

NEWS & FEATURES

It's Not a Race Thing...It's Style

Don't freak. By Geoff Bouvier.....26

City Lights

The Wall Street leash law; and City Lights shorts6

The Minutemen call it "draining the swamp"7

Letters12

Straight From the Hip

Buddhists and bugs.....14

The Sporting Box

Bowled over.....16

Sheep and Goats

The lights go on at Congregation Beth Israel.....18

Best Buys

What's Christmas without a camel?.....20

Crasher

Cheap date.....22

Diary of a Diva

CyberPanic!.....24

Two Divided by Two

A father struggles with the system. By John Corvus44

La Semana en Español

A week's worth of stories in Spanish129

Off the Cuff.....144

Name This Place.....146

Puzzle.....149

News of the Weird.....167

Blog World

Misery loves a vacation.....169

Blog Diego

America's Dumbest City171

Remote Control King

Santa gets the axe.....173

T.G.I.F.

Casual hipness was hard work175

CALENDAR

Local Events.....63

Roam-O-Rama

Bike and hike a coastal wilderness70

Reading

Carlene Cross: *Fleeing Fundamentalism*71

Classical Music Guide.....74

Art Museum and Gallery Guide.....74

Theater Review and Guide

Two takes on familiar themes75

Pop Music

Blurt.....80

Hot music from the freezer84

Restaurant Reviews and Guide

The Market Restaurant's a hit.....107

Artisan breads and bargain breakfasts.....109

Learn along with Natalie MacLean.....110

Movie Review and Guide

Duncan Shepherd digs out.....121



The Knitters

Hee Haw with brains, loud amps, and tattoos. See Page 86

A D V E R T I S I N G

Classified Ads

Antiques & Collectibles	172
Appliances	172
Automotive: Cars.....	174
Automotive: Trucks/Vans/SUVs	174
Automotive: Classic/Custom Cars.....	175
Automotive: RVs	175
Automotive: Parts.....	175
Automotive: Services.....	175
Bicycles	172
Business Opportunities	146
Career Training.....	142
Classes/Lessons	146
Computers	172
Counseling/Support	150
Electronics.....	172
Employment Agencies.....	142
Employment Services	142
Furniture	172
Garage Sales	172
Health & Fitness.....	150
Help Wanted.....	131
Massage	148
Matches	151
Miscellaneous For Sale	172
Motorcycles.....	174
Music, Equipment/Instruments	153
Music, Musicians Avail/Wanted.....	154
Music, Services.....	154
Notices.....	150
Parent Resources.....	150
Personals	151
Pet Central	159
Photo	170
Real Estate, Condos	170
Real Estate, Houses.....	168
Real Estate, Miscellaneous.....	170
Rentals, Commercial	155
Rentals, Apartments/Condos.....	156
Rentals, Houses.....	155
Roommates	154
Roommate Services	155
Services Directory	156
Sports.....	170
Stage Notes.....	150
Tickets	170
Travel & Getaways	151
Wanted/Trade.....	172
Wedding/Party Guide	150

Display Ads

Apartment Rentals.....	160
Automotive	163
Career Training.....	140
Getaways	62
Great Escapes	64
Health and Beauty	42
Help Wanted.....	131
Home and Garden	32
Instruction	149
Music.....	154
Research Studies	36
Services.....	152
Wedding Guide.....	66

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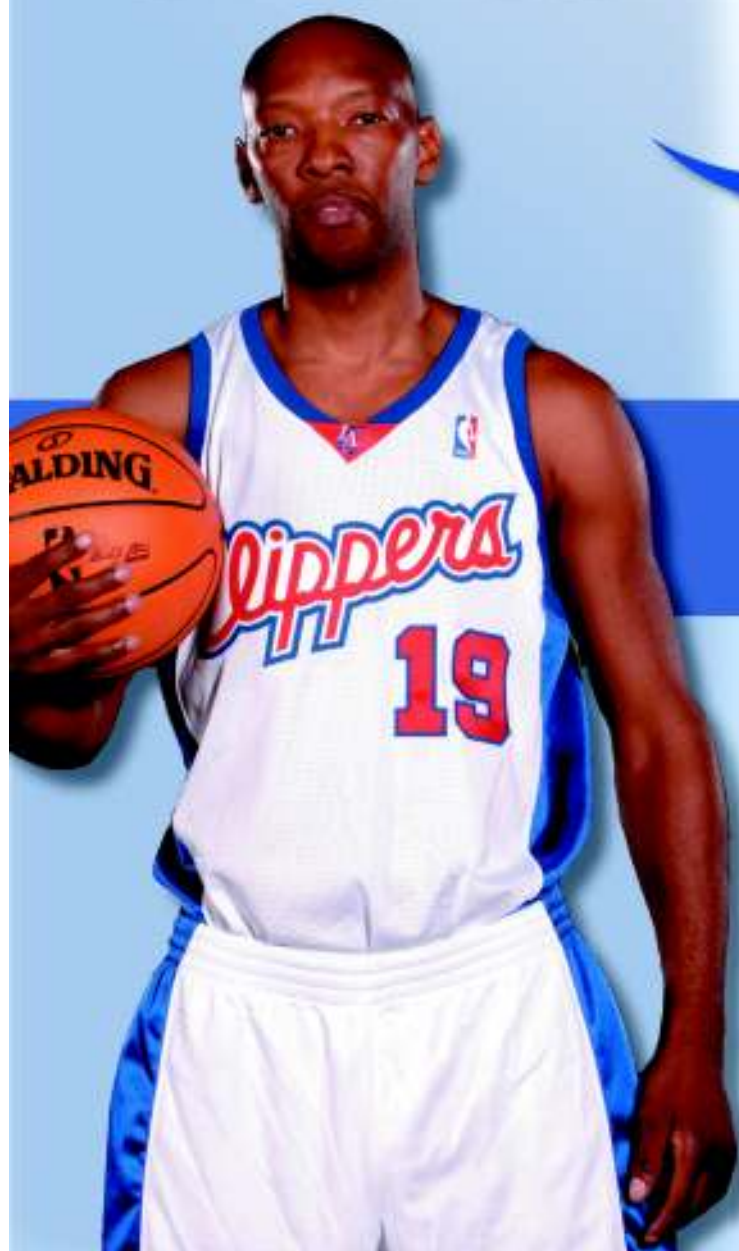
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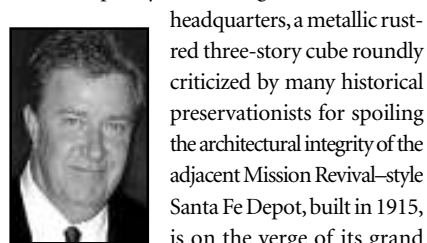


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X marks the money



Hugh Davies

The Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego's new downtown headquarters, a metallic rusted three-story cube roundly criticized by many historical preservationists for spoiling the architectural integrity of the adjacent Mission Revival-style Santa Fe Depot, built in 1915, is on the verge of its grand opening. And no one could be happier than museum director **Hugh Davies**, especially because as the museum (formerly known as the La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, and still called that by some) has grown, so has his already heady salary. According to the institution's federal tax return for the fiscal year ending June 2004, Davies was making \$280,091 a year, along with a pension contribution of \$33,340 and an expense account of \$60,374. In 2005, his pay jumped to \$344,186, with a pension benefit of \$34,920 and an expense account of \$37,633.

Those numbers compare more than favorably with the city's other museum directors, who made substantially less. The staid San Diego Museum of Art, for instance, paid its executive director, **Derrick Cartwright**, formerly of Dartmouth College's Hood Museum, \$220,619 for the ten-month period ending June 2005, with an expense account of \$42,000 and no retirement benefit. (He assumed his job September 1, 2004.) The Putnam Foundation, which oversees collections at the adjacent Timken Museum, paid its administrator **James Petersen** \$62,054 with no benefits. And the Natural History Museum's **Michael Hager** got \$166,556, plus \$7593 in pension benefits and a \$4800 expense account.

The contemporary art museum's Davies is a champion fund-raiser with close ties to some of the town's wealthiest and best-fed insiders. Last month, *Union-Tribune* society writer **Burl Stiff** reported that *U-T* owner **David Copley** threw a brunch at his La Jolla residential complex on Virginia Way in honor of an upcoming show featuring the collection of **Carolyn Farris**. "There were such temptations as baby cheese blintzes with homemade strawberry jam, and eggs with Canadian bacon and cheese on miniature English muffins," wrote Stiff. "There was a poolside buffet that offered fresh pineapple, cantaloupe, melon and such; cinnamon rolls, croissants and assorted muffins; and a selection of cheeses. There was a seafood station (jumbo shrimp), a carving station (beef tenderloin and honey-baked ham), an omelette station, and a waffle and pancake station. There was lots of orange juice, and there were mango/banana smoothies. And there was Bloody Mary sorbet — served in a shot glass with an oyster."

Paper trails Copley Press employees at the company's *Peoria (IL) Journal Star* are atwitter over reports that well-heeled locals are eyeing the paper, which is for sale as part of owner

David Copley's plan to liquidate all of the chain but its flagship *Union-Tribune*. "At least one prominent Peorian started making calls to other area citizens with deep pockets, which has morphed into a serious discussion among a few local businessmen about what it would take to buy the paper," wrote **Jennifer Davis** and **Molly Parker**. "And just to be clear, we are talking about rumblings of serious discussions, not like Councilman **Gary Sandberg's** joke of an attempt, which basically consists of him telling people he's trying to buy the paper. Hmmm, he might be an interesting boss, though. Maybe he'd replace all the *Journal Star* cars with Harley-Davidsons." A more serious observer notes that if the company is entertaining local bids, it may mean that large, deep-pocketed newspaper chains and investment funds aren't much interested in the Copley properties. ...



David Copley

In other Copley news, *LA Observed*, a blog about all things Los Angeles, reports hearing rumors that the sale of the *Torrance Daily Breeze* to **Dean Singleton's** MediaNews Group will mean the end of the Copley News Service's venerable L.A. bureau. **Gordon Smith**, the bureau chief who once was a reporter for the *U-T*, and **Dan Laidman** work there. ... Onetime San Diego city school board candidate **Johnnie Perkins**, who's had a variety of jobs carrying water for some of the city's biggest corporate and labor institutions, including San Diego Landfill Systems, owned by Allied Waste; the San Diego County Trash Association; and the San Diego City Firefighters union, has moved from his most recent employer, EDCO, another big trash hauler, back to Allied Waste Services, this time as director of municipal marketing and sales for Southern California.

Can't hold their arsenic Toxicologist Dr. **F. Lee Cantrell**, director of the San Diego division of the California Poison Control System, has published a paper detailing 121 auctions on eBay over a ten-month period offering potentially murderous substances. "Sixty-three products contained extremely toxic ingredients including thallium, picotoxin, soluble barium, antimony, mercury, arsenates, podophyllin, fluoride, zinc phosphide, atropine, scopolamine, and plant extracts of gelsemium, aconite, larkspur, and croton," according to the paper in the *Journal of Toxicology*. "While the viability of the labeled ingredients could not be verified, the transportation, handling, and potential utilization of these dangerous poisons by the general public could result in serious poisonings."



F. Lee Cantrell

— Matt Potter

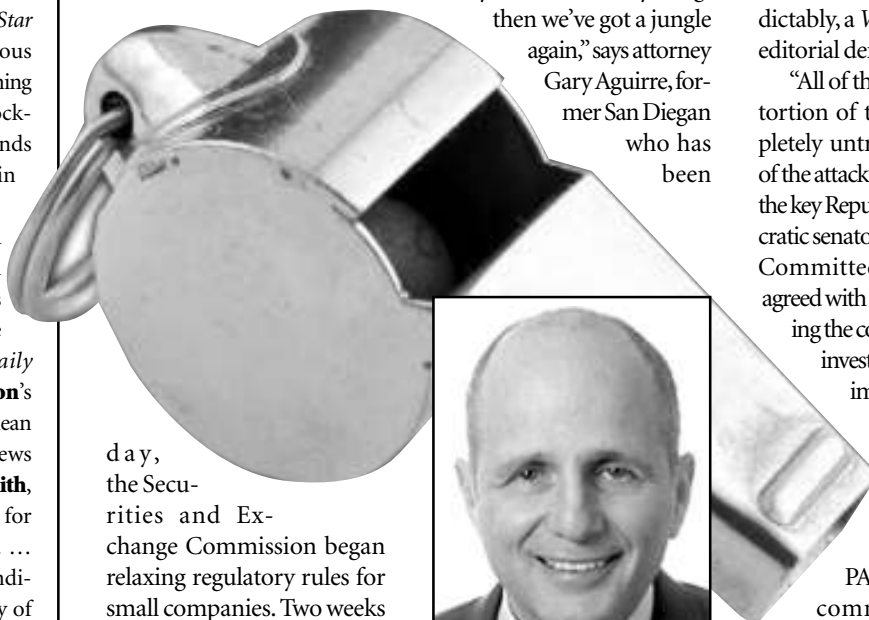
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Wall Street Wants To Work in Dark

By Don Bauder

Some Wall Streeters want to put a leash on the law — except the law of the jungle. On December 12, the Justice Department announced it would ease up on its tactics for fighting corporate crime. The following

If you then take away the states' ability to regulate the securities industry, and the plaintiff lawyers can't do anything, then we've got a jungle again," says attorney Gary Aguirre, former San Diegan who has been



day, the Securities and Exchange Commission began relaxing regulatory rules for small companies. Two weeks earlier, a committee formed by business and investment moguls had recommended that antifraud regulation, lawsuits, and criminal sanctions be reined in so that Wall Street can supposedly be more competitive internationally.

"The Securities and Exchange Commission has been captured by Wall Street.

making national headlines since last spring, when he began complaining that the SEC fired him after he pressed to take the testimony of a politically well-connected Wall



Gary Aguirre

Street honcho.

On December 5, Aguirre, brother of City Attorney Mike Aguirre, told the Senate Judiciary Committee how the Securities and Exchange Commission allegedly protected the Wall Street nabob from an insider-trading probe. During the committee's hearing that day, SEC officials denounced Aguirre's character and judgment — the inevitable attack on any whistleblower by wounded bureaucrats. Three days later, predictably, a *Wall Street Journal* editorial denounced Aguirre.

"All of that was a gross distortion of the facts or completely untrue," says Aguirre of the attacks. Happily for him, the key Republican and Democratic senators on the Judiciary Committee have generally agreed with his complaint during the committee's lengthy investigation. "At a minimum, it is very, very troubling what the SEC has done here," said Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), chairman of the committee, at the December 5 hearing.

Less than a week before that hearing, the antiregulation study came out of a group called the Committee on Cap-

continued on page 8

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

Neal Obermeyer



Day Labor And the Law

By Bruce Kauffman

Around 8:00 in the morning on August 22, Susan and Sheng Wei drove their white SUV to Escondido and South Santa Fe avenues in Vista, looking to hire help for the heavy lifting required to clear a dead tree from their yard. One man got into the SUV and sat down in the backseat. Then Jeff Stevens, a code compliance officer for the city of Vista, moved in.

After stopping the Weis in the parking lot, "I told Mr. Wei that I would be required to issue a cite," Stevens wrote in his report. "At this time, Mrs. Wei asked the day worker to leave their car, which he did. I finished the cite to Mr.

Wei, and explained to him how to get a permit at City Hall." Mr. Wei then drove to city hall, on nearby Eucalyptus Avenue, applied for a permit, obtained it, attached it to the window on the rear passenger side of their vehicle, and returned to the same area to hire a worker.

And so, less than a month after Vista's day-labor ordinance took effect, the Weis became the 23rd entry on the list of people officially allowed to hire day laborers in Vista.

The Weis also became the first employers to appeal the citation and the \$100 fine that came with it. By mid-November, 42 citations had been issued; there were a dozen appeals. In their appeal, the Weis wrote that having just moved to town, they were not aware of the law. On August 30, the City denied the appeal and ordered the Weis to pay the \$100 fine. But Mrs. Wei dug in. She took her appeal a step further, as outlined in the ordinance, and asked a neutral hearing examiner to look at her case.

On October 19, at 3:15 p.m., the Weis met with Stevens, the code compliance officer, and an administrative hearing officer from San Diego named Christopher F. Milnes. The hearing was closed to the public. The written record was obtained through a Public Records Act request.

Mrs. Wei admitted that someone had gotten into the car, but she said she did not hire him. He hopped in only to direct her to where the day laborers were gathered and to pick out his uncle, who needed work. "If I had known about the law and the 'free' registration for day labor employer, I would no doubt get the permit before going to the site," Susan Wei noted.

Four days later, Milnes



Demonstrators talk to S.D. County sheriff's deputies, Vista

upheld the fine. "In evaluating the evidence," he wrote, "it is significant that Appellants admitted they were looking for day laborers, went to an area where day laborers gathered, and people got into their car. Although Appellants argue that no offer was made the evidence is sufficient to conclude that an offer of employment was made."

Susan Wei said she will not take her appeal to state superior court, for it would cost her another \$25. Wei, who had moved to North County from New York City to be closer to her daughter, an Oceanside resident, said, "I'd lose \$125,

not just the \$100. I feel it's not right. I feel it's not fair. I don't want any trouble. I already paid the \$100."

She may have gotten off lucky. The ordinance, which was adopted on June 27 by a unanimous vote of the five-member Vista City Council and which took effect on July 28, states that violating "any provision" constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$1000 and as much as six months' imprisonment, or both. It requires those who hire day laborers to register with the City, display a certificate on the passenger-side window of their

vehicle when they go to hire a day laborer, and provide the worker with a "term sheet" once an offer of employment is accepted. Employers or subcontractors hiring at a job site are exempt. The registration lasts a year.

A sample term sheet, one of more than 50 pages that make up the City's "day labor information packet," asks employers to list the estimated number of hours the job will take, the rate of pay, the type of work (gardening, carpentry, masonry, manual labor, housecleaning, other), and whether transportation will be provided at the end of the job.

Missing from the information packet is a copy of the ordinance itself. The night the council passed the ordinance, four people spoke in its favor, three of whom lived outside Vista. One out-of-towner represented the Minuteman Project. Seven people spoke against the ordinance. Two more spoke about racism.

According to the minutes of the June 27 council meeting, "City Councilmembers acknowledged the passion on the part of all the people who came to speak on this issue, expressed support of the ordinance stating that it will protect the day laborers, and clearly affirmed that race has nothing to do with the proposed ordinance."

Sal Martinez, president of a nonprofit job-placement agency called Service Employment and Redevelopment, Inc., offered to help the city council set up a hiring hall



Santa Fe and Escondido Avenues, Vista



Employment center, Pacific Beach

Wall Street in dark

continued from page 6

ital Markets Regulation, formed with the unofficial blessing of Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr. Until recently, he

was chief of Wall Street's Goldman Sachs. Among many things, the report recommended that state securities regulation be restrained; the ability of defrauded investors to recover their losses be slashed even further; criminal fraud

investigators be reined in; accountants and board members be given even more protection against lawsuits; and Sarbanes-Oxley, the 2002 law that made it harder for companies to defraud the public, be watered down.

The timing of such recommendations would seem abominably inept. Enron and WorldCom malefactors are headed to the slammer. The options-backdating investigations (now involving more than 130 companies) are

widening; studies suggest that some executives backdated options grants to low-price days not simply to maximize their profits but to cheat on their taxes too.

In the mid-1990s, after a Republican landslide, Congress

restricted fraud suits against companies. But it was the Democrats who won big in this year's congressional balloting. Ah, but the recommendations of the Committee on Capital Markets Regulation are sneaky. Many could be put into effect without going through Congress. "If they can effectively accomplish these changes through regulatory actions, what's the difference?" asks Aguirre. "Congress could enact regulation to overcome these rules but then face a Bush veto."

Halfhearted regulation helps Wall Street but hurts the small investor. Federal regulation is wishy-washy and controlled by Wall Street. State regulation is weak, with some exceptions such as California and New York. Self-regulation has not worked well. No regulation would be nirvana for the *Wall Street Journal* but would be a disaster. Why? I will relate a story from my past: my father was a stock and bond broker on Chicago's LaSalle Street for more than 40 years. He was an arch-conservative who believed government should keep its nose out of everything—except his own industry. He explained to me several times that in the investment business, the overwhelming measure of success is money, and the main variable is greed. The business attracts sticky-fingered sons of bitches who often rise to the top of big firms. Much as he hated to say it, there had to be regulation. After more than 40 years practicing financial journalism, I agree.

Aguirre's ordeal demonstrates how the federal securities agency bends to Wall Street's Big Boys. In San Diego, the SEC has pursued former executives of fraud-riddled Peregrine Systems but thus far has let the board—which massively dumped stock when it knew of wrongdoing—off the hook. As New York attorney general, governor-elect Eliot Spitzer did what the Securities and Exchange Commission refused to do. Since the 1960s, California has had securities laws that have been tougher than the nation's. That's why the Committee on Capital Markets Regulation wants to see restraints on states. But it's good that the financial industry "has to comply with the toughest state," says San Diego attorney Mark Maz-

continued on page 10

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- 80 EVICTING A TENANT
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- 71 DISCRIMINATION
- 72 WRONGFUL TERMINATION
- 73 EXECUTIVE TERMINATION
- 74 WHISTLEBLOWER-RETALIATION
- 75 FRAUD AGAINST THE U.S. GOVERNMENT (FALSE CLAIMS ACT)
- 76 LEGAL FEES

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Wall Street in dark

continued from page 8

zarella. Companies incorporate in fraud-friendly states like Delaware and Nevada to get impunity. "Maybe Delaware likes the income from wide-open rules, but the state of California is serious about frauds on the public," he says.

It would be a mistake to weaken possible sanctions against accountants and board members, as well as lawyers, says Mazzarella. "They should be incentivized to tell the company what it needs to know, not what it wants to hear," he says.

It would be a disaster to put barriers in front of criminal fraud investigators. "For someone very wealthy, fear of criminal prosecution is the only thing that you can lord over them to make them behave. A rich person can pay to have people do all his duties, but he can't pay to have somebody go to jail for him." Although many believe tougher criminal sanctions would be the best deterrent to corporate fraud, on December 12 the Justice Department issued a memorandum making it harder for prosecutors to obtain privileged information from companies. I believe the department was caving in to the Committee on Capital Markets Regulation.

One reason the Securities and Exchange Commission is so weak is what's called "the rotating door." As Aguirre explains, "Lawyers go to work for the SEC for 4 or 5, maybe 10 or 15 years, and do nothing to upset Wall Street. Then they move on to a \$1-million- or \$2-million-a-year job" with a big Wall Street law firm, protecting the same kinds of ras-

cals they were earlier pretending to chase.

Fraud suits filed by plaintiff lawyers are important to thwart mischief, says Aguirre. They are "a militia, a reserve force. Even if the SEC were not dysfunctional, trying to do its mission, even with the right leadership, it would still need plaintiff lawyers as part of the process to contain market abuse."

In trying to make its case for relaxed regulation, the Committee on Capital Markets Regulation complained that last year, 46 percent of securities trading was done in the United States. But we have been sending jobs abroad as we worship the so-called global economy. We are no longer the dominant power we were immediately after World War II. In fact, U.S. economic output is only about 25 percent of world output. So what's the complaint?

"Profits of investment bankers have never been higher," points out San Diego lawyer James Krause. Ditto for compensation. For example, Treasury Secretary Paulson raked in \$38.8 million last year at Goldman Sachs. His counterpart at Merrill Lynch took in \$35.5 million and the chief executive at Lehman Brothers, \$34.5 million.

Strong regulation, by bolstering investor confidence, helps markets rather than hamstringing them, Krause says. "Increased transparency and confidence in the market, helped by such things as Sarbanes-Oxley, are promoting U.S. capital market growth," not hindering it, he says.

But Paulson and his buddies have been making only \$35 million a year. They feel they deserve more. ■

Day labor law

continued from page 7

like ones his organization runs in Carlsbad and Pacific Beach. Though the notion had initial support from the mayor of Vista, Morris Vance, it has garnered little if any further backing from elected officials.

Vance came out of retirement 4 years ago to run for mayor, after 17 years as Vista's city manager. He said in an interview that the city council acted in response to complaints from businesses that occupy the shopping center at South Santa Fe and Escondido avenues. A Vons, a Goodwill thrift store, a now-closed Italian restaurant, and a Yum Yum Donut shop are among the businesses at the center; the parking lot is the primary place in Vista where day laborers congregate. Businesses complained that the laborers' presence was hurting commerce. Shoppers were reluctant to go there because they would be descended upon by men seeking work. Vance said that the ordinance also helps protect the laborers, some of whom have complained that employers do not pay as agreed.

At 8:00 a.m. on a Thursday in November, 14 laborers clustered in the shopping center parking lot. Alan Cabrera, another New York City transplant, stood among them. Cabrera runs a printing and graphic design business on Vista Way. His parents are Colombian immigrants, and he had spoken about racism at the council meeting the night the ordinance was adopted. "They passed the ordinance not for the community," he said. "They passed it for the Minutemen. These guys here [the day laborers]

work. They're not selling dope; they're not selling crack.

"This is night and day from New York, man," he added. "People talk down to you here. Here the workers talk to you with their heads down. Nobody talks about their exploitation; they only talk about their status. These Minutemen, they got a grudge. They got hatred going, man."

Inside the Vons, in the men's restroom, "Beaners Go Home" is scrawled on a tissue dispenser. Under it, someone has scratched, "We are home."

A man coming out of Yum Yum Donuts, who identified himself as a landscaper, said he had hired day laborers in the past. "The thing is," he said, "here, you work one day and you eat one week. And over there [south of the border], you work one week and you eat one day."

"At this moment," said Robert Antonio, a 19-year-old laborer, "I feel a little bit troubled, you know, because there's not much work." Antonio said that the previous day he gave up waiting for a job offer after three or four hours and went home to do laundry and clean the house. "I borrow money from friends. Sometimes I borrow \$100, \$150. The Minutemen are pressuring people not to hire here."

Cabrera and others, including city officials, say hiring has been drying up at the shopping center since the ordinance passed. According to the city code compliance office, about 100 workers used to gather in the parking lot regularly. The average in mid-December had dropped to about 30. The Saturday before Thanksgiving, the workers were far outnumbered by demonstrators, many wearing bandannas to mask their

faces.

Jeff Schwilk, an Oceanside resident who retired from the United States Marine Corps as a staff sergeant and became a leader of the San Diego Minutemen, said by phone that the ordinance "drove a lot of the guys away" but still contains a glaring loophole. "It does not forbid anybody from hiring illegal aliens," he said. "All it does is, basically, in a way, condone the behavior it was meant to deter."

Schwilk has an ally in Michael Spencer, a member of the Vista Citizens Brigade. The brigade formed last February to fight illegal immigration, launching its drive with a rally at the shopping center. People from the San Diego Minutemen joined the rally that day.

"I was a frustrated citizen at that point," Spencer said in a phone interview. Spencer, who worked as an electrical engineer for high-tech companies before going into business for himself doing custom finishing for new homes, subsequently became a Minuteman. "That site had become a center for chaos. We basically showed up at every city council meeting and told the government how bad the situation was."

"They would mob anyone who came in and looked sideways at them, and some would just jump in the cars," he said of the laborers. "There was public urination and defecation, and they were generally making it a hostile environment for people who wanted to shop at Vons and the other stores. This is a big problem, and you're never going to solve it with one fell swoop, so we're nipping away at the corners and, so to speak, we're draining the swamp."

Spencer said illegal immigrants tax the resources of social service agencies in Vista and commit a disproportionate amount of the crime. Accord-

ing to Captain Glenn Revell of the San Diego County Sheriff's office, which provides Vista's law enforcement, the sheriff does not routinely collect data on the immigration status of those arrested.

The Vista Citizens Brigade, Spencer said, wants federal authorities to come to the site and check the immigration status of the laborers. "I have a mantra: it's a federal problem, and they are passing the buck. I think we'd like to have most or all of the illegal aliens moved back to where they belong."

Spencer pointed out that there are like-minded groups made up of Hispanics opposed to illegal immigration. His wife, a Mexican woman, belongs to one called You Don't Speak for Me.

"Lately, I've counted 40 guys at the site," Spencer said toward the end of November. "It's a rebound of the infection. You stopped taking the antibiotics too soon, and now the infection is back... We're going to have to do something. Like in musical chairs, when the music stops, I don't want to be the last one standing and having the illegal aliens all sitting down."

Now the American Civil Liberties Union of San Diego and Imperial Counties and California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc., have brought suit in U.S. District Court on behalf of two legal, permanent residents of Vista. Dorothy Johnson, an attorney from Rural Legal Assistance, said one resident supplements his minimum-wage jobs with "occasional day labor," while the other relies heavily on it for his sole means of support. They argue that their rights to equal protection under the Fourteenth Amendment are being breached because the city council's motivation included discrimination by race or national origin. ■

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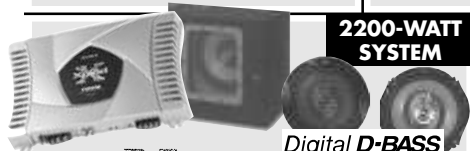
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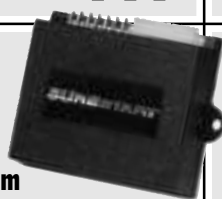
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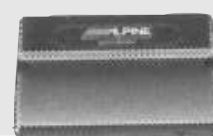
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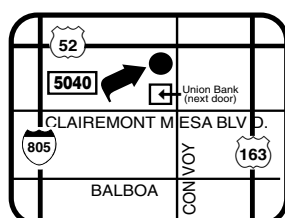
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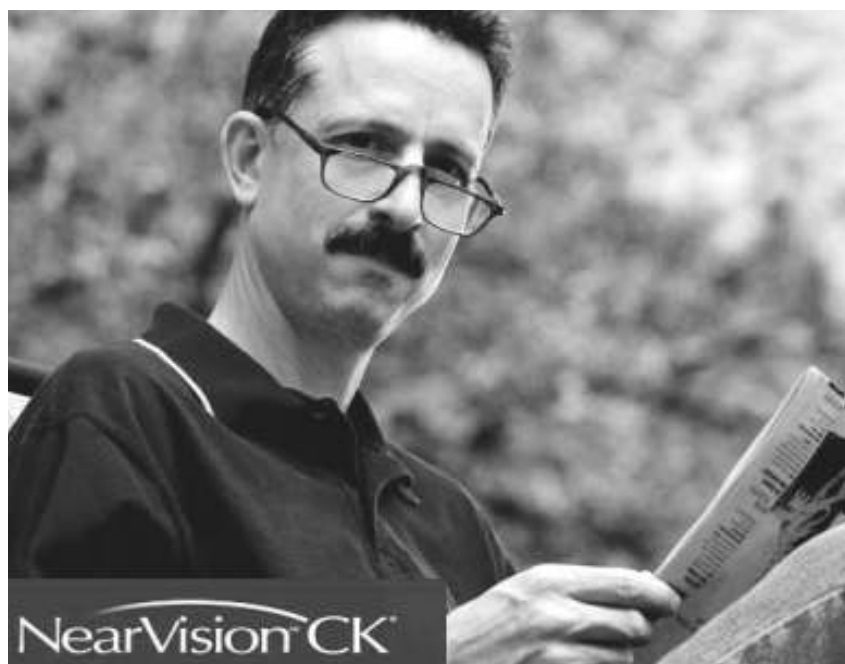
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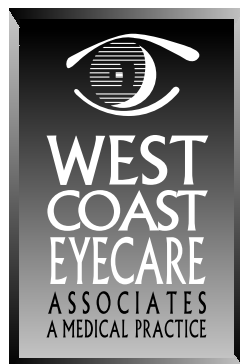


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Nothing Beats Nostalgia

"90 Years of Curl" was the coolest story I've read in a long time (Cover Story, December 14). The pictures and descriptions of the developing San Diego surf culture made for an enjoyable reading experience. I am a 45-year-old San Diego native and caught the tail end of the old glory days of Mission Beach in the '70s. This was a great time to be a kid hanging out at the beach all day with my school friends. This, of course, being prior to the onslaught of gang-banging dirtbags who hang out there now. I still don't have any problem going there myself, but the days of allowing your 12-year-old kids to take the bus down to the beach to Boogie board are long gone. This story took me back to the days of bumming rides from anyone who could borrow a car, trying to figure out how to get three boards on a '71 Super Beetle, jumping off the Clam, and that 7-Eleven by La Jolla Shores. Back then, our biggest problem was trying to find a decent parking spot on Chelsea or Loring Street. Now you just hope your car is still there when you get back. Is it just me, or did the waves seem bigger at La Jolla back then? Thanks for a well-written blast to the past.

Joe Mackey
Tierrasanta

But That's What I Call My Dog

To Barbarella ("Wife" Alternative," "Diary of a Diva," December 14): Living as unmarrieds in the central Texas Bible Belt is a new ballgame. Be that as it may, the term "domestic companion" has worked for us.

Bob Wagner
via e-mail

I Knew Them Well

I like your paper, but I must respond to the article "The F in F Street Is Fashion" ("City Lights," December 14). First of all, I worked a solid five years for F Street and know something about what happened there when Alma began to run F Street. First of all, the article is bound to make people feel that the former Mrs. Vasic is some kind of mean or bad person. Nothing could be further from the truth. I am a person who knew her before and after the death of her first husband. I also knew his family members. She was and probably still is a very genteel and fine woman. If she has a business persona that is less than perfect, it just may be because of the way people approach her, much like Ernie Grimm (an apt name for him).

I was at the funeral, and I watched her sit at Gojko's casket for hours with her hand never moving from his heart and a look of such loss in her eyes that it was heartbreaking. She was at odds with Andja Stanojevic over the herbal treatment Gojko was taking for his immune-system problems brought on by AIDS. By the way, Gojko was quite robust in health otherwise when he died of a heart attack. I saw him two days prior, and he was fine. Andja, his sister, was quite distraught and upset when she confronted Mrs. Vasic and blamed her for her brother's death because of the herbal medications. She called them "poisons." She walked off the job that day never to return — she was not fired, as the writer says.

I knew Andja's son, Slobodan Colovic, and the cars and things that were his were offered, not demanded, by his family.

You see, Mr. Vasic was an unbelievably generous man. In fact, perhaps too generous indeed. He took care of his employees with total benefits and profit sharing that he totally paid for. He paid good wages and gave raises. He was always upgrading his stores at great expense, and the money kept going out, including to many charities, the police fund, and, of course, hundreds of thousands to AIDS foundations. This is a mat-

ter of record. Alma was just trying to stem the outflow a little. Was he rich? He was spending it as fast as it came in. Is that good business? His wife did what any future-thinking woman would do — worry about the future!

I acquired his film collection when he died, and many of those movies are Serbian films based on the absurdities of life and how important being good is over being rich. So there you perhaps have a little deeper insight into the mind of this gentle and generous man who died way too young.

You want a real story? Even his wife did not know about this: The real cash that was vanishing from the family vault was being funneled through the Serbian Church to finance the war on the Serbian side. The church itself is innocent but was victimized itself or blackmailed into being a front, and they were not happy about it. In fact, they were very scared they were being watched by agents of both sides and the MIB-government types. Gojko just wanted to have his hand in the skullduggery because his soul was still with his homeland in a big way. That is very Serbian and would be accepted as part of his nature by anyone who understands people from that part of Old Europe.

But that was long ago, and who cares about it anyway? Point is he cannot rest in peace as long as there is such mystery surrounding him. Neither can Elvis Presley. New stories will come up from time to time just as I have mine to tell you. His daughter was three years old when I met her, and believe me, she will not "go Hollywood," no matter who wants to make her a star. You can be sure of that for a reason. Her mother says she has morals, but more than that, she is raised in a (believe it or not) spiritualist environment. Her mom is a lifelong Spiritualist who attends metaphysical churches and has since she was a child herself. That is all very, very private to her and is never discussed. She keeps this so secret that she will deny it to maintain her privacy. I think she deserves that privacy like anyone

continued on page 62

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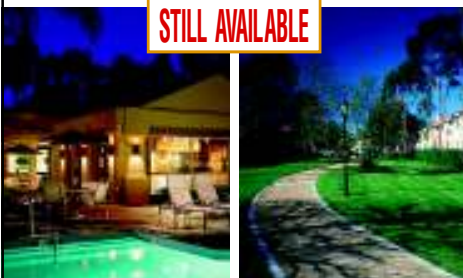
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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE



Illustration by Rick Geary

Dear Matthew:

A while ago I was trying to figure out what to do about a huge ant infestation in my house. I got to thinking that when most people have a house full of ants or cockroaches, they can go to the store and buy a spray or something or they can call an exterminator. But what do Buddhists do when they have a house full of bugs?

— Ant Buster, San Diego

Ah, grasshopper, you have come to the correct universal source for all obscure knowledge. No profound fountain of facts is complete without a direct connection to the wisdom of the Buddhadharma, though most of you seem to ask questions better answered by Caltrans or the DMV. No matter. The Buddhist priest on Team Matthew Alice is nothing if not patient. Finally, his moment has come, and he does not disappoint.

When placed in the situation you describe or any other in which human health or life is at stake, one must ask, which sentient being stands the greatest chance of reaching Enlightenment and leading others there? Our answer, of course, is not the cockroach or the ant but the human being. "But all creatures have been, countless times, our mother, protecting and loving us, and we naturally wish them not to suffer," says our priest. So "one respectfully makes this painful choice and prays that the creatures that are killed may quickly achieve conditions in which they can take on human form and respond to the Buddhadharma. There are prayers to advance these unfortunate creatures on their journey and by which we do not take on negative karma for the act.... It [is] best to pray before, during, and after the act of killing," and in fact pray this every day "as part of our intention to help all beings transcend suffering and reach Enlightenment."

So, grasshopper, your answer seems to be, they pray, they squish, they pray.

Hey, Matt:

We were all sitting around watching *The Apprentice* and began wondering, why does Donald Trump say, "You're fired!" Is it like burning at the stake...really fired?

— Pat N. Paul; U.C. library

The term comes from guns, not flames. And since it's a gun metaphor, we shouldn't be surprised that it originated in the U.S. We exported it to our partners in speech, the British, who tried it for a while then decided they still preferred their less confrontational "sacked" (a direct borrow from 17th-century France) or the more euphemistic and perplexing "made redundant." No one knows how long the word "fired" (in the Donald sense) existed in common speech before it appeared in print in the 1870s. At that time it was usually followed by the word "out." One of the first print examples was in a newspaper article from the North Dakota frontier, talking about misbehaving students who should be "fired out" of school if they didn't follow orders. So, the original meaning suggested some poor guy being physically ejected from someplace. The "out" bit was dropped fairly soon, leaving us with "fire," meaning the Donald would like to wad you up into a little ball, load you into his six-shooter, open the lobby doors, pull the trigger, and propel you far out over the parking lot. Or, as some word wizards suggest, he'd like to stand you up in the break room and shoot you.

Hey, Matt:

Which is a tighter seal, "air tight" or "water tight"?

— Bay Park Jay

Even the elves — not always tuned to the usual human-being wavelength — were a little perplexed by this one. All they could figure was that you're building an alibi. So, let's say you make your alibi out of a bag full of the usual hot air sealed to keep water out and air in. The internal pressure of the thing is normal sea level, 14.7 pounds psi. Now take your alibi to Windansea and force it under water 33 feet and you've doubled the outside pressure (to 29.4 pounds psi) and your alibi is looking sucked-up and flimsy as the inside air is compressed. At 66 feet your incredible shrinking alibi is fighting three atmospheres. Too many variables to be able to predict if it will survive under that pressure, but our guess is you'll be whimpering like a baby and begging for forgiveness at that point.

If we hop in the car and take our alibi to Denver, a mile above sea level, the outside air pressure is about 93% of San Diego's and our alibi is looking a little puffier than it did at home. At an altitude of 10 miles, 90% of sea-level pressure, it's pooching out more; but we'd have to go, oh, maybe 18,000 miles up before the alibi's inner air pressure is twice the outer air pressure. At some point, our alibi will go high enough to literally blow up. But from the elves' incredibly precise scientific calculations here, it's obvious you'd better concentrate on water tightness if you expect to get away with anything.

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

Got a question you need answered? Send an email to heymatt@cts.com or fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Matthew Alice, c/o the Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186.

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SportingBox

By Patrick Daugherty

Minor Bowl Matchups

Christmas is upon us, which means two weeks — make that *three weeks* of postseason college football. Everyone is familiar with the Rose Bowl and the Sugar Bowl and other bowls of that ilk. But, put them all together and you're talking two or three days of televised football. This means *you're missing two and a half weeks of high quality, top-of-the-line gridiron action!*

Now then, I hope you've already begun participating in the collegiate postseason by watching Tuesday's San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl, TCU vs. Northern Illinois. By the way, this is why we'll never have a real playoff, ending with a real national championship in Davison I-A football. When a county credit union — taking nothing away from the immense resources and hard-charging personnel to be found at your neighborhood San Diego County Credit Union — when a county credit union can slap its name on a bowl, have said bowl nationally televised, and rake in enough bucks to pay each team \$750,000, you know there's too much money to be had in made-up college bowls to ever switch over to a legitimate playoff tournament.

But that won't stop me from watching the Pioneer PureVision Las Vegas Bowl. It's BYU vs. Oregon, December 21, at 5 p.m. on ESPN. The Mountain West Conference champion goes against the number 5 team in the Pac-10, which is a pretty good measure of how one conference compares to the other. Each team rakes in \$950,000.

I want to credit Las Vegas Bowl organizers for posting an honest history on their website. The Las Vegas Bowl was... "Organized by community leaders out of a need to fill hotel rooms during a traditionally slow period..."

The following day, at 5:00 p.m. on ESPN, comes the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl. The New Orleans Bowl matches the Sun Belt Conference Champion against somebody from Conference USA. Pay out per team is \$325,000. This year Troy University (7-5), is the Sun Belt champion. (Quick, name one other team in the Sun Belt.) The Trojans play Rice University (7-5), which finished number 2 in the West Division of Conference USA. (Can you name one other team in the Conference USA West Division? I thought not.)

PapaJohns.com Bowl is new this year. And let me be the first to welcome them to the postseason party. PapaJohns.com Bowl, headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama, kicks off on December 23 at

10:00 o'clock. ESPN2 is your vendor. The bowl features the number 4 team in the Big East, the 8-4 South Florida Bulls, against the number 2 team in the East Division of...wait for it...Conference USA. That team is — I've got the envelope right here — the 7-5 East Carolina Pirates! And here's your bonus points opportunity: name the Big East champion. Name one other team in Conference USA East Division.

STAY WITH IT! Right after the PapaJohns game is the New Mexico Bowl, another new bowl this year. Tune to ESPN on December 23 at 1:30 p.m. Albuquerque will be jumping as home-town defenders, University of New Mexico Lobos (6-6 and number 5 in the Mountain West) go up against the 8-4, number 3 in the WAC, San Jose State Spartans. It doesn't get any better than this.

DON'T CHANGE THE CHANNEL! Right after the PapaJohns contest is the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl sent to you from Fort Worth, Texas. It's University of Utah (7-5 and number 4 in the Mountain West) versus Tulsa University, one of countless unknown football clubs who populate Conference USA. This is the game we've been waiting for.

But, no, just one day later we have the game we've been really waiting for, the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl from Aloha Stadium in Honolulu. This is offered as a special treat so you can spend Christmas Eve away from your family. Don't forget: 5:00 p.m. on ESPN, University of Hawaii (number 2 in the WAC) plays Arizona State (number 6 in the Pac-10).

One last thing. The Las Vegas Bowl, Fort Worth Bowl, PapaJohns.com Bowl, New Mexico Bowl, and Hawaii Bowl are owned by ESPN Regional Television, a subsidiary of ESPN. ESPN also owns ESPN2, ESPN Classic, ESPNEWS, ESPN Deportes, ESPN, ESPN Today, ESPN HD and ESPN2 HD, ESPN Regional Television, ESPN International, ESPN Radio, ESPN.com, ESPN The Magazine, ESPN Enterprises, ESPN sports-themed restaurants, ESPN360, Mobile ESPN, ESPN On Demand, ESPN Interactive, and ESPN PPV.

ABC Network owns 80 percent of ESPN. ABC is a subsidiary of the Walt Disney Company. Disney owns the aforementioned ABC, six film studios, 10 television stations, 8 cable television networks, 65 radio stations, 4 record labels, 8 book publishing imprints, 15 magazines, 5 theme parks, plus the odd cruise line, Internet factory, and toy conglomerate for openers.

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ATLANTA	6	NL		Carolina
ST. LOUIS	2 ½	43 ½		Washington
Indianapolis	9	47		HOUSTON
PITTSBURGH	3	36		Baltimore
CLEVELAND	3	35		Tampa Bay
Chicago	4 ½	42		DETROIT
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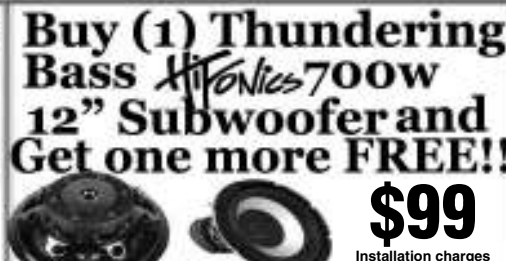
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Single+child	\$131	\$138	\$157	\$179	\$230	\$246	\$318	\$374	\$404
Family+child	\$170	\$182	\$216	\$254	\$333	\$374	\$511	\$617	\$698
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SHEEP AND GOATS

PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Denomination: Reform Jewish

Address: 9001 Town Centre Drive, La Jolla, 858-535-1111

Founded locally: 1861

Senior pastor: Paul Citrin

Congregation size: over 1300 families

Staff size: 9

Sunday school enrollment: over 90 in the nursery school, around 550 in religious school

Annual budget: n/a

Weekly giving: n/a

Singles program: no

Dress: fairly dressy — lots of jackets, ties, and dresses

Diversity: 40 percent of congregation part of a mixed family (Jewish/non-Jewish)

Length of reviewed service: service, 45 minutes; concert, 45 minutes

Website: www.cbisd.org

"I'm not Jewish," I said to a man near the basket of skullcaps just outside the sanctuary. "Should I wear one anyway?"

"Either way. Don't worry about it," he shrugged, a little amused by my question. Inside, I saw why: about half the men's heads were bare. Apparently, the Jews at Beth Israel weren't terribly worried about it. Twelve exalted chairs filled the alcoves of the wall behind the stage, but only three or four were ever occupied during the service, a setup that lent a casual air to a space tending toward, well, if not solemnity, then perhaps a modern sort of majesty.

Congregation Beth Israel was hardly bereft of tradition — this was, after all, the first night of Chanukah. But there was a sense of fluidity about the observance of that tradition. Rabbi Paul Citrin and Congregation president Barbara Howard lit the Chanukiah before lighting the Sabbath candles, because, as Citrin noted, "you're not supposed to kindle light after you

welcome Shabbat." (Tradition.) But the candles on the Chanukiah were mounted jars of oil, so that it was impossible to keep the tradition of lighting the side candles from the center candle. (Fluidity.)

Said Howard, "We light these lights on account of the miracles and wonders, the battles and victories that took place...over 21 centuries ago. Adonai, even as you gave strength to the Maccabees, bless us too with a portion of your strength. Help us be proud Jews who know the Torah.... May the lights we kindle remind us...to bring light to others."

Rabbi Glenn Ettman picked up the then/new theme in the lesson, reading a section from Rabbi Elazar: "Doing righteous deeds of charity is greater than offering all of the sacrifices." "Think about Chanukah not just being a commemoration of a great miracle," said Ettman, "but that miracles still do happen.... Perhaps what we can take away from the teaching is that we ourselves...can work together to partner with God to bring forth miracles in our day." The program included a hand-out: "Eight crazy sites for eight crazy nights," sug-

gesting websites such as www.savedarfur.org that families might visit together over Chanukah. The reading from Rabbi Elazar was another nod to tradition; Ettman later offered a prayer with a more contemporary feel: "Teach me, my God, to bless and to praise, for the secret of a withered leaf, for the splendor of ripe fruit, for this freedom to see, to feel, to breathe, to know, to wait, to stumble.... Let not my day be routine."

But it was music that carried the service and the concert that followed. Song after song, almost always in Hebrew, led by cantor Arlene Bernstein's deep, feeling voice and backed by a sharp ensemble (piano, guitar, bass, flute, drums, violin, cello) that produced polished arrangements of traditional song structures. (The sound was artful, once removed, more like listening to Brahms's "Hungarian Dances" than to the Hungarian dances themselves.)

Songs blessed Adonai following the lighting of the Chanukah candles — "Blessed are you...who made miracles possible for our ancestors"; recounted the wonders of the Maccabees' victory — "At this time of year in days of yore/ Maccabees the Temple did restore"; praised the "Rock of Ages" — "Furious, they assailed us/ But Your arm availed us/ And Your word/ Broke their sword/ When our own strength failed us."

Songs welcomed Shabbat, "the bride of Israel": "Enter in peace, O crown of your husband.... Come to the people that keeps its faith. Enter, O Bride!" Songs welcomed the Torah reflection, prayed for teachers, asked for healing, and sent us on our way in the peace of Shabbat.

The concert following the *Oneg Shabbat* (refreshment session) gave tradition its due, but also wandered into the simply whimsical and flat-out entertaining. Sang Ettman during one song: "The Syrians said it could not be/ That old Mattathias/ Whose years were more

than ninety-three/ Would dare to defy us/ They did not know his secret you see/ Mattathias dined on latkes and tea..." Singer Heidi Gantwerk went sultry for "Ocho Kandelikas," and the show ended with an unabashedly '60s era pop anthem, albeit one based on Chanukah. Everybody joined in on the chorus: "Don't let the lights go out/ It's lasted for so many years/ Don't let the lights go out/ Let it shine through our love and our tears."

What happens when we die? "Judaism doesn't know what happens," said Ettman. "It's a big mystery. We do, however, believe that souls are transcendent. The only thing that we learn from the rabbis to explain death is something called *Olam Habah* — the world to come. We believe that once the Messiah comes and the Messianic age is proclaimed, we will all be coming back together to live as a full community. It's a here and now religion.... The deeds that we do in this lifetime will affect us in this lifetime."

— Matthew Lickona

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com



PAUL CITRIN

Congregation Beth Israel
La Jolla
★★½

Sermon

content.....★★½
delivery.....★★

Liturgy★★½

Music

congregational★★
band.....★★★½

Snacks★★★½

Architecture★★★

Friendliness★★★

Poor to satisfactory.....(none)

Good★

Very good.....★★

Excellent★★★

Extraordinary★★★★

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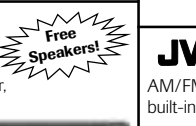
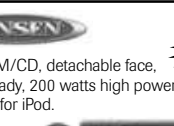
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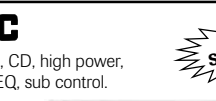
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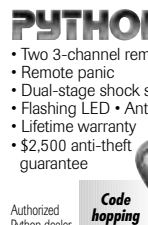


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—EVE KELLY

All those bake sales and car washes must have paid off this year — maybe it was my blueberry-nectarine pie. When our youth group broke open its year-end piggy bank, they found a little something extra, and they asked me to help spend it (it must have been my pie). The group does a nativity play every year, but seeing as how we've got this windfall, they want to take it up a notch this time: they want live animals around the manger. "Eve," they said, "get us camels."

Riegler of Oasis Camel Dairy (760-787-0983; www.cameldairy.com), who runs the place with his wife Nancy Kobert, was there to help. Besides running the dairy end of things, he supplies camels and other animals for living nativities. "You make a nativity live by having live people and live animals in it," said Riegler. "We can supply everything. We did a living nativity at Paradise Hospital in Chula Vista, and we brought the backdrop, the music, the costumes, and the animals. I made the backdrop — it's Bethlehem, a dark row of houses under blue stars. The northern star is up at the top. We costumed the kings with original costumes from the Middle East — Israel and Jordan. We have a beautiful selection, from kings down to shepherds. The camels have beautiful blankets and pillows on the saddles. Their halters are decorated with beads and tassels."

Budget and space and what the people want dictate how much or how little Riegler sends to a nativity (call for prices and details). "The basic set that we send out is four sheep and a donkey, and maybe a baby camel. We have two in the herd right now. Last year, at Maranatha Chapel, we actually had a camel walk into the sanctuary. We used one of our shortest camels — Clyde. He's seven and a half feet tall, so he can walk through a doorway." (Riegler noted that his camels are one-hump dromedaries — "the original camel at the nativity.") "And this year, at another church, we'll have Mary riding a donkey through the sanctuary. I'll be Joseph, leading the donkey. We'll have three camels for the pageant at Skyline Church in National City; the kings will ride them in, and the camels will kneel down on the stage. The kings will get off, and the camels will walk off the stage. But mostly, we do outdoor nativities, where people can walk by and pet the animals." At Horizon Church this year, Riegler and Kobert will add a bird show to the festivities. Another church will get "some chickens, parrots, and turkeys on display, to give the feeling of an outdoor marketplace."

The animals get from place to place in a Clydesdale horse trailer. "It's extra tall and large. When the camels ride in it, they lay down." (Contrary to Rudyard Kipling's portrayal of the camel as a rude, antisocial beast, Riegler said that his camels "feel very calm

"We actually had a camel walk into the sanctuary."

in many situations. When we're getting the trailers ready, the camels are at the fence — 'We're going to get some grain and have some fun!'" The other animals "travel in separate compartments. We wash them before they go into the trailer. If we're bringing goats and sheep and we'll be out all evening, we'll bring food. We always have water. There's hardly any animal waste to clean up, but whenever you see a camel walking in a sanctuary, there's always somebody behind them with a poop scooper. We pick up everything, even the blades of straw. We're heavily insured, and we stay with the animals to make sure that the client is happy and everything is safe."

Riegler started working with camels ten years ago. "I learned how to train them for physically handicapped people. From there, it gradually turned into the dairy. I started it because camel milk is just so healthy. There is a lot of research that shows it cures severe food allergies in kids. It's the closest milk to human milk. It's antimicrobial, antibacterial, and good for people with Crohn's disease. The Bedouins say that it's an aphrodisiac. I talked to a sheik in Israel and asked him if that was true. He said, 'Look at me! I have ten kids!'"

The camel milk tastes like cow's milk, said Riegler. "It's because we have them on sweet feed. Whatever they eat influences the taste. If they're eating salty or bitter bushes, that will influence the milk. I feed them at the trough, but we also have ten acres of pasture. The biggest problem is that they can grow fat on weeds. Most animals can't even survive on weeds alone, but camels have such an efficient digestive system, I've had to pull some of the females off the pasture and put them on a diet, because they were getting too big."

Sadly, you can't buy camel milk yet at Oasis Camel Dairy. What you can buy is a bar of camel-milk soap (\$4). "We sell it internationally — it's the only one in the world. Because camel milk is so high in protein, it's very moisturizing. And it has alpha-hydroxide, which is good for the skin. The baby camels stay with their mothers — in order to drop milk, the mother needs the baby to stimulate her. When we need to get milk, we share it with the baby."

Oasis Camel Dairy will be open on December 30 for a public tour (\$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$7 for children under 12). "It's the most intimate tour of camels you'll find anywhere. You get to pet Clyde on his hump, and you'll learn amazing facts about camels. For instance, instead of sweating, they raise their blood temperature. And the hump is all fat."

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com

1. Riegler and camel
2. Riegler, Kobert, and camel at nativity
3. Camel at nativity

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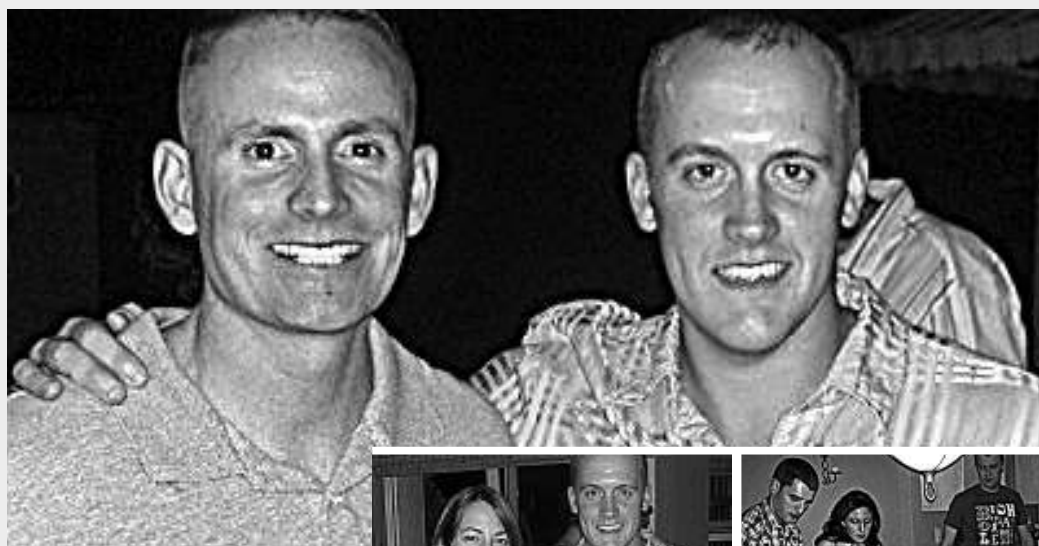
'CANES MUTINY

by Josh Board

I was going to see Ben Lee and Rooney at 'Canes. It was a weekend night without a party to crash. The girl I was going with was taking care of someone's dog, and I had to pick her up in PB. I told her we had to get to 'Canes before they stopped serving food, which is early, and I'm addicted to 'Canes' fajitas. When we took the dog outside, I saw a party going on. I said, "Hey, let's get some free food instead of the fajitas." We walked over with the dog, and a guy on the balcony said hello. My date blurted, "Do you wanna be in the *Reader*?" "What's that?" he asked. "It's a weekly," I explained. "I write about parties. I could write about yours." He said, "You're the crasher! I've read that. Come on in."

Nothing like saving a little money on a date.

We walked upstairs and met a group of military guys. Joe, who had invited us up, explained, "We're having a little celebration. It's my last day on the ship." He was on the *Stennis*. I asked him what he'd



do now. "Take a two-week vacation, then probably some boring desk job."

His wife walked into the room. She was pregnant and getting hit with the usual questions. I asked the *Do you have names picked out?* question. They had a few good names chosen. If I hate a name future parents are considering, I tell

"I have two brothers who are in Iraq right now. My mom doesn't watch TV anymore."

them. I figure it's the one chance that unborn child will have for somebody to stick up for them before being branded



Top: Joe Mitzen (right) with his best friend; Bottom left: Mitzen with his pregnant wife, who is holding the photo of the sonogram

with a lousy name.

Joe headed outside to pick mint leaves for the mojitos. He came back in and handed me the cocktail. It was strong. As I

sipped the drink and chatted, I noticed my date devouring lettuce wraps. I smiled, happy knowing that, with each bite, I

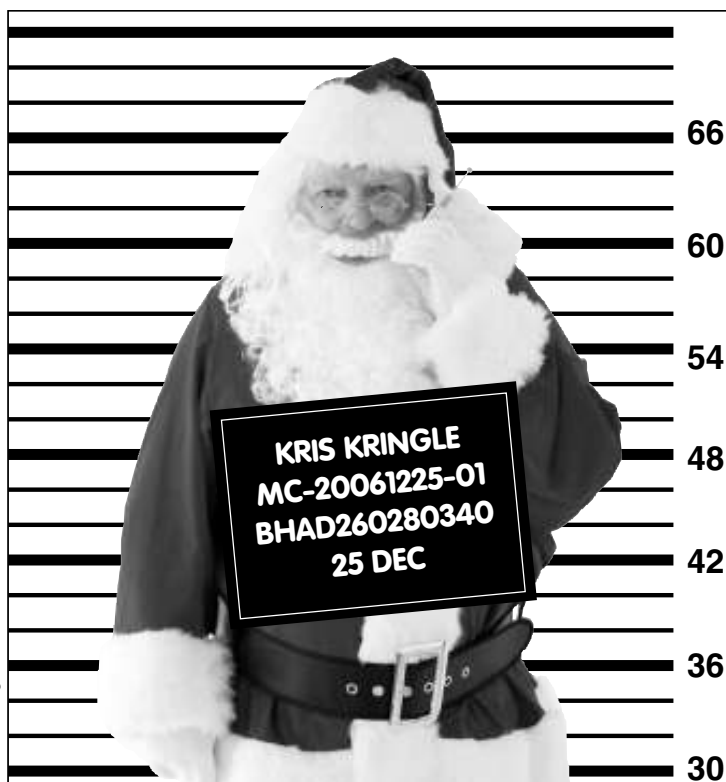
was saving money.

One guy proposed a toast to the *Nimitz*, the ship that he worked on. I said, "Hey, I just heard on the news that there was a fire on it yesterday." He explained what happened, but started by saying, "Off the record." Sorry.

I asked him what happens if someone joins the Navy and then finds out they get seasick. He said, "I get seasick." I asked what he does for it. "I just lay

down and go to sleep. But, there was a woman who got seasick really bad. They put her in a part of the Navy that didn't have to go out to sea." I said, "She didn't know she got seasick before she signed up?" He laughed and said, "She claims she didn't, but who knows? People sometimes make claims on various things to get easier jobs."

I asked a woman walking by how difficult it is when her husband is out to sea for six months. "Oh, it's tough. I miss him terribly." I asked Joe's wife the same question. "He was gone for six months in Iraq, when the war first started," she told me. "Then he did an eight-month tour. When he stopped in Hong Kong, I flew out there." Joe interjected, "It was more humid there than it was in South Carolina." Someone handed me another drink. "Maybe having your husband gone for six months at a time can be refreshing," I offered. "The 'absence makes the heart grow fonder' thing." She smiled. Someone asked her about a pic-



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ture, and she left to get the sonogram of her baby. I looked at it and said, "Oh, your baby is so cute. He's got your eyes." One guy leaned in and asked me why I said that when you could hardly even tell it was a baby. I said, "That was the joke, but I guess it wasn't very funny. Even when I see photos of babies, I don't think they ever look like the parents."

I found that asking people what they did on the ship was useless. It made no sense to me. Someone told me they were a "reactor control officer." Someone else told me they rewrite logs.

I finished the second drink, having eaten only a few chips, and I was getting dizzy. I met a childhood friend of Joe's who's a lifer in the military. He looked like David Caruso with muscles. He said, "I have two brothers who are in Iraq right now. My mom doesn't watch TV anymore."

He never got married, and as he was explaining why — sounded like a mix of Dr. Laura and Tom Leykis — I told him I needed to grab something to eat. I stumbled into the kitchen, which was packed with people making drinks. My date looked for a bottle opener for her beer. One guy said, "I can use my ring." He put his finger over the bottle and popped off the top. He said, "This is my ring from the academy. It comes in handy for that."

The kitchen table was surrounded by people getting food, and I didn't bother. I grabbed a few chips and went over to the guy I had been talking with. He was from New Mexico and had been in the service for ten years. He told me his dad and brother are both stationed out here. It made me realize that, though we often think about how difficult it is for our military when we're involved in a war, even when we aren't, being stationed and going city to city must also be tough.

We talked a little about politics, and I was pleasantly surprised that he

didn't get heated when we didn't agree. He said, "Hey, I have friends that are Republicans and others that are Democrats. I love hearing all sides of the issues."

I finished my third drink and was having a little trouble walking. I told my date she'd have to drive. I asked her if she got enough to eat. "Yeah. The lettuce wraps were great."

We got to 'Canes, where I thought I'd be able to get my fix of fajitas. The bouncer told me they had stopped serving food, and just as the alcohol was making me brave enough to get in his face and yell, my date said, "Let's just walk down the block. There're lots of restaurants over there."

That bouncer was lucky. ■

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by Barbarella

Connection Resurrection

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light, but the Electricity Board said He would have to wait until Thursday to be connected.

— Spike Milligan

I was sitting in the coffee shop across the street from my building when my cell phone began to vibrate and skitter across the table. To avoid annoying my fellow caffeine junkies, I answered in a whisper: "Hey beh beh. What's up?" Only ten minutes had passed since I'd seen David, ten minutes since I had told him I was

**He had already
visited denial,
stopped by anger
and bargaining,
and was now
rearranging the
throw pillows in
depression.**

heading over to the Urban Grind with my laptop for a change of scenery and would be back in an hour. It wasn't like him to bug me with minute-by-minute updates (that's my department).

I detected a note of despair in his answer. "I can't believe this," he said. In the moment before his next words, several possibilities flashed through my mind — *someone's sick. No,*

worse, dead. No, don't think that. Maybe he just has to get back to someone regarding an appointment and needs me to check my calendar, or maybe someone's sick or dead. No, stop that. Maybe he just needs my car key.

"The Internet is down." Like a cold autumn wind, his words blew through my thoughts, scattering them like leaves.

"That's it?" I whispered. "It's probably just a glitch. Why don't you go into my office and see if you can pick up one of our neighbor's connections?"

"Good idea, let me try that," said David, his voice flickering with hope. I stared at the other patrons, wondering nervously if they could hear my whispers over the acid jazz, while I waited on the line to see if

David could pick up a signal. "Nope. Doesn't work. Maybe you'll have better luck with yours," he said.

"Did you call Cox?"

"Yeah, I did." The hope I'd heard in his voice a moment before had been usurped by desperation. "They said they can't see our modem, they can't do anything on their end, and they'll have to send someone out here, but that no one is available until Saturday. I can't live," David moaned.

"WHAT?!" I shrieked, ignoring the heads that suddenly jerked up to look at me like irritated prairie dogs. "SATURDAY? That's ridiculous, that's *two* days from now." When the initial shock wore off, I realized David was probably taking this much harder than me, and said, "I'll be right there, beh beh."

I figured once I showed David that my laptop's superior reception capability would allow us to piggyback on someone else's broadband for a few days, he would realize we had nothing to worry about. I walked through the door, flashed a confident smile to a dejected looking David, and marched into my office. When I opened my laptop, I smiled at the five small black lines that indicated a strong signal. David hovered over me. I launched my browser and held my breath. With each passing second, my hope faded. As though it had been reluctant to let me down, my trusted digital friend waited for what seemed like an eternity before,

finally, like a doctor who lost a patient, delivered the tragic news: "I'm sorry. I did everything I could," although the way it actually read was, "Safari can't find the server."

"That can't be," I said. David nodded to confirm the sad truth. He had already visited denial, stopped by anger and bargaining, and was now rearranging the throw pillows in depression. It was clear he wouldn't be setting out for acceptance any time soon. "What will we do?" I wondered aloud. Then, slipping into anger, I snapped, "What about all the people who work from home? Saturday? How will waiting until the weekend help *them*? Or us?" David was patient until I offended his intelligence by saying, "Are you sure you talked to the right person? Maybe I should call."

When David (who had graduated from an Ivy League college with a degree in electrical engineering) had finished lecturing me on his superior comprehension of everything computer, we plopped down on the two chairs in the living room and stared at each other. When 20 minutes had passed, David suggested that we go get the mail.

"Great," I said, jumping to my feet with a newfound sense of purpose.

Someone had placed a notice in the elevator. We weren't alone. Under a typed paragraph asking if anyone else was having trouble connecting, a list of unit numbers and increasingly frazzled notes were scrawled from various pens: "#606 — Went

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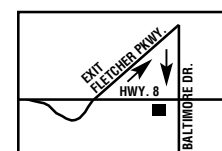
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down last night, called Cox, someone coming today”; “#108 — Can’t connect, appointment tomorrow”; “#210 — Can’t get on, been two hours, still calling”; “#611 — Down, way down. Coming Saturday.” I was amazed at how quickly the community had gathered to solve the problem. I imagined it was no different 100 years ago when the well ran dry and the kinfolk would band together to find a solution, because otherwise, they would surely die.

People wandered the hallways like disaster victims. “You too?” they’d ask each other, bonding in their misery and loss. With mail in hand, David and I got back on the elevator, which was occupied by a short, stocky man with mahogany tinted skin and prominent Aztec features. He sported a wiry black mustache, a heavy-looking tool belt, and a tag with the name “Jesus” embroidered in a florid script. I gestured at the notice and the man nodded. I opened my mouth to speak, but he had already read my mind and answered, “I’m not sure yet.”

I directed Jesus to the control room that services the cable to our floor and the one below. David and I observed him closely, hoping to read (from the twitches in his cheeks, the lift of a brow, or a “Hm”

versus a “Huh”) just how dire the situation was. People followed our voices into the hallway and a crowd soon gathered. It was mid morning in the middle of the week, which meant all these people probably work from home and, like us, had nothing better to do than hang out in the hallway and hope for a miracle when the main line went down.

“They told me I’d have to buy a new modem,” said our neighbor Bruce.

“That’s funny, I was told there was an outage in this whole area,” countered Ron.

“They told me it was our building and that the first person wouldn’t be here until Saturday,” said David, raising a quizzical brow in Jesus’s direction.

The conversation paused as we all watched our neighbor Bob walk toward the elevator lobby. “I can’t take this,” Bob said in answer to our question-

ing looks. “And I don’t have wireless, either, so it’s not like I can just go to a coffee shop. I’m taking this baby,” he raised his briefcase high, “to a friend’s house. She’ll be able to hook me up.”

Jesus disconnected and connected. He sauntered away to make phone calls at the opposite end of the hallway, where he could be free from our nervous chattering. When he finally turned to face us, our silence was immediate. “I’m going to have to make a report,” he said. “Once a report is made, it takes up to 48 hours for the issue to be resolved.”

“But what does that mean? When will we be okay?” I asked.

“By Saturday,” Jesus answered. “I’m sorry, really. I did all I could do. You should keep your appointments anyway, you know, squeaky wheel and all that.” We nodded sadly, thanked the nice man for his time,

and dispersed, each of us moping back to our own units in search of something else to do.

I decided to make the best of my time by carrying on with my Japanese language lessons. I stared at my laptop and repeated the phrases spoken by a female voice to describe the pic-

tures that appeared on my screen. That’s when I heard it — a soft, happy-sounding chime notifying me of a new e-mail message. “David! Come here! It’s happened! It’s working!”

When he was standing beside me, I launched the browser and my Yahoo! home page popped up,

faster than ever. “It’s a miracle,” David said in awe. “Our Jesus has turned wire into WAN!” Then he vanished from my side and I could hear him skipping across the hardwood floor on his way to check his e-mail. ■

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To hate all the people your relatives hate,
You've got to be carefully taught!

— “You've Got to Be Carefully Taught,” from the musical
South Pacific, by Rodgers and Hammerstein

The following (somewhat fanciful) definitions were modified from the website urbandictionary.com.

A “wannabe” is a poser, a follower, a charlatan. Someone who “wants to be” something that they’re not, usually to fit in with a specific crowd of “peepz.”

“White wash” refers to black people who act white.

An “oreo” is someone who is “black on the outside and white on the inside.” The word is used, much like “white wash,” to refer to black people who act white.

A “coconut” is brown on the outside, white on the inside. Used to refer to Mexican people who act white.

A “twinkie” is yellow outside and white within. For Asians who act white.

A “wigger” is a white person who acts black. A portmanteau word formed from “white” and “nigger.”

“Honky” is a derogatory term for a white person.

A “blackanese” is a cross between an African and an Asian.

“Mulatto” is the Spanish word for “mule.” It’s used to refer to folks who are half black and half white but due to its origins is now generally regarded as a derogatory term.

A “wapanese” is a white person who acts Asian. Another portmanteau word. These people are usually very much into anime and manga.

A “chigger” is a Chinese person who acts black (rapping, dressing “gangsta”).

“Gangsta” is an

alternate spelling of “gangster.” According to [urbandictionary](http://urbandictionary.com): “It refers to one who promotes and participates in destructive and self-serving culture in an effort to project a particular image of toughness or to make oneself intimidating. Willingness to blatantly misuse English is also a necessity.”

“Ebonics” is the language of black culture used by gangstas.

“Ghetto” means low-class, or no class.

* * *

John Burrell, 52, the black father of a mixed-race daughter, was on the beach with his wife, Marie, who was white.

Said Burrell, “Society isn’t really like that anymore, is it? I mean, all racist? It’s gotten pretty homogenized, I think. Even hip-hop’s not really a black or white thing these days. It’s both.”

* * *

A youth group was having lunch near the roller-coaster in Mission Beach, a racially diverse bunch of youngsters between the ages of 8 and 11, all wearing blue shirts and chomping hot dogs and licking ice cream. I asked the group’s supervisors whether there’d been any racially motivated trouble among the kids.

“Never,” said one. “And I’ve been a counselor for four years.”

“Not with kids this young,” said another. “They don’t know about that kind of stuff. That doesn’t usually start until middle school.”

* * *

Luke, 14, is light-skinned black. He was shirtless,



Jennifer

wearing long black shorts and sneakers, and carrying a skateboard.

"Folks see us acting white and they call us 'white wash.' You know, if we're surfing or skating, or if we go shopping in a surf shop or skate shop."

* * *

Jordan, 18, is black, and I saw him sporting swim trunks and sunglasses and hanging out on the beach with his white friend Alex, also 18.

"There's pressure on black kids to act white in San Diego. There were only about seven black guys at my high school [USDHS], so I think we acted *more* black. We made sure to listen to rap music loud and dress all gangster and stuff, like we were making up for the fact that there were only a few of us. There was pressure to be better at sports. But I never really heard many comments or racial stuff said, not to me, not to my face."

* * *

Is a white kid acting black when he sports a do-rag and has his boxers pulled higher than the waistband of his super-baggy shorts?

Is an Asian kid acting black when he beat-boxes and break-dances and tries freestyling?

Is a white kid acting Asian when he dresses up as an anime character for Comic-Con?

Is a Mexican kid acting white when he wears preppy shirts and pleated slacks?

Is a black kid acting white when he uses full sentences and speaks clearly, with no "ebonics"?

Are all things at least somewhat racially coded? All fashion statements, entertainment activities, artistic movements, stores, businesses, foods, neighborhoods? Every single cultural foundation and every new trend?

Or have we finally reached a point in some aspects of our society —

like the Internet, for instance — where race is no longer an issue?

* * *

Jennifer, 15, is "1/2 Vietnamese and 1/2 Mexican." She was wearing a Hollister shirt and looked very stylish as she shopped at the mall with her friends.

"I'll be walking, and people be, like, 'Aren't you Mexican? Why you wearing white people's clothes? And don't you have to be wearing, like, gangster?' And I'll be, like, 'No. I dress any type, as long as it looks good.'"

"Sometimes I get mad, because they think that, like, I'm not good enough to wear their clothes, but what can I do, you know?"

"Mexican girls usually wear the T-shirts and the pants and the Nike Cortezes.

"Vietnamese people dress decent, with normal pants and normal shirts.

"I dress anything

that's in the fashion, like Hollister and Abercrombie.

"One day I could be dressed, like, people will say I look like a Mexican, and the next day I'll be dressed like a white girl, and the next day I'll be dressed like an Asian. Sometimes I think about that when I'm getting ready. Like, it depends. If I'm going to the mall, or if I'm just sitting in my house or whatever.

"But I'm not trying to be racist.

"I used to live in City Heights, where all the ghetto people live. So we had lots of racism all the time. Like the blacks and the whites. And the Mexicans and the Asians. There's lots of fights. They're, like, 'Aren't you Vietnamese and Mexican? Which side are you on? Who are you going to beat up?' And I'd be, like, 'Just do your thing. I'm not going to be in it. Just because my dad's Vietnamese, and my mom's Mexican.'"



Daniela

"Adolescents are caught between two worlds. One is the world of their teachers and parents, and the other is their world, the world of their peers. And they're trying to make sense of it."

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* * *

Daniela, 15, is Mexican.

"This is America. Everything is multicultural. Everything comes into style. Like, one day you'll go to the mall, like, and white girls'll be wearing the little kimono shirts. But it's not racial. Everything can become the style."

* * *

Jane, 15, white, was wearing a baseball cap turned sideways, sneakers with no socks, and lots of necklaces, and watching while her friend got a henna tattoo.

"My dad's a racist," Jane said. "I have black friends, Mexican friends. He hates when I bring them over. My dad says, 'If they're your friends, then I'm not your friend.' But I think he's immature. People are people. I don't see color. My friends are my friends because I like them."

"I'm not being rebellious. Not in my friends. Not in my clothes. Hats just look better sideways. That way I don't look stupid, or like a baseball player



Mark

or something. And hip-hop is just the best music. It isn't a black thing."

* * *

Mark, 16, is Filipino. I found him shopping in a hip-hop clothing store in Mission Valley.

like, different groups and stuff, and we all dress the same way. I think I dress pretty much like everyone else my age.

"Folks might call you a 'wannabe' or a 'poser.' But I grew up like this. I am who I am. I'm proud I'm Filipino, but how do Filipinos dress? I don't want to wear Gothic stuff, and if I dressed preppy then people might say I want to be white. So what am I supposed to wear?"

* * *

Carlos, 19, is dark-skinned Mexican.

"People say I act white, but I just think I am who I am. I guess they mean I act proper. I don't know."

"I grew up around black people. I guess I got adapted to the lifestyle. I like rap music and hip-hop style. My parents think it's pretty weird. But most of the people at my school do the same thing. There's,

"They used to call me 'coconut' sometimes, growing up. They were joking, but I'd take it personally. I'd be, like, 'Yeah, just because I don't play handball and slick my hair back and listen to that stupid

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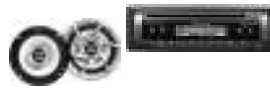
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Jennica



Kamellah



Maricella



Daniella



Andrea



Abi

Spanish music, you think I'm a 'coconut.' But I'm still Mexican."

* * *

I witnessed a fight between two girls — one white and one Mexican — in the warm summer evening, downtown in the Gaslamp.

The white girl had put on a street-tough accent, saying, "Yo, bitch," and, "Put a," and "What up with that?"

The Mexican girl kept repeating one thing back at her, no matter what the white girl said, one provocative statement, in a low voice, over and over. "You're white," she kept saying. "You're white. You're white."

* * *

Tanesha, 16, is dark-skinned black, but she lives with, and was raised by, an all-white foster family.

"I see both sides," she said. "People say I act white, but I just think I am who I am. I guess they mean I act proper, I don't know."

"So I just always crack jokes. I make jokes about being black, about black things. I never let racial stuff get to me."

"Like just now, in the wave pool, I introduced my little brother [who is white] to this kid, and the kid was, like, 'How come your sister's brown?' And I overheard him and I made a joke. I

said, 'Too much sun! I'm really tan!'"

* * *

Eric, 14, is light-skinned, with unusual features.

He'd win a carnival bet to guess his racial makeup. Later, he tells me he's "1/4 Japanese, 1/4 white, and 1/2 black."

"I don't hear any of that racial stuff. I never do. Sorry to disappoint you. Other people might, but I don't hear any of it."

* * *

Dante, 19, white, grew up with many black friends.

"They call each other nigger, my black friends do, but I can't get away with that. Except

with my best friend James. I call him nigger all the time, and he calls me honky, and we know we're friends, so it's okay."

* * *

At the beach, five young girls played together in the waves, laughing and yelling, riding Boogie boards. One was white, one black, and the other three were varying shades in between.

They'd all grown up together in Clairemont, and they'd come to the beach with their parents to enjoy the sunny weather.

Jennica, 12, is "1/2 black, 1/6 white, 1/6 Filipino, 1/6 Lithuanian." Andrea, 12, is "100 per-

cent Filipino." Kamellah, 12, is "1/2 black, 1/4 white, and 1/4 Mexican." Maricella, 14, is "1/4 Mexican, 1/4 Filipino, and 1/2 Italian." Daniella, 13, is "light-skinned white."

Had any of these girls ever had racially motivated problems in school?

"There was this girl, Olivia, who is full black," said Jennica. "And she doesn't like me because she thinks I try to act white. Like, she thinks I'm all preppy and stuff. Like, I'm like, 'Omigod!' And because I have friends who aren't black."

And how does someone act black? "Um," Jennica said,

"I think acting black would be more like, 'Hey, homie, whassup?' Like, it's how you walk, how you dress, and how you talk. All ghetto."

And how do white people dress?

"White people shop at Abercrombie...Bill-abong...Hollister," the girls sang out, in chorus.

And black people? "Echo Red...Baby Fat...House of Flava..."

So the second a black person walks into Abercrombie & Fitch, they're acting white?

"Not really," said Kamellah.

"I just like the clothes," added Jennica.

And what about music? What about rap, and rock?

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"I like rap, and R&B, and hip-hop," said Daniella, the white girl.

"And I like all kinds of music," Andrea chimed in.

"I don't think it really matters," Maricella said. "Music doesn't matter for race. You like what you like."

Any other racially motivated problems in school?

"My friends used to get mad at me because I used to hang out with the Asian kids," Maricella said. "But I've always hung out with Asians."

"There's nothing wrong with Asians," said Andrea.

"And people always think I'm full Mexican," said Maricella. "So they're, like, 'Why are you always hanging out with Asians?' "

"Asians are cool," said Andrea. "Asians don't care."

Did these girls know that saying things like, "Asians are cool," and "Asians don't care," even though they're good things to say, are statements that still fall under the heading of racism?

"Because we're setting them apart, right?" asked Jennica.

"Oh," said Maricella. "My bad."

Jennica spoke again.

"In fifth grade, this Mexican dude...I don't know what I said to him, but he was, like, 'Shut up, blackie!' "

"That's what my mom calls me," said light-white-skinned Daniella, and everyone laughed.

I wondered whether any of them would ever lie about their race, either to get a job, or to get into school, or to get a boyfriend.

"No."

"No."

"No."

"No."

"No."

A glee club of "no's."

"You should be proud of your race," said Maricella.

"That's stupid," said

Jennica. "If people can't accept you for what you are then forget them."

* * *

Abi, 17, is Jewish.

"I'm Jewish, 100 percent Israeli. I lived four years in Israel, but I

grew up in La Jolla and went to high school here. No one ever made fun of me growing up. Well, except maybe making fun of my nose. Like, they'd say, 'You're Jewish? Shouldn't your nose be bigger?' But they were

kidding. Those were my friends. No one really ever made fun of me for real.

"I did have a boyfriend, in fifth grade, who gave me a cross for a present. I smiled, kind of, and thanked him, but

I never wore it. He just didn't know. I think I put it in a drawer somewhere and ended up throwing it away.

"I have a close friend who's a practicing Muslim. And we joke how we're not supposed to

like each other because of our religions. But actually, we feel more of a connection because we're both from the Middle East. She's Persian and I'm Israeli."

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San Diego Reader December 21, 2006 31

Melody, 18, is "100 percent Persian."

"I used to bring Persian food to school, for lunch, but I was always embarrassed about it. Like, I'd have ghormeh sabzi, or zereshk polo, and everybody would be,

like, 'Eugh, what's that?' and they'd make fun of it, and they all thought it was weird. At first, I'd try to explain. I'd say, 'I know it doesn't look good, but it really is.' But then I just started throwing it away, so no one

would give me any grief."

* * *

Dr. Phillip Gay is professor and chairman of the sociology department at San Diego State University.

Could Dr. Gay talk

about racism in 2006?

"Different people experience race differently," he said. "Even in 2006. So it's really hard to generalize. In my classes, we get into arguments as to whether racism exists and to what

extent it exists. Some would say everywhere, and some would say nowhere, and they're all right. It depends what circles you travel in. There are a lot of different views of racial harmony and racial conflict because we're a diverse society."

Could Dr. Gay address the subject of adolescence?

"Adolescents are caught between two worlds," Dr. Gay said. "One is the world of their teachers and parents, and the other is their world, the world of their peers. And they're trying to make sense of it. Their parents and teachers come from a world that experienced race a lot differently from the way that they experience it. Their par-

ents grew up in a world where there were very few minorities on television, where discrimination was a lot more overt. And kids today are growing up in a world where people of different races are everywhere they look: on television, in ads, and everywhere they go. So it's understandable that adolescents would be a little confused about how to act appropriately and what's expected of them. They're more used to interacting with people of different races than their teachers and their parents."

It seems to me that almost all activities today, all styles, all music, almost everything, is in some way racially coded. Did Dr. Gay see it that way?

"Blacks play more basketball than golf and tennis because of the typical economic status of blacks; because they're discriminated against in country clubs. And then the activity itself becomes identified with members of a different race, when in fact the activities engaged in are determined to a large extent by socioeconomic situations. If you live in a crowded urban area, you're less likely to skateboard. You're less likely

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Melody



Dr. Phillip Gay

to play baseball, because it takes a lot of space to do these things. You need a baseball diamond, for instance. So people from crowded urban areas, who are often black, play more basketball, perhaps, than other sports. And then basketball comes to be viewed as 'a black sport.' And baseball and skateboarding are seen as 'white sports.' "

But isn't all that changing?

"As time goes on," Gay said, "you have more black people moving into coastal or suburban neighborhoods,

and they take up the same activities that their peers do, and their peers in these areas tend to be white. So you get more blacks skateboarding or surfing. I see a lot more blacks skateboarding than I've ever seen before. And I certainly see more whites adopting black clothing styles. That's partly because of the media. The media gives a picture of a more racially integrated society than actually exists. If a man from Mars came down and watched TV, he'd think America was pretty harmonious, racially."

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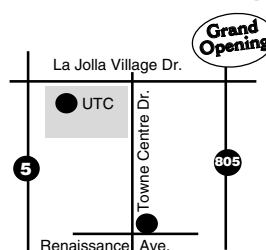


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So everything is, in fact, racially coded, even in these more enlightened times?

"There are very few things that aren't racially coded," Gay conceded. "Maybe entertainment and sports. Those are pretty well mixed. People accept different races in these industries without question and without raising an eyebrow. Anytime you have an activity where merit and ability are clearly identifiable, it tends not to be racially coded. In sports and entertainment, you can tell how good someone

is quite easily, and it doesn't matter what color they are. If someone scores a certain number of points, or catches a certain number of passes, then people accept him in that role. Or if a certain entertainer is funny, it doesn't matter if he's black or white. But most other things are too subjective. It's harder to tell whether you're a better insurance salesman than I am, or whether or not I'm a better construction worker than you."

And getting back to race considerations



Adrian and Breanna

among adolescents, what about name-calling? What about kids freely using words like "oreo," and "coconut," and "wigger"?

"The other day," Gay said, "I heard a group of

black kids in Balboa Park, and one of them called to a white kid and said, 'Hey, that's my nigger. What's up, nigger?' And nobody even blinked. But he was taking back that word and divesting it of its negative connotations, to some extent. Which is one way we have of dealing with racism. But I don't think you'd ever hear a white kid saying that word to a black kid. Then you'd probably have some trouble."

* * *

Mark, 19, is "Caucasian." He and his friends had gone to an Asian restaurant for lunch "because we wanted Asian food."

"We were the only three white people there. And after we left, some ghetto Asian guy in an

SUV drives by us and says 'white boy' out of the window. Just like that. 'White boy.' Kind of under his breath but so I

Puerto Rican, 1/4 Panamanian, 1/4 Japanese," and her boyfriend, Adrian, 19, is "3/4 Mexican, 1/4 Italian." When I

"I've been called 'beaner' before. Or 'gangsta.' My mom calls me 'gangsta' more than anyone else, because of the way I dress. I like to dress hip-hop. But I'm not all into black culture or anything. I just like the style...."

could hear it. I ignored him. I thought it was kind of funny, actually."

* * *

Breanna, 17, is "1/2

found them, they were hugging on the wall along the boardwalk in Mission Beach. Breanna's skin was noticeably darker, and her features

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For more information or to see if you qualify,

Contact eStudySite at (619) 321-6604



Depressed? Sleeping Too Much? Not Enjoying Life?

If you are between the ages of 18 and 65 and have not responded to treatment for depression, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication.

Qualified participants may receive study-related evaluations, medical care, research medication and laboratory work – at no cost.

All telephone calls and visits are confidential and safely conducted under the supervision of experienced physicians and research specialists.

To learn more, please call the Sharp Mesa Vista Clinical Research Center at **(858) 694-8350**.

Clinical Research Center
SHARP Mesa Vista Hospital

We believe we can help.

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



Depression

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

Are you between the ages of 18 and 65 and finding life hard to tolerate? Has your energy and motivation to enjoy your life decreased? Do you find even simple pleasures empty?

California Clinical Trials has been assisting the pharmaceutical industry with finding medications for depression over the past 20 years. Every study conducted by California Clinical Trials is staffed by a team of skilled and experienced, caring physicians and medical professionals trained to place your comfort and well-being first.

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

- You receive up to \$500 for your participation.
- You receive no-cost study-related medication and medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

Schizophrenia

can tear families apart.



Do you or a loved one have schizophrenia? Have they tried Haldol®, Prolixin®, Zyprexa®, or Risperdal®? Do they still feel hopeless, have side effects or continue to suffer from troubling thoughts or voices?

This loved one's problem can break your heart. We are caring, experienced professionals funded by a well-known pharmaceutical company to conduct an inpatient and outpatient research study for qualified people with schizophrenia.

If your loved one participates, there is no cost...instead:

- They receive up to \$2400 for participation.
- They receive no-cost research study-related medication and medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

Anxiety

doesn't just stress your mind.



We know it can...

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

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

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Qualified participants:

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



Insomnia

can affect the quality of your life and your partner's.

Restless sleeper? Wake up tired? Chronic problems falling and/or staying asleep? If your sleep is not normal you may qualify for a research study in our state-of-the-art sleep clinic and receive an investigational medication for poor sleep.

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

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

- You may receive up to \$1050 for your time and travel.
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had a tinge of Asian-ness to them, something in the eyes and cheekbones. Adrian was very light skinned. They'd been dating one month.

Adrian: "I've been called 'beaner' before. Or 'gangsta.' My mom calls me 'gangsta' more than anyone else, because of the way I dress. I like to dress hip-hop. But I'm not all into black culture or anything. I just like the style: the baggy jeans, the boots, the jewelry, the hats."

Breanna: "I've never had any problems with name-calling or anything like that. I'm proud of all my races. I don't identify with any one of them over the others. When somebody asks me, I say everything that I am."

Breanna: "I've seen couples, like, black and white couples, where a lot of people talk crap about that, but it's never been directed towards us."

Adrian: "Like, the old people, like parents, they want their race to be kept. So if you're white and you're dating a black person they'll be, like, 'Are you going to marry her? If not, that's okay.' At least, that's what I hear. My parents are cool no matter who I date."

* * *

JoAnn, 19, is Chinese, and her boyfriend, Kip, 19, is Kenyan. They were hanging out near an Asian eatery late one Saturday night. They'd been dating three months.

Kip: "We've never had any problems from anyone except the traditional, older Chinese people. Like her parents. My parents don't care that my girlfriend's Chinese, they just don't want me to have a girlfriend. They want me to concentrate on my studies."

JoAnn: "I think all Chinese parents in general want their kids to stick within their race. Even if I were dating a

Korean boy, or a Japanese one; they'd be really unhappy with that. But I've never dated anyone who's Chinese. My parents keep nagging at me and talking about it. And the words hurt. I want to

listen to my parents. I want to respect my elders. But in this case, I can't really do what my parents want. You can't just go out and find a boyfriend!"

Kip: "I've lived in

San Diego for about six years now. And I attract a lot of attention. Because my skin's a lot darker than anyone else's, I guess. Sometimes it's bad attention and sometimes it's good.

People always talk about Africa around me, and they hint about things like hungry children and civil war, and they think my family's poor or whatever. But it doesn't bother me. I don't listen

that much. Plus, I just figure those people are kind of ignorant."

* * *

B., 19, is Vietnamese. He wore a baseball cap on backwards, baggy jeans,

RESEARCH STUDIES

There is hope...

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



Do you have trouble falling asleep?

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

If you have been diagnosed with chronic insomnia and experience difficulty falling asleep and staying asleep, you may qualify for participation in this study.

Qualified participants will receive study drug and study-related physician visits at no cost and could be compensated up to \$2,750 for time and travel.

If you would like more information or think you may be eligible for this study, please contact the physician's office below.



Do you experience constipation caused by your pain medication?

Constipation is one of the most common effects of pain medication, and it can be very uncomfortable—even debilitating.

We are currently involved in a clinical research trial of an investigational drug to relieve constipation caused by pain medicine.

You may be eligible if you:

- Are 18 years or older
- Have had non-cancer pain for at least 2 months
- Experience constipation caused by prescription opioid pain medication

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

Participants may be reimbursed up to \$650 for time and travel.

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

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

Qualified participants receive:

- Study medication and examinations
- Reimbursement for time and travel

TYPE 2 DIABETES The Power of Two

A combination medication may help lower blood sugar levels.

If you're making healthier choices but your blood sugar numbers aren't coming down, maybe it's time to consider combination therapy. A clinical research study is evaluating an investigational medication containing two previously approved medications combined into one tablet compared to an FDA-approved drug used to treat type 2 diabetes.

You may qualify if you are:

- ☐ At least 18 years of age
- ☐ Diagnosed with type 2 diabetes for at least three months
- ☐ Taking oral medication for at least two months

As a qualified participant, you will receive all study-related care, diabetes supplies and active study medication at no cost, and you may be compensated for time and travel. Insurance is not required.

Please call: 1-877-927-5337

Pacific Sleep Medicine Services

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

877-927-5337

Pacific Sleep Medicine Services

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a baggy shirt, necklaces, and big unlaced boots.

"My friends say I dress black. And I do. I like the style. I like the hip-hop trend. No one ever calls me any names, my parents don't care, and I've never had any racial trouble at all. I'm Vietnamese, and I'm proud of it. I like my race. But I don't really think about it any more deeply than that. I was born that way, and that's it. And I dress hip-hop, because I like to do that. There's really nothing more to it than that.

"I get along with

pretty much everyone. I don't have any beef with anybody."

* * *

I'd been trolling the beaches, malls, and local hangouts, looking for teenagers wearing racially coded fashions, involved in racially coded situations, acting in certain ways, using the words, and by the time I reached my last interviews, I'd chatted with at least 30 San Diego youngsters over the course of a summer month.

"Hey. You're a

teenager, right?" I'd start. If the answer was no, I'd introduce myself and my purpose and be on my way. I had my digital tape recorder, notebook and pen, digital camera, business cards, and a printed list of questions.

"Have you ever experienced racism?"

"Are you proud of your race?"

"Do you think, on some subconscious level, maybe, that you're being rebellious when you go against your parents' racial ideas?"

Not one of these kids blinked or raised an



Darren

eyebrow at my potentially inflammatory line of questioning.

And I got bolder as the process went on.

The first few days, I'd approach and then start up conversations about something else, about basketball, perhaps. I'd mention that I was a journalist, and then I'd chat with the kids about what it's like to be a teenager today, gradually steering into

racial matters.

I was walking up to white kids with black parental figures and vice versa, black kids on skateboards, white and black kids chilling together, interracial couples, any non-black kid dressed "gangster," any kid I heard saying something racial.

By the end, I was finding the teens and launching straight into provocative material.

I strolled up to one young boy and immediately said, "You're Asian, right? What are you doing shopping in a black clothing store?"

And to a black girl I said, "You dress kind of white, don't you?"

And one night I found the only white adolescent in a crowded Asian hangout and

walked over to him said, "So how come you're the only white person here?"

But there was never any anger in their responses or demeanors. Never the least irritation. These kids were ready for anything. They were cool.

* * *

Darren, 19, looks Caucasian, but he's "not white." He's 1/4 Filipino, 1/4 Vietnamese, 1/4 Native American, and 1/4 Dutch.

"I don't look at race or color. I look at who people are. I'm a person. And whether or not I'm in a place where the majority of people are Asian, whether or not people stare, I don't care. I work in an Asian area, and I grew up in a Filipino family, so I don't

RESEARCH STUDIES

Attn: Heavy Drinkers

The Scripps Research Institute is conducting 3 investigational studies associated with drinking:

- Heavy drinkers not seeking treatment
- Heavy drinkers seeking treatment
- Drinkers with depression seeking treatment



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You may be eligible for a research study at UCSD Dept. of Psychiatry.

If you are 18 years of age or older and are interested in this research program, please call:

1-877-UCSD-SHY (1-877-827-3749)
or e-mail: veryshy@ucsd.edu

Smoking too much pot?

WE WANT TO HELP YOU STOP!

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

For more information and to see if you qualify, please call **858-784-7867**

or visit **www.pearsoncenter.org**

for more detailed information.



know what it is to say 'I'm white' or 'I'm Asian.'

"I grew up Filipino, which basically means: family cookouts and family parties. We look for any pathetic reason to have a party. Whether it be Groundhog Day, or a birthday, or any occasion possible, just to have a bunch of aunts come together and cook.

"If someone throws race in my face, it's an

issue. But no one usually does, so... But I experienced a lot of racism as a kid. I grew up looking like a Japanese baby with red hair. And then I grew older and my hair turned brown. So I've gone through changes all my life and always been asked, 'What kind of kid are you?' I've heard all sorts of derogatory things, like 'Chink,' and 'Brown kid,' and 'You're

really light; you're just a white kid; what are you doing here, white boy?' Whether in anger, or whether it's a joke. Mostly, it's just my friends, like a form of camaraderie between us, because they know I'm, like, eight thousand million different things.

"I accept all my ethnicities. I don't carry a flag and wave it or anything. But I know my

RESEARCH STUDIES

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We may currently or in the future have inpatient and outpatient research studies involving investigational medications for the conditions listed above.

Qualified candidates will be reimbursed for time and transportation (\$50 for each inpatient hospital day and up to \$100 for each outpatient visit).

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

For more information, please call the **Clinical Research Department at (858) 694-8350.**

SHARP Mesa Vista
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heritage. I know where I came from. I try to pick up the languages a little bit, like Filipino, and Vietnamese. And I'd never lie about my race. Never. I have ethics, and I have morals. Why deny who I am?"

* * *

Denzell, 14, is 1/2 black, 1/2 white, though his skin is relatively dark. He was wearing board



Denzell

shorts and carrying a surfboard, spending a day on the beach with his mother, who is white, and his cousin, who is a darker-skinned black boy about the same age.

"My girlfriend's white, and her dad doesn't like me because I'm dark-skinned," Denzell said. "He thinks I'm what kids like to call 'gangster.' And her friends don't like me because I'm dark-skinned, and they think dark-skinned kids are always mean to everyone. But I'm not like that at all.

"It's really sad to me. It's like, 'Come on.' I wish people would get to

know me instead of judging me by my skin color.

"My mom's white and my dad's black. And I always tell people I was raised white. I was raised around motorcycles and rock music.

"I think to be white is to use surfer terms and motorcycle terms and to be into rock music. And the black part is being in gangs and always going to jail, stealing stuff, and doing stuff that's not appropriate."

"Wait a minute!" Denzell's cousin interjected. And his mother said, "Your uncle's black, and he's a cardiologist."

"All right. All right," Denzell gave in. "I said that wrong. I mean 'gangster-black.' I was talking about being gangster-black."

Then he went on: "I have lied about my race before. At summer school, I said I was Hawaiian and white. But people treated me the same. They still picked on me. They still called me names.

"They call me



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Anxiety Study

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names from both races. They call me 'whitey,' because I'm into rock music and all that. And there's another name, but I don't think it's really appropriate. They call me 'white-ass nigger.' Sometimes I

don't hear them, but other kids'll come and tell me what they said, and I'm just, like, 'Whatever.'

"Although I do get into fights. I do fight. I fight whenever someone makes me mad to a

point where I can't take it. Like, once this one kid kept calling me 'white-ass nigger.' So I fought him. It wasn't the right thing to do. I should have just ignored him. But I couldn't take it anymore.

"I probably eventually will learn to be proud of both my races. I hope so. I don't know if it'll hurt or help my chances of getting a job or getting into college. I don't think I'd lie about my race to get ahead.

Although I might. I don't know. If it's for something important, then I might. I haven't really thought about that. "I wish I was full white. That's how I define myself. I don't

think I'm supposed to be this color.

"If I had a wish, one wish, I'd wish I had white skin. Then people wouldn't judge me before they even know me." ■

— Geoff Bouvier

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TWO DIVIDED BY TWO



My wife and I had been living apart peacefully for three years before she decided to “make it legal.” And thus the long war began. We’d been married 14 years, practically our entire adult lives, and although we were resigned to the marriage’s failure, talk of divorce had been a frightening idea. Specific issues, such as who would have custody of the two boys — seven-year-old Sean and five-year-old Richard — were too unsettling for me even to think about. Of course, those aren’t my sons’ real names. Discussing in public the breakup of one’s family is difficult enough without having to ruin whatever privacy your children have managed to keep for themselves. Back then, they’d been living with their mother in Clairemont, and I would see them every two or three days, taking them places like Bob’s Big Boy or the Mission Beach Plunge, sometimes along with their mother, while maintaining my own life in a one-bedroom house in Ocean Beach. Perhaps I didn’t ever think about the details of divorce because I knew — and feared —

what my wife would do. But when I got word that she had decided to take action, I telephoned her one October night in 1977 to ask what she was planning. “My attorney told me not to discuss that end of it with you,” was her hesitant answer. Three days later I got the news officially from the attorney’s secretary. “Yes,” she informed me, “the form you’re to sign indicates she is asking for custody of both children.”

“I know how you feel about that,” my wife later explained. “But I believe this is what’s best for the children. You obviously didn’t care about them or you wouldn’t have moved out on us,” she said bitterly. I pleaded that she consider joint custody, but she was adamant. The next day, half blinded by anger and dread, I did the only thing I felt I could do. I went looking for an attorney.

Over the next five months, prior to the divorce trial (known as the “interlocutory hearing” by the legal industry), my life became a long, muffled scream. Every attorney I spoke with confirmed the worst: as the father, and espe-

“There’s a matter about Mr. Corvus having female company at his house overnight on weekends during his children’s visitation. We don’t think it’s good for them, Your Honor.”

cially as a father who had moved out, I had absolutely no parental rights after divorce. My wife could legally take the children with her back East to live with her parents, as she had mentioned doing. My only recourse, the attorneys said, was to sue for child custody myself, which, they all agreed, was a waste of time. As for an injunction preventing my wife and children from leaving town, I was told no judge would order it if my wife did not agree.

It was true that during the last three years of my marriage I had been less than the model husband, having had affairs with other women, even as my wife was aware of them. While I feared her anger and felt guilty about the pain I caused her, I honestly believed my life

was my own, and I wasn't happy turning down another woman who wanted a part of me my wife never knew and never really wanted. We attempted various arrangements, but nothing seemed to work. First, I asked her to have affairs of her own, but she wasn't interested. We went to group therapy for a year, but that only solidified my resolve to have more affairs. My guilt about the whole thing finally led me to move away to begin my own life. Naturally, she felt betrayed of all she had invested in building a family, and today, with my anger having been transformed into purpose and action, and with most of the fear having vanished, I can understand why she wanted to get even. She would say that vengeance had nothing to

do with it, that she was only trying to protect the children. Beginning in the fall of 1977 and during the turbulent winter that followed,

plan was to get an injunction from the judge, added onto the divorce, which would prevent my wife from taking our sons out of the

We both cared enough about Sean and Richard that I believed any attorney would only naturally want to help us arrange for joint custody.

so was I.

By March of 1978, our divorce hearing had been set, and I had been working with an attorney who thought he could help. My

county. We appeared before Judge Francis Gallagher. My attorney knew how hard I'd prepared for this appearance, and to my chagrin I quickly discovered it was

good that I had, too. If I'd left matters solely to my attorney, nothing would have been done. Family-law attorneys, I've learned, generally are unprepared to fight hard for all their clients; they each have far too many cases (about 60 at any given moment, my attorney estimated for himself) to get deeply involved in any one. They can spare just enough time to line up the legal dominoes, tap the first one, and hope everything falls according to plan. In my debut court appearance, I learned a great deal about how that plan works.

My wife's attorney was the first to speak. I'd already formed an unfavorable opinion of this man, with his soft body and even softer voice. Six months earlier and weeks before that por-

tentious phone call to my wife, she and I had driven out to his office in El Cajon to see if we couldn't resolve our differences peacefully. It was a cordial meeting, and the issue of child custody didn't come up, at least not to the point of serious discussion. We both cared enough about Sean and Richard that I believed any attorney would only naturally want to help us arrange for joint custody. As we walked into his office I felt proud of the fact that, unlike many angry couples we had heard of but had never known, we at least had the good sense not to run out and each get our own lawyer. The El Cajon attorney listened to our complaints, then said he'd try to work out something for us. Two weeks later he telephoned me to

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announce that he could not represent two opposing clients and that he was now representing Mrs. Corvus exclusively. Furthermore, he advised, I should find myself an attorney.

Six months later, in court for our divorce, my wife's attorney was telling the judge that his client, the mother, should have full custody of the children, with "reasonable visitation" granted the father. Additionally, he declared that she should have the right to move back East with them to join her parents if she desired. My attorney seemed distracted, and I was getting panicky. I had prepared a list of hundreds of dated diary entries describing the activities I'd shared with my sons during our three and a half years of living apart. I intended the judge to hear every item if necessary, but my attorney seemed to have forgotten about the list. Finally I got his attention and reluctantly he asked the judge to let me testify, previewing him first about the list, the purpose of which

was to show my full participation as a parent. Judge Gallagher looked pained. He obviously didn't want to sit through an hour or more of this. "This is St. Patrick's Day, so I'm going to give something to both parties," he said flippantly. First he ordered that I pay

and children \$1000 per month support money for the three years I'd been working and she hadn't. That she was now employed and I wasn't made no difference to the judge. "I suppose you'll be working soon," he told me. Then, to fulfill his proclaimed fairness doctrine,

Judge Gallagher then ordered that I not be permitted to have "overnight female guests" in my house while my children were present.

\$300 per month child support, despite the fact that I had been unemployed for three months and had interviewed 25 oceanographic and other technical firms without luck. The judge was not impressed by the fact that while I *had* been employed, I'd given my wife

he granted the injunction against her moving away. I think my attorney was more surprised than I. For an instant I thought I had won.

"Just a minute," my wife's attorney said as he stood up. My wife had been whispering to him furiously. "There's a matter about Mr.

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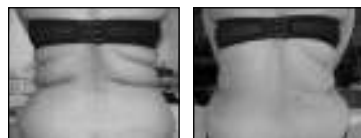
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Corvus having female company at his house overnight on weekends during his children's visitation. We don't think it's good for them, Your Honor." I'd been seeing a woman for about a year and was considering living with her. My sons occasionally griped to their mother about the attention I gave my friend, knowing the manipulative effect such complaints might have and being jealous of my affections. What was she bringing this up for? I wondered. Amazingly, Judge Gallagher then ordered that I not be permitted to have "overnight female guests" in my house while my children were present. My attorney asked no questions and thanked him.

An hour later, walking through the downtown lunch crowds on the street, I began to fret about the consequences of Judge Gallagher's edict. I had to give up seeing either my friend or my children. "Relax," my attorney said as we crossed the street. "Wait six months or so, then go back to court. Another judge

might rule differently. Just don't see her on weekends. Quit complaining. You got what you wanted, didn't you? Your wife can't take them back East." As to my child support, I still had several thousand dollars in my savings, so I could keep paying that for a while. My attorney thought it inconceivable that I should return to

clerk's desk a man sat eating a sandwich and looking over a stack of papers. I pounded on the door until he got up and let me in. "Yeah, I understand how you feel," the clerk said, "but you have to understand that it's standard practice in this county, especially with Judge Gallagher, to keep men from having women over when

"Concentrate on the quality of time you spend with your children. The amount of time isn't that important."

the courtroom that instant and personally ask the judge if he knew what he was doing, though that's exactly what I wanted to do.

Thirty minutes later I peered through the window in the courtroom door. It was locked and the room was nearly empty. At the

their kids are with them. It's okay for the mother [to have male guests] because she's considered to be the real parent. You can appeal the case, but that'll take a couple of years. Meanwhile, I'd advise you to regard the injunction seriously. If your kids complain, your wife

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could hit you with a contempt citation. You could go to jail."

In that summer of 1978, several things began happening at once. Luckily, I was able to make a deal with my ex-wife. I agreed to drop the restriction on her moving with the kids out of state if she would allow me to have them over when I was seeing my friend. It was a safe trade, I calculated, because I knew I could probably take her back to court to stop such a move should she try it. Besides, she wasn't the type to vanish suddenly. Yet the deal didn't diminish my anger with the humiliating notion, institutionalized by the courts, that I was an inferior parent. Many of my friends I found to be unsympathetic. "You shouldn't be so angry," a particularly close friend enjoined. "Concentrate on the quality of time you spend with your children. The amount of time isn't that important." Everywhere else I turned I found only frustration. One friend suggested I read Warren Farrell's *The*

Liberated Man, in which the author advised men like me to become more like women. The book even offered the reader an objective test of his androgyny. Points were awarded to men who cried in public and who spent time with their kids. By then I was crying almost every day, sometimes while waiting in line in stores. I was

more than the small living room they shared while visiting. What's more, they didn't get along with each other. Sean seemed happiest as the oldest male in his mother's house, and he resented Richard's intrusion. Richard, in turn, began coming to see me by himself, which made the space problem manageable. By

I tried putting the legalities out of my mind in order to concentrate on being a father.

also seeing a psychologist, who told me "emotional retraining takes time" and urged that I not be so hard on myself.

Meanwhile, my sons were spending most weekends with me, but their frequent presence as outsiders was difficult. They were growing up, and they needed

the summer of 1978 I was working full time at a government-sponsored CETA job, writing outdoor survival programs for San Diego schoolchildren. My salary was less than one-half what I'd earned for eight years as an oceanographer, but it was the best I could do. Richard came to live with me for a

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full month, and the money wasn't enough to pay our food, rent, and his child-care expenses. I was taking money out of my savings to meet the bills, and concluded that it was unfair that I should also have to give money to Richard's mother for his care. "Why should I be paying you while Richard is living with me this summer?" I asked my former wife one day during an impromptu meeting in an empty parking lot. "After all, I supported you during our three years of separation. Why can't you help me out now?" She was furious that I would question the monthly allotment, and as I drove off she screamed,

"I'll never give you a dime!" Afterward, I kept paying her \$150 a month until my money ran out.

The next school year (1978-1979) Richard insisted on coming down to stay with me regularly. After school he would ride the bus from his school in Clairemont to my Kearny Mesa office, and sometimes help us with the office chores or do his homework. In February 1979, I moved out of my little house and into a two-bedroom upstairs apartment not far away in Ocean Beach. Richard now had his own room. Sean was content in seeing me only on weekends and staying in his brother's room. The rent

doubled, but so did time with my sons, so I felt prosperous in the move. My anger and fear seemed to

He had heard from my former wife's lawyer, who was complaining that I hadn't been paying my child sup-

In the mornings and afternoons, when I'd take Richard to summer school in Balboa Park, I'd usually be the only father present.

have vanished, but I see now that they were only put aside.

That summer I received a letter from my attorney.

port. By now I was spending far more on the children than she was, taking into account my rent versus her

house payments, along with Richard's clothes and the added cost of driving him to school. Moreover, my savings were nearly gone. In hopes of avoiding more legal salvos, I located a psychologist who offered to work with me and my former wife to iron out our disagreements. In August of 1979, I wrote her suggesting this alternative, and though she refused to meet, at least I stopped receiving the threatening letters. Richard now had his room stocked with snakes and toads and stuffed toys. I tried putting the legalities out of my mind in order to concentrate on being a father.

After school started for

Richard and he moved back with his mother, I was offered a temporary teaching job aboard a US Navy ship, a job that would pay my bills and give me some savings as well. The ship, an aircraft carrier, steamed toward Iran immediately after the takeover of the embassy. Many of my students wanted to "bomb the Iranians back into the Stone Age," as they were fond of putting it. Yet the ship kept its distance. Our country's restraint and judgment made me feel more connected with the established system of justice. I realized that it was time I came to terms with the courts on the issue of custody and child support.

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For much of 1979, I'd thought about having Richard come live with me full time but I feared what reaction his mother would have if I even mentioned the thought. In December, when I returned from overseas, the woman I'd been seeing for several years moved into our house with her ten-

talk about some more permanent arrangement made the situation tense, and I found my resentment increasing. Christmas Eve, Sean and Richard were over and the five of us celebrated. It was a happy time, though it turned out to be the last day of innocence. I'd agreed that both boys would return

drive down to Ocean Beach and pick up our sons. We were having friends drop by and couldn't she help out? She refused, and I blew up. Several weeks later, when the anger had peaked to an intolerable boil, I sat down and plotted the legal strategy that would occupy our lives for the next nine months.

In early 1980, I heard about a group of divorced fathers who met monthly to help each other in this situation. (The group has recently changed its name to Fathers' Aid of San Diego.) At the meeting I learned that a new state law had been passed, one which helped fathers get joint custody of their children. I met an attorney whose name is not Jack, but who had the reputation for using the new law successfully for fathers. At our first appointment, I told Jack what I wanted.

After divorce, anyone can file for a new hearing on the issues of child custody or monetary support. These court hearings occupy most divorce judges' and lawyers'

None of the fathers ever stood up defiantly and said, "No, I won't pay what I can't afford. I'd rather be with my child."

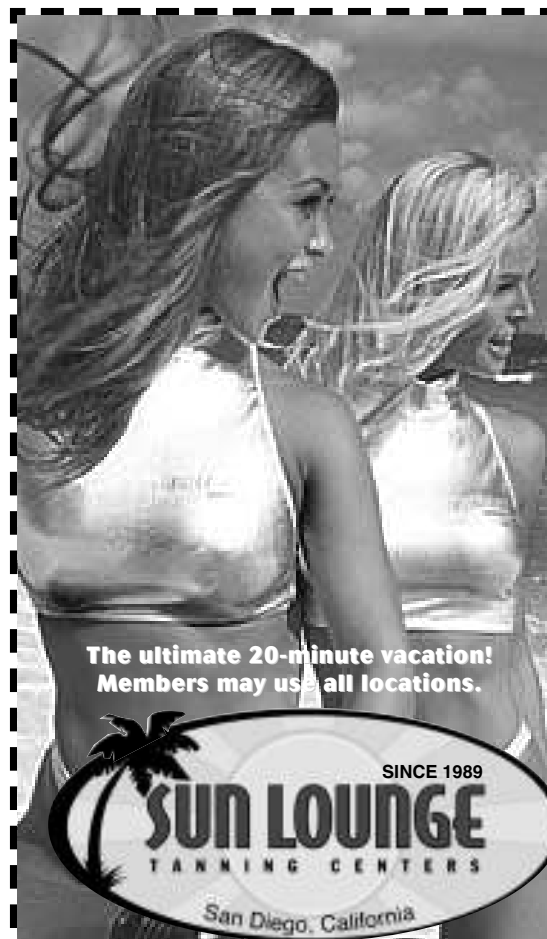
year-old daughter, who was Richard's age. I returned to working at home as a freelance writer and father.

Richard was now living with me full time, but I was driving him to school and picking him up every day, a total of 40 miles. His mother's unwillingness to

to their mother's house later that night. The custom of my kids spending every Christmas with their mother was getting old, but to keep the ship sailing smoothly, I'd not objected. This night the ship finally capsized.

I called my former wife and asked if she couldn't

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time. In our new hearing, I wanted three items: First, I wanted joint custody of both children — the opportunity to live with Sean and Richard about half time. Second, I wanted the sale of our house. I was still half owner, and with my share I'd be better able to afford the cost of a rented apartment where my sons could live. Finally, should the judge not want to force sale of the house, I wanted at least to be paid child support by my former wife. My extra expenses for the kids, particularly Richard, were too much for my income of \$600 per month. I needed help. Jack was skeptical. He thought "we" could get joint custody, and perhaps even sale of the house, but as to getting me child support, he was firm. "Look," Jack said, "I'm not even going to ask the judge to give you child support." He feared our case wouldn't be taken seriously, since "fathers simply don't get child support." Jack also thought I might get into trouble for the "arrearages," the unpaid

amount of back child support, which by now was passing the \$3500 mark. Jack urged that I spend a few hundred dollars making one or two monthly payments until the court date, just for show. I reluctantly agreed to make the \$300-a-month

I feared my former wife, once she learned of the impending suit, would so threaten my younger son that he would change his mind about wanting to live with me. Jack said we should consult a psychologist to make a recommendation to

"But that's \$600 gross monthly income," my attorney said. "Gross, then," the judge said, looking away. His decision was final. Two weeks later I received my attorney's bill for \$4000.

payments because, after all, he was the expert. What was most important was that our motion for joint custody be granted. By March 1980, nearly everything was ready. One last vulnerable position needed fortification.

the judge as to my son's present desires. The psychologist was well known locally. After a day's thorough testing, I talked with him for about 30 minutes. My two sons also talked with him. His fee was \$400. "Don't worry," Jack

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said. "He's in our camp and he'll say whatever we want him to say." I was wary about such a confident arrangement and sure enough, the psychologist's report warned that joint custody might not be best because of my anger. Later, I confronted him in his office and said I didn't understand. "If I weren't angry about not being able to help raise my own children, I'd be crazy," I argued. The psychologist said I might be correct, but that anger was unhealthy for my sons. "Please, don't let what I say discourage you," the doctor said. "You should keep on fighting for your children. I tell you what. I'll recommend that you have joint

custody, provided you seek psychological counseling." I carried the test results to my old psychologist to get his opinion. He was a man I'd trusted, but my attorney hadn't wanted to use him. My old therapist acknowledged the validity of the test scores, and in his letter, he too recommended joint custody only on the condition I continue therapy. In neither letter were questions raised as to the psychological fitness of the children's mother. Both reports assumed my anger made me conditionally unfit.

"Don't worry," my attorney said casually. "We can tear these up since it was our idea to make the report." So

we never used them. I was praying that Richard wouldn't change his mind about wanting to live with me once his mother was

me to ask what was going on. I offered to try working it out between ourselves, but she again refused and drove off to get new legal help. Appar-

a downturned mouth and large, angular ears, the kind of face Walt Disney might use for the arch-villain in a children's comedy film. Hollywood probably would have named him Hugo. Every time I saw Hugo in the months to follow, I could imagine thousands of kids screaming in delight as he would poke his bushy eyebrows around some corner. The first time I saw him, he had just turned the corner on the third floor of the county courthouse. Oddly enough, I was nearly paralyzed with fear. A friend had driven Richard and me to the courthouse, otherwise I don't think I could have made it. Hugo came charg-

ing up to Jack and me like a hungry bulldog who had always been fed on time. He rattled off a list of items he had decided the judge should hear, not the least of which was my failure to pay child support. Now Hugo was threatening me with jail. Jack's calm voice seemed to do little good, but what was worse than his apparent ineffectiveness was that I couldn't overcome my insecurity. If what I was doing was really the right thing, why was I so afraid? I began doubting my true motives. Perhaps what my enemies were saying was true after all, that I was placing my selfish interests above any genuine concern for my children. For-

**A new California law
made it mandatory that we
be seen together by a
trained court counselor.**

informed of our plans for court action. When Jack telephoned my former wife and notified her what we were intending to do, she called

ently, her El Cajon lawyer wasn't good enough, so she found an attorney who had made a name for himself.

The new attorney had

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tunately, before the judge could hear our case, a new California law made it mandatory that we be seen together by a trained court counselor. Her job was to see if she could encourage us to come to some agreement on our own. Now this was more like it! The attorneys had to wait outside while we finally got to try settling this ourselves.

The meeting with the court counselor saved the day. She was able to draft a joint-custody agreement and obtain my former wife's signature as well as my own. At first my former wife resisted. "But he used to smoke marijuana in front of the children when he lived with us," she complained. "Imagine that he still does." The counselor rolled her eyes. "Who doesn't smoke marijuana nowadays?" she retorted. Minutes later we

emerged from the small room, agreement in hand. Without so much as a courtroom fight I had won the main prize! Our children would live with us according to a mutually agreeable schedule. Sean later told the counselor he wanted to stay primarily with his mother; Richard said he enjoyed living with us both. The other issues would have to be heard later that summer. Jack and Hugo would remain actively employed.

Between March and August of 1980, my life was unraveling. The relationship with my friend was beginning to sour. But even more draining was the legal war Hugo was waging and Jack barely defending. First Hugo summarily took the last of my savings, about \$1000. Jack wasn't concerned. "He used a false legal justification, and we can prove

it in court." Did that mean I'd get my money back? "We may get it back after the court hearing, but we may

you might consider paying her a few dollars a month," Jack advised. I said no. I couldn't see giving way to

I began to understand when I saw how vehemently the legal profession opposed the idea of joint custody. If both parents are presumed equally competent...what reason would parents have to go to court?

not." Jack added that it was quite possible the judge would hold me in contempt. "If you have any money left,

such injustice. Already, I paid more for raising my sons, and moreover, their mother earned 50 percent more than

I did. Still, the worst part of the summer was the guilt I felt that I was doing something wrong, and my fear of the ultimate punishment: jail. In the mornings and afternoons, when I'd take Richard to summer school in Balboa Park, I'd usually be the only father present. Maybe that really is how it should be, I often thought. If the law would jail me for wanting to be a full-time father, there must be a good reason. The mothers would hug their kids as they'd hop out of the cars while Richard would avoid such contact for fear of being seen hugging a man. Why, I wondered day and night, if I'm doing the right thing, why can't I feel good about it? Isn't caring its own reward?

That summer, I began getting more active in the fathers' group. Some days I'd sit in court giving moral support to fellow fathers. Learning some of the courtroom shortcuts made things easier for me — places north of Date Street where you can park all day for free, the

back entrance to the county courthouse at Front and C streets where you can catch an elevator straight to the third floor and the two courtrooms where such cases are heard, and how the cases are never called before 9:15 a.m. instead of the 8:45 time stamped on the notification papers. I saw dozens of cases involving men in situations similar to mine. Many were unemployed, some earned less than their former wives, and a few had joint custody of their children. All were ordered to pay child support. In many cases the men weren't allowed to see their children as often as they desired. Yet as unfairly as the fathers were inevitably treated by the judges, always older men, none of the fathers ever stood up defiantly and said, "No, I won't pay what I can't afford. I'd rather be with my child." They would stoop in the courtroom with that same look of guilt and fear that I felt. Their attorneys would describe their client's case as if they were talking about

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a criminal. "Your Honor, Mr. Jones hasn't been able to make payments, but I'm sure that he'll be successful in finding work soon..." The spectacle made me furious. I tried writing articles on the subject, but anxiety always stopped me short. Besides, who wanted to hear about these courtroom travesties?

Finally, in August, after Hugo had exhausted his attack on my savings and sanity, our case was heard. Judge Alpha Montgomery, a sad-faced black man, ruled that (1) the house not be sold until Richard reached 18; (2) my child support for each child be continued,

albeit reduced to half the amount, for a new total of \$150 per month; (3) the contempt charge be thrown out since I had been unable to pay. The judge took note of the fact that I was making a living as a temporary typist, earning a mere fraction of my wife's salary. While Jack hadn't dared ask that I be given child support, he met the judge's decision with adequate outrage. "Your Honor, I'll remind you that Mrs. Corvus has liquid assets of \$13,000. Mr. Corvus has none. And they have joint custody of the children."

The judge scowled: "I consider his income of \$606 per month net adequate to

pay the ordered amount," he said.

"But that's \$600 gross monthly income," my attorney

sion was final. Two weeks later I received my attorney's bill for \$4000.

To be fair to Jack, his

"Unless you're willing to discuss the matter of unpaid child support, I have no choice but to file contempt charges against you."

ney said.

"Gross, then," the judge said, looking away. His deci-

initial paperwork may have encouraged my ex-wife to agree before the court counselor to joint custody, an agreement that had worked successfully for the past 14 months. Beyond that, nothing Jack did was for my betterment; I would have done as well representing myself.

By September of 1980, Richard had transferred to

the school in my neighborhood and was living with me full time. My friend and her daughter had moved away (the relationship had deteriorated seriously, and we were both relieved to end it), and I began channeling my frustration into helping other fathers, many of whom were far worse off than I — they simply weren't allowed to see their children. Most important in helping my anger was the blossoming of the relationship with my son. Richard and I began seeing a counselor at the Child Guidance Clinic. Our counselor was a genius for helping two people resolve conflicts. To help me deal with the rage I occasionally dumped on Richard, she taught me a technique called the "30-second scold." She apparently taught my son other techniques for dealing with me. These, of course, I never learned of directly, but only in the suddenly

improved manner Richard would react to my impatience — with understanding and humor, rather than with whining hurt. Sometimes in the winter, he spontaneously began giving me hugs.

No affair of the heart ever developed so quickly as the bond between me and my son — and to some extent with both sons. I stopped feeling like an outsider. I watched Richard making progress in his emotional development, as I was also. For the first time ever, Richard was making good grades and good friends in school. I was beginning to earn more money writing technical documents. My savings were gone, but at least I had lost my fear of poverty. Still, the child support debts were increasing. I hadn't paid anything since the joint-custody agreement, thereby defying the court order. I tried to ignore it,

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but I was bothered by the thought that, according to the law, I now owed my former wife more than \$5000. If I could only figure out some means of showing the judges the truth, surely they would change their minds, I reasoned. I would later discover for myself the fallacy of believing that family-law courts are always fair.

While my family life with Richard was improving, I began to study the economics of the anti-father society. I talked with the director of the county's Department of Revenue and Recovery, the collection agency for many parents paying child support. Of some 33,000 such accounts, only about two dozen involved payments from mothers to single fathers, according to the agency head. Ten percent of all single parents in America are fathers, yet a recent federal report on child support and alimony mentions only single mothers as being possible recipients of child support. Why was the system so loaded against men? I wondered.

I began to understand when I saw how vehemently the legal profession opposed the idea of joint custody. If both parents are presumed equally competent, as one newly proposed bill would have it, what reason would parents have to go to court? More than likely, mothers

not given the enormous benefits now awarded them by most judges would happily avoid the dehumanizing courtroom atmosphere, and use the newly available divorce mediation centers instead. Attorneys would lose millions in legal fees now spent fostering long courtroom wars. Once I began to understand the economics, I viewed the anti-father judgments less personally. Naturally, the courts had to favor the gender with less money, or else the system wouldn't work. And if such a system hurt me and other men, well, don't all businesses systemize in order to maximize their efficiency? I began to see that my personal choices for fighting lay in not accepting the system. I could even go to jail if I had to, and I would not feel guilty afterward.

Once I recognized that I could face jail, the remaining anger and fear lifted like morning fog. At a local meeting of the National Organization for Women I got goosebumps watching a film of Susan B. Anthony telling off a judge. She'd just been convicted without jury trial of the crime of voting, illegal for women in the mid-1800s. I copied down some of her denunciations and prepared for my own judgment day.

This time I decided I would not hire an attorney.

"I'm representing myself," I told the clerks in the courthouse as I filed my papers to have the issue of child support reheard. By now I'd seen enough cases to know that in most divorce courts the law is rarely used. Standard rules of evidence go out the door, replaced by gossip and innuendo. I felt as competent as any attorney to argue my own rights, and besides, I couldn't afford one. Back on the third floor

the judge to reconsider the existing joint-custody order. I asked the judge to consider only my request that child support be reduced, since one child, Richard, lived with me. The judge refused to hear either matter until we could talk with a court counselor.

A few weeks later we were back in the counselor's office. I felt uneasy about our new counselor but wasn't sure why. I passed off my

I was happy that Richard loved his mother, but I feared the loneliness for myself. Joint custody was never a substitute for a happy marriage.

of the courthouse, I met my wife's latest attorney, a tall, thin woman I'll call Ms. Franklin. From a distance she looked kind, but up close there was no mistaking her true character. "Mr. Corvus," she said to me, "by filing for a hearing on child support, in effect you've opened up several new issues." I had anticipated this. Sure enough, my former wife and her new attorney were now asking

fears as unjustified when the counselor drew up another agreement that, in effect, maintained the joint-custody agreement. Again my former wife signed, which was surprising in light of her recent legal tactics. I was relieved but apprehensive as we left the counseling room and headed in to see the judge. The attorney, Ms. Franklin, took one look at the newly signed document

and nearly grew hysterical. "What is this! You're keeping joint custody?" she questioned her client. In five seconds my former wife's mind was changed. "We're going to argue against this new agreement," Ms. Franklin announced. I was even more astounded at the court counselor's reaction. "You're right, I goofed," the counselor said, with no objection to their plans. "That agreement really has no teeth. I'm sorry, Mr. Corvus," she said. Minutes later we were facing the judge, but now the original subject of child support I'd come for was forgotten. I was once again fighting for joint custody of my sons.

Before Judge Sheridan Reed I argued that this move was an obvious ploy to hide the real issue, that the nine-month-old order of Judge Montgomery to pay child support on a child who was living with me full time was unfair. My presentation was far stronger than that of most attorneys, and most important, it was accurate and sincere.

Ms. Franklin's was not. She countered by declaring that custody should revert to my former wife because Richard wanted to live with his mother the next school year. This was true; Richard and I had discussed it already.

I was saddened and pleased at the same time. I was happy that Richard loved his mother, but I feared the loneliness for myself. Joint custody was never a substitute for a happy marriage. Ms. Franklin often made careless misstatements of fact, and then corrected herself. Finally, after once swearing in front of Judge Reed, fuming and locked in her greed, she had to let it out — the big threat. "Your honor, Mr. Corvus hasn't paid child support in over a year." The judge noted the absence of any formal charges to that effect and waved the threat aside. I explained patiently that the joint-custody agreement had been working for the past year while Richard had lived with me, and there was no reason why it couldn't keep working in the future. Judge Reed considered the matter a few moments and then decreed that the new agreement, the one our counselor had wanted to tear up, be honored.

At the same time, Judge Reed ordered that my request for a decrease in child support be denied. Considering that Richard was planning to move back to his mother's house in September, the \$150 per month for both children would be maintained. If, however,

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Richard were to move back with me full time, I'd then pay only \$75 per month for Sean. My former wife, despite her higher income, had no obligation to pay me anything. This was the moment I had been waiting for, but I sensed it had already passed. For months I had been examining my fear of being sent to jail, and finally, after talking with one man who had done it in defiance of the courts, I resigned myself to the possibility. This day I was prepared to go. Had Judge Reed challenged my refusal to pay as long as I was earning less than my former wife, and yet paying more for the children, I would have resurrected the language of Susan B. Anthony and added a few choice words of my own. They all must have sensed something was different about me by the way I spoke. For the first time in my life, I felt genuine self-respect.

The actual catharsis had occurred shortly before my paper defeat, as we were waiting inside the courtroom for our case to be heard. Suddenly, my former wife's attorney was at my side, whispering that she had an important topic to discuss in the hallway. Earlier I'd already told her of my unwillingness to talk; only those matters of benefit to me or my children were worthwhile, I'd

explained firmly. She'd suddenly stomped off. Now she was back, this time with something new and urgent. I followed her outside to the hallway. "Mr. Corvus," she began with the nervous smile of one who is about to make a bad bluff, "unless you're willing to discuss the matter of unpaid child support, I have no choice but to file contempt charges against you." It was a moment made to suit a dream. Suddenly all the fear and anger were gone.

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She gave me an incredible look, then spun toward the door. "You're sick," she muttered as she entered the courtroom. ■

— John Corvus

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LETTERS

continued from page 12

else as regards their beliefs. But her mind is on heaven, of that I can assure you. Yet she inherited this task in life that is so controversial. You go figure. But do not picture her as a vixen, because she is very focused on the higher planes of existence.

I know any infighting in that family would make interesting copy, but there was actually a little, and more misunderstanding than anything. It went to court and was settled to the satisfaction of both parties. Everybody got money. I know things about many people that could make other people *ugh* and *ugh*. But whatever I know about the former Mrs. Vasic, it is this: she was loved by anyone who knew her, including her employees, just because being around her made you want to hug her and tell her you adored her. Don't ask me why, but that is for real. I witnessed it at company meetings. As for the F Street future, there will always be someone who wants to see them ruined or scandalized, but that is life, and her family will just have to live with an occasional bad press. It is a free country.

I just wanted you to hear from someone who was actually there and knew both of them. They were both unusual but wonderful human beings. My life was the better for knowing them both.

Name Withheld
by Request

Twisted

Re "The F in F Street Is Fashion" ("City Lights," December 14). I would like to say that you have sunken to the low level of writing normally associated with publications like the *National Enquirer*, but I can't; your recent article about the Vasics makes those tabloids seem high-class.

It was bad enough that you found a way to take something as positive and exciting as a 14-year-old girl realizing her dreams of modeling and having a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to walk the high-profile, star-making catwalks in Europe and trying to turn it into something dirty and negative (by the way, there is

drug activity and there are people with eating disorders in every profession, from prostitution to heads of churches; it's every unique individual who chooses to buy into these activities or not that makes the difference, not the profession he/she chooses), but with the condemning attitude that you conveyed in reporting that Mr. Vasic was suffering from and died of AIDS, you reconfirmed the fears of people everywhere who are afraid to get tested for HIV, afraid to seek life-saving treatments, and afraid to disclose their status to potential partners as well as family members who can be an invaluable support system during their illness; that fear being of the stigma that is attached to the disease brought on by fanatical, self-righteous, judgmental groups such as yourselves who hide behind some outdated religion to disguise the fact that they are spreading a hateful message laced with evil.

The next time you hear that HIV infections are rising and that people with AIDS are not seeking the treatments they need, you can congratulate yourselves for being part of the problem.

If Mr. Vasic was in fact suffering from the disease in those first terrifying years when there were no treatment options, and if he was searching for hope in unconventional clinics, then any clear-minded person with any sense of humanity could only see his actions as heroic and courageous and, as a result, feel compassion for him. Your take on the situation can only be described as "twisted," and stories presented from this angle can only be considered a detriment to the San Diego community.

Rick Valenzuela
via e-mail

Too Many Tip Jars

In regards to "A Disrespectful Dollar" (Letters, December 14). Correct me if I'm wrong, you get a paycheck for driving the "free" hotel shuttle bus; nothing comes out of your pocket for gas or maintaining the shuttle, correct? The only thing spent by you doing this job is your time at work or maybe during break times for meals, etc.? If all is cor-

rect, you get paid for this service regardless of "tip expectations." You must realize that most people using your shuttle take it as a courtesy provided by the hotel via their room charge. If you expect \$5 to \$20 per person, *good luck!* Most people will only tip this type of service a couple of dollars at best. You are not like a waitress at a restaurant or a hairstylist that gets paid minimum wage and/or has booth rental each month. Most of what you said was appalling, self-centered, very tacky, and disrespectful to all, including your employer and your customers. An attitude change wouldn't hurt either. You reap what you sow. If you are not happy with your pay, find another job, my friend. As for tipping in general, I will only tip people who really do me a service, like my waitress at a restaurant, my barber, etc. There are too many people looking for an extra buck. Can you believe that now doughnut shops have tip jars???? Amazing!!

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If You Love Us, Tip Us!

I'm calling in response to "A Disrespectful Dollar" (Letters, December 14), by the gentleman who drives for the airport-hotel shuttle bus. You are paid on an hourly basis. Your tips are the extra, and your tips are given when they can be. And as far as females being the worst tip-pers, you also have to understand that wives are allotted a certain amount of money.

But when you're providing a service and driving from a hotel to the airport, that's the job that you took on. The extra tips are extra, and that is what it is; it's a tip. If somebody's able to do that, then that's what they'll give them, and if they're not, then they can't. And it seems like if you're going to laugh at a dollar, then maybe you should get nothing at all. Here's a tip for you: don't laugh at a dollar. Even if someone left you 50 cents, "thank you" is the appropriate response. And that's why at times I don't tip, just based on attitude. That's my opinion, and I love the *Reader*.

Mary



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Thar She Blows!

Annual Gray Whale Migration

We have been lucky enough to see mothers who have delivered their calves early swimming along the coastline,” says Crystal De Soto, leader of the whale-watching program at Birch Aquarium. “The calves are born 15 feet long and weigh a ton, but that’s very tiny compared to Mom, who’s 45 feet long [and can weigh up to 70,000 pounds]. You can almost see the folds in their bodies. The fluke is still floppy, and they haven’t gotten the breathing and swimming thing down, so they keep bobbing at the surface.”

From December 26 to March 31, 2007, the Birch Aquarium at Scripps and the San Diego Harbor Excursion offer daily whale-watching tours, coinciding with the gray whale migratory season.

“They only eat up in the Arctic,” explains De Soto. “They eat as much as they can [around 660 pounds a day], build up their blubber, and use that to fuel their whole migration.”

Gray whales are bottom feeders, unlike most other baleen whales that feed on organisms like phytoplankton that float in the water. “Their major prey is amphipods, or tube-dwelling crustaceans — they look like a little shrimp in a kind of sandy parchment tube,” says Bruce Stewart, director of programs and exhibits for Birch Aquarium. “[The whales] go down to the bottom, lay on their sides, and suck. They take a big slurp of this sandy milkshake with these shrimp-like creatures in there and use their massive tongues to force out water and sand and keep the food.”

The whales travel from the Arctic (from the Bering, Chukchi, or Beaufort Sea) to their breeding grounds near Baja California in “what is arguably the longest mammal migration,” Stewart says of the near 10,000-mile-long trip. The breeding grounds — shallow lagoons known as “calving lagoons” — are located off the coast of Baja California. The shallow water of the lagoons protects the whales from predators and currents, and the warmth of the area is conducive for birthing.

Stewart remembers dolphins riding the bow, or front, of the boat on at least one excursion last season. “As the boat travels through the water, it builds up a crest of wave in front that pushes off to both sides. This is called the bow wake. Dolphins love riding right off the bow; they weave back and forth and zip past each other. What you’ll sometimes see is, if a whale is moving, really heading somewhere and not meandering around, a whale creates a bow wake like a boat does, and dolphins will sometimes ride the bow wakes of whales. This suggests dolphins have been riding bow wakes longer than there have been boats.”

Whale watchers are likely to see whales exhaling, or blowing. The National Park Service explains the phenomenon best: “When warm, moist air exhaled from the animal’s lungs meets the cool air at the ocean surface, it creates the bushy column we call a blow, or spout.” Blows can be up to 15 feet high and remain visible for up to 5 seconds. “If it happens to be foggy, sometimes the skipper will shut down the engines and listen, because you can sometimes hear the blow,” says Stewart. “It sounds like an outward *whoosh*, then almost a whistling gasp, like a



Breaching blue whale

forceful sigh and quick breath in, but echoey, like the sound of wind coming through a tunnel.” While traveling, the whales will blow several times while staying close to the surface. But, says Stewart, “when you see them arch their back and you see the bumps, or knuckles, which is the vertebrae beneath the skin, and they roll up out of the water and lift their flukes, you’ll see the big whale tail come up out of the water to help drive the whale down on a deeper dive.”

Last season, De Soto witnessed a rare breaching while out on the boat. “The whales are typically swimming and breathing. Anything beyond that regular behavior is fabulous. Breaching is one we don’t see very often — that’s when they leap out of the water and splash down.”

On their return trip to the Arctic in the latter part of the season, some gray whales will hug the shore for safety. “Some pods of orcas will attack and kill — especially the baby gray whales,” says Stewart. “When whales go near the kelp beds [about 100

yards from shore], the air and waves breaking on the beach help disguise their sonar echoes [from the orcas]. If you see whales very close to shore, chances are you’re seeing a mother and a calf.”

The most common misconception De Soto has encountered on whale-watching excursions is the belief that whales are fish. “A lot of people are kind of surprised that these animals are coming to the surface,” she says. “They don’t know that whales are mammals.”

— Barbarella

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January 13

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

Events that are underlined occur after December 28.

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

"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)

Comedy Show by Adrián Uribe, Friday, December 22, 10 p.m., at

El Foro, Jai Alai Palace (on Avenida Revolución). 619-734-2333. (TIJUANA)

Moviemaking and Lobster in Rosarito, excursion sponsored by San Diego Natural History Museum on Saturday, January 13, 8 a.m.–7 p.m., includes Foxploration, the theme park at Fox Studios where *Titanic*, *Master and Commander* were filmed; lobster lunch, shopping, more. \$92. Reservations: 619-255-0203. (ROSARITO BEACH)

OUTDOORS

Cross-Country Skiers are in for a short-lived treat late this month through February if winter storms intense enough to drop several inches to two feet of snow hit San

Diego County's higher mountains. As the clouds are clearing, you may be able to take advantage of good skiing conditions along Highway 79 through Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and along Sunrise Highway through the Laguna Mountain Recreation Area. More limited opportunities for cross-country skiing may briefly exist on Palomar Mountain. Farther north in Southern California and higher in elevation, the forested crests of the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Mountains offer more dependably good snow conditions.

Poinsettias, a favorite of backyard gardeners, are now exhibiting their scarlet, petal-like bracts, just in time for the holidays. The onset of 14-hour-long nights triggers their behavior: In San Diego this condition is met just before the date of winter solstice — December 21.

The Planet Venus has returned to the western sky as an easily visible "evening star." (Through most

of 2006 Venus has been a "morning star," visible in the eastern sky at dawn). On Thursday, December 21, brilliant Venus stands near the waxing crescent moon. Both are visible low in the southwest at dusk (around 5:15 p.m.).

Highest and Lowest Tides this month occur on the same day: Thursday, December 21. From a high of +6.3 feet at 7:57 a.m., the tide level drops to -1.1 feet at 4:08 p.m. During the lunch hour the tide will be ebbing at the rate of nearly 2 vertical feet per hour. Visit a gently shelving beach, such as Coronado's, to watch the water recede with almost every breaker.

Winter Solstice, the moment when the sun reaches its southernmost point on the celestial sphere, occurs this year at 4:22 p.m., Thursday, December 21. This event signals the beginning of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and the beginning of summer in the Southern Hemisphere. With only about

ten hours of daylight, San Diego must endure its darkest and gloomiest nights this week and next. During the day, the sun struggles to an altitude of only 34 degrees (as seen from San Diego), then quickly sinks toward the horizon.

Cowles Mountain Solstice Sunrise Hike, Thursday, December 21, 6–8 a.m. Hike to summit of San Diego's highest peak led by Mission Trails Regional Park trail guides starts at Cowles Mountain staging area, at Navajo Road and Golfcrest Drive. Free. 619-668-3281.

Canyoneers head up Cowles Mountain for solstice observance at Kumeyaay solstice observatory on Friday, December 22, starting at 6 a.m. Free. Directions: 619-255-0203. (SAN CARLOS)

Lights in the Heights, survey homes decorated for holidays during Walkabout adventure on Thursday, December 21. Casual walk over all-flat terrain starts at 7 p.m. at 2120



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Christmas Sunday

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The Chancel Choir and Organ
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Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24
three distinct candlelight services:

Family Christmas Pageant, 5 p.m.
The Children's and Youth Choirs

Lessons and Carols, 7 and 9 p.m.
*The Chancel Choir, Robert Plimpton, Organ
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Dr. Jim Standiford*

Communion and Carols, 11 p.m.
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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

Madison Avenue. Refreshments follow. Bring flashlight. Free. 619-231-7463. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Winter Solstice Bird Walk on Rose Creek offered by Friends of Rose Creek on Friday, December 22, starting at 3 p.m. at Mission Bay High School (2475 Grand Avenue). Explore lower creek, watch birds, learn history of creek during easy 1.5-mile hike. "Please bring a seashell for each person." Free. 858-405-7503. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Visit Historical Grinding Rocks Site, see native plants and shorebirds during guided nature walk, Saturday, December 23, 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)

See Toyon's Showy Red Berries during guided nature walks on Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday, December 23, 24, and 27, 9:30–11 a.m., in Mission Trails Regional Park (One Father Junípero Serra Trail). Free. 619-668-3281. (SAN CARLOS)

Second Annual Christmas Day Hike in Daley Ranch planned by naturalist Carol Stanford on Monday, December 25. Hike starts at 8:30 a.m. in main parking lot on La Honda Drive. Requested reservations: 760-839-4680. Free. (ESCONDIDO)

DANCE

Nuttiest Time of the Year! California Ballet presents *The Nutcracker* at San Diego Civic Theatre (1100 Third Avenue) through December 24. Cast of 160 includes children 4-14 years old dancing to

Maxine Mahon's choreography, Tchaikovsky's score. Tickets: \$22-\$78 for adults, \$22 for those 12 and younger. 858-560-6741.

San Diego Civic Youth Orchestra accompanies dancers of San Elijo Dance and Music Academy for *The Nutcracker* they present December 21–23 at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. each night, with 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday. Tickets: \$17.50–\$39. 800-988-4253. (DOWNTOWN, ESCONDIDO)

Bellydancing by Lucia, Melissa, Nadirah, and Zahra to live music by Middle-Earth Ensemble, Thursday, December 21, 8 p.m., at Claire de Lune Coffeehouse (2906 University Avenue). \$5. 619-688-9845. (NORTH PARK)

Easy Variations of Viennese Waltz taught during beginner-friendly dance on Friday, December 22, 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)

Holiday Open House and Toy Drive benefiting Rady Children's Hospital and Health Center hosted by Culture Shock Dance Center on Saturday December 23, 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. All dance classes free to students who bring an unwrapped toy. Event includes performance by Sabrina Fox's belly-dance company, Atash Maya. Ten classes offered including all levels of hip-hop, a break-dance class, youth classes in jazz and hip-hop, "cardio top rocking" (break-dance footwork) class. Find Culture Shock Dance Center at 2110 Hancock Street, suite 200. 619-299 2110. (OLD TOWN)

Free Day of Dance Classes offered by San Diego Ballet, Jean Isaacs San Diego Dance Theater, and Malashock Dance on Tuesday, December 26, 9:30 a.m.–8 p.m., at Dance Place San Diego in NTC Promenade (2650 Truxton Road). Tour new facility, take a sample class. 619-260-1622. (POINT LOMA)

Sultry Salsa Moves! Salsa dancing to live band every Tuesday night at Portugalia (4839 Newport

Avenue). Camille and Michael of Positive Energy Dance teach salsa moves at 9 p.m.; open dancing with music by Trece de la Suerte at 9:30 p.m. \$7. 619-222-7678. (OCEAN BEACH)

Malashock Dance hosts series of intermediate/advanced-level modern-dance classes Wednesday–Sunday, December 27–31, noon–1:45 p.m., at Dance Place San Diego in NTC Promenade (2650 Truxton Road). Classes taught by artistic director John Malashock focus on dance technique, company repertory, "creation of new movement." \$14 per class, or \$65 for all five classes. 619-260-1622. (POINT LOMA)

FILM

"A Scanner Darkly," Richard Linklater's cast includes Keanu Reeves, Robert Downey Jr., Woody Harrelson, Winona Rider in this "jittery brain-twister" screening Wednesday, December 27, 6:30 p.m., at San Diego

Public Library (820 E Street). Free. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, currently screening in the IMAX theater: *Santa vs. the Snowman*, *Roving Mars*, and *Deep Sea*. Ticket prices and showtimes: 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

LECTURES

"Disaster Preparedness: Are Your Pets Prepared?" Learn to plan for emergencies, what supplies your pet will need, what to do with pets in case of evacuation, Thursday, December 21, 6 p.m., at San Diego Humane Society and SPCA (5500 Gaines Street). \$10. 619-243-3424. (LINDA VISTA)

"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)



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Planning Tips

Bakers	5105
Bridal Attire	5102
Bridal Shows	5120
Caterers	5104
Ceremony Sites	5106
Clergy	5112
Consultants	5118
Dance Lessons	5117
Decorations	5113
Disc Jockeys	5110
Florists	5101
Formal Wear	5103
Gift Registries	5116
Health & Beauty	5119
Honeymoon	5115
Invitations	5114
Jewelers	5100
Limos & Valet	5111
Musicians	5109
Photographers	5108
Reception Sites	5107

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San Diego Reader December 21, 2006 67

Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

IN PERSON

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)

Celebrate Winter Solstice with Puppet Insurgency shows and sing-along processions, December 22 and 23, 5:30 p.m. Brings masks, lanterns, and noisemakers to Ocean Beach Park (at Ebers and Saratoga Streets) on Friday. Festivities continue on Saturday at

Trolley Barn Park (1900 Adams Avenue). Free. 619-546-6613. (OCEAN BEACH, UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" offered Friday-Sunday, December 22-24, 5 and 6 p.m., at Loews Coronado Bay Resort and Spa (4000 Coronado Bay Road). Grinch is played by Quentin Proulx, Chula Vista High School drama students play the Whos down in Whoville. Free. 619-424-4000. (CORONADO)

"Global Heart Christmas Eve Celebration" is planned Sunday, December 24, 7 p.m., at Pacific Church (11260 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard). Choirs and musicians from Pacific Church, Midtown Church, Shiloh Spiritual Center, and Light of Life Center unite to perform traditional and contemporary Christmas music. Soloists include Kristi Peterson, Rachel Drexler, SoulVoice, Christy Gildardi, Darryl Thompson. Free. 619-303-6609. (TIERRASANTA)

Button-Down-Style Comedy, television hall of famer Bob Newhart performs Saturday, January 13, 2 and 8 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Musical guest is Susan Egan. Tickets: \$40-\$55. 760-839-4100. (ESCONDIDO)

"Long Time Traveling," Anonymous 4 has reunited for project with lyric folk songs, religious ballads, gospel hymns, joined by renowned musicians Darol Anger (fiddle) and Mike Marshall (mandolin). Concert begins at 4 p.m. on Sunday, January 14, at St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church (743 Prospect Street). \$25 general. 858-459-3421 x109. (LA JOLLA)

SPORTS

Whale Watching by Kayak, adventure led by Hike Bike Kayak San Diego, Friday, December 22,

at 9 a.m. and noon, off La Jolla Shores. Group gathers at 2246 Avenida de la Playa. \$60 fee includes required equipment, snacks. Reservations: 858-551-9510. (LA JOLLA)

Bicycle to Carlsbad via El Camino Real with San Diego Bicycle Touring Society riders on Saturday, December 23. The 50-miler starts at 8:45 a.m. at Doyle Park (8175 Regents Road). Free. 619-562-2882. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

See Olympic Mementos and Souvenirs when Knickerbiker bicyclists head out for ride to U.S. Olympic Training Center on Saturday, December 23. The 30-mile ride starts at 9:30 a.m. at boat launch near restroom at Chula Vista Marina. Participants will tour newer residential areas, lunch at Italy Express. 619-426-2043. (CHULA VISTA)

Ho, Ho, Ho! Bicycle to poinsettia fields with San Diego Bicycle Touring Society riders, Sunday, December 24. The 35-miler starts

at 9 a.m. behind Barnes and Noble Bookstore in Del Mar Heights shopping center (at Del Mar Heights and El Camino Real). Free. 858-456-7849. (DEL MAR)

San Diego Chargers play football against Seahawks in Seattle on Sunday, December 24, 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).

Bumble Bee Seafoods Holiday Bowl 5K Run steps off at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 28, at corner of North Harbor Drive and Ash Street, proceeding along waterfront. Race-day registration: 8 a.m. 858-268-1250. (DOWNTOWN)

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

Garden of Lights, 11th annual event boasts gardens decorated with 90,000-plus sparkling lights on plants and trees at Quail Botanical Gardens (230 Quail Gardens Drive). Holiday Garden of Lights can be enjoyed 5-9 p.m., December 21-23 and December 26-30. Holiday crafts, live entertainment, marshmallow roasting, children's activities, and food (for sale). Admission: \$8 general, \$3 for those 3-12, free for kids under 3. 760-436-3036. (ENCINITAS)

"Economic Globalization — Is America Worse Off?" Discuss topic on Thursday, December 21, 7 p.m., at Other Side Coffee House, 4096 30th Street. Free. 619-421-1879. (NORTH PARK)

Jamaican Christmas celebrated Monday, December 25, 3 p.m., at WorldBeat Center (2100 Park Boulevard). Performances by Har-

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ford Folk and Culture, Anasi stories told by Valerie Murray, screening of documentary *Blood and Fire* (chronicling the roots of reggae music), “feast of tasty Jamaican foods” (for sale). Free admission. 619-230-1190. (BALBOA PARK)

Kwanzaa Kujichagulia Holiday Celebration is Wednesday, December 27, starting at 7:30 p.m. at World Beat Center (2100 Park Boulevard). *Kujichagulia* is second principle of Kwanzaa, meaning self-determination in Swahili. Drumming, dancing, speakers on principles of Kwanzaa, festive lighting of candles, African-American cuisine. Free. 619-230-1190. (BALBOA PARK)

Big Bay Balloon Parade with floats, marching bands, drill teams, and enormous balloons is Thursday, December 28. Parade begins at 10 a.m. on North Harbor Drive (along Embarcadero), proceeds to Seaport Village. Free for spectators. Big Bay Balloon Parade family festival takes place after the parade, 11:30 a.m., on Broadway Pier. Marching bands from two participating universities take part in “Battle of the University Bands”; rides for the kids, carnival games. Free admission. 619-283-5808. (DOWNTOWN)

“Are Science and Atheism Religions?” Present your opinion, Thursday, December 28, 7 p.m., at Other Side Coffee House, 4096 30th Street. Free. 619-421-1879. (NORTH PARK)

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 exhibit cases of UCSD’s Geisel Library (lower level, west wing). 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 11 a.m., 2, and 6 p.m. daily (\$20 general, \$15 for kids). Skate rental: \$5. 619-435-6611. (CORONADO)

Ring in 2007! Year-end bell-ringing Buddhist ritual purges 108 frailties and passions experienced during year, allowing for fresh new year. Program includes history of Friendship Bell, sutra chanting, incense offering; participants take turns swinging rope guiding big wooden log against huge *bonsho* bell during ceremony on Sunday, December 31, at 11:30 p.m. Shelter Island Friendship Bell is located at 1402 Shelter Island Drive; 619-239-0896. Dress warmly. Free. (SHELTER ISLAND)

Mission Hills Celebrates 99th Anniversary with events on Saturday, January 20, at Francis Parker Elementary School (4201 Randolph Street). “Preserving Bungalows — Green Homes for the 21st Century” presented by “bungalow expert,” preservationist, designer, author Jane Powell at 12:30 p.m. She’ll provide insights into appreciating, preserving older homes. \$20.

“Good Housekeeping” is theme for 90-minute walking tour starting at 2:15 p.m. During tour,

learn about historic paint colors, “sensitive additions and remodels,” more. \$15. Attend both events for \$30. Reservations: 619-497-1193. (MISSION HILLS)

FOR KIDS

“The Merry Christmas Show” is presented by Puppet Express and Weaver’s Tales through Saturday, December 23, at Marie Hitchcock

Puppet Theater. Next up: *Jack and the Beanstalk* performed by Big Joe Productions, December 27–31. 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)

“Madeline’s Christmas,” based on the classic Ludwig Bemelmans story, continues through Decem-

ber 23, performed by South Bay San Diego Junior Theatre. Performances begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, at 2 and 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday at Theatre on Third (250 3rd Avenue). Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 youths. 619-239-8355. (CHULA VISTA)

Family Festival Pops Concert, with music by San Diego Symphony led by Matthew Garbutt, San Diego Master Chorale, San Diego Children’s Choir, and Crusader Bells, Saturday, Decem-

ber 23, 2 p.m. in Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street). Tickets: \$7–\$22, or \$30 for family of four. Reservations: 619-235-0804. (DOWNTOWN)

“Dorothy the Dinosaur’s Dance Party!” Dorothy the Dinosaur of the Wiggles hosts singing, dancing performances on Tuesday, December 26, 2 and 5 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Recom-

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Sage Grill
*Savory
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Vigilucci’s Osteria-Oceanside
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*\$40 is price per person. Beverage, tax and gratuity not included.

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

mended for families with children three and older. Tickets: \$10-\$22. 760-839-4100. (ESCONDIDO)

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)

Flying Leatherneck Museum, dedicated to the Marine Corps who provided air support, from the propeller-driven fighters and

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

The Tenaja Falls hiking or backpacking traverse takes you one way through Cleveland National Forest’s San Mateo Canyon Wilderness — Southern California’s only large coastal wilderness area. You can see plenty of winter and early spring scenery (it may be too hot and dry there May through November) without repeating any footsteps.

You could have someone drop you off at the start and later pick you up (four or more hours later) at the finish. Or, with just one car, you might think of a way to use a bicycle (to be left at the start or end point) to turn this trek into a hybrid hike/bike loop. Bikes are not allowed on the hiking route itself, but they are well suited to traveling the 14 miles of mostly narrow, thinly paved Wildomar Road connecting the start and finish points of the hike. A wilderness permit is not required for day use of the Tenaja Fall Trail,



Top of Tenaja Falls

but it is required for overnight backpacking. Cleveland National Forest’s Corona ranger’s office, 951-736-1811, has details.

You’ll want to start hiking at the Morgan Trailhead on Killen Trail (a.k.a. South Main Divide Road, later becoming Wildomar Road), 2.7 miles south of Ortega Highway (Highway 74). You’ll end the hike at the Tenaja Falls Trailhead, 14 miles south from the Morgan Trailhead via Wildomar Road. The Tenaja Falls Trailhead can also be reached by way of Clinton Keith and Tenaja roads, west of Temecula. Logistical planning is definitely helped by obtaining an Auto Club map of the area (Riverside County or Los Angeles/Orange Counties and Vicinity), and by obtaining a San Mateo Canyon Wilderness topographic map published by Cleveland National Forest. Also, be aware that cars parked at either trailhead must have a National Forest Adventure Pass posted.

From the Morgan Trailhead you begin with a descent through chaparral on the Morgan Trail. Soon, you enter the boundary of San Mateo Canyon Wilderness and plunge into the dark, upper reaches of Morrell Canyon. The canyon is loaded with magnificent live oaks, the hardy survivors of periodic wildfires. The trail crosses Morrell Canyon’s small creek at 1.0 mile, then rises back into the sunny chaparral.

At 2.2 miles, Tenaja Falls Trail branches left. Heading east, you cross a wooded ravine and steadily and crookedly rise on rocky, chaparral-clad slopes. Later you turn south on those slopes, still climbing, and skirt the boundary of a parcel of private land lying within both the national forest and the wilderness area. Most of this private “inholding” covers the flat, grassy valley named Potero de la Cienega.

Climbing ends at a high point just above the 2800-foot elevation contour, some 400 feet above the flat floor of the valley. You then descend south into the southeastern corner of the valley. At 4.3 miles you join a disused dirt road, which continues going south around the valley’s east edge.

The old road finally curls west around the inholding and then, starting at 5.5 miles, assumes a descending course south down the left side of V-shaped upper San Mateo Canyon. You can often hear water cascading down the canyon bottom, which is virtually impossible to reach due to dense chaparral growth.

By 7.0 miles you’re right alongside the canyon bottom, and you benefit from the soothing sound of rushing water and the sheltering shade of stream-side oaks. At 7.5 miles you cross San Mateo Canyon’s creek on an old concrete ford just above Tenaja Falls, switching over to the canyon’s west side. After rapidly descending, there’s only one more creek crossing to contend with at the very end, then you arrive at the Tenaja Falls Trailhead.

bombers of the 1940s to the modern jets and helicopters currently in use. Static displays of a variety of aircraft are included, along with equipment, insignia, paintings and photographs, scale models, and a research library. The museum is

located in building T-2002, at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. 858-693-1723.

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

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.

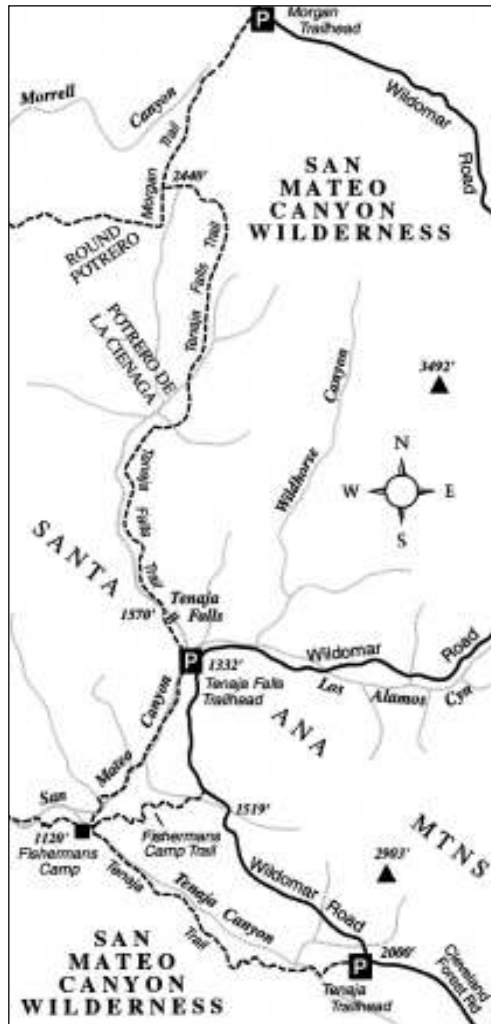
TENAJA FALLS TRAVERSE

Practice navigational skills on a one-way, mostly downhill trek using the Tenaja Falls Trail near Temecula.

Distance from downtown San Diego: Approx. 80 miles

Length: 8.2 miles

Difficulty: Moderately strenuous



(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 devel-

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

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Reading

Fleeing Fundamentalism: A Minister's Wife Examines Faith



Carlene Cross

By Carlene Cross
Algonquin Books, 2006, 288 pages,
\$23.95

ABOUT THE BOOK:

In *Fleeing Fundamentalism*, Cross looks back at the life that led her to marry a charismatic young man, handsome and articulate, who appeared destined for greatness as a minister within the fundamentalist church. Their marriage, which

began with great hope and promise, started to crumble when she realized that her husband had fallen victim to the same demons that had plagued his youth.

WHAT THE REVIEWERS SAY:

Publishers Weekly: The religion depicted in this absorbing memoir of falsehood and betrayal is fundamentalism gone berserk.

Kirkus Reviews: A brave memoir.... Eloquent without self-pity.... A long, fraught journey into the light, chronicled with compassion and spirit.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Carlene Cross lives in Seattle, Washington, where she has worked as a college counselor and a producer for public television. She holds a degree in religious studies from Big Sky Bible College, as well as a BA in history and an MA in communications history from the

University of Washington.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR:

I phoned Carlene Cross at her office in Seattle during the tail end of a three-day wintry blast of snow and cold, more usual to her childhood home in Montana than to the rainy Northwest. "Could you tell me a little bit about the ranch where you grew up?"

"It was a 5000-acre cattle ranch in northwestern Montana, south of Kalispell. My mother kept a garden. We had some horses. We did hay and wheat and harvested all those things.

"I went to Hot Springs High School, with a graduating class

of 25."

"Were the other ranchers fundamentalists?"

"No. The people we lived around weren't very religious then, and they aren't to this day. They are very pragmatic and pretty down to earth. All of this fundamentalist stuff just doesn't play with them."

"How did you come to join the fundamentalist movement?"

"My only experience with religion as a child was with Daily Vacation Bible School, and that was only one week out of the year, during the summer. When I got into high school, my mother began reading the end-times prophecy books of Hal Lindsey. She would

talk to us about the Rapture and that Jesus was going to come back. I think I came to Christianity more out of fear of being left behind than anything else.

"My mother's desire was that my brother and I go off to Bible College."

"Where is Big Sky Bible College?"

"It doesn't exist anymore. It was an old army base up in the mountains near Lewistown, in the middle of Montana. The government built it in the '50s as a training center for the army.

"There were 250 students when I went there. It was about half male, half female. It's curious to me

(continued on page 72)

"I think I came to Christianity more out of fear of being left behind than anything else."

opment 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.

The past 100 years of American music and music making are highlighted at the museum, with

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

Ramona Pioneer Historical Society and Guy B. Woodward Museum

is a complex of historical buildings, including the Verlaque House (the only Western adobe home of French provincial design still in existence), wagons, antique exhibits, and artifacts. There is a cowboy bunk house, women's clothing and accessories from 1700 to 1800, a ranch blacksmith shop

and tack room. The Casey Tibbs Memorial Exhibit is dedicated to Tibbs, a local resident who was a world-champion rodeo rider. The Bancroft Memorial Rose Garden is on the grounds. Rare documents, historical exhibits, books, photographs, and a research library are also part of the complex.

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

San Diego Aerospace Museum,

the technological advancements made in aircraft propulsion over the last century are showcased in "100 Years of Aircraft Engines," includ-

ing 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 County Sheriff's Museum, the 150-year history of



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What should I Get You?

Reading

(continued from page 71)

that so many girls would go to Bible College, because they wouldn't teach women to be preachers or leaders of any kind. I hate to say it, but girls were there to find a husband and to become a minister's wife or a missionary's wife."

"What was the curriculum like?"

"There were a few English classes and a few music classes, but everything else was the study of the Bible, which was really disappointing later on, because the school was unaccredited and I had to start all over."

"What did students do for recreation?"

"They had parties on campus. We had a student union building. Kids would congregate there or play basketball in the gym. A lot of energy was spent being in choir

and learning music, too."

"Was dancing frowned upon?"

"Oh, there was absolutely no dancing! We would go into town and go bowling, but that was it. I don't think anyone ever went to a movie, because that was off limits. Mainly we went bowling and ate pizza."

During her freshman year at Big Sky Bible College, Ms. Cross met her future husband, David.

"He was a legend on campus. He was very handsome, had a 4.0 GPA, and was student-body president. He was a great basketball player, and he was the person that everyone wanted to be like. I was in awe of him. He was starting his senior year at the time I was a freshman."

"Looking back on that time, were there any indications of the future problems he would have?"

"Even early on, he was very possessive. We started dat-

ing, and then he graduated and came to Seattle to work at Boeing while I finished up. If I mentioned that I had even had a conversation with a guy on campus, he would get angry.

"He was a big fish in a little pond in college, and then he came and worked at Boeing as a machinist's helper, and he was incredibly depressed."

After she graduated, Ms. Cross and David married, and he took a position as a minister in a small fundamentalist church near Seattle. "What was your daily life like as a minister's wife?"

"I attended all of the services, taught women's Bible study, taught children's church, homeschooled the children, and entertained. I was expected to teach the doctrines of the church and to toe the party line.

"At Bible College we were given classes on what it was like to be a good minister's wife. Then,

after we were married, we would go to these pastors' and wives' conferences, and they would talk about how, exactly, to act."

"Did the church expect you to entertain and foot the bill for it, or did you get an allowance?"

"We were expected to entertain. Our salary was \$1200 a month, in the 1980s, with three kids. We would meet new people on Sunday, and David would introduce himself and try to pull them into the church. Every Friday night we would have four or five couples to dinner. I had books and books of recipes where you could make a diner for five or six couples really cheaply. We had a lot of lasagna and Chicken Divine.

"We lived in the parsonage and didn't pay rent, so I suppose that's why they expected so many social events. The house was always open to everyone. Young kids would come through the house on Sunday mornings to go to the

"Women are not to speak in church. They are not to hold any roles of authority or leadership because they caused the downfall of mankind."

bathroom, and everyone felt like the parsonage was their property. As a farm kid growing up in Montana, we had lots of privacy. It was hard for me to move into a place where I had no solitude."

The Cross' marriage became increasingly strained, and David finally confessed to having an addiction to strip clubs.

"That evening when he came home and confessed and I actu-

ally realized what was going on, it was so devastating. I was totally blindsided. I had no idea he had been living this double life.

"When guys like Tim Haggard and Jimmy Swaggart were found out, I know a lot of people thought, 'God, didn't their wives have any idea?' But these personality types are so used to pulling the wool over people's eyes and presenting a perfect image to the public, they

the sheriff's department is highlighted at the museum, which is located "just feet away" from the original cobblestone jail site, built in 1850. The museum boasts artifacts, photographs, equipment, uniforms, and vehicles, along with exhibits from each of the departments making up the organization such as crime scene, K-9, court service, detentions, crime lab, bomb squad, and many others. Find the

museum at 2384 San Diego Avenue; 619-260-1850. (OLD TOWN)

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

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"

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TALENT UPDATE

18-year-old **Armand Hammer** from Beverly Hills. In addition to modeling, he is also an actor, making his successful debut in the feature film **Flicka**.

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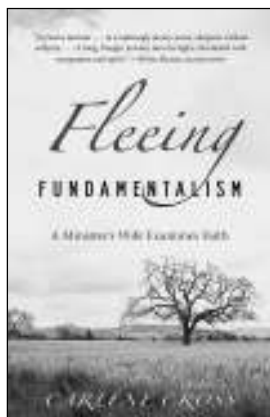
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are able to pull it off."

With promises of reform and a renewed commitment to their marriage, David insisted that they begin socializing with select couples from the church. Evenings in Seattle drinking and dancing led to late night hot-tubbing and increasingly risqué behavior. Eventually, David resumed his visits to strip clubs,

and the marriage dissolved.

"Where did he find the money for strip clubs and drinking?"

"That was one of the things I was furious about. We were living off fumes, and I was doing everything I could just to pay the light bill. The second time I found out, I did so because I started watching the bank, and money would be missing. That is expensive stuff."

"Do you think there is a personality type that is more easily compelled toward or drawn into fundamentalism?"

"I think that fundamentalism offers closed systems and pat answers to very complicated questions. As such, it tends to appeal to people who want those pat answers — to people who want a system that doesn't force them to struggle with those issues. The minister or the Bible tells them what to believe, and most of the time it's the minister's interpreta-

tion of the Bible that tells them exactly which path to take."

"What keeps so many people in the system once they start to see through the cracks?"

"It's fear, I think. You invest emotionally and socially in a system, and all of your friends and family are there. You can't say, 'You know, I don't really believe in that concept of hell anymore.' 'Well, you're out of here.'"

"How have fundamentalism and politics changed by having been married for 30 years?"

"Fundamentalism has had a distinct effect on politics. Back in the '80s when the Moral Majority first began, I was part of that movement. I think the success of what happened was beyond their wildest expectations. They helped put Ronald Reagan in office, but Reagan separated his religion from politics and policy. This last administration has not done that."

"Do you hold much hope

that the role of women will change in fundamentalism?"

"I don't, because of their view of the Bible. If you approach the Bible as the literal word of God, it does say that. In I Corinthians 11 and 14, and II Timothy 2 and 9, it says that women are to be submissive. Women are not to speak in church. They are not to hold any roles of authority or leadership because they caused the downfall of mankind. Eve tempted Adam, and through Eve, sin came into the world. In Timothy, it actually says that women are easily deceived and that they are temptresses. It makes it out that women are not very bright and that when you are dealing with a woman, she's a temptress anyway."

"You seem to me to be the poster child for resilience."

"I think I always had a pretty solid idea of who I was as a person. I didn't have religion as a child, and I think for me that was

"I knew there would be some who really couldn't take it."

my saving grace. I had a sense of the world apart from religious dogma as a child.

"Even though I did buy into it, there was always a part of myself I held back from this world view. As I matured and grew older, it seemed so angry and unloving to me. As I began to hear the condemnation of the gay community and the subjugation of women, it just didn't sound to me like the love of God."

"Do you still have contact with any of the people from your former life?"

"I gave the book to the woman named Susan, whom I write about. I was afraid that she

would be furious, but she has been absolutely wonderful. She's been to several of my readings. She's still a Christian, but a much more liberal one. She left her abusive husband, Robert.

"There is one person that is very angry with me, I've heard through another friend. I knew there would be some who really couldn't take it. I understand that if you're reading about nude hot-tubbing in a book and if you were one of the participants, and maybe didn't want the whole world to know that you were nude hot-tubbing with the minister and his wife, you'd be upset."

—Jerry Miller

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)

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Calendar

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Events that are underlined occur after December 28.

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 CLASSICAL MUSIC**, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.

CLASSICAL

Holiday Pops! Enjoy the season musically when San Diego Symphony led by Matthew Garbutt is joined by San Diego Master Chorale, San Diego Children's Choir, and Crusader Bells, December 21–23. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday (\$20–\$65). Family Festival Pops concerts (with abbreviated program from the evening shows), Saturday, December 23, 2 p.m. (\$7–\$22, or \$30 for family of four). Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. Reservations: 619-235-0804. (DOWNTOWN)

Organ Concert, civic organist Carol Williams presents concert on Sunday, December 24, 2 p.m., in Spreckels Organ Pavilion. Free. 619-702-8138. (BALBOA PARK)

The Grammy Award-Winning Chamber Ensemble Kronos Quartet plans ArtPower concert on Friday, January 19, 8 p.m., in UCSD's Mandeville Auditorium. Program includes pieces by Thirlwell, Mansell, Charke, Branca, Narayan, and Santiago. Tickets: \$32, \$36, available at 858-534-TIXS. (LA JOLLA)

Who's the Reigning King of the Violin? Classical violin virtuoso Itzhak Perlman in concert, Thursday, January 25, 8 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). \$60–\$75. 760-839-4100. (ESCONDIDO)

ART LISTINGS

Events that are underlined occur after December 28.

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.

GALLERIES

"Within the Landscape," exhibit of fine art photographs by Lew Abulafia and Donna

Cosentino opens with reception on Thursday, December 21, 6 p.m., at Ordover Project (444 South Cedros Avenue, studio 172). 858-720-1121. Closes Sunday, January 14. (SOLANA BEACH)

ART MUSEUMS

California Center for the Arts Museum, "The Migrant Project: Contemporary California Farm Workers," with photographs and text by Rick Nahmias, offers "in-depth journey detailing the lives and struggles of today's California migrant farm workers." Work focuses on all aspects of migrant stories, including personal lives, family members, women's issues, creation of community.

Basic human emotions explored in paintings and mixed-media creations by Anna Zappoli Jenkins in "Where Do You Store These Dreams." Hugo Heredia's "Broken Chandeliers" boasts large-scale sculptures combining glass and metal in "impossibly intimate and beautiful configurations."

"Memoria del Hombre: A Muerto de Todos Retrospective" is a site-specific installation of "objects left behind over the 12-year span of the installation."

Exhibitions close on Sunday, January 28. The museum is located at 340 North Escondido Boulevard; 760-839-4120. (ESCONDIDO)

Mingei International Museum, "Eva Zeisel — Extraordinary Designer Craftsman at 100," draws on two large private California collections to chronicle the artist's 75-year career. By Zeisel's accounting, she's designed more than 100,000 objects for home and table. She was the first designer in this country to produce an all-white dinner service and first to teach ceramics as industrial design for mass

production rather than as handicraft. Closes Sunday, June 10, 2007.

"Grass and Gold — Nomads of Kazakhstan" focuses on important archaeological discoveries, including those in 1998-1999 at frozen burial site of Berel. Exhibit includes gold, silver, and bronze artifacts fashioned into small animal forms along with their stories of recovery, overview of the history and culture of Kazakhstan, and mythology of the Steppes. The art objects are being shown in the U.S. for the first time. Through Sunday, April 15.

The first university furniture design class in California was offered in 1948 by SDSU professor John Dirks, whose "elegant architectural sculptures combine various woods and acrylic." The retrospective "John Dirks, Sculptor" continues through Sunday, February 11.

The Mingei is located on square with San Diego Museum of Art. 619-239-0003. (BALBOA PARK)

Mingei International Museum — North County, "Folk Art of Mexico — Selections from the Collection of Mingei International" presents contemporary objects of daily use from throughout Mexico fashioned from tin, clay, wood, paper, and fiber. Exhibit "demonstrates the importance of family, community, religion, and fun."

"Pre-Columbian Art of Mexico — Selections from the Collection of Mingei International" highlights clay and stone objects. These objects "abound with material from myth and legend." Both exhibits close on Monday, January 15. Find the museum at 155 West Grand Avenue. 760-735-3355. (ESCONDIDO)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown, "Cerca Series: Amy Adler" and "Cerca Series: Glenn Kaino" con-

tinue through Sunday, February 4. Adler creates art fusing processes and outcomes of photography and drawing; she's exhibiting 12 large-format pastel drawings on canvas "based on a series of photographs Adler took of a young filmmaker directing Adler as the protagonist in her film." Kaino will create installations dealing with issues of individual versus group identity and aesthetic style as a form of social commentary.

See key sculptural works from permanent collection gathered in "Material Actions." All of the selected pieces "give the sentient body in action a central position in their artistic discourse." Closes Sunday, January 28.

Find the museum at 1001 Kettner Boulevard (at Broadway), directly across from the Santa Fe Railroad Depot. 619-234-1001. (DOWNTOWN)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla, "TRANSactions: Contemporary Latin American and Latino Art" — closing on Sunday, May 13 — features approximately 50 works by 48 artists from museum's permanent collection. Showcased pieces demonstrate "diversity and hybridity of contemporary Latin American art," with artists working across media and between disciplines.

Concurrently, see site-specific installation by Milwaukee-based Argentinean artist Santiago Cucllu. His art juxtaposes images of progressive, historical figures and events with his personal experiences. This piece engages the architecture and oceanfront site of museum.

"Brian Ulrich: Copia" features 14 large-scale photographs documenting shopping habits of Americans. Photographs were taken in "big-box" retail stores such as Target, Wal-Mart using medium-format film camera with waist-level viewfinder; covert vantage point allowed artist to capture "massive scale and halogen clarity of the hyper-real spaces." Closes Sunday, May 13.

Find the museum at 700 Prospect Street. 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

Museum of Photographic Arts, "The Roads Most Traveled: Photographs of Migration by Don Bartletti" examines lives of migratory workers in search of economic survival. Exhibit including 90 photographs by Pulitzer Prize-winner Bartletti continues through Sunday, January 14.

"Mexico: The Revolution and Beyond — Photographs by Agustin Victor Casasola, 1900–1940" features more than 80 "of the best and most significant images from Casasola's archive at the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia

in Mexico City." Images document Mexican Revolution and industrial revolution in "streets, homes, cafés, and countrysides of Mexico." Closes Sunday, January 7.

Find the museum in the Casa de Balboa building, at 1649 El Prado; 619-238-7559. (BALBOA PARK)

Oceanside Museum of Art, "Quilt Visions 2006" offers 43 works of art from 725 entries submitted by 318 artists from 20 countries. Jurors Jane Dunnewold, Patricia Malarcher, Lloyd Herman selected pieces offering "surprises in design and nontraditional materials." Closes Sunday, January 21. Find the museum at 704 Pier View Way. 760-721-2787. (OCEANSIDE)

San Diego Museum of Art, "Personal Views: Regarding Private Collections in San Diego" features 25 "of the finest private collections to be found in the San Diego area." The collections highlight historical artworks from the 19th and 20th Centuries, including works in variety of media by Rembrandt, Cassatt, Monet, O'Keeffe, de Kooning, Kahlo, Goldin. Closes Sunday, January 7.

"Paper Traces: Latin American Prints and Drawings from the Collection at SDMA" continues through December, highlighting approximately 60 Latin American and U.S.-Latino works on paper. The prints, drawings, posters, portfolios in exhibit "confirm the vitality of paper as a medium with a particular historic outline of its own."

"Backs," on exhibit through Sunday, February 18, focuses on backs of five paintings where important information such as age and ownership is revealed. Works are drawn from museum's European collection. Labels, inscriptions, and markings divulge details of painting's history of attribution, exhibition, ownership, sale.

For further information, call 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

Timken Museum of Art, "Guercino: Stylistic Evolution in Focus" explores dramatic shift in artistic style of Il Guercino, considered one of the most prolific and successful artists of 17th Century. At heart of exhibit is Timken's *Return of the Prodigal Son*, a theme Guercino painted a number of times over his life, shown with versions on loan from Borghese Gallery in Rome, and Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna. This is the first time these three works have been shown together. Closes Sunday, January 7.

Permanent collection includes European masters, 19th-Century American paintings, and Russian icons. 619-239-5548. (BALBOA PARK)

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Christmas Double Twist

But where else in a Christmas show will you hear public officials get grilled?

For a pair of minutes it looked as if Teatro Mascara Majica's ever-popular, always hot-plate topical *Pastorela* had gone traditional. The shepherds came out and made everybody sing "Jingle Bells" — I mean, like, "Jingle Bells"? Then they divided the Cassius Carter into four sections for a singing competition. Well, just as my group began belting that "sleighing song" like an anthem, a shepherd cut us off. She waved a dismissing hand, held her nose with a P.U. sign, and said, "I'd rather listen to Brian Bilbray do attack ads!"

Here's the 411: *La Pastorela de la Estrella*'s as moving, current, and funny as ever. Max Branscomb, who updates the show each year, remains one of my favorite San Diego writers. In fact, given the quality of his script — all in verse — you wonder how he has time to teach journalism at Southwestern College.

Pastorelas tell the story of shepherds following a star to Bethlehem. Along the way, fearing a threat to his domain — a "regime change" — Lucifer tries to tempt them from going. Over the years, Teatro Mascara Majica has created a hybrid, San Diego-specific *pastorela*, combining old and new in always inventive ways.

Branscomb's Lucifer, for example, loves "the smell of sulfur in the morning." At one point he disguises himself as Howie Mandel doing *Deal or No Deal*. When a contestant opts for the box, it's empty. "Look," Ed Hollingsworth's Lucifer

points inside, evil eyes bugging, "it says you're going to hell."

Fortunately for the shepherds, Archangels Michael and Gabriel always have their back. Disguised as the Blues Brothers, when they did Sam and Dave's "Soul Man," Joseph Molina (Michael) and Sasky Sengapon (Gabriel) not only scared the devils away; they were so spot-on they showed the four-year-old

kid, dancing all night in the front row, about ten new moves.

And hey, this time when Jake and Elwood claim they're "on a mission from God," they aren't kidding.

Other cameo appearances include Selena (Erica Parast singing "Bidi Bidi Bom Bom"), Superman, and Nacho Libre, the caped crusaders performed by Molina. The night I saw the show, when Nacho sang the Village People's "Y.M.C.A.," the audience went nuts, forming the letters with their arms and dancing in the aisles.

Director William Virchis, who calls *pastorelas* the "B-plot of the Nativity," still knows how to rouse spirits and honor the folk tradition. Another hybrid: most of the show's in English, but the songs, and some choice asides, are in Spanish — and when Jessica Lerner enters as the Star of Bethlehem singing "Noche de Paz" ("Silent Night"), all kidding disappears.

So the reverence is there. But where else in a Christmas show will you hear public officials get

REVIEW

JEFF SMITH



Willie Green in *La Pastorela de la Estrella*

La Pastorela de la Estrella, by Max Branscomb

Cassius Carter Centre Stage, Simon Edison Centre for the Performing Arts, Balboa Park
Directed by William Virchis; cast: Willie Green, Sasky Sengapon, Ed Hollingsworth, Timothy Paul Evans, Joseph Molina, Erica Parast, Tony Calingay, Bryant Hernandez, Jessica Lerner, Anthony Rosa, Dulce Fernandez, Allyson Guatno, Abraham Guerrero, Donna Padilla, Anthony Hamm, Sylvia Enrique, Randy Herman, Harold Meadows, Chuck Hart, Ary Hernandez, Marine Iserra, Sean Paredes; costumes, April Lowry-Leon; lighting, Eusevio Cordoba; sound, Robin Whitehouse; music director, Don Higgenbotham

Playing through December 23; Tuesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Matinee Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-234-5623.

Lamb's Players Festival of Christmas, by Kerry Meads

Lamb's Players Theatre, 1142 Orange Avenue, Coronado
Directed by Deborah Gilmour Smyth; cast: Meads, David Cochran Heath, Jim Chovick, Ian Brinnstool, Season Duffy, Doren Elias, K.B. Mercer, Jon Lorenz, Kelli Kelley, Kurt Norby; scenic design, Mike Buckley; costumes, Jeanne Reith; lighting, Nathan Peirson; sound, Patrick Duffy; choreography, Pamela Turner
Playing 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 (and Thursday, December 21, and Friday, December 22) at 4:00 p.m. and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-437-0600.

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San Diego Reader December 21, 2006 75

Calendar

THEATER

grilled (“If there’s anything scarier than the vice president, it’s the vice president with a *rifle*”). And where else will the Archangel Michael tell the devil, “Talk is cheap, Lucifer, unless it’s on Verizon.”

* * *

Earlier this year, Cris O’Byron played ingenious piano interludes in the Old Globe’s *Constant Wife* and almost stole the show. He’s concluded 2006 not with thievery but above-the-board mastery. A hallmark of Lamb’s Players annual *Festival of Christmas* is its music. The company gives standards inventive twists and rediscovers forgotten songs. This year, O’Byron and Vanda Eggington’s arrangements rank among the festival’s best.

Kerry Meads set her script in San Diego’s Little Italy — originally called “Little Venice” — in 1949. The radio era’s nearing an end (and corporations like Woolworth are just beginning to “squash the little guy”). The period allows O’Byron and Eggington to convert “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” and others into soft, four-part bebop harmonies, the quartet stretching notes like pulled taffy (best of show: don’t ask how four men sipping coffee at Gold’s Fountain suddenly perform a choreographed rou-



Jon Lorenz, Kelli Kelley, Kurt Norby in Lamb’s Players Festival of Christmas

tine that includes spinning on red stools; just enjoy their version of David Holt and Sammy Cahn’s “Christmas Blues”).

The story’s a mite lengthy, and don’t for one minute think that anyone, by evening’s end, will have a dream left unfulfilled: the Bops will get their break; Bernice (K.B. Mercer as a tough-talking ex-Rosie-the-Riveter) will get to meet the mysterious “Voice of San Diego” on KBOP radio; patient Grace Gabbiano (Kerry Meads) will get her man and her son (Ian Brinnstool) a father. Along the way some of the transformations are almost as stark as Scrooge’s. Doren Elias doubles as a nerd who repairs radios and the mellifluous radio “Voice” — and makes the connection believable. As does David Cochran Heath. He plays

Joe, a middle-aged milkman who still lives with his mother (every time she calls — every time the fountain phone rings, for that matter — he’s out the door). Love blooms, and Joe grows. Heath’s singing of “You’re All I Want for Christmas” marks Joe’s transition and stops the show. ■

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.

An American Christmas

Lamb’s Players presents an “interactive feast and celebration,” set 100 years ago, at the Hotel del Coronado’s Grand Ballroom. HOTEL DEL CORONADO, 1500 ORANGE AVENUE, THROUGH DECEMBER 30; NIGHTLY AT 6:30 P.M. 619-437-0600.

Bacchae

King Pentheus has a problem. The women of his city, seven-gated Thebes, have fled to the mountains and worship a deity new to Greece, Dionysus. Are they god-inspired, or just brainwashed cult groupies? 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. For 6th@Penn, director Douglas Lay and designer Vincent Sneddom turned the small space into a jungle of palm fronds and dripping burlap. Sturdy tree trunks even support the *bacchantes*, who swing on their branches. The production overall’s a mix. Lay has an affinity for Greek drama, especially keeping the stage alive. His cast, however, ranges from high caliber — Rhys Green’s moving Cadmus shocked into exile; Bonnie Stone’s instant of horrific recognition as Pentheus’s mother, Agave, who tore him to shreds — to amateurish. Most speeches begin with a shout, which leaves them (and Marianne McDonald’s crisp, modernized translation) little room to grow. As a result the energy often tapers. The play’s a wonder, though, packed with contemporary 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?

Worth a try.

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. 619-688-9210.

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 SATURDAY AT 2:00 P.M.; *THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI*, THURSDAY AND SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. 760-806-7905.

A Holiday Full of Moxie

Moxie Theatre presents two world-premiere “holiday comedies”: *A Claus for Alarm* by Amy Chini and Tom Zohar, and Jennifer Eve Thorn’s *Mrs. Frank’s Third Grade Class Presents*. FLORA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 1690 WANDERING ROAD, ENCINITAS, THROUGH DECEMBER 23; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 760-634-3965.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Well, almost stole. The Green Meanie comes close but gets foiled in the end. The Old Globe’s *Grinch*, adapted from the Dr. Seuss book by Timothy Mason and directed by Jack O’Brien, is as crisp and playful as ever. Scenic designer John Lee Beatty’s mobile snowdrifts, Robert Morgan’s costumes (waddling Who’s shaped like bowling pins and pears in candy cane colors), Jay Goede’s Grinch, a green Sasquatch who really needs to take his meds (and who wants to have a “heart to heartless” talk with irrepressible Cindy Lou) — all combine in a swirling theatricality. Now in its ninth year, *Grinch* has become a local holiday institution. The night I saw it, at least half the audience was under 12, and many seeing live theater, quite possibly, for the first time. And what has become another praiseworthy *Grinch* tradition: at least 75 percent of the cast comes from San Diego.

Worth a try.

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 Wonderful Life

In Cygnet Theatre’s holiday show, you not only watch the familiar story of George Bailey, you also watch how it’s made in a 1947 radio studio: announcers, flashing applause signs, even a commercial for Lux soap. A change happens toward the end, however. The fiction trumps the fact. As George undergoes an existentialist identity crisis, the actors become their characters,

the story steps forward, and how it’s being made disappears. Along the way, the how’s a kick, especially Scott Paulson’s sounds — like a popped top hat for an opening parachute, or a flicked ice cream scoop for crickets. Directed by Sean Murray, wearing Jeanne Reith’s wide-body, double-breasted suits and lighter-than-air dresses, the cast performs in the hyper-acting style of the period. As George, Tom Andrew has the antsy “shoot the works” style down pat. His performance recalls Jimmy Stewart’s in the movie, true. But the bigger crime would be if it didn’t. Amy Beidel, Melissa Fernandes, and Veronica Murphy sing (and flash those cinemascope post-WWII smiles) beautifully: their spunky commercial for “Lux Toilet Cake” isn’t just a highlight of the show. It’s one of the most memorable set pieces of 2006.

Worth a try.

CYGNET THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, COLLEGE AREA, THROUGH DECEMBER 24; THURSDAY 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

Reviewed this issue. 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 Pastorela de la Estrella

Reviewed this issue. CASSIUS CARTER CENTRE STAGE, SIMON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, BALBOA PARK, THROUGH DECEMBER 23; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-234-5623.

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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, THROUGH DECEMBER 23; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22 AND 23, 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.

Win, Place, or Die...My Jockeys Are Killing Me!
Mystery Cafe Dinner Theatre presents James Pasarella and Patricia Harris-Smith's interactive "race-track romp." It's opening weekend at Upson Downs, and the Thoroughbred Club'll never be the same. Pasarella directed.
IMPERIAL HOUSE RESTAURANT, 505 KALMIA STREET, HILLCREST, OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-544-1600.

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 ca-reening 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, THROUGH DECEMBER 31; 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.

THEATER DIRECTORY

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CHRIS MURRAY & DJ LE CHUD

Fri 12/22 • 9:00 PM

**THE GREYBOY
ALLSTARS**

Sat 12/23 • 9:00 PM

THE KNITTERS
FEATURING JOHN DOE,
EXENE CERVENKA, DAVE ALVIN,
JONNY RAY BARTEL &
DJ BONEBRAKE

THE FARMERS

Wed 12/27 • 9:00 PM

PARTICLE

**CHICAGO AFROBEAT
PROJECT**

Thur 12/28 • 9:00 PM

B-SIDE PLAYERS

**DELTA NOVE
DJ SLOEPOKE**

Fri 12/29 • 9:00 PM

BLACKALICIOUS

**PIGEON JOHN • JAH
DJ DEMON**

Sat 12/30 • 9:00 PM

NEW YEAR'S EVE

**PRIZE
GIVEAWAYS**

**STEVE POLTZ &
THE RUGBURNS**

Sun 12/31 • 9:00 PM

**KEEPING IT
WEIRD
& FRIENDS
COMEDY
SHOW**

**FEATURING
PATRICK DEGUIRE,
DRIZZ, RICK GENE &
WALLY WANG**

Wed 1/3 • 8:00 PM

TWO NIGHTS!

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LEVY**

**1/4 DIEGO ROOTS
1/5 B-FOUNDATION**

Thu 1/4 & Fri 1/5 • 9:00 PM

**DENNIS QUAID
& THE SHARKS**

BILLY WATSON

Sat 1/6 • 9:00 PM

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**TIM FLANNERY, EVE SELIS,
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Tue 1/9 • 8:00 PM

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BLOWOUT**

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MARK HUMMEL
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Wed 1/10 • 7:30 PM

GREG LASWELL

**ANYA MARINA
RYAN CALHOUN**

Thu 1/11 • 9:00 PM

**LONG BEACH
SHORTBUS**

**DUMBLUCK
GOOD INTENTIONS**

Fri 1/12 • 9:00 PM

DEAD MAN'S PARTY

ZOOZ

Sat 1/13 • 9:00 PM

RHETT MILLER

MATT CURRERI

Sun 1/14 • 8:00 PM

**DIRTY DOZEN
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**JUST
ADDED!**

**THE K23
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PRESENTS**

Sat 1/20 • 9:00 PM

**FM 94.9 PRESENTS
COLD WAR KIDS**

PIERS FACCHINI & GUEST

Mon 1/22 • 9:00 PM

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Wed 1/24 • 8:00 PM

CARBON LEAF

W/GUEST

Thu 1/25 • 9:00 PM

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SUPER DIAMOND**

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1/27 RANDY FONTAINE &
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1/26 & 1/27 • 9:00 PM

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2/1 Sister Hazel	2/8 Poncho Sanchez	2/16 Bob Schneider Band	3/3 New Monsoon	4/26 Railroad Earth
2/2 The English Beat	2/9 Common Sense	2/17 The Hacienda Brothers	3/8 Leo Kottke & David Lindley	6/17 Johnny Winter
2/3 Cat Empire	2/15 Todd Snider	2/23 The Aggrolites	4/5 Dark Star Orchestra	6/21 Iris DeMent

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Spittin' Writtens "The best way to get at somebody is by going after their looks, their name, their weight, size, shape, what they are wearing,

the other night we had this guy walk in named AJ. He's, like, 'I'm the baddest rapper. Let me get on up on that mike, let me spit that fire.' "

So Mason called him out. "I said 'Your name is AJ/ You ain't no DJ/ You're so wack I wouldn't even sell your ass on eBay.' He choked after that. He was afraid to come up. He

cars showed up right in front [of the Static Lounge] at about 9:30. They had their lights on.

Nobody wants to come in with two cop cars out front. I asked them if there was any way they could go somewhere else — that I had a show to do. They said, 'I don't give a fuck about your show.'

"I walked in, grabbed the microphone, and started freestyling about how fucked the corrupt cops were. They came in and started threatening an employee, saying they were going to go to the ABC and have their license revoked. The cop said to me, 'Say you're sorry.' I was shaking my head no. I told them to go ahead and go to the ABC, since I knew everything was legal. They took off."

Now Mason says he wants to go to court over the canceled December 16 show.

"We have a contract. I've never taken anyone to court, but I told her I will sue her."

"He doesn't have a contract," Matthews said by

phone. When details of a contract Mason had were outlined to her, she said she



PHOTOGRAPH BY RYAN LOYKO

JEDY BATTLE-RAPS THE FIVE-O

had to look for it, and then she found the contract. "I guess I have to give him a show," she said.

Mason (www.myspace.com/bryanmason) says he's arranging a January 28 battle at the Honey Bee Hive.

— Ken Leighton

Takin' a Lickin' How could metal monster Glenn Danzig draw 2300 fans to Soma in March but bring in only 895 to the same venue in November? In March, opening band Lamb of God attracted fans; and Doyle, a former Misfit member with Danzig, wasn't playing guitar in November. Soma owner Len Paul says there were other reasons for the lower

attendance.

"In my opinion [the loss of \$15,000 in projected revenue] was because the market was flooded with concerts."

According to Paul, agents route a disproportionate number of tours during the last three months of the year; promoters must buy the acts to remain competitive.

"Some of these tours could just as well come through in January or February, but the agents don't care."

Paul says well-attended radio station-sponsored shows "suck the air" out of the market, making it so concertgoers are less likely to spend money on other shows. Recent sold-out events include 91X's AFI/My Chemical Romance show at ipayOne Center and the 94/9-sponsored Modest Mouse concert at UCSD's RIMAC.

"In the old Soma days ['80s], you'd be lucky to get two or three big shows a month. Now you get two or three big shows a week."

Insiders say promoters lost money on the following concerts this year: the Brad Paisley and Cult/Dashboard Confessional shows at Coors

Amphitheatre; Chris Cagle at ipayOne Center; and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, who were to appear at UCSD's RIMAC



DANZIG AND DOYLE AS MISFITS

but were moved to Soma due to weak ticket sales.

— Ken Leighton

Unhappy Camper Roots rockers Tapwater, in the middle of a 72-gig, 12-state tour, recently had a three-day break. They decided to camp through the Grand Canyon, Petrified Forest, and Canyon de Chelly in an RV they call iRVin.

"We hit the store, bought all sorts of barbecue food, snacks, and, of course, beer and wine," wrote band manager Anne Tropeano in a recent e-mail. "We pulled into Canyon de Chelly at 10:30 pm. Steve [Moore, lead

blurt

the inside track

their mama, or their girlfriend," says 24-year-old Bryan Mason, an organizer of freestyle B-boy battles. He has staged competitive rap shows at a couple of North County nightclubs and downtown at the Static Lounge on Broadway.

"Battle rappers have trouble getting into the music industry," says Mason, who performs as Jedy (pronounced Jedeye). "If you just spit writtens [repeat memorized lyrics], you're just a fake-ass gimmick.... Just

was shell-shocked."

Mason's aggressive nature behind the mike cost him his December 16 show at the Static Lounge.

Venue owner Lupe Matthews says, "The police came here and said [Mason] was disturbing them [the night of his December 8 show]. They said they were out front ticketing somebody and he started calling them names.... They threatened to take away my entertainment license."

Mason replies: "Two cop

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**STEPPING
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

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NEW YEAR'S EVE



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DJ DEMON**



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FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

**BEAUTIFUL TROUBLE • FONO
KEMISTRY • CALL DOWN FIRE**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6



**Wild
Child**

(Doors
Tribute)

**DAZED &
CONFUSED**
(Led Zeppelin
Tribute)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12



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TILL MIDNIGHT**



SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 18



UPCOMING

1/13 **TAINTED LOVE** (80's Tribute) • 1/20 **B-SIDE PLAYERS**
1/27 **STRANGER** • 2/2 **DIEGO ROOTS**

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Calendar
MUSIC SCENEblurt
continued

vocals/guitar] got out of iRVin to talk privately to his dad on the phone. Within a minute or so, a camper came over and got in his face, telling Steve he didn't want to hear him talk on his phone all night. Steve was alarmed, moved away, hung up with his dad, and came back inside the RV to tell us what happened."

The band spent the next hour drinking beers in the RV and chatting. At about 11:30 p.m., Ravi and two of the other guys exited the RV to build a fire and cook some food.

"Within a few minutes, the same camper came back and started yelling," Tropeano said. "I rushed out of the RV just in time to see the guy sucker-punch Ravi in the face. Ravi pushed the guy off him, and the whole band started chasing him out of the campsite. I, as the manager, wanted them to calm down and leave the guy alone. I got in between them and started yelling — ordering — everyone to go back to the RV. *This guy could have a gun*, I thought. He was yelling all sorts of things at Ravi, telling him, 'Just the two of us,' and 'If there weren't six of you, I'd kick your ass....'"

At that point the assailant rushed off into the dark, shouting, "I'll be back!"

"Ravi was very angry and wanted to press charges," Tropeano continued. "We found a number on the info

board, which happened to be right next to iRVin. Ravi called the park ranger after-hours number, which was actually the Navajo Police. As Ravi hung up the phone, the guy returned yet again. He walked over to his truck [which was parked next to his tent]. Wes [Elliot, bass] shined a flashlight on him and shouted, 'Hey, man, what are you getting in there?' The camper pulled out an axe and started going toward Wes with it. The whole band gasped and backed up. He had the axe high in the air like he was going to start swinging it...and right then two Navajo police cruisers pulled up just in time to catch him in the



TAPWATER EVADES AXEMAN

headlights with the axe in the air....

"As soon as the camper saw them pull up, he swung the axe into a tree stump. The cops then spread out, two approaching him and two approaching us. After about two hours of questioning, the cops believed our story and arrested him. He was taken to jail in Flagstaff, and we found out the next day that the judge ruled to hold him for psychiatric evaluation. As it stands now, Ravi is waiting to hear if his appearance in court is necessary."

Tapwater plays O'Connell's on January 13.

— Edwin Decker

Crash In the early-morning hours of December 4, James Balmer and Pascal Dickinson of the local band Fing were

OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: MUSIC TRADER

JAY ALLEN SANFORD



OVERHEARD? EMAIL JAS2669@AOL.COM



WWW.MYSPACE.COM/JAYALLENSANFORD

involved in a single-car collision that left one passenger, Angela Ainslie, dead. A fourth passenger received minor injuries.

Balmer, who was driving, was seriously injured and remains in a coma at Sharp Memorial Hospital. Dickinson, who was in the passenger seat, was also hurt in the crash.

"I had a concussion, whiplash, hematoma of the kidneys, [and] internal bleeding," says Dickinson. "Nothing broke, but I was just really badly beaten up."

The accident occurred on the 163 north freeway shortly after the band played an Alibi show in Hillcrest. Dickinson would not elaborate on the cause of the accident but did say that the vehicle spun out and "hit a wall."

"Before I knew it we were losing control and starting to spin, and I just kind of blacked out," says Dickinson. "When I woke up there was somebody outside of the car that was trying to rip the door off. I look[ed] over at James and he was snoring. He was

knocked unconscious."

Balmer's condition seems to be improving.

"[The other day], he clenched his fist, he shrugged his shoulder, [and] he shed some tears," Dickinson says. "The doctors are very hopeful that he'll come out of it."

Fing has canceled their upcoming shows. Dickinson advises fans to check their MySpace page (myspace.com/



PHOTOGRAPH FROM WWW.MYSPACE.COM/FINGAND

HARD TIMES FOR FING

fingband) for updates.

A gathering was recently held for Ainslie at the Roseary Room in San Diego.

— Brian Carver

Angels and Airplay The December 11 Soma show was the first local gig for (+44), which features former blink drummer Travis Barker and bassist/front man Mark Hoppus. Guitarist Tom

DeLonge, the other one-third of blink, proceeds with Angels & Airwaves.

The (+44) concert drew about 2000 to Soma, which meant it was about 400 short of a sellout. Angels & Airwaves played their first local show last spring at the House of Blues (1100 capacity), which sold out immediately.

Angels & Airwaves' first single, "The Adventure," broke the top 5 on the *Radio & Records* alternative radio airplay chart; (+44)'s single, "While Your Heart Stops Beating," has only broken the top 20.

"Angels & Airwaves went off to do something completely different," says a music-biz insider. "(+44) did not stretch beyond blink-182. They sound like blink-182 without Tom. I think Angels & Airwaves has more staying power."

Another insider predicts that (+44) will flourish.

"It all comes down to star power, and Mark has it. There were 650 people lined up to meet Mark after the [Soma] show. He has huge charm....

"The only thing that

worked against (+44) is that Travis broke his arm, and that set everything back.... Their first show was supposed to be October 13 but it was postponed [until December 11], and that hurt them."



(+44), BLINK'S PUNK PART

"I think they are better than blink," said Robert Clark, 16, who was at the (+44) Soma show. "But blink-182 was the best thing that ever happened to planet earth."

Kyle, 17, said, "Angels & Airwaves are the emo part of blink-182, and (+44) is the punk part."

— Ken Leighton

CONTRIBUTORS

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A Scotsman at Sea

"I got dragged into a heckling match with some drunk woman who demanded we play ABBA."

How would singer/songwriter Colin Clyne describe his music? "Imagine the love child of Mike Myers's Fat Bastard and Neil Young."

Originally from Stonehaven, Scotland, and raised in the U.K., Clyne frequently takes jobs aboard fishing boats traveling to Europe, west Africa, and even the Arctic Circle. "My last album, *Songs from the Cold Store*, was inspired by the refrigerated-food store on one of the ships I work on. This was the only place I could play and sing loud without waking the night-shift workers on the ship. Imagine the cook's first impression when he came into the store to find me wrapped up in a big jacket, notepad and guitar in hand! Once I had played him some Beatles songs and helped him with the frozen steaks, I had the deal for my practice room all sewn up."

WHAT'S IN YOUR CD PLAYER?

1. Oasis, *Definitely Maybe* ("I drank, partied, loved, cried, fought, played pool, and dreamt of a better life to this album.")
2. The Stone Roses, self-titled ("Spangled guitars and fantastic melodies which brought the '80s and '90s into a crash collision.")
3. R.E.M., *Out of Time* ("I was in high school, and I bought this from a guy who I think stole it from his older brother.")

4. The Beatles, *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* ("Almost 40 years later and people are still trying to re-create this.")
5. Wolfmother, self-titled ("Unashamedly brilliant stuff, showing all their influences.")

LISTS

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

DESERT ISLAND DVDs?

1. *Highlander* ("Although I'm still scratching my head over why a Scotsman plays an Egyptian and

a Frenchman plays a Scotsman.")

2. *The Godfather* ("Great book, great film.")

3. *Rocky III* ("Mr. T and Hulk Hogan in the same film clinches it for me.")

4. *The Matrix* ("Genius idea, with great leather jackets and cool shades.")

5. *Trainspotting* ("Whenever my lady and I get homesick, we watch a British film.")

HAD A SUPERNATURAL ENCOUNTER?

"We stayed at a hotel in New Orleans that was reputed to be the most haunted in the town. We were cynical at first, but then we were awoken by our toilet gurgling, and then it exploded with a jet of water shooting out of it! Perhaps trapped air...?"

FAVORITE TV SHOWS?

1. *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* ("I think he's funny, and I like the band.")
2. *My Name Is Earl* ("Great idea.")

3. *Friends* ("Witty and easy viewing.")
4. *Black Adder* ("Very funny British comedy.")
5. *Chewin' the Fat* ("Scottish comedy, with accents so thick that subtitles are a must.")

WORST GIG?

"I played in my hometown in Scotland a few years ago and got dragged into a heckling match with some drunk, middle-aged woman who demanded we play ABBA. I backed down, and we played the closest thing we had to that — AC/DC."

FAVORITE LOCAL EATERY?

"Pizza Port [Solana Beach, Carlsbad], where you make your own pizza, and they serve local beer."

BIGGEST POLITICAL CONCERN?

"California needs to sort out public transport and get people walking when they can. It astounds me at times."

FINISH THIS SENTENCE: "IF THEY MADE A MOVIE OF MY LIFE..."

"...I'd have some serious explaining to do."



Colin Clyne

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU FEW WOULD KNOW OR GUESS?

"When I was 19, and drunk, I got a Superman tattoo after seeing one on a poster of Bon Jovi." ■

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Calendar
CONCERTS

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THIS WEEK'S
CONCERTS

THURSDAY

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.

SATURDAY

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.

WEDNESDAY

The Knitters: Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, December 27, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

UPCOMING
CONCERTS

DECEMBER

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

Blackalicious: Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, December 30, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

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

Steve Poltz & the Rugburns: Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, December 31, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

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.

Barrington Levy: Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, January 4, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

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

Barrington Levy: Belly Up Tavern, Friday, January 5, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Dennis Quaid & the Sharks: Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, January 6, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

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.

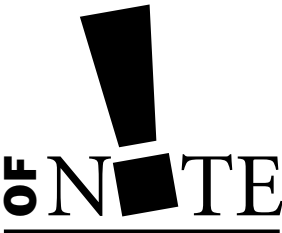
Justin Timberlake and Pink: ipayOne Center, Monday, January 8, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

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.



BY DAVE GOOD

From the bio on the **Knitters'** webpage: "When we played for Ralph Peer in Bristol, Tennessee, back in '27," Dave Alvin recalls with a nostalgic chuckle, "there wasn't what you'd call 'electric' music. It was just us, Jimmie Rodgers, and the Carter Family, with our acoustic guitars, singing into one microphone. Too bad the masters from that session fell off the back of a Model A. Our career might have gotten started sooner." The bio unfolds in similar fashion, with each member of the Knitters recounting similar tales from the heartland of American music, all of it fantastic, funny stuff, and with the exception of names and places, little of it is true.

It is all a joke, one that sets the tone of the band. The Knitters are a side project of

John Doe, Exene Cervenka, D.J. Bonebrake of X, with **Dave Alvin** of Blasters fame on guitar and **Johnny Ray Bartel** on bass. They've recently recorded their second CD. Following *Poor Little Critter on the Road*, which was released back in the mid-'80s, *The Modern Sounds of the Knitters* violates all sorts of musical contracts by combining punk mentality with country, rockability, and folk. *Modern Sounds* otherwise defies categorization.

The Knitters could have fit right into Christopher Guest's folk-music mockumentary *A Mighty Wind*. Or take it one step further. Picture *Hee Haw*, but with brains, loud amps, and tattoos. And John Doe — one of my favorite singer/songwriters, just for the sheer left turns his material takes, Doe has a knack for reworking the worst musical ideas into something resembling high art. Add Dave Alvin, a walking compendium of every cool sound a guitar can make (and Exene, who



THE KNITTERS

can take anything she sings to the next level), and you have the essence of the band. It is musical buffoonery for certain, but performed by influential musicians with pasts that are far more interesting than their biographical contrivances.

THE KNITTERS, Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, December 27, 9 p.m. 858-481-8140. \$22.

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.

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.

Slayer: Soma, Friday, January 26, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

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.

Everclear: House of Blues, Monday, January 29, 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.

The English Beat: Belly Up Tavern, Friday, February 2, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Maná: ipayOne Center, Friday, February 9, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Maná: ipayOne Center, Saturday, February 10, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

The Roots: House of Blues, Monday, February 12, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Todd Snider: Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, February 15, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Sound Tribe Sector Nine: House of Blues, Friday, February 16, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

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Calendar CONCERTS

Bob Schneider: Belly Up Tavern, Friday, February 16, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Cradle of Filth: House of Blues, Sunday, February 18, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Pete Yorn: House of Blues, Monday, February 19, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

"Taste of Chaos" with the **Used**, **30 Seconds to Mars**, **Senses Fail**, and more: ipayOne Center, Wednesday, February 21, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Cheap Trick: 4th & B, Thursday, February 22, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Michael Franti & Spearhead: 4th & B, Friday, February 23, 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.

Ozomatli: Belly Up Tavern, Friday, March 9, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Ozomatli: Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, March 10, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Willy Porter:

AcousticMusicSanDiego, Sunday, March 11, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Eric Clapton and J.J. 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.

Byron Berline:

AcousticMusicSanDiego, Sunday, March 18, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Badly Drawn Boy: House of Blues, Wednesday, March 21, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Rod Stewart: Cox Arena, Saturday, March 24, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-594-0429.

Boney James: Spreckels Theatre, Wednesday, March 28, 121 Broadway, downtown. 619-235-9500.

Jeremy Camp: House of Blues, Wednesday, March 28, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Switchfoot: Soma, Saturday, March 31, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

APRIL

Josh Groban: ipayOne Center, Friday, April 6, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Relient K: House of Blues, Wednesday, April 11, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

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.

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SATURDAY 12/23 Live Music — Hard Rock Rockola The Thrill Killers Mindstress Flashbang The Warden	SATURDAY 12/30 Military Appreciation Night Universal Medicine American Hitmen Decompression \$2 Bud/Bud Lites 10 pm-midnight

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Calendar CLUBS

DANCE

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Air Conditioned: Thursdays, *Orange Kiss* featuring DJ Dr. Sergio and Gage. Fridays, old-skool disco, funk, and '80s with DJ Junior. Saturdays, *Juicy*, classic booty-shakin' music with Mike Czech. Sundays, guest DJ night. Wednesdays, *RockBoxx*, '70s and '80s rock. 4673 30th Street, North Park. 619-501-9831.

Brass Rail: Fridays, New York and Chicago house-music journeys. 3796 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-298-2233.

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.

Characters 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.;



El Vez, December 23, The Casbah

21 and up. No cover. 1953 India Street (at Grape), Little Italy. 619-398-2974.

Dino's: Fridays, *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 Grimmerella. 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.

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Calendar CLUBS

DANCE

(continued)

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.

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,



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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.

Bar Leucadian, 1542 North Coast Highway 101, Leucadia. 760-753-2094. Friday and Saturday, live rock/reggae/blues.

Beaumont's, 5662 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla. 858-459-0474. Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Mark Fisher*, classic rock. Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Fish & the Seaweeds*, classic rock.

The Calypso Cafe, 576 North Highway 101, Encinitas. 760-632-8252. Thursday, *Crash Carter*, pop/soul/rock. Friday, *Jeff Moore* and *Dean Smith*, blues. Saturday, *Cactus Twang*, roadhouse rock. Sunday, *Yovee*. Tuesday, *Jack Tempchin*, folk. Wednesday, *Uplift*, reggae.

'Canes, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780. Thursday, *Shaka Buku*, a *Conscious Few*, *High Tide*, and *Burnt*, reggae. Friday, *Kicking K8*, *Evolocity*, *REV*, *3 Against 1*, and *Tempernoi*, hard rock/alternative.

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.

Dreamstreet, 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-8131. Music is rock/alternative/metal unless otherwise noted. Thursday, 4 p.m., *Broke on Friday*, Vinyl 45, *Simply Vintage*, and *Brain Buckit*. Friday, 4 p.m., *E-Dub Poet*, *Truffy*, and *the Professors*. Wednesday, 4 p.m., *Native Yit*, *Den Dai Uno*, *Halon*, *B.R.I.S.*, *National T*, *Street Camp*, and *Yung Fresh*, hip-hop.

E Street Cafe, 128 E Street, Encinitas. 760-230-2038. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., jazz jam. Friday, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Alex Esther*, 9 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *Willie Ames*. Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., *Lauren Gordon*, flute/piano, 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., *Justin Froese* and *Ivar Rodriguez*.

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.

The Kraken, 2531 Old Highway 101, Cardiff. 760-436-6483. Friday, *the Salt Lickers*, rock. Saturday, *the Blues Invaders*, 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.

The Lodge at Torrey Pines, 11480
N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla. 619-453-
4420. Lobby: Thursday, Friday, Saturday,
and Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., *Dan*
Papaila, solo jazz guitar.

Grill: Friday and Saturday, 6:30 p.m.

to 9:30 p.m., *Mike Nelson*, solo jazz guitar.

Manhattan Restaurant, 7766 Fay Avenue, La Jolla. 858-459-0700. Friday and Saturday, *the Joe Marillo Jazz Trio.*

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. Tuesday, 9 p.m., *Trece de la Suerte*, salsa/Latin.

710 Beach Club, 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-7844. Thursday, *Sugarglider* and *Justin James & the Sons of Beaches*, rock/reggae. Friday, *Elijah Emanuel & the Revelations*, reggae.

Saturday, 2006 *Battle of the Bands*.
 Sunday, old skool/hip-hop/funk/soul.
 Wednesday, *Sugarglider* and *Yesterday's Papers*, rock.

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, *the
Pheromones*, rock. Saturday, live music.
Sunday, *Jimmy Lewis*, acoustic.
Wednesday, *Free Air*, rock.

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, *the Grams*, *Podunk Nowhere*, and *Call Down Fire*, indie/alternative. Friday, *Psydecar*,

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Calendar CLUBS

BEACHES

(continued)

reggae/funk. Saturday, *Kush & Jah Blood Fiyah Angels*, reggae. Wednesday, *Phix*, rock.

DOWNTOWN

Blarney Stone Pub, 502 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-8519. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday, *Steve Brewer*, acoustic.

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, *Jeremy Enigk* and *Manuok*. Friday, Jivewire and One Nation Under a Groove. Saturday, *El Vez* and *the Blasphemous Guitars*. Sunday, *Exile on Kettner Blvd.*

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, *Ron's Garage*, acoustic. Sunday, *the Disco Pimps*. Tuesday, *Flock of 80's*. Wednesday, *the Ghost of Sada*.

Dizzy's, 344 Seventh Avenue, downtown. 858-270-7467. Thursday, 8 p.m., *Irving Flores & the Danzon Jazz Trio*, Latin jazz. Friday, *David Negrete*, *Josh Nelson*, *Tim McMahon*, and *Danny Weller*, jazz. Saturday, *Ray Barbee*, *Jared Mattson*, *Carl Prescott*, *Jonathan Mattson*, and *Aakaash Israni*, jazz.

Dublin Square, 554 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-239-5818. Traditional Irish music.

4th & B, 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343. Friday, *Special Ed*, *B-Boy Mafia*, and *the Armory Massive*. Wednesday, *the Spazmatics*, alternative rock.

Gaslamp Tavern, 868 Fifth Avenue, San Diego. 619-239-3339. Tuesday, *Fishbait*, country. Wednesday, *Mark Fisher*, classic rock.

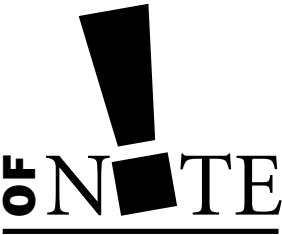
Henry's Pub, 618 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-238-2389. Thursday, *the Brat Pack*. Friday, *Good Times*. Saturday, call club for information. Tuesday, *the Strilettos*, rockabilly. Wednesday, *Lady Dottie & the Diamonds*, blues.

House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-299-2583. Thursday, *Redman & Reakwon*, *Ghostface Killah*, and *Super Natural*, rap/experimental/electro.

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 and Saturday, 9:45 p.m., *the Reaganomics*, '80s dance. 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, *Blue Four*. Friday, *Cocobilli*. Saturday, *the Blues Brokers*. Monday, *the 145th Street Deluxe Blues Band*. Tuesday and Wednesday, *the Texas Twisters*.



BY WILLIAM CRAIN

Ten years have passed since **Jeremy Enigk**, best known as the singer for emo pioneers Sunny Day Real Estate, issued his first solo album, and though no doubt that tested the patience of his fans, the anticipation was not great enough to justify the title for his second album, *World Waits*. The new album opens with "A New Beginning," which is a triumphant-sounding, major-key mini symphony, complete with victory bells.

Sunny Day Real Estate started up in Seattle during the early-'90s heyday of grunge. Compared to their neighbors, SDRE's music was a little more melodic, a bit more

vague, and a lot more emotional (hence, "emo"). By the time they released their debut album *Diary* in 1994, grunge was on its way down, and suddenly this band was the one to watch. And then, halfway through the making of SDRE's second album, Enigk had a religious epiphany and quit. He later rejoined, but the incident became part of the legend of the band — to their cult audience, this was a symbol of their seriousness. When half the band joined the Foo Fighters, the SDRE legend was spread all over the world.

If *World Waits* is any indication, the legend has gone to Enigk's head. The new album seems to be modeled on the works of U2 or Peter Gabriel — a little arty, a little commercial, and heavy with big ideas. It's not bad; parts of it are quite nice. But as a



JEREMY ENIGK

whole, it strikes me as demanding a level of respect it hasn't earned. That said, I'm not its target audience; Enigk's cult audience is. I imagine those people will love it.

JEREMY ENIGK, The Casbah, Thursday, December 21, 8 p.m. 619-232-4355. \$15.

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., *Jackstraw's Electric Dickens*, holiday hits.

Sevilla, 555 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-5979. Club Salsa: Thursday, *Guarare*, salsa.

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 Band tribute, pop/rock, and *DJ Famous Dave*.

SAN DIEGO

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.

The Beauty Bar, 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego. 619-516-4746.

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.

Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Avenue, Bay Park. 619-275-LIVE. Music rock/alternative/metal unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *Overcast*, *Magnolia Black*, and *Calabria*. Friday, *Staring at Strange* and *Colporter*. Saturday, *the New York Station*.

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, live reggae/blues/rock.

Hot Monkey Love Cafe, 6875 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego. 619-469-4113. Thursday, jazz. Friday and Saturday, live bands. Sunday, salsa. Wednesday, jazz.

Humphrey's, Half Moon Inn, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-224-3577. Backstage Lounge: Thursday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Stellita's Groove*, disco/dance. Friday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., *the Corvelles*, Motown, 9:30 p.m., *Rising Star*, dance/disco. Saturday, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Novamenca*, new flamenco, 9:30 p.m., *Makai*, dance/disco. Sunday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *John Phillips*, rock.

Entertainment 7 Nights a Week!

Navajo

Thursday, December 21
Mike Ruggirello presents

Huge Rooster & guests

Friday & Saturday, December 22 & 23 • 9 pm
Classic Rock



6 ONE 9

Sunday, December 24

NFL Sunday Ticket

4 satellites and big-screen TVs

Monday, December 25

Monday Night Football

Tuesday, December 26
Mike Ruggirello presents

Huge Rooster & guests

Wednesday, December 27

Happy Hour 6-8 pm

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(Albertsons shopping plaza at Navajo & Lake Murray)

Santee

Thursday, December 21

Call club for details

Friday & Saturday, December 22 & 23 • 9 pm
Classic Rock



UPTOWN GROOVE

Sunday, December 24

NFL Sunday Ticket

4 satellites and big-screen TVs

Monday, December 25

Monday Night Football

Tuesday, December 26

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Wednesday, December 27

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Thursday, Dec. 21
8 pm • Disco & Dance

Stellita's Groove

Friday, Dec. 22

6 pm • Motown **The Corvelles**

9:30 pm
Dance & Disco

Rising Star



Saturday, Dec. 23



7 pm • New Flamenco
Novamenco

9:30 pm • Dance & Disco

Makai



Sunday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve

8 pm • Dance & Jazz

DJ John Phillips



Monday, Dec. 25



Merry Christmas



Tuesday, Dec. 26

8 pm • Chicago Blues

145th Street Blues

Wednesday, Dec. 27

8 pm • Funk, Soul & Dance

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Calendar CLUBS

SAN DIEGO

(continued)

Tuesday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *the 145th Street Deluxe Blues Band*. Wednesday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *the Soul Persuaders*, funk/soul/dance.

In Cahoots, 5373 Mission Center Road, Mission Valley. 619-291-8635.

Lestat's Coffee House, 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-282-0437. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *Lindsey Troy*. Friday, *Steve Poltz* and *Julie Mack*. Saturday, *Gregory Page* and *Samantha Murphy*. Monday, open mike. Wednesday, *Annie Dru*, *Chris Clarke*, and *Ivan Cheong*.

Lucky Star Nightclub & Ballroom, 3893 54th Street, San Diego. 619-229-8228. Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., *the Victoria Rose Trio*, vintage jazz/swing/rock.

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., *Gimic*, rock. Saturday, 9 p.m., *Etched in Stone*, *the American Hitmen*, and *Disaster Magnet*, punk/metal/hard rock. Wednesday, 9 p.m., *Rhythm & the Method*, rock/blues/folk rock.

The Ould Sod, 3373 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-284-6594. Friday, *Gene Warren*, Irish folk. Tuesday, traditional Irish jam session.

Pal Joey's, 5147 Waring Road, Allied Gardens. 619-286-7873. Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m., *the Little Efert Band*, classic rock/blues.

Red Fox Steakhouse, 2228 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-297-1313. Thursday through Sunday, and Wednesday, *Eddie Rossi* and *Joe Soprano*, piano.

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

Second Wind, 8515 Navajo Road, San Carlos. 619-465-1730. Friday and Saturday, *6one9*, 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.

Sogno Di Vino, 1607 India Street, San Diego. 619-531-8887. Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Tom Boyer*, solo jazz/Latin guitar.

Soma, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-SOMA. Performances start at 7 p.m. Music is rock/metal/alternative. Thursday, *Casket Salesmen*, *Auditory Aphasia*, *Cosmonaut*, *Exit 21*, and *Four Kings*. Friday, *Elysia*, *Molotov Solution*, *the Knight of the Abyss*, *the Wages of War*, *Carnifex*, *Burning the Masses*. Saturday, *Daredevil Jane*, *Diego Roots*, and *the Absens*.

Tio Leo's, 10787 Camino Ruiz, Mira Mesa. 858-695-1461. Thursday, *Stars on Water*. Saturday, 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.



>hometown CDs

BY OLLIE

Album: *Once More Around the Sun* (2006)

Artist: Ron Ellsworth

Label: self-released

Where available/price: *CDBaby.com* or *ellsworthmusic.com* for \$14.99

Songs: 1) Rolling On 2) Can't Sing That Song Anymore 3) The Times of Your Life 4) You Will Always Have Me 5) As Long as You'll Have Me Here 6) If I Could 7) Looking Back 8) It's Okay 9) The Ones We Leave Behind 10) I Could Do Anything 11) Café by the Bay 12) Paint the Stars 13) Once More Around the Sun 14) The Ashgrove

Band: Ron Ellsworth (guitar, vocals), Brett Weisman (guitar), Hank Easton (guitar), Dan Diaz (guitar, vocals), Josquin des Pres (bass), Nick D' Virgilio (drums), Scott Gorham (piano, keyboard), Chris Klich (saxophone, flute), Tommy Aros (percussion), Mary Dolan (vocals), Anna Dowdell (vocals)

Website: *ellsworthmusic.com*

This is *very* easy-listening. Think beards, tan elbow patches, and flowered wall-

paper. The music is expertly played, although it's not spectacular; nothing stands out as

bad or genius. Nothing new here: acoustic guitars, bass, some horns, slow drums, and keyboard.

The lyrics and vocals define this album. As folksy soft rock, it has all the elements: saccharine lead vocals that may bring to mind your grandfather's candy dish, background voices raised in unison, and lyrics that one might read on an inspirational poster (falling short of "Hang in there, baby!") but only barely).

Oh, there are "morning skies," "summer winds," hills, and stars. We're instructed to "roll on" and keep "sailing on" "on a wing and a prayer." It's all so positive and upbeat, with childlike naïveté. It's as if Santa Claus wrote a summer album that had nothing to do with Christmas but everything to do with miracles, smiles, and love.

I can see the need for aging



Ron Ellsworth

people to shrug off the raucous music of their youth and settle into something comfortable, but Ellsworth makes Fleetwood Mac sound like Kiss. This could do well as a young *young* child's pre-nap time album or as soothing sounds played through dentists' office speakers.

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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FRI SOUL SAUCE - Ingredients by DJ Charlie Rock of Djojo Sessions/Rock Steady Crew, DJ Jaba One of Home Grown Blends and a special set by DJ Dope Shoes. Hip-hop, rare grooves, and neo soul vibes. **www.myspace.com/djcharlierockrsc**

SAT ROBODISCO presents WarKitten Christmas with DJs Rithma (Om Records), Erick Diaz, Jeff Carroll and a special guest performance by COCO of Payola Productions spinning sexy, soulful house music all night long, still goin' strong. **www.myspace.com/Siestarecords**

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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858-622-9190

98 San Diego Reader December 21, 2006

Skylar Stonestreet, Aaron Bowen, the Northstar Session, Annie Bethancourt, Brian Benham, and Ginger Jackson. Saturday, *Rachel Kae, Tim Mudd, Dawn Mitschele, Arambú, and Jakes Mountain.*

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.

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, 9 p.m., *Yovee, the Jade Shader, and the Ex-Friends*, alternative. Friday, 9 p.m., *Buck-O-Nine, Skanic, and Chris Murray*, ska. Saturday, 9 p.m., *the Greyboy Allstars*, funk/soul/jazz. Wednesday, *the Knitters and the Farmers*, alternative rock.

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, *Primasi*, Eastern European folk.

Carvers, 11940 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-566-2400. Friday and Saturday, *the Ideas*, classic rock.

Coyote Bar and Grill, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4695. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *the Rhythm Method*, classic rock. Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *Big Rig Deluxe*, country/rock. Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *Len Rainey & the Midnight Players*, blues. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Red Lane*, blues/rock.

Del Dios Bar and Grill, 20154 Lake Drive, Escondido. 760-489-4800. Friday, *Joe Rathburn and Art Fisher*, island sounds. Saturday, *the Clachan Boys*, Celtic music.

Game Time Tavern, 12735 Poway Road, Poway. 858-748-0015. Friday and Saturday, *5 Miles High*, classic rock.

Hennessey's Tavern (Carlsbad), 2777 Roosevelt Street, Carlsbad. 760-729-6951. Friday and Saturday, live rock.

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 Center, Casey McSocial, and Fallback Farewell*. Friday, *Message in Blood, Thieves and Liars, Hollow Point, and Keeping Secrets*. Saturday, *the Birds of Yore, Well Rose, Yovee, and If*. Wednesday, *Higher Minds and Clockwork*, hip-hop.

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.

Ocean House, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4131. Friday, 9 p.m., *the Band in Black*, rockabilly. Saturday, rock. Tuesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *the Cradit Union*, ballroom swing. Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., open mike.

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, *Vortex Data*, rock. Friday, *Giant Peach and Hell Yeah*, rock. Saturday, *Ronnie Corbin*. 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, *Cool Fever*, rock. Saturday, *5 South*, classic rock.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill, 1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-5280. Music is acoustic/folk unless

otherwise noted. Thursday, *Northstar*, classic rock. Friday, *Baywolf*, classic rock. Saturday, *the Offbeats*. Sunday, *Jim Moore*. Tuesday, *Gary Rich*. Wednesday, *Tommy Price*.

EAST COUNTY

Dirk's Niteclub, 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove. 619-469-6344. Friday and Saturday, *TNT*, classic rock.

Don's Cocktail Lounge, 13321 Business Highway 8, El Cajon. 619-443-2444. Friday and Saturday, *the Taylor Harvey Band*, acoustic rock.

Fannie's Nightclub, 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley. 619-698-2204. Friday, *Wild Rumors*, rock. Saturday, *Altered Time*, 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, *Sundance*, country.

Second Wind, 8528 Magnolia Avenue, Santee. 619-596-8350. Friday and Saturday, *Uptown Groove*, classic rock.

Tommy's Italian Restaurant, 1190 North Second Street, El Cajon. 619-440-2676. Friday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Franco Z & Friends*, swing/standards.

Wagon Wheel, 8861 Magnolia Avenue, Santee. 619-448-8550. Live country music.



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Calendar

BANDS

ALTERNATIVE

The Absens: Soma

Auditory Aphasia: Soma

The Birds of Yore: The Jumping Turtle

Broke on Friday: Dreamstreet

Burning the Masses: Soma

Calabria: Brick By Brick

Call Down Fire: Winstons

Carnifex: Soma

Casey McSocial: The Jumping Turtle

Casket Salesmen: Soma

The Center: The Jumping Turtle

Colporter: Brick By Brick

Cosmonaut: Soma

Daredevil Jane: Soma

Elysia: Soma

Evolocity: 'Canes

The Ex-Friends: Belly Up Tavern

Exit 21: Soma

The Farmers: Belly Up Tavern

The Four Kings: Soma

Gimic: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

The Grams: Winstons

Hollow Point: The Jumping Turtle

The Jade Shader: Belly Up Tavern

Keeping Secrets: The Jumping

Turtle

The Knights of the Abyss: S

The Knitters: Belly Up Tavern

Magnolia Black: Brick By Brick

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Day of (Dec. 31st): \$35 per person before 9pm



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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST
NEW YEAR'S EVE

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Calendar
BANDS

POP / TOP 40

PTrak Armenta: Pasquale on Prospect
Gil Barron: Pasquale on Prospect
The Disco Pimps: Dick's Last Resort
James East: Pasquale on Prospect
Mark Fulton: Pasquale on Prospect
The Good Times: Henry's Pub
Jimmy Lavello: Dakota Grill and Spirits
The Love Rangers: The Alley
Makai: Humphrey's
Rising Star: Humphrey's
Stellita's Groove: Humphrey's
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
Ray Barbee: Dizzy's
Tom Bishop: Rancho Bernardo Inn
Ray Briz: Hotel del Coronado
The Jorge Camberos Quintet: Croce's Jazz Bar
Sammy Canonizado: Cafe LaMaze
The Karin Carson Trio: The Westgate Hotel

Sandy Chappel: Cafe LaMaze
Julio de la Huerta: The Westgate Hotel
Edo Brazil: Samba Grill
Nick Fiore: Pasquale on Prospect
Irving Flores & the Danzon Jazz Trio: Dizzy's
Franco Z & Friends: Tommy's Italian Restaurant
Karen Giorgio: The Westgate Hotel
The Greyboy Allstars: Belly Up Tavern
Guarare: Sevilla
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
Barbara Jamerson: Hotel del Coronado
The Jazz 101 Band: Pasquale on Prospect
Dick Koenig: Cody's La Jolla
Tony Lasley: Hotel del Coronado
Barry Levich: La Valencia Hotel
Stellita and Dave Lindgren: Hotel del Coronado
Peggy Lloyd: Vesuvio Gourmet Restaurant
Fran Loskota: The Westgate Hotel
Tim McMahon: Dizzy's
The Joe Marillo Jazz Trio: Manhattan Restaurant
Masterpiece: Jimmy Love's
Jared Mattson: Dizzy's

as i hear it
BY BRIAN CARVER

Artist: Run Barbara Run
Song: "American Airlines Flight 862" (from the CD ...And it's the End)
Heard By: Jack Fagundes, Point Loma



Jack

I listen to a lot of old-school punk like Bad Religion, Dead Kennedys, but [Run Barbara Run's] sound is darker than that — more angry. I like the chorus and bass line; it goes well with the angry lyrics. If you break up with your girlfriend or get in a fight with someone close to you — you're just pissed off at them — turn this [song] on and vent out your anger.

SAN DIEGO SONGS TAKE THE STREET TEST

Artist: Masterguru
Song: "Livetrapp" (from their self-titled CD)
Heard By: Robert King, North Park



Robert

Slipknot would be the closest [comparison] I could think of offhand. Also, I have Sirius satellite radio, and there's a station called "Hard Attack" and they play all thrash metal, so [this song] kind of reminds me of the type of genre on that station. I like the guitar licks in it. I couldn't understand the words, but that's cool. It would be a good soundtrack to Mortal Kombat 3...that kind of showdown between good and evil.

Artist: Fred Jones
Song: "Here and Now (Nothing Can Stop Us Now)" (from the CD Life & Wine)
Heard By: Kimberly Gies, Imperial Beach



Kimberly

The beginning actually kind of sounded like the Dresden Dolls, but then when they started singing it sounded nothing like them. I dig that when rock bands use violins, classical guitar, piano — but specifically for that song they used piano. I like the flow of [the song], but sometimes you could kind of hear the transitions were a little bit off. But that's just me being nitpicky. Actually, I think that would be a really good song [on] a soundtrack [for] one of the TV shows like One Tree Hill.

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Jerry Melnick: The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, Rancho Bernardo Inn
The Shep Meyers Quartet: Croce's Jazz Bar
David Mosby: Vesuvio Gourmet Restaurant
David Negrete: Dizzy's
Mike Nelson: Sogno Di Vino, The Lodge at Torrey Pines
Josh Nelson: Dizzy's
The New Standard Jazz Trio: Busalacchi's Ristorante
Novamenco: Humphrey's
Mario Oliveras & Latin Spice: Pasquale on Prospect
Faith Page: The Westgate Hotel
Dan Papaila: The Lodge at Torrey Pines
Carl Prescott: Dizzy's
The Victoria Rose Trio: Lucky Star Nightclub & Ballroom
Rick Ross: La Valencia Hotel

Dave Scott: Pasquale on Prospect, Croce's Jazz Bar
Robert Sebastini: Cafe LaMaze
The Soul Revue: Jimmy Love's
Stage 4: Buon Giorno Restaurant
Stefani Stevens: Cody's La Jolla
Trece de la Suerte: Portugalia
Jaime Valle: Tutto Mare
Vintage Vegas: Martini's Bar and Grill
Scott Wallingford: Cafe LaMaze
Yavez: Croce's Jazz Bar

REGGAE / SKA

Buck-O-Nine: Belly Up Tavern
Burnt: 'Canes
A Conscious Few: 'Canes
Diego Roots: Soma
Elijah Emanuel & the Revelations: 710 Beach Club

High Tide: 'Canes
Justin James & the Sons of Beaches: 710 Beach Club
Kush & Jah Blood Fiyah Angel: Winstons
Chris Murray: Belly Up Tavern
Psydecar: Winstons
Shaka Buku: 'Canes
Skanic: Belly Up Tavern

COUNTRY

The Band in Black: Ocean House
Big Rig Deluxe: Coyote Bar and Grill
Cactus Twang: The Calypso Cafe
The California Rangers: McCabe's Beach Club
The Caribbean Cowboys: Hooley's Irish Pub and Grill
Fishbait: Gaslamp Tavern
Sundance: Renegade Inn

ACOUSTIC / FOLK

Adonis Cross: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Willie Ames: E Street Cafe
Arambu: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Brian Benham: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Annie Bethancourt: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Aaron Bowen: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Steve Brewer: Blarney Stone Pub
Bushwalla: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Joe Cardillo: Cody's La Jolla
The Celtic Ensemble: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Ivan Cheong: Lestat's Coffee House
Chris & Harold: Blarney Stone Pub

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Calendar BANDS

ACOUSTIC / FOLK

(continued)

The Clachan Boys: Del Dios Bar and Grill

Chris Clarke: Lestat's Coffee House

Ronnie Corbin: Surf N' Saddle

Delancey: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Annie Dru: Lestat's Coffee House

Jeremy Enigk: The Casbah

Alex Esther: E Street Cafe

Derek Evans: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Art Fisher: Del Dios Bar and Grill

Justin Froese: E Street Cafe

Allison Gill: Blarney Stone Pub

Ginger Jackson: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Jake's Mountain: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Austin Jennings: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Rachel Kae: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Shannon Long: Martini Ranch (Gaslamp)

Julie Mack: Lestat's Coffee House

Dawn Mitschele: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Jim Moore: McP's Irish Pub and Grill

Tim Mudd: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Samantha Murphy: Lestat's Coffee House

Adrienne Nims & Raggle Taggle: Tom Gibling's Irish Pub and Restaurant

The Offbeats: McP's Irish Pub and Grill

Gregory Page: Lestat's Coffee House

Pat & Joe: Blarney Stone Pub

Steve Poltz: Lestat's Coffee House

Tommy Price: McP's Irish Pub and Grill

Primasi: The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe

Joe Rathburn: Del Dios Bar and Grill

Gary Rich: McP's Irish Pub and Grill

Ivar Rodriguez: E Street Cafe

Skyler Stonestreet: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company

Jack Tempchin: The Calypso Cafe

Lindsey Troy: Lestat's Coffee House

Gene Warren: The Ould Sod

BLUES / SOUL

Blue Four: Patrick's II

The Blues Brokers: Patrick's II, The Kraken

The Blues Invaders: The Kraken

Crash Carter: The Calypso Cafe

Cocobilli: Patrick's II

The Corvelles: Humphrey's

Lady Dottie & the Diamonds: Henry's Pub

Jeff Moore: The Calypso Cafe

The 145th Street Deluxe Blues Band: Patrick's II, Humphrey's

Len Rainey & the Midnight Players: Coyote Bar and Grill

The Soul Persuaders: Humphrey's

The Texas Twisters: Patrick's II

Billy Thompson: The Calypso Cafe

EVERYTHING ELSE

B.R.I.S.: Dreamstreet

John Cain: Shooters Bar and Grill, Bahia Resort Hotel, Hotel del Coronado

Clockwork: The Jumping Turtle

Ray Correa: The Butcher Shop

Den Dai Uno: Dreamstreet

E-Dub Poet: Dreamstreet

Ghostface Killah: House of Blues

Jim Gibson: Hotel del Coronado

Lauren Gordon: E Street Cafe

Halon: Dreamstreet

Higher Minds: The Jumping Turtle

Jackstraw's Electric Dickens: Seaport Village East Plaza

Los Reyes Del Ritmo: Estancia Resort Hotel

National T: Dreamstreet

Native Yit: Dreamstreet

Redman & Raekwon: House of Blues

Roy Resnikoff: Cody's La Jolla

Eddie Rossi: Red Fox Steakhouse

Joe Soprano: Red Fox Steakhouse

Street Camp: Dreamstreet

Supernatural: House of Blues

Danny Weller: Dizzy's

Joey West: Hotel del Coronado

Yung Fresh: Dreamstreet

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Farmer's Market

Market occupies an odd location way out in the boonies. If you're driving east on Via de la Valle and think you missed it somewhere around the last mall, keep going. Some of the signs out front still say Blackhorse Grill, the site's previous occupant, but you'll recognize that this is Market by the hot and cold running valets juggling incoming cars in the small parking lot.

Arriving early for dinner, we waited at the bar while our table was prepared. We eavesdropped on a guy next to us, who was talking about a mutual acquaintance who desperately wanted to buy into Market, "like a lot of people did. Carl said no. Which is good, because she'd have been a difficult partner. She likes to have her fingers in the pie — and Carl likes everything his own way."

The "Carl" he referred to is chef-owner Carl Schroeder, who, after a long stint at Arterra, bought Blackhorse and, even now, is still remaking it "his own way." With design input from partner Terryl Gavre (owner-chef of Cafe 222 downtown), it's become a comfortable, warm-feeling restaurant, its light wooden walls casting a sunny glow on the diners. A mantelpiece displays seasonal foods and flora, and "hatbox" lamps hang from the baffled shadow-box ceiling. Taking a negative lesson from raucous Arterra, Schroeder put up a glass wall between the bar and the dining room — always a good move. Not only are there carpets on the floors, but carpeting tacked on the upper walls also absorbs noise. And the glass dividers that section off the room let you see other diners without hearing every detail of their lives. White linen tablecloths help maintain the ideal sound level for a restaurant — convivial, lively, painless. People are having a good time; so will you. We were seated at a banquette with cushy chocolate leather padding, and our server was considerate and knowledgeable. Before the first bite, we knew we'd entered a restaurant designed for pleasure.

The restaurant's name is a hint that it specializes in "market-driven cuisine" — meaning that the menu, which changes daily, is inspired by whatever seasonal foodstuffs the chef finds at the local produce market and from the nearby seas. In this case, the nearest produce market happens to be the farm stand of fabled Chino Farm — America's most celebrated grower of exquisite, sustainably raised veggies — about a mile up the road.

First bite? An amuse-bouche, of course. A Chino



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

beet slice, topped with a slab of shrimp cut to fit, was garnished with a ravishing yuzu aioli, the sharp citrus playing against the sweetness of the root. "This is an amuse that grabs your attention and awakens your appetite, like it should," said the Lynnester. "It's not just there to tame your hunger, like most of the amuses I've run into lately."

We began in earnest with a celery-root soup from the starters — a thick purée encapsulating the odd, sophisticated flavor of celeriac, touched with lemon juice and topped with "porcini foam" — a cloud of mushroom and spices (including a soupçon of hot chili flakes) bound in a froth of milk. Lurking on the bottom of the bowl like a manta ray was a large, thin-skinned ravioli filled with sautéed wild mushrooms, spouting treasure with every spoon cut. "I love this so much that I'm ready to shoot it up intravenously," said Samurai Jim. "Oh, don't!" I hastened to say. "You couldn't taste it then!"

I ordered a Maine lobster salad with a touch of skepticism, because Atlantic lobster is so good, a chef only has to avoid ruining it. This one had a little pile of perfect lobster meat next to a horizontal

lineup of organic citrus sections of great sweetness and intensity, plus avocado slices, all united by a light Meyer lemon sabayon. I found the combination enchanting, much better than I'd bargained for.

A blue cheese soufflé was a bit sour (but pleasantly so, to my taste), a characteristic of Maytag blue, and the texture was a tad heavy. With it came caramel-coated Empire apple slices from Julian, roasted in

Calvados (apple brandy), topped with walnuts — hot, sticky, irresistible kid-food to contrast with the adult pleasures of consuming moldy cheese. A small salad of crisp julienned celery root dressed with aioli played backup.

A strudel of forest mushrooms and artichokes proved food for thought. It wasn't a true strudel by any means (i.e., layers of thin, crisp pastry between and surrounding tiers of filling). Instead, strata of thinly sliced, earthy mushrooms and lemony artichoke (plus picholine olives, for depth) were surrounded by a thin coating of potato purée (a substitute for flour dough), which crisped up like tempura in the oven. Fennel root and sweet pepper salad came too, as did a demitasse of porcini

REVIEW NAOMI WISE

Market Restaurant and Bar ★★★★ (Excellent)

3702 Via de la Valle (at El Camino Real), Del Mar, 858-523-0007, www.marketdelmar.com.

HOURS: Nightly, 5:00–10:00 p.m.

PRICES: Starters, \$8.50–\$13.25; entrées, \$22–\$47 (most mid-\$20s); cheese course, \$8–\$14; desserts, \$9.75.

CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: Daily changing menu of California Modern cuisine featuring local produce, free-range and premium meats, poultry, and seafood. Smart wine list has bottles from many nations at a wide price range. Choices by the glass are limited and pricey. Full bar.

PICK HITS: Menu changes daily, and most dishes are hits. Save room for dessert.

NEED TO KNOW: Restaurant is east of I-5, at the southeast tip of Encinitas by postal code. Free valet parking. Sound level pleasingly lively, not loud. Fairly casual ambience (but it's still Del Mar, not Pacific Beach). One vegetarian entrée. Not all dishes precisely match their menu descriptions; the cuisine is driven by what local produce is available daily. Reservations essential any night.

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.

mushroom soup with a strong lacing of cumin — edgy, that, but enjoyable once your mouth grew attuned to the spice.

Somewhere in the midst of the appetizers, a basket of breads appeared, in which the stars were warm oval corncakes the size of sturdy thumbs. These are similar to the corncakes served at all Bradley Ogden restaurants (of which Arterra is one), but with a big difference. At every Ogden restaurant I've been to (four so far), you get only one per person (if that) and no refills — it seems to be some kind of sadistic corporate policy (as in, "If you want another corncake, you have to come back for another meal!"). Schroeder is much more generous: We received two each for openers and a refill during the entrée course.

"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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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

Would the main courses equal the starters, or were we in for the usual letdown? Our first entrée easily passed the test. There before us was a plate full of surprise Christmas presents: boneless beef shortribs, tender and meaty, enclosed in a dark-green wrapper of choy sum, and sitting in a crimson Cabernet *jus*. The meat was garnished with cipollini onions, also individually gift-wrapped in crisped potato purée (like the earlier strudel).

North Atlantic monkfish was a tall, thick-cut fillet, more like a steak than the usual skinny restaurant slice, and that made all the difference. Carl only buys it, he says, when the fishmonger offers an extra-large fish with fillets this substantial. "People always say that monkfish is the 'poor man's lobster,' but it's nearly always disappointed me," said my partner. "This time, with the thick slice and the freshness, it really does taste like lobster." The fish was set atop a forest mushroom ragout, next to an island of spicy artichoke heart chunks.

Blue-nose bass was perfectly cooked, too — and notice, we didn't even have to beg for our fish medium-rare. Flaky-moist and pearly is the default here. Although we enjoyed the bass immensely, what really caught our eye on the menu was its accompaniment — a soufflé of crab, cheddar, and broccoli. It fulfilled our hopes with large,

juicy pieces of crab and not too much broccoli. A sweet-pepper ragout side was nice, nothing special (in fact it was the one garnish in the whole dinner that seemed ordinary), while a jalapeño hollandaise made a cameo appearance as a slick of sauce near the edge of the plate.

A venison chop of Australian-farmed red deer came rare to our order, albeit a bit tame-tasting, brightened by the zestiness of a mustard crust. A house-made sausage came, too. Coarse and lean, it was seasoned with cumin and a touch of hot pepper. I found the spicing heavy going, but the texture reminded my partner nostalgically of the German sausages his grandparents made back in Minnesota. A blast of hearty flavors accompanied the meats: sage pappardelle dressed with bacon, blue cheese, bitter wild arugula, and plenty of black pepper.

The verdict? "For once, the appetizers and entrées are equally good," said Lynne, "with no letdown." In the midst of our *ooing* and *aahing* at each new taste, she observed that, though Market's prices were about the same as at Thee Bungalow, the food was not only more imaginative, but the ingredients were better. "That's partly because the portions here are smaller," my partner responded. "Oho, price point!" said Lynne. "I like it better this way. It's just the right amount of food to eat. You get one excellent meal, and that's all I want — instead of having to take home a whole second night of just-pretty-good."

We chose two of the least expensive wines of their type. For the appetizers and fish entrées,

a Stag's Leap Viognier wasn't one of those California fruit-bombs, but a cool customer, balanced and serious. Much as I like huge French Burgundies with game, I can't afford them, least of all at restaurant markups. A good Côte de Rhône, Syrah, or even Zin does nearly as well at matching dark meat, so I found a reasonable French Rhone, Tardieu-Laurent. It was perfect with the venison and fine with the short ribs.

With some red wine left in our glasses, we had an excuse for a cheese course and enjoyed a rich, complex, truffled Brie served at peak ripeness. We had just enough appetite to handle one — just one — of the venturesome desserts by pastry chef Jim Foran (who came with Carl from Arterra). We chose a spiced toffee date cake with roasted autumn fruits, topped by velvety, non-sweet mascarpone mousse (in place of the expected whipped cream). Next to it, an amusing contrast, was a chunk of pecan-black pepper praline. The cake was moist and rich but light for a pastry with dates. "It tastes like the holidays," said Lynne. That taste was a hint of fresh ginger, a favorite flavor in Thanksgiving and Christmas pastries.

We were all delighted that the chef at Market has struck out on his own. Schroeder's cuisine has developed a wonderful playfulness, with ever-changing combinations that are harmonious, if occasionally startling. What goes on the plate enhances that plate. "Would you come back here?" Jim asked. "In a New York minute," I said. In fact, we're all planning on returning,

and that's the best compliment a chef can get.

ABOUT THE CHEF

Carl Schroeder was born and raised in La Jolla. "I got my degree in business, but then I realized that cooking was my passion," he says. He went on to study at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York. Upon graduating, he landed a gig at San Francisco's cutting-edge Aqua and then at the renowned Domaine Chandon in the Napa Valley. Then he became Bradley Ogden's sous-chef at Lark Creek Inn in Marin County for three years, followed by a year in Nantucket. Carl returned to his home town as executive chef at Bertrand at Mr. A's, and when Ogden contracted with the Marriott to open Arterra in its Sorrento Valley hotel, he chose Schroeder as its opening chef. "My style definitely evolved while I was there," Schroeder says. "I was experimenting all the time, going to New York and San Francisco to eat and bringing back new ideas." He remained there for over four years before setting off on his own to open Market, investing his last penny in his new venture.

"I wanted to make the decisions," he explains. "I like to be in charge. I'm a control freak. Sometimes, in the trenches, I see things that could be made better, and I wanted to have more control over what happens in my business. I've always taken ownership, even at the Marriott, but I was feeling sort of shackled. Opening my own place gives me a lot of say over how my business is run."

"I take more chances here —

in a good way. I don't want to be a super-expensive restaurant. I want people to dine here Monday, Tuesday, the whole week long. I want to keep my entrée prices mid-twenties. I don't want to be another Blanca, Addison, Mille Fleurs — I want to do food of the same quality but in a somewhat casual atmosphere, where people can just drop by and eat."

"Another major difference here is that I'm changing my proteins a lot. At Arterra, I'd buy certain fish that I knew were very forgiving, that the cook couldn't overcook. There, I built in a margin for error, because when you get busy, something may sit in a pan for a minute too long. You can be the best cook in the world, but you want the window [of cooking time] to be a little bigger on your proteins. Here, we're just trying to group a smaller amount in each fire and trying to move them quicker. And in doing that, we can use a lot of local product, all the local fish — I've done blue-nose bass, white sea bass, local halibut. In the six months I've been here, I've used more different proteins than I did in my four and a half years at Arterra. It's not a matter of the size of the room. We actually do a higher volume here — we can fit more people into our dining room, because the tables are closely spaced. I like the fact that it's sort of bustling, and people know each other and get up to say hello. I like that feel."

"We're a work in progress. Every day I think we get a little better, as things are kind of settling in with the crew in the kitchen. Trying to pull all this together on a shoestring budget, it's been an interesting ride so far... What I'm

doing today is not necessarily what I'm doing tomorrow. A lot of chefs have a seasonal rotating menu. That's the safe way to do things, but I'd rather put a gun in my mouth, 'cause what drives me is creativity and improving every day. My style today probably won't be my style ten years from now. Every day we'll change something, tweak a little something. I put three new things on last night, and I saw room for improvement, so tonight I'm going to tweak things on two of those dishes. Or maybe I just like the way something comes out, and I'll leave it on for a few weeks. Even though the menu is printed every day around 5:00 p.m., it's not printed in stone — sometimes garnishes change a little even after the menu is printed. You've got to have fun with me."

"People ask me, why don't I go to New York or San Francisco or Las Vegas? But there's no place else on earth I'd rather be than here. Why can't people do great food in this town? Chefs used to come here and then leave within months, because their vision wasn't being executed — it was just too tough to train people on the job under the pressure of getting the food out. But the labor force has gotten a lot better here in the last ten years. There are culinary schools popping up in this town, or people are going to school in San Francisco or New York and then coming back home to work. These people aren't just earning a paycheck, they're cooking because they have a passion for it, and those are the sort of people I like to have in my kitchen. San Diego is getting there, and I love to be part of it, and I'm not going anywhere else." ■

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“Uh, guys, I appreciate the business, but your scooter is scaring away customers.”

I was walking up Tenth to Market when I spotted him. Skip. Standing on the corner with his cardboard sign out. Can't quite read it. Something like “Dollar Appreciated.” White-bearded, cherry-cheeked guy. He had this spot nailed, because all the Tenth Avenue traffic had to stop at Market on the light.

Me, I'm foraging for food, as usual. I slip Skip a Washington and ask him if he knows where a man can get a bite. We get to talking. I like him. And now I remember a place two blocks west, toward the bay.

“Come on with me,” I say. “I've got enough.”

So — he gathers his electric scooter and starts pushing. He has to because his battery's dead, and anyway all his stuff is piled in green bags on the seat, with his purple sleeping mat on top.

Two blocks down, here's this little place with a tan awning and three or four slatted tables and chairs outside, New York-bistro style. The sign says “artisan breads.” This is it.

Skip parks his scooter against the front railing and we amble in. It's one of those high-ceilinged, older downtown buildings, but they've stained the concrete floor brown, painted up the walls olive green, hung glass lights from the white ceiling, and, like, it wouldn't be cool without exposed air ducts, right? But the place is real. (Juli, the manager, says that the countertop dates back to the 1880s, when this was the Marston sisters' board-

ing house. It stayed a hotel till the 1990s.) You can see they bake at the back. And — this is good — they have bags of flour piled hip-high along the left wall. Sol Brillante High Gluten Flour. Mello Judith Bakers Flour. In a metal rack, their breads sit labeled with names like Bâtard, which, says Juli, describes the shape. Plus, according to French tradition, it's baked in a basket that has to be woven from German reeds. Huh. Today's is a roasted garlic bread. Then there's focaccia, their “big crumb, signature bread” with rosemary. Oh man.

But we're here for eats, and they're listed on the big board above the flour. Basically we're talking sandwiches. Like the Tuscany, with mozzarella, peppers, olives, onion, tomato, arugula (\$7.25), a BLT for the same price, or a melted Brie cheese and tomato on a baguette for \$6.25. They also have salads, like the Caesar for \$6.00 (\$8.00 with grilled chicken), and a half-and-half deal, half sandwich, half soup for \$6.50, or a cup of soup on its own for \$2.75. A bowl is \$4.50.

But Skip's looking at breakfasts. Now we're talking deals. The Country Breakfast is ultra simple, a baguette, butter (or cream cheese) and jam, and a small coffee for \$3.00. The Morning Sandwich has two eggs, provolone cheese, and butter on a roll for \$2.75. You add 75 cents if you want ham or bacon with it. “I'll have both,” Skip says. Fine. What's that, \$4.25?

**TIN
FORK**
ED BEDFORD

Gotta move, 'cause three smart office gals have come in. Katy, Kate, and — if you can believe — Caitlin. “We're always here,” says Katy. “Their tomato basil soup is, like, awesome.”

“And so is the Tuscany sandwich,” says Kate.

“And so is the Californian,” says Caitlin.

I look. The Californian's avocado, jack, tomato, and mayo for \$7.00.

But I've got it down to that Caesar salad or a cheese plate I've just noticed. “Your choice of Brie, gorgonzola, walnut-crust goat cheese, cheddar, or jack, served with seasonal fruit, kalamata olives, dried cranberries, and sliced baguette.” With two cheeses it costs \$5.95, three, \$6.50.

D'ah...I go for the two-cheese, with Brie and walnut-crust goat cheese. And a small coffee (\$1.50). Skip gets a Snapple iced tea (\$1.75), and then we go back outside. Man. You can see clear across vacant lots to the ballpark.

We yak. It turns out Skip used to be a musician with a band named Night People. They played all over the U.S. and Canada. Skip played lead guitar, piano, trumpet, harmonica, and flute. “Best moment was one night when Carlos Santana was on the bill,” Skip says. “He heard me play a pretty extended flute solo. He said, ‘That's good. That's really good.’ I never forgot that.”

Skip says something stupid happened. His girlfriend was mad at him for leaving a birthday party

up in the Oregon woods. “We were driving down the mountain, and she got so mad she grabbed the car keys and threw them out the window. That jammed the steering wheel, and we slammed straight into a tree.”

The result was a half-paralyzed arm, a broken head, and slurred speech that makes people — ‘specially cops — think he's drunk.

Chris, the guy who took our orders, brings out the food. We both wolf it down. My cheeses are nice, olives are salty, cranberries are tangy. Don't see no fruit though. Still, it's surprising how it can all fill you up. We kind of kick back and let things settle.

Everybody walking by seems to know Skip. Even Jeff the mailman. “Got any mail for me?” says Skip. Jeff laughs.

“Uh, guys, I appreciate the business, but your scooter is scaring away customers,” says Juli.

Skip gets up and moves the whole pile against a lamppost. As he does, and I know this is cliché, but with his rosy face and white beard and big shuffling body, I suddenly think Father Christmas, Santa Claus, and his sleigh bulging with toys. Except Skip's sleigh ain't packed with no toys. Just the things that keep him going between stints with his “Dollar Appreciated” sign at Tenth and Market.

Gotta go. I get up, shake his gnarled hand.

“Have a good one,” he says. ■

The Place: Bread on Market, 730 Market Street, downtown, 619-795-2730

Type of Food: American

Prices: The Tuscany Sandwich (mozzarella, peppers, olives, onion, tomato, arugula), \$7.25; BLT, \$7.25; the Californian (avocado, jack, tomato, mayo), \$7.00; the Brie (melted Brie cheese and tomato on baguette), \$6.25; Caesar salad, \$6.00 (\$8.00 with grilled chicken); “half and half,” half a sandwich, half soup, \$6.50; Morning Sandwich (two eggs, provolone cheese, butter in roll), \$2.75; add ham or bacon, 75 cents; cheese plate with two cheeses, bread, olives, cranberries, \$5.95 (three cheeses, \$6.50)

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San Diego Reader December 21, 2006 109

A Grape's Progress

"You could do a liberal arts degree with wine as the organizing principle."

'Cheers" read the subject line in my e-mail inbox. The sender was Natalie MacLean. *Natalie MacLean, Natalie MacLean...ah. That's right.* From Eric Asimov's column in the December 6 *New York Times*, his holiday wine book roundup: "Ms. MacLean is the disarming Everywoman. She loves wine, loves drinking and loves getting a little buzzed. But as she follows wine's journey from vineyard to cellar to retail shop, restaurant, and dining room, she can't help feeling insecure." He was writing about MacLean as she presents herself in her book, *Red, White, and Drunk All Over: A Wine-Soaked Journey from Grape to Glass*.

Asimov opposed that insecurity — MacLean herself characterizes it as "the general uncertainty that runs through the book" — to the more expert tone adopted by Jay McInerney in the season's other popular wine book, *A Hedonist in the Cellar*. Both authors position themselves as passionate amateurs, hanging around with the real masters so that we, the readers, don't have to. But, admits McInerney, "I suppose that now, ten years later, it would be disingenuous to pretend I haven't learned what malolactic fermentation is, or that I can't usually distinguish a Burgundy from a Bordeaux."

MacLean takes it further than that; she thinks he's being modest. "Jay knows a heck of a lot more than I do; he's been studying and reading

a whole lot longer." She ought to know — she interviewed him for her book's last chapter, which uses McInerney's story to take up the matter of wine collecting. This is MacLean's method throughout: find a story upon which to hang the

Crush
 MATTHEW LICKONA

investigation. A visit to Burgundy's Domaine Romanee-Conti gives her space to talk about soil and vines; the tale of a dinner party lets her ruminate on wine and food pairing, etc. She comes across as more of a student than McInerney, but interestingly enough, she does more teaching along the way. "When I go to a region, that's when I learn about it, and when I went to these places in the book, they were my first trips there. I hope that keeps the perspective fresh, keeps the feeling that you're learning along with me."

"I'm trying to use the approach my mother did when I was little," she explains, "bury the peas in the mashed potatoes, so that you still get the nutrition, but it tastes good. You need to know how wine is made before you buy it, how to buy it before you match it with food, how to match it with food before you tackle a restaurant list...." (Collecting, the McInerney chapter, comes last of all.) "The chapters are structured around the most commonly asked wine questions." Again, she ought to know — through her website (nataliemaclean.com), she gets about 200 e-mails a day, many of them asking questions about wine. "The

Internet has been bigger than I ever thought it could be," she says. "In terms of the connection with wine lovers, ideas for stories, editors finding me, and now marketing the book."

In at least two instances, those connections provided her with not only direction but material as well. MacLean wanted to find a fantastic wine shop — a place full of characters, quirky, iconic, somehow cutting edge. A place with a story compelling enough to cover a lesson on how to buy wine. "I really tried to find the most obsessed, colorful people I could, because I thought, 'They're going to ask the questions; they're going to make the provocative statements.' I want to challenge as many notions as I can, and they're going to help me do it." And her readers were going to help her find them.

"I have just over 60,000 people who subscribe to my wine newsletter," she says. Some subscribers provide an address along with the requisite e-mail, so "I looked at my database and selected everyone who lived in San Francisco" and asked them for suggestions. Again and again, the responses urged her to visit Chuck Hayward at the Jug Shop, and so she did. Ditto her other wine-shop stop, Discovery Wines in New York, where she made the mistake of wearing Manolo Blahniks while she worked the floor. By late afternoon, she writes, "I've developed a code-blue blister on my left heel and my hamstrings are on fire."

A framework of stories is one way MacLean keeps the book from becoming a primer. That sort of physical description is another. "I love the appeal of wine because it hits me on three levels," she says. "The intellectual — the geography, the history. You could do a liberal arts degree with wine as the organizing principle. The sensory — what's going on in the glass. The aromas, how it matches with food. And then the bodily — the buzz. I trained as a dancer for a lot of years, and dancing



Natalie Maclean

formed my life, the way I respond to the world. When I have a sensory experience, it doesn't just stay in my head. I descend into the body. My descriptions will often include how I'm feeling bodily. Some people like that; other people call it purple prose. But it's my voice, and it's my sensibility."

Early on, she writes that a particular red Burgundy "wants to play coy with me before filling my pleasure center. The wine's suppleness feels as though unseen hands pull a velvet dress over my head and down over my breasts and hips, until the hem brushes my thighs. By now, my tasting notes have become contented purring noises." She recalls that "Someone said, 'Did you know your thighs are in this book twice?' I said, 'Well, they're big thighs, so that's where the wine hits first.'" And while she points to this passage as a possible example of her feminine voice as a wine writer — a voice she believes resonates with other women — she distinguishes it from "the cutesy style. 'Chardon-



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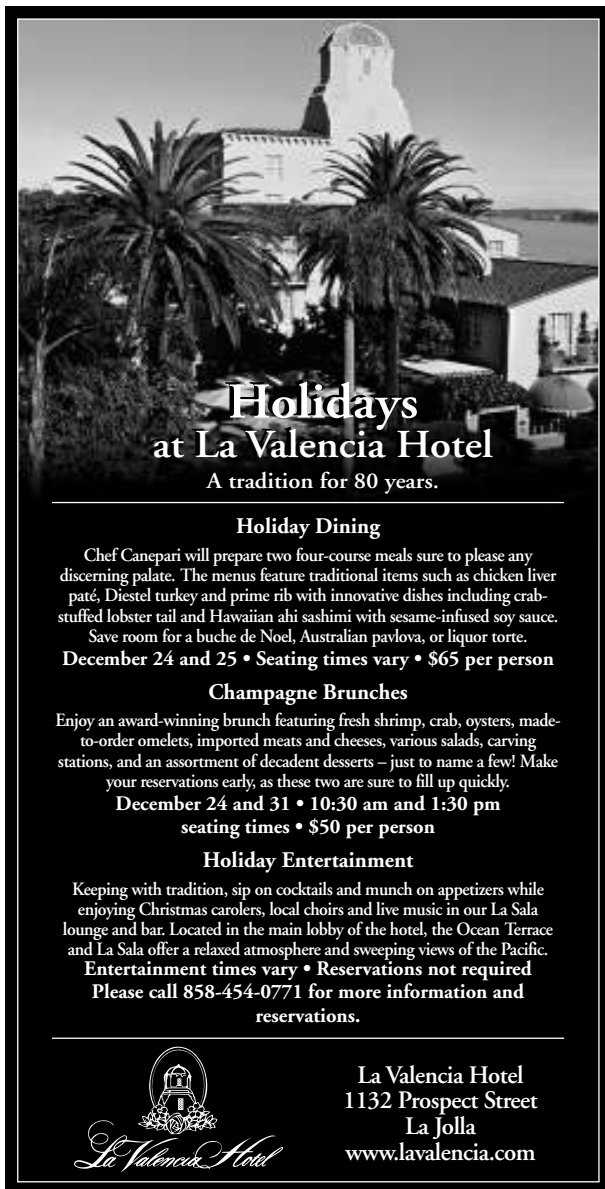
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nay is your little black dress' and that kind of stuff. I can't relate to that, because it doesn't tell me anything." The sensual effect is part of the critical assessment.

And MacLean is a critic. She evaluates wines for her newsletter readers, and thanks to popular demand, she even scores them. To her, it goes with the territory: she's given her working life to wine, and her busy readers want to share in the practical fruits of her labors. But her criticism is a long way from the magisterial assessments of some of her peers. "First and foremost, I'm inconsistent. You never know where I'm going to go, because I'm always writing these tasting notes late at night after drinking! As you can tell, I don't take wine criticism seriously.

"I will admit that I'm influenced by my personal preferences. I find Pinot Grigio completely boring. I have written in tasting notes, 'This is a good Pinot Grigio — if you like Pinot Grigio.' I didn't like it, but it's a good one of its type. I let my enthusiasm flow for wines I personally like. That would be Pinot Noir from just about any region...and then a crisp New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc or a German Riesling. I find a lot of Australian Shiraz and California Cabernet to be just too heavy. I find them overwhelming in terms of the oak, the alcohol, the flavor, the color, the extraction. They're just going to clobber your food. So I'm biased according to my personal palate. I'm not pretending to be a universal critic. I've told people, 'You've got to see if the kinds of wines I like line up with what you like. Otherwise, you're going to find my reviews very...I just don't cover a wide territory.'"

Not to say she isn't interested. "The book has been satisfying, even though it was a huge, huge commitment. That's why I want to do it again."

"Oh, there was some stuff you didn't get to?" I ask.

"Did you notice that Italy was missing?" she asks, laughing. "Bordeaux? I want to do something with a different concept, and with completely different regions. I'm curious. I want to get out and see places and bring my readers with me." ■

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

A Little Moore Coffee Shop 1030 North Highway 101, Leucadia, 760-753-8228. How did this place slip by unnoticed for so long? Inside, with

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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

its low ceiling and snaky counter, it could be out of an Early California movie. The specials are named after recent local characters: “The Billy” is an omelet with ham, avocado, and cheese, plus home fries or hash browns (or cottage cheese or rice). “The Cindy” is two French toast with two eggs and spuds. A plate of grilled veggies and chicken or beef on a mountain of rice is “The Pablo.” It’s standard but generous fare, a formula that’s kept the place humming since at least the 1950s. Breakfast and lunch, seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (1/06)*

Azafran 1001 South Coast Highway 101 (at West Street), Oceanside, 760-435-0005. This place just feels Cuban, with its echoey inside, bongos, washed orange walls, and giant Cuban jazz mural. We’re talking Caribbean-style food, not hot by Mexican standards. Most delicious intro: traditional Cuban pressed sandwiches, hot-pressed to mix the juices of, say, smoked ham, roast pork, cheese, mustard, pickles (“Cubano #2”), or roast pork (*lechón*) with a *mojo* (garlicky-citrus) sauce that makes it juicy. The bread, baked right here, is news in itself—crunchy and sometimes sweet (ask for *medianoche*). You get a lot, but don’t leave without trying a plantain dish or the cheese flan. Or a cup of Cuban coffee. Lunch and dinner. Closed Monday. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (3/04)*

Beach House 2530 South Coast Highway 101 (at Lomas Santa Fe), Cardiff-by-the-Sea, 760-753-1321. This beautiful restaurant, with its breezy seafront patio, is a branch of an upscale beach mini-chain (others are in Dana Point

and Laguna Beach). Its main menu features steaks, seafood, and some “Continental” warhorses (lobster thermidor, etc.) that are best avoided. The view is even more spectacular from the upstairs “Top of the House” which features pub grub and fish in a lighthouse-like setting. On Sundays, local families flock in for the moderately priced à la carte champagne brunch featuring the standard dishes of the genre plus some less-successful fancied-up ones, with endless Freixenet champagne (Wyclef is its house champagne, though). Whatever the meal, stay simple here — burgers, steak, unfussy eggs — and enjoy the atmosphere. Reserve for a view table or outdoor seating at Sunday brunch. Full bar but few wines. \$2 valet parking. Restrooms accessible by elevator, may be tight fit for wider wheelchairs. Daily brunch/lunch and dinner. “Top of the House” serves until 9:30 p.m. in winter and until 11 p.m. in summer. “Early bird” cut-price dinners daily. Brunch moderate, dinner moderate to very expensive. — *N.W. (7/03)*

Charlie’s by the Sea 2565 South Coast Highway 101, Cardiff-by-the-Sea (a long block south of the stoplight), 760-942-1300. This seaside spot offers a blissful patio right on the breakwater and a terrific, authentic Boston-style clam chowder to match the view — it’s light, creamy, and loaded with clams, unpeeled red potato chunks, and bits of honey-cured bacon. The kitchen’s good with simple dishes, including fresh raw oysters and the lively “Bayou Burger” with Cajun seasonings and well-made spicy fries. The dinner menu includes more ambitious items, but the weekly main event here is Sunday brunch, with a menu of standard brunch dishes at affordable prices, featuring endless refills of champagne. (Hint: Veuve Clicquot it’s not.) Huge wine list, full bar. Free

valet parking. Brunch reservations advisable. Monday through Saturday, lunch and dinner; Sunday, brunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive. — *N.W. (9/03)*

Kim’s Restaurant 745 First Street, Lumberyard Shopping Center #103, Encinitas, 760-942-4816. Both Vietnamese and Chinese dishes are offered in a calm atmosphere with quick, pleasant service. The menu lists 265 items, including many Vietnamese house specialties, 28 seafood dishes, and a whopping 45 vegetarian/vegan dishes, many made with *seitan* (mock poultry). The seafood isn’t necessarily fresh catch — some shellfish is evidently obtained frozen, scallops are phosphate-preserved, and the reasonably priced abalone dishes involve slightly chewy, rehydrated dried abalone from Asia. On the other hand, portions are enormous, and the cooking is careful and tasty, although some flavors have evidently been adapted to American palates and ingredients. Open Tuesday through Sunday, continuous service lunch and dinner; closed Monday. Moderate. — *N.W. (10/01)*

Le Bambou Del Mar Village, 2634 Del Mar Heights Road (turn north on Mango), Del Mar Heights, 858-259-8138. No mere “pho joint,” this lovely restaurant serves the sophisticated Vietnamese cuisine of pre-war Saigon — and the owners’ daughters serve it in the flower-bedecked dining room with grace, intelligence, and evident pleasure in teaching westerners about the cuisine. Appetizers (most of them designed for rolling with fresh herbs in lettuce leaves and eating with your hands) are varied and of superb quality. Few restaurants here do the royal delicacy of “ground shrimp on sugar cane” so well. Most of the house specialty entrées are equally accomplished. Lacqué duck, sautéed

shrimps or scallops in tamarind sauce, and “Star of the Sea” curry are outstanding. The gently priced wine list abounds in the fruity whites that go so well with this cuisine, while beer-quaffers can enjoy Vietnam’s own “33” brand. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Low moderate. — *N.W. (6/05)*

Meritage 897 South Coast Highway 101, Lumberyard Shopping Center, Encinitas, 760-634-3350. Chef-owner Susan Sbicca creates pristine California Cuisine here, highlighting fresh (and usually organic) local produce. A few pick hits are direct imports from her Sbicca down the coast — the irresistible lobster-shrimp bisque is pure Del Mar deluxe. But some simpler dishes cleverly complete themselves as you eat them. It’s a fun way to eat, engaging the mind along with the palate. The setting is family-friendly (only well-mannered kids come here) with a handsome, airy dining room and charming patio. Wide-ranging wine list, plenty by the glass and even some half-bottles. No corkage on Tuesday, Monday and Wednesday all bottles half-price. Reservations advisable. Lunch and dinner daily, bar menu ongoing. Moderate to slightly expensive. — *N.W. (7/03)*

Nobu Japanese Restaurant 315 South Coast Highway 101 (near Dahlia Drive), Solana Beach, 858-755-7787. No, this isn’t the famous fusion-food Nobu of NY, LA, and branches located wherever the money is. Our Nobu has been in the sushi business ten years longer than his namesake, and what he creates is classic non-fusion Japanese sushi and sashimi, with well-seasoned rice, freshly toasted seaweed wrappings, and fresh, fresh seafood. If you’re in the mood for a different sort of grazing, you can settle at a table or booth to nibble on a score of appetizers, including a fine monkfish

paté and enchanting *chawan mushi* (egg custard) soup served super hot in the cup it was baked in. The Japanese entrées are standard fare, with plenty for vegetarians. It’s all comfortable, casual, and kid-friendly, with gracious sushi chefs. Nobu himself usually works the bar Wednesday through Sunday nights. Lunch and dinner daily, with a break between the meals; open weekends until 11 p.m. Large free lot behind restaurant (via Sierra Street, a block west). Mostly moderate; some delicacies expensive. — *N.W. (5/05)*

Oceanside Cafe 1938 South Coast Highway, Oceanside, 760-722-7337. This little place is as “mom and pop” as they get. “Hi honey. You going to have the usual?” That’s Shannon. They do lunch, with good burgers, but breakfast’s what a lot of folks come for. “Dieter’s Downfall,” a three-egg omelet stuffed with ham, bacon, sausage, tomato, Jack, and Cheddar, is wicked. Two other things to try: the “Sausage of the Week” is made next door at the Red and White Market (anything from bockwurst to French apple-chicken sausage). And the dieter’s real downfall comes with their carrot cake or double chocolate cake — rich, moist, and fresh out of their oven every morning. Breakfast and lunch. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (5/03)*

101 Cafe 631 South Coast Highway 101, Oceanside, 760-722-5220. This is the oldest li’l eating establishment in Oceanside. Cooks have been flipping burgers here since 1928. The café is named after Route 101, the Pacific Highway. Old-timers remember when everyone from truck drivers to movie stars would stop for a bite before heading on to San Diego and Tijuana. Try the ABC (avocado, bacon, and cheese) Omelet, the 101 Original Cheeseburger with its “secret sauce,” chicken fried steaks with eggs and, of course, the Great Depression

dish: biscuits with gravy and home fries. Open daily, three meals until midnight. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (3/01)*

Samurai Japanese Restaurant Lomas Santa Fe Plaza, Garden Section, 979 Lomas Santa Fe Drive (one block east of I-5), Solana Beach, 858-481-0032. Set in a suburban mall, Samurai is rumored to have the longest sushi bar in California — 50 feet, stretching around 2 walls — with up to 12 chefs. The pure Japanese sushi is made from never-frozen seafood, and the visual side of the art isn’t neglected: The friendly chefs take care to make their compositions look as beautiful as they taste. There’s also a spirit of “something extra” — e.g., not just free *edamame* to nibble, but the *ama ebi* often includes a delicious miso soup made with extra shrimp heads. Additional dining choices include standard Japanese fare in the pretty dining room, *kaiseki* (prix fixe) dinners in the Tatami Room (for groups of four to fourteen, advance reservations required), or grilled items in the Teppan Room (two people minimum, reservations required). Open weekdays for lunch; dinner served nightly. For sushi, best to arrive early or lateish, as it gets crowded at prime time. Mostly moderate; *kaiseki* and some *teppan* items expensive. — *N.W. (5/05)*

Sbicca American Bistro 215 15th Street, Del Mar, 858-481-1001. Though characterized as an “American Bistro,” Chef Susan Sbicca (“speeka”) also reveals Asian and Mexican influences in her creative menu. Set in a one-time private home a block from the Del Mar coast, this lively restaurant boasts five dining rooms, including one downstairs with a fireplace and a “wine room” upstairs for private parties. In fair weather, the outdoor rooftop patio is the best seat in the house. The menu changes seasonally, though a few perennial favorites remain. The rich, deeply flavored lob-



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ster-shrimp bisque with overtones of sweet butter pastry is worth a return visit. A thick maple-roasted pork prime rib with vanilla-scented sweet potatoes and bourbon chantilly sauce is a house favorite, although not quite as exquisite as the soup. Monday nights feature \$4 martinis; on Tuesdays and Thursdays, all bottles of wine from the fine California-centric wine list are 50% off. No corkage fee on Wednesday. Crowded during racing season. Lunch and dinner daily. Expensive. — *B.D.* (5/05)

Swami's Cafe 1163 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-944-0612. No coincidence it's near the famous surf break and the Self-Realization Fellowship compound. You gotta love the very Encinitas vegetarian-spiritual-surfer origins. You eat surrounded by gurgling fountains, wind chimes, wheat grass racks, a rainbow-colored wind sock, and the manager's 1969 surfer van. There are plenty of standard dishes, like eggs Benedict or black bean burrito, but the big emphasis is health. Try the protein veggie wrap, with avocado, feta cheese, tofu, and mole, or the Indian curry with tofu. Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* (3/04)

NORTH INLAND

Bernard'O Restaurant 12457 Rancho Bernardo Road, Rancho Bernardo Village Shopping Center, 858-487-7171. Ambiance excels here at one of the prettiest restaurants in the county. High ceilings, tall arched windows, rose-cream walls, fireplaces, and charming Gallic paintings make for an eye-ful. Adding to the charm, a harpist plays show tunes on Sundays, and a guitarist performs on Thursdays. The cuisine mingles French classics (for example, mussels with *frites*,) with daily specials offering seasonal Cal-Mediterranean cooking. These dishes seem a little less adventurous than in days of yore, but this is still a place for a gracious meal in a superb surrounding. Lunch Wednesday through Friday, dinner nightly. Expensive. — *N.W.* (6/04)

Cabana Cove Harrah's Rincon Casino, Valley Center, 877-777-2457. This fun eatery brings Pacific Beach to Valley Center with its cheerful (make that gorgeous) surfer decor and a menu of classy surfer grub. With glass walls looking out on the mountains and on two curvy swimming pools, this is the only restaurant in the casino to offer views of the outer world. The eclectic menu, from "surfing spots around the world," includes wonderful, smoky pork as both a taco and an entrée, plus pristine seafood choices. Full bar, creative cocktails. Breakfast Monday through Friday; lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. — *N.W.* (4/05)

The French Market Grille 15717 Bernardo Heights Parkway, San Diego, 858-485-8055. Ambience is served in generous portions at this romantic establishment with elegant indoor dining or a charming garden setting. The wine list has over 50 selections, including several available by the glass, and the varied menu offers Gallic dishes of duck, lamb, fish, veal, frog legs, and more. Most dishes are served with the usual French cuisine sauces, but if you're dieting, they'll gladly omit sauce. Ingredients and execution of the entrées can be inconsistent (e.g., some nights the fish is overcooked or the meat is tough, other nights they're fine) but the crab-cake appetizer is always outstanding. Save room for dessert, especially the excellent crème brûlée. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *S.M.* (11/03)

Hernandez' Hide-Away 19320 Lake Drive (off Del Dios Highway), Escondido, 760-746-1444. The founder of Hernandez' claims he invented the margarita at his previous restaurant in Bird Rock. True or not, the margaritas (rocks, not slush-ee) are terrific, on a par with Baja's best. The food, though, is detuned for gringos, with a standard menu of Cal-Mex specialties. Even the guacamole is under-seasoned, but if you like this sort of thing, a pleasant "enchilada pie" is as good as any Midwestern mom's. The huge bargain-priced brunch on Saturday and Sunday brings in the crowds; reservations urged for weekends to save a long wait. The exterior patio sports a big, funny mural, and the interior is carved into several rooms (helps keep the noise down) camped up with cute "Old West" cantina decor. Weekend brunch; lunch and dinner Tuesday

through Sunday. Inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W.* (7/04)

Jimbo's, Naturally! 12853 El Camino Real, Carmel Valley, 858-793-7755 (also in Escondido and Carlsbad). Jimbo — and there is a real Jimbo — started out selling healthy eating with the famous OB Co-op. Now he has these organic palaces of his own. Inside the Carmel Valley branch, it's high



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Calendar RESTAURANTS

ceilings and lots of color — yellow, purple, white — with all the ducts and pipes exposed like in a giant submarine. The deli bulges with cheese, hams, burritos, wraps, and an elaborate salad bar. At the juice counter they grind carrots and wheat grass and organic coffee. A “hot case” counter offers all kinds of ricey, tabbouleh-type preparations. Best deals are usually the daily specials. Try Seitan stew (a high-protein, low-fat meat substitute) or Shelton’s Jerk Turkey in Fig Sauce, served with organic mashed potatoes, gravy, and steamed vegetables. — E.B. (10/04)

Mille Fleurs 6009 Paseo Delicias, Rancho Santa Fe, 858-756-3085. One of the area’s top destination restaurants, Bertrand Hug’s beautiful room with beautiful food draws “the beautiful people” — Hollywood honchos, high-end high school graduation parties, and a steady influx of rarefied Rancho Santa Fe residents flaunting huge twinkling rocks. The daily-changing menu sports first-rate modern French cuisine (with a few German touches) by long-time chef Martin Woese. Order at will — everything’s flawless. The menu’s most exciting on weeknights, when crowds are sparser and the kitchen has time to stretch. The wine list is fabulous but exorbitant even at the bottom. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Reservations recommended. Very, very expensive. — N.W. (5/01)

Onami Japanese Restaurant 240 East Via Rancho Parkway, North County Fair, Escondido, 760-738-7522. This Japanese buffet offers everything from

miso soup and sukiyaki to a host of salads, including several variations of *sunomono* (cucumber salad). Then there are teriyakis, sashimis, and a plethora of sushi rolls. Among the winners are the California roll with *masago*, tempura shrimp roll, guacamole roll, and Philadelphia roll. Skip the dry egg rolls and head for the corn crab cakes, teriyaki chicken, tempura shrimp, and veggies. Desserts offer fresh fruits, bite-size cake options, and go-back-for-seconds green tea ice cream. The food is fresh, the presentation artful, and the staff friendly and efficient. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Expensive. — S.M. (8/04)

Wine Sellar and Brasserie 9550 Waples Street #115, Mira Mesa, 858-450-9557. The French-continental food is a delight to the palate. Lunch on Saturday served by itself or in conjunction with the wine tasting. Call for directions and specific hours. — E.W.

LA JOLLA

Cafe Japengo The Aventine, 8960 University Center Lane, La Jolla, 858-450-3355. Here Bentleys and Beamers far outnumber Buicks. Inside is contemporary with an Asian flair, complete with kimono stands and bamboo forests. Sushi is the specialty, and it’s above average, although the sushi bar chefs aren’t very friendly, and the seasoned rice tastes quite salty. The highly prized fatty tuna (*toro*) and flying fish roe *tobiko* are offered when available. Otherwise, they may be replaced by smelt roe, *masago*, which may be a minor disappointment. However, the *uni* (sea urchin roe) is pristine. If you appreciate subtlety, try the egg-omelet sushi (*tamago*), a delightful mixture of eggs, sake, and mirin. Creative party rolls are especially popular

here, including the amusing Tootsie Roll — sweet and spicy, crunchy and spongy, with fried soft shell crab topped with grilled shiitake mushrooms, avocado, and a sake marinade. Entrées are often a letdown, but diners may be satisfied to make a meal from appetizers like the Char Su Duck Salad with goat cheese, candied pecans, and pomegranate vinaigrette; Duck Wontons with coriander pesto and *ponzu* sauce; and an excellent kimchi martini. No reservations for the sushi bar; arrive early for prompt seating. Lunch weekdays only; sushi bar opens at 5 p.m.; dinner begins at 6 p.m. Very expensive. — B.D. (10/05)

Cliff Hanger Cafe Torrey Pines Gliderport, 2800 Torrey Pines Scenic Drive, La Jolla, 858-452-9858. “You should never leave the ground on an empty stomach,” says the sign near the cliff, which is where this café hangs. What is it like to be at the Café at the End of the World? You sit, munch, and watch men becoming birdmen, jumping off the cliff beside you. The view of the Pacific Ocean is spectacular. But, hey, grub’s good too. Try the Launch (a breakfast burrito with scrambled eggs, bacon, cheese, onions, bell peppers, and salsa) or the Mile High omelet (bacon, cheese, and bell peppers). Also great and grilled right there: generous half-pound hamburgers. Open daily for breakfast and lunch. Inexpensive. — E.B. (1/06)

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)

Roy’s 8670 Genesee Avenue, Costa Verde Center (across from UTC), La Jolla, 858-455-1616. Our own noisy outpost of top Hawaii chef Roy Yamaguchi’s ever-expanding chain has elements of both “top chef” and “chain” about it. Decoding Roy’s Rules of Ordering can make the difference between a mediocre dinner and a very happy meal: 1. Steer clear of combination platters — the same dishes come off much better when ordered separately; 2. You can get any element of a combo by asking for it; 3. Don’t waste your palate (or money) on weak umbrella drinks when the wine list is brilliant. The menu changes daily, but some frequent tasty choices are pot stickers, *lumpia* “Kahana,” or chocolate soufflé. Special dietary requests accommodated, including vegetarian meals. Reserve, and hope for a table far from the raucous bar. Open nightly. Very expensive. — N.W. (4/01)

Sky Room Top floor of La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-0771. (Closed for renovations, set to reopen December.) The stunning ocean view offers three essentials for a memorable evening: privacy, intimacy, and the ability to talk without the interruption of noise. The food is a feast to the eyes as well as the palate. Best bets: abalone and scallop steak appetizer, the daily soup, diver scallops, and lobster. Dinner only, with two seatings on weekends. Very expensive. — E.W. (10/99)

MISSION VALLEY & THE MESAS

Bali Thai Café 407 South Camino del Rio South (dead end, west of Auto Circle and Mission Center Road), San Diego, 619-297-0800. Expect the unexpected! This tiny, unique restaurant splits its menu between three nations with chefs from Indonesia and Thailand and a chef-owner from Suriname, a former Dutch colony (like Indonesia) in South America. The Thai menu is standard, al-

though the *tom kha koong* (shrimp in coconut milk soup) is outstandingly authentic (don’t eat the stuff at the bottom of the bowl!), while the richly tropical Indonesian dishes are so rare locally that culinary adventurers will want to explore such delights as “seafood delight roll,” corn fritters, the soothing *soto ayam* (the Indonesian version of chicken-noodle comfort soup), Balinese fish filet, and the spicy *sambal goreng* (shrimp in chili sauce), among others. Short but smart wine list, beer, sake. Easy evening parking. Heated, roofed patio. Large portions. Reserve for weeknights, no reservations accepted for weekends. Tuesday through Sunday, lunch and dinner. Low moderate. — N.W. (4/06)

Emerald Chinese Seafood Restaurant Pacific Gateway Plaza, 3709 Convoy Street (at Aero Drive), 1st floor, Kearny Mesa, 858-565-6888. Arguably the best Chinese restaurant in the county, here’s where local Asians (of all nations) go for both casual family dinners and special feasts of Hong Kong specialties. When you dig in, you’ll know why. Menu (trilingual in Chinese, Vietnamese, and English) emphasizes seafood and gourmet delicacies of the South China coast, plus lunchtime dim sum carts daily. The staff is bilingual and crisply helpful, and the specialties are well worth exploring. Reservations accepted for all meals, including weekend dim sum brunches. Few dishes include MSG; diners can request none in made-to-order dishes. Live fish tanks, full bar, serviceable wine list. Mainly moderate, with moderate splurges like live fish and Peking duck easily balanced by inexpensive down-home dishes (unless you insist on shark fin or bird’s nest). Open daily from lunch until midnight or later. — N.W. (9/02)

Korea House 4620 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-560-0080. Korea House offers floor seating or a table if you want to barbecue your own food. The menu offers fine “down-home” Korean food, such as traditional *mandoo* (beef) dumplings, *gaejang backban*, or

raw crab, and *yookhwe*, a steak tartare worth risking. Make a meal from enormous appetizers like *gul bosam* (raw oysters, pork, and cabbage leaves). Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — M.N. (9/98)

Nijiya Market 3860 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-268-3821. If you’re not willing to sacrifice quality for convenience when eating fast food, try this Japanese market in Kearny Mesa. Nijiya Market offers prepared box lunches, or *bento*, that are pretty to look at, appetizing, and a real bargain. I suggest, however, passing by Nijiya’s steam trays and heat lamps and going straight to the coolers, where you’ll find delicious chicken cutlets, fresh sushi, and chilled noodles, as well as dessert delicacies like sweet bread roll filled with sweet bean paste. Inexpensive. — M.N. (8/99)

Pampas Argentine Grill 8690 Aero Drive (at Montgomery Field), Kearny Mesa, 858-278-5971. The Argentine specialties feature grilled grass-fed beef, including a somewhat Americanized version of the *gauchos’* great *parillada mixta* (mixed grill), with a great chorizo but minus any exotic organs. The naturally raised meats are lower fat and lower cholesterol than feed-lot beef but are salted heavily in the kitchen unless you request otherwise. Specify rare or medium-rare, unless you really like brown cardboard. Lighter fare includes free-range chicken and fresh, well-treated seafood. Beef empanadas are a tasty, authentic starter. Potatoes (fries and mashed) are splendid, salads are exuberant. The full bar features Chilean and Argentine beverages with many affordable South American wines by the glass. Park in lot at restaurant’s front door, not the back-door lot. Lunch (mainly sandwiches) on weekdays. Dinner nightly. Entertainment (harp) Friday through Sunday. Closed Monday. Moderate. — N.W. (4/02)

Seau’s Mission Valley Center mall, 1640 Camino del Rio North (next to Robinsons-May), Mission Valley, 619-291-7328. Footballer Junior Seau

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Bottomless Champagne & Mimosas \$5
 9 am-3 pm

Christmas Eve Dinner
Alaskan King Crab Legs \$9⁹⁵
 5-10 pm (plus regular menu items)

Christmas Day
Complete Turkey Dinner \$17⁹⁵
Prime Rib \$21⁹⁵
 12-8 pm (plus regular menu items)

New Year's Eve
Slow-roasted Prime Rib or Live Maine Lobster \$19⁹⁵
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New Year's Day
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5:00-10:00 pm • Regular menu available

live maine

Lobster

\$9⁹⁵

slow-roasted

Prime Rib

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Monday, December 25

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with entrée purchase

Starting at Noon

traditional

Turkey Dinner

\$9⁹⁵

Turkey with a sausage & sage stuffing, mashed potatoes & gravy, candied yams, corn, carrots and cranberry sauce.

Starting at 3 pm

live maine

Lobster

\$9⁹⁵

Regular menu available

Sunday, December 31

New Year's Eve

Special holiday menu available from 5-11 pm.

Door charge: \$50. \$40 presale tickets now available.

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contributes more to San Diego than just sacks. His extravagant multivenue sports pub is major league fun — a real-life reincarnation of some 1960s McLuhanite media art show, with 70 video screens (ranging from large-normal to giant HDTV) running sportscasts and a professional DJ on high, periodically spinning cool sounds over muted talking heads. The menu offers mainstream “something for everyone” choices, including pizza, hefty but so-so burgers, some elementary sushi, all-American entrées, and Seau’s family recipe of Samoan teriyaki “plate lunch.” Above all, there’s pub grub. The chicken wings are pretty good, and you can get all three sauces (Buffalo, BBQ, and Asian) on one order. Perfect hangout for mismatched couples with one sports fan and one fashionista (the latter can head for Nordstrom and Saks discount outlets nearby). On game days, patrons are allowed just one game in the dining room (\$15 minimum), but you can linger from wake-up to closing on the patio or in the bar. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W. (1/03)

THE BEACHES

Baleen Paradise Point Resort, 1404 Vacation Road (off Ingraham Street), Mission Bay, 858-490-6364. Take a quick trip to chic Miami at the local branch of Florida’s famed new resort restaurant. Whimsical tropical decor features a monkey motif (carved in the chandeliers, peeking from the paintings) and mambos play on the speakers. But the unlisted prices for chilled shellfish may make a monkey of you unless you ask before you buy. The menu features high-quality seafood and land creatures in refined renditions, including gorgeous lobster bisque, salmon with a clever hummus crust, herbed sea bass, and a hunk of free-range veal. Servers are charmers. The wine list is long and rather steep at the bottom end with better values farther up the range. Reservations recommended. Very expensive. — N.W. (12/00)

The Bar-B-Que House 5025 Newport Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-4311. OB’s piling in, and for good reason: the chicken and ribs are smoked on an oak-wood fire, then charbroiled. Beef, pork, and ham spend eight to ten hours in the smoker. Of course, they have pork ribs. A good-value combo is the Southern-Style sandwich — beef, pork, ham, or chicken with coleslaw inside, along with a sauce that’s just right: sweet, tangy, spicy. Most original idea? A BBQ burrito with meat, baked beans, coleslaw, and sauce wrapped in a flour tortilla. Expanded menu includes gyros. Open seven days, breakfast through dinner; till 9:30 p.m. weeknights; 10:30 p.m. weekends. Inexpensive. — E.B. (3/04)

Island Prime 880 Harbor Island Drive, Harbor Island, 619-298-6802. Deborah (Kemo Sabe) Scott is the chef and co-owner (with the Cohn Restaurant Group, owners of many San Diego restaurants) at this high-end steakhouse with a bay view. The steaks and roast beefs are delicious, as you’d expect, but also enjoy creative appetizers and sides like shaved corn with black truffle and a seared ahi stack. Salt runs freely, and the excellent international wine list runs high. Do reserve; free parking. Open daily, dinner only. Very expensive. — N.W. (5/06)

Kono’s 704 Garnet Avenue (on the boardwalk), Pacific Beach, 858-483-1669. This inside-outside café is your prototypical California surfer hangout. It’s cream and green with maroon canvas window canopies, red-painted make-believe shutters, and three surfboards sprouting through the roof. On weekends, lines of tourists come looking for their California fix. But Kono’s is known among locals, too, for generous breakfasts. Check out their PBS: Pancakes, Bacon and Scrambled eggs. Or the breakfast sandwich with eggs, bacon, cheese, and tomato on a toasted English muffin. Or the CB Burger (chicken breast, green chili, and pica sauce). Best time: foggy mornings. Chow down on their patio on the pier while you enjoy a birds-eye view of surfers appearing out of the mists below. Breakfast and lunch daily. Inexpensive. — E.B. (10/00)

Mardi Gras Cafe 3185 Midway Drive (near Rosecrans and East Street, in mini-mall with a 7-11, across the street from Godfather Pizza), Loma Portal, 619-223-5501. The Creole cooking at this café/grocery, to eat in, take out, or

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Calendar
RESTAURANTS

have catered for your next party, is sound and tasty, if deliberately underseasoned (just add salt and hot sauce to taste). You can also buy the real and rare ingredients from the freezer, deli case, and grocery shelves, including Cajun *tasso* (spiced ham), *boudin blanc* (rice sausage) and crawfish sausage. Daily brunch through early dinner. No alcohol, everything available for takeout. Inexpensive. — N.W. (2/01)

MZM Seacoast Bistro 875 Seacoast Drive, Imperial Beach, 619-424-5800. If you can make it past the bland exterior, you'll discover a well-disguised classy joint inside. A harbinger of a new I.B.? Interior is all peach-colored walls, trendy blue scone wall lights, tweedy booths, and photos of owners Marek and Zofia Migdalski with people like President Bush, Lloyd Bentsen, Sam Donaldson, and Joan Kroc. Migdalski is a recognized private chef who has decided to put I.B. on the gastronomic map. Breakfast, available Saturday and Sunday, tends to be simple but sophisticated, like frittata with Polish sausage, prime rib steak and eggs, or scrambled eggs with smoked salmon. Burgers at lunch are often lamb sirloin. Dinner can be anything, including filet mignon or flatiron steak. Reser-

vations recommended. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B. (6/04)

Sapporo Japanese Restaurant 5049 Newport Avenue (by the pier), Ocean Beach, 619-222-6686. It's small, but Sapporo has big deals, particularly the lunch specials that usually give you a miso soup, salad, and a combo such as chicken teriyaki and California rolls and white rice — all presented like a piece of performance art. Other specials include *yaki soba* (stir-fried sautéed chicken, vegetables, and noodles) and *champon* noodle soup (*udon* noodles, scallops, shrimp, vegetables), and the value-packed Chicken Bowl — a big plate of sliced chicken, broccoli, other vegetables, and a swag of rice. Dinner daily, lunch daily except Monday. Inexpensive. — E.B. (9/01)

CENTRAL
SAN DIEGO

Antique Row Cafe 3002 Adams Avenue (at 30th Street), Normal Heights, 619-282-9750. (Also in Lemon Grove.) Antique-land's favorite eatery is a serious exhibit in its own right, especially if you're into sports memorabilia. Look for signed photos of Mickey Mantle, Ted Williams, and Joe DiMaggio (all googly-eyed with Marilyn) on the walls. The word for the food: generous. All-day breakfast dishes include "The Works" omelet, stuffed with bacon, sausage, ham, bell peppers, onions, tomatoes, and cheese bulging over a big oval plate along with skins-on breakfast potatoes. "Philly Steak Heaven" (you choose: steak, ham, or turkey) is one of the more popular lunchtime dishes. Open daily, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B. (10/01)

Asia Cafe 4710 Market Street (at 47th Street), Chollas View, 619-527-1917. May be Asian San Diego's best-kept secret. You have to look behind the smog shop at this all-Laotian shopping center to find it. The menu's Southeast Asian, but the owner — and most of the conversation around you — is Lao. Lao dishes include the famous *larb-kai* (chicken salad with hot peppers, lemon grass, and sticky rice). Good regional alternatives: *bamee* (egg noodle) roasted pork soup, Crying Tiger (ground beef salad with vegetables), and *lard nar* (seafood, beef, or pork with sloppy wide noodles and vegetables). Closed Tuesday. Inexpensive. — E.B. (10/01)

Magnolias Market Creek Square, 342 Euclid (off Market), Lincoln Park, 619-262-6005. If you're looking for an authentic Louisiana-style feast, this is the best place in town. Bessie Johnson (of the once-famed Bessie's Garret) is back in business, and mouths are rejoicing. At her handsome, spacious restaurant, you'll find generous hospitality, huge portions, and a long, delicious menu of Cajun, Creole, and soul food specialties. The fried chicken is beyond compare, the jambalaya well-nigh perfect, and the BBQ shrimp, crawfish bisque, and étouffée are splendid. Great side dishes include candied sweet potatoes and cornbread dressing. No takeout (except leftovers). Full bar. Lunch and dinner six days; closed Mondays. Low moderate. — N.W. (2/05)

Mama's Bakery and Lebanese Deli 4237 Alabama Street, North Park, 619-688-0717. You'll remember this lovely little place for two reasons. One, the atmosphere: It's a tiny kitchen attached to an old red-and-green wooden house, with tables and green umbrellas on the sloping sidewalk and also inside a shelter of bougainvillea, green canvas, metal mesh, and white brick. Two, their *saji*. It's a round Lebanese oven of ancient design which cooks the delicious flat bread (also called *saji*) that goes with pretty much everything, including baba ghanoush ("sweet daddy" eggplant dip) and *fool madamas* (fava and garbanzo bean stew). Gotta-haves include beef *shawerma* wrap or falafel wrap and a meat pie unlike any you've had before. A lovely bonus: fresh Lebanese baklava and a little pot of thick, sweet, black Arabic coffee. Open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday, weekends until 4 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B. (12/05)

Pizzeria Luigi 1137 25th Steet (at C Street), Golden Hill, 619-233-3309. They claim to make real New York pizza in this tiny storefront and they're not lying. One of the owners is from Brooklyn and his origins are written all over the pies. The sauce tastes right and the crusts are thin enough that you can fold a slice into a "V" to eat on the run, New Yorker style. But it's better to take home a whole pie with your choice of toppings (or a stromboli or calzone) and enjoy it at leisure. Inexpensive. — N.W. (7/04)

Sang Dao 4212 National Avenue, Logan Heights, 619-263-0914. Laos has an exotic Shangri-La thing about it, yet the large family that runs this eatery will tell you Lao food is quite plain and simple:

vegetables, freshwater fish, chicken, pork, occasional beef, sticky rice, and noodles. But taste their delicious spicy catfish and you're right back at exotic. Thai basil, garlic, and most of all, the gingery *galanga*, a.k.a. "Laos root," help make it unfishy. Other must-trys: BBQ beef, *som yum* (papaya salad), and especially the spicy salad with minced meat called *larb* — closest thing to the national dish. The surroundings here may be homey, but not the excellent cuisine. "Sang Dao"? It means "Star Light." Lunch and dinner six days; closed Monday. Inexpensive. — E.B. (3/04)

Tioli's Crazy Burger 4201 30th Street (at Howard, across from Vons), North Park, 619-282-6044. Cheap eats can be great eats when made by people who care — like charming owner "Wolfie" and European-trained chef Lothar. The place looks like a dive, but inside you'll find creative, made-to-order burgers from beef to buffalo, gator, and ostrich (delicious!), and even fish and veggies — each with its own individualized seasonings and sauce, plus salads and flavorful German-style bratwursts. Even the turkey burger is juicy here. Try the house-made "Texas" beans and the house-made mustard and chipotle ketchup. Specialty and regular beers; affordable wines. Parking lot behind restaurant on Howard. Restroom is not wheelchair accessible. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W. (5/06)

Vagabond Kitchen 2310 30th Street (Fern at Juniper), South Park, 619-255-4373 or 619-255-1035. Seasonal "world food" filtered through a Gallic sensibility, plus worldwide wines and tropical cocktails. Menu changes often, but don't miss the classic *moules-frites* or the deep-flavored Peruvian *seco de carne* meat stew. The tiny, painfully noisy dining room, decorated with exotic souvenirs of the owners' global travels, is perpetually SRO, so dinner reservations are a must for any night. Evening crowd of hip South Park locals; lunch crowd dressed for success. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. — N.W. (7/06)

EAST COUNTY &
COLLEGE AREA

Brothers Family Restaurant 5150 Waring Road (at Orcutt Avenue), Allied Gardens, 619-287-0880. Yes, it looks

boring on the outside. Brick, reflective glass. But go in and you're surrounded by brothers: John and Bobby Kennedy, Hugh Grant and his brother Jamie, the Wright Brothers, the Blues Brothers, the Brothers Rico. They're there because this place used to be run by three brothers. Good old-fashioned cholesterol city rules here with no apologies, and the locals appreciate it. It's like a *Cheers* for eating. All the staples are served: country-fried steak and eggs, pork chops with eggs, Grandma Jennie's pancakes with ham, bacon, and sausage — even hefty beef or tuna or turkey sandwiches with soup. Open seven days for breakfast and lunch, with early dinner Wednesday to Friday. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/04)

Charley's Famous Hamburgers and Kebobs 8312 Broadway (at Sweetwater Road), Lemon Grove, 619-460-2690. When you spot an old red-and-white gas station that looks like a café, don't hesitate. That's Charley's. The palm and ficus trees have replaced the gas pumps and a fountain now gurgles where the air hoses used to be. The menu is a long list of hamburgers, as well as hot dogs, sandwiches, and kebobs. Mostly take-out, but you can dine out at their picnic tables under bougainvillea. Open daily, three meals. — E.B. (12/01)

D.Z. Akin's 6930 Alvarado Road, Alvarado Plaza, College Area, 619-265-0218. Surely the best Jewish delicatessen in San Diego. Soups are wonderful, and so are the 110 sandwiches, especially the corned beef. The *knishes* and chopped liver easily rival Mother's. Excellent breakfasts and outstanding, fully stocked bakery. Open daily, breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.W.

Fix Me a Plate Cafe 9168 Fletcher Parkway (next to Souplantation), La Mesa, 619-466-6084. Chef-owner Jimmy Pomier was executive chef at the great Juke Joint Cafe, and now he's got his own place to serve up whopping portions of authentic Cajun and Louisiana-style soul food. His oyster po' boy is (as France's Michelin Guide might say) "worth a detour," as good as it gets this far away. His gumbo is eccentric; his deep-fried chicken gizzards with aioli are fun. His delicious étouffés are among the highlights of the long menu (on which not all dishes are available all the time). Skimpily wine and beer selection, and BYOB is strictly forbidden, but the lemonade is okay. Lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday (with break between on

weekends). Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W. (2/06)

4.0 Deli Aztec Shopping Center, 5844 Montezuma Road, 619-281-4040. This low-ceilinged, dark, student sandwich hangout gets the draft house crowd, luring them in with frat beers and big Buds that go for a song. Pitchers too, if you buy sandwiches with them, and the sandwiches are no dull lunch-counter fare. Try the Montezuma, a toasted sub with grilled chicken cutlets, chorizo, Monterey Jack, and a "kick-butt southwestern dressing." Or Grilled Ribas, named after a much-loved Colombian who worked here: grilled turkey, Monterey Jack, grilled onions, and peppers. Check specials like the Buffalo Bleu, with grilled roast beef, bacon, red onions, bleu cheese, and Tabasco. The owners had a full-scale deli in New York, so this range is no surprise. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B. (3/04)

Jasmine Bistro Westfield Plaza, 315 Parkway Plaza (at Fletcher and the 67 Freeway), El Cajon, 619-588-8228. A gleaming little architectural jewel surrounded by the big white boxes of its mall, Jasmine Bistro is a spin-off of the well-known Jasmine Hong Kong Seafood Restaurant on Convo. By day, the fare centers on fresh, expertly made Chinese dim sum (elaborate finger-food) offered both by cart and by menu. At night, with a reservation, a fresh crew of multiethnic chefs step in to cook up a Pan-Asian panoply, so if you're in the mood for Mandarin and your date wants Thai, no problem. Unfortunately, eaters in this suburban milieu won't stand for too much authenticity, so sophisticated diners may find the fare a little dumbed-down. Mainly California wine list suggests wine pairings for the food; numerous Asian beers, fruity drinks. Reserve for weekend dinners. Daily brunch/lunch through early dinner (until 9 p.m.). Mainly moderate (except for some special entrées). — N.W. (5/04)

FAR EAST

Kountry Kitchen 826 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-3200. Thank goodness the Kountry Kitchen's still around. They still open at 5 a.m. for the farmers and anyone else who's up then. The Italian Sausage Breakfast is truly delicious: a fat pale-brown sausage with a rich, sharp, lively flavor, along with eggs and hash browns. Up there, too, is the Cowpoke Country Special, a buttermilk short stack with eggs and sausages or bacon. Open daily, breakfast through early dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B. (5/02)

La Casa Del Zorro Borrego Springs Drive (five miles south of Palm Canyon Drive at Yaqui Pass Road), Borrego Springs, 760-767-5323. La Casa Del Zorro is Borrego Springs' most renowned and ambitious restaurant, set in a deluxe resort five miles south of town. (Drive through the parking lots until you reach the fenced swimming pool; the restaurant's small, dimly marked door is just to the left.) The menu offers elaborate seafood appetizers (out here in the desert) and entrées with fine, subtle sauces, fresh veggies from nearer the coast, and rather mild-flavored, exquisitely tender meats, evidently chosen to be gentle to the dentures of the duffers. Desserts are few and very sweet. Full bar; great (but pricey)

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wine list. Reserve for weekend evenings. Open daily. Very expensive. — *N.W. (4/03)*

The Olde Homestead Fudge Factory The Center, 590 Palm Canyon Drive (north side of the street), Borrego Springs, 760-767-7782. The Fudge Factory's greatest dish is not what it's named for, and some of its pick hits aren't fudge, either. Of the 24 flavors of housemade fudge, barely a half dozen are available on any given day. The chocolate walnut is especially delicious, but the real masterpiece when in season is the "date shake" — a cold quaff that's ambrosial on a hot afternoon. Then, too, this is one of the few spots in town with an espresso machine. Open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed Monday. Inexpensive. — *N.W. (4/03)*

UPTOWN & OLD TOWN

Arrividerci Italian Restaurant 3845 Fourth Street, Hillcrest, 619-299-6282. However you picture an idealized Italian restaurant — sprawling café on the strada or little cozy corner as in *Moonstruck* — somehow Arrividerci is it. The straight-from-Rome look of the crowded sidewalk deck and yellow-and-white-awning helps. The menu is a big yet familiar regional potpourri. Reliable standards include *vitello bel monte* (veal in a brandy cream sauce with tomatoes), "straw and hay" (*paglio e fieno al pesto*), pale yellow-and-green pasta with string beans and pine nuts in a delicious pesto sauce, or shellfish pasta dishes like linguine *mediterraneo*, with clams, mussels, and big garlicky shrimp. Part of the fun is bumping chairs. Think dining car on a narrow-gauge railroad — you're that close to the next table. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. — *E.B. (7/04)*

Berta's Latin American Restaurant 3928 Twigg's Street (at Congress, diagonal to Rockin' Baja Lobster), Old Town, 619-295-2343. Sampling the whole range of little-known cuisines from Guatemala down to Patagonia, Berta's lengthy menu reads like a culinary "pick hits" list of each country's best flavors, typically rendered with expertise

and verve. Some outstanding dishes include sweet-savory Chilean *pastel de choclo* (a casserole of beef, chicken, and corn pudding) from Berta's homeland, spicy ceviche and subtle *seco de cordero* (citrus-flavored lamb stew) from Peru, earthy Guatemalan *chilemal* (cilantro-laden pork stew), aromatic beef curry from Trinidad, and a sensuous *vatapa* (seafood in coconut sauce) from Brazil's African-influenced Bahia coast. Vegetarians will find many meat-and-fowl-free options. Lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *N.W. (4/01)*

California Cuisine 1027 University (between Tenth Avenue and Vermont), Hillcrest, 619-543-0790. Tod Atcheson is now the chef of this long-lived neighborhood restaurant. Following house tradition, the menu is printed daily and the dishes are chosen according to the harvest and catch of the moment. Still, you can usually count on finding a relatively authentic Caesar salad, a huge and exuberantly garnished bourbon-brined Neiman Ranch pork chop, and irresistible grilled Asian barbecued jumbo shrimp. A summertime special of fresh corn and mussel bisque shouldn't be missed if it's on the menu. There's some day-to-day inconsistency, but a preponderance of deliciousness. Save room for pastry chef Lauren Huffnagel's outstanding, adventurous desserts. Comfortable atmosphere, but interior gets loud when busy. A heated garden patio surrounding a fountain offers romantic al fresco feasting. Dinner nightly. Moderate to expensive. — *N.W. (9/04)*

Chilango's Mexico City Grill 142 University Avenue (near Third Avenue), Hillcrest, 619-294-8646. This bright, cheerful café offers authentic cooking from Central Mexico. You know it's real because there are no "combo plates" on the dinner menu. Instead, enjoy rarely found dishes cooked with creative twists — for instance, the delectable *chiles en nogada* features poblano chiles with an exuberantly fruity ground-sirloin stuffing topped with a walnut-cream gravy scattered with strawberries. The "Yucatan salad" with mole-sauced pork is refreshing, and pork with *chile pasilla* sauce is dark, deep, and delicious. Lunches include various tortilla wraps with a choice of six regional sauces. Mex-

ican and European beers, tasty margaritas made from agave "wine." Short but carefully chosen, affordable international wine list includes bottlings from Baja. Patio seating. Lunch Monday through Saturday; dinner nightly. Lunches inexpensive, dinners moderate, entrées half-price on Monday. — *N.W. (9/05)*

Crest Cafe 425 Robinson Avenue (at Fifth Avenue), Hillcrest, 619-295-2510. "Hearty Homemade Comfort Food" is the boast, and this small retro-deco café backs it up. Cecelia and her dad, Luis Moreno, took over this place back in 1985. Some staff have been here since the start. Loyal customers get their photos and names on an honor roll that fills one wall. Lots of lazy ceiling fans, long, hanging blue lights, and art. "Matisse in Morocco," Salvador Dali, Frida Kahlo. Consider momsy dishes like Sloppy Joes, honey-glazed pork chops, or the healthy Vegetable Steam Basket. And don't turn down their 11 different kinds of burgers, including the Fresh Salmon Burger, the OuiOui Burger ("aged bleu cheese crumbled under melted jack cheese") or the wicked, spicy Butter Burger (half a pound of lean ground beef stuffed with garlic, tarragon, basil, parsley butter, topped with cheese, garlic-paprikacayenne-cumin mayo and more butter). Best of all, late hours: open 7 a.m. to mid-

night, seven days. Dinner at 11 is no problem. How rare is that in San Diego? Inexpensive. — *E.B. (5/02)*

Indian Princess 3925 Fourth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-291-5011. You walk in through a gold-and-red entrance. Inside it's all cream cloth-covered tables, vases with fresh flowers, teak chairs that look like giant cellos, silver art objects. This is classy. The deal here is to catch the daily lunch buffet, 20 items of interesting and fresh-tasting Northern Indian dishes like tandoori chicken or chicken *tikki masala*, *navratan korma* (veggies with nuts in cream sauce), or *keema muttar* (minced lamb curry with spices and peas). All for an unprincely sum. Dinner is more expensive. Don't miss the wonderful tamarind chutney. Seven days, lunch from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., dinner 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Inexpensive (buffet); moderate to expensive (à la carte dinners). — *E.B. (1/06)*

Kazumi Sushi 3975 Fifth Avenue (at Washington), Suite 120, Hillcrest, 619-682-4054. A simple neighborhood sushi bar offering imaginative rolls, each one so distinctively seasoned that there's no need to mar the pretty fish-scapes with wasabi dip. The fish is super-fresh and includes salmon that Kazumi-san cold-smokes himself. For a family-style dinner, "The Ultimate Boat" (serving

two or more) is an encyclopedia of Japanese specialties, a huge platter of sushi, *gyoza*, assorted appetizers, yakitori, teriyaki, and terrific tempura. Need comfort food? The tempura also graces the top of a satisfying bowl of *nabeyaki udon* (noodle soup) with an onion-sweet broth. With just a small staff of family members in the kitchen and house, expect a wait for food at busy times. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W. (10/00)*

Kung Food Express Cafe 2949 Fifth Avenue (at Quince), uptown, 619-298-7302. These guys really try to be green. They have a "100-percent plant-based menu," use solar-heated water, give their food waste to farmers to compost, and even try to use biodegradable cutlery, plates, and bowls. They have a "live" food section (meaning raw, so enzymes survive), plus vegan and vegetarian items. One great-looking lunch offering is the collar wrap, a big green collard leaf wrapped around a mix of cashews, agave, agave nectar, alfalfa, cilantro, mango, red cabbage, and avocado. Also good are the dishes using steamed quinoa — the Incas' mother grain — plus curried veggies, and beans with Soyrito. Nice courtyard with native grasses, climbing vines, white um-

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brellas. Open 11 a.m. till 11 p.m., daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (6/06)*

The Mission 2801 University Avenue, North Park, 619-220-8992 (also in Mission Beach and East Village). "Urban assault food for a revolutionary people," say the wait staff's black T-shirts. But the food here is less revolutionary than halfway between health-nut and greasy spoon. Still, their "conscientious cuisine" is generous, good-looking, and intelligent, if a little middle-class timid. Breakfasts are big here. The delicious chicken-apple sausage and eggs comes on a

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San Diego Reader December 21, 2006 117

foot-wide plate loaded with unskinned rosemary potatoes, scrambled eggs, and scrumptious baked-on-the-spot rosemary bread. Pancakes and French cinnamon toast are popular staples, as is the Zen Breakfast (scrambled egg whites, braised tofu, brown rice, with veggies). The roast beef hash can be chewy. Check out the “Chino-Latino” dishes (lunch only) like the mild-but-still-delicious ginger sesame tofu with brown rice and peanut sauce, which comes with a plethora of jicama-type veggies. The interior has an arty, post-industrial, coffee house feel. Open daily, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* (4/05)

Ortega's, A Mexican Bistro 141 University Avenue (at Third Avenue), Hillcrest, 619-692-4200. Owned by a member of the Ortega family, the Puerto Nuevo lobster pioneers, this is the Baja restaurant group's first north-of-the-border venture. You'll find Baja-style cuisine featuring seafood and grilled foods, with a focus on local spiny lobster. Unlike the typical Ortega's, the lobster isn't deep-fried before grilling — an improvement in tenderness and flavor. Of course, the crustacean's best in season (October to February). Fish ceviche makes a good starter course. Other choices include small tacos, steaks, kebabs, etc., plus the standard Puerto Nuevo side dishes — stewed (not refried) beans, and an oddly bland guacamole fixed tableside. Full bar; fun margaritas including almond and pomegranate variations. Reservations recommended for weekends. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Mainly moderate (lobsters and Kobe skirt steak expensive). — *N.W.* (8/05)

Picasso Spanish Restaurant 3923 Fourth Avenue (near University Avenue), Hillcrest, 619-294-3061. Interesting Spanish tapas and entrées are served in a small, modern, art-filled room that draws a casual neighborhood crowd. The regional style is Basque, from Northern Spain, but these aren't the tiny *pinxos* of that area — in fact, these bites are larger than usual, sized generously for two eaters. Some top tapas include chicken-stuffed *empanadillas*, baby eels in garlic sauce, stuffed greenlip mussels, and an

outstanding paella (available as both a tapa and entrée). A bargain-price bottomless pitcher of the house's workmanly sangria (made with Livingston Cellars Burgundy) is the patrons' favorite beverage. Moderate. — *N.W.* (6/01)

Soltan Banoo Persian Eatery & Tearoom 4646 Park Boulevard (at Adams Avenue), University Heights, 619-298-2801. It's colorful, small, and intimate. This two-room café pulsates with multicolored cloths, midnight blue cushions, Aladdin-shaped pitchers and samovars. What you're eating is basically Persian health food — most Persian fare is healthy food anyway. Try the pomegranate soup, made of spinach with lentils, beans, wheat, and pomegranate juice, or the strawberry tabbouleh salad. Lamb is often a part of dishes. *Ghourmeh sabzi* is a lamb stew. *Koufieh-Berenji* is a ball of basmati rice with lamb, eggs, onions, and plums. The selection of teas includes Caspian, decaffeinated peach, and a few others. Lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* (10/02)

Whole Foods Market 711 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-294-2800. For vegetarians on the go, Whole Foods' prepared food section will feed you better — and faster — than any vegetarian restaurant in town. Outstanding selections include the green chili and cheese polenta, the Emerald Mushrooms salad, and especially the *farofa* salad — it's like American stuffing, but it's couscous studded with almonds, fat raisins, thin strips of scrambled egg, and bits of carrot and bell pepper. Whole Foods' vegetarian meals will tempt any meat-eater with their delicious originality. La Jolla branch at 8825 Villa La Jolla Drive, 858-642-6700. Inexpensive to moderate. — *M.N.* (4/99)

DOWNTOWN

Acqua Al 2 322 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-230-0382. Despite its monicker, this isn't a seafood trattoria, but a near-fishless branch of a restaurant in Florence that won success by eschewing the standard Florentine menu while maintaining Tuscan purity of style. Chef-owner Martin Gonzales trained there and serves as charming host of the local outpost. Best bets are the vegetarian pasta and rice dishes made with aromatic porcini mushrooms. The tasting of

five pastas may sound tempting, but they're chef's choice — and he tends to choose the dull ones. “Tastings” of salads, cheeses, and desserts are also offered. Mains are mainly rather plain. Lunch weekdays, dinner daily. Moderate (pasta) to expensive. — *N.W.* (11/00)

Anthony's Fishette 1360 North Harbor Drive (at Ash), downtown, 619-232-2175. At the baby brother of Anthony's Grotto and Star of the Sea, the good news is you pay a fraction of the price, and you get to sit outside over the water. The chowder — New England or Fisherman — is fresh, thick, tasty. A meal. Their old fashioned fish-n-chips or Baja squid steak sandwich are great fillers too. Also good: “hand battered treasures,” like catfish strips, swordfish, oysters, crab claws, and clam nuggets. In winter, breakfasts are served on weekends; in summer, all week. Open for lunch and dinner seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* (2/06)

Buon Appetito 1609 India Street, Little Italy, 619-238-9880. At the chic, art-filled fourth branch of a chain that started with Hillcrest's Arrividerci, the bill of fare combines the pick hits of the mother-ship and of Encinitas cousin-restaurant I Trulli. The menu calls the cuisine “Nouvelle Italian,” blending traditional and trendy Mediterranean ingredients. Seasonal specials change monthly. Most appetizers and pastas are fine (entrées often less so), but the kitchen can be hasty, turning out hard-centered risotto or burnt seafood. Winners include antipasto, quail with lentils, and wine-braised rabbit in the style of the Italian Alps. Desserts are mainly weighty. Wine list is an affordable treat, highlighting mysterious Italian grape varieties from small-scale bottlers; the adept staff can help you choose one to match your order. Euro-pop plays loudly inside; noise-sensitive may prefer patio tables. Lunch and dinner daily (with break between); open until 11 p.m. on weekends. Moderate to expensive. — *N.W.* (5/04)

Buster's Beach House and Longboard Bar 807 West Harbor Drive, East Plaza, Seaport Village, 619-233-4300. There really was a Buster, a surfer who traveled the world working in restaurants. Baja, Oahu, Fiji, Naples, Ocho Rios, Phuket — you name it, there's a dish from each of those waters, and every one of them ethnically incorrect. The menu's actually an international anthology of surfer-bar grub —

and like Waimea Bay's waves, it has huge ups and downs. Skip the greasy “Short Board” pupu platter and risky daily fish special and go for the well-seasoned crab cakes, fish tacos, spicy “paella” (more like jambalaya), or pizza. The surly, fun decor and breezy patio easily compensate for some of the spiciest service in town; a full bar offers a great beer list and decent umbrella drinks. To snag a patio table, reserve it and make sure they write it down. Three hours validated parking, kid-friendly, plenty for vegetarians. Open three meals daily. Prices cover the waterfront. — *N.W.* (7/03)

Chopahn Authentic Afghan Cuisine 750 Sixth Avenue (near F Street), Gaslamp, 619-236-9236. Authentic Afghan cuisine resembles Indian and Persian food but is singularly itself: the spicing is exotic but the flavors are clear and unsmudged. It emphasizes grilled-to-order marinated meats (especially lamb), stews, and well-seasoned rice dishes, and uniquely delicious appetizers such as leek ravioli (*aushak*), leek or meat turnovers (*bulanee*), and battered vegetables (*pakawra*). The grilled salmon is excellent, and don't miss the side dish of sweet pumpkin topped with yogurt and meat sauce (*kadu*). Plenty for vegetarians, too. Interesting, affordable wine list; Mexican and domestic beers. Small patio. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Moderate. — *N.W.* (8/05)

City Pizzeria 1125 Sixth Avenue (between B and C), downtown, 619-531-0955. There's a cultural war going on here. “City” has a New York attitude — just listen to the guys in the kitchen grabbing dough, flailing it around, yakking, joking. But the dough has been a West Coast family's secret for 75 years. Try the “Ranch Chicken” pie with garlic chicken, basil, and ranch dressing, or the BBQ chicken with pineapple, red onion, BBQ sauce, and mozzarella. (Of course, no self-respecting New York pizzeria would ever *consider* serving such moonbeamish left coast toppings — not even if they were in New Jersey.) If those don't tempt you, there are eleven other “specialty pies” every day. Open daily till 10 p.m., 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* (12/04)

Croce's Restaurant and Jazz Bar 802 Fifth Avenue, downtown, 619-233-4355. “Live music is complimentary with purchase of a dinner entrée” at this restaurant and bar run by Engrid Croce in honor of her late husband,

Jim. Appetizers that mix flavors — like the baked Brie and honey-roasted garlic served with mixed greens and a Grand Marnier berry compote — are delicious. But despite creative dishes, like New Zealand sea bass with a pomegranate-macadamia crust, few entrées rise above the level of average Gaslamp fare. Simple is best here — the rich and creamy shrimp *carbonara* fettuccine with Italian pancetta, Kalamata olives, and basil in a white garlic cream sauce. For dessert, try the flourless chocolate cake with roasted walnuts and pecans served with Tahitian vanilla bean gelato and Verona chocolate sauce. The menu is seasonal. Sit by the window for great people-watching or retire to the bar if you prefer live jazz. Open nightly for dining and music (breakfast and lunch Saturday and Sunday). Expensive. — *B.D.* (10/05)

Crudo Restaurant 1953 India Street (at Grape), Little Italy, 619-398-2974. *Crudo* refers to the Italian version of sushi, but that's not on the menu at this flashy eatery-cum-nightclub, a partnership between Italian restaurateur Joe Busalacchi and disco maven Mike Viscuso. Nope, the raw fish here is Japanese-fusion sushi and sashimi, with some excellent, creative “party rolls” (like the Green Hornet and the Crudo roll) and a delightful, shareable sashimi “plateau” — a mini-encyclopedia of fish and garnishes. Fusionary appetizers, noodle or rice bowls, and baroque, high-end entrées fill out the list. Having a bite before the disco opens buys free entry to the lounge. Short wine list at high markup; numerous sakes (mainly by-the-bottle only) at high-to-ridiculous markups; full bar. Want quiet? The dining patio in front is sheltered and serene. Disco Wednesday through Saturday night. Dinner nightly. “Bowls” and simple sushi inexpensive, otherwise very expensive. — *N.W.* (4/06)

LG's Prime Steakhouse 789 Sixth Avenue (at F Street), downtown, 619-239-7899. The atmosphere at this chain steakhouse is a little less “old boys' club” than most of its kind — it's quiet and luxurious, but not especially formal. All the beef is aged on the premises, and the star cut is the superb dry-aged “Jewel in the Crown” Porterhouse, with much beefier flavor than wet-aged meat. Meats are heavily salted unless you request otherwise; sauces taste a little pre-fab. The Caesar salad is made at the table to your tastes. “Escargots alfredo” is fun as an indulgent starter. Everything's à la carte, with good creamed spinach among the

sides. Great, if pricey, wine list, but the top reds are barely over retail prices. Full bar. Valet parking at Fifth and F. Reservations recommended. Open for dinner 365 days a year. Very expensive. — *N.W.* (8/05)

McCormick & Schmick's Omni Hotel, 675 L Street (at Sixth Avenue), downtown, 619-645-6545. This ever-expanding chain from the Pacific Northwest may be the Starbucks of fish. Most of the dishes are still the corporate specialties, pleasing rather than exciting. The daily changing menu features about 30 varieties of fresh seafood, delivered daily in over 50 preparations, plus a handful of poultry and meat dishes. The long, interesting, mainly reasonable wine list is printed on back of the daily menu. Restaurant is often busy at lunch and packed for early dinners during Petco home-game nights, so reserve when the team's in town. A heated terrace is mainly used during lunch and game nights. Full bar. Open daily, three meals to 11 p.m. Lunch moderate; dinner moderate to expensive — *N.W.* (10/05)

Patty's Fruitland 1789 National Avenue (at Beardsley), Barrio Logan, 619-239-3085. Patty used to sell fresh fruit drinks outside a church in Guanajuato. In 1994 she came to America and married Jose. “Why can't we sell fruit drinks in America?” she wondered. Now they've opened a place where you can get combos like the *pico de gallo* (rooster's beak) with lots of fresh-sliced fruit and raw veggies (jicama, cucumber), all dusted with cayenne pepper. They've expanded to non-fruit (roast beef and other sandwiches, shrimp tostadas, hot dogs), but the fruit and juices define the place. The most tempting: fruit salad with cottage cheese, granola, and honey. Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* (3/04)

Pokez Mexican Restaurant and Vegetarian Cuisine 947 E Street (at Tenth Avenue), downtown, 619-702-7160. Rafael — his buddies call him Rafa — started this cool student/artist hangout years ago when he was 18. Lunchtime business people come here. Evenings, seems like it's all Rafa's friends: people from downtown, Golden Hill, City College. The food is mostly Mexican vegetarian (though he's got meaty things like chicken or steak ranchero or sautéed chicken fajitas). Tip well: the servers volunteer and share the take from the gravy pot. Monday to Fri-

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day 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; weekends 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. — *E.B. (12/01)*

RA Sushi 474 Broadway (at Fifth), downtown, 619-321-0021. Big and splashy, this Arizona-based chain restaurant tries to create a high-energy party atmosphere with loudish music and louder “Oriental” decor. Its grazing menu features sushi, sashimi, and hosts of Asian-oid appetizers, plus a few substantial noodle dishes and entrées. The food’s a mixture of the dire and the delicious — old, pulpy *edamame* versus magnificent miso soup, delicate dilled salmon and desiccated *katsu*. The sushi rice is well seasoned, but the products are inconsistent from hour to hour and roll to roll, depending on how long ago the seafood was defrosted and how recently the rice was cooked. You take your chances, but it’s fun anyway. Numerous Asian beers and sakes, affordable wines, full bar specializing in fancy cocktails. Those with fading eyesight may need a penlight to read the menu. Daily, lunch through dinner, to 11 p.m. Bar open to 2 a.m. Moderate. — *N.W. (5/04)*

Red Pearl Kitchen 440 J Street (between Fourth and Fifth), Gaslamp, 619-231-1100. An anthology of favorite Asian dishes creatively interpreted for American palates, with touches of fusion and some original dishes. Plenty of appetizers, but main dishes tend to be tastier, including a delicious Cambodian-influenced short rib and pumpkin hot pot — when it’s in season. Great veggie side dishes. Sophisticated international wine list priced on the high side (few under \$30); short on choices by the glass. Full bar. Surroundings are chic. Reservations advised. Sound level painfully loud most nights. Open daily, dinner. High moderate. — *N.W. (4/06)*

Vincenzo Ristorante Italiano 1702 India Street, Little Italy, 619-702-6181. The specialty at this tourist favorite is Sicilian seafood. The cooking is competent, but the restaurant’s fishmonger settles for ordinary quality (as does the produce provider). The meat jobber does a better job, providing succulent lamb and veal that the chef grills expertly, and the Italian sausages (from Pete’s Meats, up the block) are the zestiest in town. The restaurant’s hard-surfaced interior is so noisy you’ll hear every conversation but your own; reserve for the sidewalk patio for a quieter evening. Open lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Moderate. — *N.W. (8/01)*

SOUTH BAY & CORONADO

The Barbecue Pit 920 East Plaza Boulevard, National City, 619-477-2244. Outside, it reminds you of a barn; inside, a meeting hall. Rustic timber, knotty pine, a set of Texas longhorns on one wall and an eight-point buck head on the other. People have been coming here all their lives. Two cousins started this back in 1947 at 1413 Market, downtown. Now their grandkids run this and its sister restaurant in Fletcher Hills. They still burn oak, and sell lots of the (still-cheap) beef or pork ribs, with two sides and a bun. But maybe the best deal is the ham or link sandwich. Lunch and dinner; closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (1/06)*

Bino’s European Coffees and Crepes 1120 Adella Avenue (just off Orange Avenue), Coronado, 619-522-0612. This little round-the-corner café (south of the Post Office) has to be good: it’s a favorite retreat for local chefs. Bino bakes his own breads and croissants daily and creates great crunchy sandwiches. Try the Brie Fantasy (chicken breast, roasted marinated peppers, double cream Brie cheese) or the roast beef and jack cheese. Even the veggie sandwich squishes with luscious eggplant, and the crêpes are delicious and filling too. Bino’s wife is Austrian and makes great Viennese-style coffee. Open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, to 8 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/00)*

Galley at the Marina 550 Marina Parkway, Chula Vista, 619-422-5714. This is a great place to relax, take in the view, and decide which yacht you’re gonna buy when you win the lotto. It’s run by Fran Muncey, widow of Bill Muncey, San Diego’s greatest speedboat-racing champion. The tasty, bargain-priced happy hour specials (3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday) make a visit worth the trip west of I-5; have a 1/2-pound hamburger with French fries, chicken Caesar salad with sourdough toast, or a filet mignon steak plate with steak fries. Next morning, catch the breakfast favorite: biscuits and sausage gravy with eggs. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/00)*

Point-Point Joint 916 East Eighth Street, National City, 619-474-2866. You’re in Little Manila here, heartland of

San Diego’s Filipino community. So the food has to be authentic. Your problem’s going to be choosing. Dozens of dishes with mysterious meats and veggies. You can play safe and choose, say, chicken barbecue on a bamboo spit, chicken *adobo*, or *longaniza* sausage. But you should seek out less familiar choices, too. *Kare-kare* (yam, peanut butter sauce with beef and tripe) is delicious, and so is *dinuguan*, pork in pork blood, also known as “chocolate meat.” Want healthy? There’s *monggo* (mung beans) with bitter melon leaves, or point to a pile of split, deep-fried fish — *daing na bangus*, vinegar-soaked milk fish, said to be popular with old men with high blood pressure. Lunch, dinner seven days; breakfast Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (8/03)*

Primavera Ristorante 932 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-0454. A handsome dining room is the setting for classic fine Italian cooking of many regions, and with creative nightly specials. Stuffed pastas are made in-house and rolled thin, gnocchi are expertly crafted, and entrées are, for a change, more interesting than the appetizers. The *osso buco* is outstanding, as is a frequent summertime special of white king salmon. Choose the simplest desserts, as the fancy ones are outsourced (and heavy). Three parking slots behind restaurant, or scuffle for street parking. Fine service. Romantic ambiance early and late in the evening but often raucous with loud parties at prime dinner time. Dinner nightly until 11 p.m. Expensive. — *N.W. (5/05)*

Rhinoceros 1166 Orange Avenue (at Loma Avenue), Coronado, 619-435-2121. This bright, hectic bistro next door to the Lamb’s Players Theatre draws pre-theatre crowds as well as locals — and that may be a problem, since the rushed pace of service doesn’t abate even after the playgoers have departed. Perhaps that’s why there are few appetizer choices (as though to discourage diners from spending extra time at the table). You may even be charged a “split plate” fee for sharing a first course despite ordering individual entrées. Meat and fish choices are simply prepared with ingredients of ordinary quality and generic veggie accompaniments. Why, then, is Rhino so popular? Pasta (and nothing but pasta) is the answer — that’s where the kitchen shines. Very noisy when crowded; street tables are slightly quieter despite heavy traffic. Lunch and dinner daily. Reservations advised for weekends and pre-show dinners. Moderate (pastas) to expensive. — *N.W. (7/01)*

Vahida’s Healthy Choice Chula Vista Weekly Farmers Market, Center Street (between 3rd and Del Mar Street),

619-962-9925. Vahida calls her food Greek, but actually it’s Bosnian, like her. Not that there’s a huge difference. The great thing here is the market experience itself, munching away with people jostling, food smells wafting, maybe musicians plucking. Try the very Bosnian beef sausage plate. Light, flaky pastry curls around the meat but doesn’t cover it. These *Burckor Chevaphichici* are made like the sausages of the city of Skopje, except for some potatoes and onion added. Also good: Vahida’s eggplant sandwich, chicken sandwich, and gyro plate. Operates 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays (call for hours at other locations). Inexpensive. — *E.B. (6/06)*

Zorba’s Family Restaurant 100 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-422-8853. We haven’t got to plate-breaking yet, but Greek dancing is alive and well at Zorba’s on Fridays and Saturdays. That includes the *zembekikos*, where the dancer picks a glass of ouzo off the floor with his mouth and drinks it. The rest of the week? Families fill this place. They’re here for the buffet, spooning up the *spanakopita* (spinach in deliciously flaky pastry), *dolmathes*, (ground beef and rice

rolled in grape leaves), moussaka (eggplant, zucchini, and ground beef), and lamb. Try dividing your meal into three: first visit the salad section. Grab their real, strong-tasting olives, tabbouleh, hummus, onions, lettuce, and pita bread. Return for the heavies, the lamb and beef dishes. Then leave room for baklava and other desserts. It may not be the gourmet’s method, but there’s no better way to fill a belly. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (2/03)*

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 Rincón del Oso Mercado Hidalgo, Calle Victoria #47, Río District, Tijuana. Eating goat is an acquired taste. This little market restaurant is a good place to start acquiring. It serves kid for breakfast that’s surprisingly easy on the taste buds. The best part is scooping the juices and

the meat into a hot corn tortilla, adding cilantro, lime, grated onions, and a splash of salsa, and chomping in. It’s meaty, slightly rich, almost gamey, like deer or buffalo, except the juices round out that gamey aftertaste. Come early morning for the best kid and the best market scenes. Open seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/01)*

El Taurino Steak House Sixth Street #7531 (three blocks west of Revolución), Tijuana, 685-7075. Looking for the home of the foot-long steak? At this old-line surf-n-turf eatery a (real) wall-mounted bull’s head lunges at you; his severed ears and tail hang beside him. But anchors and portholes and *barcas* (boats) stuccoed on the white and green walls also emphasize the menu’s “surf” side. It’s all very forties. Fine linens, lifer waiters, and unchanged but good food — like marinated grilled quail, shrimp *al ajillo* (cooked in oil, garlic, and chili), and fish steamed *empapelado* (in parchment paper). A must-try is the signature *cabrería* steak, a thin but foot-long slab with guacamole, beans, onions, jalepeño, tortillas, and soup or salad. On second thought, the *media* (half) *cabrería* should



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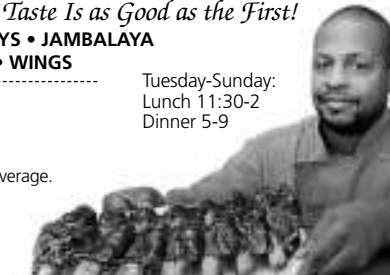
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be enough for most. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. — *E.B.* (9/04)

La Petite Café Avenida Constitución #720-Q, in Foreign Club Passage off Revolución between 3rd and 4th (beside Maxim’s), Tijuana, 688-2171. You’re in a side eddy here from the storm of Revolución among Olmec sculptures, Aztec calendars, trees, and amazing quiet. It’s standard *casera* (homestyle) food: Span-ish chicken with rice and beans, pork chops in green sauce, red enchiladas, steak ranchero, liver-and-onion stew, *chicharrón* (crisp fried pork rind) in a red sauce, and of course *carne asada*, but cooked well and priced amazingly low. Check the generous five-item-plus-coffee breakfast special. Three meals, all-day breakfast and lunches, seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* (8/03)

Lonchería La Poca Lucha Municipal Market, Avenida Niños Héroes #105, Tijuana. Venturing to the far end of Tijuana’s *Mercado Municipal* is like entering a scene from *The Sorcerer’s Apprentice*. Shafts of sun penetrate the dark of an incredible kitchen of great black iron stoves and giant steaming pots, and hoods gathering into black pipes that snake up and out through the roof. But what a welcome! As you walk through

the *mercado*, ladies bounce up, enticing you away to their eateries. Hang in there till you reach *Loncheria La Poca Lucha*, “The Small Struggle Lunch Place.” Ask for *carne de puerco* (pork), *chiles rellenos*, *bistek ranchero*, or *higado al gusto* (liver), all around \$3. *Pescado frito* (fried fish), *milanesa con papas* (veal with fries), *pollo frito* (fried chicken), and *carne asada* are slightly more. Price includes soup, steaming hot corn tortillas, and a soda. Open seven days, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* (11/00)

Mariscos el Locochón Popotla fishing village, five minutes south of Rosarito Beach (non-toll road), dirt road next to Fox studios. There are smarter places to eat, like Puerto Nuevo. Even in Popotla, most other eateries look more like, well, eateries. The thing about Pedro García Barcelo and El Locochón is that they are what they are. His fisherman friends hand him fish straight off the boats, he sells them on a table in the sand, and if you so desire, he’ll toss one into a pan of oil on a wood fire, fry a couple of corn tortillas, add cilantro, tomatoes, radishes, fried *cebollitas* (green onions), and presto! He’ll hand you your freshest fish taco ever. Work out a price with him. He’s there every day till dusk. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* (3/04)

Salón Azteca Rosarito Beach Hotel, south end of Boulevard Benito Juárez, Rosarito, 661-612-1111. This fabled old hotel’s all-you-can-eat Sunday brunch buffet offers a great excuse to check out the gorgeous architecture and meet other

travelers in town. To reach the buffet, go to the left behind the registration desk to the Salón Azteca, walk in, grab a plate, and start dishing up your breakfast from the long line of cafeteria-like bins filled with *gringo*, *gringo-Mex*, real Mexican (*menudo*), and international specialties. Expect to tip if you want something from the omelet or carving station. Next, plunk down at a table where a waiter will arrive to serve you juice and endless cups of decent coffee. Casual dress. Secure parking in hotel lot for a small extra charge. Three meals daily; brunch Sunday. Somewhat expensive for the area; Visa and MasterCard accepted. — *N.W.* (4/03)

Super Antojitos 4th Street #1810 (between Constitución and Niños Heroes), Tijuana, 685-5070. Sr. Lechuga’s restaurant has been around for 40 years, for good reason. Early mornings, people line up for breakfast. You enter a sort of heaven: arches, hidden lighting, glass chandeliers, even a statue of the Virgin Mary. The breakfast special, called *mole poblano*, includes two eggs, enchilada *de mole*, rice, beans, and bread or tortillas. The delicious *mole*, Sr. Lechuga’s own, contains raisins, avocado, plantain, almonds, peanuts, thyme, and cilantro. Plus, you’re drinking Sr. Lechuga’s own coffee. He grows it down south. *Super antojitos* means super snacks, so search out the *pastes* — pastries stuffed with *mole*, cheese, or ground meat and potatoes. Also delicious: pork rind *gorditas*.

Open daily, three meals. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* (3/20)

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Chipotle 734 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-209-3688; 11 other locations in San Diego County. Hard to believe: This chain that McDonald’s acquired cleaves firmly to the original vision of the chef who founded it: naturally raised tender meats in authentic marinades made on-premises — it’s quality all the way, and way better than most local “Berto’s” (which often use cheap meat marinated by their meat-jobbers). The fresh-grilled *carne asada* is splendid, the *carnitas* outstanding. And it’s “have it your way” with a wealth of choices as to what you get — burritos, tacos, bowls, fajitas — and what goes into it. You can eat indoors or outside (or take-out), drink margaritas, beer, or soft drinks, and park for free (if a slot’s open). Open 10:45 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Rock-bottom prices. — *N.W.* (10/05)

Karl Strauss Brewery Restaurant 1157 Columbia Street, downtown, 619-234-2739. One-time Pabst brewmeister Karl Strauss heads his own brewery and a bunch of brewery restaurants bearing his name, so you can’t help but be a little wary of an over-slick operation. But at least at downtown’s ivy-

covered bricky drink and eatery, the food’s honest, tasty, and sleek, not slick. And Karl’s beers are still interesting. Go for honest-but-beautiful dishes like his “Hump Day” meatloaf (Wednesday only), which comes looking like a Magic Mountain. Beer influence is everywhere. Filet mignon has an Amber Lager glaze. Ribs boast a Red Trolley Ale barbecue sauce. It can get pricey; try to hit happy hour. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. Other branches at 9675 Scranton Road, Sorrento Mesa, 858-587-2739; 5801 Armada Drive, Carlsbad, 760-431-2739; 1044 Wall Street, La Jolla, 858-551-2739. — *E.B.* (11/03)

The Living Room Coffeehouse 5900 El Cajon Boulevard (at 59th Street), College Area, 619-286-8434. With deep-draft couches, Persian carpets, pictures on the wall, chunky wooden tables, and a tree-shaded patio, this Swiss-owned café is a student hangout with a lively notice board, a rental computer, and good cheap breakfast food in huge quantities. Try “The Works” omelet, with bacon, ham, onions, tomatoes, pepper, cheese on top, potatoes, fruit, and bread. Open daily, three meals, until late at night. Inexpensive. Additional locations (different management) in Hillcrest, Point Loma, and La Jolla. — *E.B.* (10/00)

P. F. Chang’s China Bistro 4540 La Jolla Village Drive (near Executive Way, opposite UTC), 858-458-9007; 7077 Friars Road, Fashion Valley, 619-260-8484. Okay, you’re looking at the haunches of a giant horse right outside your corner

window. And there don’t seem to be any actual Chinese people among the wait staff. But this busy-busy mall-Chinese chain (130-plus restaurants) has a certain cool. You have to grudgingly like it. Those reproduction Chin Dynasty horses are really something, as are the bits of the Great Wall and the terra-cotta soldiers scattered inside. The food? The spicy ground chicken and eggplant was too salty for our taste, the “Sichuan from the Sea” shrimp too sweet, and the Cantonese roasted duck not that exciting. Yet there are jewels, like the Shanghai Street Dumplings, whose gingery chicken and sweet sauce flavors matched beautifully. And — not that it’s at all Chinese — the massive “Great Wall of Chocolate” dessert will knock you over. Lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *E.B.* (1/06)

Star Of India 1820 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-483-1372; also 3860 Valley Centre Drive, Del Mar, 858-792-1111; and 423 F Street, Gaslamp, 619-234-8000. It’s the lunch buffet that can lead you by the nose into Indian (and here, specifically *Punjab*) food. Pick among specialties like vegetable *pakora* — a bunch of veggies dipped in chickpea batter and fried, or a nice mess of eggplant with potatoes, chicken curry *masala*, and maybe the first cooked spinach you ever loved, *palak paneer*. At the PB location, you sit under a sky-blue cupola. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.* (11/01)

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

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Lahaina Beach House **Free breakfast**
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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

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Snowed Under

Steven Soderbergh knows where to place the low angles and inky shadows.

The Christmas blizzard at full force, and no sign of letup:

Dreamgirls. Broadway backstage musical — not, that is to say, backstage on Broadway but backstage in Motown — charting the breakthrough of R&B into the pop mainstream in the Sixties, more specifically

the rise of a girl group called the Dreams (rhymes with Supremes), and attendant heartbreaks, breakups, downfalls, and assorted other banalities. True, a musical can get away with a banal storyline if the music is good, but these Broadway-ized soul tunes are as insipid as they are incessant. It seems it's not easy to write another "Where Did Our Love Go?," another "Come See about Me," another "My World Is Empty without You," another "You Can't Hurry Love." And the one familiar number, the one forgotten number, the big abandonment solo of former *American Idol* contestant Jennifer Hudson (big voice, big figure), screams out for earplugs if not a muzzle. Neither is it easy, evidently, to be another Aretha Franklin. Beyoncé Knowles looks glamorous enough as the Diana Ross diva who metamorphoses into disco queen Donna

Summer (under the Svengalian guidance of the Berry Gordy stand-in, Jamie Foxx); and the period clothes and hairdos — something near a beehive on Eddie Murphy when we first meet him, higher and higher than Jackie Wilson — are enjoyable as expected. Writer and director Bill Condon, who adapted the screenplay for *Chicago* but whose own directing credits run to *Gods and Monsters* and *Kinsey*, shows it's not easy to be Stanley Donen.

The Good German. A nostalgist's film noir, one more black-and-white postwar thriller, over a half-century tardy in its arrival, for the buff who has run through *Crossfire*, *Cornered*, *Notorious*, *The Stranger*, *Berlin Express*, and *Captain Carey, U.S.A.*, among numerous others, and who still has a hunger. Reassuring archaisms, such as the 4:3 aspect ratio for the opening credits (afterwards widened only to 1.66:1, it looks like) or the blatant rear-screen projection behind a stationary moving car, coexist uneasily with latter-day liberties in matters of sex and profanity. Steven Soderbergh, who has dabbled in black-and-white before (most of *Kafka*, most of his sequence in *Eros*, but never till now whole hog),



The Good German

knows where to place the low angles and inky shadows, though he doesn't know so well how to maintain pace and flow. George Clooney, who has also had black-and-white experience in his self-directed *Good Night, and Good Luck*, fits right in, thanks to his "classical" movie-star good looks, scuffed up a bit in repeated beatings; and Cate Blanchett, as a Berlin prostitute with

a presumed-dead but intensively sought husband, seems to be able to adapt herself to anything, including the German language with English subtitles.

We Are Marshall. Triumph-over-tragedy true story about the resurrection from literal ashes — a 1970 plane crash — of the Marshall University football team, the Thun-

dering Herd, in the small West Virginia steel town of Huntington. A golden opportunity, obviously, for filmmaker McG (*Charlie's Angels* and its sequel) to expand his heart if not his name. For the purpose, he adopts a closeup-happy style that seeks to squeeze every drop of emotion from his actors, like grapes in a winepress. Admittedly, the spreading of the bad news and the

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MOVIES

immediate responses to it deliver a can't-miss punch. Once past that, however, the movie turns tragedy not so much into triumph as into triteness: the underdog formula. (See, from earlier this football season, *Gridiron Gang* and *Invincible*.) A somewhat goofy Matthew McConaughey plays the foolhardy volunteer coach, the only man in town — an outsider, duly noted — who sports the gaudy plaid pants and jackets of the period; and David Strathairn is the saturnine straight man, the beleaguered college president who persuades the NCAA to relax its strict rule (ancient history, now) against the use of freshmen in varsity athletics. On that score, it's a

seeming oversight that no mention is made of the standing class of freshmen (Class of '74) who wouldn't have been travelling with the team and would be an eligible class of sophomores the following year. Another oversight, or blind spot, in the game action, is the blissful unawareness that a fumble in college football at that time (more ancient history) could not be advanced by the recovering player unless plucked out of midair before it hit the ground.

The Painted Veil. Somerset Maugham's middlebrow brew of sin and redemption among colonial Brits in mid-Twenties China, where a brave bacteriologist but vindictive cuckold (Edward Norton) drags his faithless spouse (Naomi Watts) into the midst of a cholera outbreak in the backcountry. The spiritual growth of the flighty wife ("When love and duty are one," counsels the Mother Superior

at the local orphanage, "then grace is within you") will restore sufficient happiness to the union, not long before its tragic end, that the husband can stop plastering down his hair and go fluffy. Directed by John Curran (*We Don't Live Here Anymore*, also featuring Watts), this follows after at least two other screen treatments of the novel — the better known of which is one of the lesser Garbo vehicles — and, for all its location shooting and its air of "independence," it's still stiff and stuffy. Much of that is intrinsic to the original author, and some of it's imported through the stagy British accents of the stars.

The History Boys. Alan Bennett's much-decorated theater piece comes to the screen with its original stage director and cast intact: Nicholas Hytner, that would be, and Richard Griffiths, Stephen Campbell Moore, Frances de la Tour, et al. A permanent record, as it were, further decorated, for the occasion, with extraneous bits of rockin' musical accompaniment and jumpy cutting. The blue-y, icy, ashy palette, meantime, rather curiously resembles Martin Scorsese's imitation in *The Aviator* of the antique two-color process. It seems safe to assume that the color

in the stage version was more lifelike. As to the content: the foreignness of the British school system — an octet of Oxbridge candidates prepped by a trio of tutors — will be easy enough for American viewers to grasp, though the Yorkshire accents will present them with persistent difficulties. The two male teachers — the portly old quotation-dropping, education-made-fun one and the lean young results-oriented one — each have more than a teacherly interest in the lads, but that is thankfully not the main focus. It's just another element in the composition. To say what might actually be the main focus presents its own difficulties. (Both teaching methods have their pros and cons. The only viable antagonist is the stiff-necked and over-acted Headmaster. And the lads, while physically well differentiated, are democratically indistinct as personalities.) It might be easier just to say the focus is diffuse.

The Pursuit of Happyness. The attainment of sappyness. A hand-to-mouth San Francisco salesman — of portable bone-density scanners, an unnecessary luxury item — lands an unsalaried competitive internship at Dean Witter, but not before his wife walks out on

him and their five-year-old son ("Did Mom leave because of me?"). The star is the amiable Will Smith, but the director is Italian, Gabriele Muccino of *The Last Kiss*, which might inspire certain types of filmmakers to draw analogies to the Little Man humanism of De Sica and Company. The poignance, to be sure, is commensurately unrelenting (pushing through to schmaltziness), but the only real grit is in the graininess of the digital image. And the emotional payoff — this isn't postwar Italy, after all — comes in the form of a cash jackpot.

Eragon. A teenage boy, a telepathically talking dragon, a captive princess, an evil king, a sorcerer, an oppressed populace, a rebel band, and a first-time director schooled in CGI (Stefen Fangmeier, who surely ought to have cut his teeth on a vampire film). Altogether, a snigger when not a snore. ■

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.

Apocalypse — Evidently Mel Gibson is in it only for the barbarity. Scouring the globe, roaming the pages of history, he has alighted here 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 homoeroticism.) The English subtitles and the no-name cast might almost lead you to believe, were it not for the telltale slickness and the Gibsonian slo-mo for dramatic stress, 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 is not openly — and politically incorrectly — applauded. That might be the film's one and only instance of restraint. Rudy Youngblood, Dalia Hernandez, Jonathan Brewer, Morris Bird. 2006.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; 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; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

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

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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.

★ (GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; PALM PROMENADE 24)

Blood Diamond — Serviceable action-adventure despite 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 oped 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. 2006.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; 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; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

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.

★★ (FLOWER HILL 4)

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.

★ (HORTON PLAZA 14; LA PALOMA, FROM 12/22; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

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 eyedlined 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

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the good shepherd

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A MORGAN CREEK PRODUCTION A TRIBECA/AMERICAN ZOETROPE PRODUCTION MATT DAMON ANGELINA JOLIE "THE GOOD SHEPHERD"
ALEC BALDWIN BILLY CRUICKSHANK ROBERT DE NIRO JOHN TURTURRO MUSIC BY MARCELO ZARVOY BRUCE FOWLER CASTING AMANDA MACKAY CSA
CATHY SANDORICH BELFOND CSA DESIGNER ANN ROTH EDITOR TARIO ANWAR BY LINEAR PRODUCTION PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT RICHARDSON ASC
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA DAVID ROBINSON GUY MCELWANE HOWARD KAPLAN CHRIS BRIGHAM PRODUCED BY JAMES G. ROBINSON
JANE ROSENTHAL ROBERT DE NIRO WRITTEN BY ERIC ROTH DIRECTED BY ROBERT DE NIRO

www.thegoodshepherdmovie.com

A UNIVERSAL RELEASE

MOBILE USERS: For Showtimes - Text SHEPHERD with your ZIP CODE to 43K1X (43549)!

OPENS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

CHULA VISTA
Regal Cinemas Rancho del Rey Stadium 16
5:00 7:00 9:00
(800) FANDANGO #108

EL CAJON
Edwards Mirra Mesa Stadium 15
5:00 7:00 9:00
(800) FANDANGO #132

EL CAJON
Regal Cinemas Parkway Plaza Stadium 18
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(800) FANDANGO #131

ESCONDIDO
Regal Cinemas Escondido Stadium 16
5:00 7:00 9:00
(800) FANDANGO #897

LA JOLLA
AMC La Jolla 12
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(800) FANDANGO #102

LA MESA
Pacific's Grossmont Center Stadium 10
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(800) FANDANGO #103

MIRA MESA
Edwards Mirra Mesa Stadium 18
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MISSION VALLEY
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OCEANSIDE
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★★ (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 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM
PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO
DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MAR-
COS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

(CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CIN-
ERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8;
ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; 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 PROME-
NADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RAN-
CHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN
MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 12/15)

Curse of the Golden Flower — Mar-

Dreamgirls

tial-arts period piece by Zhang Yimou, starring Chow Yun-Fat and Gong Li.
(HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE;
FROM 12/22)

Deck the Halls — The Christmas spirit turns competitive — keeping ahead of the

Joneses, straight across the street — and the competition is laughlessly lopsided. With Danny DeVito, Matthew Broderick, Kristin Davis, and Kristin Chenoweth; directed by John Whitesell. 2006.

● (PALM PROMENADE 24)

Déjà Vu — Requires you to park your reason, 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

“ABSOLUTELY ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR!”

Joel Siegel, GOOD MORNING AMERICA

Charlotte's Web

“★★★★★
AN INSTANT CLASSIC.”
*Shawn Edwards,
FOX-TV Kansas City*

Soundtrack Album
features
ORDINARY MIRACLE
performed by
SARAH MACLACHLAN

PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND WALDEN MEDIA PRESENT A KERNER ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY/NICKELODEON MOVIES PRODUCTION
"CHARLOTTE'S WEB" JULIA ROBERTS DAKOTA FANNING STEVE BUSCEMI JOHN GLEES OPRAH WINFREY GEORGE HENRIKSEN
 KATHY BATES REBA MCENTIRE ROBERT REDFORD THOMAS HADEN CHURCH ANDRE BENJAMIN KEVIN ANDERSON BEAU BRIDGES
 MUSIC BY DANNY ELFMAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS EDGAR M. BROFFMAN JULIA PISTOR BERNIE WILLIAMS PAUL NESSAN PRODUCED BY JORDAN KERNER
 Read the novel from HarperCollins Children's Books BASED ON E.B. WHITE SCREENPLAY BY SUSANNAH GRANT AND KAREY KIRKPATRICK DIRECTED BY GARY WINICK

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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.

★ (CHULA VISTA 10; FASHION VALLEY 18;
GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROM-
ENADE 24)

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)

Dreamgirls — Reviewed this issue. With Beyoncé Knowles, Jamie Foxx, Eddie Murphy, Jennifer Hudson, and Danny Glover; written and directed by Bill Condon.

● (FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4;
GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MIS-
SION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARK-
WAY PLAZA 18; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN
SQUARE 14; FROM 12/25)

Eragon — Reviewed this issue. With Ed Speleers, Jeremy Irons, Sienna Guillory, Robert Carlyle, John Malkovich, and the voice of Rachel Weisz; directed by Stefen Fangmeier.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; 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; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

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*, *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. ★ (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. ★ (HORTON PLAZA 14)

The Good German — Reviewed this issue. With George Clooney, Cate Blanchett, Tobey Maguire, and Beau Bridges; directed by Steven Soderbergh. ★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS, FROM 12/22)

The Good Shepherd — Espionage epic with Matt Damon, Angelina Jolie, Alec Baldwin, John Turturro, and Robert De Niro, directed by De Niro. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; 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; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 12/22)

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; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; 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; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The History Boys — Reviewed this issue. With Richard Griffiths, Stephen Campbell Moore, Frances de la Tour, Samuel Barnett, and Clive Merrison; directed by Nicholas Hytner. ★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA 12)

The Holiday — Writer and director Nancy Meyers arranges an Internet home exchange, for two weeks at Christmastime, between two wounded women desperate to get away: a London newspaper columnist (Kate Winslet) with a cozy cottage in Surrey, and a Hollywood trailer-cutter (Cameron Diaz) 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, Meyers 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 dearth of the dream. The sample of the trailer-cutter's work — 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 she 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. With Jude Law, Jack Black, Rufus Sewell, Edward Burns. 2006. ★ (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)

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

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“BROOKLYN JIM” YOUNG

Writer, former editor, and *cinematreatures.org* contributor

A must-have DVD under my tree is *A Christmas Story*. Peter Billingsley's quest for a Daisy Red Ryder BB rifle has endeared itself to holiday audiences. The late Jean Shepherd's vignettes grace the screen as easily as they did in print or on radio. Trivia question: In what year is the film set? Lots of good clues....I triple-dog-dare you!

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AARON CRABTREE

San Diego filmmaker

Brazil: Santa as terrorist? Bureaucracy gone mad, literally! De Niro as renegade plumber, Jonathan Pryce battling giant Samurai. Wouldn't your mom like a Play-Doh facelift for Christmas just like Katherine Helmond? Criterion just re-released Terry Gilliam's three-disc set in anamorphic widescreen. What more could anyone want? Timely!

The Third Man: Cotten. Welles. Reed. Greene. Postwar Vienna kissed by German Expressionism, Dutch angles, and the ironic beauty of the zither. Peace on earth and goodwill toward — oops, can we all say “cuckoo clock”?

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BRAZIL (USA) 1985, Criterion Collection List price: \$59.98 (three discs)
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MADISON LEDGER

Six-year-old daughter of Kay Ledger, film critic for *ASIA: The Journal of Culture & Commerce*

For Christmas I want *Be My Valentine*, *Charlie Brown* because, well, I don't actually know. I haven't watched it. I think Charlie Brown will not get any Valentines, and he will learn about love from Linus. Some people don't know much about love and it's time for them to learn.

Mary Poppins: When Mary tricks Father into taking his children to the bank, the son wants to give a half-dollar for birdseed, but Father doesn't let him. I like this part because Father realizes you should let your children do what they want. If they want to give a half-dollar for birdseed, let 'em.

Barbie's a fairy in *Barbie Fairytopia*, and she doesn't have any wings. I like this movie because Barbie gets her wings at the end and she earns her necklace. The others' necklaces are just one single kind of color, but Barbie's is a rainbow.

BE MY VALENTINE, *CHARLIE BROWN* (USA) 1975, Paramount Home Video List price: \$14.98
MARY POPPINS (USA) 1964, Walt Disney List price: \$29.99
BARBIE FAIRYTOPIA (USA) 2005, Family Home Entertainment List price: \$19.98

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 killing 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-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. ★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

The Nativity Story — 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. Oscar Isaac, Ciarán Hinds, Shohreh Aghdashloo. 2006. ★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

The Painted Veil — Reviewed this issue. With Edward Norton, Naomi Watts, Liev Schreiber, Toby Jones, and Diana Rigg; directed by John Curran. ● (LA JOLLA VILLAGE, FROM 12/29)

The Prestige — Not the best film of its year to deal with the subject of magic and to feature both Scarlett Johansson and Hugh Jackman. That distinction would belong to Woody Allen's *Scoop*, which was unchallenged as well (except insofar as the

air pressure in Jessica Biel’s lips may have challenged Scarlett Johansson’s) by that intervening magic film, *The Illusionist*. Between the two also-rans, it’s pretty near a toss-up, two turn-of-the-century period pieces tangled up in their compulsive twists and turns. Christopher Nolan, the present director, is somewhat less adept at concealing his tricks, despite trying diligently to

lose the viewer in a maze of flashbacks-within-flashbacks. Even had he succeeded, his reliance on the plot expedience of dead ringers is taken to lengths of absurdity surpassing even daytime soap operas. Lengths, to be more exact, of the flightiest science fiction. The plot premise of a professional and personal rivalry between a couple of London stage magicians (Christian Bale,

Christopher Nolan’s Batman, in addition to Jackman) is fractionally more involving than the hanky-panky of the separated lovers in *The Illusionist*, and Michael Caine adds a touch of class, David Bowie a touch of mustache. 2006.

● (GASLAMP 15)

The Pursuit of Happyness — Reviewed

this issue. With Will Smith, Jaden Christopher Syre Smith, Thandie Newton, and James Karen; directed by Gabriele Muccino.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MIS-

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The Queen — A spot of simulated Royals-watching, ably guided by the seasoned Stephen Frears: a satisfying, if unsurprising

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Babel (R) Fri.,-Sat. (12:35, 3:50) 7:05, 10:10 Sun. (12:35, 3:50) 7:05; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (12:40, 1:50, 3:55) 7:10, 8:10, 10:20 Sun. (12:40, 1:50, 3:55) 7:10, 8:10; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (1:15) 4:20, 7:25, 10:25 Sun. (1:15) 4:20, 7:25; **For Your Consideration** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (12:25, 3:00) 5:20, 7:40, 10:00 Sun. (12:25, 3:00) 5:20, 7:40; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (2:00) 4:50, 7:45, 10:40 Sun. (2:00) 4:50, 7:45; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (1:05) 4:10, 5:05, 7:20, 10:25 Sun. (1:05) 4:10, 5:05, 7:20; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (12:10, 2:45) 5:25, 7:55, 10:20 Sun. (12:10, 2:45) 5:25, 7:55; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (12:00, 1:20, 2:40) 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:35, 10:35 Sun. (12:00, 1:20, 2:40) 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00; **Rocky Balboa** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (12:15, 1:40, 2:55) 4:30, 5:30, 7:15, 8:15, 9:45, 10:45 Sun. (12:15, 1:40, 2:55) 4:30, 5:30, 7:15, 8:15; **Running with Scissors** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (1:30) 4:40, 7:30, 10:15 Sun. (1:30) 4:40, 7:30; **Stranger Than Fiction** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (2:10) 5:00, 7:50, 10:40 Sun. (2:10) 5:00, 7:50; **Turistas** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (12:45, 3:10) 5:35, 8:05, 10:30 Sun. (12:45, 3:10) 5:35, 8:05

Horton Plaza 14

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LA JOLLA

La Jolla 12

8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262)
Apocalypso (R); **Blood Diamond** (R); **Casino Royale** (PG-13); **Charlotte’s Web** (G); **Eragon** (PG); **The Good Shepherd** (R); **Happy Feet** (PG); **The Holiday** (PG-13); **Night at the Museum** (PG); **The Pursuit of Happyness** (PG-13); **Rocky Balboa** (PG); **We Are Marshall** (PG)

La Jolla Village

8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236)
Babel (R); **Curse of the Golden Flower** (R); **For Your Consideration** (PG-13); **Little Children** (Not Rated); **The Queen** (PG-13)

MIRA MESA

Mira Mesa 18

10733 Westview Parkway (858-635-7700)
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MISSION VALLEY

Fashion Valley 18

7037 Friars Road (858-558-2262)
Call theater for program information

Mission Valley 7

7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)
Apocalypso (R) Fri.,-Sat. (4:45) 10:45 Sun. (4:45p.m.); **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.,-Sun. (10:45, 1:45) 7:45; **Charlotte’s Web** (G) Fri.,-Sat. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15) 7:45, 10:15 Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15) 7:45; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45) 8:15; **The Good Shepherd** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (12:00, 3:30) 7:00, 10:30 Sun. (12:00, 3:30) 7:00; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (10:30, 1:30, 4:30) 7:30, 10:45 Sun. (10:30, 1:30, 4:30) 7:30; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30) 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30) 8:00; **Noddy Saves Christmas and Candyland: Great Lollipop Adventure** (G) Sat.,-Sun. (10:00a.m.); **We Are Marshall** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00 Sun. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00

Mission Valley 20

1640 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262)
Apocalypso (R) Fri.,-Sat. (10:00) 12:15, 1:05, 3:25, 4:20, 6:40, 7:35, 10:00, 10:55 Sun. (10:00) 12:15, 1:05, 3:25, 4:20, 6:40, 7:35, 9:50; **Babel** (R) Fri.,-Sun. 9:40p.m.; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.,-Sun. 12:05, 3:15, 6:30, 9:55; **Borat** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (10:25) 12:45, 3:05, 5:25, 8:10, 10:40 Sun. (10:25) 12:45, 4:25, 7:20, 9:50; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. 12:05, 3:20, 6:45, 10:30 Sun. 12:05, 3:20, 6:45, 10:10; **Charlotte’s Web** (G) Fri.,-Sat. (10:30, 11:15) 1:15, 2:10, 4:00, 4:50, 6:45, 7:30, 9:30, 10:20 Sun. (11:15) 1:20, 2:10, 4:00, 4:50, 6:45, 7:30, 9:30; **Déjà Vu** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. 1:30, 4:35, 7:45, 10:40 Sun. 12:10, 3:10, 6:25, 9:25; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (10:15, 11:05) 12:55, 1:45, 3:45, 4:30, 6:35, 7:20, 10:15 Sun. (10:15, 11:05) 12:55, 1:45, 3:45, 4:30, 6:35, 7:25, 10:05; **The Good Shepherd** (R) Fri.,-Sat. (10:45) 2:35, 6:20, 9:20, 10:10 Sun. 12:00, 3:35, 7:15, 9:20; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (10:40) 1:25, 4:15, 6:55, 9:35;

The Holiday (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. 12:25, 3:40, 7:00, 10:25 Sun. 12:25, 3:40, 7:00, 10:10; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (11:25) 2:05, 4:40, 7:10; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (10:05, 10:55) 1:00, 1:50, 3:55, 4:45, 6:50, 7:40, 9:45, 10:35 Sun. (10:05) 1:00, 1:50, 3:55, 4:45, 6:50, 7:40, 9:45; **The Pursuit of Happyness** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. 1:10, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05 Fri.,-Sat. (11:00) 1:10, 1:55, 4:05, 4:55, 7:05, 8:00, 10:05, 11:00 Sun. 1:10, 4:05, 7:05, 10:00 Sun. (11:00) 1:10, 1:55, 4:05, 4:55, 7:05, 8:00; **Rocky Balboa** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (11:35) 2:20, 5:15, 8:05, 10:45 Sun. (11:35) 2:20, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20; **We Are Marshall** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. 12:35, 4:10, 7:25, 10:50 Sun. 12:35, 3:50, 7:10, 10:15

STATE UNIVERSITY

Cinerama 6

5831 University Avenue (619-287-8990)
Apocalypso (R) Fri.,-Sat. (12:50, 3:50) 7:00, 10:00 Sun. (12:50, 3:50) 7:00; **Blood Diamond**

(R) Fri.,-Sat. 7:05, 10:10 Sun. 7:05p.m.; **Charlotte’s Web** (G) Fri.,-Sat. (12:20, 2:40) 5:00, 7:25, 9:40 Sun. (12:20, 2:40) 5:00, 7:25; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.,-Sun. (1:00, 3:55); **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (12:05, 2:30) 4:55, 7:30, 10:05 Sun. (12:05, 2:30) 4:55, 7:30; **The Pursuit of Happyness** (PG-13) Fri.,-Sat. (12:00, 2:35) 5:10, 7:45, 10:25 Sun. (12:00, 2:35) 5:10, 7:45; **Rocky Balboa** (PG) Fri.,-Sat. (12:10, 2:45) 5:15, 7:50, 10:20 Sun. (12:10, 2:45) 5:15, 7:50

Ken

4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)
Sweet Land (PG) Fri.,-Sat. 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45 Sun. 2:00, 4:35, 7:10

UPTOWN

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Calendar

MOVIES

ing 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 tranquilized, 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)

A Scanner Darkly — Druggie paranoia in the near future, when the drug du jour is



We Are Marshall

Substance D (for Death) and the only cure is the torturous New-Path rehab center. Richard Linklater’s adaptation of a Philip K. Dick novel avails itself of the rotoscope animation technique of his *Waking Life*, live-action photography covered over in a paint-by-numbers style. The undulating drawing doesn’t disguise the bad performances (Keanu Reeves, Robert Downey, Jr., and Woody Harrelson, all perfectly recognizable under the paint), but it creates some noteworthy effects: the full-body “scramble suit” that conceals the wearer’s identity behind a continuously shape-shifting mask; a couple of hallucinatory monsters; Winona Ryder’s long-awaited first “nude” scene.

2006.

★ (SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY, 12/27, 6:30 P.M.)

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 good-ies 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.

★★ (GASLAMP 15)

Sweet Land — Elizabeth Reaser as a Norwegian immigrant newly arrived in rural Minnesota, post-WWI, directed by Ali Selim.

(KEN, FROM 12/22)

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)

We Are Marshall — Reviewed this issue. With Matthew McConaughey, Matthew Fox, David Strathairn, Ian McShane, and Anthony Mackie; directed by McG.

● (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 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; SANTEE DRIVE IN; SOUTH BAY DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 12/22)

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LA SEMANA EN ESPAÑOL

reportaje



Denuncia a banda

América Barceló

Diario San Diego

Autobuses llenos de personas ilegales y niños con actas falsas de ciudadanos americanos llegan a territorio estadounidense ayudados por una banda de traficantes de humanos que opera desde estados centrales en México. La vida de una de las bandas de traficantes humanos fue narrada por Celeste, una joven mujer que fue testigo de las acciones de una organización dedicada al tráfico de personas ilegales. Entrevistada por Diario San

Diego, la mujer dio a conocer detalles de algunas de las operaciones de la banda que el hombre con quien estuvo casada once años comanda junto con su familia y amigos. Después de vivir trece años bajo la amenaza de su violento marido y su grupo de compadres armados, Celeste y sus dos hijos huyeron de las garras de la banda de polleros. Celeste afirmó, que la banda de su ex esposo opera en Pachuca, Hidalgo, en la frontera de San Diego y Tijuana, en Phoenix Arizona y el estado de Georgia.

especial



No cede violencia

Omar Millán González

Diario San Diego

Principalmente por asesinatos y accidentes de tránsito, 11 mil personas han fallecido de forma violenta en los últimos siete años. El estudio "Caracterización social de la violencia en la frontera Norte de México, caso Tijuana y Mexicali", realizado por el Doctor en Ciencias Sociales Aplicadas y catedrático de la Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC) David Fuentes Romero, revela que

10 mil 635 personas perdieron su vida violentamente entre los años 1999 a 2005. Este estudio no contempla los 322 homicidios sucedidos este año sólo en Tijuana, según estadísticas oficiales. El concepto de muerte violenta es resumida en la investigación del sociólogo en el hecho de que se trata de muertes traumáticas, producidas por medios externos al organismo humano. Sólo en Tijuana entre 1999 a 2005 hubo 6 mil 555 muertes violentas.

espectáculos



Nueva imagen

Eleazar López

Diario San Diego

Con una nueva programación contemplada para el próximo año, Síntesis televisión busca atraer la atención de más audiencia desocosa de buenos programas con contenido y mensaje. Con veintiún años de trabajo en las noticias y en el entretenimiento local, esta televisora ha marcado la pauta con otra propuesta televisiva en la región de Baja California. "Síntesis es un medio que se renueva, pero ha sido una lucha contra la adversidad

durante todo este tiempo, pero ahora se vienen nuevos programas, nuevos patrocinadores para lograr ser un medio sin desperdicios, con una buena alternativa televisiva", dijo la directora de la televisora, Carolina Aubanel. Con una visión más clara de que debe existir en los medios electrónicos la realidad local, para Aubanel es importante la relación con la sociedad bajacaliforniana ya que se encuentran en la etapa de planear y apoyar proyectos de televisión regional con calidad.

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Ya no es Chiva

Diario San Diego

El portero de la selección mexicana de fútbol, Oswaldo Sánchez, anunció el lunes su separación de las Chivas Rayadas de Guadalajara.

El arquero informó que a partir del 2007, su nuevo club será el Santos-Laguna, que se dice, le ofreció 2 millones de dólares por tres años al guardameta de 33 años de edad.

Sánchez se convirtió en el máximo ídolo de las Chivas que recientemente ganaron su undécima corona del fútbol mexicano al superar al Toluca en la final del Torneo Apertura 2006.

"Mi corazón siempre será Chiva, pero en estos momentos de mi carrera el equipo de Santos me of-

rece una oportunidad que no puedo dejar pasar", dijo Sánchez.

El portero aseguró que el factor económico no fue el tema clave que le hizo tomar la decisión de dejar al Club tapatío.

En Laguna me ofrecen un contrato de tres años, y esa estabilidad es importante para mí y para mi familia. Esos es el principal factor por el cual he decidido cambiar de equipo.

"Además, hay porteros jóvenes de muy buena calidad que merecen una oportunidad en Chivas y al dejar yo el puesto se abre la oportunidad para que gente como Talavera se convierta en arquero de un equipo tan importante como lo es el Guadalajara", declaró Sánchez.



Acosan al Tigrillo

Diario San Diego

Javier Arellano-Félix "El Tigrillo" podría enfrentar la pena de muerte con un nuevo proceso penal que el gobierno de Estados Unidos abrirá en su contra.

El expediente incluye a un cómplice del capo de las drogas que se encuentra recluido en la penitenciaría del Condado de San Diego.

El nuevo cargo se dará a conocer en pocos días y sumará evidencias delictivas perpetradas entre el 2003 y el 2006 por r Arellano-Félix. Estos delitos pueden ser castigados con la pena capital. "Queremos informar que abriremos nuevo proceso en contra de Javier Arellano-Félix y otro individuo de su organización", dijo Laura Duff, fiscal del caso.

Lo anterior fue informado durante la sesión de la corte del

juez Larry Burns en la que 'El Tigrillo' compareció el lunes pasado y en donde la fiscalía y abogados defensores dieron a conocer el estatus del caso.

Ambas partes informaron que se ha retrasado el proceso por su complejidad, pues se han tenido que traducir miles de documentos que serán presentados como evidencia.

La fiscalía dijo que recibirá 12 nuevos expedientes que fueron solicitados al gobierno de México, además seis expedientes que están revisando y traduciendo.

Los abogados defensores se quejaron de la lentitud con la que reciben documentación, y solicitaron tiempo y ayuda para revisar el material para preparar la defensa del capo. El juez dio un ultimátum a fiscal y defensores estableciendo iniciar el juicio el 15 de mayo del 2007.



Crece arrestos

La nueva ola de estrategias de autoridades migratorias por detener a personas indocumentadas ha puesto en alerta a la comunidad hispana del país.

En San Diego las redadas de agentes de inmigración han causado temor entre la población migrante.

Los operativos del Buró de Seguridad Fronteriza se dieron pocos días después de que la comunidad hispana e logró ganar una batalla importante al haberse anulado la ley en Escondido que prohibiría la renta de vivienda a indocumentados.

Además las autoridades federales han comenzado a dar golpes contra empleadores de trabajadores indocumentados.

Esta semana ejecutivos

de una empresa del Sur de California, fueron declarados culpables en corte federal de contratar mano de obra indocumentada y por ello deberán pagar una multa de cinco millones de dólares y pasar una temporada tras las rejas.

Las fuertes redadas en varios estados de la Unión Americana han puesto en alerta a uniones sindicales y grupos pro migrantes que buscarán defender los derechos civiles de trabajadores ante la amenaza de las autoridades migratorias de continuar la cacería de indocumentados.

Por ello, activistas locales han resaltado la importancia de observar las actividades de autoridades y dicen estar listos para combatir cualquier injusticia.

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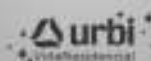


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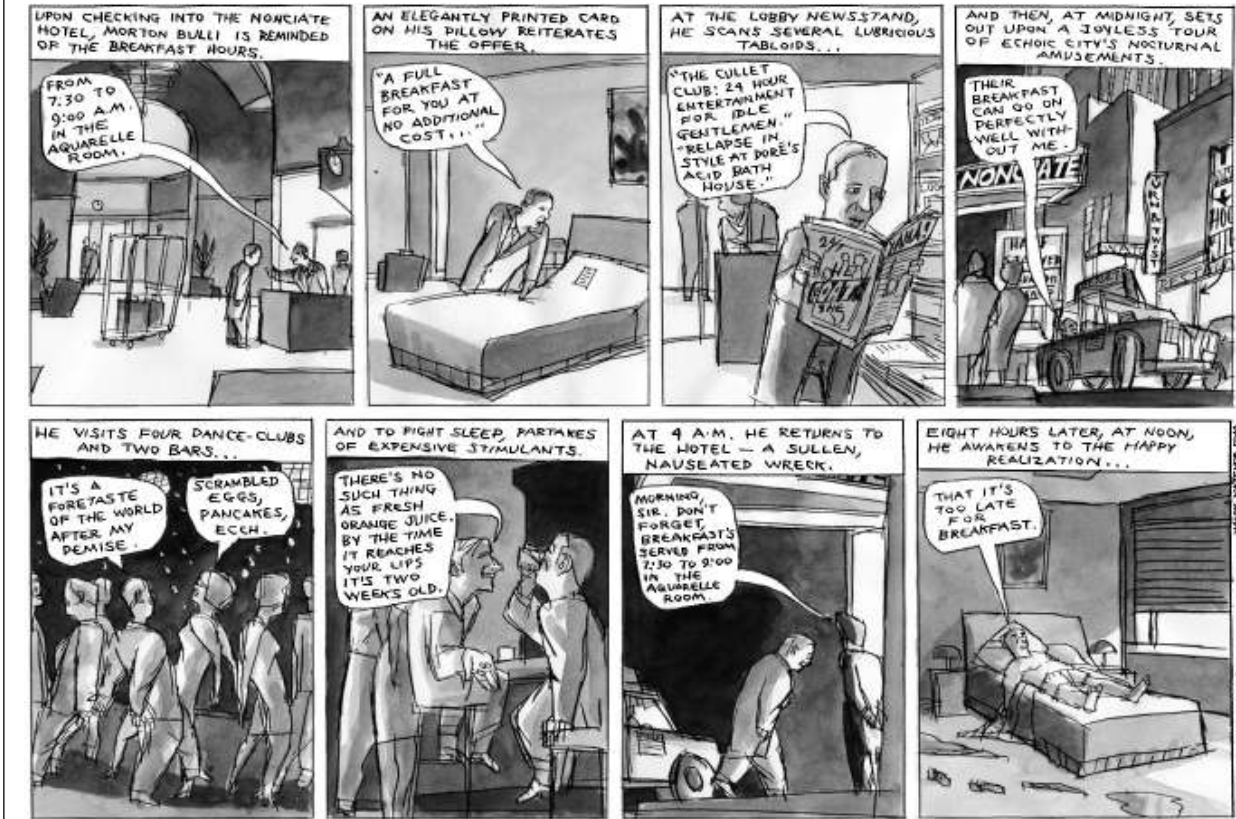
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4pm: Stein Education Center, Attention: HR, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego CA 92120.

CLOSERS NEEDED for home remodeling company. Proven closers. \$200K in first year, no joke. Please call 619-851-7727.

CNA/CHHA. Beginners, experienced. Family Caregivers, Childcare, Home Care Aides, Drivers. Great pay! New-hire bonus! Nonmedical, in-home help for seniors, children, disabled. 12-and 24-hour shifts! Training. Flexible schedules, benefits, retirement, childcare. At Your Home Familycare. E-mail: homecarejobs@atyourhomefamilycare.com. Toll free: 1-877-903-JOBS.

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COLLECTORS. Fun, fast paced. No experience necessary. 2 weeks paid training/vacations/personal time. 401K, tuition reimbursement. Full/part time. Commission. Bonuses. 858-577-2301. E-mail: sandiegohr@gcserve.com.

CONSTRUCTION/REMODEL. Local home remodeling company is seeking experienced/skilled electricians, plumbers, dry-wallers and laborers. Interested applicants please fax resume to 619-946-4364 or call 619-271-5864.

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.

CORPORATE TRAINER for growing security and janitorial San Diego company. Develop, conduct, implement training programs for employees, and some administrative duties. Requires outstanding

organization, communication, computer skills. Bilingual required. Light travel to various facilities. Include salary history with resume: HR@gmiweb.com.

CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY PROBATION Officer I, County of San Diego Probation Department now hiring. Test Date: January 20, 2007, 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.

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.

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.

CUSTOMER SALES REP. 35 hours/week. Great training pay! \$10-\$17/hour after training! Experienced with high outbound calling and focus on customer service. Seeking energetic, enthusiastic, driven team members. Strong, growing company. Paid vacations. Benefits included.

Media All-Stars, 3055 Rosecrans Place, #102, San Diego, CA. 92110. Call 619-326-0231.

CUSTOMER SERVICE, full time. Aveda salon and spa in La Jolla seeking highly motivated, outgoing individual to promote customer retention. Setting appointments and some retail involved. Multi-tasking a must. Call 858-457-3334 or fax 619-697-9571.

CUSTOMER SERVICE. 100+ openings. Call center experience, typing/basic computer skills. Background check required. All shifts/overtime possible. Call Tristaff Group: 858-597-4000; e-mail: Staffing@tristaff.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE. Build your holiday cash now! Top pay \$15-\$22/hour! Immediate part-time openings. Bilingual a plus. Average \$9-\$14/hour. Flexible AM/PM hours. Base salary, weekly pay. Paid training. Management opportunities. DialAmerica Marketing, Inc. www.dialamerica.com/sandiego. 9332 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, San Diego 92123. 858-292-8822.

CUSTOMER SERVICE. Home shows and special events. Must have transportation. Part-time weekends and some weekdays. Call Tina 858-452-5804.

CUSTOMER SERVICE. Up to \$500-\$1000+ weekly setting appointments! Paid weekly. AM/PM shifts. Full, part time. Medical, dental. Near Grantville trolley. Call today, start today! Mission Valley: 619-516-4276.

CUSTOMER SERVICE/BLOCK CLERK for growing San Diego auto wholesale business. Part time, Thursday mornings and some Tuesday afternoons. Basic com-

puter 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/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.

CUSTOMER SERVICE/SALES: Inbound Call Center, 2 years inbound call center experience required.; high Word, Excel and typing scores a must; \$13-\$25/hour. Receptionist, San Diego, 6 months-1 year experience required, \$9-\$12/hour. 3rd Party Collections, Kearny Mesa, \$12-\$16/hour. Retail, San Diego Airport, 3-6 months experience required, \$8/hour. Inside Sales, South Bay moving to Sorrento Valley, electronics/technical experience required, \$13.50/hour plus commission. Outbound Sales, Vista, \$10/hour. Outbound Lead Generator, Downtown, \$10/hour. Inside Sales, Hillcrest, 3 years experience, \$14/hour. ABCOW Staffing, 2525 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 125, San Diego, CA 92108. 800-690-8367. recruiter@abcow.com.

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.

DATABASE EDITOR. Work with manufacturer catalogs & price lists to maintain/update both product & price data for electrical/plumbing distributors. High-level detail orientation/strong computer skills required. Carmel Mountain Ranch area. Approximately \$12.50/hour. Full-time temporary position. Reply with resume: Shirley_Vaughn@TradeService.com.

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.

DEPUTY SHERIFF-LATERAL. Riverside County Sheriff's Department now hiring. \$4056-\$6041. 10 Patrol Stations, 5 Jails, 4 Court Facilities. Advanced salary steps. Retirement System 3% at age 50. POST Incentives: Intermediate 6%; Advanced, 11%. E-mail: Recruitment@RiversideSheriff.org. Information/background packet, please contact a Re-

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- 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
- Inside Sales – Hillcrest, 3 years' exp. req'd, '14/hour
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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: Wednesday, January 3, 2007. 5:30pm arrival (you must register by e-mail Only to take this exam: Recruit@sdsheriff.org). Sheriff's Administration Center, 9621 Ridgeway Court, San Diego CA 92123 or Saturday, January 6, 2007, 6:30am arrival: Southwestern College, 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista CA 91910. 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.

DISHWASHER/Diet-Aide. Full time. Apply at: 553 F Street Chula Vista.

DISPATCHERS. California Highway Patrol is now hiring Public Safety Dispatchers II. Apply now! Applications must be post-marked 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/CAT & OTHER PET CARE in your home. Paid "Host Families" needed for vacationing pets. Experience with animals necessary. www.pawsonplaypetcamp.com. Toll free, 888-320-PETS (7387).

DRIVER, DELIVERY/CASHIER. \$8/hour to start, full time, bring clean DMV printout, no smoking. Company vehicle, benefits. Apply in person Monday-Friday, 8am-3pm: Floral Supply Syndicate, 7904 Ronson Road, 92111. 858-268-4611.

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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.

DRIVERS, DELIVERY. Sleep Train Mattress Centers. Over 21, clean DMV, background check. Good customer service. Days, nights, weekends. Mira Mesa. Full-time, \$10-\$13/hour, great benefits. 858-693-6354.

DRIVERS. \$150,000 per year/teams! Earn more plus great benefits! Western regional. Solo and team runs. Werner Enterprises, 800-346-2818 x123.

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DRIVERS. Christmas wish to be home more often? 5-0/0 positions available. New pay package starting 01/01/2007. Voyager Express. Shipvoyager.com. Glenda, 800-552-0950 x114.

DRIVERS. Christmas wish to be home more often? Company positions available! Voyager Express. shipvoyager.com. Glenda, 800-552-0950 x114.

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. Drive our trucks. Sorrento Valley, excellent benefits. Drug screen required. Bring a current DMV report and apply: 5915 Mira Mesa Boulevard Suite A. 619-297-8300.

DRIVERS. Must have Class B license with passenger endorsement and at least 6 months experience. Fixed route, Monday-Friday, 31-40 hours/week with benefits. Call 619-287-0628.

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.

DRIVERS/DELIVERY. Employees wanted! Use your own mini-pickup. \$440/week starting. Openings countywide. Gas bonus paid. Growth opportunity. 619-230-1532, 858-578-7812, 760-639-5400. www.databay.net/applicant/formsd.asp.

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: SOUPLANTATION Central Kitchen, La Mesa. Must be at least 21 years of age. Valid California driver's license required. Benefits, mornings, full-time. Apply in person: 9158 Fletcher Parkway, La Mesa, 91942. EOE.

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Or e-mail résumé to: hr@newalternatives.org



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DRIVERS with own vehicle for messenger company. Pickup truck a plus. \$100+/day potential. Weekdays, weekends, days, and nights available. Apply at 7050 Convo Court Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm.

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS: Immediate openings! All positions: EMTs, Dispatchers, Wheelchair Van Drivers. Experienced, start \$10. MedFleet Ambulance, 3479 Kurtz Street, San Diego, 92110. 619-222-2244. Apply: www.medfleetambulance.com.

EMT: Immediate full-and part-time openings for entry-level and experienced EMTs and Wheelchair Drivers. Must provide certifications at time of interview: ADL, MEC, CPR, EMT-1 card and current DMV report. Also seeking full-time Provider Relations Rep. Flexible schedules, competitive pay and benefits. Priority One Medical Transport, 800-600-4633. Fax: 800-600-4596. E-mail: ssum@prioritylink.com. www.priorityonemedical.com.

ESTHETICIAN. Charming salon in Kensington has esthetician room for rent. \$175/per week. Dermalogica training a plus. Clientele preferred, but not required. Call Deborah at 619-339-3140.

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FITNESS CENTERS hiring Sales Consultants, Personal Trainers and Group Exercise Instructors. Part/full time. Being Fit Fitness Centers. Clairemont, 858-483-9294; Mira Mesa location, 858-549-3456. www.beingfit.net.

FITNESS INSTRUCTORS. Traditional and mind/body. All hours, all days, all areas. www.fitxsandiego.com. Fax: 858-715-8681 or call 858-715-8611.

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

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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. \$12-\$14/hour. Data Entry skills required. American Satellite, Inc, 2667 Camino del Rio South, #204, San Diego 92108. Call today for Interview: 858-926-8899.

GENERAL. Housekeepers, Laundry Aides and Janitors for Healthcare Services Group. Apply in person: Pleasant Care of San Diego, 2828 Meadow Lark Drive, 92123; Country Villa La Mesa, 5696 Lake Murray Boulevard, 91942; Telecare San Diego Choice, 3853 Rosecrans, 92110.

GENERAL. Immediate opening for energetic person for light office duties. Some driving required; must have reliable vehicle. \$8.50/hour plus mileage reimbursement. Diana, 866-887-6225 or diana@dpsx.com.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) Analyst. Temporary through June 30, 2008 with benefits* \$56,395-\$70,494. The Otay Water District is looking for a

proactive, innovative and dedicated GIS Analyst (Temporary) to perform a variety of Geographic Information System (GIS) duties including coordinating and implementing internet-based strategies and initiatives for GIS software, ensuring the development and maintenance of applications based upon spatially referenced data and digital mapping, and maintaining, updating, analyzing and supporting the District's Geographic Information System. *Please visit our website at www.otaywater.gov or call the job line at 619-670-2740 for requirement details. Send a District application by mail to: Otay Water District, Attention: HR, 2554 Sweetwater Springs Boulevard, Spring Valley, CA 91978; by fax: 619-660-7288; or e-mail to: hr14@otaywater.gov. Open until filled. EOE.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) Technician. Salary: \$22.30-\$27.88/hour. The Otay Water District is looking for a proactive, innovative and dedicated GIS Technician to perform a variety of Geographic Information System (GIS) duties including mapping, scanning data conversion, data entry, documentation, updating of Facility and Cadastral base maps and map service requests, and analyzing, implementing, and supporting the District's Geographic Information System. Please visit our website at www.otaywater.gov or call the job line at 619-670-2740 for requirement details. Send a District application by mail to: Otay Water District, Attention: HR, 2554 Sweetwater Springs Boulevard, Spring Valley, CA 91978; by fax: 619-660-7288; or e-mail to: hr04@otaywater.gov. Open until filled. EOE.

GROCERY. Maintenance and Customer Service Team Members. Whole Foods Market, La Jolla is now hiring. 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.

GROCERY/NATURAL FOODS. New 4S Ranch Store opening soon! Hiring for all positions in Produce, Grocery, Vitamins (Specialists), Bakery, Kitchen, Deli Counter (Clerks) and Front End (Cashier Supervisors). Also hiring for Del Mar and Carlsbad stores. \$9-\$16 per hour. Great environment, competitive pay, bonus and benefits! Jimbo's Naturally! 12853 El Camino Real, Del Mar. Fax: 858-793-7732. hr@jimbo.com. www.jimbos.com.

GUARDS/SECURITY. Join the #1 Security Team, where people make the difference. Call Securitas, the largest, most

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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: RNs, LVNs, AIDES. Join La Jolla Nurses! Looking for Home Health Aides, ongoing assignments. Also per

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Lyz Gonzalez
Hairstylist
North Park

I've been to Georgia, Arizona, Nevada, Washington, Virginia, and that's it. Oh, and Washington, D.C. That's not a state, is it? That was my eighth-grade trip. My brother got married in Georgia; Arizona was vacation; Nevada because of Vegas.



Sophia Pearson
Aesthetician
Point Loma

New York, Washington, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, Arizona, Montana. I've been to some because of family vacations. Others because of business or relocating.



Molly Wilmot
Opera singer
La Mesa

Oh, my gosh; from Minnesota down to Florida, however many you go through that way. California to Arizona. I drove here from Minnesota. Oh, and I flew out to New York. I took a train all the way up the coast and across. I have been to Boston and some of the East Coast. I think I've been everywhere but the South.



Kevin Six
Trapeze artist
Clairemont

All except...it's easier to do it backwards. I haven't done Alaska. I haven't been to Georgia or the Carolinas. When we were kids, we were driving across country in the VW van. My brother and I had long hair, and we had just seen *Easy Rider*. My parents didn't want us to get killed down there. And I have no reasons to go there now.



Mathew Lucero
Graphic designer
Mission Valley

I've been to New York, New Jersey, Washington, Washington, D.C. I don't know what state that's in. I was born in Hawaii. New Mexico, Oregon, California, Arizona, Colorado, Texas, Florida, Tennessee, and Puerto Rico. I've been to some of those states for vacations, death of loved ones, and visiting significant others.



Kirby Stenger
Student
La Jolla

Alabama, Tennessee, New York, Hawaii, Minnesota, Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, California, Oregon, Nebraska, Kansas, Mississippi, Florida. I was in gymnastic competitions from 4 to 14. I did trampoline. Those competitions took us everywhere. We went all over the world.

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Clue: Pals play the *pallino*

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THE READER PUZZLE

Across

- It might receive feedback, briefly
- “It seems to me,” in chat room shorthand
- _____ corpus
- “Or so” suffix
- Christmas air
- Supreme Egyptian god
- With 24-, 37- and 45-Across, a wry observation from 56-Across
- “Banzai!,” e.g.
- Actress Suvari
- Like Death Valley
- Classic grape soda
- See 17-Across
- Make a sweater
- Guitar great Paul
- Celtic sea god
- Brunch fare
- Uncle Sam’s tale
- “Que _____?”
- Challenger
- See 17-Across
- King with a golden touch
- ____-deucy
- “So there you _____!”
- Track down
- To be, in Barcelona
- Change the locks?
- Silents star Theda
- See 17-Across
- Bravo and Grande
- Athens portico
- Shipmate of Uhura and Chekov
- Clyde’s partner
- Writer of this puzzle’s quote
- Theme of “Oedipus Rex”
- “_____ you not”
- Take a load off
- Wasn’t straight with
- 2.0 grades
- “I’ll take that as _____”

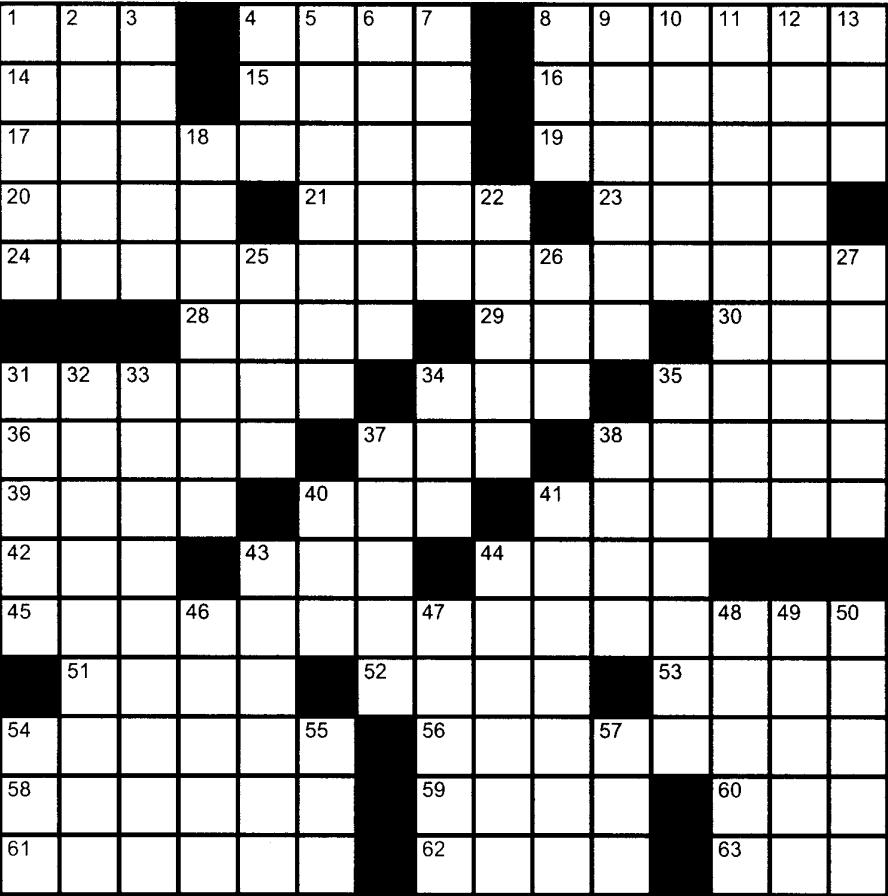
Down

- City where the first Burger King opened in 1954
- Cruise stopovers
- Where Campbell’s Watercress and Duck-Gizzard Soup is sold
- Follower of Benedict?
- Rick of flicks
- Newspaperman William Randolph _____
- Stan’s comedy partner
- Partner of hem
- Some kitchen appliances
- French topper
- “The whole _____”

- Reaches
- Declare
- It’s always outstanding
- 1964 Tony Randall role
- Law school newcomer
- Irk
- Delete
- Kind of course
- “The San Francisco Treat”
- From that point on
- Everyday article
- He said “I paint objects as I think them, not as I see them”
- Small songbirds
- “Utopia” author Thomas
- Word of support
- University of Wyoming city
- Call it quits
- Actress Shields
- Brushed (up)
- Web site?
- Oklahoma city
- Like Santa’s helpers
- Because of
- “The Family Circus” cartoonist Keane
- Ike’s WWII command
- Dict. entries

RULES OF THE GAME

- The prize for solving the *Reader* Puzzle will be a *Reader* T-shirt.
- 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).
- All entries must be accompanied by your name and address.
- Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.
- 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.
- All answers must be entered in the space allowed on the puzzle page. And please, no phone calls or trips to our office.
- One entry per person.



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Solution to and winners of the *Reader* Puzzle for 12/14/06.

There were 105 entrants. The winners are:

- Nathaniel Eldredge, *San Diego*
- Laura Spingler, *Carlsbad*
- George Jackson, *Oceanside*
- Thomas Sweet, *San Diego*
- Barb Erickson, *San Diego*

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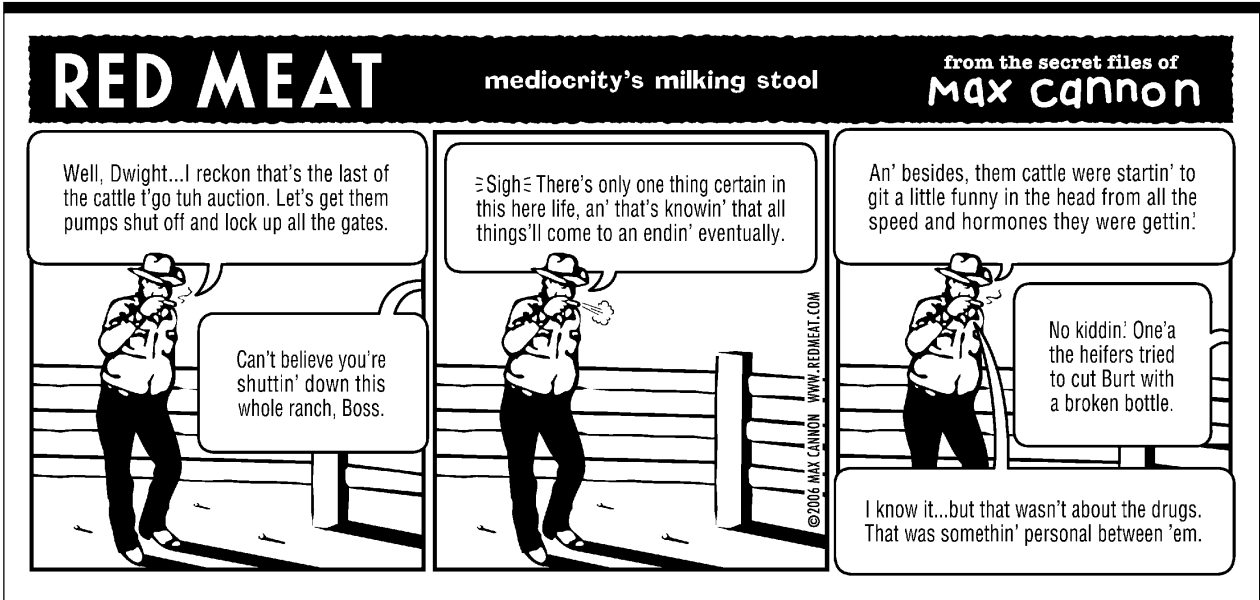
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AL-ANON. Grupo paz mental. Sufre por el alcoholismo en su familia? Juntas sesionan Martes, 5:30pm-7pm, y Sabados, 1-2:30pm, 3450 Bonita Road, #207, Bonita, CA 91902.

ALANON-GRUPO RENCUENTRO. Hay problemas de alcoholismo en su familia? Sesiones Lunes y Jueves de 5:00-6:30pm, 3450 Bonita Road, #207, Bonita 91902.

ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS. Tiene problemas con la bebida? Llamenos 24 horas. Oficina Central Hispana, 3628 University Avenue, San Diego, 92105. 619-280-7224.

ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS. Problemas con el alcohol? Nosotros le ayudamos a vivir mejor. Sesiones diarias Lunes a sabado, 7-8:30pm. Grupo Bonita Hispano 3450 Bonita Road #207. 619-520-4505.

ALL SAINTS' WELCOMES YOU! Celebrate Jesus birth with us Christmas eve. Family Service, 6pm; Carols, 10:30pm; Solemn High Mass, 11pm. 625 Pennsylvania Avenue. 619-298-7729 or www.allsaintschurch.org.

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.

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AUTHENTIC NINJUTSU. Come learn the art of Dr. Masaaki Hatsumi's Bujinkan Dojo. Classes taught in a relaxed, non-competitive atmosphere and available to anyone interested. Mike, 858-382-4221.

CERTIFIED PERSONAL TRAINER. Spring Valley. Free consultation. 2 free workouts. Individual/partner workout. I have helped hundreds reach exercise/nutritional goals. grussrowe@cox.net. 619-347-5440. www.russellrowe.com.

CERTIFIED PERSONAL TRAINERS. Aerobics, body composition testing, injury rehabilitation, youth programs, nutrition analysis. Gift certificates. Visa/MasterCard. www.wendyshealthandfitness.com. Wendy's Health & Fitness, 619-466-4386.

COLON/LYMPHATIC DETOX SPA. Are you feeling stressed, fatigued, overweight or just plain toxic? We can help! Call now for details on our proprietary 4-step detoxification process. 20 years professional experience. www.lajollalymphatic.com. Let us be your personal fountain of youth! Cove Wellness Inner Beauty, 858-551-9228.

GENTLE TAI CHI in Balboa Park. Free! Join us every Saturday morning at 9am, 6th and Upas down in the Eucalyptus Grove. All levels and ages welcome! For more information call Susan, 619-441-1165 or ajoyfulmovement.com.

TAI CHI AND QI GONG CLASSES. New classes begin January 8, 2007. First class is free! Visitors welcome. Taoist Sanctuary, 4229 Park Boulevard, San Diego 92103. 619-692-1155 or www.taoistsanctuary.org.

PARENT RESOURCES

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!

CHILD LANGUAGE and Emotion Lab at SDSU seeks infants and children for child language studies in English and Spanish. To participate, please call 619-594-0498.

CHILDREN'S Disney books, 10 for \$10. Children's "I Spy" books, 6 for \$20. Board games, 6 for \$10. Scooters, \$7 each. 760-685-8291.

FOSTER PARENTING. Give a youth the gift of a home this season. Become a foster parent and change a life forever! New alternatives offers monthly compensation, free trainings, and around the clock support. Call today to learn how you can make a difference. 888-599-HOME. License #370602760.

HELP OUR CHILDREN. You've considered it. Is it time to become a Foster Parent? Seeking qualified single or dual-parents to provide our children a stable, supportive environment. Training and ongoing education. A committed and talented treatment team. 24/7 support from expert staff. Weekly home visits. Compensation for your time and commitment. License #370602780. www.waldenfamily.org. Call Walden Family Services today. 619-584-5777.

INTERIM FOSTER PARENTS. The stay is short, but the rewards are sweet! Seeking optimistic adults to provide a supportive home to youth for a 9-12 month period. Walden's MTFC program is a nationally recognized, evidence-based model developed by the Oregon Social Learning Center. A team approach to treatment. 24/7 support from expert staff. Compensation for a high level of commitment. License #370602780. www.waldenfamily.org. Call Walden Family Services today. 619-584-5777.

WEDDING & PARTY GUIDE

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!

A NEW THING! You and your guests be the stars with live band! Sharky's Star-i-oke Show! Quality sound, lyrics displayed, take-home pictures, costumes, prizes. 619-302-9197.

AFFAIRS OF THE HEART? Weddings from \$350. Free consultations. Also anniversaries, birthdays, bar mitzvahs and portraits. Free 8x10 with this ad. Mind's Eye Photographies, 619-602-8253.

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.

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.

ENGAGEMENT RING, 3/8 carat diamond solitaire, size 5, white gold band, G color, S.I. 2 clarity, worn for 1 year, cleaned, \$500/best. Cash only. 949-690-0856.

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.

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.

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.

AUDITIONS for "School House Rock," director Joey Minnich, date: 1/12, 4:30-8:30pm, at Green Valley Church, 11501 Rancho Bernardo Road, Rancho Bernardo. Please prepare a one-minute song with tape accompaniment or sheet music. Information: www.cyt.org. 800-696-1929.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Are you single and over 40?

The Social Place - We introduce you to hundreds of singles over 40 at our weekly events and online for only \$19.99

- ♥ You will meet 100s of singles - possibly the next love of your life - in a fun and safe environment
- ♥ Thousands of new people are joining every month
- ♥ "The best singles parties I have ever seen" - Annie Ory, Relationship Expert
- ♥ Come to this week's event and find the one you are looking for



Don't miss our next event!
Single's Holiday Social
Thursday, December 21, 6:30 PM at
Parioli's Italian Bistro
647 S. Highway 101, Solana Beach

RSVP for the event and check out our online dating website at:
www.thesocialplace.com
1-866-635-7241 (Toll Free)



4000+ dead. Derechas para los mi-grantes sin papeles! Amnesty, yes! Wall? No! sanchob69ya@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.

OPEN MIC NIGHT. Every Sunday, 9pm-12am. Tom Giblin's Irish Pub, 640-A Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-7234.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Meetings daily. www.oasandiego.org or 619-521-2538.

PARENTS, FAMILIES, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). Find help, support, and understanding. Meetings: Hillcrest, East County, North County. www.pflag.com. Call for details, 619-579-7640.

PATHWORK DISCUSSION, "Following Through on Decisions," January 30, 7-9pm. 3180 University Avenue, Suite 200, San Diego CA 92104. Open meeting, no fee, materials available. 619-296-9046.

PATHWORK DISCUSSION: "Relationships." January 18, 7-9pm, 1228-1/2 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar 92014. Open meeting, no fee, materials available. For information call 858-259-1880.

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.

SEX and/or relationship problems? Out of control? You are not alone. Call Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, a 12-step fellowship. PO Box 3791, San Diego 92163 or 619-685-7211 or www.slaa-san-diego.org.

SURVIVORS OF INCEST Anonymous. Free 12-step support groups for men and women molested as children. Call Tim, 619-282-4798; www.slawso.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.

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.

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."

VOLUNTEER CHILDBIRTH, assistants needed. UCSD Medical Center Doula Program needs women to help mothers during labor. Big commitment, lots of gratification! 619-543-6269.

VOLUNTEERS. San Diego's abused/neglected children desperately need your voice. Make a difference. Serve as a child advocate. Information sessions: Wednesday, 2/7 and 3/7. Call Voices for Children, 858-569-2019 or visit www.speakupnow.org.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN a weekly gin rummy game? Amiable people. 619-224-2575.

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.

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, lime-stone counters. Steps from La Jolla's finest shopping, restaurants, beach. 858-926-8123.

PERSONALS

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!

DAVIEBABE'S IN BOSTON, 14 years ago, your work Christmas Party, UTC. You in that cute dress with suspenders and strawberries all over it! Adorable!

DAVIEBABE'S in Boston. Our first date, McDonalds! Christmas tree with the crooked stump you had to saw. Candy canes at the neighbors. I remember it all!

HELLO CRUEL WORLD. Sorry you got ripped off the docks when you fed the blogs. Whispers, ah Mr. Hooks, fish big-ots, lemon node, cliff hangers.

SAINT JUDE TADEO, I'm ever mindful of your great favors and always honor you as my special and powerful patron. Thank you for your love.

WANTED: Any third party candidate who will create a bill that nationalizes the oil companies in the US.

WE REPRESENT A GREAT ALLIANCE For peace through the Intergalactic Council, whose authority comes from spiritual Hierarchy of the Solar System. Sananda is the highest commander of the Alliance. Ashtar.

MATCHES SHARED INTERESTS

SEEKING GOING-OUT Friends. Must be female 35 to 50, interested in singles activities for meeting men. Return all responses. I am 43, female. (12/27) ☎70691

MATCHES WOMEN SEEKING MEN

BRILLIANT APHRODITE-LIKE woman, desires vibrant man of kind heart and generous soul, to travel worlds together, laugh frequently, touch life, and love well. (12/27) ☎70144

EUROPEAN EDUCATED, Gorgeous, petite. Seeking successful, truthful, generous, educated, anti-war, stylish, monogamous, (com)passionate, no baggage man, friendship, sportive, no previous kids, spiritual/nonreligious, 35-53, 5'9"+. (1/3) ☎70152

ATTRACTIVE LATINA. Seeking good Latino/White honest man that knows how to treat a woman. No games/drugs, I'm honest, love to laugh, enjoys life. (12/27) ☎70142

DEAR SANTA, Please help me find a friend, companion, lover 55-65, likes walking, good conversation, music, dancing, romantic, affectionate. (12/27) ☎70145

BEEN A GOOD BOY? Unencumbered, humorous, man of substance? Worthy of a unique black beauty? Tall, beautiful smile, childless. Sassy yet classy, diverse interests salute. (1/3) ☎70160

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). (1/3) ☎70164

IMPEACH BUSH! Peacenik, 52, 5'9", son (18), natural, blues dancing-opera, hiking, camping, Dog Beach. Seek leftist, 50ish, easy-going, renaissance man to complicate/complement life. (1/3) ☎70162

DOWN TO EARTH, Asian, attractive, 60, widowed, intelligent, young, energetic, secure, healthy, sensuous, happy. Seeking nonsmoker, Christian gentleman to share life with. No games, please. (12/27) ☎70150

Try online placement for your Reader Matches Ad!

Meet Your Match. Get a free ad in the *Reader* and on the Web at SanDiegoReader.com, and a free voice mailbox for recording and receiving messages. Questions? Call 619-235-8200, 8:30-5:00, Mon.-Fri.

Free Online Placement: Ads submitted online receive e-mail responses and voicemail responses. Tell more about yourself and upload a photo, too! These features are free. Online placement deadline: 7 am, Saturday.

More Free Placement Options: Can't get online? Fill the form below and mail or fax it to us. If faxing, please photocopy first. Fax/mail deadline: 7 am, Saturday.



Meet your match! Use the form below to place your free, 2-week Reader Matches Ad and get your free Voice Mailbox.

OPTIONAL HEADLINE: 20 characters per line including spaces; the first initial of each word is capitalized; abbreviations and unusual punctuation will not be accepted; the cost of each line is \$12. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

1	2	3	4
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PRINT CLEARLY: First 25 words are FREE. \$1.20/additional word. Do not abbreviate words. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25/FREE	26	27	28	29	30

FREE AD DEADLINE: 7 am Saturday

Mail: Reader Matches, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 **Fax:** (619) 233-7907
Online: SanDiegoReader.com

LATE AD DEADLINE: 5 pm Tuesday

Fax: (619) 233-7907 **Phone:** (619) 235-8200
Walk-in: 1703 India St. (at Date St.) downtown

Matches ads are available for any 18+ single person who is seeking a sincere relationship with a member of the opposite sex. Ads containing explicit or implicit sexual/anatomical language will not be accepted. Ads in the "Shared Interests" category must list the primary interest as the first words; these ads will be sorted alphabetically. Either gender may be sought in "Shared Interests" ads; however, physical descriptions are not allowed. No last names, addresses or personal phone numbers will be permitted. No dating services, singles clubs or commercial businesses may advertise in this section. The San Diego *Reader* does not assume any liability for the content or reply to any Reader Matches advertisement. Advertiser assumes complete liability for content of, and all replies to, any advertisement or recorded message and for any claims made against the San Diego *Reader* as a result thereof. The advertiser agrees to indemnify and hold the San Diego *Reader* and its employees harmless from all costs, expenses (including all attorney fees), liabilities and damages resulting from or caused by the publication or recording placed by the advertiser or any reply to any such advertisement. By using Reader Matches, the advertiser agrees not to leave his/her telephone number, last name or address in his/her voice greeting message.

We must have the following information. Please print.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) () _____

Phone (evening) () _____

Signature _____

To receive e-mail responses, simply provide your address below. (Don't worry, your e-mail address will not be revealed.)

E-mail: _____

Choose One: ☐ Woman seeking a man ☐ Man seeking a woman

☐ Shared interests

Reader Matches Voice Mailbox\$ **FREE**

Headlines _____x \$12 each line\$ _____

First 25 words of printed ad.....\$ **FREE**

Additional words _____x \$1.20 each.....\$ _____

Late fee/walk-in fee: \$20.....\$ _____

TOTAL\$ _____

No cancellations. No refunds. Make check or money order payable to San Diego *Reader*. To order using Visa, MasterCard or Discover, please fill out the following:

Card number _____

Expiration date _____

Signature _____



HAPPY HOLIDAYS, Affectionate, energetic, 50s, green-blonde, homeowner, nonsmoker, Caucasian, no games just fun, travel. Seeks Caucasian male, sweet, kind homeowner, secure. Merry Xmas. (12/27) ☎ 70147

BRITISH GENTLEMAN 43-55, Desired by pretty, green-eyed white lady, 48, humorous, world traveler, healthy lifestyle, nature lover. Please have similar interests/lifestyle. (1/3) ☎ 70161

HAPPY, PHYSICALLY and socially active, tall, slim, blonde, attractive, positive attitude, financially and emotionally secure, 40s. Looking for someone to share positive experiences. Coastal area. (12/27) ☎ 70704

LAUGH AND LOVE, 2007 will be great! 62 years young, adventurous, warm, outgoing, photography lover. Seeks romance and companionship. Outdoors, indoors, friends, family, pets, travel. (12/27) ☎ 70705

ASIAN BEAUTY, Educated, wealthy, 42, 5'3", 110lbs, no children. Enjoy nature, music, athletic. Seeking professional, educated gentleman, no children, to share quality time. Nonsmoker. (12/27) ☎ 70136

ACTIVE, CARING, Attractive single mom, 49, enjoy movies, music, the beach, long walks, dining out, quiet times at home. Seeking optimistic, caring, active, gentleman. (12/27) ☎ 70149

PRINCESS AT HEART, 33, outgoing, loving, down to earth and loyal. Seeks white male 24-46, serious minded, play no games, wants serious relationship a must. (12/27) ☎ 70135

WHITE, 34, brown eyes, long brown hair. Brave, fun! Open-minded. Sexy, exciting bad habit. Seeking realistic, generous guy to drive crazy. You'll love hating me. (1/3) ☎ 70154

HOT, HELPLESS, 38, Aquarian female, red hair. Seeks tall gentleman, 38-48, good-looking, stable, confident. For walks, talks, movies, dinner. Permanent relationship possible. (12/27) ☎ 70141

LATIN LADY, 54, attractive, professional, 5'5", 135lbs, honest, dark-haired, light skin, nonsmoker, nondrinker; likes sports, traveling and more. Wishes, man with good feelings. (1/3) ☎ 70157

NICE LOOKING EUROPEAN LADY, 50, 5'5" educated with huge travel experience in Europe. Seeking soul mate, good looking degreed white to travel together North. (1/3) ☎ 70155

SEXY, WARM PERSONALITY. Trustworthy, I like movies, eating out; fun to be with. If you like smiles, answer this ad. (12/27) ☎ 70137

LAST CHANCE THIS YEAR To find your lovable, sexy, pretty lady. If you are 58+ with a playful personality and adventurous soul, excitement awaits. (1/3) ☎ 70153

SEEKING FUN-LOVING GUY Who would like to meet fun, exciting gal, North County, 46, 162lbs, brown hair, blue eyes. Enjoys art, Starbucks. Call. (12/27) ☎ 70134

SWEET, HUMOROUS, Lively Japanese. Seeks to meet a stable man with more than average quality. (12/27) ☎ 70140

IF YOU THRIVE To be the king of your castle, then I'm the queen of your world. (1/3) ☎ 70158

MEXICAN WOMAN. I'm 37, 5'5", 108lbs, brown hair/eyes, single, no children, never married, like outdoors, good woman/heart, romantic, nice. Looking for white man. (12/27) ☎ 70143

POLISH-LITHUANIAN Girl next door, 50s. I like twelve-step drug, alcohol programs. People call me well-organized, cooperative, a good listener. Disabilities are okay. (12/27) ☎ 70138

I'M 48, TALL, Compassionate, good-hearted, truthful, fun, fair and considerate, I'm interested in meeting a single, happy, honest, positive, kind, patient guy between 45-53. (1/3) ☎ 70165

DOCTOR, BEAUTIFUL, affectionate. Loves dancing, yoga, traveling. Looking for successful, passionate, intelligent, spontaneous, caring, loving, sincere man, 40s, for long-term relationship. (12/27) ☎ 70146

LET'S BE HAPPY TOGETHER. Attractive, tall, slim, blonde, college-educated, fun-loving, playful, good conversation, 40s. Seeking someone

for fun, adventuresome, sincere relationship. Coastal area. (1/3) ☎ 70163

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. (12/27) ☎ 70148

FULL-FIGURED LADY of color, passionate, exotic, full of life. Need white male, who needs love, passion; age 50-69, financially secure a must. Call me. (12/27) ☎ 70139

SINCERE, HEALTHY, Adventuresome, loving lady, French, young-looking 50s; love outdoors, camping, hiking, movies, dining out, quiet time; likes to cuddle; walks on the beach, healthy living. Seeking a fun-filled friendship with a fun-loving, fit, honest, loving, adventuresome, secure man with same interests, 45-55. (1/3) ☎ 70159

MATCHES
Men Seeking Women

WHITE MALE, 50s, divorced, romantic man. Likes cuddling, walks on beach, spontaneous, easygoing, honest, dining out, movies, very nice, affectionate, laughter, sense of humor. (12/27) ☎ 70694

RETIRED PROFESSIONAL, 69, English background, world traveler, slim build, easygoing, humorous. Seeks classy lady, 60-73, San Diego area. Don't be alone these holidays. (1/3) ☎ 70717

ALL GOOD MEN AREN'T TAKEN, 50, handsome black male. Seeks romantic affectionate female who enjoys life, laughter, sports, dancing, outdoors/indoors (beach, walks), 35-50, morals. (12/27) ☎ 70685

IF YOU'RE ATTRACTIVE And look good in tight jeans in high heels; with happy, down-to-earth personality, 21-40, I'm for you. Asian a plus. (12/27) ☎ 70697

LOOKING FOR THAT Holiday special gift? Not overly glitzy, just a beautiful wrap present! Clues! Personable, healthy, attentive, creative, knowledgeable, etc. Have you been good? (12/27) ☎ 70706

LONG-HAIRED, HANDSOME, blond, 5'10", 175lbs, light eyes, young 50, likes eating out. Seeks smart and pretty lady for late lunch or sunset dinner dates. (1/3) ☎ 70726

Single, Handsome, White Dad

Of 2, 5 and 6, blond-blue, 5'10", 170lbs, healthy, low 40s. Seeks slim lady, 25-40, kids OK, fun, electric, romance possible, no drugs. (1/3) ☎ 70699

SINGLE MALE, 31, 5'7", warm, never been married, educated, handsome, loyal, positive. Like to meet female, any race, for a serious relationship. (12/27) ☎ 70695

HANDSOME, 6'2" TALL, Blue eyes, 200lbs, loving, passionate, open-minded, ex-Air Force pilot. Seeking wacky, slim, 55-65, at least 5'5", good-looking, passionate, healthy, no baggage. (12/27) ☎ 70690

BEST TWO THINGS Can happen. Me running this ad, you answering it. Me handsome, Caucasian, 5'9", 180lbs clean-shaven, romantic, fun, healthy with hair. Long-term relationship. (1/3) ☎ 70712

CLASSY, HANDSOME, BLUE/EYES, Looks 30s/40s, fit, white, rich, college, affectionate, loves women 20s/70s, race/size open; for loving, fun, relationship, mutual happiness. (12/27) ☎ 70693

JEWISH MAN SEEKING WOMAN, 35-50 with similar interests, such as lectures, walks, tennis, concerts, music, theatre, long term relationship could be in the future. (12/27) ☎ 70689

LET'S WALK! Beaches, canyons, parks -- 55 year old Clairemonster (I look better than I sound) ex-college teacher and engineer. Like nearby afternoon walks. (1/3) ☎ 70722

QUALITY WHITE MALE, 47, tall, dark, nice-looking, hardworking, honest, ambitious, grounded, caring, talkative, witty. Seeking nonsmoking, accomplished, curvy, family-oriented, grounded woman for relationship. (1/3) ☎ 70719

ASIAN LADY WANTED. I'm 5'11", 220lbs, 53 years old, mixed American Indian and black, never married, no children, nonsmoker, nondrinker. Looking for nice lady. (1/3) ☎ 70156

IF YOU ARE SINGLE, Female, attractive in mind/body, 35-55 and want to enjoy life as you deserve to, make risk-free call to Scott. (1/3) ☎ 70730

Attention, Experienced, Open-Minded Ladies

Good looking, educated white male, 42, desires mature ladies who enjoy being accompanied by younger male. Dining movies, walks. Get spoiled! (1/3) ☎ 70709

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. (1/3) ☎ 70721

SENIOR GENTLEMAN, Enjoys short trips, dancing, stereo, Bridge, theatre. You up-to-date, fun-loving, 70-plus, have similar interests. Phone number, please. (12/27) ☎ 70707

FRIEND ALL TRUE, Kind-hearted, honest gentleman you ladies will ever have the pleasure of meeting, searching for true soul mate. No heartbreakers of headcases. (1/3) ☎ 70708

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

ATTRACTIVE BLACK LADY, 25-40, fit, sense of humor, sought for friendship, romance, with successful white male, blue eyes, affectionate, muscular. Let me spoil you. (12/27) ☎ 70684

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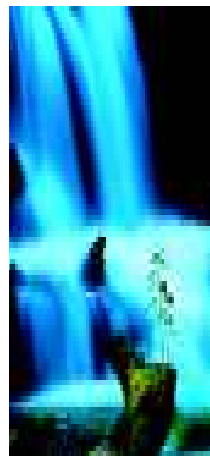
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CARDIFF. Small furnished \$625. Large room \$775 plus utilities and deposits. Community living, privacy. Vegetarian/seafood kitchen, organic garden, jacuzzi, laundry. Nonsmokers. No pets 760-753-0321.

CARLSBAD. Luxury townhome, end unit, close to beach. \$1000/month. No drinking/drugs. Female preferred. Small dog/bird negotiable. Beautifully landscaped. Parking. 760-390-4605.

CARLSBAD. On the beach share 2 bedroom 1 bath apartment. Patio, barbecue, shopping, transportation, laundry. \$625 plus utilities. Available immediately. Niles, 619-277-6443.

CARMEL VALLEY, \$675 plus deposit. Room with private bath in quiet house. Female preferred. Rent includes utilities, kitchen, and laundry. Cat considered, no dogs. 858-755-7693.

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, \$550. New spacious quiet private home. Near Southwestern. Kitchen, washer/dryer privileges. Wireless connection. No smoking/drugs/pets. Female only. Hablo espanol 619-347-2115.

CHULA VISTA, \$480. Room for rent. No smoking/drugs. Move now and pay rent until January 1. Just \$150 deposit. Utilities with Cox included. 619-941-2027.

CLAIREMONT. Room for rent in 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Good, quiet neighborhood. Centrally located. Washer/dryer, garage. \$900 covers all utilities. Deposit negotiable. 619-865-2223.

CLAIREMONT. Clean, quiet, nicely furnished home. Washer/dryer, all amenities. Bedroom has cable, large closet. \$500/month; deposit, 1/3 utilities. No pets. Available 12/30/06. 858-277-8775.

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CLAIREMONT, \$700 includes utilities, \$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.

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COLLEGE AREA/ROLANDO, \$600. Large master bedroom second story, private bath, deck, yard, storage, cable TV/Internet, hardwood. Quiet, nice neighborhood, mountain views. Tavis, 619-583-5330.

COLLEGE AREA/SAN CARLOS, \$550. Room with view. Quiet area. All appliances. Very clean. No smoking, pets or drugs. 619-286-7133, 760-505-0449.

COLLEGE AREA, \$500/month \$300/deposit. Room in nice townhouse, bathroom/kitchen shared. Utilities included. Parking spot in front. Minutes from SDSU. 619-813-7094.

DEL MAR, \$725. Unfurnished room in private home, panoramic ocean views. No smoking/pets. Respectful environment. 1/2 utilities. Close to beach. Female only. 858-793-7903.

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DEL MAR, \$900, includes utilities. Beautiful, spacious home. Great location. Pool, jacuzzi, parking. Large room, full bath, separate entrance. Quiet, private. Call Brad 909-730-4600, bradegrant@aol.com.

DEL MAR. Ocean view, walk to stores. Near UCSD. Nonsmoker. Share 2 bedroom condo. Indoor parking, Laundry. \$795, plus utilities. 2222 Carmel Valley Road. 858-722-9050.

DEL MAR. Share beautiful house. Unfurnished room, share bath. Quiet, clean. Close to UCSD/beaches. Male preferred. Available 1/01/07. \$650, \$325 deposit, 1/3 utilities. 858-245-7188.

EAST COUNTY, \$395. Pet OK. Private entrance, fishing and hot springs, quiet. 40 miles east on 8. 619-387-6647.

EL CAJON. Roommate wanted, in large house. Private room with bath. Nice area, close to shopping. Large kitchen. Furnished or unfurnished. \$550/month. 619-277-9447.

EL CAJON, \$550, 1/3 utilities, cable service. Quiet 1 big room, 1/2 acre country house, own entrance, 1/2 bath. Easy access to freeway, buses, mall. Washer/dryer. Available now. Prefer female. Call Linda, leave message, 619-749-1116.

EL CAJON, \$430. Share 2 bedroom apartment with male. No smoking, no drugs, or excessive alcohol. Bedroom with walk-in closet. Male preferred. 619-440-4011.

EL CAJON, \$550, 1/3 utilities, deposit. Master bedroom with private bath available in 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. No drugs, smoking, pets. Female only. 619-250-7144.

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 now. 619-449-4916.

ENCINITAS, \$700, plus utilities. 3 bedroom, 1 bath house. Great location. Washer/dryer, Internet, cable, garage, yard, cats, fish. Available now. Randi, 760-458-5808; 760-632-2236; randihhp@yahoo.com.

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. Roommate \$599+ wanted. Guest unit, private 1 bedroom, 1 bath \$895+. Nice home. No smoking, drugs, pets. Split utilities, maid, gardener, 1/3. 760-436-2796; 760-445-6369.

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.

ESCONDIDO, \$500/month. 1 bedroom, private bath in 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Clean and nice, quiet community. Close to shopping, freeway. No pets/smoking. 858-568-0167.

GOLDEN HILLS, \$450/month, includes utilities. Room in 2 bedroom house. Quiet neighborhood. On-site laundry, 5 minutes from downtown. Hardwood floors, fireplace. \$450 deposit. Erin, 619-232-2841.

KEARNY MESA. 3-story townhome. Private bath. No pets. Female only. Laundry, cable, Internet. Close to 163, SDSU. Available 1/1 or after 12/15. \$675. 858-842-1944.

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LA COSTA, \$895, plus half utilities. Share 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath furnished condo. Own bedroom/bath, garage, 180 degree golf course view. Amenities. 760-633-0038.

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. Available 1/1/07. 619-804-5093 or nacho.garcia@agedwards.com.

LA JOLLA/UTC. Share 2 bedroom, 2 bath own bath. Fireplace, washer/dryer, cable. Clubhouse, barbecue, jacuzzi, tennis, pool. \$750, \$100 utilities, \$450 deposit. 858-410-5517.

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 MESA, \$600, half of 4 bedroom house, giant backyard, pets OK. Great neighborhood. 619-312-7470.

LA MESA, Room for rent, \$450 plus deposit. Between SDSU and Grossmont, 619-466-6755.

LA MESA. \$475. Available 12/18. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Nonsmoking, dog OK. Room: vaulted ceilings, ceiling fan, bookcase, sliding door to patio. carrie54@cox.net, 619-251-2344.

LEMON GROVE. \$450 plus \$100 deposit, utilities included. Furnished/cable TV. House. Shared bathroom/kitchen. Male only, nonsmoker. No drugs/pets. 619-602-1824.

LINDA VISTA. Nonsmoking female. No pets. Shared bathroom. 4 bedroom, 3 bath. \$500, plus 1/4 or light housekeeping in lieu of rent plus 1/4. 858-382-7600.

LINDA VISTA. Nonsmoking male wanted to share clean, spacious, fully furnished apartment with patio. Free laundry. Convenient to military bases. \$500 plus 1/2. Richard, 858-505-0262.

MIRA MESA. \$550 and \$695, 2 rooms for rent in large 5 bedroom house. First/last month's rent upon move-in. Utilities about \$50/month. jmelvin65@hotmail.com, 858-566-5826.

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.

MIRA MESA. \$450 plus deposit and 1/4 utilities. Own room in large 3-bedroom house with yard. Share bathroom. Laundry facilities. Community pool. Female preferred. 858-444-5922.

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MISSION VALLEY, \$600/month. No deposit. Room furnished, 3 months maximum. Own bathroom. No smoking/pets. Male preferred. Available now, 619-948-3868.

MISSION VALLEY, \$495. Share large quiet townhome with 2 nonsmoking guys. Washer/dryer on premises, bus/trolley nearby. Pool/spa. Available 1/01/07. Rich, 619-501-5044.

MISSION VALLEY/FASHION Valley. \$700. Available 1/1/07. Female roommate wanted. Own room, own bath. Condo shared with 2 others. Close to all. 619-840-7713.

MURRIETA. \$695. Roommate to share condo with female. Own room/bathroom. Patio, fireplace, washer/dryer. Gym, Racquetball, pool, spa. Male preferred. Crystal, 951-834-4382; Heather, 951-704-2628.

NATIONAL CITY. Roo Drive. Room available, ready to move in. Male only. Hardwood floors in nice house. \$430 including utilities. 619-788-2162.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$475/room. Female only. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath apartment to share. Internet, cable, laundry. No smoking/drugs/pets. Available now. Email: oh_happy_days@yahoo.com. Call 619-997-7691.

NORMAL HEIGHTS, 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhome, garage, washer/dryer, large yard and balcony. \$725 plus deposit. Pet? 619-246-2237.

NORTH PARK. \$350. Share 4 bedroom house. Shared utilities. \$75 deposit. Nonsmoking, no drugs or pets. Close to freeways, bus stops. Male preferred. Charles, 619-584-1790.

NORTH PARK. \$575. Third person to join sharing nice 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo/duplex. Presently 2 tenants, male/female. Near SDSU, 805, downtown. 619-916-7531.

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, Room available 1/1/07, in 3 bedroom condo, ocean view, 3 blocks beach. Laundry. No smoking/pets/drugs/excessive drinking. Male preferred. \$625. 619-246-8560.

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.

OCEAN BEACH/POINT LOMA. \$450, includes utilities. Female, own room, quiet. 2-bedroom apartment. Share bath/female. Views, street parking. No drugs, smoking, pets. Have birds. 619-206-3298.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$795. One bedroom with bath in bright 3 bedroom, 3 bath townhouse. Female preferred. Move in 1/10. Amy, 202-285-9777; aj7171@hotmail.com. Erika, 760-815-6836; ejosephson@hotmail.com.

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. 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.

POINT LOMA/OCEAN BEACH. \$700 luxury furnished room with panoramic ocean view in contemporary home. Microwave/fridge/TV/laundry, 4 blocks to beach. Very private. Available 1/1/07. 619-226-4010.

POINT LOMA. 3 bedroom 3 bath, fully furnished condo. Unfurnished large room with own bath, direct balcony access. 2 story, vaulted ceilings, fireplace, washer/dryer, parking. \$750/month utilities included. 619-226-1166.

POINT LOMA, 3 bedroom 3 bath, fully furnished condo. Unfurnished large room, private bath, walk-in closet. 2 story, vaulted ceilings, fireplace, washer/dryer, parking. No pets please. \$865/month utilities included, 619-226-1166.

RANCHO PENASQUITOS. Female only to share 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Room has ceiling fan, closet, private bath. Pool, spa, laundry. \$650/month, 1/2 utilities. 408-313-7627.

ROLANDO, COLLEGE AREA, Share my 3 bedroom bungalow and garden. \$500 includes utilities, Internet, cable. No smoking. 619-382-2471.

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 MARCOS. \$800. Room for rent in home loaded with amenities. January 1 move-in. Security deposit required, rent includes all utilities. Please inquire, 760-271-6941; delmarfit@aol.com.

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SDSU, Very large room available in very nice house. Washer/dryer, cable, air conditioning, parking, \$575 includes utilities. Near SDSU and supermarket. Female preferred, 619-549-0566.

SERRA MESA/MISSION VALLEY. \$500 plus utilities. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house, 2 living rooms, garage, 2 patios, laundry, fireplace. No pets. Available 1/01/07. 858-277-4555.

SOLANA BEACH. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 2 bath home, private enclosed backyard. Quiet neighborhood. Split utilities/services. \$1200 deposit required upon move-in. Available now. Nonsmoking. 858-722-5824.

SOUTH PARK. \$525, \$525 deposit. Bedroom available in 2 bedroom apartment. Available 12/21. High-speed Internet, cable. Utilities are about \$55/month. Female only. 858-205-3748.

SOUTH PARK, Old house, small rooms, credit unnecessary, \$375, \$550 negotiable, computer room. 12 minutes beaches, Downtown, laundry, parking, quiet. Cul-de-sac deposits. Owner Todd 858-357-6337.

SPRING VALLEY. \$550. 2 rooms for rent in brand new house, panoramic views. One with private bath. No pets/smoking. Female preferred. Blanca Ortega, 619-517-1404.

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.

UNIVERSITY CITY, SOUTH: Quiet, downstairs room, private bath/entry, quiet street, parking, Jacuzzi, yard, patio, garden, deck, appliances, HBO/utilities included, nonsmoking female; \$725. 858-546-8214.

UTC. \$500/month. \$400/deposit. Quarter utilities, share bath, unfurnished room. Extended digital cable, pool, fireplace. Great location. Nonsmoking. Have dogs. No more pets. Available 1/1/07. 858-452-2644.

UTC/LA JOLLA. \$890. Furnished new condo, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Own bedroom, bathroom, walk-in closet. \$920 including water/trash, 1/2 utilities. 858-405-2597, 858-320-3351, 760-752-7796.

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PACIFIC BEACH, professional office space in class A building. 2 suites in Garnet Pacific Plaza. Each has 771 square feet, combinable. Mile from I-5. 951-375-8975.

PACIFIC BEACH. 929-C Turquoise Street. Commercial property, ideal for professional office. 410 square feet. Lease: 1 year minimum/7 year maximum. Rent, \$625. Triple net 6%. Available now! Call 858-490-1600.

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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ALLIED GARDENS. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Family room, fireplace. Newly redone throughout. Refinished hardwood floors. New paint inside/out. Very nice. Garage. Backyard. Cat OK. \$2000. 4811 Loukelton Way. 858-866-5636.

BONSALL. \$2495. Lovely 2+ levels, fenced/gated acres. Great for horses/pets, etc. 2 master bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, fireplace, 2-car garage, fruit trees, etc. 4147 Kari Lane. 760-651-1101 or 760-586-1308.

CARLSBAD, \$2375. Stunning waterfront townhome with boat dock. 3 plus bedrooms, 2 baths, 2-car garage, carport, storage. Granite kitchen, wood/tile floors, 2-sided fireplace. Pets?. 760-612-3887.

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 now. 4674 Meadow Drive. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

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.

CARLSBAD/SOUTH. Beautiful beach home, gated community. 3 bedrooms +loft, 2-1/2 baths, family room, garage. 2261 square-feet. All appliances, fireplace, tropical yard. \$2900/month. 760-815-3696.

CARLSBAD/LA COSTA. \$2050, includes water/trash/gardener. Spacious 3 bedroom, 3 bath, all appliances, washer/dryer, fireplace, yard, garage. Available 1/5/07. Preston, 619-742-7776, 760-778-4244.

CARLSBAD/LA COSTA. Rancho Ponderosa 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1800 square foot, single story home, cul-de-sac, beautiful landscaped. Pet on approval. Recently upgraded. \$2100/month. 760-519-7912.

CARMEL VALLEY. 5 bedroom, 4-1/2 bath, 2-story house, cul-de-sac, private, covered balcony, canyon/ocean view. Many upgrades. Courtyard, barbecue area. Security system. \$6600. 858-699-6000.

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/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.

CHULA VISTA/Eastlake. \$1790. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. 2-car garage, fireplace, gated. Walk to Eastlake High School, Olympic View Elementary. Available February 1. 619-254-1021.

CHULA VISTA. Otay Ranch. Beautiful 3 bedroom, 3 bath townhome. Close to parks, new mall. Washer/dryer. 2-car garage. \$1800. Pets OK. Justin, 601-301-5160.

CHULA VISTA, \$2300. Veranda Community, Lomas Verdes. Beautiful 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. 2138 square-feet, 2-car garage. Large backyard, covered patio, fountain, landscaping. Available January. 619-997-5178.

CHULA VISTA. 4 bedroom, 3 bath home, \$2300. Cul-de-dac, 2-car garage, fireplace, stainless appliances, washer/dryer. Backyard, deck. Pets OK. Section 8 OK. 619-518-3211.

CHULA VISTA. Eastlake. Available now. 5 bedroom 2-1/2 bath, 2300 square feet, built 2003. Patio, community pool. Section 8 OK. \$2500/month. Move-in special. 619-733-6224.

CHULA VISTA. \$2650. 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath home in Sunbow! Features many upgrades including granite, stainless steel appliances and upgraded carpeting. Refrigerator, washer/dryer included. Tropical themed swimming pool with barbecue island. Great location in cul-de-sac, close to freeway 805, hospital and shopping! Available now. 1 month deposit and credit check required. No pets. 619-985-7717 or 619-992-3824.

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. \$900 includes utilities. 1 bedroom attached cottage. Walk to shops/restaurants, private. No smoking, small pet OK. Deposit. Near Southwest-ern College. 619-933-7007.

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.

CLAIREMONT, 3 bedroom 2 bath, 1400 square feet. Recently remodeled. Fireplace, new carpet/appliances. RV park-

ing possible. 2 car garage. No smoking. \$2000/month. 858-484-2770.

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.

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 AREA. \$1500. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, huge bonus room, 1-car garage, fenced yard, washer/dryer, barbecue. Pets negotiable. Close to freeways, shopping, SDSU. 619-889-8367.

COLLEGE AREA House. 3 bedroom, 2 bath remodeled Spanish-style. Walk to SDSU. Patio, hardwoods, laundry, fireplace, garage, free street parking. 6/12 month leases. Water paid. Won't last! \$1900/month (only \$633/each). Jeff, 858-342-3792.

COLLEGE AREA/ROLANDO. \$2200. 4 bedroom, 3 bath house. 1800 square feet with pool, fireplace, 2-car garage and private backyard. Pets considered. Available 12/20. 4753 Valencia Drive. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

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COLLEGE, \$1695. 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Beautiful Spanish style house. Dining room, yard, landscape. No pets. 4778 Aragon Drive, 92115. 619-698-6911.

COLLEGE/ROLANDO, \$1650. Gorgeous 3 bedroom, 2 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.

DEL MAR. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-car garage, washer/dryer hookups. On cul-de-sac. Large kitchen, new appliances. Yard. Pets OK. \$2850. Gardener included. 858-361-0594.

DEL MAR: Spectacular ocean view, new custom, 4 bedrooms, 4-1/2 baths, media room, decks, granite, marble, loggia, yard, walk to village/ocean, \$7000, Mike, 619-236-1836.

DOWNTOWN, NEAR PETCO. \$1595. Rent to own! 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 1200 square feet. New paint. Moving out of state. Call agent for details, 619-459-8678.

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.

EL CAJON. \$3500. 5 bedroom, 3-1/2 bath hilltop retreat, pool, spa, Koi pond, 2-1/2 car garage. Views, views, views! 1063 Vista Madera Lane. Call 619-507-4172.

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.

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.

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GOLDEN HILL/SHERMAN HEIGHTS. Spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath near Downtown/Gaslamp, \$1600 plus deposit. New carpet, remodeled baths, additional kitchen cabinets. Carpeted storage area. Off-street parking. Terry, 619-778-2830.

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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.

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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, \$2895. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with hardwood floors, custom paint, crown molding and baseboards. Newly renovated kitchen and upgraded bathrooms. Large patio, gazebo and koi pond. Detached 2-car garage with laundry room, work bench and great storage. Walking distance to Village. Available January 1. 4848 Kensington Drive. 619-683-9274.

KENSINGTON. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath-room 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.

LA JOLLA. \$4150. 4 bedroom, 3 bath house. Split-level, on cul-de-sac. Bright with skylights and lots of windows. 2 fireplaces, 2 masters. Formal dining room. Washer/dryer hook-ups. Available now. Pets negotiable. 7770 Roseland Place. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

LA JOLLA. \$2350. 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, house, pool, quiet, community spa, extra large brick patio. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

LA JOLLA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Fireplace, laundry, tile floors. Patio/yard/barbecue. 1-car garage. Appointment only. No smoke/pets. \$2675. 858-454-3140.

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LA MESA. 1 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Open floor plan, shared laundry, 600 square feet. No pets. Available 12/28. 6170 West Manor Drive. \$850. 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

LA MESA. 4 bedroom, 3 bath new home, \$2850. 1/2 off first month! Ocean views. 2700 square feet. Available now. 7612 Seattle Drive. By agent, 619-260-6121. View at <http://www.sevillengmt.com>.

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LEMON GROVE. Remodeled 2 bedroom house. \$1500/month. Hardwood floors throughout, all appliances plus washer/dryer, covered patio, finished garage with lots of storage, extra large fenced yard. Includes gardener/trash. 2656 Grange Street. 619-461-3546.

LINDA VISTA. \$1825, rent. \$1200 deposit, OAC, 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. 1438-square-foot house. 2-car garage. Yard. No pets. At 7036 Osler Street (at Gene-see), 619-299-8515.

LINDA VISTA. \$1375. Charming 2 bedroom, 1 bath house minutes from USD, Sharp, Old Town, Fashion Valley, Downtown, Balboa Park, beaches. 7440 Hyatt Street. 619-670-5742.

MIRA MESA, NORTH. Quiet neighborhood. Cute 3 bedroom, 2 bath house, den, newer refrigerator, large kitchen, patio. Small pet OK. 9065 Danube Lane. \$1800. 760-739-5451.

MIRA MESA. \$1795/month, \$1500/security deposit. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 7734 Parkdale Court. Stove, refrigerator, large fenced yard, 2-car garage, air conditioning. Gardener included. 10-12 month lease. Available now. Call Ed. 858-597-6100.

MISSION HILLS. Hillside, private decks/views. Two-in-one. Upper-level: Upgraded, new kitchen/bathrooms, spacious bedrooms, family room. Lower-level: bedroom, bath, kitchen, recreation room. \$2750. 808-457-0645, 619-540-4830.

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MT. HELIX. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath. 2400 square feet. 2-car garage. Pool. \$2250 includes gardener/pool maintenance. Deposit required. No pets. Available 12/9. 619-443-9192.

NATIONAL CITY. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Beautiful hardwood floors, large eat-in kitchen, completely fenced, storage, off-street parking. No pets/smoking. 209 G Avenue. \$1235. all utilities paid. Call Val, 619-507-2613.

NORMAL HEIGHTS, \$1500/month. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, Spanish-style house with garage. All appliances, hardwood floors, private yard, washer/dryer. Non-smoker. Call 619-299-7348.

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. utopiamgmt.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS, \$1595. Quaint 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Quiet, private, fenced yard, washer/dryer, refrigerator, hardwoods, parking. Pets OK. 4860 Hawley, north of Adams. 619-521-0050.

NORTH PARK. \$2200. Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath Spanish-style, quiet residential area, 2-story, hardwood floors, fireplace, private yard, deck, washer/dryer, garage. 3327 Thorn. 760-754-3143.

NORTH PARK. \$1145. 2 bedroom, 1 bath Craftsman house, hardwood floors, appliances, fresh paint. Laundry on-site. Garage, \$100. No pets. Deposit \$1000. 4125 Wabash. 858-483-7011.

NORTH PARK. \$1350. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house, parking, washer/dryer, small yard, pets OK. 4149 Utah Street. AMI Property Management. 619-697-6314.

NORTH PARK, \$1695. 2 bedroom, 1 bath with hardwood floors, large kitchen with breakfast nook, tiled bathroom, 1-car garage with lots of storage, washer/dryer, fenced yard, gardener. Available mid-January. 4120 34th Street. 619-683-9274.

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OCEAN BEACH. \$1800. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, house, pet OK, blocks to beach and shops. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 1500-square-foot, split-level house at 911 Diamond Street. 2 blocks from beach. Large patio. Parking. Laundry on site. \$2395. Available 1/11. Call 858-583-0182 or 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2450. 3 bedroom, 2 bath cottage. Close to beach and bay. Fenced yard. Dishwasher, microwave, gardener, washer/dryer hookups, ceiling fans. 858-273-3233.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1200. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, cottage, carpet floors, parking included, refrigerator, patio, walk to bay. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1400. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, house, hardwood floors, street parking, laundry on site. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2700. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, laundry hookups, fenced backyard with the biggest avocado tree you have every seen. Garage plus driveway parking. Gardener paid. Ask about pet with additional deposit. Available now. 1035 Reed. DSPM, Broker, 858-270-2071. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1375. 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Stove, refrigerator, 1-car garage. Gardener/water paid. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 1/1/07. 2145 Thomas. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2395. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath hillside house with views, 2-car garage, fireplace, large kitchen/bedrooms. 2546 San Anselmo. 619-574-0558.

PACIFIC BEACH. Mobile home on the Bay! Cute and cozy 2 bedroom, 2 bath, furnished, washer/dryer. On De Anza Cove, \$1800/month. Mike, 858-456-0407; 858-344-1033.

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POINT LOMA. 2 bedroom, 1-3/4 bath, family room, living/dining rooms, hardwood floors, garage, fenced yard, \$1900. No smoking, no pets. 619-697-3379.

POINT LOMA, \$2800. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Panoramic ocean views, hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, hot tub, large deck for entertaining. Pets OK. Marc, agent, 619-917-8413.

POINT LOMA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Patio. Yard. Washer/dryer. RV Parking. Gardener. Pet OK on approval with additional deposit. Rent \$2100. Available now. 3505 Poe Street. 858-490-1600.

POINT LOMA. Upgraded 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Available February. Granite, stainless steel, hardwood floors, jacuzzi tub. Garage. Landscaped, gardener paid. \$2600. Pet considered. Melissa, 619-920-5484.

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SAN CARLOS. \$2095. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath house. 2000 square feet, fireplace, 2-car garage, yard. Pets on approval. 8081 Hillandale Drive. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

SAN CARLOS. \$2150. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath house, 2200 square feet, yard, fireplace, air conditioning, pets on approval. 7643 Stevenson Way. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

SAN MARCOS. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house with tile flooring. Fireplace. Huge family room. Air conditioning. Fenced yard. 3-car garage. Pets OK. Available 1/10. 1045 Cypress Circle. \$1725. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

SAN MARCOS/Santa Fe Hills, Avenida Abeja. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath plus den, \$2595. Custom upgrades, granite floors/counters, 2600 estimated square-feet, large back yard. Small pet OK. Gardener, extra storage, 2-car garage, high tech hook-ups, top of the line appliances. Panda Realty, 858-748-8850.

SANTEE, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 2 story home, over 1500 square feet, vaulted ceilings, fireplace in living room, simulating wood/tile flooring, \$1750/month. 619-401-3097.

SANTEE. \$1600. Recently remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 2-car garage. 10x10 storage shed. Covered patio with view. Jacuzzi bathtub. No pets. Nonsmoking. 11102 Shadowhill Way. Available 1/1/07. 619-667-4256.

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BANKER'S HILL. Studio \$750/month. 1920s building, built-ins, hide-a-bed, hardwood floors, laundry onsite. Available now. 2230 Albatross Street. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

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BANKER'S HILL. \$775 rent, \$600 deposit. Studio. 1/2 off first month's rent! Hardwood floors, upper unit, refrigerator, stove, on-site laundry, on-street parking. No pets. 2263 4th Avenue. 619-300-9487.

BANKER'S HILL. \$1125/month, \$900 deposit. 1/2 off first month's rent! Upper unit, wood floors, new paint. View of Point Loma and San Diego bay. Appliances, on-site laundry. 2241 4th Avenue #201. 619-300-9487.

BANKER'S HILL. \$975 rent, \$900 deposit. 1/2 off first month's rent! Cottage style lower unit. Wood floors, patio, stove, refrigerator, on-site laundry, on-street parking. 1926 3rd Street. 619-300-9487.

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CASA DE ORO. Move-in special! \$1050. 2 bedroom. \$1299. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Spacious. Central location. Laundry, balconies, pool. Military accepted. Espanol. 619-857-0365.

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CHULA VISTA, SAN MIGUEL RANCH. Gorgeous, new 2 bedroom, 2 bath town-

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CHULA VISTA. \$1050. Half off first month! Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Parking. Laundry. Pool. Gated. Great location. Near I-5/Costco. Pets/Section 8 considered. 615 Moss Street. 619-405-7411.

CHULA VISTA. Move-in special: Half off first month's rent! 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse in Otay Ranch. \$1595. Garage. Washer/dryer. Fireplace. Balcony. 1892 Minor Creek Lane. Pets OK! Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

CHULA VISTA. \$795. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet/paint. Downstairs, pool, laundry facility, off-street parking. No pets. 581 Arizona Street. Call 619-691-9415. www.melroyproperties.com.

CHULA VISTA. San Miguel Ranch 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhome, glass-top stove, granite counters. Garage, huge private backyard. Gardener included. Dogs OK. \$1895. 619-993-6870.

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CHULA VISTA. \$800. Extra large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Air conditioning. Secure parking. Laundry. Close to all. No pets. Available now. 619-422-4519.

CHULA VISTA. \$900. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry. Secure parking. No pets. Available now. 619-476-0409.

CHULA VISTA. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Assigned parking, laundry facility, barbecue area. No air conditioning/heat. No pets. \$800/month, \$250 off first month's rent! 619-422-1733.

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CHULA VISTA. \$750/month. \$150 deposit. 1 bedroom, fully furnished. 2 blocks from Chula Vista Center. Off-street parking. Laundry room. Lots of trees. 521 Park Way. Office open daily (near Fifth and G). 619-420-5084.

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CHULA VISTA. \$1275. 3 bedroom, 2 full bath apartment home. Large downstairs unit with washer/dryer hookups, formal dining room, parking. Close to shopping. Move-in special! 1029 4th Avenue. Call 858-751-6336. sunriseliving.com.

CHULA VISTA. \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Utilities included. Pool. Laundry. New carpet. 540 Flower Street. sunriseliving.com. Call 858-967-7330.

CITY HEIGHTS, \$799. Charming, bright 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Newly renovated inside/out. Carpet/tile, washer/dryer. Gated, parking. Cats OK. Year lease. www.innorenterprises.com. 619-368-9410.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$750, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs, \$875, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Located at 34th and Adams. Laundry on site, parking. Available December. 4669 34th Street #1, #8. 619-295-1100, www.cephron.com.

CITY HEIGHTS, \$1050, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Balcony, washer/dryer hookups, dishwasher, off-street parking, new carpet/paint. No Pets. 4314 Van Dyke Avenue. Call 619-838-5888.

CITY HEIGHTS, \$695, includes utilities. Cozy studio with storage. No pets. 4314-A Van Dyke Avenue. Call 619-838-5888.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$1025 rent, \$600 deposit, OAC. Large 2 bedroom 2-1/2 bath townhouse style apartment. Parking, laundry, patio. No pets. 4245 47th Street #A or 4243 47th Street #A. 619-299-8515.

CITY HEIGHTS, Large 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom. Garage, hookups, patio, 2-balconies, hardwood, large closets. Secured apartments with intercom. Nonsmoking. No pets. \$1500/month. \$1000/deposit. 619-281-5879.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$995 rent. \$600 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Parking spot. Dining area. Dishwasher. Balcony. No pets. At 4377 Marlborough Street #5. Agent, 619-299-8515.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$675 rent. \$600 deposit. Lower 1 bedroom duplex. Garage available for \$75. No pets. At 4331-1/2 41st Street. Agent, 619-299-8515.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$775 rent. \$600 deposit. OAC Upper 1 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet. Parking. Laundry. No pets. At 4377 Marlborough Avenue #6. Agent, 619-299-8515.

CITY HEIGHTS. Move-in special! \$695. 1 bedroom. Downstairs. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, carpet. Assigned parking. Laundry on site. No pets. 4336 Estrella Avenue. Agent, 619-298-7724.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$750. 1 bedroom. Brand new paint and carpet! Laundry on site. 4468 Winona. Agent, 619-279-2183.

CITY HEIGHTS. Senior citizen building, 62+, 41st Street and El Cajon Boulevard. Small 1 bedroom with private patio, \$600. Gate and laundry. 619-280-3083, 619-584-5900.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$975/\$700 deposit. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. New carpet/paint. Parking available, laundry hookups. 5450 University Avenue (across from Sears). 619-584-5900.

CITY HEIGHTS. Cute 1 bedroom cottage. \$825. Hardwood floors throughout. Yard. 3816 Wightman Street. Call Donya, 619-231-2727.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$725. 1 bedroom. New paint. Recently upgraded! Very clean. Parking and laundry onsite. 3686 Marlborough. Manager, 619-813-7531.

CITY HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$700/ \$400 deposit. Laundry, 1/2 block from University-- close to all! 1/2 off 1st month! 4044 Euclid Avenue. 619-584-5900.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$750 rent. \$600 deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, gated, lower with new carpet and paint, stove, refrigerator. On-site laundry, close to shops. 1/2 off first month's rent! 4275 35th Street #6. 619-384-9219.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$850. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs corner unit. Clean, quiet, gated. Parking and laundry on site. Available

now. No pets. 4082-88 48th Street. Agent, 619-279-2183.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$600. Spacious studio. Separate kitchen and bath. Very clean. Single story complex! Laundry and parking onsite. 4209-23 Winona. Manager, 619-528-9335.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$825. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. No pets. Security gated. Laundry. New paint/carpet. Appliances. Clean. 4370 51st Street #1. 619-275-3455.

CLAIREMONT/KEARNY MESA. Wexford Manor. Large 1 and 2 bedrooms in beautiful complex with pool, spa, laundry, air conditioning, dishwasher. Sorry, no pets. \$950-\$1225. www.WexfordLiving.com. 7870 Stalmer Street. 858-277-4843.

CLAIREMONT/MISSION BAY. Designer 1 bedrooms from \$1050, 2 bedrooms from \$1230. Call for our Fabulous \$\$\$ Specials! Dishwasher, microwave. Tennis, basketball. Theatre, pool, gym. Garage \$75. Pets welcome, \$300 pet deposit. Monday-Saturday, 9am-6pm, Sunday, 10am-5pm. Coral Bay Park, 3309 Cowley Way. www.CoralBayCanyonAndParkApartments.com. Toll free: 1-877-585-1146. www.sdreader.com/rent/1070.

CLAIREMONT. From \$845, 1 bedroom, senior complex. Courtyard. Clean and quiet. On bus line. Laundry. No pets. By appointment only. Call 858-735-5587.

CLAIREMONT. 1 bedrooms, \$950 and up. 2 bedrooms, from \$1200 and up. Looking for clean, quiet and peaceful? All bedrooms big enough for king size beds. Walk to all your needs. Patios and garages available. 619-276-3222. For photo, floor plans, directions, see website: www.sdreader.com/rent/1028.

CLAIREMONT. \$1365 plus deposit. Huge, over 1200 square feet, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, wood burning fireplace, 5 closets, balcony, carport, laundry room, limited access. Indoor kitty OK. 858-569-8607 or 858-699-4033.

CLAIREMONT. Large 1 bedroom apartment. Ceiling fan. Gated property, assigned parking. Laundry facilities. Pool. Call 619-296-2787.

CLAIREMONT/MISSION BAY. Call for our Fabulous \$\$\$ Specials! Designer 1 bedroom starting \$1050, 2 bedrooms starting \$1230. Pets welcome (deposit required). Microwave, dishwashers. Fitness center. Cool breezes, Olympic size pool, tennis, basketball, movie theatre. Garages, \$75. Coral Bay Canyon, 3309 Cowley Way. Toll free: 1-877-585-1146. www.CoralBayCanyonAndParkApartments.com. www.sdreader.com/rent/1031.

CLAIREMONT. \$1095/month, \$900 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath. Upper unit. New vinyl, washer/dry in unit, fireplace, appliances, off-street parking. 4910 Longford #9. 619-804-3325.

CLAIREMONT. \$2195. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, bonus room, \$200 estimated square-foot. 2-car garage, pool table included, wood and carpet floors, large kitchen, brick fireplace, canyon and ocean views. Fontana Avenue. Panda Realty, 858-748-8850.

COLLEGE AREA. From \$1195-\$1295. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Balcony/porch. Gas stove, refrigerator. Air conditioning. Dishwasher. Washer/dryer hook-ups. Gated. Near all/golf course. 619-285-3822.

COLLEGE AREA. \$1350/month. Remodeled 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1200 square-feet. Appliances. Excellent area. 6811 Alvarado Road, near SDSU. Call 619-402-6685 for information/showing. Immediate occupancy.

COLLEGE AREA. \$750/up, large 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms. 1 off-street parking. Laundry. No pets. Section 8 OK. 4205 49th. 619-584-0931. 619-465-6588.

COLLEGE AREA. \$1350. Move in special, 1/2 off a month's rent. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, security, underground parking, year lease, 4742 Seminole Drive. Call 619-469-0031.

COLLEGE AREA. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, gated, laundry, pool. Quiet. New tile baths/kitchen. New stove/built-in microwave, carpet/paint. \$1250 plus security. 714-647-0370; 714-227-0911.

COLLEGE AREA. Gigantic 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 900 square feet. Fireplace. Massive fenced patio. Laundry. Garage available. No pets. Nonsmoker. 5940 Streamview. \$1295. 619-251-0030.

COLLEGE AREA. \$825 rent, \$600 deposit. Upper 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Laundry. Parking lot. No pets. At 6735 El Cajon Boulevard #B-7. Agent, 619-299-8515.

COLLEGE AREA. 1 bedrooms from \$905! Great floorplans! Walking distance to campus! Gated entry. Pool. Barbecue picnic areas. Laundry. Parking. Near busline. On-site management/maintenance. Cat friendly. 6, 9, 12-month leases available. Hours: Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm. Aztec Pacific Apartments, 6663 Montezuma Road. Toll free: 1-800-433-6120. aztecpacific_pacificliving@crossfiremail.com. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/rent/1042.

COLLEGE AREA. Move-in special! \$900-\$1200. 1 bedrooms/2 bedrooms. Fireplace. Central heat/air. Microwave, dishwasher. Balcony. Gated. Intercom entry. 4828 Art Street. Agent, 619-298-7724.

COLLEGE AREA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, \$1250. Hardwood floors. Fenced yard. Close to SDSU. Available now. 4760 College Avenue. Agent, 619-260-1368. View at <http://www.sevilllemgmt.com>.

COLLEGE AREA. 2 bedroom, 1.25 bath upstairs end-unit condo, balcony, storage, fireplace, in-unit washer/dryer. New carpet, tile. \$1250/month, \$1000/security, small pet/deposit. 520-904-4699, 520-818-3360.

COLLEGE AREA. \$750, plus \$750 deposit. Nice, quiet, clean 1 bedroom, downstairs. On-site laundry, parking. 4546 54th Street, #3. No pets. Please call 619-698-1400.

COLLEGE AREA. From \$825. Remodeled 1 and 2 bedrooms. Near shopping. Pool. Air conditioning. Parking available. Laundry. Barbecue area. Pets considered. 3635 College Avenue. 619-582-3993.

COLLEGE, \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Small complex, all utilities included, laundry, no pets, 1 car garage. 7232 El Cajon Boulevard #10 92115. 619-698-6911.

COLLEGE AREA. \$1150. Beautiful 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse in gated complex. Pool, air conditioning, laundry, parking. Move-in special! 4601 63rd Street. 619-229-9248.

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COLLEGE/TALMADGE. \$675 rent, \$600 deposit. Upper 1 bedroom. Parking lot, laundry room. No pets. 4423 Menlo Avenue #13. 619-990-5021.

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.

CROWN POINT. \$1495. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, 900 square feet, patio, laundry, parking. Water paid. 2 blocks to Bay. No dogs. 3704 Promontory. Agent, 858-483-2844.

CROWN POINT. \$2400. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, upstairs, clean, quiet, small complex. Bay view, laundry, parking, storage, dishwasher. 4072 Crown Point Drive. Call Agent, 858-483-2844.

DEL MAR. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. \$1350. Upstairs. Security gate. Laundry. Pool, spa. 1-car detached garage. Non-smoking. Cats OK. Available 11/30. Jesse, 858-761-4614.

DEL MAR. Block to ocean! Top floor 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1995. Washer/dryer, free cable, pool, spa, sauna. Gated, non-smoking 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.LoveDelMar.com. Kohn & Burke, Inc., 858-755-8580.

DEL MAR/SOLANA BEACH. \$500 deposits! 1 bedrooms from \$1250. 2 bedrooms from \$1500. 3 bedrooms from \$1830. 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 quiet 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, EAST VILLAGE. Real ware-house live/work loft in triplex. 1650 square feet. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Garage. Roof deck. Washer/dryer. \$2500. Appointment, 619-994-6991.

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 Prop-

erty 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, EAST VILLAGE. \$1499. Charming 1 bedroom 1 bath Park Boulevard East condo. 1 parking. Granite countertops. Outdoor fireplace/gas grill included. Large patio 619-861-3390.

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. Apartments ranging from \$875-\$12,000. Studios to 3 bedrooms. You name it, I've got it! Call Nesia Britton at 619-607-2407 or NesiaBritton@hotmail.com.

DOWNTOWN. Beautiful building, new furnished rooms. Refrigerator, microwave, TV, cable. \$175, weekly. 920 Beech Street. Call 619-234-1952.

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. \$1175. 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.

DOWNTOWN. Furnished studios. From \$59/daily, from \$210/weekly rates! Ideal, affordable, short-term stays. Private bathroom, kitchenette, microwave, refrigerator, cable TV. Air conditioning, laundry, 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. Brand new! Affordable luxury! Large 1, 2, and 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhome apartments. Two blocks to Petco Park. Balconies/patios. \$1,239-\$1,762. Now leasing for December 2006. Lillian Place Apartments. 110% area median income limit. 619-668-1532, x306.

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.hotelmed-sd.com.

DOWNTOWN. \$1495. 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 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.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. 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. \$750. Studio, 1 bath apartment, classic 1920s apartment, new carpets, central location, bike to little Italy. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. \$1500. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, apartment, month-to-month lease, new carpets, great freeway access. 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. \$2015. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, apartment, two fitness centers, heated rooftop pool/spa, spectacular bay/city views, cat-friendly. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. 2 bedroom, 2 bath luxury unit in Discovery! Fully furnished, granite counters and maple cabinets. Unit overlooks courtyard with balcony. \$2200/month. www.SanDiegoBestRentals.com. 619-696-7368.

DOWNTOWN. Large 1 bedroom, 1.5 bath plus bonus room, 1273 square-foot

condo in City Walk. Granite counters, hardwood floors and great location, close to the Gaslamp. \$2000. www.SanDiegoBestRentals.com. 619-696-7368.

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. TTPM. 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 \$800/month. 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/Cortez Hill. Sharp 2 bedroom, 2 bath. \$1425/month. Balcony, washer/dryer in unit, fireplace, air conditioning, parking. No pets. Available now. Agent, 619-248-4991.

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/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. New in town or just between homes, check out Hotel Occidental, located at 410 Elm Street, San Diego. We offer the best location in Downtown with very affordable rates on both daily, starting at \$59 and weekly from \$275. Brand new hotel with free local calls, free wireless Internet, TV with DVD player, kitchenettes in every room, heating and air, high ceiling, maid service and breakfast included. Laundry on site. Call today! 619-232-1336.

DOWNTOWN/BANKER'S HILL. \$775. Studio with Bay and Downtown view in classic 1920s building. Built-ins, hide-a-bed, hardwood floors. Drive by first, 2230 Albatross Street. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. \$675 and up. Studio. Clean, nonsmoking building. Hardwood and ceramic floors. Charming built-in storage. Laundry. 1-cat OK. On trolley line- 830 Park Boulevard (12th). 619-236-9117.

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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/GASLAMP. Move-in Specials. Live/Work Lofts in the heart of The Gaslamp! Roof decks with barbecue. Laundry on every floor. Parking available. Seven locations Downtown. Select pets OK. Visit loft leasing office: 315 Fourth Avenue. 619-231-1505 x12. www.trilogymanagement.com. Also visit www.sdreader.com/rent/2064.

DOWNTOWN/HARBOR VILLAGE. \$750. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Balcony. Laundry. Parking. Close to base, Downtown, Coronado, NASSCO. Bay views. 2850 Main Street. 619-857-0365.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. \$845. Large 1 bedroom apartment. Quiet complex, walk to everything. New windows, door. Central air/heat. Laundry. Available 1/4/07. Nonsmoking. No pets. 619-501-0093.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. \$2500, furnished luxury loft with bay views, parking. Call 619-255-0526. www.sdurbanliving.com.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. \$1995. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Luxury condo, upstairs with balcony overlooking courtyard with pool/fountain. Washer/dryer, air conditioning, granite in open kitchen, great storage, underground parking, pool, exercise room. Perfect downtown retreat. 1501 Front Street. 619-683-9274.

DULZURA. \$995. Country-style living! Newly remodeled. Large 2 bedroom. Washer, dryer. Lots of room for horses, pets. Beautiful mountain views. Available now! 619-807-0359.

EL CAJON. \$750. 1 bedroom. Ask about move-in special. Clean, quiet, off-street parking. Pool, barbecue, laundry room, gated. Central air and heat. Section 8 welcome. 346 South Mollison. 619-312-0606.

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. \$1245. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath condo. Beautiful 2 story, dining room, all appliances, fireplace, 2 car garage. No pets, no smoking. Section 8 OK. 728 North Mollison #C. 92021. 619-698-6911.

EL CAJON. \$825/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.

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. \$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.

EL CAJON. Fabulous 7 Motel. Furnished rooms starting \$224 per week. Parking. Pool. Cable. Maid service. Laundry. 24 hour security. 1527 East Main Street. 619-442-0457.

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EL CAJON. Rent to own, \$5000 down, \$1450/month. Owner financing at end of option period. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, excellent condition in good area. Previous bad credit OK. Call 619-316-1241.

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@aiprop.com. A&J Property Management. 619-220-4840.

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. \$1100. Move-in special. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse. New carpet/paint/drapes. On-site laundry. Parking. No dogs. Credit check. 1236 Persimmon Avenue. 619-829-9188.

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. \$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! TTPM, 619-444-1614. www.fourwindsapts.info.

EL CAJON. \$700. 1 bedroom. Luxurious property with sparkling pool. On-site parking and large floorplans. No pets. 163 Ballantyne Street. TTPM, 619-579-6248. www.tradewindsapts.info.

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, 1 bath. Gated complex, private yard, fireplace, pool, laundry. Close to beach, coaster. See pictures: members.cox.net/bark/tour.htm. Available 12/20. 760-822-5564, 760-436-6038.

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.

ENCINITAS. \$875 and up. Sick of room-mates? 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. \$1175/\$1375. Holiday special! \$500 off First month's rent. Low deposits! Limited availability. Clean, updated 1 bedroom/2 bedroom with gas stoves, dishwasher, private patio/balcony. Cardio-fitness facility, pool, spa. Pets up to 50 lbs. (breed restrictions).

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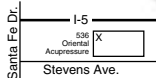
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ENCINITAS. Tiny efficiency cottage with sleeping loft. Small yard, storage shed, covered patio. Quiet country setting. Share bathroom. \$500, utilities included. No pets/smoking. 760-943-7193.

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. \$1150. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Huge upstairs apartment. New flooring. Parking. Laundry. Move-in special! 1428 Hermes. Call 858-571-1970.

ESCONDIDO. \$1650. Spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Completely remodeled, granite countertops, steel appliances, balcony, new carpet/tile. Pool, quiet, easy freeway access. No pets. 858-568-0167.

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ESCONDIDO. \$1100. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, fireplace, newer appliances, washer/dryer in unit, balcony overlooks pool area. Agent, 619-741-4378.

ESCONDIDO. 119 Espanas Glen. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, \$1500. Washer, dryer. Fireplace, Jacuzzi, pool, Garage. 1500 square feet. Cat OK. v@ajprop.com. A&J Property Management, 619-540-3009.

ESCONDIDO. Gorgeous apartment for a great price! Beautiful 1 and 2 bedroom apartment homes starting at only \$979! Call today to make an appointment to view your new home! 760-747-3092.

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 1st 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. 720 East Mission. TPPM, 760-815-6210.

FASHION VALLEY. Remodeled 2 bedroom, 2 bath resort condo. 2-parking. Large patio. Breakfast bar. 5-closets. Split design. \$1650 includes cable/water/trash. 619-997-7857.

FASHION VALLEY. \$2300. 4 bedroom, 2 bath condo/townhome with garage located in Friars Village Community. Approximately 1530 square feet. New paint, all appliances, washer/dryer. Balcony with view off living room. Access to pool/jacuzzi. Available 12/20/06. 6341 Caminito Juanico. 619-295-1100, www.cethron.com.

FASHION VALLEY/USD. \$1050 rent, \$600 deposit, OAC. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 underground tandem parking spots, laundry room. No pets. 5550 Mildred Street #6. 619-291-1755.

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. \$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. 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/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. \$944. Restored Victorian-large 1 bedroom. High ceilings, refinished hardwood. All new: bath/kitchen/appliances. Bay window. Fireplace. Laundry. No pets. 667 21st Street. 619-855-0244.

GOLDEN HILL. \$900. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Remodeled! Laundry room, gated parking, air conditioning. 2966 E Street. 619-220-4840.

GOLDEN HILL. \$825. Secluded, large studio with lots of windows and views. Disappearing bed. Great kitchen and bath. Rooftop deck. Lots of off-street parking. Coin operated washer/dryer. 2930 C Street. 619-559-5423.

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, 2 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.

GOLDEN HILL. \$795. 1 bedroom apartment, overlooks Balboa Park Golf Course. Hardwood floors, remodeled kitchen and bath. Small garden complex. Cat OK. 619-234-5355.

GOLDEN HILL. \$875. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Brand new paint/carpet/blinds. Corner unit. Very clean. 2804 Broadway. Manager, 619-929-8127.

GOLDEN HILL. \$900, \$700 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. All appliances included. No pets. 3292 Island Avenue. 619-584-5900.

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GOLDEN HILL/DOWNTOWN. 1 bedroom, \$835 includes utilities. Historical building, hardwood floors, decorator colors, incredible 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. 619-231-1719.

GOLDEN HILL. \$795. 1 bedroom apartment. \$400 deposit. Great location. Near downtown. Parking and laundry on site. Se habla espanol. 2580 C Street. 619-696-5351.

GOLDEN HILL. Move-in special! \$1295, moves you in! 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Upstairs. Spacious. Cats OK. Custom paint

and design. 4430 Laurel Street. sunrise-living.com. Call 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. Call 858-751-6336.

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. \$945. Spanish architecture. Bright, clean 2 bedroom apartment. High coved ceilings. Oak floors. Gas appliances. Security guards. Laundry. Manager position, \$100. No pets. Shore Management. 858-274-3500.

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HILLCREST. \$1250, 2 bedroom 2 bath, downstairs unit. Pool, parking, laundry. No pets. 1810 Cypress. 619-295-6005, agent.

HILLCREST. \$1250. Charming Spanish two bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs. Hardwood floors, gated entrance. No pets. 3515 4th Avenue. 619-295-6005, agent.

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. \$1100. Gorgeous garden apartment: 550 square feet with large garden patio, 10' ceilings, 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. 3790 Florida Street. 619-475-9669.

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HILLCREST. \$870. 1 bedroom, 1 bath at 3607 3rd Avenue. Entry-level, corner unit close to all, 1 parking spot. No laundry. No pets. Available 1/9. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

HILLCREST. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Quiet, gated, fireplace. All appliances, washer/dryer, private garage. Cats OK. Nonsmoking. 4048 Alabama Street. Available now. 619-269-5237.

HILLCREST. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs unit. Near bus. Pool, carport, laundry. No pets. 4039 Brant Street #J. Penny. 619-884-0325 or 619-296-6699.

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. \$1425. 2 bedroom. \$300 off first month! Tiled kitchen. New carpet. Downstairs. Ceiling fan, microwave. Gated entry. Parking. Laundry. No pets. 3914 Centre. 619-294-7044.

HILLCREST. Studio, \$815. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1550. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1650. Pool, canyon view. Close to all. Rec room. Nonsmoking. Sleepy Hollow Apartments. 4201 Sixth Avenue. Harry. 619-298-1059.

HILLCREST. \$825. 1 bedroom apartment, quiet, laundry, parking. 4419 Cleveland #8. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

HILLCREST. \$1495. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, gated, quiet, washer/dryer in unit, garage, fireplace, large unit. 4520 Campus Avenue #A. AMI Property Management. 619-697-6314.

HILLCREST. \$900. 1 bedroom facing courtyard in charming, old-fashioned building. Stove, refrigerator, laundry facility. Near Uptown shopping and 163. No dogs. Available 1/1/07. 619-298-3229.

HILLCREST. \$1395. 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. 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. \$895/month, unfurnished 1 bedroom apartment. Parking, hardwood floors. Close to all. No pets. 4030 3rd Avenue. 619-295-6005, agent.

HILLCREST. Spacious 2 bedrooms and 3 bedrooms from \$1225-\$1595. Refrigerator, stove, laundry facility. 619-291-5555 x193. www.utopiamanagement.com.

HILLCREST. Large 1 bedroom apartment, 1-car garage, great location near Balboa Park, 2930 5th Avenue across street from Extraordinary Desserts. No pets. \$975. 619-508-1513.

HILLCREST. \$925 rent, \$800 deposit. First month's rent free! 1 bedroom, 1 bath lower unit. Upgraded appliances. Park-

like setting. Small complex. On-site laundry. Garage extra \$100. 3533 6th Avenue #2. 619-379-2896.

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/MISSION HILLS. Huge (850 square feet) 1 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, with large balcony, \$1025. Huge (825 square feet) 1 bedroom with small yard, \$1025. 2 bedroom, 2 bath with balcony, \$1300. Ceramic tile and new carpet. Locked lobby with intercom. 3836 Front Street. By appointment: Broker, 619-548-4599.

HILLCREST/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$965. Charming building. Hardwood floors. Large bedroom. Laundry on site. 625 square feet. Available 1/11. 3673 Georgia Street. No pets. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.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 bath, upstairs. Large yard, small storage unit, laundry facility, off-street parking. Central location. \$895/water paid. 1189 Ebony Street. 619-435-9442, www.homes4rent.com.

IMPERIAL BEACH. \$995. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath unit with balcony. Nice complex. Secure underground parking. 1070 Georgia Street, #1B. 619-429-3630.

IMPERIAL BEACH. Steps to beach! 2 bedroom, 1-1/2+ bath condo, 1-car garage. All appliances, 2-story, fenced patio. \$1395/month. Lease. Agent, Bill, 619-575-1674.

IMPERIAL BEACH. Newly remodeled 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 to 2 bath condos. Steps to beach. Heated pool, views. All appliances. 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; then rent it. Call Jeff 619-804-1044.

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. \$995. \$200 off first month! Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry. Courtyard. Carpet. Gated. Storage. \$800 deposit. 750 11th Street. 619-423-4610.

KEARNY MESA. 1 bedrooms and 2 bedrooms from \$885. Centrally located at I-805 and 163. Pool, spa, laundry, microwave, parking. Vista Capri North Apartments. 3277 Berger Avenue. 858-560-6067, www.rasnyder.com.

KENSINGTON. \$2100. Live/Work Loft. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Washer/dryer, air conditioning. No pets/smoking. 4134 Adams. 858-259-4994, www.kensington-plaza.com.

KENSINGTON. \$1175. 2 bedroom, 1-3/4 bath, upper corner unit, Charming area, close to all, 1 parking space. Laundry on site. No pets. 4656 Edgeware Drive. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

KENSINGTON. \$950. Move-in special! 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Gated. 725 square feet. Laundry on site. Shared garage. Storage. Garbage disposal. Available now. 4101 Park Place #7. www.kandroproperties.com. Call 858-490-1600.

KENSINGTON. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 2 bath suite, balcony, skylights, mountain view, coin laundry. Security building. Off-street parking. Garage available. No pets. 858-456-2098.

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LA JOLLA. \$2200. 2 bedroom 2 bath condominium. Available early January/flexible. Lease term negotiable. No pets/smoking. Playa del Norte/La Jolla Boulevard. 858-774-7168.

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. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Quiet end unit. Beautifully upgraded. All appliances. Underground parking. Pool, jacuzzi. Near UCSD/shopping. Cats OK. \$1875. 858-705-3444.

LA JOLLA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Half block to beach! Nice complex. On-site laundry. Available 1/1/07. 6-month lease. \$1600/month. Agent, 858-459-1065.

LA JOLLA. \$1595. Beautiful 1 bedroom, fully furnished new condo at Villa Toscana. Pool, jacuzzi, washer/dryer in unit, private patio, reserved parking. Available 1/1. 858-459-1065.

LA JOLLA. \$2450. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Patio, garage, dishwasher. 700a5 La Jolla Boulevard #2. Call 858-490-1600, kandroproperties.com.

LA JOLLA. \$975. Studio. Controlled access. Pool. Secured parking. Laundry. No pets. Steps to beach. Appointments only. 6655 La Jolla Boulevard. 858-882-7494.

LA JOLLA. \$1625. 2 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, apartment, pool, laundry on site, close to UCSD/beach and shopping centers. Free. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

LA JOLLA. By the sea! Absolutely charming 1 bedroom cottage apartment. \$1400/month. Available January 1. Fabulous small community with ocean views. Private courtyard with lush lawn and manicured landscaping. Kitchen with gas range. Ceiling fans. Laundry room on site. Located at 7771 Ivanhoe Avenue. Management office off site. Please call 858-272-7464.

LA JOLLA. \$1875. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Luxury, garden-style apartment in small complex. Located in village. Walk to all. Fireplace, 2 parking spaces. Lease. 7601 Eads Avenue. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

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, 858-485-1580.

LA JOLLA. \$2495, utilities included. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, near La Jolla Village. Utilities paid. No pets. 7342 Girard Avenue #6. Bill Luther Realty, 858-488-1580.

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.

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LAKESIDE. From \$625. Nice 1 bedroom in quiet 55+ community. Laundry, air conditioning, clubhouse, parking. Small pet OK. Ask about move-in special! 12133 Rockcrest Road. 619-443-9611.

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, \$1450. Brand new house! Tile floors, washer/dryer, shed for storage. Pet allowed. 2717 Wheatstone. 858-277-1760. housing.molamini.com.

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. 1307 Colusa Street. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, starting at \$950/month, \$800/deposit. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, \$1095/month, \$1000/deposit. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1300/month, \$1000/deposit. New carpet/paint, laundry. Year lease. Available now. Call Ed, 858-597-6100.

LINDA VISTA. \$1295/month, \$1295 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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MIRA MESA. Large 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath. Bright townhome in great neighborhood. Hardwood floors downstairs, brick fireplace and large patio. \$1400. www.SanDiegoBestRentals.com, 619-696-7368.

MIRA MESA. \$965. Quail Creek 1 bedroom condo. Upstairs, balcony, newer carpet/paint. Laundry, pool, jacuzzi, tennis. Covered parking. Near Miramar College. Available 1/5/07. 858-922-4983.

MIRA MESA. \$850 rent. \$700 deposit. Upper 1 bedroom, 1 bath, unit with stove, refrigerator new carpet and vinyl, air conditioning, on-site laundry, off-street parking, near all. 8767 Mira Mesa Boulevard #8. 619-804-3325.

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MISSION BEACH. \$1100. Cute 1 bedroom, steps to beach and bay. Available now. Westbourne Company Realtors. 858-488-4800.

MISSION BEACH. Ocean front. \$1975. 2 bedroom, 1-3/4 bath on the sand with incredible ocean views. New tile floors. No parking, yearly lease. 703 Sunset Court. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

MISSION BEACH South. \$1195. 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.

MISSION BEACH. \$1025. 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.

MISSION BEACH. \$1450. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 800 square feet. Off-street parking. 825 Niantic #4. Bill Luther Realty, 858-488-1580.

MISSION BEACH North. \$2200. Great 2 bedroom, 2 bath, clean with tile throughout. Large Bayfront patio. Parking. No pets. 3676 Bayside Walk #B. Bill Luther Realty, 858-488-1580.

MISSION BEACH. \$1695. 2 bedroom, with ocean views. Second story, tiled throughout, open floorplan, steps to sand. 3737 Strandway #C. Bill Luther Realty, 858-488-1580.

MISSION HILLS. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. On canyon, quiet, near shopping and bus lines. No pets. 619-298-6436.

MISSION HILLS/HILLCREST. Lofts: 2 weeks free! 1 bedrooms: 1/2 off first month, Crane floor! Lofts, 1, 2 bedrooms from \$1580. Underground parking. Crown moldings. Vaulted ceilings. Fireplaces. Walk-in closets. Washer/dryer. Internet. Elevator. Gym. Great location! Cats welcome. Mission Hills Commons, 4021 Falcon Street. missionhills@propemail.com. 888-404-7952. www.sdreader.com/rent/2032.

MISSION HILLS, SOUTH. 2500-square-foot townhouse, 4 bedroom, 3-1/2 bath, drop-dead views-bay, city. New Berber, balcony, washer/dryer, double-garage.

No pets. 1148 West Palm Re-duced-\$2675. 619-295-7113.

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.

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MISSION VALLEY, Escala, \$2000/month. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Balcony, tile flooring, washer/dryer, 2-car attached garage. Gated community, pools, tennis, recreation room, gym. 619-602-0500.

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MISSION VALLEY, \$1250. Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Fireplace, private patio, washer/dryer, pool, exercise room, covered assigned parking. Call agent, 619-303-0821.

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cure building, fireplace. Agent, 619-281-1112.

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MISSION VALLEY, \$1875. Great location! 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo, end unit. All appliances, new carpet, large balcony, storage, central air, 2-carports. Pools, Jacuzzis, tennis courts, volleyball, fitness center. 714-335-9400.

MISSION VALLEY. Newly renovated studios/suites-\$345+/week, \$1299+/month. Off-street, covered parking. Full kitchen. Complimentary continental breakfast. Hot coffee/tea, 24 hours. On-site laundry. Free high speed Internet, 80 cable channels, HBO. Fax/copy service. Pool/spa. Near SDSU. Days Inn & Suites, 1-888-298-5168. www.sdreader.com/rent/2139.

MISSION VALLEY/Hotel Circle. Furnished 1 bedroom condo. Linens, dishes, cable TV/gas paid. Fireplace, skylights, pool, gym, parking garage. No pets/smoking. \$1200/month. 619-303-7822.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1400. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo in the Mission Heights community, parking/water paid, community pool, spa and clubhouse. Near I-5 and I-8, shopping, stadium. 6295 Rancho Mission Road #104. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. www.peoplehelpingothers.com.

MISSION VALLEY. \$2000/month. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 1/2 off first month's rent! 1187 square feet. Community pools, Jacuzzi, private cabanas, fitness center. 8355 Station Village Lane #4317. 619-471-1755.

MISSION VALLEY/TALMADGE/Kensington. 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms and 3 bedrooms, \$985-\$1665. Spacious apartment homes include: microwave, dishwasher, balcony/patio. Gated community with tropical landscape, pool, spa, sauna and fitness center. Underground parking. Pet friendly! Mission Pacific. 4454 44th Street. 1-800-372-9146. missionpacific_pacificliving@crossfiremail.com. www.pacificliving.com.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1700. Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath with view. Great location. All amenities. If you find one better; rent it. 619-713-1044.

MISSION VALLEY. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome with back yard in beautiful Stonecrest Community. Pool, 2 car garage, laundry inside unit. \$2300. www.sandiegobestrentals.com, 619-696-7368.

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MISSION VALLEY. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath luxury townhome. 2-car garage. Washer/dryer. Patio. Yard. Fitness. pool, private dog park! Available 12/29. \$2195. 619-417-5876.

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.

NATIONAL CITY. 2 bedroom, 1 and 2 baths, \$1050/up. 1 bedroom, \$750. Spacious. Balcony. Washer/dryer hookups. Lease. Gated. No pets. Parking/garages. 619-336-0436.

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.

NATIONAL CITY. \$725/month. 1 bedroom fully furnished. Low \$150 deposit. No SDGE deposit or hookup required. 624 East 24th Street. Office open daily. 619-474-3787.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, \$775, upstairs. Gated, off-street parking, storage. New carpet, appliances, paint, blinds. On-site laundry. On bus route, near shops, parks, library. Clean, quiet complex. 3722 Adams Avenue. Owner/Resident Manager, Call 619-339-5494.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$750/\$725. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet/paint. Hardwood floors. On-site laundry. Large closets! Near freeways, shopping. Fenced complex. Great condition! 619-542-2437.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$725. Bright and sunny. Stove, refrigerator, laundry facilities. No pets. Non-smoking. Mr. A's Property Management, 619-697-1888.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. New 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, first floor, 2 parking, upgraded appliances. Gated community. Casa Bonita, Adams and Ohio. \$1650. 619-296-8555.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom apartments \$775, 2 bedroom, \$995. 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.

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1250. 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.

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.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1050. 4774 33rd Street #2. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Dishwasher, air conditioning, washer/dryer in unit. No pets. Cassidy, Broker, 619-275-LIST. www.timcassidy.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1050. 4774 33rd Street #1. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Dishwasher, air conditioning, Washer/dryer in unit. No pets. www.timcassidy.com. Cassidy, broker, 619-275-LIST.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$675. studio. Completely remodeled. Gas, water, trash paid. New cabinets. Ceramic tile floors. Laundry. No pets. 3355 Madison Avenue #9. www.SeeTheUnit.com. Agent, 619-298-7724.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$925. Move-in special! 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs corner. Storage. Laundry on site. Parking. No pets. 4678 Ohio Street #4. Agent, 619-298-7724.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$775. Upstairs, 1 bedroom. Large kitchen. Gated. Lots of storage. Off-street parking. Cat OK. Near Adams Avenue. www.goldenhillpm.com. Agent, 619-234-9553.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$995. 2 bedroom. Spacious. Pool, off-street parking, on-site laundry. Close to major freeways. Sorry, no pets! 4841 West Mountain View Drive. 619-282-6440. Sunriseliving.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$975. Deposit \$750. Upstairs 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. New carpet, paint. Blinds. Limited parking. Refrigerator, stove. No pets. 4681 35th Street #4. 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. \$995. 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. \$750 rent. \$600 deposit. \$1/2 off first month's rent! 1 bedroom, 1 bath, upper unit with stove, refrigerator, gated community, on-site laundry. Pets negotiable. 4609 Bancroft #8. 619-379-2896.

NORMAL HEIGHTS/NORTH PARK. Large downstairs 2 bedroom, 1 bath, assigned parking, all new, air conditioning, dishwasher, patio. No pets. \$1100. Available 1/15/07. 4561 Hawley Boulevard #1. 858-483-5111 x10.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1150. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, downstairs, easy freeway access, shared garage with lots of storage, air conditioning, dishwasher, breakfast bar, fireplace. No pets. Available 1/15. 4621 32nd Street #1. 858-483-5111 x10.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$925. 1 bedroom. Remodeled unit. Tile, ceiling fans. Off street parking. Laundry facilities. Near bus line. Cat OK. Nonsmoking. Available now. 619-284-2092. www.floft.com.

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. 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. \$850-\$975. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, cottage style apartment. Hardwood floors, coin-operated laundry. Cat OK. No smoking. 4024 Hamilton Street. Call Trident Pacific, 619-435-9442. www.homes4rent.com.

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NORTH PARK. \$750, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, apartment, centrally located for commuting in any direction. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

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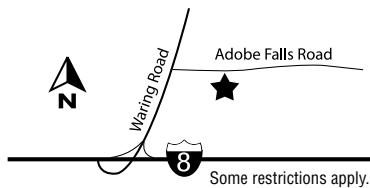
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OCEAN EACH. \$925. Large 1 bedroom with courtyard. On-site parking and laundry. Quiet complex. Close to all. 4861 Del Monte #4. 619-223-0338 or 619-226-7368. www.bkbinc.com.

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PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$925. 1 bedroom, near Bay. First floor, off-street parking, onsite laundry. Approximately 725 square-feet. Available 12/19. No pets. Month-to-month rental. 1846 Oliver Avenue. Photos on our website <http://www.freewebs.com/lefontenac/>. Contact on-site manager: lefontenac@inbox.com, 858-272-2825.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$825. Studio. 1 year lease, utilities included. Parking. Laundry on site. 3755 Ingraham Street. #406, #206. 619-295-1100; www.cethron.com.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$875. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Centrally located, cottage style. No pets. 3-month lease. 4325 Gresham. As is, available 12/20. Call 858-483-3534 or 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1395. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, steps to bay. Quiet complex, corner unit, laundry on site. 1 year lease. Available 1/13. 3829 Sequoia Street. Call 858-483-3534 or 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs unit 3 blocks to the beach. 2 parking spots. Laundry on site. No pets. 954 Agate Street. Available 1/9. Call 858-583-0182 or 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1550. 2 bedroom, 1 bath with bay view. Upstairs, corner unit. Fabulous location! Laundry. No pets. Available 1/9. 1778 La Playa. Call 858-483-3534 or 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1295. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs unit steps to beach. Upgraded with ocean view, parking. 500 square feet. Available 12/28. 715 Santa

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- Road test

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- Rotate tires
- Check & top off fluids
- Check tire pressure
- Inspect exhaust, steering & suspension
- Inspect headlights & wipers
- Inspect emission controls
- Check AC & heating
- Inspect belts & hoses
- Road test

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PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1295. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, shared courtyard, coin laundry, garage space. No pets. Available now. 3711 Ingraham. DSPM, Broker, 858-270-2071, www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$950. 1 bedroom. End unit in 4-plex. Stove, refrigerator, coin laundry. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 12/20. 4536 Gresham. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, www.delsolpm.com.

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155/80R13.....**\$24⁹⁹**

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With purchase of 4 tires.
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12 months or 12,000 miles warranty on all work!



MINOR SERVICE 15K/45K/75K/105K \$149⁹⁵	MAJOR SERVICE 30K/60K/90K/120K \$249⁹⁵	OIL CHANGE \$14⁹⁵ Most cars. Replace motor oil 10w30. Replace oil filter. Tire rotation.
TIMING BELT \$149⁹⁵ Most 4-cyl. cars. Parts and labor.	SMOG CHECK \$18⁹⁵ ✓ Plus fee and certificate.	TRANSMISSION SERVICE \$39⁹⁵ Plus \$3 disposal fee. Most cars. Drain & fill.
FUEL INJECTION SERVICE \$49⁹⁵ Parts and labor. 1-step process.	ALIGNMENT \$39⁹⁵ Most cars. 2-wheel alignment.	COOLANT SERVICE \$25⁹⁵ Plus \$3 disposal fee. Parts and labor. Drain & fill.
TUNE-UP \$39⁹⁵ Parts and labor. Most 4-cyl. cars.	CLUTCH JOB \$189⁹⁵ Complete set. Parts and labor. Most cars.	REPLACE AXLE \$89⁹⁵ Complete new axle. Parts only.
BRAKE JOB \$89⁹⁵ Front brakes. Machine rotors. Parts and labor. Most cars.	C.V. BOOT \$39⁹⁵ Parts and labor. Most cars.	HEAD GASKET \$290⁰⁰ Most 4-cyl. cars. 6-cyl., 8-cyl., 10-cyl. & 12-cyl. extra.

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- Free shuttle to and from work
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Precision Tune AutoCare

Factory-Scheduled Maintenance 30K/60K/90K

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

Oil Change

\$13⁹⁵

Basic

Includes up to 5 qts. 10W-30 oil, new oil filter, and maintenance inspection.

\$19⁹⁵

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 \$19⁹⁵

Most vehicles. Present coupon and DMV renewal slip. Plus \$8.25 cert. and \$2 transmission fee. Free retest when we do the repairs.



**90 Days Same
As Cash**



Brake Service **\$30 Off**

Replace pads or shoes, resurface drums or rotors, inspect entire system

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Pull computer trouble codes and provide a written description.

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Includes 12 quarts of dextron/mercon transmission fluid.

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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.

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Prices subject to change without notice. *Not valid with any other offers and/or discounts.
**See store for details.



This coupon entitles holder to receive a **10% discount to a maximum of \$100 off*** all non-advertised service and repairs at Convoy Auto Repair and Towing.

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- Suspension
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- Transmissions
- Engines
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Starting at

\$79⁹⁵*

4-cyl.

*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.

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- Tire rotation
- 38-pt. vehicle safety & maintenance inspection

Starting at

\$10⁹⁵*

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Air conditioning performance check.

- Check for leaks
- Inspect system & belts

Labor only.
Most cars & light trucks.

We are your
retrofit & 134A
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- Removes moisture buildup
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- Inspect brake system

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**60,000-MILE REPLACEMENT
RECOMMENDED**

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- Adjust timing

Starting at
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4-cyl.

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Improve your MPG! Premium Fuel Injection Service

- Decarbonizes pistons and valves
- Cleans injectors
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- Check air filter
- 44-pt. inspection

\$59⁹⁵*

Smog Inspection

Free re-test with our repairs.
Most cars. Plus \$8.25 certificate and \$2.00 transfer fee.
Call for appointment.

\$19⁷⁵*



Starter, Alternator & Battery Check

- Battery test
- Alternator output
- Starter draw
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\$16⁹⁵*

Complete Axle

Labor extra. Most cars.

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| Safe-brake package includes: | • Front pads or rear shoes | • Inspect drums and rotors |
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| | • Clean caliper guides | • Inspect wheel bearings |

Keep yourself and your family safe while eliminating irritating brake noise. Call for brake service.



Premium Oil Change \$19⁹⁵

With SYNTHETIC Blend Oil

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|-----------------------------|------------------|
| • Up to 5 qts. of 5W-30 oil | • Check fluids |
| • New oil filter | • Check tire PSI |
| • 64-point inspection | |

Most cars.

We also carry



San Diego's Most Complete

30K/60K/90K Major Service \$249^{4-cyl.}

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| Includes: | • Change oil filter | • Inspect fuel filter |
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| • Replace air filter | • Top off fluids | • Check & tighten all belts |
| • Install spark plugs (premium plugs extra) | • Clean battery terminals | • Rotate four tires |
| • Inspect brakes | • Check radiator, radiator cap & all hoses | • Check tire balance |
| • Clean & adjust rear brakes | • Check tire balance | • Adjust tire air pressure |
| • Change engine oil | | |

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 plenum, injectors, etc. extra if necessary. Platinum plugs additional.

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4-Wheel Computerized Alignment \$49

Inspect shocks & struts, computerized printout upon request, inspect steering linkage, inspect suspension, inspect tires, inflate tires to manufacturer's specs. Most cars.

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Installed. 6-cyl. add \$20. 8-cyl. add \$30. Trucks and vans add \$40. OBDII from \$299.

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No traditional credit checks.

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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 \$24⁹⁵ 4-cyl.

\$34⁹⁵ 6-cyl.

\$44⁹⁵ 8-cyl.

Most cars. Some models slightly higher.

Alignment Inspection \$12⁹⁵

Alignment reading. Front-end safety
inspection. Check ball joints, tie rods,
steering box & steering links.
LIMITED TIME OFFER.

30K/60K/90K Service \$99⁹⁵ 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 \$39⁹⁵ most cars

Some problems may require
additional diagnostic procedures.

Coolant Flush \$59⁹⁹

Dox coolant extra.

Oil & Filter Change \$14⁹⁵

Most cars. Plus \$3 hazardous disposal fee.

Clutch Special \$179⁹⁵ from

Parts & labor. Most cars. 1-year warranty.
Front-wheel drive cars extra.

Timing Belt \$53⁹⁵ starting at

Most cars, with coupon.

labor only

Brakes \$49⁹⁹ from

Most cars.

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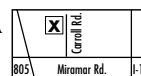
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Parts and labor. Free inspection with ad.

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For Acura & Honda

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Keep your car under warranty!

Call for special price list
on services for your car.

Head Gasket Replacement from \$175*

Parts & labor.

Catalytic Converter from \$89

Labor extra.

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Check for leaks. Freon extra.

Brakes \$49⁹⁵* Plus labor.

Free inspection with repairs.
Pads or Shoes • Repack non-drive bearings
• Inspect rotors • Semi-metallic extra.

Tune-Up 4-cyl. \$22⁹⁵*

- Replace plugs • Check compression
- Adjust timing • Adjust idle • Top off fluids
- 6-cyl. \$35⁹⁵ • 8-cyl. \$45⁹⁵ Most cars.

Clutch from \$275* RWD

- Pressure plate • Disc • Throwout bearings
- Free flywheel inspection
- Parts & labor. FWD from \$325.
- Trucks, vans & 4x4s extra.

Alignments \$34⁹⁵*

Computerized Front Wheel Toe Set

\$44⁹⁵* Four Wheel Toe Set

Kits & drilling extra.

"Check Engine" Light \$44⁹⁵*

We can help!

Oil & Filter \$15⁹⁵

Includes up to 5 qts. 10W/30 and
oil filter. Tire rotation on request.
Most cars. Vans & trucks extra.
EPA fee not included.

Failed-Smog Diagnostic \$44⁹⁵*

Smog Check \$19⁹⁵*

Plus cert. Vans, trucks & motor homes extra.
Chula Vista location only.

Timing Belt from \$89⁹⁹*

Plus parts. Recommended at 60,000 miles.
Avoid costly repair and service on time!

*Valid with most cars. With this ad. Expires 12/31/06.



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Complete auto repair • Family owned & operated



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Free Towing within 5-mile radius • **Free Estimates**

LEAD STORY

— Christmas Madness: (1) In November, the upscale New York City menswear and accessories store Jack Spade removed from its holiday catalog a \$40 frog-dissection kit (with a real carcass) after numerous queries from people wondering what in the world the store was thinking. (2) A holiday party for inmates at Britain’s Peterborough Jail promised a fun time with Xbox and PlayStations, along with cash gifts of 5 pounds each (about US\$9), which is greater than the value of the candy boxes the jail will give its guards for Christmas. (3) Police in Rock Hill, S.C., put a 12-year-old boy under arrest at the insistence of his mother after he had defied her and opened his Christmas gift three weeks early.

I Know My Rights!

— The North Carolina Court of Appeals overturned the cocaine-possession conviction of Timothy Stone in September, ruling that a search of his person was unconstitutional even though he had given police permission. The judges agreed with Stone that when he consented, he never expected that the search would include the officers holding out the waistband of his sweatpants and shining a flashlight on his genitals (which is where he happened to be hiding a small container of cocaine).

Compelling Explanations

— Ricardo Meana, 81, was charged with attempted murder in November in Sun City, Fla., when his 82-year-old wife, who has Alzheimer’s, was found inside a van in a store’s parking lot struggling with the plastic bag over her head. Police were called, but Meana seemed unconcerned and even nonchalantly resumed shopping, saying that he often put the bags on when his wife felt sick so that she would not vomit on herself. — Not Our Fault: In 2002, Jeffrey Klein and Brett Birdwell, both 17 at the time, trespassed onto a railroad yard in Lancaster, Pa., and climbed atop a boxcar to see what the view was like, but were severely burned by a 12,500-volt line on the roof and thus sued Amtrak and Norfolk

Southern railroads for not having done enough to prevent them from trespassing. In October, a federal jury awarded the two men a total of about \$12 million in compensatory damages plus \$12 million in punitive damages. — In a deposition, Ennis, Texas, physician Aniruddha Chitale admitted that semen that patient Sherry Simpson found on her face after a 2004 colonoscopy was his and thus later pleaded guilty to sexual assault. However, in his deposition (according to a report by Dallas’ WFAA-TV), Chitale insisted that the act that produced the semen was “unintentional.” Simpson is now suing Ennis Regional Medical Center for having tolerated Chitale’s behavior.

Unintended Consequences

— (1) The “Berkeley Pit” in Butte, Mont., is the nation’s largest environmental-disaster site, with 40 billion gallons of highly toxic copper-mine waste that the federal government has long feared too expensive to clean up. However, Montana Tech researchers, writing in the *Journal of Organic Chemistry* in July, have found more than 160 types of “extremophiles” (organisms that thrive in toxicity) in the pit and have demonstrated that some are effective against lung and ovarian cancers. (2) Kimberly Baker, 22, sought child support in Warrensburg, Va., in October from the father of her daughter. However, when officials realized that the father, now 16, would have been 13 when the child was conceived, that made him a rape victim under state law, and thus, they arrested Baker.

The Laws of Irony

— Federal prosecutors have insisted so far that any ill-gotten money that former Enron executives had squirreled away in their spouses’ names still can be fully recovered by the government, except for one executive. Michael Kopper, once a director of Enron’s global finance unit, pleaded guilty in 2002 to illegally obtaining \$16.5 million, but he is openly gay. And since his home state of Texas does not recognize his union with his longtime partner, prosecutors cannot treat the partner as a “spouse” and have lumped him with

“third party” transferees, whose assets are much more difficult to obtain (according to a November report in *Washington Blade*). — University of California, Irvine, professor Elizabeth Loftus, a prominent scholar on people’s overconfidence about memory, was turned down by the judge as an expert witness in November in the forthcoming trial of “Scooter” Libby (Vice President Cheney’s former assistant, who has been charged with lying to prosecutors about phone conversations, which Libby says weren’t lies but just forgetfulness). At a hearing on Loftus’s credentials, prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald not only exposed some problems with her research but elicited from Loftus the confident assertion that the two had never before met. However, Fitzgerald then immediately refreshed Loftus’s memory, reminding her that he had cross-examined her in court once before.

Names in the News

— Pleading guilty to manslaughter in Pierre, S.D., in August was Mr. Austin First In Trouble, 19. And in Providence, R.I., in November, the teenager sentenced to life in prison for murder (where his life might rot away) is Mr. Phearin Rot. On the brighter side, a linebacker for South Sumter High School in Bushnell, Fla., had a good year: Yourhighness Morgan (whose brother Handsome Morgan and cousin Gorgeous Morgan were undoubtedly proud of him).

People Different From Us

— A 41-year-old engineer in suburban Toronto has accumulated and worn about 800 pairs of sports socks over 15 years (half of them off the feet of professional athletes), according to a lengthy November profile in Canada’s *National Post*, which did not reveal his name. The worst part of his hobby, he said (besides having to keep it secret from his wife), is that he is often contacted by foot and sock fetishists, which he denies that he is, preferring to think of himself as sort of a “custodian of history,” wrote the *Post*. (A more conventional fetishist, Masashi Kamata, 28, was arrested in Nagoya, Japan, in October after police

found about 5000 pairs of used girls’ and boys’ shoes at a rented warehouse. “I was enjoying their smell,” he said, according to *Mainichi Daily News*.)

Least Competent People

— Noel Methot, 24, was cited for inattentive driving after her car wound up half-submerged in a pond near downtown Orlando, Fla., in November. She was driving down a street but apparently missed the signs warning of the end of the road, and according to witnesses, the most likely reason for that was that she was arguing loudly with her boyfriend over her cell phone. The car went airborne about 20 or 30 feet before splash-down, but Methot was not seriously hurt.

Recurring Themes

— In yet another case of a person practicing what is allegedly acceptable in another country but illegal in the United States, a 28-year-old woman from Cambodia was arrested in Las Vegas, Nev., in October for kissing her six-year-old son’s penis, which she said was simply an expression of motherly love. An official from California’s Cambodian Association of America confirmed the custom to the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* but said it never extends past age 2.

More Things to Worry About

— (1) With dozens of puzzled beachcombers witnessing, a cow marched into the surf off the coast of Queensland in Australia in November and swam out as far as 300 yards for four hours (returning to shore twice but venturing out again) before drowning from swallowing water. (2) In October in Vancouver, Wash., a Doberman pinscher named Victoria jumped on an electric stove and accidentally nudged a switch that started a fire in her apartment, resulting in about \$100,000 damage. It was the second time this year that Victoria had jumped on the stove and started a fire, but the first one did much less damage.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com

POINT LOMA. \$850. Deposit \$600. 1 bedroom, downstairs, laundry, parking, quiet building. No pets. Nonsmoking. 3027 Poe Street. 858-273-4042.

POINT LOMA. \$875. Deposit moves you in! Studio living at its finest! Newly remodeled inside and outside. Separate kitchen with breakfast bar. Bathroom with dressing area and built-in dresser. Large closet with mirrored doors. Controlled access, parking, laundry, patio/balcony. 619-226-3171. www.rasnyder.com.

POINT LOMA. All styles available: Studios \$1000; 1 bedrooms, \$1140; 2 bedrooms, \$1500. Pool, laundry, fitness center. No dogs. 2850 Adrian Street. Call 619-523-4325.

POWAY. Townhouse, \$1890. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, 2-story, 2-car garage. Bright and cheery. No smoking, no pets. 858-586-7716.

POWAY. \$1650. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 parking, patio. Call for details. Top Notch Realty Inc. 619-807-0327.

POWAY. \$925, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Nice, air conditioning, appliances, on-site laundry facilities, pool, barbecue areas. Assigned off-street parking. Near shopping. Pomerado Gardens, 12330 Ninth Street. Call on-site Manager, Blanca, 858-486-4834 or 858-254-4837.

POWAY. Old Town, Midland Road. 2 bedroom, 2 bath upper with large balcony, park view, 2-car garage, custom interior,

all appliances, walk-in closet. Close to major shopping. Panda Realty, 858-748-8850.

RAMONA. Enjoy a quick drive home from the city into country life! Spacious 2 bedroom apartment homes with spa and laundry facilities. Nice clean community. Start at \$850 monthly. 411 14th Street. 760-789-7490.

RAMONA. Huge 2 bedroom, 2 bath master suite from \$895. Peaceful, quiet community. \$350 off Move-in Special, OAC. Canyon Crest. 1707 La Brea. 760-789-2542. Open Saturday 10am-3pm.

RANCHO BERNARDO. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 968 square feet. \$1350. Immaculate ground level condo. Slate and pergo

flooring. Fireplace. Pool. Tennis courts. Gym. Available now. 17161 Alva Road. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

RANCHO BERNARDO. \$1450. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Brand new carpet and paint! Fenced patio. Pool, spa, tennis. The Falls. 11353 Avenida de los Lobos. Agent. 619-283-2144.

RANCHO BERNARDO. \$1300. Spacious 1 bedroom 1 bath condo. Private, vaulted ceilings, fireplace, washer/dryer. 2 parking spaces. Pools/jacuzzis, fitness center. Available 1/01/07, 858-673-3761.

SAN CARLOS. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo near SDSU. Hardwood floors, new carpet/paint, patio, pool, Jacuzzi, sauna,

laundry. \$1550 plus security deposit. No pets. 619-250-4864.

SAN CARLOS. \$1600. Beautiful customized 2 bedroom, 2 bath 1000-square-foot condo. Pool, 2 private parking. Pets OK. Lease-to-own considered. Park Ridge/Navajo, 92120. Steve, 619-300-7229.

SAN DIEGO. \$580. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry, gated and parking on site. 619-262-4188.

SAN MARCOS. \$359-\$831. Sage Canyon Apartments, a newly built, affordable apartment community. 1-, 2-, 3 bedroom apartments available. A/EK. Accepting applications beginning 9:00am on Tuesday, December 12 for a limited time only. One free month rent if application received by December 31, 2006. Income and other restrictions apply. Section 8 welcome. For 24 hour application information, please call 760-494-4347. EHO.

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Specializing in Engine Performance, Drivability & Electrical

ASE Certified Master Auto Technicians • Since 1995 • Foreign & Domestic

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Most cars.

BRAKE SPECIAL

Includes semi-metallic pads. Most cars.

“Check Engine” Light On?

Diagnostic. Most cars.

TIMING BELT

Parts & labor. Most cars.

\$89⁹⁹

OIL CHANGE SPECIAL

Includes new filter and up to 5 qts. oil. Most cars.

\$15⁹⁹

COMPLETE AXLE-SHAFT SPECIAL

Parts & labor. Most cars.

\$99⁹⁹

30K • 60K • 90K SERVICE

Most cars.

- Install new spark plugs
- Change engine oil
- Change oil filter
- Adjust idle to factory specs
- Check ignition system and timing
- Lubricate chassis
- Inspect brakes
- Check all hoses, radiator and cap
- Drain and refill cooling system

All services done same day. All services may not be applicable or necessary for your vehicle. Some trucks & 4x4 slightly higher. Timing belt replacement extra if required. Most cars. Please call for details.

TUNE-UP SPECIAL

Includes: new plugs, check timing, inspect hoses & belts. Most cars.

\$24.99 4-cyl. • **\$35.99** 6-cyl. • **\$45.99** 8-cyl.

from **\$99⁹⁹**

- Rotate 4 tires
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<h3>Bumper</h3> <p>\$25 Off</p> <p>One-day service with drop off by 10 am.</p>	<h3>Paint Special #1</h3> <p>\$189</p> <p>Reg. \$199. Chemical wax removal, machine for adhesion sanding, precise masking, high solid paint, 2 coats. 100% 1-year warranty. Trucks/vans higher. Limited colors.</p>	<h3>Paint Special #2</h3> <p>\$279</p> <p>Reg. \$299. Chemical wax removal, machine for adhesion sanding, precise masking, high solid paint, 2 coats. 100% 2-year warranty. Trucks/vans higher. Limited colors.</p>	<h3>Paint Special #3</h3> <p>\$429</p> <p>Reg. \$499. Chemical wax removal, machine for adhesion sanding, precise masking, high solid paint, 2 coats, integrated clear coats. 100% 6-year warranty. Trucks/vans higher. Limited colors.</p>

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San Diego Reader December 21, 2006 167

SANTEE. \$820, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. On-site laundry, off-street parking. No pets. 8527 Graves Avenue. 619-258-2584.

SANTEE. Extra large 2 bedroom, 2 bath from \$1005. Park-like setting. Storage. Spacious decks. Covered parking. Beautiful landscaping. Creekside Park Apartments, 9349-9360 Creekside Court. 619-258-9261. www.progressmanagement.net.

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SERRA MESA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath upstairs condo. Move-in special! Half off first month's rent! \$1500. Vaulted ceilings in living room. Open floorplan. Master bedroom has nook for office. Fireplace. Pool. 9149 Village Glen Drive. Call 858-583-0182 or 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

SERRA MESA, \$2175. Charming 3 bedroom, 3 bath townhouse plus den. 1650 square-feet. 2-car garage. No pets/smoking. Close to all. Call 858-586-7716.

SOLANA BEACH. 2 bedroom condo, pool. \$1980/month-to-month, fully furnished, includes utilities, cable/Internet, maid-service. Walk to beaches, shops, cafes, Cedros District! 480-510-5624.

SOUTH BAY. \$525. RV living spaces. Laundry facilities onsite. Pool. 1-pet ok. Includes parking. Near freeway/day/shopping center. Call 619-691-1581.

SOUTH BAY. New 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhome with garage. Refrigerator, stove, washer/dryer hookups. No shared walls. Clean, quiet. No pets. \$1550/month. 619-423-3419.

SOUTH PARK, \$690. Small, rustic 1 bedroom. Quiet neighborhood. Select pet. Nonsmoking. Water/track paid. Near bus, City College, Balboa Hospital. 1843 Bancroft Street. 619-435-0387.

SOUTH PARK. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, downstairs, \$950/\$700 deposit. New carpet, new paint, laundry, appliances. No pets. Available now. 1644 Grove Street. 619-584-5900.

SPRING VALLEY. 1 and 2 room suites, up to 3 beds. \$199/weekly and up. Furnished, laundry and pool on site. Walk to all. 858-539-9815.

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SPRING VALLEY. \$100 off move-in OAC. Spacious 2 bedrooms from \$895. Garages available for rent in gated community. Casa Granada, 9121 Kenwood Drive. Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm. progressmanagement.net or call 619-698-1356.

SPRING VALLEY. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$900. Upstairs apartment. Spacious. Parking, laundry. Available now. 8965 Switzer Drive. 858-483-3534 or 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

SPRING VALLEY. \$1350. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath condo. 1300 square feet. New tile/paint. Travertine shower. New washer/dryer. Backyard. Cat OK. Phil, 619-379-2264.

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TALMADGE, \$1050. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Upstairs with small balcony off dining room. Gated, laundry onsite. Available 1/1/07. 4541 Contour Boulevard, #5. 619-295-1100. www.cethron.com.

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TALMADGE. \$1295. First month free! Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. On-site laundry room. 1 off-street parking. Updated apartment. Tile in bathrooms and kitchen entry. Dishwasher and microwave. Call for an appointment, 619-414-2344.

TALMADGE/COLLEGE. \$750. 1 bedroom downstairs unit. Refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, on-site laundry, storage closet. No pets. Optional parking. 4492 Estrella. 858-538-5013.

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TIERRASANTA. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath in Portofino community. Ask about our holiday special! New carpet/paint, covered parking, gas fireplace. 5151 Abuela Drive. \$1850. 619-793-4010. www.rasnyder.com.

TIERRASANTA. \$1650. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. 2 carport parking. No pets. Nonsmoking. Small storage. Yard. Dishwasher. Quiet. Clean. 10838 Caraville Place. Juno, 619-275-3455.

TIERRASANTA, 2 bedroom 2 bath upstairs Belsera unit. Newer carpet/file, quiet, 1 car garage and carport. No pets/smoking. Pool/spa on-site. \$1600/month, 619-670-3913.

UNIVERSITY CITY. Senior complex, 62+. \$1050. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Nice unit with Pergo flooring. 825 square feet. Underground parking. Laundry on site. No pets. 6330 Genesee Avenue. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

UNIVERSITY CITY. \$2500. 'Avanti!' Renaissance. Lovely 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhome. 1720 square feet. 2-car. All appliances. Family room. 6-month lease. Pets negotiable. Available 12/1. Boone Property Management, 858-274-6856. www.booneproperties.com.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs apartment, \$850. Quiet, gated complex/9 apartments. On-site laundry, parking, walk-in closet, ceiling fan. Cat OK with deposit. 4519 Campus Avenue. 858-200-9408.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, \$700/up. Quiet, sunny, large rooms, nice upgrades. No pets, no smoking. On-site laundry, parking, manager. Great location! 4138 Mississippi Street. 619-884-4322.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, \$1125. Nice 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 story duplex. Street parking. Available 1/10/07. 1606 Meade

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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. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upper unit. Covered parking, laundry on site. Sorry, no pets. Available for viewing by appointment only. www.kandroproperties.com. Call 858-490-1600 or 619-255-4944.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$995. 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage, fenced patio. No pets. 4620 Cleveland Avenue. Centre City Property Management, 619-296-6699.

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.sevillengmt.com>.

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UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, upstairs, gated, on-site laundry. Garage optional. Clean, quiet. No pets. \$1150. 4646 Campus Avenue. 858-273-0732.

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.

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UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs apartment. \$850. Quiet complex with on-site laundry and

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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! \$650. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs spacious apartment. Parking and on-site laundry. 4854 Market Street. 619-683-7638, Xlarent.com.

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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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. 3 yards. More. Truly, \$379,000/owner, 619-277-0242.

CITY HEIGHTS. 16 units. Condo conversion. 1 and 2 bedroom, starting mid-\$160s. Call Top Notch 619-807-0327.

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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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ESCONDIDO. \$550,000. 3 properties, 2 adorable houses surrounded by Victorians in a quiet street. Easy rentals. Current tenants. No agents/brokers/lenders to solicit. 858-336-2863.

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168 San Diego Reader December 21, 2006



TUTTED IN EGYPT

Misery, thy name is the two-headed serpent of cystitis and thrush. Ill in a foreign country — curses!

I'd been awake for hours, drinking water and moaning softly in the loo as lava wee escaped me in barely measurable amounts. I'd thrust my fingers inside in a vain attempt to scratch the itch that mocked me from within. I'd looked longingly at the hairbrush, wondering just how much damage it would actually cause, and whether it would be worth it.

It's a common enough holiday situation for me. A combination of consistently damp nethers, in which sweat mingles unwholesomely with pool water and stray sunscreen, together with a predilection for the obscenely large measures of rum in the rum and coke over the sensible option of gallons of water. Add to it the change of diet and routine, and we are almost there. The only final indignity would be raging constipation, and, oh! I had that too. In spite of shovelling the equivalent of a truckload of all-inclusive we'll-cook-and-you-don't-even-have-to-wash-up food into my mouth, I was as bunged as a noisy wasp in a bottle. My puckered eye knows when it is faced with an unfamiliar loo and refuses, on principle, to discharge its contents until optimum discomfort has been attained.

In all this undercarriage misery, you may be forgiven for thinking that I had sidelined my sunburn and bite unhappiness, but it was still there. Tuesday was spent reading a good book, and as a result my sunburn was book-shaped. Add to that the general droopiness of my tits, a situation inclined to

hamper consistent sun access to the dark side of the boobs, and you witness a perplexing dado rail of red and white across my rib cage. And although mosquitoes were mercifully absent, there was a biting *something*. I don't know what they looked like, but they left massive welts in their wake. One bit me on my forehead. I looked like the bastard half-bred imp of Satan.

And on that bright morning, with sunburn hurting, bites itching, and nether region hell unabated, I felt like the bastard half-bred imp of Satan's grumpier mother-in-law.

But, no, it got worse.

Twelve short hours later found me in the hotel clinic. Even though I was curled like a fetus, hands clamped to my groin, and moaning none too quietly, I was most concerned of all that the tall, handsome doctor did not wish to perform an internal examination. I knew I was faced with a vaginal exam in a Muslim country. I knew I was sporting a totally bald snatch and three sizeable piercings. I experienced a

rare coyness. But without so much as a nod in the direction of my aching undercarriage, he surveyed my misery, employed the age-old fever detection method of hand on the forehead, and declared, "intravenous antibiotic."

"Whatever," I moaned, prepared to give him anything he wanted if he would just stop it from hurting. "I have sneaky veins," I



announced, and started to laugh. I laugh when I'm scared, and I've had some horrendous experiences of inept vampires hunting for my blood. It nonplussed the doctor a little.

My veins heard him rustle the needles from their sterile packets and burrowed deeper within my fat layer. As

he traveled the thwarted needle like a hovercraft over veinless flesh, he saw the scars of my failed suicides and my self-harm, angry with sunburn, and tutted in a way that transcends language barriers. In the end, Andrew was my tourniquet, gripping my hand until the veins had nowhere left to run. The doctor got the drip in first time, and I was too ill to congratulate him.

I began to feel better, but by no means back to strength. My bladder was tender, my kidneys ached, and the soft squishy bits round my happiness zone were rubbed into raw meat by my desperate fingers.

So another day was ruined, and I was forced to consider that a day out for mental pain, a day out for physical, is not fair on the family during a short seven-day holiday.

Bodies — altogether too high maintenance for my liking.

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square feet. 3-car garage, family room, formal dining, 8'x 8' skylight in stairwell. All for only \$739,000. Call Craig at One Source Realty, 858-592-2130.

HILLCREST. Great location just \$255,000-\$280,876. Mission Hills Craftsman only \$443,000. Income property under \$400,000. Call for pre-foreclosures. www.ListWithTheBest.com. Stephanie Murphy, 619-246-8230.

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MISSION HILLS, Classic Mission Hills 4 bedroom 2 bath house. Spectacular 180 degree skyline/bay views from almost every room. \$1,350,000/owner. 3909 Henry Street, 619-253-5839.

MURRIETA, GORGEOUS 2-story, 4 bedroom, 3 bath. 3200 square feet. Gourmet kitchen. Too many amenities to mention! 1%-5% down, no bank qualifying! \$599,000. 760-723-0305.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Big lot. Move-in ready! \$395,000-\$435,000. Open Saturday and Sunday, 1pm-4pm: 3834 Madison Avenue, 92116. Big fenced yard. hdr1@cox.net. 619-281-8869; 619-823-8166.

OCEANSIDE. Home with panoramic ocean view. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1472 square feet, unique, private location, ap-

proximately 1/4 acre, \$489,000. By owner, 760-967-4015.

PARADISE HILLS, \$549,000/owner. 2 story, 6 bedroom, 2 bath, beautiful view. New carpets/tiles. New roof. Fireplace,

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POWAY, 2 bedroom 2 bath. Nice home. 13339 Carriage Road. \$399,000/owner. 619-754-3630.

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<p>30K, 60K, 90K SERVICE Done according to manufacturer's specs, and we use only factory parts. Factory shuttle services.</p>	<p>A/C SPECIAL Includes Freon R134 \$99⁹⁵ Complete • Evacuate system • Replace compressor oil • Check system pressure • Check for major leaks • Check A/C lines and belt • Charge system with Freon • Rear A/C \$15 extra</p>
<p>Transmission Power Flush Includes 16 qts. oil and BG's clean and conditioner kit. Extended-life synthetic oil is extra depending on vehicle type. \$119⁹⁵</p>	<p>COMPLETE FRONT BRAKE JOB Includes resurfacing rotors. Parts and labor included. \$25 extra for ceramic pads. \$99⁹⁵</p>
<p>AXLE SPECIAL Parts and labor. Most cars. \$25 extra for new axle. \$109 Installed</p>	

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RANCHO PENASQUITOS- Just reduced! Gorgeous, bright 5 bedroom, 3 bath. Family room, fireplace, private backyard. \$675,000-\$710,000. No HOA/Mello-Roos. Deborah Engel, McMillin Realty, 858-829-1989. www.propertybydeb.com.

SAN DIEGO 3 bedroom, 2 bath HUD home, \$122,500! Must sell fast! For list-ings and info: 1-800-690-3990 x172.

SANTEE, Smokin' Deal: 2 bedroom, 1 bath, remodeled kitchen/bath. Oak cabi-netry and granite counters. Recently painted. Ceiling fans throughout. Huge lot! Reduced \$377,800. Robert/Agent: 619-328-0844.

SANTEE. 4 bedroom. Family room. Up-dated kitchen, new stove, dishwasher, microwave. Central air/heat, covered pa-tio, 2-car garage. \$529,000. RE/MAX, Bill Howland, 619-980-2455.

SANTEE. Why rent when you can own? Beautiful 3 bedroom condo. Must have good credit! Total cash \$2800 down. Mortgage, taxes, HOA=\$1250/month. Agent, 619-596-8888, 619-723-3333.

SERRA MESA. Beautiful, newly remod-eled, new kitchen, new roof, new hard-wood floors, new lights and paint, just gorgueous, huge back yard, 3 bedrooms, \$475,000. 619-249-7846.

SOMETHING SPECIAL! Mint 3 bedroom, 2 bath Santee house. California Room in-ground spa, fountain, gorgeous pool, large lot. Granite counters, fireplace. \$465,000. No agents. Agent, Kelly, 619-562-6999.

SOUTH SAN DIEGO. Manufactured home for sale, \$80K. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 1344 square feet. New paint/carpet. Updated kitchen/bath. Call Agent, 619-459-8678.

TIJUANA-4 ON 1! 4 houses plus 1 ha-cienda. Hilltop location. Mexico/San Diego views. Client moving to El Paso. \$275. Need to sell now! Agent, 619-459-8678.

WOW! Everything new in this 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, 2 story home on cul-de-sac in Lakeside. All new granite countertops, cabinets, carpet, paint and floor tile. 1350 square feet. \$375K to \$400K. Call Kraig to see, 858-592-2130.

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CARLSBAD, 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo, 2-car garage. Large fenced yard. New floors/appliances/landscaping. Raised hearth. 5 minutes/beach. \$539K. Broker, 760-436-3415, 760-815-8417.

CORONADO. \$619,900/best. Beautiful, spacious, 2 bedroom, 1 bath (spa tub), upper-level. Small complex. New kitchen/ appliances, washer/dryer. Off-street, 2-car parking, Storage. HOA \$80. Pets okay. Owner, 619-628-1810.

DEL MAR. Lovely, sunny 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with pool and Jacuzzi. Monthly interest \$1695. \$15,000 down. APR only 5.9%. Call Agent, Elizabeth, at 619-286-5813.

IMPERIAL BEACH. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, large. Moments walk to the ocean, pier, shops, restaurants. Classic beach living. Serious seller. \$429,000. 619-405-3356 or 619-423-6001.

LA JOLLA, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, see-for-ever view, all new kitchen/bath, both with marble floors. Regular sale or sale with leaseback, \$360,000/owner, 858-824-0486.

LA JOLLA. Sunny, lovely 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with pool and Jacuzzi. Monthly interest \$1695. \$15,000 down. APR only 5.9%. Call Agent, Elizabeth, at 619-286-5813.

LA MESA'S LOWEST PRICE! 1 bedroom condo. Top corner unit. New carpet, paint and appliances. Seller will consider all of-fers. Recently reduced. \$159,000. Agent, 619-977-4777.

LITTLE ITALY. Views of the city from this 11th floor corner unit with floor-to-ceiling windows, granite and stainless! \$389,000-\$415,000. Ascent, Cheryl, 858-229-2843.

MIRA MESA. Near Sorrento Valley. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, 1200+ square feet. Upstairs loft, hardwood floors. Patio. Pool, jacuzzi. Quiet complex. \$379,000. Rosa, 619-254-1768.

MISSION HILLS. Highly desirable Ali-cante, 10th-floor, south-facing unit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath with stunning patio views! Many upgrades throughout. \$399,000-\$425,000. 475 Redwood Street #1004. Ascent, Cheryl, 858-229-2843.

MISSION VALLEY, For sale by owner. Owner financing, no banks needed. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 parking, views San Diego River, \$324,500, www. SanDiego-HomeSellers.com, 619-795-2345.

PACIFIC BEACH. Gorgeous condos, beautifully remodeled. 5, 1 bedroom units and 3, 2 bedroom units. Garage spaces available. Open Saturday-Sunday, every weekend, 11am-3pm. \$370,000. 760-207-9382.

SAN DIEGO, 3 bedroom 2 bath condo. Gated, 2 parking spots, end unit/private backyard. 4429 Tremont Street #3, 92102. New price \$284,000/owner, 619-886-5665.

UTC AREA. Sunny, lovely 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with pool and Jacuzzi. Monthly interest \$1695. \$15,000 down. APR only 5.9%. Call Agent, Elizabeth, at 619-286-5813.

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HOLIDAY BOWL TICKETS available. \$40 each. View level. Call Matt, 619-666-1384.

TIMES SQUARE WEST, 2 New Year's Eve Dinner Packages. New Year's Eve Jazz Spectacular at Hyatt Regency La Jolla. \$413. 619-316-4779.

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BOAT, 1965 32' Cruizon Sportfisher, Fly-bridge, fiberglass over wood, single 1985 260hp Chevy Crusader V-8, 150-gallon tanks. Free to good home. Needs slip. 619-990-5075; 619-823-7094.

COMPOUND BOW. Virtually new. PSE Thunder-Flite, paid \$450, asking \$375/best. Fleece-lined canvas case, cable trigger release, forearm guard, Easton arrows, tip replacements, paper targets, \$75. 858-488-4803.

GOLF CLUB, Callaway 56-degree X-14 sand wedge, new, Golf Pride grip, \$25. 619-698-3507.

GOLF CLUBS, complete set, men's and ladies', left-handed and right-handed, in-cludes putter and bag. \$35/each. 619-461-4805.

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 Odysseys: prices from \$399 to \$799. Also, 6 sit-in-side 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.

KAYAK FALL SPECIALS! \$5 off any kayak rental or 25% off any accessory with this ad. Kayaks starting at \$299. Allen's Kayaks 858-488-5599, www.hikebikekayak.com.

LONGBOARDS. 9'6" David Nuuhiwa nosider, single fin, squaretail, red, 9'4" Encinitas triffin, diamond tail, multicolor flames. \$595 each/best. Excellent condi-tion. 619-820-4434.

LT FOR MVP, Wear your vote for San Diego's record breaking running back Ladanian Tomlinson! \$14.99. Visit HTTP://WWW.LTFORMVP.COM for more information.

PONTOON BOAT, One-man inflatable PFD with trolling motor, battery, charger and life vest, \$275 for all. 619-808-8277.

PWC SINGLE TRAILER, 1997 galvanized single jet ski trailer. Fully adjustable winch/bunk system. Tilt features allows you to load from the ground. \$550, 619-669-3634.

RAFT, 9', with motor, Sevylor inflatable type TX320, 900lb. capacity, Mariner 2M engine, motor runs well, raft has slow air leak, 2 seats, \$300. 858-278-0810.

RIDER, Cardio Guide machine, \$45. Bike trailer, lightweight, 18" wheels, 1x2x5', re-movable basket, \$35. 619-265-2150.

SAILBOAT, 25' CHEOY LEE fiberglass, hull teak cabin, full keel, sleeps 4, sink, stove, live-aboard/cruiser, \$5000 owner finance, \$2,000-\$3000/down, great in-vestment/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 an experienced, unlimited arc pitcher, shortstop, and fast outfielder. 619-295-0385.

SURFBOARD, 9' Gordon & Smith Peak Performer, triffin, pintail, 3 stringer, with

red bottom tint, mint condition, \$590. 858-254-9929.

SURFBOARD. 7' pintail, good for bib win-ter surf or learning. Fixed dings but good condition, \$160. Other boards to choose from. Frank, MB, 858-442-2754.

SURFBOARDS. Mint condition epoxy noseriders 9'8", \$450 less than half price! 9.0 expxy \$400, 3 gloss 'n' polish fun shapes \$350, retro 70s plus 80s short-boards \$150, 2 used fun shapes, \$125 each. Must empty garage. Over 30 boards. 760-809-6180.

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. Tierras-anta, 858-751-0338. College Area, 619-667-9499. www.playitagainsd.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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WET SUIT, O'Neill Factory reconditioned, new, small, \$80. 12-speed racing bike, Giant, \$80. Poster, Naomi Campbell, \$20. Japanese sewing machine, \$50. 760-633-0138.

WOMANS SNOWBOARD, 152/boots size 8 \$125/both/best. Also Thule locking rack with wind deflector (fits most imports) \$175/best. Carlsbad area, 336-456-9683, 760-994-3319.

1996 TIGE PRE2000 Ski boat, priced un-der value, great mechanical shape, 320hp, 5.7 liter Black Scorpion Mer-cruiser, interior in good condition, \$11,500, 801-641-1073.

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MINOLTA, maxxium 3000i with 28-70 zoom lens. Promaster FA 1000 flash brand new. New battery camera case \$125. Vivitar 135mm lens 49mm cap \$35. 619-542-1306.

PENTAX IN-STORE DEMOS. 9am-5pm. Nelson Photo Supplies. Downtown: Friday December 22, 1909 India Street, 619-234-6621. La Jolla: Saturday December 23, 7720 Fay Avenue, 858-729-6565. www.nelsonphotosupplies.com.

PENTAX K1000 35MM camera, Special Delux Edition, SE body type, F2/2.0 50mm lens, all accessories, must sell fast, \$150/best. Cash only. 949-690-0856.

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BLOG DIEGO

I have been studying the 2007 City budget. It is a hodgepodge of inarticulate statements that do not fit together to give an overall picture of the City. It raises more questions than it answers. It is not like any financial statement you would ever see in the private sector.

Sanders's Five Year Plan is a mere extension based on assumed percentage increases and decreases. The City's operations are carried out within various funds:

General Fund	1,021,203,098
Enterprise Funds	839,812,640
Capital Improvements Program	293,671,493
Special Revenue Funds	242,930,505
Debt Service Funds	12,136,700
	\$2,409,754,436
Less Interfund Transactions	147,188,995
Total	\$2,262,565,441

The General Fund provides core services such as public safety, park and recreation, library services, refuse collection, finance and human resources. Its major revenues are property tax, sales tax, transient occupancy tax and franchise fees.

Enterprise Funds provide various services such as water, metropolitan wastewater, development services, refuse disposal, recycling and others, through user fees.

Interfund transfers are dispersed throughout the fund statements. An unitemized total (\$147 million) is shown at the end. But these money transfers are not grouped or totaled within each fund. The mayor should require clear revenue and expense statements per fund. Interfund transfers should be itemized and shown as a total in each fund. We

need to know how money is moved around. There should be a balancing statement, showing all money transfers within the system. All we know right now is that inter-fund transfers total \$147 million. The opportunities for abuses and cover-ups are enormous.

In addition to interfund transfers, there are all kinds of internal services being billed backwards and forwards:

Internal Service Funds	106,664,199
Other Funds (mainly SDCERS)	39,908,893
Total	\$146,573,092

(It is unclear what the payment of \$39,470,593 to the pension fund represents. Can the admin costs be nearly \$40 million? Apparently so.)

Again, all we know is the total. There is no overall reconciliation of these charges. We don't even know when an expense item is internal or external. Nor is it possible to link a revenue item with its counterpart expense item in the fund where it is

a charge. Here are a few puzzling questions: how does the \$293 million Capital Improvement Program (CIP) money get from other funds, e.g., do sewer fees get transferred from the sewer fund to a CIP fund? How does the half-cent sales tax get from the TransNet fund to a CIP fund? When are internal services paid by fees and when by interfund transfers?

The truth is that financial reporting at the City is a mess. The City's staff has been allowed to get away with unbelievable sloppiness for years. The Brits certified me as a public accountant nearly 40 years ago in London and I have never seen such bizarre "accounting" any-

where, here or in Europe. After a whole year, Sanders has failed to demand what any manager, from the smallest to the largest business, would require — basic revenue and expense statements.

The citizens would quickly reform this City if the light of day were allowed to shine into its finances. They would ask the questions Sanders is obviously not asking. The clamor for reform would be deafening. It makes one wonder whether Sanders really wants reform

or if he just wants to reward his developer/business backers while he is in there. He has surrounded himself with a team of control freaks. To get clarification on anything you have to fill out a public information request. Instead of openness, the information doors are closed tight. Everything has to go through the mayor's control freaks. The Five Year Plan is business as usual. According to these people, they will fix the City in the General Fund. All other funds are off limits because they are self-sustaining e.g., DSD and waste water. Half the General Fund is also off-limits — it is for police and fire services. Therefore the City will be fixed within the \$500 million left in the General Fund after public safety. That is insane.

The following funds are not only

Center City Development.....	176,400,000
Corporation (CCDC)	
Southeastern Economic.....	25,900,000
Development Corporation	
General Redevelopment Fund	45,100,000
Data Processing Corporation Fund	41,800,000
Housing Commission Fund	275,700,000
Total	\$564,900,000

off-limits to Sanders's cuts, they are completely off the books and off the

budget. Nancy Graham, President of CCDC, gets to spend a whopping \$176 million to service her downtown developer "clients." Not a cent of that \$176 million CCDC money goes to service the debt or pay a cent off the ballpark or convention center bonds. All that comes out of the General Fund. Susan Golding and Jack McGrory reserved the tax increment money for their developer friends and so it remains today. The rest of the General Redevelopment Fund is spent building theaters and other "essential" infrastructure, to be given away to private entities like the North Park Theater Co. Data processing is a slush fund for the IT well-connected. Does anybody know what the housing commission does with its \$275 million? I sure don't.

Overall there is approximately \$3 billion sloshing around in these badly managed "funds." Incompetence is piled upon incompetence. Sanders, Froman, and Goldstone haven't got a clue as to what is going on let alone know how to fix it. They run around doing BPR (Business Practice Reengineering) like kids playing doctor with toy stethoscopes. Fred Sainz heads a bloated

PR staff to put a lid on all information while keeping the Sanders spin machine whirring. Jerry makes soothing public appearances, smiling to the TV cameras, kissing babies

and cutting ribbons. We must be America's Dumbest City.

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BICYCLES

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MOUNTAIN BIKE, 18 speed, 21" frame, great tires and brakes, has rear rack too, rides great, just \$90. 619-224-6947.

SCHWINN FRONTIER, Mountain bike for kids, 24" tires, grip shift. \$95. 619-203-3315.

WANTED / TRADE

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CASH FOR older Disney items, except for videos and records, old Disneyland items, vintage comics of any kind before 1970, original cartoon art, autograph collections. 619-465-3090.

FISHING TACKLE. Collector wants for his personal collection wooden lures, reels, miscellaneous by Heddon, Pflueger, Creek Chub, South Bend, Shakespear, to name a few. 619-972-3488.

I AM looking for a person who knows carpentry, exchange for housing. Please call me at 619-479-4212 after 9am.

INDIAN arrowheads/artifacts. Must be authentic. Call Steve at 619-222-8562.

INSULATION for house (old OK). Camcorder, JVC preferred, digital camera, captain chair(s) for van, plywood over 4'. 619-286-5966.

KIDNEY DONOR needed. Young family needs help. A+ blood type. Save a life. 619-237-0602.

OLD TOYS AND TRAINS. Lionel, American Flyer, Marx, Aurora, Corgi, Dinky, Hot Wheels, Matchbox, slot cars. Buddy-L, Smith-Miller, Structo, Tonka. Old plastic vehicles: Pyro, Renwal. Dave, 858-756-2411.

SHOTGUN rifle shell boxes pre-1960. Duck and game calls, hunting & fishing badges (pre-1940), paper license (pre-1930) 858-565-1756.

SPANISH TUTOR WANTED, 2 positions, La Jolla and Chula Vista area. Female preferred. \$6.75/hour. 619-602-9236.

TOP DOLLAR PAID! Gold, diamonds, platinum, laptops, vintage music gear, DVDs, tools, plasma TVs, diamonds, watches, coins, rings. Free appraisal! 9am-7pm. 3439 University Avenue. 619-582-4068.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

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ALL ANTIQUES WANTED! Cash paid. Antiques/collectibles. Also, quality furniture, pianos. 1 piece or houseful. Cash paid. Same day pickup. Bonded. Licensed. Since 1965. 1-800-840-4447, www.southcoastauction.net.

ANSTEAD'S AUCTION. We buy antiques, collectibles, household furniture, appliances, TVs, home electronics, pianos. Prompt service. Local buyers. Licensed/

bonded. Serving San Diego since 1971. 619-233-3148; 1-888-722-2002.

CASH REGISTER, 1915 National, beautiful brass, Empire case design on oak base, 5 rows of keys, works great, can nbe electrified, \$1800. 619-296-9415.

CHRISTMAS TREE, Old-fashioned, 50 years old, ceramic, 18" high. Beautifully decorated, lights up electrically, with a music box inside. \$75/best, 619-338-0751.

GI JOE collection, 3-3/4" style, 2 boxes of assorted figures and vehicles, 1 box of comics. Worth \$400, asking \$200. 760-753-8726.

LARGE DINING ROOM TABLE, carved elephant feet, Tiger American Oak 1900, 3-4 leaves, 48"x48" without leaves, \$2500. Mirrored buffet may also be available. 619-222-2983.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC magazines (16) from July 1986 to August 2002, excellent for Christmas gift to collector, only \$30. Leave message, speak slowly (hearing impaired), 619-283-1767.

GARAGE SALES

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ESCONDIDO, Ohio-bound, moving sale. All must go. Furniture, electronics, clothes, books, toys, major appliances. December 15-31, 9-6 daily. 760-746-5861, or leave message.

LA MESA/SAN CARLOS. Huge multifamily sale. 12/23, 8am. Lots of antique furniture, collectibles, stereo, electronics, tools, piano, turntables, LPs, unique gifts. Torrey Street.

NORTH PARK. Yard sale. Saturday, 12/23, 7am-4pm. Great Christmas gifts. Dolphin/angel knickknacks, stuffed animals, picture frames, jewelry, books, videos, clothes, kitchenware. 3635 Granada Avenue.

SCRIPPS RANCH, Large record/LP sale. '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s eras Rick Griffin posters, all in excellent condition. 8:30am, Saturday 12/23/06. 10331 Caminito Surabaya. 858-208-8587.

APPLIANCES

PLACE PRINTED ADS in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.

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APPLIANCES: Refrigerator frost-free energy saver, stove, washer/dryer: \$135 each. 1-year warranty. Leon's Appliances, pick up and delivery. Repairs. Can deliver free. 619-702-3270.

MAGIC CHEF Fridge, great condition, \$350, 760-746-5861.

REFRIGERATOR, freezer. Washer/dryer, side-by-side stackable, dishwasher, under counter portable, microwave stand, stove. Energy savers, late models, can separate. \$720/all. 619-670-8356.

REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER, white, like new. Washer, Dishwasher. Oven. Microwave. Scanner/printer. Best offers. 760-839-9195.

REFRIGERATOR, GE, white, 14.6 cubic feet, hardly used, \$325. 619-665-7904.

WASHER, Whirlpool, never used, cost \$500 new, now \$329. Bosch dishwasher, 500 series, excellent, \$800 new, now \$289. GE dishwasher, good, \$129. Guaranteed. Delivery and installation available. 619-957-6223.

WASHER/DRYER SETS: Both pieces from \$250. Refrigerator, 2 doors, \$145. 1-year warranty. Leon's Appliances Pick-Up and Delivery. Repairs. Can deliver free. 619-702-3270.

WASHER/DRYER. Maytag stackable, full size, gas dryer, electric (110) washer, 5 years old, remodeling, \$300. 619-818-9258.

WASHING MACHINE, Maytag coin-operated, digital, newer, take \$195. Also, older machine, \$150. 619-804-4419.

WHIRLPOOL ELECTRIC Washer/dryer, full size, \$150/each. Great condition. 760-746-5861.

ELECTRONICS

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FISHER STEREO, CD player and alarm. Mint condition, detachable speakers. Wall Mount \$40, 760-746-5861.

PS3 60 GB, New in box, unopened with receipt, \$980/cash only, 619-271-8123.

SONY HOME STEREO/THEATRE, System. Black, triple deck, 2000 watts. 2 large speakers/built-in subwoofers, two small wall mount speakers, center speaker. \$250. 619-334-8274, yusuf@gawab.com.

SONY STEREO SURROUND Sound, complete with receiver. 5.1-DVDs, play DTS-EX-THX and Pro Logic. Great condition, \$125, has manuals. 760-746-5861.

SYLVANIA 27" color TV with remote. Very nice, great picture, sound, \$90. 760-746-5861.

TV SET, GE, 36", black, works great, with remote control, \$225. 619-665-7904.

TV, COLOR, 27" remote stereo TV, like new excellent pictures, \$99. 619-461-4805.

VIDEO CAMERA, Sony High 8 with LCD (A/C charger, no battery), \$40. Intel high-resolution webcams with CCD sensor and video input, \$40 each. 858-551-8647.

FURNITURE

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BED \$100 ABSOLUTE BARGAIN! The Furniture Warehouse now open to the public. We sell warehouse direct. Come see our large showroom. We have over

70 sets in stock from \$89! 995 Bay Boulevard, Chula Vista, 91911. Open 11am-7pm daily. Closed Monday. Credit cards accepted. Legitimate warranties in writing! Fast delivery. 619-426-2727. www.twarehouse.com.

BED \$169 A BARGAIN. A Ortho Pillowtop Queen, new in plastic with warranty, mattress/box. All sizes. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

BED A DISCOUNT store. Mattress World in Hillcrest sells new beds at warehouse pricing lower than regular stores. Student specials, fast delivery or pickup, national brands. Member of the Better Business Bureau. Mattress World, 1601 University Avenue, 2 blocks west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest. Check www.sandiegobeds.com or email to: info@davisworld.com. Call: 619-260-8000.

BED FRAME, metal. Fits different size beds. Can be easily taken apart to be transported in a car. \$20. 858-277-3065.

BEDROOM CLEARANCE 6-PIECE SET. \$599. Brand new, still in boxes, solid wood bed, espresso color. Must move! Can deliver. 619-250-1446.

BEDROOM SET, traditional style. Full-size bed with mattress. 9-drawer dresser with mirror. Red oak, perfect condition, possible small scratch. \$550/best. 619-295-5176.

BEDROOM SET, 5 piece, Scandinavian, cherrywood, queen-size bed frame, 2 nightstands, 9-drawer dresser, and armoire, excellent condition, \$900. 858-535-1456.

BEDROOM SET, light brown, queen bed with side table, 6-drawer dresser, includes mirror, \$550. Can be sold separately. Price negotiable for set. 619-665-7904.

CABINET with glass door, 44"x25"x15"D, holds DVD and VCR player, drawer at bottom, extra room on side for CDs and DVDs, black, \$60. 619-665-7904.

CALIFORNIA KING SIZE, Monet-Orthopedic, beautiful, 25 year mattress. It's in great condition and ready to go. \$800/best. Sacrifice. Call 9-6pm, 760-746-5861.

CLOSET, solid cedar, 62-1/2"Hx32"Wx21"D, wood rod for hangers, 2 doors, beautiful grain, almost antique, appraisal \$250, now only \$195. Hillcrest, 619-299-7578.

COMPUTER DESK, light brown, excellent condition, \$35. 619-665-7904.

CONCRETE PATIO TABLE, seats 6, high grade, your choice of tile installed, all weather. \$300. Credit cards accepted. 760-250-7055.

COUCH AND LOVESEAT, Brown, with footrests, very comfortable \$30. Torn leather recliner \$1. Wall unit, 17x60x72", twelve open compartments, adjustable shelving \$100, 619-434-2028.

FURNITURE A DISCOUNT Factory Direct store. Lowest prices. Order from manufacturers' catalogs and save. Solid cherry, maple, oak or pine, American made Vermont craftsmanship or imported. San Diego's best home furnishings source since 1960. Member of the Better Business Bureau. Al Davis Furniture, 1601 University Avenue, 2 blocks west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest. Check www.davisworld.com or email to info@davisworld.com. Call 619-296-1221.

FURNITURE. Small coffee table, \$7. TV stand, sturdy, \$5. Computer/office armchair, \$13. 2 plastic dressers, \$13 both. Patio furniture, 3 pieces, \$10. 760-685-8291.

HUTCH/CHINA CABINET, beautiful and rustic natural oak, excellent condition, purchased at Pacific Beach Home and Garden store on Garnet for \$550, asking \$250. 858-775-7201.

IKEA BUNK BED Frame, metal, \$75. Call 619-584-0585.

MATCHING 4-PIECE Settee and chairs. \$395/best. Beautiful curved backs, square wooden legs/metal ends/wheels. Settee and armed side chair-good shape. 619-283-9600.

MATTRESS and box spring, Sealy, like new, \$250. 858-274-6785.

MATTRESS A DISCOUNT store-Mattress World in Hillcrest sells new beds at warehouse pricing lower than regular stores. Student specials, legitimate warranties, fast delivery or pickup, name brands. Member of the Better Business Bureau. Authorized Sealy, Simmons, Spring Air, Aireloom dealer. Also latex, chemical-free and Swedish style Visco-Memory! Mattress World, 1601 University Avenue, 2 blocks west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest. Check: www.sandiegobeds.com or email to: info@davisworld.com. Call: 619-260-8000.

MATTRESS A BABY-SOFT QUEEN \$145. Pillow top mattress set. Brand new, in plastic. Must move! Can deliver. 619-808-8205.

MATTRESS BOX PILLOWTOP SET. New in plastic with warranty. Queen \$169. King \$239. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. Call 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

TALL WICKER CHAIR, \$25. Upright vacuum cleaner \$15. 858-458-4333.

TV STAND, solid yellow oak, 30Lx22Wx13H, great for heavy TVs and some appliances, moves smoothly on 4 pivoting castors, \$50 cash. Santee. 619-562-0152.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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ARCADE GAME, collection, Galaga, Ms Pacman, Operation Wolf, Super Cobra, Asteroids, Pong, Arabian and Command. Can separate or all \$3500. Please leave message. 619-461-2643.

ARTWORK, framed, beautiful, clearing out several artists, frames, sizes, priced to sell, must see, \$50 plus. 619-929-4450.

BEDS A PILLOWTOP MATTRESS Box Set. New in plastic with warranty. Queen \$169. King \$239. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

BMW WHEELS, off 2001, X5 SUV, sporty, 5 spoke, high end alloy with Pirelli Scorpion tires, \$450 all. Furniture, full-size love seat, sofa sleepers. 858-272-4866.

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“WE NEED TO TALK. COME INTO MY OFFICE, PLEASE,” I say, and I switch off my Blue-tooth earpiece.

“Of course, Anthony. It is a lovely office.”

“Don’t blow smoke up my underpants,” I say. Rounding my large mahogany desk, I sidestep and pull myself into my black, Italian leather, ergonomic office chair. “And, it’s Mister Olivieri; let’s keep this professional.”

“Ho ho ho. Of course, Mister...”

“Let’s cut to the chase, Santa. Your performance has been lackluster this year.”

From a side drawer to my right I pull out a round compact mirror and check my hair. I want it *just* right for this meeting. I replace the mirror and shut the drawer.

Santa slumps into a seat opposite mine. He touches the cold, reflective surface of my shiny brass nameplate with a white-gloved finger.

“Don’t touch that,” I command. With my left hand, I swivel the 21-inch plasma monitor so Santa can see it. “Let’s look at the projections, Mr. Claus.”

“Ho ho ho. You can call me Santa.”

“Mr. Claus, if you look at our digitally rendered, Mercator projection map, you’ll see that your popularity is dropping, not only in regions not traditionally associated with Christmas, but in North America and Europe as well.”

Santa smiles, puts an index finger next to his nose, and winks. “Well, the spirit of Christmas is...”

“Santa, let me put it to you this way: you were once a commodity, but you have become a liability. We foresee that in the winter quarter of 2007, you’ll actually cost us money instead of generating revenue.”

Santa blusters in his seat, and tiny bells on his jacket jingle. “Christmas isn’t about profit and losses. Christmas is about...”

“Save it for the made-for-TV movies, you dinosaur. Actually,” I pause and touch my lip, “dinosaurs may not be a bad idea for a new Christmas mascot.” I make a mental note to have Jimmy look into that for me.

“But, Mrs. Claus and I...”

“Santa, let me be frank. S.A.N.T.A., Inc. is going in a new direction this year.” I open a video player on the computer monitor and a flashing, swirling graphic power promotion animation fills the screen. At the end of the 30-second spot, in sleek, silver lettering, a banner appears that reads, “America’s Holiday Icon: Who Will Be the Next Santa?”

“What is that?” Santa asks.

“It’s a reality television program. Our focus groups...”

“But, I’m the *real* Santa.”

“Not anymore. You can audition with the rest of the contestants. Santa,” I say, and give him the finger. “You’re fired.”

WHAT I WILL AND WON'T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

GUNSMOKE

TVLAND 9:00 A.M.

For Christmas, I got a cap gun, fringed leather vest, and a pair of boots. I’ve shelved my Incredible Hulk underwear in favor of a more classic design of choo choos; they go better with the western theme. I’m willing to sacrifice a little authenticity to wear my tablecloth cape. All I need now is a cowboy hat, and I’ll be the rootiest, tootiniest, downright orneriest cowpoke superhero this town has ever seen. Hyeaw! Get along little doggies!

POISONOUS WOMEN

DTIMES 7:00 P.M.

Not only are they poisonous, but they also

have strong hind legs and jaws. They hunt in packs and are most dangerous when cornered. My dad told me if I never get close enough to see one of their horns, I’ll live a long and happy life. My buddy, Tommy, said if you put a small rock in one of their ears, they’ll get confused enough to let you pet them, but I’ve never tried it. They scare the livin’ daylights out of me.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

RUDOLPH’S SHINY NEW YEAR

FAMILY 7:00 P.M.

Oh, no you don’t. You back that red-nosed bastard right up. New Year’s Eve is for wearing your own ass as a hat and waking up with your nose on the asphalt. None of these

cutesy, anthropomorphized, claymation Christmas animals have any business buttin’ into my holiday. Except Frosty. He can party like a cross between Hunter Thompson and Lindsay Lohan.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23
SPORTS STARS OF TOMORROW
FOX 11:00 A.M.

I’m a sports star of tomorrow. If competitive eating is a sport, then why not competitive bellybut-ton-lint picking? Those bastards at the Olympic Committee may have slammed the door in my face and, yes, my shoulder still hurts from where that security guard grabbed and pinched me, but they’ll hear me. They’ll hear me loud and clear when I protest the 2008 games by unleashing an entire sheep from my navel. Bastards.

RUG GALLERY EXTRAVAGANZA

HSN 3:00 P.M.

I imagine the Home Shopping Network as Fezzini from *The Princess Bride*, and he keeps saying “extravaganza” instead of “inconceivable.” Like “It’s a rug gallery extravaganza!” Until Inigo Montoya says, “You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means.”

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

A HOBO’S CHRISTMAS

CW 1:00 P.M.

Pretty much every Christmas I’ve celebrated since I was 14 has been “a hobo’s Christmas.” Waking up in a strange boxcar or jail cell. Wondering about the origin of that faint smell of urine. Is it me? Was it Rudolph? Hoping for the best Christmas gift ever — that the rash in my armpit would clear up — and being disappointed upon initial morning inspection, but keeping the Christmas spirit anyway. Oh, take me back. Take me back.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

A VERY SOAPY CHRISTMAS

ABC 2:00 P.M.

Okay. Okay. I can be a total jerk most of the time, but I’ll be cool. Sure, I don’t celebrate this holiday, but it’s fun for a lot of people, and even though I pretend I was hatched in the desert from a lizard mother or I sprang fully formed from the head of Charles Bukowski, the truth is I was a kid once, too. And the night before Christmas when I was a young ’un was



A Hobo’s Christmas

all anticipation and happy thoughts. So, go ahead, have a good time today. Enjoy your time off, relax with your friends or family, and have a sip of a peppermint martini or tea or something and feel warm. You know, like when you were a kid.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

EQUESTRIAN — SPRUCE MEADOWS

FSW1 3:00 P.M.

All right. All right. Enough of the touchy-feely holiday crap. Back to being myself. I say, to hell with horses. Next!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

AVATAR: THE LAST AIRBENDER

NICKELODEON 6:30 P.M.

I don’t know what this is, but I’m going to start using it as my main excuse. You know, when my girlfriend says, “You sick pig. Can’t you wait until we’re out of the car?” I’ll tell her I’m the last one and that I was “bending the air.” The fate of the world rests in the seat of my jeans.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

GREEN ACRES

TVLAND 5:00 P.M.

You’ll notice that TV got weirder and weirder as consciousness-expanding drugs pervaded society. If there’s one thing the Reagan administration did, it was to rein in this phenomenon. The “Just Say No” War on Drugs side-tracked bizarre television and replaced it with Bill Cosby’s ugly sweaters for a while. I mean, there was a talking pig in *Green Acres* and that was 30 years ago. If we’d continued in that vein unchecked, TV would be incomprehensible, like Italian films about clowns. Sure, it’s more fun to be goofed up on the good stuff, but you’ve got to come down once in a while. Let’s have some coffee and work through the hangover instead of hitting the baggie again. That sort of thing.

CHRISTMAS decorated fireplace screen. Rollerblade 7/8DX with protective gear. Umbrellas with stand. Desk, 2 drawer, 4’x2’. 4-lug spare wheels, T105/70R14, T115/70D14, \$13 each. La Jolla, 858-454-1422.

DESK, OFFICE CHAIR, Wheelchair-batteries-charger. Television 24”, guitar case, countertop, 20’ beams, iron-board, fan, golf clubs, bean bag, kids’ toys, work-out bench, 858-270-0565.

FIGURE SKATES, men’s 11-2/3. Ladies’ large leather jacket. Derby hat. Movie memorabilia. Various magazines. Large microwave oven. Aluminum walker. Crockpot. Grocery cart. 619-420-1028.

FILE CABINETS (7). Commercial grade, 5 drawer, heavy duty, \$35 each. Computer tables (3), \$25 each. Can deliver. Near downtown San Diego. rnluc@hotmail.com or 619-235-4672.

FIREPLACE, artificial, traditional style, white with black marble, electric, logs, \$200. Black lacquer wall unit, lighted, glass doors, cotton cabinet, \$175. 619-262-2458.

GRANDFATHER CLOCK. Howard Milleroak grandfather clock with Westminster Chimes and moon time. Excellent visual and working condition. Will make a perfect gift \$600. 858-592-0746.

JEWELRY. Pendants. Gold coin (2 peso), newly set in 14K besel. 2 beautiful unusual gifts, \$120 each. More. 760-753-6996.

LIBERTY 312 POWER CHAIR. All equipment included. Never used. Retail price \$5000. Asking price \$1000/best. Must see. Diane 619-235-9422.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, Commode, like new, deluxe, \$40. 858-270-9038 or 858-272-1992.

MEN’S AND WOMEN’S CLOTHING, Shirts \$1.50/each. Jackets \$5. Pants \$2. Accessories, etc. \$1. Good condition! 760-746-5861.

MINERAL COLLECTION, cabs, slabs, cutting rough, crystals. Knife collection, old Kershaws, Shrade IXLs, Henckels, others. Maui Jim sunglasses, like new, best brand made, \$60. 619-260-8482.

MINK COAT, black diamond, full length, like new, size 12-14, \$1200/best. 858-450-1888.

MISCELLANEOUS. Schwinn mountain/road bike, tall frame, 12 speed. New beach cruiser, step balloon tires, large seat, pedal brake. Tiffany table lamp. Filing cabinets. 619-298-8942.

MOVING SALE. refrigerator, washer/dryer, stove, office, dishwasher, microwave, TVs/stands, VCR, stereo/speakers, couch, recliners, lamps, beds, bookcases, dinette/chairs, games, dresser, neon signs. 619-670-7821.

MUST SELL ASAP! Moving. Beautiful hot dog stand, working burners, plenty storage, running hot/cold water, refrigerator/ice chest. Mobile with hitch, \$3500/all offers! 619-922-2192.

OLD JEWELRY, Surfboards, stamps, coins, art, books, toy metal cars, glassware antiques, autos, computer, electronics, household, furniture, tools, records, must go, must see. Cheap 858-444-5194.

OVERHEAD PROJECTOR, \$65. Metal detector, \$45. Vacuum, Kirby, all attachments, shampooer, self-propelled, \$200. Ryobi or Makita drill kit, \$35. Italian leather jacket, \$40. 619-449-8069.

PAINTINGS, originals, serigraphs of world famous painters, posters, autographs, reel for pool blanket, \$50. Bowling ball with bag, \$19. Plants and small trees. Cookbooks. 858-560-9992.

PILLOWS, 2, beautifully handmade decorative silk, Chinese, unused, each \$59/best. Ladies’ watch, classy gold filled, famous brand, Gruen, \$169/best. 858-792-5380.

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T.G.I.F.

The weed, smoked with a toilet paper tube and aluminum foil, was sneaky.

By John Brizzolara

The year was 1965, and the perversion I was about to perform would, within a matter of months certainly, even the final six weeks of that year, that winter, pale to “a harmless giggle” by comparison to what would come later. I placed my mother’s mascara brush to my cheek. The line I drew began below my left ear, somewhat on a parallel to my jaw line. If one of my sisters came into the bathroom now, I would have to kill her. I repeated the phrase out loud, “Just a harmless giggle, really,” with a trace of a tired, Liverpudlian accent. I caught my fracturing, 14-year-old voice dead-on the downbeat and convinced myself I sounded like the rhythm guitarist for the Beatles. It was John Lennon who originally said it, actually. (The word “actually” began to creep into speech with more regularity, as well. “As well” was replacing “too.”) I told myself it gave me something of — if not a Brit or even Liverpool accent — then a vague continental quality to my world-weary aloofness.

But Lennon had been talking about marijuana. That was another thing. After two years of looking for the stuff, that is, after having been ritually initiated into Hipdom, “turned on” by the Ukrainian beatniks of Chicago’s near north side, then left potless for 24 months despite my best efforts, I was going to get high again that Friday night in November.

I think back on the name of my band then with amusement, embarrassment, and pride. (How did I come up with that? What had I been reading? *Oedipus Rex* that fall, pretty sure.) The Village Oracle was light years ahead as a band name, ahead of anyone else in a 12-block radius of rock bands (like the Renegades); polka bands; Italian, crushed-velvet “juicer bands” or grease bands; even surf bands (don’t ask how or why

in the Chicago of 1965). We were even light-years ahead of ourselves with that name. A month earlier we had been the Crescendos.

In the mirror: hair that had been slicked back all week in school, the “duck’s ass” tucked into turtlenecks, was washed and free and just over the ears. I was sweating with nervousness (Is this stage-fright?), so my hair buckled into waves, shortening its length. This was no good at all. The maroon turtleneck wasn’t helping here or the navy-and-white-striped skating scarf to my knees. The mirror was fogging up. The turtle would have to go.

This left my wide-wale amber corduroy hip-hugger bell-bottoms nearly invisible, a kind of earth-tone smear or cloud. I swabbed at the mirror with a wet towel. Beatle boots — or, more accurately, Puerto-Rican fence-climber, shit-kicker dress boots that passed just fine as Beatle boots — gave my already six-foot frame another inch. The shirt, substituting for the sweater, was plain white, starched, pressed brutally, severely, and featured a cotton-and-metal tab collar. Buttoned, of course, à la Bob Dylan. In the breast pocket of that shirt was a pack of Lark cigarettes, anemic little gaspers in a red packet and punctured with a ring of pinprick holes around the white filter. One might as well not be smoking, but one might as well not be smoking John Lennon’s brand, wot? Still around? No idea. Haven’t seen them in years. Liggett & Meyers made them.

The pièce de résistance: a three-quarter-length Edwardian corduroy, double-breasted coat with gold-braid piping at the lapels, the whole garment gathered and tucked at the waist. A touch of the Kinks. Mum had found the coat and pants, inexplicably, in either the Sears & Roebuck or Montgomery Ward fall catalog.

I briefly chickened out at the dandy/Beau Brummel topcoat and considered a plain, faded, blue denim jacket; I called it my Eric Burdon jacket. Nothing fey or Faunteroy about Eric, and this was Chicago, not Regency France.

Between nerves and the lingering humidity, my mascara (rather, my mother’s mascara) ran. What had been sideburns were now two shiny racing stripes that met at the chin forming one strap, as if I were wearing a shako in front of Buckingham Palace. I thought about shoe polish while I tried to make my hair look like anything except a Mickey Dolenz wig and put a stack of albums on my sister’s portable Pony Tail turntable: *Beatles ‘65*, *Bringin’ It All Back Home*, and *Animal Tracks*.

I failed to mention I was wearing either Jade East cologne or Hai Karate.

Oh, yes, and I had a blond, hollow-body Eko violin bass made in Japan; cool-looking and rococo as hell. It had cost about \$60 at Shopper’s World in La Grange, Illinois.

During the years 1965–1968, I paid more attention to what I wore while onstage (could be a gymnasium floor like that night) than I ever paid to clothing before or since. In ‘68 I had a pair of gold lamé (probably curtain material) bells that I think was the high-water mark of my career as a clotheshorse.

I’m not at all sure if it was that school dance at Lane Tech High or some other high school dance gig we landed that autumn of my sophomore year in which I was re-introduced to grass, but let’s say it was. And the high school gigs? They were definitely all Fridays, often after a football or basketball game. The weed, smoked

with a toilet paper tube and aluminum foil, was sneaky. Combined with Carling Black Label beer, the stuff had us playing the same three theme notes to the *Batman* television show for maybe 20 minutes, while a silently creepy wrestling champ had some kind of fit (epilepsy? if so, an odd, stylized form) and began a sort of dance craze.

We called it the Podo (don’t remember why) and eventually substituted the Animals’ *Bury My Body* as its anthem rather than the monotonous *Batman* theme. I was known that winter for carefully setting aside my Eko then flopping stupidly on the floor during “Wipe Out”-style drum solos. I tended to wear the denim more as the winter became 1966.

Yeah, I’d say those were pretty much all Friday-night phenomena. Don’t know what brought all that to mind, except there’s a patch of winter in the air and it’s Friday again, only 40 years later. I heard the Podo enjoyed some celebrity in the greater tri-state area for a few years after that, and eventually it was forbidden, outlawed, taboo. The world’s stupidest dance craze, and I had a hand in bringing it into being as a footnote in the urban high school legends of the Midwest. I heard someone died doing it, but I doubt that’s true. I heard some girl went into labor on the gym floor at New Trier High while everyone thought she was doing the Podo. That one’s probably not true either.

Anyhow, I survived it, and if I’ve forgotten to thank God for that...maybe that’s what I’m doing now. With Thanksgiving not long past, gratitude is the natural theme; and sure I’m grateful I survived that inelegant dumbness, but I might just be a little more grateful about having those inelegant, dumb Fridays in the first place.



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