavern
- Mike Gardner: North Bar Sports & Spirits, Moe Fine Canvas
- The Ghost of Soda: Dick’s Last Resort
- The Gods of Mechanical Breakdown: Fanna’s Nightclub
- The Grannys: Tower Bar
- The Harvey Harvey Band: Don’s Cocktail Lounge, Humphrey’s
- The Homeless Sexuals: Tower Bar
- Honky: The Cabash
- The Mark Jackson Band: Lolo’s Coffee House
- Just Added: Homewood’s Tavern (PB)
- The Justin Brothers: Galley at the Marina
- Living Relief: Molly Malone’s
- Lizard Fish: Homewood’s Tavern (Carlsbad)
- Local Motion: Epicentre
- The Love Handles: Brick by Brick, Fanna’s Nightclub
- Melissa & Monkey Bites: Surf N’ Saddle
- Metal Brigade: Molly Malone’s
- The Monsters of Rock: The Driftwood Lounge
- The Morning Riot: 710 Beach Club
- Melisy Crew: Dreammet
- The Nards: Tiki House
- New Day Mile: O’Connell’s Pub and Nightclub
- Night Shift: Pat Joey’s, Dick’s Last Resort
- No Means No: The Cabash
- The Noise Gods: Fanna’s Nightclub, O’Connell’s Pub and Nightclub
- The Pawnshop King: Tongue Tea and Coffee Company
- Pop Rocks: Jimmy Lynn’s Private Domain: Dick’s Last Resort
- Ron’s Garage: Hotel del Coronado, Island Sports & Spirits, Dick’s Last Resort
- Roots to Rockets: Coyote Bar and Grill
- Sanú: The Jumping Turtle
- Bob Schneider & His Band: Belly Up Tavern
- Scott & Aimee: Brick by Brick
- Serious Guise: Second Wind Tavern
- Gneis: Woody’s Sports Bar
- Souls: Fanna’s Nightclub
- Split Finger: Brick by Brick
- The Stalker Dan Band: Canes
- The Stilettoes: Henry’s Pub, McP’s Irish Pub and Grill
- Stone Wolf: Second Wind (San Carlos)
- The Stoney Dudes: Tiki House
- Sweet Tooth: O’Connell’s Pub and Nightclub
- Ten Mile Drive: The Jumping Turtle
- 1220: The Jumping Turtle
- Uptown Groove: Dick’s Nightclub
- West of 5: The Kraken
- The Whiskey Rebels: The Zombie Lounge
- Paul Wright: Epicentre
- Zepparella: Brick by Brick

**POP / TOP 40**
- PTrak Armenta: Pasquale on Prospect
- Gil Barron: Pasquale on Prospect
- James East: Pasquale on Prospect
- Mark Fulton: Pasquale on Prospect
- The Good Times: Harry’s Pub
- Island Breeze: Humphrey’s
- Jimmy Lavello: Dakota Grill and Spirits
- Levitation: Tongue Tea and Coffee Company
- The Love Rangers: The Alley
- Pat McGee: Belly Up Tavern
- The New Breed Band: Coyote Bar and Grill
- The Northern Session: McP’s Irish Pub and Grill, Tongue Tea and Coffee Company
- The Stepping Feet: Whiskey Girl
- Van Shil: The Beauty Bar

**JAZZ / BIG BAND**
- Burnett Anderson: Cafe LaMama
- The B-3 Four: Younou’s Gourmet Restaurant, Danny’s
- David Baldeck: The Book Works/Parlakin’ Cafe
- Patrick Bernagut: BR’s Coffee On Top
- Tom Bishop: Rancho Bernardo Inn
- Karen Blaté: Danny’s
- Blue Lagoon: Coyote Bar and Grill, Patrick’s II, The Calypso Cafe
- Burn Brion: Humphrey’s
- Ray Brion: Hotel del Coronado

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**UPCOMING SHOWS**
- Thursday, Nov. 2: 8 pm • ’80s Dance
- Friday, Oct. 27: 6 pm • Classic Rock
- Saturday, Oct. 28: 6 pm • Jazz Saxophonist
- Sunday, Oct. 29: 8 pm • Original Rock
- Monday, Oct. 30: 8 pm • Jimmy Buffet Tribute
- Tuesday, Oct. 31: 8 pm • Original Rock
- Wednesday, Nov. 1: Chicago Blues
- Thursday, Nov. 9: R&B
- Friday, Nov. 10: Jimmy Thackery
- Saturday, Nov. 11: Novamenco

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Tickets for “Upcoming Shows” available at Ticketmaster and Humphrey’s. Reserved seating for “Upcoming Shows” available with dinner. All shows are 21 years and up.
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Lindsey Buckingham
under the skin tour
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 2

The Pretenders
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11

James Blunt
BACK TO BEDLAM WORLD TOUR
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14

San Diego Reader October 26, 2006
SECOND WIND BARS

- POOL TABLES
- DART BOARDS
- HOT SPOT & LOTTO
- FREE PARKING

NAVAJO

CLASSIC ROCK
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
OCTOBER 27 & 28 • 9 PM

STONE WOLF

ORIGINALES BANDS
TUEASDAYS & THURSDAYS • 8:30 PM
Mike Raggiuelli Presents
HUGE ROOSTER & guests

Navajo Originals Bookings:
E-mail "Windgirl" from our website

KARAOKE
MONDAY hosted by Leo Pitts
immediately following the game.

SANTEE

CLASSIC ROCK
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
OCTOBER 27 & 28 • 9 PM

SERIOUS GUISE

ORIGINALES BANDS
SUNDAY-THURSDAY • 8 PM
10/31: SLEDD
Costume Contest
Check our website for up-to-date listings.

SanTEE Originals Bookings:
E-mail "Windgirl" from our website

NORTH PARK

KARAOKE
THURSDAY-SATURDAY 9 PM hosted by Sonya

Online Club Coupons!

The following nightclubs have valuable coupons in the Music Section of the Reader’s website. 
□ indicates North County.

The Aero Club
Free WiFi
2 for 1 admission

Brick By Brick
CA Express VIP Card
Free card

Comedy Co-op
Free tickets
2 for 1 cover

In Cahoots
Lucky 7 Match
Martini Ranch
Martins II
$5 off speed dating
Free appetizers
2 for 1 cover

Second Wind Navajo
710 Beach Club
Tio Leo’s Lounge
$1 off club admission

SanDiegoReader.com

Calendar BANDS

JAZZ / BIG BAND (continued)
Amelia Browning: South Park Bar and Grill
Sammy Connnor: Cafe LaMaze
The Karin Carson Trio: The Westgate Hotel
Sandy Chappell: Cafe LaMaze

The Cradit Union:
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Join us again Tuesday, October 31, for
It's not even Halloween and we're already being bombarded with Christmas mania. Well, I hate driving and malls and "The Little Drummer Boy," so I'm going to do my holiday shopping mainly on the Internet, before Thanksgiving. And the presents I'm looking to give to people I care about are transistor gifts of flavor, not silly hunks of junk.

For example, last year's last-minute discovery was a website I consider "bacon heaven," called the Grateful Palate (www.gratefulfulpale.com), which carries a tremendous variety of artisan smoked meats. The step-kids/grandkids in Albuquerque are getting an assortment of smoked bacon this year — good grub is something the whole family can enjoy without squabbling over.

My foodie friends are getting stocking-stuffers of salt. Yes, salt. Our best local chefs have started serving specialty salts as finishing touches, and after a few tastes, I've grown greedy for them — and mean to spread the greed for the holidays. These salts aren't just about "saltiness." They're more like herbs, each carrying a distinctive complex flavor. It turns out, salt isn't purely sodium chloride, no matter what your chemistry teacher said. Edible salts also contain traces of magnesium, potassium, calcium, and sometimes much more. (For instance, pink Himalayan salt, mined high in the mountains, comes from prehistoric deposits that are said to contain at least 82 trace elements.) The less sodium in the ratio, the more reserved is the flavor. Our best local chefs is Maldon sea salt from England. This soft, crushable salt is too costly (about $12 a pound) to routinely toss in the potato-boiling water, but its delicate flavor makes an excellent finishing touch when you "season to taste." It's available at most of the websites mentioned in this article.

A more recent discovery is red Alaea Hawaiian sea salt, which I tasted as a coarse salt accompanying the bread and organic butter at the Hotel Del's new 1500 Ocean. The red color comes from iron in the soil under the salt bed. (There's also a black Hawaiian salt, which gets its color and faintly sulfurous aroma from lava. That one I can live without.) Red Alaea's flavor is lively and sharp, wonderful as the finishing touch atop strong-flavored seafood dishes or pan-fried potatoes, simple unsauced steaks, or the supermarket, but the favorite of classy chefs is Maldon sea salt from England. This soft, crushable salt is too costly (about $12 a pound) to routinely toss in the potato-boiling water, but its delicate flavor makes an excellent finishing touch when you "season to taste." It's available at most of the websites mentioned in this article.

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some genuine red Alac salt, plus added minerals, so it’s not exactly the real thing. It’s not bad, though, for the price.

Stingaree’s gifted chef Antonio Friscia, turned me on to the SaltTraders website as one source of the Italian truffled sea salt he uses so brilliantly on French fries. The black truffle note is gentle but insinuating. Not only does it complement potatoes (fried or mashed), creamy pasta, and popcorn, but it’s a natural with eggs, whether scrambled, poached, or over easy. This is one of the most expensive specialty salts ($20–$22.50 for 3.5 ounces), but if you or your friends love black truffles and wish but if you or your friends

The black truffle note is gen-

brilliantly on French fries.

Antonio Friscia, turned me

not bad, though, for the price.

While I was browsing and

spending my patrimony at the

online salt mines, I also picked

up an assortment of less-fa-

mous salts, many in pretty little sampler-size bottles with cork tops — attractive as stocking-stuffers, and also at-

tractive to the giver who wants to try (and likely keep) an ar-

ray of salts before deciding who on the hit gets which one.

Sicilian sea salt is a variety my friend Provvi (from Sicily) told me about as we soldiered through the pasta at a local Italian restaurant. “In Italy, the salt doesn’t taste as salty,” she said. “That’s why Italian chefs often oversalt when they come to America and use American salt.” The Sicilian salt is clearly salty up front, like a sea breeze, but fades on the palate to a pleasant, ling-

ering aftertaste that’s more complexity mineral than sodium. It seems a natural for polenta, pasta, and seafood, and the price isn’t so steep that you’d shy from cooking with it sparingly. I also tried Peru-

vian salt from the Andes, which was clear and pleasant but not especially complex, and Australian river salt — lu-

cid, zingy, salty up front but with fresh after-notes (a Nicole Kidman of salt?). Himalayan coarse pink salt proved quite different from the sea salts, with an earthy but neutral pure-salt flavor — you can’t really taste those 82 trace minerals. If not for the cost ($12 for 17.5 ounces at Amazon.com), it would be a wonderful cooking salt — it dissolved easily in the mouth in seconds. I’m sure it would be great sprinkled between the layers of a potato gratin, or for bringing a chicken breast be-

fore roasting.

I found another new fa-

vorite in the more exotic Cypress Black Sea salt — thin, dark-gray flakes with good mineral undertones, a deli-

cate, crumbly texture, and a faint smokiness. The dark color makes this salt a curios-

ity, and a good gift for curious cooks. It’s lovely as a final touch on salads and melon slices.

Another new “necessity” for me is smoked sea salt, which I love as the final touch on some pork dishes, salmon, chowders, and seafood pastas. (And it’s a given for grilled or barbecued dishes.) The best known is Wales’s delicate Halen Mon smoked sea salt, gently smoked over Welsh oak. Their regular sea salt is also highly reputed, considered at least the equal if not superior to Maldon sea salt. In addition, this tiny arti-
san company offers a re-creation of a blend of salt and strong spices that was used for preserving meats in the late medieval period. (The smoked version is available from Salt-

works, Chefscatalog.com, Surfsaisonline.com, www.salttraders.com, and others.)

Once I began working on this article, I encountered nu-

merous other smoked salts, in flavors including hickory, mesquite, applewood, and alderwood — even a tropical Balinese salt, smoked over co-

conut shells and kaffir lime leaves. Balinese salt is among the most prized in the world, and both the smoked and un-

smoked versions are available packaged in a coconut shell, which shouts “gift” to me. I found the widest selection of smoked salts on the Saltworks site. There’s also a Danish smoked “Viking” salt from SaltTraders, cooked until black over a mixture of woods, which I bought because one of the cooking magazines raved that it tasted like a bonfire. I found it more like a lick off a dirty barbecue grill — after the saltiness came a metallic, burned flavor that lingered for hours and refused to be washed away by water or wine. Give that one to Hagar the Horrible.

Sources for Gourmet Salts and Related Goodies: Amazon.com, groceries section: A relatively reasonable price for Himalayan pink salt.

The Baker’s Catalogue, www.bakerscatalogue.com. The makers of King Arthur Flour also carry gray Celtic sea salt, Maldon crystal sea salt, bread salt, pretzel salt, flavored salt blends, plus various salt cots and servers, and a full array of baking ingredients (including Saigon cinnamon), mixes, and cookwares. Ingredient prices (e.g., for salts) are an iota higher than at some other sources, but if you’re shopping for a baker, this is a great one-stop shop.

Cooking Enthusiast, www.cookingenthusiast.com. Halen Mon sea salt (unsmoked), butcher’s salt blend, additional seasoned salt blends, spices (e.g., Spanish paprikas), fine foodstuffs, and cookwares.

Cook’s Shop Here, www.cookshophere.com: International in-

gredients from many cuisines, including artisan salts, with the best price for truffled salt.

SaltTraders, www.salt-

traders.com: Wide range of spe-

cialty salts, plus salt cellars, recipes.

Surfa’s, www.surfasonline.com: A restaurant food-product store that sells to the general public online and ships from the Los Angeles area, it carries a great variety of international foodstuffs, including gourmet salt blends at a lower price than retail sources.

P.S. I’d be remiss to talk this much about salt without a postscript for pepper. The website you need to know about for dried herbs and spices, including many ver-

sions of pepper — including two grades of prized and fra-

grant black Tellicherry — is Penzeys.com. Many top chefs use Penzeys exclusively, because their products are fresher, more var-

ied, and usually of higher grade than normal supermarket brands. They typically import their individual herb and spice varieties from whichever areas of the world where they’re naturally most flavorful. This catalog also offers various seasoned salt blends and spice blends.

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Oh, God.” Story of my life. First chip, first dip, first spot of salsa on my brand-spankin’ new white shirt. Gifted by Ms. Carla. Now I have a simple choice: Go home — or live.

“I’m a dead man walking,” I mumble to Hank.

“Six hundred and twenty-eight, my friend,” says Héctor’s mom Margaret pricks her ears up.

“So it won’t matter if your last meal is cholesterol-city, deep-fried pork,” says Margaret.


“Come on, man,” says Hank. “Carnitas is pork, but, like, they slow-cook it in lard. Its own juices give it flavor, so you don’t need to add anything except maybe cilantro and a bit of onion.”

“Come on, man,” says Hank. “Carnitas is pork, but, like, they slow-cook it in lard. Its own juices give it flavor, so you don’t need to add anything except maybe cilantro and a bit of onion.”

Leti — Leticia, the dark-eyed waitress — comes leads me to the kitchen. Oh, man. Two great iron stoves top pots bubbling away with meats in liquids.

“She’s sitting at a table nearby with some friends. “But if it’s so bad for you, how come every single Mexican hasn’t died of a heart attack?” says she. “No. People get sick from all the synthetic things they put in food on this side of the border. In Mexico, it’s all natural.”

“Tell me some mint leaves,” I says. “I’ll get her some mint leaves,” I says. “I’ll get her some mint leaves. I’m not worried about some people. They get hooked on it.”

“I can understand that,” I mumble to Hank.

“We cook 900, maybe 1000 pounds of pork every week,” Margaret says. “We’re the only ones in San Diego who do it properly. My husband learned with his uncle at Carnitas Uruapan in Tijuana. We never change it.”

“He and Rogelio died two years ago. Now Héctor has come to replace his stepfather, team up with his mom. Except, right now he’s — wow — fitting a silver necklace around a customer’s neck. “I make jewelry,” he says. “I was making it in Beverly Hills. I’ve sold it on the Home Shopping Network, I’ve sold it to Bette Midler, Betty White, Queen Latifah. Leza Gibbons…now they have to come here to buy.”

“Carnitas Uruapan,” says Héctor. “It is rich. Way rich. I really am hangin’ in there with his diet. Wants to live vicariously. I’m happy to oblige.

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“Our price is $5.95. But no. Porky Pig’s who I came for. I order some hangin’ in there with his diet. Wants to live vicariously. I’m happy to oblige.

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“Our price is $5.95. But no. Porky Pig’s who I came for. I order...
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“We really work on making sure that the soil is active and healthy and living.”

Well, now — local girl makes good, indeed. Starting with the ‘06 harvest, Rosemary Cakebread has stepped, if not exactly down, then at least aside from her position as winemaker at Napa’s Spottswoode Estate and handed the reins to one Jennifer Williams, late of Valley Center. Cakebread will stay on as consulting winemaker, and Williams will retain her old job as vineyard manager.

Williams came into the business through the vineyard, and into the vineyard through the garden. She was born in Chula Vista and spent time in North County, but, she says, “My parents wanted to live in a more rural area. That’s why they moved out to Valley Center. My experience there is really what prompted me to go into agriculture. It’s where I really got into flavor. We had different varieties. The culture. It’s where I really got into flavor.”

Williams’s teenage interest. “I applied only to agricultural schools,” eventually ending up at Cal Poly SLO. “I originally thought I would be a large-animal vet. When I got to Cal Poly, I started focusing on dairy, those sorts of things.” A botany course began her shift toward the vegetable; a job at a winery finished it. “After that, she found work in nearby Paso Robles. “I started in the vineyards, checking blocks and being a liaison between the growers and the winery. Then I moved into the lab and spent some time learning the winemaking process.”

Williams is 30, which puts her among my peers. And among my peers who have tried to break into the wine business, there has been a similar experience: hearing from a potential employer, “Of course you don’t have to go to UC Davis” — home of California’s most famous enology department — “to get a job here. But everyone here went to UC Davis.” Williams is an exception to that rule, and she says there are others.

There’s definitely an extremely large UC Davis presence, but there are also a lot of people who come from philosophy or poetry or whatever — they catch the wine bug. It’s very much an art — or a trade — so it can be learned by doing. It can be taught.

Of course, you still need someone to teach you — you still need someone willing to take you on. A year at Trefethen gave way to a harvest in Spain. Upon her return, Williams started looking for “a job that I could kind of grow into. It’s a very small community, and I’ve been very fortunate. I had met Rosemary Cakebread’s husband Bruce — he has Cakebread Cellars — on a trip to Nicaragua with a local group that was building a baseball field down there for a small community.” Through Bruce, Williams met Rosemary. “After I came back, Rosemary said that they had an opening at Spottswoode.”

Not for a full-time intern, but for one who would split time between Spottswoode and Araujo — Rosemary was friends with the owner there.

It was still intern work — “getting up in the morning, going and leafing the bins while the pickers were picking, doing pumpovers” — but it was intern work at two prestigious wineries, and with a veteran vineyard man: Jose Luis Lopez. She began to learn the vineyard. “We monitor the growth and weather and adjust our strategies accordingly. This year, we had a very cold, wet spring that delayed the growth of the vines out of dormancy. Traditionally, we till our cover crops into the soil in every row during the spring. This year, we decided to till every other row. The remaining cover crop was able to use up the water in the soil, which allowed the soil to dry out faster.”

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★★★★ Very good to excellent”—San Diego Reader
The modern style of wine-making and its "new guard" is a term used to describe innovative and sometimes controversial approaches to winemaking. "The modern style" often involves a focus on clean, precise, and often high-acid wines that can age well despite their relatively lower alcohol content.

The "new guard" or "next generation" winemakers are those who are pushing the boundaries of traditional winemaking. They are often associated with smaller, more experimental wineries that produce wines that are more experimental, often with a focus on terroir and natural fermentations. These winemakers may use techniques such as whole cluster fermentation, indigenous yeasts, and minimal intervention during the winemaking process to produce wines that are unique to their vineyards.

For example, Williams, one of the "next step" winemakers at Spottswoode, moved into a winery of its own in '99. "The modern style of wine-making and its "new guard" is a term used to describe innovative and sometimes controversial approaches to winemaking. "The modern style" often involves a focus on clean, precise, and often high-acid wines that can age well despite their relatively lower alcohol content.

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**Bolsa Vietnamese Restaurant**
2220 Mira Mesa Boulevard 4118 (behind Wendy’s), 858-893-3661. “The name ‘Bolsa’ isn’t Vietnamese,” says Kim Trang. “It’s Spanish for ‘bag.’ She’s playing on words here.” Trang once owned Pho on University Avenue, and every Vietnamese knows pho is Vietnam’s most popular quick meal, a broth in a noodle soup. At this location, Trang still makes excellent pho, but she has 122 other items as well, including fried fritas with ginger fish sauce, healthy (non-fried) Vietnamese spring rolls, or egg rolls with lettuce and mint in which to wrap them (sprinkled with rice moss, Vietnamese fish sauce). We’re talking family-style cooking. Come once and Trang will remember you and everything you ate — even if it was just pho biz. Inexpensive. — E.B. (2003)

**Golden Egg Omelet House**
316 West Mission Avenue (at Escondido Boulevard), Escondido, 760-489-6420. This breakfast-lunch-tribute house is vast but cute, its brick walls and open ceiling studied with nuts and laced with sweet almond paste. They claim to use all-organic ingredients, even the eggs, and locally grown produce. For a hearty breakfast, you can choose omelets, frittatas, French toast, and eggs. Lunch dishes include several savory tarts, a French doll plate, crêpes, salads, and sandwiches. And oh by the way, there are desert pastries, too. Open for brunch/lunch and pre-dinner snacks Tuesday through Saturday; lunch/brunch only on Sunday. Inexpensive. — N.W. (2005)

**Donburi**
2040 Harbor Island Dr. 619-297-6232 (above Wherehouse Records, inside Shopping Center). 8657 Villa La Jolla Dr. 858-550-0861 (near AMC 12 Theatres, year NBC 12 Theatre).

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**La Jolla**

**Brecken Villa**
1235 Coast Boulevard, La Jolla, 858-454-7309. Pretty and romantic, this sprawling cottage perches above La Jolla Cove and offers breathtaking views as well as some-reserved tables indoors to admire the view. The culinary masterpiece is “Coast Toast,” invented for breakfast but now served all day — it’s the French toast of your happiest dreams, puffy and airy with a lovely orange flavor. (And the coffee is excellent.) Lunchtime features sandwiches on Boardwalk Bread & Co with dinner menus to San Diego international eclectic cookery that can be hit or miss. Affordable wines and cocktails. Steep stairs to all dining areas. All nearby pay parking is uphill in a garage under Trattoria Acqua or up on Prospect. Unisex restroom. Open door.

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San Diego Reader: October 26, 2006

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**Ginza Sushi**

**Baton Rouge Seafood and Steakhouse**
8501 Scripps Dr. 858-489-6420 (at Scripps and Fogarty). 2424 Loring Avenue (at Escondido Boulevard), Escondido, 760-489-6420. This breakfast-lunch-tribute house is vast but cute, its brick walls and open ceiling studied with nuts and laced with sweet almond paste. They claim to use all-organic ingredients, even the eggs, and locally grown produce. For a hearty breakfast, you can choose omelets, frittatas, French toast, and eggs. Lunch dishes include several savory tarts, a French doll plate, crêpes, salads, and sandwiches. And oh by the way, there are desert pastries, too. Open for brunch/lunch and pre-dinner snacks Tuesday through Saturday; lunch/brunch only on Sunday. Inexpensive. — N.W. (2005)

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**Donburi**
2040 Harbor Island Dr. 619-297-6232 (above Wherehouse Records, inside Shopping Center). 8657 Villa La Jolla Dr. 858-550-0861 (near AMC 12 Theatres, year NBC 12 Theatre).
Calabria Acqua 1298 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-0719. The poplar restaurant has charming gardens, with arched doorways dividing a warn of white-painted, high-ceilinged rooms and terraces around a tiled, heated courtyard. The seasonally changing menu could be called "kvartalnaya Italia," a style that more than passes the Italian envelope with assorted international influences. The food can be dense — or dismaying. Green tea "sustainable humano" status, there’s surprise air of bean-counting that manages to oddly lightweight silverware, waiters unerect about lightning speed, and, at times, tired desserts. Doctor, though. Full bar with extensive, wide-ranging wine list that includes half bottles as well as choices by the glass. Win-ter-waited but accepted weekend reservations advised. Restaurant is two floors down from Prospect, with validated parking in underground garage or on-duty on main street. Moderate up to expensive. — E.B. (5/03)

MARRAKESH 364 Pearl Street (at Draper), La Jolla, 858-454-2401. The North African fare of Morocco is like no other in the world — influenced by Arabic cuisine, but more intense and truly heady. The menu at sole Moroccan restaurant, the fare is arranged into a nightly five-course prix fixe feast, with super-hi-fi soups (hummus), a salad plate, hand-picked waterfront fish (if available), an entrée, and finally mint tea poured from a special Genoese tea-pot with accompanying almond baklava perfumed with orange flower water. The grand service is dreamlike — tented ceilings, low banquettes seating at candle-studded round tables, belly dancing interludes, servers in fringes. (You're the Shiek of Arabia.) A short list of entrées (a maximum of two choices per table, to be shared) featured fine chicken (or lamb) with olives and preserved lemons; moist, fatted duck; lamb with couscous, and rather dry fish. You can dream the creamy lamb with honey, an extravaganza that in-cludes broth, fruit, and cream cheese. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate up to very expensive. — N.W. (11/00)

MISSION VALLEY & THE MESAS

Adam's Steak N' Eggs (43) Hotel Circle South, Mission Valley, 619-272-1105. Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., Adams has served not only breakfasts since 1966. The menu runs from Juicy Lucy to eggs with raisins, dates, sunflower seeds, almonds, pine nuts, and pecans — to even the finest of peppers and hot red peppers) are served on the menu — is served until closing on the main course. Room (table can get skimpy once the grill gets going). The menu skews toward the more "family combination dinners" but they’re written in Korean if interested, ask the owner or manager to translate for you.

Open Monday through Friday for lunch, daily for dinner. Moderate. — N.W. (11/00)

China Max 4989 Convoy Street (at Engineer), Kearny Mesa, 858-560-3333. The atmosphere is bright and bright, the sound level loud, but this is a major resource for authentic Hong Kong cooking — creative and multi-regional, filtered through the refined whorl of the Chinese Cantonese style. The seafood aum in the live tanks includes such delights as genuine, deep-fried (bony but wonderfully sweet) Dungeness crab, and if you’ve got the愿意 and the money, order the double bo- nheep, honey dishes (e.g., wonTon, crabcakes), and crispy beef. If you’re into salami and ham, the crumbled Greek Mizithra add tang to roasted right beside you as you walk in, to be the Cheese Shop had 100 varieties the menu — is served until closing on the patio (reputedly San Diego’s first din- ning room) — could mix and meet with jenders) — could mix and meet with deners) — could mix and meet with in-your-face, interesting, and exciting, as is the harira — rich, poor, Brahmins, and gar-
ders) — could mix and meet with Mohinders) — could mix and meet withers, and hand the plate-load to the Iron Chef. He’ll stir-cook them on the hotplate for you. If you’d like tacos to cover the endless rows of steaming chile dishes. Must-see the fresh salmon, as lamb and tuna — mouth-watering scrumptiously. And try the chicken feet (they taste a bit like cow tongue, or brains). Open daily, brunch through dinner. Impressive. — E.B. (4/05)

Ikea Restaurant & Cafe 2149 Fenton Parkway, Mission Valley, 619-283-6106, downtown Central drake for San Diego’s 10,000 beavers, so they do. Come for tastes or open-faced sandwiches, salmon, denn, and meat- balls again. This restaurant inside Wee- ster’s wildly successful "home- made" chain is a great intro to Swedish tastes. The food’s more sensible than it is exciting, of course. But hopefully a bit of "home" and pork for the meatballs are guaran- teed hormone-free. You eat the meat- balls with Swedish lingonberry (not cranberry) sauce. Seared is big. The first American restaurant to put fresh seafood on your plate. I mean fresh seafood, not some canned substitute (universal meat- balls) and this is a fancy Chinese restaurant. The salmon plate with potatoes and broccoli — and the Grilled Lotus Flower and black pudding) are always on. And if you want to be disgustingly healthy, there is on their fresh vegetable plate (raw carrot sticks, cauliflower, garbanzo beans, and mushrooms). All for a song. The only health hazard: herd of babies and kids running in the restaurant’s

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**San Diego Reader**
mother-friendly play area. Inexpensive. — E.B. (10/01)

Lightnin’ Jacks BBQ
Claremont Town Square, 4145 H. Claremont Drive (near masterpiece), Claremont, 628-270-8227. Clean, cute, and a little

self-conscious, thin barbecue has black-

and-white Western pictures on the

walls and some seating on barstools

with metal “saddles” (more comfort-

ably than they look). The barbecue

mechanism is a Texas-style pit smokin;

burning sweet hickory. The meats that

emerge from it aren’t the most moist,

but they’re tasty enough. Pork ribs are

tender and moist, and beef brisket carries

enough smoke flavor to pass muster in

Texas; other meat choices are less suc-

cessful. The tomatoey sauce is pleasant

enough. — E.B. (8/99)

Seoul B.B.Q.
4344 Convoy Street, San Diego, 619-291-4616. This Kor-

ean restaurant means sitting before a

sizzling cast-iron grill, sipping hot sake,

and eating Korean-style food. The

expensive to moderate. Open daily, lunch

and dinner. Inexpensive. — E.W. (9/85)

Tartare

The goat meat hot pot or Korean steak

is a flavorful alternative (but be-

ware, because it’s not just all-

food). Like McDonald’s, it attracts lots of fam-

ilies, maybe because it’s not just all-

all day Monday through Saturday; closed Sunday. Inexpensive.

— E.W. (8/99)

Tropical Star

6163 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont, 858-874-7827. A modest

restaurant with a friendly staff. Same menu

and walls and some seating on barstools

with metal “saddles” (more comfort-

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mechanism is a Texas-style pit smokin;

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enough. — E.B. (8/99)
Crispy-crunchy fish-and-chips platter. A mix of sweet and spicy with a hint of lemon. Ideal for those who enjoy a side of fried seafood. The menu also includes a variety of entrées, such as pasta dishes and salads, to cater to different dietary preferences.

The atmosphere? Make a reservation at The Mediterranean, located at 7520 Midway Drive, Loma Portal, 858-270-3060. This restaurant is known for its fresh, locally sourced ingredients and an extensive wine list. The Mediterranean offers a cozy and inviting dining experience, perfect for a romantic dinner or a family gathering.

In conclusion, The Mediterranean is a fantastic choice for anyone looking for a delightful dining experience with a variety of menu offerings, in a comfortable environment. Whether you're in the mood for seafood, pasta, or a vegetarian option, this restaurant has something to satisfy everyone's taste buds. Reservations are highly recommended to ensure a table at this popular spot.
Treat yourself to the exotic flavors of Caribbean cuisine at Cafe Zia. This cozy eatery, located at 6632 El Cajon Boulevard in La Mesa, offers a delightful menu that caters to both the adventurous and the curious palate. With a focus on fresh, seasonal ingredients, Cafe Zia ensures that each dish is a symphony of taste and texture.

**Menu Highlights**

- **Starters**: Dine on crispy, golden plantains slathered with a tangy mango chutney. For a slightly more daring choice, opt for the richly spiced disco a la criolla, which is sure to tantalize your taste buds.

- **Entrées**: Dive into the aromatic world of Caribbean cooking with main dishes such as the succulent oxtail stew, served with a side of hearty rice and peas. The jerk chicken, marinated in a blend of spices and herbs, is a must-try for those seeking a bit of heat.

- **Sides**: Indulge in a variety of flavorful sides, from the creamy black bean soup to the crispy fried plantains. Each side provides a perfect complement to the main dishes, ensuring a harmonious balance of flavors.

- **Desserts**: End your meal on a sweet note with a selection of mouthwatering desserts, such as the rich chocolate mousse or the light and refreshing coconut parfait.

Cafe Zia is open seven days a week, from 11 am to 9 pm, making it a convenient spot for both breakfast and dinner. Whether you’re a foodie seeking an exotic adventure or simply looking for a delicious culinary experience, Cafe Zia is the perfect choice. Don’t miss out on this opportunity to explore the vibrant flavors of Caribbean cuisine! 

| Cafe Zia: 6632 El Cajon Boulevard, La Mesa | 619-337-3973 | www.cafezia.com |

**Additional Notes**

- **Reservations**: While not required, reservations are recommended on weekends and during peak hours to ensure a table is available.
- **Payment**: They accept all major credit cards.
- **Dietary Options**: Cafe Zia offers gluten-free, vegetarian, and vegan options, catering to a variety of dietary preferences.

Experience the warmth and hospitality of Cafe Zia, where every bite is a journey through the rich tapestry of Caribbean flavors.
**Bamboo Bistro** 4882 Fourth Ave. (University), Hillcrest, 619-298-8661. Basically a Greek deli, but charming, especially, if you’re into pastries. Inside has painted grapes, hanging copper lampshades, plush booths, and coffee comes to the thermostat. Full menu until 10 p.m. High-quality, high-taste. Good for kids. Open 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., 7 days a week. — (E.B. 1/05)

**Euro Palace** 3050 1st Avenue (between Oak and_sprites Avenue), Hillcrest, 619-234-4250. A vast and sophisticated restaurant full of potential. The optimal entrée is the lamb shandy, a delicious lamb chop on ricotta—ricotta to be precise. Open 5 p.m. – 10 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, 5 p.m. – 11 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Very expensive. — (E.B. 1/05)

**Glebe** 3874 Fourth Avenue (at University), Hillcrest, 619-294-2745. Some folk come for the excellent, straightforward British fare. Others come to get their fill of fried chicken. The food is not extraordinary, but it’s good enough to keep you coming back. Open 11 a.m. – 11 p.m., 7 days a week. — (E.B. 1/05)

**Honesty** 287 Garnet Avenue, La Jolla, 619-452-5644. A good deli, but not outstanding. Their corned beef and pastrami are dry and, well, corned beef and pastrami. Open 11 a.m. – 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 11 a.m. – 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., Sunday. Inexpensive. — (E.B. 1/05)

**Jackson’s** 4451 La Jolla Blvd. (between Girard and Prospect), La Jolla, 619-456-1507. For the best Ohio-style barbecue in this part of the world, go to Jackson’s. Their meats are dry and taste like they’ve been on the road for a while, but they’re still better than most of the local joint. Open 11 a.m. – 9 p.m., 7 days a week. Expensive. — (E.B. 1/05)

**Kabob King** 3900 Third Avenue (at Washington), Bayside, 619-296-9590. It’s an interesting restaurant, but the kabobs are dry and not cooked long enough to bring out the natural juices. Open 11 a.m. – 10 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. Very expensive. — (E.B. 1/05)

**Kabobz** 3922 University Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-227-0800. A fast-food place that serves decent kabobs. Open 11 a.m. – 9 p.m., 7 days a week. Inexpensive. — (E.B. 1/05)

**La Posta de Acapulco** 2101 Mission Blvd. (between Avenida De Acapulco and Avenida Del Bicentenario), Ocean Beach, 619-224-5377. A great little Mexican place that serves excellent seafood. Open 11 a.m. – 9 p.m., 7 days a week. Expensive. — (E.B. 1/05)

**Lido del Mar** 7360 Girard Avenue (between Girard and Girard Avenue), La Jolla, 619-227-0800. A good deli, but their sandwiches are dry and lack flavor. Open 11 a.m. – 9 p.m., 7 days a week. Inexpensive. — (E.B. 1/05)

**Livingston’s** 3924 Sorrento Valley Blvd. (at Rancho Penasquitos), Rancho Penasquitos, 619-452-6500. An unusual place with a very sophisticated menu. Open 5 p.m. – 10 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. Expensive. — (E.B. 1/05)

**Lucky’s Vietnamese Restaurant** 4036 Girard Avenue (between Girard and Girard Avenue), La Jolla, 619-224-8264. Typical Vietnamese place, but they have great pho. Open 11 a.m. – 9 p.m., 7 days a week. Inexpensive. — (E.B. 1/05)

**Malruba** 4355 Girard Avenue (between Girard and Girard Avenue), La Jolla, 619-224-8253. The pun relief for the name is the best thing about this place. The food is also quite pleasant. Open 6 p.m. – 10 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. Expensive. — (E.B. 1/05)

**New York Deli & Steak House** 4225 Girard Avenue (between Girard and Girard Avenue), La Jolla, 619-226-7722. The best New York deli in La Jolla. Their pastrami is delicious, and so is the corned beef. Open 11 a.m. – 10 p.m., 7 days a week. Inexpensive. — (E.B. 1/05)

**Pacifica Seafood Restaurant** 4200 Girard Avenue (between Girard and Girard Avenue), La Jolla, 619-452-6500. A more expensive seafood place. Open 5 p.m. – 10 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. Expensive. — (E.B. 1/05)

**Pancho’s Restaurant** 3768 Girard Avenue (between Girard and Girard Avenue), La Jolla, 619-224-8166. A place that serves Mexican food with a touch of upscale. Open 11 a.m. – 10 p.m., 7 days a week. Expensive. — (E.B. 1/05)

**Parrilla Posada** 4725 Girard Avenue (between Girard and Girard Avenue), La Jolla, 619-224-8108. A place that serves Mexican food with a touch of upscale. Open 11 a.m. – 10 p.m., 7 days a week. Expensive. — (E.B. 1/05)

**Paxtun’s** 2929 Girard Avenue (between Girard and Girard Avenue), La Jolla, 619-222-9359. A place that serves Mexican food with a touch of upscale. Open 11 a.m. – 10 p.m., 7 days a week. Expensive. — (E.B. 1/05)

**Safir’s Turkish Restaurant** 3925 La Jolla Village Drive (between Girard and Girard Avenue), La Jolla, 619-224-8267. A good place to eat Turkish food. Open 11 a.m. – 10 p.m., 7 days a week. Inexpensive. — (E.B. 1/05)

**Taco Shop** 4064 Girard Avenue (between Girard and Girard Avenue), La Jolla, 619-227-0385. A place that serves Mexican food with a touch of upscale. Open 11 a.m. – 10 p.m., 7 days a week. Expensive. — (E.B. 1/05)

**The Winking Lizard** 4006 Girard Avenue (between Girard and Girard Avenue), La Jolla, 619-227-0385. A place that serves Mexican food with a touch of upscale. Open 11 a.m. – 10 p.m., 7 days a week. Expensive. — (E.B. 1/05)

**Yume Cafe** 4730 Girard Avenue (between Girard and Girard Avenue), La Jolla, 619-227-0385. A place that serves Mexican food with a touch of upscale. Open 11 a.m. – 10 p.m., 7 days a week. Expensive. — (E.B. 1/05)

**Zapotlanez** 3924 Girard Avenue (between Girard and Girard Avenue), La Jolla, 619-227-0800. A place that serves Mexican food with a touch of upscale. Open 11 a.m. – 10 p.m., 7 days a week. Expensive. — (E.B. 1/05)
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“mooch’s” curry,” and ice creams from Mostown Creamery. Poking Duck is accused of the service, with a wait- ing-gramming the table’s first round of delicate “flower buds” with crackly black skin, scallions, and onion sauce. Lizard Lounge next door now houses a pub bar as well as a liquor bar. Re- serve for weekend diners. Street park- ing. 619-696-3299. Lunch and din- ner daily. — N.W. (11/04)

Canyon Club Cafe 
421 Telegraph Canyon Road, Chula Vista, (too phone). You don’t get deals like this every day — think 1940s roadhouses. Read the breakfast menu. “Our items include above brownies, toast, cof- fee, juice at 11 a.m.” Bikers (espe- cially the U.F.A. of America, and yes, you’re probably wondering about the letters) appreciate this menu regularly. The food is strictly American, from the half plate of biscuits and gravy to steak and eggs, to omelets with Ortega chili. Fugget about the big guns; they’re “good people” according to the own- ers. $4.50 + tax. (In Ramona) Open seven days, lunch and dinner, until midnight. Breakfast on weekends from 9 a.m. — E.B. (10/05)

China Super Buffet 
1301 Orange Avenue #9, National City, 619-437-3250. This venerable salon, a Navy old- timers’ favorite since the era when lotion lounges in suitcases steamed the earth, now houses a good little sushi bar at one end of its spirits bar. The rice is given niggiri with a bit of tempura shrimp, avocado, and tobiko. For best seats and great eating, come early; once the bar fills fast and the room can get downright rowdy at midnight. Street park- ing. Lunch/dinner daily. Moderate. — N.W. (11/04)

Lydia’s Cafe and Nightclub 
1628 Palm Avenue, San Diego, 619-429-5803. This vacation danc- ing bar at one end of its spirits bar. The rice is given niggiri with a bit of tempura shrimp, avocado, and tobiko. For best seats and great eating, come early; once the bar fills fast and the room can get downright rowdy at midnight. Street park- ing. Lunch/dinner daily. Moderate. — N.W. (11/04)

Giant Pizza King 
400 Palm Avenue (at Rainbow), Imperial Beach, 619-435-5280. With a crowd ranging from cactus and eggs to steak and eggs. Open 24/7. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/04)

Mcp’s Irish Pub & Grill 
110 Or- ange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-5280. With a crowd ranging from cactus and eggs to steak and eggs. Open 24/7. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/04)

For reservations: 619-557-0146

95

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趸 promise “over 100 items daily.” Yellow-gloved “monk’s curry,” and ice creams from Chula Vista, (too phone). You don’t get deals like this every day — think 1940s roadhouses. Read the breakfast menu. “All items include above brownies, toast, coffee, juice at 11 a.m.” Bikers (espe- cially the U.F.A. of America, and yes, you’re probably wondering about the letters) appreciate this menu regularly. The food is strictly American, from the half plate of biscuits and gravy to steak and eggs, to omelets with Ortega chili. Fugget about the big guns; they’re “good people” according to the own- ers. $4.50 + tax. (In Ramona) Open seven days, lunch and dinner, until midnight. Breakfast on weekends from 9 a.m. — E.B. (10/05)

China Super Buffet 
1301 Orange Avenue #9, National City, 619-336-9898. This buffet promises “over 100 items daily.” Yellow-gloved servers casually row the check- ing, stirring, sipping. A lot of the stuff is very good, like the marinated baby octopus that look like large blushing spiders, or the mussel in their shells, bubbling golden on top with melted cheese, and of course, roast beef as an option. But you must be healthy, they have growing oval buns and adequate wax. It’s an incredible value. Lunch and din- ner daily. — E.B. (10/05)

Giant Pizza King 
400 Palm Avenue (at Rainbow), Imperial Beach, 619-435-5280. With a crowd ranging from cactus and eggs to steak and eggs. Open 24/7. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/04)

Mcp’s Irish Pub & Grill 
110 Or- ange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-5280. With a crowd ranging from cactus and eggs to steak and eggs. Open 24/7. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/04)

Giant Pizza King 
400 Palm Avenue (at Rainbow), Imperial Beach, 619-435-5280. This vacation danc- ing bar at one end of its spirits bar. The rice is given niggiri with a bit of tempura shrimp, avocado, and tobiko. For best seats and great eating, come early; once the bar fills fast and the room can get downright rowdy at midnight. Street park- ing. Lunch/dinner daily. Moderate. — N.W. (11/04)

Lydia’s Cafe and Nightclub 
1628 Palm Avenue, San Diego, 619-429-5803. This vacation danc- ing bar at one end of its spirits bar. The rice is given niggiri with a bit of tempura shrimp, avocado, and tobiko. For best seats and great eating, come early; once the bar fills fast and the room can get downright rowdy at midnight. Street park- ing. Lunch/dinner daily. Moderate. — N.W. (11/04)

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steak haven sits on traffic-drowned Salinas, but climb onto its porch and you’re at a certain San Diego ranch house, square and cool. Inside’s dark wood and brick, wagon wheels, railings, refinished floors, tons of character. Requests amounts of cattle-ranch food. Entrance prices include a delicious soup of roast beef, side salads, and potatoes, and a beef liver medley, wood and brick, wagon wheels, lariats, 30% off lunch. Open daily at 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. — E.B. (505)

La Baguette Boulevard Lázaro Cárdenas Filho (a.k.a. Boulevard Costero, across Sandman's between Castillo and Blanca), Encenada, 466-174-2614. For those who take their java straight and strong, this is a good stop for a quick continental breakfast or desert, with quite possibly the best French Roast coffee in town. Open daily during the day. Inexpensive. — N.W. (401)

La Escondida 203 Calle Avenida Revolución #210 South Avenue (at G Street). Glendale, 619-239-7232. Also at 10349 Westview Parkway, Mesa 868-536-2822. 1921 in California Barcelona, Chula Vista, 619-478-2535. People come here to celebrate, in party dresses, by gobbling huge plates of food. It’s a Spanish version of what seems to have turned up about 1:30, after their own parties, to be serenaded by some Mexicans actually turn up about 1 a.m., some traffic is ghastly at “the turn” (of the cuddly road), and somehow comes out Mexican. Most toasting. — R.M. (501)

The La Escondida entrance sign is in red neon at the road’s end. Open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. — E.B. (505)

La Vuelta Avenida Revolución #810 (above 1106), Tijuana, 661-743-7899. Bring your love here and have a date in one of the cuddily carretas — mosas. Even if traffic is ghastly at “the turn” (la vuelta), where Revolution boissons box, you forget all that inside this vestige of old Tijuana, with balcony sitting, resident mariachi’s, and food and drink all day and night. Before the doors, by gobbling huge plates of food. It’s a Spanish version of what seems to have turned up about 1:30, after their own parties, to be serenaded by some Mexicans actually turn up about 1 a.m., some traffic is ghastly at “the turn” (of the cuddly road), and somehow comes out Mexican. Most toasting. — R.M. (501)

Boulevard de las Artes 1003 (a.k.a. Boulevard Costero), Tijuana, 661-213-2701. This historic “cabin” is the nearest thing to liquid fudge this side of paradise. On weekends the place rocks with parties and live music. The downtown’s be it. Take Avenida Calle Kennedy one half mile past the racetrack, turn right at La Palma, then left at the Al Rey del Pollo Frito. The La Escondida is red neon at the road’s end. Open daily for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Moderate. — E.B. (505)

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Buc a de Bepp o 705 South Avenue (at G Street). Glendale, 619-239-7232. Also at 10349 Westview Parkway, Mesa 868-536-2822. 1921 in California Barcelona, Chula Vista, 619-478-2535. People come here to celebrate, in party dresses, by gobbling huge plates of food. It’s a Spanish version of what seems to have turned up about 1:30, after their own parties, to be serenaded by some Mexicans actually turn up about 1 a.m., some traffic is ghastly at “the turn” (of the cuddly road), and somehow comes out Mexican. Most toasting. — R.M. (501)

North County

The Beach Club 50% off dinner Big Jim’s Old South Bar-Grille 50% off dinner The Bivd 50% off lunch or dinner High’s Market 20% off lunch or dinner Village Greek Free samagani Jamron 10% off lunch or dinner K’s Restaurant Free appetizer or dessert Niko Japanese 50% off sushi Niko Japanese & Company * Pho 10% off whole check Wild Note Cafe

Restaurant Don Quijote Hotel El Conquistador (ground floor), 1070 Boulevard Santa Fe Road, Tijuana, 661-795-7500. This tribute to the great windmill libre himself serves as break- fast, lunch, and dinner anchor for the town’s most cosmopolitan Mexican (inn). It’s a world of glowing stained-glass windows, heavy doors, and black wrought-iron grilles. The famous fence self to come clattering out from the shadows on his horse. The food is stand- ard multiclass Mexican fare, but bei- tween quail dishes and enchiladas, cre- mete, la tamarindo, and cabezuela, is the nearest thing to liquid fudge this side of paradise. On weekends the place rocks with parties and live music. The downtown’s be it. Take Avenida Calle Kennedy one half mile past the racetrack, turn right at La Palma, then left at the Al Rey del Pollo Frito. The La Escondida is red neon at the road’s end. Open daily for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Moderate. — E.B. (505)

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All right. Okay. So Clint Eastwood’s *Flags of Our Fathers* is not as good as his last couple of films, *Million Dollar Baby*, going backwards in time, and *Mystic River*. Little birds have told me so, and I don’t disagree. The new film, to put a finer point on it, is not as good as either of the best American films of their respective years. Saying it like that is a way of saying that Eastwood has become one of those select filmmakers, so far above the pack, to be measured only against himself. And his not-as-good new film is nonetheless, with just two months to go, the best American film of its year thus far.

Admittedly, that’s something of a collective judgment, a body-of-work judgment as distinct from an individual judgment. The director (and on this occasion nonactor), sorely trying the patience of anyone still hoping for a sixth installment of *Dirty Harry*, is not yet done paying penance for the casual, callous, and prolific violence of his earlier years. And *Flags of Our Fathers* rises in value as an essential, an unmissable, piece of the entire cycle, an extraordinary course of self-examination and self-reform, beginning in earnest with the aptly titled *Unforgiven*, continuing through *A Perfect World* and, yes, *The Bridges of Madison County* — the modern-day saddle tramp riding a pickup instead of a pony and shooting with a camera instead of a Colt — and, after slacking off for a few lesser efforts, carrying on with revived urgency through the three most recent.

This latest one shows, to begin with, that he has not taken the course too far, that he has not run the thing into the ground, not run out of new angles. An elegiac war film, it tells the story of the famous Joe Rosenthal flag-raising photograph from the Battle of Iwo Jima, the full story, how this flag was in actuality a larger replacement flag for one raised already, how the battle raged on for five more weeks afterwards (contrary to the 1949 *Sands of Iwo Jima* with John Wayne), how the three survivors among the six faceless flag-raisers (played with great restraint by Ryan Phillippe, Adam Beach, Jesse Bradford) were brought back home to be paraded around on a bond drive, how they squirmed under the banner of “the heroes of Iwo Jima” (the best-known of them, the American Indian Ira Hayes, later celebrated in song by Johnny Cash and Bob Dylan, drank himself into an irreversible skid), how they lived out their remaining days. It is distinctly a film of, and for, its own time, gripped with the conviction that the more you know about an event, the more tainted it will get. And let’s remind ourselves, right about now, that Eastwood is still the only major filmmaker to have commemorated on screen the American conquest of Grenada. Surely some special penance was owed for that. Mark it down as paid in full.

There are unmistakable and somewhat regrettable echoes here of Steven Spielberg’s *Saving Private Ryan* — the reminiscing WWII vet of the present day, the CGI invasionary fleet, the jaws-of-death beach landing, a bit of that concussed camerawork in the thick of the action — and one wonders whether Spielberg’s involvement
Three Times, the Hou Hsiao-hsien film I was so looking forward to in the San Diego Asian Film Festival, is not top-rung Hou, either. In fact it is bottom-rung Hou. In fact I did not know the runs on his ladder went this low. The idea of pairing up the same actor and actress (Chang Chen and Shu Qi, both excellent) in three separate stories, set in three separate eras, seemed to me a good one, a likely way to explore concepts of chance and circumstance, the accident of birth, the luck of the draw, the universality of whatever. I didn’t get much of that, or anything else, from the juxtaposition. Perhaps I was wrong to anticipate.

The first story, set in 1966, is all right, a bit more conventional and optimistic than normal for Hou, but communicating a strong sense, for all its slowness, of the fleetingness of life. The second segment, set in 1911 and going over some of the same ground as Flowers of Shanghai, affects the numbing, the dumbfounding device of silent-film intertitles for dialogue and no sound effects. (For some reason, we can nevertheless hear people singing in live performance, albeit dubbed.) The final segment, present day, brings an almost welcome cacophony of traffic, pop music, cellphones, etc., yet it loses focus on our central pair. For me, the whole thing didn’t add up. I’d have settled happily for just One Time. And the color throughout looked so laddier that I was surprised to see in the closing credits that Hou’s trusted cameraman, Mark Lee Ping-bin, was in his customary spot.

The overflow crowd in a matchbox auditorium at Ultrasan Mission Valley 7 cheered me more than the film itself, although I would hate to think that this was anyone’s first exposure to the Taiwanese master.
**Catch a Fire** — Thriller set in Apartheid-era South Africa, with Tim Robbins and Derek Luke, directed by Phillip Noyce.

**Deliver Us from Evil** — Director/producer Amy Berg revises the case of a pedophile priest in Northern California in the Seventies. (LA JULIA VILLAGE, FROM 10/27)

**The Departed** — Martin Scorsese's career-changing turn to the overblown epic, a turn marked by Casino, would seem to be a course difficult to reverse. (KENDALL GONGS OF NEW YORK ... THE AVATAR. . . .) and now even a trashy light diversion, adapted from an average-length Hong Kong action film, will get dragged out to two and a half hours — this despite the delivery of dialogue at the machine-gun tempo of a hopped-up auctioneer (or of Scorsese's own casual conversation), and despite, too, the mere semblance of speed imparted by the free-associative cutting and the incongruous clickable beat of the background music, whenever the filmmaker isn't trotting out his collection of rock-and-roll oldies. The convoluted plot veers on farce: an upwardly mobile underworld spy in the Massachusetts State Police (Matt Damon, raising his eyebrows in an ostentatious show of innocence) and a downwardly mobile underworld cop (Leonardo DiCaprio, giving himself away with his neat-cleaver worry line) both become involved, first as clients and then as suitors, with a Harper's Bazaar idea of a psychotherapist (Vera Farmiga, she of the prow-like shoulderblades, life-curl tips, blue-goon eyes). Not even the take-no-prisoners credulity of gore toward the end, jolting though some of it is, can pull the movie back from the farcical brink. And Jack Nicholson, as showy an actor as Scorsese is a director (who's only in it for the money, anyway), plays the mob boss at a pitch barely below his Batman joke: With Mark Wahlberg, Martin Sheen, Al Pacino, Ray Winstone. 2006. (CARMEI MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 10; FASHION VALLEY 16; GALAXY 6; MISSION HIGHLANDS 8; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MIRAMESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SAN MARCOS 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTIE OI DRIVE 9; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

**The Devil Wears Prada** — Working-girl comedy in the vein of, oh, say, Working Girl, the eager, gifted, underemployed, and underpaid secretary (“A million girls would kill for that job”) and the imperious, capricious, queen-bea boss. An ice queen, more descriptively, with snow-white hair, just a bit of granite showing through at the neck, and an acme, carnivorous complexion. Meryl Streep, in the latter part, is interesting as always, talking in a narcotized, uninflected voice that betrays no emotion deeper than a sigh. But Anne Hathaway, talking with a lisp on her nose, doesn't quite fill the bill as “the smart fat girl.” Or to put it more flatteringly, the offenses of her weight and her wardrobe are not overstated. Disappointing, the possibilities of the fashion-industry setting, from Lauren Weisberger's fang-baring novel, largely by go in a blur of montages and a blizzard of name-dropping. (With Stanley Tucci, Emily Blunt, Simon Baker, and Adrian Grenier, directed by David Frankel. 2006. (GASLAMP 15)

**Driving Lessons** — Jeremy Brookes's coming-of-age comedy with Rupert Grant, Julie Walters, and Laura Linney. (LA JULIA VILLAGE, FROM 10/27)

**Flags of Our Fathers** — Reviewed this issue. With Ryan Phillippe, Adam Beach, Jesse Bradford, Barry Pepper, Jamie Bell, and Paul Walker; directed by Clint Eastwood.★★★★ (CARMEI MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 10; FASHION VALLEY 16; FLOWER HILL 4; GALLAXY 6; MISSION HIGHLANDS 8; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

**Flicka** — A girl and her horse, with Alison Lohman, Tim McGraw, and Maria Bello, directed by Michael Mayer. (CARMEI MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 10; FASHION VALLEY 16; GALAXY 6; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JULIA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSIO VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

**Flyboys** — Fulsome tribute to the boys, the men of the Lafayette Escadrille, the corps of American volunteers who flew for France in the First World War. A throwback, to some extent, to the aviation films of the prime example, William Wyler, but then again Hunter was himself a pilot in the Escadrille, and in consequence did not have so exaggerated, so exalted, a view of it. James Franco, a contemporary cutie pie anachronistically spouting a Fifties method actor (James Dean) in a setting of the Tens, is no helter a star Than Tab Hunter in Wellman's 1956 film, the best of the corps, but then again Hunter wasn't asked to be such a paragon. Martin Henderson, the new Bruce Greenwood aspiring to be the new Bill Pullman, comes up even shorter, even lighter, as the hard-bitten, battle-scarred ace of the squad. A couple of colorful details — the 18th-century chateau for a barracks, the domesticated last for a mascot — cannot go far to compensate for the cardboard characters, the hand-me-down dramatics, the rising love interest (she speaks no English, he speaks no French), the squarish dialogue (Tony Bill), the tinny, dismally, the blustery music.
There is nevertheless plenty of action, even if it mostly takes place inside a computer, programmed to hurl objects straight at your eyeballs till you yearn for the real-and-green goggles of J.J. With Jennifer Decker, Jean Reno. 2006. ★ (GALAXY 1)
The Prestige — Not the best film of its year to deal with the subject of magic and to feature both Scarlett Johansson and Hugh Jackman. That distinction would go to Woody Allen’s Scoop, which was unchallenged as well (except insofar as the air pressure in Jessica Biel’s lips may have challenged Scarlett Johansson’s) by that interesting magic film, The Illusionist. Between the two also-rans, it’s pretty near a toss-up, two-turn-of-the-century period pieces tangled up in their competitive trains and turns. Christopher Nolan, the present director, is somewhat less adept at concealing his tricks, despite trying diligently to lose the viewer in a maze of flashbacks-within-flashbacks. Even he be succeeded, his reliance on the plot expedience of dead ringer is taken to lengths of absurdity surpassing even daytime soap operas. Lengths, to be more exact, of the flightiest science fiction. The plot premise of a professional and personal rivalry between a couple of London stage magicians (Christian Bale, Christopher Nolan’s Batman, in addition to Jackman) is fractionally more involving than the hanky-panky of the separated lovers in The Illusionist, and Michael Caine adds a touch of class, David Bowie a touch of mustache. 2006.

The Illusionist — A spot of simulated Royals-throwing is taken to lengths of absurdity surpassing even daytime soap operas. Lengths, to be more exact, of the flightiest science fiction. The plot premise of a professional and personal rivalry between a couple of London stage magicians (Christian Bale, Christopher Nolan’s Batman, in addition to Jackman) is fractionally more involving than the hanky-panky of the separated lovers in The Illusionist, and Michael Caine adds a touch of class, David Bowie a touch of mustache. 2006.
The Science of Sleep — Michel Gondry, the director of Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind and less memorably Human Nature, sets out to demonstrate he can be just as wacky and brainwring without Charlie Kaufman as his scriptwriter, with, instead, only himself as scriptwriter. The blue of dreams and reality demonstrates that all right, but at a cost of increased te-dium and irritation. (An unintended but held-a-no use double factors into the cost.) The dream scenes, incorporating a variety of animation techniques, are inventive, in-telligent, informed, yet also invariably over-stuffed, and not just in the literal sense of the stop-motion straw pony or the plump pillow typewriter. The wispy plot thread has to do with the amorous haunting of a graphic artist and crackpot inventor (mind-reading helmets, time machine, and the like) for his next-door neighbor, a tweedle seeming made for each other: Stephane and Stephanie. Gael Garcia Bernal and Charlotte Gainsbourg have little room to extort their charms. We know they have them. With Alain Chabat, Mou-Mou. 2006. ★☆☆☆☆ (FILM FESTIVALS)

Shaun of the Dead — British takeoff, or send-up as you prefer, of George Romero's imaginative, morbidity wimby zombie film, Dawn of the Dead. All of the imagination in this one has gone into the humor and none into the horror. Put more simply, all of it has gone into Shaun (and his associated cohorts) and none into the Dead, who could pass for direct ripoff from the outskirts of Romero's Pimp There's no Gondry to help his efforts to carry the parody even to the point of using the song "I Was Here" and then having turned it over to Selick. The fact that the film is a feature and not a short depicts a future world of proce-dural absurdity. So much so that it is, quite literally, higher than John Carpenter. This film has great special features, including commentary with Carpenter and Russell. Twentieth Century Fox ©2006 AHC PRODUCTIONS, LLC

Young Frankenstein — Mel Brooks's inside spoof on the old Universal Pictures horror series — it doesn't reach very far in any direction, but it expends a good deal of comic energy within the narrow confines. Basically, it resembles the sort of affection-ate parody of old movies common on the Cartoon Network Show, although it is larger, fuller, and usually funnier. Brooks's stature as a moviemaker is boosted considerably by his efforts to carry the parody even to the Hollywood studios techniques of the 1930s. On that score, he does ahead of his closest competitor in screen comedy, Woody Allen, who has long gravitated toward old movies in search of subject matter, but whose comic pieces achieve the proper cin-emactic style by means of the same. He is the perfect foil for the acting comedy, as is his rivalry with Peter Boyle. blender: Eliza (Davis Haywood), the mother of the couple, is a great addition to the film. She is a prime example of how one can do something that is very funny and still be very touching. The chemistry between Davis and Boyle is amazing. The film is well-written, well-directed, and well-acted. A must-see for all fans of horror comedy. 2006, Universal ★☆☆☆☆ (Three discs)
Nada los para

Omar Millán González
Diario San Diego

El flujo de drogas hacia Estados Unidos no ha disminuido pese a la captura de las cabezas principales de las cartelas, indican estadísticas del Departamento de Estado de Norteamérica.

Jorge Chavarría, investigador del Centro de Investigaciones y Docencias Económicas y doctor en Asuntos Internacionales de la Universidad de Miamí, señaló que la estrategia por parte del Gobierno mexicano de atrapar a jefes de narcotraficanes no funciona e incluso aumentó la violencia en las calles de las ciudades fronterizas como Tijuana.

"El gobierno de Vicente Fox no se preparó bien para la guerra contra las drogas, ¿de qué sirve la captura de capos si el tráfico y el consumo siguen igual? No se reformó el sistema judicial, como debiera, tampoco hubo reformas en las corporaciones de policía", asentó.

Está de moda

Eleazar López
Diario San Diego

La presencia de Chula Vista en el mundo de las pasarelas Londres le cautivó su porte y presencia. Alessandra es apenas una niña que asiste al colegio y obtiene muy buenas notas, es disciplinada y dedicada a lo que le gusta, sin embargo, después de cumplir con sus obligaciones escolares, es cuando empieza su mundo de la moda. Esa actitud que tiene y su edad, la ha llevado a obtener el distintivo de la ‘Modelo más joven de de London Fashion Week’.

Levantan la Copa

Todo un éxito resultó la III Copa de Futbol que organizó Diario San Diego para celebrar su tercer aniversario. Con un total de 48 equipos y con cerca de 500 jugadores infantiles y juveniles el evento deportivo reunió a familias, personalidades reconocidas de la región, futbolistas y autoridades de San Diego en el evento deportivo.

La Copa contó con seis categorías desde 10 a 17 años, además dos categorías abiertas de mayores de 18 años masculinos y una femenil, donde todos los jugadores de los equipos presentados por el año de nacimiento en la inscripción.

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Grave conflicto

América Barceló
Diario San Diego

La nueva ley que prohíbe rentar a migrantes ilegales una vivienda en la ciudad de Escondido, despertó una guerra entre residentes de esta comunidad del Norte del Condado.

La controversia municipal ha dividido a los residentes de esa región debido a que la medida debería implementarse a través de quejas de vecinos que acusan y señalan a inmigrantes.

La pesadilla de quedar en la calle y sin hogar para cientos de hispanos puede convertirse en realidad en tres semanas, cuando la ley municipal entre en vigencia.

La ordenanza municipal fue ratificada por los regidores de El Gallo, Sierrah, Ibar y Marie Waldron, quienes impactadamente erritaron voto a favor.

Los tres concejales afirmaron que la migración ilegal se ha tornado en una amenaza para el bienestar de la comunidad ya que la sobre población ha traído problemas que cuestan dinero y recursos de la ciudad.

Para los residentes de Escondido, la nueva ley ha creado una marca división y enfrentamientos entre hispanos y anglosajones.

Por otro lado, la población hispana no se ha quedado callada y busca suprimir esta ley.

Fiel a TV Azteca

Pensando seriamente los conflictos y problemas legales por los que están pasando actores, cantantes y conociectores de TV Azteca, tuvieron que decidir qué hacer a favor.

Los tres concejales afirmaron que la migración ilegal se ha tornado en una amenaza para el bienestar de la comunidad ya que la sobrepoblación ha traído problemas que cuestan dinero y recursos de la ciudad.

Para los residentes de Escondido, la nueva ley ha creado una marca división y enfrentamientos entre hispanos y anglosajones.

Por otro lado, la población hispana no se ha quedado callada y busca suprimir esta ley.

Sienten feo

Los científicos observaron este proceso cuando una elefante, a la que llamaron Eleonor, enfermó y posteriormente murió.

Cuando estaba agonizando, la elefante recibió asistencia de una tierna de otra familia, llamada Grace, que intentó ayudarla a incorporarse varias veces con sus colmillos, al final ya sin éxito.

Eleonor murió en el lugar en que se desplomó por última vez, y allí mismo recibió la visita de elefantas de su familia y de otras cuatro.

Los animales, incluso los que no estaban relacionados directamente con la elefante muerta, mostraron interés por el cadáver.

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PHONE: 619 235 8200 WALK-IN: 1703 India Street (at Date) Little Italy
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- **Apply in person:**
  - Employment kiosks located near the front of the stores
  - Apply during normal business hours

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- **Deliver fast, fun and friendly service to Target guests**
- **Help keep the Target brand experience consistent, positions available throughout the store**

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- **Over the Phone & Internet**
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  - Mission Valley Location
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Presentations at: 9 am, 11 am, 1 pm. For details and a map, please call the Otay Mesa Adult School at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility: 619-661-6500 ext. 7624

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From this page, click on “Matches.”
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WANTED: Guitarist and drummer to form rock band. Original material. Interested and interested only please. (11/1)

WANTED: Drummer, Looking for the rig for your rock and roll. (11/1)

FREE! Monster Guitar for sale. (11/1)

WANTED: Guitarist & drummer. This band is the real deal. (11/1)

WANTED: Bass player. (11/1)


MORE PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS @ www.VAREHOUSESOUNDBLASTERS.com.
MUSIC

PLACE PRINTED ADS in the Reader by paying 10¢/word/line.

MUSIC SERVICES

POST ONLINE ADS with photos at classified ads not printed here!

MUSIC SCHOOLS

POST FREE online ads with photos at SanDiegoReader.com

MUSIC TEACHERS

MUSICIAN WANTED

MUSICIANS, PRODUCERS, MUSIC VIDEOS

MUSICIAN WANTED

MUSICIANS, PRODUCERS, MUSIC VIDEOS

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I don’t think they work. The last 5 I’ve used to work at, there were two friends that hooked up. They were also co-workers. For a while, it was okay. They were lazy-doxy. She ended up cheating on him. And, it’s too much to see someone at work all day and then when you get off work, they hook up. After they break up, it’s so weird because we still worked together. I friend with both started dating another friend of mine, and it was awkward. They would both ask about the other one, and I didn’t want to be in the middle of it.

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LA COSTA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1980s ranch style, a/c, dishwasher. $995/month. 619-531-4624.

LA COSTA. Beautiful 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2003 home, 3800 sq ft. $1400/month. 858-835-9691.


LA MESA. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, furnished, studio apartment, overlooking 2 renovated ocean view, walk to beach. $1200/month. Includes all utilities. 619-296-8316.

LA MESA. Available immediately. 3 bedroom 2 bath. Includes all furniture. $1150/month. 619-527-7877.

LA MESA. Sharing a room in house. 5 minute walk to USD. Includes all utilities. $250/month. 619-535-1877.


LA JUNA. Newly remodeled, 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. All utilities included. $1000/month. 619-653-0654.

LA JUNA. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 1 block from San Ysidro border. 571-2790 Monique. 619-651-8549.

LA JUNA. Roommate to share a bedroom and bathroom in 4 bedroom 2 1/2 bath house. Share use of fireplace, kitchen, laundry. Non-smoker. Share rent. 858-421-5838.

LA JUNA. Share a bedroom in 4 bedroom, 2 bath house. Includes all utilities. 250 deposit. 619-424-0754.


LA JUNA. Large room in quiet home with easy access to church, freeway, bus, freeway. Includes fitness club privileges. Male preferred. No smoking, no drugs. 619-255-2282.


LA JUNA. Room is large with a custom closet. No smokers. 858-272-0905.

LA JUNA. Room is quiet home with easy access to church, freeway, bus, freeway. Includes fitness club privileges. Male preferred. No smoking, no drugs. 619-255-2282.


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Available now. 738 Joanna Drive. Call 619-472-9449.

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Great selection of homes and condos. (Reg. $180) *First-time clients only.*

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$1650, security deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, family room, large yard, washer/dryer, private yard. 3830 Miramar. 619-472-9449.

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Washer/dryer. Off-street parking. New 2 master bedrooms/2 baths upstairs. New hardwood floors, family room, fenced yard. Pet on approval. 1450 Frazee Rd., Ste. 602 16769 Bernardo Center Dr. #K-28 (Reg. $65) (San Bernadino, near the post office) 845-472-9449

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$4950, security deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, family room, new kitchen, stainless appliances, formal dining, oversized garage, fireplace. 8400 Vista Verde Way. Available Oct. 15. 619-698-6911.

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First-time clients. Exp. 11/9/06.

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2, 3 bedroom units with gardens/patios for pets. $1500-
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For Rent: 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 1-car garage, washer/dryer, hard wood, $1175. Call 619-454-9959.

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For Rent: 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 1-car garage, 1/2 off 1st month!

IMPERIAL BEACH

For Rent: 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 2-car garage, $1150.

HILLCREST

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LA MESA

For Rent: 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 2-car garage, $1450. All utilities included.

LA CONCEA

For Rent: 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 1-car garage, $1300. Call 619-234-3188.

LA MESA

For Rent: 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 2-car garage, nice size, washer/dryer. $1300. Call 619-451-9242.
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AQUARIUM, AQUARIUM SALE calling 619-235-8200. 

**Behind Superior Courthouse, off Clairemont Avenue. New 900 square feet. Low warehouse prices!**

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- **60 gallon, 195 $60**
- **125 gallon, 300**
- **250 gallon, 600**

**20H aquarium $20; 29 for $29; 40R $40.**

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- **4318-216th Ave., Chula Vista**
- **619-466-0011**
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- **Triangular Reef Coral • Saltwater & Freshwater Fish**
- **Largest Selection**
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- **Saltwater & Freshwater Fish**
- **Large Selection**
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- **Healthy & Happy Fish**
- **两种鱼 **
- **天然水族箱**
- **热带鱼**
- **海水鱼**
- **健康快乐的鱼**
- **Two kinds of fish **
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DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE, $650. 1 bedroom. All utilities included. 1 block to Petco Park. All utilities included. 701 4th Ave. 828-695-3494. 216.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE, $750. 1 bedroom. All utilities included. 1 block to Petco Park. Walk to Gaslamp. Laundry in building. 744 4th Ave. 828-882-6857. 229.


DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE, $700. 1 bedroom. All utilities included. 1 block to Petco Park. Walk to Gaslamp. Laundry in building. 744 4th Ave. 828-882-6857. 229.

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DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE, $800. 1 bedroom. All utilities included. 1 block to Petco Park. Walk to Gaslamp. Laundry in building. 744 4th Ave. 828-882-6857. 229.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE, $750. 1 bedroom. All utilities included. 1 block to Petco Park. Walk to Gaslamp. Laundry in building. 744 4th Ave. 828-882-6857. 229.


LA JOLLA: $1150 large, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Luxury, open floor plan, tropical tile, completely furnished. All utilities included. www.anymore.com 619-490-1600.


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LA JOLLA: $1250 rent, $700 deposit. 4857-1/2 Diamond Drive, San Diego. 619-697-3895 or 619-452-5852.


LA JOLLA: $1350, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Walking distance to UCSD. 7712 La Jolla Village Dr. 619-459-1100.


LA JOLLA: $1550 large, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. High ceilings, fireplace, 2 car garage, detached 2 car garage. Located in La Jolla Terasse. 3139 Evening Way #2. 619-454-4200.


LA JOLLA: $4000/month, 3 bedroom, 2 bath. From $4000

NORTH PARK, $900/month. Upstairs 2 bedroom, 2 bath cottage with laundry on site. 1 block to beach. Pet on approval. 507 Brighton St., 192-221-4386. x 14 or www.sandiegocondo.com.

OCEAN BEACH, $1,050. 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage with laundry on site. 1 block to beach. Pet on approval. 4106 Ingraham St., 192-221-4386. x 14 or www.sandiegocondo.com.


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Fredric Macmillan, the Democratic nominee for a Florida state House seat, resumed campaigning in October after a two-week involuntary stay at a mental health facility after his mother took him in for evaluation. (3) Palm Beach County, Fla., whose Democratic new voters’ confusion over the “butterfly ballot” may have cost Al Gore the presidency in 2000, will now see if its Republicans will be confused by a state law that requires them to vote for the most recently reconstituted congressman, Mark Foley, if they want to register votes for his Republican replacement.

Cultural Diversity

— Yvona to become the national sport of Venezuela is "too green, less bloody than bullfighting and "truly Venezuelan," a spokesman for the national colo organization told the New York Times in September. Four men on horses chase a bull in a large pen, competing to see who can tip it over the most times by tucking on its tail. If the bull has’t broken any legs when it falls, the men must get it back on its feet quickly by further twisting (or biting) the tail or by electric prodd, so that the game can continue.

— In a remote region of China, relatives shower graves with objects that supposedly make the deceased’s afterlife more pleasant, and some families of dead babies ever buy corpses of unmar ried females and bury them with their sons in posthumous “weddings.” According to a September New York Times dispatch from Chenjiangu, since men outnumber women in the region (in part due to abortions of girl fetuses), families of these dead women are able to command high "dowries." "More Spirits: (1) The grave of Pol Pot (one of the 20th century’s most proigious mass mur derers) near Anlong Veng, Cambodia, is revered by local villagers who believe his ghost protects them and also provides winning lottery numbers, according to an August International Herald Tribune report, but the government building a casino nearby to serve those who feel lucky. (2) Of the 25,000 children homeless in the streets of Kinshasa, Kenya, more than half are believed to be there because their parents have deserted them as suspected "witches," according to an August Los Angeles Times dispatch. Said one ten-year-old: "They say I ate my father. But I didn’t.""/n

Fetishes on Parade

— In September, police in the Georgia towns of Perry and Americus were investigating incidents probably involving the same unknown man, who provided an additional dimension to the typical foot-fetishist religion. An 80-year-old Wal-Mart shopper in Perry reported that the man was sitting on the floor of an aisle and asked her for help with his "religious" ritual. The lady accommodated him by stepping on his hands and then spitting on him, but when he began to lick her feet, she called for help.

Least Competent People

— Least Competent Abortion Activist: David Robert McMenamin, 45, was arrested in Dav enport, Iowa, in September after he drove his car into a women’s clinic and then set it on fire to protest abortions. He was then informed that it is just a medical clinic, providing neither abortion nor birth control referrals. (2) Least Competent Drug Agent: Michigan’s first state allows medical cannabis agents cut down and bundled for destruction massive quantities of marijuana plants at a site in California’s Marin County in September, officials reported that, despite security, 1200 plants had been stolen before they could be taken away.

Least Religious Messages

— At least three Christian wrestling associations (angelic “babies” vs. “creepy” “heels”); the “injured” star who games a turling but wins through sheer determination). In one point-adaptation, the bad guys strap "Wrestling with James" star Chad Clouton to a large cross in the ring and beat him bloody, but he is resurrected after a good-quirky “run-in” from the dressing room. Wrestling for Jesus and Ultimate Chris tian Wrestling (both based in Texas’ Christian Wrestling Federation, set aside some time each show for their muscular rough boys to bear in a tuta-nakedpués de fans, according to an Associated Press report.

— New York filmmaker Andy Deemer, impressed by reports that 40 to 45 new religions emerge every year in America, offered a $5000 fee earlier this year for a wannabe messiah to start one and vying to become the national sport of Venezuela. (2) Donovan recalls her friskier days as a 1960s Green Bay Packers cheerleader. (3) The latest version of China’s periodic Animal Olympic Games, with 300 hardly voluntary partic ipants, was held at the Shanghai Wildlife Park in September, according to a cable dispatch from Beijing. Frightened by a state zoological federation, set aside some time each show for their muscular rough boys to bear in a tuta-nakeduous de fans, according to an Associated Press report.

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Picking on the Victim

— LaToya Joplin was arrested in July in Ypsi lanti Township, Mich., and charged with killing her daughter, Kayla, 3, despite her statements to police and also provides winning lottery num bers, according to prison officials. Disappointed by the government's lack of effort to pay earlier court fees (which followed four arrests in eight years), provided that she recite the Pledge of Allegiance. She was only 12 years old in what was described as a “distracting” suicide.

San Diego Reader, Oct 2006
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90 Days Same As Cash
Thirty Years Ago
Contebras’s headquarters is the Centro Medico del Mar in Playas de Tijuana. After waiting an hour or so, I was ushered into a small office where Dr. Contebras greeted me. I learned that his huge supply of halter is obtained from two factories in Tijuana itself. Raw apricot kernels are imported from West Germany and Monte Carlo and processed into the highest grade of amygdalin before being used at the Centro Medico.

—“CANCER CONNECTION,” John D’Agostino, November 4, 1976

Twenty-Five Years Ago

It was Willie Morrow’s head that drew our attention… The loose coiled curls resemble a freshly wetted permanent on the head of a Caucasian. East Coast blacks call this hair style the “wet look.” Around these parts, it is known as the California Curl, and at least for the moment, it’s the crown that has made Willie Lee Morrow king.

—“IT’S CURLY AT THE TOP,” Jeannette De Wyse, October 29, 1981

Twenty Years Ago
Later, in Memphis, after Priscilla Presley had decamped with her karate instructor, leaving Elvis alone at Graceland, he would send his valet on a 3:00 a.m. run to a round-the-clock market to buy Eskimo Pies, Dreamscakes, and Nutty Buddies. Elvis would, night after night, eat one pound of King Cotton bacon fried up crisp, a Pike’s Peak of mashed potatoes sluiced with thickened gravy, saurkraut, a dish of crowderpeas, and sliced tomatoes. Elvis’s weight at the time of his death, Goldman noted, was 255 pounds.

—“THE WHITE TRASH DIET,” Judith Moore, October 30, 1986

Fifteen Years Ago
France’s assimilation of Southern Californian culture can be demonstrated most accurately by examining the degree to which “dudepeak” (the American dialect spoken by blond, tanned, middle- and upper-middle-class males living within the “coastal corridor”) that extends from Santa Barbara to several miles south of Rosarito Beach) has penetrated the heart of the French language — the French language. The nation’s contemporary lexicon, while remaining relatively impermeable to Arabic and African-language borrow-words, has, since the early ’80s, adopted dozens of “dudespeak” terms, specifically those regarding the hobby of surfing (le surf).

—“ESPRIT DU_SURE,” Abu Opsonar, October 31, 1991

Ten Years Ago
When it came to conniving the suckers of La Jolla, his buddies said, Graham was the master. “He could talk those dumb La Jolla docs and airline pilots into giving him their life savings,” says one of Clifford Graham’s companions.

Another of Graham’s friends and business associates was Jack Kemp, ex–San Diego Charger quarterback and Point Loma resident. Graham gained entrance to Kemp’s world of high-flying jocks and their well-heeled fans in corporate and political America, many of whom later invested — and apparently lost — millions of dollars in Graham-led business schemes. According to one bankruptcy court document, Graham’s wife Kathy worked the crowd at the 1987 wedding of Kemp’s quarter-back son Jeff, soliciting Texan investors to put money into what turned out to be Graham’s last big con.

—“KEMP AND THE FUGITIVE,” Matt Potter, October 24, 1996

Five Years Ago
What was Bin Laden now, 35, heir to a multinational-dollar Middle Eastern fortune based on construction and Saudi oil, doing in San Diego? And why would he be involved in a small-time tulp-importing business — based out of a two-room office in a Sorrento Valley industrial park, which, according to its other owner, lost $100,000 of Bin Laden’s money before going under after just a few years?

Bin Laden himself isn’t talking. Since the events of September 11, he has agreed to be interviewed by only one newspaper, the Boston Globe. In that story he is quoted as expressing remorse for the alleged deeds of his half-brother, now the target of a U.S. bombing campaign in Afghanistan.

—“DID BIN LADEN'S BROTHER LIVE A SECRET LIFE IN SAN DIEGO?” Matt Potter, October 25, 2001

BACK WHEN

In the Reader

San Diego Reader, October 25, 2001

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San Diego Reader, October 25, 2001
Dear Saffron,

I volunteer in an elementary school classroom three days a week. I work individually with a child who is repeating second grade due to poor reading skills. She is making good progress, and I think she will catch up. English is not her first language, and she comes from a home where her parents don’t speak any English at all. According to her teacher, who has done a home visit, there are no books in the home, and the environment is pretty impoverished. The little girl, who I’ll call Inez, is grateful for the extra help and has started bringing me small presents. Nothing expensive. She’ll bring me a mango or a card she made. One of the other volunteers noticed this and said I shouldn’t accept these presents. It is wrong of me to accept Inez’s gifts? It seems like refusing them would hurt her feelings. My second question is this: I said I shouldn’t accept these presents. Is it wrong of me to do this?

I volunteer in an elementary school classroom three days a week. I work individually with a child who is repeating second grade due to poor reading skills. She is making good progress, and I think she will catch up. English is not her first language, and she comes from a home where her parents don’t speak any English at all. According to her teacher, who has done a home visit, there are no books in the home, and the environment is pretty impoverished. The little girl, who I’ll call Inez, is grateful for the extra help and has started bringing me small presents. Nothing expensive. She’ll bring me a mango or a card she made. One of the other volunteers noticed this and said I shouldn’t accept these presents. It is wrong of me to accept Inez’s gifts? It seems like refusing them would hurt her feelings. My second question is this: I said I shouldn’t accept these presents. Is it wrong of me to do this?

Everyone knows he died of an overdose, because another man from our office was partying with him at the time. There was an obituary with glowing trib-utes by several coworkers in the company newsletter and a well-attended memorial service. In both the obituary and the eulogies, everyone pretended the deceased was a sober model citizen and had died of a sudden heart attack. It was surreal. No one acknowled-ged what really happened. When I tried to say something privately to a couple of coworkers about how weird this was, I was told, in effect, not to speak ill of the dead. Is this how it’s supposed to work? Everyone lies after you die about what you were like? I see no reason to be dishonest about what really happened. I liked this guy. How do falsehoods honor his memory?

Dear Straight Talker,

You have a point, but there may be complexi-ties to this story that you’re not aware of. It’s possible that people are keeping mum about the overdose to spare the deceased’s par-ents or close relatives knowledge of his drug problem, knowledge of which might cause the family additional grief on top of their bereave-ment. I am not condoning the practice of hid-ding the truth, but there can be a stigma around drug abuse-related deaths. Families and loved ones can feel shame and public humiliation when someone is lost under these circumstances — others may feel it necessary to shield them. I wish this wasn’t so. Sometimes the worry about a family’s reputation in the com-munity can cause a “conspira-cy of silence.” Some survivors of drug addiction believe that it does the deceased a disser-vise to publicly acknowledge that the death was as a result of drug abuse. I don’t agree.

One of the values of being hon-est in a situation like this is that the truth can serve as a wake-up call to others in dan-ger of a similar fate.

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Write to Saffron c/o the San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 6803, San Diego, CA 92112-6803; call her at 619-235-3000 ext. 413; fax her at 619-881-2401; or e-mail to saffron@sdreader.com

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BALL FOOT

“So what is this ball foot you are talking about then? Is it some kind of game? We don’t have any games where we’re from.”

Was this man kidding? I looked over at my husband Andy who, by the looks of it, also wasn’t sure if it was a joke.

We were dealing with Walter Friesen, the spiritual leader of a strict Mennonite community in Belize. It was possible that he was unaware of football (or soccer as it is called in the States). But for us it was strange to discover that there are actually people out there who’ve never even heard of the most popular ball game on earth.

Walter Friesen’s Mennonite community is very Little House on the Prairie. They have no electricity there, no cars, no telephones, and they don’t even have mirrors for everyday use (only small ones that can be used for “non-vain purposes” — say, when something gets stuck in your eye). The Mennonites are similar to the Amish. I believe they’ve branched off from the same original group and religion. But don’t hold me to that; I’m no expert on the matter.

Anyway, why were we talking to Walter Friesen about football? Well, we had recently bought an Arab quarter horse for $500.

As we strolled away from his farm, eating the homemade chocolate chip cookies that his wife had given us, he asked, “Do you want to take the horse now or shall we bring it in the coming days?”

Obviously, we couldn’t take the horse. We’d come to Barton Creek by car (over an hour’s drive) and had no trailer with us.

“Bring it please,” I answered, “And just give us a call before you set off.”

The moment those words flew out my mouth, I knew I’d said something stupid. “I’m sorry, you don’t have a phone. Do you?”

Walter smiled. “We’ll bring it on Thursday morning.” And that was that, the arrangement was made.

It was only when we got back home that it dawned on me: Mennonites don’t have trailers. Christ, they don’t even have cars. “Oh shoot!” I cried “How on earth is he going to get this horse to us?”

The thought hadn’t occurred to Andy either. “Hmm, maybe he’ll ride it here? Or maybe he has some kind of ark and will be floating it downstream?”

“Ha ha, very funny, Andy.”

I got worried for the old man. Surely he wasn’t going to ride it all this way? Again, if Mennonites had phones, it would have been easy to find out what he had in mind. But as it stood, we just had to wait and see.

Late Thursday morning, we heard the sound of hoofs coming toward our house, and there he was, Walter Friesen walking next to our horse with a bewildered Mennonite teenager on the horse’s back. Walter had walked for four hours in the Belizean heat to get to us! And he must be in his 50s or 60s, which made it more astounding. I felt bad. This poor man had walked all this way, because I (by being so thoughtless) had asked him to do so. Dumb, dumb, dumb, Simon!

I invited them in for a drink and some food, but Walter and his son wouldn’t move; they just stared at our house.

“What is this place?” Walter sighed.

“A geodesic dome,” I answered, “I don’t know if you’ve ever heard of them.”

Walter shook his head. His 16-year-old son was trying to keep his head low while secretly darting glances up at the Dome’s enormous structure.

I have to admit, our experience for him, as he has never before left our community, was once again mesmerized for fear it would have caused him to pass out. (We turned off our wide-screen television for fear it would have caused the poor boy’s head to explode.)

We talked for hours and were once again mesmerized by the cultural diversity of Belize, that such a tiny country can have so many different social groups with such diverse ways of life. And, thinking about the money my husband and I used to earn as an entertainer and as a professional sportman, it again made us wonder: which society is the strange one?

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**VERBATIM POLICE REPORTS**

**POLICE REPORT**

**LOCATION:** 10000 Fuerte Drive, La Mesa

**INCIDENT:** Deputy Mike Rand and William Kerr were dispatched to an incident involving a vehicle and a suspect.

**OFFICER'S REPORT:**

On October 9, 2006, at approximately 3:47 p.m., I was dispatched to an incident involving a vehicle at the couple on 3300 Meade Avenue. While en route, I learned the incident occurred the day before and that the female victim had spotted the vehicle and male suspect. The victim was at the ARCO gas station at 33rd Street and El Cajon Boulevard. Upon arrival, I spoke to Stephanie T., who told me an unknown Hispanic male pointed a gun at her and her boyfriend. She described the suspect vehicle as 1995–1999 Nissan Altima, dark turquoise in color. The vehicle has Baja California license plates. The suspect was described...with a shaved head and a gangster type. The male was said to have bright-colored, possibly blue in color.

**STATEMENT OF STEPHANIE T.:**

My boyfriend, my daughter, and I were looking for a new place. We...were waiting at the stop sign at 34th Street and El Cajon Boulevard facing north. I noticed a vehicle just behind us and to the side. The driver was staring at us. Just as I was looking at them, they pulled up at the passenger side. The driver looked at my boyfriend Luis and said, "You talkin' to me, homie?"

Luis said, "What?" and the male repeated himself.

Luis said he was not talking to him and the male said, "You better not be talkin' to me."

Luis said, "I would not talk to you."

The male pulled out a small gun, like a .22, racked it, and said, "You better not be talkin' to me, I'm shootin' you!"

The guy pointed the gun at me too, so I just took off. I did not call the police because we did not really have too much information to give on the guys in the car.

Then today, I brought my mom to show her the new place. As we were driving around, I saw the same guy in the same car. He started to follow us around on 33rd Street and Meade Avenue. I got scared. I called 911 and came to the gas station, and they just drove away. I know what this guy looks like now and I know his car. I wanted him arrested. I was so scared for my life and my little girl.

---

**— Michael Hemmingson**
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“IT HAS TO BE FRESH. YOU KNOW,” the receptionist tells me over the phone. “You can wait over there,” she points to a bank of chairs opposite the television.

I hand her back the clipboard, she holds it up and says, “Oh, that’s fresh. Guess we know what you were just doing.”

I almost pass out, right there at the counter. Am I wrong? Am I repressed? Should I have handed the cup over and beamed proudly? “You can wait over there,” she points to a bank of chair opposite the television.

“My target audience. Maybe I should trade in my.“Ancient Wisdom for REMOTE CONTROL KING” CDs for ‘Knobs 101.”’

I take my seat and crane my neck. Looney Tunes is on, only it’s in Spanish. Wile E. Coyote plunge off a cliff and holds up a “Gulp!” sign.

Daffy Duck swings a rifle from behind his back; he pulls the trigger, a white flag with a big red “Bang!” written on it unfurls from the barrel.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28
ICE-T’S RAP SCHOOL
WH 11:30 A.M.

I told you if you pushed in your bellybutton and made that face all the unicorns would die. Now, look out the window. See the birds, planes, and clouds? Is there one damn horse up there? NO! Woe upon your head. Woe.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30
THE VILLAGE
FX 4:30 P.M.

It’s a fake. The creatures are fakes. The elders of a frontier American village keep residents under strict rule by donning costumes and spreading fear. Oh, I hope you’ve seen the movie. If not, or I just gave away the big secret sorry.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27
A SALUTE TO TEACHERS
CA450 9:00 P.M.

Isn’t a salary of 40 grand for nine months of babysitting enough? I’ve got your salute, right here.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26
WALKER, TEXAS RANGER
USA 10:00 A.M.

When Chuck Norris finds Kenny Rogers, pitchfor the Detroit Tigers, he’s going to give him a little lesson on cheating with a Texas round-house chop to the neck. When Chuck finds Kenny Rogers, country music superstar, he’s going to give him one of the same. Just on principle.

DEAL OR NO DEAL
NBC 9:00 P.M.

Shut up, knophread. Here’s my deal for you. Stop sucking the art and soul out of America and we’ll let you become an Internet celebrity (sad, and you’ll get a mention on Hollywood Insider’s “Where are they now?” Remember that dillhoo?” segment.

WHO IN THE HELL WATCH THIS WEEK

WHAT I WILL AND WON’T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2
UGLY BETTY
ABC 9:00 P.M.

I was about to trash this stupid show until I noticed Selma Hayek is in it. God, I love her. She seems like the type who’d stab you with a steak knife because you came home late and smelled like stripper perfume. I’d forgive you, Selma. When I got out of the hospital and you got out of county jail, we could start our new life together; just me, you, and those shirt-stretchers of yours. Oh, Selma.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1
THE SANTA CLAUSE
DISNEY 9:00 P.M.

No. It back. It’s too early. I’m not ready for two months of schmalz, saccharine sweet sentiment, and “the real meaning of Christmas.” Please. I’ll do anything. I’ll grow my high school mullet back and wear Hammer pants. DAMN YOU! Fine. Let’s do it. Let’s get it over with. If the jing-jing-jing-a-ling and the glitter and the forest of red and green craft paper get to be more than I can handle, I’ll just go back to cutting myself. Hand me the bourbon.

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“IT HAS TO BE FRESH. YOU KNOW,” the receptionist tells me over the phone. “You can drop it off anytime after 1 o’clock.”

At 12:59 I’m standing at the counter. Let’s get this over with. The glass partition slides to the right.

“Yeah,” I stumble. “I had a vasectomy.” I need to, um, follow up.

The woman in green hospital scrubs notices the wadded up brown paper bag in my hand and blurs, “Oh, okay. You need a sperm check.”

I wince and look over my shoulder. Everyone in the room is pretending to watch TV, but each has an ear bent in my direction. “Uh, yeah,” I stammer and hand her the bag.

A few months after a vasectomy is performed they need to check to make sure the tubes are tied, or cauterized, or — I don’t know — there’s a chip dip or some damn thing pinching them off. They have to make sure there are no bullets in the gun.

There I am, 30 people behind me, facing my direction, and I’m handing off the evidence. I spent the last 17 years hiding anything directly related to the act: pinching them off. They have to make sure there are no bullets in the gun.

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“Look, I’m saving your little teeth this year, maybe saving you from freaking diabetes.”

By John Brizzolara

Sitting at the child’s classroom desk I use at home, allowing my eyes to focus where raindrops bash themselves against the screen to dissolve dirt into rivulets and make archipelagos of glistening islands against the inner glass, I think, plummet. “The rain plummets from the sky onto University Heights upon the living and the dead, the sheltered and the homeless alike.”

No, not alike. And the first half of the sentence is James Joyce. From “The Dead,” to be precise, only it was snow in Joyce’s piece. At least I know where to look still. I play the backside over the line and send my disingenuous, hey-look-ma-I’m-writing-genius into data heaven. What does it have to do with Halloween anyway? The idea is a Hallowe’en column.

But it is the homeless that are on my mind tonight and the oft-assumed knowledge that I, not that long ago, was among them. Looking across Adams Avenue, the macadam ravelled by raindrops like nails, over the railing on the Texas street bridge, and into the blackness beyond, I wonder if there are not a few of them down that embankment, scurrying out of rat holes and shrubbery, roadside jacket slipping in mud, trash bags — cajus of petroleum by-products: the people of the absys.

Earlier that Friday afternoon I had stopped by Bargain Surplus on North Park Way, full of camo gear and boots and M.R.E. packs. I had priced rain slickers, Ponchos. I bought two for $3.97 each. I selected baby blue rather than school-bus yellow because the higher visibility of the safety color would be undesirable as illegal loggers scrambled from hiding places before the loud hailers and flashing lights, the forklifts that sometimes appear at three in the morning (on the day of a Padres game, for example) to clear shopping carts full of those random accretions of the mentally ill and generally disenfranchised.

The image of those great unwashed fleeing from the centurions to the static and metallic barking of, “Drupers! You have five minutes to clear the area.” And a cry heard was gleefully shouted from one squad car, “There will be no more homeless in San Diego!” As fine an idea as that, why is it we associate it with foreboding, as if it echoed up the centuries from the fall of Rome?

I stare at the ponchos in their cellphone and wonder what on earth I will do with two of them.

Forcing my thoughts back to things Hallowe’en, I wonder if I will see trick-or-treaters this year. I haven’t seen many kids in the neighborhood so far, except college kids. Maybe I’ll see some incorrigible scamps up to some prank action. Maybe I should lay in some Snickers, S’mores bars, something. And then I think of David Ross, a 7-12 year old boy who hands out water, socks, blankets, and S’mores to homeless friends of his in this skid row. How much candy might I need Hallowe’en night? Say, three or four buckets of, say, Sav-On or whatever, that’s about six or eight bucks. About what I spent on the ponchos.

Another ten minutes or so noodling at the keyboard, fiddling the mouse around and I’ve got the ghost of Hallowe’en past showing up at my door on All Hallowe’en’s Eve. The ghost is this Barney Fife-type from Cop Oak Park, Illinois, we used to torment. On Hallowe’en we’d set fire to leaf piles in the suburb, and Barney Fife would arrive in the suburb, in great condition. Will pay $250 619-922-1540.

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