San Diego
Reader

December 7, 2006

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"One of the most pleasurable experiences I've had, considering this was eye surgery"

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– Michelle Stewart, San Diego

"I always hated photos because of the glare in my glasses. But worse, I couldn't get out of bed or see the clock because my sight was 20/400 with astigmatism in both eyes."

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Here's what some of our patients have said about the LASIK procedure:

Q: How safe is the LASIK procedure?
"I'm definitely the fearful type…so I talked to lots of people who did the procedure. My friends who did it said it was safe, and it was. Now I wish I hadn't waited so long."
– Mischa Shirazi, San Diego, CA

Q: Is the surgery painful or difficult?
"I had no pain during the procedure and no discomfort or pain afterward. Best of all, I can see without my glasses or contacts. It feels great." *– Greg Schwenk, San Diego, CA*

Q: How soon after the process can I begin normal daily activities again?
"When I came out of the surgery room I could see the hands of the clock – I was doing normal things the next day…amazing immediate results!" *– Glenna T. Casey, Chula Vista, CA*

Q: How long does the process take?
"You and your staff told me that it would be a ten-minute, painless procedure and that I would be able to see very close to 20/20 as soon as the next day. Sure enough, it was painless, done in minutes, and I see 20/20." *– T.P. Fortin, San Diego, CA*

Q: Do the effects of LASIK wear off over time?
"I had the surgery done over 8 years ago and my sight is still a perfect 20/20."
– Sandra Macias, San Diego, CA
Important note from Dr. Lakhani: The effects of LASIK are permanent and do not wear off. However, a person's eye can still change internally, which is why many surgeons recommend having the procedure done after major eye changes have occurred in one's life.

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- ✦ Your doctor to be caring and, above all, to put your best interests first.
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What if finally…

- Your naked eye could read a clock or see dolphins swimming far offshore?
- You didn't have to reach for glasses in the morning?
- You could climb, snorkel, dance, and do things without glasses or contacts?
- You had no more red, scratchy eyes or headaches from poor eyesight?

Read what our patients say after their LASIK surgery …

"This was a life-changing experience. The morning after surgery I was reading anything and everything – signs, billboards, etc. To be liberated of contacts and glasses after 30 years is nothing short of miraculous. The staff and doctors are the best. The doctor told me exactly what was going on the whole time during surgery. I felt completely comfortable. Thank you for this amazing gift you have given me."
– Tim Newman, Solana Beach, CA

"I liked how the doctor explained everything before he did it. I did not have any discomfort after the surgery. I could see perfectly the next day. This is the best thing I have ever done for myself."
– Claudia Jones, San Diego, CA

"Unbelievable. If someone told me I'd be driving the next day, I'd tell them they were nuts. But I'm driving! Wish I'd done this 10 years ago – I'm seeing 20/15, can't wait for tomorrow and the next day – it can only get better. Thanks, Global, you made a difference in my life!"
– Chris Steward, Cardiff, CA

"Being able to see is a wonderful thing. It is great that the price is affordable so more people can have this wonderful gift! Thanks to Dr. Yaghouti and staff!"
– Tanya Lancee, San Diego, CA

"I've worn glasses since I was 8. What an experience to get up the next morning, reach for your glasses and realize, 'Hey, I can see!' Thanks for your help in enhancing my life."
– Denise Alloway, Cudahy, CA

"You were all wonderful. I am very happy to be able to see again without the hassles of glasses and contact lenses. Thank you for providing me with a new life."
– Patricia Rhodes, San Diego, CA

"I can see without the use of glasses for the first time in 27 years. The staff is excellent and very professional. I will recommend this center to all of my friends that wear any kind of corrective vision. Thank you all for giving me my sight."
– Art Casey, Chula Vista, CA

"The clarity is unbelievable, colors are sharper, and I can see without glasses for the first time in 25 years. GREAT."
– Larry Cheney, Coronado, CA

"I was at 20/400 in both eyes, now I'm 20/15 in both eyes. Thank you, Dr. Yaghouti and your entire staff for a job very well done."
– Tony Cardenas, Temecula, CA

"It is awesome to be able to surf and snowboard without the worries of losing a lens. I can finally wake up every morning to clear, perfect vision and not more headaches due to poor vision! Thank you so much for this gift – it has brightened my world."
– Sandi Nagy, San Diego, CA

"I was absolutely amazed when the first eye was completed. I couldn't wait to have the second eye completed. I could see as soon as he finished. I felt very relaxed as the procedure was being done. The doctor explained everything he was doing and that was very relaxing. I would recommend this procedure to anybody. I have worn contact lenses since I was about 13 and had the procedure done at 35. As soon as I got home all the contact stuff went in the trash."
– Lorie Lindenmuth, Oceanside, CA

"The morning after my surgery I could read the time on my digital clock without raising my head. My whole world is crystal clear. I can stand at the sea wall and see waves. I can tell a pelican from a surfer out beyond the waves. It's a miracle. I put my glasses away in a case, never to wear those again. Thank you, Global Laser Vision."
– Katherine Austin, San Diego, CA

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– Darush Mohyi, M.D., La Jolla, CA

MEET DR. YAGHOUTI
Refractive Eye Surgery specialist from Harvard University.

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Refractive Eye Surgery specialist from UCSD Medical Center.

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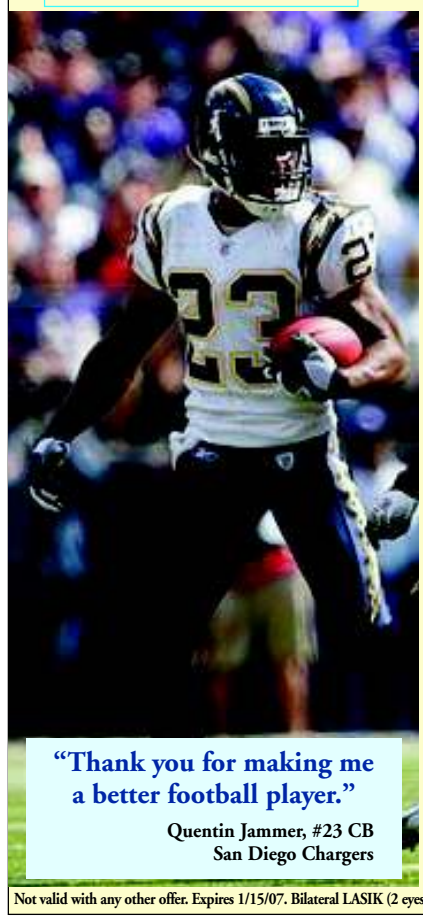

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CONTRIBUTORS
Don Bauder, Ed Bedford, Geoff Bouvier, John Brizzolara, Josh Board, Patrick Daugherty, Joe Deegan, Jeannette De Wyze, W.S. Di Piero, Stephen Dobyns, Ernie Grimm, Mary Grimm, Lynne Houts, Juris Jurjevics, Rosa Jurjevics, Barbara Johnson, Ken Kuhlken, Thomas Larson, Deirdre Lickona, Matthew Lickona, Thomas Lux, Bill Manson, Linda Nevin, Anthony Olivieri, Jonathan Saville, Jerry Schad, Duncan Shepherd, Jeff Smith, Leslie Venolia, Naomi Wise

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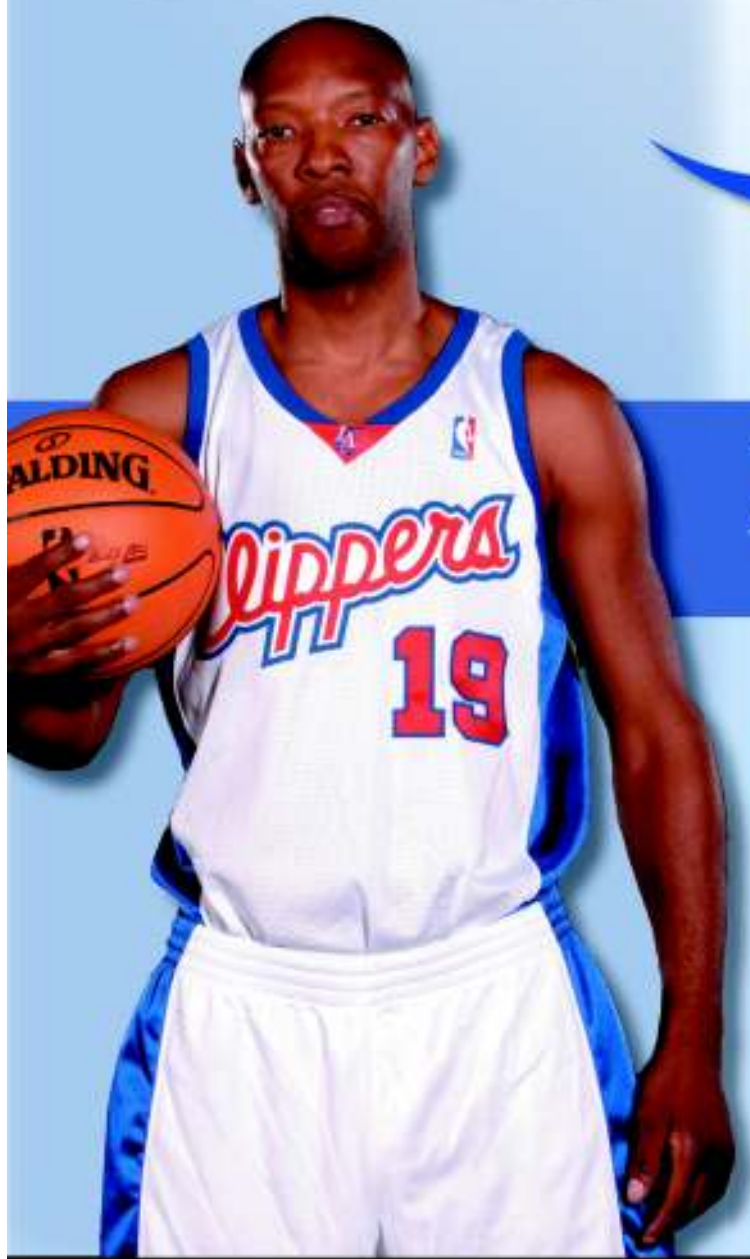

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- Sam Cassell

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

Lawyer to lawyer With all the stress of being president of the San Diego City Council, **Scott Peters** of La Jolla apparently needs a country place for quick out-of-town getaways to relax with the wife and kids. So earlier this year, he and his spouse, multimillionaire **Lynn Gorguze**, bought an 11.92-acre estate in a glen near East County's Pine Valley. According to a deed recorded in early February, the couple laid out $519,000 in cash for the tidy spread on a rustic dirt road south of I-8. But not long after making a round of improvements to the place, the lawyer and his wife found themselves caught up in some legal soup. On September 27, **Patrick Callahan** of Escondido's Poolsafe, Inc., filed a mechanic's lien against the couple for what Callahan claimed was $2805 owed to him since August 1 for installation of a "safety pool cover" at the site.

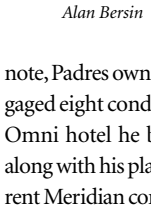
Scott Peters

The saga began, Callahan says, after he finished the job and two checks given to him by the project's general contractor bounced. "Thirty or 45 days went by" after he filed the lien against the city councilman, he recounts, and still no payment was forthcoming. Then, according to Callahan, his attorney **Jim Lund**, president of the North County Bar Association, happened to bump into Peters at a business function. "He introduced himself and said, 'Are you aware of this?' or something like that, and right after that the contractor walked in with the cash, so it was all taken care of a few weeks ago." Peters spokeswoman Pam Hardy confirmed the lien had been paid, but said Peters was in a city council meeting and unavailable for comment. …

Alan Bersin

In other real estate dealings of note, Padres owner **John Moores** recently mortgaged eight condos he still owns in the high-rise Omni hotel he built adjacent to the ballpark, along with his place on the 21st floor of the high-rent Meridian condo complex, in order to secure a loan of $46.5 million from Wells Fargo, which represented a refinancing of a prior $40 million note. And ex–city schools head and just-named airport authority member **Alan Bersin**, recently returned from Sacramento, where he spent a year as Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger**'s education secretary, has purchased a $2.1 million house in Point Loma's pricey "Wooded Area" neighborhood, not far up the hill from where he and his wife, superior court judge **Lisa Foster**, had been renting since selling another nearby Point Loma manse in 2004.

Military might La Jolla's **Linden Blue**, co-owner with his brother **Neal** of General Atomics, the big defense contractor, is also a well-known tuxedo-clad socialite who has of late been squiring San Diego mayoral aide and ex-admiral **Ronne Froman** around to high-end fund-raising bashes, including the Burnham Institute's "Fire and Ice" gala in October and the USO's "Star Sapphire Jubilee" in April, where Iraq vets were honored. According to the *Union-Tribune*'s **Burl Stiff**, Blue recently cowrote a pessimistic op-ed piece about the Middle East in the *Washington Times* with **Herbert London**, president of the Hudson Institute, a right-wing think tank where Blue is a director. "Islamists hide behind the Constitution as they promote anti-American diatribes in many of their mosques," bemoan Blue and London. "Our civil libertarians are eager to remove the words 'under God' from the Pledge of Allegiance and the pledge is not allowed in many schools. Left wing university professors decry every aspect of U.S. foreign policy and much of American culture. These conditions undermine national purpose and a patriotic sense that our values are worth fighting for." The piece continues: "Moreover, the United States of 2006 is not the United States of 1941. The nation is divided politically and culturally. A military culture that still exhibits heroism and bravery is excoriated by liberal elites. A president who responds to attack and threats is criticized as a warmonger. And the media organs are far more interested in perceived internal threats to civil liberties than in mobilizing arguments against radical Islam."


Linden Blue

Ronne Froman

Honorary native The Sycuan Indian band, proprietors of a casino on their reservation in the hills east of El Cajon, has become a major backer of San Diego mayor **Jerry Sanders**. Campaign contribution records show that the tribe gave a total of $20,000 to San Diegans for City Hall Reform, the mayor's recent privatization campaign. Meanwhile, in Sacramento, the tribe is lobbying hard for legislative approval of the governor's award to it of vastly expanded gambling rights, including 3000 new slots and a second casino to be built on the tribe's nearby golf course, formerly called Singing Hills, a move opposed by neighborhood groups concerned about heavy traffic. Now Sycuan is fighting back with TV commercials that feature a beaming Sanders praising the tribe's "leadership and generosity," which, he says, "positively impact the entire region." … Meanwhile, at Carlsbad's luxury La Costa Resort and Spa, once the getaway of choice for the Mafia, the Teamsters union, and **Richard Nixon**, another interesting bunch reportedly showed up last week. According to the *Desert Sun* of Palm Springs, incoming state legislators were hosted by "unions and racetrack operators," who were lobbying against approval of those new Indian gambling compacts.

From Sycuan television commercial

— Matt Potter

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.

Health Care: Where the Jobs Are

By Don Bauder

Want to find robust good health? Go to a doctor's office or a hospital. The patients may be sick, but health-care employment is doing very, very well. According to a study by *Business Week* magazine, in the last five years, health-care jobs in the nation have soared while the rest of the private sector has gone nowhere. That's not true in San Diego: health care did moderately well over the same period, but so did the rest of the private sector.

MEDIAN HEALTH-CARE SALARIES, 2004

Dental Hygienists	$87,445
Physician Assistants	$70,746
Occupational Therapists	$65,131
Physical Therapists	$64,958
Speech-Language Pathologists	$64,665
Nuclear Medicine Technologists	$61,661
Registered Nurses	$60,521
Radiation Therapists	$59,811
All health-care	$37,951

SOURCES: SAN DIEGO WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP, SOURCEPOINT, GODBE RESEARCH

Business Week found that since 2001, the health-care sector nationally added 1.7 million jobs. Construction and real estate added 940,000, but the rest of the private sector lost 1.2 million, as computer, electronic, and telecom employers shed jobs. Without health care, "the nation's labor market would be in a deep coma," says the magazine.

At my request, Cheryl Mason of San Diego Association of Governments got comparable information for San Diego: annual average employment from July 2001 to July 2006 in health care and all other private-sector categories. Health-care jobs rose 6.2 percent to almost 150,000, providing 10 percent of overall employment growth. Health-care categories include bioscience, testing labs, social assistance, and health and medical insurance.

Not surprisingly, the big winner was construction and real estate, with a whopping 21.1 percent rise to 164,600 jobs. It provided a stunning 35 percent of job growth during that period. The number of construction workers zoomed 36.6 percent, while loan brokers soared 114.3 percent. But the construction/real estate sector is going to recede, probably sharply, as housing sales and prices come down — leaving San Diego double-domes to ponder how to replace an economic juggernaut that has been providing more than one-third of job growth.

Where San Diego differed from the rest of the country in 2001 to 2006 was in the category of non-health-care private-sector employment. Unlike in the United States overall, non-health-care jobs rose moderately, rising 5.9 percent to 781,000, providing 53 percent of growth in the last five years.

San Diego had some non-health-care strengths that the nation didn't enjoy. One was tourism jobs: up 17.2 percent in the five years to 153,800 jobs. Another was retail, up 10.7 percent to 114,500 jobs. Wholesale was up 10.9 percent to 44,900. However, Alan Gin, economist at the University of San Diego, says that retail slowed in the last two years.

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

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Why Don't We Claim That Cash?

By Ernie Grimm

Given the financial straits the City of San Diego has been in of late, you'd think officials would make it a priority to collect every dime that the City's owed. But a look at the state controller's database of "unclaimed properties" shows over $10,000 that belongs to the City.

These unclaimed properties are not real estate.

Though the State holds unclaimed stocks, and even jewelry and rare coins, in the City's case, it's all chunks of cash, as low as $58 and as high as $933, that businesses and government entities attempted but failed to pay to the City. "We end up with the money," says Russ Lopez, director of communications for the state controller's office, "because by federal statute, every financial institution, whether it be a brokerage firm, a mortgage firm, or a utility, after a certain amount of time is required by federal law to turn over to the state any unclaimed money that they owe."

The chunks of cash belonging to the City, 50 in all as of November 9, aren't overpaid utility bills. Many are classified as vendor payments. "A vendor payment would be, the city, the state, and every county, they have vendors who do work for them, whether it be window washing, the cafeteria, or anything else. Say the city has contracts with a vendor, which is a private business, and the city pays the vendor in advance but the bill turns out to be less than was expected — say the city wrote a check for $10,000, but the work was only $9500, then the vendor tried to return the $500. It's up to the vendor to return that money. But maybe they had the wrong address. Or maybe they didn't have an address. Or maybe they wrote it out to the 'City of San Diego' and didn't specify the department. And you know how bureaucracy is, you have to send it to the controller or the treasurer or whichever department, or the check doesn't get cashed. For tax reasons, the vendor can't really absorb that money on their own books."

So the vendor sends the money to the state controller's office, which acts, Lopez says, as "a repository for that money. We're not a bank. We don't do interest at this point, even though Controller Steve Westly did sponsor a bill to let some of that money gain interest."

The bill, SB 1752, died in a state senate committee in May 2006. Not only would it have allowed the $4.8 billion in the state controller's hands to gain 5 percent interest for its owners, it would have loosened restrictions on the controller's ability to contact the claimants on the 7.8 million accounts in the database. "As it is," Lopez says, "we are not allowed to call the City of San Diego or Mr. and Mrs. Garcia in San Diego to let them know that they have unclaimed property. But even if the restrictions were lifted, we have nearly 8 million accounts. We can't call 8 million people."

In lieu of calling, Controller Westly toured the state from October 2005 through February 2006 to promote the unclaimed properties database. At stops around the state — including one in Little Italy on February 6, 2006 — he told Californians to claim their money on *searchthevault.com* or *encuentresudinero.com,* the Spanish version. "The reason we did *searchthevault.com* is it's very easy to remember," Lopez explains. "I can say, go to *searchthevault.com,* rather than s-c-o, backslash, forward slash, dot, whatever it is." (When you type *searchthevault.com* into your browser, you end up at *www.sco.ca.gov/col/ucp/index.shtml.*)

The reason the legislature rejected the bill may be because they've become accustomed to having a $4.8 billion fund to borrow from. "Legislators use some of that money," Lopez says. "It has nothing to do with the controller. It's all state business, and it's out of our hands. But they have to pay it back. It's not theirs; it's the property of Californians, whether it be businesses or individuals. So anytime anyone claims property, we have to give it back."

Susan Golding

Around 65 percent of the unclaimed monies belonging to the City are associated with real estate transactions. One of the last items on the list is $70 from Commerce Title Company. California Title Company, a local company with an office in Mission Valley, tried to refund $519.68 to the City of San Diego, judging from the database entry. The controller's website doesn't say when California Title attempted to make the payment, but it does give the "reported address" to which the company sent the refund: 715 Harris, which is a house in a residential neighborhood in Otay Mesa owned, according to county assessor's records, by Gerardo Alonso. It's clearly not the City of San Diego's official address. "Why somebody couldn't get the correct address for the City of San Diego, I don't know," Lopez says.

The largest amount on the list owed the City (as of November 11, 2006) is a "vendor payment" of $933 from Target Corporation. The Union-Tribune Publishing Company shows up twice, both times for refunds of $780.80. The states of Texas and Idaho failed in attempts to pay the City $100 and $691, respectively. Other names include Jack in the Box ($280), FedEx Kinko's ($549.90), and Chevron USA ($178).

The city official who claims properties from the state repository, Lopez says, "has to be the individual elected or hired to handle the finances of the entity. For instance, for the State of California, it would be the state controller. In a city or a county, it would be the treasurer, the auditor, whoever it is who deals with the financial matters. They have to legally be able to accept money on behalf of the city."

In the City of San Diego, that man is Michael Vogl, revenue collections manager. He says he's aware of the $10,166. The collections staff, Vogl says, performs an annual review of the unclaimed prop-

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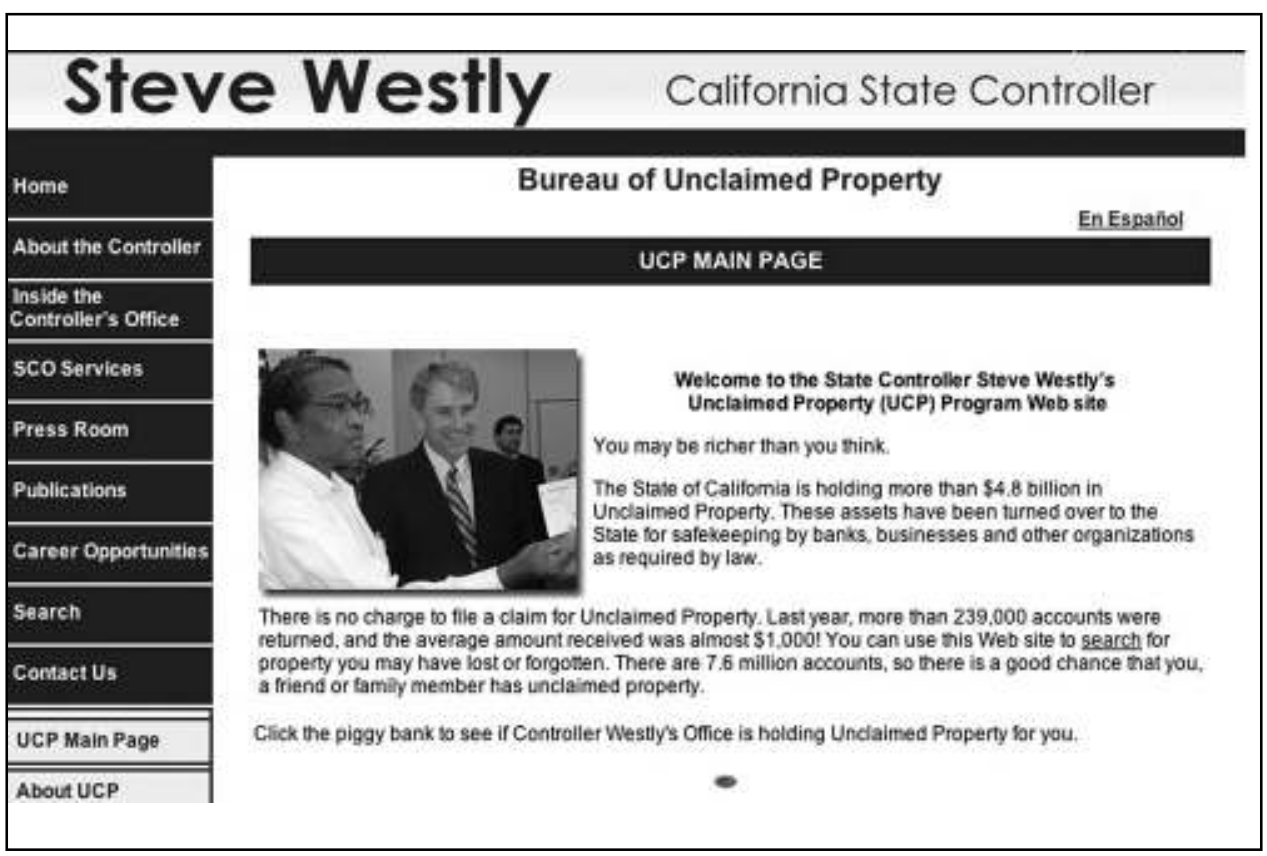

Where the jobs are

continued from page 6

San Diego suffered tech/telecom job losses, as the nation did, although not as severely because dot-com employment was never as giddily high in San Diego as in some places such as Silicon Valley. Computer and electronics employment dropped 20.3 percent in the last five years. Infotech employment was down 7.7 percent and telecom down 3.5 percent.

In the health-care sector, there were only two losers: biomed manufacturing (such as certain health-care equipment), down 21.8 percent, and biotech, which despite all the ballyhoo and the stock market excitement, dropped 8.9 percent to only 4100 jobs. Even with some closures, problems such as at Alvarado, and declining profitability, hospital employment grew 9.4 percent to 24,500. Ambulatory health-care services gained 8.4 percent to 44,100 jobs, the largest employer in the health-care segment. (This category includes ambulance services. It's little wonder, then, that in the non-health-care sector, legal services were up 10.2 percent. This statistical correlation suggests that lawyers indeed deserve to be called ambulance chasers.)

Economic and demographic factors favor continued growth in the health-care sector. "The demographics are absolutely on the side of continued growth in health-care jobs," says Ross Starr, economist at the University of California, San Diego. "In the next four to five years, the first wave of baby boomers qualifies for Medicare. There will be embarrassments of running out of Medicare trust funds; you can expect Congress and the Treasury to have to deal with that." It's true that financially strapped corporations are cutting back health benefits. Medical technology is advancing rapidly, and patients spend much less time in hospitals. But overall, "You can expect more health-care employment. It would take a revolution in medical technology or medical finance to reverse that." And with great strides being made at medical centers such as at his own university, San Diego should capture much of that employment growth.

Gin expects health-care employment to rise as the population ages, life expectancy increases, and more older people retire to San Diego. Over the short-term, non-health-care employment will slow. "Construction and real estate jobs will decline," says Gin. Tourism job growth will slow as the nation's economy weakens and fewer people travel here. Long-term, tourism will recover. Retail will pick up again, but it won't be fired by folly — that is, people living the California lifestyle by borrowing on the artificial increase in their homes' values.

The good news for job seekers is that labor shortages are worsening in the health-care sector, according to a study this year by the San Diego Workforce Partnership. In coming years, the shortages will intensify for registered nurses, dental hygienists, dental assistants, licensed practical and vocational nurses, cardiovascular technologists and technicians, home health aides, radiologic technologists and technicians, and speech-language pathologists.

Happily, the laws of supply and demand seem to be working. The local study points out that the San Diego region has only one program for training

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Where the jobs are

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dental hygienists, and such training costs a bundle. That's one reason there is a shortage of them. In 2004, the median wage of all those in health-care occupations was just under $38,000. But dental hygienists were making $87,445 a year, tops among the categories. Registered nurses, also in short supply, were making $60,521. Speech-language pathologists were bringing in $64,665.

It pays to be in an under-supplied occupation. But does it pay enough? In San Diego these days, $60,000 a year won't bring you an aristocrat's perquisites.

But San Diego's high cost of living — 50 percent above the nation's — isn't the only cause of the shortage. "The people in our school of nursing and health science say there is a shortage nationwide, not just in high-cost places like San Diego," says Gin. "They just can't recruit sufficient faculty to teach the nurses."

And nurses are in such a demanding profession that burnout is rife and turnover high.

All in all, health-care jobs look poised to expand as a bigger and bigger piece of San Diego employment. The question is whether there will be the trained people to fill the jobs. ■

Claim that cash

continued from page 7

erties database and similar databases. "They have search criteria that they use to identify everything that might be owed to the City of San Diego. Then they file individual claims. From the [controller's] website, you print out a claim form and fill that out, and generally I sign off on them. We have to sign under penalty of perjury that it is our money. Then we send those to the State. Last year, we sent about $40,000 worth of claims, and to date, we've received about $19,000 from the claims that we submitted last November and December. We are still following up on some of the other ones. I know about three months ago, we were getting a bunch of automated letters from the State saying they had received our claim and it was being processed but they were behind for a variety of reasons."

Lopez says staff and budget limitations as well as aging computer systems keep the State from returning money quickly, but he explains, "When you think about education, transportation, senior care, prescription drugs, who do you think is going to be a priority?"

Because the State returns money slowly, its list may include items for which claims have already been filed. Asked why checks aren't making it into city coffers to begin with, Vogl answers, "From what we've seen, a lot of times it is a bad address. Either a piece of the address was missing or they sent it to a department address that isn't really an address that processes payments, and who knows what happened with the payment. Sometimes you get companies that paid something three years ago to an address for the City, and that is what they have in their database as a payment address for the City. But maybe whatever they are paying now is a different payment address, so that payment doesn't get to where it is supposed to be. Most of the time, there is a process for getting that money into the right hands. But if you send a payment out to the Chollas Landfill, who knows what's going to happen to it."

The City of San Diego isn't alone among local governments in having money on the unclaimed properties list. The County of San Diego has 37 items totaling just under $23,000. The City of Carlsbad has unclaimed properties worth just over $3000.

Among San Diego celebrities, former Charger great Junior Seau has $401.57 waiting for him at the state controller's office. And ex-mayor Susan Golding has yet to claim $172.81 of "pension/retirement" money. ■

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LETTERS

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Deep Fish

Thanks for the in-depth cover article on fishing ("That's Fishing," November 30)! I have been fishing with my father since I was about eight years old, and I haven't been in years, so the memories came flooding back. You covered many interesting aspects of the sport, and it was a very intelligible, well-researched piece. I just moved here recently, and this is my first time reading your paper, so I just wanted to send some kudos! (Though I could do without some of the plastic surgery ads, you gotta do what you gotta do.) Thanks again!

Jennifer D'Angelo
via e-mail

Icthyo-Psychology

Sitting in the sunshine in Encinitas on Friday, waiting for my lunch of sizzling tofu with artichoke-garlic dip, I read your cover story about the heartbreak of fishing ("That's Fishing," Cover Story, November 30). The human players' psyche is interesting, but the writer missed the boat by leaving out the behavior of the main player in the fishing "drama" — the fish.

In the last three years or so, fascinating studies by ichthyologists have revealed facts that should make any angler squirm. We now know that fish have personalities just like dogs and cats and those people across the street; they choose their friends carefully; can build nests by using their sensitive mouths as we would use our hands; some "talk" in a chirping-like sound like birdsong; and they have spatial memory on a par with any other vertebrate: fish who learn to escape from a net can retain that knowledge and use it, for what would be the equivalent of decades for a human being. Fish can also tell time, as evidenced by their reliable appearance for a once-a-day feeding in a controlled environment.

There is indeed a lot to consider about fishing, including that it might just be time to give it a rest.

Ingrid E. Newkirk
via e-mail

Adjust Your Timeline

In Ernie Grimm's article this week about Campo ("From Rural Retreat to Suburbia," "City Lights," November 30), he refers to soldiers being stationed there in "pre–World War II" times. Not to quibble unduly, but the stationing of U.S. Cavalry soldiers there, the famous Buffalo Soldiers, happened early in WWII. Prior to that time, San Diego had hosted a regiment of U.S. Army Coast Artillery that manned the many coastal guns in and around San Diego Bay. But none of those were ever stationed in Campo. In the immediate aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Army was directed to shift its forces westward to protect the West Coast from anticipated Japanese attack or invasion. And so it was that a regiment of cavalry was sent to the border, and the land for Camp Lockett was purchased and the camp was built.

All of that after war was declared in December 1941.

Don Jones
via e-mail

Bye-Bye, Bryan

I was *very* sad today to read in the "Blurt" section (November 30) of Bryan Jones's death. He was like my only friend every morning five days a week, 'cause at the time I was working mornings at Crawford High. The first part of my morning was to open the site before the rest of the staff would get there, and I listened to him on a little $5 Radio Shack radio I had on my belt (along with hundreds of keys). When he got fired, I was bummed but was very happy when 92.5 converted to modern rock, and I followed him there.

Then 91X moved from TJ to right down the street from me; they hired him back and teamed him up with Russ T. Nailz, and I followed him back there too. It was *so great* living right down the street from the station. Nearly every band that came to town went there for an interview with Steve West, and I was getting off work at 1:30. I'd *rush* home, get cleaned up, and head down to the station, and I got to meet every one of them. I had always collected autographs, so I sure got *a lot* due to that.

Anyway, my favorite band at the time (still is and always will be), the Stray Cats, had broken up a few years back. Brian Setzer had put out a few solo albums, but now it was time to do something different. A 17-piece swing band! They were going to play for their first time here in town, at the Belly Up. (Can you *imagine* 17 guys plus Brian Setzer on that stage! Let's just say I was *blown away,* by the horns, that is.)

The Stray Cats had visited 91X many times in the past, and over the years I got to know Setzer pretty well. So when I saw he was coming to town, I wrote him and asked if he wanted to come down to the station again to promote the show. He wrote back and said it's a deal. So I called up Bryan Jones and told him about it and asked if we could do it in the A.M. (instead of the afternoons with Steve West, like most were). He said, "Hell, yeah! Just set it up and get back to me." So I did. I also called a couple pals of mine from a local rockabilly band (Hot Rod Lincoln) and said you're invited too. Told the bass player (Johnny G.) to bring his stand-up bass and for Buzz to just come on down and meet me at the station.

We arrived early, before Setzer, so they let us in, and Bryan and Russ T. interviewed us about "the rockabilly lifestyle" (tattoos/cars, etc.). Brian Setzer shows up, does some interview promo for the show that night, then we break out into a *full-on* jam session in that little studio. Setzer *wailin'* away on guitar, Johnny *slappin'* his bass, and me and Buzz and Russ T. and Bryan *screamin'* and a *yellin'* out and *bangin'* on anything we could find.

I got it recorded on a cassette tape, and years later I converted it to CD. So as I'm writing this now, I'm listening to the CD and thinking back to the good old days of 91X, listening to the "King" every morning, and thinking that up to that day it was *the proudest day* of my *life!*

Ward Elliott
via e-mail

Waiters Are People Too

To Alex (Letters, November 30) in regards to your response to Jennifer's response letter (November 22) to you in your letter (November 16) for the cover article on tipping ("I Perform a Service. I Deserve a Tip," November 9). Now, I did not read your first letter, so I cannot presume to think you are as ignorant as you sound in this last letter. Granted, there are some situations in which some people definitely don't deserve a tip, but *come on,* do you mean to tell me that you are so ignorant that you don't tip your waiter if he/she is so busy that he/she doesn't get your food to you in "your" desired time or doesn't refill your water or ice tea fast enough (which, by the way, is the busboy's job). They make minimum wage and are doing this job mostly for the tips. And do you not tip your massage therapist when he/she spends an

continued on page 78

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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE

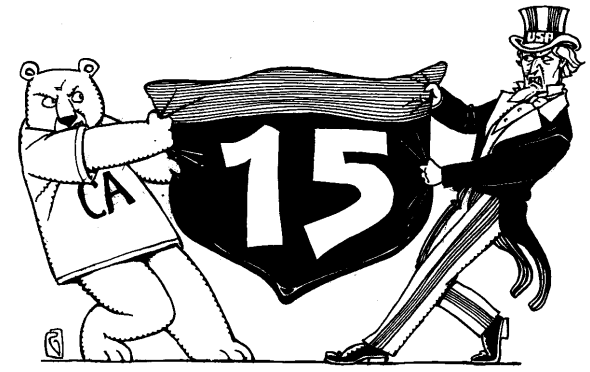

Illustration by Rick Geary

Hey, Matt:
Can you tell me where the 15 freeway changes from a California highway to an interstate highway? It's called California 15 where it starts (or ends) in National City, but then it's I-15 all the way to Canada. What gives? Why the rogue section of highway?

— Timmy B, Pacific Beach

Hey, Matt:
North of Interstate 8, the signs for the 15 have the red, white, and blue Interstate highway shield. South of the 8, the 15 merits only the round green-and-white highway shield, like 163. Why is this? It's not just a mistake on one sign. Please help!

— Carrie, Coronado

For this one we have to go back about 60 years to the day President Eisenhower took time out from his golf game to dream up the interstate highway system. He imagined trucks and cars zooming around the country, bypassing all that two-lane blacktop. He probably didn't think it would take more than half a century to complete, but that's public works projects for you. Finally, the last bit of Ike's transcontinental asphalt was laid right here in San Diego five years ago, when the new improved 15 burrowed its way through City Heights. There were big ceremonies and lots of hoopla at the time.

So you'd think we could finally rip out the old state 15 signs south of 8 and tack up the shiny red-white-and-blue ones. Sorry. Way too simple. We're dealing with the feds, don't forget. Just because your local highway is an extension of an interstate doesn't give you automatic federal status, even if you widen it and generally spiff it up. According to Caltrans, the new chunk of 15 through City Heights does not yet meet every tiny, detailed requirement the feds demand for interstate-standard roads. Until we get the okay from Washington, 15 south of 8 is still, on paper, just a local highway. It's a bureaucracy thang, natch.

Greetings, Matt:
After giving by mail to a couple of good causes, I'm buried with every sort of charity asking for money. I know they have sold my name around, so I always ask them what percent goes to the charity and what percent to administration. Almost all say 10% to 20% goes to the charity and 80% to administration, except if you write "Restrict" on your check, then the entire amount has to go to the charity. My questions are, is that true, and who keeps an eye on that to make sure they do it?

— Daniel in Clairemont

Well, no good deed goes unpunished, Daniel. Mail-in charitability just nets you more mail-in begging. I guess the only up side is that you're on the mailing list of Nice Guys. Pretty amazing, though, that a charity would confess that only a tenth of its revenue goes to good deeds. I hope you file those in the trash can. According to the charity watchers, that's a pitiful record. As a rule of thumb, they say, the cost of raising the money should be no more than 40% of donations.

So, you're cutting your annual check to Save the Snails and you want every last dollar to be used for snail-saving purposes... No luxury suites for the jet-set CEO, no black-tie fundraisers for the snoberazzi. What you want to make, then, is a restricted donation. You have to specify that it's restricted and tell them what they can spend it on. By law, your wishes should be followed. But of course there is no way you can be guaranteed that your particular dollars are spent according to your directions. You have to trust that you're dealing with an honest organization that doesn't flout the law. A background check is probably in order before you give, especially if it's a smaller or local charity that's not well known.

Two groups offer free evaluations of the larger charities, mostly national: the Better Business Bureau's Giving Alliance (*www.give.org*) and the Charity Navigator (*www.charitynavigator.org*). For smaller charities, try *www.lookup.bbb.org* to find the URL for your local Better Biz Bureau. Of course, if you're not happy with somebody else's rating, you can examine the IRS Form 990 for a particular nonprofit. This is the information form every nonprofit has to file with the feds, breaking down their income and outgo. Try *www.guidestar.org* for details about 990s.

Most ratings rank charities by how lean and mean they are. But some nonprofits point out that effectiveness is perhaps more important and harder to rate looking just at income and expenses. And charities don't run on air; they do need unrestricted donations to pay the rent. It's not unheard of for charities to turn down restricted donations, usually large ones with lots of strings attached. One generous soul recently took a charity to court, claiming his donation was misused. Nobody needs that kind of aggravation. And charities, especially those like the Red Cross, also need unrestricted donations to help amass enough cash to be prepared to act immediately when the next emergency comes up. So, do your homework, then hope for the best.

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(inside Viva Market)

610 N. Redondo

Ocean Beach
1861 Bacon St.

Otay Mesa
Otay Mesa Mall

Pacific Beach
1453 Garnet Ave.

San Diego
4915 Conway St.

941 Broadway

3793 National Ave.
(inside Sawaya Jr. Market)

Mission Valley Mall

2483 Imperial Ave.

9225 Mira Mesa Blvd.

4951 El Cajon Blvd.

4247 El Cajon Blvd.

3596 National Ave.

San Marcos
1284 W. San Marcos Blvd.

1660 Capolino Rd.
(inside Corner Market)

574 East Mission Rd.
(inside Market Shop)

San Ysidro
342 W. San Ysidro Blvd.

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SportingBox By Patrick Daugherty

Winter Sports In Escondido

I lean into the phone, say, "Tell me about Curl San Diego. How did the curling club get started?"

"Started last January, as a small group of people in a Yahoo discussion group." Elliot Hicks, 31, is married, dad to a three-month-old daughter, works at a technology startup in Escondido. "My parents immigrated from New Jersey to Saskatchewan a year before I was born," Hicks says. "I came back to the U.S. to attend MIT and stayed." Mrs. Hicks got Mr. Hicks to San Diego.

"How did you find Curl San Diego?"

"When I moved out here I contacted the USCA [United States Curling Association], asked if there was any curling in the area, and they gave me Jon Wilson's name." Wilson is a big deal in the USCA.

"We're going to start a league in January. The league will have eight to ten teams," Hicks says. "You need a fair amount of equipment for curling. In order to play on one sheet [a lane of ice 14′ 2″ by 15′ 7″], you need 16 stones. Stones range from $250 to $500 and, typically, you have four sheets going at once. Also, everybody should have a broom."

"Broom?"

"Curling brooms. They've become specialized. Their handles can be wood…a lot of them are fiberglass, some are carbon fiber. They have very flat, small, brush heads. They're designed to create friction and heat up the ice, which causes the stone to slide."

"What's the skill set for a broom personhood?"

"Sweeping will change the distance that the rock travels down the ice by as much as 12 feet and has a very large impact on how straight the rock goes, which is important for takeout shots. Probably the biggest thing is judgment, because sweepers are in charge of figuring out how far the rock will go."

"I note curling has two sweepers. Is there a boss sweeper?"

Hicks laughs. "Generally, the person who's closer to the rock will be in charge of calling the sweeping. Everyone except for the skip has a turn at sweeping."

"Skip, meaning the skipper, the captain?"

"Yes. There are four people on each team. The skip is the guy who shoots the last two rocks and calls all the shots. Players shoot from one end down to the target area at the other end called the 'house.' The skip will stand in the house and call what shot he wants, tell a player to throw a guard or draw into the house or takeout another stone."

I have no objection to the skip's duties at this time. "Your club is based in Escondido. Normally, I wouldn't put 'Escondido' and 'curling' in the same sentence. Where do your members come from?"

"A lot of Canadians, a lot of people from the East Coast and Upper Midwest. But, the majority are locals who have never curled before. A lot of people saw curling during the Olympics and thought, 'Looks like fun.'"

Fun. Reckless endangerment. Curling goes by many names. "I assume each player has a different role?"

"The four positions — lead, second, vice-skip, and skip — are in the order of who shoots. Everybody shoots two rocks. For lead, you want somebody who is good at judging weight because he'll probably be throwing guard rocks, so he needs to be good at throwing a rock that will go exactly the distance he wants it to. Second has to be a bit more versatile because he'll probably have to throw more draw rocks, drawing into the house, but he may also have to do some takeouts. For vice-skip, you need somebody who is capable of takeouts, has good draw weight, can do some of the more tricky shots like angle takeouts. And then for skip, you've got to be able to make all the shots, understand strategy, know how to call a game. Usually, the skip is a very experienced curler."

"In Fairbanks, people would go curling and drink all night. I assume it's the same in Canada."

Hicks laughs hard. "It is. My mother had never heard of curling before she moved to Saskatchewan. One day neighbors dragged her to the town curling rink. It was during a 24-hour bonspiel, essentially a round-the-clock tournament where you drink until your game comes up, then you go down and play, then return to the bar. It was time for the first shot. My mom says the team comes tumbling down from the bar — pretty much every curling rink has a bar — they come tumbling down from the bar and get on the ice. The first guy goes to throw his rock, forgets to let go, and he's so drunk he ends up sliding down the ice holding onto the rock and laughing all the way. My mother asked her new friend, 'You like this game?'"

Interested readers can contact Hicks at: ehicks@san.rr.com, *or stop by* curlsandiego.org/index.htm *for particulars.*

The Vegas Line

NFL – Week 14 (Home Team in CAPS)

Favorite	Spread	Over/Under	Underdog
	Thursday		
PITTSBURGH	7 ½	36 ½	Cleveland
	Sunday		
KANSAS CITY	3	36 ½	Baltimore
Atlanta	3	38	TAMPA BAY
DETROIT	2 ½	37 ½	Minnesota
HOUSTON	1 ½	41 ½	Tennessee
CAROLINA	3 ½	38 ½	N. Y. Giants
DALLAS	6 ½	48	New Orleans
N. Y. JETS	4	37	Buffalo
Indianapolis	2	44	JACKSONVILLE
WASHINGTON	1	38 ½	Philadelphia
CINCINNATI	10 ½	40 ½	Oakland
New England	3 ½	37	MIAMI
SAN FRANCISCO	5	43 ½	Green Bay
Seattle	3 ½	45	ARIZONA
SAN DIEGO	7 ½	42 ½	Denver
	Monday		
Chicago	6 ½	41 ½	ST. LOUIS

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SHEEP AND GOATS

PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Denomination: Greek Orthodox
Address: 3655 Park Boulevard, Hillcrest, 619-297-4165
Founded locally: 1927; in present building since 1954
Senior pastor: Father Andrew Scordalakis
Congregation size: 500 families
Staff size: 7, full- and part-time
Sunday school enrollment: 130
Annual budget: n/a
Weekly giving: n/a
Singles program: no
Dress: formal; lots of jackets and ties, lots of dresses
Diversity: about half Greek, half other ethnicities
Sunday worship: Matins, 9 a.m.; Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
Length of reviewed service: 2 hours
Website: *www.sandiego.edu/theo/sdrel/pw/spyrid.html*

From the first, Saint Spyridon seemed to me a blend of traditions. The sky-blue ceiling showed an enormous Christ bursting through the clouds, rendered in a quasi-iconic style, his huge eyes gazing down on the faithful. An equally grand-scale painting of Mary adorned the apse; her midsection obscured by a ring framing the boy Jesus: Mary as *Theotokos*, God-bearer. These, together with the traditional icons hanging on the walls, harkened to the church's Eastern roots. But the paintings on the walls illustrating the life of Christ (meeting the woman at the well, answering the scribes as a boy, etc.) were reminiscent of mid-century Western images, almost like expertly rendered holy cards. Even the icons on the screen before the sanctuary seemed tinged with Western sensibilities, something almost Art Deco in the lines and faces.

ANDREW SCORDALAKIS

Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church
Hillcrest
★★½

Sermon	
content	★★
delivery	★★
Liturgy	★★★★
Music	
congregational	★½
band	★★★½
Snacks	★★½
Architecture	★★★½
Friendliness	★★½

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

The blend showed up in the music as well. Throughout, the choir responded to the sung prayers of the priest, often by singing "Kyrie eleison" — Lord, have mercy — as if the plea for mercy were the underlying form of every petition. But while the priest's prayers sounded characteristically Eastern — the intervals and intonation — the choir's responses seemed more Western, almost Baroque in their harmonies, now cheerful, now solemn, now grand.

More blending — or at least, more influences: in the Entrance, I caught echoes of the Jewish procession of the Torah. As the choir sang, the priest and servers descended through a door in the screen and processed through the congregation. The servers carried candles; the priest bore the Scriptures aloft. But not simply echoes: later in the liturgy, after this veneration of the word, a second procession, this time of the vessels holding the elements for Communion, hidden under white veils trimmed with gold. (The veils echoed the garments of the priest and servers.) This time, two servers bore lamps, and two others carried staves topped with six-winged seraphim, while a man, walking backward and bowing, continually incensed the elements.

Throughout, the liturgy engaged the senses, often several at a time. The thurible was hung with bells, so that each wave sounded a muted jingle as it sent a puff of white smoke drifting heavenward. Sweet smoke filled the air, giving weight to the yellow light pouring through the southern window, making halos around the lamps hung before the screen. And sense aided intellect — when Father Scordalakis switched from reading to singing at the end of the Gospel, the words gained force and import: "And as he cried out these things, he said, 'He who has ears to hear, let him hear!'" (So much was sung that it was surprising to hear the congregation unite in plain speech for the Creed and the prayer before Communion: "How shall I, who am unworthy, enter into the splendor of your saints? If I dare to enter the bridal chamber, my clothing will accuse me, since it is not a wedding garment; and being bound up, I shall be cast out by the angels. In Your love, Lord, cleanse my soul and save me.")

As the congregation came forward, a second priest joined Scordalakis, and the two dipped spoons into chalices and placed Communion in the mouths of the congregation. Several small children were hesitant to receive, and the priest gently coaxed them to open up before parents dabbed their mouths with the red cloth below the cup. After receiving, most congregants took cubes of bread from bowls held by the servers before returning to their seats.

The liturgy included two additional rites. First, a memorial, offered before the icon of Christ — the savior. The priests and servers gathered around a mound of wheat shrouded in white sugar. A sung dialogue of prayers ensued — first one priest, then the other, then the chanter, then the second chanter. And finally, the blessing of the five loaves, provided by the congregation and offered before the icon of Mary, imploring her intercession. Father had recently arrived from Florida and was yet to be joined by his family. "You honor me with the greatest gift you could have given me," he said, "and that is the gift of prayer.... I ask you now to join me in prayer for the health and well-being of my family." Lifting one of the loaves, he sang, "Bless, O Lord, these loaves, and multiply them in this holy church, this city, in the homes of those who celebrate this day.... The rich have become the poor and hungry, but those who seek the Lord shall never again know hunger." Again the congregation came forward for bread, this time from the hand of the priest, and accompanied by a blessing.

What happens when we die?

"For those who believe?" answered Scordalakis. "They go to be in the presence of God."

— *Matthew Lickona*

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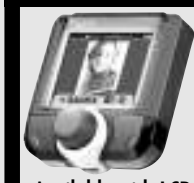

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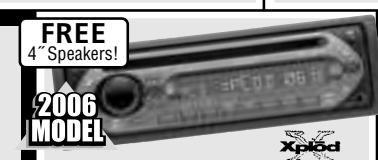

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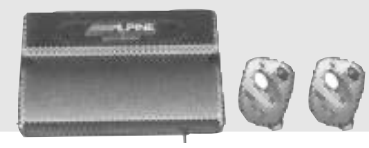

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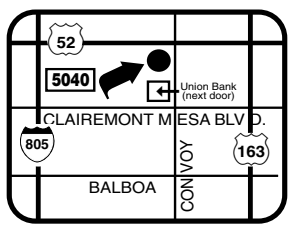

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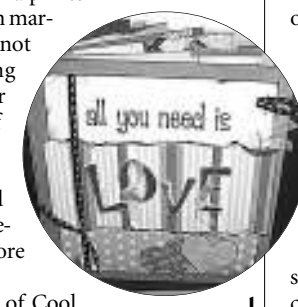
"It's a modern-day quilting bee."

–EVE KELLY

Everyone's got skeletons in the closet. Some people's rattle more than others. Mine's pretty quiet, but it's there, literally in the closet: piles and piles of photographs, still in those multi-pocket envelopes you get from the developer. We're good about recording significant moments on film here at Chez Kelly. And we get our stuff developed the old-fashioned way — no digital shots run off on a printer for us. But I've been married ten years, and not even my wedding shots are in a proper album. The click of the camera has become a prick to my conscience, and I'm going to do something about it before the year's out.

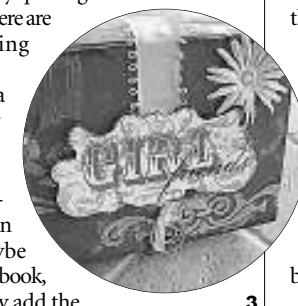


1

Gena Barney of Cool Scrapbook Stuff in Poway (858-679-9100; *www.coolscrapbookstuff.com*) was there for me. "Scrapbooking is basically putting photos together in an album and then labeling them," she said. "That's the most important thing. Telling who it was, where it was, when it was, and why it was. You want it to be such that someone ten years from now who you don't know can pick up the book and know exactly what was going on."

2

As usual, I was late to the party. "Scrapbooking started to grow in the late '80s through Creative Memories, which is a home-based business like Amway or Mary Kay. But it was in the early '90s that it started to pick up commercially. I think it's popular because it has to do with your family. People treasure those memories about their kids, their life with their spouse, and the trips they've taken. Also, it's a wholesome activity. There's no real complaint to make against scrapbooks, other than spending too much money. It's not immoral or illegal, and everybody's doing it now. We have teens, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers come in. We have male customers from their 20s to their 60s. The area high schools are having the kids scrapbook their lives for their senior project." (Cool Scrapbook Stuff holds marathon crop sessions that run late into the night. Some people show up and scrap nonstop; some people stop by after work, chatting and scrapping, comparing their efforts, trading tips and advice. "It's the modern-day quilting bee," Barney said. There are even scrapbooking cruises.)



3

And there is a scrapbook for every sort of scrapbooker. "Some people are not going to scrapbook every event in their life. But maybe they do a Christmas book, and every year, they add the year's Christmas photos. Then they pull it out at Christmas and use it as a coffee table book for the holidays. Some people see scrapbooking as an overwhelming task, but something like this might be more manageable."

Cool Scrapbook Stuff offers a wide variety of classes, catering to various levels of skill and/or commitment. I liked the sound of Scrapbooking 101. "It's broken into two parts. The first is a lecture in which the teacher talks about terms. What does acid-free mean? Or lignin-free? What does it mean to be archival-safe?" Well, what *does it mean?* "When you scrapbook, you want your products to have a neutral pH, so that they don't yellow over time. Newspaper is very acidic — that's why it yellows. Lignin is a by-product of the paper-making process that can also yellow your pictures over time."

After the lecture, the teacher shifts into doing mode. "Instead of just telling you about adhesives or trimmers, the teacher lets you try some out. With adhesives, there are hundreds on the market. Removable. Permanent. The basic glue stick to the high-tech Cheetah, which dispenses little glue dots in four-inch-wide patterns. To buy 100 adhesives and try them all for yourself would be expensive. Same with trimmers — trimmers cut paper in a straight line. Doing that with scissors is a myth."

Continued Barney, "We want you to work with the teacher and walk out with something completed. The one thing that it's critical for you to bring is four to six photos of one event. We'll help you choose one picture, leave another out, crop one a little bit — things like that."

A more advanced scrapbooker might sign up for something like the recent class for the Bohemia Babe book (**$28**). "That was based on a line of products from a company called My Mind's Eye. It's an interactive book with accessories. 'Interactive' means there might be a pocket with something in it that the reader pulls out or a foldaway page with some sort of closure. 'Accessories' means that the Bohemia line includes paper, transparencies, and die cuts, and they all match and coordinate. Everyone who came to the class got a kit, and they followed the teacher, step by step, to create the book. They learned techniques such as how to distress paper and altering paper. Distressing might mean inking the edge to give a sheet a darker look or roughing up the edge. Altering might mean painting, adding papier mâché, or collage and découpage."

Upcoming classes at Cool Scrapbook Stuff include Scrapbooking 101 (December 9, **$12**) and I Love That Book (December 16, **$22**). The latter is "a kit book, like Bohemia, but a little easier. You learn painting and distressing techniques, as well as how to sand off letters and use three-dimensional products."

The price for all this memory making looked pretty flexible; as with most hobbies, you can spend a little or a lot. "There are books for as little as **$10** or as much as **$75**. Some books are just two pieces of very dense cardboard with paper fasteners." Trimmers occupy a similar price range. "We recommend a mid-range trimmer at **$25**. Pens run **$3** each, or you can buy a set of double-ended Bics in 48 colors for **$112.50**."

Other sources for scrapbook supplies and classes (call for schedules and prices): Scrapbook Your Life, Sports Arena, 619-298-7871; Memories in the Making, Inc., La Mesa, 619-589-8868, and Santee, 619-562-8946; Scrapbook Sensation, Alpine, 619-445-5963; Ever After, Carlsbad, 760-433-9313.

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1. I Love That Book scrapbook
2. Gena Barney
3. Bohemia Babe scrapbook

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Crasher

PURPLE POLISH

by Josh Board

I can't crash backstage parties at concerts. I'm intimidated by the six-foot guys with no necks, their yellow windbreakers, their crackling walkie-talkies. They see through every story I tell in an attempt to BS my way backstage.

When my favorite '80s band, Bow Wow Wow, came to town years ago, I was determined to get backstage. I talked to their tour manager and made an appointment to interview the band.

I met the band in the late afternoon. Singer Anabella Lwin was worried that she didn't have any purple shoe polish. She said she wouldn't have time to get any before the show, and I volunteered to get it for her. I drove around to every shoe place I could find. Some were closed for the day; others didn't have purple. When one confused shop owner asked why I needed purple polish, I said, "A singer in town needs it." Because the guy looked to be in his 70s, I was shocked when he asked, "Prince?"

After an hour, I called everyone I knew. One of my friends had seen shoe polish at Rite Aid. It would be the last place I checked before giving up. They had purple.

I rushed back to the venue, and when Anabella arrived, I handed her the shoe polish. She thanked me and tried to give me money, which I refused. Nicole, the tour manager, gave me a music book as a gift. As I enjoyed the show, I was sure I'd be ushered backstage after the performance. I was wrong.

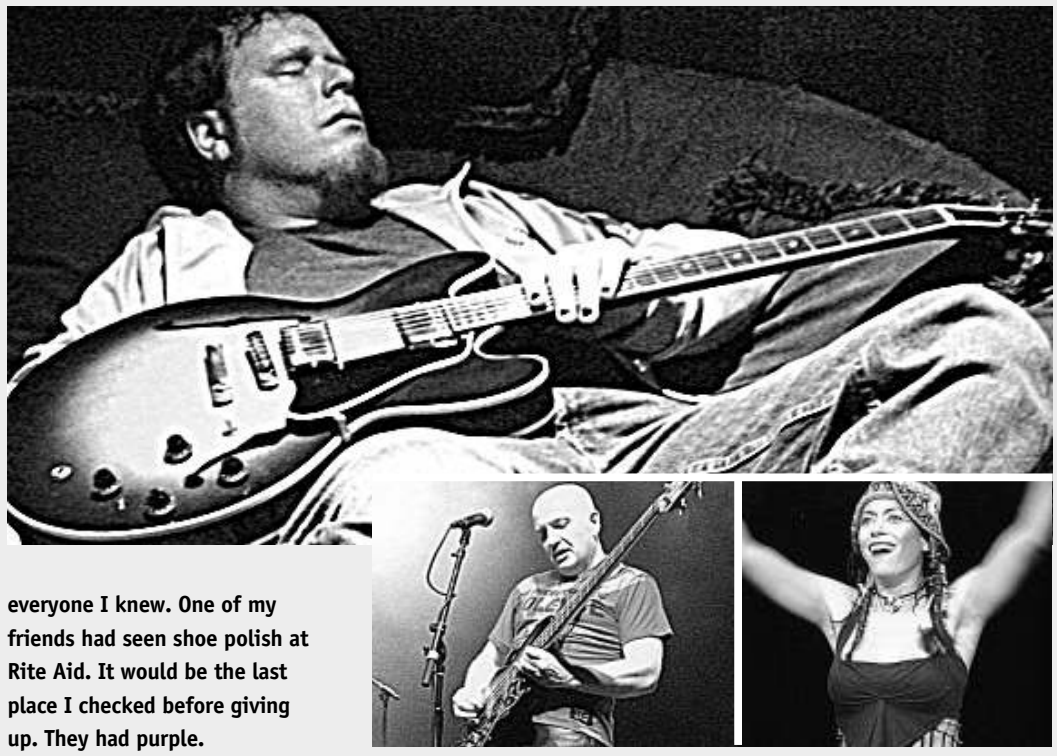
When Bow Wow Wow came to town to play the House of Blues this November, I doubted I'd make it backstage. I tried to get backstage at the Ted Nugent show there, even got the opening band's tour manager to put me on his guest list, but it was to no avail.

I contacted Nicole, who remembered the shoe polish, and she told me I could hang backstage with them after the show. The concert was great. The set was short — they were opening for Dramarama — but they did their hits ("I Want Candy," "Do You Wanna Hold Me?" "Go Wild in the Country").

Usually you're bummed when concerts end, but I was stoked. I'd be hanging backstage with Anabella. You see, growing up, my friends had posters of Farrah Fawcett on their walls — I had pictures of Anabella. When MTV went on the air, my favorite video was the one with Anabella dancing around on a beach. I was thrilled to discover that we were about the same age, which gave me the misguided belief that if I ever met her, I'd have a shot.

I watched Anabella exit stage left and followed by exiting audience right. Should I have brought flowers? Nah, that's going overboard. I had another idea. I went to the merchandise booth and bought one of her shirts, which I hung out of my back pocket.

As I approached the backstage door, I could see the security guard tense up. He was ready for trouble. I had the backstage pass stuck to my leather jacket, and just as he lifted his arm for what I thought would be a left hook, I pointed to the pass. I was being paranoid. He was opening the door for me. I walked a few steps, made a sharp turn, and was backstage. Nicole and I hugged, and she introduced me to Anabella. I reminded her of the purple shoe polish, milking it again. She thanked me, and I said, "I never saw what you used it for." She told me that she never had time to apply it



PHOTOGRAPHS BY NICOLE POWERS

Bow Wow Wow at the start of their fall 2006 tour

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to her shoes. We made small talk, and I tried not to gush over her like the hardcore fan I am. She lifted a big bag, and I asked her if she needed help with it. She didn't. I mentioned the song "C30, C60, C90." It was written about the record industry and how many believed tape-recording albums would hurt record sales. In concert, she changed the lyrics, and I said, "It was clever how you updated that to include the word 'downloading.'" She replied, "Ah, you noticed." She then noticed the shirt hanging from my pocket. She smiled as she yanked it from me, saying, "Look you guys! I have my own shirts now!" She handed it back, thanking me for buying it. I was making progress.

As she went to the corner, I walked past the fruits and chips that had been set up for the band. I met the drummer, who was new to the band, and we talked briefly.

Bassist Leigh Gorman was packing his gear when a fan said, "I love everything you've ever done." Gorman smiled, and I said, "I do too. Well, except for the *Paris* album," a CD by their former manager, Malcolm McLaren. He laughed and told me how long it took to make that record. We talked music for about 15 minutes, and I could see Anabella looking at me from the corner of my eye. Was she wondering why I wasn't talking to her anymore? My ego wanted to believe this, but she was probably wondering who I was — one of the few people back here with her band mates.

I approached her and asked if the blue wig she wore to start the show was distracting. She looked puzzled by the question. I said, "I saw you move it once, like it was about to fall off." She laughed and said, "You noticed that, did you?" I asked her why the band never played "Cast Iron Arm" live, and she told me that song was one of their early demos. One of the opening bands came backstage wanting pictures with her, and I went to talk to their guitarist. He told me he also plays in the band Common Sense.

I heard someone remind Anabella of a previous time they had met. She didn't remember. I told her that *Saturday Night Live* did a skit once where Paul Simon remembered everyone that had ever met him after a show, and he described the clothes they wore at the time. But he didn't recognize Garfunkel when he walked in. She looked to her friend and said, "He has a story about everything." I wasn't sure if that was a compliment or not.

Leigh called me over to the refrigerator and offered me a Heineken. As we talked, I noticed Anabella was getting ready to leave with a few of her friends. I asked if she was still with the photographer. She looked a bit shocked, and I said I had heard her on a radio show years ago talking about him. She said, "No. We were engaged. He's married to someone else now. And has kids. I still don't, though."

My mind raced. She was no longer engaged! I should make a move. She introduced me to one of the ladies with her. She seemed shy. They were about to go out for something to eat. I thought about recommending a place or asking them if they would like to join me for a bite to eat. I could hear Dramarama on stage, and a big guy, Anabella's hairstylist, was ranting about President Bush. It was difficult to hear what they were talking about. I decided I'd just say goodbye. I figured, better to leave before being asked to leave. I was hoping Anabella would ask me to stay longer or to join them. She didn't.

My ego convinced me that we would've gone out together if she didn't have friends with her. My friends convinced me, when I tell this story in the future, and I will, to make up a spicier ending. ■

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11/06

Life's Surprises

by Barbarella

People always overdo the matter when they attempt deception.
— Charles Dudley Warner

"If you can boze, please give me advice. I am sinking vee are have a problem," said David's mother, Ency, in her Zsa-Zsa-ish Hungarian accent.

The last wrinkle we'd helped to iron out occurred months earlier when Ency's local printer produced invitations that would be acceptable only to a colorblind dyslexic.

"We're all ears," I said into the phone, miming to David that he should grab his cordless and follow me to my office.

Ency was in the throes of planning a surprise party for her husband's 70th birthday. This latest call was the most recent in a series of conversations about averting this crisis or sidestepping that obstacle on the path to a perfectly executed party. The last wrinkle we'd helped to iron out occurred months earlier when Ency's local printer produced invitations that would be acceptable only to a colorblind dyslexic. The problem was easy enough to fix — David had them reprinted by Moebius, the same company he employs to produce his photographs, and they came out looking great. But, as we listened to this new pickle she was in, we realized the solution would require more finesse from Ency in order to finagle the soon-to-be septuagenarian into unwitting cooperation.

Planning a surprise can pose a moral dilemma — does the good of making someone feel happy and loved outweigh the evil of the dishonesty required to do so? David's mother does not have a duplicitous bone in her petite body. This is the same woman who, after inadvertently bribing a cop in Chicago, tried to report the officer (until Robert stopped his goody-two-shoes wife by pointing out her culpability in the matter).

Any progress Ency makes toward developing her Devil-given sneaky side is quickly eclipsed by the God-given guilt she feels for deceiving someone she loves. In her attempt to avoid the trauma of being caught in a lie, Ency instead chose to avoid discussing Robert's birthday with him altogether. It was this avoidance that created the "big problem."

Because no one seemed interested in celebrating his milestone birthday, Robert took it upon himself to organize something. And because no one wanted to accidentally clue him in to the secret, they resigned themselves to go along with whatever Robert said he wanted to do. While Ency fretfully listened, Robert made plans to leave the island of Martha's Vineyard and celebrate on Cape Cod with his brother, their 92-year-old mother visiting from Hungary, and a small family posse. Robert was making plans for Friday while the big surprise had already been scheduled for Saturday afternoon, back on Martha's Vineyard.

"Vell, vee just going to have to do boze, I sink," Ency said, after explaining the situation to us. David and I shared a horrified look, and then he gestured for me to take this one.

"Ency, you have to *lie*." I paused long enough for her to gasp. "You need to take back control. Tell him *you* want to take care of everything. Even if he knows *something* is going to happen, he'll think it's only a few family members, and he'll still be surprised when he walks into the Beach Plum Inn on Saturday and sees all the people there. And if that's not enough to convince you to lie, think of how annoying and stressful it will be to take care of any last-minute details from off-island."

David's agreement was enough to seal the deal, and Ency let out a long sigh of relief. We coached her on just what to say and emphasized the importance of keeping Robert out of the plans. That way, not only would he not interfere with the grand plan, but he would also feel cared for.

Robert's birthday was on a Tuesday. As with most Tuesdays, it came and went with little fanfare. Most of his friends, knowing they'd have an opportunity to shower him soon enough, withheld their cards and well wishes. Ency (who would take home the gold if "worrying" were an Olympic event) watched her husband closely. After Robert purchased flowers for himself, Ency went out and got a bouquet of seven long-stemmed roses, one to commemorate each decade of Robert's life. When David and I arrived on Wednesday, Ency told us of how she had watched helplessly as Robert arranged the few cards he'd received around the roses and began taking pictures. Hours later, she reported, after she'd run errands and returned home, he was still at it. The

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idea of her husband's grief over being forgotten had left David's mother in a perpetual state of hand-wringing.

Meanwhile, Robert was distracted by the one task Ency had allowed him, which was to hire a professional photographer to take family portraits. As far as Robert knew, his mother would be escorted to the island by his brother's family for the historic documentation, after which they would all stay for a late lunch in honor of the birthday boy.

From 30 to 100, landmark birthdays seem to be the catalyst for introspection and reflection. November 2006 not only marks 70 years of Robert's life, it also signifies 50 years since he escaped his home country during the Hungarian Revolution. On the day of the surprise, even though he was distracted with the arrival of his mother and brother and preoccupied with the family portraits, Robert was less boisterous than usual. In a voice of quiet disappointment, he pointed out that one of his closest friends had not remembered to call. We were all eager to get him to the party, where that person and many others would be waiting to show their friend how much they really cared.

A few hours later, my stomach fluttering in anticipation, I stood poised with a camera to record Robert's reaction when he walked through the door. Ency was a jumble of nerves; she was half-convinced that Robert somehow knew about the party, just as "the thief doth fear each bush an officer." But, with a growing confidence in her own sneakiness, she had prepared even for that possibility, and harbored a backup surprise up her sleeve.

It is a testament to how much you love someone when your reaction to his joy is comparable to his firsthand experience. Robert, a man known for being loquacious, was stunned into silence as he entered the Beach Plum Inn and recognized the many faces gathered, as their multi-accented voices shouted, "Surprise!" Ency, her face radiant, followed her husband as, through a choked voice, he greeted his friends.

We had a full day to reminisce about the party, to rehash the speeches that had inspired both laughter and tears, before the unleashing of one final birthday bombshell Ency had planned for Monday night. Monday morning, Robert packed up his birthday cards to make way for the first Christmas card he'd already received. The house was quiet, and David's sister, Michelle, announced that since it was her last night before heading home to Seattle, she wanted to have her mother's *kolosvari rakott kaposzta* (a Hungarian casserole dish containing sausage, eggs, cabbage, rice, and sour cream) for dinner that evening.

David, Michelle, and I went into town on the pretense of shopping. But the true nature of our secret mission was to collect Gabi — Robert's childhood friend from Hungary — from the ferry and bring him home for dinner. Fifty years ago, when Robert immigrated to America, Gabi had fled to France.

The energy was high on the ride home. Michelle, David, and I were trying to imagine what Robert's reaction might be when we unloaded the unexpected cargo we'd acquired while "shopping." Gabi, a pleasant gentleman in a small fedora and blue wool coat, had recently flown to New York (to visit his brother) from where he'd been staying in Japan and made the ten-hour trip to the island in order to spend one evening with his old friend before heading back to the city for work, and then returning home to Paris a few days later.

Gabi insisted on waiting in the car for a minute, so as to wander in naturally and ask to use the restroom as if he were a stranger passing by. When we walked into the dining room, it was Ency's turn to be puzzled. She held a camera in her hand and tried to catch my attention. I could read in her distraught face that she thought Gabi hadn't made it. But 30 seconds later, there was a knock at the sliding glass door.

When Robert glanced up, it was as if a beam of sunshine had sliced through the night sky and fell upon his face. Far from speechless this time, he let loose a torrent of Hungarian words, spoken in a buoyant and booming voice as he bounded across the room to embrace his dear friend.

Once dessert was on the table, Robert looked back and forth from his childhood friend to his wife of 42 years. Shaking his head, an enormous smile on his face, Robert rested his glistening eyes on the woman who had surreptitiously orchestrated these magical moments for him and said, "Thank you." ■

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Border Angels

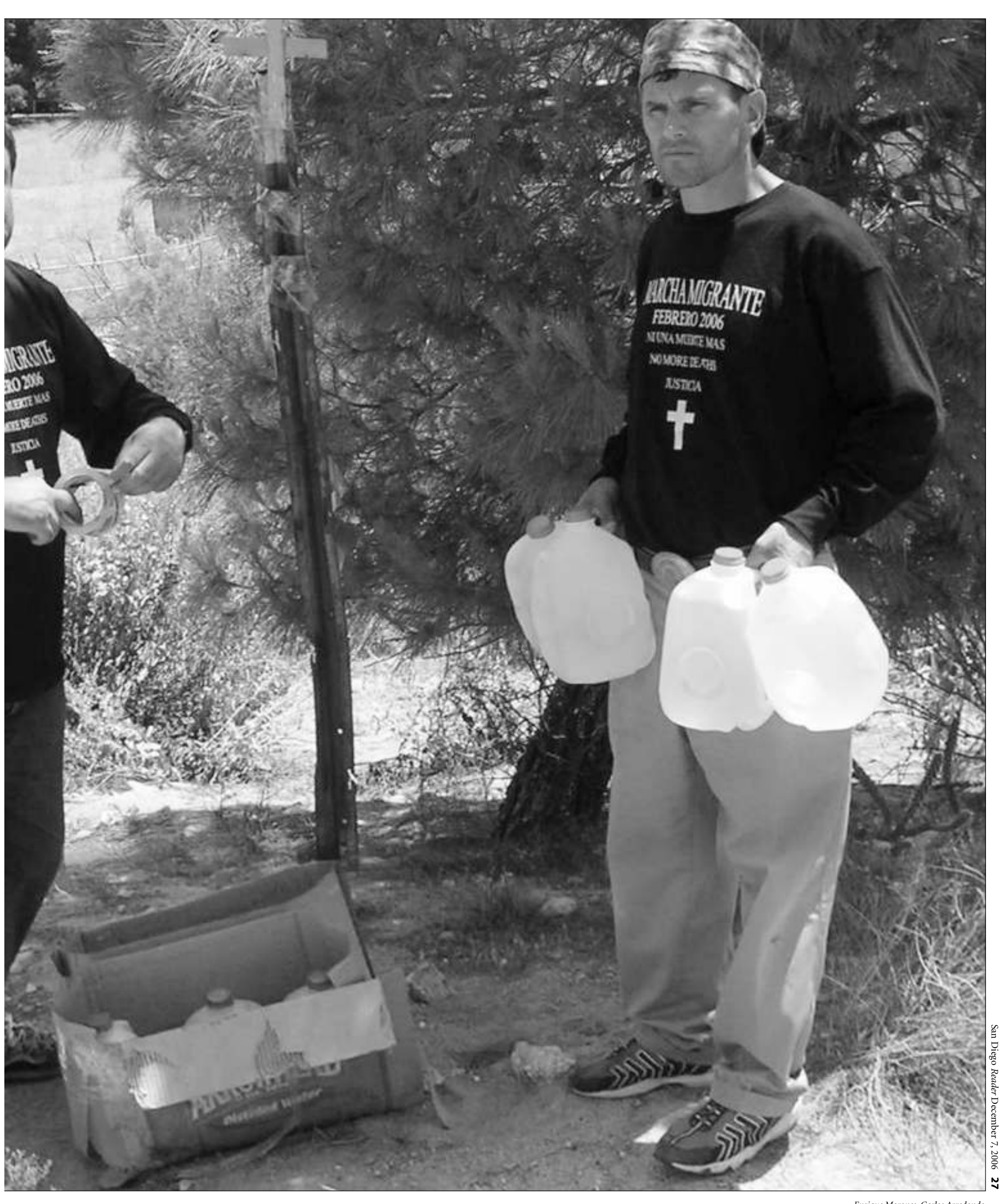
CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

as two agents questioned a group of four Hispanics. A nearby sign warned of "sewerage contaminated water," rip tides, and no lifeguards. Along the beach to the north a man on horseback ambled his way through a Sunday afternoon.

The Border Patrol agent was talking to a pretty, dark-haired woman sitting cross-legged on a stone wall. On either side of him two other agents nodded their heads in agreement or added a word or two of clarification, but they never disagreed. I stood nearby.

About a dozen people were scattered across the park, including two family groups situated along the fence having picnics with friends and family members on the other side. They had lawn chairs, coolers, and umbrellas and passed food through small holes. On the Mexican side a row of parked cars lined the street by the bullring. Further to the right was a crowded street running parallel to the beach. The fence extended into the water less than 30 feet and consisted of upright metal strips with gaps wide enough for skinny kids to squeeze through and tease the agents to chase them.

"We have no leadership at the top," the Border Patrol agent said. "From the president on down, it's a vacuum. Politicians are afraid of the Latino vote. Eighty-eight percent of the American people want something done about immigration, and they won't do it." He explained that President Bush's plan to deal with illegal immigration, as well as the Senate and House plans, were too soft and would only make more problems. "They should militarize the whole border." This was a phrase he said several times, along with "We have no leadership at the top."



Enrique Morones, Carlos Arredondo

The officers didn't realize the young woman was Olivia Schoeller, Washington bureau chief for the *Berliner Zeitung*. She had spent many years in the United States, having attended Bard College in the 1980s, and her accent was slight. Nor did they know that I was a reporter.

I'd come to Border Field State Park an hour earlier and wandered around talking to people. Only one Border Patrol agent had been in evidence, sitting in his jeep by the wall and near the pavilion so he could watch the park and beach at the same time. Then I had driven away. On my way out along the dirt road, four Border Patrol vehicles had sped past me, heading toward the beach. So I had turned around to follow them.

The agent said that when only one officer was on duty at the park, he sometimes had to drive down the hill to the beach. When this happened, "illegals" jumped the fence and hid in the men's bathroom. After a while, they would come out and mingle with people in the park. Consequently, every hour or so "a bunch of us come down here to check everyone's ID."

Casa del Inmigrante

The agent continued to give his view of the situation to Olivia as his companions nodded in agreement. "They say we have 12 million undocumented aliens in this country. We think it's more like 20 million. They are bankrupting the states, draining the social services. They get welfare and free health care. They don't work. They don't contribute to the economy. They don't support our country or have our values. They're not Americans, even when they have citizenship. You see them at rallies waving Mexican flags. Amnesty was a terrible idea. These people who come over here each eventually bring over five family members. In ten years there will be 75 million of them, more than one quarter of the country. We must stop this right now. We all think that."

He went on to praise Operation Wetback, which he said President Truman had established in 1950. Actually, it began under President Eisenhower in 1954, when the Border Patrol, aided by municipal, county, state, and federal authorities swept through agricultural areas and Hispanic neighborhoods with a goal of 1000 arrests a day. Those detained were transported far into Mexico before being freed; many were put aboard ships that took them from Port Isabel, Texas, to Veracruz. After a year, the Immigration and Naturalization Service claimed that 1.3 million illegal aliens had left the country, with half going voluntarily. Other sources put the number from less than a million to as high as 3.8 million. After opponents in the U.S. and Mexico protested "police state" tactics, Operation Wetback ended. Perhaps the INS ran out of money, or perhaps it was the outcry that arose when a few immigrants jumped ship and drowned. Stories differ. Whatever the cause, the agent said that many in the Border Patrol want to revive Operation Wetback. A Google search finds a similar call among a variety of white chauvinist and anti-immigration groups.

"What is a 'wetback'?" asked Olivia.

The Border Patrol officer's misinformation included more than the dates for Operation Wetback. The Pew Hispanic Research Center has shown that undocumented immigrants,

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about 56 percent coming from Mexico, make up 4.9 percent of the civilian labor force, or 7.2 million workers. Immigrants — legal and illegal — send $18 billion a year back to Mexico, making it the country's second largest source of income after its oil industry. Huge amounts of money are also sent to El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and the Caribbean. In addition, illegal immigrants contribute about $7 billion a year in Social Security payments, and most will never see a penny in return. Billions more are withheld from their paychecks in taxes.

Nearly all 7.2 million workers use fraudulent Social Security numbers, which is a reason for the high incidence of identity theft each year: 10 million cases, according to the Federal Trade Commission. Yearly, the Social Security Administration receives eight to nine million earning reports from the IRS filed under names that don't match the Social Security numbers, according to the *New York Times*. The true owner of a number doesn't benefit, and the IRS has issued no penalties for mismatched numbers, though it is a felony to use a Social Security number falsely.

"It's basically a subsidy from migrant workers to the aggregate of American taxpayers," Douglas Massey, a Princeton sociology professor, told the *Times*.

Nor do these 7.2 million illegal workers take jobs away from U.S. citizens. A 2006 Pew Research Center study of 14 states with high immigration rates after 1990 showed "no consistent link between surging growth in immigration and declines in employment for Americans."

Usually, gallon bottles of water are placed in blue plastic barrels topped with a blue flag at the end of a 30-foot pole or with a flashing red light like those used on bikes.

Many see hypocrisy in the immigration issue. Testifying before

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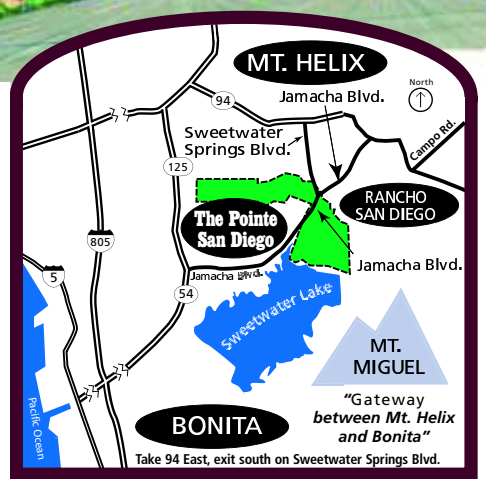

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the House Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Nonproliferation in San Diego on July 5, Los Angeles Sheriff Leroy Baca said the American economy was "largely supported by guest-worker-type labor." To make it a felony to cross the border illegally "would double to triple the cost of everything we eat." The industries hiring the most illegal immigrants are agriculture, construction, and food services. The expense of paying for illegal immigration is the expense of keeping down the cost of food. In late September, the Republican senator from Idaho, Larry Craig, complained that tightening the border hurts growers in the West. "Fruit is not being picked; vegetables are not being harvested," he told the *Times*. And so food prices will rise.

But the Border Patrol agent's arguments weren't vulnerable to logic, because everything arose from his single claim: "They're horrible people."

My visit to Border Field State Park came at the end of a ten-day period of looking into border issues, and everything I learned became filtered in memory through the agent's statement. Clearly, his beliefs weren't those of the entire Border Patrol, though it was distressing to see the agreement of the other two agents. What it emphasized for me was the complexity and divisiveness of the issue. A figure published in the *Los Angeles Times* several years ago indicated that Hispanics made up 40 percent of the Border Patrol. I expect many would dispute the officer's claim: "They're horrible people."

I wanted to learn about a group called Border Angels that, among other things, sets out water in the desert areas of the 66-mile San Diego sector. Another group, Water Station, takes care of 340 water stations in the El Centro sector, while the group Humane Border sees to more than 80 water stations in Arizona. Usually, gallon bottles of water are placed in blue plastic barrels topped with a blue flag at the end of a 30-foot pole or with a flashing red light like those used on bikes. Beginning in January 2002, the Border Angels also set up cold-weather stations in Cleveland National Forest in East County, with blankets, sleeping bags, clothing, food, and water. The water stations tend to be along power lines or paths that migrants have taken in the past. In Imperial Valley about 40 are located at the edge of the desert along Route 98 between Calexico and Interstate 8.

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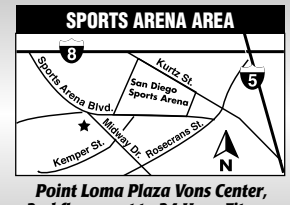

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Placing water stations in the desert to help migrants became an issue after the Border Patrol's Operation Hold the Line in El Paso in 1993 and Operation Gatekeeper in San Diego in October 1994. In the early '90s San Diego and El Paso had 70 percent of arrests along the 1952-mile southwest border, peaking at 800,000 in 1992. In Operation Gatekeeper, 14 miles of corrugated-steel panels were welded into a nearly continuous fence between the beach and Otay Mesa, supplemented in some areas by a bollard fence — thick concrete poles five inches apart — and a high steel fence bent back toward Mexico at the top to keep people from climbing over. In addition to the fencing, stadium lights were erected and motion-detecting sensors set in the ground. More Border Patrol agents were hired. In the San Diego sector, between 1994 and 1998, the number of agents increased from 1000 to 2200. Then the number was allowed to fall below 1400. Now it has increased again to about 1500, with more coming. President Bush promises to add 6000 agents by 2008. Of the 11,000 existing Border Patrol agents, 89 percent work along the U.S.-Mexican border. Agents in the San Diego sector are supplemented by about 500 National Guardsmen — 1000 are promised — who are meant to supply support services. At this date 74.8 miles of fence exists along the southern border. House Bill 4437, passed in December 2005, calls for 700 miles of new fencing, while a Senate proposal approved in May calls for 370.

The first year of Operation Gatekeeper saw 524,231 apprehensions in the San Diego sector. Five years later the number had dropped to 182,267. Fiscal year 2005 had 126,913 apprehensions. But the decrease in the San Diego and El Paso sectors didn't mean fewer illegal crossings, only that migrants were crossing elsewhere. The nine sectors of the southwest border in 1999 had a combined 1.5 million apprehensions, an increase of 20 percent over the first year of Gatekeeper, while in 2000 there were 1.64 million.

Nor is it certain how many people are involved, since it is hard to tell how many cross successfully or how many cross again after being deported. A study by Wayne A. Cornelius, director of the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at the University of California, San Diego, showed that 92 percent of Mexicans trying to enter the U.S. illegally eventually succeed, while Sheriff Baca testified before the House committee that 73 percent of the "deported alien criminals" from Los Angeles come back a second time and that "well over 50 percent" return a third time. A computerized fingerprinting system of all ten digits called IDENT was introduced in the mid-1990s but isn't always used.

When access to the U.S. through urban areas was made difficult by Border Patrol operations in the mid-'90s, migrants began crossing through more dangerous terrain, which in San Diego meant East County. One exposure death occurred in the county in 1994, 4 in '95, 27 in '96, and 29 in 1999. The El Centro sec-

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tor had similar increases, while the Tucson sector — the most dangerous — had ten times the number. And these numbers have risen. Fiscal year 2005 saw 473 migrant deaths, the highest so far, with 216 within the Tucson sector. Between October 1, 2005, and the beginning of August 2006 about 350 have died, about a quarter from heat exposure and slightly more than a third from drowning and in motor vehicle incidents. These numbers have risen even though the Patrol has beefed up its efforts to help migrants in trouble. The Border Patrol's figures indicate a record of 2570 migrant rescues in fiscal year 2005, nearly double the number of 2004.

Since the start of Operation Gatekeeper, the official death count is slightly over 4000. Human-rights workers say the number is closer to 11,000, that hundreds of bodies in the desert have never been found though the Border Patrol and human-rights volunteers regularly search the desert. More than half of recorded fatalities occur in Arizona, and about half of those die of heat exposure. Others might die in the desert from heart attacks, snakebites, accidents, a variety of causes that would never have occurred if the victims hadn't been trying to cross the desert.

Recently, the number of deaths from heat exposure has decreased as more agents are stationed along the border. But traffic fatalities involving migrants have more than doubled since 2003 as coyotes, or *polleros* — the guides leading migrants across the border — try other methods. On August 7, nine migrants died in a crash in the Yuma sector when the driver of a Chevrolet Suburban — in which 21 Mexicans were "stacked like cordwood" — lost control after crossing a Border Patrol spike strip at high speed. This year the number killed in traffic accidents during illegal crossings is about 50.

My interest in an issue so polarized was to reduce my focus to a single drink of water, the water needed to keep a person from dying in the desert. Yet even that single drink isn't free from politics, since volunteer border-protection groups such as the Minutemen have called putting out water aiding and abetting a criminal activity. Officially, the Border Patrol permits the water stations, although for me such statements are now filtered through the unofficial claim: "They're horrible people."

The head of Border Angels is Enrique Morones, a 49-year-old radio talk-show host and former Padres executive who was born in San Diego. His parents moved here from Mexico in 1954.

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wanted to talk to Enrique, he mildly cautioned me, "He's a walking sound bite," meaning I'd hear nothing that Enrique hadn't said to a thousand others. Duly warned, I called Enrique, who was in Mexico City talking with the Mexican foreign minister about human-rights issues, and we agreed to meet at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, July 8, downtown at Pantoja Park on G Street, then we would go out and "put water in the canyons." I had no idea what this meant. Later, when I told Enrique of my friend's remark, he said, "We have to have sound bites just like the Republicans have."

On Saturday, Enrique was in a rush to meet a small group at the University of San Diego who wanted to accompany us. I left my rental car at his condo and climbed into a dark blue Ford Explorer decorated inside and out with bumper stickers attacking the war and racism and an Aztlan bumper sticker supporting Chicano nationalism. Enrique described that particular sticker as a joke and said he didn't support the return of land lost in the Mexican defeat of 1848. This is political teasing. He flaunts the bumper sticker because it upsets the Minutemen, among others. Otherwise, the SUV serves as his office and is crammed with papers, Border Angel T-shirts, flyers, disposable cameras, health bar wrappers, and a Bible.

"I think I lost my address book," he said. "I thought it was under my seat."

Enrique is a big man with graying black hair, a "former athlete with two blown knees" cresting 225 pounds who speaks of the need to get back in shape. He has a squarish, soft face, dark eyes with a yellow-

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ish tint, and a mealsack body, but in his movements he reminded me of the Boston slugger Manny Ramirez, a muscular slouch and ducked head so he looks up at you from under his eyebrows and then looks away. He ran track and cross-country at USD, where he studied international marketing, then transferred to San Diego State, from which he graduated in 1979. Afterward he played soccer and football in local leagues and ran for the San Diego Track Club. He received an M.A. degree in executive leadership from USD in 2002.

Enrique never gives a short answer. Articulate and fast-talking, he presented me with a steady wall of sound. His sentences were like extended press releases, many quoted verbatim from his website, and most devoid of personal commentary, though he is proud of the important people he has met and what he has done. Behind the rapid-fire talk, he struck me as a shy man who used his work to obscure his shyness, as if he would like to change himself from a human being, beset by frailty and difficulty, into a sort of civic statue. On the driver's visor was a photograph of his ex-girlfriend, Stephanie, who is a missionary in Latin America. They broke up over two years ago, but Enrique has been trying to get her back. "The hardest thing," he said, "is not to spread myself too thin. That's what my doctor has told me and my girlfriend too. I try to do too many things. But so many things are blossoming it's hard to stop and arrange them properly. I expect I need to focus more. It's such a big issue I can get distracted by different parts. All the time something comes up. I meant to work on the plane and ended up talking to the person next to me, telling him about what I'm doing and the Border Angels. But I don't believe in coincidences. There's nothing that doesn't

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happen for a reason."

Enrique began bringing water and food to migrants in San Diego's North County with a church group in the mid-1980s. This work expanded after the advent of Operation Gatekeeper to taking water into the deserts and mountains of East County. Then in 2001 he founded Border Angels as a nonprofit organization. A deeply religious man — "I did the Catholic school route the whole way" — Enrique takes his motto and mantra from Matthew 25:35, "When I was hungry, who gave me to eat? — when I was thirsty, who gave me to drink?" More than 1200 volunteers have joined Border Angels in supplying the water stations and taking water into the canyons. Enrique uses these trips to educate people about the fact that thousands are dying in their attempts to cross the border. His job as a human-rights worker is not just to help the sick and suffering but to educate others as to the plight of the sick and suffering.

And what good does it do? At least ten times in my hearing, Enrique repeated his story about a boy who rescues a starfish on the beach by tossing it back in the ocean. When the boy's father says there are millions of starfish and hundreds of beaches and there's no way he can save them all, the boy replies, "Yes, but I can save *this* starfish." The mawkishness of the story doesn't diminish its truth for Enrique, who feels that his duty as a Christian and a human being is to bring water, to bring assistance to at least one other human being, and ideally many more, one at a time. Secondly, he sees his job as telling people about the human predicament and cost, and perhaps also about his particular role and his various successes.

As for the water, he says, "Yes, it makes a difference. I've met people who got the water, and they've told me so." He showed me appreciative letters from people who came upon Desert Angel water stations. "The Border Patrol calls Operation Gatekeeper a success. I would like you to ask the mothers of the people who have died crossing the desert and see if they call it a success."

But Enrique's larger work is as a human-rights advocate, and one of his greatest teachers was Roberto Martinez, who from 1982 until his retirement in 2002 was director of the Border Project for the American Friends Service. Enrique called Martinez his mentor, adding, "He's the man!"

For 30 years Martinez hammered the Border Patrol with allegations of improper detentions and use of excessive force as he defended the rights of migrants. He became for the Border Patrol what Enrique would like to become: a constant pain in the neck. Though Martinez started out as an industrial engineer with a degree from Grossmont College, his interest in human rights led him to accept a job in the early '70s with a community-service agency in Logan Heights. That interest had taken seed years earlier ironically because of Operation Wetback, so highly praised by Border Patrol agents. Despite being a fifth-generation U.S. citizen, Martinez was often targeted during sweeps of Hispanics in 1954. "When I was walking home from high school," he told me, "the police or Border Patrol would pick me up and try to send me to Mexico."

His sense of personal injury grew into a sense of social indigna-

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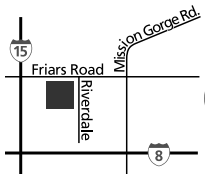

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tion, and by the 1970s he was organizing against police and Ku Klux Klan violence. "I couldn't remain quiet. I couldn't just stand there while the police and Border Patrol were violent. No one taught me anything. It was on-the-job training."

Operation Gatekeeper brought Enrique and Martinez together in 1995. "The wall is responsible for pushing migrants into dangerous areas," Martinez said. "Now they want a triple wall from the ocean to Otay Mesa. The walls are largely symbolic, since migrants can go around them, but they've led to many deaths. I believe two or three people die every day trying to cross the border. Instead of 4000, it could easily be 11,000 who've died in the past 11 years. For every body that's found, there are two or three that are not found."

Martinez has worked with Enrique in arranging events at the border, giving talks and offering help in writing grants. "Most of Enrique's influence comes from setting out the water stations," he said. "This has motivated him to get involved with civil rights and border rights. Throughout it all, I think he's maintained his humility. He doesn't take credit. Putting out water has had a tremendous effect, but the larger effect of Border Angels is to keep the issue out in front and expose the Minutemen and border violence. Enrique is very good at working with young people and involving students. One of his strengths is his eloquence on TV. Enrique can present the issues, and he's probably on the news two or three times a week."

Enrique's professional life developed side by side with his human-rights work. The same year that he met Roberto Martinez, 1995, Enrique was hired by Larry Lucchino to join the San Diego Padres, where he established a department of Hispanic marketing, and in 2000 he was named the Padres' vice president of International and Hispanic Marketing. In 1996 and 1997, Enrique was president of the San Diego County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. During his tenure, membership increased from 100 to 850 businesses. In 2001 he began work to establish the Casa Mexico Pavilion in Balboa Park. The project was completed in 2003. By then Enrique had a talk show five days a week with the Pacific Spanish network and was involved in a Hispanic marketing venture with several partners.

But in 2001 Larry Lucchino left the Padres to join the Red Sox. Shortly after, Enrique's department and position were eliminated. Many said he was fired for political activism, but Enrique chooses not to use the term "fired." He told me he had greatly increased the Hispanic market, and because of this he was notified his position was no longer necessary. He added that Lucchino had invited him to come to Boston, but he chose not to go. The termination of Enrique's job led to wide protest in the Hispanic community, but he himself has never criticized the Padres. On the other hand, he hasn't gone to a Padres game since.

Enrique's human-rights work doesn't always sit well with the business community. When he was establishing Casa Mexico, the approval committee nearly blocked his proposal by presenting a dossier of his political activities. Enrique has also led the opposition to keep San Diego from erecting a statue of former mayor and governor Pete Wilson because of Wilson's support for Proposition 187, which, among other things, cut aid to undocumented immigrants, including health care and education. "When I see Pete Wilson," said Enrique, "the first thing I think of is racism."

So it was inevitable that Enrique's business career would suffer from his human rights work, which grew even busier after he left the Padres. Sought out as a speaker for human rights and political gatherings in San Diego, he also began to show up on national television. The Border Angels website lists appearances on ABC, BBC, CBS, CNN, HBO, NBC, NPR, the *Today* show, Univision's Don Francisco Presenta, Televisa Nacional, Rocio en Telemundo, panel discussion programs with Lou Dobbs and Bill O'Reilly, and other programs.

"I believe the Minutemen shot four people, killing one, in the areas they were patrolling."

In 1998 Enrique was the first person to apply

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for and be granted dual citizenship with Mexico. This led to his founding Mexico's Border Institute, an advisory group to the Mexican president and part of Mexico's Institute of Mexico Abroad. In 2000 the Mexican government chose him to monitor the Chiapas gubernatorial election and the presidential election in Mexico City. When I asked whom he supported in the recent presidential election in Mexico, he refused to say, though he told me he'd spoken about human rights and border issues at rallies for all three candidates.

In May of 2005 Enrique founded Gente Unida, a U.S. and Mexican coalition of 65 human-rights groups active in protesting against and interfering with the operations of the Minutemen and other border-protection groups, as well as coming together to demonstrate about a wide range of border issues.

"I believe the Minutemen shot four people, killing one, in the areas they were patrolling," he said. "The investigation is ongoing. The temperament of this country under Bush has allowed those groups to exist. A Minutemen leader told me that thousands of terrorists had crossed the southern border. I told him to name one. He said, 'I can't, there have been so many.' " Enrique laughed. I asked if the Minutemen had ever interfered with the water stations.

"Oh yeah, absolutely," he said, "they damage our stuff. They sabotage our stations and threaten me personally."

Enrique's activities make a long list, and he seems busy from morning till night, which he says was something his former girlfriend complained about. Impressed by the important people he has met, he is something of a name-dropper, but his vanity seemed tinged with humility. He was flattered that the Mexican foreign minister saw him during a busy election period in July — "He's the Mexican Condoleezza Rice," he said more than once. Yet he always brings the matter back to human rights: it's wrong that people should die attempting to cross the border.

Enrique's outrage has led him to a variety of protest. Here he describes one particular death. "Guillermo Martinez Rodríguez was a young man who tried to cross the border last December here in San Diego, because January 5 is the Day of the Epiphany, the day when the three kings bring the gifts to the baby Jesús, and we celebrate that in Mexico more than here. So he was coming over to work a few extra days so he could buy gifts for his two small kids. He jumped one of the fences of Operation Gatekeeper with his brother Augustín and was about to jump the second when he sees the Border Patrol has spotted him. So Augustín runs back and so does Guillermo, except Guillermo didn't make it, because the agent decided to take out his gun and shoot him in the back, and he killed Guillermo Martinez Rodríguez. And I think that's enough. We need to go across the country and tell people that we don't want any more deaths."

In other places, Enrique talks about the "assassination" of Guillermo Martinez Rodríguez. He organized protests in San Diego in response to the death, and he said it was "one of the sparks" that led him to organize a march on Washington in February when he and a small caravan — joined by more people at various locations — visited 40 cities in 27 days to protest against House Bill 4437 and to

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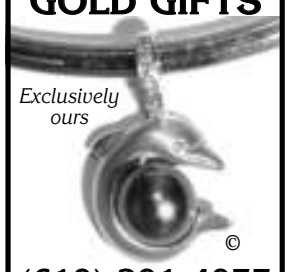

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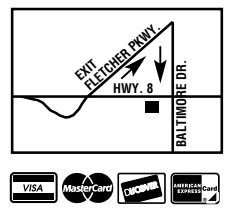

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place 4000 small crosses at the Capital, representing those who died trying to cross the border since the inception of Operation Gatekeeper. In each city there were rallies, speeches, and religious services. Much was said about Guillermo Martinez Rodríguez's attempt to buy presents for his two small children.

Looking at the articles about Martinez on the Internet, one finds greater complexity. Authorities in San Diego and Tijuana have described him as a coyote. His neighbors have said the same. His mother said he was trying to reach Fresno to get a job picking fruit. The Border Patrol agent, identified by San Diego homicide investigator Lt. Kevin Rooney as Fausto Campos, claimed that Martinez was throwing rocks at him and that he shot once in self-defense. He thought he had shot Martinez in the arm. But Martinez was shot in the back — one report said the bullet had exited through his neck, another said his chest. Augustín Martinez Rodríguez helped his brother across the fence and took him to Cruz Roja Hospital in Tijuana, where he died the next day. Of the 52 shootings by San Diego Border Patrol agents between the beginning of Gatekeeper and 2003, almost half occurred during rock attacks. In fiscal year 2005, Border Patrol figures state there were 259 "assaults on Federal Agents" in the San Diego Sector.

Of course, it is possible that Guillermo Martinez Rodríguez never threw any rocks. But authorities say he was arrested and deported on at least 12 occasions, though never charged with smuggling migrants. His brother, Augustín, was previously convicted of smuggling migrants and served a jail sentence in the U.S. Augustín denied that he and his brother were smuggling migrants on the night of the shooting.

So on one hand we have Guillermo Martinez Rodríguez with 12 previous deportations and the charge that he was a coyote, and on the other is Enrique's claim that Martinez was assassinated on his way into the U.S. to buy toys for his children. What disappears here is Guillermo himself. Saint or a sinner, it's a shame he was killed, just as it is a shame that 473 men and women died crossing the border in 2005. I don't doubt that Enrique grieves for the ones who die, but they are also useful to him in his cause and he seems to exaggerate the details surrounding a particular death, as perhaps is the case with Guillermo Martinez Rodríguez. Is that common? I'm sure it happens on all sides of the issue, but it can muddy the water.

Enrique told me

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about Martinez the morning we drove to USD to meet with the volunteers, and he told me about other deaths as well. His website gives a long list of the names of people who have died crossing the border. Often I felt slightly irritated by his rhetoric. But I hadn't as yet had a Border Patrol agent tell me, "They're horrible people."

When we drove up to the campus, Enrique spotted a young woman in a short-sleeved blouse and shorts looking nervously at her watch. This was Sister Elizabeth Brinkman, who teaches in the Religious Studies Department at the College of New Rochelle and had been visiting at USD for a week. During the mid-1960s I spent a year working at a college in Kalamazoo run by the Sisters of Saint Joseph, all of whom wore the traditional black habit, so I was surprised by nuns in shorts, even though they were very decorous shorts.

Migrant/pauper grave in Holtsville

We met up with another car and headed out to North County. Altogether there were three nuns, in shorts two men, and a young female student. Sister Brinkman rode with us. Enrique told us about the shooting of Oscar Abraham Garcia Barrios, 22, by customs and border officers on May 18 on Interstate 5 about 50 yards north of the border, an incident that closed the border for eight and a half hours and created a huge traffic jam. Enrique said he discussed the incident with the Mexican foreign secretary and that the Tijuana police had said on their police radios that the customs agents had shot the wrong man. This, according to news reports, appeared to be mistaken. He didn't tell us that Oscar Abraham Garcia Barrios was accused of being a smuggler.

The incident began shortly after 3:00 p.m. when someone called the Border Patrol to report seeing four possible illegal immigrants getting into a black Dodge Durango near the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. The Durango was spotted on Route 905, and authorities began following it. When the driver, Garcia, realized this, he sped toward southbound Interstate 5, intending to recross the border at San Ysidro, according to another man in the car, José Adolfo Gonzales Fabéan, 26, who was

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later charged in federal court with smuggling immigrants. Heavy traffic forced the driver to pull over to the far right lane, where authorities were waiting. Witnesses said that Garcia had his hands in the air. A U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer knocked on the driver's window but said he got no response. Finding the door locked, he broke the window with his baton. At this point the Durango, now partly surrounded by authorities, lurched forward, and the officer and a Border Patrol agent fired three shots into the car, killing Garcia instantly. Gonzales said that he had been yelling, "Stop, stop!" But another man in the car said that Gonzales had shouted, "Go, go, go!" Authorities first said that officers were in danger of being pinned by the Durango, but that turned out not to be the case. It was also suggested that Garcia had accidentally hit the gas rather than the brake, but the man who said Gonzalez had shouted, "Go, go, go!" also testified, according to the *Union-Tribune*, that he saw Garcia "placing the vehicle into gear by shifting the lever in a downward motion."

Enrique's version of the story suggested trigger-happy border agents, possible misidentification and a cover-up, and no mention of smuggling. A U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesperson said that Gonzalez had been "arrested several times as a suspected human smuggler," but on each occasion he was deported rather than prosecuted. Reading about the event, I felt it was a pity that Garcia had been killed, and I certainly wasn't convinced that his death was necessary. No weapons were found in the Durango, and two of the passengers were juveniles. But policemen, in my 40 years of journalistic experience, always tell stories about cops killed by waiting too long, by giving the suspect an extra moment. Maybe that's true, maybe not, but it's part of their lore. For Enrique the issue is always the border and the failings of the present system. The death of Garcia — in his telling — becomes further evidence. It's also possible Enrique was correct in his description of the event, but in retrospect, what he didn't say seemed equally significant. Enrique doesn't want an open border but "humane and comprehensive border reform," though he didn't tell me

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what that might be.

We stopped at a shopping center off the Ted Williams expressway, and the group bought 50 gallons of water. A clerk helped carry the plastic jugs to the cars. "You guys must really be thirsty," he said.

The canyon's rim was lined with the pricey houses and condos of Torrey Highlands, built in 2003, while in the brush below illegal immigrants had been living for decades. Enrique said there could be as many as 200 at the campsites. One of the men with us, a San Diego lawyer, asked about liability, but Enrique said he didn't know who owned the land. "I don't know the legality of some of these issues. They just turn a blind eye to migrants living in camps on an owner's land."

"They" seemed to be the authorities. The Border Patrol and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, are both part of the Department of Homeland Security but have different but sometimes overlapping duties. Both can apprehend illegal immigrants, but Border Patrol agents are confined to border areas and points of entry into the U.S. Immigrants tend to lump them together under the term "*la migra*," from the Spanish word *migración*, or "immigration" or "migration" in English. So uncertainty exists about who is being referred to.

We drove a narrow dirt road to the bottom of the canyon, then turned south, passing under a highway bridge. Among the brush were cacti with blue flowers. An old Toyota was parked by the trees, but I saw no people. Enrique said that often a few migrants chip in to buy an old car, leading sometimes to deportations when they were stopped by police and asked for ID.

We parked and began unloading about half the water. I spoke to Sister Barbara Quinn, director of the Center of Christian Spirituality at the University of San Diego, who had known Enrique for years. "Enrique works out of his deepest values," she said. She called him "a staunch USD grad."

Sister Quinn and Sister Brinkman had

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been on a Border Patrol tour of the fence the previous day and also visited Casa del Migrante in Tijuana, run by the Scalabrini Missionaries, which opened in 1987 and houses about 200 men for 15-day periods. About 40 percent have been recently deported, and most of the others plan to cross into the U.S. My friend Rex told me he had visited Casa del Migrante and said the director, Padre Luís, tried to discourage people from crossing but also gave them advice on what to do and not do if they persisted. For instance, he warned the men not to drive. Down the street from the Casa is Centro Madre Assunta, an institution for migrant women and children run by Scalabrini nuns.

Both sisters were told, "The Border Patrol has an agreement with growers not to go into their fields." Sister Quinn said the Patrol has admitted turning a blind eye to migrants working in fields and will give 24 hours' notice before going in to apprehend anyone.

I later asked Roberto Martinez about this. He agreed that Border Patrol and ICE agents are told not to go into the fields. "We have a $30 billion-a-year agribusiness that wouldn't exist without cheap labor." He added that agents were also told not to go into the racetracks where migrants might be working. "I've talked to people who were let through the border when they said they were going to work in the fields. It's nothing

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but a big game up and down the border. The Patrol says the same thing."

For years the federal government hardly bothered to prosecute employers of illegal migrants, but that has changed in 2006. In 2002 agents of the Department of Homeland Security arrested 25 employers in workplace raids; in the first seven months of 2006 they arrested 445. About 2700 people seized in those raids were deported. Not all are Mexican or Hispanic. On July 21, ICE agents shut down a Chinese restaurant in Fairfield, Ohio, and arrested its owner, Jing Fei Jiang, charging him with importing illegal Asian workers who were living in the basement of his home.

The nuns had also learned the U.S. military was recruiting young men in Mexico, promising money and a path to citizenship for Mexicans who join up and are sent to fight in Iraq. They questioned the morality of this.

Enrique said, "Because of their economic level, many young Mexicans would never get a visa and so they try to cross illegally. The military offers another way into the U.S."

We walked over a hill carrying gallons of water. Enrique told what he calls "Henny Youngman–type jokes," for instance, that nuns in shorts are a bad habit, which elicited groans. "I don't joke around about the work that I do," he said, "but I joke about other stuff. Sometimes I'll break out laughing in an elevator."

On the other side of the hill an outdoor chapel had been built among the trees and beside a running brook. Pews and tables could accommodate about 50 people, and a pretty, peach-colored altar with green tiles stood in front surrounded by flowers. Enrique said that Mass was held here every Sunday morning. After placing water jugs by the altar, Enrique sat on a pew to tell the others about Border Angels. He sees these as educational opportunities, and it was why the volunteers were there.

"I want to talk about the immigration debate," he said, "framing it from a different point of view, and something that is my passion, which is human rights. As this debate continues two to three people are dying every day. Before Operation Gatekeeper, two to three people would die, maybe, every month. And it's really sad because the people who are dying are Marco Antonio Villaseñor, a five-year-old boy, who was asking his father why he wouldn't turn on the light or give him some water or give him some air. And the reason his father didn't respond was because he

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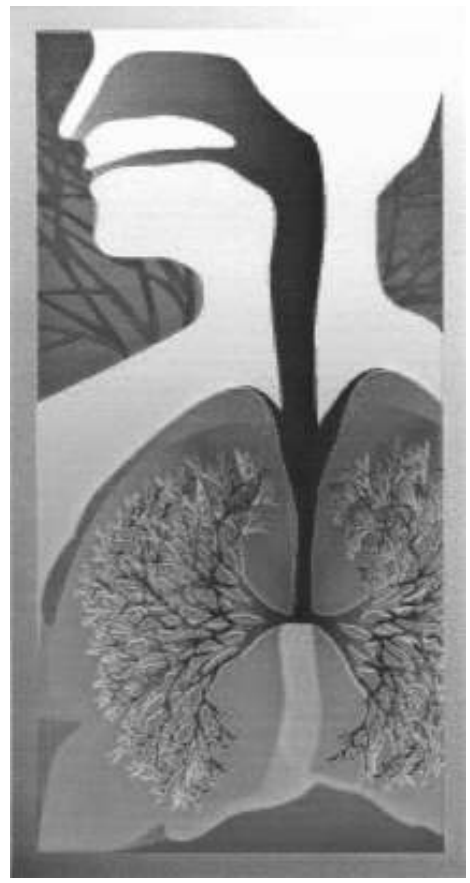

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Profil

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was dead, along with 17 other men in the back of a semi-truck in Victoria, Texas, in 2003. Marco Antonio Villaseñor didn't survive that ride either. Or Victoria Sánchez, a young lady in San Diego who had already crossed, who was being chased by the Border Patrol, although they said they weren't chasing them. The car tipped over, and Victoria Sánchez, who was 17 years old, died, as did three others. We did a press conference announcing it, and a witness showed up and said the Border Patrol was absolutely chasing them. They could see the car was packed, and people fell out when it tipped over. Like Lucrecia Dominguez, who was coming here because her husband was already here, and she brought two of her three children, Nora, 7 years old, and Jesús, 15. They had come over with a group of people and a smuggler. But she slowed the group down a little bit, and they left her behind in the Arizona desert. Well, she stayed with her two children, and she died in the arms of her 15-year-old son. I cannot imagine being 15 and having my mother die in my arms. So Jesús and his sister wander around, and fortunately the Border Patrol picked them up and deported them back to Mexico. Then Lucrecia's father said, 'I want to bury my daughter in Mexico, where they were from.' He's told that he'll never find her because the bodies decompose quickly. The temperature can get up to 127 degrees. When we're out with the Border Angels, we have cell phones and water and cars waiting for us, but these people who are out there don't know if they're going to get attacked by somebody on the Mexican or U.S. side of the border or if they're going to be bit by a snake or a scorpion, etc. Well, Lucrecia died and her father, Rosario, went out into the Arizona desert, where 52 percent of the deaths are taking place. He finds a body out

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there, but it's not Lucrecia, and then he finds another body. He finds three bodies before he finds his daughter. And the only reason he was able to recognize her was because of a ring on her left hand, and he had the body sent back to Mexico. So if he found three bodies before he found his own daughter, how many are really out there? We think ten thousand people have died, but whether it's ten thousand, three thousand, or one, people should not be dying because they're coming here to do the work that nobody else will do or because they're trying to improve their economic situation."

We left the chapel to deliver the rest of the water, driving back along the dirt road. Within the brush and rows of small trees, I saw campsites and clotheslines draped with pants and shirts. The campsites reminded me of the homeless campsites I had seen along the San Diego River near Morena Boulevard, but while those had been surrounded by trash, the migrant campsites were relatively

RESEARCH STUDIES

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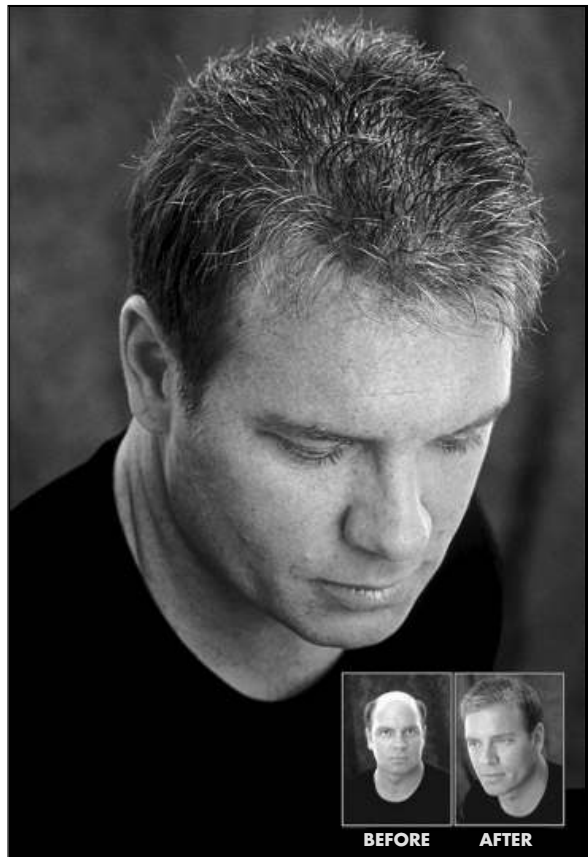

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tidy. A few people glanced out from the trees. Enrique said they were nervous about ICE agents and even the Minutemen. Much of his work with Gente Unida tries to frustrate Minutemen attempts to patrol the border. This ranges from following them to the border and playing loud music or using a PA system to warn migrants against crossing, to playing volleyball over the fence with a group of Mexican human-rights workers on the other side.

Our two vehicles drew to a stop by the trees, and Enrique and the others began to unload the water. I spoke to Sister Brinkman about her visit to Casa del Migrante. She said that the casa had been visited by other groups, making quite a crowd, and she had been embarrassed by the contrast between the visitors' apparent wealth and the residents' obvious poverty.

"Does it matter what you do? Does it make a difference?" She said that even as a nun she could take a shower after working all day, but even that luxury was denied these people. "My own level of privilege and comfort is so much better that it makes me uncomfortable." She admitted that visiting the casa was educational and she would carry this message to others. "The hope is that it will change the way we live." But the economic difference between visitors and residents had left her feeling somewhat depressed.

The size of the Border Patrol has tripled in the past ten years.

Four Mexicans emerged from among the trees after Enrique told them we were human-rights workers and not *la migra*. Three were from Oaxaca, two brothers in their early 30s and a 65-year-old man. They were polite and soft-spoken. None had been here before. Each paid a coyote $800, which Enrique said was very little. The usual price was $1500 and more. The men had been here two weeks but hadn't found work. They said they stood on the road hoping to find construction work or hung around Home Depot. One mentioned Mexico's recent loss in the World Cup. "It's too bad they lost. We'll have to learn how to lose too."

Enrique assured them two weeks was not long to wait, and they probably would find

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something in a few days. He gave them laminated cards from the Mexican consulate in San Diego entitled, in Spanish, "Mexicans: Know your rights." He also passed out copies of prayers in Spanish. The 25 gallons of water had been left in the sun, and one of the brothers moved it to the shade as several visitors took pictures. Enrique took out a disposable camera and took pictures as well.

"I like to document everything," he said, adding, "The Oaxacans are the most durable and toughest in crossing the border. They survive better out there than anyone. The migrants who cross used to stay seven or eight months and then go home. But now it's harder to get across, so they stay longer and even ask their wives and kids to come across, which is dangerous. We need workers, but the guest-worker program that President Bush advocates is basically a rented-slave program."

The water, the prayers, the photographs, everybody shaking hands — the Mexicans seemed to find it strange, but they remained friendly, politely answering questions without being particularly talkative. Enrique said that cars come to take the migrants to work and to Mass. On one occasion doctors from USD held a one-day clinic down here, and Enrique hoped to do something like that again.

Before we left the canyon, Enrique asked the volunteers if any would like to buy a T-shirt from the February migrant march on Washington. They are black, long-sleeved, and extra large — no other styles or colors.

"Don't you have any short-sleeved?" someone asked. It was a hot day.

No, these were winter T-shirts. The man looked in his wallet, then forked out $25. Enrique told me that so far he had sold between 800 and 1000 T-shirts, maybe as many as 1500.

As we drove away, the four Mexicans sitting on the ground by the water jugs waved till we were out of sight.

"This year and last year the Border Patrol has been much more aggressive," said Enrique as he maneuvered his Ford Explorer up the hill. Of all the law enforcement agencies, the Border Patrol has the smallest education requirement. Whenever there is a push to hire a large number of agents it results in problems.

Roberto Martinez told me the same thing. "They have a very weak

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system of weeding out potentially bad agents. There's not enough supervision and accountability. How many agents have been arrested for smuggling drugs, guns, and people and for accepting bribes? The last four arrests have been supervisors and spokesmen of the Border Patrol."

Two weeks after I spoke to Martinez, on July 28, Border Patrol agent Oscar Antonio Ortiz was sentenced to five years in San Diego after admitting he had smuggled at least 100 illegal immigrants into the country, sometimes hiding them in the back of his Border Patrol truck. In the first eight months of 2006, 25 Customs and Border Patrol workers were arrested on corruption charges, and 8 were convicted. In early July, two Border Patrol supervisory agents pled guilty to accepting nearly $200,000 to release smugglers and illegal immigrants, and in June two agents who were brothers apparently fled to Mexico while under investigation for smuggling drugs and immigrants. The size of the Border Patrol has tripled in the past ten years. With more than 11,000 personnel, it is the country's largest law enforcement agency, and it is due to double in size over the next six years. This raises concerns that standards are being lowered. Though 90 percent of the nation's law enforcement agencies use psychological and polygraph testing in recruiting officers, the Border Patrol does not.

Water flag in the high desert

Several days later I went to Tijuana with Micaela Saucedo, one of the most active Border Angel volunteers. She had participated in the march on Washington in February. But Micaela, who turned 61 on October 1, has been busy with human-rights issues for over 40 years.

"I started with César Chávez in 1962," she said. "I picked oranges and lemons in Delano. We worked in the fields to talk to the workers about the Farm Workers Association. I was born in Guadalajara, but I grew up between San Diego and Tijuana. When I was a kid, the border was just a wire on the ground and we'd walk across it to go shopping. They never asked for our ID or papers. We'd do our shopping and go home. This was in the late '50s and through the '60s."

As a young woman Micaela went to nursing school, then worked at White Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles and for Paradise Valley Hospital in National City. Starting in 1982, she worked full time as a volunteer social worker in Tijuana, while still nursing full time at night. This continued until 2000, when "my brain got tired," and she was hospitalized for depression. "I said, 'I've been helping people and now I have to help myself.' I had no energy. It takes a lot of energy to fix yourself. And in the hospital I gained 80 pounds because of the medication, and that made me feel even worse."

But slowly she got better. Three years later, she saw Enrique Morones on the news. "I told myself, 'One day, when I have my energy,

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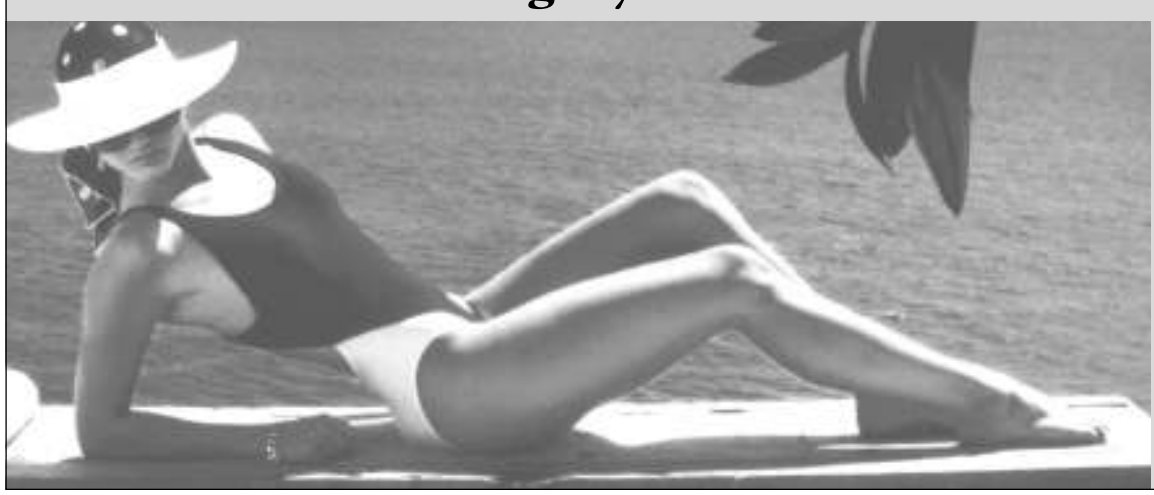

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I will go and join Enrique's organization.' And the time came when I went to Chicano Park in Logan Heights where there were 35–40 volunteers. We went to check out the Minutemen and to plan a march in Salcedo. Enrique's a very humane man, a very honest man, and he really likes to help people. He's always on the run. When someone calls him, he goes right there, and for his girlfriend this was too much. You do this sort of work, it's better to stay single. That's what I tell Enrique. He's always busy, but he still finds time to put water out every weekend. After Gatekeeper began, there was a lot of business for coyotes and a lot of deaths. They'd cross through Jacumba and Otay Mesa. It could be a long walk, up to 13 days. And it's a desert. We put out water in Jacumba, Campo, and Ocotillo. We even camped out for a month near Jacumba to watch the Minutemen. Some others put out water in Otay Mesa. We put water under the freeway bridges in Ocotillo. I'd talk to the migrants about how much they needed and where they crossed, and so we put water in those places. Enrique also puts out a big box with snacks and jackets. When we see that things have been taken, we replace them. Yes, the water makes a difference. I've met people who have gotten water, and they say what a difference it has made. Some people have vandalized the water stations. We don't know who, but Border Patrol agents told us it was the Minutemen. The Border Patrol doesn't interfere with the water stations. One time they had arrested two people who needed water, and we gave it to them. The Minutemen are really bad people. They have no humanity. One time they tried to block an ambulance taking migrants to the hospital. How do the Minutemen have so much money? Who gives it to them? House Bill 4437 would criminalize immigrants, and humanitarians putting out water would be charged with aiding and abetting. We would still put out water. We don't care what the law says. We're responding to God's law, and as a nurse I've seen much life and death. In my heart I cannot leave someone dying. I don't care what the law says. I think the solution is not more walls and to bring in the National Guard. They need a bigger Border Patrol, but they should also give amnesty to people who are already here. But Mexico also has to raise the level of its economy."

A small, attractive woman with dark hair and eyes, Micaela was able to lose weight and get through the depression with the help of a doctor in Tijuana who put her on a strict diet. She retired from nursing but has put more time into her human-rights work with help from her two sons, both corrections officers, who pay her car insurance and help with rent. Modest and unassuming, it would be easy to overlook Micaela. But she exudes sympathy and interest without seeming nosy or pushy. She gives the impression of being someone to whom one can tell everything. I saw her begin conversations with total strangers with a gentleness that made it seem she had known them for years.

We drove to Tijuana

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in her older-model Saturn. A dark hole and protruding wires indicated where the radio used to be. Someone had broken into the car when she left it parked on the street in Tijuana. "My fault," she said. "I should never have left it there."

I asked Micaela what she had done as a volunteer social worker in Tijuana.

"I used to work close to the government, to the mayor's office. The migrants in Tijuana had no money to pay rent, and so we saw to it that the government got land for the homeless." She said she would study the city budget and learn what amount was available to help people. Then she would go lobby the mayor. "Some communities needed light, water, pavement. We took a list to the government and the government provided. I also used to teach the girls in prison in Tijuana how to cut hair. These were women who had been arrested for transporting drugs — *mulas*. Some had to stay in jail from five to ten years before their trial. So I would help getting them to trial. I taught hair-cutting, other volunteers taught sewing."

She showed me a snapshot of herself surrounded by a half-dozen hefty women who had been her students. When she first started teaching the women to cut hair, men and women were housed together, so she worked to get the government to open a separate prison for the women.

Micaela drove across the border at San Ysidro. There was little traffic entering the country, and she hardly slowed. On the other side, four lanes were backed up for over a mile. Three hundred thousand Mexicans cross back and forth

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As we moved into the city, the temperature seemed to increase ten degrees. I'm always struck by how many risky shortcuts poverty entails. An outlet on the side of a building had at least 20 wires going into it. Micaela spoke of having bought a new apartment in a Tijuana apartment complex that quickly began to fall apart because the contractor used cheap concrete. Building and electrical inspections that we take for granted in the States are often a luxury here. The streets were crowded, and the traffic had a jittery quality, as if the local gasoline had been spiked with caffeine.

On the way to the beach we took a closer look at the fence: rusted corrugated metal sheets originally used by the U.S. military as temporary landing strips. Enrique told me they were used during Operation Desert Storm, *New York Times* reporters have dated them from Vietnam, while an *L.A. Times* reporter wrote they were used in World War II. Whatever the case, they have seen a lot of use. Looking through the fence into no-man's-land, I saw the sleek bollard fence about 20 yards away and then a third fence farther on. A Border Patrol jeep was parked between them, functioning as a human scarecrow. "Sitting on an X," the agents call it.

Ten minutes later we arrived at the hill above the beach and parked by the Tijuana bullring. In the backseat, Micaela had a box of 15 small brown paper bags, each containing a ham and cheese sandwich, an orange or apple, and a can of orange juice. She gets the bread cheaply at a Chula Vista bakery near home and told me that each time she crosses the border, she brings these bags to give to hungry migrants. She said this casually, as if it was perfectly natural, but the expense and time involved must be considerable.

Through the fence, Border Field State Park was deserted, since it is only open on the weekend, but the beach on the Tijuana side was crowded and streets were busy. Above the beach was a small square where people can admire the ocean view. Beneath it were restrooms and an outdoor shower. Six men sat on a bench, and Micaela said they were waiting to cross. Several had been washing clothes and hanging them on branches to dry. She went to talk to them, taking six lunch bags with her. She asked the men if they had eaten and then gave each a bag. Nearby was a truncated obelisk pressed against the fence, a monument erected in 1851 to commemorate the 1848 treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, by which Mexico lost half its territory.

"It used to be real nice here," said Micaela. "People brought gro-

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ceries to people on the other side, but no more."

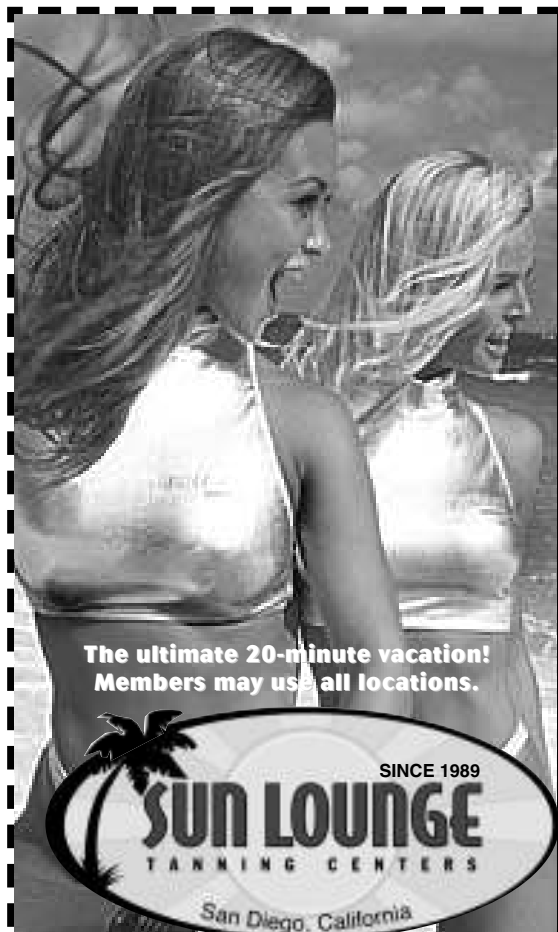
She talked to a man washing his clothes who had been deported with two others five days ago. He had crossed at the beach, going around the end of the wall. The other two had crossed again, and this man was waiting for his chance. He hadn't eaten, and Micaela gave him two bags. He was from Puebla and worked construction in San Diego, but had been seized by *la migra* at the construction site. Tonight or tomorrow night he would try again. The best time, he said, was during the Border Patrol's shift change. Guard dogs ran free on the U.S. side, so he would have to take food to distract them. Micaela tried to discourage him from crossing, stressing the danger, but he said he needed to send money to his family back home.

After an hour, we drove across town to Casa de Migrante. The traffic was terrible because of a bus-driver protest against corrupt officials who overcharged for permits. In front of City Hall dozens of buses were double-parked.

Micaela said she went to Tijuana nearly every day and often more than once. She tried to make sure she was at the border every night at 10:00, when people caught by the Border Patrol were released.

"Mainly I worry about the women and children deported at night who don't know where to go. If I can't drive them, I give directions on how to get to the Centro Madre Assunta or Casa del Migrante, or if I have money I'll get them a cab." She praised the Chilean Don Francisco, host of the TV variety show *Sábado Gigante*, who donated $125,000 to the two shelters in 2005. She was impressed that a man born of German-Jewish immigrants would give so much to a Roman Catholic charity.

While at the border at night, Micaela also



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identifies men and women who have been deported on other occasions, to try to determine what percentage of the people in the Border Patrol's figures have been apprehended more than once. "Many of those arrested have been caught maybe three times, and this inflates their statistics."

She described two with whom she had recently talked. "One man had been here for 20 years picking fruit. He was driving and the police stopped him. He didn't have a license. He said he would have to come back because he had family in the States, and after a week I learned he had crossed again. Another man had crossed through Arizona, walked for six days, and was then caught on his way to L.A. Some become disheartened after being caught several times, and I try to collect money to send them to their homes in Mexico. The *polleros* are at the border recruiting people who have just been returned to take them back. There can be as many as five *polleros* working together: one *pollero* recruits, the second keeps a house in Tijuana where they wait to cross, the third guides them across the border, the fourth has a house on the American side, and the fifth takes them to a destination." It was $4000–$5000 to take someone to Miami and around $2000 to Los Angeles. Some *polleros*, she said, brag about working with the Border Patrol.

"When I see the *polleros* at the border, I talk to the police and identify them and say, 'Hey, why aren't you doing anything?' The police question them and might take them to jail. It gets dangerous, because the *polleros* get angry with me. But I never feel afraid. I always ask God to help me. Some nights the *polleros* will stare at me when I help people who are being deported. I worry a little, but not much. Some of the deported men are gang members, probably from Los Angeles. I'm not against deporting them. Many of the criminals stay in Tijuana, but the Tijuana authorities aren't even notified when the criminals are deported."

We ascended the steep hill of Avenida Baja California and turned right on Calle Galileo, where the Casa del Migrante was located. The street was empty except for six men on a corner.

Conservatives from Bush to the Minutemen were able to jar people from their complacency with fear, warning about terrorism, or that millions of Mexicans were flooding across the border to take our jobs.

Micaela identified several as drug addicts with whom she had spoken at other times. They were hoping someone would hire them, thinking they were migrants. They ran toward our car but stopped when they recognized Micaela. One followed and said he was hungry. He promised to give food to the others. She gave him six bags, but instead of sharing he ran off down the street, keeping them for himself. Micaela

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shrugged. "They're sick," she said. "They can't help it."

We parked by the Casa, a concrete building with a locked gate through which was visible a patio. In red letters above the gate it said Centro Scalabrini and, in Spanish, "I wandered as a foreigner and you took me in." A woman came to tell us that Padre Luís was in retreat and no one was allowed inside. Two migrants stood, waiting to enter. Micaela gave each a bag with a sandwich, the last of the food. Tomorrow she would bring more. I guessed that she probably brought several thousand bags a year. She shrugged it off as one more small thing.

One of the men was a skinny fellow with a tattoo. A tag around his neck identified him as a worker in the presidential campaign of Andrés Manuel López Obrador, the former Mexico City mayor. He said he had tried to cross the border in the state of Coahuila, across the Rio Grande to Texas, fording the river at night with a group strung out in a line all holding hands. When it got too deep, they let go and swam, but he couldn't swim and almost drowned. One of the others came back and saved him, but he still couldn't cross. Next he had taken a bus to Tijuana and had already stayed at the Casa for 15 days, which was the limit. He said that for a number of years he worked construction in Anaheim, where he had been an electrician, but then he had been deported. His family still lived in Anaheim, and he hoped to

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rejoin them. He said he worked with López Obrador's campaign, explaining López Obrador's program to people, for which he had been paid $30 a week. Micaela warned him not to wear the Obrador tag, that López Obrador was no longer popular now that he was contesting the election against the apparent winner, Felipe Calderón. But the man said he had lost his ID, and the tag was the only ID that remained to him. He hoped that someone in the Casa could help him get new ID.

Micaela said she didn't particularly like López Obrador. "Whenever he loses an election he contests it. He has huge demonstrations."

The second man had recently arrived from Oaxaca. He was surprised and grateful for the bag of food. He hoped to get into Casa when the doors opened at 4:00. The men ate their sandwiches and spoke of their troubles. The Oaxacan had unsuccessfully tried to cross two days before. Now he wasn't sure what to do. Micaela suggested that it might be better to return home, but he said he needed money for his family.

Micaela had to make another stop before going back to Chula Vista, and instead of waiting to enter Casa del Migrante later, I decided to go with her. Her unassuming character mixed with her quiet passion to help others made her remarkable in my experience. She was nearly invisible as she went about her work, yet for 43 years she had dedicated herself to improving the lives of others.

She drove to what appeared to be an old garage on Calle Dolores, down the hill from the Casa del Migrante, which housed El Centro de Información para Trabajadoras y Trabajadores (CITTAC) and two other groups. CITTAC helped Mexican workers, mostly in the maquiladora industry, with job-related human-rights issues, provided free legal advice in labor matters and helped workers create democratic labor organizations and collective-bargaining contracts and also ran the small monthly newspaper *Boletín Maquilero*.

More than 2700 maquiladoras are located in Mexican border states, representing 71 percent of the maquiladoras in Mexico. Tijuana has over 600 with over 1000 in Baja California. At one point the city was nicknamed TVjuana for all the electronics companies that assembled TVs, but many also produced medical products for hospitals, doctors' offices, and laboratories, like medical masks, tubing, and beakers. About half the maquiladoras are American owned.

Workers earn as little as $5 for a 12-hour day in an environment often unprotected by the labor, safety, health, and environmental regulations found in the U.S. This results in a high number of on-the-job injuries, while exposure to chemicals and radiation has caused serious health issues. I had assumed that even though $5 a day wasn't much for 12 hours of work, the cost of living in Tijuana was lower than in the U.S. — but this was only partly true.

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"Beans, tortillas, and potatoes are cheaper in San Diego than in Tijuana," said Micaela. "Mexicans come across the border to shop at Wal-Mart."

The office had one large room with high ceilings and concrete walls, with a smaller office in back. It was cooler than outside but stuffy, though a fan was blowing. One window was situated high on the wall, and the room was dim. Many chairs were scattered around, giving evidence of meetings held late in the day, and the walls were covered with labor posters and announcements. A battered desk supported an old computer, telephone, and stacks of pamphlets; other desks were also stacked with pamphlets. Against the wall a white sink had a bucket, rather than a pipe, beneath the drain.

A pretty woman in her mid-20s, with shoulder-length black hair, who I'll call María, came out of the smaller office to talk. She and Micaela greeted each other warmly.

Micaela had brought two dolls, each over two feet tall and wearing elaborate gowns, still in their boxes. They were brand new and expensive; she'd gotten them from her sister. She suggested that CITTAC hold a raffle, selling tickets for ten pesos each as a way to raise money for the association.

Micaela also carried a grocery bag filled with partially used bottles of prescription medicine collected from people in her apartment complex and other places, medication no longer needed. This would go to a clinic to care for people without insur-

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ance. For me, the dolls and medication were further examples of how Micaela's mind was constantly focused on socially useful projects.

María seemed smart, eager, and energetic. She said she was from the state of Puebla in central Mexico, where she had worked in the fields. She had come to Tijuana four years earlier because she felt that working in a maquiladora, being in a building rather than in the fields, was glamorous and sophisticated. The experience soon disabused her of this idea. She had been at her first maquiladora for eight months, working in fabrics, for $5 a day. Often she had to work more than 12 hours — once for 20 hours — with no overtime pay. There was no toilet paper in the bathroom and no safety masks for the dust except when the inspectors came. Afterward, the masks and toilet paper were taken away. Thirty minutes were allowed for lunch and 45 minutes of rest for every 12 hours of work. Often in the maquiladoras, the lunchroom had only two or three microwaves for use between 200 and 1000 workers.

After eight months María learned that by law ten percent of the profits had to be shared with the workers, and she asked where the money was. The company responded by telling her to resign. María refused. So she was locked in a room and told she wouldn't be let out till she signed a letter of resignation. They also threatened to punish her family. María still refused to sign, and after a day of being locked up, she was let loose and they fired her.

After that, she was blacklisted and could only get another job by saying she had never worked. Over the next three years she had jobs in five factories — not maquiladoras — but in each she was considered a troublemaker and was let go. She went on to speak of the dangers of the maquiladoras, exposure to chemicals, and a story of a woman dying of cancer. Despite her rhetoric of moral indignation, the mass of anecdotal evidence was daunting. In the office she counseled and advised workers who had been injured, or fired, who had not been paid, or allowed vacation time, who had been forced to work more than 12 hours a day, or had been sexually harassed, a multitude of charges that might

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She said the long hours made it difficult for workers to improve their lot by going to school or even looking for another job, meaning they were forced to live in marginal poverty, while surveillance cameras, security guards, and a variety of threats kept them quiet and apprehensive. It began to make sense that someone would sneak across the border to work all day picking lettuce, when the money earned was more than he or she would earn in a maquiladora. In the same way that illegal workers kept food prices low in the U.S., so did poor working conditions and low wages keep down the price of everything from automobiles to syringes. One often hears the regulations placed on industries and the workplace in the U.S. should be softened, since, after all, the owners are humane people and no one would suffer. But as María spoke of the maquiladoras, I felt glad for every regulation we have in place, while feeling we could use a few more.

Leaving the CITTAC office, Micaela wound her way toward the border until joining a long line of cars. We inched forward in the heat as vendors hawked everything from ice cream to life-size statues of the saints. An enterprising dentist could set up a practice by the side of the road and have the time to crown several teeth before his patient reached the crossing. It took two hours, less than usual, Micaela said.

The day before, I'd gotten a phone call from Enrique, who had been kicked out of a luncheon in Los Angeles that was part of the National Council of La Raza's (NCLR) annual conference. The guest speaker was Karl Rove, the president's deputy chief of staff. Enrique had stood up and shouted something like "I protest the presence of the architect of death and destruction on two continents. He is no friend to Hispanics."

Later, listening to Rove's speech online — he spoke about being the grandson of Norwegian immigrants — I heard the muttering of Enrique's protest in the background, but Rove never paused in his delivery. I expect he has been interrupted before. Originally, Enrique told me that Rove had been an "unannounced" speaker, but it was clear from the NCLR's news release two weeks earlier that Rove was scheduled, presumably to balance out former President Bill Clinton, whose speech had opened the conference Saturday morning. Enrique told me, "Somebody gave me a lunch ticket." And later: "The NCLR has been getting too moderate and has lost a lot of appeal with Latinos."

Micaela said that Enrique knew perfectly well that Rove was going

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to speak. She had also been invited to the convention. "We were invited to go and protest. Enrique meant to stand up and protest. He had a ticket. He knew he'd be thrown out. We've never had to bail him out, but we're always prepared for it."

As we inched through the heat, Micaela struck up conversations with vendors she recognized, and some she didn't. I thought about how she differed from Enrique. He was always a presence, stating and sometimes overstating his case. He was assuming, where Micaela was unassuming. She would rather pass out sandwiches to migrants in Tijuana and give away dolls to be raffled at CITTAC than make a ruckus at the NCLR's convention, though in over 40 years she had taken part in many protests and demonstrations. I expect it was Micaela and a few others who kept the Border Angels focused on maintaining the water stations. Enrique seemed involved in a dozen different projects, and the water stations were a way of telling people about the border, while for Micaela, it was a simple matter of giving water to the thirsty, just as she gave sandwiches to the hungry. Certainly, this was also important to Enrique, but at times it got lost in the politics of the situation.

At one point as we were waiting in line, Micaela said, "Mexicans are harassed in the United States all the time, but we're friends, we're family. We never harass Americans in Mexico."

At another point she talked about her two sons and seven grandchildren. She was to see one granddaughter the next day. "My sons say, 'Mama, how long are you going to do this? You said you were doing it for us, but now we have good jobs.' And I say, 'Now I'm doing it for my grandchildren.' "

A day or so later I rode out to Border Field State Park with Enrique to visit Smuggler's Gulch, an area popular with migrants attempting to cross the fence. With us came Ricardo Aguirre, a 49-year-old telejournalist who ran America En Español, which creates programs and supplies video footage to Ecuador and other South American countries. A citizen of Ecuador, Ricardo lives in northern New Jersey, close to New York. He was a benign figure with a slight pear shape and a mild, cheerful demeanor. He had flown to San Diego to film a piece on the border, accompanied by his girlfriend and his poodle, Lucky, who he called "my baby." The seat for Lucky had cost $160. Ricardo wore a black polo shirt and light blue slacks. Besides his equipment, he carried a supply of souvenir New York City key chains as gifts. Mine had representations of the Brooklyn Bridge, Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, and World Trade Center.

Enrique took Monument Road to the park and then turned left into Smuggler's Gulch, telling us he had earlier called the Border Patrol to say he was bringing two journalists into the area. "Although we're not necessarily friends, we have a working relationship. They know me." He said the Border Patrol wanted the Army Corps of Engineers to fill in the gulch with 2.2 million cubic yards of dirt, cut off the tops of Spooner's and Lichty Mesas on either side, and build a 90-foot-wide all-weather road along the top. The reserve contains about 2500 acres of parkland and a few parcels of privately owned land. Laurels and tamarisks bordered the road, while to the north were horse ranches.

Enrique told Ricardo about how the Secret Service had removed him from the La Raza luncheon during Karl Rove's speech. He regretted being unable to protest Governor Schwarzenegger's appearance as well, since he felt the governor sup-

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Actual Patient & Model

ported the Minutemen and has argued that the border should be closed.

He parked near the fence — constructed from rusted steel landing mats — and we climbed out. Ricardo brought his video camera. The fence didn't go all the way up the steep sides of the mesas, and even the clumsiest climber could go around it. Two Border Patrol jeeps were parked near the top of Spooner's Mesa. It was a 310-foot drop to the floor of the gulch where we were standing. The sand was covered with footprints and bits of trash. We looked through holes in the fence to the brush beyond, where Enrique said migrants were probably hiding.

Shortly, a Border Patrol supervisor arrived, a lieutenant with a Hispanic surname that he asked me not to use. He said he had been in the Patrol for 14 years and covered the area between San Ysidro and the beach. He and Enrique had known one another for some time. He was friendly, though with a slightly ironic manner.

I said that it appeared rather easy to get around the fence.

"If it were really easy," he said, "the coyotes wouldn't charge so much money to lead people across. Besides the lights, there are old Vietnam-era sensors in the ground. They have little antennae sticking up which pick up vibrations. But dogs and horseback riders also set them off. Why don't you guys try running through here and see how long it takes before someone shows up. You've got about a quarter-mile, and then you're home free."

I later learned that the border area was also watched by 48 infrared video cameras working 24 hours a day.

Enrique asked when they would start filling in the gulch, but the supervisor said the plan had been put on hold. Environmentalists with Border Field State Park have said the plan would be an ecological disaster and violate California's coastal-protection law.

Enrique told the supervisor about the march on Washington and what he had been doing. The supervisor seemed politely interested but not forthcoming. Ricardo filmed the fence and then panned to the jeeps on the mesa. When the supervisor left, Enrique spotted someone in the chaparral on the other side and called to him.

Soon a thin man in dungarees made his way to a six-inch gap in the fence. He said his name was Isabel Cienfuegos. He was 30 and from the state of Guerrero, where he lived with his wife, three kids, and his parents. He hoped to do agricultural work in California and send money home. He was quiet and good-natured. Enrique gave him $4 for water. The man said he was with a group of six people that would try to cross during the night. But I expected the stadium lights on the poles above us would make the gulch as bright at midnight as at noon. The man said he had tried to cross the week before in Tecate with a

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coyote but had been caught, held in detention for about six hours, and then released at the San Ysidro crossing. He'd tried to find work in Tijuana, but it was very hard unless you knew someone. Enrique gave him a printed prayer, told him about the Border Angels and the march on Washington. Ricardo filmed the whole business.

Enrique had on one of his black, long-sleeved March-on-Washington T-shirts. Wanting to give it to Isabel Cienfuegos, he walked back to his Ford Explorer to change, "so you don't see my white body." He put on a yellow T-shirt, then layered the black T-shirt over the yellow one, rejoined us by the fence, and again removed the black T-shirt and gave it to the man on the other side. Ricardo was still filming.

Ricardo gave the man $20, also for water, and had his picture taken with him, as did Enrique. Isabel Cienfuegos must have thought we were completely nuts, and I didn't believe he had much chance of sneaking across through Smuggler's Gulch, no matter what time he tried it. On the other hand, he had just received nearly $25, a week's wages at a maquiladora.

Enrique apologized he couldn't spend more time with Ricardo and me, but once a year he had to take his nephew — now ten — to Legoland, and today was the day. Because Enrique disliked the rides — "They terrify me" — he had also invited his nephew's best friend.

Ricardo Aguirre had an appointment at Border Patrol headquarters in eastern Chula Vista with a public information officer, Wendi Lee, so I drove him. As it turned out, I interviewed Ms. Lee and Ricardo filmed it. We talked in a meeting room off the lobby. Attractive, energetic, and charming, Ms. Lee was about 30 and had been in the Border Patrol for four years and with the public information section since February. Prior to that she worked undercover for a year and a half. She was Hispanic and bilingual, speaking both languages with no hint of an accent, according to Ricardo. Before joining, she worked at an orphanage, but she had family members "in police work." She rattled off figures from her information packet — 117,000 people apprehended in the San Diego sector in 2006 as of July, but "those arrested could have been

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arrested more than once." She told us the landing mats used to make the fence dated from World War II.

Rescues were up this year, she said, with 99 between October 1 and mid-July, as opposed to 91 for the entire previous year. "We have three paramedics out in the field. We carry water, and if someone needs water we'll give them water. We're not against putting out water, and we don't support it."

I asked her about the possibility of unfound bodies in the desert and mountain regions.

"I think the number is insignificant," she said. "We have a good relationship with Grupo Beta. When we hear that someone is missing, we notify them and the families will be called, or they will notify us about someone who is missing."

Begun in Tijuana in 1990, Grupo Beta is a search-and-rescue group operating on Mexico's borders as a branch of the National Migration Institute. It sets up water stations, marked by blue flags, and provides help to migrants in trouble.

I asked Ms. Lee about Enrique's charge that the Minutemen had destroyed Border Angel water stations.

"It's something between them," she said. "We're not against the Minutemen, and we don't support them."

I felt Ms. Lee's background in orphanage work had helped her as an information officer. Pleasant and even-handed, she was probably used to questions from the hostile, aggrieved, and frustrated. Ricardo filmed our discussion, and I wondered about my chances of becoming a TV personality in Ecuador. As we left, Ricardo gave Wendi Lee one of his New York City souvenir key chains. She mistook it for candy, saying, "Oh, no, I shouldn't, I'm trying to lose weight."

Sunday morning I met Enrique at 8:00 a.m. in Pantejo Park in front of the statue of Benito Juárez, who served as Mexico's president between 1861 and 1872, the only full-blooded Native American ever to hold the job. Enrique said he liked the symbolism of meeting in front of the statue. We were headed to East County to check on Border Angel water stations, but the occasion was another chance to talk about human rights. Along with Ricardo Aguirre were Olivia Schoeller, Washington bureau chief for the *Berliner Zeitung;* two journalists from the bilingual section of the *Sacramento Bee;* and two antiwar activists.

Enrique spoke to his audience in front of the Juárez statue, repeating many of his standard remarks: "Instead of two or three dying every month, we have two or three a day. They're chasing people to death. My job is to tell the stories: of Victoria Sánchez, 17 years old, killed with two others when the pickup truck in which they were riding was chased by the Border Patrol and flipped over. And Lucrecia Dominguez, left behind by smugglers in the Arizona desert.… It's a human-rights issue, not a Republican or Democratic issue. That wall is not the answer. We must build bridges of communication." Then he again told the story of the boy throwing the starfish back in the ocean.

A woman in a third-floor condo across G Street called out, "Why don't you turn around and talk from the other side, because you're annoying me!"

Enrique lowered his voice but continued. For Enrique, every occasion is political, an opportunity to repeat the anecdotal history of migrant deaths. People walked by, avoiding us as crazy or too eccentric.

"People attack the migrants, saying, 'We came here legally,' " said Enrique. "I say, 'And what would the millions of Indians you slaughtered say to that?' "

Shortly, we got in two cars and headed out toward East County. I asked Enrique how he had enjoyed Legoland. He laughed. "I never liked any of those rides, not even the slow ones. It was exhausting to follow around two ten-year-olds. My favorite ride is right here." He patted the seat of the Explorer.

During the week, I had seen Enrique at two other functions: an anti-

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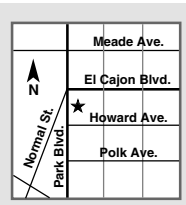

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HOLLYWOOD TANS

war gathering in Hillcrest sponsored by the Progressive Democrats of America, where Enrique was master of ceremonies, and at the third annual DemocracyFest, a three-day gathering of progressive Democrats on the campus of San Diego State, where he appeared on a panel that discussed how to frame the immigration debate for the November election.

Although DemocracyFest was the larger event, both combined cheerful mockery and moral indignation aimed at the Republicans, the voicing of frustrated compassion, and a lack of understanding as to why compassion wasn't felt by all. The enemy, even more than the administration, seemed to be public complacency, which raised the question of how people can be made to take note of the dreadful things that are happening and do something about them. Conservatives from Bush to the Minutemen were able to jar people from their complacency with fear, warning about terrorism, or that millions of Mexicans were flooding across the border to take our jobs. I asked Enrique about this.

"You have to combat complacency through education," he said. "You talk to one person at a time. Every three weeks I go out and talk to schools, from kindergarten to college. It's necessary to plant the seed. I don't write speeches; I talk from my heart. I make noise about things so people don't forget them. About 85 percent of the news you hear about Latinos and Chicanos is negative, and the Minutemen take advantage of it. We can combat that through education. But it's also a racist issue. If the deaths on the border were Canadians, we wouldn't have so many. We march, we do vigils, and we place water. We'll go to the Yuma desert and place 4000 crosses. I believe things will change."

One of the people who had appeared on the panel with Enrique was Gilbert Cedillo, state senator from the 22nd district in Los Angeles, who said, "We are a nation of immigrants attacking the immigrants. We're worried about immigrants in the way we used to be worried about Communists."

When I asked Cedillo about Enrique, he said, "He's the moral authority of our community. Thousands are dying, and he's the only

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one who links us all together."

Enrique drove swiftly east on Interstate 8, slowing when the second car lagged too far behind. Olivia Schoeller asked questions and Enrique talked nonstop, gesturing with his hands so that the car swerved. Ricardo Aguirre smiled benignly from the backseat and gave me a wink. Enrique had many plans. He wanted Caltrans to set up water stations along the highway, which Border Angels would keep supplied. He wanted an 800 number, which people in Mexico could call about their loved ones who had disappeared crossing the border. He wanted to set up a house in San Diego staffed with doctors, lawyers, social workers, and educators, where migrants could come for help. He quoted his slogan from Matthew, referred to his starfish story, and said, "You don't see Latinos looking for handouts. When was the last time you saw a Latino standing on a corner with a sign, 'Will work for food'? You'll never see it."

To our left along a high ridge 17 or 18 windmills turned gracefully. Enrique talked about coyotes driving the wrong way on the interstate with their lights off to avoid the Border Patrol checkpoint. Soon he took the exit at the Golden Acorn, the casino owned by the Kumeyaay nation, took 94 to Tierra del Sol Road, and then bumped along Shasta Way near the Campo Indian Reservation.

I asked Enrique how he could continue to make a living with all the time he spent on his human-rights work, and he admitted that his two partners in his Latino marketing company "were losing patience with me."

"I saved quite a bit when I was vice president with the Padres," he continued, "but now I have a lot of debt. When I was in baseball, I had souvenirs, signed baseballs and stuff, and I've been selling it. Border Angels gets some donations, and we sell the T-shirts. It's all little checks; a woman buys two T-shirts and gives me 40 bucks. So yester-

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day I got 60. Sometimes at the water stations I'll find a dollar, all in pesos. All told it's been about $10."

He also said he would probably return to his radio talk show *Morones Por La Tarde* on La Tremenda 1030 AM from Tijuana. Enrique had had a two-hour program for several years but had quit or taken a leave when he organized his march on Washington. Now he meant to go back. The only point of contention was that he might occasionally need a guest host if he had to be someplace else. But the money from the show, he said, would go to Border Angels.

We parked the cars and got out, grabbing gallon jugs of water. The heat at over 3000 feet seemed worse than at sea level. The border was about two miles to the south. Trudging up a hill, I saw the green flag of the water station through the brush. The station itself consisted of two cardboard boxes under a small pine. A dog barked near a small house 100 yards away. Taped to a cable supporting a utility pole was a red signal light. Enrique said they replaced the batteries every two weeks. He had a plan to power the lights with solar batteries, which, sad to say, would cost money. He placed a wooden cross on the water barrel "so people won't think it's a trap." Then he told a story about a vandalized water station, where someone had put up signs saying "poison." Ricardo filmed the bunch of us milling around, and the other reporters asked Enrique questions. There were five water stations in this area, each with 20 gallons of water. Enrique pointed to three blue plastic rings on the ground, broken seals indicating that someone had made use of the water. He kicked the box before opening it to scare the spiders. Once he had been bitten or stung by a spider lurking in a water station and had had to stay in bed for six weeks. He warned us to watch out for scorpions and snakes, and we all studied the ground. He decided not to check on the water station near the small house, because of the dog; he doesn't like barking dogs. He described finding two Chinese out here sometime ago and giving them water. They asked him to take them to the bus station, but he refused. "It would be breaking the law," he said.

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Enrique's stories were interspersed with his sound bites: "They're chasing people to death" and "We need to build bridges of communication." Apart from wanting Bush and Schwarzenegger defeated, he said this was a free country and people could do what they wanted. "The only rule is to love your neighbor." He wished he had time to take us to Holtville, east of El Centro, and show us the John Doe graves of hundreds of migrants who had died trying to cross, how 400 graves were crammed into a muddy field. On each, the Border Angels had placed a small cross with the words *"No Ovidado"* or "Not Forgotten." About 30 percent of those who die crossing the border are never identified. Then, the water and batteries replaced and the lecture over, we trudged back to the cars. Enrique had to hurry because he was spending the afternoon with his nephew.

Later that afternoon I visited Border Field State Park and heard the Border Patrol agent say, "We know the kind of people we catch here. They're horrible people." After ten days with Enrique, I had grown tired of the starfish story, but the agent made me rethink that. "I make noise about things so people don't forget them," Enrique had said. Not only did it seem like good work, it seemed like necessary work.

But I don't want to close with the Border Patrol agent. My first day in San Diego, I had driven out to Border Field State Park and was stopped by the locked gate and a sign indicating that Monument Mesa was only open on weekends. As I stood in the parking lot, a little white car drove up and two people got out, a man and an older woman. The man came up to me and said, "Where is the wall?" He had a thick accent.

He told me he was Korean. He had just arrived in San Diego from Seoul, and he wanted to show his mother the wall. I explained that the park was closed and pointed to the rusty landing-mat wall in the distance. He looked at it, shook his head, and laughed.

"You have a wall in your country as well," I said.

"Our wall is between enemies; your wall is between friends." He found this very funny. He laughed all the way back to his car. ■

— *Stephen Dobyns*

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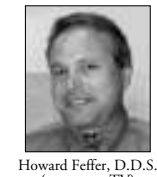

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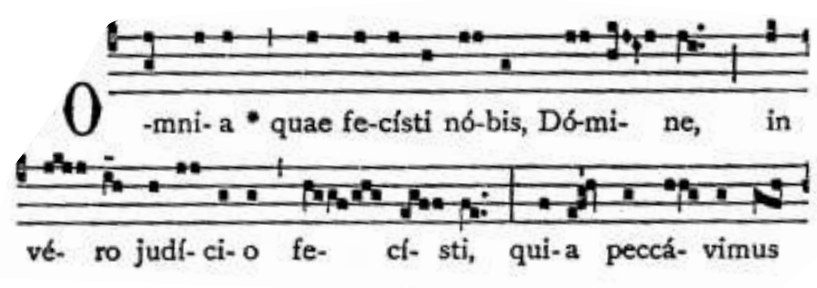

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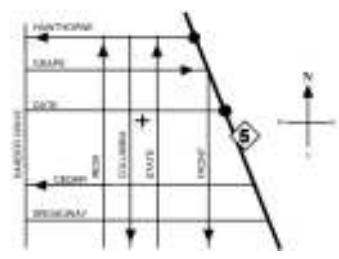

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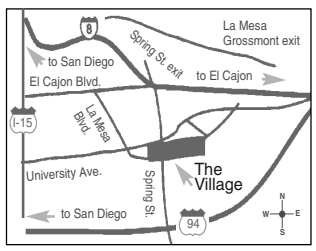

LETTERS

continued from page 13

hour, *or more,* helping you deal with your everyday stress and making you feel *great?* Please tell me you aren't that ignorant.

I make sure I tip my waiter 20 percent, especially if it is busy, because I know they are working their asses off to get us fed. And I make sure I tip my masseuse at least $15 to $20 because, *again,* I know they are working their asses off to make me feel great! I agree that there are some places where tips aren't accepted — doctor, chiropractor, etc. But those professions are making at least $75,000 to $150,000 a year. Are you such an ignorant miser that you completely ignore the people that count on their tips to live?? Please respond to me here to let me know that I am wrong about you, *please!!!!!*

Lee Johnson
via e-mail

She's Got Spleen

Regarding the article written by Dave Good about the extraordinary flutist Lori Bell ("Of Note," Pop Music, November 22), I have the following to say:

Get your journalistic facts straight: the article was so filled with fiction it left me with no alternative but to set the record straight.

Lori Bell is a highly respected Grammy-nominated jazz flutist, first and foremost. She has only recently been playing classical concerts. She is well known for her passionate playing, brilliant solos, and profound musicality. Not only has she developed her musicianship over the years to world-class level, she is now mastering what few can do well: play excellent jazz and classical music.

When I read her playing described as "polite," "almost regimented," lacking "spleen," or more of a classical player, I had to wonder: is Dave Good's reportage always so far from the truth?

Perhaps Good shouldn't worry so much about trying to "(mis)place" Lori Bell's artistry and pay more attention to acknowledging the immense richness and depth her talent has brought us. We're lucky to have her.

Holly Burke
via e-mail

Have A Glass Of Virus

"Wastewater Drug Test" by Matt Potter ("City Lights," November 22) was thought provoking, and it raised some very pertinent questions that need to be answered. Specifically, do our local and federal governments have something to hide? Or was this just another bureaucratic snafu?

When you consider the amount of illegal drugs crossing our borders 24/7, it's not surprising that cocaine was found in our nation's wastewater systems. Nor is it surprising that cocaine can be specifically tested as described in the above-referenced article. What is surprising is the level of governmental apparent stonewalling.

For some time worldwide, scientific experts have been concerned about male fish taking on female characteristics. Many of these experts believe that estrogen excreted into the sewer systems caused this abnormality. The question is, how will cocaine excreted into our sewer systems affect the little fishes?

With all its pitfalls, the last we heard, the city council unanimously supported toilet-to-tap. The Revolting Grandmas are not ready to pour themselves a glass of tiny viruses, bacteria, cryptosporidia, giardia, and cancer-producing by-products — laced with heavy doses of legal and illegal drugs. How about you?

Revolting Grandmas
Mary Quartiano
Muriel Watson

Punk, Idiot, Social Terrorist

Why do you interview an ignorant, selfish piece of garbage like this Tim Raldo ("Punk Life," Pop Music, November 22)? Christians donate millions to charities every day, unlike atheists and especially punks like this idiot. You could talk to someone who is trying to make the world a better place. Tim Raldo is a social terrorist who needs to think of someone other than himself and get a life instead of just being obnoxious.

Brian P. Wright
via e-mail

Ollie's Literary Sloth

I must agree with the growing disgust over Ollie ("Remote Control King"), a talentless slob if ever there was one. His literary sloth is palpable in every sentence he types. It's a mark of the level of quality, I suppose, in the *Reader*'s readership that he's still on board. Barbarella's not much better, but at least *she tries,* poor girl.

Eddie Dane
via e-mail

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We Wish You a Civil Christmas

Teach Kids to Say, "Thank You"

'All manners should be used every day, but there are certain things we need to be sure to emphasize around the holidays," says Cindy Post Senning. "With everybody so busy and so much going on, people tend to get grumpy, and I like to remind kids that it's particularly important to go out and smile, greet people, and make an effort to make people cheerier."

On Friday, December 8, Senning will appear at the Children's Place in the new Otay Ranch Town Center in Chula Vista to read excerpts from her new book, *Emily's Everyday Manners,* written with Peggy Post and illustrated by Steve Björkman. The book is targeted at children aged four to seven.

LOCAL EVENTS

"When you give someone a gift," Senning tells children, "look them in the eye and smile. Give joy with that gift. Say, 'Happy Holidays,' or 'I picked this out especially for you.' This helps to make the giving act more genuine, and that's what you really want to do." Senning focuses on what she calls the "triangle of magic words," the three points of which are "please," "thank you," and "you're welcome."

One of Senning's pet peeves is failure to express gratitude. "People don't acknowledge their appreciation, not just for gifts, but when people do something nice for them. It's harder to get kids to say 'thank you' than to say 'please,' because 'please' usually comes before they get the thing they want, and 'thank you' gets lost in the excitement after they get it. It takes nagging and reminding and remembering.

"But," Senning says, "we must teach [manners] to kids when they're developmentally ready for them. Just like you wouldn't expect a four-year-old to handle a piano concerto, but [it's realistic] they might know how to play "Chopsticks" if they begin learning their scales at a certain age." Greeting others is one example of a social interaction that requires developmental readiness. "For a three-year-old, it's hard to look someone in the eye," says Senning.

Cindy Post Senning

"My other peeve about manners with kids is when I look about me and see people having expectations of their kids that are not realistic, by either overexpecting or underexpecting. The bratty kid thing is underexpecting — people think a three-year-old can't hold still for a few minutes, but they can. You just have to pay attention to them and [take the time] to deal with them. Underexpectation leads to kids behaving in ways that are inconsiderate to those around them."

Overexpecting is demanding more from a child than he or she is developmentally able to give. "When someone comes into our sphere of influence, we greet them — that's the respectful thing to do. Babies learn this when we teach them to say 'hi' and 'bye.' A two-year-old might get really shy and hide behind your leg. [A child] may be four years old before [he] steps out from behind your leg and says, 'hi.' Some can earlier, but some can't."

Senning says manners do not seem to differ based on social class but they do differ regionally. "The main one is the way children address adults. Where I'm from [Northeastern U.S.], it's not unusual for adults to ask kids to call them by their first name. But in the South I'm called 'ma'am' and 'Mrs. Senning.' What is respectful is for children to call adults by what the adult prefers. The default is that kids should always call adults by their title and last name, and let the adult give direction. If I say, 'You should call me Cindy, all the kids do,' it's really more respectful for them to call me Cindy. But I must do my part to be respectful of the regional custom."

Manners change with the times: Emily Post, Senning's great-grandmother, could not have foreseen today's need for cell phone guidelines when she published *Etiquette,* her book on social propriety, in 1922. One changing custom is that of opening doors for ladies. "What we say is, in business etiquette, it's gender neutral," says Senning. "Whoever gets to the door first should open the door. Holding chairs in business situations is also gender neutral. But it never hurts. If a guy isn't sure — if he offers to hold the chair or the door by saying, 'Can I get the chair or door for you?' — then she's in a position to say, 'Yes, thank you!' or 'No, thank you, I can get it for myself.'"

The underlying philosophy of social grace has remained consistent, as evidenced by these words penned by Emily Post, the matron of manners, over 80 years ago: "Manners are made up of trivialities of deportment which can be easily learned if one does not happen to know them; manner is personality — the outward manifestation of one's innate character and attitude toward life."

— Barbarella

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Calendar
LOCAL EVENTS

Events that are underlined occur after December 14.

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

BAJA

Tijuana Cultural Center, the center (CECUT) offers guided tours in Spanish and English of exhibit on history of Baja peninsula, Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Cultural and artistic exhibits. Entrance fee is approximately $2 (two-for-one entrance on Tuesdays).

Screening in the CECUT Omnimax: *Viaje a la Luna, Bugs, Lions, Fuerzas de la Naturaleza, Oasis Marino.*

The center is located at Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Río. Showtimes and information: 011-52-664-687-9600 x50. (TIJUANA)

Cuatro Para Tango presents "Festin Argentino" on Thursday, December 7, 8 p.m., at Antigua Bodega de Papel (11th Street and Avenida Revolución). 011-52-664-681-7084. Avenida Revolución. (TIJUANA)

"Celebren, Entonen y Canten," Christmas songs performed by Coro de la Opera de Tijuana, Friday, December 8, 8 p.m., at Teatro IMSS (on Boulevard Salinas). 011-52-686-3280. (TIJUANA)

"The Nutcracker" is presented by Ballet del Noroeste de México, Friday and Saturday, December 8 and 9, 8 p.m., at Tijuana Cultural Center (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street in the Zona Río). Tickets: $20–$25 U.S. 011-52-664-687-9636.

The company also presents *The Nutcracker* on Wednesday, December 13, 7 p.m., Teatro del Estado. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA, MEXICALI)

Molotov! Rock concert starts at 9 p.m. on Friday, December 8, at Mexitlán Show Center (at 2nd Street and Avenida Madero). 011-52-664-972-9000. (TIJUANA)

Alejandro Filio in Concert at El Lugar del Nopal (Callejon 5 de Mayo #1320) on Friday, December 8, 9 p.m. 011-52-664-685-1264. (TIJUANA)

The Drama *Cama Para Dos* performed by actors Antonio Escobar and Ulises Iturbe, Monday, December 11, 8 p.m., at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, in Zona Río). 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

"La Danza Como Arte Escenico," Evoé Sotelo discusses dance, politically correct art during lecture starting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12, at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Río). 011-52-664-687-9636. Free. (TIJUANA)

OUT & ABOUT

IN THE HEART OF WINTER
Robin Spielberg, Thursday, December 7, California Center for the Arts, Escondido.

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"La Campesinela" presented Wednesday, December 13, 8 p.m., at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street). $15 U.S. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

Tribute to Cuban Poet José Lezama Lima planned Thursday, December 14, 4–7 p.m., at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, in Zona Río). Lima is considered "one of the most influential Latin American writers of the 20th Century." Free. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

Christmas Gala with music by Orchestra Baja California, joined by guitarist Jorge López Ramos, Thursday, December 14, 8 p.m., at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street). $15 U.S. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

OUTDOORS

Earliest Sunset (4:43 p.m. from San Diego) occurs Thursday, December 7, a date that is not coincident with the shortest day (winter solstice — December 21) because of factors relating to the noncircular shape of Earth's orbit around the sun and the tilt of Earth's axis. Early December is a good time to view the setting sun from the spectacular vantage point of Cabrillo National Monument at the tip of Point Loma. During most of the year, you can't do that since sunset occurs well after the park's closing time of 5:15 p.m.

Liquidambar Trees, or sweet gums, the colorfully deciduous trees gracing front yards, parks, and campuses throughout the San Diego area, have been putting on a good show for the past month. The maplelike leaves of some varieties have turned from green to purple to red; the leaves of other varieties have faded to a golden yellow. Other varieties will hold on to their leaves until the New Year. Most will regain their foliage by late February.

Ripening Palm Fruit, hanging in great clusters on California's native fan palms (*Washingtonia filifera*), can be seen (and tasted) this month. The black, pea-sized fruit consists of a deliciously sweet but almost paper-thin skin surrounding a hard seed. (These are not "California dates" — the fruit of cultivated palms introduced into California's deserts from northern Africa.) Our native fan palms can be seen in their natural habitat in about two dozen canyons within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. They have also been planted widely elsewhere in California, including along the main streets of Palm Springs.

The Planets Jupiter, Mars, and Mercury lie within a few degrees of one another (the width of a typical binocular field of view) during the period December 7–13. All three are visible over the southeast horizon at dawn, approximately 6 a.m. The three planets will fit in the tightest circle (1.5 degrees in diameter) on the mornings of December 10 and 11. Although these planets will appear to be close together in the sky, they're not physically close — Jupiter is by far the farthest of them. It is rare to see any three planets of naked-eye visibility in almost the same direction.

Hotel del Coronado Tour hosted by Coronado Historical Association leads one-hour tour throughout the historic Hotel del Coronado, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tours begin outside Grande Hall doors, on north side of hotel. $15, children under six free. Required reservations: 619-437-8788. (CORONADO)

Learn to Track Animals and discover their natural environment during beginner and intermediate tracking walks slated for Saturday, December 9, 8 a.m., starting at Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Ranch House. Wear shoes that can be muddy. Free. To reach site, take Canyonside Park Drive off Black Mountain Road, follow signs. 858-484-3219. (RANCHO PEASQUITOS)

Visit Historical Grinding Rocks Site, see native plants and shorebirds during guided nature walk, Saturday, December 9, 8:30 a.m., beginning in Kumeyaay Lake Campground of Mission Trails Regional Park (Two Father Junípero Serra Trail). Free. 619-668-3281. (SAN CARLOS)

Help Maintain a Nesting Site for California least terns during volunteer work party, Saturday, December 9, 9 a.m., at Mariner's Point. Wear work clothes, bring work gloves, weeding tools if you have them. Free. Reservations and directions: 619-224-4591 or 858-581-7602. (MISSION BAY)

Second Saturday Nature Walks at the Reserve, San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy hosts walk exploring migratory birds and native plants, Saturday, December 9, 9 a.m. Free. Directions: 760-436-3944. (CARDIFF)

Trail-Repair Work in Paso Picacho at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park continues on Saturday, December 9, 9 a.m. Bring work shoes, gloves, hat, water, snack. Group gathers at Paso Picacho campground maintenance area behind fire department building. Free. Registration: 619-441-0752. For those 16 and older with a parent. (CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK)

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

Calendar
LOCAL EVENTS

Asian Pacific Historic District Tours offered on second Saturday of each month, including December 9. Tours start at 11 a.m. at Chinese Historical Museum (404 Third Avenue). $2. Required reservations: 619-338-9888. (DOWNTOWN)

Explore Santa Ysabel Open-Space Preserve with San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy guide on Saturday, December 9, 1 p.m. All skill levels welcome; bring water. Free. Directions, requested reservations: 858-755-6956. (SANTA YSABEL)

Explore Oak Canyon during three-mile walk with elevation gain/loss of about 200 feet along a streambed rimmed by coast live oaks led by Canyoneers on Saturday, December 9, 1:30 p.m. Free. Directions: 619-255-0203. (SANTEE)

Explore Silverwood Sanctuary, which was burned extensively during 2003 wildfires. The San Diego Audubon Society offers guided walks by reservation on Sundays, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. (619-682-7200). Sanctuary is located at 13003 Wildcat Canyon Road (five miles from Ashwood-Mapleview turn). Free. (LAKESIDE)

Enjoy Holiday Lights and see end of boat parade of lights during Coastwalk adventure on Sunday, December 10. Hike starts at 5:30 p.m. at Coronado Ferry disembarkation ramp on Coronado side of bay (at foot of B Avenue on First Street). Bring flashlight, money for snacks. Free. Registration: 858-722-2115. (CORONADO)

Migrating Birds Are Arriving — see some when naturalist Tom Lyon leads easy three-hour hike on Tuesday, December 12, in Daley Ranch. Bring binoculars. Free outing starts at 8 a.m. in main parking lot (on La Honda Drive). Reservations: 760-839-4680. (ESCONDIDO)

The Geminid Meteor Shower peaks on the nights of December 13–14 and December 14–15. Some Geminid meteors may be seen as early as around 6:30 p.m., but the period between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. will likely be most favorable. The moon, past third-quarter phase, will hamper observations somewhat after about 2 a.m. This is 2006's best opportunity to see upwards of 50 meteors per hour (assuming dark, light-pollution-free skies).

ROAM-O-RAMA

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

The Deer Canyon loop route in Crystal Cove State Park explores the higher ridges and valleys of Orange County's coastal mountain range — the San Joaquin Hills. Hikers should budget about four hours for the round trip of 7.1 miles, with a total elevation gain and loss of 1300 feet. Mountain bikers are welcome, too, at least those who don't mind occasional "technical challenges" in the form of some steep, severely eroded stretches of trail. If prior arrangements are made with park rangers (949-494-3539), it is even possible to backpack the route, with an overnight stay halfway around the loop at the Deer Canyon trail camp.

Marine layer over El Moro Canyon

The starting point is Crystal Cove State Park's visitor center and backcountry trailhead, located about two miles north of Laguna Beach and just east of Pacific Coast Highway. You begin your hike or ride with a no-nonsense ascent on No Dogs Road, enjoying an ever-widening view of billowing hills ahead and El Moro Canyon below. That view is especially intriguing when the canyon bottom is filled with fog, as it often is on late fall and winter mornings. Stay left at the next two junctions (Poles Road and West Cut Across) and continue making your way north along the undulating ridgetop road called No Name Ridge Road. A vast area of new luxury homes comes into view on the left, completely contrasting with the empty, protected lands of the state park on the right.

At 2.4 miles, look for and follow the narrow, rutty "Ticketron" trail branching right. Ticketron makes a radical drop (at least for mountain-bike riders) toward the floor of shallow Deer Canyon, then settles into an easy grade as it approaches the trail camp, which features a picnic bench, a composting toilet, and sites to pitch a tent amid some scattered live oaks and sycamores.

Beyond the trail camp a short, steep climb leads to Redtail Ridge Trail, which is a fire road to the left (north) and a narrower trail to the right (south). You head south, following the top of the rounded ridge, and pass over an 844-foot knoll with a commanding ocean view. Then make a sharp descent to an old roadbed (Rattlesnake Trail) which continues downhill more moderately. You curl around Deer Canyon's small stream and meet the West Cut Across trail at 5.1 miles into the hike.

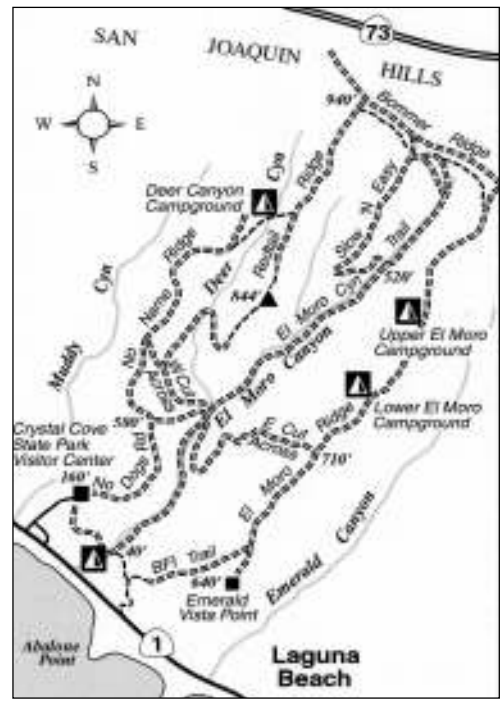
For the remaining 2 miles, descend West Cut Across to El Moro Canyon, follow the El Moro Canyon Road downhill to a trailer park (soon to be vacated and turned into a roadside campground), and return to the visitor center on the 0.4 mile trail link to the right.

This article contains information about a publicly owned recreation or wilderness area. Trails and pathways are not necessarily marked. Conditions can change rapidly. Hikers should be properly equipped and have safety and navigational skills. The *Reader* and Jerry Schad assume no responsibility for any adverse experience.

DEER CANYON LOOP

Travel over viewful ridges and down a verdant canyon in Orange County's Crystal Cove State Park.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 78 miles
Hiking/biking length: 7.1 miles
Difficulty: Moderately strenuous



DANCE

"ONE to Echo," featuring Bound Contemporary Dance and A.S. Peterson Dance, Friday and Saturday, December 1 and 2, at 8 p.m., in San Diego State University's Dance Studio Theatre (ENS-200). A collection of California dance and film artists honoring "the passion that one artist can share with a community." Tickets: $10–$14. 619-594-1696. (SDSU)

Viennese Waltz highlights beginner-friendly dance on Friday, December 8, in room 207 of Casa del Prado. Lesson at 7:30 p.m. followed by open dancing. All ages. Partners not required. Donation: $1. 619-583-9956. (BALBOA PARK)

Nuts to You! City Ballet of San Diego, under direction of Steven and Elizabeth Wistrich, has *Nutcracker* performances December 8–17 at Spreckels Theatre (121 Broadway). Production follows choreography by Russian choreographer Lev Ivanov, with Tchaikovsky's score performed by City Ballet Orchestra. Curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, with 2 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets: $29–$49. 858-272-8663. (DOWNTOWN)

"WinterDance 2006" — Palomar College dance students present original choreography in variety of styles including hip-hop, modern, ballet, tap, jazz. Concerts on Friday and Saturday, December 8 and 9, 8 p.m., in Howard Brubeck Theatre at Palomar College (1140 West Mission Road). $12 general. 760-744-1150 x2453. (SAN MARCOS)

The More, the Merrier! Community band makes music — bring your instrument and sit in — and Chris Page calls for contradance on Saturday, December 9, 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. Predance music jam, 6–7:30 p.m. (free). (NORTH PARK)

Hustle San Diego Club meets on second Saturday of every month, including December 9, for beginners' instruction (8 p.m.) and dance afterwards at Dance North County (535 Encinitas Boulevard, suite 100). $7. 760-803-9982. (ENCINITAS)

"Learning to Fly" premiered by Colette Harding Contemporary Dance Company, Saturday, December 9, 8 and 9 p.m., at Stage 7 School of Dance (3980 30th Street). Piece "takes look into the act of the transformation of a person's life." Free. 619-234-4647. (NORTH PARK)

Sunday Zapateado, Ballet Folklórico en Aztlán performs dances from different states of Mexico each month at Centro Cultural de la Raza (2125 Park Boulevard). Take in dances from Guerrero, Mexico, on Sunday, December 10, 2 p.m. Free. 619-235-6135. (BALBOA PARK)

Sunday Swing Dance with Doctor Swing playing "best digital dance music from the '40s, '50s, and '60s," Sundays, 5–9 p.m., at Cask n' Cleaver (3757 South Mission Road). No cover. 760-728-2818. (FALLBROOK)

Zydeco Dances with lessons are offered every Thursday at Tio Leo's (5302 Napa Street, between Morena Boulevard and Linda Vista Road). Beginning dance lessons at 7 p.m.; open dancing to recorded tunes from 8–10 p.m. $5 (first visit free). 619-857-8409. (LINDA VISTA)

"Dancing with the Stars" tour hits ipayOne Center on Tuesday, December 19, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: $91.50, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (SPORTS ARENA)

FILM

Outdoor Holiday Film Series features *Christmas with the Kranks,* Friday, December 8, 7 p.m., on Prescott Promenade. Bundle up and picnic. Free. 619-401-8858. (EL CAJON)

"Casa de los Babys," the 2003 film by John Sayles starring Darryl Hannah, Marcia Gay Harden, Mary Steenburgen, many others, screens for Sunday Matinee, December 10, 2 p.m., at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). Free. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

Wedding Guide

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"9/11: The Myth and the Reality" screens Sunday, December 10, 6:30 p.m., at Joyce Beers Center (1220 Cleveland Avenue). Filmmaker Ken Jenkins on hand. Donation: $5. 619-222-2120. (HILLCREST)

See the "Gritty Environmental Thriller" *Kekexili: Mountain Patrol* when it's screened on Monday, December 11, 6:30 p.m., for Film Forum at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). "Tough but moving true story about antelope poaching" in a region of China is told in Mandarin and Tibetan with English subtitles. Free. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

Holiday Films provide theme for ongoing Carlsbad Library film series, featuring *Family Man* with Nicolas Cage, Tea Leoni, on Wednesday, December 13, 6 p.m., in Schulman Auditorium (1775 Dove Lane). Free. 760-602-2026. (LA COSTA)

"Raiders of the Lost Ark" — in which Steven Spielberg, George Lucas, and Harrison Ford create Indiana Jones — may be seen Thursday, December 14, 7 p.m., at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (700 Prospect Street). $7. 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

Fellini's *Lo Sceicco Bianco* (1952) screens Thursday, December 14, 7 p.m., at Italian Community Center (1669 Columbia Street). $2. 619-237-0601. (LITTLE ITALY)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, currently screening in the IMAX theater: *Santa vs. the Snowman, Roving Mars,* and *Deep Sea.* "Fridays at the Fleet" features *Roving Mars* (6 p.m.) and *Santa vs. the Snowman* (7 p.m.) on December 8. Ticket prices and showtimes: 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

LECTURES

"Paper Traces: Latin American Prints and Drawings from the Collection at SDMA" illuminated by Ramón Hernandez for Insight Gallery talk, Thursday, December 7, 6 p.m. and Sunday, December 10, 3 p.m., at San Diego Museum of Art. Included in regular admission. 619-696-1966. (BALBOA PARK)

The Writing of Historical Mysteries is illuminated by author Patricia Wynn when Sisters in Crime gather on Thursday, December 7, 7 p.m., at Joyce Beers Community Center (1230 Vermont Street). Wynn is author of 12 published novels. $3. 760-735-9313. (HILLCREST)

"Latin American Works on Paper" examined when UCSD assistant art history professor Roberto Tejada presents docent guest lecture at San Diego Museum of Art on Friday, December 8, 10 a.m. $10. 619-696-1966. (BALBOA PARK)

"Bling Bling Holiday Décor," floral design instructor René van Rems leads workshop, Saturday, December 9, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., at Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street). Students will create large holiday wreath, centerpiece, decorative candle holder. $100 class fee plus $115 materials fee. Reservations: 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

"Plant Propagation Made Easy" — learn techniques for preparing, storing, planting seeds, Saturday, December 9, 9:30 a.m., at Cuyamaca College's Water Conservation Garden (12122 Cuya-

maca College Drive West). Bring samples of plants and seeds you wish to propagate. $22. Reservations: 619-660-4350. (EL CAJON)

"Intro to DVD Studio Pro" workshop, Saturday, December 9, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., at Media Arts Center San Diego (921 25th Street). Instructor Joaquin Ortiz dispenses techniques in creating menus, subtitles, transition effects, more. $55. Registration: 619-230-1938 x102. (GOLDEN HILL)

Nanotech Day is Saturday, December 9, noon–3 p.m., at Reuben H. Fleet Science Center. Screening of *When Things Get Small,* lecture on quantum mechanics at 2 p.m. Included in regular admission. 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

Local Children's Authors' and Illustrators' Showcase: "Lessons Learned" presented when San Diego Chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators meet Saturday, December 9, 2 p.m., in room 106 of Hahn School of Nursing building at University of San Diego (at Linda Vista Road and Marion Way). Authors and illustrators will offer insights on what they've learned along the way. Also: holiday book sale. $9. 858-485-8151. (LINDA VISTA)

"The Biology of Rattlesnakes" divulged by Brad Hollingsworth for Anza-Borrego Institute lecture on Sunday, December 10, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park visitors' center discovery lab. Instructor uses preserved specimens, video, skeletons, and demonstrations. $35. Reservations: 760-767-0446. (BORREGO SPRINGS)

Claymaking Workshops led by Varda Levram-Ellisman, Sunday, December 10, at Congregation Shir Ami (2210 Encinitas Boulevard, suite T). Families and children (under ten) start at 1 p.m., adults only at 3 p.m. Class is free; for materials list and reservations, call 760-697-0434. (ENCINITAS)

Human Rights Day commemorated with "Violence against Women Worldwide: Where Is the Outrage?" Panelists will discuss women as victims of war, torture, trafficking, forced prostitution, Sunday, December 10, 1:30 p.m., at Mission Valley Library (2123 Fenton Parkway). Free. 858-245-1677. (MISSION VALLEY)

What's Raclette? Find out when Urs Hwyler fires up his Raclette machine and teaches "how this cheese was meant to be served," Sunday, December 10, 3 p.m., at Taste (1243 1/2 University Avenue). $5 per tasting plate. 619-683-2306. (HILLCREST)

OUT & ABOUT

TOUCHING THE KINETICS CONTINUUM — Michael Moschen, Saturday and Sunday, December 9 and 10, Poway Center for the Performing Arts.

(SEE IN PERSON)

Show, Tell, Taste! Bring favorite holiday recipes to exchange when "Families Celebrate Holidays" offered for 12 O'Clock Scholar program at San Diego Museum of Man, Monday, December 11. $6. 619-239-2001. (BALBOA PARK)

Bonsai Master Phil Tacktill demonstrates creation of *Bonsai Saikei,* utilizing readily available, affordable plant material for San Diego Horticultural Society, Monday, December 11, 6 p.m., in Surfside Race Place at Del Mar Fairgrounds. "Utilizing his experience in work simplification, he has developed a method of preparing forest plantings and *Saikei* which eliminates any stress involved in creating these styles." Also on tap: 12th annual cookie exchange. Free. 760-295-7089. (DEL MAR)

"How to Live Happily Ever After With Your Cat" presented Monday, December 11, 6 p.m., at San Diego Humane Society and SPCA (5500 Gaines Street). Cat behavior, nutrition, socialization with people, communication, more. $15. 619-299-7012 x2247. (LINDA VISTA)

The "Garage Sale Grannies" — a.k.a. Bette Childs and Joanie Espy — demonstrate creation of unique, whimsical container gardens for Point Loma Garden Club holiday tea, bazaar, and meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 9:30 a.m., at Portuguese Hall (2818 Avenida de Portugal). Free. 619-223-3315. (POINT LOMA)

"How We Know the Climate Is Changing" explained by Mark Thiemens of UCSD, Tuesday, January 9, 6:30 p.m., San Diego Natural History Museum. Attention paid to possible impacts on Southern California. Free. 619-255-0245. (BALBOA PARK)

IN PERSON

Author Lara Rios discusses and signs *Becoming American,* Thursday, December 7, 7 p.m., at Borders Books and Music (1072 Camino del Rio North). Free. 619-295-2201. (MISSION VALLEY)

Ring in the Holidays! Community festival of music continues daily through Saturday, December 23, at Latter-Day Saints Temple (7474 Charmant Drive). Bell choirs, Hispanic choirs, deaf choir, operatic and instrumental performances, harps, youth choirs, much more! Free. Details: 619-994-9367. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

The Musical *Yours, Anne* is presented by J*Company Youth Theatre through December 10 at David and Dorothea Garfield Theatre, Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center (4126 Executive Drive). Play based on *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* has music by Michael Cohen, libretto by Enid Futterman. Performances begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 7; 8 p.m. on Saturday, December 9; 1 and 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 10. Tickets: $12.50 children, $16.50 adults.

"Inside Anne Frank's House," a life-sized recreation of attic where Anne and her family hid for two years, is on view during the run of the play; tour of house is included in ticket price. 858-362-1348. (LA JOLLA)

"In the Heart of Winter," composer/pianist Robin Spielberg in concert, Thursday, December 7, 8 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Expect "inspired tales, extraordinary piano technique," a "heartfelt" performance. $25 general. 760-839-4100. (ESCONDIDO)

"A Warm Winter's Night," classics and carols "reflecting the many moods and traditions of the holiday season" may be enjoyed when Palomar Women's Chorus performs Thursday, December 7, 8 p.m., in Palomar College Performance Lab (room D-10 at 1140 West Mission Road). $5 general. 760-744-1150 x2453. (SAN MARCOS)

Comedy Grill now convenes on first and third Thursday of each month, including December 7, 8 p.m., at Rosie and Joe's Grill and Cantina (7986 Armour Street). Cover: $5. 858-550-8088. (KEARNY MESA)

"Expressions in the Garden," music by acoustic guitarist/folk rock singer Jareb Liewer, tenor David Robinson, Naomi Grogan-Hurlich, Jenny Peckman (keyboard), Friday, December 8, 6 p.m., at Espresso Garden (4121 Park Boulevard). Photographs and acrylic paintings by Olaina Anderson on display. Donation: $5. 858-361-8662. (HILLCREST)

Holiday Party, Part I, local science-fiction writer Vernor Vinge talks about *The Wilting,* Friday,

December 8, 7 p.m., at Mysterious Galaxy Books (7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, 858-268-4747). Vinge joined by Howard Hendrix (*Spears of God*). Free. (KEARNY MESA)

First-Time Headliner Dorian Black joins crew for Ocean Beach comedy, hosted by Steven Kendrick on Friday, December 8, 7 p.m., at Winstons Beach Club (1921 Bacon Street). Many other comics featured. Free. 619-222-6822. (OCEAN BEACH)

"South Pacific" is next production for actors of San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts, December 8–9 and December 14–16. Tickets: $7. Find campus at 2425 Dusk Drive. Showtimes: 619-475-8556. (PARADISE HILLS)

"Music from the Kitchen — Tunes to Feed Your Musical Hunger" on tap during annual songwriters' concert showcasing works by songwriting students, Friday, December 8. Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in MiraCosta College Theater (One Barnard Drive). $5. 760-757-2121. (OCEANSIDE)

Barona's Carols by Candlelight, Friday and Saturday, December 8 and 9, 8 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). JoDee Messina, Ty Herndon, Buck Howdy, Jamie O'Neal, Hal Ketchum sing holiday songs "and their own hits onstage," then join crowds outdoors for caroling. Tickets: $25–$45. 800-988-4253. (ESCONDIDO)

Sunset Strummers Ukulele Band plans holiday sing-along concert, Saturday, December 9, 11 a.m., at Oceanside Mission Branch Library (3861-B Mission Avenue). 760-435-5640. (OCEANSIDE)

"Believe," 15th annual holiday show at San Diego Ice Arena (11048 Ice Skate Place), Saturday, December 9. Performances begin at noon, 3:30, and 7 p.m. Tickets: $15, $25. 858-530-1825 x302. (MIRA MESA)

Holiday Classics promised when Civic Youth Orchestra performs Saturday, December 9, 1 p.m., at Carlsbad Community Cultural Arts Center (3557 Monroe Street). $5. 760-331-5184. (CARLSBAD)

Physiological, Developmental, Emotional Aspects of children's performance in sports covered in *Sports Success Rx! Your Child's Prescription for the Best Experience.* Dr. Paul R. Stricker signs, discusses his book, Saturday, December 9, 2 p.m., at Borders Books and Music (11160 Rancho Carmel Drive). Free. 858-618-1814. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN)

Psychic Eye Mystery Author Victoria Laurie signs *Killer Insight* as part of holiday party planned Saturday, December 9, 2 p.m., at Mysterious Galaxy Books (7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard). Also on hand: authors Michele Scott (*Saddled With Trouble*), Jeanne Stein (*The Becoming*). Free. 858-268-4747. (CLAIREMONT)

"Touching the Kinetics Continuum," Michael Moschen — who has "revolutionized the ancient circus art of juggling" using techniques of art, science, physics, and mathematics — performs Saturday and Sunday, December 9 and 10, 2 p.m., at Poway Center for Performing Arts (15498 Espola Road). Tickets: $36, $38. 858-748-0505. (POINT LOMA)

French and English Songs performed by Cynthia Decuir during holiday concert hosted by Alliance Française on Saturday, December 9, 6 p.m., at San Diego French

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American School (6550 Soledad Mountain Road). $10 general. 858-824-6694. (LA JOLLA)

Help Start a String of Goodwill (a.k.a. pay it forward) when Wendy Hill and Company perform an original musical/drama benefit on Saturday, December 9, 7 p.m., at Centerpoint (4407 Manchester Avenue, suite 103). Program features songs from Hill's movie *The Call to Adventure.* Donation. Required reservations: 760-635-3722. (ENCINITAS)

Aloha! Makaha Sons plan sixth annual Hawaiian Christmas Concert, Saturday, December 9, 7 p.m., in Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD. Guests include Darlene Ahuna, Hoku Zuttermeister, Barry Kimokeo, Halau o Na Ali'i and Halau Na Lei o Liana hula performances. Tickets: $37.50, $45, $75. Reservations: 619-426-1953. (LA JOLLA)

Annual Reading of *Poetry International #11* from SDSU is Saturday, December 9, 7 p.m., at D.G. Wills Books (7461 Girard Avenue, 858-456-1800). Free. (LA JOLLA)

"Holiday Spectacular," MiraCosta Chamber Chorale and North Coast Chorale perform December 9 and 10 at First Presbyterian Church (2001 El Camino Real). Program includes traditional and contemporary music inspired by holidays. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday. $10 general. 760-757-2121. (OCEANSIDE)

Chennai Storyteller Jeeva Raghua tells Indian and Asian folktales, European tales, family stories, true-life incidents, and cross-cultural stories for Storytellers of San Diego, Saturday, December 9, 7:30 p.m., in Manchester Conference Center, University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park). Suitable for adults, children over 12. $10. 619-298-6363. (LINDA VISTA)

"The Most Original Gypsy Circus Entertainment in the World" promised during Technomania Circus, Saturday, December 9, 8 p.m., at Center for Amusing Arts (2438 Commercial Street). This week: Fishtank Ensemble (from Bay Area), Dr. Techno, Xep on aerials, Murrugun, Emperor of Concane, more. For "mature audiences." $15. 619-231-1950. (LOGAN HEIGHTS)

"Hot Monkey Laughs," stand-up comedy show featuring Tim Mars, Erik Knowles, Claudia Maittlen-Harris, Chris Millhouse, Rob Deez, Guam Felix, Jason Bang on Saturday, December 9, 8 p.m., at Hot Monkey Love Cafe (6875 El Cajon Boulevard). $7. 619-469-4113. (COLLEGE AREA)

First Anniversary Conscious Comedy Explosion celebration with Mooney Twins, other comedians, music, poetry, more — Saturday, December 9, 8:30 p.m., at Tubman Chávez Community Center (415 Euclid Avenue). Tickets: $10 in advance, $15 at door. 619-819-7838. (SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO)

Architect Irving J. Gill — considered "first and preeminent architect of Modernist era" — celebrated during discussion, signing by Marvin Rand, author of *Five California Architects,* Sunday, December 10, 1 p.m., at Book Works (Flower Hill Promenade, 2670 Via de la Valle). Rand will examine Gill's life and architecture. Free. 858-755-3735. (DEL MAR)

Generalized Anxiety Disorder discussed by psychiatrist Martin E. Sodomsky, M.D., on Sunday, December 10, 1 p.m., at Open Door Books (4761 Cass Street), where he'll also sign his latest book, *How to Slay the Worry Monster.* Free. 858-270-8642 (PACIFIC BEACH)

OUT & ABOUT

VIOLINIST
TAI MURRAY
for La Jolla Music Society, Sunday, December 10.

(SEE FOR KIDS, CLASSICAL)

The Bayou Brothers play zydeco, Cajun, blues-style music for fall concert series in Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library (1775 Dove Lane) on Sunday, December 10, 2 p.m. Free. 760-602-2026. (LA COSTA)

Join Up! Folksinger Adam Miller plays "Songs of the Winter Holidays" on Sunday, December 10, 4 p.m., for member concert at Mingei International Museum. New members may join at the door. RSVP: 619-239-0003 X404. (BALBOA PARK)

Poet Roger Aplon reads from *Intimacies,* Sunday, December 10, 4 p.m., at the Rubber Rose, a Sexuality Boutique (3812 Ray Street). Reading is hosted by San Diego Writers, Ink. Free. 858-484-6394. (NORTH PARK)

"Carols by Candlelight," SDSU Aztec Chamber Singers plan concert, Sunday, December 10, 7 p.m., at Grace Lutheran Church (3993 Park Boulevard). Offering. 619-299-2890. (HILLCREST)

AcousticMusicSanDiego hosts Tom Russell, Sunday, January 10, 7:30 p.m., at Normal Heights United Methodist Church (4650 Mansfield Street). Tickets: $18, $22. 619-303-8176. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

He Was Counsel to President Nixon, and John Dean will discuss and sign his latest book, *Conservatives Without Conscience,* Monday, December 11, 7 p.m., at Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park). Free. 619-459-3247. (LINDA VISTA)

Open-Mike Poetry Readings, Monday, December 11, 8 p.m., Twiggs Tea and Coffee (4590 Park Boulevard). Free. 619-296-0616. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Palomar Jazz Ensembles joined by guest Mike Wofford for annual winter concert, Monday, December 11, 8 p.m., in Howard Brubeck Theatre at Palomar College (1140 West Mission Road). $12 general. 760-744-1150 x2453. (SAN MARCOS)

"4x4," Sushi Performance and Visual Art's performance series continues Tuesday, December 12, 8 p.m., at Bluefoot Bar and Lounge (3404 30th Street). Participants present new or in-progress works in "alternative, casual social setting"; all pieces low-tech, limited to ten minutes, performed on 4' x 4' stage. Scheduled performers: Bethany Lockhart, Jakey Toor, Eric Geiger, Grace Jun and Ant Black, Amanda Nora, Greg Lane, Rebecca Bryant, Don Nichols. Donation: $5–$10. 619-235-8466. (NORTH PARK)

Smokin' Joe Kubek and Bnois King take stage for KSDS-Jazz 88's *Jazz Live* series, Tuesday, December 12, 8 p.m., in Saville Theatre at City College (14th and C streets). $10. 619-388-3037. Concert can also be heard broadcast live on KSDS, 88.3 FM. (DOWNTOWN)

Dark Fantasy Author Stephen Woodworth signs, discusses his "Violet" series, including *From Black Rooms,* Wednesday, December 13, 7 p.m., at Mysterious Galaxy Books (7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, 858-268-4747). Free. (CLAIREMONT)

"Wishes and Candles: A Holiday Concert Celebrating Life, Peace, and Hope" offered by 120-voice San Diego North Coast Singers, Wednesday and Friday, December 13 and 15, 7 p.m., at San Dieguito United Methodist Church (170 Calle Magdalena). Program for youth chorus includes folk and classical music, seasonal music. $12 general, $5 students. 760-944-1866. (ENCINITAS)

MiraCosta's "Guitorchestra" in concert, Wednesday, December 13, 7:30 p.m., in MiraCosta Theatre (One Barnard Drive). More than 20 student and faculty musicians perform music from Renaissance to jazz. $10. 760-757-2121. (OCEANSIDE)

Jingle Mutt Mingle and book signings planned on Thursday, December 14, 5 p.m. Author Arden Moore signs and demonstrates recipes from *Real Food for Dogs* at Muttropolis at (227 South Cedros Avenue). Meet Jan Rasmusen, author of *Scared Poopless: The Straight Scoop on Dog Care* at Muttropolis found at 7755 Girard Avenue. 858-755-3647. (SOLANA BEACH, LA JOLLA)

Contemporary and Classic Band Literature promised when Palomar Concert Band celebrates the season on Thursday, December 14, 8 p.m., in Howard Brubeck Theatre at Palomar College (1140 West Mission Road, 760-744-1150 x2453). $12 general. (SAN MARCOS)

Woody Allen and His New Orleans Jazz Band in concert for UCSD's ArtPower series on Tuesday, December 19, 8 p.m. at Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street). Allen is an avid clarinetist; this is the ensemble's first North American tour. Tickets: $40, $60, $85, available at 858-534-TIXS. (DOWNTOWN)

SPORTS

Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis, the 5k walk/run benefiting Arthritis Foundation is Saturday, December 9, 8 a.m. Dog costume contest, children's fun run. 858-492-1090. (BALBOA PARK)

Lots of Short Hills Promised when San Diego Bicycle Touring Society riders head out on Saturday, December 9, through Del Mar, Del Dios, Escondido, and Poway. The 50-miler starts at 8:45 a.m. at Doyle Park (8175 Regents Road). Free. 619-243-8617. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

Introduction to Sailing on Mission Bay by Seaforth Boat Rentals, Saturday, December 9, 10 a.m., starting at 1641 Quivira Road. Free. Required reservations: 619-223-1681. (MISSION BAY)

Lake Poway-Lake Hodges Express Loop, join up with Sierra Club bicyclists for 53-mile ride through Fairbanks Ranch, Santa Luz, Lake Poway, return via Lake Hodges on Sunday, December 10. Ride with peppy pace, moderate hills starts at 8:30 a.m. behind Barnes and Noble Bookstore in Del Mar Highlands shopping center. Free. 760-479-0187. (DEL MAR)

Beginner's Kayak Lessons on Mission Bay offered Sunday, December 10, starting at 10 a.m. at Allen's Kayaks (819 Fernando Place). Participants must be able to swim. Free. Required reservations: 858-488-5599. (MISSION BAY)

San Diego Chargers host Denver Broncos in Qualcomm Stadium, Sunday, December 10, 1:15 p.m. Game broadcast on CBS; listen on radio station KIOZ, Rock 105.3. Tickets for future games start at $54, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS).

The San Diego Wildcats play basketball against Bellingham Slam, Sunday, December 10, 5:05 p.m., at EastLake High School (1120 EastLake Parkway). $5. 619-696-5123. (CHULA VISTA)

Weekly Running Groups hosted by Movin' Shoes. Runs about five miles long with rolling hills start ev-

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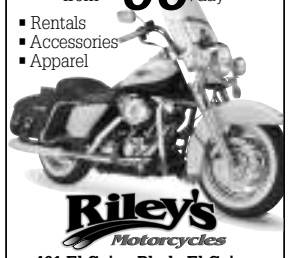
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ery Monday, 6 p.m., at 897 South Coast Highway 101 (760-634-2353). Movin' Shoes at 1892 Garnet Avenue hosts runs on Wednesdays, 6 p.m. (858-373-2310). Free. (ENCINITAS, PACIFIC BEACH)

The 2006 Pacific Life Holiday Bowl between California Golden Bears and Texas A&M Aggies is Thursday, December 28, 5 p.m., in Qualcomm Stadium. Tickets: $55–$75, available through Ticketmaster. 619-283-5808. (MISSION VALLEY)

SPECIAL

"Suburban Trees" continues through fall 2007, at Carlsbad 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)

Looking for Unique Art Objects? Semi-annual student art and pottery sale at Palomar College runs December 7–9, at south end of campus between Howard Brubeck Theatre and Lot 15 under green roof. Find campus at 1140 West Mission Road. Hours: 9 a.m.–9 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Saturday. 760-744-1150 x2302. (SAN MARCOS)

Kumeyaay, Paipai, Kiliwa, Cucapa Artists from Baja California display, sell their work on Thursday, December 7, 11 a.m.–4:30 p.m., at San Diego Museum of Man. Live arts demonstrations, cultural program, art for sale in variety of media. Included in museum admission ($8 general). 619-239-2001. (BALBOA PARK)

Are Divorce Laws Today Biased Against Men? Present your theory, Thursday, December 7, 7 p.m., at Other Side Coffee House, 4096 30th Street. Free. 619-421-1879. (NORTH PARK)

Celebrate Return of Thursday Night Thing and opening of three new exhibitions with artists and local bands, Thursday, December 7, 7 p.m., at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (1001 Kettner Boulevard). "Cerca Series" artists Amy Adler and Glenn Kaino will be on hand to talk about their work; guests will create 3-D sculpture using 2-D materials. Donation: $3. 858-454-3541. (DOWNTOWN)

International Gem and Jewelry Show, with dealers "in every imaginable gemstone," exhibits, vendors, runs December 8–10 at Del Mar Fairgrounds. Hours: noon–6 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Sunday. $7 for adults, free for those under 16. 301-294-1640. (DEL MAR)

Christmas on the Promenade planned at NTC Promenade at Liberty Station, December 8 and 9. Friday's events, 4–9 p.m., include holiday marketplace, decorated Christmas tree display, live community entertainment.

Saturday's fun runs 9 a.m.–6 p.m., with breakfast with Santa ($10 kids, $15 adults), kids' activities, decorated Christmas tree display, marketplace, music. Free admission. 858-320-2055. (POINT LOMA)

South Park Walkabout with food, music, art is Friday, December 8, 6–10 p.m. Free bus available to shuttle guests from south end of area (at Beech and 30th Streets) to north end (Juniper and 30th Streets). 619-233-6679. (SOUTH PARK)

Holiday in the Park celebrated in Old Town State Historic Park, December 9–19. "A Mexican Christmas: Memories of La Pastorela" presented at 4 and 6 p.m. on Plaza del Pasado stage on Saturday, December 9. Strolling carolers along streets, luminarias lining sidewalks (6 p.m.).

The Las Posadas Christmas procession — reenacting the travels of Joseph and Mary along streets as they seek shelter — is slated for Wednesday, December 13. Public is invited to join with choir in singing traditional Mexican and American songs. "A Mexican Christmas: Memories of La Pastorela" presented prior to and following Posadas.

"Stories of the Season" presented by Boosters of Old Town on Friday and Saturday, December 15 and 16, with holiday stories and costumed vignettes throughout park. Strolling carolers and storytellers share legends of Old Town.

Congregation of Kehilat Ariel presents dancing, songs, stories, foods of Hanukkah, Tuesday, December 19, onstage at Plaza del Pasado.

Events are free. 619-297-3100. (OLD TOWN)

Art in the Valley, Carmel Valley Artists host 43rd annual winter show and sale, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Saturday, December 9, at Karl Strauss Brewery Gardens (9675 Scranton Road). Many artists exhibit work in variety of media. Free admission. 760-945-6922. (SORRENTO VALLEY)

16th Annual Escondido Glass Artist holiday gift sale runs 11 a.m.–4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, December 9 and 10, at Bill Kasper Hot Glass Studio (415 West Grand Avenue). Beadmakers of North County coop artists will also demonstrate art of creating beads. Free. 760-310-7379. (ESCONDIDO)

Create Holiday Cards to be sent to men and women serving the country, Saturday, December 9, 11 a.m.–5 p.m., at Shiva Artistic Collections (115 West Grand Avenue). Free. 760-745-7835. (ESCONDIDO)

"Hecho en Casa," artist market with over 30 booths of Meso-American art, fine art, jewelry, crafts, indigenous artwork created by artists from Tijuana/San Diego border region — Saturday, December 9, 11 a.m.–7 p.m., at San Ysidro Civic and Recreation Center (212 West Park Avenue). Free admission. 619-428-1115. (SAN YSIDRO)

Plant Sale planned on Saturday, December 9, 11 a.m.–3 p.m., at Japanese Friendship Garden. Included in regular admission. 619-232-2780. (BALBOA PARK)

Afternoon of "Authentic Movement" offered by Jane Blount, Jessica Radulovich, Eliana Lynne Uretsky on Saturday, December 9, 1–4 p.m., at Foundation Yoga. "Rich ground is created for self-inquiry, conscious/unconscious integration, deep physical pleasure, and the sparking of creativity." $36. Required advance reservations: 510-874-4955. (SOLANA BEACH)

More Than a Launch, artist Melissa Michaels "officially launches" her Inpeloto brand — a word created by combining infinite, peace, love, togetherness — on Saturday, December 9, 5 p.m., at Neshama Raw (698 North Coast Highway). Performances by Michaels, Jessica Bauman, guitar by A.J. Reyes, live art painting by Michael Heikkinen, belly dance by Leilainia. $35 fee includes food, entertainment, benefits San Diego Center for Children. 858-401-9396. (ENCINITAS)

Twilight Tours of Marston House offered Saturdays, December 9 and 16, starting on half-hour between 5 and 7 p.m. Docent-led tours of the holiday-decorated Marston House are also offered Fridays–Sundays, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., through Sunday, January 7. $5. Find Marston House at 3525 Seventh Avenue. 619-232-6203. (HILLCREST)

We Love a Parade (Wet Versions), Oceanside Yacht Club hosts 30th annual Christmas Boat Parade of Lights, Saturday, December 9. Many light-adorned boats circle harbor for viewing pleasure beginning at 7 p.m. Watch parade from anywhere within harbor. Free. 760-435-5541.

The 34th Mission Bay Christmas Boat Parade of Lights is Saturday, December 9, 7 p.m. Parade begins at Quivira Basin, covers the Mission Bay shoreline to south Ingraham Street Bridge. Best viewing points are Crown Point, east side of Vacation Island, west side of Fiesta Island. 858-488-0501.

"Christmas...San Diego Style" is theme for 35th annual San Diego Bay Parades of Lights, Sundays, December 10 and 17. Parades begin with fireworks at 5:30 p.m. Route: Shelter Island, passing Harbor Island, Seaport Village, Marina Park, across bay to Coronado, ending near Navy carrier turning basin. Free. 619-224-2240. (OCEANSIDE, MISSION BAY, SAN DIEGO BAY)

Stamp-Collecting Show, stamp and cover dealers offer wares, Sunday, December 10, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., at Al Bahr Shrine Temple (5440 Kearny Mesa Road). Free. 619-218-7835. (KEARNY MESA)

Open and Critical Discussion of the "Humanist Manifesto 3" and other documents of humanism planned when Humanist Fellowship gathers on Sunday, December 10, 2 p.m., at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). 619-670-4159, 619-544-0640. (DOWNTOWN)

Holiday "Relaxer" planned Monday, December 11, 6 p.m., at Indigo Village (609 South Vulcan Avenue, suites 201 and 202). Parenting tips from Susie Walton, massage, "mini power animal readings," skin care treatments, sample aura cleansing, shopping, live music. Free. ("Leave the kids at home.") 760-633-3754. (ENCINITAS)

A "Paper Theatre Festival" by staff of Arts Libraries at UCSD is underway. In the Victorian era, families purchased theater posters, cut and paste together scale-model replicas; scripts were included, so families could mount their own productions. An exhibit of paper theaters, materials outlining history of the art form, paper optical toys continues through January in

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Reading

Butterfly Boy: Memories of a Chicano Mariposa

Rigoberto González

By Rigoberto González
University of Wisconsin Press, 2006, 222 pages, $24.95

FROM THE DUST JACKET:
Heartbreaking, poetic, and intensely personal, *Butterfly Boy* is a unique coming out and coming-of-age story of a first-generation Chicano who trades one life for another, only to discover that history and memory are not exchangeable or forgettable.

WHAT THE CRITICS SAY:
Publishers Weekly: This moving memoir of a young Chicano boy's maturing into a self-accepting gay adult is a beautifully executed portrait of the experience of being gay, Chicano, and poor in the United States. A visiting associate professor of English and Latino studies at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, González writes in a poetic yet straightforward style that heightens the power of his story (mariposa is Spanish for "faggot" as well as butterfly).

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:
Rigoberto González is the author of *So Often the Pitcher Goes to Water until It Breaks*, a selection of the National Poetry Series, and of *Other Fugitives and Other Strangers.* A recipient of Guggenheim and NEA fellowships and of several international artist residencies, he has also written two children's picture books, a literary biography, and an award-winning novel, *Crossing Vines.* He is on the Advisory Circle of Con Tinta – a coalition of Chicano/Latino activist writers. He lives in New York City.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR:
When I phoned Mr. González at his home in New York, he had just returned, the day before, from a west coast tour to promote *Butterfly Boy*. In a couple of months he will head out again to promote his new poetry collection, *Other Fugitives and Other Strangers.*

"In what ways are the lives of migratory people romanticized by the rest of American culture?"

"People like the idea; they think that it's sexy or romantic. For them, movement means progress, volition, or activity. But, sometimes movement is repetition. Movement is lack of stability and the inability to make long-term commitments.

"I like moving around, but there's also a lot of loneliness attached to it. You're always leaving people behind. You're always leaving places behind. You meet somebody and understand that this is all the exchange and interaction you are going to have, and then you move on.

"Still, you carry your emotional and personal baggage with you. That's why the big discovery in the book for me was about my father. You can try to reinvent yourself, but in the end you slip back to old habits."

"Is your father still living?"

"No. My father passed away a couple of months ago. The book was an attempt to recognize and come to understand what happened between us, but it's also a kind of love letter. Through language, I'm trying to understand who he is and who I am and why we don't get along. The sad thing now is that there's no longer a conversation. It's all in memory, and it's all mental.

"Many of us have problems with our families. We can all identify with parent-child conflict, and we're all looking for solutions. The other common denominator is that no matter how difficult the relationship is, we do love each other. It is love. We wish it was a different, more positive kind of love, but we just

> "It wasn't because we loved it or we were fulfilling a dream to be migrant people. It was economic necessity."

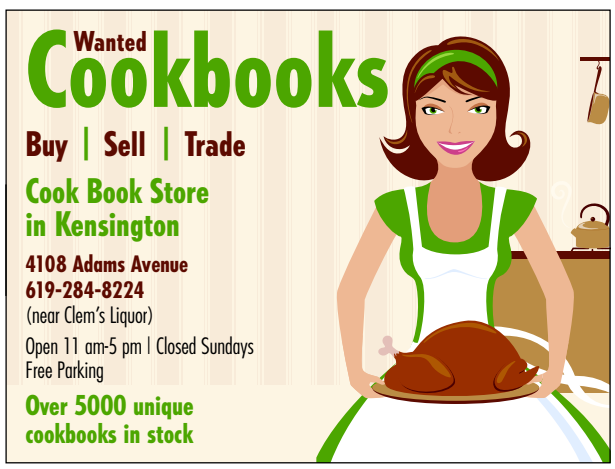
exhibit cases of UCSD's Geisel Library (lower level, west wing).

Festival director Scott Paulson performs one of his original paper theater plays, Crisalia Gonzalez premieres new play with mythic garden theme, Wednesday, December 13, 12:30 p.m. Free. 858-534-8074. (LA JOLLA)

Holiday of Lights at Del Mar Fairgrounds is display of seasonal festive lights, with holiday-themed displays and more than 400 displays on view through Monday, January 1. Visitors view lighted creations from their vehicles, driving along 1.5-mile route through fairgrounds, around racetrack.

Hours: 5:30–10 p.m. Sundays–Thursdays, 5:30 to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Admission: $13 per vehicle (up to five people), $18 per vehicle with six or more people. 858-793-5555. (DEL MAR)

Skating by the Sea, outdoor ice-skating rink overlooking Pacific Ocean remains open for skating through December at Hotel del Coronado (1500 Orange Avenue). Three-hour skating sessions begin at 2 and 6 p.m. daily ($20 general, $15 for kids), with two-hour sessions beginning with 11 a.m. on weekends ($15 for adults, $10 for kids). Hours change on December 19. Skate rental: $5. 619-435-6611. (CORONADO)



FOR KIDS

"Funny Fractured Fairytales" presented by Weaver's Tales through Sunday, December 10, at Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater. Next up: *Magical, Musical Holiday* by comic ventriloquist Lynn Trimble, December 13–17.

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

Mind Your Manners! Cindy Post Senning — great-granddaughter of Emily Post — leads etiquette education class for kids, Friday, December 8, at Children's Place Town at Otay Ranch (2015 Birch Road). Sessions start at 1:15, 2:15 p.m. Free. Reservations: 619-216-5261. (CHULA VISTA)

"A Charlie Brown Christmas" is presented by La Jolla San Diego Junior Theatre through December 17 at Firehouse YMCA Community Center (7877 Herschel Avenue). Ponder the meaning of Christmas in classic tale by cartoonist Charles M. Schulz. Performances begin at 7 p.m. on Fridays, at 2 and 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. $10–$15. 619-239-8355. (LA JOLLA)

"Madeline's Christmas," based on the classic Ludwig Bemelmans story, is presented December 8–23 by South Bay San Diego Junior Theatre. Performances begin at 7 p.m. on Fridays, at 2 and 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays at Theatre on Third (250 3rd Avenue). Tickets: $10 adults, $5 youths. 619-239-8355. (CHULA VISTA)

Musical Story Time led by educator Anne Fennell, Saturday, December 9, 9:30 a.m., at Museum of Making Music (5790 Armada Drive). Interactive storytelling sessions inspire reading, expose participants to elements of music, musical instruments, music making. Suggested donation: $5. 760-438-5996. (CARLSBAD)

Holiday Creations for Parents and Kids, make a petite wreath, gift wrap, or gift cards during class for those five and older (and their parents), Saturday, December 9, 10 a.m., at San Diego Natural History Museum. $43 per child/adult pair. 619-255-0203. (BALBOA PARK)

All Aboard! The Chula Vista Live Steam Club provides train rides, 12:30–2:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, December 9 and 10, at Rohr Park (4548 Sweetwater Road). Donation: 50 cents. Children under 48" must be accompanied by an adult. 619-421-5227. (BONITA)

Make Recycled Robots during family science day at San Diego Air and Space Museum on Saturday, December 9, at 12:30, 1:30, and 2:30 p.m. (sessions last 45 minutes). Tubes, boxes, cans, other materials provided — you bring the imagination. Included in paid admission. Reservations: 619-234-8291 x19. (BALBOA PARK)

Violinist Tai Murray performs for Discovery Series hosted by La Jolla Music Society, Sunday, December 10, 3 p.m., at Neurosciences Institute (10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive). Murray is joined by pianist Gilles Vonsattel in program including Beethoven's "Sonata for Violin and Piano in C Minor No. 2," the "Sonata for Violin and Piano in G Minor" by Debussy, Ysaÿe's "Sonata in D Minor for Solo Violin No. 3," the "Sonata in E-flat Major for Violin and Pi-

can't help it."

"It has been said that, in order to move from poverty to the middle class, one must give up, for a time, relationships for achievement. Was that true for you?"

"Absolutely. I learned that very early. In order to achieve a kind of economic stability, my family had to be unstable. It wasn't because we loved it or we were fulfilling a dream to be migrant people. It was economic necessity."

Throughout González's childhood, his family moved between their home in Zacapu, Mexico, and work in Southern California, living in Thermal and Indio.

"That became my paradigm as I moved forward with my own life and identity. The educated person has to leave home in order to go to college. The trip from camp in Indio to college in Riverside was only 70 miles, but it was a world away. All of a sudden, I was being exposed to other people and other ways of thinking. The more I absorbed this new knowledge, the more I realized how different I was becoming from my own family. Although you never forget where you come from, you realize that you now occupy other spaces."

"What does your family make of your success these days?"

"It's funny because there are only a very few people in my family that can actually read English. My brother is one of them. In his own way, he's been very proud. I discovered when I went home one day that he had a scrapbook of all the stuff I was sending him. I was touched by that. We didn't put it into words, but the action said everything."

"What most surprised you about college life?"

"For all of us, every single thing was such a learning experience, and we had to learn immediately. What got me through was that there were so many people in the same boat. One of the things I remember was having to open up a bank account. There were five of us whose parents had never had a bank account. We had no idea what to do, so we all went to the bank together.

"The other thing was the diversity of the college campus and the expectations there. We were learning to be adults and learning to be students and learning to be Americans in this institution that demanded so much.

"Many of us didn't make it and went back home. Every year, in the fall, there was a sea of brown faces on campus, and by the spring it had dwindled down. The expectations, the level of writing and the level of knowledge were very different. The pulp mysteries I had read in high school just didn't do me any good when I took a course in 19th-century British Literature.

"I remember going into the bookstores to buy books for classes I wasn't even taking, because I knew there was something that I was missing. Actually, I had done this once before. When I first arrived in this country, I was ten years old. All of my friends had this knowledge about music that I didn't have. I remember thinking that if I was going to keep up, I had to learn. I asked questions, and I would go to friends' houses and listen to music. I learned to say, 'Oh, that's my favorite song too.'

"Migration from Mexico to the U.S. was a good training ground for the second migration from home to college. The one thing that I learned from my family was to adapt. We adapted to all kinds of environments, no matter what."

"Your memoir recalls some painful and some painfully intimate details. Did you find those details difficult to relive?"

"There are still some passages that I cannot read out loud

(continued on page 90)

> "Every year, in the fall, there was a sea of brown faces on campus, and by the spring it had dwindled down."

ano" by R. Strauss, and Bartók's "Romanian Folk Dances."

The "Prelude" preconcert chat and performance is by 14-year-old flutist Mark Teplitsky at 2:30 p.m. $5 for students, $30 general. Reservations: 858-459-3728. (LA JOLLA)

MUSEUMS

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

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

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

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

Coronado Museum of History and Art, "Marilyn Monroe at 80: Some Still Like It Hot!" continues through Sunday, January 14. Exhibit includes 64 photographs, some of which have never been shown for general public, as well as images shot by George Barris in weeks leading up to Monroe's death, such as last photograph ever taken of her entitled *The Warm Up.*

Ongoing exhibits explore the overall history of Coronado, Navy and Army, Tent City, and the Hotel del Coronado. Find the museum at 1100 Orange Avenue. 619-435-7242. (CORONADO)

Gaslamp Museum of Historic San Diego, glimpse San Diego's colorful past at the museum, where displays highlight Wyatt Earp's San Diego days, the Peg Leg Gold Legend, the first maps and photographs of Old Town and "New Town," early military history, the naval disaster in 1923 at Point Honda, and more. Find the museum at 413 Market Street (between Fourth and Fifth Avenues). 619-237-1492. (GASLAMP QUARTER)

Heritage of the Americas Museum, more than 100 Chinese jades of the Late Neolithic (4300–2500 B.C.) through the Ming periods (A.D. 1368–1644) are included in "The Stone of Heaven: The Enduring Art of Jade Age China." From ancient times, jades in China were treasured as talismans, worn on the body either as final adornments in death or as ornaments in life. See a rare and valuable jade burial suit of the Han dynasty (206 B.C.–A.D. 221), one of only about two dozen that have been excavated in China. The suits were made of more than 2000 square and rectangular plates of jade sewn together with threads of gold, silver, or bronze (depending upon the status of the wearer). Ongoing.

The museum features art and artifacts from South and North America, concentrating on the utilitarian and decorative artistry of crafts workers from ancient cultures. The museum also features wings dedicated to natural history, archaeology, education, anthropology, and fine art. Find the museum on the Cuyamaca College campus, 12110 Cuyamaca College Drive West. 619-670-5194. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

John DeWitt Historic Museum and Library, operated by the Alpine Historical Society, it is located in the 1897 home/office of Dr. Sophronia Nichols. She was the first doctor in Alpine and the first female doctor in the East County. Indian artifacts from the Kingery family on exhibit. The museum is located at 2116 Tavern Road; 619-659-8740. (ALPINE)

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

Magee House Museum, built in 1887 and surrounded by rose gardens, the site includes "one of the last barns still standing in Carlsbad." Docent and self-guided tours of historic house and gardens. Find Magee House at 258 Beech Street; 760-434-9189. (CARLSBAD)

Museum of Making Music, "Brother Musician, Listen to a Miracle," exhibit celebrating 75th birthday of electric guitar is collaboration between museum, organology expert Matthew Hill, and Rickenbacker International Corporation. Exhibit charts development of electric guitar by exploring innovations, includes prototypes and custom instruments. Through December.

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

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Reading

(continued from page 89)

because I'll begin to cry. But I had to be completely honest. I didn't want to romanticize my journey. One of my critics said that it was a cheerless story because I didn't continue the narrative to the point of me becoming a happy gay man. I've got news. I'm not completely happy. I'm not bad, but I wouldn't say that I've reached a state of bliss. I wanted to acknowledge that the family wasn't perfect and that I had issues and was flawed."

"One of the things that you speak frankly about is having been in a physically abusive relationship with an older man. How do readers respond to that?"

"Friends who knew me then didn't quite understand how devastating the relationship was. Some read it and tell me they never want to see me in that position again. Others feel guilty, because they feel like they weren't there for me while it was happening, and they feel strange that they didn't understand the severity of the relationship.

"The other reaction from people who don't know me is that they are curious. They wonder how I could write that and control the language when it was packed with such emotion. Theirs is more of a technical question.

"The new book of poetry is a companion to *Butterfly Boy*. It's all about abusive relationships between men. I take turns writing in the voice of the abuser and of the abused. I wanted to bring attention to these devastating relationships in the queer community.

"When I was looking for a support group, back in 2001 when my relationships were failing because I still hadn't worked things out with this old abusive relationship, I was only able to find three in the whole country. There was one in Seattle, one in Tucson, and one in New York City. I remember going to the one in Seattle, and it was for the entire Northwest."

"Why do you think so little support exists?"

"Part of it has to do with the shame, but also, I think, the pressure we get from the queer community to show only positive representations of ourselves. When I started reading these poems aloud, a gay man in the audience said to me, 'How dare you write these poems! Here we are fighting to represent our community as healthy, and you're telling the world that we are not.'

"I'm showing how complex we are and that we have problems like everybody else. That's how heterosexuals started dealing with physical abuse. People started coming forward and talking about it. If nobody had talked about it, the problem would be worse than it is now. We have laws and resources for women because they stepped forward and said there was a problem. We need to do the same thing in the queer community. We are all susceptible to this kind of negative dynamic. Not all gay people, of course, but it does exist in our community.

"Butterfly Boy is written from a queer perspective, but my whole life is not all queerness. The book is about ethnicity. It's about cultural issues. It's about queer issues. It's all of me, and that's what I wanted to represent – the complexity. It'll be a challenge to the queer community to see race. It'll be a challenge to the Latino community to see queerness. There are other writers out there navigating these issues as well. It's not like we choose one day this and another day that, we are all of these things all of the time."

– Jerry Miller

> "The book is about ethnicity."

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

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

Find it all at 645 Main Street. 760-789-7644. (RAMONA)

San Diego Aerospace Museum, the technological advancements made in aircraft propulsion over the last century are showcased in "100 Years of Aircraft Engines," including a functional reproduction of the 1903 Wright Flyer Engine; a Rolls-Royce liquid-cooled Merlin V-12 that powered the *Spitfire* and P-51 *Mustang* fighters; and a rare German Junkers *Jumo 004,* one of the world's first operational jet engines.

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

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

The museum offers exhibits of over 65 aircraft — including an RQ-1K Predator UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) on indefinite loan from the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, which "saw action over the Balkans in the late 1990s"; a replica of Spirit of St. Louis, a Fokker Scourge (or Fokker Eindecker E-III), a World War I Spad VII, flight deck of the USS *Yorktown,* and a Lockheed Blackbird spy plane — 1400 scale models, 10,000 aviation-related items, and memorabilia from Montgolfier hot-air-balloon era to Space Age, along with an International Aerospace Hall of Fame.

The museum is located in the Ford Building in the Palisades area. 619-234-8291. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Model Railroad Museum, the museum celebrates American railroads with "the largest permanent operating model railroad and toy train exhibit" in North America. Four scale-model railroads of the Southwest, the "San Diego County Relief Map" exhibit, and an interactive toy train. There is a multimedia presentation on railroading, an operating railroad semaphore signal, and interpretive displays on railroads and model railroading. The museum is downstairs in the Casa de Balboa building. 619-696-0199. (BALBOA PARK)

San Dieguito Heritage Museum, the museum offers informative displays on the North County coastal history including Native Americans, early homesteaders, and recent times, as well as photographic collections and archives. Find the museum 561 South Vulcan Avenue; 760-632-9711. (ENCINITAS)

Serra Museum, "Commemorating 75 Years: The Serra Museum" is said to "remember the events leading up to the dedication of Presidio Park and the Serra Museum" on July 16, 1929. The exhibit includes a "visit back in time to 1929."

The museum interprets the Native American, Spanish, and Mexican periods of San Diego's history and contains Spanish Colonial furnishings, art, and artifacts. It's located at the site of the West Coast's first European settlement, 2727 Presidio Drive. 619-297-3258. (OLD TOWN)

Birch Aquarium at Scripps, an aquarium and museum under one roof, the facility is a component of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD. Look for 33 tanks containing marine life of the Pacific Northwest, the California coastline, Mexico's Sea of Cortés, and the South Pacific. One highlight is the La Jolla Kelp Tank, a two-story-high tank with giant kelp plants and nearly 30 species of local marine life. "Sea of Genes" offers visit "to the genomic frontier"; "Earthquake! Life on a Restless Planet" explores earthquakes and their impacts on life. "Wonders of Water" waterplay area includes three interactive stations. The Lynne and Howard Robbins Shark Reef Exhibit features a 13,000-gallon shark tank with black tip, white tip, nurse, and wobbegong sharks.

The aquarium is located at 2300 Expedition Way (off North Torrey Pines Road, south of La Jolla Shores Drive). 619-534-FISH. (LA JOLLA)

The San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum onboard the decommissioned USS *Midway* is open for tours, now berthed at 910 North Harbor Drive. Exhibits include Navy jet simulators, carrier and flight deck touring, captain's sea cabin, pilot house, navigation bridge. Admission fee includes audio guide. 619-544-9600. (DOWNTOWN)

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

Heritage Walk Museum, the museum includes the restored Victorian House, the city's original Santa Fe Train Depot, a railroad car with model train, working blacksmith shop, and a barn. Find Heritage Walk in Grape Day Park, at 321 North Broadway; 760-743-8207. (ESCONDIDO)

Chula Vista Nature Center, an interactive living museum devoted to the endangered Southern California coastal wetlands, located in Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. Visitors can use a Bioscanner to view animals macroscopically, use a Wentzscope for views of microscopic organisms found in the "Sweetwater Soup," and interact with computerized videos exploring how tides affect the bay in the "Moons, Tides, and the San Diego Bay" exhibit. Pet sharks and rays in the David A. Wergeland Shark and Ray Experience, see burrowing owls and migratory birds, and enjoy the xerophytic gardens.

Visitors meet a shuttle bus at the Bayfront E Street Trolley Station or at the center's parking lot at the foot of E Street and Bay Boulevard. 619-409-5903. (CHULA VISTA)

Holiday Bowl
Cal vs. Texas A&M Dec. 28

Andre Rieu Dec. 7
Star 94.1 Jingle Ball Dec. 8
Modest Mouse, The Shins, Pete Yorn Dec. 9
Panic! At The Disco Dec. 9
AFI/Taking Back Sunday Dec. 10
"Dancing with the Stars" Dec. 19
Peter White Dec. 23
Jamie Foxx Dec. 26
Incubus Jan. 12
Guns N' Roses Jan. 16
Monster Jam Jan. 20
Lisa Lampanelli Jan. 26
Maná Feb. 10
Supercross Feb. 17

Justin Timberlake
January 8

Cheetah Girls
January 13

WWE Smackdown Feb. 20
Lyle Lovett Feb. 28
The Who Mar. 1
Christina Aguilera Mar. 2
Snow Patrol Mar. 3
Doodlebops Mar. 4
Eric Clapton Mar. 15
Pat Metheny Mar. 23
Rod Stewart Mar. 25
Josh Groban Apr. 6

"Spelling Bee" Dec. 7-10
"Disney on Ice" Jan. 30-Feb. 4

Chargers Home Games
vs. Broncos Dec. 10
vs. Chiefs Dec. 17
vs. Cardinals Dec. 31

Poinsettia Bowl Dec. 19

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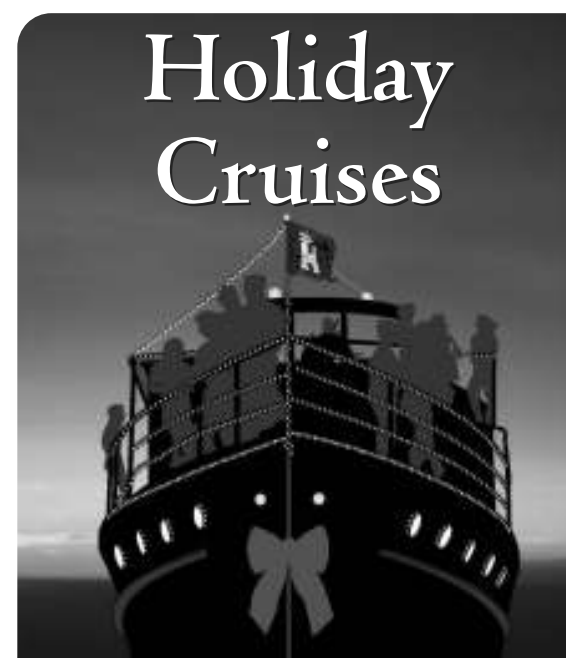

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Privacies

The rooms turn into marvelous echo chambers and the art begins to converse with itself.

REVIEW
W.S. DI PIERO

A city's cultural profile is created partly by its private art collections. San Diego has its share of significant ones, and the San Diego Museum of Art has mounted a couple of exhibitions — the last was in 1983 — that feature them and give us the chance to get a peek at what some folks live with. The museum's current show, *Personal Views: Regarding Private Collections in San Diego,* draws from 25 collections. The sheer numbers reflect the very broad band of tastes on view, so the result is a bit of a grab bag. The exhibition spins you, not unpleasantly, this way and that: it includes everything from classic modern painting to Nigerian masks and Indian sculpture to a solid cube constructed of straight pins (by a young American, Tara Donovan) to early American primitive portraiture. Interested yet?

Stay interested, because if you make it halfway through the installation, the rooms turn into marvelous echo chambers and the art begins to converse with itself, and random, unexpected connections reveal themselves. Consider this. The first thing you see is a 1943 painting of a boxy woman on a beach by the American Milton Avery, who often arranged flat, thinly painted visual planes (sea, shore, body, sky) into a kind of pastoral fabric. Avery was the calmest of American painters when contemporaries like Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock, and Willem de Kooning were stirring up stormier weathers. The woman in Avery's pictures is one version of the American goddess, a motif that walks its crooked walk through modern American art history in de Kooning, Warhol, and many others.

A few rooms later we find the originals from which a lot of the goddess imagery derived, real cult objects from faraway times and places. A smiling, saucer-eyed Ewa figure from New Guinea belonging to Mina and Edward Smith, who have contributed several enchanting figures from their largely South Pacific collection, is a goddess image believed to invoke strength and success in hunting. Ewas, carved from a single piece of wood, are the oldest objects to come out of New Guinea, and along with other statues and ceremonial masks scattered throughout the show (from Nigeria, Hawaii, New Caldonia, Mexico, and elsewhere), they recall the cliché that modernism was invented not by late–19th-century European painters but by Mayan, Aztec, African, and other indigenous artisans. You see the connection immediately in the thickly outlined, masklike woman's face in a 1938 Hans Hoffmann picture lent by Hughes and Sheila Potiker, who also own the Avery.

You might feel jostled by the zigzagging periods and styles and types of art. You can step across the room from a First Century B.C. "Head of Hermes" (a carved image from Greek antiquity that capped a square shaft set at transitional places like doorways and street corners: Hermes was a guide to the underworld and Apollo's messenger) to a big Mannerist canvas by the minor 17th-century Italian artist Antonio Molinari, *Allegory of Melancholia and Choler.* Sleepy-eyed Melancholy sits stooped over, massive head in hand, fiddling with a geometer's compass that keeps retracing the same circle (a repetitive-motion fecklessness symptomatic, we'd now say, of clinical depression), while an appropriately irate, tensed-up Choler looms over him, drawing a sword, knitting — with an exaggeration typical of Mannerism — a scrunched, multifolded brow like the one I saw on a shar-pei pooch that crossed my path in Balboa Park.

If the Molinari is overloaded with Mannerist tics — extreme foregrounding, pumped torsos, seething emotion — some of the contemporary work included in *Personal Views* has its own predictable tics. A large 2003 work by the Portuguese João Louro titled *Blind Image* is meant not to please the eye but to pinch the brain. Across the bottom of the frame sit two bold lines of type: "ABOVE: BRIGITTE BARDOT. DIEU CRÉA LA FEMME. She was the first actress whose fetishized sexuality resided in her entire naked body: the blond hair, the beautiful face, the line down the back, across the curve of the buttocks and bikini and long legs." The French phrase refers to Roger Vadim's scandalous (in its time, 1956) movie, *And God Created Woman,* featuring a naked Bardot, screen goddess and our new Eve. Above the verbiage, occupying most of the picture's square footage, is a blank space. I get the conceptual meaning and interactive dynamic of this piece — it's a visual sermonette: we see only ourselves reflected in the glass — but it's simplistic and didactic.

Personal Views reminds us of the ongoing task of cultures and artists to find new ways to express the human form. Sometimes the representation is bound up in religious ceremonialism, like a painting by the Haitian Hector Hyppolite, a self-taught artist (about whom the high priest of Surrealism, André Breton, wrote an essay), that depicts Erzulie, Voudon's goddess of love and beauty. Another picture rooted in Voudon and Santeria, by Wilfredo Lam, depicts horned animals related to Caribbean deities in a lush tropical landscape of watermelon reds and inky indigos straight out of *The Buena Vista Social Club.* More often, though, the imagery is as secular as it gets. The photographer Nan Goldin (collected by Joyce and Ted Strauss), notorious for garish, super-intimate scenes of her edge-world friends and their down-and-dirty milieu, is represented here with *Joey at the Love Ball.* Joey, a drag queen dolled up in a supremely low-cut (nipples exposed) 18th century gown, looks like a cross-dresser's wedding cake ornament and wears a heavily bejeweled wig with such a serious wingspan that if he leaned too far to either side, forget it. And yet the picture delivers, because it layers into its mannerisms rich, complicated suggestions about sexual (and historical) identity, costume, disguise, and camp, and the entire image pulses with affection for the subject.

Woman Seated, *Hans Hofmann, 1938*

Personal Views: Regarding Private Collections in San Diego
San Diego Museum of Art, *1450 El Prado, Balboa Park*
Through Sunday, January 7, 2007. *For additional information, call 619-232-7931.*

Another strong photographer and Strauss favorite, 31-year-old Melanie Pullen, like Goldin, is captivated by constructed images of the self, but in her pictures they really are constructed. Pullen stages scenes, using elaborate preparations — storyboards, scene-dressing, rehearsals — to create images of violated victims. In *Self-Portrait,* she presents herself as a crime victim, lying in bed dressed in bloodied clothes. It's a strange amalgam of Quentin Tarantino grimness and Victorian primness. The open-grained textures create an exquisite pointillist surface that supports, however, a fairly awful reality, even though the "reality" is faked. The picture is a kind of fictive documentary, folding together the gruesome and the gorgeous so tightly that it puts you on edge and leaves you there.

An 1873 painting by the French Impressionist James Jacques Tissot, *The Japanese Scroll,* establishes another visual stream that runs through the exhibition. A woman in an overdecorated sitting room admires a scroll painting lolling across her lap. When Japan was opened to the West in 1868, European painters immediately took up the decorative flatness and monochromatics of its art. The scene in Tissot's picture illustrates that historic moment, and its style reflects the Japanese influence. Elsewhere in the exhibition we see how that influence played out in work by Pierre Bonnard, Edouard Vuillard (whose interiors look like

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BETTE DAVIS "All About Eve" Thurs. Dec. 28 - 7 pm Sun. Dec. 31 - 2 pm
AUDREY HEPBURN "Roman Holiday" Thurs. Jan. 11 - 7 pm Sun. Jan. 14 - 2 pm
ELIZABETH TAYLOR "Giant" Thurs. Jan. 18 - 7 pm Sun. Jan. 21 - 2 pm
MARILYN MONROE "Some Like It Hot" Thurs. Jan. 25 - 7 pm Sun. Jan. 28 - 2 pm

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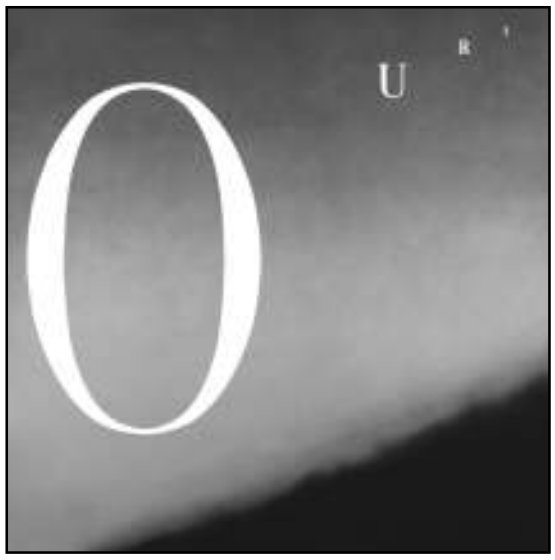

Ours, *Edward Ruscha, 1997*

Woman after the Bath, *Hashiguchi Goyo, Taisho period (1912–26)*

floor-to-ceiling upholstery), and Paul Sérusier, all three associated with the Nabi movement — *nabi* is the Hebrew word for prophet — which emphasized the screen-like flatness of the picture plane and "orientalized" effects.

My favorite wall in the installation situates side by side two pictures, owned by Iris and Matthew Strauss, that return us to the goddess business introduced by the Avery painting. Next to a fine-sanded, pinkish 1970 de Kooning picture of a woman hangs the German artist Georg Baselitz's *Franziska, August 13, 1992,* where the female figure we see in outline is pieced together with long, wormy ribs of pigment poured straight from the tube. What matters to Baselitz are what he calls "expressive surfaces": you perceive the figure only if you step away; closer up, the picture becomes a vascular system of ropy whites swiped by angry swatches of Ben-Gay green. Tiny corkscrews of pigment curl and squirm up from the surface.

The variety of *Personal Views* can be a little disorienting — I haven't even mentioned the Rembrandt etchings, the modern Chinese paintings, the John Chamberlain sculpture of car scrap metal gnarled to look like a madcap ball of wool, or two prime Ed Ruscha canvases lent by Irwin and Joan Jacobs. Its themes and materials and periods lurch this way and that, but there are worse ways to lose your bearings. ■

ART LISTINGS

Events that are underlined occur after December 14.

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: *Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER 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

Abstract Minimalist Art by Silvia Valentino opens with reception on Friday, December 8, 4 p.m., at Expressions of Mexico Gallery (1122 César Chávez Parkway). 619-232-1699. Continues through Friday, January 12. (BARRIO LOGAN)

Fish Out of Water Gallery opens with group show and "Ray at Night" reception, Saturday, December 9, 6 p.m. Exhibit continues through Friday, January 12, at 2925 Lincoln Avenue. 619-296-9786. (NORTH PARK)

"3 Way," exhibition of work by Josh Clay, Caia Koopman, and Josh Taylor opens with reception on Saturday, December 9, 5 p.m., at Distinction Artist Studios and Gallery (317 East Grand Avenue). Closes Saturday, February 3. 760-781-5779. All 14 artist studios will be open during reception. (ESCONDIDO)

"Holidays Spirits" will be lifted during multimedia exhibit opening with Ray at Night reception at Sharp Gallery (3807 Ray Street), Saturday, December 9, 6 p.m. 619-546-9546. Through Thursday, January 11. (NORTH PARK)

Ray at Night, over 20 art venues showcase local art on second Saturday of each month, including December 9, 6–10 p.m., centered at Ray Street and University Avenue. Live music, food. 619-546-9546. Free. (NORTH PARK)

Thirty Abstract Paintings by M.L. Bradley gathered in exhibit opening with reception, Saturday, December 9, 6 p.m., at Studio 3060 (3060 University Avenue). 619-347-9866. (NORTH PARK)

"Dragonz," exhibition of functional and decorative ceramic pieces by Sara Duvall is on view through December at CASD Gallery (3824 Ray Street). Reception in conjunction with "Ray at Night" is Saturday, December 9, 7 p.m. 619-543-9791. (NORTH PARK)

"On and Off," exhibition of work by Barbara Sexton continues through Sunday, January 28, at Earl and Birdie Taylor Library (Pacific Beach Library, 4275 Cass Street). Meet Sexton during reception, Sunday, December 10, 1 p.m. The art was "conceived as a site-specific installation" for the gallery, with "wall-sized, fabric-like panels imprinted" with digitally manipulated, photo-based imagery. 858-581-9934. Sexton will discuss her work Saturday, January 13, 1 p.m. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Watercolorist Art Sueltz has work featured in main gallery of Borrelli Space Gallery through December. Reception on Sunday, December 10, 2 p.m., includes six open studios with "small works for the holidays." Find gallery on second floor at 4411 Park Boulevard, 619-437-1564. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Artists Daniel Hacche and Mariza Sanchez have exhibition opening with reception on Thursday, December 14, 6 p.m., at Galerie d'Art International (320 South Cedros Avenue, suite 500). 858-793-0316. (SOLANA BEACH)

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

Events that are underlined occur after December 14.

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CLASSICAL

Music Student Honors Recital offered during Concert Hour series, Thursday, December 7, 12:30 p.m. in Palomar College Performance Lab (room D-10 at 1140 West Mission Road). Free. 760-744-1150 x2316. (SAN MARCOS)

Courtly Noyse presents Renaissance music for First Thursday Concert in Escondido Library's Turrentine Room (239 South Kalmia Street) on December 7, 7 p.m. Free. 760-839-4329. (ESCONDIDO)

"Canticle of Joy," J.M. Martin's piece performed for Yuletide Concert 2006, December 8–10, at Hope United Methodist Church (16550 Bernardo Heights Parkway). Concerts include more than 50 voices, small orchestra, traditional Christmas music with narration. Concerts begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, 2 p.m. on Saturday, 4 p.m. on Sunday. To obtain free tickets, call 858-485-5840. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

Sacred and Secular Christmas Favorites performed by handbell choirs, mixed and matched adult choirs, young children for "Christmas Celebrations" slated for Friday and Saturday, December 8 and 9, 7 p.m., at San Carlos United Methodist Church (6554 Cowles Mountain Boulevard). Offering. 619-464-4331. (SAN CARLOS)

Orchestral Masterworks promised when Point Loma Nazarene University Orchestra performs Friday, December 8, 7:30 p.m., in Crill Performance Hall. Find campus at 3900 Lomaland Drive. 619-849-2325. Free. (POINT LOMA)

Poulenc's "Gloria" may be heard when USD Choral Scholars and USD Concert Choir perform Friday, December 8, 8 p.m., in Founders Chapel of Founders Hall at University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park). Choirs joined by soprano Rebecca Basilio and orchestra for selection of holiday choral favorites, carol sing-along. Concert repeats Sunday, December 10, 2 p.m. $10 general. 619-260-4171. (LINDA VISTA)

All Mozart! The overture to "Marriage of Figaro," "Sinfonia Concertante," and "Symphony No. 41 (Jupiter)" may be heard when David Atherton leads San Diego Symphony in "Jacobs' Masterworks" concerts, December 8–10. Symphony is joined by William Preucil (violin), Cynthia Phelps (viola). Concerts begin at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday, at Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street). $20–$85. Reservations: 619-235-0804. (ESCONDIDO)

The Scripps Ranch Madrigals, an a cappella ensemble attired in period costume, sings a program of sacred and secular music for Pleasure of Your Company holiday concert, Sunday, December 10, 2:30 p.m., at Scripps Miramar Ranch Library (10301 Scripps Lake Drive). Donation. 858-538-8158. (SCRIPPS RANCH)

Violinist Tai Murray performs for Discovery Series hosted by La Jolla Music Society, Sunday, December 10, 3 p.m., at Neurosciences Institute (10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive). Murray is joined by pianist Gilles Vonsattel in program including Beethoven's "Sonata for Violin and Piano in C Minor No. 2," the "Sonata for Violin and Piano in G Minor" by Debussy, Ysaÿe's "Sonata in D Minor for Solo Violin No. 3," the "Sonata in E-flat Major for Violin and Piano" by R. Strauss, and Bartók's "Romanian Folk Dances."

The "Prelude" preconcert chat and performance is by 14-year-old flutist Mark Teplitsky at 2:30 p.m. $5 for students, $30 general. Reservations: 858-459-3728. (LA JOLLA)

Christmas Portions of Handel's "Messiah" performed by Palomar Chorale and Chancel Choir at First Congregational Church (1800 North Broadway) on Sunday, December 10, 3 p.m. Offering. 760-745-3320. (ESCONDIDO)

Hallelujah! Seasonal "Messiah" sing-along hosted by La Jolla Symphony and Chorus, Sunday, December 10, 4 p.m., at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church (6628 Santa Isabel Street). $15. Reservations: 858-534-4637. (LA COSTA)

Annual Christmas Concert by combined choirs at San Rafael Church (17252 Bernardo Center Drive) — with traditional, contemporary, and handbell choirs playing songs and carols of season — Sunday, December 10, 4 p.m. Free. 858-487-4314. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

"A Renaissance Christmas," Sunday, December 10, 6 p.m., at Our Lady of the Rosary Church (1629 Columbia Street). Traditional and modern arrangements of holiday carols by a cappella Cheshire Singers, replete with Elizabethan costumes. Free. 619-234-4820. (LITTLE ITALY)

"Feast of Lights," Westminster Choir, orchestra, and soloists perform Rutter's "Magnificat" on December 10 and 11 at First Presbyterian Church (320 Date Street, at Fourth Avenue). Enjoy Christmas carols, community sing-along, candle-lighting ceremony. Concerts begin at 7 p.m. on Sunday and at 7:30 p.m. on Monday. Offering. 619-232-7513. (DOWNTOWN)

Francis Poulenc's "Gloria" performed during "A Christmas Celebration" by choirs, soloists, and orchestra on Sunday, December 10, 7 p.m., at La Jolla Presbyterian Church (7715 Draper Avenue). Freewill offering. 858-729-5520. (LA JOLLA)

"The Christmas Story of Luke" by Helen Swink and "other Christmas favorites" by sanctuary choir, chamber singers, morning star choir, Sunday, December 10, 7 p.m., at First United Methodist Church of Chula Vista (915 Paseo Ranchero). Offering. 619-656-2525. (CHULA VISTA)

Gian-Carlo Menotti's Classic *Amahl and the Night Visitors* is presented Sunday, December 10, 7:30 p.m., at United Church of Christ (5940 Kelton Avenue). Free. 619-464-1519. (LA MESA)

Classical Music by French Composers including Gaubert, Taffanel, Fauré, Saint-Saëns, Debussy, and Chaminade on tap when flutist Wout Wynants and pianist Miho Gary perform for family music series on Wednesday, December 13, 7 p.m., at Carmel Valley Library (3919 Townsgate Drive). Free. 858-552-1668. (CARMEL VALLEY)

San Diego Recorder Society plans holiday concert, Wednesday, December 13, 7 p.m., in third-floor auditorium at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). Free. 619-236-5810. (DOWNTOWN)

USD Student Performance Recital featuring selections from their semester repertoire, Thursday, December 14, 12:15, in French Parlor of Founders Hall, University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park). Free. 619-260-4171. (LINDA VISTA)

A Celtic Christmas Celebration

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And Jennifer White Stays?!? Kevin Stapleford resigned last week as program director for 91X. Stapleford, who had programmed 91X from 1989 until 1995, was brought back to the station last summer after 91X became independent of Clear Channel Communications; with Stapleford's help, the intent was to recapture 91X's glory days of the '80s and early '90s.

PANIC AT THE DISCO...WORTHY OF EXCLAMATION?

Upon Stapleford's return, veteran DJs Robin Roth and Hilary were fired. Afternoon DJ and music director Marco Collins left the station due to personal issues. In the April–June Arbitron ratings survey, 91X earned the worst ratings in its 23-year history.

Garett Michaels, who programs competitor FM-94/9, says, "the sheer number of songs" by Panic at the Disco, My Chemical Romance, and Fall Out Boy may have hurt 91X.

"Those artists are very popular with a certain segment of listener, but they can be very polarizing to the other segment," says Michaels about artists his station won't play. "If you overdose on those bands, it can hurt your overall music credibility."

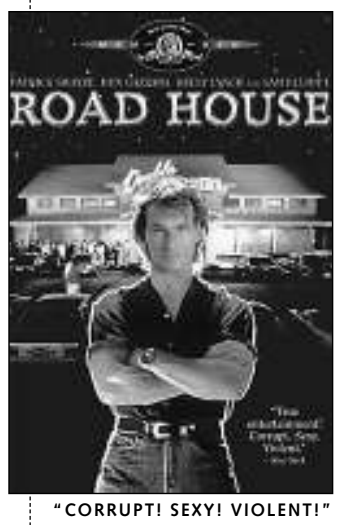
Trip Reeb, who programmed 91X from 1987 until 1989 (and who selected Stapleford as his replacement in 1989), took over as 91X program director last week. He says he will select a permanent replacement for Stapleford by the end of December. Reeb did not want to comment on any new musical direction 91X may take or the status of the current DJ lineup.

— Ken Leighton

Slow and Steady in San Marcos "The rivalry was between the Jumping Turtle, the Longshot, and the Boulevard," says promoter Sulo King. "It was like [the movie] *Roadhouse.*"

The owner of one of those San Marcos nightclubs says, "In May 2004 [a competing club] staged a fight here. I found out they paid four guys $150 each to get in a fight…[part of a] smear campaign."

After 26 years as a bar and 4 years as a live-music venue,



"CORRUPT! SEXY! VIOLENT!"

the Longshot closed down in September following reports of shootings and ABC liquor violations. The Jumping Turtle seems to be holding its own. The Blvd., meanwhile, is in transition; according to a spokesman for the San Marcos city clerk, the club is in escrow to be sold. After the sale, an application for a new entertainment license must be filed.

Sheriff's deputy Sgt. Rich Williams says officers responded to 75 calls to the Blvd. between December '04 and October '06. His department recommended and the city agreed that the Blvd. should be required to have four deputies on duty during certain live-music events (the club pays the deputies).

The Blvd. had its liquor license suspended in February after a patron left the bar intoxicated and killed herself behind the wheel.

"It shows that that business was not managed properly," says ABC administrator Robin Van Dyke. The suspension was lifted two weeks ago.

When the Blvd. opened in early 2004, employees boasted that they had "three bars under one roof," and they compared it to Solana Beach's Belly Up Tavern because it would attract major-name tours to San Marcos. The club hosted headliners such as Long Beach Short Bus, Eek-A-Mouse, and Dead Man's Party. The Blvd. formerly hosted all-age reggae shows on Sunday.

At present, the Jumping Turtle is the only North County nightclub that allows music fans under 21 (Sunday through Thursday, until 10 p.m.).

Calls to Blvd. owners were not returned.

— Ken Leighton

Stalemate Encinitas punk goofballs Kut U Up have always been proud of their slacker work ethic. "We're the least-hardest-working band in Southern California," says bassist Chris Cote. Yet, with no CD, website, manager, or

PHOTOGRAPH BY RYAN LOYKO
MOTIVATION CATCHES UP WITH KUT U UP

agent, the four-man band was asked to tour and open for all 56 dates of the 2002 Green Day/blink-182 U.S. tour. Kut U Up filmed their experience and produced the 45-minute video titled *Riding in Cars with Boys.* MTV and MTV2 aired the documentary when it was released three years

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ago.

Kut U Up's celebrity encouraged local entrepreneur Bill Smoyer to release the band's first record *(Pulled Over…Your Eyes Are Telling Me Differently Son)* on his Row Boat Records label.

"He spent thousands of dollars to record us," says guitarist Brandon Parkhurst. "We recorded an album with [engineer/producer] Ben Moore at Big Fish [Studios in Encinitas].… We made enough [from sales] to almost pay him back."

Kut U Up has been dormant for two years. Now, clothing company Volcom, which is attempting to expand its involvement in music, has offered to release the second Kut U Up CD. But Smoyer/Row Boat has the rights for that second CD.

"[Volcom doesn't] want to risk a lawsuit, and they don't want to buy him out," says Parkhurst. "And Bill said we owe him the next record. But he doesn't have the distribution that can take the band where we want to go.… Volcom is a huge thing. It's the difference between being with a label run out of an extra bedroom and a huge worldwide company."

A call to Smoyer was not returned.

Parkhurst appears with his other band, Yovee, December 21 at the Belly Up Tavern.

— Ken Leighton

Inspired by Frank *"You're My Li'l Puta* is an audio/visual musical satire about a medical cannabis activist and his ex-girlfriend," says video artist Tony Mindcontrole of the "popumentary" DVD he's working on with the Swollen Monkeys, a local band.

"The ex-girlfriend falls into the depths of meth and sexual addiction, becoming a pathological liar and completely changing from her formerly shy and honest persona." He says one scene in the "mostly autobiographical" DVD may qualify it for an X rating.

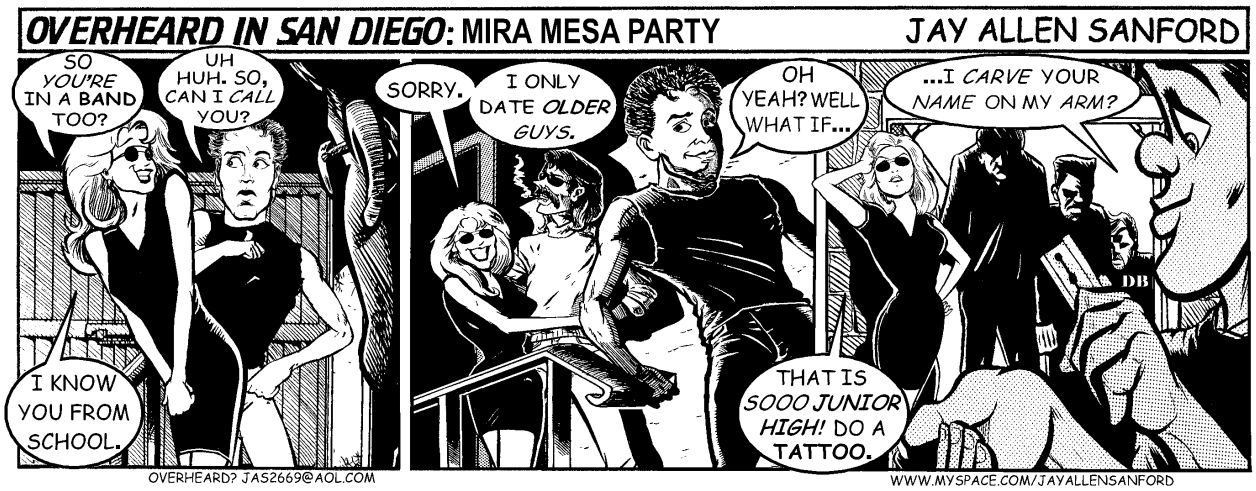
"There's a video set to 'Latex Lady from Long Island,' a love ballad about plastic, female, full-sized hump-me dolls. The character — not yours truly — really does make love with her/it. The footage captures some touching, intimate moments of real latex lovemaking." Not that Mindcontrole is into porn. "I've never seen an X-rated film," he says.

ZAPPA DIDN'T SMOKE THE WACKY STUFF

Mindcontrole (real name Tony Villodas) says the film is inspired by Frank Zappa, whom he says he got to know through his "mentor," former Zappa sideman Jimmy Carl Black.

"Jimmy couldn't even use his own name for a while, due to litigation with Frank over the Mothers of Invention characters. Frank and I didn't get along at all.… One day, before the recording of Zappa's *Bongo Fury* LP with Captain Beefheart — around '75, '76 — I sparked up a doob as Frank and his band rehearsed, and he stopped the song mid-tune, spun around, aimed his guitar at me and snarled. I love his music, but it sure was hate at first sight with me and him. He hated pot, and I hate cigarettes."

— Jay Allen Sanford



From Country to Death Metal My old band, the Infomercials, practiced at Super Sound Music in Escondido. The facility had two rooms that were equipped with gear (amplifiers, PA, drum kit, mikes), so all you had to do was bring your instruments and drum sticks and you were set. But the economics of a "plug and play" practice space wasn't viable enough to keep the business going, so Super Sound Music owner Brian Aberg closed the doors earlier this year.

"I shut down the rooms because it was costing me a lot of money," says Aberg. "We were losing about $5 an hour on them."

One of the reasons Aberg may have had to shut down is because he rented his spaces by the hour instead of monthly. Aberg believed monthly rooms attracted more established bands while groups in their early stages opted for hourly rooms.

"I'd say bands most definitely prefer to rent monthly. Who wouldn't? You have all your own stuff there set up and ready to go, and you can spill all the patchouli oil you want on your own bass amp. Only problem is if the cost is worth it for you. Many bands I had only played twice a month. Most monthly rooms are $400 to $500, whereas I did $20 an hour. The average time a band would rehearse would be three hours, so $120 versus $400 to $500 is a big difference."

Aberg encountered a variety of musicians, ranging from country to jazz to death metal.

"I had some classical cello soloist during the daytime, when it was quieter. Another time, some crazy dude that played his bongos to a Carlos Santana CD for five hours then later passed out drunk in my parking lot."

Aberg says he is looking to get back into the same line of business.

"For now the plan is to open a larger place in Escondido offering both monthly and hourly [rooms]. I'd like to do eight to ten monthly rooms and four to five hourly equipped rooms."

— Dryw Keltz

Memories and Whatnot "We were signed to Elektra on my 15th birthday, but the record was never released," says Lindsey Troy of the album she and her sister Anna recorded as the Troys in 2002. "They kept pushing the release date back, and they didn't do what they had promised, which was to make a window of time where they would only promote our single. Instead, they were pushing a bunch of different singles to radio stations at the same time, including Missy Elliott's. I think there was a lot of turmoil within the label because they were on the verge of folding into Atlantic.

DID MISSY HOG THE PROMO MACHINE?

"Pretty much everyone who originally worked at the label when we were signed lost their jobs when Elektra folded," she says. "I believe Elektra still owns all of the recordings that they paid for. We don't have the masters, but we do have a copy of the album, which is nice for memories and whatnot. Elektra owns the recordings but not the songs, so, theoretically, if we ever wanted to, we could sell those songs to someone else."

Anna Troy released her debut album, *Ain't No Man,* in August. Lindsey Troy's first solo EP, *Bruises,* comes out this month, with a release party planned for December 21 at Lestat's. She says neither sister regrets their album as a duo going unheard.

"Anna and I were getting older and couldn't really relate to those songs anymore."

— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS
William Crain, Dave Good, Larry Harmon, Michael Hemmingson, Ken Leighton, Ryan Loyko, Derek Plank, Eric Rife, Jay Allen Sanford

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Off the Deep End

"The trickiest problem in performance for me is getting paid."

LISTS
MICHAEL HEMMINGSON

"I play classical piano, badly — mostly just to learn my parts," says mezzo-soprano singer Molly Wilmot, who lives in La Mesa.

"My dad put me in piano lessons, where I learned music theory and classical piano. In college, I got into classical voice training. Now I'm just taking all of that and going off the deep end. Typical chick singer here with no gear and no knowledge."

Aside from the vocal gymnastics of classical and modern opera, Wilmot records and performs with experimental arthouse band Pruitt Igoe and has performed in four shows with the San Diego Opera Chorus. She has toured Poland, Lithuania, and Serbia with the Joe Alter Dance Group and plays "the victim" with Viscus Edo at the Casbah — "a little holiday bloodshed," she calls it.

Wilmot will be appearing at the San Diego Civic Theatre in several performances with the San Diego Opera Chorus from January through April.

LIVE SHOWS?
"The trickiest problem in performance for me is getting paid. At some venues, bands actually have to pay to play or are paid with a bar tab. I love to sing, I love to perform, but how am I supposed to feed myself and my family?"

EARLIEST MEMORIES?
1. "A burro poking his head into the driver's-side window on a family vacation through the Black Hills in South Dakota."
2. "Trying to swap baby blankets with my newborn cousin because hers appeared to be in better shape."
3. "Singing loudly and dancing in church and having a nun compliment me."

WHAT'S IN YOUR CD PLAYER RIGHT NOW?
"Local music, of course: *Another Ride* by Chad Farran. It's a beautiful album."

FAVORITE BOOKS?
1. *Sock* by Penn Jillette. "A murder mystery told from the perspective of a sock monkey."
2. *Choke* by Chuck Palahniuk. "The fictional misadventures of a sex addict — bless the freaks!"
3. *Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond. "Lays out the global migration and evolution of human societies. An eye opener."

WHAT DID YOU DO PROM NIGHT?
"I was dancing so wildly, I ate shit on the dance floor. I'm pretty sure there were five or six people sitting at a table nearby, and I flashed them on the way down."

FAVORITE HANGOUT?
"Anywhere, wherever — I love it here. I've lived here for nine years. I like to hang out where my friends and family are hanging out. We go to the beaches, parks, bars, concert halls, galleries, restaurants, theaters, thrift stores, ice cream parlors...."

WHERE DO YOU SEE MUSIC GOING IN THE 21st CENTURY?
1. "Orchestras with effects pedals."
2. "Improv and classical training simultaneously."
3. "Music back into the schools, because we finally realized that we can't live without it."

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL BODY

Molly Wilmot

HOLIDAY PLANS?
"I plan on spoiling my stepson, Jack, baking cookies and making chocolate peanut butter salty balls, and stuffing my face. I am also determined to talk someone into going to the Rose Parade with me. I have fantasized about it since I was a little girl in Minnesota. I must see it. I must be it."

BEST/WORST GIG?
"The first time is always the best. I was at a dive bar called The Blvd. near SDSU. I learned backup vocals for a couple of songs with a band called Burl Jives. It was my first real gig with a band. With the help of two shots of whiskey, I got up and sang. People were drunk and dancing on the booths and the bar and pole dancing, and they loved us, and I felt like a frickin' rock star, baby."

BRUSH WITH THE FAMOUS?
"I saw Richard Simmons in the airport in Omaha when I was a kid. He was blowing kisses and yelling, 'I love you! I love you all!' He had the most amazing Afro." ■

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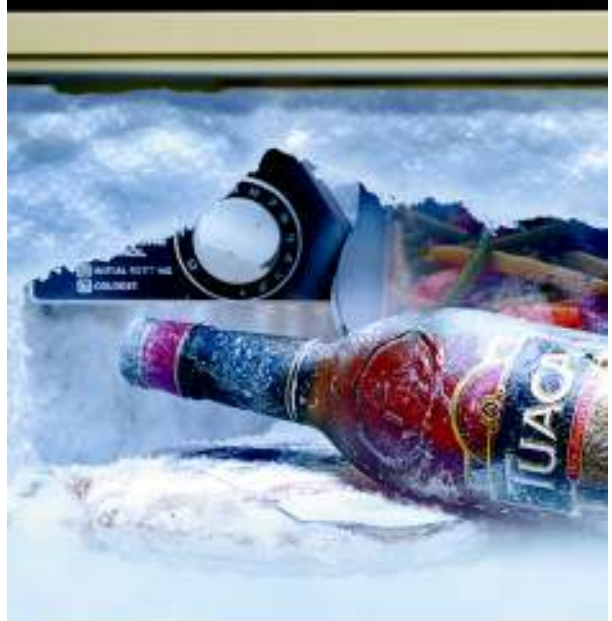

Mandy Northcutt
Bartender,
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Calendar
CONCERTS

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THIS WEEK'S CONCERTS

THURSDAY

Andre Rieu: ipayOne Center, Thursday, December 7, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Ziggy Marley: 4th & B, Thursday, December 7, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Aimee Mann: Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, December 7, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

FRIDAY

Slightly Stoopid and **Pepper:** 4th & B, Friday, December 8, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy: Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre, Friday, December 8, 5469 Casino Way, Dehesa. 619-659-3380.

Primus: RIMAC Arena, Friday, December 8, UCSD campus, La Jolla. 858-534-8497.

"Star 94.1 Jingle Ball": ipayOne Center, Friday, December 8, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

SATURDAY

Slightly Stoopid and **Pepper:** 4th & B, Saturday, December 9, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Panic! at the Disco: ipayOne Center, Saturday, December 9, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

The Charlie Hunter Trio: Humphrey's Backstage Lounge, Saturday, December 9, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego. 619-224-3577.

Modest Mouse, **The Shins**, and **Pete Yorn:** RIMAC Arena, Saturday, December 9, UCSD campus, La Jolla. 858-534-8497.

SUNDAY

Tom Russell: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Sunday, December 10, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

"91X Nightmare Before Xmas" with **AFI, My Chemical Romance,** and **Taking Back Sunday:** ipayOne Center, Sunday, December 10, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Papa Roach: 4th & B, Sunday, December 10, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

MONDAY

Yung Joc: House of Blues, Monday, December 11, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

TUESDAY

Me First & the Gimme Gimmes: House of Blues, Tuesday, December 12, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

DECEMBER

Senses Fail and **Saosin:** Soma, Saturday, December 16, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

Ozomatli: House of Blues, Wednesday, December 20, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Tha Alkaholiks: 'Canes, Wednesday, December 20, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

Redman: House of Blues, Thursday, December 21, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Jeremy Enigk: The Casbah, Thursday, December 21, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego. 619-232-4355.

El Vez: The Casbah, Saturday, December 23, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego. 619-232-4355.

Peter White: Spreckels Theatre, Saturday, December 23, 121 Broadway, downtown. 619-235-9500.

Soul Asylum: House of Blues, Saturday, December 30, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Donavon Frankenreiter: House of Blues, Sunday, December 31, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

JANUARY

My Morning Jacket: House of Blues, Tuesday, January 2, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Blues Traveler: House of Blues, Thursday, January 4, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

NOFX: Soma, Friday, January 5, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

Stephen Malkmus & the Jicks: The Casbah, Sunday, January 7, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego. 619-232-4355.

Beres Hammond and **Marcia Griffiths:** 4th & B, Sunday, January 7, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Justin Timberlake and **Pink:** ipayOne Center, Monday, January 8, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Al Kooper: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, January 12, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Manhattan Transfer: California Center for the Arts, Friday, January 12, 340 N. Escondido Boulevard, Escondido. 800-988-4253.

Incubus: Soma, Friday, January 12, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

The Cheetah Girls: ipayOne Center, Saturday, January 13, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Keller Williams: House of Blues, Saturday, January 13, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Jeffrey Osborne: Spreckels Theatre, Sunday, January 14, 121 Broadway, downtown. 619-235-9500.

Guns N' Roses: ipayOne Center, Tuesday, January 16, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Eliza Gilkyson: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Thursday, January 18, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Reverend Horton Heat: 'Canes, Thursday, January 18, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

Tom Rush: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Saturday, January 20, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Dionne Warwick: Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre, Thursday, January 25, 5469 Casino Way, Dehesa. 619-659-3380.

Muriel Anderson: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Thursday, January 25, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

The Chieftains: California Center for the Arts, Friday, January 26, 340 N. Escondido Boulevard, Escondido. 800-988-4253.

Pennywise: House of Blues, Saturday, January 27, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Pennywise: House of Blues, Sunday, January 28, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

G Love & Special Sauce: House of Blues, Tuesday, January 30, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

G Love & Special Sauce: House of Blues, Wednesday, January 31, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

FEBRUARY

Air Supply: Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre, Thursday, February 1, 5469 Casino Way, Dehesa. 619-659-3380.

Maná: ipayOne Center, Saturday, February 10, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Sound Tribe Sector Nine: House of Blues, Friday, February 16, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Cheap Trick: 4th & B, Thursday, February 22, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

"Texas Songwriters Show" with **Lyle Lovett, Joe Ely, John Hiatt,** and **Guy Clark:** Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Wednesday, February 28, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

MARCH

The Who: ipayOne Center, Thursday, March 1, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Christina Aguilera: ipayOne Center, Friday, March 2, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Snow Patrol: Open Air Theatre, Saturday, March 3, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-594-6947.

Samite: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Saturday, March 3, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Eric Clapton and **JJ Cale:** ipayOne Center, Thursday, March 15, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Dave Stamey: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Saturday, March 17, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Rod Stewart: Cox Arena, Sunday, March 25, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-594-0429.

Jeremy Camp: House of Blues, Wednesday, March 28, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

APRIL

Josh Groban: ipayOne Center, Friday, April 6, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

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SOMEDAY ASSASSIN

Friday, December 8
ELECTRIC FRANKENSTEIN
ADHD • THE WIDOWS

Saturday, December 9
DAN PADILLA
DEMASIADO
MADISON BLOODBATH
BEHIND THE WAGON

Thursday, December 14
STARCROSSED

Friday, December 15
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CHARLES FEELGOOD

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DJ JON BISHOP

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DJ SNEAK

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PRESALE TICKETS AND INFO
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Calendar
CONCERTS

David Wilcox:
AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, April 27, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

MAY

Fairport Convention:
AcousticMusicSanDiego, Tuesday, May 1, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Alison Brown:
AcousticMusicSanDiego, Thursday, May 10, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Calendar
CLUBS

DANCE

If you would like to include your DJ event, e-mail sellis@nethere.com *or submit a listing online at* SanDiegoReader.com *by clicking on the music section. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, the week prior to publication. The listings are free.*

Brick by Brick: Fridays, *Therapy,* industrial, gothic, and fetish with DJs Bryan Pollard and guest. 8:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m.; 21 and up. 1130 Buenos Avenue, Bay Park. 619-275-5483.

Buster Daly's: Thursdays, *4mat* with rotating DJs Veep Reekins, Xavier, Clean Cut, and Myson King. 3112 University Avenue, North Park. 619-284-2747.

'Canes: Thursdays, Top 40, hip-hop, and old skool with DJs Power Girth, and Rick Nasty. 9 p.m. 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

Character's Bar & Grill (La Jolla Marriott): Fridays and Saturdays, salsa, mambo, and merengue. 9:30 p.m.; 21 and up. 4240 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla. 858-597-6397.

The C Lounge: Sundays, *Liquid,* liquid funk and drum 'n' bass. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., 21 and up. No cover. 756 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-2838.

Crudo: Thursdays, deep, soulful, and sexy house grooves with guest DJs. 9 p.m; 21 and up. No cover. 1953 India Street (at Grape), Little Italy. 619-398-2974.

Dino's: Fridays, *Gimmie Gimmie Gimmie,* punk, goth, and rock with DJs Bryan Pollard, Morgan Young, and guest. 3929 30th Street, North Park. 619-291-3466.

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

Gaslamp Tavern: Thursdays, DJs Billie Knight, Tek, and guests spin true hip-hop. Fridays and Saturdays, DJ Billie Knight spins Tavern music. Sundays, DJ Tek spins '80s. 868 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-239-3339.

Habana Restaurant: Saturdays, *Adventuras East,* salsa, merengue, and cha-cha with David Garcia and David Suave. 10 p.m. 7777 University Avenue, La Mesa. 619-713-2011.

Honey Bee Hive: Wednesdays, *Mixtape Sessions,* underground hip-hop, downtempo, and breakbeat with DJ Ricky Wrecks and Mada; 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursdays, *Deep,* drum 'n' bass with DJs Wallkrawler, Probable Cause, and Skyler Mic; 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. 1409 C Street (corner of 14th Street, across from City College), downtown. 619-702-6010.

Inferno Young Adult Nightclub: Fridays and Saturdays, DJ Kool T spins hip-hop, house, and reggaeton. 9 p.m. to 1:15 a.m., high school sophomore and up. 775 Metcalf Street, Escondido. 760-741-1271.

Jack's Lounge: Fridays, sexy dance music with DJ Misha and weekly guests. Saturdays, vocal house with DJ Sean Wilson. 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-456-8111.

Kadan: Wednesdays, *Darkwave Garden,* punk, gothic, and ethereal with DJs Bryan Pollard, Stern, and Grimderella. First Saturday of the month, *BrokenBeat Night,* live electronic, machine funk, and breaks. Second and third Saturday of the month, *Underground Playground,* breaks, house, and progressive with Jack Tripper and guest DJs. Tuesdays, *Distortion,* mashups, bastard pop, and cybertrash. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. No cover. 4696 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500.

The Kava Lounge: Second Friday of the month, *Ascension,* Robin Roth and Tom King spin the best in dark underground dance music. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. 2812 Kettner Boulevard, Middletown. 619-543-0933.

The Kensington Club: Wednesdays, *Sub-Par,* hip-hop, rock 'n' soul, and funk with DJs Buddha and SC. 9:30 p.m. 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington. 619-284-2848.

Michael's Lounge (Hyatt Regency): Thursdays, DJs Neko, Sky, and Chris Mullins spin hip-hop, dance, and '70s/'80s. 9 p.m. 3777 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla. 858-552-1234.

Mission Valley Resort: Thursdays and Fridays, *Mambo Lounge,* salsa, bachata, and cha-cha with DJ D2. 8 p.m. to midnight. 875 Hotel Circle South, Mission Valley. 619-298-8281.

Moondoggies Pacific Beach: Saturdays, hip-hop and R&B with DJs Enigma and Cisco. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. No cover. 832 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-6550.

Moose's Gaslamp: Sundays, *Nocturnal,* house and trance with DJ Neko. 9 p.m. 535 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-702-5595.

Riley's Sports Bar: First Friday of the month, *Sin Factory,* fetish, gothic, and industrial with DJs Darkman and guests. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. 2901 Nimitz Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-255-8635.

San Diego Sports Club: Wednesdays, *Club Pussy Galore,* Robin Roth and other female DJs spin indie rock, electro pop, and '80s Second and fourth Saturday of the month, *Club Fashion Whore,* electroclash, Brit pop, and indie dance punk with DJs Nate Soixante, Saul Q, Barry Weaver, and more. Third Saturday of the month, *Club de Sade,* gothic, industrial, and fetish with DJs Darkman and Creep. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-299-7372.

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

Shooterz: Thursdays, *Club '80s,* new wave, new romantic, and punk synthpop with DJs Bryan Pollard, Sickboy, and Stern. Saturdays, *Underworld,* industrial, gothic, and dark electro with DJs Bryan Pollard, Cybian, and Harlot. 3815 30th Street, North Park. 619-574-0744.

Static Lounge: Saturdays, house music to dark dance beats. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 18 and up. 634 Broadway (between Sixth and Seventh Avenue), downtown. 619-544-1609.

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SATURDAY 12.9
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Calendar
CLUBS

DANCE
(continued)

Whiskey Girl: Fridays, DJ Marc Thrasher mixes music videos. Saturdays, DJs Famous Dave and DJ Marc Thrasher mix music videos. Sundays, DJ Danimal. Mondays, *Manic Mondays,* DJ Marc Thrasher mixes '80s and '90s music videos. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. No cover. 600 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-236-1616.

The Whistle Stop: Second Thursday of the month, *Programme:Zero*, indie, Brit pop, and soul. First and third Saturday of the month, *Transport,* Brit rock, indie, and electroclash with DJ Gabe Vega and guests. Second and fifth Saturday of the month, *One Nation,* new wave, hip-hop, and bootleg remixes with DJs Blackstone and Atari. Tuesdays, *Friends Chill,* downtempo, electronic, and ambient with DJs Wank Chops, Lstr, and guests. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. 2236 Fern Street (corner of 30th and Juniper), South Park. 619-284-6784.

CLUBS BY AREA

If you wish to submit a listing, call 619-235-3000, ext. 405, night or day by 5 p.m. Friday, the week prior to publication. To send weekly or monthly schedules, fax to 760-788-1309 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com *by clicking on the music section.*

Beaches

Bahia Resort Hotel, 998 West Mission Bay Drive, Mission Beach. 858-488-0551. Tangier Lounge: Thursday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., also, Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., and Wednesday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., *John Cain,* jazz/Latin/international/pop standards.

Beaumont's, 5662 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla. 858-459-0474. Thursday and Saturday, live music.

The Calypso Cafe, 576 North Highway 101, Encinitas. 760-632-8252. Thursday, *Uplift,* reggae. Friday, *Jeff Moore* and *Billy Thompson,* blues. Saturday, *Palos,* salsa. Sunday, *Middle Earth.* Monday, *the Flounders,* acoustic. Tuesday, *Jack Tempchin,* folk. Wednesday, *Cactus Twang,* roadhouse rock.

'Canes, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780. Most music is rock/alternative. Thursday, *the Drowning Men, the Micromaniacs, Vinyl 45, Calabria,* and *a Week's Worth.*

Ché Café, UCSD Campus, 9500 Gilman Drive, Student Center B-0323C, La Jolla. 858-534-2311. Friday, 7 p.m., *Matt & Kim* and *Jehovah's Fitness.* Saturday, 6:30 p.m., *Outbreak, Take Offense, Crime Desire, Violation,* and *Broken Needle.*

Clay's, atop the Hotel La Jolla, 7955 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla. 858-459-0541. Friday, 8 p.m. to midnight, Latin jazz. Saturday and Wednesday, live jazz/funk.

Cody's La Jolla, 8030 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-459-0040. Thursday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Roy Resnikoff,* light classical piano/show tunes. Friday and Wednesday, 7 p.m., *Dick Koenig,* jazz guitar. Saturday, 7 p.m., *Stefani Stevens,* jazz piano. Sunday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., *Joe Cardillo,* acoustic jazz-rock.

Del Mar Plaza, 1555 Camino del Mar, Del Mar. Sunday, 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., *Keith Jacobsen,* smooth jazz saxophone.

Dreamstreet, 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-8131. Music is rock/alternative/metal unless otherwise noted. Thursday, 4 p.m., *Dirty Town, the Odd Couple,* and *Travesty 1,* hip-hop. Friday, 4 p.m., *the Ovals of Cassini, Dane Scott & the Panty Peelers, Loose Canon, Juan Pesa, the Nate Donnis Trio,* and *Rice Rokit.* Saturday, 4 p.m., *G Mon & Fern Tree, Lil' Rich Daddy, Ang the Mcee, the Suicidal Hustlers, 8 West, Allied Records, Mad Visions, Relegate,* and *K-12.* Wednesday, *Disaster Magnet, Deny the Silence,* and *the Thrill Killers.*

E Street Cafe, 128 E Street, Encinitas. 760-230-2038. Thursday, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., jazz jam. Friday, 9 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *Shayne Busby,* folk. Saturday, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *John January,* 9 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *Nate Donnis,* acoustic.

Estancia Resort Hotel, 9700 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla. 858-550-1000. Mustang and Burros Bar and Grill: Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Los Reyes Del Ritmo,* Gipsy Kings tribute band.

Hennessey's Tavern (PB), 4650 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach. 858-483-8847. Friday, live music. Saturday, *I-Sao-7,* reggae/hip-hop/old skool.

The Kraken, 2531 Old Highway 101, Cardiff. 760-436-6483. Friday, *the Bill Magee.* Saturday, *Chill Boy,* blues. Sunday, blues jam with *the Blues Brokers.*

La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street, La Jolla. 858-454-0771. Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Barry Levich,* jazz. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday, *Rick Ross,* jazz.

Manhattan Restaurant, 7766 Fay Avenue, La Jolla. 858-459-0700. Friday and Saturday, *the Joe Marillo Jazz Trio.*

Pacific Beach Bar and Grill, 860 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-272-7278.

Pasquale on Prospect, 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla. 858-456-0722. Thursday, *Gil Barron, Mark Fulton, James East,* and *PTrak Armenta,* acoustic pop/rock/Latin/soul. Friday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., *the Jazz 101 Band* featuring *Nick Fiore, John Guilino, Dave Scott,* and *Cynthia Hammond.* Saturday, 8:30 p.m. *Mario Oliveras & Latin Spice,* Latin jazz.

Portugalia, 4839 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach. 619-222-7678. Friday, 10 p.m., *Shake Down* and *Straight Trippin',* reggae.

Riley's, 2901 Nimitz Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-255-8635. Sunday, 5 p.m., *Big Slim,* blues jam.

Shooters Bar and Grill, Radisson Hotel, 3299 Holiday Court, La Jolla. 858-453-5500. Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., *John Cain,* jazz/pop/Latin/standards.

Tiki House, 1152 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-273-9734. Friday, *Fairfield Fats,* blues. Saturday, *the Greasy Petes,* blues. Wednesday, *Mick Overman.*

OF NOTE

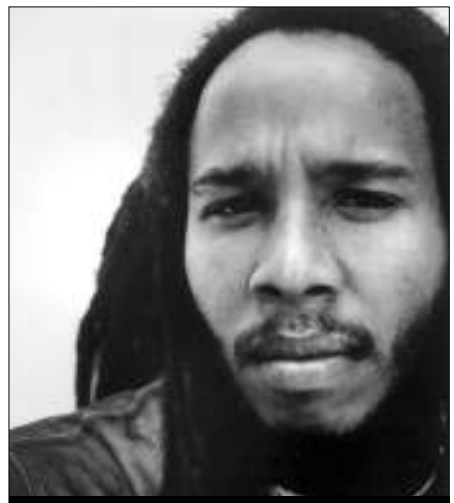
BY DAVE GOOD

I remember asking **Ziggy Marley**, at the behest of Makeda Dread, host of *Reggae Makossa* on 91X radio, what Marley considered to be the future of reggae. After all, it was Dread's name that got me the interview with the elusive singer in the first place. With a videographer taping his every move, Marley was regal in countenance and wary, but engaging. I don't recall his answer word for word now — it's been years — but he claimed, in broad and expansive terms, that reggae could not be watered down by outside culture. It was what I expected to hear.

This year, Ziggy has made a more definitive answer to that question with the release of his second solo CD, *Love Is My Religion.* It is a blend of African rhythms and hip-hop, R&B, and pop structure, and it goes light on the reggae.

As the eldest of Bob Marley's sons, Ziggy has been both defined and checkmated by his father's legacy; *Time* magazine once called the elder Marley's *Exodus* the greatest album of the 20th Century. The inevitable comparisons would have stifled a lesser personality, but with Ziggy as their creative lead, the Melody Makers, a band made up of Marley siblings, crafted hit records and managed to land a trio of Grammy awards in their time. "Bob stuff is unique," Ziggy once told a reporter. "Melody stuff is unique."

After the Melody Makers disbanded, Ziggy wandered. Too bad — Ziggy's singing both soars and breaks over the misery of the human condition in the tradition of the best of the reggae singers. He could have had a much bigger solo career, but perhaps Marley finds safety in numbers. I recall asking him about the large entourage that was with him that night onstage — multiple guitar players and percussionists of all description, singers, people in white waving giant Rasta Nation flags on the evening air. "Not a band," he corrected me. "A nation."



ZIGGY MARLEY

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BUCK-O-NINE & SKANIC

CHRIS MURRAY
Fri 12/22 • 9:00 PM

THE GREYBOY ALLSTARS

Sat 12/23 • 9:00 PM

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PIGEON JOHN
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2/16 **Bob Schneider Band** • 2/17 **The Hacienda Brothers** • 3/3 **New Monsoon**

1/9 **"Gram Parsons Tribute" w/Tim Flannery & Guests**
1/10 **Blues Harp Blowout featuring Mark Hummel, Kim Wilson, Billy Boy Arnold, Rick Estrin, Paul Oschter, Rusty Zinn & more!**
1/11 **Greg Laswell**
1/12 **Long Beach Shortbus**
1/13 **Dead Man's Party**
1/24 **Hot Buttered Rum w/ 7th Day Buskers**
1/26 & 27 **Super Diamond – Two Nights!**
1/28 **Tim Reynolds**
1/31 **Jake Shimabukuro**
2/2 **The English Beat**
2/8 **Poncho Sanchez**
2/23 **The Aggrolites**
3/8 **Leo Kottke & David Lindley**
4/26 **Railroad Earth**

SWINGIN' HAPPY HOURS @ 5:30:
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Calendar
CLUBS

BEACHES
(continued)

Tower Two Beach Cafe, 5083 Santa Monica Avenue, Ocean Beach. 619-223-4059. Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., live acoustic/folk music.

Winstons, 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-6822. Thursday, *Sus Hijos* and *Sound Library,* rock. Friday, *Kim Wilson's Holiday Blues Revue* and *the Deacon Moore Band.* Saturday, *Elijah Emanuel & the Revelations,* reggae. Monday, *the Electric Waste Band,* classic rock. Tuesday, 8 p.m., *420 Blackbirdz* and *Meld,* rock. Wednesday, live bands.

Downtown

Blarney Stone Pub, 502 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-8519. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday, *Steve Brewer,* acoustic.

Borders Books and Music (Gaslamp), 668 Sixth Avenue, San Diego. 619-702-4200. Friday, 8 p.m., *Kai Brown,* folk. Saturday, 8 p.m., *Hargo,* contemporary/folk.

Busalacchi'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. Sunday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Cynthia Hammond,* jazz.

The Casbah, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, midtown. 619-232-HELL. Music is rock/alternative unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *Akron/Family, War & Cinema,* and *Indian Moon.* Friday, *Society, Fifty on Their Heels, Qu'est-ce Que C'est,* and *the Mayan Kings.* Saturday, *Buckfast Superbee, Spell Toronto,* and *the Fascination.* Sunday, *the Pink Mountaintops, Menomena,* and *31 Knots.* Monday, *Dead Meadow* and *Earthless.* Tuesday, *the Slackers.* Wednesday, *Carina Round* and *Maystar.*

Club Montage, 2028 Hancock Street, Balboa Park. 619-294-9590.

Croce's Jazz Bar, 802 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-4355. All music is jazz unless otherwise noted. Thursday and Friday, *Yavez.* Saturday, *Agua Dulce.* Sunday, *the Archtones.* Monday, *Dave Scott.* Tuesday, *the Shep Meyers Quartet.* Wednesday, *the Jorge Camberos Quintet.*

Dakota Grill and Spirits, 901 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-234-5554. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., also, Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Jimmy Lavello,* pop piano.

Dick's Last Resort, 345 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-231-9100. Music is rock and roll. Thursday and Friday, *Private Domain.* Saturday, *West of 5.* Sunday, *the Disco Pimps.* Tuesday, *Flock of 80's.* Wednesday, *the Ghost of Sada.*

Dizzy's, 344 Seventh Avenue, downtown. 858-270-7467. Thursday, 7:30 p.m., *Jingle Bell Jazz.* Friday, 8 p.m., *Fred Benedetti* and *George Svoboda,* classical/jazz guitar. Saturday, 8 p.m., *Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra,* blues/boogie-woogie/swing. Tuesday, 7 p.m., *the Southwestern College Jazz Ensemble.*

Dublin Square, 554 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-239-5818. Traditional Irish music.

! OF NOTE

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

The band of punk veterans who call themselves **Me First & the Gimme Gimmes** specialize in picking unlikely pop songs and covering them California pop-punk style. There's nothing original about that idea; seems like nearly every punk band has a Madonna song or a cartoon theme or something like that in its repertoire. But the Gimme Gimmes take the concept to new extremes. They play only covers and package them in theme albums of comically questionable taste. For instance, there's *Take a Break,* on which the all-white band stages a tribute to African-American R&B artists like Lionel Richie, Prince, Seal, and R. Kelly (to say nothing of the all-male band's take on Aretha Franklin's "You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Woman"). The band's latest release is *Love Their Country,* a collection of country songs made famous by artists ranging from Hank Williams to the Dixie Chicks.

By far the weirdest thing in the band's catalog is *Ruin Jonny's Bar Mitzvah,* a 2004 live album that appears to be recorded at some kid's Jewish rite-of-passage party. The disc features the Gimme Gimmes' poorly rehearsed renditions of cover-band standards like "Stairway to Heaven" and "Come Sail Away" (and of course, "Hava Nagila"), but a large part of the running time is made up of between-song banter in which singer **Joey Cape** alternates between tongue-in-cheek boasting and saying things like, "This is the most awkward moment of my career." In all, *Ruin Jonny's Bar Mitzvah* resembles *Borat* or one of the anti-comedy albums by Neil Hamburger more than, say, *Live at Leeds.*

ME FIRST & THE GIMME GIMMES

ME FIRST & THE GIMME GIMMES, House of Blues, Tuesday, December 12, 6:30 p.m. 619-299-2583. $15.

4th & B, 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343. Thursday, 8 p.m., *Ziggy Marley,* reggae, and *Skye Edwards,* downtempo/trip-hop. Friday and Saturday, *Slightly Stoopid* and *Pepper,* ska/reggae. Sunday, *Papa Roach, Shinedown, Saliva, Eighteen Visions,* and *Hed Pe,* alternative rock.

Gaslamp Tavern, 868 Fifth Avenue, San Diego. 619-239-3339. Tuesday, *Fishbait,* country. Wednesday, *Mark Fisher,* classic rock.

Henry's Pub, 618 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-238-2389. Thursday, *the Brat Pack.* Friday, *Good Times.* Saturday, call club for information. Tuesday, *the Stilettos,* rockabilly. Wednesday, *Lady Dottie & the Diamonds,* blues.

House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-299-2583. Thursday, *Small Sins* and *the Little Ones.* Friday, *the Fab Four,* rock. Monday, *Yung Joc,* rap/hip-hop. Tuesday, *Me First & the Gimme Gimmes,* punk rock.

Jimmy Love's, 672 Fifth Avenue (corner of Fifth and G), downtown. 619-595-0123. Thursday and Sunday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Masterpiece,* jazz/R&B. Friday, 9:45 p.m., *Diva Soul,* disco/dance. Saturday, 9:45 p.m., *On the Rise,* pop/Top 40. Monday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Insight,* jazz. Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Mystique,* jazz/R&B. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *the Soul Revue,* jazz/dance/Top 40.

Martini Ranch, 528 F Street, downtown. 619-235-6100. Thursday, *Modern Day Moonshine,* rock. Friday, live acoustic performances. Wednesday, 9 p.m., *Shannon Long,* acoustic.

Patrick's II, 428 F Street, downtown. 619-233-3077. Music is blues/soul unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *Bill Magee Blues.* Friday,

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SUN LIQUID presented by Process & Vinyl Elements. Drum & Bass by resident DJs Calculon, Knottyboy, Frizz, Primate and special weekly guests. **www.myspace.com/liquiddnb**

TUES GROOVE with resident DJs Red Sonya & Knottyboy spinning down tempo, trip-hop, house & breaks. $4 Jägerblasters. **www.myspace.com/groovetuesdays**

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Calendar
CLUBS

DOWNTOWN
(continued)

Johnny V. Saturday, *Michele Lundeen & Blues Streak.* Sunday, *Blue Largo.* Tuesday, *Dave Camp Blues.* Wednesday, *Blue Four.*

Princess Pub and Grille, 1665 India Street, Little Italy/downtown. 619-702-3021. Saturday, *J.D. Bouchard,* piano.

Rock Bottom, 401 G Street, Gaslamp. 619-231-7000. Friday and Saturday, live pop/rock/disco/dance.

Samba Grill, 514 Horton Plaza, Gaslamp. 619-236-1000. Saturday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Edo Brazil,* Brazilian jazz.

Seaport Village, 849 West Harbor Drive, downtown. Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., *Barbara Jamerson & Two Deep,* jazz/R&B.

Sevilla, 555 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-5979. Club Salsa: Thursday, *Walter II y Rumbaney,* salsa. Tuesday, *Primo,* salsa/Latin jazz.

The Shout House, 655 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-231-6700. Rock and roll sing-along dueling pianos.

The Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Avenue, downtown. 619-238-1818. The Plaza Bar: All music is piano. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., *the Karin Carson Trio.* Friday, and Saturday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Fran Loskota* and *Karen Giorgio,* jazz/blues/pop. Sunday and Monday, 7 p.m. to midnight, *Julio de la Huerta.* Tuesday and Wednesday, 7 p.m. to midnight, *Faith Page.*

Whiskey Girl, 600 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-236-1616. Thursday, *DaGroove,* rock hits, and *DJ Marc Thrasher.* Friday, *DJ Marc Thrasher.* Saturday, *DJ Marc Thrasher* and *DJ Famous Dave.* Sunday, *DJ Danimal.* Monday, *Manic Mondays* with *DJ Marc Thrasher.* Tuesday, *DJ Famous Dave.* Wednesday, *the Stepping Feet,* a Dave Matthews tribute band, pop/rock, and *DJ Famous Dave.*

San Diego

AcousticMusicSanDiego, 4650 Mansfield Street, San Diego. 619-303-8176. Music is acoustic/folk/pop. Monday, *Tom Russell.*

The Aero Club, 3365 India Street, San Diego. 619-297-7211.

Albie's Beef Inn, 1201 Hotel Circle South, San Diego. 619-291-1103. Piano bar, call club for information.

The Alibi, 1403 University Avenue, San Diego. 619-295-0881. Live rock/indie/alternative.

Blarney Stone Pub, 5617 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont. 858-279-2033. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, *Chris & Harold,* Irish folk. Monday, *Pat & Joe* and *Allison Gill,* folk. Tuesday, Irish jam session.

Bobby's Place, 6179 University Avenue, San Diego. 619-624-9810. Tuesday and Wednesday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., *the Johnson Project,* funk/R&B/smooth jazz.

Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Avenue, Bay Park. 619-275-LIVE. Music rock/alternative/metal unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *Tropical Depression, 760,* and *Wahbah.* Friday, *Hemlock, Audible Mainframe,* and *the Six Inch Man.* Saturday, *the Accident Experiment, Unset, Silverside,* and *American Horsepower.* Wednesday, *the Ovals of Cassini, Finback,* and *My Laughing Face.*

Claire de Lune, 2905 University Avenue, North Park. 619-688-9845. Live acoustic/jazz/folk.

Epicentre, 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa. 858-271-4000. Saturday, *Some Girls, Fast Forward,* and *Grand Ole Party.*

Etta's Place, 6179 University Avenue (at College and University). 619-582-6730. Live rock/swing.

The Gordon Biersch Brewery, 5010 Mission Center Road, San Diego. 619-688-1120. Friday, *Stranger,* reggae.

Harry's Bar and American Grill, 4370 La Jolla Village Drive, San Diego. 858-373-1252. Friday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *the Jaime Valle-Bob Magnusson Jazz Duo.*

Hot Monkey Love Cafe, 6875 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego. 619-469-4113. Thursday, jazz. Friday and Saturday, live bands. Sunday, salsa. Monday, tango. Wednesday, 8:30 p.m., *the Speak Easy Quartet,* jazz.

Humphrey's, Half Moon Inn, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-224-3577. Backstage Lounge: Thursday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Stalker Dan,* rock. Friday, 9:30 p.m., *Honeytribe,* original rock. Saturday, 9:30 p.m., *the Charlie Hunter Trio,* jazz. Sunday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Hank Easton,* jazz. Monday, blues jam. Tuesday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Island Breeze,* Jimmy Buffet tribute band. Wednesday, 9:30 p.m., *Jesse Davis,* traditional jazz.

In Cahoots, 5373 Mission Center Road, Mission Valley. 619-291-8635.

The Kensington Club, 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington. 619-284-2848. Music is hard rock/metal/alternative unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *the Love Motor* and *Someday Assassin.* Friday, *Electric Frankenstein, ADHD,* and *the Widows.* Saturday, *Tiltwheel.*

Lestat's Coffee House, 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-282-0437. Music is acoustic/folk. Thursday, *Shannon Curtis.* Friday, *Big Rig Deluxe* and *the Dukes of Haggard.* Saturday, *Evan Bethany, Lindsey Yung,* and *Aaron Bowen.* Sunday, *Angela Patua* and *Chad Farran.* Monday, open mike. Wednesday, *the Rarities* and *Rock'n'Roll Circus.*

Martini's Bar and Grill, 3940 Fourth Avenue, San Diego. 619-293-0232. Saturday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Vintage Vegas,* jazz.

O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub, 1310 Morena Boulevard, Bay Park. 619-276-5637. Friday, 9 p.m., *Mother Grundy* and *Cheeky,* rock. Saturday, 9 p.m., *Superdoo, Sweet Tooth,* and *Rob Deez,* alternative/rock. Monday, 7:30 p.m., *Mystery Train,* blues. Tuesday, 9 p.m., *American Hitmen, Talk to the Fist,* and *Bedlam's Edge,* rock/metal. Wednesday, 8 p.m., *the Grams, the Citizen Band, Sara Petite, Christopher Cash,* and *Marie Haddad,* rock.

The Ould Sod, 3373 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-284-6594. Friday, *Gene Warren,* Irish folk. Tuesday, traditional Irish jam session.

>hometown CDs

BY OLLIE

Album: *Pedazos* (2006)
Artist: Rudy Palos
Label: Probe-4
Where available/price: M-Theory on Washington Street, Groundworks Books UCSD Campus, Access Hip Hop on Garnet, and *accesshiphop.com* for $7.
Band: Rudy Palos
Songs: 1) Imperial Fatigue 2) Delta Nine 3) Fair Weather 4) Commitment Malfunction 5) As Long As... 6) Tryin' 7) Grim Pill 8) Full Moon, High Tide 9) Valores 10) Tumbo 11) Rudeo Drive 12) Back to the Sun
Website: *http://www.probe-4.com/*

From the first downbeat of this album, I was groovin' and snappin' my fingers. It is funky jazz with horns, stutter-step drumbeats, romping piano, and the whole nine...only it's not recorded live by musicians; it's sampled with the obvious clean cuts of a computerized mixer.

The sound is what hip-hop should have evolved into if Puff Daddy hadn't dangled his diamond watches in front of the eyes of teenagers and made mainstream hip-hop about gold teefs and mink coats: quirky little electronic sounds juxtaposed with hard beats and the high plinking of synthesizers; bossanova guitars cut into some tracks a shade offtempo, which give the album a Fugees feel without the irritating "One time!" of Wyclef.

If you like rap, this isn't your CD; it's all instrumental. Some of the songs are a little heavy on the synth, but each track has several redeeming cuts of guitars, piano, or horn. The songs are mostly downtempo.

This album is soulful and professionally done, and if it's ever leaked to high-level producers, Rudy will have a job mixing backup for national-selling rap artists. I'd like to see him paired with an aggressive turntablist to crank up the speed and grit on a future project. *Pedazos* is one of the best local hip-hop albums I've heard.

Rudy Palos

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD REVIEWED, PLEASE MAIL IT TO: Music Editor, Hometown CDs, San Diego *Reader,* P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803

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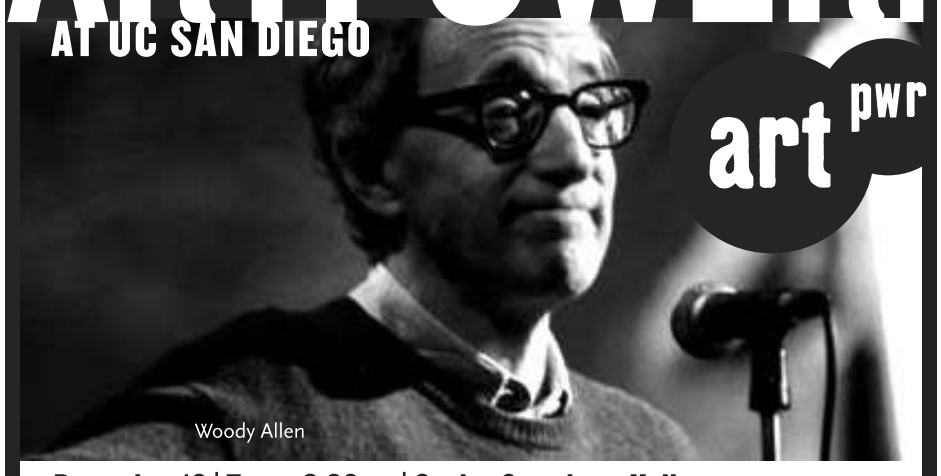

Woody Allen

December 19 | Tues., 8:00pm | Copley Symphony Hall

Woody Allen and His New Orleans Jazz Band

Directing, acting and screenwriting aren't the only talents Woody Allen has going for him. When not creating in his incredible cinematographic life, Allen is a renowned clarinetist, joining his musician friends every Monday night to jam at sold-out houses at the Carlyle Café in New York City. As part of his first real North American tour with the band, Allen brings a taste of New Orleans Dixieland jazz to sunny San Diego for an evening of exuberant music. Woody Allen, clarinet; Simon Wettenhall, trumpet; Jerry Zigmont, trombone; Cynthia Sayer, piano; Conal Fowlkes, string bass; Rob Garcia, drums.

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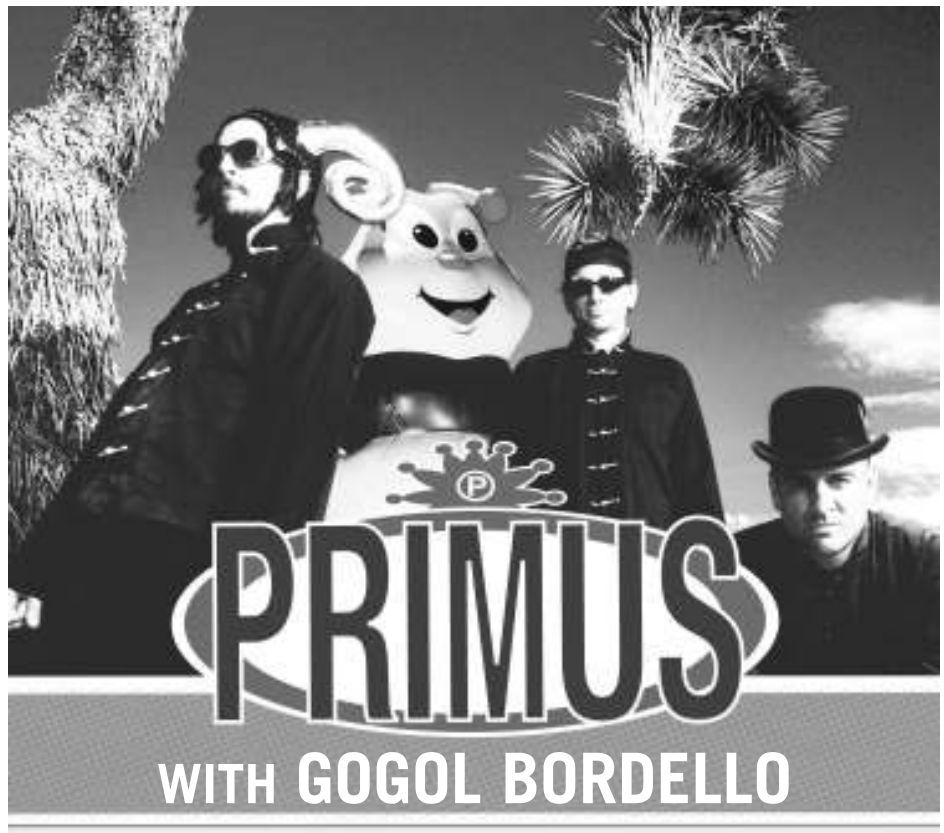

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Friday, Dec. 8
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featuring
Devon Allman

Saturday, Dec. 9
9:30 pm • Jazz/Acid Jazz
Charlie Hunter Trio

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Tuesday, Dec. 12
8 pm • Jimmy Buffett Tribute
Island Breeze

Wednesday, Dec. 13
9:30 pm • Traditional Jazz Vocalist
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"Razzle Dazzle" **Rising Star**

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THIS WEEK

THURSDAY 12•7
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GRANDMA FINGERS
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All ages until 10 pm
BGO Events Promotions presents
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SLOW CAR BOOST
OFF TRACK
THE ROSERY
THE NEW ADDICTION

SATURDAY 12•9
presents
ANGRY SAMOANS
UNLOADED
RICH WHITE MALES
DOGMATIC • RESEVOIR TIPS
TEENAGE CORPSES

SUNDAY 12•10
presents
SEKTACORE
LA RESISTENCIA
MATAMOSKA
CHENCHA
BERRINCHES
MAD COW DISEASE

TUESDAY 12•12
All ages until 10 pm
Joe Troutman presents
INTRONAUT
YAKUZA
VIVISECT
CARCINOGENIC

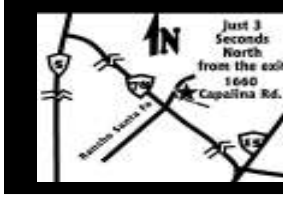
WEDNESDAY 12•13
All ages until 10 pm
BGO Events Promotions presents
CHINOOK
SEXUAL TOFU
THE STRIKERS
YOU AND WHAT ARMY
JOHN'S DEER & THE CHICKEN
COUP COCKS (THE COCKS)

UPCOMING SHOWS (See our website for more info):

THURSDAY 12•14
All ages until 10 pm
BGO Events Promotions presents
CUT THROAT PIRATES
ELEPHANT ARMY
THIS LOVE MACHINE
VODKA DOLLS

FRIDAY 12•15
All ages until 10 pm
BGO Events Promotions presents
Hector Lopez Benefit Show
CAROL ANN • DARKHORSE
YOU DIE FIRST • SOPHIST
THIS IS THE HOSPITAL

SATURDAY 12•16
All ages until 10 pm
Graverot Productions presents
GRAVE
THE ABSENSE
DEATH EVOKATION



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Calendar
CLUBS

SAN DIEGO
(continued)

Pal Joey's, 5147 Waring Road, Allied Gardens. 619-286-7873. Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m., *Rhythm Red,* classic rock.

Red Fox Steakhouse, 2228 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-297-1313. Thursday through Sunday, and Wednesday, *Eddie Rossi* and *Joe Soprano,* piano. Monday and Tuesday, *the David Shaw Duo.*

The Rhythm Lounge, 3048 Midway Drive, San Diego. 619-224-4835. Tuesday, open blues jam.

Rosie & Joe's, 7986 Armour Street, San Diego. 858-277-5777. Friday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Hugh Gaskins,* rockabilly/blues.

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

Scolari's Office, 3936 30th Street, San Diego. 619-296-3546. Live rock/alternative.

Second Wind, 8515 Navajo Road, San Carlos. 619-465-1730. Friday and Saturday, *Serious Guise,* classic rock.

Sham Rocks Shack, 7059 El Cajon Boulevard (half block east of 70th Street), College Area. 619-463-2263. Friday and Saturday, live bands.

Soma, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-SOMA. Performances start at 7 p.m. Music is rock/metal/alternative. Friday, *the Children of Bodom, Amom Amarth, Gojira,* and *Sanctity.* Saturday, *Panic! at the Disco, Cobra Starship,* and *Jack's Mannequin.* Monday, *+44* and *the Matches.* Wednesday, *Under the Influence of Giants, Big City Rock, Brother Man Dude, As Fast As,* and *Long Live Logos.*

South Park Bar and Grill, 1946 Fern Street, San Diego. 619-696-0096. Thursday, 7 p.m., *John Kopecky,* solo Latin jazz guitar. Friday, 7 p.m., *Amelia Browning,* jazz/Latin standards. Saturday, 8 p.m., jazz jam session. Sunday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Sam Johnson's Jazz Quartet.*

Tio Leo's, 10787 Camino Ruiz, Mira Mesa. 858-695-1461. Saturday, *Side Jobz,* rock.

Tio Leo's Lounge, 5302 Napa Street (at Morena Boulevard), Bay Park. 619-542-1462. Friday and Saturday, live bands. Monday, tango. Tuesday, zydeco blues. Wednesday, 7 p.m., *the High Society Jazz Band.*

The Tower Bar, 4757 University Avenue, San Diego. 619-284-0158. Saturday, *the Creepy Creeps* and *the Ramonas,* rock. Monday, *Lady Dottie & the Diamonds,* blues.

Tutto Mare, 4365 Executive Drive, La Jolla (Golden Triangle area). 858-597-1188. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Jaime Valle,* and guests.

Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company, 4590 Park Boulevard, University Heights. 619-296-0616. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, 8 p.m., *Sene Africa, Vernon,* and *Gayle Skidmore & the Eskimo Friends.* Friday, *Mozella, Dino, Alpine Daze & Boogie Nights, Tara Jo, Curtis,* and *Melissa Vaughan.* Saturday, *Sarah Green, the Green Water District, Drew Gasparinni,* and *Brian Conway.* Sunday, 4 p.m., *the Celtic Ensemble,* 8 p.m., *Bushwalla.* Wednesday, open mike.

Vesuvio Gourmet Restaurant, 3025 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-282-7040. Thursday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., *the B-3 Four* featuring vocalist *David Mosby,* jazz. Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Peggy Lloyd,* jazz.

Whistle Stop Bar, 2236 Fern Street, San Diego. 619-284-6784. Friday, live music.

The Zombie Lounge, 3519 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-284-DEAD. Friday, *the Utah Country Swillers,* country/hillbilly. Friday, 9 p.m., live rock bands including *Dead as Dillinger,* alternative/punk/rock.

North County

The Alley, 421 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-434-1173. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, *the Love Rangers,* Top 40/pop.

Belly Up Tavern, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022. Thursday, 8 p.m., *Aimee Mann.* Friday, 9 p.m., *'80s Heat.* Sunday, *Shooter Jennings* and *Carter Falco,* country/rock. Wednesday, *the Big Sound, Vegitation,* and *Social Green,* rock/reggae.

Boar Cross'n, 390 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-2989. Thursday, hip-hop. Friday and Saturday, live classic rock.

The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe, Flower Hill Mall, I-5 at Via de la Valle, Del Mar. 858-755-3735. Friday, 7 p.m., *Billy Watson,* blues.

Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad), 1905 Calle Barcelona, Carlsbad. 760-479-0242. Friday, 8 p.m., *Lee Tyler Post,* acoustic rock. Saturday, 8 p.m., *Alan James,* folk.

Borders Books and Music (Carmel Mountain), 11160 Rancho Carmel Drive, Carmel Mountain. 858-618-1814. Friday, 8 p.m., *Tom Boyer,* acoustic. Saturday, 8 p.m., *Anna Troy,* folk.

Carvers, 11940 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-566-2400. Friday, *West of 5,* classic and modern rock. Saturday, *Nite Hawk,* classic rock.

as i hear it
BY BRIAN CARVER

SAN DIEGO SONGS TAKE THE STREET TEST

Artist: Simeon Flick
Song: "Your Love is Wrong" (From the CD *Reactive Soul)*
Heard by: Shane Velez, Temecula

Shane

It sounds like a lot of older stuff I've heard. I would say bands of our parents' generation [1970s] mostly. Soft rock. I like that it was chilled out and it had a good steady beat the whole time, but what I didn't like is that it sounded like every other band from way back when. The instrumentation was the same thing all the way through the song, so you could either see that as boring or you could see that as relaxing. [It would be good for] driving down the road, I guess.

Artist: Bobbys Fever
Song: "Insane" (from their self-titled CD)
Heard by: Thomas Kodama, College Area

Thomas

They've got a screamo-esque type of music style, but the vocals are kind of iffy. Music-wise, they put a lot of good chords together. I don't know if they were using a voice synthesizer or something, but [the vocals] sounded fake. It sounded like a machine was singing. I guess it would be a good soundtrack for when someone's feeling down. It seems like whoever wrote this song had a bad time in their life, and they were just, like, "everything's making me go crazy."

Artist: The Modlins
Song: Warm Up (or Say Goodbye) (from their self-titled EP)
Heard by: Jidé Akinmoladun, Mira Mesa

Jidé

They don't sound like the mainstream alternative rock kind of music. I like the rhythm. It's kind of more mellow – it's not hard rock. I don't like the hard rock. I like the chorus: "I was wrong." I guess I didn't like the lead singer's voice. It kind of sounded whiny to me. I like the hook, but there weren't too many lyrics. It was a simple song. I could picture that song [on] some of those MTV shows or *The OC.*

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD HEARD, PLEASE MAIL IT TO:
Music Editor, As I Hear It, San Diego *Reader,* P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803

Cheers, 2475 Main Street, Ramona. 760-789-0270. Friday and Saturday, live classic rock/country. Tuesday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Mike Gardner,* acoustic rock/folk.

Coyote Bar and Grill, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4695. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Boneyard,* rock. Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *the Restless Natives,* rock/blues/reggae. Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *the Jerry McCann Band,* reggae. Sunday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Mark Lessman,* jazz. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Johnny "B" Blues.*

Cuvee Restaurant, 2334 Carmel Valley Road, Del Mar. 858-259-5878. Monday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Sambajazz,* Brazilian and American jazz.

Del Dios Bar and Grill, 20154 Lake Drive, Escondido. 760-489-4800. Friday, *the North County Cowboys,* country. Saturday, *the Two of Us,* classic rock.

Game Time Tavern, 12735 Poway Road, Poway. 858-748-0015. Friday, *Night Shift,* classic rock. Saturday, *Undecided,* rock.

Hennessey's Tavern (Carlsbad), 2777 Roosevelt Street, Carlsbad. 760-729-6951. Friday, 9 p.m., *Idle Train,* rock.

The Hot Java Cafe, 11738 Carmel Mountain Road, Suite 182, Carmel Mountain. 858-673-7111. Friday, 7 p.m., *Steven Ybarra,* acoustic guitar.

The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, 5951 Linea del Cielo, Rancho Santa Fe. 858-756-1131. Thursday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., *Jerry Melnick,* jazz/variety piano.

The Jumping Turtle, 1660 Capalina Road, San Marcos. 760-471-7778. Music is rock/metal/alternative unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *the Urbanomics, Ransact, Grandma Fingers,* and *Inciting Riots.* Friday, *Pensive, Slow Car Boost, Off-Track, the Rosery,* and *the New Addition.* Saturday, *the Angry Samoans, Unloaded, the Rich White Males, Dogmatic, Resevoir Tips,* and *Teenage Corpses.* Sunday, *La Resistencia, Sektacore, Matamoska, Chencha Berrinches,* and *Mad Cow Disease.* Tuesday, *Intronaut, Yakuza, Vivisect,* and *Carcinogenic.* Wednesday, *Chinook, Sexual Tofu, the Strikers, You & What Army, John's Deer & the Chicken,* and *the Coupe Cocks.*

Mas Fina Cantina, 2780 State Street, Carlsbad. 760-434-3497. Wednesday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Mike Gardner,* acoustic rock/folk.

McCabe's Beach Club, 1145 South Tremont Street, Oceanside. 760-439-6646. Friday, 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., *the California Rangers,* country.

North Bar Sports and Spirits, 200 West El Norte Parkway, Escondido. 760-480-8228. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Mike Gardner,* acoustic rock/folk.

Ocean House, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4131. Friday and Saturday, live bands. Sunday, salsa. Tuesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *the Cradit Union,* swing. Wednesday, November 29, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., blues jam.

Rancho Bernardo Inn, 17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-675-8500. El Bizcocho Restaurant: Friday, 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., and Saturday, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Jerry Melnick* and *Tom Bishop,* jazz/variety.

Surf N'Saddle, 123 West Plaza Street (Lomas Santa Fe and Highway 101), Solana Beach. 858-755-9474. Thursday, *Rasta Roots,* reggae. Friday, *Wire Monkey,* alternative rock. Saturday, *Forrest & Friends.* Wednesday, open mike.

Tom Giblin's Irish Pub and Restaurant, 640 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-7234. Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Adrienne Nims & Raggle Taggle,* Irish dance cabaret.

South Bay/Coronado

Buon Giorno Restaurant, 4110 Bonita Road, Bonita. 619-475-2660. Saturday, *Stage 4,* jazz.

The Butcher Shop, 556 Broadway, Chula Vista. 619-420-9440. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, 8 p.m., *Ray Correa,* standards/pop/Latin.

Cafe LaMaze, 1441 Highland Avenue, National City. 619-474-3222. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Sandy Chappel* and *Sammy Canonizado,* jazz/blues. Sunday, 8:30 p.m., *Burnett Anderson, Robert Sebastian,* and *Scott Wallingford,* jazz.

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 Lasley,* Latin jazz. Friday, 8:30 p.m., *Barbara Jamerson* and *Joe Tarantino,* jazz. Saturday, 8:30 p.m., *Stellita & Dave Lindgren.* Tuesday and Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Jim Gibson.*

Palm Court: Thursday through Sunday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Ray Briz.* Also, Sunday, noon to 4 p.m., *Joey West.*

Crown Room: Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., *John Cain.*

Island Sports and Spirits, 104 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-3456. Friday, *Jumpstart,* blues/swing. Saturday, *DaGroove.*

McP's Irish Pub and Grill, 1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-5280. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *Mystique,* jazz/R&B. Friday, *Big City Shaman,* blues. Saturday, *Harmony Road,* acoustic. Sunday, *Steve Brewer.* Monday, *David Houser.* Tuesday, *Taylor Harvey.* Wednesday, *4-Way Street.*

East County

Borders Books and Music (El Cajon), 159 Parkway Plaza, El Cajon. 619-593-5119. Saturday, 7 p.m., *Tom Boyer,* acoustic.

Dirk's Niteclub, 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove. 619-469-6344. Friday and Saturday, *Nemesis,* classic rock.

Don's Cocktail Lounge, 13321 Business Highway 8, El Cajon. 619-443-2444. Friday and Saturday, *Benchmark,* country/rock.

Fannie's Nightclub, 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley. 619-698-2204. Friday, *the Spot,* hip-hop. Saturday, *Collage Menage,* rock.

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

Hooley's Irish Pub and Grill, 2955 Jamacha Road, Rancho San Diego. 619-670-7468. Saturday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *the Caribbean Cowboys,* rock/country.

Renegade Inn, 14335 Old Highway 80 (half mile east from Lake Jennings turnoff), Flynn Springs. 619-561-8105. Friday and Saturday, live country music.

Second Wind, 8528 Magnolia Avenue, Santee. 619-596-8350. Friday and Saturday, *6one9,* classic rock.

Tommy's Italian Restaurant, 1190 North Second Street, El Cajon. 619-440-2676. Friday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *the Wize Guyz,* swing/standards.

Wagon Wheel, 8861 Magnolia Avenue, Santee. 619-448-8550. Live country music.

Calendar
BANDS

ALTERNATIVE

The Accident Experiment: Brick By Brick

Akron/Family: The Casbah

American Horsepower: Brick By Brick

Amom Amarth: Soma

The Angry Samoans: The Jumping Turtle

As Fast As: Soma

Audible Mainframe: Brick By Brick

Big City Rock: Soma

Broken Needle: Ché Café

Brother Man Dude: Soma

Buckfast Superbee: The Casbah

Carcinogenic: The Jumping Turtle

Cheeky: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

The Children of Bodom: Soma

Chinook: The Jumping Turtle

Cobra Starship: Soma

The Coupe Cocks: The Jumping Turtle

The Creepy Creeps: Tower Bar

Crime Desire: Ché Café

Deny the Silence: Dreamstreet

Disaster Magnet: Dreamstreet

The Nate Donnis Trio: Dreamstreet

The Drowning Men: 'Canes

Earthless: The Casbah

Eighteen Visions: 4th & B

Electric Frankenstein: The Kensington Club

The Fascination: The Casbah

Fast Forward: Epicentre

Fifty on Their Heels: The Casbah

Finback: Brick By Brick

Gojira: Soma

Grand Ole Party: Epicentre

Hed Pe: 4th & B

Hemlock: Brick By Brick

Inciting Riots: The Jumping Turtle

Intronaut: The Jumping Turtle

Jack's Mannequin: Soma

Jehovah's Fitness: Ché Café

John's Deer & the Chicken: The Jumping Turtle

Lil' Rich Daddy: Dreamstreet

The Little Ones: House of Blues

Long Live Logos: Soma

The Love Motor: The Kensington Club

Mad Cow Disease: The Jumping Turtle

Mad Visions: Dreamstreet

The Matches: Soma

Maystar: The Casbah

Me First & the Gimme Gimmes: House of Blues

Menomena: The Casbah

The Micromaniacs: 'Canes

My Laughing Face: Brick By Brick

One Drop: 710 Beach Club

Outbreak: Ché Café

The Ovals of Cassini: Dreamstreet, Brick By Brick

Panic! at the Disco: Soma

The Pink Mountaintops: The Casbah

Plus Forty-Four: Soma

Qu'est-ce Que C'est: The Casbah

The Ramonas: Tower Bar

Ransact: The Jumping Turtle

Relegate: Dreamstreet

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BANDS

ALTERNATIVE
(continued)

Resevoir Tips: The Jumping Turtle

Rice Rokit: Dreamstreet

The Rich White Males: The Jumping Turtle

Carina Round: The Casbah

Saliva: 4th & B

Sanctity: Soma

Dane Scott & the Panty Peelers: Dreamstreet

Sexual Tofu: The Jumping Turtle

Shinedown: 4th & B

Silverside: Brick By Brick

The Six Inch Man: Brick By Brick

The Slackers: The Casbah

Small Sins: House of Blues

Some Girls: Epicentre

Someday Assassin: The Kensington Club

The Strikers: The Jumping Turtle

The Suicidal Hustlers: Dreamstreet

Take Offense: Ché Café

The Teenage Corpses: The Jumping Turtle

The Thrill Killers: Dreamstreet

Tiltwheel: The Kensington Club

Under the Influence of Giants: Soma

Unloaded: The Jumping Turtle

Unset: Brick By Brick

The Urbanomics: The Jumping Turtle

Vinyl 45: 'Canes

Vivisect: The Jumping Turtle

A Week's Worth: 'Canes

Wire Monkey: Surf N'Saddle

Yakuza: The Jumping Turtle

You and What Army: The Jumping Turtle

ROCK

ADHD: The Kensington Club

Allied Records: Dreamstreet

The American Hitmen: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Slightly Stoopid, December 8 and 9, 4th & B

Bedlam's Edge: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Boneyard: Coyote Bar and Grill

The Brat Pack: Henry's Pub

The Mitch Budd Band: 710 Beach Club

Cactus Twang: The Calypso Cafe

The Citizen Band: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Collage Menage: Fannie's Nightclub

DaGroove: Island Sports and Spirits

Dead Meadow: The Casbah

Dead as Dillinger: The Zombie Lounge

Rob Deez: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Dogmatic: The Jumping Turtle

The Dukes of Haggard: Lestat's Coffee House

'80s Heat: Belly Up Tavern

8 West: Dreamstreet

The Electric Waste Band: Winstons

The Fab Four: House of Blues

Fish Tacos: 710 Beach Club

Mark Fisher: Gaslamp Tavern

Flock of 80's: Dick's Last Resort

4-Way Street: McP's Irish Pub and Grill

The Ghost of Sada: Dick's Last Resort

The Grams: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Grandma Fingers: The Jumping Turtle

O'Connell's
21 and up with ID
THURSDAYS
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CHEEKY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
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SWEETTOOTH
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HOSTED BY JEFFERSON JAY
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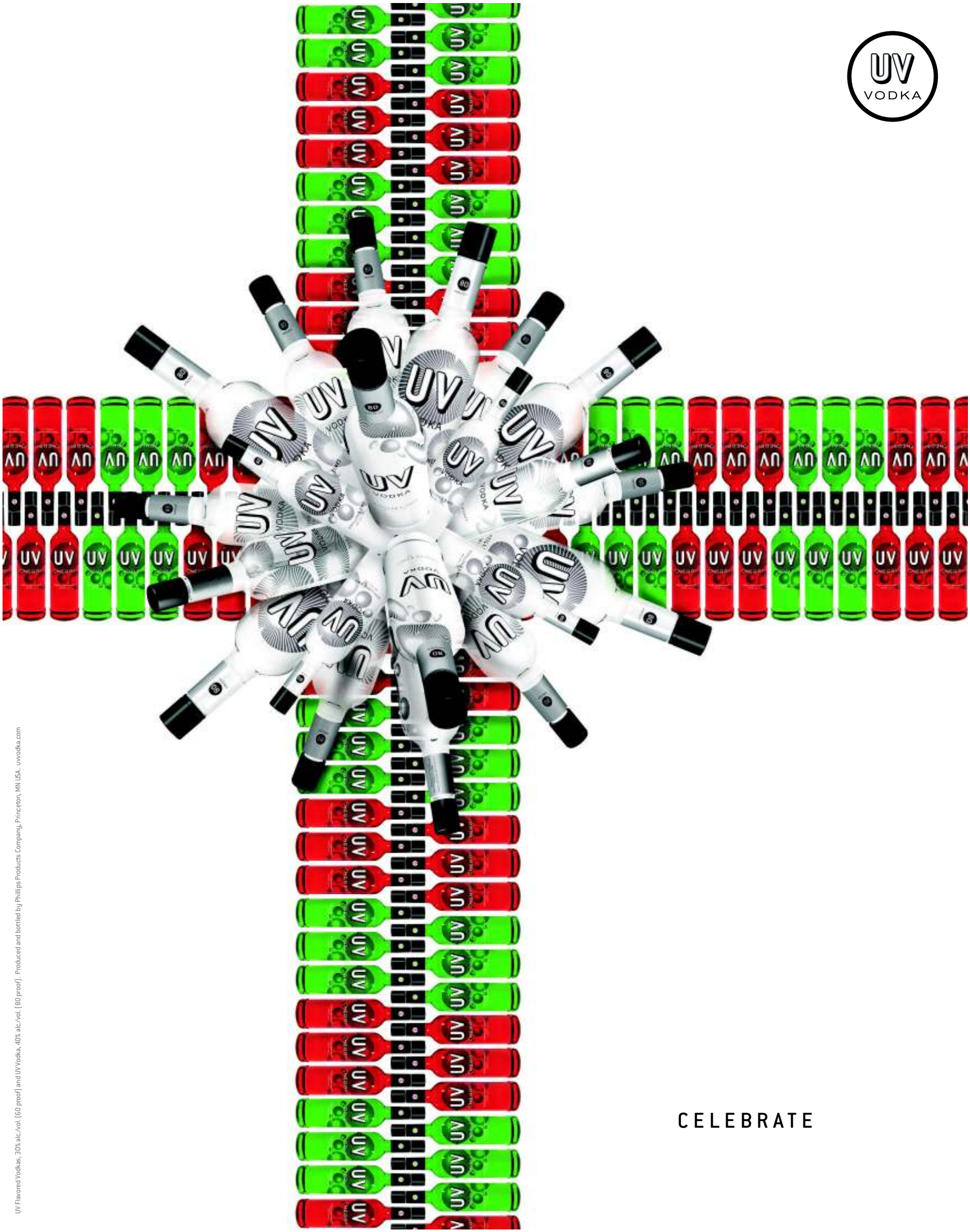

UV Flavored Vodkas, 30% alc./vol. (60 proof) and UV Vodka, 40% alc./vol. (80 proof). Produced and bottled by Phillips Products Company, Princeton, MN USA. uvvodka.com

Calendar
BANDS

ROCK
(continued)

Honeytribe: Humphrey's

The Charlie Hunter Trio: Humphrey's

Idle Train: Hennessey's Tavern (Carlsbad)

Loose Canon: Dreamstreet

Meld: Winstons

Modern Day Moonshine: Martini Ranch (Gaslamp)

Mother Grundy: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Nemesis: Dirk's Niteclub

The New Addiction: The Jumping Turtle

Night Shift: Game Time Tavern

Nite Hawk: Carvers

Off-Track: The Jumping Turtle

Papa Roach: 4th & B

Pensive: The Jumping Turtle

Juan Pesa: Dreamstreet

Mike Pinto: 710 Beach Club

Private Domain: Dick's Last Resort

The Rarities: Lestat's Coffee House

The Restless Natives: Coyote Bar and Grill

Rhythm Red: Pal Joey's

Rock'n'Roll Circus: Lestat's Coffee House

The Rosery: The Jumping Turtle

Serious Guise: Second Wind (San Carlos)

Side Jobz: Tio Leo's (Mira Mesa)

6one9: Second Wind (Santee)

Slow Car Boost: The Jumping Turtle

The Sound Library: Winstons

Spell Toronto: The Casbah

Stalker Dan: Humphrey's

The Stilettos: Henry's Pub

Sugarglider: 710 Beach Club

Superdoo: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Sus Hijos: Winstons

Sweet Tooth: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Talk to the Fist: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

31 Knots: The Casbah

3 Against 1: 710 Beach Club

The Two of Us: Del Dios Bar and Grill

Undecided: Game Time Tavern

West of 5: Carvers, Dick's Last Resort

The Widows: The Kensington Club

POP / TOP 40

PTrak Armenta: Pasquale on Prospect

Gil Barron: Pasquale on Prospect

The Disco Pimps: Dick's Last Resort

Diva Soul: Jimmy Love's

James East: Pasquale on Prospect

Mark Fulton: Pasquale on Prospect

The Good Times: Henry's Pub

Island Breeze: Humphrey's

Jimmy Lavello: Dakota Grill and Spirits

The Love Rangers: The Alley

The Stepping Feet: Whiskey Girl

JAZZ / BIG BAND

Agua Dulce: Croce's Jazz Bar

Burnett Anderson: Cafe LaMaze

The Archtones: Croce's Jazz Bar

The B-3 Four: Vesuvio Gourmet Restaurant

Tom Bishop: Rancho Bernardo Inn

Ray Briz: Hotel del Coronado

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The Karin Carson Trio: The Westgate Hotel

Sandy Chappel: Cafe LaMaze

Jesse Davis: Humphrey's

Julio de la Huerta: The Westgate Hotel

Hank Easton: Humphrey's

Edo Brazil: Samba Grill

Nick Fiore: Pasquale on Prospect

Karen Giorgio: The Westgate Hotel

John Guilino: Pasquale on Prospect

Cynthia Hammond: Busalacchi's Ristorante, Pasquale on Prospect

The High Society Jazz Band: Tio Leo's Lounge

Insight: Jimmy Love's

Keith Jacobsen: Del Mar Plaza

Barbara Jamerson: Hotel del Coronado

Barbara Jamerson & Two Deep: Seaport Village East Plaza

The Jazz 101 Band: Pasquale on Prospect

The Johnson Project: Bobby's Place

Sam Johnson's Jazz Quartet: South Park Bar and Grill

Dick Koenig: Cody's La Jolla

John Kopecky: South Park Bar and Grill

Tony Lasley: Hotel del Coronado

Mark Lessman: Coyote Bar and Grill

Barry Levich: La Valencia Hotel

Stellita and Dave Lindgren: Hotel del Coronado

Peggy Lloyd: Vesuvio Gourmet Restaurant

Fran Loskota: The Westgate Hotel

The Joe Marillo Jazz Trio: Manhattan Restaurant

Masterpiece: Jimmy Love's

Jerry Melnick: The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, Rancho Bernardo Inn

The Shep Meyers Quartet: Croce's Jazz Bar

David Mosby: Vesuvio Gourmet Restaurant

Mystique: McP's Irish Pub and Grill

The New Standard Jazz Trio: Busalacchi's Ristorante

Mario Oliveras & Latin Spice: Pasquale on Prospect

Faith Page: The Westgate Hotel

Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra: Dizzy's

Palos: The Calypso Cafe

Primo: Sevilla

Rick Ross: La Valencia Hotel

Sambajazz: Cuvee Restaurant

Dave Scott: Pasquale on Prospect, Croce's Jazz Bar

Robert Sebastini: Cafe LaMaze

The Soul Revue: Jimmy Love's

The Southwestern College Jazz Ensemble: Dizzy's

The Speak Easy Quartet: Hot Monkey Love Cafe

Stage 4: Buon Giorno Restaurant

Stefani Stevens: Cody's La Jolla

Trece de la Suerte: Portugalia

Jaime Valle: Tutto Mare

The Jaime Valle-Bob Magnusson Jazz Duo: Harry's Bar and American Grill

Vintage Vegas: Martini's Bar and Grill

Scott Wallingford: Cafe LaMaze

Walter II y Rumbaney: Sevilla

The Wize Guyz: Tommy's Italian Restaurant

Yavez: Croce's Jazz Bar

REGGAE / SKA

The Big Sound: Belly Up Tavern

Burnt: 710 Beach Club

Elijah Emanuel & the Revelations: Winstons

J Irie: 710 Beach Club

Justin James & the Sons of Beaches: 710 Beach Club

Ziggy Marley: 4th & B

The Mayan Kings: The Casbah

The Jerry McCann Band: Coyote Bar and Grill

Pepper: 4th & B

Rasta Roots: Surf N'Saddle

Shake Down: Portugalia

Slightly Stoopid: 4th & B

Social Green: Belly Up Tavern

Split Finger: 710 Beach Club

Straight Trippin': Portugalia

Stranger: The Gordon Biersch Brewery

Uplift: The Calypso Cafe

Vegitation: Belly Up Tavern

COUNTRY

Benchmark: Don's Cocktail Lounge

Big Rig Deluxe: Lestat's Coffee House

The California Rangers: McCabe's Beach Club

The Caribbean Cowboys: Hooley's Irish Pub and Grill

Carter Falco: Belly Up Tavern

Fishbait: Gaslamp Tavern

Shooter Jennings: Belly Up Tavern

The North County Cowboys: Del Dios Bar and Grill

The Utah Country Swillers: The Zombie Lounge

ACOUSTIC / FOLK

Fred Benedetti: Dizzy's

Evan Bethany: Lestat's Coffee House

J.D. Boucharde: Princess Pub and Grille

Aaron Bowen: Lestat's Coffee House

Tom Boyer: Borders Books and Music (Carmel Mountain, El Cajon)

Steve Brewer: Blarney Stone Pub, McP's Irish Pub and Grill

Kai Brown: Borders Books and Music (Gaslamp)

Shayne Busby: E Street Cafe

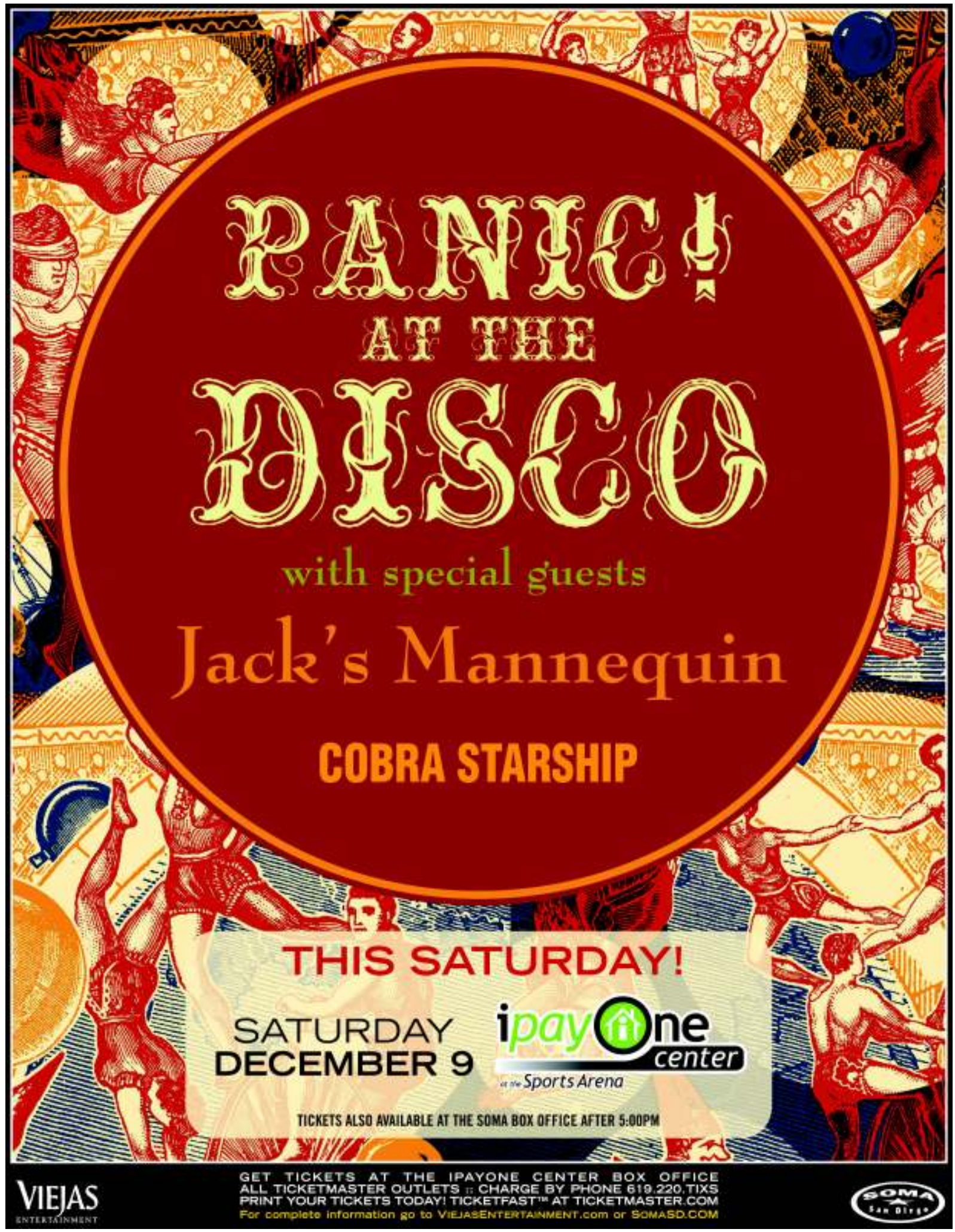
Bushwalla: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Joe Cardillo: Cody's La Jolla

Christopher Cash: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

The Celtic Ensemble: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Chris & Harold: Blarney Stone Pub



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Calendar
BANDS

ACOUSTIC / FOLK
(continued)

Brian Conway: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

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Curtis: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Dino: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Nate Donnis: E Street Cafe

Chad Farran: Lestat's Coffee House

The Flounders: The Calypso Cafe

Mike Gardner: Cheers, North Bar Sports and Spirits, Mas Fina Cantina

Drew Gasparini: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Allison Gill: Blarney Stone Pub

Sarah Green: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

The Green Water District: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Marie Haddad: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Hargo: Borders Books and Music (Gaslamp)

Harmony Road: McP's Irish Pub and Grill

Taylor Harvey: McP's Irish Pub and Grill

David Houser: McP's Irish Pub and Grill

Alan James: Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad)

John January: E Street Cafe

Shannon Long: Martini Ranch (Gaslamp)

Aimee Mann: Belly Up Tavern

Mozella: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Adrienne Nims & Raggle Taggle: Tom Giblin's Irish Pub and Restaurant

Mick Overman: Tiki House

Pat & Joe: Blarney Stone Pub

Angela Patua: Lestat's Coffee House

Sara Petite: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Lee Tyler Post: Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad)

Tom Russell: AcousticMusicSanDiego

Sene Africa: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Gayle Skidmore & the Eskimo Friends: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

George Svoboda: Dizzy's

Tara Jo: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Jack Tempchin: The Calypso Cafe

Anna Troy: Borders Books and Music (Carmel Mountain)

Melissa Vaughan: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Vernon: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Gene Warren: The Ould Sod

Steven Ybarra: The Hot Java Cafe

Lindsey Yung: Lestat's Coffee House

BLUES / SOUL

Big City Shaman: McP's Irish Pub and Grill

Big Slim: Riley's Sports Bar

Blue Four: Patrick's II

Blue Largo: Patrick's II

The Blues Brokers: The Kraken

Dave Camp Blues: Patrick's II

Chill Boy: The Kraken

Fairfield Fats: Tiki House

420 Blackbirdz: Winstons

Hugh Gaskins: Rosie & Joe's

The Greasy Petes: Tiki House

Johnny "B" Blues: Coyote Bar and Grill

Jumpstart: Island Sports and Spirits

Lady Dottie & the Diamonds: Henry's Pub

Michele Lundeen & Blues Streak: Patrick's II

The Bill Magee Blues Band: Patrick's II, The Kraken

Jeff Moore: The Calypso Cafe

The Deacon Moore Band: Winstons

Mystery Train: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Billy Thompson: The Calypso Cafe

Johnny V.: Patrick's II

Billy Watson: The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe

Kim Wilson's Holiday Blues Revue: Winstons

EVERYTHING ELSE

John Cain: Shooters Bar and Grill, Bahia Resort Hotel, Hotel del Coronado

Caution: 710 Beach Club

Chencha Berrinches: The Jumping Turtle

Ray Correa: The Butcher Shop

Skye Edwards: 4th & B

Jim Gibson: Hotel del Coronado

La Resistencia: The Jumping Turtle

Los Reyes Del Ritmo: Estancia Resort Hotel

Matamoska: The Jumping Turtle

Middle Earth: The Calypso Cafe

Roy Resnikoff: Cody's La Jolla

Eddie Rossi: Red Fox Steakhouse

Sektacore: The Jumping Turtle

The David Shaw Duo: Red Fox Steakhouse

Joe Soprano: Red Fox Steakhouse

The Spot: Fannie's Nightclub

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Travail, Endurance, and the Human Spirit

Equivocating regulations evicted Ion Theatre, sending them who knows where.

REVIEW
JEFF SMITH

It hurt like hell to watch Ion Theatre's *Grapes of Wrath.* Not the production, the situation. After years of searching, Claudio Raygoza's company, one of the most artistically adventurous in San Diego, finally found a home in 2006. They turned a commercial warehouse at 917 Ninth Avenue into New World Stage, a functional space that included steep-raked bleacher seating and an inviting lobby. And once Ion had its theater, it instantly became home for many a homeless company. It's booked deep into next year.

Was, that is. Recently, even though the building passed all structural tests, city inspectors and a development official questioned the initial analysis. "We have been forced out," Raygoza said. "We can stay if we pay for the astronomical analyses now required by the city. The cost is far outside our means. Our leaseholders have been asked to bear the cost, and they have refused."

Last Saturday, the company performed at New World Stage, most likely for the last time. It then moved the entire *Grapes of Wrath* production a block away to the 10th Avenue Theatre, where it secured only one week of performances, closing this Monday night. Watching a play about the homeless Joads wandering toward an uncertain future was like watching a story inside a story, Steinbeck's and Ion's, and recalling the years Raygoza literally went door-to-door through San Diego looking for a space, his elation at finding one, and all the hard physical labor it took to build a new home. Now undone.

The Depression and the Dust Bowl evicted the Joads, sending them 2000 miles to California in a Hudson Super Six jalopy. Equivocating regulations evicted Ion Theatre, sending them who knows where.

The situation also drew attention to the actors' plight: original opening night canceled; a final performance at New World (before, it turns out, a small audience of theater critics); then an uprooting: strike the set, *and the theater,* and reopen for a brief run. Steinbeck writes about travail, endurance, and the indomitable human spirit. Last Saturday night, you could see it in the characters, and in the actors playing them.

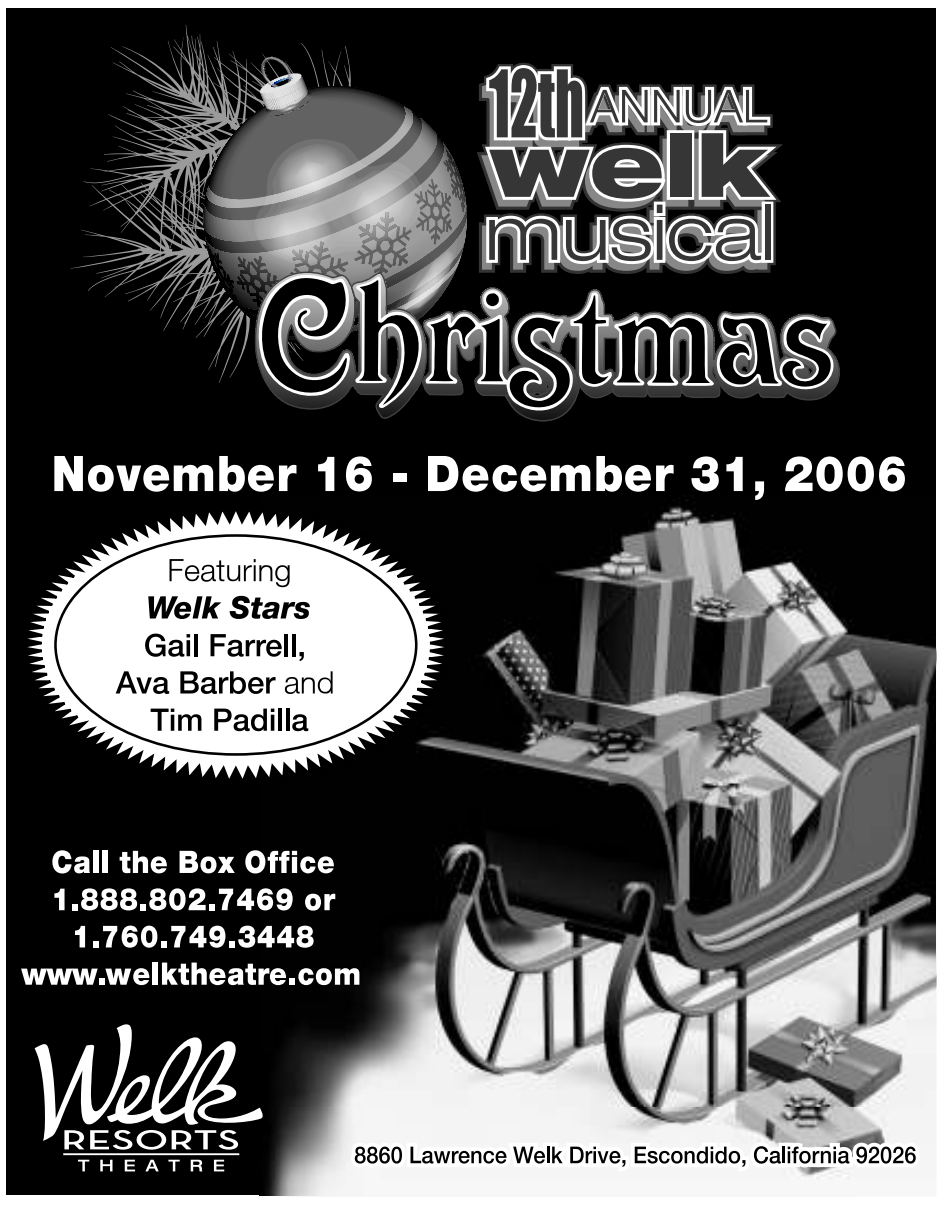
The most amazing thing: they didn't just pull it off; they excelled. Frank Galati's adaptation of *Grapes* is the last show one would do under the circumstances. An epic, it calls for a huge cast, instant scene changes, myriad lighting cues, enough costumes to fill a thrift shop. Every actor has a scene, or a moment, where they must take stage and deliver. And at Ion, everyone does. Even if one didn't know the story behind the story, Ion's *Grapes of Wrath* ranks among the year's best.

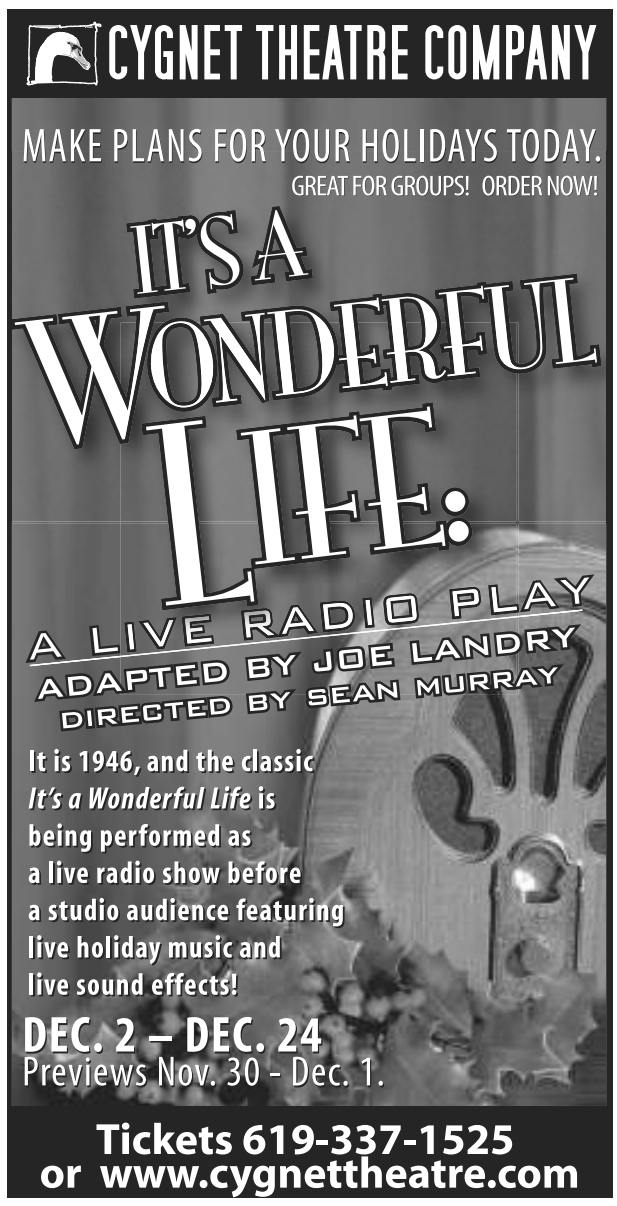
Praise to director Claudio Raygoza, for vivid stage pictures and fluid blockings, and for creating across-the-board authenticity (Shulamit Nelson's frayed costumes a real plus). Praise to Matt Scott, who sets the tone vocally and morally as

The Grapes of Wrath

The Grapes of Wrath, *by John Steinbeck, adapted by Frank Galati*
Ion Theatre, *10th Avenue Theatre, 930 Tenth Avenue, downtown*
Directed by Claudio Raygoza; *cast: Sherri Allen, Matt Scott, Andrew Kennedy, Walter Ritter, William Tanner, Dana Hooley, Ed Eigner, Trina Kaplan, Daniel Logan, John Garcia, Brystal Geu, Daeg Faerch, Sara Beth Morgan, Steven Lone, Tim Schubert, Dan Feraldo, John Sachs, Julie Sachs, Brian Mackey, McKenna Geu, D'Ann Paton, Morgan Trant, Spencer Geu; scenic and lighting design, Claudio Raygoza; costumes, Shulamit Nelson; original music, Sylvia Enrique, Bob Smith, Blair Whitcomb; choreography, Sylvia Enrique, Julie Sachs*
Playing through December 11; *Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Sunday at 7:00 p.m. Monday at 7:30 p.m. Matinee Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-374-6894.*

The Bacchae, *by Euripides, translated by Marianne McDonald*
6th@Penn Theatre, *3704 Sixth Avenue, Hillcrest*
Directed by Douglas Lay; *cast: Shondra Mirelle, Leti Carranza, Melissa Hamilton, Daniel Heath, Gerard Maxwell, Rhys Green, Jonathan Allen, Alberto Alvarado, Kevin Koppman-Gue, Bonnie Stone; scenic design, Vincent Sneddon; costumes, Douglas Lay; lighting, Mitchell Simkovski; sound, Eusevio Gordoba*
Playing through December 23; *Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Matinee Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-688-9210.*





Jim Casy, the disillusioned preacher who worships life. And to Dana Hooley as Ma Joad, life force. And to Andrew Kennedy as gritty young Tom, the unlikely leader who may become the next Joe Hill. And to Walter Ritter, who plays at least six distinctly different men, from bitter to brutal, with equal expertise. And Sarah Beth Morgan, as the fragile Rose of Sharon. And to the trio of musicians, who flavor the performance with fiddles and foot-stomping, and the occasional song of glimmering hope.

* * *

Is it good to be the king? Not in Greek drama. Oedipus, Creon, Agamemnon, Theseus, Cadmus, and Pentheus argue against assuming high public office in the ancient world.

Pentheus has a problem. The women of his city, seven-gated Thebes, have become *bacchantes,* followers of the god Dionysus. They fled to the mountains, where they drink wine and frolic like wild animals. Dionysus has converted most of the Mediterranean, but he's new to Greece and must prove himself worthy of worship. Are the *bacchantes* god-inspired, or just brainwashed cult groupies? And is Dionysus the real thing? Pentheus says he's a fake and vows to restore order even if it means waging war. In the *Bacchae,* Euripides pits civic duty, taken to an extreme, against an immortal loose cannon. Don't bet on the young King of Thebes.

An old bit of solace holds that people get only as much suffering as they can handle. Not in Greek drama. The Greek gods are magnified humans, and they magnify human suffering. To prove he's a god — there's a logic in here somewhere, though it may take lifetimes to sort it out — Dionysus becomes a raving lunatic with ultimate power. He inflicts unimaginable havoc not just on Pentheus, whose mother Agave tears him apart, but on the entire city of Thebes.

Director Douglas Lay and designer Vincent Sneddon turned 6th@Penn's small space into a jungle. Shakespeare said, "One touch of nature makes the whole world kin." As you enter, you can't avoid touching palm fronds and dripping strings of burlap, thus becoming part of the scene. Sturdy tree trunks even support the *bacchantes* who climb and swing on the branches.

The production overall's a mixed bag. Lay has an affinity for Greek drama, especially in keeping the stage alive. His cast, however, ranges from high-caliber work — Rhys Greene's moving Cadmus shocked into exile; Bonnie Stone's instant of horrific recognition as Agave — to amateurish. Most speeches begin with a shout, which gives them (and Marianne McDonald's crisp, modernized translation) no room to grow. As a result, the energy often tapers, during a speech or a scene, when it should expand.

The play's a wonder, though, packed with contem-

porary parallels and questions. It cuts two ways at once: is it pro- or anti-ritual? Pro- or anti-civic authority? Where does religion end and the state begin? In *The Eating of the Gods: An Interpretation of Greek Tragedy,* Jan Kott makes a useful attempt to sort out the differences: "The law and order of the state is based on miracles that happened in the past; but miracles that occur in the present are the negation of all order." ■

THEATER LISTINGS

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

Amahl and the Night Visitors

"Mother, I did not tell the truth before. There is not a king outside. There are two." Three actually, and they've come to change the lives of poor, disabled Amahl and his mother. I've seen several versions of Gian Carlo Menotti's "opera for children" but never one as well sung as Common Ground Theatre's, or as funny. Director Floyd Gaffney gives the piece its due solemnity but also has coaxed lighthearted moments from the libretto, as when Amahl jumps on the back of a king, who caught his mother stealing, and pounds on him mercilessly (and harmlessly). The unmiked cast has such strong voices they don't need electrical enhancement — though one wishes the acoustics in St. Paul's Great Hall, which pull the words toward the ceiling, didn't make the lyrics so difficult to follow. Young Spike Sommers, who sings a clear soprano, is a kick as young Amahl (the Tiny Tim of C.E. 1). Noelle Tetrick, as the mother, and tenor Tom Oberjet, as near-deaf King Kaspar, stand out. As do Joan Wong's costumes, which range from impoverished shepherd-wear to the raiment of royalty, and Espe Gallardo's props (the Kings are laden with wealth). The chorus of villagers fills the hall with festive celebration.

Worth a try.

GREAT HALL, ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, FIFTH AVENUE AND NUTMEG STREET, HILLCREST, THROUGH DECEMBER 17; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:30 P.M. 619-263-7911, OR 619-298-7261, X356.

Bacchae

Reviewed this issue.

6TH@PENN THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AVENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH DECEMBER 23; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AT 4:00 P.M. AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-688-9210.

Bad Dad, a Comedy of Errers

In Mark Whitney's comedy, Dad opens a Ben & Jerry's. The FBI investigates. "Dad goes to the cooler, but who really gets licked?"

WAREHOUSE THEATRE, 11211 SORRENTO VALLEY ROAD, SUITE M, SORRENTO VALLEY, THROUGH DECEMBER 16; FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, AT 8:00 P.M. 888-567-4464.

A Christmas Carol

Julian Theater Company stages the classic tale of un-curmudgeoning, adapted by Don Winslow and directed by Scott Kinney.

JULIAN TOWN HALL, 2129 MAIN STREET, JULIAN, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, THROUGH DECEMBER 16; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, PRESHOW AT 6:30 P.M., CURTAIN AT 7:30 P.M. 760-765-1688.

A Christmas Carol

Applauz Theatre presents David Weiner's new adaptation of Dickens's story, which includes a Greek chorus, and music and dance numbers. James Dublino directed.

APPLAUZ THEATRE, 450 FLETCHER PARKWAY, SUITE 250, EL CAJON, THROUGH DECEMBER 17; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-440-6714.

Christmas Theater Festival

Premiere Productions stages its 11th annual holiday festival. Shows include *The Queen of Bingo, The Littlest Angel, Gifts of the Magi,* and *Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer.*

BROADWAY THEATRE, 340 EAST BROADWAY, VISTA, THROUGH DECEMBER 23; *THE QUEEN OF BINGO* THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY AT 7:30 P.M., *THE LITTLEST ANGEL,* MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 P.M.; AVO PLAYHOUSE, 303 MAIN STREET, VISTA *RUDOLF THE RED-NOSED REINDEER,* FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, AT 2:00 P.M.; *THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI,* THURSDAY, AND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, AT 7:30 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, AT 2:00 P.M. 760-806-7905.

Dutchman

For arias of poetic rage, it's hard to beat Amiri Baraka's fiery one-act (1964). There's no "Flying Dutchman" in the piece, just a subway "heaped in modern myth" in which people run to, or from, who they are. Baraka swore that Clay, a middle-class African-American, and Lula, a red-haired, racist serial killer, aren't symbols, just "real people in a real world." Lynx Performance, however, makes them abstract beings, surrounded by musical riffs and explanatory effects that compete with, and eventually derail Baraka's bullet-train. The production never grounds Clay and Lula. What should be a pseudo-seduction becomes stilted. Instead of addressing each other, for example, they face forward, and when they finally confront each other, a saxophone plays so loudly you can't make out much of what they're saying. These stylized choices distance the performers. You watch the how and wonder why. Patrick Kelly and Michelle Procopio sprint through their speeches. They become more like musicians chanting notes, not speaking harsh, meaningful words. But Baraka wanted "real people in a real world."

LYNX PERFORMANCE THEATRE SPACE, 2653-R ARIANE DRIVE (NORTH OF COSTCO), ROSE CANYON, THROUGH DECEMBER 10; FRIDAY AT 9:00 P.M. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-889-3190.

The Grapes of Wrath

Reviewed this issue.

10TH AVENUE THEATRE, 930 TENTH AVENUE, DOWNTOWN, THROUGH DECEMBER 11; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MONDAY AT 7:30 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-374-6894.

Hank Williams: Lost Highway

If you only saw Act One of *Lost Highway,* you'd think the great "hillbilly" singer lived a charmed, sitcom life. If you only saw Act Two, you'd want more facts to support allegations about drug and alcohol abuse and spiritual decay. Randall Myler and Mark Harelik's book's actually an improvement over the yummy version the Old Globe staged over a decade ago, but it still doesn't multitask in one of the trickiest of genres: the entertaining cautionary tale. The performances, however, are quite good. Mississippi Charles Bevel's blues riffs, like antiphonal responses to Williams's country crooning, cut through the night with an ancient, authentic ring. The backup band's high quality (Russ Wever's steel guitar's so lonesome it cries). Van Zeiler has Williams's nervous ticks and signature yodeling down pretty pat. But it's the combination of Zeiler and the band that create the Williams aura best. And there are times, as when the nervous group first performs at the Grand Ole Opry and Zeiler belts out "Lovesick Blues," they transport you back to Nashville's old Ryman Auditorium, "the mother church of country vocals," and you become part of a stunned crowd hearing Hank Williams for the first time.

Worth a try.

SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN, THROUGH DECEMBER 17; SUNDAY AND TUESDAY AT 7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-544-1000.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

The Old Globe Theatre stages its popular Christmas show about the Green Meanie, based on the book by Dr. Seuss. Jack O'Brien directed. (Note: due to popular demand, the Old Globe has extended the run of *Grinch.*)

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, SIMON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, BALBOA PARK, THROUGH DECEMBER 29; TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. SUNDAY AT 5:30 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AT 2:00 P.M. AND SUNDAY AT 1:00 P.M. 619-234-5623.

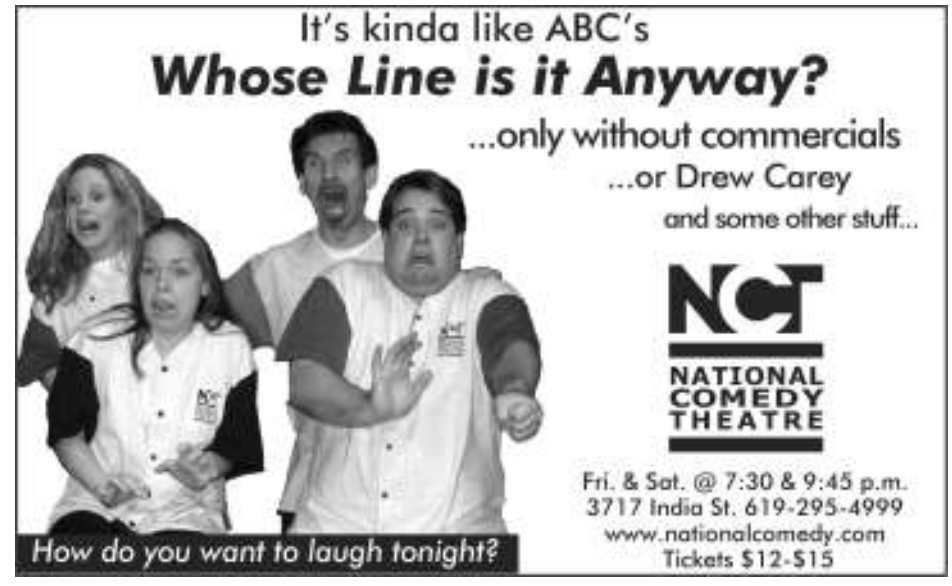
It's a Fabulous Life!

Diversionary Theatre presents a gay holiday musical borrowing its premise from *It's a Wonderful Life.* David Brannen directed and choreographed.

DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BOULEVARD, UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, THROUGH DECEMBER 17; THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-220-0097.

It's a Wonderful Life

Cygnet Theatre presents a live radio show, before a studio audience, inspired by the popular Frank



Capra holiday movie. Sean Murray directed.
CYGNET THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, COLLEGE AREA, THROUGH DECEMBER 24; TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-337-1525, X3.

Joey and Maria's Comedy Italian Wedding
Joey and Maria tie the knot in "not-so-ordinary interactive dinner theater."
HOLIDAY INN ON THE BAY, 1355 NORTH HARBOR DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, OPEN-ENDED RUN. FOR DAYS AND TIMES CALL 800-944-5639.

Lamb's Players Festival of Christmas
Lamb's Players sets this year's story in San Diego. It's 1949, and Anthony Gabbiano becomes torn between family responsibility and becoming a big-time musician. Deborah Gilmour Smyth directed.
LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVENUE, CORONADO, THROUGH DECEMBER 30; TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AT 4:00 P.M. AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-437-0600.

La Pastorella de la Estrella
Teatro Méascara Méajica presents its popular holiday show about the shepherds' journey to Bethlehem (and in this year's version they run into Nacho Libre, Howie Mandel, and Superman). William Virchis directed.
CASSIUS CARTER CENTRE STAGE, SIMON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, BALBOA PARK, THROUGH DECEMBER 23; WEDNESDAY (AND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19) THROUGH SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-234-5623.

The Princess and the Pea
Imagination Express…All Aboard presents Michele L. Vacca's adaptation from the Hans Christian Andersen story "How to Tell a True Princess."
CENTERS OF LEARNING BY THE SEA, 950 GARLAND DRIVE, NESTOR, THROUGH DECEMBER 9; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. 619-575-3023.

Readings of August Wilson's Plays: Ma Rainey's Black Bottom
The San Diego Black Ensemble and Cygnet Theatre could do for the late August Wilson what "Grassroots Greeks" did for ancient Greek drama in San Diego. The companies present a series of staged readings of one of the American theater's rarely performed but most important playwrights. Twice winner of the Pulitzer Prize (for *Fences* in 1987 and *The Piano Lesson* in 1990), Wilson wrote a cycle of dramas that probe the African-American experience through the decades of the 20th Century (he concentrated, he said, on the "largest idea that confronted blacks in each decade"). The readings will also be staged at the Performance Annex in City Heights and other locations. The series will culminate in a week-long staged reading festival of all the plays at Cygnet in June 2007. Next offering: Calvin Manson directs *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom.*
Worth a try.
CYGNET THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, COLLEGE AREA, THROUGH MAY 8; *MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM,* MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, AND MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, AT 7:30 P.M. FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF READINGS AND LOCATIONS, CALL 619-337-1525, X3.

Sister's Christmas Catechism
The Theatre in Old Town offers a holiday version, of *Late Nite Catechism,* in which Sister solves the mystery of the Magi's gold.
THEATRE IN OLD TOWN, 4040 TWIGGS STREET, OPEN-ENDED RUN; SUNDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY AT 7:30 P.M. 619-688-2494.

Slut
6th@Penn Theatre presents Brenda McFarlane's comedy about Matilda. She was beginning to "take control of her life and sexuality," then landed in jail for being a slut.
6TH@PENN THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AVENUE, HILLCREST, OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 10:30 P.M. 619-688-9210.

The Sopranos' Last Supper
Dillstar Productions presents an evening with the notorious Baritone family: "gambling, dinner, dancing, and good old mobster fun."
HOLIDAY INN ON THE BAY, 1355 NORTH HARBOR DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, OPEN-ENDED RUN; SELECTED SATURDAYS AT 7:30 P.M. 800-944-5639.

The Tin Soldier
North Coast Repertory Theatre presents the "tale of a toy come to life." Joe Powers directed.
NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987 LOMAS SANTA FE DRIVE, SUITE D, SOLANA BEACH, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, THROUGH DECEMBER 31; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 858-481-1055.

Traditions of Christmas: A Musical Spectacular
Christian Community Theater's yuletide show includes a cast of 130, Rockette-style dancers, Christmas elves, and a live Nativity pageant.
EAST COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 210 EAST MAIN STREET, EL CAJON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, THROUGH DECEMBER 23; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY (AND WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20) AT 7:00 P.M. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, AT 6:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (AND WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, AND FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22) AT 2:00 P.M. 619-588-0206.

Triple Espresso: A Highly Caffeinated Comedy
Hugh Butternutt's done his lounge act at the Triple Espresso Coffeehouse 20 years to the day. While patrons sip a house blend — "Grape," "Scandinavian Blizzard," or "Mokoko Cocoa Mocha" — Hugh plays '70s tunes on the piano. He and his companions, here to celebrate Hugh's anniversary, got stuck in the '70s. The trio used to be Maxwell, Butternutt, and Bean, a comedy group that never went far. They're "losers," they admit, but not "ordinary" ones. And, hey, their reunion could help them face searing issues from their mediocre pasts. A formulaic story line? Yep. Straight from *Forever Plaid.* There's also the *Forever Plaid* problem: the three comedians are far too talented to play inept characters. One's a whiz at the piano. Another's a first-rate mime, and the third's a crackerjack magician. The trio is so talented, when the plot has them complain of difficulties to overcome, you wish they'd quit trumping up the pseudo-drama and get on with this highly entertaining, if lightweight show. (Note: the original cast members have been replaced.)
Worth a try.
HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVENUE, GASLAMP QUARTER, OPEN-ENDED RUN; WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SATURDAY AT 5:00 AND 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 3:00 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M. 619-234-9583.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
Broadway*San Diego hosts a touring production of the Tony Award winner about six teenagers who, with their meddling parents, learn that winning might not be everything.
SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVENUE, DOWNTOWN, THROUGH DECEMBER 10; THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 6:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AT 2:00 P.M. AND SUNDAY AT 1:00 P.M. 619-279-4444.

Wet, or Isabella the Pirate Queen Enters the Horse Latitudes
For Isabella the Pirate Queen to fall in love one last time, don't trudge no down-home, plain-wrapper love up that gangplank. Her love'd have to be "God-sized, the kind that creates a world." Liz Duffy Adams has set her thinking person's comedy between worlds: the one that is, where war currently rages, and the one that might be, an island called El Mirago ("the mirage"), said to be the last place on earth where happiness is possible. Female pirates maraud (great fight scene staged by Tim Griffin) and ruminate on matters philosophical. The script has some doldrums, especially in Act Two, where characters talk about freedom, justice, war, power, wealth, love, and the prospect of "second lives" — sometimes dropping character to do it — but Moxie Theatre's spirited production carries the day. Directed with her usual flair by Delicia Turner Sonnenberg, and performing on Jerry Sonnenberg's terrific, wooden-planked ship of a set, the cast has no weak links. Two stand out: Jo Anne Glover adds to her list of remarkable 2006 credits as a swashbuckling, and funny, Isabella, beneath whose greener shades of jade beats a tender heart. And Don Loper's a kick as the Vicontess Marlene, a male in aristo-drag (apt costuming by Fred Kinney), who balks at notions of happiness the way Prosper does to Miranda's "brave new world" with his reply "t'is new to thee." In the end, however, the wary Isabella and even Loper's hilariously dour Marlene might give hope one more try.
Worth a try.
LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN, THROUGH DECEMBER 10; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-544-1000.

The Wonder Bread Years
Pat Hazell's solo "field trip back in time" sounds like yet another superficial romp through the '50s and '60s, glancing here and careening there off familiar icons with the nutritional content implied by its title. What sets the piece apart, along with Hazell's ability to interact with an audience (and with what it's thinking, rather than with what he wants it to think) is his knack for talking about the familiar in fresh ways ("Childhood was the time when you could fall asleep anywhere and wake up in your own bed"). He talks about traditional subjects — breakfast, going to school, Thanksgiving ("the day eggnog becomes street legal") — and creates a commonality with his listeners. He doesn't always achieve his aim — "to explore our sense of wonder: where we lost it and how to get it back" — but often coaxes memories of events and things long since forgotten, like "gyp" houses at Halloween, or Kool-Aid ice cubes, or the table for 12-year-olds at Thanksgiving, which had the same seating arrangement even when the 12-year-olds were 22. Hazell, who wrote for Jerry Seinfeld, dresses a bit like Howdy Doody's Buffalo Bob, minus the cowboy hat, and performs with a folksy ease. Occasionally he demonstrates more than just a gift for gab, as when he balances various items on his nose or a wooden chair on his chin. But he's at his best as a conjurer of the telling detail.
Worth a try.
THE THEATRE IN OLD TOWN, 4040 TWIGGS STREET, OPEN-ENDED RUN; THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M., FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 5:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-688-2494.

Yours, Anne
San Diego Center for Jewish Culture's J Company presents Michael Cohen's musical, based on *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl.* Joey Landwehr directed.
DAVID & DOROTHEA GARFIELD THEATRE, LAWRENCE FAMILY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS, 4126 EXECUTIVE DRIVE, LA JOLLA, THROUGH DECEMBER 10; THURSDAY AT 7:00 P.M. FRIDAY AT 10:00 A.M. SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, AT 1:00 P.M. AND 4:00 P.M. 858-362-1348.

THEATER DIRECTORY

Actors Alliance Of San Diego
3535 Adams Ave., North Park
(619) 640-3900 www.actorsalliance.com

Arts Tix
28 Horton Plaza, Downtown
(619) 497-5000
www.sandiegoperforms.com

Asian American Repertory Theatre
(888) 568-2278
www.asianamericanrep.org

Beacon Theatre
(760) 724-8218
www.beacontheatresd.com

Borrego Springs Performing Arts Center
590 Palm Canyon Dr., Borrego Springs
(760) 767-4275 www.bspac.us

The Broadway Theatre
340 East Brodway, Vista
(760) 806-7905
www.premiereforkids.com

California Center For The Arts
340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido
(760) 839-4100 www.artcenter.org

Carlsbad Village Theatre
2822 State St., Carlsbad
(760) 729-0089
www.carlsbadvillagetheatre.com

Centro Cultural De La Raza
2004 Park Blvd., Balboa Park
(619) 235-6135 www.centroraza.com

Christian Community Theater
1545 Pioneer Way, El Cajon
(619) 588-0206 www.expaclive.com

Civic Theatre
3rd & B, Downtown
(858) 570-1100 www.sdccc.org

Clairemont Community Players
Holmes Elementary
4902 Mt. Ararat, Clairemont
(858) 560-5114

Community Actors Theatre
2957 54th St., State College
(619) 264-3391
www.communityactorstheatre.com

Copley Symphony Hall
750 B St., Downtown
(619) 235-0804
www.sandiegosymphony.com

Coronado Playhouse
1835 Strand Way, Coronado
(619) 435-4856
www.coronadoplayhouse.com

Cygnet Theatre Company
6663 El Cajon Blvd., Ste. N, College Area
(619) 337-1525 www.cygnettheatre.com

Diversionary Theatre
4545 Park Blvd., Normal Heights
(619) 220-0097 www.diversionary.org

East County Performing Arts Center
210 E. Main St., El Cajon
(619) 440-2277 www.ecpac.com

Educational Cultural Complex Theater
4343 Ocean View Blvd., Southeast
(619) 527-5256

Eveoke Dance Theatre
644 7th Ave., Downtown
(619) 238-1153 www.eveoke.org

The Fallbrook Players
Mission Theatre
231 N. Main St., Fallbrook
(760) 728-0998

The Fault Line Theatre
3152 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest
(619) 692-3382 www.faultlineprod.com

Fern Street Circus
(619) 235-9756 www.fernstreetcircus.org

The Fritz Theatre
(619) 233-7505 www.fritztheatre.com

Full Circle Theatre Company
Parker Auditorium
750 Nautilus St., La Jolla
(858) 454-3081 x 150

Grossmont College
Stagehouse Theatre, El Cajon
(619) 644-7234
http://grossmont.gcccd.cc.ca.us/

The Hispanic Theatre Of San Diego
(858) 278-6139

H.I.T. Productions Dinner Theater
Shirley's Kitchen, 7868 El Cajon Blvd.
La Mesa (619) 561-8673
(619) 561-8673 www.dinnertheater.net

Horton Grand Theatre
444 Fourth Ave., Downtown
(619) 234-9583

Iris Theater
4580-B Alvarado Canyon Rd.
(619) 271-4144 www.iristheater.org

Laguna Playhouse
606 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach
(949) 497-2787

La Jolla Playhouse
Mandell Weiss Center, UCSD
(858) 550-1010
www.lajollaplayhouse.com

La Jolla Stage Company
7887 Herschel Ave.
(858) 459-7773
www.thelajollastageco.org

Lamb's Players Theatre
Paul and Ione Harter Stage
1142 Orange Ave., Coronado
(619) 437-0600 www.lambsplayers.org

Lamplighters Community Theatre
8053 University Ave., La Mesa
(619) 464-4598
www.lamplighterstheatre.org

Lyric Opera San Diego Stephen & Mary Birch North Park Theatre
2891 University Ave.
(619) 239-8836
www.lyricoperasandiego.com

Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater
Balboa Park
(619) 685-5990

Mesa College Theatre Company
7250 Mesa College Dr., Clairemont
(858) 627-2621

Miracosta College Theatre
One Barnard Dr., Oceanside
(760) 795-6815 www.miracosta.cc.ca.us

Mira Mesa Theatre Guild
(858) 693-7328

Moonlight Stage Productions
651 E. Vista Way Vista
(760) 724-2110
www.moonlightstage.com

The Muse Theatre
(619) 239-2894
www.themusetheatre.com

Mystery Cafe
The Imperial House Restaurant
505 Kalmia St., Hillcrest
(619) 544-1664 www.mysterycafe.net

National Comedy Theatre
3717 India St., Mission Hills
(619) 295-4999
www.nationalcomedy.com

New Village Arts Theatre
Carlsbad
(760) 633-1130 www.NewVillageArts.org

New World Stage
917 9th Ave., Downtown
(619) 374-6894 www.iontheatre.com

North Coast Repertory Theatre
987-D Lomas Santa Fe Dr., Solana Beach
(858) 481-1055 www.northcoastrep.org

North Park Vaudeville
2031 El Cajon Blvd., North Park
(619) 647-4958

The Old Globe Theatre
Cassius Carter Centre Stage
Lowell Davies Festival Theatre, Balboa Park
(619) 23-GLOBE (234-5623)
www.oldglobe.org

Onstage Playhouse
291 Third Ave., Chula Vista
(619) 422-7787 www.onstage.itgo.com

Palomar College Theatre
1140 W. Mission Rd., San Marcos
(760) 744-1150 x2453 www.palomar.edu

Patio Playhouse
201 E. Grand Ave., Escondido
(760) 746-6669 www.patioplayhouse.com

Pine Hills Lodge
2960 La Posada Way, Julian
(760) 765-1100 www.pinehillslodge.com

Point Loma Nazarene University
Salomon Theatre
3900 Lomaland Dr., Point Loma
(619) 849-2433 www.ptloma.edu

Poway Center For The Performing Arts
15498 Espola Rd., Poway
(858) 748-0505 www.powayarts.org

PowPAC, Poway's Community Theater
13250 Poway Rd., Poway
(858) 679-8085 www.powpac.org

Ramona MainStage Theatre
626 Main St., Ramona
(760) 789-7008

The Rehearsal Room
1159 6th Ave., Downtown
(619) 589-9963

San Diego Actors Theatre
P O Box 880285 92168
(858) 268-4494 www.sdactorstheatre.net

San Diego City College Theater
15th and C Streets, Downtown
(619) 230-2676 www.sdcity.edu

San Diego Junior Theatre
Casa Del Prado Theatre, Balboa Park
(619) 239-8355
www.juniortheatre.com

San Diego Opera
1200 Third Ave., Downtown
(619) 232-7636 www.sdopera.com

San Diego Repertory Theatre
79 Horton Plaza, Downtown
(619) 544-1000 www.sandiegorep.com

S.D. School Of Creative & Performing Arts
2425 Dusk Dr., Paradise Hills
(619) 470-0555 www.scpa.sandi.net

San Diego State University
Don Powell Theatre
and Experimental Theater
(619) 594-6884
http://theatre.sdsu.edu/

San Diego Theatresports
1531 Tyler, Hillcrest
(619) 465-7469 www.improvise.net

Scripps Ranch Theatre
10455 Pomerado Rd., Scripps Ranch
(858) 578-7728
www.scrippsranchtheatre.org

The Show... Must Go On Theatre
3152 5th Ave., Uptown
(619) 719-3779 www.trainwreckent.com

6th @ Penn Theater
3704 6th Ave., Hillcrest
(619) 688-9210 www.sixthatpenn.com

San Diego Black Ensemble Theatre
(619) 280-5650

Sledgehammer Theatre
St. Cecilia's, 1620 Sixth Ave., Downtown
(619) 544-1484 www.sledgehammer.org

Southwestern College
900 Otay Lakes Rd., Chula Vista
(619) 482-6367 www.swc.cc.ca.us

The Spreckels Theatre
121 Broadway, Downtown
(619) 235-9500

Star Theatre
402 North Coast Highway, Oceanside
(760) 721-9983 www.startheater.org

Starlight Musical Theatre
Starlight Bowl, Balboa Park
(619) 544-7827
www.starlighttheatre.org

Sullivan Players
15321 Tyler Ave., Hillcrest
(858) 274-1731

Sushi Performance & Visual Art
320 Eleventh Ave., Downtown
(619) 235-8466 www.sushiart.org

Teatro Mascara Magica
79 Horton Plaza, Downtown
(619) 231-3586
www.sandiegoreps.com

The Theatre In Old Town
4040 Twiggs St., Old Town
(619) 688-2494
www.theatreinoldtown.com

Theatrx
155 East Grand Ave., Escondido
(760) 735-2491 www.theatrx.8m.com

Tonic Productions
(619) 246-4853 www.tonicproductions.org

Torrey Pines High School Theatre
3710 Del Mar Heights Rd., Del Mar
(858) 755-0125 ext. 2142
www.tpplayers.com

Truax Performing Arts Center
400 Rancho Del Oro, Oceanside
(760) 967-7918

University Of California San Diego
UCSD Theater, Studio Theater
Mandell Weiss Center
(858) 534-4574
www-theatre.ucsd.edu

University Of San Diego
5998 Alcala Park, San Diego
(619) 260-7934 www.sandiego.edu

Vantage Theatre
(619) 262-6162
http://home.san.rr.com/vantagetheatre

Welk Resort Theatre
8860 Lawrence Welk Dr., Escondido
(760) 749-3448
www.welkresort.com/sandiego

The Wild Parrot Players Community Theatre
Point Loma United Methodist Church
1984 Sunset Cliffs, Ocean Beach
(619) 269-6946

Women's Repertory Theatre
(619) 282-3277
www.womensrep.org

Early Report

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

Like most devotees of Thee Bungalow, I was saddened when long-time owner Ed Moore sold the restaurant to the famed Cohn Restaurant Group (of Island Prime, the Prado, Mr. Tiki Mai Tai Lounge, etc., etc.). Thee Bungalow was where I returned to celebrate birthdays and such when I was on my own tab and not the *Reader*'s, because I knew the food would be good, the prices fair, and the atmosphere comfortable. For over 30 years, it's been a favorite "neighborhood restaurant," serving better than "neighborhood" food — not a flashy destination to wow your snobbish aunt or to show off your new duds and cleavage on your way to a club — just a cozy spot to break bread and sip wine with people whose company you cherish.

But Ed, who has done so much to make San Diego a better "food city," is entitled to kick back and relax a little. Knowing that the many regular patrons would be highly averse to change, the question about Thee Bungalow became: How much Moore would the Cohns stand for?

Quite a lot, it seems. When my partner and I arrived at 6:00 sharp on a weeknight, we were none too early to snag one of the last spaces in the parking lot. Waiting outside for our friends Lynne and Michelle, we watched the patrons filtering in. Clearly, the restaurant hasn't lost its local clientele.

The decor is much the same as ever, though there are new rugs and other small changes that only regulars would notice. Resembling a rural cottage, the premises consist of four small-to-medium dining rooms — two in front, a narrow banquet room near the back, and a heated patio that's covered over in winter and used for parties and overflow crowds. The dining rooms are faux-rustic, with wooden walls, oil paintings of So-Cal scenery, and, in the larger of the front dining rooms, a fireplace and a peaked open-beam ceiling. Since the front-of-the-house staff are mainly new, the reception is not quite as warm and familial as it used to be, but it's still intelligent.

The menu and recipes cleave fairly faithfully to the founder's, and the kitchen staff are largely the same, under a new head chef. The community would never forgive the Cohns if the restaurant stopped serving roast duck or sweetbreads. Right now, the choices are a little steak-heavy and lack the game component (wild meats and birds) that Moore frequently featured in the fall, but chef Larry Abrams is hoping to add boar, and perhaps venison, once the hectic holiday season is over.

That evening, the kitchen had to cope with a giant party that settled in just as we arrived. Their 16 first courses had to be ready and served simultaneously, prepared along with our starters. I'm hoping that's the reason for an uneven performance on the appetizers.

REVIEW
NAOMI WISE

One excellent choice is Abrams's own invention. The San Diego-Style Crab Cakes are nothing like other San Diego crab cakes — they're better. "This isn't a cake," my partner observed, "it's more of a warm crab salad. You couldn't pick it up, it'd fall apart." Loose and creamy, with little filler and a light breadcrumb coating, the single generous oval was baked (not fried), then plated atop spicy jalapeño beurre blanc and red-pepper coulis. It was tasty, comforting — and pretty, too. "I love the presentation," said Michelle, a design student. "The streaks of chartreuse and orange underneath are striking, and the microgreen frizzle on top looks like a miniature flower bed."

The Lynnester's road to foodiehood began with a childhood passion for Escargots Bourguignonne, the garlicky Burgundian baked snail dish. "It's one of the reasons I came tonight," she said. "So few restaurants here serve them." The menu says, "Ask for additional garlic if you wish." "We should have ordered the additional garlic," Lynne said sadly. Indeed, there was too little of the stinking rose for either authenticity or flavor. (Garlic-haters and those who fear bad breath should order something else, rather than force Yankee compromises on a Gallic classic.) Perhaps the demands of the crowd at the next table were the reason that the textures of our snails ranged from tender to rubbery to crispy critter.

A pâté sampler is an old Bungalow standby, but the specific pair of pâtés we sampled are the new chef's creations — a foie gras and duck liver mousse, and a venison terrine, accompanied by the standard cornichons, baguette toast, and Dijon mustard. We all felt that, like the escargots, both spreads were too timidly seasoned. The baguette slices were jawbreakers.

A special that evening encompassed Foie Gras–Kobe Beef Sliders. These were not what any of us expected. "Where's the foie gras?" we wondered, encountering a pair of mini-hamburgers with no evidence of poultry liver. The burgerettes were charred black on the outside, rare and juicy on the inside, topped with applewood bacon and accompanied by excellent shoestring fries. There was something yummy on the buns that I couldn't identify. It turned out to be truffled Dijon aioli. The invisible foie gras? It had been cut into small cubes and mixed with the meat to melt in and furnish moisture and savor. The problem was, you couldn't guess any of these details — all you could taste was burned beef and bacon. "I absolutely hate this!" declared Lynne, a veteran of the trendy gourmet-slider circuit. I liked the dish myself, once

Thee Bungalow
★★½ (Good to Very Good)

4996 West Point Loma Boulevard, Ocean Beach, 619-224-2884; *www.theebungalow.com.*

HOURS: Monday–Thursday 5:30–9:30 p.m.; Friday–Saturday 5:00–10:00 p.m.; Sunday 5:00–9:00 p.m.
PRICES: Starters, $5–$15; entrées, $20–$37; desserts about $7.50. "Sunset specials" (about $10 off entrées) Monday–Thursday at opening.
CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: Traditional French country cooking with some Mediterranean touches. Awesome international wine list at full range of prices, many at retail, with a great collection of French reds including some first growth Bordeaux at (relatively) bargain prices.
PICK HITS: Crab cakes; veal sweetbreads; farmer-style duck; Osso Bungalow; Grand Marnier soufflé; cheese plate.
NEED TO KNOW: Reservations necessary for most days and hours, required for holiday dinners. Gravel parking lot next to restaurant is often full; give yourself time to hunt for a spot. Can be noisy if large parties are seated in public dining rooms. For quiet, request smaller dining room to left of door. Request fish doneness to your specification if waiter forgets to ask.

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

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

"Best Thai"— *944* Magazine Editor's Choice, 2006

★★★ *(Very good)* — San Diego *Reader,* 2006

"Best Thai Restaurant"— *San Diego CityBeat,* 2004 & 2005

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— Naomi Wise, San Diego *Reader,* 2006

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I sliced off the top-surface char. I'm not totally sold on the concept, but the major problem lay in careless cooking.

Entrées come with a choice of soup or salad. The soup of the evening was a purée of Anaheim chilies and roasted red bell peppers. The flavor was deep and interesting, but its intensity called for contrasting elements — say, crisp croutons, and/or dots of *crema mexicana* around the perimeter. (We made croutons from the table bread.) It was a fine *beginning* of a soup. The salads are pleasant, the greens sparked by sweet, sun-dried tomatoes and candied pecans. The dressings — whether blue cheese or vinaigrette — are light.

"Do you eat sweetbreads?" I asked our friends before we ordered. I was ready but not willing to be dissuaded, since Thee Bungalow is one of few local restaurants to serve these morsels as a main dish. Neither had tasted them before. "I'm game," Lynne declared. "Just don't tell me what they are until later," said Michelle. They were the table's favorite entrée. Cut into small pieces, floured and sautéed in olive oil to crisp the surfaces, they were tender and, well, *friendly*. A classic lemon-butter and caper sauce served them well. So did a heap of superb home-style mashed potatoes, blessedly free of the alien "creative" ingredients (i.e., pesto, wasabi) and high-dosage egotism so many auteur chefs around town inflict on helpless spuds. They were just really good mashed potatoes, made with the regular dairy products that God and Grandma decreed.

Osso Bungalow is listed as a house specialty. It's not veal but braised lamb shank, with a rich red-wine/demi-glace gravy. It comes with mixed vegetables and the same mashed potatoes. After a taste, Lynn said, "The entrées here are much better than the appetizers."

The menu still offers Ed Moore's "famous roast duck" with a choice of four sauces (mostly sweet ones). We opted for Farmer Style Duck (a heritage recipe from the restaurant's original German owner), served on braised Savoy cabbage with applewood-smoked bacon, fresh shiitakes, and roasted baby red potatoes. The skin was splendidly crisp. As for the meat, I've never loved Ed's duck as much as Ed and his regulars do, considering it slightly overcooked. This duck may have been more overcooked than Ed's rendition — the breast was dry and the leg even dryer. It benefited from a delicious demi-glace sauce, and we enjoyed the earthy garnishes.

Michelle, a native San Diegan, was the only fan of the pan-seared San Clemente sea bass, which the rest of us found parched — although we loved the soulful, chewy lobster risotto that served as its bed and the slick of caramelized white-peach relish on top. "I've always had fish cooked this way," Michelle said. "Dead white. How do *you* like it?" We all (three passionate cooks) chorused about that moment when fish flesh turns flaky and pearly, no longer pink but still moist and tender. I recently read that Alain Ducasse, holder of the world's record number of Michelin stars, was overheard gently scolding the chef de cuisine at his New York restaurant for cooking fish a few seconds past that point. "It's not just a 'matter of taste,' " I said. "It's about honoring your ingredients. This isn't some rotting mutant from the mouth of the Ganges that needs cremation. It's good, fresh fish and deserves to be served at its best — moist." When I asked the chef, he promised that I could get medium-rare fish if I specified doneness. "I've been trying to train the waiters to ask people how they want their fish, but they don't always remember," he said. "Thee Bungalow has always featured more meat than seafood, so I'm also slowly retraining cooks who've been here for 30, 35 years and who default to medium-ish. Just bear with us, we'll get there."

Dessert was a killer: a grand couple of Grand Marnier soufflés. (They come in pairs — enough to feed four — and must be ordered 20 minutes ahead.) Subtly orange-flavored air captured in puffed-up egg whites, they were ideal. The decaf wasn't. Now that a rich and famous restaurant company owns the premises, I'd like to suggest an investment in a few little French-press individual coffee makers and some serious French-roasted beans to provide a brew to complement the magnificence of the soufflés.

Other desserts, all housemade, include fruit sorbets, with the chef's Caribbean-style "pineapple water," profiteroles, almond financier, seasonal New Orleans–style bread pudding, and the restaurant's traditional chocolate mousse. There's also an ever-changing international four-cheese plate served with brioche and poached figs, a perfect ending or pre-sweet course for finishing off a fine red wine. The wine list, of course, is legendary. If you don't have $1200 for the Château Pétrus, I believe I spotted a Lafitte for under $300. There are plenty of exciting bottles in the $50 range and adventurous ones for under $40, particularly if you bypass California and France to explore the less-established wine regions in the back pages.

With any new restaurant or new management, there are issues needing improvement. Here, our server was one such. The lad was an irritating specimen of *Waitronus sandiegicus,* condescending and puppyish. Bad enough he asked the usual annoying "Is everything okay?" the moment our mouths were full, but worse, he *insisted* that we praise every dish, prodding, "Awesome, isn't it?"

A worse glitch arose from a specific restaurant policy, and from three patrons suffering a precipitous failure of "company manners." Normally, the chef tells me, large parties are seated in the private banquet room or on the covered patio — unless they're hosted by long-time regulars, who may specify use of their favorite dining room. "It's usually the louder ones who want the main dining room," the chef said, which, with its vaulted roof, amplifies loud voices. And this party was loud, indeed, not only drowning out all other conversations but producing a painful clamor that included the thunderous pounding of fists for conversational emphasis. During our dessert, the three noisiest merrymakers (including the likely host of the group) left the table on a call of nature, and the sound level receded to a pleasant conviviality, as the 13 remaining celebrants chatted in normal tones. My message is liable to fall on deaf ears, but may I humbly beseech all kind strangers who read this that, when innocent bystanders in a restaurant must suffer your stentorian bloviations, could you try and KEEP IT DOWN? Save the volume for, say, Mr. Tiki Mai Tai Lounge, or some other rowdy watering hole. Thee Bungalow is way too sweet a spot for it.

ABOUT THE CHEF

Chef Larry Abrams, a native San Diegan, says of his Dominican-born mother, "My mom's cooking was my inspiration, 100 percent." He paused, obviously reflecting. "At 14, I asked my father for $20, and he said, 'Why don't you try working for it?' I said 'Okay' and started working as a dishwasher for Sammy's Woodfired Pizza. I worked at different restaurants around the city, and once I was old enough I worked full-time as a busser, waiter, bartender — Chili's, Seau's, back to Ladeki. So when I went to college, I realized that I was wasting my time trying to be a doctor, like my father. I wasn't into that academic thing.

"Then I went on a trip all around Europe for eight months — London, Paris, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Italy, Switzerland, Germany — with a friend who was about to join the FBI and wanted to travel before he did. It was a 'get serious about life' trip. We bought our Eurail passes, went all over, and ate all over. I still didn't really know anything about cooking. I didn't even know how to cut with a knife. When I got back, my parents [at the urging of his aunt] signed me up for culinary school at the CIA in Hyde Park, New York."

While at culinary school, he'd take time off for more travel and to work in European restaurants, which he continues to do whenever possible. After graduating, he moved to New Orleans, met his wife there, and worked for five years at Nola's (one of Emeril Lagasse's restaurants), Commanders Palace, and the Windsor Court Hotel.

"But New Orleans is a tough city for an outside person to come in and make a name for himself. You really have to be connected to old families in the city. And I'd had my first child, and it seemed that it was time to come back to San Diego and share my expertise with the rest of the restaurateurs here. A lot of them haven't really ventured far out of San Diego and haven't gotten that worldly cuisine down. So I thought it would be good to share what I've learned in my travels around the world."

He worked at Fresh, at Sammy's as a corporate chef, at Paradise Point Resort, and at Oceanaire. "A year ago the news came to me that David Cohn would be purchasing Thee Bungalow, and he offered me the position of executive chef and general manager. And I said, 'What would be better than to put a 30-year-old in charge of a restaurant that has 36 years of history?' Ed wanted to only sell to someone who would keep the essentials of Thee Bungalow running the same way, and we all came to an agreement that we would maintain the staples that have kept Thee Bungalow alive all this time but with some wiggle room to do what I want to do with the menu.

"We're different here than most of the Cohn Group. The others are powerhouse restaurants, and they're geared toward a different clientele. I think that's why the Cohns bought this restaurant and brought me in, because I'm in tune with the local scene.... I pride myself on seasonality and freshness of ingredients — not necessarily organic and local, but the freshest I can buy. I think the less handling of the food, the better it is. I try to keep it the simplest possible. The more you touch the food, the more you lose the characteristics of the ingredients you started with. The less you do on the plate, the more powerful it is."

As general manager, Abrams is in charge of the wine list, and he's expanded the offerings purchased from Ed by adding bottles from New Zealand, South Africa, Chile, and Argentina. Future plans include half-bottles and wine flights, as well as numerous promotions. "I'm trying to grab all generations here — to indulge the older generation and the regulars we've had for 30 years and also capture younger diners.

"Thee Bungalow to me is like going to your grandmother's house. You walk in there and you feel comfortable. You ask for something, and you'll get it. That's the atmosphere we try to provide. You don't have to wear designer clothes, and there's no valet, so who cares what car you come in. That's a reason I took on the job. It's not like La Jolla or downtown, where everybody's gotta have a Ferrari, everybody's gotta be wearing a Gucci, everybody's gotta be buying $500 champagne. That's not dining, that's showing off. There are plenty of restaurants for showing off your money, but that's not us." ■

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Toothsome

"Lot of people doze off over their laptops."

TIN FORK

ED BEDFORD

It's embarrassing.

Cracked off two teeth on peanuts. Now I have to face the world looking like Bugs Bunny. So I call down to TJ. Doc Solorio's there. "Anytime, my friend," he says. "But not till Friday."

Oh man. Today's Wednesday. Gotta eat. Can think of one place where you don't feel bad looking stupid: Rebecca's. I've had coffee there. So-o-o laid back. Liked it, but I've never tried the food.

"Whew!" I say as I bang into the way-big room. Deep yellow-wash walls give it a glow, and a whole hand-me-down collection of interesting but, well, unrelated furniture makes the space feel like some dowdy gentleman's club.

But the first thing you notice is the quiet. It's the silence of a library. Lots of laptoppers sit scattered at the different antique tables, sipping coffees, staring, or clicking. Others sink deep in couches, nibbling on scones, some snoring.

Yes, this is a coffee place. But they have quiches and baked stuff in the counter display cabinet and a lunch special on a little blackboard: "Canadian Bacon Bagel Melt with Tomato Swiss, $6.25." As I'm reading, this tall guy with a Three Musketeers goatee comes out from the kitchen holding a steaming plate. He shouts, "Bacon bagel melt?" Oh God, that looks good, golden and red with its grilled tomatoes. Gabriel the musketeer does the rounds of the couches to find the customer.

Meanwhile, I spot a menu. They have a respectable bunch of sandwiches, and soup. Basic soup of the day is $4.75, with toasted torta. The quiche plate with ham, spinach, and veggies runs $5.50, a French crêpe with salad is $7.50. They have croissants stuffed with things like ham or turkey for $3.75. That sounds like a deal. But no. How 'bout the blue cheese, pecan, and apple melt for $5.75. Or, oh Lord: melted French brie and Dijon, also $5.75.

Gabriel is back with his Canadian bacon bagel melt still unsold. I'm thinking of making an offer when this sleepy-looking gal comes up and claims it. "Lot of people doze off over their laptops," he says. "Part of the reason they come here is we've got free wi-fi access, and we're open 24 hours, Thursday through Sunday."

I have a thought. It's about teeth. I need to look again at that soup option.

That's when I notice a sign under the counter. "Black Bean Soup with Roasted Chicken and Toasted Bread, $4.75."

"Chicken chopped up?" I ask Gabriel.

"Oh sure," he says.

I order it, and a coffee ($1.50), and take off for the nearest table.

And here's another thing I like. No way is it one man, one table here. I sit next to these guys, Alex, who looks like Papa Hemingway meets Santa Claus, and Mike, who's a guitarist, and there's this lady named Evie too, and pretty soon we're talkin' and laffin' and — thank God — not about my teeth.

Alex is also talking to Joe Marillo, a famous jazz bandleader around town. Evie's saying how she brings busloads of women here from places like Palm Springs. "It's my 'Nitty Gritty of the City' tour. I had one woman say to me, 'It's so Bohemian. I would never come here alone.' "

"Bohemian?" says Rebecca herself, who drops by the table. "A South Park house I almost bought would've cost me $79,000. Then it went up to $150,000. Now it's $950,000."

Gabriel turns out to be an artist doing a way-big painting about the circle of life. "An endlessly repeating hologram," he says. I lean back to talk to this gal Nola, who's writing in her journal and pasting in arty color pix to make it a thing of beauty. And now another customer, Philip Virgo, sits down at the baby grand piano and starts playing "Summertime." Turns out they have open-mike poetry, music, and Joe's band plays jazz on Friday nights. But anybody can play, so long as they *can* play, anytime. This place is hopping.

Gabriel brings the broth. It's seriously good, home-made soup, chock-loaded with black beans, dee-lish chicken that tastes almost as rich as roast beef, and veggies like celery and carrots. And yes, my two front teeth can handle the two toasted sides of the torta without making me look like some drooling basket case.

"What you need now," says Alex, "is one of Rebecca's scones. They're from her Scottish grandmother's recipe." Seems Rebecca only bakes them eight at a time, throughout the day. Alex's favorite has sausage and cheese inside. But this load right now is stuffed with berries — blackberry, blueberry, raspberry, and boysenberry, plus a bowl of strawberry jam to dip it in. It's certainly a big craggy, Scottish-looking thing. And the best news is it ain't heavy. Yes, cracking through the outside's my (temporary) problem, but once inside, we're talking sweet heaven. 'Specially with the (50-cent) refill coffee.

"This is my family here," Rebecca says. "We started with no money, and people actually helped me financially, came with furniture and, like, a friend did the mural. Another customer, Dale, painted the walls, Larry did all the hinges on the doors. Those front doors are from Habitat from Humanity…"

She brings out a pic of this place when it was San Diego's first Safeway, an open produce store, back in the 1920s. "We're sitting where the produce aisles used to be," she says.

On the way out, I notice the thing that says it all. Somebody has graffitied the once-wet concrete outside. Arty, though, not scrawled. Flowery letters.

"Peace, Love and Coffee."

Who could ask for anything more? ■

The Place: *Rebecca's Coffee House, 3015 Juniper Street, South Park, 619-284-3663*
Type of Food: *American (some vegan)*
Prices: *Canadian bacon bagel melt with tomato, Swiss cheese, $6.25 (not always available); black bean soup with roasted chicken, $4.75; quiche plate with ham, veggies, $5.50; French crêpe with salad, $7.50; stuffed croissants (e.g. ham, turkey), $3.75; blue cheese, pecan, and apple melt, $5.75; French brie and Dijon sandwich, $5.75; scones, $2.00*
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FOUNTAIN Cafe

Wine from the Neighborhood

He started posting black-and-white photos of loyal customers on the inside walls.

Crush
MATTHEW LICKONA

Every now and then, some poor soul asks me about buying wine. I usually tell them to ask somebody else: someone who works at a decent wine shop. Someone familiar with the inventory. Someone who will listen and learn about what you like and dislike. Someone who will tell you enough about their own experience of a particular wine for you to make some judgment about their palate. (If you're sensitive to oak, say, it helps to work with a salesperson who isn't numb to its effects.) In short, someone who knows how to tailor the product to the customer.

Jim Peters, who works at Robert Gelman's shop Grape Connections on Scott Street in Point Loma, shares the sentiment. "People know that when they come in, they're going to see either Bob or myself. There's always somebody here to help, and we taste all the wines pretty much when they come in. In a small business, you can't afford to have dogs on the shelf."

"The bottom line is service," agrees Gelman. And because of that, he's optimistic these days about "smaller businesses in general. I think people are going back to that," getting away from "the huge megastores." In particular, he's optimistic about his own shop, which has seen more and more business since moving to its new location over three years ago. "There's enough room for everybody to get a piece of the pie if they work hard at it and stay fresh."

That means reaching an understanding with distributors. "We source from the same people as everybody else," says Gelman, "but I have to be very careful. I much prefer things coming in that you're not going to see other places. Sometimes that's very hard, but they're around." If suppliers are calling on other accounts, "My philosophy is, 'There are thousands of labels in your books — be creative as a salesman. Show different wines to different people.' "

It also means reaching out to the customer. Every now and then, a yacht-owner will drop in and load up for a long voyage, but Gelman thinks of that as "the cream in the coffee. I'd say that 90 percent of our clientele is from 92106 and 92107."

Gelman moved into the new location partly because it offered a highly visible wall, just begging to bear the Grape Connections logo, to anyone driving down Scott. "Signage is everything, and there's a huge billboard effect here. Right away, we saw a big change." He started posting black-and-white photos of loyal customers on the inside walls. "People like to see themselves on the wall, and since this is a small community, most of the time someone will come in and say, 'Oh; I know him!' " He began holding quarterly blowout sales, with all of the sale wines available for tasting. "During the one we did in September," says Peters, "I was pouring all day long, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m."

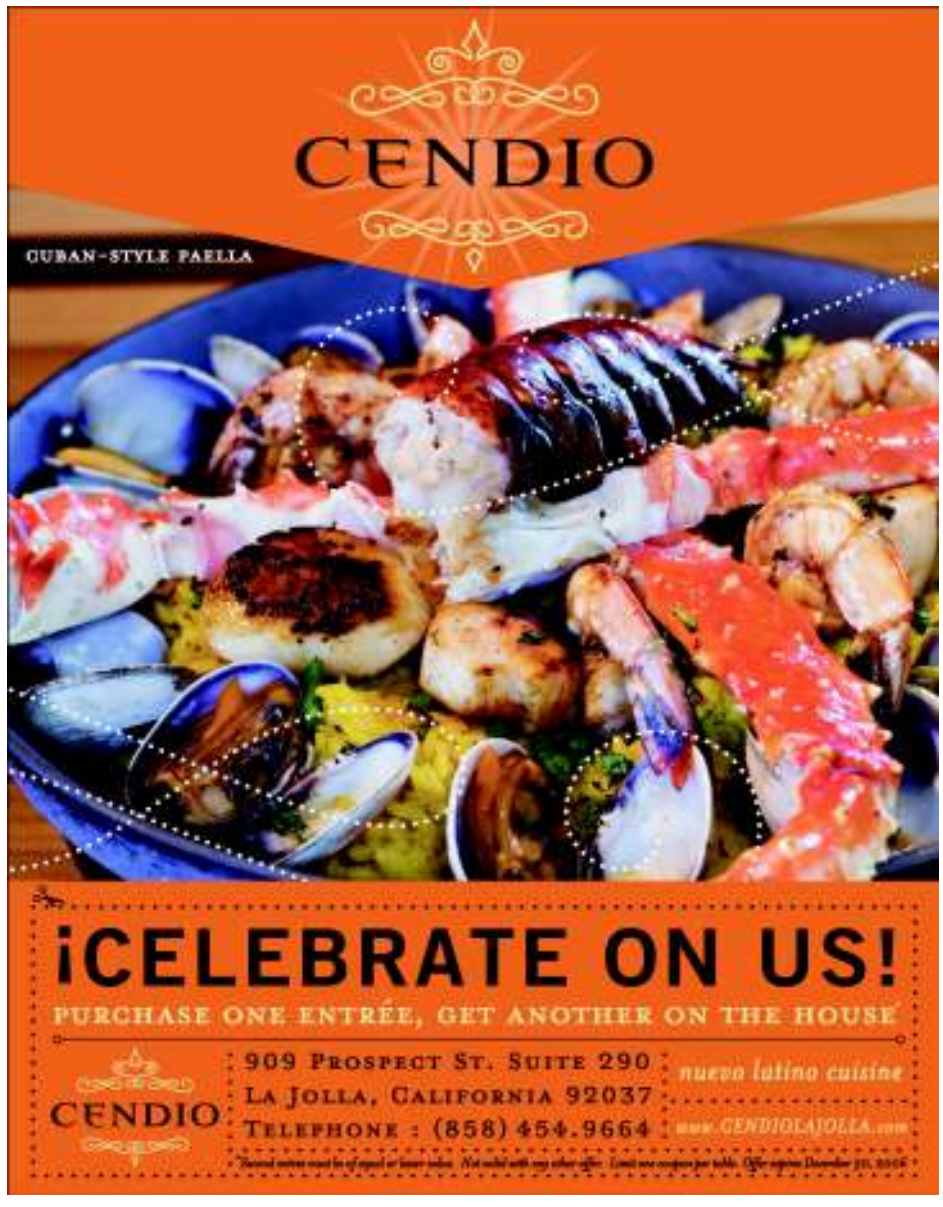
The sales were such a success that he decided to make deeply discounted wines a permanent feature of the shop. Says Peters, "We asked our distributors, 'What can you give us that you really need to get rid of?' " He was thinking of "stuff that's maybe a vintage too old" — say, an '02 Merlot from Pine Ridge that was still hanging around after the release of the '03. That wasn't what the shop got, at least, not at first. Happily, Peters thought to taste the wine with Gelman before putting it on the floor. "We said, 'Take it back!' Now, we taste everything before we buy it. We tell our customers that these are not wines that have been sitting in a warehouse corner for three years." That '02 Pine Ridge? "Absolutely nothing wrong with the wine — a magnificent wine. It was gone in two hours." It's easy to see why. A 2000 Bernardus Merlot gets dropped from $35.99 to $14.99; a 2000 Paoletti Cab, from $45.49 to $19.99; a Domaine de la Janasse from the Rhone, $12.99 to $6.99. Most of the wines are available for tasting.

Peters came to the shop about a year after it opened, after telling Gelman, "I know a little bit about wine; if you need help, give me a call.' " He learned that "little bit" from drinking and paying attention and from falling in with a good crowd. "When I came here in the fall of '87, I went to a Bordeaux tasting down at the Horton Grand. I just happened to be at a table with Bert Hug of Mille Fleurs. We got acquainted, and I ended up getting into what they called the Lunch Bunch. I'd drive up there two to five times a week for lunch; we always sat at table number one. We brought our own wines. Sometimes, Bert would send me to tastings to take notes for him; I ended up meeting people throughout the restaurant and wine community. I did that for probably six, seven years."

Siri Fomsgaard

"With his help," says Gelman, "we've built up a very good, loyal clientele that keeps growing every year."

Point Loma is a fairly stable community; Little Italy is still growing like mad. Now it has a neighborhood wine shop too: Tango Wine Company, a joint project put together by four women: Cindy Pond (the principal owner), Siri Fomsgaard, Raquel Giscafre, and Amber Cyphers. "We pretty much know each other through tennis," says Pond. "Siri was a tennis player; Raquel owns the Acura Classic Tennis Tournament; my company was a corporate sponsor. We became friends. We were probably drinking wine, maybe over at Wine Steals, and we all just decided that we loved wines, particularly Argentinean wines and wines from interesting boutique wineries. We wanted to find a place where, essentially, the wines could keep coming through, and new wines and new adventures could happen. A place where we could have fun wine tastings and where people could take the wines home and enjoy them."



A friend told them about a retail space opening up in the India Street Design Center, the group lured manager Thomas Hartley away from Peet's Coffee in Hillcrest, and they set up a website to help build (and research) consumer interest. "In the beginning," explains Fomsgaard, "we had an online survey on the website, and a lot of people took it. We asked what their favorite wines were, and it really helped us to build our initial inventory: how many people said Pinot Noir was their favorite wine, how many people said Cabernet. We were very confident ordering so much Veuve Clicquot, based on the fact that 90 percent put it as their favorite champagne."

(The substantial Clicquot stack gets the front-and-center treatment as the holidays loom — both because it's bubbly, and because of the accoutrements. "A wine store should be a resource for gifts," notes Fomsgaard, and this year, Clicquot is selling a metal canister for toting a bottle and two flutes, as well as bottles fitted with a yellow neoprene sleeve. "Those neoprene jackets keep your Champagne cold for two hours, and they float," says Pond. "In a Jacuzzi," adds Fomsgaard.)

Besides researching old favorites, Tango seeks to slake the oenophilic thirst for novelty. "Our target audience is generally 35-plus," says Pond, "the person who enjoys wine, who's here to taste new wines. We've got a few people who stop by every other day for a bottle: 'What's new? What do we try now? Do you have anything else from Argentina?' "

Fomsgaard elaborates: "I think what's great about the Argentinean and Chilean wines is that they have a really old wine culture. So you get the European-style wines, but for a lot lower price, and with interesting variations on French and Italian wines. I think a lot of traditional Old World wine drinkers find it very valuable; they're getting what they want for a lower price, and they're opening up a whole new country, with different variations, different varietals. Grapes that were brought from France and Italy and took on a whole new twist."

Pond says the wines appeal "especially to people who are big Cab drinkers but maybe aren't in the mood for a big Cab that day. They've really been enjoying the Terrazas Reservas, different wines that are almost baby Cabs in the Malbec family. You've got so many elevations along the Andes Mountains; you're getting such a variety. We went there last January to understand the vineyards, the way things were going." They find these wines — rarities in San Diego — "just by talking to people. We found a woman who owns an eyeglass company up in Santa Monica" who moonlights as a distributor. "She carries eight or ten of these boutique wines just by herself; it's just her love. We've sold more of her wines than anything else. And we sell more Argentinean wines than anything else. People keep coming back for more." (The proximity to Puerto la Boca is a happy accident, but if you buy wine at Tango and bring it to the restaurant, they won't charge you corkage.)

The place is a proper business, but it has a carefree feel. The decor is a work in progress. Friends helped put paint on the walls: burnt orange, white, olive green. One couch in the tasting area is missing its legs; local artist Liz Jardine is still working on the signs that will identify the wine varietals. "We're not in a hurry," says Fomsgaard. "We're trying to keep prices low. As long as the wine is there and it's good wine, that's the main purpose."

"We just want to make it fun," adds Pond. "People drop in. We already know so many people in the community by name." ■

RESTAURANT LISTINGS

The Reader*'s Guide to Restaurants are recommended listings written by our reviewers (Ed Bedford, Barbara David, Ambrose Martin, Shari McCullough, Max Nash, Eleanor Widmer, Naomi Wise). Each issue contains only a fraction of over 500 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at* **SanDiegoReader.com**. *Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a mid-range entrée.* **Inexpensive:** *below $10;* **moderate:** *$10 to $19;* **expensive:** *$20 to $24;* **very expensive:** *more than $25. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.*

NORTH COASTAL

The Armenian Cafe 3126 Carlsbad Boulevard (at Pine), Carlsbad, 760-720-2233. At this large cottage with a year-round heated sundeck overlooking Highway 101, the menu offers Armenian specialties cooked with a Lebanese accent as well as generic Middle Eastern crowd pleasers, including gyros made from scratch. Lamb shish kebab is the house specialty, a "loss leader" featuring tender premium lamb cubes with assertive seasonings, grilled over gas. Even better are distinctive dishes from the owner's family recipes: his mom's Lebanese *kibbe* (a large, glorified nut-filled lamb meatball) is outstanding, as is her *kashta lea* dessert — an exotic nutmeg sponge cake fragrant with rosewater syrup, topped with pistachios and thickened cream. Dinner platters constitute a full meal, including a great "Armenian salad" and a tasty dip for the meat, along with less-than-great egg-lemon soup, pilaf, and pita wedges. Wine list is dreary, but corkage fee is reasonable. Three meals daily. Live music and belly dancer Friday and Saturday night. Moderate to slightly expensive. — *N.W. (8/03)*

California Bistro 7100 Four Seasons Point, Four Seasons Resort Aviara, Carlsbad, 760-603-6868. This restaurant features fresh California cuisine in a beautiful, luxurious hotel dining room. Open 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday to Thursday (to 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday). Reserve for the Friday night seafood buffet (5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.), which includes cooked seafood, sushi, and sashimi. Moderate to expensive. — *E.W. (7/00)*

Juanita's Taco Shop Estilo Tepatitlan 290 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-943-9612; also in Vista at 248 Main, 760-758-4531. Enticing aromas of fresh tortillas and fragrant frijoles greet you as you enter this busy little *taqueria,* where the food's cooked in the style of Tepatitlan, a small city near Guadalajara. Its local specialty is *carnitas* — which Juanita's does up (by the plate or by the pound) as tender, non-greasy shreds, served with fresh, cilantro-laden mild tomato *salsita*. Standard wraps are fine, too, and the beans taste as good as they smell. Try a "Flying Saucer" — it really takes off, with shredded meat, onions, mild chiles, beans, sour cream, shredded orange cheese, and puréed guacamole riding high on an airy crisped flour tortilla. Quick and good, open daily, three meals until 2 a.m. Inexpensive. — *N.W. (9/01)*

Kealani's 137 West D Street, Encinitas, 760-94-ALOHA. Tucked between a 7-Eleven and a pizzeria, with an exterior sign that says "Saimin" (for Hawaii's version of Top Ramen), this island of the Islands prescribes "Living Da Aloha Spirit." A ukulele player sometimes serenades the noonday crowd at the sidewalk tables, and at any hour the food is "plate lunch" — two scoops of short-grain rice, mild house-made macaroni salad, and a choice of authentic "grines." Don't miss the outstanding kalua pig, zesty, smoky shreds of *imu*-style roast pork, resembling a moister version of Southern "pulled pork." The menu covers the whole panoply of island standards, from *malasadas* (Portuguese donuts) to *musubi* (Spam sushi), with a Saturday special of a luau's worth of "local food." While you're waiting, check out the droll Hawaiian vocabulary lessons under the glass tops of the tables. Open Monday through Saturday, lunch to early dinner. Inexpensive. — *N.W. (10/01)*

Milton's Deli Flower Hill Mall, 2660 Via de la Valle, Del Mar, 858-792-2225. This sprawling, family-friendly eatery started out as a non-kosher Jewish deli, but has come to embrace diner food, pub grub, and Italian and Mexican favorites, along with a full cast of Ashkenazi noshes. Sit down and stuff yourself with stuffed cabbage, overstuffed deli sand-

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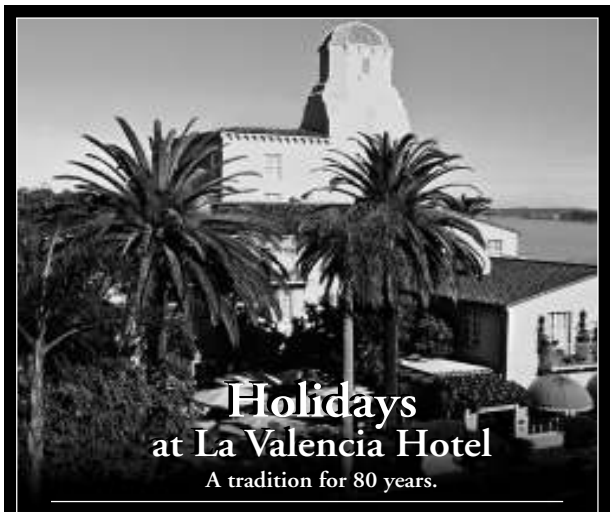

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December 24 and 25 • Seating times vary • $65 per person

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La Valencia Hotel

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wiches, crisp-skinned fat cheese blintzes, *matzoh brei,* hot brisket with latkes — or chicken-fried steak, if that's your bag. Or take out from the attached deli and bakery. The yummy chopped liver will remind you of the Bronx, the smoked whitefish and silky Nova will take you home to Flatbush, but the soft, cottony bagels — *oy!,* so *goy!* Seven days, three meals. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W. (4/05)*

The Original 101 Diner 552 First Street, Encinitas, 760-753-2123. This is where the caviar crowd from Rancho Santa Fe comes to remember their roots. It's got all the deliberately down-home cooking you could want, including all-day breakfast ranging from really cheap biscuits and sausage gravy to a pretty cheap top sirloin steak and eggs. For lunch, the bacon-Cheddar burger with fruit is a good surprise combo. The turkey-cranberry salad sandwich is also good, and try the spinach salad, with bacon, feta cheese, olives, mushrooms, and chopped egg. Even though this 101's vintage (1983) in no way compares with the Oceanside 101 Café's (1928), it has become a genuine part of Encinitas life — lines on the weekends will tell you that. Open for breakfast and lunch daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (12/04)*

Pamplemousse Grille 514 Via de la Valle, Solana Beach, 858-792-9090. The locals' favorite French provincial restaurant offers exquisite, creative cooking. Favorites from an often-changing menu include white fish served any style, mushroom *cappucini* soup, and *tarte Tatin.* Serene atmosphere with excellent service. Dinner reservations urged. Dinner nightly, lunch Friday only. Dinners expensive. — *E.W.*

Pizza Port 135 North Highway 101 (at Lomas Santa Fe), Solana Beach, 858-481-7332. (Also in Carlsbad.) "Tasty Grub & Grog," says the sign, and that's just what it is. You come here for three things: the pizzas, the beer, and the scene. The place is cavernous, but the tables are communal, with long wooden benches. Rub shoulders with surfers, students, yuppies, and locals. Pizza Port brews their own beer (try Sharkbite Red) and flings their own pizzas, New York style. Filling combos can be great, like the pesto, mesquite-grilled chicken, sun-dried tomatoes, artichoke hearts, and feta ("Pizza Carlsbad"), or shrimp, clams, onions, olives, bell peppers, and mushrooms ("Pizza Solana"). Inexpensive. — *E.B. (4/03)*

Poseidon 1670 Coast Boulevard (south of 18th Street), Del Mar, 858-755-9345. The two dining rooms and bar here boast airy, stylish decor and ocean views, and the SRO umbrella-shaded patio is right at water's edge. Lunches run to sandwiches, burgers, and fried seafood of ordinary competence and uneven preparation: wonderfully coconutty fried shrimp, for example, share a sampler plate with deadly-dry salmon croquettes. Dinner dishes are modern Cal cuisine — that is, a mix-and-match of Pacific Rim-Mediterranean-Mexican flavors, with some emphasis on seafood. But the view's the thing here. Full bar. Open daily, lunch and dinner; breakfast on weekends. Moderate to expensive. — *N.W. (4/05)*

Roxy Natural Foods Restaurant 517 North Coast Highway 101 (at D Street), Encinitas, 760-436-5001. You don't have to be a Self Realization Fellowship follower to fit in in Encinitas, but it helps. Roxy was made for the veggie crowd who've grown up around the famous seaside compound. These days, that includes surfers, vegans, and even visiting Hollywood stars picky about their food. Actually, it is no longer strictly a vegetarian eatery: the owners have added chicken and fish for Encinitas's "new people" — the carnivores buying up property in the hills. But the vegan-veggie spirit still rules. Most popular item on the menu is owner Shahram Naimi's own invention: the scrumptious Roxy falafelburger. Its green "meat" is made from garbanzo beans, potatoes, onions, cilantro, and herbs, all bedded down with tomatoes, a thick mat of sprouts, and melted cheese, covered by a whole-wheat bun. For chicken-lovers, the garlic chicken pizzas sell big-time. Other healthy treats include the three-egg avocado omelet with toast, the artichoke sandwich (with marinated artichoke hearts), and the squash enchilada dinner (steamed banana squash with corn, bell peppers, and low-fat cream cheese in a flour tortilla). Payoff? You come out feeling good and full, not bad and

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St. Germain's Cafe 1010 South Coast Highway 101 (at I Street), Encinitas, 760-753-5411. Despite the Parisian name, the food here is all-American. Omelets are the café's best-known dish — 14 variations of three-eggers (or Eggbeaters by request) served with toast or a muffin, plus tasty herb-strewn "café potatoes" or fresh fruit salad. But don't overlook the Belgian waffles, scrambles, pancakes, Louisiana sausages, or the three versions of expertly poached eggs Benedict with genuine hollandaise. Sandwiches run to hearty American classics (including some veg choices), and along with beef burgers, turkey burgers, and veggie burgers, there are no fewer than six twists on lean charbroiled chicken breast on a burger bun. The sheltered patio is always crowded, but there's a large interior dining room with a separate smoothies-and-ice-cream bar. Open daily, breakfast to late lunch. Inexpensive. — *N.W. (10/01)*

Vivace Four Seasons Resort Aviara, 7100 Four Seasons Point, Carlsbad, 760-603-3773. If you ever wished to eat like the Medicis did, here's the place for it. This lovely hotel-restaurant at a gorgeous resort showcases Italian *haute cuisine* which is simpler and more natural than the French equivalent. You'll find inventive combinations of first-class ingredients, skillfully executed and beautifully presented with none of the culinary clichés of the "mamma mia" joints. Reservations urged. Valet parking free for diners. "Casual-elegant" — no hats, shorts, or tennies — but room may be painfully noisy if patrons get too festive. Dinner seven nights. Four-course tasting dinner a relative bargain, but wine list may blow the budget. Moderate (pastas and risottos) to very expensive. — *N.W. (8/03)*

When In Rome 1108 South Coast Highway 101 (at Encinitas Boulevard), Encinitas, 760-944-1771. This elegant restaurant offers three dining areas and a menu with outstanding appetizers and pasta dishes. There are many unusual preparations. Gorgeous presentation; warm, friendly service. A winner. Dressy-casual crowd. Dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Expensive. — *E.W.*

NORTH INLAND

Asia Vous 417 West Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-747-5000. Chef-owner Riko Bartolomei produces outstandingly inventive Asian-French fusion cuisine, remaking the classics with fresh twists and superb ingredients, including naturally raised meats and poultry. No one does "fusion" better, and there's not a culinary cliché on the menu: e.g., everybody else's warm goat cheese with beet salad is replaced with goat cheese tempura and braised fennel. The inspired combinations include sweetbreads with Chinese sausage, potato gnocchi with lobster and vanilla bean sauce, house-cured hamachi atop a flower-like heirloom tomato mandala, and a Kurobata pork shank treated like French "confit" but lightened by a sprightly salad accompaniment. Bartolomei's desserts are not only housemade but as brilliant as the earlier courses. The international wine list is adventurous — all this, plus the unpretentious atmosphere and considerate service, too. (But the place can get noisy when full.) Reservations urged, even for lunch. Parties of more than six accommodated only with set menus. Two vegetarian entrées (including one vegan) on the typical menu. Lunch Tuesday through Friday; dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Moderate to expensive. — *N.W. (11/05)*

Casa Reveles Mexican and Seafood Restaurant Harvest Farms Village, 29000 Lilac Road, Valley Center, 760-749-8041. (Also at 201 Mission Avenue, Escondido, 760-480-5565, with a Mexican-Italian menu.) "Revels," as the locals pronounce it, is probably the best restaurant in Valley Center proper, offering zesty, careful cooking with some unusually authentic flavors. The Michoacán-style carnitas (available in several "stuffed" dishes as well as an entrée) are outstanding for their moist smokiness, and the house's slightly crunchy fresh-tomatillo version of salsa verde is exciting. Seafood is necessarily frozen (given the inland location), but is handled tenderly. In fact, everything's a good deal better than it has to be, given the lack of neighborhood competition. Definitely worth a stop-off when heading to or from the nearby casinos. Late breakfast through dinner daily. Breakfast specials Saturday and Sunday until noon. Family atmosphere, but watch out for karaoke nights (Wednesday and Saturday). Full bar (cantina attached). Inexpensive to low moderate, with some three-course seafood dinners high moderate. — *N.W. (3/05)*

Centre City Cafe 2680 S. Escondido Boulevard (frontage road along Centre City Parkway), Escondido, 760-489-6011. In the quiet little "motel row" just north of Lake Hodges, this cute, friendly café serves classic American diner food, including all-day breakfast. The chicken-fried steak is exemplary, with a crackly batter-crust and a smooth, peppery cream gravy. Several cuts of USDA Choice steaks are offered at rock-bottom prices, and early bird dinners and daily specials offer amazing bargains. You can eat inside, in a coffee-shop ambiance, or chow down on the dining terrace in front. Open daily, three meals. Huge portions, low prices. — *N.W. (9/03)*

El Bizcocho Rancho Bernardo Inn, 17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive (at Rancho Bernardo Road), 858-675-8500. In this rural golf-and-tennis hideaway, Chef Gavin Kaysen features upscale, creative French-California cuisine, incorporating old-is-new techniques and imaginative combinations of seasonal ingredients. Desserts run fancy and very sweet. The weighty wine tome starts out expensive and goes up from there, with relative bargains at the high end and some half-bottles; by-the-glass choices are just adequate. To find it: Take Bernardo Oaks Drive (a long block west of Pomerado) north to the end of the road, to the RBI parking lot (with validated parking for restaurant-goers). If disabled, specify when you reserve, and they'll set up your table in an accessible area. Otherwise, there's a maze of short staircases to negotiate en route to the restaurant. Tie-and-jacket requirement now relaxed, but still very dressy. Great service, luxury resort ambiance. Dinner nightly; Sunday brunch. Very expensive. — *N.W. (11/05)*

Fiore's Harrah's Rincon Casino, Valley Center, 877-777-2457. This is where Valley Center goes to celebrate special occasions. An island of serenity in the cacophonous casino, the restaurant offers fine certified-Angus grilled steaks and chops of various species and a fine slow-roasted duck. For starters, the salmon tower and shrimp margarita are delicious. Choices include numerous seafood entrées, and for lighter eating there's an Oyster Bar attached. The best attraction is the long, adventurous wine list, offering international bottles at bargain prices with by-the-glass choices galore. Half the fun is matching wines to foods. The beer list is sophisticated, too, as are well-priced cognacs and aged ports. Business-casual dress code. Kids allowed in casino restaurants, not in gambling area. Reservations advised for weekends. Open for dinner daily. Moderate at Oystar Bar; upper moderate to very expensive in restaurant. — *N.W. (3/05)*

The Grill 10920 Roselle Street, Suite 104, Sorrento Valley, 858-587-7940. Sorrento Valley is where you commute to work, not to live, so forget warm neighborhood eateries. At first glance, the Grill is what you'd expect — standard strip mall, bare-bones furnishings, office-lunch oriented. But the Greek owners give it character with generous but really cheap breakfast dishes like the feta cheese omelets and lunch specials such as luscious Philly cheese steaks. And they're flexible. Want bacon, sausage, *and* ham in your breakfast pita? They'll do all three, same price as with a single meat. As of this writing, the day of the three-buck breakfast ain't dead. Not in Sorrento Valley. Breakfast and lunch weekdays. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (12/05)*

Hacienda de Vega 2608 S. Escondido Boulevard (frontage road along Centre City Parkway), Escondido, 760-738-9805. This is a Mexican restaurant with a difference — or two. The setting is a gorgeous restored Old California-style hacienda set on two acres, including a verdant courtyard (complete with fountain) for fair-weather dining. The menu is also a leap upward from standard fare. Señora Vega offers authentic Mexican cuisine cooked in the sophisticated manner of Mexico City, her hometown — not border-food compromises. You'll find an array of fresh and interesting appetizers along with a wide choice of serious entrées featuring complex, delicious sauces. Each dish is seasoned to the optimum spiciness for its overall flavor — this is not the land of the bland. The Sunday all-you-can-eat brunch offers a whole sampling of goodies brought to your table, with refills as desired. Five vegetarian entrées and a kiddie menu available; casual atmosphere. Full bar specializing in margaritas, of course. Open daily, lunch (or brunch) and dinner. — *N.W. (9/03)*

San Diego Artisan Bakers 1551 S. Escondido Boulevard (at 15th), Escondido, 760-740-5963. This European-style bakery specializes in hearty, handcrafted, slow-fermented breads made from natural ingredients. Pick up their brochure for the schedule of when each of the 24 breads they bake will come out of the oven. Recipes are from France, Italy, Germany, and the U.S. These loaves have textures and depths of flavor you'll never find in supermarket-bakery breads. And for breakfast or a snack, there's nothing better than settling on the front porch with a cup of espresso and one of the moist and chewy scones. Open Monday through Saturday, morning to late afternoon. Inexpensive. — *N.W. (9/03)*

LA JOLLA

A.R. Valentien The Lodge at Torrey Pines, 11480 N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, 858-777-6635. This is the closest in San Diego to dining at Berkeley's famed Chez Panisse — but the scenery is prettier. Chef Jeff Jackson's daily-changing menu of California cuisine emphasizes peak, in-season produce and top-quality meats and seafood, cooked to maximize and not disguise

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Christmas Day
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their natural flavors. For restaurant food it's relatively healthy, with less fat, salt, and "bad carbs" than most. Some frequently served menu highlights include tuna carpaccio, date-marinated Colorado rack of lamb, roasted breast of duck, and dreamy brioche bread pudding. The long California wine list is pricey, but there's plenty by the glass or half-bottle, while cocktail prices are moderate. Reservations essential on weekends. Validated valet parking, free self-parking. Quiet and romantic unless packed. Business-casual to dressy-casual attire. Just south of the Torrey Pines Hilton; look for road signs to golf course and lodge. Three meals daily. Breakfast and lunches high moderate, dinners very expensive. — *N.W. (12/05)*

Azul La Jolla 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-9616. The unobstructed ocean view and opulent interior are glamorous. Cuisine is Mediterranean with California influence. Menus change daily. When available, try pan-seared scallops and the outstanding asparagus soup, not duplicated anywhere. Fresh fish and seafood. Moderate to expensive. — *E.W. (7/99)*

Come On In! 1030-B Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, 858-551-1063. Clunky name, but suave Euro-bistro feel with outside tables under trees. This is your escape to "Paree" anytime you can afford La Jolla. Actually, they keep the price of breakfasts — like two "plain and simple" steamed eggs with fresh fruit and toast, or the "Popeye" omelet, with spinach, Parmesan cheese, prosciutto ham, and diced tomato, fruit, and toast — down to a small roar. Of course, everybody in this neck of the woods is trying *not* to eat, so expect lots of fruit plates and healthy lunch sandwiches like roasted eggplant with zucchini, bell peppers, tomatoes, and mozzarella. Open daily, weekends to 8 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate; dinners a little more expensive. — *E.B. (4/03)*

Donovan's Steak and Chop House 4340 La Jolla Village Drive, Golden Triangle, 858-450-6666. At this excellent traditional steakhouse, the menu includes a variety of appetizers, among them a cocktail of giant shrimp with a spicy, tomatoey sauce and a large, lightly sautéed crab cake with house-made tartar sauce. The wet-aged prime beefsteaks are seasoned with sea salt and pepper and cooked on a gas grill precisely to your order. Bleu cheese, béarnaise, and peppercorn sauces are available at extra charge. Non-beef entrées include fish, seafood, veal chop, pork chop, or a delicate Australian rack of lamb. Unlike many steakhouses where your money buys only the meat, entrées are served with vegetables and potato.

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Additional à la carte sides include creamed spinach and sautéed mushrooms. Among the house-made desserts the highlights are a light, creamy cheesecake with fresh strawberry sauce and a traditional creme brûlée. The service is attentive, friendly, and knowledgeable, in a masculine setting with dark wood-paneling, dim lighting, and only a moderate noise level. Cigar room off the bar. Open Monday through Saturday. Very expensive. — *N.W. (9/02)*

George's at the Cove 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-4244. At George's dressy, comfortable downstairs fine-dining restaurant, chef Trey Foshee's superb California cuisine is based on prime ingredients, emphasizing local seafood and produce and cooked to highlight rather than mask the natural flavors. The menu changes seasonally, so don't miss such treats as squash soup, table-smoked salmon, Sea of Cortez scallops, or wine-braised prime short ribs when available. A long and serious (but costly) wine list at fair prices offers plenty by the glass or half-bottle, including rare dessert wines. Leisurely pace, attentive service — make a special evening of it. Reservations necessary. An informal Café is one flight up, and on the rooftop is the wildly popular Terrace, with its fabulous seacoast views, sharing with the Café a more casual and affordable menu; reservations advised. Wheelchair-access by two elevators; front desk staff will guide you (if arriving alone, ask valet parkers to fetch a staffer). Men's restroom upstairs; disabled can use neighbor Pasquale's facilities. Downstairs dinner only; upstairs lunch and dinner daily. Downstairs expensive to very expensive; Café and Terrace moderate. — *N.W. (12/04)*

Roppongi 875 Prospect Street (at Fay), La Jolla, 858-551-5252. The hard part is deciding whether to sit in the drop-dead gorgeous interior or to people-watch on the large, heated street patio. Then you have to decide what to eat from the long Euro-Asian fusion menu, with its vast choice of tapas and sushi options, as well as entrées. At lunch there are several imaginative *bento* boxes as well as sandwiches and appetizers. Reservations a must at dinner. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Some tapas and sushi rolls are inexpensive, but if you enjoy grazing the bill can mount quickly. Entrées are expensive. — *N.W. (3/04)*

Sante Ristorante 7811 Herschel Avenue, La Jolla, 858-454-1315. The name is Italian for "saint," and the Northern Italian/regional cooking shines here, especially the fish and seafood dishes. Fresh seafood specials are available every night, in addition to those on the menu. Excellent pasta with mushrooms, ravioli with quail, and lamb chops. Separate room for bar; separate private dining room. Lunch Monday through Saturday, dinner nightly. Enclosed patio for lunch. Not to be missed. Moderate (pastas) to expensive. — *E.W. (4/99)*

Tapenade 7612 Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-551-7500. This is not only one of the finest restaurants in the county but in the country. Featuring sunny Provençal flavors, famed chef-owner Jean-Michel Diot offers superb seasonal ingredients treated with the consummate ease of a master chef. Among the special joys here are a sophisticated *foie gras torchon,* luscious free-range veal, and top-quality seafood, with garnishes that display an impressive balance of venturesome creativity and rigorous technique. Desserts are worth the calories, matching the style and flair of the earlier courses. And you don't even have to dress to the nines for your first-class dinner — the sixes will do in the easy bistro atmosphere. Serving lunch (including a moderate two-course prix fixe) and dinner daily, including bargain-priced three-course prix fixe "sunset dinners." Otherwise, expensive to very expensive, and worth it. — *N.W. (9/03)*

Zenbu 7660 Fay Avenue (at Kline Street), La Jolla, 858-454-4540. It was a natural for fisherman-restaurateur Matt Rimel to open a sushi bar/fish house, featuring sparkling fresh catch, much of it from his own boats. Sashimi and the simpler sushi are better here than the big party rolls, which can be lunkish. Don't miss the sashimi of live local *uni* (sea urchin) served on its shell most weekends. Cooked fish entrées feature equally sparkling seafood, sometimes in almost goofily elaborate preparations. No reservations; 30-minute wait likely on weekends. Sushi bar is up a short staircase; dining room and patio tables are wheelchair accessible. Several vegetarian choices. Full bar, good sake list. Dinner nightly. Upper moderate to expensive. — *N.W. (6/01)*

MISSION VALLEY & THE MESAS

China Max 4698 Convoy Street (at Engineer), Kearny Mesa, 858-650-3333. The decor is plain and bright, the sound level loud, but this is a major resource for authentic Hong Kong cooking — creative and multiregional, filtered through the refined wizardry of the genuine Cantonese style. The seafood aswim in the live tanks includes such delicacies as black cod (bony but wonderfully sweet), Dungeness crab, and (if you've got the money) abalone — but even inexpensive, homey dishes (e.g., wonton soup, crabmeat cakes) sing with flavor. The exemplary crispy squab and Peking duck must be ordered at least a day in advance, but you'd better call ahead anyway for reservations to avoid a wait at the door. A Pan-Asian community throngs here, for good reason. Lunch weekdays, dinner seven days, with lunch menu returning nightly from 9 p.m. to midnight. Inexpensive to exorbitant, but mainly moderate. — *N.W. (1/04)*

IKEA Restaurant & Cafe 2149 Fenton Parkway, Mission Valley, 619-283-6166, ext.1200. Central shrine for San Diego's 10,000 Swedes, so they say. They come to taste open-faced sandwiches, salmon, shrimp, and meatballs again. This restaurant inside Sweden's wildly successful "home interiors" chain is a great intro to Swedish tastes. The food's more sensible than exciting, of course. But healthy — beef and pork for the meatballs are guaranteed hormone-free. You eat the meatballs with Swedish lingonberry (not cranberry) sauce. Seafood is big: the shrimp open-faced sandwich, the salmon plate with potatoes and broccoli, and the Gravad Lox Plate (cured salmon) are always on. And if you want to be disgustingly healthy, chew on their fresh vegetable plate (raw carrot sticks, cauliflower, garbanzo beans, and mushrooms). All for a song. The only health hazard: hordes of babies and kids romping in the restaurant's mother-friendly play area. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (5/02)*

Seoul B.B.Q. 4344 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-505-8700. This Korean restaurant means sitting before a sizzling cast-iron grill, sipping hot sake, the smell of grilled beef, grilled onions, and fresh garlic in the air. Try the "Korean B.B.Q." marinated short ribs (*tong galbi*) or thick marbled slices of sirloin (beef *gui*). You'll enjoy all the accompanying dishes that make the meal, like crunchy seaweed salads, radishes in garlicky tomato sauce, slow-cooked potatoes with soy sauce and jalapeño pepper. Feeling adventurous? Go for the goat meat hot pot or Korean steak tartare (*yukhwoe*). This is sensual, elemental, hairy-chested food. Lunch and dinner daily. — *M.N. (12/99)*

Tropical Star 6163 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont, 858-874-7827. A modest café and grocery offers Puerto Rican and Latin American food and groceries. Very modest surroundings; good authentic inexpensive food. Same menu all day Monday through Saturday; closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.W. (8/99)*

THE BEACHES

The Australian Pub 1014 Grand Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-273-9921. A great place to take your kids after a morning at the beach. This relaxing pub, owned by a true-blue Aussie, offers heaps of good Aussie food. Try the Road Kill (grilled chicken breast with pico de gallo sauce and cheese "run over" between 2 pieces of sourdough) or the Aussie Burger (1/2-pound patty, with a fried egg, cheese, bacon, grilled onions, beets, pineapple, and a side of steak fries). And for an "outback experience," order up Vegemite (a beefy kinda paste) and four slices of bread — it's the Aussie national food, mate. Open Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 1 a.m.; Friday 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.; weekends 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (10/01)*

Broken Yolk Cafe 1851 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-270-YOLK (9655). Breakfasting PBers love this place for three reasons: its sundeck, its 26 different four-egg omelets (which you can split with your partner, no extra charge), and the challenge of omelet #27. The dozen-egg "Broken Yolk Café Special" comes stuffed with a mountain of mushrooms, onion, cheese, chili, plus home fries and biscuits. If you can down it in an hour, pay just $1.98 — you've got huevos. If you can't, the yolk's on you — pay around $17. My advice: split a 4-egger. Open 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (2/04)*

The French Gourmet 960 Turquoise Street, Pacific Beach, 858-488-1725. In the mood for pâté, ratatouille, or calf's liver in a homey atmosphere? Make a reservation at The French Gourmet *tout de suite.* Start off with traditionally prepared escargots or mussels. The onion soup is good, but hope that the soup du jour is gingered cream of carrot. Entrées include rack of lamb, veal tenderloin, bouillabaisse, and fish, with several preparation choices for chicken or filet mignon. The pan-roasted halibut is gently enhanced with a champagne *beurre blanc* sauce and topped with crispy braised leeks. Desserts abound, with an imported French cheese plate topping the list — along with pastries, meringues, etc., all freshly prepared in-house. Bakery and breakfast daily; no lunch or dinner Sunday or Monday. Moderate to expensive. — *S.M. (9/04)*

Hancock St. Cafe 3354 Hancock Street, Loma Portal, 619-296-2060. If you spot Marilyn, Elvis, and Lady Liberty waving at you from the sidewalk, you're here. They are life-size fiberglass lookalikes, but Mario is real, and his restaurant is a living shrine to jazz pianist Herbie Hancock. Mario has pianos, guitars, and drums inside — even a little stage where you're often welcome to perform. The food? Italian home cooking. Mario is from New York and knows his pasta. You can usually expect a good-value special, like spaghetti and meatballs. Sometimes he'll even throw in a bottle of red wine. Here among the little factories and auto shops of Loma Portal may be San Diego's most popping cultural phenomenon. Worth investigating, even if you just want to eat. Open daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (12/04)*

Lamont Street Grill 4445 Lamont Street (between Grand and Garnet), Pacific Beach. 858-270-3060. PB's most romantic restaurant serves California comfort food, punctuated by bold and sometimes strange Mexi/Asian/Cajun flavors, in a rambling converted residence with several rooms and levels. Dinners come with soup or salad, and many entrées are served over marvelous house-made fresh pasta. Salmon

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over fettuccine in a delicate dill cream sauce is especially fine. The huge array of desserts is house made, too, with something for every palate. The most desirable tables (available first come, first served) are on a lovely fireplace-heated patio. Wheelchair ramp and parking in small lot behind restaurant (call ahead and they'll save you a spot). Homey atmosphere; can get loud. Affordable wine list, full bar. Open daily, dinner only. Moderate. — *N.W. (2/03)*

Saska's 3768 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach, 858-488-7311. Venerable, local steak-and-seafood joint that tries harder, from the broth-thin homemade teriyaki sauce (sweet up front, fading to bitter ginger) for the well-cooked (if mild-flavored) fish to the cut-on-the-premises aged beef. The interior's low wood-slat ceilings, driftwood beams, dim light, and red-leather booths combine with the stay-up-late kitchen to make the space feel like a cozy haven, a respite from the brighter buzz of Mission Beach. The wine list runs the gamut from Cook's sparkling wine to Cristal champagne, stopping along the way at an interesting (if expensive) collection of reserves. Next door is the restaurant's serviceable sushi bar (858-488-7255) and two-story patio dining. Lunch weekdays, brunch and lunch weekends; dinner seven days. Sushi bar open nightly, 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Moderate. — *A.M. (8/02)*

The Third Corner Wine Shop and Bistro 2265 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-223-2700. Ed Moore's casual, loosey-goosey spot is first of all a wine shop selling most global bottlings for just 20% over wholesale. It's $5 to pop the cork there if you plunk down at a table among the racks to enjoy casual bistro-style food designed to go with wine. You can snack on goat cheese salad, smoked duck salad, a cheese plate or a pâté plate, or get serious with braised short ribs or duck confit surprisingly paired with spicy Nawlins red beans and rice. No reservations accepted, so best to go at off-hours or you'll wait for a table. Comfortable lounge with fireplace for sipping. Full bar. No corkage charge after 11 p.m., when restaurant staffers drop in for after-work noshing. Lunch and dinner until 1 a.m.; closed Monday. Low-moderate. — *N.W. (12/05)*

Umi Sushi 2806 Shelter Island Drive (at Shafter, off Scott), Point Loma, 619-226-1135. An instant neighborhood success, this large, cheerful sushi bar and dinner house also offers Japanese and Korean entrées, including *teppanyaki* (cooked in the kitchen, not at the table), Korean ribs, and excellent beef teriyaki of gently grilled prime beef. Sushi highlights include lemony *ama ebi,* rich garlic tuna, and a "Crazy Boy" roll spicy enough to divert your palate from the presence of imitation crabmeat. Free parking lot (often full). Special kids' menu available. Lunch Monday through Saturday, dinner daily. Sushi prices lower than most; entrées inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W. (4/03)*

CENTRAL SAN DIEGO

Apertivo 3926 30th Street (between University and Lincoln), North Park, 619-297-7799. This wine bar-bistro offers "Italian tapas" of simple Italian classics lightened up and scaled down to medium-size portions — about the size you probably eat at home. All the condiments are on the table, so you can season or cheese your food to taste as you go instead of having a waiter waft them before you've lifted a fork. Good dishes include prosciutto-wrapped shrimp, eggplant rollatini, and for dessert, an airy lemon cheesecake mousse. Parking via alley 1/2-block west. No reservations, but for weeknight large groups, call ahead. Weekends, arrive very early or late or expect a wait. Call-in/take-out food orders okay. Check chalkboard on sidewalk for specials. Plenty for vegetarians and vegans. Sound level: roaring. Dinner Tuesday through Sunday (weekends until 11 p.m.). Inexpensive. — *N.W. (7/05)*

Big Kitchen 3003 Grape Street (between 30th Street and Fern Street), South Park, 619-234-5789. This isn't just a restaurant, it's the social center of the universe — and Judy "The Beauty" Forman is its queen. Blame her for the Fern Street Circus, for driving the Miss California beauty pageant out of town, and for disgustingly healthy dishes like Judy's Favorite (spinach, mushrooms, sherry, and eggs). Our favorite: the avocado, cream cheese, and chives omelet. Vegans' fave may be the "veggie option": sautéed spinach, mushrooms, onions, cilantro, brown rice, tofu, and roasted garlic. Her cooks make pretty much everything on the spot, including muffins, waffles, and pancakes. While you're waiting, they always have this "out there" eclectic crowd, plus walls filled with pictures and *bon mots* like "Will Be President For Food." Breakfast and lunch only; closes at 2 p.m. most days. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (10/02)*

Chicken Pie Shop of San Diego 2633 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park, 619-295-0156. How much do people love this place? Count the chickens lining the walls — ceramic, wood, beaded, painted, even feathered. Hundreds. They're gifts from generations of customers. Now, as in the 1930s when it started up, the basic chicken pie comes filled with big chunks of chicken meat, doused with white gravy and accompanied by mashed potatoes, veggies, coleslaw, a roll, *and* dessert — like the delicious pineapple pie — all for one really low price. The menu also offers fried chicken, burgers and steaks, but 90 percent of customers still order that same old chicken pie. Seven days. Cash only. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/01)*

Krakatoa 1128 25th Street, Golden Hill, 619-230-0272. This used to be an abandoned property. Now the swamp-green clapboard house is the coolest, if (reportedly) ghost-ridden, coffee-eatery hang-outery in Golden Hill. Its garden is lush and tropical, and on its wooden deck laptops unfold, essays get written, relationships get worked out. The menu is light, the names heavy: the breakfast sandwich (scrambled eggs, cheese, fruit) is the Wonchi (an Ethiopian caldera); the roast turkey sandwich with ham, cream cheese, and cranberry sauce is the Ubehebe (a dormant volcano in Death Valley); the Amboy (a Mojave Desert volcano) is a peanut butter, honey, banana, cinnamon, and bacon sandwich. Open 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Sundays till 6 p.m.). Inexpensive. — *E.B. (12/05)*

La Dona 1784 Newton (at Beardsley), Barrio Logan, 619-233-4939. This café is steeped in Mexican history, especially Barrio Logan history. You half expect to see several L.A. Zoot-suitors drift in as you inspect the black-and-white shots of the late actress Maria Felix (Mexico's Marilyn Monroe) or the great photos of the Mexican Revolution that include Zapata and Pancho Villa. The place has been here for 63 years, and old-timers say it reminds them of long-ago cafés in Los Angeles, Modesto, or Madera. The food is home cooking, Mexican style, with meals like scrambled eggs and chorizo with rice and refried beans. Watch out for the pot o' salsa — it's a real jaw-slammer. Other dishes to sample include *chicharrones, menudo,* and *pozole.* Seven days, breakfast to late lunch. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (10/05)*

The Linkery 3386 30th Street (at Upas), North Park, 619-255-8778. The artisanal "slow food" cuisine here features local ingredients and made-from-scratch preparations. Despite the name, there's a full menu that includes tasty grilled vegetable appetizers and some fine entrées. But the focus is on the side dishes of fresh sausages made daily on-premises. These vary not only in composition but in palatability. Good ones include chicken curry, *linguisa,* Polynesian pork. Venturesome international wine list at low markups, plus international beers and Mexican Coca-Cola (better tasting than U.S. made). Small parking lot (enter by alley on Upas just east of Jack in the Box). Noisy even when nearly empty. No reservations. Lunch and dinner daily, until 11 p.m. Moderate. — *N.W. (7/05)*

Red Sea Restaurant 4717 University Avenue (at Euclid), City Heights, 619-285-9722. You'll find richly seasoned (and potentially very spicy) Ethiopian cuisine, served communally on a tray lined with a porous pancake, *injera,* which looks like an edible dish towel and serves as both an edible spoon and an edible tablecloth. (Use pieces of it to scoop up morsels in your right hand.) The meat combination platter here isn't nearly as exciting as several of the specialties. The *kitfo* (spicy beef tartare) is very good, the *gored-gored* (meat cubes in spicy butter) is excellent; both are cooked (or not cooked) to your order, and seasoned to your specifications (if you say "hot," expect fire). Vegetables are fine, too; the yellow split peas, especially, sing with flavor. Restrooms not wheelchair-accessible. Vegetarian friendly. Can be noisy on weekend evenings. Open daily. Very inexpensive. — *N.W. (12/00)*

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Antonio's Hacienda 700 North Johnson Avenue, El Cajon, 619-442-9827. If the decor hasn't been updated from its original 1960s-fabulous Old California Spanish, it's because there's been no need. The enormous dark-wood chandeliers, the padded-leather wooden chairs, the chainsaw-weathered wood beams — all top-shelf and aging well. Families abound, reveling in the guitar trio and the exposed kitchen station — such atmosphere! And

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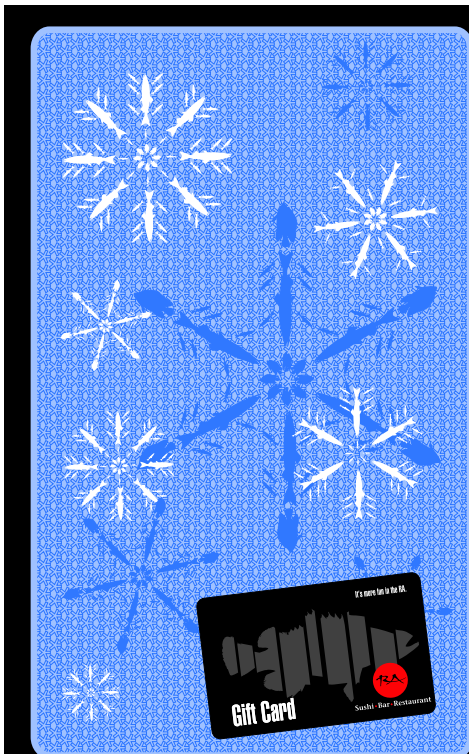

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the flavors are user-friendly, sweetness muting the spice in the salsa and the Ranchero sauce. The Camarones Tequila is a little more exciting; the sweetness of its bacon-wrapped shrimp gets a fine counter from the bitter liqueur in the marinade. Excellent Enchiladas Suizas: pale, mush-tender shredded chicken wrapped in tortillas and doused with good, tangy green sauce. Lunch and dinner daily. Champagne brunch on Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; all-day buffet Sunday. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *A.M. (4/03)*

Geno's West Coast Style Barbecue 291 West Main Street, El Cajon, 619-444-3667. Geno's a real guy, a refugee from corporate America who turned this ex-Taco Bell joint into a surfing-themed BBQ place. He's a surfer but he's serious. He has won lots of prizes for his BBQ sauce, using a chili pepper he says nobody else has. There are three strengths: "Round-up" (mild), "Giddy-up" (spicy), or "Stampede" (hot). Try #5, pulled pork and slaw, or #9, shredded beef, melted jack, and sautéed onions. Sides like dirty rice and cornbread are good, but if you're light of pocket go for the "Ripcurl" hot dog, the best deal on the menu. Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (1/04)*

Johnny B's 4738 Fourth Street (at La Mesa Boulevard), La Mesa, 619-464-2465. This "Burgers and Brew" bar is a real 1950s place with burgers to die for and good bar snacks, including a zesty jalapeño dip. Play pool, watch TV, hide from your ex on the smoker's patio out back. On Sundays (1 p.m. to 7 p.m. only), their ten-ounce New York steak, fries, beans, and salad is a must-eat at a rock-bottom price. Open daily, lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday, three meals Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (9/05)*

Sala Thai 6161 El Cajon Boulevard (College Plaza), College Area, 619-229-9050. With purple cloth napkins, white tablecloths, green banquettes, butter-colored walls, and a portrait of King Chulalongkorn, Sala Thai has all the trappings of a class joint — except you're only paying six or eight bucks for main dishes. The food? A bit gentle on the spice front. *Tom yum kung,* the famous shrimp soup, should make your neck hairs stick straight out, but if that's what you want you'll have to ask the cooks to make it spicier. Chicken *mussaman,* labeled "medium spicy," is pretty tame but still delicious with its authentic taste-boosters like kaffir lime leaves. Hottest curry: "chicken green." Health treat: *Som tum,* the famous papaya salad. Lunch, dinner daily; dinner only on Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (4/04)*

Toshi Sushi 5943 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area, 619-287-3536. Don't ask what's in the "dynamite" sauce (besides the obvious mayo and smelt roe) — it's a house secret, one the restaurant dangles before you in numerous contexts. Try it baked onto the rich, everything-goes Garbage Roll, where deep-fried shrimp, freshwater eel, and tuna add flavor to the creamy-crunchy interplay of sauce and vegetables. Rolls, both plain and elaborate, abound here. While some can be heavy on the rice and light on the fish, others are triumphs. The Toshi Tempura Special Roll takes battered whitefish and wraps it around the seaweed casing, which is then filled with just-cooked whitefish and a host of garnishes — an exotic-yet-homey fried-fish alternative. The Johnny Roll shows octopus at its most tender, but watch out for spotlight-hogging sweet cream cheese. The simpler sushi can vary — a brilliant, translucent slice of tuna offset by a blander, duller salmon. Japanese entrées are also available. Inexpensive to moderate. — *A.M. (4/02)*

Valley House Restaurant 10767 Woodside Avenue (at Magnolia), Santee, 619-562-7878. This is for Cornbelt folks, plus wannabes who enjoy plain-speaking, plenty-of-it Iowan food. Take the morning special, "Iowa Breakfast": breaded pork tenderloin, two eggs, and hash browns, fries, or grits, plus a choice of biscuits, muffins, or toast — it's delicious. Lunch or dinnertime you can't go wrong ordering the signature "Iowa Porker" hot sandwich (breaded pork tenderloin in a bun with soup, potato salad, or steak fries) or the "Iowa Beefers" (seasoned ground beef simmered in chicken broth, piled into a burger bun). Open three meals, seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (8/01)*

FAR EAST

Bernard's The Mall (way in back), 503 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs, 760-767-5666. Owner Bernard Hess must be from Alsace, on the French-German border — who else would offer both frog's legs in garlic sauce and a tasty, credible *choucroute garni* (sauerkraut and smoked meat casserole, including house-smoked pork chops)? At this local favorite, the space divided between a convivial bar and a dining room with lunch-counter and booth seating, the menu includes German, French, and truck-stop U.S. classics — *schnitzel* side by side with chicken-fried steak. The waitresses know most patrons by name, and the patrons walk in already knowing what they're going to order — mainly the Alsatian specialties. Wine list runs to third-rate Californian, but there's an affordable chardonnay (and beer works with this food, too). Closed Sunday. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W. (4/03)*

Mediterraneo 1347 Tavern Road (Alpine Creek Shopping Center), Alpine, 619-445-9902. The vibe in this tasteful little trattoria (with adjoining bar) is young, and so is the chef, still slipping new dishes into a menu stuffed with local favorites. The pizzas are outstanding — such a lovely, airy, silken crust! Such wafer-thin rounds of pepperoni! Entrées change with the seasons. Desserts are big and sweet. When the weather's fine, dine on the patio and watch the sun drape light over the piney hills. Daily, lunch and dinner, plus Sunday brunch. Expensive. — *A.M. (12/03)*

Paipa's Oasis Sycuan Casino, 5469 Casino Way, Dehesa, 619-445-6002. Forget gambling — gambol through the slots till you pass under two huge elephant tusks. The "Joe and the Volcano"-style place with a fountain tower gurgling in the center is Paipa's. Pay the woman. Now decide: a lot of a little, or a little of a lot. The huge salad bar is surrounded by a groaning U-shaped table laden with everything from peel-and-eat shrimp to baked cod to Certified Black Angus prime rib. Keep coming back. Save them from throwing away this stuff. End with, say, strawberry cheesecake and coffee. Unlike the other suckers, you've gotten a return on your money. Moderate. — *E.B. (10/01)*

UPTOWN & OLD TOWN

Bertrand at Mister A's 2550 Fifth Avenue (at Laurel), 12th floor, Banker's Hill, 619-239-1377. Bertrand Hug's airy, open renovation of this formerly "ancient regime" eatery offers a fabled panoramic city view with a casual-chic, highly romantic ambience. Chef Stephane Voitzwinkler's modern French cuisine is a fine fit for the setting, including bistro classics and fresh inventions, emphasizing top-grade seasonal ingredients. A huge, intelligent wine list covers a full range of prices, ages and origins, including "ripe" first-growth Bordeaux. Smoking and fair-weather dining on wraparound terrace/observation deck. Note: parking entrance on Fourth Avenue; wheelchair access via ramp to left of reception desk. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Expensive. — *N.W. (2/04)*

Blue Water Seafood Market and Grill 3667 India Street (at Chalmers), midtown, 619-497-0914. This bright, clean charmer a half-block south of El Indio has a double identity: First, it's a retail fish market; aside from Whole Foods, this is the only restaurant-quality fresh raw seafood south of I-8 and west of City Heights. If you love oysters, don't miss the big, buttery bivalves here. Second, it serves simple, terrific seafood to eat in or out. Plates are plastic, but don't look for greasy fried stuff. Entrées are grilled gently until perfectly done, topped with your pick of flavors (the lemon-garlic butter is especially tasty) and come with rice and a huge salad with your choice of terrific house-made dressings. If indecisive, ask what's best that day. The overstuffed grilled fish tacos are messy and perfect, with just the right proportions of ingredients. Reachable only by driving north on India. Metered street parking by day. Good choice of beers; a few affordable wines; $5 corkage for BYOW. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W. (4/05)*

Bombay Exotic Cuisine Of India 3975 Fifth Avenue (between University and Washington), Hillcrest, 619-298-3155. We're talking northern India here, right? That means lots of lamb, potatoes, creamy sauces, tandoor-baked breads, chicken, and less of the south's mouth-scalding heat. At least in its daily buffet, Bombay's a lot less spicy, (though their *sag paneer* — creamy, cheesy spinach — delivered a surprising punch). The buffet includes tandoori chicken, assorted *pakoras* (lentil-batter fritters), mock duck, chicken *tikka,* and, if you hit the right day, an addictive mango soup. If you want meat or spicy food, best to order from the menu — say, a creamy *tikka masala* with lamb, or long kebabs of minced lamb (kebab curry), or the rich Bombay Coconut Malai. Tell them whether you want it mild, spicy or, for leather-mouths, *tikhi.* For a cheap, light meal, try a couple of lamb *samosas.* And be sure they bring the chutneys, India's real unexplored treasure. Lunch and dinner; buffet at lunch and Monday evenings only. Sister restaurant, Monsoon, 729 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-234-5555. Moderate. — *E.B. (4/03)*

El Agave 2304 San Diego Avenue (at Old Town Avenue), Old Town, 619-220-0692. Reservations recommended. Wheelchair access difficult (steep ramp). You'll find upscale, unusual Mexican specialties in an intimate Spanish-style dining room or on a small heated balcony. The menu celebrates three great pre-Hispanic cuisines — Aztec, Mayan, Nahuatl — with discreet admixtures of France, Spain, and Italy. (It's the history of Mexico on a plate.) Among the highlights are the five different Oaxacan moles (plus a sixth from Chiapas), local sea bass in tangy jamaica (hibiscus) sauce, and a unique appetizer, *tlacogos cuitlacoche,* ovals of blue corn masa topped with a sort of "mushroom" that grows on corn ears. (In English it's called "corn smut," but it tastes much nicer than that sounds.) The bar stocks at least 1700 tequilas and makes a food-friendly on-the-rocks margarita with fresh fruit juices. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *N.W. (2/01)*

El Indio Mexican Restaurant 3695 India Street, midtown, 619-299-0333. El Indio, "the god of Mexican food," presides over this bustling (expect a line), airy restaurant in an atmosphere of pale blue 1940s solidity. The menu includes the usual suspects (burritos, tacos, etc.), plus slightly less common items (*machaca, chile rellenos*). Excellent house-made corn tortillas help the standard fare to better approximate the divine. So do the sublime core flavors of the meats — the chicken in the taco and the beef in the enchiladas. The *carne asada* sports a pleasant char, and the beans have a raw-beany intensity. Less heavenly: seasonings (especially paprika and salt) tend toward the heavy side. Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Inexpensive. — *A.M. (11/01)*

El Zarape 4642 Park Boulevard, University Heights, 619-692-1652. This stylish little Mexican restaurant on a tony stretch of Park Boulevard is proof that not all taco shop food is equal. Try a shredded beef or chicken taco or tostada and you'll know what we mean, with

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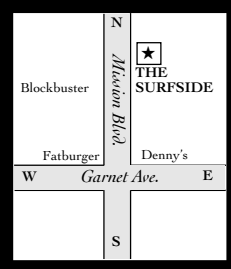

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Hob Nob Hill 2271 First Avenue (at Juniper Street), Banker's Hill, 619-239-8176. It opened in 1944 as a 14-stool lunch counter. Now, you sweep in under the maroon canopy to shiny red booth seats, deep blue carpet, blond wood, paintings, and a half-wall of wine. You're thinking "business class," but don't be fooled. We're talking coffee-shop prices, especially with the all-day breakfasts and sandwiches, not to mention the burgers with a salad tossed in. It's across the street from a retirement condo complex and at dinner, says the owner, "We cater to seniors." While there are à la carte choices, affordable three-course prix fixe dinners (with a regular entrée for each day of the week, Mom-style) are the order of the day — e.g., tasty barbecued pork on Saturday, roast lamb or turkey Sunday. Open daily. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *E.B. (10/01)*

Islander Grill Embassy Hotel, 3645 Park Boulevard (at Cypress), 619-297-3929. Here's a chance to sample the unique tropical cuisine of Guam, an island at the crossroads of the South Pacific. The cooking includes traces of Mexico, the Philippines, Japan, and Hawaii — all filtered through the spicy Chamorro palate. Try the chicken *kelaguen,* a citric salad resembling ceviche, or the brilliant coconut shrimp (available as a starter or entrée). Stews are flavorful: The saucy "pot roast" is definitely not your mother's, unless Mom's from Guam, and the chicken stews are equally savory. Other choices include a range of salty, teriyaki-style barbecued meats, barbecued chicken in a less salty marinade, plus numerous exotic appetizers. Free parking in small hotel lot. Everything available for take out. No alcohol. Lunch through dinner daily, early dinner Sundays. Very inexpensive. — *N.W. (3/05)*

Jimmy Carter's Cafe 3172 Fifth Avenue (at Spruce Street), Hillcrest, 619-295-2070. This comfy, middle-class eatery has a surprise — great Indian breakfasts (until 11:20 a.m. weekdays, 3 p.m. weekends). Try their chicken curry or *pessaratu* (mung bean crêpe with onions, peppers, ginger, *dhal,* and chutneys). Or vegetarian *vindaloo.* Jimmy (no, not the ex-pres) does Chinese too — like the Mongolian beef (Chinese vegetables and beef in a hot chili sauce over rice or noodles), or good Mexican dishes such as chili verde (pork or chicken simmered in spicy tomatillo sauce). But center stage is his all-American Jimmy Burger (1/3-pound patty with potato or carrot salad). One bonus: a fine tangential view of Balboa Park's lawns and trees. Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/01)*

Laurel Restaurant 505 Laurel Street (at Fifth), uptown, 619-239-2222. Freshly remodeled and remade by Tracey Borkum, the owner of Chive and Kensington Grill, the restaurant looks like a million bucks (the price she bought it for). In a chic, creamy dining room below street level you'll enjoy modern eclectic cuisine with French and Mediterranean flavors showcasing premium in-season ingredients, including free-range chicken. No bread unless you pay for it, but you get *edamame* to nibble while awaiting your order. The global wine list is extensive and expensive; selected bottles are half-price on Sundays. The full bar features creative cocktails and 20 sakes. Valet parking $6. Several steps down from street level; disabled access via carport on Fifth Avenue (phone before coming to ensure that entry is open). Open for dinner nightly. Expensive, but an early-bird three-course chef menu is moderate. — *N.W. (3/06)*

Parallel 33 741 W. Washington Street (at Hawk), Mission Hills, 619-260-0033. Southern China, Pakistan, Algeria, Morocco, et cetera — are all on the 33rd parallel. This ethno-blend restaurant in Mission Hills is a hit for shrewd, thoughtful creativity. It's not just "fusion food." Try the superb mango and ahi appetizer. Entrées show that chef Amiko Gubbins, of Café Japengo fame, knows what she's doing. Dinner Monday through Saturday. Moderate to expensive. — *M.N. (10/99)*

Shakespeare Pub & Grille 3701 India Street (at Washington), South Mission Hills, 619-299-0230. Probably the most convincing English pub in town. The Bard's brew-house boasts bare-board floors, diamond lead-glass windows, and authentic Brits sitting around the bar quaffing ale from their own pewter mugs. Pub grub is bluff and plain-spoken. Shepherd's pie, bangers and mash, ploughman's plate (the pickled onions and cheese, Scotch egg, and Branston pickle make it the real thing) — all are great with rich English beer, say, a Boddington's Pub Ale. Sunday's roast beef dinner is worth dragging yourself out of bed for, too. The pub includes a shop that sells British goods. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (9/01)*

DOWNTOWN

Brickyard Coffee and Tea 675 West G Street, downtown, 619-696-7220. The problem, if you're rich enough to live in the Marina District, is the lack of café life. That is, until this modest little eatery and café settled in next to the tracks by the Seaport Village trolley stop. You sit under eleven poplar trees in a brick patio that has one unusual downtown advantage — except for the wind sifting through the poplars (or a trolley pulling in), it's completely silent here. Sipping coffee and reading your paper is the thing here, but you can fill up, too, with items like "Texas chili," or grilled cheese and tomato sandwich with a cup of chili, or spinach and mushroom quiche with a small Caesar salad, or *panini.* You can also order half a sandwich — turkey, ham, beef, or tuna — with a cup of soup or Caesar salad. It's the nearest thing to a French country café. Open early morning till 2 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (12/04)*

Cafe Chloe 721 Ninth Avenue (at G Street), East Village, 619-232-3242. How did we ever manage before this indispensable bistro opened? In a bright and beautiful setting with small tables, bar-seating, and a patio, you'll find light and lovely Parisian-style bistro fare with substantial breakfasts, svelte lunches and dinners, and sophisticated bar-nibbles. Don't miss breakfast's poached eggs with sage-truffle *beurre blanc.* Nightly specials keep the menu interesting, and desserts are worth every calorie. Beverages include divine lavender lemonade, specialty root beer, and an intelligent wine list at modest markups, everything available by the glass. Metered street-parking daytime. No reservations except large groups. Moderate. — *N.W. (7/05)*

Chive 558 Fourth Avenue (near Island), Gaslamp, 619-232-4483. Here you'll find a new cuisine for the upscale residential neighborhood rising around the restaurant. Diners can choose an adventurous meal or an evening of sophisticated comfort food. Urbane multicultural fusion dishes dance cheek to cheek with remade American classics and the occasional sleek French luxury dish. A "grazing menu" features small bites for folks on a diet or on the run. The menu changes seasonally, but you can trust the kitchen any time of year. Very noisy. Full bar. Dinner nightly, until 11:30 p.m. weekends. Full meals expensive; "grazing" can be moderate. — *N.W. (3/06)*

Dobson's 956 Broadway Circle, downtown, 619-231-6771. This reputable downtown restaurant offers class and comfort, geared for people who enjoy eating well. The food is good, often very good, as with chicken liver mousse pâté, Mediterranean blue mussels, and, when available, the crude but virtuous soft-shell crab. Their sweets, such as brownies, are hefty, louche, and cheap. Bring a date to the upstairs dining room. Dobson's is suave, its confidence infectious. Lunch and dinner Monday through Friday; dinner only on Saturday. Moderate to expensive. — *M.N. (10/98)*

Fleming's Steak House & Wine Bar 380 K Street (at Fourth), Gaslamp, 619-237-1155. Original branch at 8970 University Center Lane, University City/Golden Triangle, 858-535-0078. A steakhouse for ladies who power lunch, an "old girls'" club, or just a happy place where the term "a nice piece of meat" isn't a bad thing? The mahogany of the "old boys'" steakhouse genre gives way here to cheery cherry wood. When you get the fried cheese, it's Brie, rolled in panko bread crumbs and slivered almonds. And the wine list boasts far more than just burly Cabernets and Bordeaux — over 100 of the far-flung offerings are available by the glass and you can assemble your own three-glass tasting flights. Prime steaks are the main event, perfectly cooked and well-seasoned. Try the Key Lime pie for dessert — custardy and full of limey bite. Valet parking. Dinner nightly. Very expensive. — *A.M. (3/04)*

George's on Fifth 835 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-702-0444. This steakhouse is in a historic building that was once a hangout of Wyatt Earp — it now boasts faux-Victorian decor and amusing wall art. Formerly Roger's on Fifth, it was owned by former mayor-felon Roger Hedgecock; now Roger's rabbited and left it to his partner George Harrington. It's still wildly popular with conventioneers on expense accounts. The menu offers Prime and ultra-Prime steaks, some of it at jaw-dropping prices — although entrées do include free vegetables. Ask for sauces on the side unless you like them thick and heavy. Some of the best items are non-beef: the cold seafood appetizers ("lobster martini," oysters, tuna tartare) and a juicy grilled pork chop. Good range of wines at normal to slightly high markups; full bar. Valet parking; cheaper lot through alley next to restaurant. Dinner nightly. Expensive to extreme. — *N.W. (3/04)*

Harbor House 831 West Harbor Drive, Seaport Village, downtown, 619-232-1141. This two-story Midwesterner-friendly eatery caters mainly to tourist families and conventioneers, but the upstairs Oyster Bar is a pretty spot to chill out and watch the sailboats over a good margarita and a plateful of iced bivalves. Upstairs preparations tend toward simple American coastal dishes; the menu includes more appetizers and the drinks include artisan beers. The downstairs main dining room features more old-fashioned "haute" preparations and has a longer wine list but no view. All foods and drinks from both venues are available by request on both floors (but not all servers know this). Parking free with validation for two hours. Reservations strongly advised for after 6:15 p.m. any evening. Accessible via elevator from main dining room, with entrance on the park (south) side of the building. Lunch and dinner daily upstairs; dinner only downstairs. Moderate to expensive. — *N.W. (8/05)*

Indigo Grill 1536 India Street, Little Italy, 619-234-6802. This second — and much grander — incarnation of chef Deborah Scott's Indigo Grill expands her original Native American motif, with its focus on root vegetables, game, and roasted spices. Now, the Pacific Coastal cuisine takes in more coast than most, drawing upon ingredients and techniques from Alaska to Oaxaca. (The decor, dark and urban-primitive, follows the theme.) Unexpected combinations are a mainstay; a single dish, such as the seafood *mixto,* may span the entire distance, bringing together a multitude of flavors that work together to create a wondrous whole. Fine breads are made in-house, as are desserts (try the decadent, crispy-creamy plantain cheesecake *flautas).* The wine list includes interesting varietals. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly; closes early Sundays, but open until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Lunch: inexpensive to moderate; dinner: moderate to expensive. — *A.M. (11/02)*

La Casita 1247 C Street (at 13th Street), downtown, 619-531-0044. Don't be fooled by the li'l old blue-and-white clapboard house at the bottom of City College's hill. Princes and politicians come

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to this full-service restaurant to hammer out deals, mix with the Latino (or Anglo) community, and eat some of the best *chorizo con huevos* (spicy pork sausage with eggs) in town. Fair-weather eaters flock to the spacious garden patio to chow down among the songbirds. In the cozy Mexican-style interior, the pictures on the walls tell you who-all comes here for the good tacos and enchiladas or the delicious pork burritos. Most delicious of all is watching Anglo City-Hallers trying valiantly to learn to love the house-made *menudo* (tripe soup). Delivery anywhere downtown 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open daily 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. — *E.B. (11/00)*

Lou and Mickey's 224 Fifth Avenue (between K and L), Gaslamp, 619-237-4900. The onetime ornate Royale Brasserie across from the Convention Center finally had to bow to conventional tastes and simplify into a fifties-style steak-and-seafood house. Kings Seafood is still the owner, so the fish quality remains fine. The fare is simple, with minimal sauce or garnish; vegetables cost extra, coming in large portions but merely adequate preparations. Best dishes include "BBQ Shrimp, Manales' Style," a buttery, spicy New Orleans extravaganza (available as starter or entrée), and the huge, juicy rib-eye "Cowboy Steak." Valet parking at door. Wraparound heated dining patio. Noisy in dining room near bar; request "Nude Room" for quiet. For interesting wines at good prices, look into "Adventures" sections of the list. Dinner nightly, weekends until 11 p.m. Fish moderate, meats expensive. — *N.W. (7/03)*

Napa Valley Grille 502 Horton Plaza, Gaslamp, 619-238-5440. This restaurant at the top of Horton Plaza is staffed by professionals and the food is very good, including the excellent grilled calamari. There is an elegant homeyness to Napa Valley Grille, a comforting, satisfying dining experience. Moderate to expensive. — *M.N. (3/00)*

Sixth Avenue Bistro 1165 Sixth Avenue (at B Street), downtown, 619-239-4194. This charming, airy café offers some very credible New Orleans-style cooking at affordable prices. Among the sandwiches are an outstanding oyster po' boy (with big juicy oysters and good light batter) and a fine, fully-packed approximation of a *muffaletta,* albeit with a kaiser roll standing in for Central Grocery's big, round Italian bread. The jambalaya is tasty, too, even with the substitute for andouille. Wine and beer. No reservations. Breakfast to dinner (closes 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday). Inexpensive. — *N.W. (3/01)*

Soleil @K Gaslamp Marriott, 660 K Street (at Sixth), Gaslamp, 619-446-6088. The fare here is simple California cuisine that won't scare the conventioneers, but the outdoor dining patio is a nice spot for a light meal. The spiffy, chrome-detailed interior, with an open kitchen, offers the option of eating with strangers at long tables or booking a large party of your own — but be prepared for noise (even when the room's empty, the music is pumped up party-loud). Starters include a zesty fried calamari salad and crabby crab sticks, and desserts are witty as well as tasty. Entrées are unmemorable. Long international wine list with some "finds," full bar. Service is variable. Validated valet parking. Open daily, three meals. Moderate to expensive. — *N.W. (9/05)*

SOUTH BAY & CORONADO

Azzura Point Loews Coronado Bay Resort, 4000 Coronado Bay Road (Silver Strand Boulevard), Coronado, 619-424-4000 or 619-424-4477. The quietly luxurious dining room with a serene bayfront view is romantic and a bit dressy, but far from stuffy. It's not just for tourists, but a lovely evening's getaway for locals. The California-French cuisine with an occasional Hawaiian touch emphasizes seasonal ingredients in slightly unexpected combinations. Along with a multi-course chef's tasting menu and à la carte dishes, a "sea spa" dinner showcases fresh seafoods in healthful preparations. A good wine list at reasonable markups is strong on half-bottles. Free valet parking at the porte cochere of the main lobby. Dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Very expensive. — *N.W. (11/01)*

Bay Beach Cafe Ferry Landing Marketplace, 1201 First Street, Coronado, 619-435-4900. The dinner menu here has California's typical dumbed-down world-appetizer array, plus salads, pastas, grilled meats, a few sautée items and children's plates. The restaurant is very family-friendly (full o' kids, actually), with a menu that appeals to the young in mouth: The chef seems to have a sweet tooth, since almost every dish involves honey or sugar — for example, the table butter that's intriguingly flavored with a honey-basil mixture. Your server will tell you about the day's fresh-fish selections, which are more attuned to adult palates with fresh, fine-quality seafood done simply and well. Ultra-noisy inside when crowded; reserve for the lovely terrace with a view of the beach. Open daily, lunch and dinner, with weekend breakfast. Moderate to slightly expensive. — *N.W. (8/01)*

Crown Room Hotel Del Coronado, 1500 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-6611. Let's face it, this is one of the grandest entrances you'll make anywhere, into the enormous, gloomy, vaulted timber dining room where presidents, princes and Marilyn Monroe have chowed down. It's only open for Sunday brunch these days. The gigantic eat-till-you're-beat buffet feast ranges from made-as-you-watch omelets to salmon, crab legs, prime rib, dizzying desserts, and even long-stemmed strawberries you hand-dip in chocolate. The downside? Monroe was here to shoot *Some Like It Hot,* but (apart from the chocolate) most food ain't. It's either cold (like the croissants, though the chocolate chunk ones are delicious) or luke-warm (like prime rib and eggs Benedict — and those eggs could do with a lot more Benedict). But this is an Edwardian-scale social occasion — see and be seen. The food isn't great, but the atmosphere is grand. Sunday, 9 a.m to 2 p.m. Expensive. — *E.B. (9/03)*

L'Escale Coronado Marriott Island Resort, 2000 Second Street, Coronado, 619-435-3000. Probably the pink flamingos and bay views bring you here first. But L'Escale ("Port of Call" in French) delivers to the taste buds too. For "Northern Mediterranean cuisine with California flair," read lots of pasta, fish, salads, sandwiches. Try the grilled salmon *niçoise* salad with its richly sauced fish, crunchy green beans, red potatoes, strong olives, and rosemary-flavored bun. Entrées like grilled chicken and mushrooms in Parmesan cream with penne pasta are safe enough. Or bone-in filet mignon with black pepper zinfandel sauce. But for sheer architecture, check out the tuna salad sandwich wrapped in lavosh: three vertical Armenian bread tubes, angle-sliced to reveal interiors of tuna and greenery. Eat on the pool and bay-surrounded patio if you can. Breakfast, lunch, dinner. Moderate to expensive. — *E.B. (2/03)*

Spiro's Gyros Ferry Landing, 1201 First Street #4, Coronado, 619-435-1225. The food, the music, the view — are we outside Athens? Is this the Aegean? This inside-outside Greek café is located at the water's edge, and the heated patio has a spectacular view of San Diego, the bay, and the boat traffic. At sunset, sipping their excellent Greek wine (cheaper than their California), watch the sun set the city ablaze in gold. The prices keep Spiro's popular with the locals as well as tourists. Try the moussaka (eggplant casserole) or the souvlaki chicken, marinated in *tzatziki* sauce, served with tomatoes, onions, and pita bread. Open seven days until 8 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/00)*

Tango Grille Argentine Steak House 635 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-420-0384. Play *gaucho* and enjoy the most authentic Argentine *parrillada* (mixed grill) in town at this charming, warmly decorated bistro about two minutes from the Chula Vista Shopping Center. Fine, smoky wood-grilled Colorado beef appears in several unusual cuts (including succulent steak-cut short-ribs). You can choose from two different mixed grills (sized for one or two), the first with conventional meats, the other — the more adventurous —

Restaurant Coupons and Menus SanDiegoReader.com

Restaurants listed without coupon offers have only menus online. Restaurants with • have multiple locations. See online menu or coupon for all locations.

Pacific Beach, Mission Beach & Ocean Beach

Atoll at the Catamaran Hotel
Broken Yolk **$2 off breakfast or lunch**
Canes **Free wing basket**
Chateau Orleans **50% off**
Costa Brava **Free tapa for lunch**
French Gourmet **Free dessert**
Great Moon Buffet **10% off total bill**
Gringo's **$2 off Sunday Brunch**
Lahaina Beach House **Free breakfast**
Limónz Rostizados **20% off chicken or ribs**
Pacific Beach Bar & Grill **2 for 1 entrée**
Pacific Rotisserie **Free entrée**
Sam's by the Sea
Saska's **Free sushi or 25% off bill**
TJ Oyster Bar **2 for 1 tacos/tostadas**
Tower Two Beach Cafe **1/2-price appetizers**

La Jolla

Cafe Milano **Free Comedy Store tickets**
Cendio
Clay's La Jolla
Ginza-Sushi **Sushi dinner for 2 $15.95**•
Harry's Coffee Shop **20% off**
La Jolla Brew House **Free lunch or dinner entrée**
Marrakesh **50% off lunch**
Regents Pizzeria **Free large salad**
The Shores **20% off dinner**
Su Casa **20% off entire check**•
Vida Gourmet

North County

The Beach Club **50% off entrée**
Big Jim's Old South Bar-B-Q **50% off entrée**
The Blvd **Free Happy Hour appetizer**
Del Mar Rendevous **20% off**
Greek Village **Free saganaki**
Jamroc 101 **Free island sampler**
Ki's Restaurant **Free appetizer or dessert**
Mikko Japanese **50% off sushi**
Noodles & Company •
Pho Lucky **10% off entire check**
Wild Note Cafe

South Bay & Coronado

Batter Up! **50% off Batter Up! basket**
Chick-Fil-A **10% off catering**
Lai Thai **50% off entrée**
Mariscos La Costa Azul **Free combo plate**

Uptown & North Park

A La Française
Awash Ethiopian **1/2-price entrée**
B Fried Rice
Baby Back Jack's **$2 off**
Hob Nob Hill **$2 off entrée**
House of India **Free dinner**
India Princess **Free dinner**•
Lips **50% off dinner**
Rannoosh **Free entrée**
Rudford's **$2 off entrée**
San Filippo's **Pizza & drinks $15.45**

Midway, Old Town & Mission Valley

The Amigo Spot **15% off bill**
Bali Thai **Free entrée**
Bennigan's **$5 off lunch or dinner**
Chiba Japanese **$2 off lunch or dinner**
Forever Fondue **2 for 1 entrée**
Fuji Japanese Steakhouse **10% off**
Lot 81 **Free appetizer**
Old Town Mexican Cafe
Paradise Yogurt **50 cents off a smoothie**
Pizza Bella **Free wine dinner**
Shanghai Chinese **$1 off Mongolian BBQ**
Tio Leo's **Dinner combos $8.99 each**•
Todai **10% off lunch or dinner**

East County & State College

Alpine Inn **Sunday prime rib $18.95**
Aroma Thai **Free entrée**
Cereal Port Cafe **Free energy drink**
Fix Me A Plate Cafe **15% off any entrée**
Greek Town Buffet **50% off dinner buffet**
Habana Cuban **Free entrée**
Lucky Star Buffet **50% off dinner**
Shakey's Pizza **Lunch buffet $4.95**

Clairemont, University City, Miramar Rd., Poway, Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch & Kearny Mesa

Ashoka the Great **50% off lunch or dinner**
Bangkok West Thai Cafe **Free Thai iced tea**
Filling Station **Free appetizer**
Honey's Cafe
Indian Asian Buffet **$1 off lunch**
Joe's Pizza **2 large pizzas $20.99**
La China
Pampas **Free empanada**
Philadelphia Sandwich Co. **Free sandwich**
Thai Cafe **$1 off buffet**

Downtown & Point Loma

Alambres **Free soup**
Blue Water Seafood **25% off**
The Boathouse **2-for-1 entrée**
Dae Jang Keum Korean BBQ **50% off Korean BBQ**
Dublin Square **15% off or free lunch**
Embers Grille **50% off entrée**
The Field **Free lunch**
Hard Rock Café •
Hornblower Cruises
House of Blues **20% off restaurant receipt**
Humphrey's
La Cantina **Prime rib, crab, wine $19.95**
Lotus Thai Cuisine **Free entrée**
McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant
Mister Tiki Mai Thai Lounge
Olé Madrid **2 for 1 lunch or brunch entrée**
Puerto La Boca **Free Argentine dessert**
RA Sushi
Rei do Gado
Rock Bottom
Saigon on Fifth **20% off**
Samba Grill **Free all-you-can-eat Brazilian feast**
Sevilla
The Shout House
St. Tropez Bakery-Bistro **10% off**•
Star of India **50% off entrée**•
Thai Time II **Free fried spring rolls**
Visions **25% off sushi**
Whiskey Girl
Xavier's **Free appetizer**

includes organ meats and blood sausage. For starters, there are brilliantly seasoned mini-empanadas of amazing lightness, as well as several interesting salads. Those not in a grilled-meat mood can opt for numerous pastas (including a big, meaty lasagna) or the ubiquitous *milanesa* (breaded beef or chicken patties) of the pampas. Portions are more than generous, and so are the flavors. Open daily. Low moderate. — *N.W. (4/02)*

Village Pizzeria 1206 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-522-0449. In the back, Mootime Creamery makes all its ice cream. In the front, Mootime owner David Spatafore decided to set up what he's always wanted: A cheap, back-east Italian, red-and-white-tablecloth, dangling Chianti bottle eatery where local families and amateur sports teams can come in and pig out. He wisely didn't destroy what was half of the famous old Mexican Village. Instant atmosphere! Ancient murals of guys with guitars serenading señoritas, arches, illuminated clusters of red grapes. The bad news: You might have to handle pumped-up kids' sports teams cramming the booths around you. The good news: Great calzones and pizza by the slice. Open lunch through dinner, seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (12/04)*

BAJA

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

El Cid Lopez Mateos #993 (just off Blancarte), Ensenada, Baja, 646-178-1809. This restaurant is at the heart of the tourist district, but the cooking and service are way above coach class. Look to the "Specialties" section of the huge menu for the most interesting selections. Crisp quail with rose petal sauce (famed from *Like Water for Chocolate*) proves outrageously delicious, and the seasonal *chiles en nogada* (meat-stuffed poblano chiles with walnut-cream and pomegranate) gain refinement from greaseless ground sirloin. Fish dishes are fresh, rich, and tender, and you'll find nine different ways to enjoy a steak. If you can handle a tableside production number, crêpes with *cajeta* (caramel sauce) makes a very grand finale. Fully bilingual staff; English menus available. Sidewalk patio dining available. Reserve for weekends during tourist peaks. Full bar, with excellent margaritas, Baja wines. Open daily, continuous service breakfast through dinner. Moderate. — *N.W. (4/03)*

El Galeon (Puerto Nuevo) One street before you reach the oceanside street market, one block south of Calle Entrada (the entry road), and two doors north of Calle Salida (the exit road), Puerto Nuevo. This is a lively, comfortable spot with a good ocean view for scarfing down Puerto Nuevo lobsters or other local fish or seafood, including whole fishes cooked to order at a bargain price. Downstairs boasts an open kitchen and a cozy bar with a partial sea view. Upstairs there's a breezy terrace with a full sea view. The jokey staff speaks excellent East L.A. English, and the cooking is decent — for instance, the melted substance served with the lobsters is about half real butter, half the ghastly local Kitchen Maid "spread." Bilingual menu and staff. Full, extensive bar. No reservations, cash only. Three meals daily. Low moderate. — *N.W. (10/02)*

La Espadaña Avenida Sánchez Taboada #10813, Zona Río, Tijuana, 634-1488 or 634-1489. If you learn only one word of Spanish, learn this one: *Borrego.* Because this place does the greatest oven-cooked leg of lamb ever. The meat tastes as if it was cooked in wine, garlic, and herbs, but the owners insist it's just Tecate lamb baked slowly in its own juices with a bit of oregano. But most folks come here for beef — steaks and the popular beef fillet, sizzled at a big flame-and-smoke display counter BBQ grill. All terra-cotta and timber, this is where the local middle classes come for their cross-border food fix. Think Tijuana's version of Mission Valley. Still, it's charming, and you can have fun. For instance, don't forget to ask them to ring the bells set in their *espadañas* (holes cut in the Mission frontage) above the great arched wooden entrance door; they clank tunelessly, but they're great for celebrating your 21st birthday, Mom getting her degree — whatever. Open for breakfast, lunch, dinner, seven days. Moderate. — *E.B. (11/04)*

Mr. Fish Boulevard Agua Caliente #6000, Tijuana, 686-3603. Also at City Hall, Palacio Municipal (at Paseo del Centenario and Avenida Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez), Río District, Tijuana, 682-8020. The sign is showing its age and the concept (exotic middle-class restaurant in the middle of a parking lot) seems dated, but two-decade-old Mr. Fish is still serving good fish food. Ask for the Spanish-language menu if you can handle it — it's far more extensive than its poor English cousin. Sit outside under the palm thatch if weather permits. All the basic dishes are good, like octopus in white wine, Lucifer's Oysters with white sauce and smoky chipotle chiles, or the Mr. Fish Combination: half a lobster, fish, shrimp, and calamari. Probably the most popular gringo choice is mahi mahi in lemon-pepper sauce, but consider ordering with *salsa eneldo* — dill sauce. Also interesting: seafood fettuccine "a la Gorvachov" (with vodka) and anything (such as the lobster Mr. Fish or thermidor) with the signature *salsa blanca.* It'll remind you of something (could it be Rubio's?). Open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days. Moderate. — *E.B. (12/04)*

Rica Torta Niños Héroes Avenida #890, between 2nd and 3rd Streets (opposite Dorian's department store), Tijuana, 685-8579. This café may have the best *tortas* (call them Mexican-style hamburgers) in Tijuana. Six-inch rashers of marinated *carne asada,* slices of ham, squares of cheese, chopped salad, tomato slices, fresh-scooped avocado…it's a double-wide, double-high burger. The menu has 16 different kinds of *tortas,* from chorizo with eggs to beefsteak ranchero, all served in huge, three-ribbed, crisp-toasted Mexican bread buns. There's other stuff, but to a burger buff, one of these is quite enough. Open seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (9/01)*

Vallarta Natural 1252 Boulevard Agua Caliente (just before El Toreo de Tijuana), 686-1560. Maybe the only smoke-free restaurant in Tijuana, this vegetarian haven was started in 1996 by health-conscious Doctor Georgina Vallarta de Alcántar. They make their own yogurt, soy hash, breads, rolls, salsas — and "meats" like a veal from their own wheat gluten — daily. You sit at wood tables and chairs next to blue-framed yellow walls splattered with Talavera ceramic suns. At breakfast, try the *tartaleta vallarta,* a mix of eggs, spinach, mushrooms, onions, and chile. For lunch (and it's usually busiest around three), their excellent soup, *caldo tlalpeño,* packed with cheese, rice, avocado, and chile, will fill you nicely. The soy *hamburguesa* is good, but go for the *torta,* which has that gluten *milanesa* along with cheese, avocado, and jalapeño. Good organic coffee. Wonderful juices, especially the cactus — if you need cleaning out. Open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (1/06)*

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

D'Lish Pizza and Pasta 2470 San Diego Avenue, Old Town, 619-296-6969. Here in Old Town, at least, D'Lish gets a lot of custom from people who are Mex'd out, foodwise. This growing chain has always prided itself on its Italian/California pastas, pizzas, and salads. Now Old Town (along with Poway) has gone carnivorous, adding marinated flank steak and a rib eye to the "bistro entrées." If you're ordering the flank, well-done is a no-no. That will toughen it. But a rare flank is, well, d'lish in its marination and especially its pesto-like *chimichurri* sauce. Also good: fire-roasted vegetables pizza, where the quick roasting makes for great-tasting, Technicolor-bright broccoli, zucchini, eggplant, and bell peppers. And "Mediterranean chicken salad" works well, partly thanks to the tang of pepperoni chips. A big part of the appeal of the Old Town D'Lish branch is the charming patio it occupies, with gas lamps, hanging flowers, and a fountain. Other branches at Chula Vista (386 East H Street, Suite 211, 619-585-1371); Eastlake Village Center South (2260 Otay Lakes Road, Suite 101, 619-216-3900); and San Diego (5252 Balboa Avenue, Suite 101-B, 619-277-9977). Moderate. — *E.B. (8/02)*

Oggi's At least ten branches all over the suburbs; see phone book for the nearest one. Is it the pizzas or is it the housemade brewskis (six ales, one lager, one stout) that make Oggi's so popular? Is it the sports-bar ambiance (with multiple video screens) or just the near-ubiquity of branches that has won this chain numerous "best pizza" citations? The pizzas are American-style, with thick, slightly sweet crusts, many with elaborate toppings that sound more adventurous than they taste. (All the cheese alternatives are equally mild.) The menu also offers pub snacks, decent soups and salads, hearty sandwiches, and American-Italian entrées so mall-adapted that no *mamma mia* in Bensonhurst or North Beach would even recognize them. Full bar, lunch and dinner daily at most branches; free local delivery with minimum order. Inexpensive. — *N.W. (7/04)*

Sammy's Woodfired Pizza It's not Italian or New York pizza, it's…San Diego pizza! The crusts are Californian: thick and slightly sweet. The toppings range from ordinary to exotic. The menu includes many salads and a handful of American-Italian entrées. Continuous service, same menu lunch and dinner. Open daily. Inexpensive. 702 Pearl Street, La Jolla, 858-456-5222; 770 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-230-8888; 8650 Genesee Avenue, Costa Verde, 858-404-9898; 12925 El Camino Real, Del Mar, 858-259-6600; 1620 Camino de la Reina, Mission Valley, 619-298-8222. — *N.W. (7/04)*

St. Tropez If you love continental breakfast, these bright cafés with indoor-outdoor seating offer scores of house-baked pastries (including brioche) and good coffee. Parisian-style brunch/lunch choices embrace *croque monsieur* and *croque madame* (grilled ham and cheese sandwiches, topped with either light cream sauce or an egg), crêpes, quiche, onion soup gratinée, or chicken-filled puff-pastry. Omelets are rather weighty. Some of the sandwiches offer Mediterranean flavors — try a *pan bagnat* (*salade niçoise* on a baguette) or one of the grilled *panini.* Desserts range from cookies on up to elaborate cakes. Beer and wine. Open daily, breakfast to early dinner. Inexpensive. Encinitas: 947 South Coast Highway 101, Lumberyard Shopping Center #103D, 760-633-0084; downtown: 926 Broadway Circle, 619-696-8695 and 600 W. Broadway, 619-234-2560; Hillcrest: 3805 Fifth Avenue, 619-497-0297; Rancho Bernardo: 16625 Dove Canyon #109, 858-673-6824; Sorrento Valley: 9450 Scranton Road, 858-202-0015. — *N.W. (12/04)*

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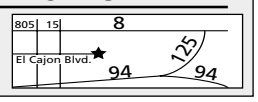

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Maya Bad

The film should do nothing to fan the flames of Gibson's suspected and substantiated anti-Semitism.

REVIEW
DUNCAN SHEPHERD

Evidently Mel Gibson is in it only for the barbarity. Scouring the globe, roaming the pages of history, he has alighted in *Apocalypto* on the illuminating example of the Mayan people, past their civilized peak, where a happy, peaceable, practical-joking tribe of jungle dwellers (sample joke: the prescription of a red-hot herb as a *topical* fertility drug, so that the duped hubby must, in full view of the guffawing villagers, hop around buck naked and plunk down his burning loins in a water trough — wait, it gets even better — and his wife must pour a pitcher of water down her gullet) is cruelly set upon and rounded up by a storm troop of fearsome, bloodthirsty, bone-in-the-nose killjoys in search of sacrificial offerings to their god Kukulkan. A paradise, in other words, no less than turn-of-the-13th-century Scotland in *Braveheart* or 1st-century Palestine in *The Passion of the Christ*, where Gibson may indulge his appetite for mayhem, persecution, torture, martyrdom. The nine-tenths-naked natives enable him, further, to indulge his lesser appetite for homoerotica.

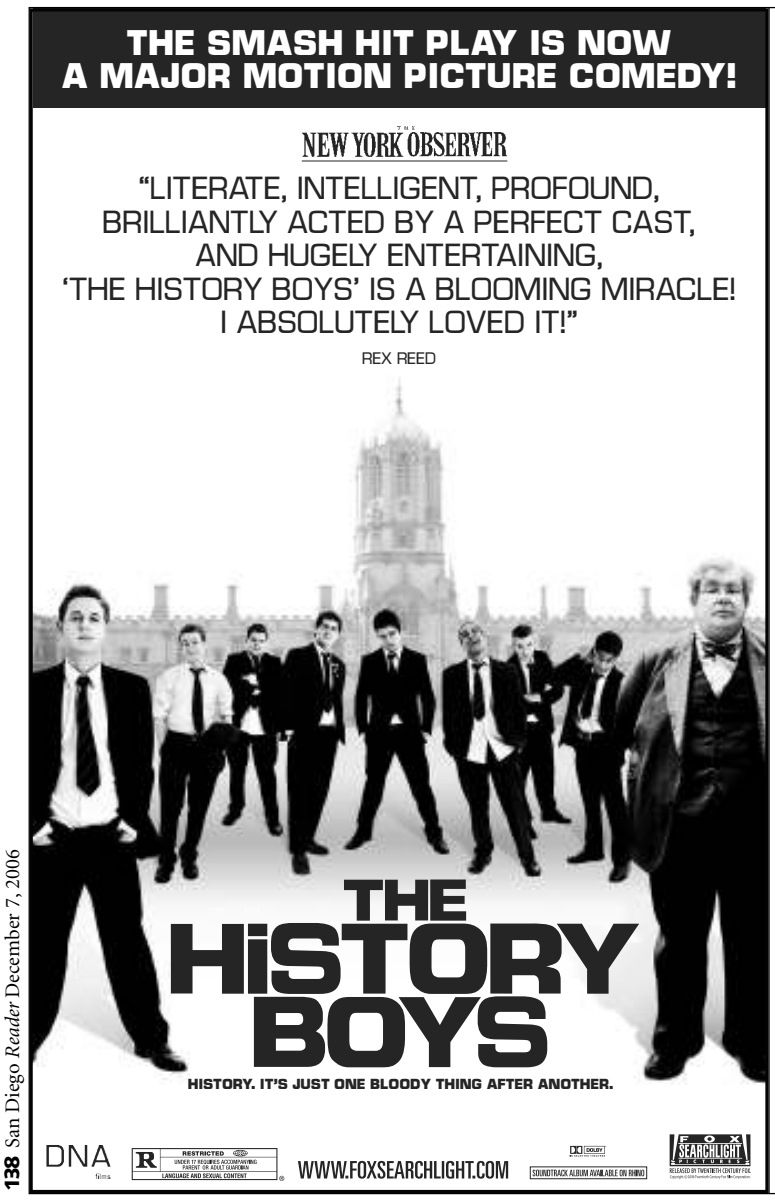
For the main course, he gives us — he *shares* with us — multiple impalings, beheadings, and cuttings-out of hearts; he gives us a breath-stopping near-miss when the hero is saved from the chopping block only by the timely intervention of a solar eclipse ("Kukulkan has drunk his fill of blood!"), straight out of *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court;* he gives us a sort of ApocaRambo when the hero escapes back into the snug jungle and, guerrilla-style, turns the tables on his urban pursuers, with assists from the panther and the viper; and he gives us a cross-cutting, nail-biting (or, if you're not completely into it, rib-tickling) climax in which the hero tries to shake the last of his pursuers in time to rescue his pregnant wife from a flooding pit, where she is standing on tiptoes to keep her nose above the water while simultaneously giving birth beneath it. Gibson perhaps in *Apocalypto* indulges a little less in slow-motion, saving it for special dramatic stress, as when your father is having his throat cut in front of your very eyes or you are jumping off a mile-high waterfall with spears whizzing past your ears, as opposed to the constant stress of *The Passion*....

Apocalypto

The English subtitles and the no-name cast might almost lead you to believe, were it not for the telltale slickness and the stressful slow-motion, that you're watching a product of, say, the Guatemalan New Wave or the Undiscovered Belizean Cinema. At the very least, the film should do nothing to fan the flames of Gibson's suspected and substantiated anti-Semitism. And at the next least, the last-minute arrival on the scene of Christianity (a missed opportunity, there, for a cameo of Hugh Jackman in conquistador regalia), even if it's every bit as fortuitous as a solar eclipse in getting our hero out of a tight spot, is not openly — and politically incorrectly — applauded. That might be the film's one and only instance of restraint.

* * *

Blood Diamond stands as a ser-



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viceable action-adventure despite its frequent interruptions for sermonettes on human rights and capitalist wrongs. The ripped-from-the-headlines story (yesterday's headlines: civil war in Sierra Leone, 1999) features the stock figures of a self-interested soldier of fortune, in league with slaughterous rebels and unscrupulous jewellers, an engagé foreign correspondent, and a hapless native peasant enslaved in the diamond mines and separated from his family, all united on a treasure hunt for a priceless buried gem, "a pink," big as a walnut. Without the politics, the strong-arm manipulation of emotions would be inexcusable. Or rather, more clearly inexcusable. It's still inexcusable even now. (The on-screen standing ovation at the final curtain is an unsubtle elbow-in-the-ribs to the moviegoer.) Behind the op-ed posturing, the film roughly resembles a middle-period, middle-drawer Robert Mitchum vehicle, except that Leonardo DiCaprio, affecting an acceptable Afrikaner accent, is no Robert Mitchum. For all his recently acquired bulk, including the heftiness of his credits in Martin Scorsese's oeuvre, he remains too boyish to be a persuasive action hero: Robby Bensonitis, let's call it. Jennifer Connelly, meantime, is both capable and decorative as the journalist. And the only thing keeping Djimon Hounsou from total sympathy is the sanctimony in which his director, Edward Zwick, enwraps him. All three, along with their Dark Continent environs, are nicely, cleanly, warmly photographed by Eduardo Serra.

* * *

The Holiday arranges an Internet home exchange, for two weeks at Christmastime, between two wounded women desperate to get away: a London newspaper columnist with a cozy cottage in Surrey and a Hollywood trailer-cutter with a modernist mansion in Beverly Hills. The agreed-upon date of "tomorrow" initiates a pattern of time-compression that effectively removes the action from the realm of the real world. But then, writer and director Nancy Meyers (*Something's Gotta Give* and, director only, *What Women Want)* does not seek to inhabit the real world. Underneath her superficial smooth talk, she's really just a seductive dope peddler, chumming up to her susceptible sisters on the subject of romantic disillusionment, and then hooking them on the same old delusions — the grooved path, greased wheels, and phantom obstacles en route to Mr. Right. The film, at best, is a testament to the dearness of the dream.

Kate Winslet and Cameron Diaz present a clear contrast in styles and talents, even though they never share the screen till the denouement. Winslet has no need of the heavy drama of *Little Children* in order to do exquisite shadings of feeling. She can do them as well in a piece of fluff. Diaz, exhibitionistically cute, can offer little but cheekbones and dimples. Jude Law, as Winslet's brother, a book editor harboring a deep but not dark secret, is well matched with Diaz as to cheekbones (luckily no one gets cut in the clinches), and is more personable than usual, showing off a Hugh Grant-y polish in his delivery of lines. And Jack Black, as a nice-guy film composer, though it hardly matters as what, is merely Jack Black. The sample of Diaz's work as a trailer-cutter — an imaginary action thriller starring Lindsay Lohan and James Franco — is dead funny: the two stars running straight at the camera and away from a mushrooming fireball, the male star diving sideways in slo-mo with two guns blazing. But the fantasies wherein Diaz sees her own life in terms of a movie trailer never really take flight. Meyers's affection for Golden Age Hollywood — chiefly funnelled through the character of Eli Wallach as a widowed Oscar-winning screenwriter grumpily resisting a lifetime-achievement award from the WGA — is doubtless genuine, but our agreement with her must stop short of her persistent hints that she herself should be painted golden.

* * *

The Nativity Story is a bearably dull Christmas worship service, fully supernatural in its vision (the voice of God, a luminous Messenger, an avian Holy Spirit), yet full of luxuriously tactile costumes, solid sets, atmospheric locales, and earthy Mediterranean faces. (The half-Maori Keisha Castle-Hughes, though harmoniously olive in complexion, seems a bit overwhelmed in the role of the Virgin. Understandably.) The treatment hits all the essential points of the story without pulverizing them into mush: the three Magi on camels, Mary on a donkey and Joseph on foot, the sheep in the stable, the spotlighting star, the swell of orchestra and chorus in the epic mode of Miklos Rozsa. After the adolescent drug problems of *Thirteen* and the pace-setting skateboards of *Lords of Dogtown*, this makes an odd project for director Catherine Hardwicke, who hereby renounces trendiness and embraces tradition. Although her focus quite reasonably is on the plight of a pregnant teen, the filmmaker has made no attempt to "reimagine" the character for a new age, simply to imagine her as she might have been, a treacherous assignment carried out with unforeseen taste and composure. Mel Gibson, it goes without saying, would have made a good deal more of Herod's elimination of his competition. ■

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews sorted alphabetically, by year of release and by rating, are available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

Apocalypto — Reviewed this issue. With Rudy Youngblood, Dalia Hernandez, Jonathan Brewer, and Morris Bird; directed by Mel Gibson.
● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GALAXY 6; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA CAMINO REAL; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 12/8)

The Architect — Urban-housing conflict, with Anthony LaPaglia, Viola Davis, and Isabella Rossellini, directed by Matt Tauber. (HILLCREST CINEMAS, FROM 12/8)

Babel — Communication problems the world over. An American tourist is struck by rifle fire in Morocco, arousing erroneous worries of terrorism. An illegal-alien nanny drags along the two towheads in her care to a Mexican wedding, and runs afoul of the Border Patrol on their return. And a horny pantyless deaf-mute Japanese girl can't get a man, any man, to take an interest in her. These three storylines are fashionably "interlocked" (anyone who can recognize the voice of Brad Pitt over the telephone will immediately know the connection between two of them), and the film strategically ends in the same place, from a different point of view, as it begins, coming full circle. The illusion of complexity, for all that, could scarcely be more transparent. Mexican director Alejandro González Iñárritu, much in the manner of his *Amores Perros*, achieves depth only in the way that a hero sandwich achieves it; and it achieves length — almost two and a half hours of it — in the same way as a footlong at any Subway shop. Tenuous in construction, slack and sluggish in pace, sketchy and far-fetched in plot, the film does nothing to justify its epic length or its cosmic ambitions. (The Mexican storyline, particularly weak, goes nowhere until it goes bananas: a series of decisions so bad as to forfeit all sympathy for the characters, let alone for the storyteller who compelled the characters to make the decisions.) With a somewhat calmer camera than his norm, however, the director does some nice scene-setting, some impressionistic documentation of the locales, to help realize his goal in sheer duration. With Cate Blanchett, Adriana Barraza, Gael García Bernal, Koji Yakusho, and Rinko Kikuchi. 2006.
★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; LA PALOMA; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

Blood Diamond — Reviewed this issue. With Leonardo DiCaprio, Djimon Hounsou, Jennifer Connelly, Michael Sheen, and Arnold Vosloo; directed by Edward Zwick.
★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 12/8)

Bobby — One day at the former Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, the fateful day of June 4, 1968, when Bobby Kennedy, on the campaign trail, was going for the votes in the California Primary, and Don Drysdale, on the mound for the Dodgers, was going for the record of consecutive scoreless innings pitched. A tapestry of lives, from the Mexican menials in the kitchen to the Hollywood headliner in the showroom, woven together in the pattern of *Grand Hotel*, which is explicitly referenced in the dialogue, or just plain *Hotel*, which had been released the previous year, 1967. Director (and democratic role player) Emilio Estevez, who was six years old at the time, churns up a lather of nostalgia for political idealism, seemingly missing, now, in a parallel time of an unpopular foreign war. The seriousness of intent does not lessen the hokeyness, though, and the politics tend to load down the soap operatics at least as much as the soap operatics lighten and cheapen the politics. Solid contributions from William H. Macy as the hotel manager, a self-proclaimed "equal opportunity kind of guy," Anthony Hopkins as the retired doorman who still haunts the premises daily, Laurence Fishburne as the head chef, Freddy Rodriguez as a humble kitchen worker with tickets to the big game, and Martin Sheen, the filmmaker's famously Left-leaning father. Among others. All of the women "of a certain age" — Demi Moore, Sharon Stone, Helen Hunt —

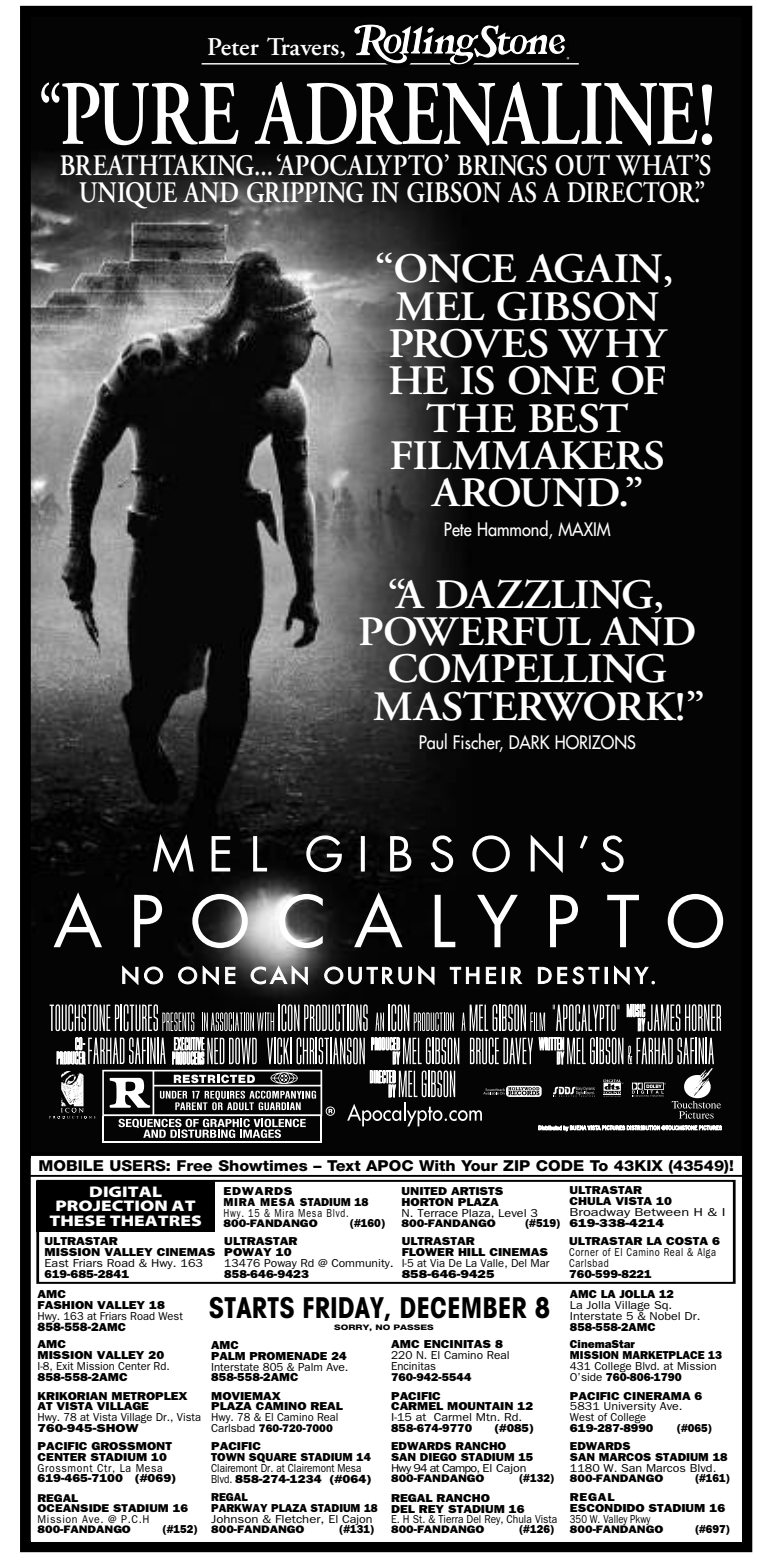


exhibit identical gaunt elongated faces, in the Mannerist manner, that appear to have come through the same plastic surgeon's office and spoil the illusion of a period piece. And Ashton Kutcher in a headband and a House-of-Stuart wig looks like a Halloween hippie. Liberal masochists who simply crave an occasion to relive the day, however, will get what they need, especially in the newsreel footage of Kennedy on the stump, and in the agonizingly drawn-out re-enactment of his death, and in the final reprise of one of his eloquent speeches, in which he sounds, first, as if he knows and understands what he's saying, and, second, as if he means it. Wouldn't it be swell to have a President like that? With Heather Graham, Lindsay Lohan, Elijah Wood, Christian Slater, Nick Cannon, Harry Belafonte. 2006.
★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan — For anyone who heretofore hadn't encountered the character on HBO, Borat Sagdiyev will need an introduction. He is one of the personas of British comedian Sacha Baron Cohen on *Da Ali G Show*, a Kazakh TV reporter dapperly dressed in a dove-gray suit, bristlingly mustachioed, blissfully sexist, superstitiously anti-Semitic, and not yet toilet-trained (he splashes water on his face from the commode in his New York hotel room, takes a doggy-style dump in the bushes of a public park, jerks off in front of a Victoria's Secret display window, and so on), ostensibly dispatched to America to shoot a documentary for home consumption — a built-in excuse for bad camerawork. Scripted scenes, or at any rate pre-planned scenes, primarily involving Borat's obese and camera-shy producer, Azamat Bagatov (Ken Davitian), secondarily involving a slightly less obese African-American call girl (Luenell), and presumably also involving the proprietors of a Jewish B&B (how can we be sure?), alternate with unscripted performance-art pieces, so to call them, in which assorted innocents, dupes, patsies, and joke-butts are lured into the gag unawares. These unrehearsed bits, no doubt more compelling, more riveting, more nerve-racking than the planned-out parts, naturally give rise to thoughts of their comedic antecedents and analogues: *Candid Camera*, the practical jokes on a Dick Clark *Bloopers* special, MTV's copycat *Punk'd*, the crank calls of any wisenheimer radio deejay, Andy Kaufman's chauvinist-pig wrestling career, the Yes Men (and their eponymous film of a couple of years previous), etc. At the same time, they give rise to moral concerns — to say nothing of legal ones — that far overshadow artistic ones. Can, as an example, an Alabama minister's wife — bluntly insulted for her dearth of pulchritude — be safely assumed to be less of a human being than our fearless guerrilla artiste, or has the latter's sexism perhaps crossed over, there, from fiction into reality? Any diversion afforded by such thoughts is all to the good, because the general impression of the film, right down to the spottiness of its laughs, and regardless of whether staged or not, is amazingly similar to that of your average Will Ferrell comedy. In a word, over-the-top and high of the target. Directed by Larry Charles. 2006.
★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Casa de los Babys — The name of the movie is the name of a Mexican resort hotel-*cum*-hospital where half a dozen *gringas* await their turn to adopt native newborns; more bluntly, where the haves take from the have-nots. Or still more bluntly, where the Left-leaning John Sayles can show off some of his right thinking (note the lowercase "r"), to say nothing of some of his false-sounding dialogue. At a mere hour and a half, it is underdeveloped by Sayles's latter-day standards, yet each of the principals (Maggie Gyllenhaal, Daryl Hannah, Marcia Gay Harden, Susan Lynch, Mary Steenburgen, Lili Taylor), if they don't all get a turn to adopt, do get a turn to act. 2003.
★ (SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY, 12/10, 2 P.M.)

Casino Royale — Taking the title from Ian Fleming's first James Bond novel, the 007 franchise approaches the opportunity of a new James Bond as the opportunity of a new beginning. The new Bond, Daniel Craig, is not just another pretty face, in fact is a pretty craggy face (Craiggy face, perhaps that should be), and it can pretty well express itself in the bargain. Granted, noises were made about a similar rollback toward reality when Timothy Dalton came on board; and even in the midst of the reign of Pierce Brosnan, noises were made about toughening up his act. These proved to be only noises. The new noises are more. The obligatory pre-credits sequence, in black-and-white and sprinkled with flashbacks, shuns spectacle in favor of blunt brutality; and the action to follow seems to be under no compulsion to "top" all previous action. While Judi Dench reprises the role of "M," Bond himself has only just been promoted to double-0 status (a new beginning for sure) and has yet to earn his boss's trust. There is no equivalent of "Q" and his cute presentation of the gadgets *du jour*. There is no casual bedding of "Bond girls," and the one romantic relationship (with the enigmatic, darkly eyelined Eva Green) attains an emotional weight beyond even the all-the-way-to-the-altar affair of *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*. The hero's lame quips and puns, meantime, have thoroughly been expunged from the script. And "I don't give a damn" is his response to the bartender's inquiry as to whether he'd like his vodka martini shaken or stirred. All these changes are definite improvements. And yet, and yet, and yet…. The action, even if somewhat scaled back under the one-time Bond director Martin Campbell (*Goldeneye*, the beginning of the Brosnan Bonds, but scarcely a *new* beginning), is still more than sufficiently cartoonish. The plotting is skimpy. The whole thing runs on far too long. And then there's the fundamental question: if you want to do an alternative to James Bond, why call him James Bond? Why not put him out to pasture where at his age he belongs? Mads Mikkelson, Jeffrey Wright, Giancarlo Giannini. 2006.
★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Cave of the Yellow Dog — Mongolian movie from one of the two directors of *The Story of the Weeping Camel*, Byambasuren Davaa. This one tells the story of a little girl and a stray dog, not a yellow dog, but white with a black face and a black spot on his back, hence his christening as Zochar (translation, Spot), and cute as the dickens, though the girl's father worries that the dog, likely mingling with wolves, cannot be trusted around the family sheep. In spite of an uneventful narrative and a glacial pace, the feeling for unspectacular landscape (low mountains, wide valleys), the sense of open space, and the placement of people within it are authentically cinematic. 2005.
★★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Déjà Vu — Requires you to park your rea-

son, along with your car, outside the theater. A ferry boat blows up in post-Katrina New Orleans, killing 543, mainly returning Navy men and their welcoming families; and the uncounted body of a young woman bearing residue from the explosion has been fished out of the water a few minutes *before* the blast. What's the connection? The chief investigative tool proves to be a fanciful science-fictional device that allows the feds, through satellite imagery and computer projections, to view events from four days and six hours earlier, even inside the apartment (and the bathroom shower) of the deceased young woman: an audiovisual time machine. In addition, a portable-headset version of the device facilitates a truly unique car chase, in the lengthy annals of car chases on screen, whereby one vehicle is four days ahead of the other, which has to steer through a totally different pattern of traffic to keep pace. The bag-of-tricks filmmaking technique of Tony Scott, really more of a weathercock than a director, throws a few smaller obstacles in your path. Still, if you consent to ride out the bumps, the film works up plenty of forward momentum and climactic tension (en route to a have-it-both-ways ending); and the preposterousness in no way limits the level of engagement, or engagingness, of Denzel Washington. With Paula Patton, Val Kilmer, James Caviezel. 2006.
★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

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. *Kundun … Gangs of New York … The Aviator*.... 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 rockabilly beat of the background music, whenever the filmmaker isn't trotting out his collection of rock-and-roll oldies. The convoluted plot verges 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 police spy inside the mob (Leonardo DiCaprio, giving himself away with his meat-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 cheekbones, life-raft lips, blue-lagoon eyes). Not even the take-no-prisoners crescendo 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 (when he's only in it for the money, anyway), plays the mob boss at a pitch barely below his *Batman* Joker. With Mark Wahlberg, Martin Sheen, Alec Baldwin, Ray Winstone. 2006.
★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; PALM PROMENADE 24)

Fast Food Nation — Multicharacter fictionalization of Eric Schlosser's nonfiction exposé of the same name. With it, director Richard Linklater picks up a placard and joins the radical parade of American fictioneers from Frank Norris and Upton Sinclair and Jack London and John Steinbeck and on down. The major issues, too many to fit on one placard, are corporate corner-cutting and penny-pinching, the exploitation of undocumented workers, the brand-naming of America, the brainwashing of its citizens, and the like. Undisguisedly didactic in intent, often clunky and chunky in dialogue ("Right now I can't think of anything more patriotic than violating the Patriot Act"), it is surprisingly watchable, with its large assemblage of life-sized characters (Ashley Johnson, special mention, as a perky fast-food clerk with incipient scruples) and its smooth-flowing narrative, following two principal paths to its central arena of Cody, Colorado: the investigation by a Mickey's marketer (Greg Kinnear) into allegations of elevated fecal content in their Big One burger ("There's shit in the meat…. This could be a problem for us") and the importation of Mexican laborers (Wilmer Valderrama, Catalina Sandino Moreno, Ana Claudia Talancón) to staff the Uni-Globe Meat Packing plant. The first path, though, trails off long before the finish, yielding to a new and unavailing path of local consciousness-raising. And the rhetorical climax on "the kill floor" is, from any angle, overkill. Particularly from the vegetarian angle. Ethan Hawke, Patricia Arquette, Kris Kristofferson, Bruce Willis, Bobby Canavale, Paul Dano, Esai Morales. 2006.
★★ (GASLAMP 15)

Flags of Our Fathers — Clint Eastwood, sorely trying the patience of anyone still hoping for a sixth installment of Dirty Harry, is plainly not yet done paying penance for the casual, callous, and prolific violence of his earlier years. And this elegiac war film makes 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 *Mystic River* and *Million Dollar Baby*. Once again, as in *Bridges*, opting for the camera as a weapon of choice, he 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 here that Eastwood is 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.) The central theme of the manufacture and marketing of "heroes," while timeless in its application to the everyday work of Hollywood, has a particular topicality in the post-9/11 world where no one in public service seems to be able to do his job anymore without being branded a hero. The point — that men are only men, that "heroes" are their creations, a label pinned on them like ribbons — is quietly and forcefully made. Yet despite its best efforts, or rather *because* of them, the film inescapably demonstrates the existence of heroes in the real world. One such, obviously, would be Eastwood himself, a shining example of the human capacity for growth and renewal. He, too, shoots with a camera. 2006.
★★★★ (HORTON PLAZA 14)

Flushed Away — Animation from the Aardman Studios, not claymation, like their signature Wallace and Gromit series (and not Nick Park directing), but instead compliant, acquiescent computer animation, and a compliantly, acquiescently crasser and cruder sense of humor to go along with it. (Traces of which began to creep into the feature-length Wallace and Gromit outing a year earlier.) The basic plot premise: a housebound tux-wearing pet mouse, in his owner's absence, gets dispossessed by an intrusive sewer rat, literally flushed down the loo, to discover an alternative, miniature London in the underground, plus a feisty feminist mouse, a villainous toad and his toadies, a French-accented frog (get it?), among others. The trademark ping-pong-ball eyes are still in place, although all sign of a human touch in the modelling of the figures has been smoothed out, and the three-dimensionality — the light and shade and all the rest — is blatantly counterfeit, and the total effect is markedly less distinctive. Still, a good deal of skill went into it, in matters of pacing and timing and elementary draftsmanship. Hitting the hero in the nuts in a variety of ways in rapid succession is almost as ingenious as it is low. Almost. With the voices of Hugh Jackman, Kate Winslet, Ian McKellen, Jean Reno, Bill Nighy; directed by David Bowers and Sam Fell. 2006.
★ (DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; GASLAMP 15; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18)

For Your Consideration — Filmmaker Christopher Guest goes back to the target area of his very first film, *The Big Picture* — namely the movie biz, more narrowly the Oscar buzz — and back before he chained himself to the mockumentary format, *Waiting for Guffman, Best in Show,*

SEEN ON DVD

BRYAN GARCIA
Supervisor, Sing Young Music World and Karaoke

Sex Is Zero is a great movie that breaks the mold of the typical South Korean romantic comedy with its humor.

From Japan is the recent *Shinobi*. This is a very stylish ninja movie with a *Romeo and Juliet* plot. The action scenes are extremely well choreographed and integrated with CGI effects.

Also from Japan is *Survive Style Five+*. This is a colorfully bizarre collection of stories interwoven into one unique and entertaining film. It is a modern, artistic movie and a bit on the weird side. It's unlike anything else I've seen.

SEX IS ZERO (South Korea) 2002, Panik House
List price: $19.95

SHINOBI (Japan) 2005, Funimation
List price: $16.99

SURVIVE STYLE FIVE+ (Japan) 2004, Anchor Bay Entertainment
List price: $19.98

FORREST BATSON
Manager, Sing Young Music World and Karaoke

With the holidays upon us, here are three DVDs with a twisted Christmas theme. First is *Christmas Evil* (also known as *Better Watch Out* or *Terror in Toyland*). What looks like a cheap Santa slasher film is actually a very clever psychological thriller/black comedy that has been virtually ignored until now.

Next up is *Black Christmas*. This is a cult thriller that delivers suspense, not gore. Hard to believe that Bob Clark — the director of *Porky's* and *Rhinestone* — also directed this film! It also stars Olivia Hussey who played Juliet in Franco Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet*.

And finally, *Nightmare Before Christmas*, based on Tim Burton's story. This is a musical-fantasy masterpiece!

CHRISTMAS EVIL (USA) 1980, Synapse Films
List price: $24.95

BLACK CHRISTMAS (USA) 1974, Somerville House
List price: $24.98

NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS (USA) 1993, Touchstone
List price: $24.95

KESLEY CONNOLLY
Employee, Sing Young Music World and Karaoke

Casshern is a breathtakingly artistic and atmospheric work based on a 1970s Japanese anime series. It's a very long movie but well worth spending the time to watch. I highly recommend it. It was made by photographer and music video director Kazuaki Kiriya.

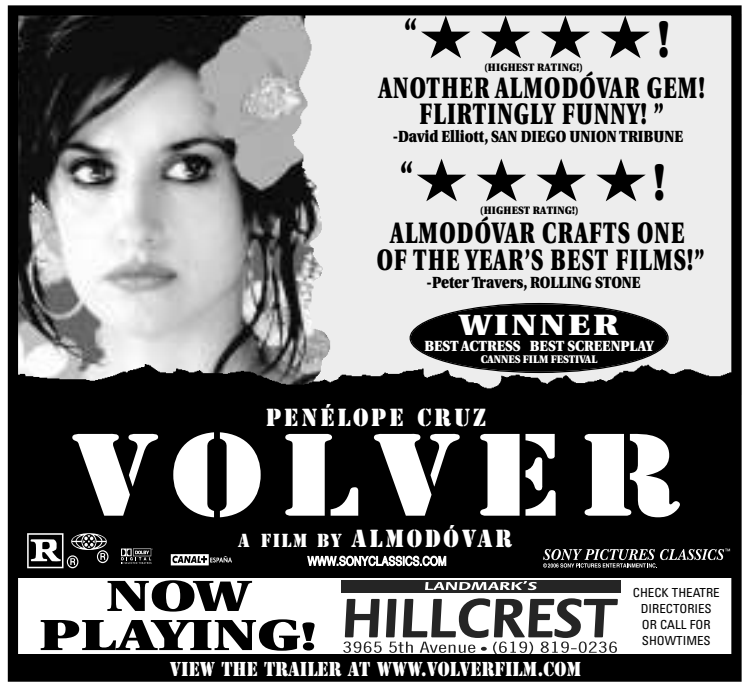
Wasabi was produced and written by France's Luc Besson and stars Jean Reno. It is an amusingly witty film that keeps you on the edge of your seat with its constantly changing tone. It also boasts great performances by a well-picked cast.

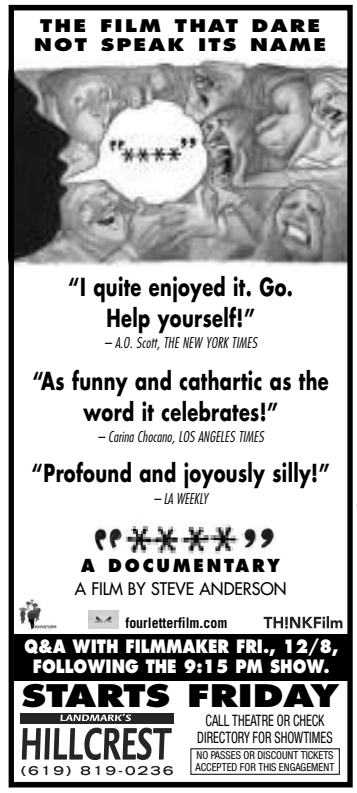
From South Korea is *He Was Cool*, a very understated movie and one of the best romantic comedies I've seen since the classic *My Sassy Girl*. I really liked this movie, and it's not seen much outside of Korea, which is a shame.

CASSHERN: ULTIMATE EDITION (Japan) 2004, Shochiku Home Video
List price: $59.25 (three discs)

WASABI (France/Japan) 2001, Sony Pictures
List price: $14.94

HE WAS COOL (South Korea) 2004, Winson
List price: $12.99





Calendar

MOVIES

A Mighty Wind. Any sense of liberation therefrom has not spilled over into comic invention. The behind-the-scenes satire is sufficiently old-hat that there must be a lot of truth in it, even if not a lot of laughs in it. And the parodies of on-screen Hollywood, both big budget and small, are so far outside the realm of possibility as to spare everyone's feelings, moviegoer's included. Guest is more on the mark with the assorted inanities of the P.R. game — the studio publicist, the "infotainment" industry, the talk-show circuit. And Catherine O'Hara, among his stable of repertory players (Harry Shearer, Eugene Levy, Michael McKean, Parker Posey, Fred Willard, Jane Lynch, et al.), stands out as an over-the-hill actress who, try though she mightily might, cannot hide her vanity and her ego. Her surgical overhaul for awards season is truly gruesome, and indeed the outward aspect of the cast in general shows a loving, or rather a loathing, attention to detail. For your consideration: Best Makeup. 2006.
★ (FLOWER HILL 4; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

The Fountain — Loopy science fiction in orbit around the dream of life and love everlasting. It unfolds in three different time zones, that of the Spanish Inquisition, the present day, and some indeterminate future inside a floating bubble in outer space. These three spheres are tied together by the presence in each of them of Rachel Weisz and Hugh Jackman, as, by turns, Queen Isabella and a conquistador called Tomás, commissioned by Her Majesty to find the Tree of Life in the land of the Mayas, and then their apparent reincarnations (or carbon copies or clones or something) in the form of a dying novelist named Izzi, at work on a book titled *The Fountain* about Queen Isabella's quest for the Tree of Life, and her faithful husband Tommy, a research scientist in quest of a cure, and then, lastly, a ghost of her former selves and an ageless hairless Tom, keeping himself alive artificially (on the bark of a Tree of Life, it would seem) while carrying on into eternity seeking a cure for his wife's death, "a disease like any other." The film has uncommon intensity, even if much of that intensity consists of closeups so close that the faces won't fit on the screen, and much of the rest of it consists of our peering into the semidarkness (a darkness that engulfs science labs, hospital corridors, operating rooms, reading lamps) simply to make out what's in front of our eyes. Writer-director Darren Aronofsky, the *Pi* man, has worked things out elaborately in terms of visual and verbal motifs (the tree, the ring, the refrain of "Finish it," and so on), but the spectator might be more compelled to sort it out if he were more compelled to look at it. This is a type of science fiction generally restricted to the printed page and banished from the screen, and it does not here establish much of a beachhead. With Ellen Burstyn. 2006.
★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

F*ck — Steve Anderson's documentary on the "f" word, with appearances by Drew Carey, Ice-T, Bill Maher, Kevin Smith, many others.
(HILLCREST CINEMAS, FROM 12/8)

A Good Year — Self-betterment swill, to do with a cutthroat London bond trader (Russell Crowe, disconcertingly fey) who inherits from his uncle a rundown wine-growing estate in Provence, the happy stamping ground of his boyhood holidays, and who, returning there to sell the place, falls again under its spell — and under that of a hot-as-a-pistol brunette — and recaptures the magic of youth. Ridley Scott (who directed Crowe in *Gladiator*, too) extols the enchantments of bucolic tranquillity in a hectic visual style, and with a busy soundtrack, amounting to self-sabotage. The only bright spots, exactly two of them, are the brief appearances of Valeria Bruni-Tedeschi (a top-line star on the continent) as the hero's French legal advisor, a role that affords her fractionally more screen time than her blink-of-an-eye appearance in *Munich*, plenty long enough to emit a blast of Mediterranean soulfulness. With Marion Cotillard, Abbie Cornish, Tom Hollander, Albert Finney. 2006.
● (GASLAMP 15)

Happy Feet — Computer-animated message movie about the pressure of conformity and (separate message) the plunder of nature, more specifically about a species of pop-song-singing penguins, into whose midst is born a "different," an aberrant, tap-dancing penguin (try, if you can, to put the pudgy trudging birds of *March of the Penguins* out of your mind), and about a runtier breed of Latino penguins, some menacing seabirds, a scary seal, a couple of humongous orcas, and a race of "aliens" who are not computer-animated at all. The interface with these aliens near the end is moderately mind-blowing, if only from a mixed-media standpoint, but the alleged alienness of the human race would carry more rhetorical clout if the penguins hadn't all along been borrowing so freely from its popular culture. (The natural state holds no accommodation for vintage rock-and-roll.) And you cannot feel entirely happy about a happy ending in which it's suggested that humans might show more respect for their fellow creatures on the planet if only the fellows would learn some nifty dance steps. Although the direction by live-action man George Miller has some nice touches and clever angles, the action, approximately 60mph faster than the action in his Mad Max movies, is approximately 65mph *too* fast. With the voices of Elijah Wood, Brittany Murphy, Robin Williams, Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman, Anthony LaPaglia. 2006.
★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Holiday — Reviewed this issue. With Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jude Law, Jack Black, and Eli Wallach; written and directed by Nancy Meyers.
★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 12/8)

The Last King of Scotland — The self-conferred title of Ugandan strongman, and madman, Idi Amin Dada, a facile role for Forest Whitaker, who pitches into it with gusto. The true central character, however, is a fictitious young Scottish doctor (James McAvoy), the President's personal physician, "closest advisor," illicit lover of Wife Number Three, and all-around trivial distraction. With Kerry Washington, Gillian Anderson, Simon McBurney; directed by Kevin Macdonald. 2006.
★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS, THROUGH 12/7; KEN, FROM 12/8)

Little Children — Todd Field's sophomore directing effort, following up his quietly sensationalized *In the Bedroom*, is less quietly sensationalized, in other words more blaringly sensationalized, and truly more sophomoric. The adaptation of a Tom Perrotta novel, complete with a snooty third-person-omniscient (i.e., know-it-all) narrator, undoubtedly tells us less about the malaise of our young middle-class suburban parents today than about the jaded palates of our moviegoers and/or moviemakers. An adulterous playground liaison — between a killingly handsome Mr. Mom (Patrick Wilson, with his Newman-esque blue eyes and jutting upper lip), a graduate of law school but a flunker of the bar exam, and a latter-day Madame Bovary (Kate Winslet, the sleeker edition), who, married to a clod, champions her literary forerunner as a proto-feminist in her book-

MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Call 444-FILM or the theater for missing information. Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

CENTRAL

CLAIREMONT

Town Square 14
4665 Clairemont Drive (858-274-1234)
Apocalypto (R) Fri.,-Sun. (12:35, 3:40) 7:10, 10:15; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (12:25, 3:30) 7:20, 10:30; **Bobby** (R) Fri.,-Sun. 7:45, 10:25; **Borat** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (12:20, 2:25) 5:10, 7:35, 9:45; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (12:05, 3:10) 6:50, 10:00; **Deck the Halls** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (12:00, 2:10) 4:30, 6:40, 9:25; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (12:00, 3:05) 7:05, 10:05; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (12:45, 3:20) 6:45, 9:15; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (12:15, 3:25) 7:00, 10:10; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:55, 12:40, 2:15, 3:00) 4:45, 5:20, 7:15, 9:35; **Stranger Than Fiction** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (12:30, 3:15) 6:55, 9:30; **Turistas** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (2:20) 5:00, 7:50, 10:20; **Unaccompanied Minors** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (12:10, 2:30) 4:55, 7:25, 9:50; **Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (2:00) 4:35, 7:40, 9:55

DOWNTOWN

Gaslamp 15
701 Fifth Avenue (619-232-0400)
Blood Diamond (R) Fri.,-Sat. (1:35, 3:45) 4:55, 7:00, 8:15, 10:25 Sun. (1:40, 3:20) 5:00, 7:00, 8:20, 10:05; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (1:30) 4:20, 7:15, 10:15 Sun. (1:30) 4:20, 7:10, 10:00; **Fast Food Nation** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (1:50) 4:45, 7:35, 10:10 Sun. (2:25) 5:25, 8:15; **Flushed Away** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (2:20) 5:15 Sun. (2:40) 5:10; **A Good Year** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. 7:40, 10:20 Sun. 7:15, 9:55; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (2:10) 5:00, 7:50, 10:30 Sun. (1:50) 4:30, 7:25, 9:55; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (1:30, 3:30) 4:30, 6:45, 7:30, 9:50, 10:35 Sun. (1:45, 3:15) 4:50, 7:05, 8:05, 10:00; **Marie Antoinette** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (1:45) 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 Sun. (2:00) 4:55, 7:50; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (1:55, 2:55) 4:25, 5:30, 7:10, 8:10, 9:45, 10:35 Sun. (2:10, 3:10) 4:45, 5:40, 7:30, 8:10, 9:50; **The Prestige** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (1:35) 4:35, 7:25, 10:15 Sun. (1:35) 4:40, 7:45; **Running with Scissors** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (1:40) 4:25, 7:05, 9:45 Sun. (2:30) 5:15, 8:00; **Stranger Than Fiction** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (2:05) 4:50, 7:45, 10:30 Sun. (1:45) 4:25, 7:20, 9:55; **Turistas** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (2:45) 5:20, 7:55, 10:10 Sun. (2:20) 5:05, 7:35, 9:45

Horton Plaza 14
Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM)
Apocalypto (R) Fri.,-Sun. (12:15, 3:20) 6:45, 10:00 Fri. (12:45, 4:25) 7:30, 10:30 Sat.,-Sun. (12:45) 4:25, 7:30, 10:30; **Babel** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (12:00, 3:25) 7:00, 10:20; **Bobby** (R) Fri. (1:15, 4:20) 7:15, 9:55 Sat.,-Sun. (1:15) 4:20, 7:15, 9:55; **Borat** (R) Fri. (12:05, 2:10, 4:15) 6:25, 8:35, 10:40 Sat.,-Sun. (12:05, 2:10) 4:15, 6:25, 8:35, 10:40; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri. (12:30, 1:00, 3:35, 4:05) 6:40, 7:10, 9:45, 10:15 Sat.,-Sun. (12:30, 1:00, 3:35) 4:05, 6:40, 7:10, 9:45, 10:15; **The Departed** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (11:55, 3:15) 6:30, 9:50; **Flags of Our Fathers** (R) Fri. (1:10, 4:10) 7:05, 10:25 Sat.,-Sun. (1:10) 4:10, 7:05, 10:25; **The Fountain** (PG-13) Fri. (12:50, 3:10, 5:30) 7:50, 10:10 Sat.,-Sun. (12:50, 3:10) 5:30, 7:50, 10:10; **Guadalupe** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (1:05, 3:40) 6:50, 9:30; **Tenacious D in The Pick of Destiny** (R) Fri. (12:40, 3:00, 5:20) 7:45, 10:05 Sat.,-Sun. (12:40, 3:00) 5:20, 7:45, 10:05; **Unaccompanied Minors** (PG) Fri. (12:20, 2:35, 4:50) 7:25, 9:35 Sat.,-Sun. (12:20, 2:35) 4:50, 7:25, 9:35; **Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj** (R) Fri. (12:10, 2:30, 4:55) 7:20, 9:40 Sat.,-Sun. (12:10, 2:30) 4:55, 7:20, 9:40

LA JOLLA

La Jolla 12
8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262)
Apocalypto (R); **Blood Diamond** (R); **Bobby** (R); **Borat** (R); **Casino Royale** (PG-13); **Déjà Vu** (PG-13); **The Fountain** (PG-13); **Happy Feet** (PG); **The Holiday** (PG-13); **The Nativity Story** (PG); **Stranger Than Fiction** (PG-13); **Turistas** (R); **Unaccompanied Minors** (PG); **Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj** (R)

La Jolla Village
8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236)
Babel (R) Fri. 3:00, 7:00, 10:00 Sat.,-Sun. 12:00, 3:00, 7:00, 10:00; **The Cave of the Yellow Dog** (Not Rated) Fri. 2:10, 7:10 Sat.,-Sun. 11:35, 2:10, 7:10; **For Your Consideration** (PG-13) Fri. 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:40 Sat.,-Sun. 12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:40; **The Queen** (PG-13) Fri. 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50 Sat.,-Sun. 11:45, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50; **Shut Up and Sing** (R) Fri.,-Sun. 4:40, 9:55

MIRA MESA

Mira Mesa 18
10733 Westview Parkway (858-635-7700)
Call theater for program information

MISSION VALLEY

Fashion Valley 18
7037 Friars Road (858-558-2262)
Apocalypto (R) Fri.,-Sat. (11:10) 12:10, 2:40, 3:40, 6:05, 7:05, 9:25, 10:20 Sun. (11:10) 1:30, 2:40, 4:50, 6:05, 8:20, 9:25; **Babel** (R) Fri.,-Sun. 12:15, 6:45; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (11:20) 12:05, 2:45, 3:30, 6:10, 7:00, 9:35, 10:25 Sun. (11:20) 12:55, 2:45, 4:25, 6:10, 8:00, 9:35; **Bobby** (R) Fri.,-Sun. 3:35, 10:00; **Borat** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (10:40) 12:45, 3:00, 5:10, 7:35, 9:55; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (11:50) 3:20, 6:40, 10:05; **Deck the Halls** (PG) Fri. (10:35) 3:45, 6:25, 9:00 Sat.,-Sun. (10:35) 1:00, 3:45, 6:25, 9:00; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (10:35) 1:35, 4:40, 7:40, 10:35 Sun. 12:35, 3:40, 6:45, 9:50; **The Departed** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (11:35) 2:55, 6:15, 9:45; **The Fountain** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (11:55) 5:45, 8:15 Sun. (11:30) 4:40, 7:00; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:15) 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (11:45) 3:10, 6:20, 9:40 Fri.,-Sat. (11:45) 12:50, 3:10, 4:00, 6:20, 7:15, 9:40, 10:30 Sun. (11:45) 12:50, 3:10, 4:00, 6:20, 7:15, 9:40, 10:15; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (10:30) 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:05; **Stranger Than Fiction** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (10:50) 1:40, 4:30, 7:25, 10:15 Sun. (10:50) 1:40, 4:30, 7:25, 10:10; **Turistas** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (11:25) 1:55, 4:20, 6:55, 9:15; **Unaccompanied Minors** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:40) 2:10, 4:35, 7:10, 9:30; **Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj** (R) Fri.,-Sat. 2:50, 10:40 Sun. 2:05, 9:20

Mission Valley 7
7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)
Apocalypto (R); **Blood Diamond** (R); **Bobby** (R); **Borat** (R); **Casino Royale** (PG-13); **The Holiday** (PG-13); **The Nativity Story** (PG); **Stranger Than Fiction** (PG-13)

Mission Valley 20
1640 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262)
Apocalypto (R) Fri.,-Sat. 12:15, 1:00, 3:30, 4:15, 6:45, 7:35, 10:05, 10:55 Sun. 12:15, 1:00, 3:30, 4:15, 6:45, 7:35, 10:05; **Babel** (R) Fri. 3:35, 6:55, 10:10 Sat.,-Sun. 12:10, 3:35, 6:55, 10:10; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (11:50) 12:40, 3:10, 4:00, 6:35, 7:20, 9:55, 10:45 Sun. (11:50) 12:40, 3:10, 4:00, 6:35, 7:20, 9:55; **Borat** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (11:45) 2:20, 5:40, 8:10, 10:40; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (11:35) 3:00, 6:25, 10:00; **Deck the Halls** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:25) 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. 1:30, 4:35, 7:50, 11:00 Sun. 1:30, 4:35, 7:40, 10:45; **Flushed Away** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:20) 1:35; **The Fountain** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. 4:05, 7:10, 9:40; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:05) 1:50, 4:45, 7:25, 10:20 Fri.,-Sun. (11:05) 1:50, 4:45, 7:25, 10:20; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. 12:25, 1:15, 3:40, 4:30, 6:50, 7:45, 10:15, 11:05 Sun. 12:25, 1:25, 3:40, 4:30, 6:50, 7:45, 10:15; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:00) 12:00, 1:40, 2:40, 5:15, 7:55, 10:30; **The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause** (G) Fri. (11:30) 2:15, 5:30 Sat.,-Sun. 2:15, 5:30; **Saw III** (R) Fri.,-Sat. 8:05, 10:50 Sun. 8:05, 10:45; **Stranger Than Fiction** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (11:15) 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25 Sun. 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25; **Tenacious D in The Pick of Destiny** (R) Fri.,-Sun. 4:20, 7:00, 9:35; **Turistas** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (11:40) 2:25, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10; **Unaccompanied Minors** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:55) 2:30, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35; **Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (11:10) 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45

STATE UNIVERSITY

Cinerama 6
5831 University Avenue (619-287-8990)
Apocalypto (R) Fri.,-Sat. (3:20) 7:05, 10:10 Sun. (3:20) 7:05; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (3:00) 7:00, 10:00 Sun. (3:00) 7:00; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (3:40) 7:10, 9:55 Sun. (3:40) 7:10; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (3:10) 5:40, 8:15; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (3:30) 5:55, 8:20

Ken
4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)
The Last King of Scotland (R) Fri. 4:15, 7:00, 9:45 Sat.,-Sun. 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

UPTOWN

Hillcrest Cinemas
3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)
The Architect (R) Fri.,-Sun. 2:00, 7:10; **F*ck** (Not Rated) Fri. 4:15, 9:15 Sat.,-Sun. 11:25, 4:15, 9:15; **For Your Consideration** (PG-13) Fri. 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 9:55 Sat.,-Sun. 11:05, 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 9:55; **Little Children** (Not Rated) Fri. 2:10, 5:05, 8:00 Sat.,-Sun. 11:15, 2:10, 5:05, 8:00; **The Queen** (PG-13) Fri. 1:20, 4:05, 6:50, 9:35 Sat.,-Sun. 10:35, 1:20, 4:05, 6:50, 9:35; **Volver** (R) Fri. 1:40, 4:25, 7:00, 9:45 Sat.,-Sun. 10:55, 1:40, 4:25, 7:00, 9:45

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center
1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)
Deep Sea 3D (G) Fri.,-Sat. 12:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 Sun. 12:00, 2:00, 5:00; **Roving Mars** (G) Fri.,-Sun. 1:00, 4:00, 6:00; **Santa vs. the Snowman** (Not Rated) Fri. 3:00, 7:00 Sat. 10:00, 11:00, 3:00, 7:00 Sun. 10:00, 11:00, 3:00

San Diego Natural History Museum
1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821)
An Inconvenient Truth (PG) Fri.,-Sun. 1:00, 3:00; **Ocean Oasis** (Not Rated) Fri.,-Sun. 11:00, 12:00

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON

Parkway Plaza 18
405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456)
Apocalypto (R) Fri. (12:50, 4:05) 7:20, 10:45 Sat.,-Sun. (12:50) 4:05, 7:20, 10:45; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (12:40, 3:55) 7:10, 10:25; **Borat** (R) Fri. (1:15, 3:30, 5:45) 8:05, 10:35 Sat.,-Sun. (1:15, 3:30) 5:45, 8:05, 10:35; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (12:10, 3:35) 6:50, 10:20; **Deck the Halls** (PG) Fri. (12:05, 2:35, 5:10) 7:35, 10:05 Sat.,-Sun. (12:05, 2:35) 5:10, 7:35, 10:05; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri. (1:10, 4:25) 8:00, 11:00 Sat.,-Sun. (1:10) 4:25, 8:00, 11:00; **Flushed Away** (PG) Fri. (11:50, 2:10, 4:35) 6:50 Sat.,-Sun. (11:50, 2:10) 4:35, 6:50; **Guadalupe** (PG) Fri. (11:45, 2:30, 5:15) 8:00, 10:45 Sat.,-Sun. (11:45, 2:30) 5:15, 8:00, 10:45; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri. (11:30, 11:50, 2:10, 2:30, 4:50, 5:10) 7:30, 7:50, 10:10, 10:30 Sat.,-Sun. (11:30, 11:50, 2:10, 2:30) 4:50, 5:10, 7:30, 7:50, 10:10, 10:30; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri. (12:30, 1:00, 3:45, 4:15) 7:00, 7:40, 10:15, 10:55 Sat.,-Sun. (12:30, 1:00, 3:45) 4:15, 7:00, 7:40, 10:15, 10:55; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri. (11:40, 12:00, 2:25, 2:45, 5:05, 5:25) 7:55, 10:25 Sat.,-Sun. (11:40, 12:00, 2:25, 2:45) 5:05, 5:25, 7:55, 10:25; **The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause** (G) Fri. (11:35, 2:20, 4:55) 7:50, 10:20 Sat.,-Sun. (11:35, 2:20) 4:55, 7:50, 10:20; **Stranger Than Fiction** (PG-13) Fri. (11:30, 2:15, 5:00) 7:45, 10:30 Sat.,-Sun. (11:30, 2:15) 5:00, 7:45, 10:30; **Tenacious D in The Pick of Destiny** (R) Fri.,-Sun. 9:10p.m.; **Turistas** (R) Fri. (12:55, 3:20, 5:50) 8:15, 10:40 Sat.,-Sun. (12:55, 3:20) 5:50, 8:15, 10:40; **Unaccompanied Minors** (PG) Fri. (11:40, 2:00, 4:20) 6:40, 9:00 Sat.,-Sun. (11:40, 2:00) 4:20, 6:40, 9:00; **Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj** (R) Fri.,-Sun. 7:40, 10:15

LA MESA

Grossmont Center
Grossmont Center (619-465-7100)
Apocalypto (R) Fri. (1:05) 4:20, 7:40, 10:45 Sat. (1:00) 4:20, 7:40, 10:45 Sun. (1:00) 4:20, 7:30, 10:30; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri. (12:45, 3:50) 7:15, 10:35 Sat. (12:10, 3:45) 7:15, 10:35 Sun. (12:10, 3:45) 7:15, 10:20; **Bobby** (R) Fri.,-Sat. 7:20, 10:00 Sun. 7:20, 9:55; **Borat** (R) Fri. (1:35, 3:40) 5:55, 8:10, 10:15 Sat. (11:45, 1:45, 3:50) 5:55, 8:10, 10:15 Sun. (11:45, 1:45, 3:50) 5:55, 8:05, 10:10; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri. (12:55, 3:55) 7:05, 10:10 Sat. (12:50, 3:55) 7:05, 10:10 Sun. (12:50, 3:55) 7:05, 10:05; **Deck the Halls** (PG) Fri. (2:55) 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 Sat. (12:20, 2:55) 5:15, 7:30,

discussion group — cannot be considered sufficiently spicy without the added tang of a neighborhood sex offender, a vigilante ex-cop with innocent blood on his hands, and a married Internet porn addict in secret correspondence with Slutty Kay. To have three separate male characters masturbate on screen on three separate occasions must set some sort of record. And there's not even any clear evidence of developing skills since the director's freshman effort, which really was praised too highly, perhaps too intoxicatingly. See, for example, the flash-cut fusillade of innocuous bric-a-brac at the outset. Or see the overly choreographed scene at the public swimming pool when the sex offender's arrival in snorkel and flippers gets everyone out of the water faster than if he were a Great White accompanied by the theme from *Jaws*. Or see the treatment of the night-league amateur football players, through distorting wide-angle lenses, as sneering bruisers suitable for an Adam Sandler comedy. In short, see, all too ostentatiously, the director direct. With Jennifer Connelly, Jackie Earle Haley, and Noah Emmerich. 2006.
★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

Marie Antoinette — Sofia Coppola, possibly drunk on power after the reception of *Lost in Translation*, has gained in ambition as an artist without really gaining in confidence as a technician. She has all the costumes her heart could desire, and all the access to Versailles, but her color palette is a bit bleached and her narrative manner rather starchy. (She spends an inordinate amount of time on the delayed consummation of the royal marriage, and then must bustle through the little business of the Revolution.) The foremost sign of her drunkenness, though, is her use of contemporary pop songs on the soundtrack, a lapse in judgment limited pretty much to a quarter-hour stretch, an hour and a quarter into the film. Kirsten Dunst, Jason Schwartzman, Steve Coogan, Judy Davis, Rip Torn, Asia Argento. 2006.
● (GASLAMP 15)

The Nativity Story — Reviewed this issue. With Keisha Castle-Hughes, Oscar Isaac, Ciarán Hinds, and Shohreh Aghdashloo; directed by Catherine Hardwicke.
★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA CAMINO REAL; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Queen — A spot of simulated Royals-watching, ably guided by the seasoned Stephen Frears: a satisfying, if unsurprising and unrevealing and unimaginative re-en-

9:45 Sun. (12:20, 2:55) 5:15, 7:25, 9:40; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (2:00) 4:50, 7:45, 10:40 Sun. (2:00) 4:50, 7:45, 10:30; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri. (2:40) 5:25, 8:00, 10:30 Sat. (12:00, 2:40) 5:25, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (12:00, 2:40) 5:25, 7:55, 10:25; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri. (12:50, 3:45) 7:00, 10:05 Sat. (12:30, 3:35) 7:00, 10:05 Sun. (12:30, 3:35) 7:00, 9:50; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri. (2:20) 4:45, 7:10, 9:30 Sat.,-Sun. (11:50, 2:20) 4:45, 7:10, 9:30; **The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause** (G) Fri. (2:50) 5:00 Sat.,-Sun. (12:40, 2:50) 5:00

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Rancho San Diego 15
2951 Jamacha Road
Call theater for program information

SANTEE

Santee Drive In
10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447)
Casino Royale (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun.; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun.; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sun.; **Unaccompanied Minors** (PG) Fri.,-Sun.

SOUTH BAY

CHULA VISTA

Chula Vista 10
Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)
Apocalypto (R); **Blood Diamond** (R); **Casino Royale** (PG-13); **Déjà Vu** (PG-13); **Guadalupe** (PG); **Happy Feet** (PG); **The Holiday** (PG-13); **The Nativity Story** (PG); **Turistas** (R); **Unaccompanied Minors** (PG); **Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj** (R)

Palm Promenade 24
770 Dennery Road (858-558-2262)
Apocalypto (R); **Babel** (R); **Blood Diamond** (R); **Borat** (R); **Casino Royale** (PG-13); **Deck the Halls** (PG); **Déjà Vu** (PG-13); **The Departed** (R); **Flushed Away** (PG); **The Fountain** (PG-13); **Guadalupe** (PG); **Happy Feet** (PG); **The Holiday** (PG-13); **The Nativity Story** (PG); **The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause** (G); **Saw III** (R); **Tenacious D in The Pick of Destiny** (R); **Turistas** (R); **Unaccompanied Minors** (PG); **Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj** (R)

Rancho Del Rey 16
East H Street (619-216-4707)
Call theater for program information

IMPERIAL BEACH

South Bay Drive-In
2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727)
Call theater for program information

NORTH INLAND

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Carmel Mountain
11620 Carmel Mountain Road (858-674-9770)
Apocalypto (R) Fri.,-Sat. (1:15) 4:15, 7:15, 10:15 Sun. (1:15) 4:15, 7:15; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (1:25) 4:30, 7:35, 10:35 Sun. (12:45) 4:30, 7:35; **Bobby** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (2:15) 7:35 Sun. (12:30) 5:15; **Borat** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (2:20) 5:15, 8:00, 10:00 Sun. (12:20, 2:50) 5:10, 8:00; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (1:20) 4:20, 7:20, 10:25 Sun. (12:00) 4:20, 7:20; **Deck the Halls** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (1:50) 4:45, 7:00, 9:25 Sun. (12:25, 2:35) 4:45, 7:10; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (1:15) 4:10, 7:05, 9:55 Sun. (12:10) 4:10, 7:05; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (1:30) 4:05, 6:55, 9:45 Sun. (12:05, 2:55) 5:25, 7:55; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (1:55) 4:50, 7:50, 10:40 Sun. (1:00) 4:45, 7:50; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (2:00) 5:00, 7:45, 10:05 Sun. (12:35, 3:00) 5:20, 7:45; **The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause** (G) Fri.,-Sat. (2:05) 5:05 Sun. (12:40) 5:30; **Turistas** (R) Fri.,-Sat. 5:10, 10:20 Sun. (3:05) 7:50; **Unaccompanied Minors** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (1:45) 4:25, 6:45, 9:30 Sun. (12:15, 2:30) 4:50, 7:25; **Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj** (R) Fri.,-Sat. 7:55, 10:15 Sun. (2:45) 8:05

ESCONDIDO

Escondido 16
350 W. Valley Parkway (760-291-0119)
Call theater for program information

FALLBROOK

Galaxy 6
5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784)
Apocalypto (R); **Casino Royale** (PG-13); **Happy Feet** (PG); **The Holiday** (PG-13); **The Nativity Story** (PG); **Unaccompanied Minors** (PG)

POWAY

Poway 10
13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423)
Call theater for program information

SAN MARCOS

San Marcos 18
1180 West San Marcos Boulevard at Old California Walk (760-471-3711)
Call theater for program information

VISTA

Vista Village
Highway 78 at Vista Village Drive (760-945-7469)
Apocalypto (R) Fri.,-Sun. (11:35, 12:20, 3:35, 4:20) 6:45, 7:35, 10:00, 10:40; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (11:40, 12:45, 3:15, 4:00) 6:50, 7:45, 10:00, 10:45; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (12:30, 4:00) 7:30, 10:35; **Deck the Halls** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (12:00, 2:20, 4:45) 7:15, 9:40; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (11:00, 1:50, 4:45) 7:40, 10:35; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:05, 1:50, 4:35) 7:15, 9:50; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (11:30, 1:00, 2:40, 4:10) 6:40, 7:40, 9:45, 10:45; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:10, 12:00, 1:40, 2:30, 4:10, 5:00) 7:25, 10:00; **The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause** (G) Fri.,-Sun. (11:00, 1:20, 3:40) 6:05; **Stranger Than Fiction** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. 7:00, 9:40; **Turistas** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:50) 8:10, 10:30; **Unaccompanied Minors** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (12:25, 2:45, 5:05) 7:20, 9:40; **Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj** (R) Fri.,-Sun. 8:20, 10:40

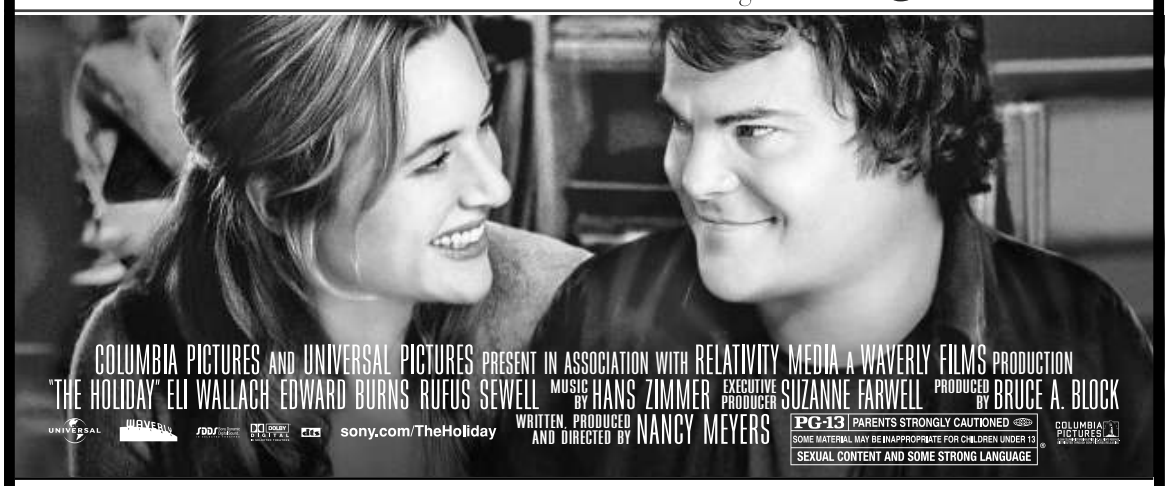
NORTH COASTAL

CARLSBAD

Plaza Camino Real
2385 Marron Road (760-729-7469)
Call theater for program information

"YOU WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH THIS MOVIE."
Mark S. Allen, CBS/CW TELEVISION GROUP

Cameron Diaz · Kate Winslet · Jude Law · Jack Black
a film by Nancy Meyers
the Holiday
from the Director of What Women Want and Something's Gotta Give



STARTS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

PACIFIC THEATRES
CARMEL MOUNTAIN 12
I-15 at Carmel Mountain Road
858/674-9770 #085

★ULTRASTAR
CHULA VISTA 10
Broadway Between H & I
619/338-4214

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RANCHO SAN DIEGO STADIUM CINEMA 15
Hwy. 94 At Campo
800-FANDANGO #132

EDWARDS CINEMAS
SAN MARCOS STADIUM 18
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Apocalypto (R); **Blood Diamond** (R); **Bobby** (R); **For Your Consideration** (PG-13); **The Queen** (PG-13)

ENCINITAS

Encinitas 8
220 North El Camino Real (760-942-5544)
Apocalypto (R); **Borat** (R); **Casino Royale** (PG-13); **Deck the Halls** (PG); **Déjà Vu** (PG-13); **Happy Feet** (PG); **The Holiday** (PG-13); **The Nativity Story** (PG); **Tenacious D in The Pick of Destiny** (R); **Unaccompanied Minors** (PG)

La Paloma
471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-SHOW)
Babel (R); **Stranger Than Fiction** (PG-13)

LA COSTA

La Costa 6
6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga) (760-599-8221)
Apocalypto (R); **Blood Diamond** (R); **Deck the Halls** (PG); **Déjà Vu** (PG-13); **Happy Feet** (PG); **The Nativity Story** (PG)

OCEANSIDE

Mission Marketplace 13
College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-806-1790)
Apocalypto (R) Fri.,-Sun. (12:00, 3:05) 6:40, 9:50; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (12:20, 3:35) 6:35, 9:50; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (11:45, 12:15, 3:00, 3:30) 6:30, 6:50, 9:40, 9:55; **Deck the Halls** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:50, 12:25, 2:20, 3:25) 5:05, 6:45, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (11:40, 3:20) 6:55, 10:10; **Flushed Away** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:55, 2:40, 4:55) 7:20; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:30, 12:05, 2:15, 2:35, 4:45) 5:15, 7:15, 7:45, 9:45, 10:20; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:35, 2:10, 4:50) 7:25, 10:05; **Turistas** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (12:30, 3:10) 5:25, 7:55, 10:15; **Unaccompanied Minors** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (12:10, 2:25, 4:40) 7:00, 9:25; **Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj** (R) Fri.,-Sun. 9:35p.m.

Oceanside 16
401 Mission Avenue (760-439-1733)
Apocalypto (R) Fri.,-Sun. (12:40, 1:10, 3:45, 4:15) 6:50, 7:20, 9:50, 10:20; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (12:50, 3:55) 7:05, 10:00; **Borat** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (11:40, 1:45, 3:45, 5:50) 8:05, 10:35; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (12:25, 3:35) 6:55, 9:55; **Deck the Halls** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (12:10, 2:30, 4:50) 7:10, 9:30; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (12:45, 3:50) 7:00, 10:05; **The Fountain** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (12:30, 3:00, 5:25) 7:55, 10:35; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:35, 2:10, 4:40) 7:15, 9:45; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (1:00, 4:10) 7:35, 10:30; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (12:05, 2:40, 5:00) 7:25, 9:40; **Stranger Than Fiction** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sun. (11:50, 2:25, 5:05) 7:40, 10:15; **Tenacious D in The Pick of Destiny** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (1:05, 3:30, 5:45) 8:00, 10:25; **Turistas** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (12:15, 2:35, 4:55) 7:30, 9:55; **Unaccompanied Minors** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:15, 1:20, 3:25, 5:40) 7:50, 10:05; **Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (12:20, 2:45, 5:20) 7:45, 10:10

actment of what must have gone on behind closed doors in the week after the death of Princess Di, in specific the diplomatic efforts of the newly elected Tony Blair to compel the Royal Family ("a bunch of freeloading, emotionally retarded nutters," in the view of Mrs. Blair) to behave like human beings: "Will somebody please save these people from themselves?" Helen Mirren and Michael Sheen embody Her Majesty and the Prime Minister to two T's. In support of them, James Cromwell at least looks the part of Philip, but plays only one note, and Alex Jennings is a bit short in the snout (in complete contrast to Cromwell) but is otherwise credibly dyspeptic as Charles. The plentiful humor, out of deference to history and living persons, is very mild. 2006.
★★ (FLOWER HILL 4; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

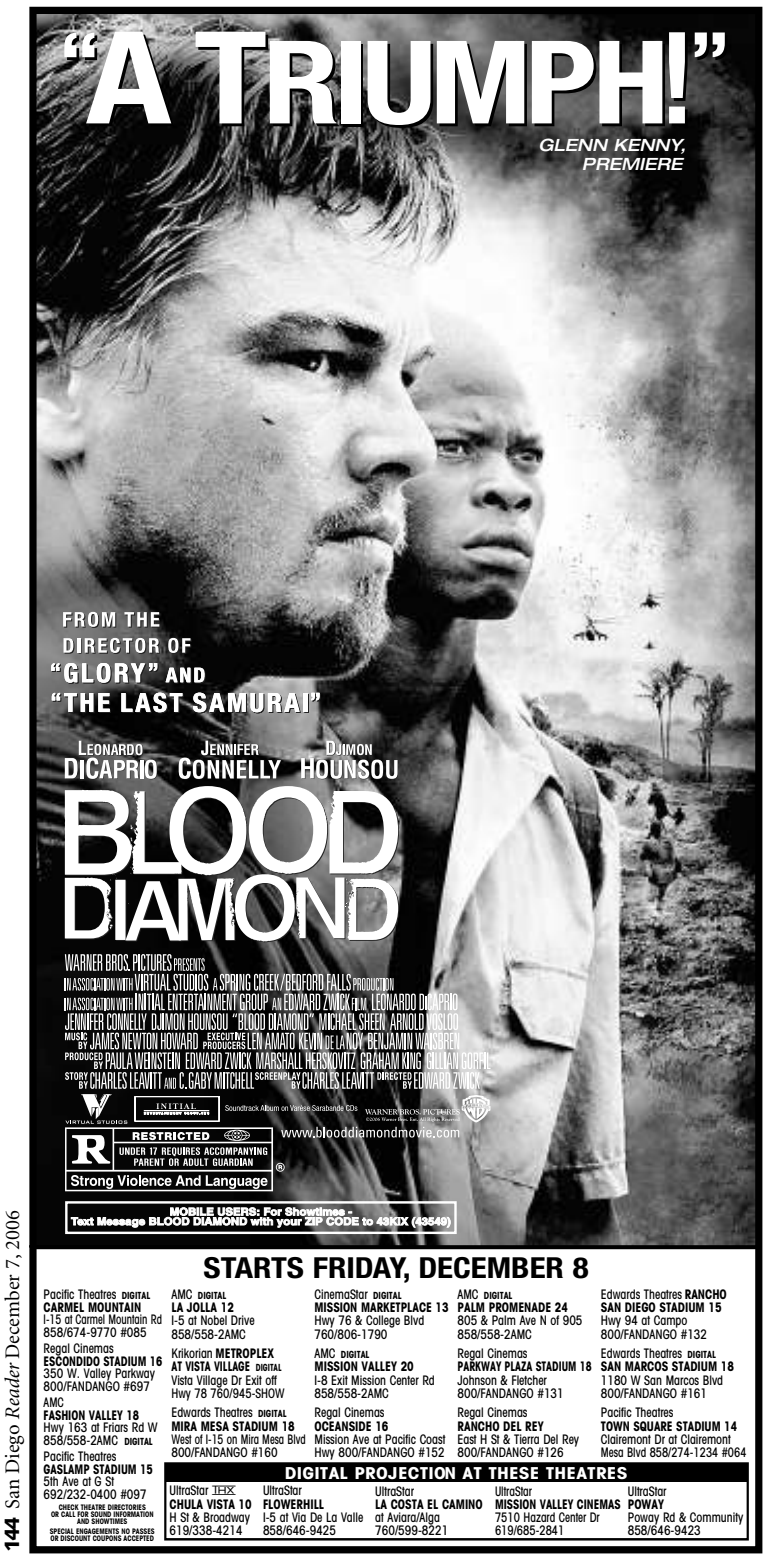
Running with Scissors — Splashy feature debut for the man behind the cable-television series *Nip/Tuck*, writer-director Ryan Murphy, a hey-look-at-me cannonball, adapted from the "memoir" of Augusten Burroughs. Set in the Seventies, it spans his prepubescence ("I guess it doesn't matter where I begin," the narrator comments in voice-over, "because nobody's going to believe me anyway") into his gloomily gay adolescence. In specific, the breakup of his nuclear family — an alcoholic academic father and a psychobabbling self-deluding poet manqué mother ("Augusten, your mother was meant to be a very famous woman") — and his subsequent placement in the foster care of the mother's crackpot analyst, whose first arrival on the scene parodies the arrival of Max von Sydow in *The Exorcist*. (True to the period, for sure.) The boy's second home is no stabler, a pink-painted monstrosity that accommodates a haggard hausfrau who never misses a day of *Dark Shadows* and snacks on dog kibble; two nubile daughters, one coquettishly virginal and one candidly tarty; a cat named Freud; a perennial Christmas tree in the parlor; a never-diminishing pile of dishes in the kitchen; the doctor's private sanctuary known self-explanatorily as his "masturbatorium"; and a trail of neurotic clients prominently including a brooding predatory homosexual. The basic assumption, trendy and trite as can be, is that the more eccentric, the more lunatic the vision of family life, the more truthful and insightful, the more relevant and revealing, it must be. (And never mind how tortuous the route to a punch line: the sole purpose of the dragged-out practical joke of a cat-meat stew is to enable the humorless homosexual to huff off with an "I don't eat pussy!") Annette Bening, whose presence tends to point up the kinship with *American Beauty*, puts on quite a show as the biological mother, running the gamut from the irrepressibly tempestuous ("Get the rage on the page, women," she rails at her fledgling poets' circle) to the chemically tranquillized, with nary a misstep along the way. This is a portrait which, floridness notwithstanding, remains recognizably and humorously human. In most of the rest, the floridness overgrows and obscures. Joseph Cross, Brian Cox, Jill Clayburgh, Gwyneth Paltrow, Evan Rachel Wood, Joseph Fiennes, Alec Baldwin. 2006.
★ (GASLAMP 15)

Shut Up and Sing — Backstage musical documentary, recounting in vivifying detail the vaguely familiar story of how the three Dixie Chicks, "the best-selling female group in history," fresh from their rendition of the National Anthem at the 2003 Super Bowl, and right at the kickoff of their Lipton Tea-sponsored "Top of the World" tour, fell precipitously out of favor with their core country-western audience. How — to get down to a detail or two — the lead singer Natalie Maines, at the dawn of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, shot off her mouth among friends, as it were, the enthusiastic throng at Shepherds Bush in London, to wit, "We're ashamed that the President of the United States is from Texas" (as if Texans have little else to be ashamed of), and how the unscripted remark resulted in a nationwide ban from the C&W airwaves, a strain on relations with Lipton, an open feud with the flag-waving country singer Toby Keith ("We'll put a boot in your ass,/ It's the American way"), and a death threat at a concert in — where else? — Dallas. The group's initial impulse in response to the backlash had been to backpedal: to damage-control, to appease, to apologize, to explain away ("It was a joke made to get cheers and applause"). But the country at the time was in an unforgiving mood: no takesy-backsy. Positions became entrenched; heels got dug in. This, we can recognize, is how wars begin. It is not a simple story, straightforwardly inspirational. It is a complex one, about, among other things, the difficulty of courage (especially when big money is at stake) and the possible attainment of it along a path of regret, hurt, anger, bitterness, resignation, and finally the absence of any other choice. Tortuously inspirational. Documentarist Barbara Kopple, who shares the directing credit with Cecilia Peck, relates the story, as she did in her exemplary *Harlan County, U.S.A.* and *American Dream*, without the common crutches of voice-over narration (clips from newscasts and chat shows unobtrusively serve the purpose) and talking-head interviews (clips from chat shows, once again, excepted), simply by being on the spot during strategy sessions and in the recording studio, hanging around the living quarters, following life as it unfolded. The drama, in the result, seems to move ahead on its own steam, to evolve organically. Of course, in the grand scheme, the career arc of the Dixie Chicks — whose music in the film is abundant though not dominant — may seem quite a small thing. Yet as a symptomatic thing — a test case of the depth or shallowness of Americans' belief in freedom of expression — it is quite a big thing after all. You needn't be a fan of their music to lament the coerced politicization of it. 2006.
★★★★ (KEN, THROUGH 12/7; LA JOLLA VILLAGE, FROM 12/8)

Stranger Than Fiction — The first filmed screenplay of Zach Helm crowds in on the domain of Charlie Kaufman: a Pirandellian brainteaser about a robotic IRS auditor (Will Ferrell, constrained by catatonia) who discovers he is a character in the work-in-progress of a blocked novelist (Emma Thompson) and is slated to die at the end of it. (A new approach, there, to the standard time-travel and second-sight conundrum: can the foreordained be averted through foreknowledge?) He discovers all this when he, and he alone, starts to hear the voice of the omniscient narrator — don't ask how or why — accurately describing his life as he lives it, "but with a better vocabulary," and he then seeks help not from a therapist but from a literary theorist (Dustin Hoffman). The pedantry tends to get in the way of laughs, and the twisted logic sometimes trips up the plot developments (what does the author think she's narrating when her hero is dashing to a phone to dial her own number?), and the voice-over prose samples do not remotely live up to the writer's reputation. Nevertheless, the improbable romance between the inflexible tax man and a civilly disobedient, tropically tattooed baker, currently under IRS scrutiny, is oddly touching, thanks in large part to the touchingly odd line readings of Maggie Gyllenhaal, who can work wonders with an echoic little query like, "You don't like cookies?" And immediately after that, her sensuous recital of the goodies in her early culinary repertoire hovers breathlessly between sheer poetry and utter pornography: "Lemon chiffon cake with zesty peach icing," etc., etc. Directed by Marc Forster. 2006.
★★ (DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; LA PALOMA, FROM 12/8; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Unaccompanied Minors — Holiday comedy, set in Chicago's snowed-in airport, with Dyllan Christopher, Tyler James Williams, and Gina Mantegna, directed by Paul Feig.
(CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA CAMINO REAL; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; SOUTH BAY DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 12/8)

Volver — Almodóvar adds to his familiar sour comedy and mock melodrama the new element of an apparent apparition, a mundane ghost, a flatulent phantom, blended in with the familiar elements in uncertain tone. He shows nary a trace of the erstwhile "bad boy," nothing now but a good, good boy, devoted to mothers in particular, reverential of females in general, the Spanish George Cukor. (The cadaver in the freezer, male, is but a further sign of his respect and his awe.) The result can be recommended to the well-trained legions who are willing to meet this filmmaker seven-eighths of the way. Even the foot-draggers must concede that it's deftly staged and well acted, and that Penélope Cruz, beyond acting well, shines like a star. Or more descriptively, a heavenly body. Carmen Maura, Lola Dueñas, Yohana Cobo, Blanca Portillo. 2006.
★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)



STARTS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

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AMC **FASHION VALLEY 18** Hwy 163 at Friars Rd W 858/558-2AMC DIGITAL
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Krikorian **METROPLEX AT VISTA VILLAGE** DIGITAL Vista Village Dr Exit off Hwy 78 760/945-SHOW
Edwards Theatres DIGITAL **MIRA MESA STADIUM 18** West of I-15 on Mira Mesa Blvd 800/FANDANGO #160
CinemaStar DIGITAL **MISSION MARKETPLACE 13** Hwy 76 & College Blvd 760/806-1790
AMC DIGITAL **MISSION VALLEY 20** I-8 Exit Mission Center Rd 858/558-2AMC
Regal Cinemas **OCEANSIDE 16** Mission Ave at Pacific Coast Hwy 800/FANDANGO #152
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Edwards Theatres **RANCHO SAN DIEGO STADIUM 15** Hwy 94 at Campo 800/FANDANGO #132
Edwards Theatres DIGITAL **SAN MARCOS STADIUM 18** 1180 W San Marcos Blvd 800/FANDANGO #161
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LA SEMANA EN ESPAÑOL

méxico

Nuevo Presidente

Fue durante el primer minuto del primero de diciembre cuando Felipe Calderón Hinojosa asumió la presidencia de la República en la Residencia Oficial de Los Pinos, en donde también tuvo un encuentro con su gabinete.

Calderón dio posesión de sus cargos a los funcionarios del gobierno federal e incluso emitió un mensaje en cadena nacional.

Horas más tarde, Calderón arribó al Congreso de la Unión en donde rindió protesta para convertirse en presidente constitucional de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos.

La ceremonia en el Congreso de la Unión duró menos de cuatro minutos y de ahí el primer mandatario se dirigió al Auditorio Nacional para dar su discurso inaugural.

Entre las medidas anunciadas en ese momento fue la de establecer una política de austeridad que implicó la reducción, en un 10 por ciento, de el sueldo del Presidente y de los miembros de su gabinete.

deportes

Se colaron

El presidente y dueño de las Chivas de Guadalajara, Jorge Vergara, consideró que su equipo tiene todo para convertirse en el próximo campeón del futbol mexicano jugando la serie final ante los Diablos Rojos de Toluca.

"Estoy fascinado porque mis jugadores cumplieron en lo que se habían comprometido, que era llegar a la final", manifestó Vergara Madrigal.

Aunque afirmó que el campeonato del Torneo Apertura 2006 será para su escuadra, el propietario de las Chivas no canta victoria ya que es conciente de que el Toluca es un buen equipo.

"Estamos para ser campeones, ya lo habíamos dicho desde hace un tiempo, apuntó el controvertido propietario de las Chivas de Guadalajara.

La gran final del balompié azteca se efectuará el domingo en la cancha del Toluca.

especial

En la mira

Omar Millán

Diario San Diego

La amenaza constante contra el equipo del semanario Zeta no cesa con la muerte de su fundador J. Jesús Blancornelas.

Pero por salud mental y, sobre todo, para continuar el legado del periodista potosino, los actuales directores del tabloide prefieren olvidarse de esas amenazas y pensar sólo en el siguiente número.

"No podemos trabajar con la incertidumbre de otro posible atentado. Simplemente trabajamos para sacar la próxima edición, procuramos no pensar en eso, sólo trabajamos, como le hubiera gustado a nuestro maestro", dijo la periodista Adela Navarro Bello, quien junto a César René Blanco Villalón, uno de los hijos del finado Jesús Blancornelas, dirige desde febrero pasado el Semanario Zeta.

Desde que Blancornelas dejó la dirección de Zeta, los nuevos directores manifestaron que la línea editorial continuaría igual de firme.

¿Conoce la nueva ley del 2006?

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Cynthia Riley
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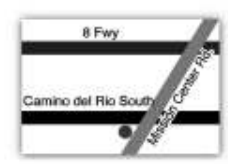

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región

Diario San Diego

Promesa

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Crecen decomisos

América Barceló

San Diego

En el último año fiscal el decomiso de drogas incautadas por agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza en San Diego aumentó 63 por ciento con respecto al 2005.

De septiembre del 2005 a octubre del 2006, los agentes de la corporación de seguridad fronteriza interceptaron 50 mil 735 libras de narcóticos.

Los decomisos en mariguana incrementaron de 31 mil 019 libras a 48 mil 133 libras.

Las intercepciones de cocaína aumentaron de 81 libras a 309 libras, lo que representó un duro golpe para los narcos.

En el sector fronterizo de San Diego los decomisos de drogas han seguido aumentando y tan sólo en los dos meses que lleva el nuevo año fiscal 2007 se han decomisado siete mil 808 libras de mariguana.

Esta cifra es importante ya que representa un incremento del 37 por ciento en decomisos de mariguana en tan sólo dos meses.

La continua vigilancia de los agentes en la frontera dio como resultado la prevención de la entrada ilegal de narcóticos valuados en cerca de 50 millones de dólares.

De acuerdo a la agencia federal, el aumento en los decomisos de narcóticos se debe a los nuevos mecanismos de vigilancia.

turismo

Rompe barreras

Vuela alto

El vuelo Tokio – Tijuana de Aeroméxico es una ruta fundamental de negocios entre México y Oriente; hasta ahora es utilizada por algunos empresarios de las mil 500 compañías asiáticas establecidas en Baja California.

Sin embargo, la empresa aérea mexicana pretende que la promoción del vuelo incentive los viajes de placer.

Desde el 18 de noviembre pasado, cuando llegó el tercer Boeing 777 de Aeroméxico a Tijuana, los otros dos son utilizados para traslados a París y a Madrid, procedente del Aeropuerto de Narita en Tokio, Japón, comenzó esta nueva aventura: por vez primera una aerolínea latinoamericana volaba hacia el continente asiático.

"La pretensión de Aeroméxico ha sido crecer internacionalmente. Se habían hecho diversos estudios del vuelo en los últimos años, un plan de análisis, hasta que por fin se logró", señaló Silja Ramírez, gerente de ventas de Aeroméxico – Tijuana.

El mercado al que buscar llegar Aeroméxico con el vuelo Tokio – Tijuana, además de ofrecerlo a empresarios asiáticos en Baja California y el resto de México, es el de mexicoamericanos del Sur de California.

Los precios del vuelo en clase turista empiezan en 840 dólares, viaje redondo, agregó la ejecutiva; mientras que en clase premier empiezan en 4 mil 100 dólares.

san diego

Arresta policía a presuntos asesinos

Caen homicidas

Después de nueve meses de dolor y desconsuelo, la familia Mattia confrontó a cara a los asesinos de dos jóvenes que la noche del 1 de marzo vieron truncados sus sueños al ser brutalmente asesinados.

La semana pasada fueron identificados y presentados en corte los dos homicidas que a sangre fría asesinaron a Heather Mattia y su empleado Faris Eiso en la licorería granada de El Cajon.

Los dos sospechosos de cometer el doble homicidio ya se encuentran tras las rejas enfrentando dos cargos de asesinato y robo a mano armada.

La joven propietaria de la licorería, Heather Mattia, y su empleado de origen iraquí, fueron acribillados por presuntamente por Anthony James Miller de 21 años residente de Alpine y Jean Pierre Rices de 25 años.

Ambos asaltantes fueron identificados después de varios meses de investigación en esfuerzos conjuntos de la Policía de El Cajon y la oficina del alguacil que siguieron las pistas de los despiadados criminales.

Ambos criminales se presentarán en corte el próximo 22 de enero y en caso de ser hallados culpables podrían recibir la sentencia de la pena de muerte.

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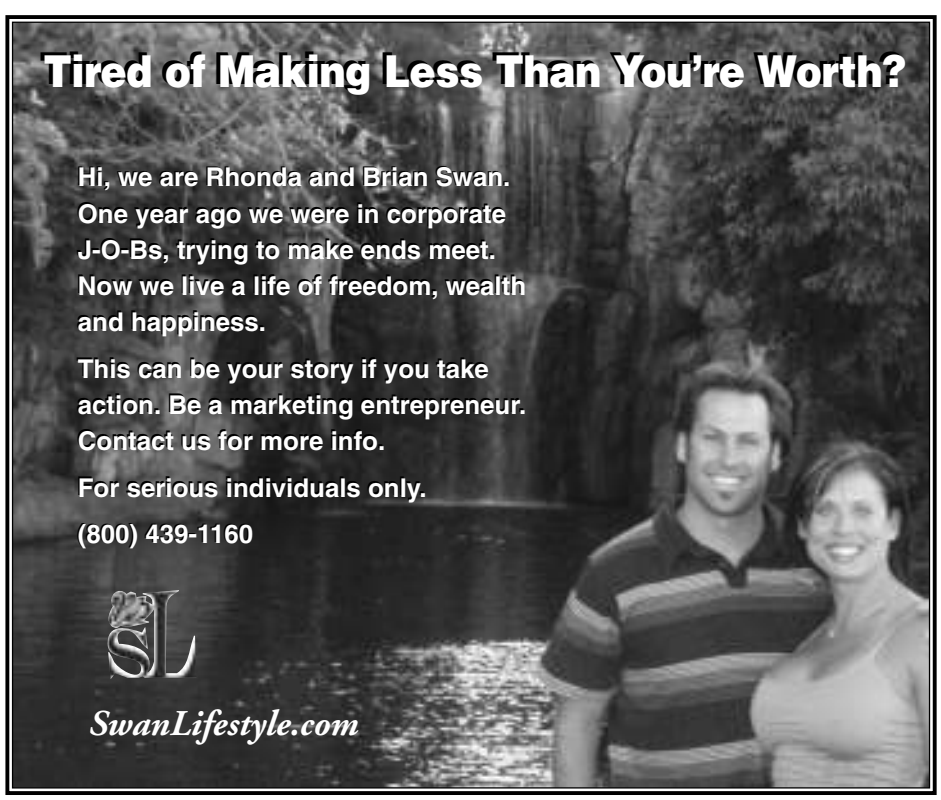

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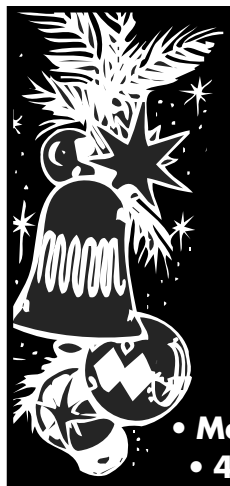

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CONSTRUCTION: Project Managers, Service Technicians, Installers. Seeking motivated, organized people experienced with design, blueprints, A/V systems installation. Benefits offered. Send resume: dplotkin@audioassociates.com; fax 619-461-9469. EOE.

COOK/GRILL. Full time, 2 years kitchen experience required. Must be able to work nights/weekends. Located in the Gaslamp District. Call: 619-571-5401. 11am-3pm.

COOKIE AND CAKE DECORATOR. Immediate opening for conscientious, creative, trained cookie decorator. Mira Mesa area. Part time or full time. Previous experience a must! E-mail sharon@benefit1bakery.com. Phone 858-453-9084. Fax 858-453-7273.

CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY PROBATION Officer I. County of San Diego Probation Department now hiring. Test Date: December 9, 2006, 8am, Montgomery Middle School, 2470 Ulric Street, San Diego 92111. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen or becoming a citizen. Pass criminal/personal background investigation. No felony convictions. High school diploma/GED. $34,028-$43,430/year. www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation. Jobline: 858-514-8558.

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER AND Youth Correctional Officer opportunities at 41 adult and juvenile facilities throughout California. Earn over $70,000 a year and receive good benefits. Must be a U.S. Citizen (or applied); at least 21 years old; possess a highschool diploma/GED; be in good physical condition; and have no felony convictions. Apply online: www.CDCR.ca.gov. California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. For more information, visit our web site at www.cdcr.ca.gov or call toll-free at 1-866-232-JOBS.

COSMETOLOGY INSTRUCTORS. Creative? Inspiring? Join our team of career-focused professionals. Estheticians, Cosmetologist, HHP/Massage Therapist and Manicurist positions available. California licensed. Paid training, day and evening schedules. Salary plus benefits. 3 years combined school and work experience required. Call Patricia: 858-748-1490.

COUNSELOR for adolescent day treatment program. BA/BS in Psychology or similar and 1-year experience with SED adolescents or children required. Applicants with residential or day treatment experience are encouraged to apply. Mental Health Systems, Inc. is a large not-for-profit, EOE, offers excellent benefits and opportunity for advancement. E-mail resume frontier-pm@mhsinc.org or fax 619-596-4840.

CRAFTSMAN, for national remodeling company. Up to $1200/week, average $28-$32/hour. Full time/part time hours. Experience with tools and transportation. South County 619-584-5555, North County 760-607-9977.

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CUSTOMER SERVICE. Immediate openings for the best of the best! Seasonal position. Answer incoming calls, help customers place orders, resolve issues, field questions. Fun 24/7 environment. $10/hour with opportunity for seasonal increases. Mira Mesa/Sorrento Valley. E-mail resume: marissarauch@spherion.com. Fax: 858-909-4201.

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CUSTOMER SERVICE/BLOCK CLERK for growing San Diego auto wholesale business. Part time, Thursday mornings and some Tuesday afternoons. Basic computer knowledge, data entry and good listening skills. Must have the ability to type 32 words per minute. Pre-employment drug screen and background check required. Apply online at www.adesainc.com and/or in person at 2175 Cactus Road, San Diego, CA 92154. 619-661-5565. EOE.

CUSTOMER SERVICE/ASSEMBLER required for family-owned dry cleaners in Pacific Beach. 858-581-0830.

CUSTOMER SERVICE/CASHIER needed part time for Lindbergh Parking, Inc. Apply in person, Monday-Friday, 8am-3:30pm to parking office 3705 North Harbor Drive, San Diego 92101. Take terminal #2 exit into parking lot, make first right turn toward terminal #2 building, and turn right again. Office is across from U.S.O. Contact: Estella Schweikert, 619-291-2087.

CUSTOMER SERVICE/SALES. $10-$12/plus bonuses! Canvassers and Customer Service. Experience is a plus but not required. Work 1-5pm Monday-Friday, 10am-3pm Saturday. No sales experience necessary. Full time available. Call immediately! 619-258-6970.

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CUSTOMER SERVICE Representative. Fast pace local office of international franchise. Full-time opening in Mission Valley. Requisites: Strong telephone and customer service skills. Outgoing personality; enjoys working with people. Able to manage small business details. Work independently. Computer skills, 40 wpm. Knowledge of home repair and light remodeling a plus. Competitive wages with benefits and incentive plan available. For immediate consideration call 619-584-5557.

DATA ENTRY/CUSTOMER SERVICE Reps. Immediate temp-hire and direct-hire opportunities. Apply Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm: Westaff, 9449 Balboa Avenue #102, San Diego 92123. E-mail resume to: casandiego@westaff.com. 858-576-1001.

DELI DELIVERY/HELPER. Needed immediately. Apply in person: Sandwich Island, 7350 Trade Street, 92121. Or call before 3pm Monday-Friday, 858-695-8808.

DELIVERY DRIVER. Seeking Drivers for artisan bread company. Graveyard shift experience preferred; will train. Shifts 3am-11am. Clean DMV and drug screen required. Call Joe, 619-666-0736.

DELIVERY DRIVER/HELPERS. Full-time and part-time. Experienced, heavy lifting (75-150 lbs). Includes weekends. Great benefits. Apply in person: Raphael's Party Rentals. 8606 Miramar Road. E-mail: hr@raphaels.com; Fax: 858-689-8040. Drug-free workplace/EOE.

DELIVERY DRIVER needed for deli in Mission Valley, Monday through Friday, 9am-2pm. Requires own car. Call 619-296-3354.

DENTAL TECHNICIAN. Denture experienced, full time/day time position, must know how to read instructions in English and speak some English. Must be punctual! 619-723-0585.

DEPUTY SHERIFF and Deputy Sheriff Detentions/Courts. San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Hiring for two types of positions; take one exam, apply for either or both! Exam dates: Thursday, December 14, 2006, 12:30pm arrival (you must register by e-mail to take this exam: Recruit@sdsheriff.org): Sheriff's Administration Center, 9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego CA 92123 or Saturday, December 16, 2006, 7am arrival: Rancho Buena Vista High School, 1601 Longhorn Drive, Vista CA 92083. Detention/Courts: $37,901-$58,675 annual salary, plus benefits. Must be 18 years old. Deputy Sheriff: $47,338-$67,714 current annual salary, plus benefits. U.S. citizen or applied for citizenship; 20-1/2 years old. High school graduate or G.E.D. required. Bring valid photo ID, #2 pencil and $3 parking at Southwestern. Valid California Driver's License prior to appointment. Effective oral and written communication in English. EOE. Additional test dates: www.joinsdsheriff.net. 858-974-2000.

DISPATCH CLERK. Excellent phone and computer skills. Experienced only. The Plumber Man, Inc. Call 280-8954, fax resume with salary history to 619-280-9150 or e-mail tania.nole@plumbermaninc.com.

DISPATCHERS. California Highway Patrol is now hiring Public Safety Dispatchers II. Applications must be postmarked by March 8, 2007. For additional information and application, check www.chp.ca.gov or stop by your local CHP office. CHP is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Call 858-637-3863.

DOG BRUSHER/BATHER. Temporary holiday work: Wednesday-Saturday days. Fun, busy environment. Experience helpful. Call 858-456-1552 or apply Wednesday-Saturday: 508 Nautilus Street, La Jolla.

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DRIVER/SECRETARY for medical lab. Part time, Monday-Friday, noon-6pm. Use your own car to pick up/deliver medical specimens, also some typing/computer inputting. $8/hour plus mileage. 619-226-2854.

DRIVER/COURIER. Full/part time delivery routes available. Must have own reliable vehicle and clean DMV. Wage plus mileage. Will train. 24-hour Jobline: 800-574-3726.

DRIVER/MERCHANDISER. Energetic, dependable, well groomed individual with outgoing personality and great people skills needed for making store deliveries in San Diego, Orange County and LA areas, merchandising and performing warehouse work. Must have clean DMV record and be willing to work early, flexible hours. Mira Mesa area. Prior experience with delivery and merchandising a must. Bilingual a plus. Salary based on experience. Call 858-453-9084, fax 858-453-7273 or e-mail sharon@benefit1bakery.com.

DRIVERS WANTED. Requires valid CA driver's license, current H-6 DMV printout and good, safe driving skills. Hourly/commission/tips. Call 619-591-0303 or fax resume to 619-591-0300. Xpress Shuttle, 1065 Bay Boulevard, Suite B, Chula Vista, CA 91911.

DRIVERS, COMPANY and Owner Operators. Fast-growing trucking company has positions in San Diego, Los Angeles, Calexico and Phoenix for class A and C Employee Drivers and Independent Owner Operators. Competitive pay, health benefits, 401(k). Must have 2 years driving experience, good driving record. Apply in person: Fastrucking, 6060 Nancy Ridge Drive, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92121. Apply online: www.fastrucking.com.

DRIVERS, DELIVERY. Part-time, 10am-2pm, Monday-Friday (pick your days). Corporate catering/deliveries from nice restaurants in Mira Mesa area. Need car, insurance, decent DMV. 888-DDI-WORK(888-334-9675), www.d-d-i.com.

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DRIVERS. Delivery service seeking drivers class A or B for local deliveries, full time. Experience a plus. Also, drivers with own pickup and shell or van for full and part time delivery routes. Clean DMV. Excellent benefits. Apply in person: 5985 Pacific Center Boulevard #210, San Diego, 92121 or call 800-743-1139.

DRIVERS. Dominion Distribution is looking for part-time Drivers to deliver free publications on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. You must have a truck, van or SUV and be currently insured. Call Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, 858-279-3137 x243.

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DRIVERS. Transportation services provider for seniors and disabled. Great pay! At Your Home Familycare. E-mail: homecarejobs@atyourhomefamilycare.com. Call toll free: 1-877-903-JOBS.

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DRIVERS: MORTUARY DRIVERS. Growing transportation company has full-and part-time openings for reliable employees. Good driving record, heavy lifting and clean background check required. Healey, Scott & Bradt, 1068 Broadway, Suite 207, El Cajon, CA 92021. 619-441-9867.

DRIVERS: READY MIX DRIVERS for our plant located in Otay Mesa. No experience necessary. Class B license with air brake and tank endorsements required. We offer excellent pay, 401(k), health/eye/dental insurance, paid vacation and training. Contact Associated Ready Mixed Concrete, Inc., 310-600-1238.

DRIVERS wanted! We offer top miles and pay plus great home time and a steady lifestyle. We have immediate openings for Regional Drivers. Call today! 800-346-2818 x322. Para posiciones bilingues llame al 888-535-7089. www.werner.com. EOE.

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E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org

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Must speak, read, & understand English, & be avail to work weekends, early AM shifts (4am), nights & holidays. We offer free meals, medical/dental benefits, subsidized transportation... and more.

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Apply by 12/12/06. For application instructions visit us online at: **http://joblink.ucsd.edu** and reference job #41434. EEO/AAE

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EMTs: Come join the team now! All positions: EMTs, Dispatchers, Wheelchair Van Drivers. Top pay! MedFleet Ambulance, 3479 Kurtz Street, San Diego, 92110. 619-222-2244. Apply: www.medfleetambulance.com.

ENGINEER. Continuous Computing Corporation has a Lead Software Engineer position available at our San Diego office: Responsible for telecom software applications life cycle [job code: 83021-32599]. Bachelors or equivalent foreign degree in Computer Science & Engineering, Engineering, or Computer Science and five (5) years of progressive experience in telecom software applications development. Experience must include protocols wireless products and technologies, such as GSM, MPLS. Must also have experience in system architecture. Mail resumes to Continuous Computing Corporation, Attention: Human Resources, 9380 Carroll Park Drive, San Diego, CA 92121. Please reference job code.

ENTERTAINMENT. Sea World hiring Seasonal and Part-time positions: Guest Relations, Sales and Park Operations. Looking for a fun job? Come and ride the wave of opportunity. Seasonal: Guest Relations Representative, Park Operations Host/Hostess (Tolls, Happy Harbor and Admissions), Park Prep Host/Hostess, Ride Operator III, Sales Associate (Games), Sales Associate III, Security Ambassador, Server, Stadium Sales Clerk and Stroller Services Employee. Must meet minimum requirements for available positions. EOE. M/F/V/D. Details: SeaWorldjobs.com. Apply in person: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm: 500 Sea World Drive, San Diego 92109. Jobline: 619-226-FUN-1. 619-226-3842.

ESTHETICIAN. Part-time licensed Esthetician for up and coming spa. TL Spa & Wellness, 3740 Sports Arena #5, 92110. Rachael Bond, 619-523-0130.

EVENT/GAME STAFF. Fun! Interactive game rental company hiring staff for corporate parties and events. Will train. Flexible schedule. Some heavy lifting. $9-$10/hour to start. Information and fill out application: www.partypals.com/job.html.

FIRE SAFETY TECH. Fire safety company seeks system/extinguisher technician. Willing to train. Must be outgoing, well organized and have ability to work with little supervision. Clean DMV required. EOE. 619-670-3500, x10.

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FITNESS: PERSONAL TRAINER. Part time for private one-on-one training facility. Degree/certification preferred. Knowledge of weight training/nutrition and health issues. Many career opportunities available. No sales required. 858-454-7774.

FOOD SERVICE MANAGER. UCSD Dining Services seeks energetic professional to manage busy campus restaurant. Proven experience in food service operations management, excellent customer service. Bachelor's degree in Food Service Management. Hiring salary: $31,404-$38,433 plus benefits. Background check required. Apply by 12/12/06, by visiting: http://joblink.ucsd.edu (reference job #41434). EEO/AAE.

FORKLIFT OPERATORS, General Warehouse, Q/A Inspector and Assemblers (soldering experience). Immediate openings! Apply Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm: Westaff, 9449 Balboa Avenue #102, San Diego 92123. E-mail resume to: casandiego@westaff.com. 858-576-1001.

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GAME TEST ANALYST. 18 years or older, clean record, open schedule. Systems/network knowledge. Bonus incentives. Call Yvette, 858-569-7555 or yvette@socalstaffing.com.

GENERAL LABOR: Event Production company seeking Set/Strike Personnel to set up, tear down, load and unload props. Flexible hours. Own transportation and valid driver's license required. Apply 10am-1pm Monday/Tuesday: 7140 Engineer Road, 92111.

GENERAL OFFICE CLERK. Well-established commercial insurance company. Copying, filing, sorting and making packets. Must demonstrate strong attention to detail, flexibility and ability to work well under minimum supervision. Call Heather Bowman, AppleOne branch: 858-490-6470.

GENERAL: BELL RINGERS. The Salvation Army seeks temporary seasonal workers. Hours to be arranged. Salary from $6.75/hour. Apply: 4170 Balboa Avenue, San Diego, 92117. 858-483-1831.

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Contact Becky Sergi:
(858) 565-8068 ext. 343
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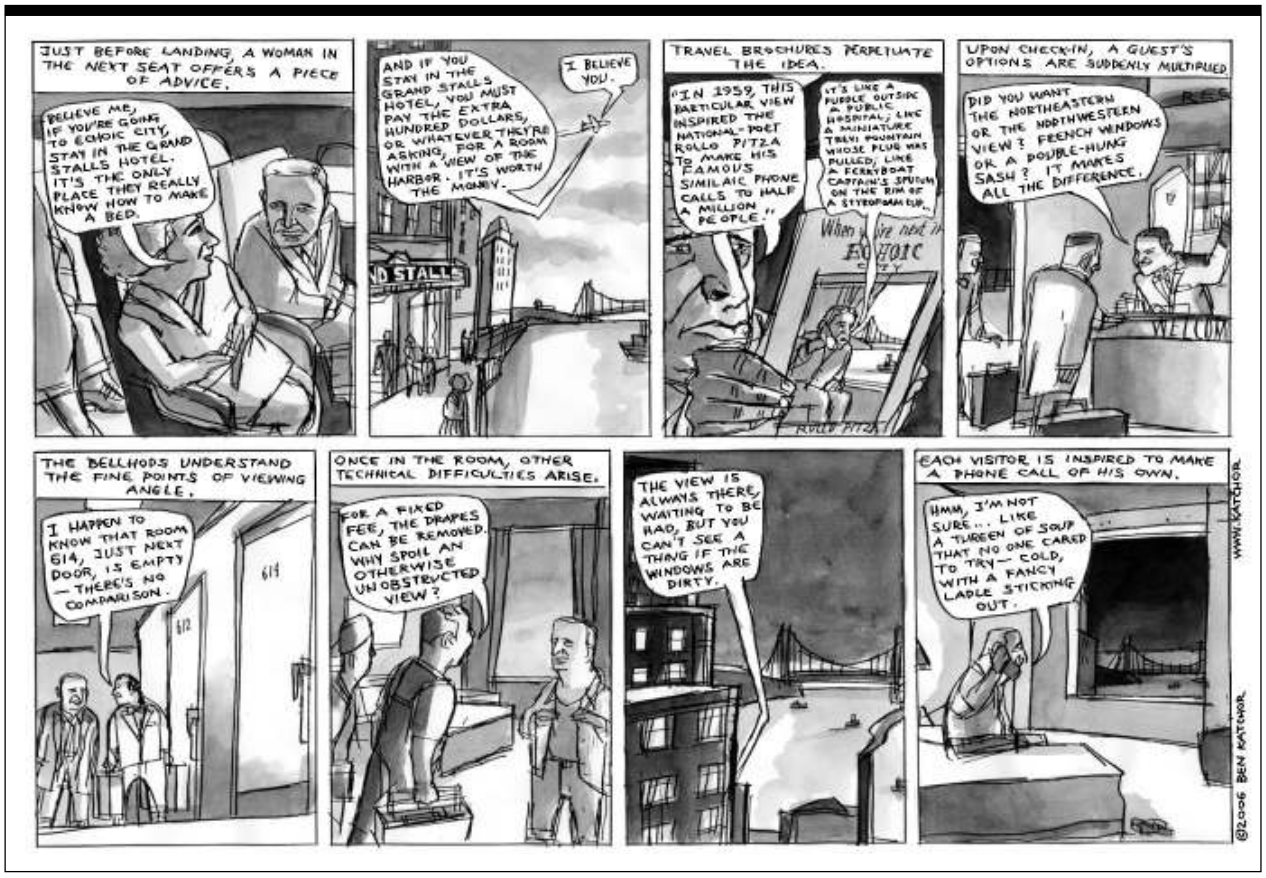
10025 Mesa Rim Road, San Diego, CA 92121

HOTEL & FARM

by Ben Katchor ©2006



GENERAL: NORTHWEST EXTERIORS, "Leaders in Home Improvement," hiring: Customer Service, Administration, Sales, Installers (windows, siding, etc.). Call 858-536-4200 9am-3:30pm, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday only for interview.

GOVERNMENT/POSTAL JOBS. $16-$45/hour plus full benefits. Immediate openings. San Diego and Southern California jobs. Call for info & interviews, 858-277-2029.

GROCERY. Whole Foods Market, La Jolla is now hiring career-minded, enthusiastic Customer Service Team Members. All shifts. Medical, dental, vision, 401(k). Apply online: www.wholefoods.com or at 8825 Villa La Jolla Drive, La Jolla 92037. 858-642-6700.

GUARDS/SECURITY. Join the #1 Security Team, where people make the difference. Call Securitas, the largest, most respected security company in the world! Countywide positions available. Free Guard Card training. Medical/dental/vision and 401(k), excellent working environment, free uniforms. San Diego: 619-641-0049; San Marcos (North County): 760-591-3733; Temecula: 951-676-3954. EOE/drug free.

HAIR SALON: HAIR DESIGNERS, Eyebrow Expert, Manicurist. Busy Gaslamp salon seeking booth renters. Walk-ins available! Great urban loft environment, convenient parking. Move-in incentives. 619-231-7588.

HAIRSTYLIST, MANICURIST and Esthetician: Hiring Assistant for full-service salon in Clairemont. Willing to train. Full time/part time. 5915 Balboa Avenue. Call 858-278-1128.

HAIRSTYLIST. Booth available for rent for Stylist with clientele. Busy Rancho Bernardo shopping center. Some walk-ins and parking available. Leave a message at 858-442-8531.

HAIRSTYLIST. Booth available in upscale, educational based salon in North Park. Team oriented environment. Call Cristina at 619-543-0022, Salon Cabana, 2200 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego, 92104.

HAIRSTYLIST. Booth for rent in busy Pacific Beach salon. Available December 26. Contact Caprice at 858-272-6006.

HAIRSTYLIST. Gloss, a new salon in the 4S Ranch area is looking for energetic, innovative stylists committed to artistic excellence and continued growth through education. Gloss Salon is located in the soon to be open 4s town centre. This Upscale, high traffic location provides an opportunity for development of a quality clientele. If you would like to join our team, send your resume to: glosssalon@yahoo.com or call 760-736-8550.

HAIRSTYLIST/ESTHETICIAN with established clientele. Booth rental; reasonable rates! Small salon with private atmosphere. Rancho Penasquitos area. Plaza Beauty Supply and Salon. 858-484-1777.

HAIRSTYLISTS/MANICURISTS. Large, private booths. Part/full time. Full-time rental-$140 weekly. $2000 moving allowance. Great place to move your clients. Free reception/phone/towels. 100% retail. Golden Touch, near Fashion Valley. 619-972-7744.

HAIRSTYLISTS needed for a hip, new salon. No clientele needed! We need you now. Great benefits package includes health insurance. 858-336-7860.

HANDYMAN. Experience preferred. Comfort Inn, Escondido. Call Luisa at 760-489-1010.

HEALTH CARE: Attentive Home Care has immediate assignments for Live-in Caregivers, CNAs, HHAs and hourly Caregivers--part time or full time. 3 years experience and CA ID or driver's license, Social Security card required. Fingerprint and TB test a plus. Flexible schedules. Overtime for holidays. Health insurance and employer-matched 401(k) benefits available. Call for an interview in North County or San Diego: 760-434-4393 or 619-231-0151. Or apply in person 10am-3pm, Tuesday-Thursday: 2333 1st Avenue, Suite 205, San Diego, CA 92101. *Please bring valid fingerprint card, TB test, Social Security card and California ID.

HEALTHCARE. Vista Community Clinic, a private, nonprofit outpatient community clinic serving North San Diego County for over 30 years, has immediate full/part time openings. Bilingual. Medical Records, Medical Receptionist, Registered Dental Assistant, Dental Receptionist, Prenatal Health Aide, Health Educator/HIV. EOE/F/M/D/V. Resume: joinvcc@vistacommunityclinic.org. Fax: 760-414-3702. www.vistacommunityclinic.org.

HEALTHCARE. We are growing! Caregivers, full time and part time, day shift. Belmont Village, a beautiful, upscale senior living community near Highway 15 and Poway Road, is looking for Caregivers. This is a fun job with lots of resident contact-- perfect for a smiling people person! 1 year experience preferred. Excellent pay/bonus opportunity. To apply, call our 24-hour job hotline: 1-800-483-2098. Belmont Village at Sabre Springs, 13075 Evening Creek Drive, San Diego, CA 92128. EOE.

HEALTHCARE/CAREGIVERS. North County needs light housekeeping, meal preparation, transportation assisting seniors in their homes. Requires: caring, compassionate, dependable, reliable vehicle/clean DMV. Flexible hours, competitive/weekly pay. Apply weekdays, 8:30am-4:30pm: Right at Home, 16486 Bernardo Center Drive, #124, San Diego 92128. E-mail: employment@rahencinitas.com; 858-451-7844.

HEALTHCARE: RNs, LVNs, AIDES. Join La Jolla Nurses! Looking for Home Health Aides, ongoing assignments. Also per diem work--you pick the days, hours and shifts! Competitive pay rates, excellent work assignments. Employee-owned agency--you receive shares of company stock free! State-licensed home health agency. Medical, dental and vision benefits; 401(k) plan, referral bonus. La Jolla Nurses HomeCare, 858-454-9339.

HEALTHCARE: ManorCare Health Services is hiring RNs (significant sign-on bonus), CNAs ($750 sign-on bonus), DSD and Food Service Worker (no experience necessary). Great pay and benefits, advancement opportunities! HCR Manor Care, Attn: Human Resources, 944 Regal Road, Encinitas CA 92024. 760-944-0331. Fax 760-933-1674. Apply online at www.hcr-manorcare.com. EEO/Drug-free employer.

HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING Techs or Plumbers with or without experience needed immediately! Work for a national leader in the service industry, ARS (American Residential Services of California, Inc.). We offer technician training programs, great benefits. Must have clean DMV and valid California driver's license. ARS is a drug-free work environment. CSL#791820. To apply online: www.jobswithars.com; or call toll free: 866-852-5404.

HIRING FAIR! Jimbo's--Naturally! December 9, 10am-4pm: Del Mar store, 12853 El Camino Real, San Diego 92103; 858-793-7755. Hiring for our new 4-S Ranch (West Rancho Bernardo) store! Clerk and Management positions: Cashiers, Deli Counter, Kitchen, Produce, Grocery, Meat, Vitamins, Demo/Events and Scanning. Also hiring for Carlsbad, Del Mar and Escondido stores. Competitive pay, bonuses, medical, dental, 401(k), tuition reimbursement, more! www.jimbos.com.

HOSPITALITY: Senior resort retirement community seeking Driver with Class B license and passenger endorsement, part time; LVNs, CNAs and Caregivers for various shifts; entry-level Gardener, full time Monday-Friday; Security Guard, concierge-type position, part time weekends, no experience required. Apply: Wesley Palms, 2404 Loring Street, Pacific Beach 92109. Donna, 858-581-8569.

HOTEL. Busca trabajo? El Hotel Lodge at Torrey Pines ofrece salarios competitivos, almuerzo gratis, seguro de vida, medico, dental y mucho mas! Supervisor de Lavaplatos, Cocineros, Lavaplatos, Pintor, Recamareras. Aplicar en persona: 11480 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037. Fax: 858-554-0472; www.lodgetorreypines.com, EOE.

HOTEL. Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa, a 4-Diamond Hotel, recently named one of the "Hottest new Hotels in the World" seeks: Assistant Controller, National Sales Manager, Cooks, Banquet Housepersons, Stewards, Housekeepers. Ap-

HELP WANTED

Resort:

Full-service destination RV resort is currently seeking friendly and qualified applicants for the following positions:

Campland on the Bay

- **Market Shift Leader** (PT)
- **Market Clerks** (PT)
- **Cafe Food Server/Cashier** (PT)
- **Landscaper** (FT)
- **Shuttle Bus Driver** (PT)

Resort perks include free non-motorized boat rentals and resort discounts!

Please apply: Mon.-Fri., 8 am-noon or 1-5 pm,
2211 Pacific Beach Drive, San Diego, CA 92109
We are located on the beautiful Mission Bay.

Please call our Jobline for changes in available positions.

JOBLINE: 858-581-4208

EOE

Residential Care Specialist

...The stay is short, but the rewards are sweet!

Seeking optimistic adults to provide a supportive home to teens for a 9-12 month period with financial reimbursement.

Walden's MTFC program is:

- **A nationally recognized, evidence-based model developed by the Oregon Social Learning Center (OSLC)**
- **A team approach to treatment**
- **Affirmative of positive behaviors**
- **Supportive through 24/7 availability of staff**

WALDEN FAMILY SERVICES

619-584-5777
waldenfamily.org

Lic. #370602780

CAREGIVERS

We need you!

- **Hourly (4, 6, 8 & 12 hour shifts)**
- **Live-In – ask about our bonus**
- **Full- and/or part-time positions available!**

We offer: weekly pay with direct deposit available, medical/dental, vision, 401(k), life insurance and ongoing training. **We require:** 1 year of verifiable homecare experience (preferably in eldercare), valid driver's license and proof of insurance desired.

LivHOME
Live long. Live well. LivHOME.™
Formerly Age Concerns

San Diego: **619-544-1622** • North County: **760-737-2907**
Fax: **619-294-3670** • Visit: **www.livhome.com**

Work NOW!

$10-$12 Per Hour + Bonuses!

Canvassers & Customer Service

Experience a plus but not required. Work 1-5 pm
Monday-Friday and 10 am-3 pm Saturday.
No sales required. Full-time available.

Call immediately! 619-258-6970

Best WINDOWS & DOORS® and more!

North County

Machine Operators Entry-level

San Diego

Warehouse Shipping/Receiving

Warehouse Driver with clean DMV

Electronic Assembly with Soldering
1 year's experience, 1st shift

MDI offers paid holidays after 520 hours and vacation bonuses after 2000 hours.
Immediate openings • Experience required
Various shifts • Come in or call now!

MDI

CONTRACT STAFFING SINCE 1957

8316 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #204, San Diego • 858-277-5680

APPLY TODAY, WORK TOMORROW!

- **Inside Sales** – South Bay, electronics/technical exp. req'd, $13.50/hour + comm.
- **Receptionist** – San Diego, 6 months-1 year experience, $9-$12/hour
- **Retail Sales** – North County location only, part-time, seasonal, promoting products, weekends a must, $12/hour
- **Retail** – San Diego Airport, 3-6 months' exp. req'd, $8/hour
- **3rd Party Collections** – Kearny Mesa, $12-$16/hour
- **Outbound Lead Generator** – Downtown, $10/hour
- **Outbound Product Sales** – Vista, 8 am-5 pm, 6 months' call center exp. req'd, $10/hour
- **Inside Sales** – Hillcrest, 3 years' exp. req'd, $14/hour

Walk-ins welcome 8 am-2 pm.
1-800-690-8367
E-mail: recruiter@abcow.com

ABCOW STAFFING
2525 Camino Del Rio South
Suite 125, San Diego, CA 92108

MYSTERY SHOPPERS

Get paid to shop!

Earn up to $200 per day.

Experience NOT required.

Call NOW: (800) 775-9924

Housekeepers Needed Now!

- **Earn up to $462 weekly after 5 weeks full-time!**
- **Paid weekly**

Part-time or full-time. Must have own car and home phone. Work near home.

Call today, start tomorrow!
San Diego County: 619-298-6110
North County: 760-591-9740

Dana's housekeeping PERSONNEL SERVICE
A Referral Agency

WorkWithDanas@aol.com

Ready for a career in marketing? Want your own office?

A leading business aviation center in Carlsbad is recruiting for an entry-level

Marketing Assistant

Summary of position:

- Creation of marketing materials and presentations
- Event coordination, trade show participation
- Update schedules, budgets and reports
- Administrative functions

What is required:

- Microsoft Office, Photoshop, Illustrator
- Valid driver's license and clean DMV record
- Organized, able to multitask, self-starter, able to work independently

Exciting work environment and great benefits!
Apply online at: www.jetsource.com

jetsource

EOE

SoCal STAFFING

Staffing San Diego's Finest!

Specializing in

A/P & A/R
ADMINISTRATIVE
DATA ENTRY
RECEPTION

placements

For current openings, please contact Yvette at:

yvette@socalstaffing.com

858-569-7555

4909 Murphy Canyon Road #110, San Diego, CA 92123

ply: 9700 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla 92037; call: 858-964-6644; fax: 858-964-6634. EOE/AA.

HOTEL. Hyatt Regency La Jolla now hiring: Cafe Japengo Cook I and Cook III, Convention Services Floor Lead, Convention Services Floor Houseperson, Culinary Cooks III, Culinary Pastry Chef, Housekeeping Room Attendants, Housekeeping Houseperson, Catering Administrative Assistant, Laundry Washer, Phone/Telephone Technician, entry level, Receiving Clerk, Front Desk Agents, Concierge, Bell Attendant, Engineering General Maintenance, Stewards, Food and Beverage Assistant Manager, Executive Chef and Sous Chef-Cafe Japengo. Excellent benefits. AA/EOE. M/F/D/V. Please apply online: www.lajolla.hyatt.com.

HOTEL: RANCHO VALENCIA. Kitchen/Dining Room Food Runner (full-time, PM, must be able to handle carrying food plates in fast-paced environment). Cafeteria/Prep Cook (full-time, AM, hotel or "garde manger" experience required). Housekeeping Houseperson (full-time, PM, English-speaking preferred). Housekeeping Houseperson (full-time, AM, previous hotel experienced required, English-speaking preferred). E-mail resume as attachment: hr@ranchovalencia.com; or fax: 858-756-0165. Apply in person: 5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe 92067.

HOTEL: THE SOFIA. Luxury downtown hotel now hiring all positions including: Room Attendants, Housepersons, Maintenance, Laundry, Guest Services, Bellpersons. Apply in person at 150 West Broadway or fax resume to 619-544-9879.

HOTEL: Ocean Park Inn now hiring Guest Service Agents full time and part time, Nigh Auditors full time and part time. All positions require good communication skills and a desire to give excellent customer service. Experience a plus. We offer competitive wages. Fax resume to 858-274-0823, attn: Vania, or apply in person at 710 Grand Avenue (at the Boardwalk) in Pacific Beach.

HOUSECLEANERS WANTED. Flexible hours. Must have car. Immediate work. English speaking. Maid in America Agency. 619-291-5000; 760-434-5150.

HOUSECLEANERS. Full/part time, flexible hours. Must have own car, speak English. Start immediately! Up to $30K/year. A World Class Cleaning Service, 858-566-4543. www.awccs.com.

HOUSECLEANERS. Weekdays, 8am-5pm. Family-friendly schedule. Great benefits: medical, company car on the job. Uniforms provided. Weekly pay. No experience required. Speak/understand English. Molly Maid East/South County: 619-660-7900; Del Mar and surrounding area: 858-535-9500.

HOUSECLEANING. No nights, weekends, holidays. Merry Maids offers flexible hours, weekly pay, paid mileage. Work in teams. Insured car required. Must speak English. South Coast/all south areas only, 619-336-1612; 619-226-2621.

HOUSEKEEPER. Must be bilingual. 70% housekeeping; 30% child care. Flexible full time hours. Experience preferred with references. Starts 7am. $12-$15/hourly. Rancho Santa Fe. smmrjns@cox.net, 858-752-9254.

HOUSEKEEPERS. Earn up to $462 weekly after 5 weeks full time. Paid weekly. Part/full time. Own car, home phone. Call today, start tomorrow! WorkWithDanas@aol.com. Dana's Housekeeping. San Diego: 619-298-6110. North County: 760-591-9740.

HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR. Experienced Housekeeping Supervisor wanted for large San Diego area health care facility. Call 207-450-3829 or 619-602-2999. Fax resumes to 619-269-2283 or 858-731-1030.

INSIDE SALES EXECUTIVES. Homes.com, a leader in real estate Internet technologies, is looking for strong Sales Account Executives to grow business. We are interviewing those who show a high degree of self-confidence, self-motivation and exceptional communication skills. Proven closing abilities a plus. Sell web services and Internet advertising to realtors direct. Full time only. If you are a qualified Salesperson who believes in yourself, quotas will be no problem. We know how to treat our employees: Fun work environment, base salary plus commissions, all benefit included, career opportunities/growth potential. If you're a proven successful Sales Rep, you will want to hang your hat with us for years to come. Send resume to belloj@homes.com or call 888-329-7576 x2172.

INSURANCE REPS, bilingual Spanish. Proven sales record needed for consideration. Insurance experience not necessary. $50-$90K. Please call 619-542-0016 to schedule an interview or email resume to: MissionValley@appleone.com.

JOB COACH/COMMUNITY Training Specialist. $9/hour to start, depending on experience. Assist developmentally disabled adults in the community. 32.5 hours/week. Benefits. EOE. Apply Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm: Stein Education Center, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego 92120. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax: 619-281-0453. www.vistahill.org.

JOB COACH/COMMUNITY Training Specialist. $9/hour to start. Assist developmentally disabled adults in the community. 32.5 hours/week. Benefits. EOE. Apply Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm: Stein Education Center, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego 92120. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax: 619-281-0453. www.vistahill.org.

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IMMEDIATE ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

LIVE-IN CAREGIVERS

Drivers with insurance and non-drivers. 3 years' experience and CA ID or DL, SS required. Fingerprint and TB test a plus. Flexible schedules. Overtime for holidays. Employer-matched 401(k). Health benefits available.

Also offering opportunities for:

CNAs, HHAs and Hourly Caregivers
Part-time or full-time

Attentive Home Care
Licensed • Bonded • Insured

Call for an interview in North County or San Diego:
760-434-4393 or 619-231-0151

Or apply in person 10 am-3 pm Tuesday-Thursday:
2333 1st Ave., Ste. 205, San Diego, CA 92101

Rewarding Work

Child Care Counselors needed to work with SED children and adolescents in residential treatment facilities throughout San Diego County. BA/BS preferred. Various shifts and days available.

New Alternatives, Inc. is an EOE that offers a competitive salary and benefits package (with a minimum of 20 hours per week). Training provided.

Please fax résumé to:
East Region–Attn: Alicia, 619-479-0914
Central Region–Attn: Carlos, 619-543-9163
South Region–Attn: Jenn, 619-421-7742
North Region–Attn: San Pasqual, 760-233-6017

Or e-mail résumé to: hr@newalternatives.org

New Alternatives Inc.

Collectors

- **Fun, fast paced**
- **2 weeks' paid training**
- **Paid vacations and personal time**
- **401(k)**
- **Tuition reimbursement**
- **Full-time**
- **Commission and bonuses**

No experience necessary...we will train!

We serve numerous Fortune 100 companies and governmental entities. Due to our new clients, we are expanding in order to meet the increased demand. If you are energetic, dependable and looking for a career, apply at GC Services. We offer medical, dental and vision benefits, 401(k), tuition reimbursement, and corporate discounts. Hourly rate plus bonus. Call center environment.

Call: 858-577-2301
Fax: 858-577-2353
8400 Miramar Rd. #250
San Diego, CA 92126

GC Services

Visit: www.gcserv.com/career/resumeNext.asp?JobID=126

EOE/M/F/D/V

Free Classifieds!

Post free online ads with photos at SanDiegoReader.com

HELP WANTED

JOB COACHES. Community-oriented, Center for Independent Achievement is seeking dependable individuals in East County. 1:4 group ratio maximum. $8.50-$9.50/hour. Annual raises. Bonuses for exceptional performance. Benefits with full-time. pficareer@yahoo.com. Call 619-440-6802, or fax 619-440-6864.

LANDSCAPER for San Diego County and East County apartment communities. Background/drug test required. Fax resume to 888-369-9229. E-mail wmapplicants@aol.com or call 858-252-7976.

LAW ENFORCEMENT. Deputy Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Detentions/Courts. San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Hiring for two types of positions; take one exam, apply for either or both! Exam dates: Thursday, December 14, 2006, 12:30pm arrival (you must register by e-mail to take this exam: Recruit@sdsheriff.org): Sheriff's Administration Center, 9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego CA 92123 or Saturday, December 16, 2006, 7am arrival: Rancho Buena Vista High School, 1601 Longhorn Drive, Vista CA 92083. Detention/Courts: $37,901-$58,675 annual salary, plus benefits. Must be 18 years old. Deputy Sheriff: $47,338-$67,714 current annual salary, plus benefits. U.S. citizen or applied for citizenship; 20-1/2 years old. High school graduate or G.E.D. required. Bring valid photo ID, #2 pencil and $3 parking at Southwestern. Valid California Driver's License prior to appointment. Effective oral and written communication in English. EOE. Additional test dates: www.joinsdsheriff.net. 858-974-2000.

LEASING AGENT for luxury apartments. Sales experience a plus. North County. Fax resume to 888-369-9229 or e-mail wmapplicants@aol.com.

LIGHT INDUSTRIAL. Volt Services Group has immediate Temporary, Temporary-to-Direct Hire and Direct Placement opportunities. Competitive wages, paid weekly, paid holidays and vacation. Medical and dental insurance plans, state of the art training, career management and more. www.jobs.volt.com. Call Volt Services Group for more information. EOE. San Diego: 858-576-3140; e-mail: clairemont@volt.com. Carlsbad: 760-729-8916; email carlsbad@volt.com. Chula Vista: 619-427-0200; email chulavista@volt.com. El Cajon: 619-401-1524; email elcajon@volt.com. San Marcos: 760-471-0800; email sanmarcos@volt.com. Scripps Ranch: 858-578-0920; email scrippsranch@volt.com.

LIVE-IN CAREGIVERS. Hourly, all shifts; Live-in -ask about our bonus. Full/part time. We offer: Weekly pay, medical/dental, vision, 401k, life insurance, ongoing training. 1 year verifiable home care (preferable elder care), valid DMV/insurance. LivHome: San Diego, 619-544-1622; North county: 760-737-2907. Fax: 619-544-1836. www.livhome.com.

LOAN AGENTS/SALES. No real estate license required. Leave message 24 hours a day for return call, 888-313-7226. Fax resume: 858-454-2437.

LOAN OFFICERS, PROCESSORS. Foundation Capital Group is seeking strong candidates with the desire to work in an exciting and rewarding environment and achieve their goals. Base salary, monthly commission, paid training, car bonuses, full benefits, 401(k). E-mail resume to employment@fcgonline.com or fax 858-630-3682. www.FCGonline.com.

LOAN OFFICERS. #1 ranked Lending Tree local broker. America Funding is a nationally ranked Lending Tree Partner. Due to our continued, rapid growth, we have Loan Officer positions available for top producing Loan Officers, which average $150K plus per year. We support our team's success by providing: technology that shortens the sales cycle so you fund more loans; outstanding training; Unlimited qualified leads; total back office and front office support; an excellent commission structure. Our outstanding compensation plan also offers you complete health benefits and a 401(k). Send your resume to: fax, 858-526-6999 or hr@afunding.net, www.america-funding.com, www.afunding.com. EOE M/F/D/V.

LOAN OFFICERS. First Financial & Real Estate Services is seeking top Loan Officers for the fastest-growing mortgage company in San Diego. Mortgage experience required. Will train qualified individuals. We provide hot incoming calls daily, high commission splits, strong in-house processing, and management support and training. Ability to do both loans and real estate. Opportunity for advancement. Licensed in 42 states. In-house escrow. Beautiful penthouse office suite located in Mission Valley. We have it all! Call Casey now: 619-327-2201.

LOAN OFFICERS. Lending Tree affiliate. No cold calling! Competitive splits. Multi-state broker provides pre-qualified leads. Mission Valley, casual/professional. Send resume: fax, 619-393-0551; sdloanoffice@gmail.com; or call Harris, 619-325-8283.

LOAN OFFICERS. Too many leads to handle, fill your pipeline today. $150K a year, up to 90% split. No experience needed, but must be money motivated. Bilingual English/Spanish a plus. E-mail your resume to gstysis@gmail.com or call 619-665-8417.

LOAN OFFICERS/REAL ESTATE Agents wanted. Experience required. Hard money leads provided. Highest commission splits. Prospect Point in La Jolla. Contact Daimon, 858-454-9100.

MACHINE OPERATORS, Warehouse Shipping/Receiving, Warehouse Driver and Electronic Assembly with Soldering. Various shifts. MDI offers paid holidays after 520 hours and vacation bonuses after 2000 hours. MDI Staffing. San Diego: 8316 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, #204; fax 858-277-5621. Call 858-277-5680.

MAID SERVICES. No nights, weekends, holidays. Merry Maids offers flexible hours, weekly pay, paid mileage. Work in teams. Insured car required. Must speak English. South Coast/all south areas only, 619-336-1612; 619-226-2621.

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN. Entry level, mostly painting, light residential, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, paid training. $10-$13, must have diploma/GED, California driver's license, clean DMV, excellent benefits. Apply: Home of Guiding Hands, 1825 Gillespie Way #200, El Cajon, CA, 92020, on-line: www.guidinghands.org, fax: 619-938-3056.

MAINTENANCE TECHS and/or HVAC. Must be experienced. East County and San Diego. Background/drug test required. Benefits. Fax resume to 888-369-9229 or e-mail wmapplicants@aol.com. Call 888-252-7976.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE. Major company expansion. Northwest Exteriors Inc., leaders in home improvement. We are currently staffing San Diego location for the following positions: Customer Service, Administration, Sales, Installers (windows, siding, etc.). Salary depending on experience. If you consider yourself trainable and a quick learner, we will train you. Call 858-536-4200 9am-3:30pm, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday only for interview.

MANAGEMENT/MANAGEMENT Training position available for retail specialty stores. Experience necessary in employee management, purchasing and merchandising. $20,000-$30,000 per year. Bilingual (Tagalog helpful). Downtown San Diego. Call for interview between 8am-4pm, Tuesday and Wednesday at: 619-660-6953 or fax your resume to: 619-660-7429.

MANAGER. Lindbergh Parking, Inc. seeks full-time, hands-onManager with 3-5 years experience preferably in parking to manage off-site parking operation. Reports to General Manager. Must have excellent communication skills, computer proficiency, demonstrated proficiency in multi-tasking, excellent time management skills prioritizing/planning, maintain highest level of customer service, oversee revenue control, oversee training/scheduling of staff. Apply in person, Monday-Friday, 8am-3:30pm to parking office #3705 North Harbor Drive, San Diego 92101. Take terminal #2 exit into parking lot, make first right turn toward terminal #2 building, and turn right again. Office is across from U.S.O. Contact: Estella Schweikert, 619-291-2087.

MANAGER/MANAGER TRAINEE. No experience required. 18-25 girls and guys needed for long-term positions. Call Sarah, 858-554-1158.

MANICURIST/PEDICURIST. Hip, young day spa in the heart of Little Italy seeks an energetic and motivated Manicurist/Pedicurist. Commission. Experience/clientele a plus. Urban Skin Care, 2326 India Street, Little Italy. Call Larissa or Erin, 619-233-0306. www.urbanskincare.com.

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RECEPTIONIST. Needed in the Rancho Bernardo area. Ideal candidate will have answered busy phones and knowledge of Word and Excel. Call for more details: 760-480-0454.

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RESTAURANT: BRIGANTINE FAMILY of Restaurants hiring at all 11 locations throughout San Diego County: Cocktail Servers, Food Servers, Bussers, Hosts(esses), Bookkeepers. E-mail hr@brigantine.com, www.brigantine.com.

RESTAURANT: CHILI'S Grill & Bar, Encinitas, hiring Servers. Apply in person any day between 2-4pm: Chili's, 1004 North El Camino Real, Encinitas.

RESTAURANT: COFFEE SHOP. Experienced Barista, Server, and Prep Cook for fast-paced coffee shop in Hillcrest. Good pay plus tips. Apply before 2pm: Sodhi's Bean Shack, 4229 Front Street, San Diego 92103. Or call before 2pm: Victor, 619-295-9900. Or call Sodhi, 619-990-1438.

RESTAURANT: HOSTESS/SERVER. Day Break, small family-owned restaurant, needs Hostess/Server. Saturdays, Sundays and on-call shifts. Applications available 7am-3pm at 2296 Bacon Street in Ocean Beach.

RESTAURANT: KNOCKOUT PIZZERIA. Assistant Pizza Maker, Cashier/Counter, Delivery Drivers. $8-$11.50/hour, full/part-time. Apply in person: 6755 Mira Mesa Boulevard #119, 92121. 858-678-8545.

RESTAURANT: MACARONI GRILL now hiring: Experienced Servers (AM), Hosts, and Expediters. Apply in person 2pm-4pm, Monday-Thursday: North County Fair, 202 East Via Rancho Parkway, Escondido.

RESTAURANT: RANCHO VALENCIA. Hostess, full-time, AM, "open table" familiarity and upscale dining preferred. Customer service skills required. E-mail resume as attachment: hr@ranchovalencia.com; or fax: 858-756-0165. Apply in person: 5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe 92067.

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RESTAURANT: Prestigious, private club in Rancho Santa Fe is currently seeking a part-time Line Cook and a full time Pantry Cook. Candidates must be experienced. Competitive salary. Full time Pantry Cook position comes with a full benefits package to include health, dental, life, matching 401(k), vacation, sick and more. Fax your resume to 858-759-7214 or e-mail to resumes@thebridgesrsf.com.

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RETAIL SALES ASSOCIATE. Full-or part-time position. Mission Valley. Good opportunity. Flexible hours. Reliable. 4242 Camino Del Rio North, #14. Fax resume: 619-281-1304. Call 619-281-1717 or 619-549-4690.

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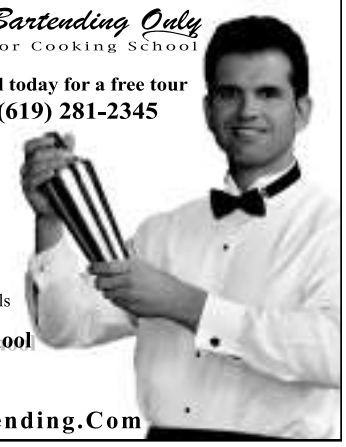

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THE READER PUZZLE

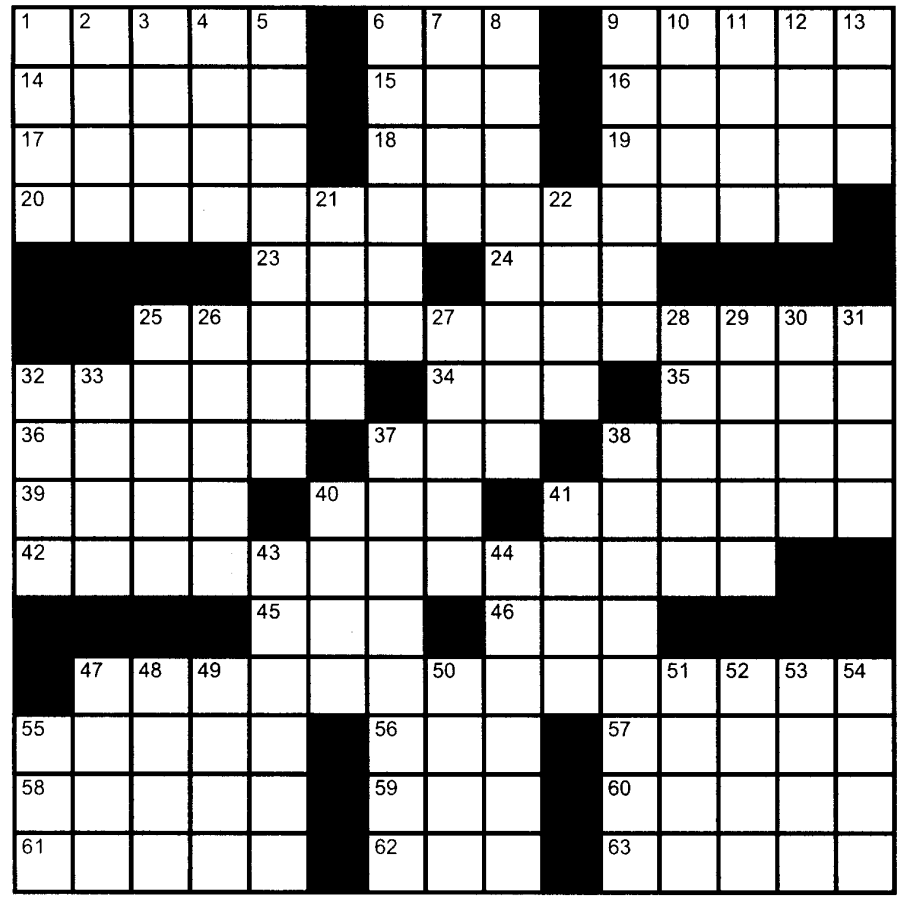
by David Levinson Wilk

Across

1. Baseball hit just beyond the infield
6. Breach
9. Bill with billions of bills
14. Liza has one; Lisa does not
15. Commit perjury
16. Senator who wrote the 2006 bestseller "The Audacity of Hope"
17. Fiddle with
18. Boot one
19. Slugger Sosa
20. Geologist's pleasantry?
23. Normandy negative
24. "Or ____ thought"
25. Geologist's philosophy on life?
32. Abase
34. Workout unit
35. Old Peruvian
36. Moran and Brockovich
37. Landscaper's need
38. Mexico City daily
39. NFL Hall-of-Famer Ronnie
40. "Just as I thought!"
41. Husband or wife
42. Geologist's health concern?
45. Airline to Amsterdam
46. Droop
47. Geologist's worry while asea in the Mediterranean?
55. "Son!"
56. Have a tab
57. On the lookout
58. Public meeting
59. XXX x X
60. Bogged down
61. Lessen
62. Kit ____ bar
63. Finals preceder

Down

1. Humdrum
2. "Damn Yankees" role
3. Airing
4. Decorative arch
5. Underwater menaces
6. Close and Ford
7. Suffix with zillion
8. Met an untimely fate
9. Grapevine contents
10. Having ____ hair day
11. Author Janowitz
12. Prize since 1949
13. Declare
21. Enter
22. Wet bar?
25. Jimmy of "The West Wing"
26. Some change
27. Boy Scout unit
28. American employee
29. Come after
30. Sgts., e.g.
31. After-Christmas event
32. Compaq competitor
33. Suffix with switch
37. Emblem of Ireland
38. Witticisms
40. "Man ____ Mancha"
41. Dog command
43. "I'm fine with it"
44. Facet
47. Party directive, briefly
48. Start of a magician's cry
49. Lopsided win
50. Blue Triangle org.
51. "Would ____ to you?"
52. Period in office
53. "... ____ saw Elba"
54. Norms: Abbr.
55. Musician's deg.



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RULES OF THE GAME

1. The prize for solving the *Reader* Puzzle will be a *Reader* T-shirt.
2. All entries in the *Reader* Puzzle contest must be received by the *Reader* by 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, five days following the issue date (Fax to 619-231-0489 or U.S. Mail to *Reader* Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803).
3. All entries must be accompanied by your name and address.
4. Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.
5. In the event of disputes or ties, decisions of the judges will be final and arbitrary. We've only got five prizes each week to give away, so if there are more than five winners, we'll have a lottery.
6. All answers must be entered in the space allowed on the puzzle page. And please, no phone calls or trips to our office.
7. One entry per person.

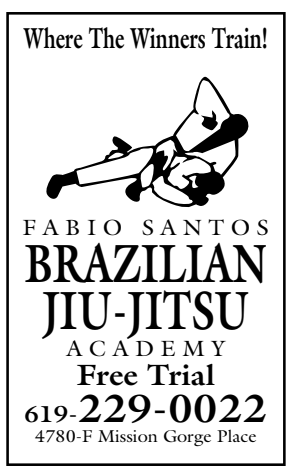
A	P	I	N	G		R	O	H	E		L	A	Z	E
A	I	M	E	E		O	N	E	L		E	G	O	S
R	E	S	A	T		S	K	A	T		G	E	N	T
P	R	O	P	O	S	E	P	R	O	P	O	S	E	
				U	P	A		O	R	A				
	F	O	R	T	U	N	E	F	O	R	T	U	N	E
P	E	R	E		R	N	S			R	A	T	O	N
O	V	A	L		N	E	T	W	T		K	E	M	O
M	E	T	A	L			O	O	H		E	R	A	S
P	R	E	P	A	I	D	P	R	E	P	A	I	D	
				M	S	U		D	E	A				
	P	I	M	P	L	E	D	P	I	M	P	L	E	D
P	A	P	A		E	L	A	L		E	R	O	D	E
A	T	O	Z		F	E	M	A		L	O	R	E	N
C	E	D	E		T	R	E	Y		A	P	I	N	G

Solution to and winners of the *Reader* Puzzle for 11/30/06.

There were 83 entrants.
The winners are:

1. Helen Person, *Santee*
2. Beth Schlensinger, *San Diego*
3. Bill Reese, *La Jolla*
4. Joshua Evans, *San Diego*
5. Lena Yoe, *San Diego*

INSTRUCTION



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AFFORDABLE PHOTOGRAPHY and Ministerial. Married couple with over 30 years experience in wedding business teams up to cover your event. www.brianhowarthphotography.com. Call Brian or Valerie: 619-583-0411.

AMAZING DJs AND BANDS! San Diego Parties & Entertainment--private, corporate, weddings! Excellent DJs, fabulous bands, specialty entertainment. 20 years of experience. Call 619-444-2389. Book your holiday party today!

AWARD-WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER. See your wedding day unfold in DVD. On a budget? Digital photography. $650 (5 hours). Kidnapper of Images, Beverly, 858-736-4472; 858-274-4472.

BAND, "HOT PURSUIT." Weddings; corporate, private parties. High-energy dance band featuring sax player, female vocalist. Swing, jazz, rock, R&B, country, dance hits. 760-751-1876. www.HotPursuitMusic.com.

CLASSIC HOLIDAY PORTRAIT special! $295. Shot on location. Book a wedding package and portrait session is free! 619-723-6433. gabrielhernandezphotography.com.

DISC JOCKEYS/LIVE BANDS/novelty acts. Weddings, corporate, parties. 400 bands, 10 DJs to choose from. All types of music. Affordable! Since 1973. 619-223-5732. www.musicasyoulikeit.com.

DJ FOR ALL OCCASIONS. $100 off when you book your party or wedding before January 1st! Professional quality, affordable price. Bringing events to life for over 20 years! www.rbmentertainment.com, 858-602-2844.

ENTERTAINMENT AND PRODUCTIONS. We put the wow in your corporate events, weddings, holiday parties! Best music, sound, lighting, video services. Call-free DVD demo: 619-216-4770. www.boogienightsinc.com.

HOLIDAY PORTRAIT SPECIAL! Experienced photographer offering Holiday Family Portrait Special! Limited time offer! Studio

Promo! Professional make-up artist, location photo sessions available. www.engelphotography.com. Call 619-819-8640.

HYPNOSIS SHOWS. Comedy hypnosis shows by Vegas stage hypnotist. Book your holiday party now! 619-588-9816 or 1-800-9TRANCE. Mystifyn@cox.net. Website: www.Hypnomagic.com.

LARGE PARTY SPACE AVAILABLE. Full service: anniversaries, holidays, wedding, birthdays. Accommodates 150+. Buffet, full service: meals/sushi/bar. Great rates! Call Kaito Restaurant (Encinitas): 760-634-2746.

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY SPECIAL! Limited time offer, $800, up to 4-6/hours (regular $1200). High-resolution images, proof album, engagement photo, make-up artist available. Engel Photography, 619-819-8640. www.engelphotography.com.

3 Ways to Respond to READER MATCHES ADS!

Call 1-900-844-6282

The cost is $1.99 per minute. You must be at least 18 years old to call. Call and enter the number at the end of an ad to hear the advertiser's introduction and leave a message. The date in the ad is the last day to reply. The charge will appear on your phone bill as "Dating." Questions? 619-235-8200.

Use your credit card

No 900# access? Call anytime day or night to purchase a block of calling time and charge it to your Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express... for as little as $1.25 per minute.

Call 1-800-360-9496 24 hours

No refunds. You may also purchase time at our office with cash or check only.

Send an e-mail

Matches ads are now on the Web. You may search them by specifying criteria such as age, ethnicity and nonsmoking. Respond to most ads by sending an anonymous e-mail for a nominal charge. You may also listen to intros online.

SanDiegoReader.com

From this page, click on "Matches."

I TAKE NOT NOTE OF INDIVIDUAL, But of Unity, accomplishing in unity for truth/wisdom -- I pray/revere the Almighty beyond all else, save The Creation Itself. Ashter.

Stage Notes

PLACE PRINTED ADS in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.
POST FREE ONLINE ADS with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. See thousands of classified ads not printed here!

ABANDON YOUR ACTING FEARS! Actors' Workshop Studios. San Diego's number 1 film/TV studio! Professional 3-camera set. Weekly in-house auditions with Hollywood/local casting directors, producers, agents. www.actorsworkshopstudios.com; 858-587-6666.

ABILITY THROUGH TRAINING. The Robert Wald Actor's Studio focuses on moment-to-moment reality training. These classes unlock the actor's ability to work spontaneously and with the realism and intensity advocated by the industry's creative legends. Beginners welcome. Thursday evening class available, 6:30pm-10:30pm or Saturday morning. Call for information. 619-542-1216.

ALIVE ON STAGE! Point Loma Actors' Workshop. Taste the performance high! Most fun you'll ever have on a Monday night in Point Loma! Beginners welcome. www.pointlomaactors.com. 619-225-0044.

AUDITIONS. Attractive females. Stunts-Ability is 501(c) non-profit, placing the disabled in film industry. Events throughout the year. Paid per event, bonus opportunity. David Smith, 619-542-7730.

AUDITIONS. Actors/Models/Dancers/Singers/Performers/Musicians. The African American Council, San Diego Repertory Theatre. 12/11-12/12 for "Late Night Live At The Lyceum." Kuumba Fest, 2/23/07-2/25/07. 619-252-6314. SDKuumbaFest@yahoo.com.

HEADSHOTS BY PAUL SAVAGE: Award-winning photographer. Our mission is to provide you with affordable high-end photos. Visit our galleries. www.savages4hire.com or call 858-496-9629.

HEADSHOTS WITH MAKEUP, $99. Three outfit changes. 36 or more photos all on CD. Zed cards available. 25 years experience. Member, BBB. 8"x10"/name, $5 each. Call Kosmicki Photography, www.mgk-shooter.com; 619-583-2229.

MEDIA MAKE-UP ARTISTS earn up to $500/day for television, CD/videos, film, fashion. One week course in Los Angeles while building portfolio. Brochure, 310-364-0665. www.MediaMakeupArtists.com. (AAN CAN)

MODELING & TV COMMERCIALS. All ages for clothes ads, commercials and extras. No experience necessary. We are not a school. If you want straight talk, call 619-285-1495. 22 years in San Diego. www.ModelingandTV.com.

MODELING PORTFOLIO SPECIAL! Limited time! In studio modeling portfolio $75 (regular $150). 1-2 hours photography, make-up artist, high-resolution digital images, more. Engel Photography, 619-819-8640. www.engelphotography.com.

MODELS NEEDED- For Website Ads. Get top-rated permanent make up free, $550 value. Especially full brows, excellent health, over 18. Dr. Kordis, 858-451-6722.

MODELS, In-shape males, 18-30, valid ID required, for various photo and video shoots. Cash paid daily. San Diego Models, 11am-9pm daily. Near trolley, www.sandiegomodels.org, 619-395-6889.

MODELS. Amateur models needed for photo, video, web work. Ages 18-60. All types. No experience necessary. Cash paid. Professional setting. Call Jenn, 619-379-4964.

MODELS: HOIST Open casting call Saturday, December 9, 2006. HOIST is looking for physically fit female and male models. Must be high energy, capable of working out on strength fitness equipment and comfortable about showing their body in a bathing suit. If interested, you need to pre-qualify for this casting call by e-mailing your resume and full body shots to: marketing@hoistfitness.com.

MOVIE EXTRAS, ACTORS, models! Make $100-$300/day. No experience required. Full time, part time. All looks needed! 1-800-799-6215. (AAN CAN)

VOICEOVER WORKSHOP. Break into voiceover! Taught by voice actor/author James Alburger. Learn interpretation, character voices, microphone technique, more for radio/TV. www.voiceacting.com; 858-484-0220.

Counseling & Support Groups

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POST FREE ONLINE ADS with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. See thousands of classified ads not printed here!

ARE YOU MAD? Learn how to manage your anger constructively. Gain power, control, reduce conflict and improve your relationships. Classes begin soon. Mission Valley. Jay Schneider, LCSW. Lic-9573. www.manageangerdaily.com. 858-538-5587.

CLINICAL HYPNOTHERAPY. "What the mind can conceive, the body can achieve." All issues addressed. Free consultation. Patricia R. Parlin, Ed.D. CHT403-250. Call 619-442-3661 or 619-504-1935.

COUNSELING/DREAM STUDY. Curious, unsettled by your dreams? Jungian dream study helps with life issues, transitions, relationships. $40/session. Paul Hartsuyker, MFT-15896. www.sandiegotherapist.com/hartsuyker.html. 619-269-8939.

FEELING STUCK? STRESSED? Experiencing crisis? Relationship issues? Career problems? Family conflicts? Grief? Sexual issues? Take back your power. Free consultation: 619-723-9244. Trish Deignan, LCSW21861.

FIND THE ULTIMATE Relationship. Are you tired of going from relationship to relationship and not finding happiness? Free consultations, individual coaching and seminars. www.sheilahenry.com. Sheila Henry, MFT-8408. 858-450-1965.

GAY/BISEXUAL MEN. Supportive individual therapy. Depression, anxiety, confusion, addictions, spiritual/religious issues. Married, closeted welcome. Discretion, confidentiality assured. Mel Karmen, PhD, MFC-12709. 619-296-9442.

HEALTHY ADULTS learning to heal childhood traumas. Emotional recovery from wounds of dysfunctional family. Includes Thought Field Therapy for eliminating anxieties and traumas. Counseling for individuals, couples enrichment and family bonding sessions. Sharon Goodlove, TFT Diagnostician, and Glenn Goodlove, LCSW-1450. Goodlove Counseling Center, 858-569-8975, www.goodlove-online.com.

MARRIAGE/FAMILY THERAPIST. Seeking individuals, adolescents, couples, families ready to make changes. Let me help you help yourself. Sliding fee. License #MFC43461. Lilach Harris, 619-241-6006.

PROFESSIONAL SPIRITUAL Counselor. Emotional issues, PTSD, abuse, co-dependence, relationships, birth trauma. M.A., Human Behavior. 4 decades experience. Teaching Credential #020171282. www.idaretoheal.com, 619-701-4621.

RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS, depression, gay and lesbian issues, child and adolescent therapy are my specialties. Individuals, couples, families. Sliding fee. MFC-43174. Phaedra Scoortis, MFT. Call 619-972-0209.

Notices

PLACE PRINTED ADS in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.
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A PROSPERITY MINDSET can be yours. Discover and apply spiritual principles that activate prosperity and success in your life. Call Michael or Michele. 858-627-9509.

ADDICTION PROBLEMS? Women for Sobriety is a non-12 step self-help program meeting Monday, Wednesday, Saturday. www.womenforsobriety.org or 858-549-3533.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS. Get group support at San Diego Area meetings. Adults who grew up in alcoholic, other types of dysfunctional households. Feel better about yourself. 619-276-6232, www.adultchildren.org.

ALCOHOLICS ANONIMOS, Problemas con el alcohol? Nosotros le ayudamos a vivir mejor. Sesiones diarias lunes a sabado. 7-8:30pm. Groupo Bonita Hispano 3450 Bonita Road #207. 619-520-4505.

ALLWRITE is a nonfiction writing group for people who have a writing project they want to start, or one that's underway. It may be a single essay, a memoir, a book, a book proposal, or something else. Your project and your writing expertise are less important than your commitment to your work. We meet twice monthly in Normal Heights to read and critique our work in a supportive environment. Our aim is to help each other stay with their work by offering a committed peer group. We're looking to add a few new members. About the leader: I've published a nonfiction book and I've written for Stanford's alumni magazine, the Christian Science Monitor, and the Del Mar Times. If you'd like to learn more, email me bbdavenport@cox.net about your writing experience and current project.

ALMOST HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS, an inspiring story in barbershop harmony. Saturday, 12/16, 3pm and 7pm, The Neurosciences Institute, 10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive. 760-723-2294.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL works for human rights. Meetings: 7pm, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. First Unitarian Church, 4190 Front (opposite UCSD Medical Center). Information, 858-576-3811.

ANXIOUS, depressed? Recovery Inc. has been holding self-help mental health meetings since 1937. Many suffer from nervous symptoms and fears. Voluntary offering. www.recovery-inc.org or 619-275-0364.

ARTIST FAIRE HOLIDAY Botique. Unique, handcrafted items created by local artists. Fabulous items. December 2, 6-9pm and December 3, 10am-3pm. 302 South Nardo, Solana Beach.

CANNABIS PATIENTS ACT. (Association Cannabis Therapeutics.) Nonprofit. Seeking patients in need of free assistance with personal cannabis garden, in accordance with 215. Local guidelines. 619-528-0907. edzepp@yahoo.com.

CHURCH, 11am Sunday, next to farmers' market. 3rd/J Downtown. Unique casual setting in outdoor garden of Chinese Historical Museum. www.gaslampchurch.com. 619-262-0757 for info.

DIVORCED AND PROBLEMS with child visitation, support payments, non-custodial rights, lawyers, and family law court? Change the system, join Coalition of Parent Support. Call 619-465-2677.

DIVORCING/SEPARATING? Get guidance/support during your emotional adjustment. Group meets Friday, 6:30-8pm, in Allied Gardens off Waring Road. Divorce Anonymous, 619-442-1550.

EARN $100 BEFORE YOU MOVE! If you are moving soon. Call us to schedule a home interview and environmental sampling. For just 2 hours you will earn $100. SDSU Healthy Homes Study, 619-594-0501.

FREE BIBLE, study course by mail. Nondenominational. Increase your knowledge of god's word. Postage paid! PO 1473R, San Marcos, CA. 92078. 760-436-3730. San Diego 619-299-6812.

FREE PSYCHIC HEALING. Lecture Clinic. Free readings for new visitors. Mondays, 7:30pm, 11/6, 12/4, 1/1/07, 2/5/07, by Vessa's Clairvoyant Program students. 4455 Morena Boulevard, Suite #107. 858-509-7582.

GRANDMA NEEDS HELP. Want to help and be of service to someone who is in dire straits? Go to web address: breastcancerangel.com. God bless you.

HAS LIFE GOT YOU DOWN? Jesus says, come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. For prayer, 619-203-1277.

HERPES/HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS. (HSV/HPV) Support group. Accurate medical information and support. Recorded message. 619-491-1194. www.SanDiegoCityHELP.org.

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL, The San Diego Chapter will meet Wednesday December 20, at Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, room 101 at 10am. Showcase Japanese flower arrangements. 760-728-5586.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE, Stop crime and violence. Be a role model. Be a guardian angel. Free Martial Arts training. 619-964-8099. faux619@yahoo.com. www.guardianangels.org.

MEMORY TESTING PLUS COMPENSATION. As part of an approved research study, PrecisionMed is conducting memory tests on volunteers aged 60-75 years. Tests will include blood and urine sampling. Testing will take place every 6 months and you will receive written results each time so you'll be able to track any changes in your memory. You will receive $50 cash compensation each time you are tested. In addition, there is an optional spinal tap. Subjects who select the spinal tap option will receive an additional $100 per visit, i.e. a total of $150 compensation per visit. You will be able to take part in this study for as long as you wish. For more information call Carole, ACE Registry, 1-800-519-8810 or email carolemarks@precisionmed.com.

MOVIE BUFFS, Interested in watching movies then discussing it afterwards, like a book club? Ages 25 to mature welcome. Please call 619-850-6075 or 858-272-8727.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS WOMEN'S Support group, meeting every third Wednesday of the month, 6-7:30pm, beginning December 20. Cardiff by the Sea library. 2081 Newcastle Avenue, Cardiff. Contact MS society at 760-448-8400.

NATIVE COUNCIL PROGRESS, Incorporated, non-profit, supports the repatriation of Mexican Indian immigrants. 4000+ dead. Derechas para los migrantes sin papeles! Amnesty, yes! Wall? No! sancho69ya@yahoo.com.

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE Anonymous 12-step meeting for people with OCD. Mondays, 6-7pm, Free, Department of Health Services Complex, 3851 Rosecrans Street, Mission Room, San Diego. 619-757-6603.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Overweight? Anorexic? Bulimic? Can't stop eating? There is a 12-step solution. Meetings daily. No dues or fees. www.oasandiego.org or 619-521-2538.

PATHWORK DISCUSSION, "The Process of Meditation," December 18, 7-9pm. 3180 University Avenue, Suite 200. San Diego CA 92104. Open meeting, no fee, materials available. 619-296-9046.

PATHWORK DISCUSSION, "Giving and Receiving," December 14, 7-9pm. 1228-1/2 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, 92014. Meeting, no fee. 858-259-1880.

PREGNANT? Available to take part in a paid clinical study? PrecisionMed is seeking healthy volunteers, between the ages of 20 and 45, who are at least 7 weeks pregnant, and who would like to participate in a research study. Participation in this genetic study involves no medication or treatment and requires between 1 and 3 short office visits to our offices. As compensation for participating, volunteers will receive $100 for each office visit. For further information and to check if you qualify, please call 800-519-8810 or you can email at carolemarks@precisionmed.com.

PRIVATE COUNSELING. Your journey can be clearer, more peaceful; relationship issues, body image, self-esteem, anger. I can help. Work toward acceptance of yourself. Fee. 619-838-6817.

RECOVERY GROUPS for men and women seeking freedom from addiction/co-dependency. Fridays, 7pm. Celebrate recovery, First Lutheran, 867 South Lincoln Avenue, El Cajon. 619-444-7444. www.recovery4u.cc.

STUDENT VOICE, piano recital. Free admission. 12/9/06 at 3:45pm. Piano Exchange, 1233 Camino Del Rio South. San Diego, CA 92108.

SURVIVORS OF INCEST Anonymous. Free 12-step support groups for men and women molested as children. Call Tim, 619-282-4798; www.siawso.org.

TWELVE STEPS NOT working for you? Try a self-empowering, skill-building approach with S.M.A.R.T. Recovery, free support groups. 858-546-1100.

VOLUNTEER childbirth assistants needed. UCSD Medical Center Double Program needs women to help mothers during labor. Big commitment, lots of gratification! 619-543-6269.

VOLUNTEERS. Stop the crisis in child abuse. San Diego's abandoned/neglected children desperately need you. Become a child advocate. Information sessions: Wednesday, 12/13, 1/3, 1/24 (North County), 2/7. Voices for Children, 858-569-2019 or visit www.speakupnow.org.

WRITERS WORKSHOP, free. Every Monday 10am-1pm. Joyce Beers community center. Hillcrest. Vermont Street near University Avenue. 858-457-8477.

YOU'RE WELCOME HERE! Join in for the Christmas season at Spring Valley Community Church. Sunday Worship: 9:30am-English, 11:30am-Spanish. AWANA for kids, Wednesdays! 730 Concepcion. www.svchurch.org.

Lucky 7 Match

SPEED DATING

Wednesday, January 10
Ages 28-38, 37-49 & 48-62

Thursday, January 25
Ages 24-34, 33-45 & 45-57
both at **30-Two**
(inside Rama, Downtown)
Check-in 7 pm, event 7:30 pm
Advance registration required.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Singles & Sushi, Rock 'n' Bowl, Wine Tasting/Blending, Fondue Party & more!

See website for details.
www.lucky7match.com
(619) 890-7117

Travel & Getaways

PLACE PRINTED ADS in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.
POST FREE ONLINE ADS with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. See thousands of classified ads not printed here!

DISCOVER COSTA RICA Paradise! 40 lovely hotel/apartments. Great area to explore Costa Rica! From $175 weekly, $295 monthly. www.hotels.co.cr/scotland.html. Call 310-425-7333, 760-651-1101.

LUXURIOUS VACATION CONDO. Heart of the Village. 2 bedroom, 2 bath with ocean view. Fully furnished, Koa floors, limestone counters. Steps from La Jolla's finest shopping, restaurants, beach. 858-926-8123.

POINT LOMA/LA PLAYA. Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath furnished corporate rental, $3750. Steps to Kellogg's Beach. Fireplace, garage, washer/dryer, yard. Sleeps 6-8. 619-339-3370.

WALK TO KELLOGG'S BEACH. Point Loma/La Playa Corporate Rental. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, $2350. Fireplace, appliances, fully furnished. Garage, washer/dryer. Pets OK. 619-339-3370.

Personals

PLACE PRINTED ADS in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.
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DAVIEBABE'S IN BOSTON. You were so right about so many things, and I was so wrong! Time to spread around those candy canes.

g, One of love's paradoxes is that it demands plenty of freedom in order to feel completely committed.

HGS, 12/16/06. 27 months and 1 day ago, little did I realize that I would forward to this heartless Christmas. TYS MICHALE IRDLY 24/7/F.

I MISS YOU, Please get in touch. J.

MATCHES

Shared Interests

WALKS, TALKS, daytime outings? Single woman 55. Seeks platonic male friendship 48-60 in North County. Nonsmokers, college educated please. My interests science, nature, metaphysics. (12/20) ☎70670

MATCHES

Women Seeking Men

MEXICAN WOMAN. I'm 37, 5'5", 108lbs, brown hair/eyes, single, no children, never married, easygoing, like outdoors. Looking for white man. Call me please. (12/13) ☎70094

BLACK EDUCATED FEMALE, 63 years young. Seeking fun, exciting gentleman of any race for long term relationship. Let's enjoy San Diego's culture together. (12/20) ☎70127

BEEN A GOOD BOY THIS Year? Unencumbered, humorous, man of substance? Are you worthy of a black goddess? Caramel complexion, beautiful smile, tall, childless. 28-50. (12/20) ☎70114

MAKE ME LAUGH, Show me the city. 49, white, single female, 5'10", with a good soul, compassion, empathy, is seeking 45-55 with similar qualities. (12/20) ☎70131

HISPANIC MAN WANTED, By white female 40s, we are warm, happy, nice, responsible, patient, kind, love to laugh and ready for a better life. (12/20) ☎70117

BRILLIANT APHRODITE-LIKE woman, desires vibrant man of kind heart and generous soul, to travel worlds together, laugh frequently, touch life, and love well. (12/13) ☎70102

I AM THE ONE FOR YOU, You are the one for me. Give me a call and we shall see. (12/20) ☎70119

ASIAN AMERICAN FEMALE, 54, youthful, attractive, educated, spiritual not religious, metaphysical, health-conscious. Seeks male 48-60 for friendship, quality conversations, shared activities, fun, and growth. (12/20) ☎70118

GREAT LOOKS, EUROPEAN, Classy lady, honest, passionate, romantic, feisty, fun, successful, homeowner. Loves life, arts, people. Seeking accomplished gentleman, 44-55, with similar interests. (12/20) ☎70129

38-YEAR-OLD QUALITY LADY, 5'4", slender, brunette/blue eyes, attractive. Seeks physically fit gentleman 36-48 for relationship. Must be established and presentable. (12/20) ☎70133

TALL, PLAYFUL, AUBURN, 46, 5'9". Seeking 38-48 professional, 6'+, 200lbs+, spiritual, nonsmoker/addictions, humorous, cultural, romantic, available, adventurous, flexible, spontaneous, music, share goals, friendship. (12/13) ☎70095

YOUNG AT HEART, Attractive, active senior lady, healthy lifestyle. Enjoys outdoor activities, dancing, travel. Wishes to meet nonsmoking, health and nutrition oriented gentleman 70+. (12/13) ☎70111

BLACK FEMALE, 27, looking for male 27-40, someone nice and serious, about friendly dating. Hoping to talk to you soon. (12/20) ☎70130

AFFECTIONATE FUN-LOVING, Classy, coastal senior. Enjoys art, backgammon, blues, cooking, dancing, theater and travel. (12/20) ☎70101

CLASSY, ATTRACTIVE BLOND, Blue eyes, slender figure. Seeking quality nonsmoker gentleman, financially secure, who likes the finer things in life and having fun (between 65-75). (12/20) ☎70125

Hottest Singles in San Diego

Party for people over 30

Tuesday
94th Aero Squadron
8855 Balboa Avenue
Dance 7-11 pm
$11 Admission

Saturday
Skies Lounge
Four Points Sheraton
Dance Party 8 pm-1 am
$11 Admission
$3 off before 9 pm

Hosted by Darlena Del Mar
Hotline: 858-259-6166
www.singlesinsandiego.com

Bring in the New Year with us! Plans and party info to come.

NAME **This Place**

Clue: Watershed Monument from Wyoming

Describe this location, name the nearest cross-streets, and win a *Reader* T-shirt. E-mail to NameThisPlace@SanDiegoReader.com; fax to 619-231-0489; or mail to *Reader,* Name This Place, Box 85803, San Diego 92186 — include your name and address. (Deadline, Tuesday, 9 a.m. In case of ties, lottery will determine top five winners.)

Last week's place: (clue: Riverside reading, anyone?) Upstairs reading deck of the new Mission Valley Branch Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway, near IKEA and Qualcomm. Patrons of the four-year-old branch borrowed around 350,000 books and tapes last year, making it the third-busiest branch in the city system. (Last week's winners: Jon Florian, Matthew Valenti, David Eng, Nikesha Hazel)

OUTGOING, WARM, GEORGIA PEACH, 62 years young. Amateur photographer, adventurous, museums, travel, outdoors, indoors, family, pets, friends. Let's laugh. Live near Balboa Park. (12/13) ☎ 70097

PRETTY MUSIC TEACHER, 5'2", 115lbs. Enjoys hiking, bicycling, working out, meditation, yoga, and the arts. Seeking gentleman 5'10"+, 50-65, for friendship and/or possible relationship. (12/20) ☎ 70126

FUN, ATTRACTIVE, SLIM BLONDE, Positive, affectionate, caring. Looking for tall, handsome, sincere, intelligent, successful, loving, fun man for dating, 53-62. (12/13) ☎ 70100

VERY ATTRACTIVE, Sensual artist. Seeks long-term relationship. Tall, classy, educated, fit, fun, romantic, loving, kind gentleman, 45-60, handsome nonsmoker. Enjoy movies, outdoors, music, swimming. (12/13) ☎ 70110

51-YEAR-OLD WHITE WOMAN, Sweet, sexy, blue eyes, fair skin, proportionate weight. Seeking handsome, sweet, sexy guy, honest, sincere, beaches, dining, loving relationship. (12/13) ☎ 70093

LATIN, FUN, FIT, Professional, 50s, petite, cute, loving, caring. Love the outdoors, music, dancing. Seeking fun, honest, educated guy for lasting relationship. (12/20) ☎ 70113

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN All my life? Caring, educated, vibrant woman, 58, to meet sense of humor, sincere gent 55-63 for fun, friendship and romance. (12/13) ☎ 70106

ASIAN, EXOTIC, SEXY, Nice legs/smile, curvaceous figure, 5'3", 115lbs, professional, childless, homeowner. Desires fun, fit, nonsmoker, upscale, compatible, generous, 36+ Asian/Caucasian stable gentleman. (12/13) ☎ 70109

NEW YEAR, NEW FRIEND, How good can it be? Caucasian woman, mature, kind, caring, loving. To meet tall Caucasian, active, 70s or 80s nonsmoker man. (12/20) ☎ 70122

CLASSY, PETITE SENIOR. Friendly. Likes dining out, movies, casinos. Not marriage-minded. Seeking reciprocal, quid-pro-quo relationship with active, healthy, solvent man. Friends first. (12/20) ☎ 70116

WOMAN 56 OF HEIGHT and girth, seeks 50ish, slightly independent, tall, clever, reputable, patient, loyal and kind Charger fan, for casual dinners, talk, caring, more? (12/13) ☎ 70107

ATTRACTIVE REAL ESTATE AGENT, 60 slim, fun, enjoys life outdoors, the arts, good food. Seeks reasonably fit companion for conversation and a glass of wine. (12/20) ☎ 70115

ATTRACTIVE, BROWN-EYED Mexican, long hair, nice legs, easygoing. Wants to meet very attractive guy 42-55, healthy, generous, financially secure, nonsmoker, for friendship possible relationship. (12/20) ☎ 70132

HISPANIC PROFESSIONAL Male Wanted. 46-56, fit, educated, no drugs. Me, attractive Mexican lady, Christian, moral values, likes travel, dining, art, work-out, conversation, long term relationship. (12/20) ☎ 70123

BLONDE, 44, 5'3", 115lbs, has cat. Looking for permanent relationship, before I leave town. No pets of your own, please. Leaving in May 07. (12/13) ☎ 70098

SEEKING A LIFE PARTNER Who is a non-smoker male between 35-45. I am 40 years old, 5'3", 125lbs, dark brown hair and brown eyes. (12/13) ☎ 70104

FRENCH, SEXY, ATTRACTIVE, 41, 5'6", 125lbs, blond/blue, romantic, funny, affectionate, sports, dancing, outdoors, beach, travel. Gentleman 41-55, handsome, athletic, fit, trustworthy, secure, sociable. (12/20) ☎ 70120

SINCERE, ADVENTURESOME, Loving lady, 5'6", trim, no dependents, enjoys outdoors. Seeks tall, white, healthy, 57-69, to blend our many nice qualities for lasting relationship. (858). (12/20) ☎ 70124

COUNTRY LADY WANTS Cowboy-rancher. Country-oriented, outdoors, dancing and activities. Nonsmoker, nondrinker, 65-75. (12/13) ☎ 70105

DOCTOR, BEAUTIFUL, affectionate. Loves dancing, yoga, traveling. Looking for successful, passionate, intelligent, spontaneous, caring, loving, sincere man, 40s, for long-term relationship. (12/13) ☎ 70108

I AM AFFECTIONATE, Kind, considerate, love life and nice people. Looking for sincere, intelligent man, 56-60, nonsmoker 5'9"+. Me 5'5", 135lbs, 56, physically fit. (12/13) ☎ 70092

HAPPY HOLIDAYS, Energetic woman, 40s, sexy. Seeking that other half to share life with. Seeking not hard, I'm here. Make that first move. Merry Christmas. (12/13) ☎ 70096

DID SHE TREAT YOU WRONG? Pretty lady will give you the TLC you deserve if you are 60+, tall, romantic, carefree, and fun. (12/13) ☎ 70103

SWEET, HUMOROUS, Lively Japanese. Seeks to meet a stable man with more than average qualities. (12/13) ☎ 70112

BRITISH GENTLEMAN DESIRED By attractive, green-eyed lady, 47, great sense of humor, world traveler, healthy lifestyle. Seeking ages 43-54 with similar interests/lifestyle. (12/13) ☎ 70091

MAKE THIS HOLIDAY BETTER. 52, 5'4", slender, romantic, loves travel, home, nature, yellow roses, motorcycles. Seeking secure, honest, funny, foot massager. No games, just sincere. (12/20) ☎ 70128

GENUINE HISPANIC, 5'8", green eyes, plus-size woman, romantic, loves to cuddle, beach. Seeking honest, loving romantic, ready-for-relationship male, 36-45, loves kids, cuddling. (12/13) ☎ 70099

PRETTY, CURVACEOUS LADY, 68, funloving, caring, Christian, San Diego South Bay. In search of Christian gentleman who is lighthearted, enjoys life, 70+, 5'10". (12/20) ☎ 70121

MATCHES

Men Seeking Women

PROFESSIONAL BLACK MALE, 56, 6'3", interested in meeting down-to-earth, nonsmoking, good-humored, honest female, 40-55, for friendship and possible relationship. Race unimportant. (12/13) ☎ 70633

LOVE IS A MANY Splendored thing. Yes, I'll try again. Divorced white male, 65+, nonsmoker, healthy, caring, sincere, financially/emotionally secure. Seeking attractive, 53-68 female. (12/13) ☎ 70636

ASIAN LADY PREFERRED by white professional, 33-46, soft. I am 47, 6', medium build, brown hair, funny, sweet. Give you wonderful back rubs. (12/20) ☎ 70673

LOOKING FOR YOUR LOVE. 50s, white, honest, retired, financially secure, sense of humor, nonsmoker. Seeking someone who wants to enjoy life and God's special creations. (12/20) ☎ 70679

EARLY 70S CAVE MAN, Looking for honest relationship, sense of humor important, as well as communication. (12/20) ☎ 70680

HONESTY, TRADITIONAL VALUES, Lasting relationship, intelligent professional. Seeking nonsmoking woman to enjoy weekend adventures, entertainment, travel, good music, good friends, my cooking, life. (12/20) ☎ 70671

JEWISH MAN Would like to meet a woman 35-50 with similar interests such as lectures, walks, tennis, concerts. Hope to hear from you soon. (12/13) ☎ 70638

HISPANIC BUSINESS MAN, 52, fit. Enjoys barbecuing, hiking, thrills, yoga, travel, theater, concerts, movies, most sports. Clean, neat, homeowner, a gentleman, lives alone with doggie. (12/20) ☎ 70661

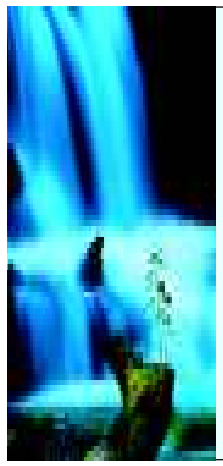
WANT TO MEET 5'5"+ for dating, possible romance, long term relationship. Please, height/weight is complementary. Me Caucasian, 5'9", 175lbs, healthy, fun, smart, great quality. (12/13) ☎ 70627

SINCERELY SEEKING A quality relationship. I'm 55, 5'3", 145lbs, good-looking, in good shape. I love music, exercise, nature, fun at home! La Mesa. (12/20) ☎ 70672

RETIRED PROFESSIONAL, 69, English background, world traveler, slim build, easygoing, humorous. Seeks intelligent, classy lady, 60-73, San Diego area. Don't be alone these holidays. (12/20) ☎ 70677

CARING, FUN, FIT, Romantic, stable white male, 6', 56, 175lbs. Seeks special gal for quality time together, walks, dining, travel. Bye for now. (12/13) ☎ 70640

Services



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CHANCE OF A LIFETIME, For beautiful single white female, under 37, to catch charming, romantic man, dedicated to catering to a lady's every whim. (12/13) ☎70653

YOUNG, 60-YEAR-OLD MAN Looking for nice, sweet woman in North County, nonsmoker, good sense of humor who likes herself and her life. (12/13) ☎70625

LATINA WOMAN WANTED, Latino male, slim, 5'8", outgoing, college-educated, homeowner. Seeks Latina woman, 20-39. (12/20) ☎70663

SINGLE MALE 47, 5'7" warm, never been married, educated, handsome, loyal, positive. Like to meet female, any race, for a serious relationship, leading to marriage. (12/13) ☎70630

70 YEARS, LOOKING For a nice lady, I am healthy, active, stable finance, like road trips, movies, walks, cruises, retired. East County. (12/20) ☎70669

STRIKINGLY HANDSOME WIDOWER, Tall, fit, successful, retired, healthy, educated, financially secure, homeowner. Seek attractive, affectionate, 55-65, shapely lady, little extra padding OK. Dates, dining, romance. (12/13) ☎70632

HIGH REGARD FOR WOMEN, Including equal treatment. Unselfish, sensitive, personable, adventurous, liberal, well-traveled. Music, arts, politics, tennis, outdoor adventures, animals. Agnostic, 6'1". Young 59. (12/13) ☎70649

NORTH COASTAL? Encinitas? Healthy, loving, good looking, financially and physically fit, educated guy 5'10", 178lbs, 60. Seeks similar slender woman 45-60 best friends always. (12/20) ☎70662

TAKE A CHANCE, Personable gentleman, 80. Likes Bridge, music, dining out, dancing, short trips. Seeks tall, full-figured lady with similar interests. Leave phone number. (12/13) ☎70646

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Travel, 61, Live Free

5'8", 148lbs, in shape, spiritual. No smoke. Tennis, healthy life style. You, in shape and attractive inside and out. Let's boogie. (12/13) ☎70642

WHITE MALE, 50s, divorced, romantic man. Likes cuddling, walks on beach, spontaneous, easy going, honest, dining out, movies, very nice, affectionate, laughter, sense of humor. (12/13) ☎70656

SINGLE WHITE MALE, 5'10", medium build, tattoos, free spirit, college student, 37, don't drink, loves to laugh, honest, loyal, no head games. Need soulmate/friend. (12/13) ☎70628

GREAT DOWN TO EARTH GUY, Tall, strong, happy, humorous, affectionate, fun, handsome, honest, romantic, good cook. You, under 40, slim, attractive, energetic, football, Padres. Asian+. (12/13) ☎70644

60S TYPE GUY, Single white male. Looking for a girlfriend who's white, attractive, no drugs, smoking or games, honest, sincere, loyal. North County preferred. (12/20) ☎70665

CHRISTIAN, 47, WIDOWER. Considerate, compassionate, sensitive, kind, likes meaningful conversation, communication, healthy living with purpose, staying in shape, hiking, reading. God first, marriage-minded. (12/20) ☎70660

SENIOR SALES CONSULTANT, college grad, nonsmoker, seeks trim-to-average weight lady, 58-68, for romance, dining, travel. Golfer a plus but not necessary. (12/13) ☎70648

This Baby Boomer Rocks

Tough, rugged, good-looking, sixty, energetic. Loves ocean, mountains, hiking, recreational dancing, romance, intimacy, movies, spontaneity, nature, health, humor, light drink. Spiritual. (12/13) ☎70629

Black Princess

Movie Critic. Well, almost! Attractive sexy white male, slim and trim, mid 40s, born in October, 5'11", brown hair, green eyes, adventurous, good listener, warm-hearted, thoughtful, generous, dog lover, fun, sense of humor, nonsmoker, romantic, flirtatious, loves to cuddle. Searching for that special black lady, who still believes life and love can be like it is in the movies. (12/13) ☎70657

50, POLICE OFFICER. Healthy Caucasian, gentleman's standards/morals, Fashion Valley. Seeking motivated lady, 42-50, to enjoy life's adventures and experiences. Possible commitment. (12/13) ☎70635

I LIKE LONG WALKS, especially when they're taken by people who annoy me. 55, 5'11", 160lbs. Author, docent, trail guide. Playful, educated. Cat-allergic. (12/13) ☎70651

TAKE ME HOME FOR THE Holidays! Tall, handsome, fun-loving, outgoing, friendly man. Seeking good-kissing, adventuresome, dancing, caring, sexy woman, to share holidays with, ASAP. (12/13) ☎70643

BOYISH GOOD LOOKS, 6'2", eyes blue, slim, athletic, college-educated, professional. Enjoys surfing, sailing, travel, conversation, family, friends, music, kids. Seeking slim, 35+, friends first. (12/20) ☎70674

SEMI-RETIRED, White, 57, many skills and hobbies. Enjoy walks, shopping, movies and all god's creations. Healthy, financially secure. Looking for life-long, loving relationship(12/13) ☎70631

WANTED, LOOKING, SEARCHING For a happy, optimistic, fun-loving gal to experience life with. I'm open-mined, but no abnormal stuff. Free to do anything anywhere. (12/20) ☎70666

YOU'RE ATTRACTIVE, PETITE, Blue or green eyes, creative, athletic, liberal, Christian, a jewel to be adored by strong, handsome, romantic, divorced, 45, Latin dad. (12/13) ☎70641

SENIOR SEEKS FIT LADY, outdoor and nature, travel, events, spontaneous, attractive, unencumbered, happy to participate together, music, movies, walks. Share warmth and caring with retiree. (12/13) ☎70605

MINDLESS BUDDHIST, 48, into staring at my wall squiggle, supernatural delusions, and NamYoYoYo chanting. Desperately seeks stern reality therapy infusion from Nordic atheist angel. (12/13) ☎70637

REAL GENTLEMAN AWAITS. Christian values, marriage-minded, quality lifestyle, share ultimate pleasures, life/love, cherish life, indulge America's finest, honesty, sincere, happiness, 49, 6'0", 170lbs. (12/13) ☎70652

FIREMAN, WHITE, 45, ready, willing, able to rescue attractive, classy, quality lady, 30-40, from lonely nights and bar scene. Dial my number and have fun. (12/13) ☎70654

QUALITY WHITE MALE, 46, tall, dark, nice-looking, manly, hardworking, honest, ambitious, grounded, caring, reliable, witty. Seeking accomplished, fun, family-oriented, grounded, nonsmoking woman, for long-term-relationship. (12/20) ☎70675

KINDHEARTED OLDSCHOOL GENTLEMAN, In search of his princess to make his queen. Me 31, you 25-35 to enjoy sports and romantic encounters. (12/13) ☎70645

HANDSOME, GENTLE, EDUCATED, Adventurous, spontaneous, native San Diego 57 year young man. Looking for soulmate to enjoy outdoor adventures and moments of peace in mountains. (12/13) ☎70639

FOX WITH TRUCK, Need trim-tuned, toned, low miles, circa 47-57. Beach, bikes, horses, home. True blue, blond, 6'2", 190lbs, smooth, sweet, solid. John 3:3. (12/20) ☎70676

THE LIFE YOU'VE DREAMED of. Successful executive, 49, nonsmoker, seeks younger, attractive female, nonsmoker, ages 21-44; who's classy, sassy, sexy; for dinners, dancing, shows, the good life. I'm 6'3", 195lbs., good-looking, GQ dresser, fun, kind, caring. Be my monogamous companion. Let's have fun and go shopping. (12/13) ☎70658

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OFF THE CUFF by Josh Board

If you could ask the president a question, what would it be?

Derek Vail

Electrical contracting

Chico

How does it feel to have created a war that has caused hundreds of thousands of deaths for the sole purpose of your own political gain? Okay, maybe that's too angry. Maybe I'd ask which is the bigger sin, having an affair while in the White House or lying to the American people to start a war. I'm curious as to how his record over the past six years, spending billions of dollars, controlling the media, not finding Osama bin Laden, and reducing civil liberties helps bring "bipartisanship and decency" to the White House.

Paul Schafer

Marketing

Mission Hills

I would ask him what his plans for employment are, following his presidency. I would speculate that he's going to go work for the oil industry. He's probably in less demand than other presidents on the speech circuit.

Pat Ford

Waitress

Chula Vista

My real thoughts, without being afraid or sounding like a smart-ass, would be…did you go to Iraq because your father didn't finish the job? I mean, that's what I feel. We purposely went into Afghanistan, and then he turned around and went into Iraq. I think he was thinking about it all the time. He probably wouldn't answer me honestly.

Sequoia Elizalde

Artist

Lemon Grove

I'd ask him his favorite Rolling Stones song. I don't know, there's so many questions that would be interesting. What are his favorite songs or movies, or what does he consider the highlight of being president. His greatest and most exciting, self-fulfilling moment. I might want to know what he is most afraid of, too.

Angela Percival

Payroll department

Chula Vista

I would ask him at what age he knew he wanted to be President. He might say "in college," since his father was in politics, and he might have thought about following in his father's footsteps. And sometimes, children say they want to be president. I'm curious as to what he'd say.

Chad Talbot

Cook

Chula Vista

Is he gonna clean up his mess before he leaves office? He wouldn't answer the question, though. He'd give a bunch of foreign rhetoric and PR that people don't understand.

PRO JAZZ MUSICIAN, 6'1", 160lbs., 54, blue/red, shaved, swing dancer, road bicycle racer, nonsmoker/drinker/drugs, child-free. Seeking chemistry/connection! (12/20) ☎70659

SINGLE DAD, With 9 year old daughter. I'm 45, blond hair, blue eyes, 160lbs, 5'9". Looking for slender woman, fun to be with, really nice. (12/20) ☎70668

I'M 5'11", 165lbs, Athletic, educated, lots of fun, Hispanic, and hope you like adventure. Let's start as friends, I'll make your day better! Age unimportant. (12/13) ☎70647

TALL RETIRED MILITARY, Handsome, healthy black gentleman, fit. Looking for tall, savvy, attractive, athlete, or athletically inclined woman, sense of humor. Fun, happiness for two. (12/13) ☎70650

NO GAMES, PLEASE. White male, 56, looking for relationship. Be my princess. I'm a very caring person. Looking for the same, nonsmoker, respect, love. (12/13) ☎70655

NICE-APPEARING BACHELOR, Early 50s, trim, successful, childless, blue, brown, North County coastal homeowner without encumbrances. You: 40-something, well groomed, not overweight, serious-minded. (12/20) ☎70678

POSITIVE MAN, Attractive, slim, 5'11", blue eyes, young 55. Into metaphysics, spirituality, personal growth, healing. Seeks slim, positive energy woman for fun activities, sharing, caring. (12/20) ☎70667

MARRY ME! I'm 40, 5'10", 175lbs, handsome, healthy, always exciting, hardworking, dependable homeowner, with nice body/smile. Seeking relationship or marriage with fun, friendly female. (12/13) ☎70626

GOOD-HEARTED BIKER, Looking for fit woman, for fun and possible relationship. Must love hug and kisses. No games, nonsmoker. Call me. (12/20) ☎70682

MUSIC

EQUIPMENT / INSTRUMENTS

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EQUIPMENT, VLZ Mackie SR-24-4 mixer with road case, $600. Electro-Voice 2-way, main PA speakers, pair $400. Twin Reverb, Fender, '65 Reissue, $650. 760-519-6925.

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GUITAR, Taylor XXX-MX acoustic, looks and sounds beautiful, partial trade considered, $2000. Check out eBay to see what it looks like. 619-843-4292.

GUITAR, Takamine classical G124 with case. Sweet sound, good condition. $90. 619-281-6238.

GUITARS AND AMPS. PRS Custom 22 10-top $1799. Epiphone Joe Pass Emperor II $499, Hamer Jazz V $649, Aria Pro II FA-70 archtop $449, G&L F-100 Series II $699, Marshall JCM2000 DSL 100 $899, Marshall 412 cabinet $399, Fender Bandmaster with 4x12 cabinet design speakers $399, B-52 412v cabinet $209, Crate 412 cabinet with celestions $249. At Mozeguitars.com or 619-698-1185.

HOLIDAY SAVINGS: Squier Bullet, DP blue electric, only $89! Fender Strat Pak, red, with amp and more, $249 (guitar also available in white, blue and black). Fender DGA-1 acoustic guitar pack, $199. Fender G-DEC guitar digital center amp-- get a full band sound!-- $269. Guitar Trader, 7120 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, San Diego. Call toll free: 888-4-A-GUITAR (888-424-8482). www.GuitarTrader.com.

P.A. GEAR, 1000w subwoofer system-15" speakers in new design cabinets with Carvin 1000. Covers/cables, all for $900/best. Many more items. 760-789-2456.

PA MAIN SPEAKERS and cabinets. Great portable sound. 2 PAS cabinets, 15" woofer and horn, excellent condition. T1530 features low frequency driver. Both $495. 760-726-7460.

PIANO, 1929 Klebur, fully refurbished by Japanese craftsmen in Japan, must sell due to moving, original ivory keys, new wood interior, bold sound, $2000/best. 619-410-3662.

PIANO, Baldwin Acrosonic. Very good condition. $550. 858-450-1293.

PIANO, Technics digital, ebony finish, 455 sounds, 128 rhythms, 800 piano styles, 88 weighted keys, 64 note polyphony, excellent tone. $6400 new, now $2700. 858-451-6944.

PIANOS WANTED! All pianos! Cash paid. Also, quality furniture and antiques. 1 piece or houseful. Bonded. Licensed. Since 1965. Same day pickup. 1-800-840-4447. www.southcoastauction.net.

REGGAE HIP HOP, Jazz/rock guitarist available. CD/tour credits. Pato Banton, Fully Fullwood, Majek Fashek, Myka Nyne, Scientist, Skunk, Tippa Irie, Dale 858-401-2973. www.myspace.com/dalehauskins.

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SELMER, tenor sax. Excellent condition paid $1600. $1100/best. 858-586-0487.

TAYLOR LIMITED EDITION guitars are at La Jolla Music. 7442 Girard Ave, La Jolla. 858-459-3375.

UPGRADED ACCENT LUDWIG, Beginning/intermediate drum kit. New pearl piccolo snare, Evans heads/mufflers. Aquarian super kick bass heads. New double bass pedal. $600 858-755-4685.

VIOLIN, European 4/4, handmade, Stefan Petrov Superior Guarnarius model, antique varnish finish, fantastic tone and volume, includes case and chin rest, high quality, $2450. 760-726-7460.

VIOLIN, newer instrument, German-made, fine condition, great tone. Bow and case. Only $165. Call 858-455-6785.

8-TRACK PLAYER NEEDED, Do you have a player and the equipment/know how to transfer onto CDs. Mike 858-560-0057.

MUSIC

Musicians Available / Wanted

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BASS PLAYER NEEDED, In 'House Band'? Looking for pro, vocal ability required. Modern rock, some originals. Booked 6-8 months in good clubs, 760-672-2094, http:://xfactorband.com.

BASS PLAYER WANTED for established San Diego indie-rock band ready to gig. Check out thatdream.com/ad and call 619-890-0222.

BASS PLAYER, needed. Doom metal band. Be able to play loud and heavy. Obsessed, Motorhead, Sabbath. We have label support. 858-486-0131.

BASS PLAYER NEEDED for newly formed rock/hard rock/alternative rock band. Be serious, dedicated, top notch. Have talent, melody, creativity. Age 24-32. 619-243-4356.

BASSIST NEEDED, For working cover/original band. Fun band with practice studio/pro equipment, with attractive/talented female singer. Must be quick learner. Dan 858-204-3658.

CHORALE ACCOMPANIST needed, 15-20 hours weekly. Skilled, able to extrapolate/play parts simultaneously, good sight reader, play all genres "by ear." Fax resume, 619-303-3451.

CHURCH WORSHIP drummer needed. Lighthouse Christian Church in Oceanside seeking drummer for our contemporary worship band. Rehearsals Thursday evenings. 2 services Sunday mornings. john@lightcc.org.

COMPOSER/GUITARRISTA. Con mas de 100 canciones busca. Baterista, bajista y pianista para formar grupo de rock en espanol. Muy professionales de 30 o mas. Ricardo, 619-284-1625.

DRUMMER WANTED, For goal-oriented originals-only hypnotic melodic rock band. Female-vocalist-led band seeks serious, talented, and focused player with good attitude. You are 25 to 35, have pro gear, solid timing, and have odd-time signature ability. We're looking for a tribal Matt Cameron, Danny Carey feel. Please no loud heavy thrashers. Have good self control. Compliment the music not bury it. We have a nice rehearsal room, talented players that are focused, and great material. We are very dedicated to taking this all the way. Our influences are Soundgarden, Doors, Zeppelin, AIC. Serious inquires only. No druggies, flakes or egos 619-980-7978.

DRUMMER WANTED for North County based hard rock/metal band. Commitment, professional attitude, and willingness to practice at least twice per week. Tim, 760-738-0173.

DRUMMER WANTED, for emerging band performing blues influenced originals and covers. Must be reliable, committed, versatile and must love to play for fun. Call 619-518-8488.

ENTERTAINER/SOLOIST with gear seeks bar or restaurant for weekly gig. 150 Beatles songs. I sing and look like John Lennon. Richard, 619-284-1625.

GUITARIST NEEDED FOR Masterguru. All original grindcore/death. Drop A tunning or 7-string. Must have stageworthy gear. Someone in their 20s, myspace.com/masterguru, 858-531-3228.

HANDBELL RINGERS wanted, beginning to experienced, to ring in volunteer choirs in Escondido. Rehearsals on Wednesday evenings. Play monthly for Sunday morning services. 760-745-5100 x19.

JOHN LENNON, The anniversary of his death is coming, 12/8. I would like to have a musical tribute at a local bar, restaurant, coffee house. 619-284-1625.

KEYBOARDIST NEEDED by established classic rock cover band. Vocal harmonies a plus. Gig couple Saturdays a month. Practice in Clairemont. Springsteen, Tom Petty. Bruce, 858-735-5828.

KEYBOARDIST who sings harmonies needed. (Harmonica, too?) Ready to play out. First gig 1/14, cover band, dance rock, high energy. We have day jobs. 480-980-8080.

KEYBOARDIST, wanted for emerging band performing blues influenced originals and covers. Must be reliable, committed, versatile and must love to play for fun. Call 619-518-8488.

METAL GUITARIST SOUGHT, Female metal guitarist sought. North County. Influences Slayer 760-583-0109.

MUSIC TEACHERS WANTED. Guitar, piano, band instruments, voice. Rent studio space n Poway. Accepting new students interested in private lessons. Introductory rates. Jeff, 858-780-1812, jbertran@san.rr.com.

PRODUCER, seeks Ska, World Beat, Latin/Jazz bands/musicians. Composer needs copyists, violinists, pianist, winds. Contemporary "Ivesy" works. www.myspace.com/mindcontrolsalsa. 619-528-0907.

RYTHM GUITAR, player, singer, songwriter seeking drummer, bass player and lead guitar. Player To form Rock-N-Roll band. Original material. Rehearsal space needed. Hal 619-223-1639.

SINGER/VOCALIST/FRONTMAN, Needed. Established band seeks new singer! New album on hold, www.ocularband.com, under 30. Please have demo. Check music before call. 760-445-5181. 760-703-9524.

VOCALIST SEEKING BAND, Sound like Bowie meets Johnny Cash. Looking for something like Echo and the Bunnymen or ? Call Pheonix at 858-692-9329.

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RECORD A DEMO at HobarTrax, efficient experienced engineer, Pro Tools, Mackie, Avalon, etc. Session musicians available, all styles. CD design, duplication packages, $30/hour. www.hobartrax.com, 858-243-7728.

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RECORDING SERVICES- Special holiday rates! Singers, rappers, rockers, aspiring artists: your tracks, your talent, Pro-Tools studio. Call Family Affair Entertainment now! 858-451-0283.

REHEARSAL STUDIOS! Two locations-Sports Arena & Miramar. Monthly and hourly available. Universal Sound, 619-306-2222, 858-401-2973.

REHEARSAL STUDIOS, Escondido. Hourly, monthly (from $250), easy access, plenty of parking, air conditioned, high ceilings, soundproof, drum room also available. Near Guitar Center. 619-459-2255.

REHEARSAL STUDIOS. $18/hour with PA. Equipment rentals, overnight PA rentals. Open 24 hours by appointment. Monthly studios now available starting $350/month. Goblin Studios, 760-599-4627. www.goblinrecords.net.

REHEARSAL IN OCEAN BEACH at Spotless. 1922 Bacon Street across from Winston's. 3 air conditioned rooms with P.A., available for hourly rentals. Parking, loading. 619-523-3073.

REHEARSAL SPACE. Spacious room! Monthly/weekly/hourly rental. Sharing is available. Air conditioned. 24-hour access in Escondido. Internet access available. Scott, www.exumrecording.com. Call 760-739-9700.

REHEARSAL STUDIOS for musicians, artists. Handy College Area location. Monthly rentals only. Your appointment is appreciated. We will get back to you promptly. 858-335-8455.

REHEARSE AT ADDER. Upscale Kearny Mesa facility. All rooms have individual air conditioning, high ceilings and 24-hour access. Monthly rooms available. 858-505-8644. www.adderstudios.com.

REHEARSE AT HINDSIGHT- Miramar. Hourly rooms, fully equipped (drum kit, two half stacks, bass rig, PA), starting $18/hour. PA only, $16/hour. 858-635-9611, www.hindsightrehearsal.com.

REHEARSE AT SUPERIOR SOUND in Kearny Mesa or El Cajon. State-of-the-art rehearsal studios that offer 24-hour surveillance, soundproofing, air conditioning, and high ceilings. Ask about our move-in special! Limited rooms available. Call now to reserve your space. Kearny Mesa, 858-268-4600; El Cajon, 619-447-4977.

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ALLIED GARDENS, Room within 3 bedroom house. Nice, quiet neighborhood. Large kitchen, backyard. Share bath. $550/month plus 1/3 utilities, 619-572-4896.

BAY PARK, $695. Furnished large bedroom includes utilities, cable TV, queen size bed, upstairs. No pets/drugs/smoking. On quiet cul-de-sac. Washer/dryer, 858-272-1594.

BAY PARK. $650. 1 bedroom in large 4 bedroom house, great bay view, utilities included. $650/month, plus 1 month security. Call Mark (cell), 570-430-0151.

CARDIFF, Room in 2 bedroom 1 bath house. Close to beach, parks, centrally located. Ocean view patio, yard. Washer/dryer. $750/month, $800/deposit. Call Dave 858-337-0382.

CARDIFF. $525. Female, nonsmoker. Share 3 bedroom with female and male. Warm, cozy, fireplace, laundry, more! Includes Internet/DSL, SDGE, TV, telephone. Vegetarian. Message, 760-519-6789.

CARDIFF. $745. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse. Very quiet neighborhood. Peaceful, clean place with awesome ocean view. 1/2 utilities, deposit. No smoking/pets. Sandi, 760-745-6394.

CARDIFF. Small furnished $625. Large room $775 plus utilities and deposits. Community living, privacy. Vegetarian/seafood kitchen, organic garden, jacuzzi, laundry. Nonsmokers. No pets 760-753-0321.

CARLSBAD, Share sunny, 2 bedroom 1 bath house. Large patio, block from the beach, centrally located. Near Carlsbad Village. Washer/dryer. $675/month. 760-622-0245.

CARLSBAD. $695. Female share large, beautiful 4 bedroom home with ocean views, pool, spacious grounds, 1 mile to beach. No smoking, drugs, pets. Linda, 760-729-3818.

CARLSBAD. $650. Top of the hills views, full privileges. Utilities, TV cable in room, cleaning service, wireless Internet included. Nonsmoking female only. Lori, 760-492-4652.

CARMEL VALLEY. Brand new 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath, 3-car garage house. Nonsmoking. Choice of bedrooms including downstairs wing with bedroom, french doors, bathroom, garage. 858-692-0430.

CHULA VISTA. $575. Room with own bathroom. Parking, washer/dryer, weight room, basketball courts, pools. Cable hookup, Internet available. Utilities approximately $65. Deposit $400. 619-890-3395.

CHULA VISTA. $450 plus $100 deposit, utilities included. Furnished/cable TV. House. Shared bathroom. Male only, nonsmoker. No drugs/pets. 619-602-1824.

CHULA VISTA, OTAY RANCH, Female preferred, $475/month, $100/deposit, secured community. Room/private in 3 bedroom house. Near Southwestern College, mall, and 805 freeway. 619-403-4736.

CHULA VISTA, unfurnished new 3 bedroom 2 bath home. New stainless appliances, carpet, maple cabinets, granite, designer paint. Laundry, backyard, garage. Centrally located. No drugs/pets/smoking. Deposit. Habla espanol. $575-$775. 619-347-2115.

CHULA VISTA, new spacious quiet private home. Close to Southwestern College. Kitchen, washer/dryer privileges. Hablo espanol. Wireless connection. No smoking/drugs/pets. $550. 619-347-2115.

CITY HEIGHTS, Room in house $420, includes utilities. First/last required. $100/deposit. Quiet street, vegetarian kitchen, nonsmoking. No pets please. References 619-284-1352.

CITY HEIGHTS, Private room/bath. Centrally located, seniors park. New manufactured home, with amenities. Prefer female 45+, rent negotiable, 619-264-2161.

CLAIREMONT. $500. Share 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath home. Large kitchen, garage, storage, washer/dryer, covered patio, barbecue. High-speed Internet available. Near all. 858-300-6081.

CLAIREMONT, NORTH, $510 plus 1/3 utilities, deposit. Female to share 3 bedroom 2 bath house. No smoking, pets. Owner-occupied. Quiet area. Gary 858-531-4993.

CLAIREMONT. $550/month, 1/4 utilities. Room in house, share bathroom, kitchen, Internet, dish-TiVo, yard and view. Male preferred. Require first/last, $250 deposit. Available 12/16. 858-277-9075.

CLAIREMONT. $620/month, utilities included. Room for rent in 3 bedroom house. Nice neighborhood. Cable TV/Internet, laundry on-site. Plenty of parking. 619-454-3735.

CLAIREMONT, $750 includes utilties, $400/deposit in beautiful remodeled 2 bedroom 2 bath duplex, washer/dryer, dishwasher, big kitchen, backyard. Near Clairemont Square or minutes to beach 858-581-6629.

CLAIREMONT, SOUTH, Room in 3 bedroom house. Newly remolded. Male only, nonsmoker. Easy access to freeways. $600/month, includes basic utilities, 619-572-7100.

CLAIREMONT/BAY HO. $525, 1/3 utilities, security. Beautiful, remodeled, clean 3 bedroom, 2 bath house, stunning bay views, deck, laundry. Female only. Nonsmoker. No pets. 619-235-2415, x20013.

CLAIREMONT, $500. Room available, brand new addition. Designated bath. Includes all utilities and house privileges, high-speed Internet. Huge yard, some storage, 858-309-8700, cell 858-336-7494.

CLAIREMONT. $575. Room available in clean home on quiet street corner in safe neighborhood. Master bedroom, 11x13, own private bathroom, closet. Female preferred. Dan, 858-569-0105.

CLAIREMONT. $550. Cozy 3 bedroom, 2 bath remodeled house. Fireplace, patio, dishwasher, washer/dryer. Shared utilities. Deposit. Quiet, very convenient neighborhood. No smoking/pets. 858-279-2869; 619-235-2415, x11065.

CLAIREMONT. $500. 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. Laundry, cable, Internet. Near buses 25 and 44. Great location. No smoking or pets. $400 security. 858-279-5053; 619-235-2415, x13129.

CLAIREMONT, Near Mesa College. No smoking. Male only. $475 including utilties and cable TV, 619-623-8612, and 858-571-0383.

CLAIREMONT, NORTH. $500. Room near Clairemont Square, UTC, UCSD. Cable, Internet available. Kitchen, laundry privileges. Shared utilities. Need first/last/$100 deposit. No pets, 858-274-5234.

CLAIREMONT/MISSION BAY. Large beautiful furnished master bedroom, private bath. Best location. Near bay, quiet, private. Cable, refrigerator, utilities included. $600. Room only. 858-270-9038; 858-272-1992.

CLAIREMONT. $530, $175 deposit. Beautifully remodeled kitchen, bathrooms, carpet, tile, marble. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Cable, Internet, washer/dryer. Quiet, clean, secure. Female preferred. 858-490-2136.

CLAIREMONT. Nonsmoking female preferred to share 2 bedroom apartment. $550/month plus 1/2 utilities, $200/deposit. Gated pool, laundry. Near Mesa College, all freeways. Available 1/1/07. 858-571-7052.

COLLEGE AREA. 1 large bedroom, private entrance, jacuzzi, washer/dryer, fireplace, alarm, huge yard. Share 3 bedroom house. $600 with $550 deposit. Available now. 858-337-7417.

COLLEGE AREA. $550/month, includes utilities, $200 deposit. Female only. Room in clean, quiet home. Cleaning lady twice/month. Nondrinker/nonsmoker. Laundry. Small dog OK. 619-255-5589; 619-235-2415, x31118.

EASTLAKE. Room for rent, $475/month, $200 deposit. Close to freeways and Southwestern College. Available now. No pets. Some utilities included. 619-656-4932 or 619-417-4137.

EL CAJON, GRANITE HILLS. Furnished bedroom with private bath, kitchen, washer/dryer, pool privileges. Female, nonsmoking. Near Cuyamaca, Grossmont colleges, $500/month, utilties included. 619-994-4236.

EL CAJON. $475. 2 bedroom, 2 bath large apartment. Ground floor. Master bedroom unfurnished. 1/2 utilities. Cable, phone jack. Near laundry. Quiet area. 619-441-2649.

EL CAJON. $450. Room in clean house. Washer/dryer. High-speed Internet. Parking. Close to freeway and shopping. 619-654-0146.

EL CAJON. $450. Room for rent. All utilities included. Close to bus line. Shared kitchen, laundry and bathroom. Female only. Available 12/1. 619-449-4916.

EL CAJON. $200/month. 2 bedroom apartment. Female preferred. Can earn money for household duties, light cooking and errands. Male quadriplegic. Call Pat, 760-436-9734.

ENCINITAS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Large patio, view, garage, pool/spa/golf, cable, washer/dryer. $650 plus 1/2 utilities. Male nonsmoker, no dogs. 619-335-3535.

ENCINITAS. $550/month, 1/4 utilities. Room in clean, quiet modern house. Washer/dryer, cable, kitchen privileges, phone line available. Deposit. Won't last long. 760-753-1686; 619-235-2415, x30194.

GOLDEN HILL. $350/$400. Utilities included. Large, quiet. Centrally located. 3 private bedroom apartment. Share bath and kitchen. Deposit. 2220 E Street. Appointment necessary. 619-584-5900.

IMPERIAL BEACH, 2 blocks from ocean. Own room with own bathroom, no smoking, no pets. $550, includes utilities and cable. 619-227-4132.

IMPERIAL BEACH. $600/month, utilities included. Furnished room in 3 bedroom home. Washer/dryer. 1 mile to beach. 2 blocks estuary hiking trail. Pool, jacuzzi. 619-207-7409.

LA COSTA, Private entry, your own bathroom, refrigerator, microwave, sink, (no stove). No pets, nonsmokers, furnished optional $575 unfurnished, plus $75 utilities. Lease, 760-944-1160.

LA COSTA. $695 plus deposit, 1/2 utilities. Clean 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Washer/dryer, barbecue, kitchen privileges, own bathroom. No pets, smoking, drugs. 760-942-8164.

LA JOLLA VILLAGE, $925. Own room, private bath, includes utilities plus internet, housekeeping. Laundry on-site. $150/deposit. No smoking/pets. Close to all shopping, beaches. 619-804-5093.

LA JOLLA. Room in spacious, clean, peaceful home. Beautiful, safe neighborhood. Cable, Internet available. No smoking/pets. Vegetarian kitchen. Male preferred. $650, plus deposit/utilities. 858-581-2546; 858-220-9184; 619-235-2415, x27569.

LA JOLLA. $850. Room for rent, house, hardwood floors, refrigerator, stove, microwave, dishwasher, yard. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

LA JOLLA/DOWNTOWN. $950+. Share beautiful townhome. Sunny furnished room, private bath, balcony. Ocean views, maid, roof deck, garage, pooches. Nonsmoker/drugs. 858-456-2822.

LA JOLLA/UTC. Master, $675 or $775 plus utilities, deposit. 2000-square-foot home. In-ground pool, fireplace, gazebo, fountains, wireless Internet, off-street parking. No pets. 858-455-9914.

LA JOLLA/UTC. $575. Room in large 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath canyon view home. Teak bed, desk, shelf, chest drawers. Available 1/1. 1/4 utilities. 858-558-0705.

LA MESA. $450/$450 deposit. Bedroom available 12/1, 3 bedroom 2 bathroom condominium, share bathroom. Includes utilities, cable, Internet, large living room/patio. No pets! 619-464-2254.

LA MESA. $525/month includes utilities. Near all, quiet duplex, patio, barbecues, dishwasher, wide screen satellite. Male only. Smoker OK. Near trolley. Mike, 619-469-1131.

LA MESA. $500. Female nonsmoker. Share 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Nice quiet neighborhood. Close to SDSU. Utilities included. Free cable and Internet. Call 619-504-6862.

LA MESA. Historical house with views, room in 3 bedroom house. Near downtown La Mesa. High-speed Internet included. $475. Call 619-888-0948.

LEUCADIA. $900. Furnished master suite. Beachside gated complex with amenities. Walk-in closet, kitchenette, washer/dryer, cable, off-street parking. No smoking, drugs, pets. 760-942-2212.

LINDA VISTA. Nonsmoking male wanted to share clean, spacious, fully furnished apartment with patio. Near USD and Mesa. $500 plus 1/2. Available mid-month. Richard, 858-505-0262.

LINDA VISTA. $480. Three bedroom home, ocean view, central, tropical yard, quiet, new carpet/marble, laundry. $300/deposit. No smoking/pets. Male preferred. Bill, 858-518-1517.

MIRA MESA. Master bedroom with bathroom available. $700/month, $700 deposit. 6-month lease or possibly longer. 1/2 utilities. Washer/dryer, microwave, cable ready. 858-353-5039.

MIRA MESA. $550, $250 deposit. 1 bedroom available in 4 bedroom house. Share bath. Kitchen privileges including washer/dryer and utilities. No smoking/pets. 858-733-1195.

MIRA MESA. $550. Female. Single bedroom, large house. Includes all utilities. Washer/dryer, community pool. No pets or smoking. 949-631-7525; 619-235-2415, x14410.

MIRA MESA. $375-$650, share house, pool, jacuzzi, deck, cable, wireless Internet, washer/dryer. Female only. No pets. Master with private bath, and entrance. 858-549-3197.

MISSION BAY, $899 plus deposit. Luxurious million dollar home. Pool, jacuzzi, washer/dryer. Private gazebo, free cable/water. 1/3 SDGE. Please call Landon 858-945-0882.

MISSION VALLEY, Beautiful luxury apartment. Room and own bath. All amenities included, pool, spa gym, washer/dryer. Pets OK. $800/month. Please leave message, 619-294-2954, kju77@aol.com.

NATIONAL CITY. Reo Drive. Room available ready to move in. Male only. Laminated wood floors in nice house. $430 including utilities, 619-788-2162.

NORTH PARK. $575. Private bedroom in 3 bedroom, 2 bath luxury duplex. Dishwasher. Carport. New paint/carpet. Cox Cable. Best location. Near I-805/SDSU. 619-916-7531; 619-519-1003.

NORTH PARK. $475. Completely furnished room for rent. All utilities are included. Share bath. $50/deposit. Good credit required. No smoking. Call Steve, 619-282-6461.

OCEAN BEACH. Room with 1 bath in condo. $650. Female, nonsmoking, drinking, drugs. Quiet, near beach. Pool, washer/dryer, security, cable. Utilities included. d.abrams@cox.net; 619-224-2958.

OCEAN BEACH. Furnished room $595, unfurnished $565. Share 3 bedroom townhouse with 2 males. Washer/dryer, cable TV, DSL. $400 deposit. No drugs/pets. 619-540-6066.

OCEAN BEACH. $675. Room for rent in a 3 bedroom house, new carpets, quiet neighborhood, refrigerator, stove. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

OCEANSIDE, Room for rent $650/month $300/deposit. 8 blocks from beach. Available January 1, 760-271-5493.

OCEANSIDE. $565. Beautiful spacious room in executive home. 2 miles to beach. Female only household. Garage space, cable, water/gardener included. Nonsmoker, no pets. 858-603-9507.

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PACIFIC BEACH. Large room with own bathroom available in recently renovated condo complex in quiet cul-de-sac. No dogs. $850, includes utilities, $400 deposit. Max, 858-442-6376.

PACIFIC BEACH. $650. Room for rent in a 2-story townhome. Great location near bars/restaurants and the beach. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PARADISE HILLS/Pacific Beach. 1 room available in each location. Washer/dryer. Nonsmoker, nondrinker, no drugs, no pets. $500/$600. 619-470-4824.

POINT LOMA, PARK. 4 bedroom 2-1/2 bath. $650, no bills. Olympic size pool, gym, basketball court, spa. Garage, washer/dryer, big screen TV. 619-994-9965, 619-300-8424.

POINT LOMA. $600. 1 bedroom available in nice 3 bedroom house. Nice neighborhood, close to everything! No pets. Nonsmoking. Shared bathroom. 1/3 utilities. Barb, 619-224-1628.

POINT LOMA. Partially furnished bedroom, panoramic view, private 1/2 bath, laundry, cable, TV, privileges in 3 bedroom house. Pet OK, $675/month, 1/3 utilities, 619-222-2371, 619-884-2594.

SAN CARLOS, $700 plus deposit, share large house with owner, utilties paid, full use, pool/jacuzzi, clean. Female preferred, no smoke/drugs. 619-708-5746.

SAN CARLOS. $600. Unfurnished bedroom available in 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Near Grossmont College/Center, freeways. Pool, laundry facilities. Share utilities 3 ways. 619-957-9471.

SAN CARLOS, GROSSMONT. 2 bedroom condo. Nice, large sunny room, mirrored closets. Parking. No smoking/drugs, female only. Quiet. $600 includes utilities. Has cat. 619-698-7350.

SAN DIEGO, 2 bedroom 1 bath apartment. Near Penasquitos. Nice, quiet. $450/month, utilities and cable included. 858-672-4527.

SCRIPPS RANCH. $525. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath house, expansive view, garage, housekeeper, cable Internet. Full privileges, laundry, patio, yard. Month free after year. 858-549-9822; 619-235-2415, x29277.

SDSU. Walk to SDSU. 2 rooms in large house. Washer/dryer. Available now. No pets. Cynthia, 760-741-2543.

SOUTH BAY. $345, utilities included, $75 deposit. Share 3 bedroom house in Paradise Valley area. Male nonsmoker. Available now. Contact Gary for appointment, 619-267-5804.

TIERRASANTA, $675/month, $200 utilities in clean and quiet 4 bedroom house, includes broadband Internet, cable, gardener/maid, washer/dryer, pool, fireplace, no smoking/pets. 619-920-9990.

TIERRASANTA. $580, plus $350/deposit. Shared utilities/cable/Internet. Washer/dryer. Comfortable room, furnished/unfurnished. Near all. No smoking, drugs, pets. Male preferred, 858-292-0145.

UTC/LA JOLLA. $890. Share furnished 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Own bedroom, bathroom, closet. $920, including water, trash, garage. 1/2 utilities. 858-405-2597, 858-320-3351, 760-752-7796.

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HILLCREST OFFICE SPACE, $675. Best location, 5th and University in classic 1920s bank building. 450 square-feet, basement, 1 room office. Parking available. 3911 5th Avenue. 858-945-5710.

PACIFIC BEACH. $135. Single garage, dry storage only, alley access, 2108 Grand Ave. 858-272-3178.

NORMAL HEIGHTS/UNIVERSITY Heights. $775-$820. 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage on Adams Avenue. Hardwood floors. Close to all. Can be used as office space. 619-291-5555. www.utopiamanagement.com.

SHERMAN HEIGHTS/DOWNTOWN. Storage shed/unit, 10x12. $45/month. New, clean, secure. Dry storage only. Year lease. 2450 K Street. www.innoreventerprises.com. 619-233-5663.

OCEAN BEACH. $650/month. One large room, for office or storage. 300 square-feet. Available January 1. 4230 Voltaire, Suite #5. 619-318-8737 or 619-225-8200, ext. 10.

GOLDEN HILL COMMERCIAL SPACE. Upstairs Victorian private office space. 12 month lease. $495/month. $495 deposit. 2496 E Street, #2A. www.goldenhillpm.com. Agent, 619-234-9553.

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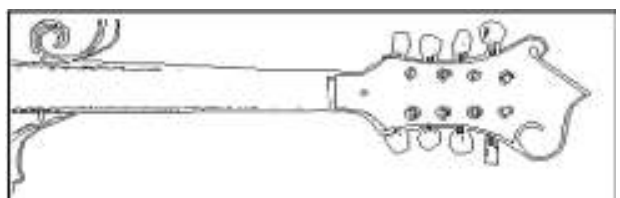

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CARLSBAD, EAST. Calavera Hills. $2795. 5 bedroom, 4 bath house with full bed and bath downstairs, fireplace, view, balcony, large yard, 2800 square feet. No pets. Available 12/15. 4674 Meadow Drive. Call 858-583-0182 or 858-688-0287. www.cal-prop.com.

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CARLSBAD. From $1395. 1 bedroom bungalow. Call for specials! Close to beach. Carport, fenced backyard. Washer/dryer hook-ups. $200 security deposit. Available now. 760-729-5668.

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CARLSBAD/La Costa La Paloma, $2200. Very upgraded remodeled with stainless steel appliances, vaulted ceilings, wood floors, family room, fenced yard. Pet on approval. One story, 2 garages, gardener included. Panda Realty, 858-748-8850.

CARMEL MOUNTAIN. 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 2-story home plus den. 2-car garage. Fireplace, kitchen nook, living/dining room. Shoal Creek Elementary. $2495. 858-922-2145.

CASA DE ORO. $1600. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath duplex, lower level. Attractive landscaping. Washer/dryer, refrigerator. Extra parking. Walk to all. No pets. 619-981-4100.

CHULA VISTA. 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath. 3,000 square feet. 2-masters. Family room. Garages. Fireplace. Gated. Walk to all. Cul-de-sac. Available 01/10/07. $2100. 619-818-7373, 619-840-8004.

CHULA VISTA/OTAY MESA. Like new! Spacious 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath plus loft. 3-car garage. Washer/dryer. Landscaping. $2250 includes gardener. www.northsandiegohomes.us. Agent, 760-470-2614.

CHULA VISTA/EASTLAKE Greens. $1875/month. House, 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, air conditioning, fireplace, double garage, pool, tennis, golf. Pets OK. 1159 Calle Tesoro. 619-253-4786.

CHULA VISTA. $3000. 2-story, 5 bedroom, 3 bath. Bonus room, 3-car tandem garage, 2968', fireplace, storage, landscaping, alarm, patio, appliances, Berber carpet. 702-739-2075.

CHULA VISTA/Otay Ranch, $3700. Lovely 5 bedroom, 4-1/2 bath view home. Cul-de-sac, 3850 square-feet, upgraded. Family room, loft, 3-car garage, private yard. 619-993-1758.

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CHULA VISTA. $1795. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath house in Otay Mesa area. 2-story. Fenced yard. 1500 square feet. 2-car garage. 1444 Robles Drive. 1/2 off first month's rent! No pets. Call 858-583-0182 or 858-688-0287. www.cal-prop.com.

CHULA VISTA, NORTH. $1400. House, classic Spanish 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Living room, dining room. Hookups. New appliances. Fenced yard. Off-street parking. 85 Monte Vista Avenue. 858-457-0397.

CHULA VISTA. $1100. Beautiful, remodeled 2 bedroom, 1 bath, spacious with large front and back yards. Dark hardwood floors. Close to all. Call 619-250-4153

CITY HEIGHTS, $950/month. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, huge storage, porch, fenced yard. Drive by 5281 Rex Street. Call after 12 noon, 619-287-6854.

CITY HEIGHTS, $1495. Totally remodeled 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Hardwood floors, new kitchen and bath, washer/dryer, garage, huge covered patio with fenced yard. 3345 Euclid Avenue. 619-683-9274.

CITY HEIGHTS, $825. 2 bedroom, 1 bath triplex, middle unit, 700 square-feet. Owner pays water. 4045 38th Street. Available now. Contact Daniel, 858-688-3501.

CLAIREMONT. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with fireplace, beautiful view of a mini lake; up and downstairs; 1548 square feet. 5 minutes to Mission Bay; 7 minutes to La Jolla. Gardener paid; 2-car garage; like living in a park. Two large duck ponds; swimming pool in community; tennis courts. $2200/month. 858-270-7711, cell 619-726-2733.

CLAIREMONT Duplex, $1400. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large back yard and 1-car garage with washer/dryer hookups. Completely remodeled. Pets OK. 4153 Bannock. Todd, 619-977-7825.

CLAIREMONT, $1950. Spacious 4 bedroom, 2 bath. Lots of open space, large kitchen, fenced yard, walk-in closet, new deck/built-in bench, 2-car garage. Quiet neighborhood. Close to all. 3612 Atlas Street. 619-688-9191.

CLAIREMONT. $1995. 4 bedroom, 2 bath house, 2-car garage, with small storage shed in backyard, new garage door with opener, new gas stove, new double oven, new garbage disposal, new paint inside and out, new carpet, hardwood floor in living room. Near all, quick access to I-805, large park across the street. Landscaping included. 7349 Eckstrom Avenue. Agent, 858-560-1178.

RED MEAT

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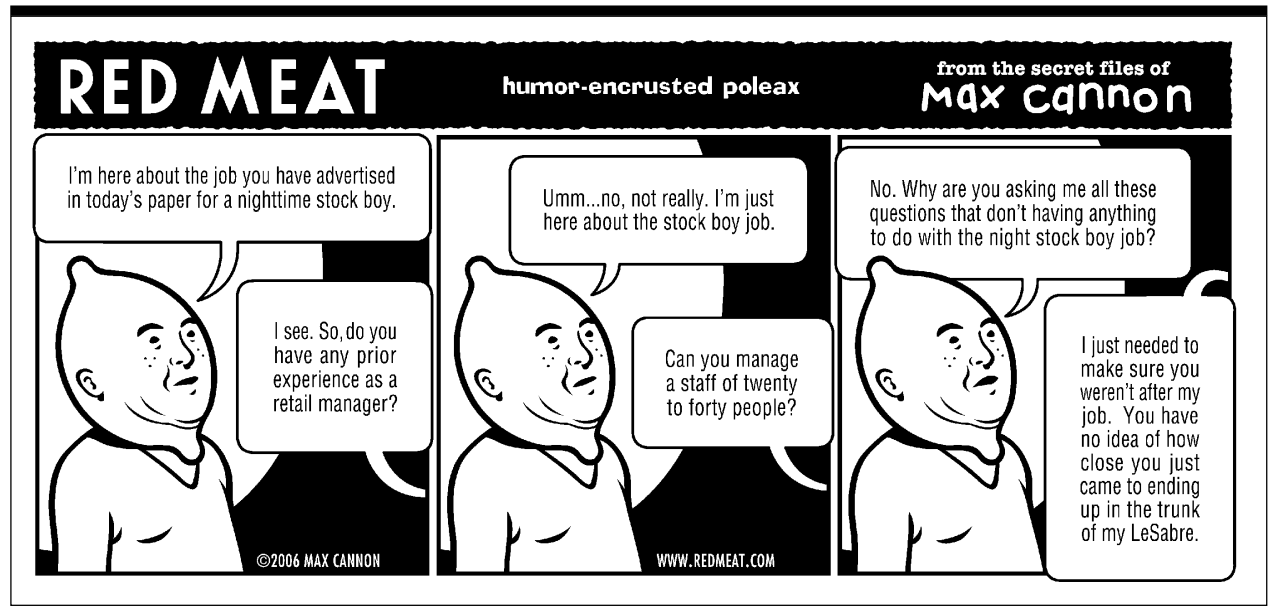

COLLEGE AREA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Fenced back yard, 2-car garage, washer/dryer, remodeled. Walk to all. Pets OK. $1950/month. 5902 Baja Drive. Available 1/1/07. 760-603-0057.

COLLEGE, $1525. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house, Spanish style. Hardwood floors, fireplace, washer/dryer, all appliances, garage, large yard. 4692 60th Street 92115. 619-698-6911.

COLLEGE, $1695. Beautiful 3 bedroom, 1 bath Spanish style house. Dining room, yard, landscaper. Pet negotiable. 4778 Aragon Drive, 92115. 619-698-6911.

COLLEGE/ROLANDO, $1650. Gorgeous 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Move-in ready. Cul-de-sac, 2-car attached garage, ceiling fans, new interior/exterior paint, new carpet/appliances/window coverings. Large park-like fenced yard. 619-448-5592, 619-855-0377.

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DOWNTOWN. $900. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, house in Little Italy, unfurnished, street parking, small deck. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN/GOLDEN HILL. $1275. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house, new cabinets, tile, appliances. Hardwood floors. Laundry. Remodeled and upgraded. 845 21st Street. 619-293-0330.

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EL CAJON. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, garage, new tile/carpet and paint. Dual sinks in master. Roman bathtub. Near freeway. Available now. $2350. David, 858-336-2112.

EL CAJON/FLINN SPRINGS. $1950/month. Immaculate 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Nice, quiet neighborhood. Fresh paint, tile, berber carpet, ceiling fans, fireplace, stove, dishwasher, microwave. New landscaping, fenced rear yard, covered patio, 2-car garage. gardener included. 14157 Kelli Lane. 619-699-2749, 619-444-7677.

EL CAJON/JAMUL. $1200. Live under the oaks! Beautiful custom upgrades. Newly renovated 2 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home. Very private location on property. 619-468-3988.

ENCINITAS. 3 bedroom, 3 bath. Spectacular panoramic ocean and city light view. If you have exquisite taste you'll fall in love. Gorgeous home. Better than a model under market. $2795. 760-753-4101.

ESCONDIDO. Ask about special! Upgraded 3 bedroom, 3 bath. 2-laundry areas. Central heat/air. Garage with workshop. Includes granny flat. Security gate/fenced yard. 2-fireplaces. $2200. 619-857-0689.

ESCONDIDO. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on private road. 2-car garage. Gorgeous master with enormous closet/garden tub. Refrigerator. Dishwasher. Pets OK. $2200. 619-977-7292.

ESCONDIDO. $825-$1750. Tired of apartment living? Half off first month's rent, OAC. Beautiful manufactured homes offer spectacular hilltop views. Attached private 2-car covered carports. Small yards, full-size washer/dryer most homes. Sorry, no pets. 1924 Sheridan Avenue. 760-745-1677.

ESCONDIDO. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath and 1+ acres. Hidden Meadows. All payments go towards down. Fencing, huge deck, beautiful trees. Zoned for horses. $2600. 760-294-0032.

ESCONDIDO/Southeast South Spruce, $1550. Remodeled 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 story, 2 car carport. Great view, deck, open floor plan. Pets on approval. Panda Realty, 858-748-8850.

GOLDEN HILL. $850. Studio, house, water included, quiet neighborhood, private yard. Close to the freeways. Avialable now. No pets. 2784 A Street 619-250-4153.

HILLCREST. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Completely remodeled. Washer/dryer, walk-in closet, 1-car garage, storage, fully enclosed yard. Pets OK. Great location! $1995/month. 619-549-4959.

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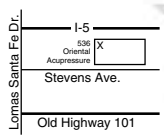

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HILLCREST/NORTH PARK. $1500. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, fireplace, hardwood floors, patios, view. Excellent location. Close to freeways. Walk to restaurants, shops, Balboa Park. 619-298-7301.

IMPERIAL BEACH. 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home. 4 years new! Near beach. 2-car garage. 2-fireplaces. Balcony. Laundry. $2150 includes gardener and appliances. 619-224-4215.

IMPERIAL BEACH. Beautiful 4 bedroom, 3 bath house on private street in great IB neighborhood! Huge rooms, vaulted ceilings, granite kitchen. Large family room with fireplace. Master has 2 walk-in closets. Sundeck with ocean views! 2-car garage plus storage. Pets OK! $2800/month. Call Robert at 619-309-7865.

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KENSINGTON, 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. New paint, hardwood floors, formal dining room with built-ins, large kitchen with breakfast nook, off-street parking. Gardener, water included. Walk to Village. 4774 Edgeware Road. $1895/month. 619-683-9274.

KENSINGTON. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bathroom historical Craftsman with covered front porch, gourmet kitchen with vintage porcelain stove, island breakfast bar, custom cabinetry, granite, new hardwood floors. Formal dining room with built-ins, French doors open to fenced bricked courtyard garden. Washer/dryer, one car garage with great storage. Gardener and water included. Walk to village, close to all. 4533 Edgeware Road. $2095/month. 619-683-9274.

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LA JOLLA. $2350. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, house, pool, quiet, community spa, extra large brick patio. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

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CARDIFF. Beautiful 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. $1850. Available 1/1. Coin laundry. Walk to beach. View. No pets. 1 year lease. 2142 Montgomery. 949-212-3275.

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CITY HEIGHTS. $925. 4265 Chamoune Avenue, across KFC. 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse apartment. Downstairs/upstairs, carpet, dishwasher, central air conditioning, heating, laundry room in building, ample parking not assigned. No pets. Section 8 OK. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686.

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COLLEGE AREA. $775, plus $775 deposit. Nice, quiet, clean 1 bedroom, downstairs. On-site laundry, parking. 4546 54th Street, #3. No pets. Please call 619-698-1400.

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COLLEGE. $3000. 5 bedroom, 3 bath, 2-car garage, huge driveway, 2100 square foot. Utilities not included. See our ad on backpage.com. Miller Management, 619-813-3111.

COLLEGE/SDSU. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, close to all, small intimate building, on-site laundry, off-street parking. $995. 4633 62nd Street. Chris, 619-504-4995.

COLLEGE/TALMADGE. $675 rent, $600 deposit. Upper 1 bedroom. New carpet, parking lot, laundry room. No pets. 4423 Menlo Avenue #11. 619-990-5021.

CORONADO. Beautiful, spacious, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, upper level. New kitchen and appliances, washer/dryer, spa tub, off-street (2) parking, storage, pet OK. $1800. 619-628-1810.

CROWN POINT. $1495. 3755 Jewell Street. Extra large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New appliances, carpets, drapes, blinds, paint. 2 blocks to bay. Partial view. No pets. www.timcassidy.com. Cassidy, Broker, 619-275-LIST.

DEL MAR. $1550. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse. Desirable setting, stroll to Torrey Pines Reserve, beach, restaurants and shops. Coin laundry, parking. 12760 Via Cortina. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

DEL MAR. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. $1350. Upstairs. Security gate. Laundry. Pool, spa. 1-car detached garage. Nonsmoking. Cats OK. Available 11/30. Jesse, 858-761-4614.

DEL MAR. Block to ocean! Top floor 2 bedroom, 2 bath, $1925, and 3 bedroom, 2 bath, $1995. Free cable, pool, spa, sauna. Gated, nonsmoking community. 201 Fourth Street. 858-481-9585; mikeatla@aol.com.

DEL MAR. From $2995. 1552 Camino Del Mar #601 (almost oceanfront). Some ocean views. Interior laundry. Call for other available properties. Free rental/buying information by e-mail. Pictures at www.ILoveDelMar.com. Kohn & Burke, Inc., 858-755-8580.

DEL MAR/SOLANA BEACH. $500 deposits! 1 bedrooms from $1260. 2 bedrooms from $1500. 3 bedrooms from $1895. Pets welcome, up to 100lbs! Ocean views! Private patio/balcony. Resort-style pool, party-size Jacuzzi. Lighted tennis courts. Solana Highlands, 701 South Nardo. www.solanahighlands.com. Toll free: 1-888-637-8571. http://www.sdreader.com/rent/1057.

DEL MAR/SOLANA BEACH. Free rent! $1150. Newly remodeled studio located close to Del Mar beach, Cedro's Design District. Perfect for the Southern California lifestyle. Separate kitchen and bath, breakfast bar, balconies/patios, mirrored closet doors, ceiling fans, pool, parking, electricity included. Small dogs welcome! 858-755-1466; sandpiper.rasnyder.com.

DEL MAR/SOLANA BEACH. Free rent! $1550. Newly remodeled 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhomes located close to Del Mar beaches, race track. Small quaint community perfect Southern California lifestyle. Crown molding. Fully equipped kitchen with dishwashers, patios, mirrored closet doors, ceiling fans, pool, laundry, covered parking. 858-755-1466, solanapointe.rasnyder.com.

DOWNTOWN, NORTH. $850. 1 bedroom. Stove, refrigerator, coin laundry, no parking, convenient location. Cat OK with additional $300 deposit. Downstairs unit available now. 101 West Fir. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

DOWNTOWN, NORTH. $950. Large 1 bedroom, downstairs. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, coin laundry, parking, large fenced private patio. Easy freeway access. Cat OK with additional $300 deposit. Available 1/1/07. 215 West Grape. DSPM, Broker, 858-270-2071, www.delsolpm.com.

DOWNTOWN, GASLAMP. $1250. 1 bedroom loft in heart of Gaslamp District, overlooking quiet, central courtyard. Washer/dryer. Street parking. 619-220-7115.

DOWNTOWN. San Diego's first hip hybrid hotel. Daily, $39. Weekly, $215. Weekend rates may be higher, subject to availability. Internet access in room. Near bus/train. Flat screen TVs. Gourmet eat-in kitchen. European-style detached bathrooms. 500 West Hotel. 500 West Broadway. 619-234-5252. Toll free: 1-888-895-0875. www.500WestHotel.com, www.sdreader.com/rent/2114.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. December move-in special! Only $675/month for 6 months! Utilities included! Monday-Friday 8am-6pm, Saturday 8am-3pm. Near Petco Park, bus/trolley. Fully furnished. Bay/ballpark views. Underground parking. Air conditioning. Laundry. Internet. Clubhouse/library. Income qualify! Island Village. 1245 Market Street. For details, 1-800-351-0613. www.sdreader.com/rent/2070.

DOWNTOWN. Brand new rooms near City College. Single rooms with kitchenettes from $140/week plus deposit (long-term). Includes utilities/cable. Quiet, secure. Shared bath/laundry. Hotel Mediterranean. 619-231-8656. www.hotelmedsd.com.

DOWNTOWN. Studios with kitchen and bath, $625-$700. Single room with private bathroom, $500-$550. No smoking or pets. 10th and E Street. Hughes Management, 619-531-1616.

DOWNTOWN. Air conditioned studios and 1 bedroom apartment with kitchenettes and full bathrooms. No smoking/pets. $675-$875, including utilities, cable. 728 Market at 7th. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x103.

DOWNTOWN. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, $795-$995/month. Secure, clean building. Laundry facilities. Call 619-962-8000.

DOWNTOWN. Beautiful building, new furnished rooms. Refrigerator, microwave, TV, cable. $175, weekly. 920 Beech Street. Call 619-234-1952.

DOWNTOWN. 1 bedroom condo, Park Boulevard East, $1650. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, Union Square, $1800. Near downtown nightlife and naval bases. Call for more information: Darline, Downtown Properties, 619-654-1611.

DOWNTOWN. $100-$300 off/month! Views! $1500-$4300. Spacious 1 bedroom, 2 bedroom apartments; 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhomes; Luxury 2 bedroom penthouses! Low $500-$800 deposits! Balconies. Fireplace. Stainless appliances. Washer/dryer. Barbecue. Rooftop deck. Controlled access. Pool. Spa. Courtesy patrol. Pets welcome! Allegro Towers, 1455 Kettner Boulevard. 1-888-401-3692. www.sdreader.com/rent/2133.

DOWNTOWN. Comfortable rooms, $450/up. Studios, $650/up. Near Gaslamp District. Very quiet and clean. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, community kitchen, shared bathrooms. Near shopping, restaurants, movie theatres and Horton Plaza. No pets. Arlington Apartments, 701 7th Avenue. Hughes Management. 619-231-2385. www.sdreader.com/rent/2097.

DOWNTOWN. Cozy rooms, $450-$625, grab these little jewels today! Very comfortable, convenient location, historic building near C Street trolley. Choice of shared or private bathrooms. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, modern elevator, no pets. Southern Hotel, 1159 6th Avenue at B, Hughes Management, 619-239-3808. www.sdreader.com/rent/2099.

DOWNTOWN. Economical furnished rooms, $400-$500, best price, save money. Conveniently located on C Street trolley line, near restaurants, free cable TV, shared bathrooms, on-site laundry facilities, vending machines, elevator service, no pets, 636 C Street (between 6th and 7th). C Street Inn, Hughes Management, 619-234-4165. www.sdreader.com/rent/2098.

DOWNTOWN. $1250. Large, air conditioned loft. High ceilings, wood floors. Full kitchen/bath. Skylights. Beautiful courtyard. 744 G Street. Near Gaslamp. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x2.

DOWNTOWN. Gaslamp area. Move-in special, $280. Community kitchen, shared bath, on-site laundry, vending machines, no pets, Star Hotel, 522 7th Avenue. 619-235-6068. Hughes Management.

DOWNTOWN. Outstanding furnished rooms, $400-$500. Heart of Gaslamp. Shared bathrooms. Community kitchen. Free cable TV. No pets. 843 4th Avenue. Windsor Hotel. 619-235-6068. Hughes Management.

DOWNTOWN. Attractive rooms. Shared bath. Utilities included! Near City College! $400-$595 per month. Weekly rates from $125! 719 14th Street, Villa Victoria. Hughes Management, 619-231-2385.

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voice mail. High speed Internet. Food service daily. Near trolley/bus/freeway, Balboa Park, Gaslamp. West Park Inn, 1840 4th Avenue. www.westparkinn.com. 619-236-1600. www.sdreader.com/rent/2037.

DOWNTOWN. $775. Huge studio apartment, all utilities included, 14' ceiling, clean, quiet, secure. If you find one better, rent it. Available now. 1910 Market #4. To view call Elvia, se habla espanol, 619-531-1194 or Jeff, 619-713-1044.

DOWNTOWN. $1500. 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo at The Metrome. Stainless steel appliances and granite counters, underground parking, gym, washer/dryer in condo. 1150 J Street. Available now! No pets. Call 858-688-0287 or 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

DOWNTOWN. $750, studio. Beautiful view of city lights! Quiet complex, gated parking, remote entry, laundry on premises. No pets. 1830 Market Street. 619-405-RENT(7368).

DOWNTOWN. $1175. Park Row. Fabulous 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Lush grounds, secured entry. New appliances/carpet. No pets. 701 Kettner Boulevard #181. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

DOWNTOWN. $1795. Secure, loft-style, 2 story 1 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Lots of closets. New kitchen. Family room, fireplace, air conditioned, balcony. Pool. Gym. 1240 India Street #510. Bill Luther Realty, 858-488-1580.

DOWNTOWN. Move-in special! $750. Studio. Stove, refrigerator, carpet. All utilities included. Laundry, street parking. No pets. Close to Balboa Park. 1758 6th Avenue. Agent, 619-298-7724.

DOWNTOWN. $650. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, month-to-month lease, carpet and tile floors. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. $1350. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, duplex, carpet floors, 2-car garage parking. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. $1695. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, condo, balcony, washer and dryer in unit, island bar. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. $1975. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, loft, gated parking, refrigerator, stove, microwave, dishwasher, steps from Petco Park, Ralphs, Gaslamp. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. 777 Lofts. $1275-$2195. $500 move-in special! 1 bedrooms, 2 bedrooms. Gaslamp's hottest rental lofts located in the heart of restaurant row and Downtown's most popular 5th Avenue night life. Small pets considered. TPPM, 619-544-0017 or stop by 777 6th Avenue at F Street.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. Bright corner studio, $820, 1 bedroom $1020. Bearclaw tub with shower. Charming, secure, quiet building with laundry. 1534 Front, near Beech, 619-233-7428.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. From $780. Private bath, cable TV, microwave, refrigerator. Utilities included. Secure, quiet, charming. Efficiency apartments with laundry. Near trolley/bus lines, blocks from harbor. On-site manager. Villa Caterina, 1654 Columbia Street. 619-232-3400.

DOWNTOWN/El Cortez. Gorgeous 1 bedroom condo. Posh El Cortez Building with valet parking and doorman. Unit opens up to spacious patio. $1700. www.sandiegobestrentals.com. 619-696-7368.

DOWNTOWN/Union Square condo, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Laundry inside of unit. Amazing patio and 2 parking spaces. $1850. www.sandiegobestrentals.com. 619-696-7368.

DOWNTOWN/Marina Terrace, $1470. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Lower level, patio, all appliances, wood and carpet floors, mirrored doors. 2 master closets, gated parking under building. Community pool, other facilities. State Street. Panda Realty, 858-748-8850.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. From $700-$800. Beaumanor, unique urban mini lofts, located between Petco Park and Horton Plaza. Approximately 250 square feet, 12-foot ceilings, exposed brick, wood floors. Paid: cable/electric/water. Includes refrigerator and microwave. Internet access available via Cox or Pac-Bell. On-site laundry, barbecue deck. Impeccable renovation. 927 6th Avenue, at 6th and "E" Streets. No pets. To view: www.sdreader.com/rent/2127. Call Michael, 619-232-1517.

DOWNTOWN/BANKER'S HILL. $785. Studio with Bay and Downtown view in classic 1920s building. Built-ins, hide-a-bed, hardwood floors. Drive by first, 2230 Albatross Street. Available 12/08. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

DOWNTOWN/CORTEZ HILL. Large studio, $755. Limited access building, charming, quiet, residential neighborhood. Utilities paid. On-site laundry. No pets. EOH. 619-299-8746.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. 1 month free/12-month lease. Half month free/6-month lease. $1250-$1970. Brand new studios, 1 bedrooms and 2 bedrooms. Low deposits! Washer/dryer. Pet-friendly. Patio/balcony. Pool, jacuzzi, theater, fitness center. Underground parking. Market Street Village, 699 14th Street. 1-888-352-4584. http://www.sdreader.com/rent/2154.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. Las Flores Hotel. Small, quiet. $121/week and up. Four-week minimum. Color TV with basic cable. Refrigerator in most rooms. Secure. 619-235-6820.

DOWNTOWN/GOLDEN HILL. $845. 1 bedroom. Small, very cute unit. Nice neighborhood. Close to Downtown. Gated. 942 23rd Street. Call 619-994-0449.

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DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. $1600. Loft. 920 square feet. Pets OK, parking available, on-site manager, keyless entry system, laundry facility, cable ready/high-speed Internet capability, hardwood floors, large closets, dishwasher, electric range/stove, refrigerator, heating/air, exposed duct work, high ceilings, 5 floor-to-ceiling windows/view. 619-231-1333. http://www.sdreader.com/rent/2145.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP, $1395. Spacious 1 bedroom, 1 bath 2-level apartment with 9 foot ceilings. All appliances, central heat/air, controlled entry, and parking included. William Penn Building, 511 F Street. By appointment, Agent, 619-298-7232. www.sbayproperties.com.

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EL CAJON, $1,100. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, downstairs. Yard, parking. Centrally located, near shops, bus, freeway. No pets. 363 Van Houten Avenue. 619-698-5337.

EL CAJON, Large 2 bedroom 1 bath. Ask about rent special. Located on hillside, private. Pool, some views. Extra parking. Se habla espanol. Manager 619-749-2166.

EL CAJON, GRANITE HILLS. $975. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 baths, view, dishwasher, air conditioning, pool. Cat welcome. Call 619-447-2552.

EL CAJON, $1245. Beautiful 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath, 2-story condo. Dining room, all appliances, washer/dryer, fireplace, yard, 2 car garage. No pets, no smoking. Section 8 OK. 728 North Mollison #C, 92021. 619-698-6911.

EL CAJON. $875/month, $700 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Upper unit with stove, refrigerator, new paint and vinyl, on-site laundry, off-street parking. 1/2 off 1st month's rent. 632 West Washington #C. 619-384-9219.

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EL CAJON. $900/up. 2 bedroom, 1 and 2 stories. Amenities. Pool, park-like grounds, parking. Near town, shops, bus. 743 South Magnolia Avenue. Call 619-579-0174.

EL CAJON. 1 bedroom, $700. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, $800. Great amenities, A/C, laundry on-site, pool, recreation room, secure parking. Lushly landscaped. No pets. 294 Ballantyne. 619-440-3044.

EL CAJON. 1 bedroom, $795. 2 bedroom, $925. Smaller, quiet community. Patios and balconies around nice courtyard. Pool area. Near busline. Las Haciendas, 1294 North Mollison. 619-444-7934.

EL CAJON. 534 East Lexington Avenue. Remodeled! 2 bedroom, 1 bath, $950. Washer, dryer. 700 square feet. Pets OK. vr@ajprop.com. A&J Property Management, 619-540-3009.

EL CAJON. $970, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Gated pool. Parking. Air conditioning. No pets. Central location. 933 Peach Avenue. Call 619-447-9193.

EL CAJON. $695, 1 bedroom. $820, 2 bedroom. El Cajon's best maintained property with beautiful courtyard and sparkling pool. No pets. 1072 East Madison Avenue. Move-in special! TPPM, 619-444-1614. www.fourwindsapts.info.

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EL CAJON. $750. 1 bedroom spacious upstairs apartment, quiet 11-plex. Dishwasher, air, gated parking, on-site laundry, picnic area. Section 8 OK. 222 Lincoln/Main. 619-957-7272.

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EL CAJON. Make Stratford Arms your new home for the holidays! $200 off first month! 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhome, $1070. Freshly painted. New appliances, carpet. Patio. Small gated community. Laundry facilities. Pool. No pets. 1397 East Washington. 619-593-6602. stratfordarmsapts.com.

EL CAJON. $975. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, Lincoln-Washington Apartments. Very large units, pool, on-site laundry, covered parking, in great location, clean and quiet. 685 South Lincoln Avenue. Agent, 619-444-8191 or 858-560-1178.

ENCINITAS, $1300. Lovely 2 bedroom. Gated complex, private yard, fireplace, pool, laundry. Close to beach, coaster. See pictures: members.cox.net/jbark/tour.htm. Available 12/20. 760-822-5564, 760-436-6038.

ENCINITAS. $1225-$1425. Lovely, remodeled 1 bedrooms and 2 bedrooms. $500 off first month with lease. Low deposits! Crown molding, ceramic tile, walk-in closets, ceiling fans, gas stove, dishwasher. Private patio/balcony, fitness facility, pool, spa. Near beach. Small pet. Quail Pointe, 924 Encinitas Boulevard or phone 888-626-6864. www.sdreader.com/rent/2149.

ENCINITAS. $3500. Beautifully upgraded 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath home. 3-car garage. Great outdoor living area. Via Villena. Pets negotiable. Boone Property Management, 858-274-6856. www.booneproperties.com.

ENCINITAS. $875 and up. Sick of roommates? Cozy beach trailers in quiet park. Close to beach, coaster, restaurants and shops. 760-753-4101.

ENCINITAS. 1 and 2 bedrooms from $1595. Oceanfront spacious renovated apartments. Granite countertops, travertine flooring, upgraded appliances. 760-753-4101.

ENCINITAS. Holiday deposit special! 1, 2 bedrooms from $1595. Washer/dryer. Microwave. Dishwasher. Central air/heat. Walk-in closets. Elevators. Underground parking. Pool. 1086-1396'. Poinsettia Ridge, 760-635-3760.

ENCINITAS. 1 bedroom, downstairs, $1125; 2 bedroom, upstairs, $1350. Small complex. Assigned parking, laundry. Bright and airy. Garden setting. 1-1/2 blocks to beach. Close to shopping, freeway, Coaster. No pets/smoking. 760-929-1950.

ESCONDIDO, private 1 bedroom apartment on secluded acre. Cable TV, laundry, and gas included. $950/month. 760-518-7226.

ESCONDIDO. $1100. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, fireplace, newer appliances, washer/dryer in unit, balcony overlooks pool area. Agent, 619-741-4378.

ESCONDIDO. $825-$1750. Tired of apartment living? Half off first month's rent, OAC. Beautiful manufactured homes offer spectacular hilltop views. Attached private 2-car covered carports. Small yards, full-size washer/dryer most homes. Sorry, no pets. 1924 Sheridan Avenue. 760-745-1677.

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ESCONDIDO. 119 Espanas Glen. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, $1500. Washer, dryer. Fireplace. Jacuzzi, pool. Garage. 1500 square feet. Cat OK. vr@ajprop.com. A&J Property Management, 619-540-3009.

ESCONDIDO. Spacious 1 bedrooms from $815. Deposit $400. 2 bedrooms from $975. Deposit $500. Great roommate floor plan. Pool, spa. Covered parking. Laundry. 640 West Lincoln Street. 760-489-8989.

ESCONDIDO. $795. $300 off first month's rent! 1 bedroom with private balcony/patio surrounded by lots of open space. Gated entrance, air conditioning, fireplace. Pool, spa. Small pet OK. Se habla espanol. 720 East Mission. TPPM 760-815-6210.

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FASHION VALLEY. $1450. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs condo close to USD. Gated complex. Granite counters, stainless steel appliances. 2-car carport. Laundry on site. 6-month lease. 1205 Colusa Street. Available 11/22. Call 858-583-0182 or 858-688-0287. www.cal-prop.com.

FASHION VALLEY. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. $1600. Upgraded, fireplace, pool, washer/dryer. Near bay and USD. 2 off-street parking. 5750 Friars Road. Pets negotiable. 619-823-8322.

FASHION VALLEY/USD. $1500. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, fireplace, garage, balcony, coin laundry. Cat OK with additional $300 deposit. Available 12/12. 5720 Lauretta. DSPM, Broker, 858-270-2071. www.delsolpm.com.

FASHION VALLEY. $1590. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Bright, open, spacious. First floor. Gated, laundry, more! No pets. 1-year lease. 2037 Burton Street, #39. 619-980-6708.

FASHION VALLEY. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, $1200; 3 bedroom, 2 bath, $1695. Across USD. Dishwasher, refrigerator, stove, microwave, patio. Available 1/1/07. 6-month lease. 858-717-6003. www.belvueterrace.com.

GOLDEN HILL/SOUTH PARK. $1075. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Recently remodeled, tiled living room, kitchen, hallway/bath. Freshly painted. Pool. On site laundry. 1714 Grove Street #9, #10. 619-962-1887.

GOLDEN HILL. $775. Spacious studio in 4-plex. Clean, comfortable, new paint, good storage, hardwood floors, ceiling fan, full kitchen, black/white ceramic tile floors, new refrigerator/cabinets, drop-leaf table, large bath, pedestal sink. 2663-1/2 "E" Street. 619-851-6401.

GOLDEN HILL. $990. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Dual master. Very clean. Patio, appliances, laundry, elevator, security gate and parking. Cat OK. 1010 33rd Street. 760-724-0558.

P.S. MUELLER

by Pete Mueller ©2006

GOLDEN HILL. Duplex. $775. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1239 33rd Street. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x2.

GOLDEN HILL. House. $1155. 2 bedroom, 1 bath with yard. 1241 33rd Street. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x2.

GOLDEN HILL. Studios starting at $750. Charming 1920s style building featuring hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, fountain in garden setting. Close to Downtown, Balboa Park. 619-234-0236.

GOLDEN HILL. Move-in special! $795 plus deposit. Nice 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry room, parking, near Golden Hill Park. No pets. 2482 B Street. 619-701-1221.

GOLDEN HILL. $775. Quiet, secure 1 bedroom, lower. Like-new appliances, carpeting, off-street parking, laundry. No pets. 1119 34th Street, corner of C Street. 619-787-6567.

GOLDEN HILL. $1500. 3 bedroom, 1 bath townhome. Contemporary setting, newly remodeled. Near Downtown. 1-car garage. Laundry facility. Landscaping, back patio, security entry. 619-247-7327.

GOLDEN HILL. $1375. 2 bedroom, 2 bath upstairs condo. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, stack washer/dryer, private balcony with extra storage room. 2 covered parking. gated community with recreation/exercise room. Easy freeway access. Ask about dog. 3078 Broadway. Available now. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

GOLDEN HILL. $875. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Brand new paint/carpet/blinds. Corner unit. Very clean. 2804 Broadway. Manager, 619-929-8127.

GOLDEN HILL/SOUTH PARK. $1350. Pet friendly, 2 bedroom duplex. Private fenced yard, storage shed. 5 minutes to Downtown. Clean, near-new appliances. Recently remodeled, Berber carpeting, large closets, eat-in kitchen. Rent includes water/gardener. 619-203-0363.

GOLDEN HILL/DOWNTOWN. Great move-in specials! Fantastic city views! 2, 3 bedroom flats, two bedroom townhomes from $1105! Charming! Controlled access entry. Bright, beautiful floorplans. Central air/heat. Microwave. Washer/dryer. Sunny rooftop deck. Barbecue areas. Parking garage. Pet friendly! Golden Pacific, 1015 19th Street. 1-800-433-6156. goldenpacific_pacificliving@crossfiremail.com. www.sdreader.com/rent/2028.

PET CENTRAL

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AQUARIUM SALE at Octopus's Garden. 20H aquarium $20; 29 for $29; 40R $40. Even a 60E is just $60. Other tank specials also. Lots of healthy saltwater fish and beautiful corals. Protein skimmers. Lighting systems, pumps, decorations and supplies at low prices at Octopus's Garden. Noon-9pm, 7 days. Call 858-576-7449.

AQUARIUMS AND PONDS! Freshwater/saltwater fish. Extensive reef animals. 9000 square feet. Low warehouse prices! Expertise not found in Southern California cookie-cutter stores! Aquatic Warehouse. 5466 Complex Street #204, San Diego. Behind Superior Courthouse, off Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. www.aquaticwarehouse.com. Daily, 10am-7pm. Saturday, 10am-6pm. Sunday, 11am-6pm. 858-467-9297.

BUY/SELL/TRADE reptiles, amphibians, turtles, tortoises, snakes, lizards. Largest reptile selection in Southern California. Voted #1 in San Diego. Pet Kingdom, 619-224-2841.

COCKATIELS, White face. Spoon-fed babies and breeders, $50 to $100 each. 5 in all. 858-277-7728.

DACHSHUNDS WALKIN' IN A Wiener wonderland, Sunday 12/17, 1-3pm, Balboa Park Fountain, then to the organ concert, for a sing-along.

DOGS. FOCAS is a trusted name in pet adoptions. Call for information on a variety of wonderful rescued pets. Always altered, microchipped, vaccinated. Most $150 donation. 619-685-3536.

DOVE, Free doves, 858-279-0492.

GUINEA HENS. 2 adults with food. $30 for all. Call 858-277-7728.

KITTIES, rescued. Beautiful, all ages. All full of love! Give them the wonderful homes they deserve. Adoption fee includes medicals and spay/neuter. 760-591-1211x1.

LOST FAT BLACK CAT, Missing Tierrasanta, near La Cuenta/Clairemont Mesa Boulevard 11/18. Named Cali. Missed very much, very friendly, easily approached. Any info, 858-712-1398.

LOST MINIATURE PINSCHER, On 11/24/06 from 1211 S. 31st Street. Black/tan, cropped tail, natural pointy ears, big boy. Reward offered. Any information 858-583-9163, 619-427-5511.

PET ITEMS, pet carrier, medium size $15, hamster playhouse with toys $10, large cage $15, cat, small dog bed washable $10. 760-739-7675.

PIT BULL, puppies. Prebred red and blue mix. Males/females. 8 weeks old. Make offer. 619-400-7499.

POMERANIAN, Neutered male, AKC registered, 1 year, 11 pounds, red blonde color, needs housebreak work and no-bark training, shots, license, $200. 619-466-0426.

PUG CHIHUAHUA MIX, spayed, one year old. 11 pounds. Needs to be only dog, uses dog door, not barky, had patella surgery, recovering, shots, license. $150. 619-583-5122.

RAT TERRIERS, $300/each. Purebred, UKC, UKCI registered. 1 black/white male, 2 blue/tri females. Family raised. Wonderful traveling companions. Current shots, neutered, spayed. 619-964-1221.

RAT TERRIER pure bred puppies, 2 male/1 female. $300+. Photos and more online: www.EllaAndChip.com. Parents onsite. Excellent home and vet care. Immediate availability. 760-644-3055.

TROPICAL BIRD, Red and green. Green wing Macaw. Friendly, 19 months old, $1200, 858-869-4742.

SLOW WAVE

by Jesse Reklaw ©2006

GOLDEN HILL/DOWNTOWN. Ugly but goodie! 1 bedrooms, $750. Cute inside! New flooring-- hardwood look. Your patience during remodeling means low rent! Pet OK. 619-231-8723.

GOLDEN HILL/DOWNTOWN. 1 bedrooms, $850+. Historical building, hardwood floors, decorator colors, view, on-site laundry, near bus line. Cat OK with deposit. 619-231-8723.

GOLDEN HILL. $795. 1 bedroom apartment. Great location. Near downtown. Parking and laundry onsite. Se habla espanol. 2720 Broadway Avenue. 619-696-5351.

GOLDEN HILL. $900, $700 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. All appliances included. No pets. 3292 Island Avenue. 619-584-5900.

GOLDEN HILL. $1050. 1 bedroom 1 bath cottage. Pet friendly. Hardwood floors. Fabulous location. Must see! 2441 A Street. sunriseliving.com. 858-751-6336.

GOLDEN HILL. $825. 1 bedroom 1 bath, upstairs. Parking. Laundry. New carpet, close to Downtown. Move in special, 1/2 off the first months rent. Large unit. 2631 A Street. sunriseliving.com. 858-751-6336.

GOLDEN HILL. $1325. 3 bedroom 2 bath, upstairs. Spacious. Cats OK. Custom paint and design. Move in special! 4430 Laurel Street. sunriseliving.com. Call 858-751-6336.

GOLDEN HILL, Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath $775. Hardwood floors. Great neighborhood, laundry on site. Available now. No dogs. 2427 E Street. 619-857-3706.

GOLDEN HILL. $1300. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Brand new paint and carpet. Balcony, dishwasher, 2 parking spots. No pets/smoking. 2608 Broadway. Agent, 619-283-2144.

GOLDEN HILL. 3102 G Street. Large studio. Off-street parking. Walk-in closet. Nice! Utilities, Internet, cable, water paid. Full kitchen. Very private. $775/month. 619-838-8282.

HILLCREST Cottage, $1000. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Set in lushly landscaped complex. Hardwood floors, breakfast nook with built-in bench in table, laundry onsite. A must see! Available 1/1/07. 3732 Park Boulevard #3718. 619-295-1100, www.cethron.com.

HILLCREST, $1895. Classic 1920s charm with a modern flair. Half off 1st month's rent! It's the next best thing to owning your own home. This newly remodeled upper level 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath apartment home has undergone a complete remodel in excess of $50,000. Designed by one of San Diego's premier interior decorators, this unit is sure to please. Incorporating the new with the original 1922 design has resulted in a classic rustic look but with all of the modern comforts. All new cabinets with granite countertops. Stainless steel appliances including dishwasher and micro hood. Natural stone flooring in kitchen and baths. Slate shower enclosure. Hardwood floors in the living room, dining room and hall. Plush carpet in the bedrooms. All new fixtures and hardware. Ceiling fans. New blinds and windows. Washer/dryer hook-ups. Includes a 1-car garage. One year lease required. $1995 deposit. Sorry, no pets. Call 619-725-3648 or 619-846-6615. 3610-3616 Park Boulevard at Brookes.

HILLCREST, $1250. Charming Spanish two bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs. Hardwood floors, gated entrance. No pets. 3515 4th Avenue. 619-295-6005, agent.

HILLCREST, $1075, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs unit. $1250, 2 bedroom 2 bath, downstairs unit. Pool, parking, laundry. No pets. 1810 Cypress. 619-295-6005, agent.

HILLCREST. $1050. Extremely large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. All amenities, sheltered patio, parking, laundry. Near bus and shops. No pets. 1037 Essex Street. 619-692-0364.

HILLCREST. Spacious 1 and 2 bedrooms! Berber carpet, fireplace, spa, gym, intercom, elevator. Sorry, no pets. 4134 4th Avenue. See photos at www.WexfordLiving.com. 619-299-0047.

HILLCREST. 2 bedroom, 1 bath in tri-plex. Hardwood floors, very open, completely remodeled, washer/dryer. Large enclosed yard. Pets OK. Great location! $1495/month. Call 619-549-4959.

HILLCREST. $1300. Gorgeous garden apartment: 550 square feet with large garden patio, Murphy bed/brand new mattress set, new Pergo floors, all new full-size kitchen/appliances including dishwasher, large walk-in closet, forced heat/air, laundry hookup. Security building, Jacuzzi, gym, rec room with great view of North Park, off-street parking. Some utilities paid. 3770 Florida Street. 619-475-9669.

HILLCREST. Studios, $775 and up. Lovely garden courtyard with fountain. Walk to Uptown Village. Hardwood floors, blinds, on-site laundry. No pets. EOH. 619-299-8746.

HILLCREST. $1250. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. End unit. Berber carpet. Dishwasher. Assigned parking. Patio. Laundry. Garden setting. Cat OK. Available now. 3672 Georgia. 619-301-9958.

HILLCREST. $1250. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Quiet, gated, fireplace. All appliances, washer/dryer, skylight, patio, 2 parking. Cats OK. Nonsmoking. 3680 Alabama Street. Available now. 619-269-5237.

HILLCREST. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, $1050. New carpet/paint, parking space, on-site laundry. Small complex, walk to shops and restaurants. Cat OK. 3827 Herbert Street #1. 619-997-4554. $1050 deposit.

HILLCREST. $1650. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Fireplace. Balcony. Canyon view. Pool. Laundry. Parking. Small pet on approval. 4053 8th Avenue. 619-297-0269.

HILLCREST. $1225-$1595. Remodeled 2 bedroom, 2 bath with new flooring and kitchen with all new appliances. Large 2 and 3 bedroom, 2 baths with refrigerator, stove and dishwasher. 1617 Brookes Avenue. 858-598-1111 x193. www.utopiamanagement.com.

HILLCREST. Studio, $815. Pool, canyon view. Close to all. Rec room. Sleepy Hollow Apartments. 4201 Sixth Avenue. Harry, 619-298-1059.

HILLCREST. $1,225. 2 bedroom, 1-1/3 bath apartment. Secure 1-car garage, water, laundry, facilities on site. Walk to shops, restaurants, transportation. Cat OK. Bob, 858-673-0674, 858-472-5812.

HILLCREST. $1425. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath upper unit. Plush carpet/flooring, lots of cabinet space, on-site laundry, covered parking. 1239 Robinson Avenue. 619-460-8011.

HILLCREST. $895/month, unfurnished 1 bedroom apartment. Parking, hardwood floors. Close to all. No pets. 4030 3rd Avenue. 619-295-6005, agent.

HILLCREST. $865. 1 bedroom. Immaculate, upstairs apartment. Centrally located. New carpet. Assigned parking, laundry. No pets. 316 Pennsylvania #8. TPPM, 619-296-8802.

HILLCREST. $925 rent, $800 deposit. 1/2 off 1st month's rent! 1 bedroom, 1 bath lower unit. Upgraded appliances. Park-like setting. Small complex. On-site laundry. Garage extra $100. 3533 6th Avenue #1 and #2. 619-379-2896.

HILLCREST. $1150. 1821 University Avenue behind The Crypt. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Great cottage. Breakfast nook. Hardwood floors. Laundry room. Street parking. No pets. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686.

HILLCREST. $1150. 3807 Park Boulevard (behind Numbers). 2 bedroom, 1 bath lovely cottage. Carpet. Fenced. Front and back decks. Laundry room shared with tenants. Street parking. No pets. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686.

HILLCREST. $800. 3820 Georgia, between Robinson and University. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs. Carpet, laundry room. 1 assigned parking. No pets. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686.

HILLCREST. $1125/month, $1000 deposit. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath unit. All appliances, new paint, large private patio, washer/dryer in unit, off-street parking. 4155 Georgia Street #109. 619-297-7662.

HILLCREST/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. $1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs, remodeled, granite counters, crown molding, new carpet/paint, wood blinds, small complex, north of Adams Avenue. 619-683-2370.

HILLCREST/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. Senior Complex. Extremely large 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. All amenities. New carpet/paint/flooring. Sheltered patio, controlled entry, storage. Near bus, shops. 4574 Campus Avenue. 619-287-5771, 619-461-9415.

HILLCREST/UPTOWN. Lovely, light 1 bedroom apartment near Uptown shopping, freeways. 2 large patios, shade trees. Secured entry. Laundry. Parking. $850. Available now. Agent, 619-299-2469.

HILLCREST/BALBOA PARK. $1250. Large 1 bedroom, downstairs. 900 square feet, dining room with built in buffet, stove, refrigerator, small garage. Nice shared patio area. Cat OK with additional 4300 deposit. Entry system, beautifully restored 1920s building with wood floors. On the park. Available 12/20. 1632 Upas. DSPM, Broker, 858-270-2071, www.delsolpm.com.

HILLCREST/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. $840. Extra large 1 bedroom, upper unit, wood floor in dining area, appliances, clean, quiet. 4575 North Avenue. Call 858-483-2119 or 858-270-9086.

IMPERIAL BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 to 2 bath condos. Across street from beach. Pool, views. All appliances. Pets negotiable. 1111 Seacoast. Agent Bill, 619-575-1674.

IMPERIAL BEACH. $795, utilities; gas, electricity, trash, water, all included. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, new carpet and paint. Clean, quiet, secure. Ready now. Laundry on-site. 1135 Hollister #10. If you can find a better deal; than rent it. Call Jeff 619-804-1044.

IMPERIAL BEACH. $995. $200 off first month! Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry. Courtyard. Carpet. Gated. Storage. $800 deposit. 750 11th Street. 619-423-4610.

IMPERIAL BEACH. $795. Studio. Right on the beach! Refrigerator, stove. Laundry facilities on premises. Off-street parking. Pet? Available now. 1046 Seacoast Drive. Call 619-424-9233.

IMPERIAL BEACH. $850. 1 bedroom. Garden setting. Pool. Parking. Laundry. No pets. 1445 Grove Avenue. TPPM, 619-575-0778.

KEARNY MESA. 1 bedrooms and 2 bedrooms from $885. Centrally located at I-805 and I-163. Pool, spa, laundry, microwave, parking. Vista Capri North Apartments. 3277 Berger Avenue. 858-560-6067, www.rasnyder.com.

KENSINGTON, beautiful new condo. 2 bedroom, 2 bath with balcony, 1 car garage, granite countertops, berber carpet. Washer/dryer in unit. New appliances. $1400/month. 619-261-5251.

KENSINGTON. $1175. 2 bedroom, 1-3/4 bath, upper corner unit. Charming area. 1 parking space. Laundry on site. No pets. Available 12/15. 4656 Edgeware Drive. Call 858-688-0287 or 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

KENSINGTON. $950. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Gated. 725 square feet. Laundry on site. Shared garage. Storage. Garbage disposal. Available now. 4101 Park Place #7. www.kandrproperties.com. Call 858-490-1600.

KINSINGTON, South. $775/rent, $775/deposit. 1/2 off first month's rent. 1 bedroom, 1 bath unit with appliances, ceramic tile, courtyard, gated. Off-street parking. 4389 39th Street #3. 619-384-9219..

LA COSTA. Condo on golf course. Spacious. 1450 square feet. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, washer/dryer. 2 space commmunity garage. No pets. Nonsmoking. $1550. 858-335-3534.

LA COSTA. $2150. 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath condo on golf course. 2 fireplaces, 3 skylights, 2-car garage, community pool/spa. Gated. 619-301-3928.

LA COSTA. $1695. 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse style condo, fireplace, garage, 1 year lease. Deposit $1750. Available 11/15/06. 6684 Corte Maria. Leasing Unlimited, 760-436-7273.

LA JOLLA, Luxury condos for rent 2 bedroom 1-1/2 bath. Granite countertops, stainless steel. 1/2 block from beach. Completely renovated. Asking $2800/month, 619-403-3795.

LA JOLLA, VILLAGE. From $950. Charming 1 bedroom apartments. Pool, laundry, elevator. Near Cove and business district. No pets. 858-459-8254, www.casalindaapartments.com.

LA JOLLA/UCSD. $350 off first month! 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Near shops. Balcony. Garden window. Laundry. No pets. $1450. 8849 Villa La Jolla Drive. 858-457-4509.

LA JOLLA. Studio. Amazing location. One block to Starbucks, beach and bus. Prospect Street. Kitchen with appliances. Walk-in closet, laundry. $1195-$1450, includes utilities. 858-336-0252.

LA JOLLA. $1450. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Patio, garage, dishwasher. 700a5 La Jolla Boulevard #2. Call 858-490-1600, kandrproperties.com.

LA JOLLA. Blackhorse! 2 master suites, 2170 square feet townhome. Double garage, all appliances, large patio, gated community. Room at head of stairs for office. Close to all in North La Jolla, UCSD, La Jolla Shores. $2800. Available 12/15. Lease. Pets negotiable. Boone Property Management, 858-274-6856.

LA JOLLA. $2495. Upper 3 bedroom, 2 bath, private patio, close to La Jolla Village. No pets. 7342 Girard Avenue #6. Bill Luther Realty, 858-488-1580.

LA JOLLA. $1095. Private, cozy 1 bedroom, 1 bath, fenced patio, near La Jolla Village. Utilities paid. No pets. 7342 Girard Avenue #5. Bill Luther Realty, 858-488-1580.

LA JOLLA. $1050. Studio, separate kitchen. 1 block to WindanSea. New Stove, refrigerator, microwave, blinds. Laundry. 415 Gravilla. Call 858-459-3531.

LA JOLLA. $1625. 2 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, apartment, pool, laundry on site, close to UCSD/beach and shopping centers. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

LA JOLLA. Immaculate 3 bedroom. Yard. New paint/carpet. Space for full-sized washer/dryer. 1 reserved parking spaces. $2100. Ask about December move-in special! 858-382-4018.

LA JOLLA. $3200. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Contemporary masterpiece. Underground parking. Brand new everything! Washer/dryer in unit. 7555 Eads. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

LA JOLLA. $1350. Luxury 1 bedroom condo. Stainless steel appliances, washer/dryer, enclosed patio, pool, gym, parking. Near UCSD/VA. 3161 Via Alicante. 858-752-9200.

LA JOLLA. $1850. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Modern WindanSea garden setting, just 1

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LA JOLLA. $875 rent. $875 deposit. Studio. Cute studio with stove, new paint. Near all. On-street parking. 7529 Herschel Street #3 and #7. 619-804-3325.

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LA JOLLA/UTC. $2475. 1/2 off first month's rent! 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath condo at Villa Mallorca. Tennis. Pool. 2-car garage. Washer/dryer. Fireplace. Balcony. Pool. Available for short-term lease. 8680 Villa La Jolla Drive. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

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LA JOLLA/UTC. $1750. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. 1 story Patio. Quiet. Hardwood floors. Dishwasher. Refrigerator. Gas stove. Washer/dryer. 2 parking spaces. 858-755-1426.

LA MESA. $875. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartments. Clean. Close to trolley and Grossmont Center. Laundry. Assigned parking. Cat OK. Section 8 OK. 619-469-3735. www.floit.com.

LA MESA. $910, 1 bedroom, $450 deposit. $1125, 2 bedroom, $500 deposit. Carport space. Storage. Laundry. Pool. Gated. No pets. Available now. 619-698-7926. villaknollsapts.com.

LA MESA. $795, 1 bedroom. $965, 2 bedroom. Upstairs. Garage. Garden courtyard. Dishwasher. Intercom entry. Laundry. 4311 Parks Avenue. 619-460-5406.

LA MESA. $1250. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Huge apartment, 1200 square feet. Pool. Air conditioning. View. 1 parking space. Laundry on site. 6-month lease. Available 11/30. 8600 Lemon Avenue. Call 858-583-0182 or 858-483-3534, www.cal-prop.com.

LA MESA. $725, studio. $975, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Parking. Laundry on site. Cat OK. Move-in special. 5027 Guava. Viewing by appointment only, call 858-490-1600, Kandrproperties.com.

LA MESA. $1250. 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Garage, pool, laundry, fireplace, patio. 5530 Jackson Drive #5. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

LA MESA. $1100. 1 bedroom apartment, large, fantastic view in historic house in the Village, patio, all utilities paid. 8085 Pasadena Avenue #3. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

LA MESA. $890/up, 1 bedroom. $1190/up, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Across Grossmont Center, trolley and Costco. Quiet, spacious units. Resort living pools. Mellmanor Apartments. 8750 Mellmanor Drive. Call 619-461-1940.

LA MESA. $895, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, balcony; $1095, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, upper, balcony; $1150, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, downstairs, yard. 619-697-3285. For photo, floor plans, map and directions, see website: www.sdreader.com/ rent/1035.

LA MESA. $975. Move-in special. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath triplex. Laundry hook-ups. Patio. Cul-de-sac. Parking. No pets. Agent, 619-298-7724.

LA MESA. $925, 1 bedroom. Award winning community for beautiful landscaping. Pool and spa. Great location. No pets. 5500 Morro Way. TPPM, 619-884-7900, www.villageaptslamesa.com.

LA MESA. $500 off 1st month! 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, 2-car garage. Beautiful 3-story townhome in quiet area. Balcony on each floor. Fireplace, hardwood floors, washer/dryer hookups. $1850. 5193 68th Street. 619-793-4047 or 619-793-4010.

LA MESA. $750. Spacious studio, private bedroom area, garage, patio, new carpet, barbecue area. Call 619-462-1550.

LA MESA. $880-$940. Spacious 1 bedrooms. Air conditioning, patio or garage, on-site coin laundry. Available now! 4751-4757 Jessie Avenue. 619-460-8011 or 619-825-8954.

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LA MESA/Near Village. Brand new, refurbished, beautiful. From $1125/month. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath, completely renovated. New paint/carpet, large private fenced patio, washer/dryer hookups or laundry facilities. Convenient, comfortable, cozy. Great location! No Section 8. 858-558-8879 or email kwahl@san.rr.com.

LA MESA/CASA DE ORO. 3 bedroom, 2 baths, from $1325! 2 bedrooms from $1075! 1 bedrooms from $895. Elegant, sculptured courtyards with flower gardens, fountains, gas lamps, park benches. Charming, New Orleans ambiance. Huge patios/balconies. Gated access and gated parking. Small pet OK. 3903 Conrad Drive. Call 866-894-6343. www.sdreader.com/rent/1017.

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LAKESIDE. $825. 55+ Community. 1 bedroom, 1 bath mobile homes available now. Coin laundry. Pool. Parking. No pets. Easy freeway access. 619-443-3600.

LAKESIDE. $875. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Air conditioning, assigned parking, refrigerator, dishwasher, on-site laundry. Available now. 12369 Lakeshore Drive. CSPM, 619-229-2440.

LAKESIDE. $915. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse. 2-story, new carpet/paint, dishwasher, refrigerator, laundry on-site. 12715 Laurel Street #2. CSPM, 619-229-2440.

LEMON GROVE. $950. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator, extra storage. Assigned parking. Large backyard. Walking distance to trolley. Close to freeways and shopping. 619-465-4434.

LINDA VISTA. $685. Studio, utilities included. Laundry, gated parking. $400 deposit. No pets. Astro Vista Apartments, 2249 Ulric Street. Call Monday-Friday for appointment. 858-565-6400.

LINDA VISTA. $400 off first month! $1200/monthly. All new! Totally remodeled! 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Shared garage. Laundry. Pools. Tennis. No pets/smoking. 951-237-0936.

LINDA VISTA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, $1100-$1250 townhouses and bungalow. New paint, new cabinets, hardwood floors. Central location, assigned parking, backyard. No pets. Office at 2451 Ulric Street. 619-249-9585.

LINDA VISTA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, $1450. Brand new house! Tile floors, washer/dryer, shed for storage. Pet allowed. 2717 Wheatstone. 858-277-1760. housing.molamini.com.

LINDA VISTA. $1195 rent. $600 deposit, OAC. Huge 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex. Pakring. Laundry. New carpet/paint. Large closets. No pets. At 2450 East Ingersoll. Agent, 619-299-8515.

LINDA VISTA. $950/month, $950 deposit. Large 1 bedroom duplex. Appliances, new carpet, paint and vinyl. Walk-in closet, backyard, front patio, storage, off-street parking, washer/dryer hookups. Near USD. Sunset views. Pets negotiable. 2059 Drescher Street. 619-804-3325.

LINDA VISTA. $1350/month, $1350 deposit. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Appliances, 2 garages, new carpet, paint, vinyl. Patio, on-site laundry. View of sunsets. Blocks to USD. Pets negotiable. 2057 Drescher Street. 619-804-3325.

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LITTLE ITALY. 2 bedroom luxury condo with unobstructed bay/city views. 16th floor. Granite counters, stainless steel, washer/dryer, balcony, rooftop pool. ukiyo_ei@yahoo.com or 619-274-1900.

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LITTLE ITALY. $1200. 1 bedroom cottage. Newly remodeled, utilities included. Centrally located. Large kitchen. Large courtyard in small complex. Small pet upon approval. 2043-1/2 Columbia Street. TPPM, 619-296-8802.

LOGAN HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. $830/month. Super big and nice! Gated parking, laundry. Close to all. No pets. Giovanni, 619-287-1891, 619-758-8238.

MISSION BEACH. Half block to ocean! Super clean 1 bedroom with parking. Nonmoking. No pets. $1200. Available now. Call 562-445-7493.

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MISSION BEACH. $1150. 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo with bonus room, new carpet, steps to the beach. 1-car garage. No laundry on site. 812 Toulon Court. Available 12/23. Call 858-688-0287 or 858-583-0182. www.calprop.com.

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MISSION BEACH. $1095. Cozy 1 bedroom, 1 bath, lower, beach 1 block, eat-in kitchen, off-street parking. No pets. 726 San Rafael. Bill Luther Realty, 858-488-1580.

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MISSION BEACH South. 1 bedroom, 1 bath near Bay, built-ins, corner unit, off-street parking. Quiet complex. 2985 Bayside Lane #5. Bill Luther Realty, 858-488-1580.

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MISSION HILLS. 2822 Reynard, 1 bedroom $1025. Newly remodeled, new appliances, spacious, bright. Assigned parking. On-site laundry. Call Hil for more information. 619-280-3867.

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MISSION HILLS. $1200/up. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Laundry. Parking. Pets OK. La Paloma Apartments. Open daily, 1-5pm. 3911 Dove. 619-297-1134.

MISSION HILLS. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, $850/$500 deposit. No pets. 3470 Reynard Way. 619-584-5900.

MISSION HILLS. $925. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment on a hill. Lots os stairs, deck, washer/dryer, fireplace. 2722 Reynard Way #A. Centre City Property Management, 619-296-6699.

MISSION HILLS. $1150. Remodeled 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Immediate move-in! Views. Private patio. On-site laundry. Off-street parking. 1042 West Spruce. Mike, 619-247-2114.

MISSION HILLS, $1750/month. Spacious top floor 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath view apartment. Gorgeous harbor view! Balcony, garage, washer/dryer. Quiet neighborhood. 3154 Horton. 619-291-8777.

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MISSION VALLEY. $1495. Quiet, large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Complex has free cable, pool, jacuzzi. New carpet and paint, new bathrooms. Westbourne Realtors 858-488-4800.

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MISSION VALLEY. 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo, Rancho Mission Villas. Newly remodeled, air, pool, Jacuzzi, tennis, rec center, laundry facilities. $995. Lease. Available 12/01. 619-818-9059.

MISSION VALLEY. $1450. 1 bedroom, 1 bath remodeled condo. Laminate flooring. Granite countertops. Crown molding. Recessed lighting. 858-598-1111 x192. utopiamgmt.com.

MISSION VALLEY. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 parking spaces. Amenities include pool, hot tub, clubhouse, tennis courts. Available 1/15. $1395 plus first month's security, 619-540-7477.

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NATIONAL CITY. Move-in specials! $750-$850. Newly remodeled community. Large/small 1 bedroom. 2 bedroom townhomes. $1200. Pool. Gated courtyard. Laundry facilities. New carpet, appliances, kitchen cabinets/counters. Available now. 900 Manchester Street. 619-881-7645. annette@cesnconstruction.com.

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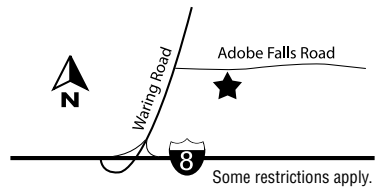
NATIONAL CITY. Large apartment, 2 bedroom 1 bath. $1100. Small complex, 2 off street parking spaces for unit, storage, onsite laundry facilities. Donya, 619-231-2727.

RENTALS



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NORMAL HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, $750; 2 bedroom, $950. Gated, off-street parking, storage. New carpet, appliances, paint, blinds. On bus route, near shops, parks, library, restaurants. Clean, quiet complex. 3722 Adams Avenue. Owner/Resident Manager, 619-339-5494.

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom apartments $775. 4670 Cherokee Avenue. Very nice, on-site laundry, off-street parking. No pets. 760-672-0425.

NORMAL HEIGHTS, $1000. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Washer/dryer hookups, lots of light, parking. Available now. $200 off 1st month on approved credit. 4741 35th Street, #4741. 619-295-1100, www.cethron.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS, $875. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Parking, laundry on site. Available now, month to month. Move in Special, half off 1st month's rent on approved credit. 4665 34th Street #2. www.cethron.com, 619-295-1100.

NORMAL HEIGHT, $750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs with parking. No pets. Close to Adams. Available 12/10. 4575 Idaho Street, #9. www.cethron.com, 619-295-1100.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. $815. Large 1 bedroom. Downstairs, end unit. Parking. Laundry. $300 deposit. Garden setting. Gated. Caring management. Available 1/3. No pets. 4724 32nd. 619-584-7790.

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. $995. Huge 2 bedroom, 2 bath. New paint and carpet throughout. Dishwasher, balcony, air conditioning. Parking and laundry onsite. 4580 Illinois Street. 619-283-2144.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Move-in special! $695. Upstairs 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Carpeting. Blinds. Laundry. Off-street parking for 1 car. No pets. 4377 39th Street. Agent, 619-298-7724. www.SeeTheUnit.com.

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. $975. Deposit $750. Upstairs 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. New carpet, paint. Blinds. Limited parking. Refrigerator, stove. No pets. 4681 35th Street #3. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. $725. Deposit $600. Upstairs 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Limited parking. Refrigerator, stove. No pets. 4681 35th Street #8. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. $800 rent. $600 deposit, OAC. Lower 1 bedroom. Laundry room. Parking spot. No pets. At 4742 East Mountain View Drive #3. Agent, 619-299-8515.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. $850. Downstairs 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Air conditioning. Gated. Assigned parking. Laundry on site. 4429 Idaho Street #4. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. $1025. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Downstairs. Laundry on site. 2 parking. No pets. Available now. 4840 West Mountain View Drive #7. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. $1275. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, 1-car garage, patio, washer/dryer in unit, air conditioning, heater, dishwasher, microwave, ceiling fan. Just north of Adams. 4783 Hawley Boulevard #4. CCPM, 619-296-6699.

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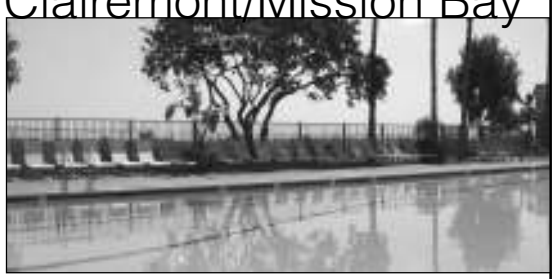

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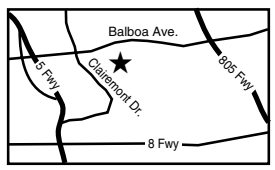

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NORTH PARK, $825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Gas/water paid. Quiet, new carpet/paint, pool, gated, on-site laundry. No pets. Call 619-281-1714.

NORTH PARK. 2 bedroom, 1 baths. $995 and up. Some with hardwood floors. Quiet complex, gated, spacious. Lease. Parking. No pets. 619-303-4969.

NORTH PARK. $850. 1 bedrooms. $1050. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Low deposit. Gated entry. On-site laundry. Swimming pool. Off-street parking. Cat OK. 4133 Kansas. Alex, 619-823-8922 or 619-718-6565.

NORTH PARK, $750. $500 deposit. 1 bedroom apartment, 3940 Idaho. Gated. Close to all. Laundry on site. Near bus line, restaurants, shops. 619-298-8383.

NORTH PARK. $675. 1/2 month free with 6-month lease! Large studio apartment, carpeting, new paint. Laundry. No dogs. 4019 Utah Street. Credit check required. 619-281-2266.

NORTH PARK, $700. Large studio, upstairs. Off-street parking, gated, laundry. No pets. 4151 Arizona Street. $700 deposit. Call Nino, 619-295-1694 or 619-252-0959.

NORTH PARK, $775. $500 deposit. 1 bedroom apartment, 3940 Idaho. Gated. Close to all. Laundry on site. Near bus line, restaurants, shops. 3939 Idaho. 619-298-8383.

NORTH PARK. $850, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. $1150, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Nice, newly painted, hardwood floors, centrally located. A must see. Move in Special: Half off 1st month's rent on approved credit. 3016 30th and Quince. 619-295-1100. www.cethron.com.

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NORTH PARK. 2 bedrooms from $1165. New tile, granite countertops, fresh paint, underground parking, onsite laundry. 4526 Illinois. 619-280-3867.

NORTH PARK. $1025 rent. $600 deposit, OAC. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse duplex with direct access garage. Balcony. No pets. At 3643 32nd Street #A, behind 3641. 619-299-8515.

NORTH PARK. Huge 1 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet, paint, blinds, closet doors, 2 ceiling fans. Patio. First floor. $850 plus $400 deposit. Contact Nezar, 619-284-1314 or Nilaian86@yahoo.com. www.melroyproperties.com.

NORTH PARK. Redecorated! Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Next to South Park! Beautiful hardwood floors, kithcen and bath! Private patio, gated parking for 2 cars. Nicely landscaped, gardener included. Small pet considered. Only $1395/month! 2239 Commonwealth Avenue. Next door has 2-car garage, including office for only $1650/month. Don't miss out! Agent, 619-283-2144.

NORTH PARK. $1795. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo in La Boheme with balcony views. All new, never lived in designer decor, stainless appliances, full-sized washer/dryer. 2 assigned underground parking spaces and storage. 619-741-0045.

NORTH PARK. $1295, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 1000 square feet. $950, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, attached garage. Newly remodeled. 4651 30th Street. Available for viewing. www.kandrproperties.com. Call 858-490-1600.

NORTH PARK. $750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Laundry on site. Assigned parking. Courtyard. Quiet. Gated. No pets. Available now. Manager on site. 619-563-9727.

NORTH PARK. $750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Laundry on site. Assigned parking. Courtyard. Quiet. Gated. Wheelchair accessible. No pets. Available now. Manager on site. 619-563-9727.

NORTH PARK. $825 1 bedroom cottage, tile floors, laundry. 3936 Louisiana. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

NORTH PARK. $800/month, $500 security deposit. Small 1 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs. Rachel Arms, 4055 Utah Street. Small complex close to downtown, freeways, shopping. Call Manager, Sherri, 619-299-8700.

NORTH PARK. $950. Nice 2 bedroom apartment. Upstairs. Quiet building, newer carpet. Off-street parking. Coin laundry. Cat OK. 4136 Iowa Street. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

NORTH PARK. $900. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Small, quiet property. Downstairs, newer carpet, coin laundry. No pets. 4127 33rd Street. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

NORTH PARK. $1495. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse. All appliances. Washer/dryer. Garage. Fireplace. Patio. Vaulted ceilings. 3380 32nd Street. 619-683-7638. Xilarent.com.

NORTH PARK. $650. Studio. Newly remodeled. All utilities paid. Microwave. Laundry. 4341 35th Street. Xilarent.com. 619-683-7638.

NORTH PARK. $1095. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs condo. Fireplace. Dishwasher. Air conditioning. Garage. Balcony. 4150 Texas Street. Xilarent.com, 619-683-7638.

NORTH PARK. $1095. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Great views! Historic building. Private entrance. Decorative fireplace. Modern kitchen. Hardwood floors. Patio. Off-street parking. No pets. 1 year lease. www.goldenhillpm.com. Agent, 619-234-9553.

NORTH PARK. A$825.. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Spacious unit. Pergo floors. Ceiling fan. On-site laundry. 4340 Wilson Avenue. Xilarent.com, 619-683-7638.

NORTH PARK, $940. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Ground floor unit, 8-unit complex. Parking. Laundry. No pets. New paint/carpet. 4366 Texas Street #B. 858-550-2811.

NORTH PARK. $894. Deposit $945. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, first floor apartment in 5-unit gated complex. Laundry. Garage, $100. No pets. 4127 Wabash. 858-483-7011.

NORTH PARK/HILLCREST. $200 off first month! 2 bedroom, 1 bath, $1150. Studio, $675. Gated, dishwasher, laundry facilities, parking. No pets. Close to Naval Hospital, shops, freeways. 3722 Alabama Street. 619-299-1699. www.melroyproperties.com.

NORTH PARK. $1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo with 1-car garage, washer/dryer inside condo, refrigerator, dishwasher and stove, back patio, renovated. Available for move-in 11/25, can show 9am-5pm Monday-Saturday. 3745 Swift Avenue #2. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400, www.peoplehelpingothers.com.

NORTH PARK. $765. 1 bedroom. Nice ground floor unit with attached garage. Full size washer/dryer hookups, dishwasher, mirrored closet doors. No pets. Agent, 619-296-3189.

NORTH PARK. $750. Large, 1 bedroom 1 bath in quiet complex. Refrigerator, stove, parking. www.utopiamanagement.com. 858-598-1111.

NORTH PARK. $895. Charming 2 bedroom 1 bath duplex. Available now. www.utopiamanagement.com 858-598-1111 ext 193.

NORTH PARK, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large, downstairs apartment. New paint. Great location. 1-car garage. 3332 31st Street. $1095/month. 619-683-9274.

NORTH PARK, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, downstairs. New paint, good storage, off-street parking. 3662 32nd Street, #2. $895/month. 619-683-9274.

NORTH PARK/CITY HEIGHTS. $725/month. Move-in special! Large, quiet, clean 1 bedroom. Gated complex, laundry, reserved parking. No pets. 4027 34th Street. 619-276-5520.

NORTH PARK, $835. Spacious lower level 1 bedroom apartment located in small quiet complex. This unit is currently undergoing some major renovations. When finished it will feature a new ceramic tile bath with ceramic tile floors, new vanity and accessories, tile floors in kitchen, dining area and entry. New plush carpet. A new range, refrigerator, and microwave. New kitchen sink, new interior doors and hardware. All new light fixtures. New blinds. Bedroom has a large closet with mirrored doors. Easy access to Mission Valley and I-8. On-site laundry and off-street parking. $600 deposit and 1 year lease is required. Available early December 2006. Call 619-725-3648 or 619-846-6615. Credit check required and a fee applies. 4185 Texas Street at Howard Avenue.

NORTH PARK. Comfortable 1 bedroom cottage, $859. Open house 12/10 at 12pm. Small pet OK with deposit. Last of three cottages. Call 858-536-1900.

NORTH PARK/CITY HEIGHTS. $950. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Gated. Parking. Laundry. New carpet and paint. Available now. 4380 Van Dyke. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

NORTH PARK. $975. Downstairs 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry. New carpet, paint. Garage. No pets. 4371 Swift Avenue #1. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

NORTH PARK. $825. Bright 1 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet/paint, large walk-in closet, refrigerator, gas stove, coin laundry, parking. No pets. 858-361-3374.

NORTH PARK. $1150. Upstairs 2 bedroom, 2 bath. New carpet, paint. Dishwasher. Garage available. Parking. Washer/dryer on site. No pets/smoking. 4459 Arizona. 619-282-4054.

NORTH PARK. $950, $700 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upper unit with laundry facilities. No pets. 4658-1/2 Hamilton Street. 619-584-5900.

NORTH PARK. $1100, 2 bedroom, 2 bath or $895, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Beautiful, spacious, ceramic tile. Berber carpet. Gated community. On-site laundry and parking. No smoking and no pets. 3967 Illinois Street. Open house, Saturday, 12/9, 1pm-2pm. Call 858-751-6336. sunriseliving.com.

NORTH PARK. $750. Custom designed studio with utilities included! Cat friendly. Laundry. Parking. Move-in special: 1st month's rent moves you in! 3185 Madison. sunriseliving.com. 619-584-4928.

NORTH PARK. $995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Remodeled unit. Controlled access in a beautiful courtyard setting. Coin laundry. Parking. No pets. $200 move in special. Call 858-967-1107 for showing. Sunriseliving.com.

NORTH PARK/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, $725. 1 bedroom apartment, nicely landscaped. No pets, lawn and plants. Close to shopping and transportation. 4360 Alabama Street. 858-272-1550.

NORTH PARK. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-story. Freeway, Balboa Park, Morley Field, Hillcrest restaurants close. Gated. Underground parking. No pets. 3759 Florida. $1750. Mercy, 619-701-1234.

NORTH PARK. Six new 2 bedrooms condos left! Fireplace. Washer/dryer. Storage. Parking. Granite countertops, microwave. Gated. Pets OK. Drive by, 4165 Mississippi. $1495. 619-987-8102.

NORTH PARK. $1025 rent. $900 deposit. 1/2 off first month's rent! 2 bedroom, 2 bath, large unit, all appliances, storage, charming courtyard setting. Off-street parking, on-site laundry. Near all. 3345 Herman Street #1. 619-723-0367.

NORTH PARK. $775 rent. $700 deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upper unit, garage, stove, refrigerator, new vinyl, fireplace, air conditioning. On-site laundry, off-street parking. 1/2 off first month's rent. 3805 Boundary #I. 619-723-0367.

NORTH PARK/HILLCREST. $925. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Immaculate apartment with lots of character. Beautiful separate kitchen with breakfast area. New carpet. Large rooms and closets. Off-street parking, laundry. No pets. 4109 Arizona Street. TPPM, 619-296-8802.

NORTH PARK. $725. 4359 Alabama Street between El Cajon and Meade, 1 extra large bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet, new appliances, laundry room, assigned parking. No pets. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686.

NORTH PARK. $1875. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, 2-story townhouse. Patio with jacuzzi. Air conditioning. Water and trash included. 858-598-1111 x192. utopiamgmt.com.

NORTH PARK. $1150 rent. $1000 deposit. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, large upper unit with stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, fireplace, air conditioning, balcony, gated, elevator, underground parking. On-site laundry. 3928 Illinois Street #204. 619-843-0796.

NORTH PARK. $875/month, $800 deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upper unit with stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, air conditioning, gated, on-site laundry, underground parking. Cats OK. Close to shops and I-805. 3928 Illinois Street #305. 619-843-0796.

NORTH PARK. $200 off first month's rent! Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, gated, washer/dryer in unit. New carpet, paint, blinds, appliances, parking. $1150. 4135 Texas. Call 858-490-9125.

NORTH PARK. $825. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs, microwave. Laundry on-site. New paint. No pets. Available now. 4344 Ohio Street #8. 858-483-5111 x10. www.melroyproperties.com.

NORTH PARK/HILLCREST. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, condo quality, microwave, laundry on site, dishwasher. No pets. Assigned parking. Close to Naval Hospital. Available now. 4078 Louisiana Street #2. $1150. 858-483-5111 x10. www.melroyproperties.com.

NORTH PARK. $825. Large 1 bedroom, downstairs, gated entry, pool, microwave, laundry on site. Available now. 3051 Meade Avenue #11 and #12. Call 858-483-5111 x10. www.melroyproperties.com.

OCEAN BEACH. $875/bargain! Large, quiet 1 bedroom, near beach, bus, pier, and shopping. 1 off-street parking, laundry. No pets. Available now. 619-224-1413. 619-709-7075.

OCEAN BEACH. $925. Blocks to the beach! Ask about Manager's Special. 1 bedroom. Clean. Parking. Laundry. No pets. Seacoast Apartments, 5030 Lotus. Call Doris, 619-204-1651.

OCEAN BEACH. $1025. 1 bedroom apartment. Garage. Yard. Hardwood/tile. Free laundry. Quiet. 1 cat-no dogs. Nonsmoking. Deposit, $900. 4777 Del Mar Avenue. 619-226-6261.

OCEAN BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. $1295. Street parking. 800 square feet. Available 12/22. 1811 Bacon Street. No pets. Call 858-583-0182 or 858-688-0287. www.cal-prop.com.

OCEAN BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. $1400. Charming. 800 square feet. Street parking. No laundry. Available now. 2120 Cable Street. Call 858-583-0182 or 858-688-0287. www.cal-prop.com.

OCEAN BEACH. $995. Large 1 bedroom apartment with garage. Patio. Laundry. 2 blocks to beach. No dogs or cats. 5053-1/2 Lotus Street. 858-292-6046.

OCEAN BEACH, $995. 1 bedroom apartment, upstairs. Gated, quiet complex with parking and laundry. No pets please. 4944 Narragansett. Available 12/7. 619-223-2988.

OCEAN BEACH. $895. 1 bedroom. Quiet complex with on-site laundry and parking. 4455 Mentone Street #4. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. $975-$1375. 1 and 2 bedroom with courtyard, on-site laundry and parking. 4878 Saratoga Avenue. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. $995. 1 bedroom beach cottage. Pets OK with additional deposit. 5117 Brighton Avenue. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. $1295. 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage style triplex. 1-car garage. 1 block to ocean. Cat OK. www.goldenhillpm.com. Agent, 619-234-9553.

OCEAN BEACH. $895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs apartment. Laundry on site. 1 block to beach! 5071 Cape May Avenue. No pets. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. $995. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs apartments. New carpet. Laundry facility on site. 1/2 block to beach. No pets. 5057 Narragansett #12. Call 619-

222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. $1195. 1 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs apartment with garage. New tile, paint and carpet! Steps to sand. Includes utilities. No pets! 5064.5 Niagara Avenue. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. $825. Large downstairs studio! Located steps to sand. Parking and laundry. No pets. 1984 Abbott Street. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. 1 bedroom. Walk to the beach! $800 with $500 security deposit. Off-street parking. Controlled entry. Laundry room. 1/2 utilities paid. No pets. Very quiet buiding. Available 1/15. 619-223-3946.

OCEAN BEACH, $1450. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. All amenities. Dishwasher, fireplace, large closets, pool, laundry, parking. No pets. 4825 Del Mar Avenue, #13. 619-758-9565.

OCEAN BEACH. $975. 1 bedroom. Large, upstairs, end unit. Stove, refrigerator. Coin laundry. Parking. Cat OK with additional $300 deposit. Steps to ocean. Available 12/26. 4853 Orchard. DSPM, Broker, 858-270-2071. www.delsolpm.com.

OCEAN BEACH. $1695. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo in the Sand & Sea Villas community, 1/2 block to beach. Parking, water paid. Available now, 6-month lease required. 4950 Coronado Avenue #9. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400, www.peoplehelpingothers.com.

OCEAN BEACH. $925. Blocks to the beach! Ask about Manager's Special. 1 bedroom. Clean. Parking. Laundry. No pets. Seacoast Apartments, 5030 Lotus. Call Doris, 619-204-1651.

OCEAN BEACH. $1450, 2 large bedroom, 2 bath. $2500, 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. Beautiful view of park and ocean. Available 1/1. Cats OK. 619-987-5323.

OCEAN BEACH. $1125. $500 off first month! Upgraded 1 bedroom in a small complex located a block from the beach. Parking, laundry, barbecue, gated community, extra storage. 619-221-8158, parkdelmonte.rasnyder.com.

OCEAN BEACH. 1 bedroom. Free rent! Newly remodeled small complex located less than 100 yards from Ocean Beach pier. Fully equipped kitchen, gas range, balcony/patio, garage with opener, laundry, gated community, bike rack. 619-226-3171. beachwalk.rasnyder.com.

OCEAN BEACH. $500 off 1st month! Spacious newly remodeled 2 bedroom, 2 bath, $1525. Located a block from the beach! New carport, ceramic tile, fully equipped kitchen with dishwashers, gated courtyard setting, laundry, parking, barbecue. Cats OK. No dogs. 4940 Del Monte Avenue. 619-226-3171, delmontepalms,rasnyder.com.

OCEAN BEACH. $500 off 1st month! Newly remodeled 1 bedroom. $1125. Located a block from the beach! New carport, ceramic tile, fully equipped kitchen with dishwashers. Gated courtyard setting. Laundry, parking, barbecue. Cats OK. No dogs. 4955 Narragansett. 619-226-3171. plazadelsol.rasnyder.com.

OCEAN BEACH. $975. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, apartment, great views of Sea World and Mission Bay, newly remodeled. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

OCEAN BEACH. $1375. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, apartment, spacious and contemporary, 4 blocks to the beach. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

OCEAN BEACH. $900. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Near beach/park. Off-street parking. Year's lease. No dogs. $800 deposit. 5037 Lotus. Agent, 619-225-8673.

OCEAN BEACH Smell the ocean! Walk 3 blocks to beach! $1700. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse apartment. Only 6 years old. New carpet. Tiled kitchen. Refrigerator. Gas stove. Dishwasher. Free washer/dryer. Tiny yard. Garage plus gated parking space. Available now. 619-224-7322.

OCEAN BEACH. $1195 and up. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Available now. Complex is just 2 blocks from Pacific. Enjoy beaches year round at Ocean Breeze Apartments. No pets. 619-223-8186 or 619-422-8334.

OCEAN BEACH. $1250 rent. $1250 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, charming cottage-style unit, lots of windows, patio, stove, refrigerator, on-site laundry, view, near all, one block from the beach. 4984-1/2 Cape May Avenue. 619-804-3325.

OCEAN BEACH. $975 rent. $700 deposit. Large 1 bedroom, downstairs. Laundry, parking, pool, dishwasher, security building. 1 block to ocean. No pets. Nonsmoking. 4978 Niagara Avenue. 858-273-4042.

OCEAN BEACH, $1499. Remodeled 2 bedroom, 1 bath, includes 1-car garage. Just 2 blocks to the beach! No pets. 5019 Longbranch. 619-231-2727 x222.

OCEAN BEACH, $1150. 2 bedroom, 1-1/4 bath apartment. Charming lower unit, 1 block from beach. Laundry, off street parking, small patio, appliances, spacious unit. Cat OK. 5060 Muir #1C, 92107. 619-698-6911.

OCEAN BEACH. Beautiful beachfront ocean view! 1 bedroom, $995-$1200. 2 bedroom, $1350-$1500. Serene security garden buildings. Hardwood floors, ceramic tile, laundry. Garages available. Pets considered. For address and availability, call 619-224-1748. For applications, call 619-501-5553.

OCEAN EACH. $925. Large 1 bedroom with courtyard. On-site parking and laundry. Quiet complex. Close to all. 4861 Del Monte #4. 619-223-0338 or 619-226-7368, www.bkbinc.com.

OCEANSIDE, SOUTH. $1295. 1/2 block to beach. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Renovated unit. Gated community. Berber carpet, ceramic tile, chrome fixtures. Sorry, no pets. Elaine, 760-722-8924.

OCEANSIDE. $1188. New 2 bedroom 1 bath condo. All appliances. Washer/dryer. Views. Pool, spa. Water, trash included. Near Libby Lake, park. Available 12/30/06. 619-254-7888.

OCEANSIDE. $750. Large, remodeled studio. Nice, quiet, small complex. 1 mile/beach. Secure parking. No pets. Near Oceanside Boulevard and I-5. 1973 Apple Street. 760-754-1708.

OCEANSIDE. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartments $1075-$1125. Beautifully landscaped, pool, laundry, gated, covered parking. Quick access to freeways, beaches, shops. Cat OK. 760-722-6421.

OCEANSIDE. $1095. Spacious 2 bedroom apartments. Private yards/balconies. Great location. Pool. Laundry. Barbecue. Free garage, gas utilities, heat. Large closets. No pets. 760-757-4641.

OCEANSIDE/CARLSBAD. Luxury living 1 bedroom apartments, $925-$945. Spectacular views, gated/covered parking. Pool/spa, laundry. Cats OK. 760-439-5728. www.casavistaapartments.com.

OLD TOWN. $650-$695. Low $150 deposit. Fully furnished studios-alcoves on excellent hillside location. Free basic cable. 1616 Guy Street. 619-298-6242.

OLD TOWN. $840. Large 1 bedroom, upper. New carpet. Off-street parking, on-site laundry. No pets. 2065 San Diego Avenue. Leave message, speak slowly, 858-270-9086.

OLD TOWN. $1195. 1912 San Diego Avenue #4. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Bay view! Garage. Dishwasher. Clean. No pets. Available 12/15. www.timcassidy.com. Cassidy, broker, 619-275-LIST.

PACIFIC BEACH. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 1-1/2 blocks to beach, $1100. Hardwood floors, remodeled kitchen, pool, laundry facility. 930 Thomas Street. For more information, 760-720-1400.

PACIFIC BEACH. $725. Deposit 1 month's rent. Studios, furnished or unfurnished. No pets. Nonsmoking. Off-street parking. See at 4160 Ingraham Street. 858-274-4344.

PACIFIC BEACH. $1150. Ask about move-in special! 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Cozy complex, new carpet, on-site laundry. No pets. Available Now. 4474 Bond. www.summitmanagement.org. 760-402-8325.

PACIFIC BEACH. Move-in bonus! 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, $1350. Second floor, parking, dishwasher, fan. No pets. 6-month lease. 4467 Dawes. 858-483-4553.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, $1250 and up. Pool, barbecue area. Some with balconies. No pets. Quiet, immaculate. Call 858-273-9370.

PACIFIC BEACH, $675. Studio. Rent includes gas, electric, water, refrigerator, microwave. Located at 2309 Grand Avenue. Four blocks to bay. Cats OK. Call Liz, 760-458-1583.

PACIFIC BEACH. 3 bedroom, 3 bath townhouse. Garage, new paint, 2 fireplaces, vaulted ceilings, 10 blocks from beach, 2 blocks shopping. $2595/month. Year lease. No pets. Available now. Call after 4pm, 858-571-7499.

PACIFIC BEACH. $980. 1 bedroom, quiet fourplex, 958 Wilbur Avenue, no pets, stove and refrigerator, off-street parking, 2 blocks to beach. 619-275-2858.

PACIFIC BEACH. 1 bedroom and 2 bedroom available. On the beach between Reed Street and Pacific Beach Drive. Pets under 30 lbs., sharing cosigners OK. Priced by size and location. Year-round rate. 6-month lease, then month-to-month. Shown 8:30am-5:00pm, Monday-Friday. Beachfront Apartments, 4217 Oliver Court (behind the Promenade). 858-483-7670.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 4th floor panoramic views of ocean and bay. Pool, sauna, off-street parking. Nicely upgraded. Year lease. $1900/month. 858-228-6472.

PACIFIC BEACH. $825, Studio. 1 year lease, utilities included. Parking. Laundry on site. 3755 Ingraham Street, #406, #207. 619-295-1100; www.cethron.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, $900. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Large unit, clean complex, parking, laundry onsite. Available 12/25. 4639 Pico #8. www.cethron.com, 619-295-1100.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1295. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large upper unit, clean complex, parking, laundry onsite. 4639 Pico #15. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

PACIFIC BEACH. $500 off 1st month's rent on 1 bedrooms, immediate move-in only! OAC. Studios from $925. 1 bedrooms from $1160. 2 bedrooms from $1650. Heated pool, aerobics. Spas. Tennis. Basketball. Fitness centers. AC/heat. Cats welcome! Bay Pointe, 3866 Ingraham Street. www.progressmanagement.net. Toll free: 1-888-759-7435. www.sdreader.com/rent/2081.

PACIFIC BEACH. Charming 1 and 2 bedroom apartments starting at $995. Across from Mission Bay. Gated entry. Landscaped courtyard. On bus line and near bike trail. Call our rental office today: 800-490-6372.

PACIFIC BEACH/MISSION BEACH/La Jolla. Year-round beach units. 12-month leases. Check 24-hour Rental Line for current listings: 858-454-1900. Crown Management, BKR.

PACIFIC BEACH. $1195/$1525. 1 bedroom/2 bedroom. Year lease. Beautifully remodeled, quiet luxury building. Nice views. Intercom entry, dishwasher, tropical garden, heated pool. Garage available. No pets. 858-272-4398.

PACIFIC BEACH. $1720. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Must see! Top floor, southwest corner, panoramic views. Beautiful, modern and immaculate. Dishwasher. Quiet, gated. Great atmosphere. 858-272-4398.

PACIFIC BEACH. Spacious 1 and 2 bedrooms from $1145. Gated. Courtyard. Pool, spa, sauna and fitness center. Barbecue and picnic area. High-speed Internet, private balcony/patio, extra storage and garages available. On bike trail to Pacific Beach. Cat-friendly! The Pacific at Mission Bay. 2636 Grand Avenue. 1-800-490-6372. www.pacificliving.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. $2700. New 3 bedroom, 3 bath. 3 parking spaces. In unit washer/dryer. Stainless appliances. No pets. 1854 Hornblend. Drive by then call Ron, 858-472-2700.

PACIFIC BEACH. Move in special! 866 Reed Street, $1325. 1 bedroom, garage and storage. Total renovation. Small, quiet complex. 1 block to beach. Donya, 619-231-2727.

PACIFIC BEACH. $1025. Quiet and spacious upstairs 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Off-street parking. Laundry. No pets. Close to shopping. 1920 Felspar. 858-459-1102.

PACIFIC BEACH. $1400. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 3 blocks to beach. Ground floor, corner unit. 1 parking space. Laundry on site. 1057 Missouri Street. Available 12/15. Call 858-583-0182 or 858-688-0287. www.calprop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. $1115. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upgraded. Parking. Laundry on site. Balcony. 4617 Fanuel Street. Available now. No pets. Call 858-688-0287 or 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. $2250. Upstairs condo with garage. Washer/dryer. 1000 square feet. 6-month lease. No pets. Available 12/9. 1844 Diamond Street. Call 858-688-0287 or 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. $995. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs corner unit blocks to beach. Street parking, no laundry on site. 6-month lease. Available 12/8. 4612 Dawes. Call 858-583-0182 or 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. $1400. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 block to beach! Shared yard. Garage. 800 square feet. No laundry on site. Available 12/8. 831 Diamond Street. Call 858-583-0182 or 858-688-0287. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. $1595 rent. $800 deposit. Huge 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex. Parking. Extra large master bedroom. No pets. At 1605 Diamond (at Ingraham). 619-299-8515.

PACIFIC BEACH. $1350. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. $200 off 1st month's rent! Parking, laundry. 2015 Felspar #E. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

PACIFIC BEACH. $1850. Classic 2 bedroom. Ocean view. Steps to beach. Hardwood floors. Parking. All appliances. Laundry facility. 712 Santa Rita Place. 858-272-9547.

PACIFIC BEACH. $825. Bright 1 bedroom. California beach bungalow style. Quiet, clean. Hardwood floors, laundry. Available immediately. Near I-5. 3436-1/2 Del Rey Street. 619-222-9308.

PACIFIC BEACH. 3 master bedrooms, each with private bath, walk-in closet, and patio. Garage plus parking space. Washer/dryer. No pets/smoking. $2550. Deposit. 1420 Grand. 619-656-9696.

PACIFIC BEACH. $925. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment with parking and laundry. New carpet, paint and vinyl. No pets! 2035 Grand Avenue. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

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UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, $700/up. Quiet, sunny, large rooms, nice upgrades. No pets, no smoking. On-site laundry, parking, manager. Great location! 4338 Mississippi Street. 619-884-4322.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, $700. Beautiful studio with canyon view. Private back yard, patio and entrance. Stove and refrigerator. No pets, no smoking. Call 714-840-5439.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. $795. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Small, quiet community. Fresh paint. New carpet. Laundry on site. Cat OK. 4470 Alabama Street. 619-692-0732, 619-857-1187.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. $1250, 2 bedroom, 1 bath upper unit. Covered parking, laundry on site. Sorry, no pets. Available for viewing by appointment only. www.kandrproperties.com. Call 858-490-1600 or 619-255-4944.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS/NORTH PARK. $975. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 850 square feet, ground floor corner, rear unit. Quiet courtyard, big closets, laundry. 4025 Alabama. 619-698-4915.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. $1550. Newly remodeled 2 bedroom, 2 bath, Granite counters, appliances, refrigerator, stacked washer/dryer, 1-car garage. 4132 Campus Avenue #8. Bill Luther Realty, 858-488-1580.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, upstairs, gated, on-site laundry. Garage optional. $1150/month. No pets. 4646 Campus Avenue. Open Sunday. Details, 858-273-0732..

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, $850. Large unit located in cat-friendly complex. On-site laundry and parking. 4469 Alabama. 858-200-9408.

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$16.85
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No appt. necessary.
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Includes oil filter. Up to 4 qts. oil. Most cars.
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12/12 NATIONWIDE WARRANTY

Brake Service $30 Off
Replace pads or shoes, resurface drums or rotors, inspect entire system

Factory-Scheduled Maintenance
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We offer a generic package that includes a tune-up verification, replacement of PCV valve, fuel filter, air filter, oil filter, oil change (up to 5 qts.), radiator flush (up to 2 gallons of 50/50 mix), brake inspection, and a complete maintenance inspection. Our service package price is **$169.95** with the **$50** discount applied.
Or we can build a vehicle-specific package as per your manufacturer's specifications and quote accordingly. Either way you save **$50!**
SAVE $50

'Check Engine' Light $29.95
Pull computer trouble codes and provide a written description.

Transmission Power Flush $89.95
Includes 12 quarts of dextron/mercon transmission fluid.

Headlight Restoration $79.95
Restores headlight lens to near-new luster!
Our 3-step process can remove the yellow, rock-chipped surface and restore the clear sheen that will help the nighttime vision that you once had.

Wheel Alignment $39.95
2 wheels. Includes front toe adjustment.
Not valid at Encinitas location.

Oil Change
$13.95 Basic
Includes up to 5 qts. 10W-30 oil, new oil filter, and maintenance inspection.
$19.95 Premium
Includes up to 5 qts. 5W-30 or 5W-20 motor oil, top-off fluids (excludes brake fluid), and maintenance inspection.
Most vehicles

Smog Check
$19.95
Most vehicles. Present coupon and DMV renewal slip.
Plus $8.25 cert. and $2 transmission fee.
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• Inspect wheel bearings
Free Oil Change with Any Brake Service This Week Only!
($21.95 value) Hurry – valid until Thursday, December 14.
Keep yourself and your family safe while eliminating irritating brake noise. Call for brake service.

Oil Change Special $9.99 With any other service.
• New oil filter and up to 5 qts. of 10W-30 oil
• Brake inspection • 39-point inspection
Most cars and light trucks.
EPA disposal fee included.

San Diego's Most Complete
30K/60K/90K Major Service $249 4-cyl.
Looking for quality? There is a difference. Compare our service with other shops.
Includes:
• Maintenance tune-up
• Drain & refill radiator
• Replace air filter
• Install spark plugs (premium plugs extra)
• Inspect brakes
• Clean & adjust rear brakes
• Change engine oil
• Change oil filter
• Change master cylinder brake fluid
• Check suspension
• Top off fluids
• Clean battery terminals
• Check radiator, radiator cap & all hoses
• Check tire balance
• Inspect fuel filter
• Check differential fluid
• Check manual transmission fluid
• Check & tighten all belts
• Rotate four tires
• Check tire balance
• Adjust tire air pressure
Plus this week only receive a 3-day, 2-night FREE mini-vacation to Mexico, Hawaii, Florida or British Columbia with major service
Worth up to $579 value! Hurry – valid until Thursday, December 14.
Most cars and light trucks. We also honor extended warranties. We follow manufacturer's service schedule on inspection, adjustments, and replacement parts. Timing belt extra. Removal of plenium, injectors, etc. extra if necessary. Platinum plugs additional.

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Pre-Purchase Inspections

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- Repack non-drive wheel bearings
- Inspect rotors or drums
- Check: hardware, calipers, master cylinder, wheel cylinder, lines, hoses and seals

ABS

30K/60K/90K/120K SERVICE

$99.99* Most cars.

- Replace spark plugs (resistor)
- Change oil (10W30) and filter
- Inspect emission control system
- Drain & replace coolant (up to 1 gallon)
- Check heating & A/C • Service battery
- Inspect lights & wiper blades
- Check & top off all fluid levels
- Check tire pressure • Rotate tires
- Lube chassis • Inspect exhaust
- Inspect suspension & steering
- Inspect drive belts & coolant hoses
- Road test vehicle

NEW RADIATOR FROM $149.95*

Parts only. Call for details on your vehicle.

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$14.95

Up to 5 quarts new oil & filter.

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SAME-DAY SERVICE

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FROM $49.95* 4-cyl.

Prolong your transmission's life with new fluid.

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Replacement at 60,000 miles recommended to avoid engine damage.

Parts extra. A/C or P/S additional $20 labor each. FWD additional $25. V6 additional (call). Most 4-cyl. RWD cars & light trucks.

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UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. Huge upstairs 2 bedroom, $995. Quiet, gated 8-unit building. Covered parking, laundry onsite. Available now. 4464-1/2 Oregon Street. Agent, 619-260-1368. View at http://www.sevillemgmt.com.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, $1025. On canyon hillside surrounded by trees. Parking, laundry onsite. Gas paid. 3956 Florida Street. Agent, 619-260-1368. View at http://www.sevillemgmt.com.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. $925. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, off-street parking, laundry, near all, available 12/1. 4443 Campus Avenue #5. Agent, 858-560-1178.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS/NORTH PARK. $785. 1 bedroom. Bright, upstairs apartment with large closets. Built-in cabinets. Off-street parking, laundry. Cat OK upon approval. 4475 Hamilton Street #8. TPPM, 619-296-8802.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS/NORTH PARK. $1200. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Remodeled, upstairs apartment. New carpet, vinyl and appliances. Walk-in closets. Off-street parking, laundry. No pets! 4475 Hamilton Street #10. TPPM, 619-296-8802.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. $1025 rent. $900 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, lower unit with refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, courtyard, garage. New paint. Gated. Patio. On-site laundry. 4550 Louisana #1. 619-804-3325.

UTC/LA JOLLA. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, $1800. Pool, Jacuzzi, gym. Near UCSD, facing Hyatt Hotel. No pets. 3550 Lebon Drive #6107. Call for appointment, 858-277-1760.

VALENCIA PARK. Move-in special! $670. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs spacious apartment. Parking and on-site laundry. 4854 Market Street. 619-683-7638, Xilarent.com.

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VISTA. Move-in special: 1/2 off first month! Renovated 2 bedrooms, $1075. Appliances, air conditioning. Gated, landscaped complex. Laundry, parking, balcony, storage room. 760-672-6405. www.melroyproperties.com.

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BEAUTIFUL HOUSE, Menifee, $380,000. Immaculate, modern 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, 1867 square-feet, cul-de-sac, large lot. Upgraded kitchen, dual fireplace, air conditioning, plantation shutters. Agent, Kelly, 619-562-6999.

BRAND NEW CUSTOM HOME! 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath ranch-style, Ramona. 2508 square-feet, 1-acre lot. 3-car garage, family room, all amenities. $649,000. Mike Acuna, agent, 619-540-7098.

CARLSBAD, SAN ELIJO HILLS. $20,000 Cash in Your hands for Christmas. 6-12 months free payments, 0 down 0 close. Fair credit moves you in! Ocean views, 2 gorgeous homes, 4 bedroom 4 bath, garages, nice yards, parks. Top Elementary School. 619-330-2415.

CHULA VISTA. No mortgage for a year. Seller will pay TD Mortgage for 12 months. 4 bedrooms, 3.4 baths, 3000 square feet, $840,000. Owner, 619-920-3717.

CITY HEIGHTS, Two small houses on one lot! Both 1 bedrooms, have washer/dryer, appliances. New tile in kitchens/bathrooms, yards. More. Trudy, $379,000/owner, 619-277-0242.

CITY HEIGHTS FIXER. Modern 3 bedroom house. 2-car garage. Great price, way under market value. Attention: first-time buyers! Easy financing available. www.sdhomesjack.com. Agent Jack, 619-962-8963.

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COLLEGE AREA. House with rental in back. Close to SDSU. One bedroom rental, detached garage, large covered patio. Be a homeowner and landlord! $579,900. 619-393-1909.

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$159.95

4-cyl. Reg. $249.95.
Not valid with any other offer.

Tune-up. Lube. Oil & filter. Replace air & fuel filters, crankcase breather element & PCV valve. Drain & refill entire cooling system. Transmission service. Differential service. Tire rotation & brake inspection. Shop supplies/disposal fee extra. Most cars & light trucks. 6-cyl., 8-cyl., fuel-injected models, automatic transmission, trucks & 4x4s higher. Must present coupon. Exp.12/31/06.

Full-Service Oil Change

$13.95 Reg. $29.95

Up to 5 qts. Chevron 10/30 oil. 20-pt. inspection. New oil filter. Top off all fluids. Tire pressure checked. Disposal fee extra. Most cars. Must present coupon. Exp.12/31/06.

Transmission Fluid Flush

From **$49.95**

Prolong your transmission's life with new fluid. 4-cyl.

Timing Belts

$40 off

Most cars & light trucks.
Must present coupon. Exp. 12/31/06.

Water Pumps

$50 off

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Must present coupon. Exp. 12/31/06.

Performance Package 2006

$49.98 4-cyl.

$69.98 6-cyl.

$79.98 8-cyl.

Improves performance & gas mileage. Includes: Tune-up with "Super Bosch" spark plugs. Lube. Oil & filter with 10/30 wt. Chevron motor oil. Fuel injection service. Also includes free safety inspection. Excludes waste fee. Most vehicles. Exp.12/31/06.

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From **$195**

Includes: throwout bearing, pilot bearing bushings, disk, clutch cover. Most vehicles. Limited time offer. Front-wheel drive extra.

Brake Special

$50 off

Organic pads or shoes. Install new pads or shoes. Free brake check. Clean and repack wheel bearings (when applicable). Most cars & light trucks. Must present coupon. Exp.12/31/06.

CV Boot From **$39.95**

Includes: boot, parts, labor, grease. 1/2 price for the 2nd boot on same axle. Most vehicles. Limited time offer.

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- Inspect filters
- Rotate tires
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- Clean battery terminals
- Check radiator & hoses
- Flush brake system
- Inspect and adjust brakes
- Inspect underhood components
- Check fluids • Inspect belts
- Road-test vehicle

Premium plugs extra. Most 4-cyl. cars and light trucks. Some trucks and 4x4s slightly higher.

Timing Belt $79.95 Most cars.
Plus parts. A/C extra. Most cars. All vehicles welcome. Call for a quote for your vehicle.

Free alignment inspection! (With appointment, please)
Computerized Alignment $39.95
Thrust Angle
4-Wheel Alignment $49.95
Set toes to specs. Most cars. Shims & cams extra.

Complete Axles AS LOW AS $89.95
Lifetime warranty.
Plus labor. Most cars.

New Radiator AS LOW AS $159 PLUS LABOR
Most cars.

Maintenance Tune-up AS LOW AS $34.95 4-cyl.
Install plugs. Premium plugs extra. Call for details. Most cars & light trucks.

Oil Change $15.95
Includes 5 quarts 10W/30 oil and new filter. Most cars.

Free brake inspection!
BRAKE SPECIAL From $59.95 *Most cars.*
Replace pads or shoes, inspect hardware, inspect rotor & drums, inspect hydraulics. Non-slip rotors, semi-metallic pads & premium pads extra. 4x4s, light trucks & 4-wheel disc extra. Lifetime warranty available.

New **Clutch** STARTING AT $239
Parts & Labor
Front-wheel drive, light trucks & 4x4 extra.

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Call for details. Please call for an appointment.

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No traditional credit checks.

Smog Check $15.75
FREE RECHECK If repairs done here.
With DMV renewal. Plus $8.25 certificate and $3 transfer fee. Most cars. SUVs, V6s, vans & trucks additional Smog diagnostics/repairs available.

Tune-Up
$24.95 4-cyl.
$34.95 6-cyl.
$44.95 8-cyl.
Most cars. Some models slightly higher.

Alignment Inspection $12.95
Alignment reading. Front-end safety inspection. Check ball joints, tie rods, steering box & steering links. LIMITED TIME OFFER.

30K/60K/90K Service $99.95 4-cyl.
- Replace spark plugs (platinum plugs additional)
- Check and adjust timing
- Oil and filter change
- Radiator service
- Tire rotation
- Brake inspection
- Suspension inspection and more!

"Check Engine" Light Diagnostic $39.95 most cars
Some problems may require additional diagnostic procedures.

Coolant Flush $59.99
Dox coolant extra.

Oil & Filter Change $14.95
Most cars. Plus $3 hazardous disposal fee.

Clutch Special from $179.95
Parts & labor. Most cars. 1-year warranty. Front-wheel drive cars extra.

Timing Belt starting at $53.95 labor only
Most cars, with coupon.

Brakes from $49.99
Most cars.

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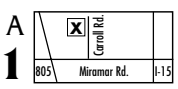

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- Rotate tires
- Lube chassis
- Service battery
- Inspect suspension, steering & exhaust
- Replace spark plugs (resistor type)
- Inspect lights and wiper blades
- Inspect emission control system
- Check heating and A/C operation
- Drain and replace coolant (up to 1 gal. green)
- Inspect drive belts and coolant hoses
- Road test vehicle

*Price does not include tax and hazardous waste removal fee. May not be used in conjunction with any other specials. Adjustments where applicable. Most cars. Present coupon at time order is written. May not be used on previous charges. One per customer, per transaction. Price good for service described above. No substitutions on services at this price. Inspections are visual only.

Oil & Filter Change
- Oil & filter change
- Visual brake inspection
- Tire rotation
- 38-pt. vehicle safety & maintenance inspection

Starting at $10.95*

Air Conditioning
Air conditioning performance check.
- Check for leaks
- Inspect system & belts

Labor only. Most cars & light trucks. $19.95

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Brake Fluid Exchange
- Removes moisture buildup
- Brake fluid exchange
- Inspect brake system

$49.95

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60,000-MILE REPLACEMENT RECOMMENDED
Old, neglected belts may break due to age and mileage and cause internal engine damage.
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Basic code retrieval and diagnostic. OBD II vehicles. With repairs (reg. $29.95). Some problems may require additional procedures.

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Improve your gas mileage.
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- Adjust idle speed
- Adjust timing

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Smog Inspection $24.95*
Free re-test with our repairs.
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Call for appointment.
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- Cable inspection

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- 44-pt. inspection

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Complete Axle
Starting at $79.95* Parts only
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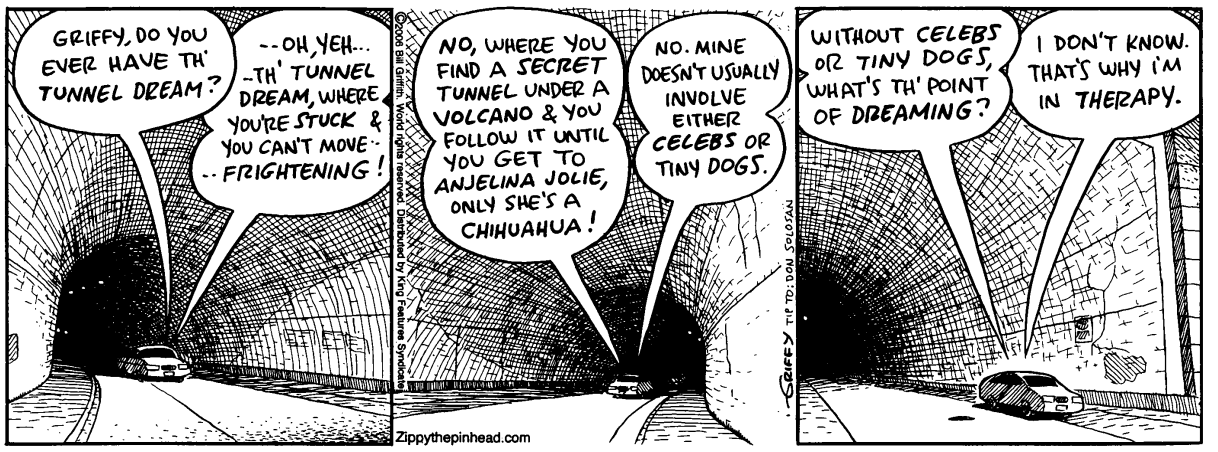
"Tunnel Vision" by Bill Griffith ©2006



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by Chuck Shepherd

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LEAD STORY

— To settle a discrimination lawsuit by transsexual men in October, the New York Metropolitan Transit Authority agreed to open all of its restrooms on the basis of individuals' "gender expression," meaning that, for example, any man dressed seriously as a woman could choose the ladies' room. … The New York City government is currently considering adopting a rule to permit people to switch genders on their birth certificates, regardless of whether they've had surgery, as long as they've lived in the new gender for two years and a physician and a mental-health counselor approve.

Can't Possibly Be True

— Karen Madden, 38, goes on trial in December in Harrisburg, Pa., after allegedly confessing to stealing $550,000 worth of jewelry and handbags from the residence of her former boss, who is the chancellor of the state's college system. The chancellor, testifying at a July hearing on the charges, said Madden had called her recently and apologized but then went on to say, "I hope you and I can still be friends, and I would like to use you, can I use you as a reference, just for the work part?"

— Britain's Home Office announced in November that it had agreed to a settlement in a lawsuit by 197 heroin-addicted prisoners that it was "assault" and a violation of the European Convention on Human Rights for them to have been almost immediately denied all drugs when they were arrested. For forcing the inmates to go "cold turkey," the government agreed to pay each the equivalent of about $7000.

— (1) Britain's Channel 4 public television announced in July that it would soon schedule a week of documentaries on masturbation, including one by self-designated "orgasm coach" Betty Dodson, *Masturbation for Girls,* teaching hands-on techniques to three women. (2) The pendulum swung the other way in October, however, when Britain's Tesco stores agreed that a kit for learning pole dancing (advertised on its website), to "unleash the sex kitten inside," with a garter and suggestive DVD, was perhaps unsuited for its "toy" section, where it might have been appealing to adolescent girls. Tesco moved the listing to its physical fitness section.

Inexplicable

— Two men in a Dodge Neon were seriously injured in a rollover accident on Interstate 75 near Toledo, Ohio, in October after a red bra flew from the radio antenna of another car, startling the Neon driver and causing him to swerve and lose control. The Ohio Highway Patrol later learned that the owner of the bra had hung it from the aerial after she realized that it had broken due to her dog's having chewed on it earlier that day. A prosecutor said a misdemeanor littering charge would be filed against the woman, but was exploring whether there had been out-the-window socializing between the cars' occupants before the rollover.

— After shooting video undercover in ten Army recruiting offices in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, ABC News released in November an episode of recruiters telling a prospect that no one is going to Iraq anymore. "No, we're bringing people back," he said, and his partner followed with, "We're not at war. War ended a long time ago." In a separate on-camera interview, Col. Robert Manning, who is in charge of Army recruiting in the Northeast, generously told ABC News that he disagreed with the recruiters. "We are a nation and Army at war still."

Unclear on the Concept

— (1) Race-separatist cult leader Yahweh Ben Yahweh is awaiting a decision on release from parole (after serving 11 years of an 18-year sentence on racketeering charges in connection with as many as 23 gruesome murders, some involving beheadings) and is dying of cancer. His lawyer asked a federal judge in October to approve his immediate release so that his client could "die with dignity." (2) Washington, D.C., council member (and former mayor) Marion Barry was charged in September with DUI and other vehicle violations but told the *Washington Post* that authorities were just trying to "embarrass and discredit" him.

— An investigation by a state agency is under way in Revere, Mass., of a residence condemned by local officials as (according to a neighbor) "worse than any Stephen King movie" because it reeked of garbage, feces, and cockroaches. It is the home of Andrea Watson, a child-rights advocate who lived there (until the condemnation) with her two children and two grandchildren. Watson's colleagues told the *Boston Herald* that she is a tireless activist for children who put her "heart and soul" into Parents for Residential Reform.

Election Roundup (continued)

— (1) A Kentucky election worker physically tossed a voter out of a polling station in Louisville on election day because he hadn't marked all the offices on his ballot. (2) A voter in Allentown, Pa., was arrested after he erupted in the voting booth and began pounding the machine with a paperweight.

— In elections for sheriff, Chris Abril was elected in Polk County, N.C., despite his arrest in August on years-old charges of statutory rape (which Abril said he'd straighten out as one of his first orders of business) ... Rick Magnuson was soundly defeated for sheriff of Aspen, Colo., after "all of my skeletons [were] exposed," he said, in the course of the campaign. Among the skeletons was a stint in alcohol rehab; his unauthorized use of a criminal database; his onetime letters to Osama bin Laden as part of an "art project"; and (also as an art project) the video he made of himself masturbating into a hole in the ground in the Mojave Desert.

Least Competent Criminals

— A prison inmate named Calvin Miller, who was angry with a former partner in crime who had escaped conviction, called police in Kansas City, Mo., in 2003 with information that led them to reopen that cold case, and eventually the partner, Johnny Chapple, was convicted of murder (along with two others). However, also convicted was a fourth participant: Calvin Miller. While Chapple received a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, Miller got 17. (Miller's well-known nickname, acquired before any of this transpired, is "Cheesy Rat.")

Updates

— James C. Burda surrendered his Ohio chiropractor's license in September after an investigation revealed that he offered to treat patients via telepathy (for $60 an hour) and had the ability to go back in time to realign bones and joints at the point at which they were damaged, via his techniques of telekinetic vibration, which he called "bahlaqeem vina" and "bahlaqeem jaqem," which he admitted were nonsense words that came to him one day while he was driving around. An exam ordered by Ohio chiropractic regulators found that Burda suffered from "delusional disorder, grandiose type."

The Law of Unintended Consequences

— The Tel Aviv newspaper *Yedioth Ahronoth* reported in October that the much tighter border security that resulted from the recent war with Hezbollah guerrillas had caused marijuana prices in Israel to jump as much as 800 percent. And, though general tensions between Arabs and Jews remain high inside Israel, prominent ultra-Orthodox Jews joined militant Palestinian Muslims in fierce opposition to the November gay-pride parade in Jerusalem, according to a *Boston Globe* dispatch. Said activist Rabbi Yehuda Levin, "Only this onslaught of homosexual radicalism could bring together such disparate voices."

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego *Reader,* P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com

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GOLDEN HILL, EAST. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Gated community, 2 parking spaces, private backyard. Newer cabinetry, fixtures, appliances. 4429 Tremont Street #3, 92101. $289,000/owner, 619-886-5665.

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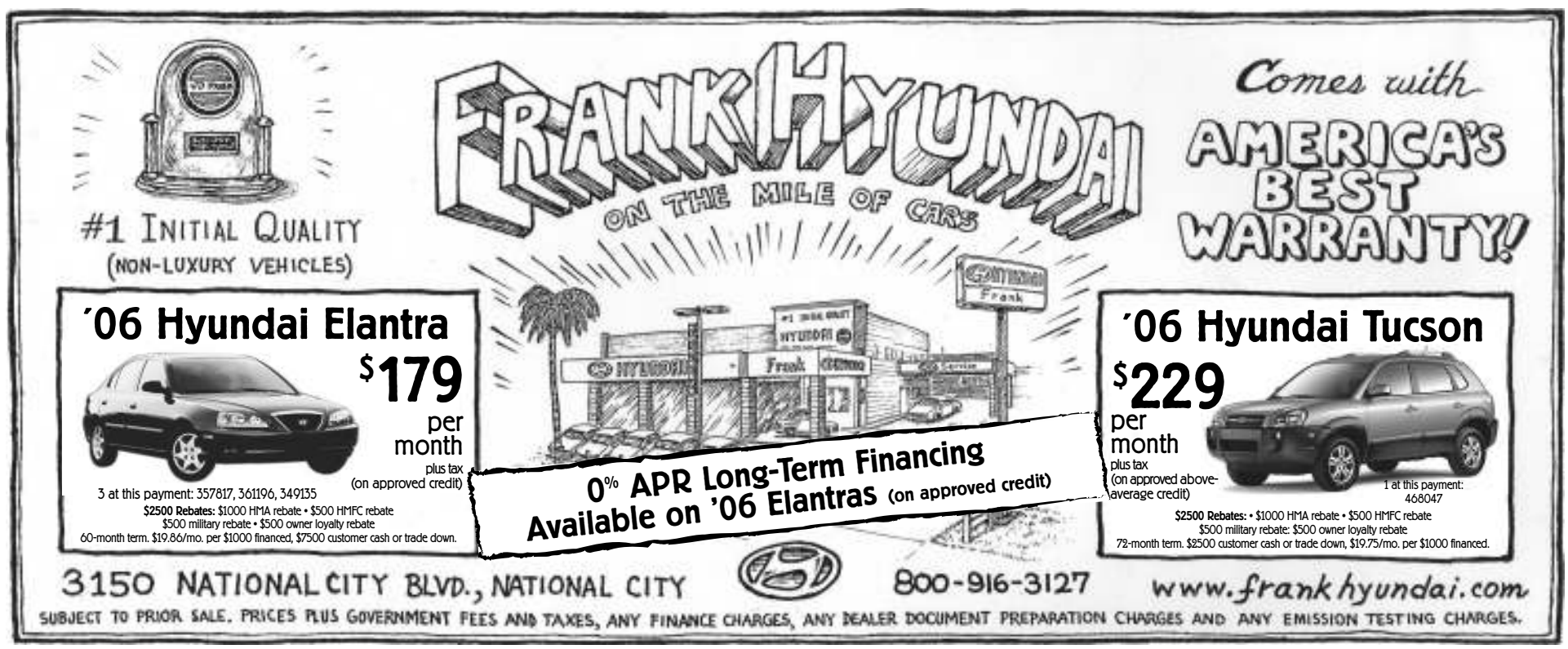

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KAYAK CLEARANCE. All used demo and rental kayaks from the summer season are now for sale. Cobra Explorers, XLs, Navigators, Strikes, Marauders, Fish 'n' Dives and Tandems. Prices from $195 to $899. Used two person kayaks include Ocean Kayak Malibu 2, Cobra Tandems, Double plus 1, Triple and Hobie Odyssey: prices from $399 to $799. Also, 6 sit-inside kayaks priced $195 to $395, and a large selection of new and used seats, paddles and life vests. San Diego Sailing Center, 1010 Santa Clara Place, Mission Bay. Phone 858-488-0651. For photos and pricing, visit www.kayaksforsale.com.

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KAYAK, one person with back support and paddle, $175. 6'1" thruster surfboard, $50. 619-218-3379.

NORDIC TREK, treadmill, manual with speedometer $45/best, assorted weights. $.25/per pound. 858-459-7229.

SAILBOAT, 25' Cheoy Lee fiberglass, hull teak cabin, full keel, sleeps 4, sink, stove, liveaboard/cruiser, $5000 owner finance, $2,000-$3000/down great investment/appreciation, 619-694-7751.

SKI BOAT, 2005 Sea Ray 20 Sport, V-8, under 60 hours, like new, never in the ocean, yellow and white, stereo/CD player, $27,000. 702-807-2082.

SOFTBALL TEAM needs a shortstop and fast center fielder. 619-295-0385.

SOFTBALL TEAMS, New leagues starting. Men's slow pitch. Starting January 2. Competitive. 619-517-5791.

SURFBOARD, epoxy 6-8, new, 21-3/4Wx2-7/8 thick quad, Future fins, perfect condition, double winged squash, $295/best. Mike, 760-518-3858.

SURFBOARD, fun shortboard, Speed Demon by Lost, 6'4"x19-1/4"x2-3/8", good condition, $200. Other boards to choose from. Frank, Mission Beach, 858-442-2754.

SURFBOARDS, USED. Three 7' fun shapes, $150/each. 4 shortboards, 6.0-6.6", $125/each. Two 9.0 longboards, $200/each. Ding repairs. Must sell! 760-809-6180.

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SURFBOARDS WANTED! Get more cash for your surfboards! Consignment/trade. Skateboards, wetsuits, boogie boards. New/used for sale. Play It Again Sports. Pacific Beach, 858-490-0222. Tierrasanta, 858-751-0338. College Area, 619-667-9499. www.playitagainsd.com.

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BACK WHEN

In the Reader

Thirty Years Ago

One could scarcely imagine a more appropriate setting for Katherine Hepburn than the aging Spreckels Theatre.… Miss Hepburn and the Spreckels have more in common than their age. Having come into the world — as they both did — early in the second decade of this century, they carry with them tastes, techniques and attitudes that belong to a past era.

[H]er manner of acting derives from the same stylized art that produced the Spreckels Theatre. The toss of the head, the clipped aristocratic lilt of the voice, the sudden self-delighted smile — these are done so well.

—**"ACTING HERSELF,"** *Jonathan Saville, December 16, 1976*

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Some years ago at Christmastime, when I was a teller at a bank downtown, I came to know Wayne Boyer, who was then an apprentice bum. I met him in the Jack-in-the-Box on Broadway, where I had stepped inside for a Coke; he was in the next line over, standing on crutches, his right leg in a cast from ankle to hip. I was 22 then and he looked about my age, but different in other ways. He had black hair, pale skin, and narrow, startling blue eyes. His face was like a weasel's — narrow, I mean — and active, and he usually put a hand up to cover his missing front tooth when he smiled.

—**"POSTCARDS FROM WESTERN CIVILIZATION,"** *Joe Applegate, December 10, 1981*

Twenty Years Ago

Rare it is that adults have the opportunity to bring children's games up through the ranks with them into adulthood. Baseball travels well, and a card game or two, and maybe a couple variations of spin the bottle. One pastime continues to weather maturity's scoffing: toy sailboat racing.

—**"A LILLIPUTIAN NAVY,"** *Neal Matthews, December 11, 1986*

Fifteen Years Ago

The letters Marie wrote, as year followed year, continued to portray her family life in the rosiest light possible. Her letters broke my heart but also left me feeling foolishly humbled. Because I knew Marie and I knew that, from her perspective, what she wrote wasn't untruth or distortion, nor was she trying to hide from her readers the grief she and Bud suffered over their offspring's crimes and bad choices. If I talked with her over coffee, she faced those facts. Yet when she sat down to write her Christmas letter, she wrote what I believe once was the classic Christmas letter: She wrote the life that she had hoped against hope, when she and Bud exchanged vows, their lives would become.

—**"ANOTHER YEAR HAS PASSED AND WE ARE SAFE AND SOUND,"** *Judith Moore, December 12, 1991*

San Diego *Reader,* December 12, 1991

Ten Years Ago

I had gone to see the gentleman I call Mr. Willis. For almost a quarter-century, he worked in local law enforcement. He told me if you wanted to evaluate the charge that San Diego had connections to organized crime — to the Mafia, or Cosa Nostra — you first had to understand the Prohibition years. He emphasized that to the degree San Diego's Italian/Sicilian community *may* have been involved in organized crime at *any* level, the numbers involved were few.

—**"DYNAMITE IS WHAT THEY MOSTLY USED,"** *Judith Moore, December 5, 1996*

Five Years Ago

Qualcomm founder Irwin Jacobs is a big Democrat, giving hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years to Bill Clinton. He contributed $50,000 to the reelection campaign of Governor Gray Davis. But Jacobs is now said to be hedging his bets. The *Washington Post* reports that Republican congressional leader Thomas M. Davis III of northern Virginia, proponent of free-trade agreements favored by Qualcomm, has been cultivating high-tech companies for campaign money.… The paper added that Republicans targeted Jacobs, who has been working with local GOP congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham to lobby the trade bill.

—CITY LIGHTS: **"BIG MONEY CONVERSION,"** *Matt Potter, December 6, 2001*

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com

SURFTECH SURFBOARD, Epoxy squash tail 6'8"x19.5x2.5. Great board, super strong and light, paddles well. Excellent condition $350, 858-449-6481.

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WETSUITS, 1 Mares XL Farmer John dive suit with jacket. 1 O'Neil medium shoulder zipper. 1 O'Neil medium shoulder zipper. $50/each, or best. 858-292-9597.

1996 TIGE PRE2000 Ski boat, priced under value, great mechanical shape, 320hp, 5.7 liter Black Scorpion Mercruiser, interior in good condition, $11,500, 801-641-1073.

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NIKON IN-STORE DEMOS. 9am-5pm. Nelson Photo Supplies. Downtown: Friday December 8, 1909 India Street, 619-234-6621. La Jolla: Saturday December 9, 7720 Fay Avenue, 858-729-6565. www.nelsonphotosupplies.com.

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BICYCLE, 26", male frame, 10 speed, tires 27x1-1/4 wire basket over rear wheel. $25. Chula Vista. 619-422-8937.

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FISHING TACKLE, Collector wants for his personal collection wooden lures, reels, miscellaneous by Heddon, Pflueger, Creek Chub, South Bend, Shakespeare, to name a few. 619-972-3488.

INDIAN arrowheads/artifacts. Must be authentic. Call Steve at 619-222-8562.

LOOKING for a recumbent bicycle for a 6-foot adult, and/or an ab lounge. 619-464-2131.

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SHOTGUN rifle shell boxes pre-1960. Duck and game calls, hunting & fishing badges (pre-1940), paper license (pre-1930) 858-565-1756.

WANTED, BOAT. Small Row or sail boat, about 8 feet long. If it needs work that's OK, 619-656-2831.

WANTED, car. I'm looking for transportation, $500 to spend or donation. Automatic transmission. 619-573-7315.

WANTED, car or station wagon. In any running condition. Have cash or can trade for Pentium 4 computer system. 619-582-7183.

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OLD ENGLISH, childrens plates, nursery rhymes. Da Guerreo types. Paper weights, advertising. 858-450-1888.

QUAINT FRENCH, town ink watercolor $35. Nautical watercolor original art 1946 $40. Original western watercolor 1956 $25. All pieces signed 8.5x11 unframed. 858-273-7211.

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Garage Sales

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BURLINGAME. Estate sale. Saturday-Sunday, 12/9-12/10, 7am-4pm. Automatic wheelchair, microwave, coffee pot, toaster oven, couch, end tables, kitchen tables, bedroom set, lamps, dishes. 3106 Laurel Street.

CARDIFF. Multifamily garage sale. Saturday, 12/9, 7am-noon. Don't miss out on fabulous clothes of all shapes, sizes, furniture, shoes, much more. 1030 Hurstdale Avenue.

CHULA VISTA. Garage sale. Sunday, 12/10, 8:30am-1:30pm. Wood breadbox, trash can, potato/onion bin, metal wine rack, rollerblades, clothes, shoes, much more. 808 Caminito Cumbres.

CLAIREMONT. Garage sale. Saturday, 12/9, 7am-3pm. Furniture, antiques, collectibles, Coke machine, 7 bookcases, videos, CDs, lots of hardcover books. 5448 Jamestown Road (end of cul-de-sac).

HILLCREST, Saturday December 9, 8am-? New 7 foot cat condo, computer, tools, plants, art, rugs, table, dishes, clothing, mirror. On Myrtle Street off Park Boulevard.

LA JOLLA, Saturday December 9 only. 8am-12noon. Multi-family, housewares, chairs, camping, printers, miscellaneous. 747 Bonair Way, La Jolla.

LA JOLLA. Moving sale. Saturday, 12/9, 9am-5pm. TV, stereo, computer, electronics, furniture, mattress. Torrey Pines Road, left on Hillside Drive, past Soledad Avenue, on left.

LA JOLLA. Garage sale. Saturday, 12/9, 10am-3pm. 3302 Caminito Gandara (near La Jolla Village Square. Nearest cross streets: Via Marin and Caminito Sonoma).

LA JOLLA. Truckload sale. Saturday, 12/9, 9am-3pm. Cash only. No early birds. 5524 Castle Hills Drive (Grand/Garnet north on Ingraham, right on Vickie).

LA MESA, Christmas on Mt. Helix. Annalee dolls, ornaments, toys and more! Saturday 12/9, 8am-2pm. 10241 Vivera Drive, La Mesa.

PACIFIC BEACH. Moving sale. Saturday, 12/9, 8am. Desk, bedroom set, TV, microwave, silverware, window air conditioner, bookcase, clothes, household items. 3825 Riviera Drive.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH, Alley sale, 12/09/06, 10am. No early birds!. Men/womans clothing, furniture, kitchen supplies, odds and ends. Priced to sell. 5126 Bayard Street.

POINT LOMA. Garage/estate/moving sale. Saturday, 12/9, 10am-3pm. Here today, gone to Maui. Cars, trucks, appliances, large/small tools, furniture, TV. 3640 Alcott Street.

RANCHO BERNARDO. Moving sale. Saturday-Sunday, 12/9-12/10, 7am-1pm. Treadmill, exercise machine, computer, kitchenware, clothes (new/used), new Christmas gifts, Christmas basket floral designs, pictures, coffee table, electronics. 12374 Briardale Way.

SAN DIEGO, lots of new things to give as Christmas gifts. Hundreds of videos, tables, furniture, much more. December 8/9 9am-3pm. 2709 "E" Street. 92102. Indoors. 619-338-0751.

SAN DIEGO, sofa table, end tables, pictures, lamps, tools, books, luggage, sleeping bags. 9am-3pm. Saturday December 9. 858-278-0205.

SCRIPPS RANCH. Garage/antique sale. Saturday, 12/9, 8am-1pm. Vintage and wicker furniture, antiques, collectibles of all types. Really neat stuff. 11745 Timberlake Drive.

SERRA MESA, yard sale Saturday 12/2/06. Glassware, games, miscellaneous. Time 8am-11am. Clothes. 8931 Polland Avenue.

UNIVERSITY CITY, condo entire contents moving back East. Everything must go. Black leather reclining sofa, table, bedroom set, queen bed and twin bed, microwave, desk, file drawer, chair, grill, 2-color TVs, 2-TV stands. All mint condition. Much more. 858-220-2721.

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BLOG WORLD

GEKKOLICK

Egypt

TO GLIMPSE OASES

I was sitting in the heat crying. A holiday to Egypt was supposed to be an answer, but it illustrated the added difficulties of removing me from a shit situation I knew to a shit situation where I felt *more* displaced.

We'd spent a fortune since we came here, casualties of our British reserve and the reluctance to haggle. The locals were smiling, kind and accommodating, but for every complimentary scarab beetle bead and every gratis cup of oversweetened tea there was a growing sense of being fleeced. Nonetheless, my excess baggage was growing, jewelry, sheesha, perfume — a growing list of stuff to fit into my overstuffed cottage in draughty Scotland. Who was I trying to kid? Filling my disquiet with new possessions was a vain attempt to fill the void where my comfort levels were once bobbing.

The hotel was lovely, as clean as my mother's house, and that's quite a thing. Hoards of deferential staff, all men, tended to my every need without so much as glancing at my sunburned cleavage. I doubt it would have turned their heads anyway, for the hotel was chock-a-block with foreign totty, all far better placed than I to steal away the resolve of a devout man. There was barely an English voice, a welcome alteration from past holidays — no raucous laughter, no karaoke, no British bulldog shorts, and no complaints about the shortcomings of the local culinary delights. Instead, I was surrounded by the unintelligible strains of Polish and Russian, and while their conversation was a mystery to me, I knew that they understood every word I uttered. The population in our marbled prison was mostly 20-something couples, muscled gods, size-zero goddesses, immaculately turned out, tweezed, coifed, and poured into their tiny bikinis, their skins tanning effortlessly into a uniform golden brown.

I was a fat Scottish lass who sweated and swam without my sunglasses on. I was odd. I felt odd. I felt ugly. Unlike them, my stretch-marked baggy belly remained testament to the huge baby I'd had ten years ago, a boy whose present-day guise nagged for my attention in spite of my glowering mood. Regardless of my attempts to reassure myself that these people were somehow less worthy because of their perceived shallowness, I couldn't manage to convince myself. I rankled with self-loathing at my envy for their pretty, plastic world and the way I allowed it to eat me — a woman who takes pride in her ability not to give a damn what others do, feel, think.

On the first day, I had a massage, which was blissful. A wiry young man with fingers stronger than expected ground his way into my tension-knotted muscles and cracked a xylophone melody from my backbone. When he left me to lie a while before turning me to tackle the expanse of my front, I fell asleep, and I almost punched him with surprise when he tried to turn me over. My skin was a mottled hue of sunset vermilion, with white/blue blotches — Scottish skin abroad — and it hurt to have him grind his knuckles in, but in a good way.

The primary draw of Egypt was the Red Sea, which was abundant with fish, and in contrast to the North Sea, clear enough and warm enough to see the fish and avoid hypothermia. But the first day passed, and then the second, and I still knew nothing of Egypt but the airport and the hotel. My self-esteem had plummeted, my skin ached with burn and bites, I felt the first prickle of thrush starting, and my husband and kid had become good cop, bad cop.

So in a fit of childlike pique, I took to my bed, drew the cover up over my

head, took four Valiums, and slept, escaping to drug torpor. It solved nothing. It didn't make me more settled. I didn't feel less like a worn whale, and it didn't make my kid stop whining for me to buy overpriced snacks from smiling Egyptians. It didn't make me tan better or manage the heat like a native. It wasn't going to solve the dilemmas I had left behind, the constant quest I felt to make life mean something, to somehow make things matter. It didn't fix my marriage. My job was still overpaid misery; my kid was still behaving badly because I'd wrenched him from the security of life as he knew it. As panaceas go, this was a mistake. And, final indignity, Christmas loomed large, and against my better judgment, I found myself trying to get ahead by buying presents from shyster vendors.

With the Valium still in my system, slowing me, numbing my emotions, I walked in isolation around the hotel, to parts rarely visited. A view of the foothills of the Sinai lay before me, misty and beautiful into the distance. As the raging sun set into a serene landscape, my soul stilled at last.

Peace is rare. My life is a battle with emotions I can barely contain, a search for meaning I cannot seem to resolve. I live in a pointless world with empty aims; its transparency and frivolity make it hard for me to walk on.

Just briefly, perhaps when my head realizes it has tested me too hard, I am afforded the chance to be humbled, to glimpse oases in the desert of life.

And the Sinai did as it always has. As it always will. And I watched.

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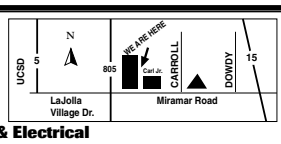

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BLOG DIEGO

TITLE: The Dish | ADDRESS: http://hit-points.com/trish/
AUTHOR: Trish the Dish | FROM: San Diego | BLOGGING SINCE: May 2003

POST DATE: November 11, 2006
POST TITLE: BMW 7-Series

Last night as I left a crowded restaurant bordering Hillcrest, I locked eyes with a man who was standing in line. I tried to squeeze myself into the tiniest possible me and get out of there without a panic attack. I knew he was gay, because I was watching him earlier — wrists flailing, weight resting on one leg as he stood talking to his boyfriend. I wanted him to smile at me when I squeezed past him, to say something funny — as I've known gay men to do — to comfort me, as I was obviously (in my own mind only, perhaps) distressed at being with all these people in such close quarters. Instead, he looked at me with level eyes that sort of said, "I don't have time for you. I'm tired of people like you — women."

Walking to my car, I was lamenting that I've never had a gay man as my friend, like so many women seem to have. I have always CRAVED that sort of closeness with a man who I knew would never want me sexually. Gay men always seem to hate me, as do most women.

I was pondering this as I drove down through Mission Hills and merged onto the 5, where I was blocked by a BMW 7-series going about 45 mph. The car reminded me of a story that my boss, Alex, told me last week about his neighbor, who drives Alex nuts and drives a BMW 7-series. When he said "7-series," he rolled his eyes back and let his jaw go slack, meaning the guy was a pompous ass. Alex said that the man is very anal, that he measures the height of his lawn with a ruler. That his kids — high schoolers — are forced to dress alike. He said the lights in their house go out in eerie synchronization at specific times: 9:00 for the kids; 9:45 for him and his wife. I commented on what the relationship must be like between the neighbor and his wife if they only get 45 minutes together a night.

Alex ignored me and went on with the rest of his story. I smiled politely, but I was thinking how sad a life like that must be. What power that man must have over his family if they allow such rules — and with teenagers, too! The wife must drink, or take pills, or perhaps she is a devout Christian. Then I thought Alex might be projecting. He is a bit anal, too, so I was unsure what it was about his neighbor that irritated him. Alex won't let us pop popcorn in the office because he hates the smell.

So, as I struggled to merge onto the highway and around the BMW, I was thinking about Alex's neighbors. Why do so many people drive silver BMWs? I decided that they were the sharks of the road, and that people who drove them must be similar in character to sharks — driven, always moving forward, never slowing down, ruthless, soulless. I thought police cars are the killer whales of the road. Black and white, usually peaceable, capable of murder. I wondered what my red Jetta said about me.

Finally! A chance to merge. As I passed the BMW, I looked to see who was driving. Were they foreign, old? What could account for such poor driving manners? As I passed, all I could see was a slender arm attached to a skinny watch on the dainty wrist holding the wheel, and a slender hand, backlit by the orange lights of the dashboard. I wondered if it was Alex's neighbor's wife.

* * *

POST DATE: October 31, 2006
POST TITLE: The Night of the Living Dead

Throughout my life, especially lately, I've been struck by the fact that I (along with every other human being) am very alone. Not alone as in lonely, but separate from everything else. I guess it's always been clear to me, this sense that we're all in it with nothing but ourselves to fall back on, but the gravity of it has just registered. It's a culmination of things, I guess. Maybe it sprung from my disbelief in love or the capacity of humans to love or be loved. What's left after that?

I see our separation everywhere. Most noticeably in pop culture. Abercrombie and Fitch is the metaphoric thread tying together an entire generation of high schoolers and college students who can afford it. The iPod lets you personalize your belongings by what you choose to load it with. But what's left is just a sweater that's too short and shrinks when you wash it or a bunch of bytes and bits on a hard drive. There is no bond created, no joining of persons.

What's there then? Your family, friends, husband, wife can't share the same dreams as you. When you die, they can only hold your hand until you're dead.

Which brings me to God. Is God real? Could that be what makes everything one? And if so, why don't I feel that?

Oh, the futility of it all.

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"OH, FOR THE LOVE-A...," MY DAD YELLS AT THE TV. It's his favorite thing, heckling people who will never hear him.

In the past year before his retirement, he's slipped from "disagreeable middle age" to "cantankerous old fart." He sits, slumped in his La-Z-Boy, drinks whatever watery American beer is on sale that week, and fills the air with smoke and cursing. "Who the hell asked you a damned thing, you old bat!? Good God, if she's not old as dirt, she was born when it was new."

Cable doesn't run out in the hills where he lives, so he subsists on three channels. He had a satellite dish installed, but he doesn't watch it. He likes the big networks, the news, a couple *Law and Order* shows, but his favorite is *The Antiques Roadshow*.

"Look at the pile-a crap that lady's trying to pawn off as 'antique.' I could get that at Wal-Mart," he growls. "Honey, whatever it's worth, take the money. Then buy a new goddamn hat 'cuz I wouldn't enter that one in a dog show!"

At 61, he gets up at 5:30 every morning. He gets a pack of cigarettes and a cup of coffee from a gas station on his way to work. He puts in a day doing manual labor for the city of Sonora — weed-eating in the summer, paving roads and unclogging leaf-filled and flooded storm drains in the winter.

When he gets home, he wants to put his boots next to the fire, dent a six-pack of Keystone Light, and shout at the television. "Two thousand dollars! For a purse! You've got to be out of your mind. If I found that thing in the street, I'd set fire to it."

When I lived up there, I tried to get him to do things after work. "C'mon, Dad, let's go to Tommy's softball game," or "Let's get dinner and watch a movie." I thought it was unhealthy for him to sit in the house by himself all the time.

"Dammit, boy, I've worked 50 years. I want to sit down," he'd yell if I interrupted his TV time. "What is that, an Indian papoose? Yeah, carry *this* around."

I quit trying to change him and took up a seat next to him. "Look at that fellah's tie, Dad."

"Yeah, I need a tie like that," he groans. "To wipe my butt with."

WHAT I WILL AND WON'T WATCH THIS WEEK

I don't watch much TV during the week, maybe a rerun of *The Daily Show*, *Heroes*, and a UFC program on Spike, occasionally. What I do enjoy is waking up Saturday morning and catching the VH-1 Top 20 Countdown. Here are last week's Top 10.

#10

GWEN STEFANI

"WIND IT UP"

Ugh. Gwen Stefani, former pretty and talented singer, is now yodeling in a nun's outfit and round, white, Gucci sunglasses. Easy, Gwen. If you're taking the Madonna track to superstardom, you still have years before you reach the "idiotic" portion of your career. No reason to rush. Rating: no fingers.

#9

THE FRAY

"HOW TO SAVE A LIFE"

How to save me from slapping my own face with an errant shoe: step 1, don't play this horrendous tripe. Rating: one finger, straight up; guess which one.

#8

CHRISTINA AGUILERA

"HURT"

This video has a circus sideshow act theme, and I can't figure out how Christina fits into that. They show sword swallowers, tightrope walkers, and elephants. Her role seems to be "blonde L.A. ding-dong pretending to be melancholy and glamorous." Rating: three fingers; the middle, index, and pinkie configured into "the shocker."

#7

HINDER

"LIPS OF AN ANGEL"

I've mentioned this song in the past. In case you've missed it, you're in for a treat. This is easily the worst song of this generation, and I'd say the worst song of this century, but we're only six years in, and it's a little early. When VH-1 does a "Stupidest Garbage We've Ever Played" retrospective, Hinder's going to be toward the top. Rating: the whole fist, smashed into the monkey face of that effete lead singer.

Weird Al Yankovic in "White and Nerdy" video

#6

THE ALL AMERICAN REJECTS

"IT ENDS TONIGHT"

Probably the most talented band in the Top 10. They can actually play instruments, and their lyrics don't read like seventh-grade-little-girl-going-through-her-parents'-divorce poetry. Rating: the hand, palm flat and facing down, rocking side-to-side in a "eh, so-so" gesture.

#5

EVANESCENCE

"CALL ME WHEN YOU'RE SOBER"

Here's the thing with gothic costumes: they look great in videos with wolves, long candle-lit tables, and plush velvet high-back chairs. You think it's cool until you see that guy on the beach in July, wearing whiteface, a cape, and ring-striped stockings, sweating like a surplus army mule. Rating: as a lover of porky women, I have to give Evanescence a "thumbs up."

#4

BEYONCÉ

"IRREPLACEABLE"

It seems that popular music has been reduced to a catch phrase associated with a hand gesture. Beyoncé's contribution to the pantheon of music is her latest "to the left/ to the left" and a quick flick of the fingers. Sure, Chubby Checker had "the twist" and "the jet" a long time ago, but those were dance steps and not an entire song based on a direction. Where am I supposed to go? Oh, thank you, Beyoncé. I never would've figured it out without you. We'll be sure to heap millions of dollars on you for showing us the correct path from here to the bathroom. Rating: one finger, pointing down from my belt buckle area.

#3

FERGIE

"FERGALICIOUS"

As much as I hate this woman and everything she stands for, I can't get this song out of my head. It's damn catchy. Sure, it's anti-music (something that if played for a person trained in the proper execution of the musical arts would make him chew the legs off a barstool), but dammit if I can't stop pooching my butt out and spanking myself whenever this song comes on. Rating: "the pistol" configuration, pointed toward my temple for the shame I feel.

#2

NICKELBACK

"FAR AWAY"

Goo Goo Dolls II. Nickelback is the sappiest of sappy slow rock bands. They've captured a part of the market in which teen girls cycle through their emotions. When a girl gets a crush on the football quarterback, it's all Mariah Carey. After she runs crying from the gymnasium because Johnny Jockstrap won't date a girl shaped like a bag of donuts, it's all Nickelback, cookie dough, and Kleenex, baby. Rating: both hands crossed over my heart, where it hurts, because I'll never love anyone else ever.

#1

WEIRD AL YANKOVIC

"WHITE AND NERDY"

I watched this with my girlfriend and said, "Wait a minute. I collect *X-Men* comic books, I've read Stephen Hawking, and I know HTML." She looked at me crossways and raised an eyebrow, like, "*Well?*" Rating: my hand flat against my forehead while I cry, "GAH! I'm a geek!"

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T.G.I.F.

Cool out. It's only Christmas.

By John Brizzolara

Christmas shopping. I'm against it, personally. The hostility out there is incredible. It's a miracle more people don't kill each other outright at this time of year. They certainly seem to want to.

I was in line coming across the TJ border into the U.S., a long freaking line, and I was behind a middle-aged woman with a huge plastic shopping bag who wanted to get to some store or other before closing at 5:00 p.m. (This was about 3.) I picked up from her machine-gun Spanish to her companion who was behind me that she needed a nativity set at this certain store. The nativity-seeking lady kept inching up alongside the person in front of her until she could usurp that spot in line. She did it several times, and each time the companion behind me (maybe her daughter) would ram her baby stroller into my heels as if to urge me forward or to step aside. If someone in line ahead would protest, they would be subjected to a stream of blistering español, replete with *pinches* and *cabrónes* and one *puta.*

After my heels had been chewed for the fourth or fifth time, I turned around to the young señora and suggested in English, "Why don't you use your child?" I indicated a little boy, about a year-and-a-half old, who seemed delighted at playing bumper heels. "Yeah," I went on, "Just pick him up and use him as a battering ram. He's having fun. You could butt me right behind the knees, and I'd go down like the feeble old gringo I am." I was assuming they didn't speak English, and I was right, but I did get some laughter in line from someone who did. Meanwhile, the older bird started quizzing her daughter, asking her if she knew what I was saying. My manner was quite pleasant.

"And you, ma'am. I'd suggest the use of your elbows to kind of plow 'em aside up there. And have you thought about getting a cane? You could whack a few opponents out before they knew what hit 'em and be on your way. No one would suspect a sweet and respectable matron like you of violence." I was beaming happily. To her, I figured, it looked as if I had just doted on the darling boy then complimented the beatific grandmother. She looked at me appraisingly. She had little to go on, but her low street cunning told her something was up. "You can trip 'em with a cane too. That way you get two or three places ahead with one shot. One goes down then, you know, it's like dominoes. You got a pileup, and you just do an end run around the whole mess. You save five, ten minutes in this line right there."

By this time she's figured she's getting her chain pulled, mostly because of this American behind laughing appreciatively and me eating it up. As if on cue, the boy in the tram starts bawling, and both women look at me as if it's unmistakably my fault. A conference takes place between a Mexican man about my age and the young mother. I get the feeling he's telling her the gist of what I have said. The line moves ahead and Dad (I'm figuring now) brushes his wife, mother, and kid past me saying only *pendejo* very quietly, inviting me to stop him. On top of this, I now realize the American chick is laughing at whatever someone is telling her on her cell phone and not my wit. I'm getting hard looks from others now too. I feel like a first-class smart ass.

An hour later, at my storage place, I confront the manager or whatever he is. I've figured this guy to be a former jailer, into a lot of keys on his belt, used to telling people what to do, and no matter what your sorry-assed brand of lip was, he was ready for it. He launched into a high-decibel lecture about my rent being overdue and it costing them money if your (that is, *my)* stuff goes up for auction. "You and every other knucklehead that comes in here think they can..." I was feeling abashed and repentant, self-chastised after my sarcastic hostility at the border, and was determined to disarm this guy and cool him out. I listened patiently, fascinated with the rules and deadlines, the complicated dynamics of public-storage work. Eventually he lowered his voice after I made him convince me it would not inconvenience his bookkeeper if I added $10 to the late fee. He almost smiled at the end, but it's not like he is a chick or gay or something.

Feeling in a small way redeemed for earlier sins, I stopped to pick up some hamburger at a market near my place. In the aisle along the butcher's counter I negotiated past several shoppers as I juggled ketchup, mayo, lettuce, buns, and toilet tissue. A very large man stood before me with no room on either side of

him to pass. He was calling to his wife across the full length of the store to "Buy some damned collards, girl!"

"Excuse me," I said and made to edge past. He would not move but looked at me as if I were a talking dog that had somehow snuck into the store, a walking health department violation. His head was an ebony, scarred bowling ball on a giant fireplug of a body. He could crush me like a grape and looked for all the world as if he were considering it. "Excuse me," I repeated.

"Merry Christmas," he snorted and pushed past me, forcing me to flatten against the meat window.

"You too," I said after a moment and quickly wondered if I had just incited him to put my lights out. On the street, a neighbor yanked her five-year-old daughter's hand out of the bag of unwrapped, cheap Christmas gifts. I strained to hear the bones dislocating but didn't.

That night I dreamed of all of them showing up at the manger in Bethlehem with cheap gifts and a list of formal complaints against me. There was no infant in the makeshift crib. I awoke feeling depressed.

All that I just described took place within an hour and a half and with enough negative energy to light up, short out, and flame a fireproof Christmas tree into a smudge of smoldering carbon. Cool out. It's only Christmas.

And I'll try to curb my clever and mean-spirited tongue.

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