

SAN DIEGO WEEKLY

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Reader

San Diego's Bad Behavior in the Spotlight

2006

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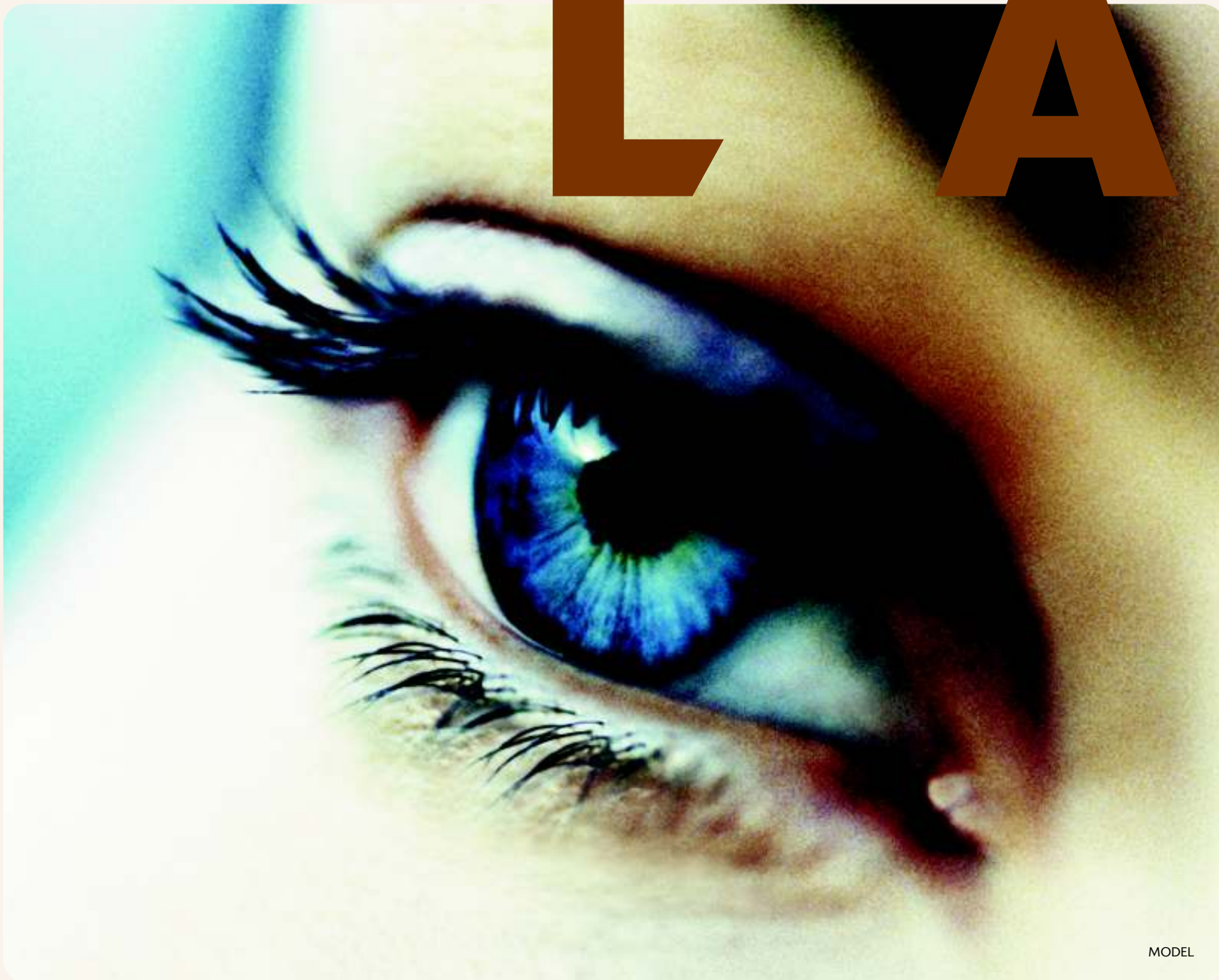
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S I K

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

loved as a girl had to be avoided. In fact I couldn't even remember what it was like to wake up and see. When I walked into Dr. Yaghouti's office I was very nervous. But the staff put me at ease and the procedure was over in minutes. When I woke up the next day I screamed, 'I CAN SEE!' And the tears came. For the first time in 42 years I could see the clock on the wall and other things in my room. No more hassle with glasses or discomfort from contacts. I can swim, snorkel and do anything I want with perfect sight. I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

— Michelle Stewart, San Diego



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— Mischa Shirazi, San Diego, CA

Q: Is the surgery painful or difficult?

"I had no pain during the procedure and no discomfort or pain afterward. Best of all, I can see without my glasses or contacts. It feels great."

— Greg Schwenk, San Diego, CA

Q: How soon after the process can I begin normal daily activities again?

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— Glenna T. Casey, Chula Vista, CA

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— T.P. Fortin, San Diego, CA

Q: Do the effects of LASIK wear off over time?

"I had the surgery done over 8 years ago and my sight is still a perfect 20/20."

— Sandra Macias, San Diego, CA

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— Darush Mohy, M.D., La Jolla, CA



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MEET DR. LAKHANI

Refractive Eye Surgery specialist from UCSD Medical Center.



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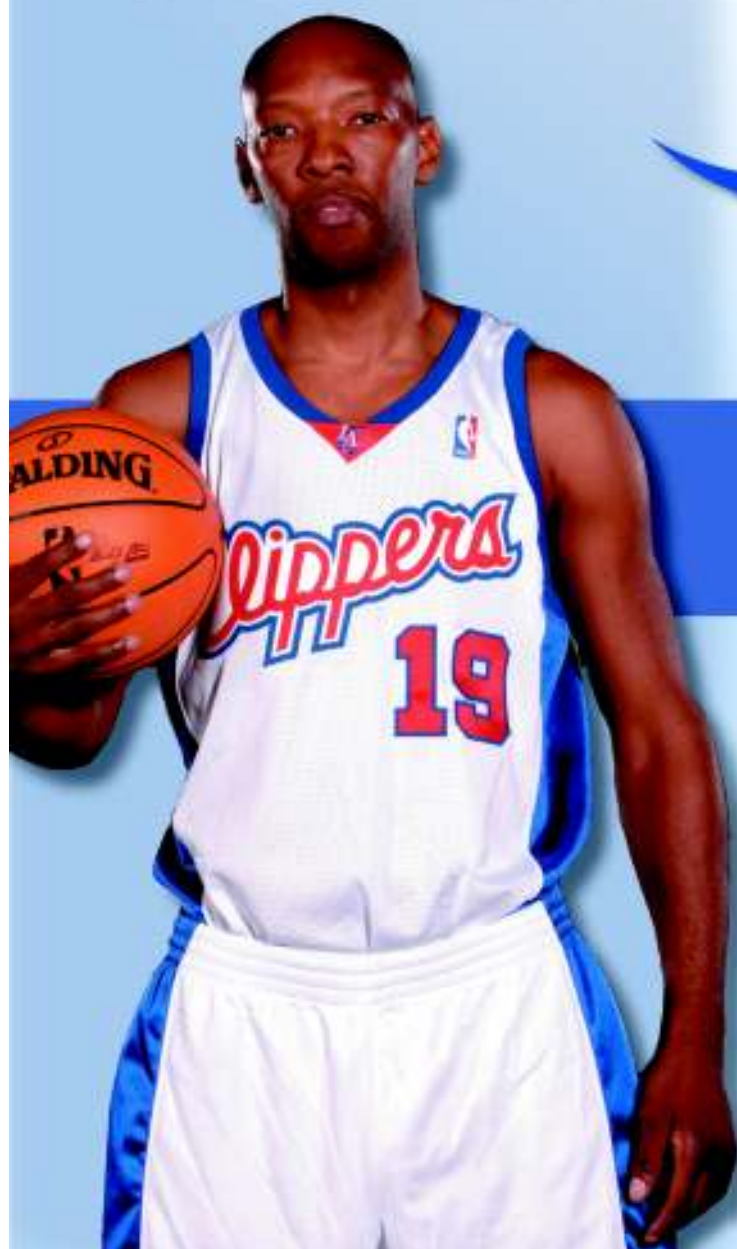
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Jerry's kids With the death of **Jerry Ford** last week, distant but colorful memories have come flooding back to many of San Diego's political elders. Ford's personal and political ties to America's Finest City were extensive. When Ford ran for election to the presidency to succeed himself in 1976, one of his most avid backers was then-San Diego mayor **Pete Wilson**, a self-



Gerald Ford

styled GOP moderate who was so fired up that he went to New Hampshire during that February's Republican primary battle between Ford and Governor **Ronald Reagan**. With help from Ford's campaign, Wilson set up a "truth squad" that bashed Reagan's record in California and claimed that he had inflated his achievements as governor. When Reagan lost the primary, his backers blamed Wilson — who harbored future presidential ambitions of his own. Though Wilson was later elected to the U.S. Senate and subsequently became governor, he never managed to live down his intemperate attacks on Reagan and remained loathed by many on the right.

Wilson's other tie to Ford was in the person of his longtime campaign consultant, **George Gorton**, onetime member of **Richard Nixon's** "kiddie corps" of college students, organized by the Committee to Re-elect the President (CREEP) to covertly gather information about the campaign of Nixon's 1972 Democratic opponent **George McGovern**. After the Watergate scandal and a write-up by **Bob Woodward** and **Carl Bernstein** in *All the President's Men*, Gorton wound up in political exile, living near the beach in Del Mar, where he scraped together enough money to acquire the *News-Press*.

Jack Ford, the president's then-27-year-old son, who'd worked with Gorton on the Nixon campaign, joined the newspaper in 1978. Gorton announced that Ford had purchased a half-interest in the venture for an undisclosed sum. Ford had previously been associate publisher of *Outside*, the magazine founded by *Rolling Stone* publisher **Jann Wenner**. Gorton's girlfriend, San Diego mayor-to-be **Susan Golding**, became the



Jann Wenner

paper's associate publisher, but their joint venture lasted barely two years. After it was sold in 1980, Gorton and Ford paid \$300,000 for a building in the Gaslamp Quarter occupied by an X-rated bookstore, which remains to this day. Gorton moved on to manage the political careers of both Wilson and Golding. He also had a key role in Boris Yeltsin's 1995 campaign for president of Russia, though his latest candidate, Rancho Santa Fe denizen **Steve Francis**, seeking to become San Diego mayor, fell flat.

Ford, who had moved to Rancho Santa Fe, went on to such endeavors as establishing a chain of state lottery ticket kiosks owned with Democratic attorney and onetime **Jerry Brown** aide **Byron Georgiou** and being executive director for the host committee of the 1996 GOP convention

here. He was appointed to the Del Mar fair board by Governor **George Deukmejian** and reappointed by Pete Wilson when he became governor. Last July, Ford received mention in an Irish newspaper when he showed up for Georgiou's lavish wedding at Ashford Castle in Mayo.

Famous for hearty partying and a widely reported admission that he'd smoked marijuana, Ford shared his mother's problem with the bottle. In 1983, the presidential son was busted in Cardiff for drunk driving. But Ford's most notorious moment came on August 1, 1984, when he was arrested for petty theft after stealing a sign from the equestrian competition being held at Fairbanks Ranch Country Club during the L.A. Olympics. Ford said he wanted it for a souvenir; angry spectators called the cops on him, and he was led away in handcuffs. Three weeks later, an aide to City Attorney **John Witt**, a staunch Republican and Wilson ally, announced that the Olympics committee had decided it didn't want to press charges and therefore the crime had no "victim." In 1989, Ford married **Juliann Felando**, daughter of **Augie Felando**, head of San Diego's tuna fishing association.



George Deukmejian

Power trips California state senate president pro tem **Don Perata** has named San Diego Democrat **Denise Ducheny** chairwoman of the



Christine Kehoe

powerful Budget Committee. Senator **Christine Kehoe**, who has received thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from the cell phone industry, takes over as chair of the Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee. ... The anticipated sale of the *Journal Star* in Peoria, Illinois, as part of **David**

Copley's plan to pare the newspaper chain he inherited from his mother down to the *Union-Tribune*, might not be such a bad thing after all, opines **Billy Dennis**, a former reporter who now runs the Peoria Pundit blog. "I am worried for my friends and enemies at the *Journal Star*," Dennis writes. "I don't want to see my hometown paper eviscerated. But I also know that this newspaper has used its editorial pages to promote the private agenda of the people who run it." He adds, "Perhaps new ownership will bring with it new voices on the editorial board that aren't fighting battles against their favorite targets, but in really representing their readers, and don't seem Hell-bent on promoting their pet projects and spreading disinformation about politicians they don't like."



Billy Dennis

— Matt Potter

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

Hide the Pea, Bury the Head

By Don Bauder

Sell the family jewels cheap and then go into the tank. That's Mayor Jerry Sanders's secret long-term plan, say more

and more observers of city hall. His strategy is, first, to sell or lease San Diego's valuable land to his developer buddies, who are also his major contributors. Then do the inevitable: take the City into bankruptcy.

Sanders and the *Union-Tribune* say a tax increase and bankruptcy are off the table. But that's a fairy tale and an admission that there is no Plan B, C, or D. The City recently issued a five-year plan. It is called "City of San Diego Five-Year Financial Outlook." The name really should be "We're Broke. Help!"

The document says that between 2008 and 2012, the City's annual pension/health-care contribution is projected to grow from \$200 million to \$218 million. Total deferred maintenance and capital-improvement projects come to \$800 million to \$900 million, *not including Water and Wastewater needs*, which are the most critical. The combined pension and health-care deficits are close to \$3 billion, and there are no reserves for the latter. The

general-fund deficit for the five-year period is a cumulative \$800 million.

The mayor says he can come up with almost \$400 million in savings over five years through such plans as the outsourcing that voters okayed in the last election. But even



Scott B. Ehrlich

after these and other phantom savings, the City's deficit will be \$25 million in 2008 and nearly \$100 million in each of the next four years. Sanders hopes elected officials and bureaucrats will come up with more cost cuts. Bankruptcy specialist

Scott B. Ehrlich, professor at California Western School of Law, wrote an article in spring of 2005 saying the City had to go bankrupt because there was no money to cover unmet needs, including deferred maintenance and capital projects. "Everything has gotten worse," says Ehrlich now. "We're just in terrible shape financially."

And the mayor and the U-T would have you believe that neither a tax increase nor bankruptcy is under consideration? Puh-leeze. "The mayor will sell off assets to his select group of business interests that backed him," says activist Norma Damashek. "We will see major sales and transfers of property, but it will still not be sufficient, and we will hear, 'We have tried everything; we have no choice,' and bankruptcy will follow."

What might be sold? Smaller properties will go. Then will come golf courses and airport sites such as Montgomery and Brown fields, she says. She knows "some of these can't be turned over without going through hoops." Federal money has poured into the airports, complicating any transfers. Some property sales might have to go to voters. Oftentimes, these problems can be averted by dumping

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

Neal Obermeyer



Lockup 101

By Joe Deegan

The first thing that came to my mind,” remembers Tom Miller, “was to arm myself with a screwdriver. The Rodney King riots were taking place in Los Angeles, and the tension in the yard was incredible. Everybody seemed ready for a fight.”

Miller, 52, is telling me about his 1992 stint at a prison firefighter training camp near Boulevard in East County. He went to the camp as part of an 18-month incarceration for selling illegal drugs. A job assignment in the tool shop

in jail, but one thing is certain, that if he keeps drinking and using, that’s going to be a problem in there. And the talk gave her a lot of comfort,” says Miller.

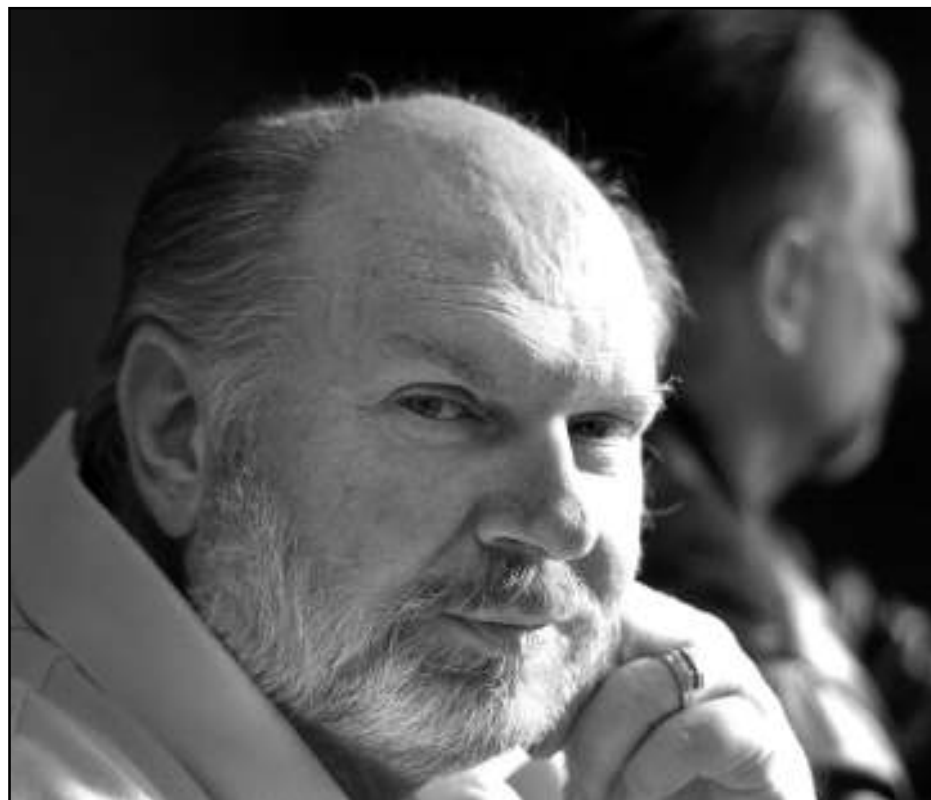
Miller kept up his recovery program in prison and continued it after getting out. He obtained an associate of arts degree in substance-abuse counseling from San Diego

an old friend who just finished 15 years of doing time. I talked with him at length about his experiences in prison. It fascinated me. And even though I had no prospect of going to prison, imagining what it’s like scared the heck out of me. My feelings were probably like a lot of people’s, especially people who are drawn to television shows like *Prison Break* and documentaries that show various aspects of prison life. And if the number of these shows is any indication, there are many folks out there who have a fascination with what goes on in prison.”

As his friend explained the tactics he used for coping with prison life, Scholl had a moment of recognition. Many of the tactics were the same ones he was used to sharing in management consulting. On the basis of these recommendations, Scholl wrote a 30-page manual on how to deal with prison life. And his friend worked as his partner in getting DrPrison off the ground.

I remark to Scholl that comparing business and prison tactics seems entirely fitting. He gives me a polite nod and then acknowledges that Martha Stewart paid for services much like the kind his company offers before she went to prison. We agree that if Jeffrey Skilling, in his business life, had made use of DrPrison’s insights, he might not now need them for life behind bars.

The original DrPrison partners eventually went their own ways. But this summer Scholl met Tom Miller. On the basis of Miller’s 12 years of prisoner counseling and Scholl’s experience with 22 clients so far, the two have decided to expand DrPrison. To date, the company has worked only with people heading for prison. Now it intends to continue helping prisoners while they are incarcerated and when they get out, including arranging anger management and parenting classes and assisting with parole requirements. And it is offering services to prisoners’ families. To customize service, it will outsource consultations according to gender, race, and other factors. Miller and Scholl are currently spreading the word about DrPrison through



Steve Scholl, Tom Miller

bail bondsmen, defense attorneys, and therapists.

There is an objection to DrPrison that some people are sure to make. I run it by a small donut-shop coffee group one morning. Why should anyone, I ask, want to make prisoners’ lives easier? Aren’t they being jailed to suffer for their crimes?

A woman observes some-

arrested him for failing to show up in court to face a misdemeanor charge. “Somehow they accidentally put me on the fourth floor at county jail, which is where they process all the felony people. I was only there a short time, but one day I accidentally threw this great big guy’s lunch away. He saw what I did and started giving me hell about

you, especially if someone shows weakness. They’ll punk somebody and then start trading him around to their friends,” says Mathis.

In other words, although prisons and jails do house hard-core sociopaths, far less dangerous people pass through too. Tom Miller tells me that the first seven days on the inside are the most dangerous because the jailers haven’t yet segregated inmates according to their crimes. “Fairly mild-mannered people will be thrown together with murderers, who later will be separated from the others,” he says. And he argues that helping all prisoners is justified. “If any of them learn how to take care of themselves in prison,” he says, “they are bettering themselves. Once people get a taste for improving their lives, they want more of it.” And that’s why Miller and Scholl believe that what they teach will help their clients not only in prison but beyond.

So I ask, “What do you teach?”

They have a seven-step program, they say, which they consider a trade secret for business reasons. But, in summary, it’s something like this. In prison you constantly face inescapable situations, serious or trivial, that other inmates force upon you. For instance, someone might steal your shoes and you end up walk-

continued on page 12



From DrPrison.com

gave Miller easy access to the weapon he suddenly counted on to protect him. He did not have to use the screwdriver that day, but other prisoners were now on notice.

I ask Miller whether inmates back then ever wanted him to get weapons from the shop for them. “All the time,” he says, “and my answer was always the same. ‘No.’ It was the same answer I gave to guys who offered me booze or drugs.”

While on bail before entering prison, Miller joined a 12-step recovery program where he met an ex-con he credits with teaching him how to act in prison. “I was very scared of going to jail,” says Miller. He is grateful that the man, who became his first recovery-group sponsor, also spoke to his mom, who was worried what would befall him in jail. “The guy told her, ‘I can’t say your son will or won’t get hurt

City College. At the same time, he worked with a therapist, first as a client and later as a trainee. “The man became my mentor,” says Miller, who for the past 12 years has been counseling people either going to prison or getting out — and their families.

In the meantime, a company called DrPrison.com appeared in San Diego. Its purpose was to prepare people to survive prison stays, to avoid being killed, beaten, raped, or robbed. It was founded two years ago by management consultant Steve Scholl, who had spent most of his career troubleshooting for large construction project-management companies.

How, you ask, does a management consultant end up counseling soon-to-be inmates in the art of surviving prison? “What piqued my interest,” Scholl tells me, “was a series of conversations I had with



Weapons made in prison hidden in a book

thing about prisoners not all being the same. Lester Mathis then offers a tale. By his own acknowledgement, Mathis is a “tough guy” and has gone through some hard times. But he says several years ago police

it. I apologized and, since I still had my own lunch, I gave it to him. And that settled things down. But those felony guys are a different sort. They’ve got nothing to lose, and they don’t care what they do to

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the property through a long lease rather than an outright sale. The Torrey Pines golf courses will probably go that

route.

"Even if [City Attorney Mike] Aguirre prevailed" in his attempt to roll back fat benefits (a prospect made more difficult by a recent superior court judge's decision), "we are still so far behind that

bankruptcy is in the works," says Damashek. "The five-year plan is nonsense. So far he [Sanders] is getting away with it. Until something happens — say, a police or fire emergency that the City can't respond to — the public won't

take notice." Sanders hopes such a crisis won't take place before the 2008 election, in which he intends to make charter changes that strengthen the mayor's office and weaken the city council, says Damashek.

"It is irresponsible of the mayor to issue a paper projecting such staggering deficits and then say we aren't considering any tax increases or bankruptcy," says Jim Mills, former president pro tem of the California Senate. He agrees

with Damashek that "They are putting off bankruptcy while they take care of some of their friends. They shouldn't put off bankruptcy with the financial condition deteriorating as rapidly as it is now." Sanders says he will eliminate 125 positions a year for three years. But will these people be pushed into retirement, where there will simply be costs of a different kind?

"They are living in a dream world," says Steve Erie, professor of political science at the University of California, San Diego. "They are just back-loading the problem — a hallmark of San Diego politics. They are pushing back the problem as far as they can. But the day of reckoning will come; they will face tax increases or bankruptcy. Aguirre is doing due diligence on the road to bankruptcy. He can go to court and say, 'I tried every avenue to reduce the liability.'"

Voters in the fall gave the nod to the idea of managed competition; city departments have to compete with the private sector to see who can come up with the best bid to handle a task. "Savings from managed competition are illusory," snorts Erie. "If you want to see what is going out to bid, check the mayor's campaign contributors. This is a mayor that gives contributors everything they want, including the upper two stories of a high-rise building near Montgomery Field. [Sanders] wants to repeal the rules of arithmetic. If you have to have a balanced budget, there is no way you will extract the savings from managed competition. It's not about efficiency. It's about rewarding the fat cats."

Damashek's scenario "could very easily be what is going to happen," says Erie. "They will sell [or lease] things at fire-sale prices to their fat-cat friends. But these are one-shot deals. Once it's gone, it's gone." He is wary of the proposed "public-private" deal for Balboa Park. The city-owned Torrey Pines golf courses are quasi-private already, with high greens fees and favoritism for hotel guests, he points out. "All these deals might do is delay bankruptcy until 2014."

Ehrlich says the City must go bankrupt. "Somebody has to recognize that we cannot

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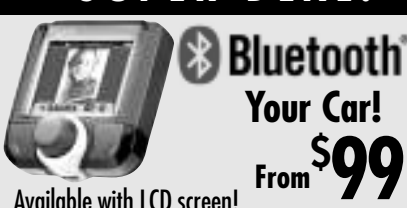
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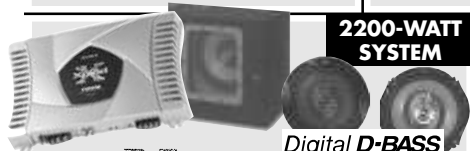
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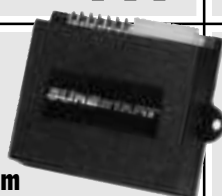
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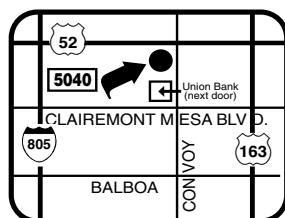
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pay the outstanding pension debt and run the city of San Diego. There is just not enough money," he says.

He doesn't understand how Sanders can insist he is not pondering a tax increase or bankruptcy. "If this were his personal finances, he would have to do one or the other: either increase his income or file for bankruptcy," says Ehrlich. He doesn't know whether Sanders plans to dump assets and then go into the tank, but the professor does say, "Never sell capital assets to pay off debt." And, he adds, "A really long-term lease is no different than disposing of the property."

Councilmember Donna Frye agrees that there is too much dirty linen on the line to dismiss higher taxes or bankruptcy. "I don't know how they are going to do it. It's unrealistic," says Frye. She notes that the five-year plan is misleading: "Nobody wants to tell the public how bad things are. We have over half

a billion dollars' worth of non-public-safety unfunded needs as of August of 2004 that I didn't see anywhere in the five-year plan."

In its ongoing shell game, the City is still hiding the pea from the public. The announced annual required contribution to the pension fund is questionable. The public deserves to know "not just the number we can get away with, but the real one, with all the contingent liabilities—how much it is for this year but also for the years thereafter until it's paid," says Frye.

Activist Mel Shapiro thinks voters might resist most tax increases but could be persuaded to go for raising the transient occupancy tax, or hotel room tax. The tourist industry mobilized to defeat it in fall of 2004, but the public is now more aware of the City's dire straits. San Diego's hotel tax is only 10.5 percent, lowest among California's major tourism destinations. (The rate is 15 percent in Anaheim and 14 in San Francisco and Los Angeles.)

Both Shapiro and Frye say there is money to be picked

up from the redevelopment agencies, such as Centre City Development Corporation. The agencies owe the City \$200 million, and "at least \$20 million is unrestricted and could be spent now, without restrictions," says Frye.

Shapiro thinks Damashek's scenario "is a possibility, although if he [Sanders] raises money through lease or sale of assets, it may not be necessary to go bankrupt," he says.

Scott Barnett, president of TaxpayersAdvocate.org, thinks the budget can be balanced over time without bankruptcy and maybe without a tax increase. But fat sewer- and water-fee increases are already in the works, and the storm-water fee will have to go up, he says. He is counting on the City getting back to the capital markets and selling half a billion dollars of infrastructure bonds. And he does think a hotel-tax boost might go through if it were earmarked for infrastructure—not pensions. Bankruptcy "won't undo the pension problem and won't undo debt service," says Barnett. He is counting on asset

sales, leases, and privatization—for example, giving a long-term lease to a company to operate Torrey Pines golf courses.

Of course, there's another alternative that might fit with the San Diego mentality: let the joint rot and hope nobody notices. ■

Lockup 101

continued from page 8

ing around barefoot all the time. "You can't call the cops," says Miller, "and you can't leave." Isolating can work for a while in some situations. "But other prisoners will not permit loners for long and will force confrontations in the yard, where everybody eventually has to go. They want to see how you'll act."

Scholl tells me that in their first consultations with clients, he and Miller try to discover "emotional vulnerabilities." "When you first walk into the yard," he says, "the other prisoners will be looking for them. Are you a hothead? A controller? A pleaser?"

So DrPrison tries to alert clients to the emotional signals they are likely to give off.

"We find them by pushing their buttons in the consultation. Then suddenly, when we've hit the right one, they will react strongly." And the idea is not to stop reacting in that way entirely, but to control your style, use other styles, and vary them according to the situation. "Even the strongest and most controlling prisoner," observes Miller, "cannot get away with threatening behavior all the time. Five other prisoners will easily take him down."

The three main coping styles in prison, according to Miller, are the Controller, the Pleaser, and the Loner. Each is effective for protecting yourself sometimes, but never as an exclusive strategy. Doing something for somebody, such as acquiring money or stores from home, will become expected, and you may have to say no in a forceful way. It's the varying of styles that will save you.

"Sometimes you may have to fight," says Scholl, "but winning the fight is not crucial. Even if you get beat up, you are likely to land a few good blows. And the willingness to

stand up is what gains respect."

The work with prisoners' families is likely to take up a big percentage of DrPrison's time in the future. That's because one of the greatest fears many people have who go to prison concerns what will happen to their relationships while they're gone.

Miller tells me of a woman who wrote a first letter to her son in jail. "It read, 'How dare you disappoint the family?' It berated him something terrible. I told her, 'Not good. All this is going to do is bring about resistance. You're not an agent of change here by doing this.' She had no idea. She thought she was going to make him feel bad so he'd have a change of heart. That's not what was happening. I told her he's only going to say something to please you because he needs you. So she finally called me last week to read me a new letter. She wrote, 'I know when you get out there will be a lot of blocks to your getting ahead in society. But you told me once you have an interest in photography.' And she sent him a magazine on photography." ■

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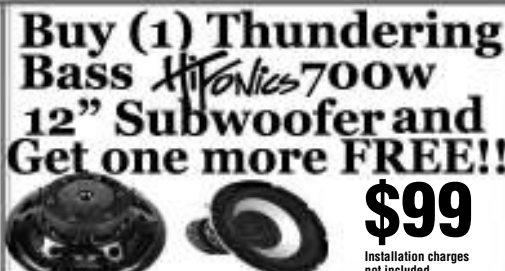
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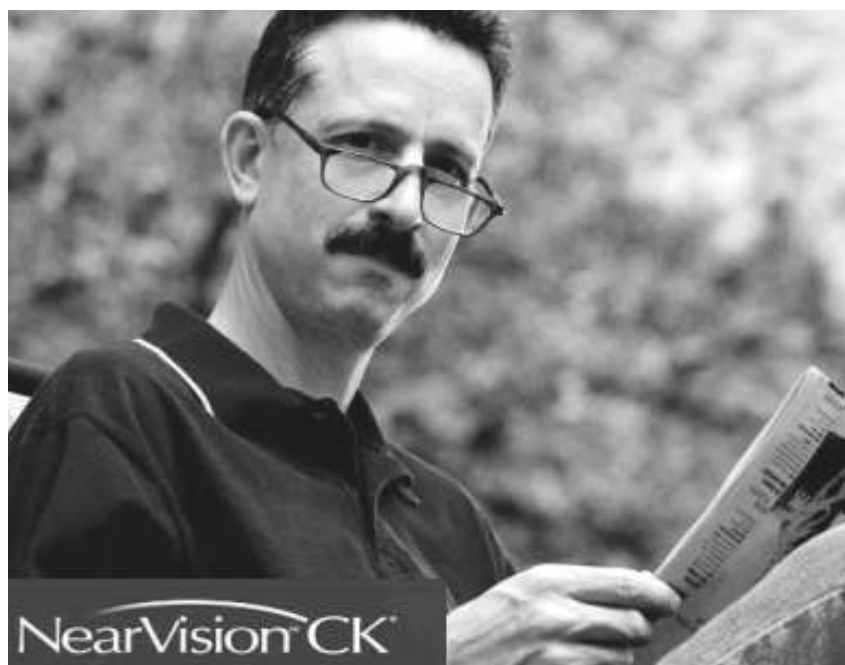
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Corporate Control Freaks

Tom Larson's article "No Bad Jobs, Just Bad Attitudes" (Cover Story, December 28) seems to accept the premise that the rise of the career-coaching phenomenon is the result of business's desire for more productive and efficient employees. It's not. Not that those things aren't coveted by today's businesses. The last 15 years have seen unprecedented levels of growth and improvements in those areas — not to mention record earnings.

What's driving the demand for the career-coaching industry is not increased profits but increased control. The freer the market, the more control is needed over everything else, especially workers.

Corporations very much prefer to control their own resources. That's why these career coaches mentioned in the article focus on changing "who you are" and not "what you do" for the company.

The frosting on the cake for corporations is gaining an economic good from workers (skill and time) in exchange for, as Larson cites in the coaches survey, noneconomic goods such as "appreciation," "feeling 'in,'" and sympathy. Not bad...if you're a corporation.

Greg Sullivan
San Diego

Bungalow Benefits

It is wonderful for historical preservationists to want to save old bungalows in their midst ("I Own It," "City Lights," December 28). The question is who should pay for keeping them around for all of us to look at.

The owners of these old houses typically want to replace a falling-down house

(or two) of 1000 to 2000 square feet with four condos or apartments totaling 6000 square feet. The latter will last 100-plus years, while the former would have turned to dust.

While we love seeing old buildings, it is wrong to shove the increasing cost of preserving them onto their unwilling owners. The fairest policy would have the preservationists buy up and save the old buildings or convince the government to do so. This already happens with truly worthy buildings. But to force owners to shoulder the burden of paying for a benefit enjoyed by the neighbors is a taking, pure and simple.

Bob Spaulding
San Diego

CORRECTION

The photo in the December 28 "Roam-O-Rama," captioned "Butler Canyon," was in fact a view of San Diego Country Estates from West Side Road.

The Blue And The Gray

With all of the great whale-watching companies in San Diego and excellent gray-whale information and pictures that are circulating on the Web, perhaps Reader writer Barbarella (Local Events, December 21) could come up with one picture of the species of whale — *Eschrichtius robustus*, or gray whale, that migrates south and north along the San Diego coast. Instead, the Reader publishes a picture of a blue whale breaching.

Talk about a rare sight. I have been out on hundreds of cruises and have seen two blue whales in 20 years and never a breaching blue! Those of us who are passionate about whales and the local gray-whale migration get a bit insulted when you put just any ole whale picture with a story. Seeing whales in their natural environment can be almost a religious experience. They are very different from each other.

Hornblower Cruises has been whale watching since December 16, and we keep a whale report of each of the two 3.5-hour cruises daily. We have sighted three breaching gray whales in the 12 days we've been whale watching as reported by seasoned captains and natural-

ists who cruise on Hornblower. These naturalists are all trained by the San Diego Natural History Museum about gray whales, their migration. They also speak about three types of dolphins (bottlenose dolphins, Pacific white-sided dolphins, and Risso's) that we often spot with the whales and the sea lions we see on every whale-watching trip.

Speaking of all the great whale-watching companies in San Diego, Barbarella seems to imply there is only one, so let me suggest that you do your homework on which you choose to cruise with, because there are many, and they are vastly different. You can go on a kayak or in a helicopter, on a comfortable and stable yacht (Hornblower), or with one of many sport-fishing boats from the harbor or Mission Bay. On Hornblower, 25,000 whale enthusiasts go out whale-watching annually in the short 22-week migration season here. I suggest you take a trip out to see a gray whale. It may be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

P.S.: October 23, 1997, the Reader did an awesome story on gray whales, written by Jeannette De Wyze, who proudly put her name on it instead of hiding behind some anonymous pen name.

Rebecca Milkey
San Diego

The photo, correctly identified in the North County edition as a humpback whale, was chosen by the editorial department. — Editor

Spread The Outrage

You goddamn idiot. Your cover on December 21 states Ebonics is the language of black gangstas ("It's Not a Race Thing...It's Style," Cover Story). You just declared 98 percent of my race as gangstas. You dummy, you need to read black history first before making such statements. You will be hearing from every black organization I contact. I am sure they will be just as outraged as I am. I am sure they will give you a history lesson in Ebonics, idiot.

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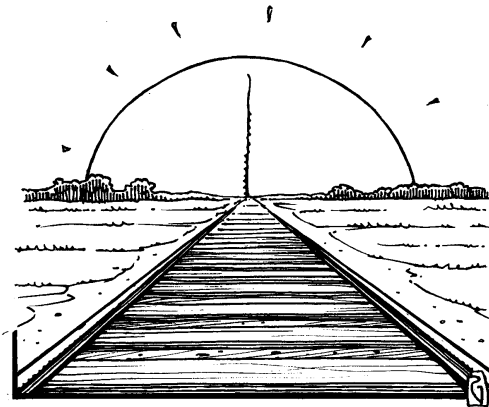
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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE

Illustration by Rick Geary



Dear Matthew Alice:

It's been a long time since I've seen news coverage of an unusual lunar event. Near a small town in Northern California some residents would line up near the railroad tracks, facing away. When a specific train passes by, they would lower their pants and underwear in unison, bend over, and moon the passengers. I don't know if the media deemed this practice unsuitable for the 5 o'clock news or if this ritual is now defunct due to general embarrassment. Maybe you can find something out.

— John Johnson, North Park

Finding something out is how we feed the troops, John. And if that particular something has anything to do with public butt-baring, well, the elves will swarm it like demented ducks, you can bet. But unless you consider Orange County to be way up north, this moon over Amtrak business is strictly SoCal. Of course, anything that involves both beer and nudity has staying power. The event still goes on the second Saturday every July.

Beer has been a key component of the goofy festival since its inception. In 1979 somebody in the Mugs Away Saloon in Laguna Niguel dared a well-juiced pal to moon the next train that passed by. A beloved tradition was born. (These days, though, no beer is allowed in the mooning arena.)

On site, along the Sunliner train tracks, across the street from Mugs Away, there's plenty of room for mooners; but mooners have to plan ahead to get a ticket for the show. Because it's just plain fun to have dozens of strangers' naked butts in your face, Amtrak always sells out that day's trains way in advance (about 24 trips between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m.). Mooning after dark requires a big flashlight or camp lantern for proper buttock illumination. So, mark your social calendar. The 27th annual Mooning of Amtrak is set for July 14 at Mugs Away, along the chain-link fence next to the tracks. The elves have rounded up their Crayolas and are sketching ideas for derriere decorations, which are encouraged. Grandma's ordering her ticket to ride. See more at moonamtrak.org.

Dear Sirs:

Do spiders bite people on a regular basis? In my short time on planet Earth, I must have heard women complain about "spider bites" 400 or 450 times. Now that I am married and actually use critical thinking when listening to women (as opposed to "uh-huh, yeah, that's too bad, can you take your shirt off..."), the spider-bite story seems a little far-fetched. Why would a spider crawl into someone's bed and bite them on the legs and arms repeatedly? A flea? Sure. A mosquito? You bet. But a spider? It just doesn't add up. Can you and your crack research team please explore this mystery for me?

— Joe in El Cajon

That's "cracked" research team, Joe. But don't worry, we can handle this bug stuff. Actually, we're more intrigued by your attraction to itchy women, but I guess we can't pursue that here.

First of all, you're right about spiders. They bite humans only rarely and defensively and they bite only once. Spiders creep most people out, but with a few notable exceptions, they're harmless. All spiders have venom and can bite. That's how they catch their prey (bugs). But most spiders can't break human skin or sink their tiny fangs very far into it. Spider bites can raise an itchy bump; but if your old girlfriends were complaining about continual rashes of welts caused by spiders, then they must have been repeatedly harassing black widows or something. Spiders need a good PR firm; they eat tons of bugs and do much more good than harm.

So, what's going on? Our guess is bedbugs. Maybe fleas, but more likely bedbugs, which are harder to find and are most active at night. Of course, bedbugs are much less dramatic and romantic than spiders. Who's going to greet Mr. Dream Date at the door wailing about her bedbug bites when she can play the innocent victim of an ugly, nasty old spider?

Bedbugs (*Cimex lectularis*, most commonly) are snugly, wingless, speedy, hard-shelled little bits, about a quarter-inch long, that love to live where warm-blooded animals sleep. Their only food is those animals' blood. Beds and bedding, carpets, and clothes are some of their favorite places to kick back for a day or two between meals. (Adults can actually survive for a couple of months without food.) They do their blood-sucking at night, will bite repeatedly, and do inject saliva into the host to keep the blood flowing. Our bumpy, itchy skin reaction is to this juice.

Bedbugs can travel from room to room (or apartment to apartment) on their own, but more commonly they're brought in via yard-sale (or street-abandoned) furniture and clothes. Once they've arrived, they aren't necessarily a sign of bad housekeeping. But getting rid of them involves a massive, tactical disinfectant assault on all potentially infested surfaces. It's probably easier to abandon everything you own and move. Or call an exterminator. So, Joe, we are pleased you found someone bugless who will love you forever.

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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iPod Sports

Most of my four-gig iPod is taken up with audio books. There's a little music, too, mostly country-western tunes or torch singers such as Diana Krall. I get along with my iPod, not looking for more than it provides: easy company on a walk or when standing in line.

And so it went until I had *the thought*, the thought that always brings trouble with it, to wit: "Why not be more productive?" Followed by, "Why not listen to sports podcasts while I'm about my duties? There must be a million of them."

Actually, there are 893 podcasts listed under the "sports" category at podcasts.yahoo.com. There are, in fact, a blizzard of niche podcasts: Boston Celtics, Pittsburgh Steelers, Irish football, computer games, wrestling, boxing, surfing, climbing, the whole schmear of sports.

Everybody has their own intro music and announcer. The Fantasy Football Guys, Lyle and Kevin, are introduced by a woman who sounds like she's been calling bingo games for the past 30 years.

I should note that there are 153 subscribers to this program, which, when put next to 300,000,000 Americans, is a depressing number. On the other hand, KNBR, a 50,000-watt clear-channel sports-talk radio station, has 45 subscribers.

Kevin opens the show with a cheery, "One of us is awesome. One of us sucks. You guess which one it is." Intro music trails off. "This podcast and live show brought to you by *Favre Forever*, now on DVD," blah, blah, blah, "and available at [www dot fantasyfootballguys dot com](http://www.dotfantasyfootballguys.com)." Silence. "No, I'm sorry, [www dot profootball dot com](http://www.dotprofootball.com)."

Lyle makes a nasty laugh. "What a moron. It's right in front of you. You can't read it."

Kevin says, "Lyle leaves his house to come over to the — quote, unquote — studio. This is, what, show 40 or something?"

"This season, it's the 38th," Lyle says.

"And we did how many last year, another 40?"

"I don't know."

Kevin says, "Lyle doesn't bring his computer."

Lyle, getting angry, says, "I forgot it, man."

"So, guess which one of us sucks," Kevin says. "You, sir. You."

"All right, fine, I suck, whatever. Can we move on now?"

"I guess we can," Kevin says, using a twisted, I-hate-your-fucking-guts tone of voice. "Well, you know, we talked about last week's show, last week's... What am I trying to say?"

"Games?" Lyle says as if speaking to an annoying imbecile.

"Yeah."

Lyle, still talking to the imbecile, says, "So, now we're going to preview the games upcoming."

Kevin says, "Both Lyle and I are off work this week." His voice trails off as if remembering a long-ago vacation. "Kind of tough, getting into the swing of exactly what it is we're doing." Silence. "You know what, if both of us had a computer, it might be a little bit easier. But, for some reason, my list of games has disappeared."

Lyle, says, wearily, "Well, you know what, just find it. Take your time, man."

Kevin says, "This game I'm coming up with to talk about is Arizona and San Diego."

"Nice," Lyle's voice brightens. He's going to work. "This is a Who Cares Bowl, beginning with Who Cares."

Dead air. Finally, Kevin says, "That's all you gotta say about it?"

"No, man. It really doesn't matter. San Diego is kind of in a must-win situation if they want to have first-round bye and home field throughout. That's an important thing, but besides that, I mean, you know..."

Kevin says, "Yeah, but the thing about it is, a lot of people have done — like, say us — without fantasy football for the year, as far as playing in the games, a lot of people's championships are this week..."

"No."

"Ill-advised though that might be..."

"No, they're not," Lyle says.

"No?"

"I would say about 10 percent of the fantasy-football community have their last game this week."

Long pause. Kevin says, "Okay, we owe everything we can give to those 10 percent."

"*I'm not disagreeing with you*," Lyle squeals. "I was just commenting about the game."

"Well, why don't you have your computer then? Obviously you're not as dedicated as some of us."

The Vegas Line

Wild Card Weekend (Home Team in CAPS)				
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		<u>Saturday</u>		
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SEATTLE	Even		47	Dallas
		<u>Sunday</u>		
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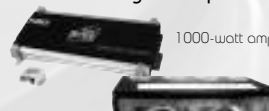
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SHEEP AND GOATS

PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

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Address: 9617 Campo Road, Spring Valley,
619-462-1691

Founded locally: 2001

Senior pastor: Dr. William A. Benson

Congregation size: 300

Staff size: 5

Sunday school enrollment: 125

Annual budget: n/a

Weekly giving: n/a

Singles program: yes

Dress: mostly but not exclusively formal —
dresses, hats, suits, ties

Diversity: mostly African American, a mix of
other ethnicities

Sunday worship: 8 a.m., 10:45 a.m.

Length of reviewed service: 1 hour, 50 minutes

Website: www.totaldeliverance.org

"He hath sent me to proclaim liberty to cap-
tives," read the Scripture verse painted on the
side wall. The Lucite lectern bore the church's
logo: a crown imposed
over a tilted cross, itself
imposed over a pair of
hands breaking a chain.

Bursts of "Hal-
lelujah" and "Thank
you, Jesus" dotted the
room before the serv-
ice; a woman roamed
the space, crying,
"Come on; say a prayer
for Him!" and the con-
gregation responded
with applause and a
gathering volume of
outcries. By the time
the band started — rol-
licking electric piano,
thumping six-string
bass, rifle-sharp drum-
set — the pump was
primed. The five-
woman choir repeated
the refrain, "Let! All the
people of God say!"
while a soloist launched
into Hallelujahs, riffs,
and exhortations. The
congregation joined in,
and the sound became
a pulsing, tactile thing,
the way it might at a
small-venue rock 'n'
roll show.

"We're gonna have
a time on today," said
Rachelle Benson from

the lectern before reading the responsive psalm:
"Praise ye the Lord; praise Him in the Sanc-
tuary; praise Him in the firmament of His
power.... Put your hands together! He *told* you
what to do!" That started up the music again,
the song giving way to a succession of repeated
refrains: "Yes, Lord; yes, yes, Lord! Wake up;
joy is here!" ("In my home, on my job, even
in my finances, Lord!" belted out the soloist.)
"Hallelujah; you're worthy to be praised!"
White-gloved ushers passed out fans for the
overheated.

"The presence of God is here," said
Rachelle. "That's what happens when you wor-
ship; that's what happens when you praise
Him. His presence comes, and He's happy to
bless you.... You just have to stay steadfast...under-
standing that God is going to deliver you. It's
not for punishment; it's for preparation....
Get ready to reap all the promises that He has
made."

It was offering time. Four gold canisters
sat on a Lucite stand. "Stretch forth and give
God an increase," exhorted Rachelle as the

bass kicked in, "so that God may increase in
your life."

The choir sang as the congregants processed
past the canisters, dropping in their offerings.
"It's the season for the favor of the Lord!
Pressed down! Shaken together! Running over!
With the favor of God!" The four ushers lined
up, arms folded, in front of the canisters, fac-
ing Rachelle, who stood weeping with her arm
outstretched, praying a blessing over both the
offering and those who offered.

Another musical outburst followed, dur-
ing which an elderly woman stepped into the
aisle, sobbing, and seized Rachelle in a pro-
longed embrace. By song's end, the air was
filled with wails, howls, yelps of praise, and
thanks. Ushers brought tissues to the weep-
ing while Pastor Benson took the lectern and
said, "Sometimes, God is so good to us that
Scripture has not come up with a word to
describe it. The only thing you can do is allow
tears to run down your cheeks and just shake

your head when you
look back and see...what
God did to show up
and show out."

Pastor Benson's
sermon began with two
quotes from Scripture:
God exhorting Samuel
to stop mourning for
Saul and go out to
anoint the new king,
and Jesus warning
against putting new
wine in old skins. "God
is getting ready to ele-
vate and give gifts, but
He can't do it if you
begin the year with old
wineskins.... So often,
we go into the New Year
with a new mindset,
but the same bad atti-
tudes. You want God
to give you new favor,
but you're still holding
on to old hate. This is
the year you have to
forgive your mother
for not being there.
Right here, right now,
you have to forgive your
father for abandoning
you.... Everybody that
you've held hostage,
you have to release.
New blessings will not
fit into old..." "Skins!"

shouted the congregation, which had been
murmuring its "Amen's" and "Say it, Pastors"
throughout — applauding, laughing, respond-
ing to Benson's earthy analogies as the spirit
moved them.

Benson's voice gathered intensity. "God had
to tell Samuel, 'Why are you mourning? You're
not going to get anything from Saul. Get up!'"
Speaking to the embittered, he cried, "You
might not get an 'I'm sorry,' but you better get
up! God wants to make a new king, and that
king's name is..." "Jesus!" shouted the congre-
gation. "God is telling you to step over that
thing that's been in your way. You need to get
over it to get *past* it! It takes some strength to
get over it! You've got to have some tenacity to
get over it! That's what the Holy Ghost is for —
not to take care of your issues, but to give you
the power for you to take care of them!"

What happens when we die?

"God will be the judge," said Benson.

— Matthew Lickona

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com

BestBuys

—EVE KELLY

"Idle hands are the devil's tools" was a favorite saying of my great-aunt Josephine. But as she's gotten on in years, she's become increasingly idle herself. Christmas this year may have provided a solution. Josephine was complaining about all the technological gifts that got opened in the Kelly home. "What about handmade things?" she griped. "Beautiful things. Things that you can pass down and be remembered by? You think your descendents are going to put some gadget on a mantel?" "Fine, Auntie," I replied. "Let's get you making something. Idle hands and all that!"



I found something to help me get Josephine going at a local fabric store: a flyer advertising Imitation of Life Construction Company, a doll-making club. Patti Medaris Culea (www.pmcdesigns.com) is president of the club and also an instructor and author of four books on doll-making, covering basic doll-making, faces, couture, and beading. (Books are \$24.99 each, available at Barnes & Noble; a beading book will be available in April 2007.) "We're a cloth-doll society," she explained — as opposed to a clay-doll society. "We meet in a rec center in the Clairemont area — we want to stay central — on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Right now, we have 31 active members, anywhere from their 20s up to 85 years old, and they're at all different skill levels. And a lot of people who are not members come because a particular program sounds interesting. We even encourage people to come who don't make dolls, but just like to collect them. We don't have a lot of hard and fast rules; you've just got to have fun."

Like the members, the dolls vary widely. "There are Raggedy Ann-type dolls, but there are also realistic dolls. One woman did these amazing historical dolls — very realistic. She really got into the costuming of certain time periods. But the bulk of us are more whimsical. I think the trend now is to be very free in doll-making. I travel all over and teach, and I see people who want elves and fairies, something in the fantasy line, because they want to escape realism." (Sometimes, the dolls come to her. Members often enter their dolls in the annual Dimensions in Doll Making Exhibit — held in connection with the San Diego Quilt Show — which also features entries from places as far flung as Australia and South Africa.)

Membership in the doll club costs \$35 a year and includes a newsletter subscription and discounts on workshop prices. Workshops run the gamut from beginning to advanced techniques. (The January 11 workshop will feature Shery Goshon, a doll designer famed for her watercolor work.) "The doll club has helped so many of us grow and learn over the 16 years it's been going," said Culea. "With beginners, we give them a pattern and show them how to lay it out, cut it, and sew it. We explain stitch length — you want a

"For hair, you can use mohair, fur, fake fur, yarn, silk, torn fabric, and even birdseed."

shorter-than-average stitch — how to sew around a curve, and how to sew fingers. Cutting is key with fingers; you don't want too much fabric or it gets hard to turn them. I like to use brass tubes, the kind you can get anyplace that sells model trains. The tube goes into the finger and acts as a guide. We show people how to stuff the doll, and maybe how to wire fingers."

The dolls are fabric, but there's still plenty of room for a variety of materials. "For hair, you can use mohair, fur, fake fur, yarn, silk, torn fabric, and even birdseed. One gal went to the hardware store and got bolts, washers, and wire for the hair. It was wonderful." And of course, the variety of fabric is all but endless. "Boutique fabrics are becoming popular for making bodies; they're mottled and more realistic. Or you can dye your own. Faces can be white, brown, or peach."

Faces are one of Culea's specialties; besides having written a book about them, she teaches a class on feature placement. (Because she's a local and doesn't have travel expenses, her classes are only \$25. Classes taught by out-of-towners can run up to \$100.) "I come from a fine-arts background; I did portraits for years. It's key to get the features in the right spot. After that, everything is just circles: the eyes are three



circles, the nose is three circles, and the lips are three circles and an oval. You use a regular mechanical pencil with a hard lead — that way, if you don't like what you've drawn, it's easier to erase. For coloring, you can use anything from crayons to colored pencils to watercolors." (Not every mistake can be erased, however, and so Culea favors doll designs that feature a separate head. "If you're going to mess up, it's going to be with the head. If it's separate, you can throw it away and start with a new one.")

The doll-face book brings students along from flat, drawn-on faces to something a little more realistically bumpy. "In cloth doll-making, the seam dictates where the nose and lips are going. Instead of a two-piece hem, the sort you'd use for a flat face, you use anywhere from four to seven pieces. Then you fill and sculpt, doing things like pulling stuffing into the nose to make it bigger, wider, or narrower. It's the same with the lips; you can make them smiling, frowning, or puckering up to kiss someone."

Besides a needle and thread, Culea's favorite doll-making tool is a hemostat. "It's a surgical tool, like a forceps. You can find them at swap meets. You can use them to grab stuffing, turn things, and hold things. I use it to grab the neck of the doll so I can push it up into the head."

For more information, visit www.iolcc.com or call Sharon Goldschneider: 619-465-7730.

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1. Patti Medaris Culea
2. Goblin Princess by Patti Medaris Culea
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Crasher

LOST IN TRANSLATION

by Josh Board

When the movie *Wedding Crashers* came out, I started receiving a lot of wedding invitations. Except for CD-release parties, weddings are the most common parties I'm invited to. I pick a few each year to attend. When I got a call from a young Latina named Wendy, I decided to cruise up to Escondido for her older brother's wedding.

I used Map Quest to find the location, but it gave me the wrong directions. (This is only the second time that's happened, so I didn't get too upset.) I went the wrong way down Ninth Avenue and called Wendy to bail me out.

They live in a Latino neighborhood, and it was interesting to see their neighbors come over to the wedding on their front lawn. It may not have been as elaborate as some weddings, but you could tell the family put a lot of work into making the place look its best. I could see a broken-down shack in the back yard that had been covered with a white cloth. There were several tables set up in the front yard with white tablecloths and flowers. I often



see people getting married at home in movies and on TV, but I had never been to a wedding at someone's house.

Wendy greeted me at the gate of her mother's home. Wendy and her boyfriend live in Mexico and work at a hospital in Chula Vista. The first thing she said to me was, "You like Asian

somebody as being Asian and being cute, but that doesn't mean I prefer Asian women over any other types. If it makes you feel better, though, I'll refer to you as a cute, petite Latina."

Wendy leaned toward me and said, "That means 'kiss.'" I replied, "I thought it meant 'bathroom.'"

women, don't you?" I said, "Why? Do you have some?" She laughed. "You say that a lot in your stories." For the life of me, I can't remember writing that. I said, "I may have described

A car honked as it drove by, and Wendy said, "That's customary when a wedding is going on." She described for me the traditions of a Mexican wedding. I asked how the couple

met, and Wendy told me, "She would catch the bus for school, and he watched her walk by." Her mom came over and there was an awkward silence. I said, "How did you first meet your mother?" She smiled and said, "It was a long time ago. In the womb."

I asked her boyfriend if being at a wedding was uncomfortable, if he was feeling the pressure to propose. He smiled. "I've been asked that five times today!"

The DJ played a variety of mariachi and Spanish-style music. Everyone was speaking Spanish, too. When someone in

front of us yelled, "Beso," Wendy leaned toward me and said, "That means 'kiss.'" I replied, "I thought it meant 'bathroom.' But I did get a C in Spanish." Wendy was 19 years old, so I asked about her high school. "I went to school in San Ysidro. It was real ghetto there. One of the security guards was sleeping with a student. It was crazy."

There were little boys who looked to be about five years old, and though they were dressed up in suits, they were playful. I was surprised they weren't pulling at their ties and acting uncomfortable. A little girl of about eight kept ducking the frame of my camera as I took photos.

The ceremony was in Spanish. I noticed a guy wearing a sweat suit sitting in the front. I found it odd that the children were dressed up more than some of the adults.

When Wendy's mom said, "Mi casa, su casa," Wendy was going to translate for me. I said, "I know what that means." I was too embarrassed to tell her that I learned it from *Pulp Fiction*.

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I grabbed a Coke and sat down to eat. A few older guys in cowboy gear offered me "cerveza."

I love Mexican food, but the food there was different than anything I'd eaten before. They served *frijoles puercos*, *barbacoa*, and *sopa fria*. A relative of the groom owns a catering service and made all the food. I asked where in Mexico they were from and was told Culiacán, Sinaloa, 22 hours south of the border.

One guy at my table told me that his family raised a pig, which they eventually ate. A young guy at our table complained that he couldn't have a beer. I thought it was because he

wasn't 21, but Wendy said, "Not with your medication." I asked her what she meant. "When he was eight, he was misdiagnosed and given steroid shots. His heart got three times as big. They brought him up to UCLA and gave him a heart transplant."

Everyone at the table cleaned their plates, except for the macaroni salad. I thought that was weird because it was the first time I had macaroni salad that I liked.

The groom was bugging Wendy for safety pins, and when she agreed to go out and get some, I offered to walk her to the market. She took off her high heels and

her boyfriend lit a cigarette. I mentioned to the young couple that a guy at the wedding reminded me of Burt Reynolds. They asked who that was. I said, "Wow, I must be old." Then I thought, *He's still making movies!* I rattled off a few that he's been in over the past few years, but to no avail. I had a flashback of when, as kids, my brother and I wanted to watch *Friday the 13th* on HBO, and my stepdad tried talking to us about old horror movies with Lon Chaney and Bela Lugosi.

The market made me feel as if I was in Mexico. Not because I was the only Caucasian in the place, but

the items stocked on the shelves, the people working there... the whole vibe of the market felt like Mexico.

Wendy told me about her hometown and how they eat a lot of seafood there. She then told me about the tradition of the first dance and said, "I'm not sure if it's a waltz. I think it is, but I'm not positive."

She says her mom will love her new daughter-in-law.

"Women raised in Mexico...are different than the women raised here. She will know how to cook and clean. We learn that at an early age in Mexico. It's not like that with girls here."

I asked them about

crossing the border, and Wendy's boyfriend said, "Yeah, that can be tough. It usually takes an hour or an hour and a half at the border. But we can afford a nicer place in Mexico." ■

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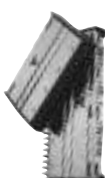
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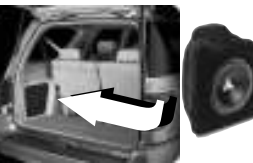
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by Barbarella

There are three stages of man: he believes in Santa Claus; he does not believe in Santa Claus; he is Santa Claus.

— Bob Phillips

I heard the faint tinkling of bells and urged my sisters to be silent. I scanned the over-crowded Brooklyn apartment for my mother. When my eyes finally settled upon her face and registered her omniscient gaze, I knew my ears hadn't failed me: Santa's sleigh had just landed on the roof of our building! A series of steps that could only be reindeers' hooves thudded on the ceiling and then the bells jingled louder and louder until the front door to the apartment flew open and the jolly man in red tumbled inside, bringing with him a huge red velvet sack and a gust of frosty air. I stood before him, seven years old and starstruck, until he handed me a present from his sack while chanting his famous trio of "ho"s. I stepped aside to allow my cousins access to the big guy and his bag of gifts wrapped in red and green paper; I was too distracted by my joy to note the peculiar absence of my

uncle.

Of all the holidays, Christmas boasts the most mascots — Rudolph, elves, Frosty the Snowman, Jack Frost, Baby Jesus, and His mom. But of all the mascots associated with this most celebrated and renowned holiday (second only to Super Bowl Sunday), Santa Claus is the undisputed HMIC (head mascot in charge).

For children, Santa is magic. The fact that he could squeeze his giant body down the narrow shaft of a chimney, or outwit the locks and alarm system when we lived in a house without a chimney, was impressive enough. But his real enchantment stemmed from his power to grant wishes. I prayed to Jesus and nothing happened. But when I asked Santa to give me something, there it was. No mat-

ter how late I stayed up, my adrenaline pumping with anticipation, on Christmas morning my stocking was always full, and I could barely see the tree for all the presents stacked around it.

I can't remember exactly when I realized Mom was the real Santa. I resisted this knowledge because the magic of the lie was much more appealing than the truth — a reality that forced me to consider how hard Mom worked to pull off the grand illusion. With Dad's help, cookies were eaten, doll-houses, desks, and bicycles were assembled, and stockings were stuffed. Even after it was obvious we were starting to catch on, Mom continued to insist on Santa's existence; when we were in high school, she'd still wait until after we'd fallen asleep to pepper the base of the tree with additional gifts attributed to the mythical man.

Now two of my sisters have children of their own, for whom Santa dutifully delivers the goods. As I've watched my sisters cultivate the mythos of Santa in their children's fertile minds, I have learned to enjoy this holiday on another level. Santa is magic for adults, too. The little ones' unfaltering belief in the veracity of whatever their parents tell them infuses the magic with real world power — power that can be used for both good and evil.

For my sister Jane, the idea of Santa has become both a way to amuse herself and her husband, Simon, and a tool to discipline her daughter, Bella. When told of Santa's

impending visit to Bella's preschool, Jane and Simon thought "it would be fun" to train their daughter to say something clever. In the days leading up to Bella's one-on-one, Jane and Simon repeated the command, "When Santa asks you what you want, Bella Boo, you say, 'world peace.' Okay? What do you say?" "World peace." The agreeable three-year-old nodded and repeated the phrase to her pleased and smiling parents.

On the big day, Bella's preschool teacher stood by with a note pad, ready to record the secret desires of her students for their curious parents. Once Bella was seated on the big man's lap, she stared up into his white beard and confided, "I *don't* want world peace, Santa Claus. I want a Chia Pet." When Bella's teacher relayed the news, it was the first Jane had heard of her daughter's desire for the little clay weed-maker. She had already acquired the pink bicycle she thought was at the top of Bella's wish-list and now found herself rushing from Wal-Mart to Target to Kmart, until she "finally found the freakin' thing at Rite-Aid."

As a child, I never doubted my mother's claim to have a hotline to the North Pole. Still, no matter how naughty I was, Santa never withheld the goods. It takes kids a while to catch on to Santa's kryptonite — his desire to dazzle and delight "his" children, no matter how bratty they behave. Until then, however, the threat of

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coal can be an effective tool for manipulation, one that parents wield like world leaders browbeating smaller nations into submission with the threat of a big bomb. Now that I am grown, I have the pleasure of watching my sisters wield the same wand to keep their kids in line.

On Christmas day, as is our tradition, we all gathered around the decked-

out conifer in Mom's living room. This year's tree was barely 8 feet tall (it has been shrinking steadily from its record height of 13 feet), but no one seemed to mind, and gifts were joyfully exchanged.

Bella, who received the gift she'd requested from Santa earlier that morning at her own house, sang, "Cha-cha-cha *chia*" over and over. When she began

taunting her cousins — my nephews Liam and Brian — by singing loudly in their faces, Simon invoked the wrath of Santa. But Bella, who had already received everything she wanted this year, was not fazed. Because next Christmas is now an eternity away (in kid years), the threat of coal has lost its punch.

"Every time Bella's

been acting up, I'd pick up the phone and say, 'Get me Santa!' and she would stop misbehaving and beg me to hang up," said Jane.

"We've been calling Santa all damn week." Jane realized things had gone from ridiculous to absurd when, two days before Christmas, she happened upon Simon, who was standing over a guilty-looking Bella and holding up his right hand

with the first two fingers intertwined, declaring through clenched teeth, "Me and Santa are like *THIS!*"

Now, surrounded by presents, Bella reluctantly obeyed, finally bringing her taunting to an end when a time-out was called. The magic of the morning — of seeing the glass of milk empty and cookies with bites taken out of them, of

waking up to find her Chia Pet beside a shiny pink tri-cycle — was already forgotten. Santa had come and gone.

"How do you expect to keep her cooperative now?" I asked Jane.

"Easy," my sister answered with a mischievous smile. "Tomorrow we're telling her we have the Easter Bunny on speed dial." ■

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San Diego's Bad Behavior in the Spotlight

San Diego City Hall

Two thousand six marked the end of San Diego's brief Prague Spring, a short interval of freedom and turmoil between the fall of Mayor Dick Murphy and the rise of Jerry Sanders and Sanders's consolidation of power as the city's first "strong mayor." Elected in November 2000 with the backing of the *Union-Tribune* and other establishment power brokers, Murphy delivered on his promise to them of a new baseball stadium and lucrative development concessions for Padres owner John Moores before being forced to resign in the spring of 2005 by the same people who got him into office in the first place.

Murphy's sins included being too cozy with organized labor and failing to mind properly the employee pension fund's purse strings, leading to an embarrassing financial scandal and a cutoff by Wall Street of the city's fat credit line, an unforgivable circumstance for his pro-growth back-

ers. With Murphy out of the way and the city coming apart at the seams, a mob of reformers stormed city hall; even the *U-T* got into the spirit, airing criticisms and exposés the paper had bottled up for years.

In 2005 it looked for a bit as if Democratic city councilwoman Donna Frye's populist candidacy might rupture the Republican Party's perennial hold on the mayor's office, but the moment was evanescent. Sanders, a low-energy ex-chief of police who glided through public appearances as though he were on tranquilizers, slipped into the job with the aid of \$1.5 million in contributions from business backers and a series of sharp *U-T* editorial attacks on Frye. A smaller circle of business types had earlier bankrolled the strong-mayor campaign that vested the newly elected Sanders with unprecedented supremacy. But Sanders and his supporters wanted more.

2006



Dick Murphy



Jerry Sanders



Fred Sainz



Mike Aguirre



Donna Frye

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOE KLEIN



Scott Peters



Alex Spanos



John Moores



Arnold Schwarzenegger



Toni Atkins

In 2006, Sanders lent his name to another business- and *U-T*-backed campaign, this one to allow him to outsource city services such as trash collection to private contractors; the measure passed easily in November, giving the mayor more power, virtually unchecked. But that was still not enough. The people behind the mayor busied themselves raising the ramparts at city hall, plugging the holes so tightly that average taxpayers had little chance to see what was going on inside.

Press aide Fred Sainz ordered staffers not to talk to reporters without his say-so and blackballed publications and journalists who were not to his taste, behavior so egregious it drew a front-page story in the pro-Sanders *Union-Tribune*. City council members and the city attorney were not exempt: the mayor's "chief executive officer," retired admi-

ral Ronne Froman, told them they had to put their requests for information about city operations in writing and then wait weeks or months for a response.

The city council, supposed to provide a legislative balance to the mayor's expanded power, rarely challenged his initiatives and, when it did, frequently failed to prevail. Scott Peters, the councilman from La Jolla elected by his peers as council president, declined even to speak to the *U-T* about the mayor's stifling of the information flow to the public, sending word through an aide that he wanted to maintain a "good working relationship" with Sanders.

In October, the relationship's lopsided nature came into public view after the mayor slashed money for homeless and neighborhood swimming programs dear to the

councilmembers' hearts without telling them. Sanders policy aide Julie Dubick, a onetime school board candidate who many insiders believe is being groomed to be the GOP's candidate to succeed Peters, showed up at a council meeting and insisted the council had "exceeded its authority" when it voted to reinstate the money. Even Peters protested.

Mike Aguirre, elected city attorney in 2004, found himself at the halfway point of his tenure besieged from all sides. City workers loathed him for his attempts to roll back retirement benefits. His case against the pension benefits, on the basis that they had been improperly granted by a compromised retirement board, was shredded by superior court judge Jeffrey Barton. The city attorney vowed an appeal, but the *Union-Tribune*, one of Aguirre's fiercest critics, called that avenue

Reed proclaimed that there was a "noble" Aguirre, crusading against the city's corrupt power structure, and an "opportunistic" Aguirre, hungry for the spotlight.

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“fruitless.”

Meanwhile, there was plenty of life beyond the tumult at San Diego’s city hall. Two thousand six was the year that the Internet, and specifically blogs, came into their own as a political tool. Two examples: San Diego city attorney Mike Aguirre’s face-off with the *Union-Tribune* and a mysterious blogger who made a difference in the race to replace GOP congressman Randy “Duke” Cunningham.

Mike vs. Chris

Aguirre’s biggest critic turned out to be a professional blogger the *U-T* hired to spice up its flagging SignOn-SanDiego website and perhaps settle some political scores in the process. Chris Reed, a former editorial writer from the conservative *Orange County Register*, opened fire almost as soon as he arrived in town.

Reed’s one-man forum, named “America’s Finest Blog,” a takeoff on “America’s Finest City” (ironically, a phrase coined by then-Mayor Pete Wilson after Richard Nixon pulled

the GOP convention out of San Diego in 1972, following one of the city’s many influence-peddling scandals), went after Aguirre early in the year.

On March 22, Reed proclaimed that there was a “noble” Aguirre, crusading against the city’s corrupt power structure, and an “opportunistic” Aguirre, hungry for the spotlight. “From here on out, every time Aguirre appears in the *U-T* headlines, I’m going to offer my snap take on which Aguirre seems in charge of his tongue this time around.”

As it turned out, Reed saw only the bad side of the city attorney, calling him everything from “unethical” to a “city saboteur” and a “lunatic.” In an August post, he concluded, “Mike Aguirre is one of the worst public servants imaginable. He is incompetent. He spreads himself too thin. He says one thing one day, another thing another day. He will grandstand on any issue. He uses taxpayer resources on quixotic and pointless crusades.”

Aguirre was so

R.I.P.

January 10

Sidney Frank, 86

The wealthy importer of Jägermeister liqueur and Grey Goose vodka was a resident of Rancho Santa Fe, where he hosted notoriously lavish parties on his sprawling estate. That was only one of his six mansions. Frank’s brushes with controversy included a sexual-harassment suit filed against his company by members of the Jagerettes, a crew of sexy young women in skimpy outfits who cruised bars promoting the booze brand. One alleged she had been groped in a San Diego limo. And in 2005, Frank and an employee each pled guilty to a misdemeanor and paid a total of \$30,000 for their roles in a scheme to launder campaign contributions to Sheriff Bill Kolender.



Sidney Frank

January 26

Hamilton Marston, 95

An heir to the now-defunct Marston’s department-store chain, the soft-spoken Marston championed such progressive but ultimately failed local causes as improved urban planning, growth control, and better border relations. His effort to move the Naval Hospital out of Balboa Park was rejected by the local establishment, led by GOP congressman Bob Wilson, Mayor Pete Wilson, and *U-T* publisher Helen Copley. In 1974 he paid for a study by planners Kevin Lynch and Donald Appleyard entitled “Temporary Paradise?” that showcased his utopian dreams, some now realized, many not, including a trolley system and development of Lindbergh Field as condos.

February 25

Henry Morris, 87

The father of modern creationism, Morris, a resident of El Cajon, founded the Institute for Creation Research in San-tee in 1970. *The Genesis Flood*, which he wrote in 1961 with theologian John C. Whitcomb, takes Genesis literally, presenting evidence for the biblical account of creation, and argues that Darwin’s theory of evolution is bogus. Morris was “the most important creationist of the 20th century, much more so than William Jennings Bryan,” Eugenie C. Scott, director of the National Center for Science Education, a pro-evolution group, told the *New York Times*.



Henry Morris

March 2

Madeleine Cosman, 68

Founder of the Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at the City College of New York in 1968, Cosman was an expert in medieval culture, specializing in food and medicine. After she retired to Escondido, the experienced shooter and gun lover became active in the California Rifle and Pistol Association and joined the board of Wake Up America, a group opposed to illegal immigration.



Madeleine Cosman

continued on page 30

piqued he started his own blog, called “The Aguirre Report,” and began firing back, accusing the *U-T* of mounting “a vindictive campaign to discredit my efforts.”

In a November entry, he wrote: “The politicians at the *Union-Tribune (U-T)* are at it again. Sunday’s (November 5) newspaper published a news story on the City’s ongoing pension trial that seeks to convince a court that unfunded pension benefits granted in 1996 and 2002 by the City Council to City employees was a corrupt deal that should be rescinded.

“The article, ‘Pension trial pace expected to pick up,’ offers a prime example of what biased reporting looks like, even though I was interviewed at length for the story by the reporter. In the story, the reporter conveys that attorneys for the unions have characterized ‘Aguirre’s legal interpretations suspect and his grasp of procedural matters weak.’

“On the contrary, after I completed my opening statement union attorney Joel Klevens asked the Judge for an immediate verdict contending that the City Attorney did not make his case. The Judge swiftly ruled against Attorney Klevens and told him that his motion was procedurally defective. Somehow, this exchange did not make it into the *U-T*’s article.”

Aguirre’s responses delighted Reed, who threw back at him quotes from a series of exposés the *U-T* had commissioned from its reporters to portray alleged management turmoil under Aguirre’s reign and his “rotten track record in pension-related cases” that “cost the city at least \$2 million.”

“Each of these stories was researched over a long period,” blogged

Reed about his own paper’s coverage. “Each has stood up quite well against the predictable attacks from Aguirre and his allies. Only people with their heads in the sand could read these three articles and con-

clude Aguirre is the hero he thinks he is.”

Then, in October Reed seemed to get to the real point. Mark Fabiani, a veteran of the Clinton White House who now works for Chargers owner and

multimillion-dollar GOP donor Alex Spanos, came to meet with Reed and the *U-T* editorial board. “He took about an hour of questions; four or five dealt with his criticism of City Attorney Mike Aguirre.”

As leader of the Spanos-family campaign to build a new football stadium for the Chargers, long lusted after by the *U-T*, Fabiani had repeatedly targeted Aguirre, claiming he would block any deal

worked out with the City for taxpayer financing.

In his blog entry, Reed insisted that he was generally unsympathetic to public funding of football stadiums, then added, “But imagine if you, your family, your

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Randy "Duke" Cunningham

company — whatever sympathetic unit you wish to employ in this thought example — were attempting to close a complicated deal. The entity you were negotiating with had in its employ a high-ranking official who at any time believed he had the authority to single-

the year was also the most mysterious. Titled by its anonymous author "San Diego Politics Blog," it first posted February 21 with an entry about the movie *Why We Fight*, a liberal documentary critical of the war in Iraq, playing at the Ken theater. The same day the unknown

"Something scary is coming to San Diego, and it's not Halloween," said the caller in a child's voice.

handedly sue to block the deal, whatever the wishes of the great majority of other high-ranking officials.

"This is not an entity you would want to bargain with, because you couldn't trust it to ever keep its end of the bargain. There was always the chance the rogue employee — who has repeatedly said he doesn't like you — might sue you. This is what the Chargers are up against with Aguirre."

Political Secrets

One of the most effective local campaign blogs of

blogger noted that MoveOn had begun raising money for Democrat Francine Busby's race in the special election for the 50th District Congressional seat vacated by Randy "Duke" Cunningham.

All spring, the blogger covered the race, breaking stories, including explosive news in March that Republican candidate Eric Roach's former business partner, San Francisco investor Thomas Frank White, was a sexual predator. The item featured a photo of White with what appeared to be two

continued from page 28

**March 2
Garrett Scott, 37**

An independent filmmaker, Scott died of a heart attack while swimming at the public pool in his hometown of Coronado. His documentary *Occupation: Dreamland* about being embedded with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division was awarded an Independent Spirit Award in Santa Monica two days later. He and codirector Ian Olds produced 2002's *Cul de Sac: A Suburban War Story*, about the Clairemont rampage of a man in a stolen tank.



Garrett Scott

**March 27
Bernard Siegan, 81**

The author of *Economic Liberties and the Constitution*, published in 1980, and a La Jolla resident who lived in a house once occupied by novelist Raymond Chandler, Siegan was a Libertarian hero, named by President Ronald Reagan to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1987. The nomination was killed by the Democrat-controlled Senate Judiciary Committee. He was a professor at USD law school until suffering a stroke in 2005.



Bernard Siegan

**April 5
Allan Kaprow, 78**

A painter and student of experimental musician John Cage, Kaprow organized the first "happenings," a form of performance art, including *Eighteen Happenings in Six Parts* (Manhattan, October 1959). The self-described "un-artist," who later in life was an art professor at UCSD, switched from "happenings" to "activities," including one involving his daily tooth brushing.



Allan Kaprow

**April 6
Maggie Dixon, 28**

The University of San Diego basketball star played for the Los Angeles Sparks of the Women's National Basketball Association before turning to coaching after being cut in 2000. Last year she coached the women's basketball team at West Point to its first NCAA tournament; her sudden death was said to be due to an undetected heart problem.



Maggie Dixon

**May 15
Judith Moore, 66**

Senior editor of the *Reader*, her third book, *Fat Girl*, was nominated for a National Book Critics Circle award in 2005. "Judith Moore's book just might be the Stonewall for a slew of oversize people who do not fit the template of what every ostensible expert on beauty, health and nutrition tells us we should strive to be. *Fat Girl* is brilliant and angry and unsettling," wrote Jane Stern in the



Judith Moore

continued on page 32

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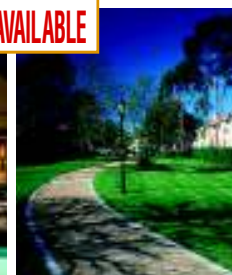
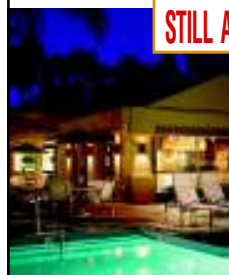
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pubescent boys on his lap. A link to the *San Francisco Chronicle* website provided credibility and filled in the sordid details.

Roach was soon on the air with radio talk show host Roger Hedgecock, taking pains to explain that White was only an investor in his online brokerage business and denying any knowledge about the sexual charges against his former associate. But the damage had been done. Without mentioning San Diego Politics by name, the *Union-Tribune* alluded to the story, noting it "was circulating anonymously in the blogosphere."

The faceless blogger labored through the April 11 special election in which Busby was opposed by a pack of 17 other candidates. Some observers said they could detect a tilt favoring Busby; others surmised the blog was a well-camouflaged effort by the campaign of ex-GOP congressman Brian Bilbray to discredit Roach. Nobody claimed credit.

Busby's best chance of getting elected in the heavily Republican district came in April, but she failed to get the 50 percent plus one vote majority she needed in

the open primary to win outright over the large field dividing the GOP vote. Instead, she was forced into a June runoff with Bilbray, who had narrowly beaten Roach for second place.

Then, with days to go before that election, in front of a largely Latino crowd, Busby uttered her now-famous remark, "You don't need papers for voting," seized upon by Republicans as encouragement by her of voting by illegal immigrants.

"Francine Busby appears to have managed to save defeat from the jaws of victory," reported San Diego Politics on June 5, the day before the election, which Bilbray won. "Busby and Bilbray had up until this point been pretty close in the polls. But this should tip the balance to Bilbray, who has run on the issue of 'stopping illegal immigration' since Day 1." Though the political season was only half over, it was the unnamed blogger's last entry.

Wall Street Mike

If Mike Aguirre's stock was down at the *U-T*, it was flying high at the *Wall Street Journal*, which featured him prominently in its Sep-

tember 27 lead editorial bashing councilmembers Toni Atkins, Jim Madaffer, Brian Maischein, and council president Scott Peters for their roles in the city's pension-funding scandal.

"Michael Aguirre, the pugnacious city attorney, has brought suit in federal court to have some of the benefits granted since 1996 rolled back on grounds that they violated federal conflict-of-interest laws. A self-described liberal Democrat, Mr. Aguirre deserves kudos for risking the wrath of the public-sector unions, but his prospects for success are uncertain.

"If he loses, reining in the liabilities will become a matter of negotiation with the unions. Good luck with that. A victory, on the other hand, would send a signal that unfunded promises for public-sector employees are not etched in stone, which would be a valuable signal for other state and local governments grappling with extravagant retirement packages for public employees. As Mr. Aguirre points out, current retirees 'are drawing 100 cents on the dollar from a pension fund that is only 60% funded.' "

continued from page 30

New York Times. Moore's two previous books were *The Left Coast of Paradise: California and the American Heart* and *Never Eat Your Heart Out*. Her best epitaph might be found in E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web*: "It is not often that someone comes along who is a true friend and a good writer."

May 24

Fritz Klein, 73

Originally named Fred Klein, the psychi-



Fritz Klein

atrist and sex researcher specialized in the study of bisexuals and their relationships, authoring *The Bisexual Option* in 1978 and *Bisexual and Gay Husbands: Their Stories, Their Words* in 2001. He developed the

Klein Sexual Orientation Grid and founded the American Institute of Bisexuality.

July 18

Tom Carter, 66

The ex-chief financial and loan officer of San Diego Federal Savings and Loan, Carter later developed real estate with his old friend, former county supervisor Jack Walsh. But his biggest notoriety came after he stood up at a February 2006 meeting of the board of the San Diego State University Research Foundation and quit, saying that he could not support SDSU president Stephen Weber's decision to shut down the foundation's Paseo commercial development project and dispose of much of its real estate assets:

"This foundation is the largest contributor annually to the university — \$2.5 million. That's not going to be there

anymore. When we start selling real estate, that money won't be there in the future. I see a downward spiral that will be very difficult to turn around. I don't want to be fighting with President Weber. He knows where I stand on these matters."

September 3

Tom Suzuki, 76

Noted art director and graphic designer who revolutionized the stodgy textbook industry with his use of edgy typography and visuals, Suzuki got his start as assistant art director at General Dynamics in 1961. A Japanese American who spent World War II in a government detention camp, Suzuki cofounded with Don Wright the San Diego graphic firm of Suzuki & Wright. A major client was Del Mar's CRM (Communications Research Machines), publisher of *Psychology Today* and many textbooks known for their groundbreaking layouts.

September 6

Warren Bolster, 59

Famed for his precedent-breaking photography of surfers, accomplished with underwater cameras, wide-angle lenses, and surfboard mounts, he later moved on to cover the emerging culture of skateboarding. The former San Diego resident committed suicide at his home in Mokuleia, Hawaii.

September 8

Fred Spiess, 86

Oceanographer and marine explorer at Scripps Institution of Oceanography; codeveloper of the floating instrument platform (FLIP), a 355-foot-long craft that goes from horizontal to vertical when its ballast tanks are flooded. He and his wife Sally successfully campaigned to save

continued on page 34

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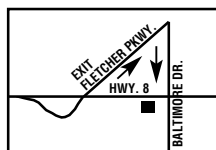
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San Diego Unified School District
Things have calmed down a lot at the San Diego Unified School District since the departure of Alan Bersin following the election two years ago that resulted in a board majority opposed to him and his controversial policies. After leaving the district, Democrat Bersin became something of a rolling stone, moving first to Sacramento to become education secretary for GOP governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

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in July 2005, then resigning that \$123,000-a-year gig abruptly last November when Mayor Jerry Sanders chose him to become an executive board member of the regional airport authority for \$150,000 a year. (Bersin's mother-in-law was a heavy contributor to the mayor's privatization initiative.) The ex-school chief and

wife Lisa Foster, a superior court judge, bought a \$2.1 million house in Point Loma's tony "wooded area," well south of Lindbergh's noisy flight path. In contrast to Bersin's rambles, two school board faces remained solidly in place. Katherine Nakamura, a onetime Bersin favorite, endorsed in her 2002 race by the *Union-Tribune*, was rescued in 2006 by the AFL-CIO's San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, which dispatched a round of so-called robo-calls to Democratic voters attacking her GOP foe in the supposedly nonpartisan contest: "Something scary is coming to San Diego, and it's not Halloween," said the caller in a child's voice. "The vice chair of San Diego's Republican



Ronne Froman

Party is running for San Diego Unified school board. Republican Mike McSweeney has disguised himself as a moderate, but he is really a right-wing extremist who will destroy the balance of the school board." Lorena Gonzalez, the labor council's political director, later said in an e-mail that the actor who voiced the calls was a real ten-year-old — "an actual child in our San Diego's Public School" — and a member of AFTRA, a broadcast performers' union.

Nakamura's board colleague John de Beck, an ex-teacher who's been on the board since 1990, won his fourth reelection the easy way: no one opposed him. Four years before, pro-Bersin forces, including L.A. billionaire Eli



Alan Bersin

Broad, financed ex-FBI agent Clyde Fuller against de Beck with dismal results.

Under the Radar

When Brett Maxfield, a young property agent in the city of San Diego's Real Estate Assets Department, blew the whistle in March on what he said was a sweetheart lease deal for the Carlton Oaks Golf Course, he didn't expect to be fired. But after Maxfield's charges were reported here a week later, Maxfield was called into the office of acting department director Mike Boyle and told he would have to leave.

"I believe that the reason for this action is the article that came out in the *Reader* concerning Carlton Oaks and other issues I have raised concerning the Water Dept.'s

continued from page 32

and restore one of the original buildings at Scripps, the George H. Scripps Memorial Marine Biological Laboratory, designed by famed local architect Irving Gill, after Scripps administrators threatened to tear it down.

October 16

George Stevens, 74

The 1960s civil rights firebrand known as Chaka, famous for throwing a chair across the room at a public event, mellowed considerably after finally getting elected to the San Diego City Council in 1991. The ex-staffer to Democratic congressman Jim Bates was a key backer of John Moores's taxpayer-subsidized downtown baseball stadium. When he lost his bid for a Democratic 78th Assembly District nomination to Vince Hall in March 2002, after the Service Employees International Union sent out a hit piece pointing out



George Stevens

handling of property issues," Maxwell wrote in an e-mail to Jim Waring, top development aide to Mayor Jerry Sanders, the day he was let go. "Can we meet and talk about it?"

Responded Waring: "Just so you know, Mike briefed me on your employment status before any article was

known or published. Regardless, I will meet with you as a courtesy, but only with Mike present. I do not want you, however, to expect that meeting to change the decision that was made or become a debate of some type. For what it's worth my free advice to you as a young, very educated man, is that your

that the part-time preacher took contributions from strip-club workers, Stevens went to work for Republican Shirley Horton, who won the seat.

November 7

Richwell Arzadon Doria, 25

A 2000 Morse High School graduate, U.S. Army staff sergeant Doria was killed by small arms fire near Kirkuk, Iraq, during an air assault search and rescue mission just one month shy of his 26th birthday. He received a posthumous Purple Heart and Bronze Star with a V for valor "for his courage as well as his quick and sound decisions under fire, which saved the lives of his squad of soldiers," U.S. Brigadier General S.G. Trombitas said at Doria's funeral, held in Dagupan City, the town in which Doria was born, about 100 miles north of Manila. "This is what he had always wanted to do. When he joined the Army, we tried to discourage him," his aunt Zenaida Anderson was quoted as saying. He is survived by his wife, Jasmine K.M. Doria of Ewa Beach, Hawaii, and his then-four-month-old daughter Jada.

— Matt Potter

turning the page on this is the best life decision you can make for your future. Let me know if you want to meet."

Maxfield spurned the invitation; on November 17, councilwoman Donna Frye, the mayor's erstwhile electoral opponent, sent Sanders a memo "requesting an investiga-

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tion of Brett Maxfield’s termination from City employment.”

Over the Top

City-sponsored municipal WiFi projects have sprung up across the nation, designed to allow the citizenry in such places as Portland, (Oregon), San Francisco, Philadelphia, and Seattle a way to get mobile online service without having to pay a fortune for cell-phone mobile data contracts. But in San Diego, home to Qualcomm — one of the cell-phone industry’s most powerful players and an in-kind donor to the campaign of Mayor Jerry Sanders — a secretive committee reporting to the mayor was still studying how to proceed.

The saga began in early May, when a reporter asked Drew MacCullough, a member of the WiFi body, called the “Public Broadband Access Working Group,” what progress was being made. He sent an e-mail to the group’s chairman, Kristopher Lichter, a local executive for IBM. “The person from the Reader is Matt Potter,” MacCullough wrote. “Though we did discuss the group, I explained to him that it is, as you said, ‘very early stages’ and off the map at this point. I also made it clear to him that I did not speak for the group or the City. He was interested in who is involved, but I did not give him names or contact info. I told him I would have to get back to him with

contact info of others who might be interested in talking to him.” Lichter responded that all questions should be forwarded to Sanders’s people. “But again, they are probably not going to comment. At this point, my suggestion is that you just let Matt know (if he contacts you) that he’s welcome to reach out to the Mayor’s Office directly.”

Later the same day, Sanders media honcho Fred Sainz dispatched an e-mail to his underlings, making the mayor’s position clear. “To all copied here,” Sainz wrote, “Do not speak with any reporters from the Reader. Tell them that you do not speak with reporters from the Reader. No additional information or follow up necessary. Thanks.”

A public meeting of the group scheduled for December 13 to discuss “public wireless and best management practices,” including “business models of other cities” and “outreach to stakeholders,” was cancelled and continued to this month. ■

— Matt Potter



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HE RODE UP
TO OUR GROUP
AT THE PARK
ON A BEAT-UP
BMX BIKE,
AND I
COULDN'T
TAKE MY EYES
OFF OF HIM.

When I was in fourth grade at Sacred Heart Academy in Ocean Beach, a new student came to class. Her name was Stephanie. She had golden hair, freckles, and a smile that caused heads to turn. After seeing her in class three or four times and talking with her a little, I soon developed a crush. We would talk to each other every now and then and make fun of each other, just for laughs.

The years went by, and I still could not stop thinking about her. Then, in around sixth grade, I gathered up enough courage to ask her out to lunch after school. She came back to me the next day and she said that she “already had a boyfriend,” which I interpreted as a lie from the way she said it. That idea pretty much crashed and burned, but I didn’t give up.

Toward the end of our eighth-grade year, I had a plan: to ask Stephanie to spend the day with me at Disneyland on our graduation field trip. I sent notes to her and talked to her frequently about the idea...and I finally confessed how long I had wanted to have her as more than just a friend. A few days passed, and on the last day of school, I went up to her and asked for her decision. She said that she wanted to be “just friends” and that she wanted to spend the whole time at Disneyland with her friends.

So, the day that was so much talked about among classmates finally came. I didn’t talk to her; she didn’t talk to me. I sat next to my friends on the bus and she

sat next to hers. When we got to Disneyland I felt pretty gloomy, but I was still happy to be there. At the end of the day, I tried talking to Stephanie a little. She turned away after I said a few words and started talking to my best friend in an excited, giddy tone, asking how *his* day went.

From this experience I learned an important lesson that can be summed up by this quote: “It’s not lovers who get married, it’s best friends who do.”

— Jonathan Cardeiro,
Point Loma H.S.

I was in eighth grade at the time, and I fell for him hard. He rode up to our group at the park on a beat-up BMX bike, and I couldn’t take my eyes off of him. After a few days of not being able to get him off my mind, I started to ask my friends about him.

They were subtle questions, such as what his name was and what grade was he in. My friends caught on and then began to try and get us to be a couple. Naturally, I didn’t stop them and was excited, hoping that he and I would get together.

Thanks to the efforts of my friends, he and I began to talk and hang out more, although we didn’t have any meaningful conversations. I was so overwhelmed by this huge crush because I had never been so interested in a boy before. Hanging out with him and my group of friends seemed to always be embarrassing. They knew how much I liked him and would always pressure us into acting as a couple and to be “flirty” with one another. I didn’t mind too much; I just never knew how he felt and they didn’t either.

After a few months of this “does he



like me?” phase, the heartbreak came; he told one of my best friends to tell me he didn’t have any feelings for me. I was crushed. I didn’t know what to do. He was part of our group of friends, so it was impossible to try and avoid him. I spent a few months crying and moping. My friends helped as best they could, and so did my parents, but when you’re heartbroken, nothing matters except the hurt you’re feeling.

One day I snapped out of the hurt and realized that I was moping for no reason. He obviously wasn’t feeling guilty about breaking my heart. Everyone had been trying to tell me that from day one, but I had to come to that realization on my own terms. After that, I started finding new boys to be interested in and having a good time with my friends again, even with him around. He and I became good friends. Now I know to handle my relationships on my own and to get to know the person before letting myself develop

RESEARCH STUDIES



Depressed? Sleeping Too Much? Not Enjoying Life?

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doesn't just stress your mind.



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

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such strong feelings.

— *Chelsea Kennedy,*
Madison H.S.

I was in kindergarten when my heart was trampled. Her name was Rosie. Memories are few, but they are vivid. In the classroom, colorful cubbyholes lined the wall. Children crawled, climbed, and chatted. I sat in a corner, skimming books upside down while Rosie sat beside me, racing Tonka trucks

down the carpet. She was a tomboy with red hair and white freckly skin. She'd wear a puffy polka dot dress that made mothers cry, "Oh, she's darling!"

It was a rainy day at Parkway Elementary School in Rancho Peñasquitos when all hope was lost. It was story time just like any other day, but a new kid was present. His name was Kevin, and he had blond hair and blue eyes. When he'd walked into the room,

Rosie's eyes trailed him like a tail on a comet. She gave him a massage that day. I think back now and it all seems inappropriate, but back then, it was only heartbreaking.

I confided in my friend, David, about my adoration for Rosie. We sat next to each other on the bus ride from school. One day, as Kevin got off the bus at his stop, Rosie offered him a hug. He smiled at her and she grinned at him as he

stepped out into the drizzle, his babysitter waiting for him.

I never told Rosie how I felt. I didn't know how I felt; I just remember not being a part of something. Jealousy flowed through all 60 pounds of me.

— *Andres Perez,*
Valhalla H.S.

For as long as I've been "aware" of the opposite sex, I have never had much luck with boys. That lack of luck became evident in grade school, with my first true crush. His name was William. He was tall, athletic, and the object of most other barely adolescent girls' affections.

We were in fifth grade, and we had recently come to understand the concept of dating. Perhaps it was a bit early for actual dating, but this idea of a crush was new and exhilarating to the point where it was about ready to burst out of me. To my shame, it *did* burst out when I revealed my feeling to one of my closest friends, Anthony. Confident that he would keep my secret, I told him everything. I then watched with dread as he ran to tell William. I ran as fast as my legs would carry me, but in vain. By the time I got there, William knew, and all I could do was walk away, horrified that he hadn't made any effort to return my affections.

One year passed and nothing had changed. I was still mad about William

and he still seemed indifferent toward my crush. One math class changed all that, though. We were sitting at a table with a few other kids, and one of the other girls at the table was quizzing him on who he would go out with in the class, and she soon asked about me.

"Well, I don't know," William said. "We've been friends for so long that it would just be weird. So, I guess not. Right, Rachel?"

I looked up from my math work. I nodded. I couldn't do anything else. I was too surprised that he'd rejected me publicly.

So much for my feelings... I never revealed that I had a crush on anyone to any of my friends again. In fact, it became such a phobia of mine that I had to watch as multiple crushes went out with other people. Only recently was I able to break out of my shell and tell someone that I liked him. It took me six years to do that.

— *Rachel Oliver,*
Madison H.S.

Although there have been other cases, probably the most drawn-out incident of me directing my affection toward someone who couldn't care less was in eighth grade. Let me start by saying that I was a rather naïve eighth grader, so that didn't help my cause; on top of that, the object of my affection was an extraordinarily mature

eighth grader, and she knew it, too.

At my middle school, eighth-graders could elect to go on an East Coast trip, a weeklong excursion; this was when it all started. Although guys and girls weren't allowed to share rooms, I spent every other waking moment following her around. I would try to do everything with her, and she didn't seem to mind much. Basically, she had me wrapped around her finger, and I was too stupid to realize it.

While I can't remember if I ever came out and said it, I did everything I could think of to find out if she liked me. I talked to her friends, to the girls who were her roommates on the trip, and I even talked to her ex-boyfriend, a friend of mine, to try and find out what kind of stuff she was interested in. I did everything except what I should have done — come out and said something to her!

Toward the end of the trip I thought I had struck gold. We were coming back from a Yankees game, and I was sitting next to her on the bus. When she fell asleep on my shoulder, I thought the world was about to end. At that point, I knew for sure she had to like me. Sadly, the moment was ruined when one of her friends took a picture of it; after that, she was unhappy with me. I was crushed.

— *Grant Barba,*
La Jolla H.S. ■

RESEARCH STUDIES



Schizophrenia ?

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For more information or to see if you qualify,
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- Females, at least 18 years of age
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Participants may receive at no cost study-related:

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To qualify you must:

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

Qualified participants will receive:

- Examination and consultation with a board-certified physician
- All study-related medications, labs and cultures
- Compensation for your time and travel

The Medical Center for Clinical Research

Call

619-521-2841

Instead of Montana

“Fly-fishermen have a saying,” says Rich Oldham, a fishing guide at Andy Montana’s fly-fishing shop in Coronado, “‘If you’re not tying on your first fly in the light of your headlights, you’re late.’”

We’re not late. It’s 5:30 a.m. on a Sunday in early September, but Oldham isn’t tying on his fly in the headlights. Instead he works under the trunk lamp of his beat-up early-’90s Honda Accord, which is parked in the Mission Beach parking lot south of the roller coaster. He’s here to teach me how to fly-fish in the ocean.

A surprising number of people are out at this hour. Bums sift through the trash cans in the half light. Insomniacs and early risers stroll the boardwalk. A group of college kids stumbles up from the sand, sleeping bags draped over their shoulders. Solitary figures wander about in chemical euphoria. Near Oldham’s Honda sits an ancient recreational vehicle. It’s clearly the primary residence of its owner who has just fired up the generator. The ensuing cacophony grates on Oldham’s nerves as he attends to the fine work of attaching a fly to a fishing line. “It’s bad enough getting up at 5:00, without having to listen to that,” he grumbles.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

Rich Oldham

Beside his car, Oldham has set out a pair of waders and water boots. “Put those on while I rig up your rod.”

The waterproof Gore-Tex waders are bibbed, like a farmer’s overalls, and have neoprene booties integrated with the pant legs. Unlike a wetsuit, which allows water in for the body to warm, the waders are designed to keep the wearer dry. I pull them on over my socks and sweatpants, then pull boots over them. When I’m done lacing up the boots,

Oldham, who stands six feet or so, with close-cropped reddish-brown hair under a baseball cap, hands me a fly rod. It’s nine feet long and maybe half an inch thick at its base. The line in the reel is not what you think of as fishing line. It’s as thick as twine and off-white in color, except for the first 30 feet, which is black. “This white line is PVC-coated monofilament,” Oldham explains. “The black line is called a shooting head. It’s made of a powdered tungsten which is added to the PVC coating.

“You want to fish at sunrise because the fish are aggressive in the dim light.

They have bigger eyes than their prey, and they hunt harder because they have the advantage.”

The shooting head gets the fly down through the wave to where the fish are on the bottom."

Tied onto the end of the shooting head, and hooked onto a tiny ring called a hook keeper just above the cork handle, is the "fly" that will serve as bait. From a few feet away, it looks like a marble-sized ball of olive green and orange fuzz. But up close, one can see the care that went into winding thread around the dyed calf tail and fish hook until the mass resembled a cross between a native mole crab and a baitfish; eyes, legs, and all. "That's a Darter Clouser fly I've put on there. I've caught a lot of fish with that fly lately," Oldham says.

Waders and boots on, fishing license stowed in a pouch on the inside of the waders' bibs, I feel like a real fisherman, the kind often pictured on the cover of the *Field and Stream*, except I'm in a trash-strewn parking lot by the beach instead of a canyon in Montana.

"You're not ready yet," Oldham says. "You need this." From his trunk he pulls what looks like a giant fanny pack, except that instead of a zipper pouch, the buckled strap holds a stiff plastic basket about half the size of those handheld baskets light shoppers use at supermarkets. "That's called a stripping basket," Oldham explains. "Clip it on and push the basket around behind you. I'll show you what it's for later."

Waders, boots, and stripping baskets on, and fly rods in hand, we set off through the grass picnic area between the lot and the boardwalk. It's 5:45 a.m. Seagulls are beginning to stir, fighting over scraps of food left by Mission Beach's nocturnal humans. Out over the water, squadrons of pelicans, silhouetted against the dark western sky, glide along parallel to the beach, sometimes only three feet off the surface. Despite the early hour, we're not the first fishermen out here. Oldham seems disappointed by the sight of a middle-aged man with a regular spinning rod and reel, fishing straight out from the parking lot.

The tide is so low today that Mission Beach is twice as wide as it normally is. Half of the exposed sand is packed and wet. As we reach the water's edge, Oldham stops and looks north toward Pacific Beach, down

the sand toward the Mission Bay jetty, and back up again. "What we've got to figure out is where the holes are."

Holes?

"Yeah, holes. The tide chart showed that today

there would be a very low tide coinciding with the sunrise. You want to fish at sunrise because the fish are aggressive in the dim light. They have bigger eyes than their prey, and they hunt harder because they

have the advantage. You want the extreme low tide. That gives you access to the holes that the fish gather in."

I know what a fishing hole in a mountain creek looks like. But to my sleepy

eyes, the Pacific Ocean looks like one big hole. Oldham sees the puzzled look on my face, and explains, "Waves come in but they also have to retreat, and the retreating wave causes currents. Where two

RESEARCH STUDIES

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currents meet is a rip tide. The rip sucks out and digs a trench. At the head of where the rip is sucking out is often a pool, or what we call a hole, and it can appear calm because the wave isn't breaking there."

A faint smile on Oldham's face tells me he's got an anecdote. "I was fishing this huge hole here in Mission Beach last summer, about 7:00 in the morning, and these two ten-year-old kids came and started swimming in this pool to the right of me. Their mom plunked down on the beach and was sort of watching them. I walked straight over to the mom and said 'Do you see how in front of where your kids are swimming it looks like a river going out?' She said, 'Yes.' I said, 'That's because it is, and it won't take 20 seconds before your kids are sucked out past the third wave, and there isn't a damn thing you can do about it.' She just looked at me and called her kids in. I told her to swim where there are waves breaking



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

because the bottom is deeper in that spot. In fact, that's probably a really good hole right there." He points to the middle-aged angler casting into that very spot. "And that's probably why he's there. Of course, it's straight out from the parking lot, so he may have just walked straight down from the lot and started casting. Dumb luck."

Oldham stares at the spot with obvious envy. "We'll just walk up the beach a little bit and find the next one."

As we walk, Oldham continues his tutorial on locating ocean-fishing holes. "Now look up the beach," he says. "See the waterline? It's not a straight line. It curves in and out making what look like coves. That's because some parts of the shoreline are deeper than others. The deeper water allows the wave to carry farther up the beach with more force. The cove shows you where the deeper areas are just offshore."

and she would be fine.

"The holes can be pretty dramatic," Oldham continues. "Sometimes you'll be standing there in water above your knees, and just ahead of you is a hole five or six feet deeper. It's like standing on the edge of a swimming pool. And those holes hold the

fish. At high tide, we wouldn't be able to cast into those holes because of the surf. But during a really low tide like this, we can wade out a little way and cast right into them."

That still leaves the problem of finding these holes. Oldham says there are two signs to look for.

The first hint is in the way the waves are breaking. "Look there," he points to a two-foot roller breaking from left to right. "You see how that wave is breaking in a consistent roll up the beach? But watch...see that? It got to that point straight out from us and it didn't really break. That's

Continuing up the beach toward the Crystal Pier, now becoming visible in the growing light, Oldham occasionally slows down or stops to examine a potential fishing hole. But, each time, he rejects the spot and looks furtively over his shoulder toward the middle-aged fisherman, still ensconced at the waterline straight out from the parking lot. "I wish we'd beaten that guy here," he mutters again, and on we walk.

In the middle of his own story about being genetically pre-programmed for ocean fly-fishing — he's the grandson of an "old school" California shore caster, while his other grandfather was an Idaho trout stream fly-fisherman — Oldham stops in his tracks and stares at the ocean. After a silent minute, he says, "This looks pretty good. Can you see that hole right there?"

I nod, though somewhat dishonestly. All I see is ocean.

"Let me make a few

RESEARCH STUDIES



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HEALTHY VOLUNTEERS WANTED for CLINICAL RESEARCH



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Body Chemistry, Depression and You

Stress and pressure, just like inactivity and boredom, can take a toll on our bodies. It can alter body chemistry, leaving us "stuck." A recent study demonstrated that antidepressant therapy, as an adjunct or simply in place of counseling, is effective in obtaining relief and getting "back on track." Sometimes a short course of medication is all that's needed and sometimes longer treatment is best.

Unfortunately, many people put off taking an antidepressant pill. They don't want the hassle or, perhaps, the insurance report. Some take a "wait and see" approach and some try and "gut it out." Not good! Ample evidence exists suggesting that body chemistry can "stay stuck longer," making what might be an easy solution tougher.

If you've been experiencing increased irritability, find yourself unable to concentrate, sleeping poorly or putting things off, confidential help may be available at no cost. Consider participating in a study with an investigational medication being researched to help. Let us help identify the symptoms you may be struggling with and, together, track the outcome. If what we're doing doesn't work, we will be able to tell you quickly. You can stop, and if you like, try another approach.

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

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casts here and see what we come up with.”

Oldham wades out into the 65-degree water until he's thigh deep. He unhooks the fly from the hook keeper and lets it drop into the water. The out-flowing current pulls the fly with it, and Oldham hand-feeds the sinking line with it. When 15 or 20 feet are out of the rod tip, he feeds a little more into the water and pulls the cork grip back toward his shoulder with a deliberate motion. The fly, which has been lying on the ocean floor, jumps out of the water and flies back toward the beach. When the line straightens out behind him and his fly rod starts to bend, or “load,” Oldham punches his right hand forward and the fly reverses its flight path, whizzing past his head back



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

Barred surf perch

toward the breaking waves. As the line starts to straighten again Oldham, with his left hand, allows a few more feet of line out of the rod tip. He repeats this process three or four

times until some 45 feet of fly-tipped line whirl overhead. With a final punch, like a heavyweight administering the knockout blow to a staggering opponent, he propels the line for-

ward. Immediately, he puts the rod tip down in the water, onto the sand. “The back-and-forth casting motion,” he says, “is called false casting. It’s meant to get out enough line to load, or put strain on the rod. The rod is engineered to cast a weighted line, not a lead weight as in conventional fishing. The fly is just along for the ride.”

As he talks, he starts “stripping” in the line with his left hand. “Fly-fisher-

men don’t reel in line, we strip it in by hand,” he explains. “That’s what the stripping basket is for, to hold the line as we strip it in. Stripping line in causes the fly to skip along the bottom where the fish are. The motion attracts their attention, and they bite.”

“There’s one,” Oldham says with obvious pleasure, after he pulls in 10 or 12 feet of line. He raises the rod out of the water and the rod is danc-

ing. Instead of reeling the fish, he keeps pulling in by hand. Though he’s caught thousands of fish before, his face bears the smile of a kid who’s just caught his first. “This is the fun part,” he says.

The fish, about a foot long, is silver and yellow, with four or five charcoal-colored vertical bars on its side. From the side it’s the shape of a football; from straight on it’s very narrow, obviously built for speed and cutting through the waves. “It’s a barred surf perch,” Oldham says. “These are the fish you’ll catch the most often out here. In the wintertime, when they’re getting ready to spawn, they get huge, up to 18 inches and a few pounds. You can also catch halibut here, especially when they spawn in the spring, and the occasional corbina.”

Another cast and another perch later, Oldham proclaims, “This spot will work. Let’s teach you to cast. Have you ever fly-fished before?”

“Yes, for trout up in the eastern Sierras. I even

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caught a few."

"That's good," Oldham responds, "but this is a little different. In a creek, you'll rarely have to cast more than 30 feet. Here we are punching flies into the wind 60 to 80 feet sometimes. It's the same principle as what you were doing up in the Sierras, but technically a little more challenging. Basically, you just have to tighten up your fundamentals. I have a lot of clients that have fished for years in the mountains, but when they get down to the beach they realize they have a lazy cast or never really learned how to cast correctly in the first place. You can get away with it in the mountains, casting 20 feet, but the beach is not as forgiving.

"Let's try water loading the line and see how you do." Water loading,



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

Oldham explains, is a way to get enough line out of the rod to fish without a lot of casting skill. Instead

of false casting back and forth and feeding line out, you let the current pull out line in front of you,

then with one swift back-cast you load the rod, then come forward and out the line goes. That's the theory

anyway. I try the water loading, but it's just not working for me despite Oldham's tutoring. "Can

I try false casting?" I ask. "I got pretty good at it on my last backpacking trip."

"When was that?"

"Six years ago."

Oldham smiles half-heartedly and says, "Let's give it a try."

The trick, he explains, is patience. You can't just whip the rod back and forth and expect the fly to do the same. You've got to wait for the rod to load before you apply pressure in the opposite direction. Otherwise, you'll be waving the rod around, but the line will be doing nothing.

"Your goal is to get at least that first 30 feet of sinking line out of the tip of the rod. Then the rod will load. So feed out about 15 feet of line, and not too quickly, pull the handle back toward your shoulder and wait for the line and

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the fly to stretch out behind you. False cast and feed out line until you feel the weight of the line start to bend the rod. It helps if you extend your thumb along the grip because you can feel that load right in your thumb. When the rod's fully loaded, punch

the handle forward like you are throwing a dart. When you have 30 feet of line out of the tip of the rod, it will bend the rod and you can let it fly. Now, give it a try."

My first attempt ends with the rod moving back and forth and the line going

nowhere. "You've got to be more patient," Oldham says. "Wait for the load. If it helps, turn your head around and watch the line. When it stretches out straight, then you can start your forward motion."

Watching does seem to help me, and I complete

a successful backward pull, but on the forward thrust I feed out too much line and the line goes slack."

"A little bit at a time," Oldham says, "and remember to wait for that load. Watch me." He casts back and forth until so much line is out of his rod that

the fly kisses the wavetops before reversing and flying back almost to the shoreline. Oldham never looks back to see the line stretching out behind him. Instead, the feeling in his right hand tells him when to push or pull. And as he feeds out more and more

line, the wait time between push and pull grows to two, three, almost four seconds. It's an impressive display. With a final huge stroke, he sends the fly past the second wave.

After pushing his rod tip down through the water and stripping in a little

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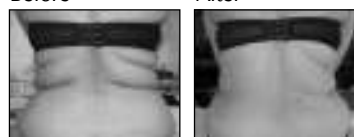
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line, he hooks another perch, this one the biggest of the day so far. “I had about 90 feet of line out that time,” he says. “It’s not necessary to get that much line out. I was just trying to show you that, if you’re patient and wait for the rod to load, you can cast almost any amount of line you want. Now, give it another try.”

This time I successfully work about 40 feet out of the rod, but on the final forward cast, I lose control of the line with my left hand. The fly and the 40 feet of line end up in a clump all around me. “You were right there,” Oldham says. “Keep trying.”

As Oldham, 15 feet to my left, hauls in perch after perch, I work on my casting. After ten minutes or so, I start to develop a rapport with my fly rod. Instead of having to watch the line travel back and forth, I can feel the rod loading and unloading, and I respond accordingly. The sensation reminds me of the pole-vaulting I did

in high school a decade and a half ago. Back then, it took me a month to learn to trust the pole and let it do the work. Once I did, I found myself soaring over heights I thought I’d never reach. Today, in much less time, I find myself casting 65 feet and more fly line into the Pacific Ocean. And

ing things about fly-fishing. Like a direct connection to the soul of the fish, the rod and line transmit to my hand the perch’s fierce desire to live. Oldham can see the exhilaration on my face. “An addictive feeling, isn’t it?”

After a thrilling minute or so of stripping in line,

Like a direct connection to the soul of the fish, the rod and line transmit to my hand the perch’s fierce desire to live.

the feeling exhilarates me the way clearing 12 and a half feet did back then.


Once I finally get the fly out to where the fish are, Oldham says, “Drop your rod tip and strip in the line.” I do...and BAM, a perch “smashes” the fly. The “take,” as fishermen call it, is one of the amaz-

I hold in my hands a medium sized, — but very feisty — barred surf perch, the first fish I’ve ever caught in the Pacific Ocean. “Do you eat these,” I ask as I pull the hook from the slimy fish’s mouth.

Oldham grimaces. “Oh, no. I hate fish.” ■

— Ernie Grimm

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Goodbye in the Morning



This began as a story about breakfast. I had been thinking about breakfasts and the near-obsolence now of extravagant morning meals. These meals were eaten by people on America's farms and in its small towns; they were eaten in the dark in winter and in gray dawn in spring and summer. Fried eggs, yolks straining against tense, transparent membrane; bacon slices cut from sugar-cured slabs, the bacon fat cameo-white between dark lean; biscuit that steams: I remember all this. I remember French toast. The egg-and-milk-soaked bread puffs up in the iron skillet. Chilly morning air puffs up too, swells to an ambrosial ferment the nose can't get enough of: sage-seasoned pork sausage, caramelizing sugars, sliced orange, coffee.

I remember breakfast tables from my earliest childhood; sunshine spills across a blue-checked tablecloth stiff with starch and fresh air. Cut-glass bowls hold jelly and jam. The Concord grape and strawberry wriggle, seem to live a life of their own, nurtured by a slow, hidden heartbeat.

From my seat at the table, my father's law books stacked under me, I saw, out the window, two cardinals flutter in midair. The larger bird was bright red, the smaller dull rust. The

larger pecked the smaller. "Stop them," I screamed. Even before the first word came out of my father's mouth, the birds flew. My father said, calm down, the birds were making babies. Soon they would lay eggs and their pretty eggs would fill to bursting with baby redbirds. Maybe the birds built their nest in our poplars or maples or elms. Maybe the mother redbird plucked up my lovely hair from the day before, when we set me in the yard on a chair and trimmed my curls so my neck wouldn't get so hot and sweaty. Maybe she lined her nest with my curls. "Imagine that!" my father said and smiled.

My mother then may have said to my father, as she often did, "Don't fill her head with ideas. You'll make her wild."

I remember fried green tomatoes and fried apple rings. My father and mother dip a forkful of charred tomato or apple into the lake of marigold yolk. They bite down with huge fierce teeth. Butter gleams on their lips. They spoon yellow cream into coffee; the coffee instantly turns pale, the way people do when they hear bad news. I remember the *glurg-glurg* when they swallow coffee, their enormous heads thrown back, pale white throats exposed. My father leaves a coffee taste on my lips when he kisses

me goodbye in the morning. Years later, at the movies on Saturday afternoons, I buy coffee Charms and suck them. Coffee-flavored liquid rises over my bottom teeth, pools on my tongue, floods my mouth with my father's kisses.

These memories seem pleasant enough, even with battling cardinals and strain between my mother and father. But as I enumerated dishes that weighted breakfast tables in my childhood, I felt uneasy. One specific morning and a second, also specific, kept coming back.

Sun isn't up, rain hits curtainless windows. The furnace is turned off, and the house is cold. I see my mother's heart-shaped face and my grandmother's doughy cheeks. I smell their newly applied makeup and deodorant and Blue-grass cologne. In the dim kitchen, their lipstick is greasy red and their rouge unnaturally bright.

My grandmother has spread the morning paper open under my bowl. I dawdle with my oatmeal, pat its stucco surface with the back of my spoon. Oatmeal splats against the paper.

My mother's and grandmother's faces loom, slowly expand, as a balloon being blown up will. My grandmother says we don't have all day, we need to get on the road if we're going to get to the farm before bedtime.



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Who will give Zoe the good home? Why can't Zoe go to the farm and chase away mice in my grandmother's barn?

"No more questions," my mother says.

My grandmother grabs the spoon. She'll make me eat. She sticks the spoon heaped with oatmeal in my mouth. I swallow. She sticks in another spoonful. I swallow. Another, another, faster and faster. The bowl is empty. The oatmeal rises up and out my lips and splashes into the bowl, onto the newspaper, the table, down my dress front. My grandmother slaps me.

That was the last meal I ate in that house.

They drag me into the dark bathroom, pull off my dress, my underwear, scrub, then dress me again, from the skin out, in clean clothes. They tell me if I want to do Number One or Two, I had better goddam well do them,

there won't be any stopping every ten miles.

My cheek burns, and my teeth ache from the hard slap. I am shaky from vomiting.

My grandmother hustles me out the front door to the driveway. The rising sun breaks through clouds and splashes light across bare treetops and our house's green shingles and bare dirt where my father would have put in his victory garden, had my mother not tossed him out.

The tan Packard sits low on its tires. Earlier that morning, my grandmother and mother packed the back seat and trunk, heaped the roof with boxes, and tied them to the car with clothesline. The boxes are covered with tarp.

Wind blows the last leaves off the poplars and maples and elms. I am knee-deep in wet yellow leaves; leaves stick to my bare legs.

My grandmother pushes me into the Packard's back seat, wedges me between boxes stacked with pots and pans that will rattle all day through the long ride. When

my grandmother slams the car door, Zoe tries to jump in. My grandmother's blunt foot thuds against Zoe's ribs. Even though they washed me, I can smell the vomit on my skin.

Memories come back to you in your mouth. Decades pass before I eat oatmeal; to this day, when I become sick to my stomach, I am terrified. I fear something more awful than vomiting. As an older child, when, for instance, I ran a 102-degree fever with measles and vomited myself empty into the pan my mother left on my bed, that morning came back to me. I was back at that table, newspaper opened out under the oatmeal bowl. Always when I was — *am* — sick, my body felt — *feels* — more than ache, sore throat, sick stomach; I felt like a sausage stuffed with sorrow.

That rainy morning I lost the life I was born to. I never trusted anyone again.

Then there is the second breakfast. After my mother divorced my father, I lived with my grandmother

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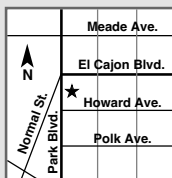
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on the ramshackle farm Uncle Carl bought her before he joined the Navy in World War II. Uncle Carl was my mother's brother, my grandmother's only son. He said that if anything happened to him in the war, she would have the farm.

Hands on her wide hips, my grandmother stated, proudly, that on her farm she had "more land than the eye could take in." How many acres those were, I don't know.

How a woman, then in her 60s, labored 16 hours a day as she did, I still do not know. She was rarely in the house, and when she was, she was dusting, scrubbing, disinfecting, swatting flies, washing and starching and ironing and then baking all of our bread, pies, cakes, canning and pickling and preserving and then tatting, embroidering, crocheting.

When I'm talking about my grandmother and her farm, people sometimes ask me how I remember this so clearly, given that I was 3 1/2 when I went there and almost 6 when I left. I say I was like someone set down in a Bible story where every event seems about to burst into a moral and every breeze is a wind of prophecy. I point out how

alone I was, no children to play with and my mother and father gone. My only human companions were this old woman and her hired hands.

Her house sat on a rise that declined toward the gravel county road. Behind the house, outbuildings leaned in varying stages of repair and disrepair. A wood-framed barn held stalls for the fawn-colored Jerseys and black-

door and barn was the well house, where the pump pounded and surged, strong and steady as an athlete's heart. The well water tasted like stone would taste if you chewed it.

A concrete-block milk house stood near the barn. In the milk house my grandmother separated milk and poured it into stainless steel jugs for the dairy truck that, daily, picked up filled jugs

A disagreeable woman at best, my grandmother turned fierce when she worried. For the slightest slip-up, say, breaking an eggshell when I gathered eggs, she'd slap you so hard your ears rang.

and-white Holsteins that my grandmother and the hands, Bushels and Buckles, milked early morning and late afternoon. A ladder led to the hayloft above the stalls. I never once went there. You could break your neck. Be, my grandmother said, "crippled for life."

Between back porch

and left off empties. She kept some of the milk for us and some for the barn cats. Once a week or so she saved back some milk for butter, skimming cream from the top. What remained, the creamless milk, she called "blue-john." The blue-john went to the hogs. The cream went into the butter churn. She grabbed the churn's plunger and plunged it up and down, sweat runneling down her forehead, until the cream "turned" and we had butter.

To the right of the barn was the hen house. Next door to the hen house stood the brooder house, where baby chicks were let out when they arrived, by mail, in boxes. You could hear the chicks peep in the boxes. And next door to the brooder house, inside a wire fence, was a shack where cockerels were fattened for market and fried chicken dinners.

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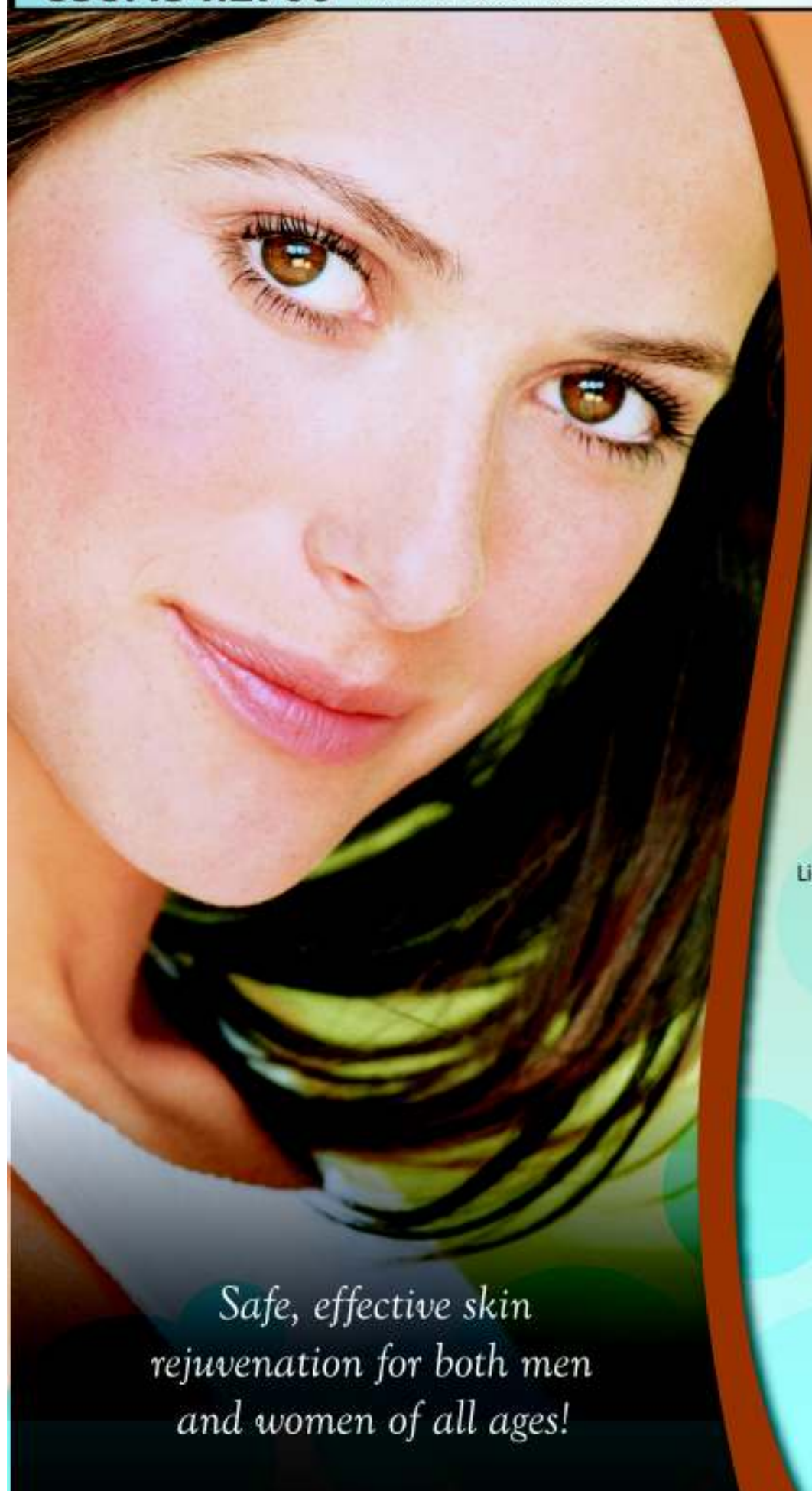
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One thing you learned on the farm was that chickens would not love you. All they wanted was corn you scattered. If they thought anything about you it was that you stole their eggs. I don't think they even thought that much.

Spring and summer, when you stretched out on prickly grass, you knew grass didn't care about you either. Grass had a life all its own, trying to go to seed and make more of itself. The grass didn't flinch when the cows left hoof prints. Nothing cared, not the hens, cows, the mule, alfalfa. Everything went about its business growing itself. Then my grandmother and Bushels and Buckles came along and turned it, animal or vegetable, to food. This hardened your heart.

Behind the barn, Bushels and Buckles lived in a windowless bunkhouse. My grandmother hired the two old men from the county poorhouse. They spit tobacco on the ground near their boots, chewed cigar stubs and orange rat cheese, the latter kept in the bib pocket

of their overalls. In winter they layered on underwear; over their underwear and under overalls, they wore plaid flannel shirts. Frayed long-John sleeves stuck out below the shirt cuffs. They tucked their overall legs into unfastened rubber galoshes; the galoshes' metal fasteners clacked with each step the two men took. You could tell where they'd been by the smell.

My grandmother traded a hog to a house painter from town who slapped white paint on the house. In exchange for a half-dozen laying hens, he also calcimined the chicken house. My grandmother said she got one over on him, those hens' laying days were done. When my grandmother got one over on somebody, you should have heard her laugh. She threw back her big head and opened wide her big round mouth and clacked together her false teeth and cackled.

My grandmother tacked up a satin Blue Star pennant, a blue star against white satin, in the front window. You got one blue star for each son

or daughter serving in the armed forces. If your son or daughter died, you took down your blue star and draped a Gold Star banner over your window and you wore a gold star lapel pin; the dead fighter's mother was called a Gold Star Mother.

We drove the pickup to town on Saturdays to sell eggs and buy supplies. My grandmother cruised residential streets. She said she didn't care how much goddam gas we wasted, she wanted to count gold stars. She wasn't Catholic, but when she saw a gold star, she took a hand off the steering wheel, crossed herself, and said, "There but for the grace of God go I."

Uncle Carl was 41 when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. He had never married. Given his age and that he was a teacher of organ in a state college, the Navy made him a chaplain's assistant, as they did many apparently homosexual men. Uncle Carl was homosexual, although he hid his homosexuality. He had his mother's stocky German body, a strong chin,

large blue eyes, and a flirtatious manner with both men and women. Single women invited him for dinners and to concerts and parties. He accepted their invitations, and then afterward, talking with homosexual male friends, he made fun of the women, their excessive use of cosmetics and perfume, coy mannerisms. Sometimes he spoke cruelly, mentioning their unpleasant female odors, terrifying ardor, attempts to kiss him, their desperation to catch "anything in pants."

The Navy trained Uncle Carl in Norfolk, Virginia, then shipped him to Okinawa, along with an Armed Forces hymnal and a field organ, a three-foot-high console whose keyboard spanned four octaves. Players powered the organ by pumping two wide pedals, and the organ gave out a surprisingly robust sound. (I know because during the 1960s, Uncle Carl bought at a junk store a field organ precisely like the one he'd played on Okinawa.) Uncle Carl's job was to provide music at

church services held behind battle lines. "You had to play loud," he said, "and had to be ready at the drop of a hat to pound out 'Onward Christian Soldiers.'"

"World War II," he later would say, "was the best vacation I ever had." Then he'd wink, lewdly, add, "All that delicious *fresh* seafood, you know." Years later, someone told me that "seafood" was in-crowd gay slang for sailors.

While Uncle Carl, as my mother and grandmother put it, was "fighting in the Pacific," the two women, again, to use their language, "worried themselves sick." My mother was at Eastman School of Music getting her master's degree and taking singing lessons, so I don't know what form her worry took. I do know my grandmother did much vigorous hand-wringing, twisting of apron corners, that her mood rose and fell with arrival or non-arrival of Uncle Carl's V-mail.

She kept a world map thumbtacked to her bedroom wall. She'd put her fat finger in the blue Pacific and

say, "That's where my boy is, out in all that water." Sometimes, she would shake her head, say, "That's a goddam lot of water."

My grandmother was the oldest of ten children. All she ever said about her parents was that her father, A.J. Brooks, beat her and that her mother made her "slave" right alongside her, helping raise the children that came after her. My grandmother never said one kind word about her father or mother, nor did I ever hear her mention her brothers and sisters. Not one word.

Like others raised in her era (she was born in the late 1870s), she did not have a sentimental attitude toward children. Days passed when all she called me was "Young'un."

"Young'un," she'd say, "go get the mail."

To get to the mailbox, you walked down a graveled driveway to the gate and took down the gate rails. Hail stones had battered the mailbox, and cattle rubbing against the pole to which the box was bolted had loosened and

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tipped the pole. They had left tufts of their stiff russet hairs on the pole.

If three days passed without a letter, I kept my distance. A disagreeable woman at best, my grandmother turned fierce when she worried. For the slightest slip-up, say, breaking an eggshell when I gathered eggs, she'd slap you so hard your ears rang. She was short and fat, and when she had hitting you on her mind, she moved fast. So I always hoped that when I stood on tiptoes to get into the mailbox that she'd have a letter from Uncle Carl, or at least a letter from

my mother, of whom, alas, she was not as fond.

I wanted to love my grandmother. I didn't. When I was older and my grandmother had been dead for years, I said to my mother that I had been miserable with my grandmother. My mother looked up from photographs of my children, costumed for a grade school play, that she had been studying. She turned her face toward me, the heart-shaped face lined and drawn downward, but still beautiful. She scooted to the edge of her chair. She inhaled. I could hear the warm air enter her.

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A small woman, five feet tall, slender and delicately boned, she was wearing an expensive knit dress, the yarn a clear red. She inhaled and her diaphragm enlarged, as singers' diaphragms will. When I was a child, this slow enlargement frightened me. It was like something an animal does before striking.

She spoke in these moments with the careful enunciation she gave to a Puccini aria or Schubert *lied*. She grew cautious with dental consonants, fitted them tidily between the easy, open vowels. She said — sang, really — that I should thank

my lucky stars my grandmother took me in. She raised her eyebrows and pursed her lips. "Do you think," she trilled a thrilling crystalline vibrato, "that your father's new wife would have taken you?"

Evenings after my grandmother and Bushels and Buckles herded cows into their stalls, milked them, strained and separated the milk, filled the cows' feed boxes with feed and hay and got chickens gathered in, hasped the hen house door against skunks and coons, my grandmother turned on the big cathedral Philco, set-

tled deep into her plush easy chair, turned up her hearing aid high as it would go, and grabbed up her mending or fancywork. She'd say, "Shut up. I want to hear what they say."

"They" were Edward R. Murrow, Eric Sevareid, Lowell Thomas, Gabriel Heatter, Richard Hottelet, Walter Winchell. Even young children recognized the voices. We might not know, and I didn't, what a world war was, but we knew the news these sonorous voices carried into our living rooms was about whether Japs or Nazis were going to stick bayonets

through you. We listened and watched our grownups' faces; their frowns or smiles or tears told you if news was good or bad.

My grandmother's bedroom was crowded with heavy, carved furniture — wardrobe chest, vanity table, two smaller chests and four-poster bed. Across the surfaces she'd scattered doilies she'd tatted herself, and atop those doilies she'd set out bric-a-brac she'd picked up in her travels — a hollowed-out armadillo, a pottery log cabin incised in gold with "Land of Lincoln," a metal oil derrick, a wooden music box

in the shape of a steamer trunk. The music no longer played. Roosevelt's photograph hung on her bedroom wall. The photograph had been hand-tinted and had that odd pastel haze you see over pictures of saints. Tucked into the corner of that photograph was a smaller photo, torn from a newspaper: Winston Churchill flashing the V-for-Victory sign.

You read now in history books that Roosevelt was the first president to broadcast regularly over the radio. He

gave what he called "fireside chats." All over America, people sat in their living rooms, radios tuned, and waited for his "Good evening, my friends."

Nights when President Roosevelt gave his fireside chats, my grandmother took down the map and draped it over her knees. "This way," she said, "I can follow along with what President Roosevelt says." She pronounced his name "Rue-sevelt." She worshipped him.

"Now there's a man,"

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my grandmother said, "who loved his mother." Which was how you knew she was going to tell you the story of Roosevelt's life. That his father was rich, older than his beautiful mother, that they lived in a mansion high on a hill above the Hudson River in New York in a town called

Hyde Park. He was the only child because little Mother Roosevelt, the doctor said, was too delicate to have more children; she was small, in the pelvis. When young Franklin was eight, his father had a heart attack and lived for the next ten years as an invalid. Franklin was good as

gold, my grandmother said, not wanting to do anything to set off his father's heart or worry his mother. When Father Roosevelt died, Franklin was going to Harvard College, and after the funeral Mother Roosevelt was so lonely she moved to Boston to be near Franklin.

After Franklin graduated, when he was 21, he told his mother he was going to marry his fifth cousin, President Teddy Roosevelt's niece, the homely orphan Eleanor, and it about broke Mother Roosevelt's heart. But he married Eleanor anyway, and that marriage, my grandmother said, was about the biggest mistake in the President's life, except for when he went swimming on a cold day and let himself take a chill that left him open to come down with infantile paralysis.

According to my grandmother, some people claimed that Mother Roosevelt was an "interferer." Because she always stayed "right close" to the president, even after

he married. "He could have told her to mind her own business," my grandmother said, "if he'd felt like that. But he didn't." My grandmother believed Eleanor Roosevelt was such a bad housekeeper and hostess and careless mother that Mother Roosevelt had no choice but to keep close to her son to help raise the six children the couple had.

My grandmother didn't have one good word for Eleanor. Mrs. Roosevelt had a column, "My Day," that ran in newspapers across the country. When my grandmother read this column, she'd say that "Mrs. My Day" gadded around too much, that she ought to stay home in the White House, keep

track of her children, who got married and divorced faster than you could count. She said the president should make his wife keep her big flapping mouth shut. She thought Mrs. Roosevelt "ugly as sin, what with those big horsy teeth jutting out." She criticized Mrs. Roosevelt's clothing as "Dutchy-looking," a term that meant "unstylish" and "country." She laughed at her hats. But the worst thing, according to my grandmother, about Mrs. Roosevelt, was that she encouraged "race-mixing." She brought "colored" into the White House and entertained them "right there in front of God and everybody." She was always trying to get the president to "do for the

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colored.”

My grandmother believed that after the war, thanks to Mrs. My Day and her “do-gooder” friends, the “colored” would no longer “know their place.” She said that while she knew “good colored people” and “clean colored people,” colored did not belong with white. No way.

My grandmother said that one thing Mother Roosevelt did that *was* wrong was that after the polio crippled up her son, she begged him to retire. He refused. He’d already been a big man in government in Washington, D.C., with President Wilson, as assistant Navy secretary. “A big man,” my grandmother said, “can never go back to being a nobody.” He fought the polio and got back some use of his legs and became governor of New York. Then when the Depression got bad as it could get and the Bolshies were about to start a revolution, he ran for president against that goddamn cheapskate Hoover.

My grandmother saw FDR as personally respon-

sible for the enactment of Social Security, and when she rummaged through her pocketbook for Tums, she sometimes slid her Social Security card from her wallet. “This,” she said, “will help keep me from the poor farm in my old age.” She’d talk about how although FDR was “rich in his own right,” he cared about the little man, the “forgotten man,” the workers and farmers. She’d say that when he became president, hardly a house out in the country had electricity, and now almost every farmer had electric lights. “Me?” she’d say. “I’d follow FDR through fire in my bare feet.”

My grandmother liked to tell about when Mother Roosevelt died, a few months before the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. She’d say that even though the president’s mother was almost 87, she was pretty as a picture. “She blued her hair,” my grandmother said, patting her own white hair, which she rinsed with laundry bluing, “the same as I do mine. That way it doesn’t turn all yellow.”

The president knew his mother was sinking and got on the train to Hyde Park and was holding her hand when she passed away. After she died, my grandmother said, he didn’t come back to the White House for a long time. He just shut himself up there in Hyde Park. He got out the box Mother Roosevelt had kept with his baby shoes all bronzed up and his toys and some of his hair from the first time the barber cut it, and he held on to that box and cried his heart out.

When I was older and had young children of my own and wanted to understand my family, I read everything I could find in the library about Roosevelt. He seemed as much a part of the people I came from as my grandmother or Uncle Carl or mother or father.

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one holding on to either side of him, and he'd grip their arms, and they'd propel him forward. No one talked much about Roosevelt being crippled. But they must have known.

My grandmother, like most Americans during World War II, hated the Japanese. So you won't think she was unusual, here's something Ernie Pyle wrote that appeared in papers all across America. "In Europe we felt that our enemies were still people. But out here in Japan I soon gathered that Japanese were looked upon as something subhuman and repulsive. I watched Japanese POWs laughing and talking just like normal human beings. They gave me the creeps, and I wanted to take a mental bath after looking at them."

When American pilots dropped ton after ton of incendiary bombs on Tokyo and Osaka, my grandmother beat on her knees with her fists and cheered. "They're setting those Japs on fire," she said. She beat her knees so hard that her fancywork

fell to the carpet. But when news from the Pacific theater indicated that Japanese torpedoes blew up a U.S. ship or that kamikazes had dive-bombed a U.S. patrol boat, my grandmother went to bed weeping. Wearing the nightgown she'd sewn from pink outing flannel, she sat at the edge of her bed. She took out her teeth and dropped them into the glass of water on her bedside table. She pulled out her hearing aid amplifier from the yellowed nook between her breasts and the hearing aid button from her ear and tucked the contraption under her pillow. She sloughed off her slippers. Those nights her sobs rose and fell, throbbing through our bedrooms' thin walls. She moaned the long, low moans that cows, enduring a difficult birth, moaned. I felt helpless to comfort her, and I was.

By 1944, FDR had been president for 11 years. My grandmother studied his photograph in newspapers, *Life* magazine and *Saturday Evening Post*. She shook her head, said, "Look at those

bags under the poor man's eyes. We've done worn him out."

When Roosevelt ran for re-election to his fourth term, he dumped his old vice president, Henry Wallace, and ran with the senator from Missouri, Harry Truman. His Republican opponent was New York governor Tom Dewey, "a horse's ass," my grandmother seethed, "with a silly mustache." No way, she told Bushels and Buckles, would Dewey win. He didn't.

Harry Truman my grandmother hated and looked down upon as a failed farmer, which he was. My grandmother said we should pray Roosevelt didn't die in office and leave us with Harry. Of course, he did.

The day in April when news came of Roosevelt's death, my grandmother took to her bed. She didn't cook dinner. She didn't milk cows, didn't gather eggs. Next morning, when she walked into the kitchen, her eyes were swollen from crying.

Pretty soon after Roosevelt died, my grandmother

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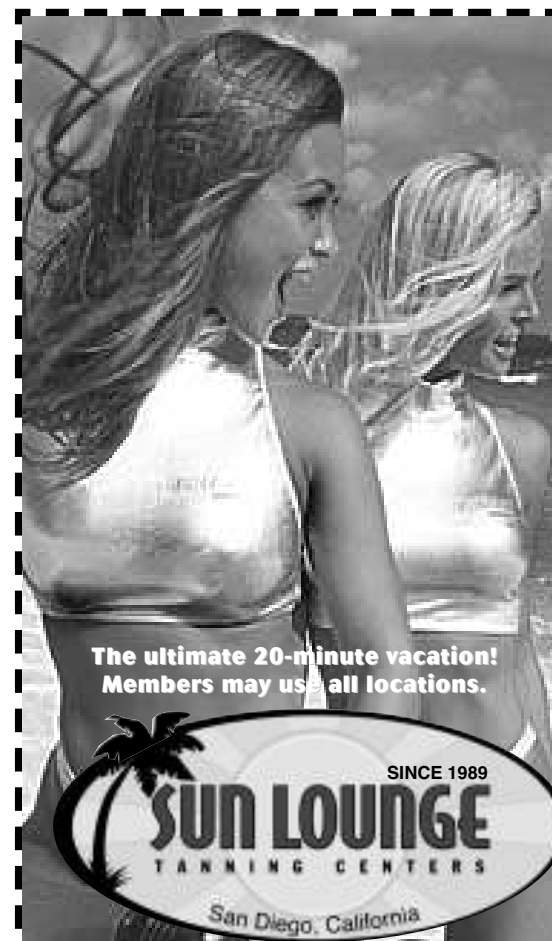
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cheered up. Because the war was winding down. "My boy," she'd say, "will soon be home."

Lord, how she loved the A-bomb. The day that the *Enola Gay* dropped the bomb on Hiroshima, my grandmother cheered. She loved, she said, the thought that all those Japs were finally getting theirs. She clacked her big false teeth and cackled. "Old Tojo," she said, "I bet his old yellow feet are feeling the heat."

Harry became her hero. We heard no more talk about Harry's inability to farm. Harry became the man who "saved the lives of our Amer-

ican boys." Bess Truman, castigated as a "bridge club priss ass" and "plain as an Irish potato," became "the good woman behind a good man."

After VJ Day, Uncle Carl was due to be demobilized. In his letters he wrote that he couldn't say when he'd actually get out. "I'll surprise you," he wrote.

By then, potatoes were dug and taken down to the storm cellar in gunny sacks. The tight cabbage heads, outer leaves wrapped tightly around the head, veins sticking out, were also down in the storm cellar, with turnips, purple at the shoulder and

ivory below, and beets and carrots. Canning was done. Baby chicks, arrived that spring in boxes, by then were pullets who filled nest boxes with eggs. When you got up

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in the morning and looked out the window, you saw frost on roofs and pasture.

About four one morning, I woke up. I was sleeping under heaped quilts. A dream woke me, I thought, or my grandmother, who called out in her sleep to people whose names I didn't know. My room was dark. I got out of bed and looked out my window. I pulled aside the curtain. The sun hadn't come up, the red-combed roosters weren't crowing and scratching dirt with their yellow feet.

I heard a knock at the front door and a moment later, more knocks against the dining and living room windows. A voice called, "Mother, Mother." I didn't recognize the voice. I didn't think to go shake my grandmother awake. I thought only of the voice crying, "Mother, Mother." The person from whom the voice came sounded like someone in trouble.

I ran through the house to the front door. The top half of the door was inset with murky glass. I looked through the glass and saw a man. A white sailor's cap tilted to one side of his head. I stood on my toes and snapped on the porch light. "Open the door," the man said, "it's your Uncle Carl."

He didn't look like the face that came to mind when I thought "Uncle Carl." Years later, studying photographs taken before Carl joined the Navy and at photographs taken the afternoon of that morning he arrived at the farm, I see that Navy life thinned him down, left him appearing younger than his 40-some years. He looks boyish, hoydenish, and his blue

eyes look larger, more open.

I threw the bolt and opened the door. Surely he hugged me, but I don't remember. I do remember that he wore a navy-blue sailor middy with white anchors embroidered on the square collar. I remember that slung over each shoulder he had a huge sea bag and that once inside the door, he hoisted the bags off his shoulders onto the floor. The bags were filled with sea shells from the Pacific, many of them hand-size scallop shells that he used in years ahead for ashtrays when he gave parties.

I told him Grammy didn't hear him knocking because she took out her hearing aid at night. He whispered, "We want to wake up Mother carefully, so the shock doesn't give her a stroke or heart attack." My mother and Uncle Carl worried their mother would have a heart attack or stroke because her blood pressure was high.

I don't remember how we woke her up. I do remember she grabbed Uncle Carl around the waist and held on so tight he screamed, "You're going to cut me in two, Mother." Her head didn't come up much further than his stomach. She cried until the front of her nightie was spotted with tears.

Uncle Carl wanted breakfast. He said that while he was on ships out in the Pacific and on Okinawa, he went to sleep nights thinking about her breakfasts. "The biscuits, Mother, the fried eggs, the sausage, your strawberry preserves. Oh, my God!" He rolled his blue eyes and told us that in the Navy they fed them powdered eggs and powdered

milk and bacon from cans.

The enormous kitchen, painted bright yellow, had windows that looked out to the west and south. Along the west wall was the deep sink from whose faucets poured the medicinal well water. My grandmother was so short she stood on a box to get to the sink, and she often stood there, her fat, hard belly damp from dishwater, and gazed out onto her pasture. A four-burner, two-oven gas range was backed against the north wall. The kitchen table and four chairs around it took up all the space in a windowed nook that afforded a view into the vegetable garden and, beyond the garden, to the barn and hen house.

I know that table well, because after my grandmother died, my mother had the table and chairs that went with it shipped Railway Express to our house. She stripped off the paint and, evenings, wearing a mask because sawdust was bad for her voice, she sanded the oak smooth. When a guest praised the table, my mother ran her pretty hand over the table. Tears rose in her eyes. She said, "It was my mother's table."

I would remember my grandmother's ugly face. I would think how, on her deathbed, she told my mother she never loved her as much as she did Uncle Carl. My mother walked into the hospital corridor and sobbed. Uncle Carl petted her shoulder. He said, "She's out of her mind, she doesn't know what she's saying." I always thought she knew precisely what she was saying and enjoyed the hurt her statement caused.

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was almost as big as the kitchen. Shelves ranked from floor to ceiling around all four walls. My grandmother stored canning there, extra pots and pans, a fruit jar filled with pencils, canning equipment, mops and brooms, perhaps as many as 50 one-pound cans of Folgers coffee, sacks of sugar and flour and cornmeal, the Sears & Roebuck and Montgomery Ward catalogs.

Next to the stove — my grandmother called it “the range” — was the refrigerator, which my grandmother referred to as “the icebox.” Mornings, she kept her percolator coffee pot on the range. She liked coffee burnt black, and years later, while she was dying of stomach cancer, my uncle and mother whispered that the burnt coffee hadn’t helped her any.

You don’t see stove-top percolators much anymore. A straight-sided pot, fitted out with a basket into which coffee grounds were ladled and a tube that fitted through a hole in the middle of that basket and ran from top to bottom of the pot. You put the water in the pot and then set in the basket with its tube. The lid had in its center a hollow glass knob. You put the pot on the stove with the flame on high. Once the water began boiling, the hot water rose up through the tube and then down through the coffee grounds that sat in the basket, thus extracting their essence. When this process began, one said that the coffee had begun “to perk.” At this point, the flame was turned low beneath the pot. You could see the water jet up into the glass knob on the lid. As the water recirculated, the water you saw through the glass became darker and the circulation increased its speed. The sound was *chug, chug, chug*.

That morning Uncle Carl came back from the war, my grandmother blew her nose and put on the percolator and stuck a match in the oven and lit it. She tied her apron on over her nightgown. She got out flour, baking powder, lard, and salt, and buttermilk. She poured the flour, the salt, the baking powder, without measuring, into the mixing bowl. She scooped out lard from the lard bucket with a tablespoon. She picked up the red-handled pastry mixer, the same one she used to

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make pie crust, and cut the white lard into the flour, until the flour turned to pea-size balls. Uncle Carl pulled a chair out from the kitchen table and sat down. My grandmother's broad fat back, apron bow tied and flopping above her monstrous, massive buttocks, faced him. Over and over, she'd stop in the middle of blending the dough, turn and say, "Oh, son, let me get another look at you." She stood, flour on her hands, and smiled.

I sat on the cold floor, on the black-and-white speckled Armstrong linoleum, at Uncle Carl's feet and stroked his dusty black boots. I wanted him to open his sea bags and show the seashells. I knew better than to ask.

Sun was coming up. Dirty brindle dog trailing behind them, Bushels and Buckles came up from the bunkhouse into the kitchen, as they did every morning. They brought their doggy, sour-washcloth, urinous odors with them.

She fed Bushels and Buckles every morning, my grandmother did, and that morning, too, they would have wanted coffee, their ham or sausage or bacon, eggs and pancakes and biscuit, gravy if she had some left from dinner the night before, slices of the day before's pie. Normally, she sat with them while they ate and sipped at her ever-blackening coffee. They talked about which cows were "fresh," which heifers ready for breeding, a hog who seemed off his feed, a motor that needed oiling, an off-taste in the morning's milk, that sort of thing. They talked, too, about the war.

But not this morning. "My son's here," she told them. Uncle Carl stood, shook the old men's hands. Surely, they congratulated him on his safe return, and he no doubt thanked them for being a help to his mother.

What I do remember is that while the three men talked my grandmother slapped together sandwiches made from old biscuit and thick slices of bologna. She told them to take their food and coffee on out to the barn and get started milking.

She had sharpened her favorite butcher knife so many times that its blade had narrowed to a thin steel sliver. That morning, I'm sure she used that knife as she cut thick slices of bacon off a smoked rasher from hogs she'd butchered. The rasher's exterior, rubbed with salt and sugar and spices and smoked with hickory in the smokehouse, had taken on the burnish of oiled mahogany furniture. She held up a bacon slice for Uncle Carl to see. She told him about the hog from whose side the slice had been cut.

I don't remember the hog's name, but unlike most farmers, my grandmother named her hogs, and out in the hog pen, she addressed them by name — Ben, Abner, Robert E. Lee, Stimson, Salvatore, Isadore, Pappy, Daisy Mae are names I recall hearing her use. (And years later, when I told my father some of these names, he said that at least two were names of my grandmother's boyfriends.) I do remember that she told Uncle Carl about butchering day, how she and Bushels and Buckles did all the sticking and bleeding and sawing apart bones themselves, that

she worked right along with them, like a man. I remember that she sidled over to the table and bulged up her biceps and asked him to feel it. She would have said, as she often did, "Feel that, hard as a rock, huh? Hard as a goddamn rock."

I do know that while she cooked that morning, she cried. "For joy," she said, "for pure-out joy." I know that she had reached out so many times to touch her son that the shoulders of his navy-blue uniform were dusted with flour and imprinted with floury handprints.

She set the bacon slices to cooking in the high-sided iron skillet. She sent me to the pantry for red Winesaps that she cored and cut in rounds. She arranged the apple rings in a skillet whose surface burbled with freshly churned butter. She browned the apples and, using tongs, turned them carefully, then tossed handfuls of brown sugar over them and set a lid atop the skillet, so the sugar would caramelize over the tart Winesap slices. The bacon fried, its fats sizzling. After the bacon had cooked the way Uncle Carl liked it — not quite crisp, with the lean still soft — she broke open brown eggs on the edge of the iron skillet. "Come here, son," she might have said, as she often did, "and look how high these here yolks set up." Then, she may well have told him which of her hens were the most prodigious layers and how many eggs they laid in a good month.

The biscuit, by then, put out its heated high-summer-wheat-field, floury aroma into the kitchen. The bacon's salty haze drifted across the kitchen like weather. And the apple rings' caramel sweetness bore down on us like July sunshine. My grandmother stood next to Uncle Carl. Her blued hair stuck out in oily strands off her big head. She placed her hands on her wide hips and she smiled. She'd forgotten to put in her teeth. Her lips encircled the emptiness. Her pink tongue emerged over glistening gums. Tears streamed down her fat face. She said, "Well, as far as I'm concerned, my war's over. My boy's home." She must have been happy many times after that, but never again would I see her as happy as she was that day. ■

— Judith Moore

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Goin' to a Boat Show

High Seas Dreams at the Convention Center

We built a boat for a cinematographer of *Star Trek*," says Dan Peter, owner of Cabrillo Yacht Sales. "He wanted a perched perspective of everything and had us build a radar arch davit system [normally a small crane used for suspending and lowering a dinghy or lifeboat] with two seats on top and an arch for mounting electronics. He likes that high perch where he can kind of look out over everything from a nice viewpoint. Most people would never think of putting a couple of seats on top of the davit. It was \$25,000, four years ago, just for some metal hanging off

LOCAL EVENTS

the top of the boat. The whole yacht was about \$750,000." A 52-foot replica of the cinematographer's boat will be in the San Diego Boat Show, which runs from Thursday, January 4, to Sunday, January 7, at the Convention Center and Marriott Marina. "This guy saw [the cinematographer's] boat and wanted one exactly like it," says Peter. "We've built custom tubs, Jacuzzis; once we built an altar to Matsu, 'Goddess of the Sea,' who was the only female Buddha. She protects the fishermen and people out at sea. For one guy, an engineer who did consulting work, we built a grand navigation station. It had a big worktable area to lay out all of his stuff, and we built him a computer screen right into the nav station."

"Etched glass, flat screens — all that stuff is of course pretty standard," says show manager Jeff Hancock. "Lots of people who have boats also have fish, so you'll see fish tanks in there. Ten years ago there was a

190-foot boat that was custom made in Australia," Hancock recalls. The customer, who "inherited for a living," bought the Australian shipyard when he learned it was going out of business so that his boat could be completed. "He had Picassos hanging on the wall, a grand piano in the salon, a lap pool. He didn't have a helicopter, but he had a small SUV on there, gold-plated faucets, that sort of thing. You can get pretty extravagant," says Hancock. "He had a heart condition, so there was heart monitoring by satellite, and the bathrooms were wider to accommodate a wheelchair. He called his boat the *Other Woman*."

"There was an attorney who bought a boat over on Harbor Island, and he kept having problems with it," says Peter. "He called it a *Piece of Ship* and painted it on the boat. It was the funniest name I've ever seen."

One couple, whose profession was building mobile homes, dubbed their boat *Trailer Trash*. When the couple had to sell their boat, they recommended the new owners change the name.

"There's a tradition where you're supposed to christen the boat initially," explains Peter. "But changing the name...there are superstitions about it. By placing a gold coin underneath the mast step, it's a sign to the gods that you're changing the name of the boat. There's another thing where you sail the boat a mile backward, which is supposed



to release the evils for changing the name." According to Peter, leaving a boat nameless is not an option. "Nameless boats are like unloved boats. You always name them to give them some character."

The most expensive boat Peter sold was a 73-foot motor yacht for \$2.5 million. "There was a luxury tax on boats years ago," remembers Hancock. "The idea was to tax

the rich, but as a practical matter the rich said, 'We'll buy used ones,' and it just hurt the guys who were building the boats."

According to Peter, some boat buyers take their new purchases to Mexico to avoid sales tax. "They go from here down to Mexico for six months to a year. It depends on the law at the time," he says.

Most boats come with a slip, or a place in the water where the boat can be kept.

"Most marinas really want to meet you first. It's kind of a tight community," says Peter. "In the old days, when they were at 75 per-

cent occupancy, it wasn't that big a deal. Now marinas are at 95 or even 99 percent occupancy. They can afford to be a lot more choosy about who they let in."

Peter says local marinas charge from \$13 to \$20 per foot for rent a month. "In a \$20-per-foot marina, a 50-foot boat would pay \$1000 a month," he says. The price often depends on the marina's accommodations. "In the Marriott downtown, you get full use of their pools and Jacuzzis and room service to your boat and even maid service. They will come and clean the inside of your boat for you."

— Barbarella

San Diego Boat Show
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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

Events that are underlined occur after January 11.

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

Three Wise Men Parade, the "last event of the Christmas season" starts at 6 p.m. on Friday, January 5, at Paseo de los Héroes in Zona Río. Free. (TIJUANA)

Hypnotists Taurus do Brazil and John Milton return to Centro Cultural Tijuana — performances begin on Friday, January 5, and continue through January. Curtain rises at 8 p.m. Mondays–Wednesdays, at 6 and 9 p.m. Thursdays–Saturdays, and at 5 and 8 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets: \$10–\$13 U.S. Find center at Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street in Zona Río. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

Take a Bike Ride with other riders on Sunday, January 7, 10 a.m., at Tercera Etapa in Zona Río.

Routes and details: 011-52-664-215-9000. (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

Recent Chilly Days and Nights only confirm that San Diego's lowest temperatures (according to more than a century of weather records) tend to occur during the month of January. January's mean temperature at Lindbergh Field is about 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

OUT & ABOUT

LOW-BUDGET FUN!
Mutual Appreciation, Thursday, January 11, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego.

(SEE FILM)



(July's mean is a balmy 70 degrees.) To experience much colder temperatures, journey to the Cuyamacas; -1 and -4 degree readings were once recorded there — the two lowest temperatures ever recorded in the county.

Venus emerges from the evening twilight glare in January and gradually assumes an increasingly prominent position as a brilliant "evening star" in the western sky. Venus will remain an evening star until August 2007, when it will experience inferior conjunction (Venus almost in front of the sun).

In September, Venus will reappear as a "morning star" visible in the eastern sky before sunrise.

Heart of the City Rail Trail Hike, Saturday, January 6. This "Discover San Marcos Hike" includes walk on part of new rail trail, through Arboretum at Palomar College, along Borden Road. Hikers opt for a four- or six-mile round trip; trails are mostly easy, flat. Meet group at 9 a.m. at outdoor hearth at Community Center (3 Civic Center Drive). Walking shoes recommended; bring water, trail snacks. 760-744-9000 x3508. (SAN MARCOS)

Clean Up! Learn differences between native plants and weeds, help clean up around Buena Audubon Nature Center, Saturday, January 6, 8–10 a.m. Bring weeding tools, gloves if you have them; water. Free. Find center at 2202 South Coast Highway; 760-439-2473. (OCEANSIDE)

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Look for Black-Crowned Night Herons, great-tailed grackles, osprey, wood ducks with Audubon Society birders at Santee Lakes, Saturday, January 6. Moderately strenuous hiking on level ground. Bring a scope. Join group at 8 a.m. in parking area between first and second lakes within Santee Lakes Regional Park. Vehicle day-use fee. Directions: 619-280-7710. (SANTEE)

Whelan Lake Bird Walk, see many different species during walk hosted by Buena Vista Audubon Society to scope out fall migrants, Saturday, January 6, starting at 8 a.m. Free. Directions: 760-941-7824. (OCEANSIDE)

Hawkwatch, visit Ramona's grasslands to witness winter migration of hawks, falcons, and eagles during outings led by Wildlife Research Institute every Saturday through February, 9 a.m.-noon. Walks led by trained biologist. Wear hiking or walking boots. Bring binoculars or spotting scopes if you have them. Outings begin at Wildlife Research Institute headquarters, 18030 Highland Valley Road (near Rangeland). Free. 760-789-3992. Heavy rain cancels. (RAMONA)

"Our Backcountry Landscape — Should We Care?" Nonnative plants are invading our local desert and mountains. Learn what they are, where they came from,

and why we should care during program hosted by Anza-Borrego Institute on Saturday, January 6, 9 a.m.-noon, at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park visitors' center discovery lab. After discussion, head out to Borrego Palm Canyon trailhead to see species. Free. Reservations: 760-767-4063. (ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK)

Trail-Repair Work in Paso Picacho at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park continues on Saturday, January 6, 9 a.m. Bring work shoes, gloves, hat, water, snack. Group gathers at Paso Picacho campground maintenance area behind fire department building. Free. Registration: 619-851-2285. For those 16 and older with a parent. (CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK)

Guided Nature Walks offered Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday, January 6, 7, and 10, 9:30-11 a.m., in Mission Trails Regional Park (One Father Junipero Serra Trail). Free. 619-668-3281. (SAN CARLOS)

History Walk, Offshoot Tours offers hour-long history walk, blending Balboa Park history with its wealth of architectural and botanical treasures, Saturday, January 6, 10 a.m., from visitors' center. Free. 619-235-1121. (BALBOA PARK)

Help Rescue Wildlife in Trouble with Wildlife Assist, an emergency response organization. Recruiting sessions on Saturday, January 6,

2 p.m., at Clairemont Community Service Center (behind Vons, at 4731 Clairemont Drive). Program repeats Sunday, January 7, 2 p.m., at Encinitas Community Center (1140 Oakcrest Park Drive). 619-921-6044. Free. (CLAIREMONT, ENCINITAS)

Consider Cardiff, take scenic seven-mile walk through Cardiff and along coast with Walkabout adventurers, Sunday, January 7. Moderate walk starts at 8:30 a.m. at Cardiff Town Center (exit I-5 at Birmingham Avenue, head west, turn into center just before railroad tracks). Free. 619-231-7463. (CARDIFF)

Explore Florida Canyon with Canyoneers during hike through this central canyon on Sunday, January 7, 9 a.m. Directions: 619-255-0203. (BALBOA PARK)

Nature Hike, mountain naturalist Clint Powell leads nature hikes around Lake Cuyamaca the first Sunday of every month, including January 7, 1 p.m. Three-hour hike covers about 3.5 miles. Bring binoculars. Day-use fee: \$6 per car. Lake Cuyamaca Recreation and Park District center, 15027 Highway 79. 877-581-9904, 619-447-8123. (JULIAN)

Ven Explora la Naturaleza Conmigo, Chula Vista Nature Center hosts bilingual nature walk, Sunday, January 7, 1 p.m. Led by a Spanish-speaking interpretive

guide, walks introduce visitors to Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge and the nature center. Free. Find center at 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive. 619-409-5903. (CHULA VISTA)

Winter Wander Land at Batiquitos Lagoon, Sunday, January 7. See birds, sea life flourishing in mudflats of wetlands exposed this time of year with low tides. Free outing starts at 2 p.m. at Batiquitos Lagoon Nature Center (at end of Gabbiano Lane). 760-931-0800. (CARLSBAD)

The Latest Sunrise of the year (on standard, not daylight time) occurs Wednesday, January 10, near 6:52 a.m. for most of metropolitan San Diego. Slowly at first, then more rapidly in the weeks to come, sunrise will arrive earlier with each passing day. By March 20, the sun will be rising a full hour earlier than it does now. The earlier sunrises are mostly a consequence of the sun's apparent

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San Diego Reader January 4, 2007 71

Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

movement from the southern sky toward the northern sky from December to June. You can keep track of that movement by noting where the sun rises (or sets) over a period of many weeks from a fixed vantage point, such as your home.

Historical Uses of Edible and Medicinal Plants explored by naturalist Irene O'Neill during easy, slow-paced hike in Daley Ranch, Wednesday, January 10. Meet at 9 a.m. in main parking lot on La Honda Drive. Free. 760-839-4680. (ESCONDIDO)

Daley Ranch Tracking Team plans "outreach program" led by tracker Barry Martin on Saturday, January 13, 9 a.m., at hilltop picnic area at Dixon Lake. Learn to recognize animal tracks, scat, sign. Free. Registration: 760-839-4241. (ESCONDIDO)

Everything's Rosy. East County Rose Society conducts free rose-pruning and winter care demonstration, Sunday, January 14, 2 p.m., in Gazebo Rose Garden in Judson Park (at Magnolia and Park). Bring gloves, pruners, a chair. 619-252-2116. (EL CAJON)

DANCE

Learn to Lindy Hop during six-week swing class by CafeSavoy Swing Productions beginning Thursday, January 4, at Firehouse YMCA Community Center (7877 Herschel Avenue). Beginners' class at 8 p.m., followed by DJ swing dance, 9 p.m.–midnight. \$12 drop-in, \$60 for six weeks. 858-395-6060. (LA JOLLA)

Viennese Waltz lessons offered during beginner-friendly dance on Friday, January 5, 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)

Express "Graceful Feminine Strength" through exotic movements of bellydance during classes held every Saturday at Chai and Chat (5919 Balboa Avenue), 11 a.m.–noon. Fee: \$15 for drop-ins, or \$60 for six weeks. 858-884-7707. (CLAIREMONT)

Salsa and Swing Dance Lessons presented by Master Your Swing Dance on Saturdays in January, 1 p.m., at Dance North County (535 Encinitas Boulevard, suite 100). \$35 per person, \$60 with partner. 760-942-2374. (ENCINITAS)

Bulgarian Dance Workshop with Yuliy Yordanov, Saturday

OUT & ABOUT

THE ART OF LIVING WELL
Looking Good, Feeling Great, signed by Joan Collins at Warwick's Bookstore, Thursday, January 11.

(SEE IN PERSON)



January 6, at Folk Dance Center (4569 30th Street). Workshops (4:30–6:30 p.m.), potluck dinner (6:30 p.m.), dance party with live music (7:30 p.m.). \$7 for workshop, \$6 for dance party, bring a dish for potluck. 619-281-5656. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

U.S.A. Dance Party with wide variety of music, first Saturday of each month, including January 6, at Dance North County (535 Encinitas Boulevard, suite 100). Lessons at 7 p.m., dancing 8–11 p.m. All ages, abilities. \$7. 760-525-5124. (ENCINITAS)

American Latin and Ballroom Dancing, Saturday, January 6,

7:30 p.m., at Pattie Wells Dance-time Center (1255 West Morena Boulevard). Dancing for singles and couples of all ages. Swing lesson at 8 p.m. \$7; first time free. 619-275-3533. (BAY PARK)

English Country Dancing takes place every Sunday, 6–9 p.m., at Jean Hart Academy of Dance (Oak Knoll Plaza, 12227 Poway Road). All callers will practice their skills on January 7. Beginners' instruction at 6 p.m. \$6. 858-676-9731. (POWAY)

A Happy and Blessed New Year is theme when Toni Michael leads Sufi dancing to live music on Monday, January 8, 7:30 p.m., at

First Unitarian Universalist Church (in room 112 at 4190 Front Street). Donation: \$3. 619-692-3079. (MISSION HILLS)

Learn to Dance when Jim and Margie of 2toGroove Dance lead classes in variety of dance styles. Foxtrot and blues dancing taught Mondays and Tuesday for variety of levels at Portuguese Hall (2818 Avenida de Portugal). Duo presents swing dance classes on Wednesdays at Dance North County (535 Encinitas Boulevard, suite 100). \$12 per class. Details: 619-291-3775. (POINT LOMA, ENCINITAS)

FILM

"First Friday Film Series" convenes for "film about the far corners of our precious planet and the indigenous peoples who inhabit them," January 5, 6 p.m., at Santee Library (9225 Carlton Hills Boulevard, suite 17). Free. 619-448-1863. (SANTEE)

Cinema Society of Carlsbad season continues with *Motorcycle Diaries*, Saturday, January 6, 2 p.m. Cinema chat begins at 1:30 p.m. with Ann Zivotsky in Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library (1775 Dove Lane). Free. 760-602-2026. (LA COSTA)

Up for a "Brassy Blend of Trash and Sass"? Julian Jar-

old's *Kinky Boots* screens for Sunday Matinee on January 7, 2 p.m., at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). Free. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

"One Last Thing," offering "a pungent blast of adolescent anarchy" and starring Cynthia Nixon, Michael Angarano, Sunny Mabrey, screens for Film Forum at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street), Monday, January 8, 6:30 p.m. Free. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

The Documentary *Twisted* follows lives of persons living with the neurological disorder dystonia. Filmmaker Laurel Chiten, joined by medical specialist and dystonia patient, will be on hand for panel discussion following screening of film on Wednesday, January 10, 6 p.m., in auditorium of "inpatient tower" at UCSD Medical Center (200 West Arbor Drive). Free. 858-636-4124. (HILLCREST)

"Democracy Under Pressure" Film Screening, Discussion slated for Thursday, January 11, 6 p.m., at Museum of San Diego History. Film documents World War II Japanese-American internment camp experience. Former internment camp residents will be on hand for discussion of challenges they faced during internment, "the power of the human spirit that allowed them to overcome this life-altering experience."

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Supercross Feb. 17

WWE Smackdown Feb. 20

Lyle Lovett Feb. 28

The Who Mar. 1

Cheetah Girls
January 13

Christina Aguilera Mar. 2

Snow Patrol Mar. 3

Doodlebops Mar. 4

My Chemical Romance Mar. 13

Eric Clapton Mar. 15

Pat Metheny Mar. 23

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Boney James Mar. 28

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Event is in conjunction with current "Nikkei Youth Culture: Past, Present, Future" exhibit. \$5. 619-232-6203. (BALBOA PARK)

Low-Budget Fun! See *Mutual Appreciation*, described as "one of the best-kept secrets from last year's Sundance Film Festival," when Andrew Bujalski's comedy screens for winter film series, Thursday, January 11, 7 p.m., at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (700 Prospect Street). \$7. 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, currently screening in the IMAX theater: *Roving Mars* and *Deep Sea*. "Fridays at the Fleet" promises *Special Effects* (6 p.m.) and *Chronos* (7 p.m.) on January 5. Ticket prices and showtimes: 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

LECTURES

U.S.S. Midway Overview delivered by president and CEO of the U.S.S. *Midway* Aircraft Carrier Museum, Admiral "Mac" McLaughlin, when Daughters of the American Revolution meet on Thursday, January 4, 10:30 a.m., at Admiral Baker Golf Club (2400 Admiral Baker Road). \$15 includes lunch. Reservations: 858-279-2677. (GRANTVILLE)

"El Guercino," 17th-Century Italian artist Giovanni Francisco Barbieri to be discussed by guest curator Shilpa Prasad for Art in the Afternoon lecture series at Timken Museum of Art on Thursday, January 4. Talk in conjunction with "Guercino: Stylistic Evolution in Focus" exhibition begins at 12:30 p.m. Free. 619-239-5548 x15. (BALBOA PARK)

Collectors' Panel, Dr. Sally Yard, USD art history coordinator, will moderate a panel of prominent collectors, artists, and/or gallery owners in conjunction with SDMA's *Personal Views* exhibit on Thursday, January 4, 6 p.m. Included in San Diego Museum of Art regular admission. 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

"Changing Interpretations of Images of Native Americans in Early 20th-Century Art" examined by Pomona College art history professor Frances Pohl for docent guest lecture at San Diego Museum of Art on Friday, January 5, 10 a.m. \$10. 619-696-1966. (BALBOA PARK)

Hands-On GPS Classes explaining functions and features of these devices, Saturday, January 6, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., at REI San Diego (5556 Copley Drive; 858-279-4400) and REI Encinitas (1590 Leucadia Boulevard; 760-944-9020). \$55 for nonmembers. Call for reservations. (KEARNY MESA, ENCINITAS)

"Editors' Roles in Book Publishing" explored when "wordworker" Laurie Gibson speaks Saturday, January 6, 10 a.m., at Mission Valley Library (2123 Fenton Parkway). Focus on different types of editors, "how each one influences a book as it's being published." Free. 858-635-1350. (MISSION VALLEY)

Make Fiber Flowers using various methods — felting, knitting, weaving, crocheting — when Palomar Handweavers Guild meets Monday, January 8, 9:30 a.m., at Trinity Episcopal Church (845 Chestnut Street). 760-723-4969. (ESCONDIDO)

"This Is Smart Growth" publication will be distributed by

Oceanside/Vista unit of League of Women Voters on Monday, January 8, 11:30 a.m., at Buena Vista Nature Center (2202 South Coast Highway). Publication features livable local communities shaped by their citizens. Free. 760-736-1608. (OCEANSIDE)

"Bugs: The Good, the Bad, the Invasives" — entomologist David Kellum speaks for San Diego Horticultural Society, Monday, January 8, 6 p.m., in Surfside

Race Place at Del Mar Fairgrounds. Most insects in your garden are harmless or benign, others are "of high interest." Learn about the bad guys, meet some beneficiais. Plant forum follows. Free. 760-295-7089. (DEL MAR)

The Computer-Oriented Genealogy Group of North San Diego County Genealogical Society meets to hear genealogy librarian Mary Van Orsdol discuss "Searching on www.clusty.com,"

Tuesday, January 9, 1 p.m., in Carlsbad City Council Chambers (1200 Carlsbad Village Drive). It's a website offering a unique way to generate search results from several top search engines. Free. 760-630-5720. (CARLSBAD)

"How Your Thoughts Change the World" divulged by Walter Holtschi, Tuesday, January 9, 6 p.m., at Sacred Pathway Bookstore (300 Carlsbad Village Drive,

suite 107). Free. 760-505-0004. (CARLSBAD)

Fix a Flat, learn brake and derailleur adjustment, more, when REI shop technicians offer basic bicycle maintenance clinics on Tuesday, January 9, 6:30 p.m., at REI San Diego (5556 Copley Drive; 858-279-4400) and REI Chula Vista (2015 Birch Road, 619-591-4924). Class repeats Wednesday, January 10, 6:30 p.m., at REI Encinitas (1590 Leucadia

Boulevard; 760-944-9020). Free. (KEARNY MESA, CHULA VISTA, ENCINITAS)

"How We Know the Climate Is Changing" explained by Mark Thieme 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)

"Torture: People of Faith Called to Respond" presented by Survivors of Torture, Interna-

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*\$40 is price per person. Beverage, tax and gratuity not included.

San Diego Restaurant Week brought to you by










Calendar
LOCAL EVENTS

tional, Wednesday, January 10, 9 a.m., at College Lutheran Church (6650 Montezuma Road). Interfaith workshop about faith responses to realities of torture in the world. Free. 619-278-2400. (COLLEGE AREA)

Floral Designs on the Theme of Love are subject for program by florist Beverly Ireland when Point Loma Garden Club meets on Wednesday, January 10, 10 a.m., at Portuguese Hall (2818 Avenida de Portugal). Free. 619-223-3315. (POINT LOMA)

Managing Your Irrigation Water is subject on Wednesday, January 10, 6 p.m., in Cuyamaca College's Water Conservation Garden (12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West). Soil types, amendments, determining water content of your soil. \$10. Reservations: 619-660-0614. (EL CAJON)

Artist, Caricaturist, Illustrator Court Jones speaks for Southern California Cartoonists Society on Wednesday, January 10, in lunch lounge at San Diego Blood Bank (440 Upas Street). Bring your portfolio for show and tell, dinner. \$10. 619-921-1936. (HILLCREST)

One Book, One San Diego kickoff with KPBS and San Diego Public Library is Wednesday, January 10, at Museum of Photographic Arts. Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Don Bartletti will discuss his work in *Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother*, written by Sonia Nazario. Event begins with reception at 6:30 p.m., lecture at 7 p.m. Free. Reservations, space availability: 619-594-2106. (BALBOA PARK)

Sail- and Powerboating Course offered on seven Wednesdays, starting January 10, 7-9 p.m., at Southwestern Yacht Club (2702 Quattrough Street). Safe boat handling, boating regulations, harbor navigation, buoys and lights, charts, compasses, piloting, more. Nominal materials charge. Registration: 619-992-0092. (POINT LOMA)

"Quilt Visions 2006" at Ocean-side Museum of Art is illuminated

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

Sunny winter days are perfect for exploring San Diego County's population-equivalent of Saudi Arabia's *Ar Rab al Khali*, or "Empty Quarter." Virtually no one lives in the county's northeasternmost 100 square miles, an arid region of fault-dropped basins and sinuous ravines bisected by the mile-plus-high summits of the Santa Rosa Mountains. More than a century ago the scene here was more lively — at least in winter and early spring — when bands of migrating Cahuilla Indians settled in at lower elevations to stay relatively warm and exploit the growth and ripening of the native desert vegetation.

Today, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (phone 760-767-4205) has jurisdiction over the area — though you should not interpret the word "park" to mean a recreational area that's easy to get into, either by car or by foot.



Inside Butler Canyon

The following long, looping walk — ten miles over gently rising and then gently falling terrain — can be a good introduction for experienced hikers who appreciate solitude and profound silence. Don't forget to pack along essentials such as plenty of water, food, extra clothing, and maps and skills to navigate the convoluted terrain.

At mile 26.7 according to mile markers on Highway S-22 (north and east of Borrego Springs), turn north on Clark's Well Road. Pavement soon ends and you continue driving on dirt, bearing left at 1.5 miles onto Rockhouse Truck Trail. In a short while you skirt the west edge of the normally dry and salt-encrusted Clark Lake. (When wet, after heavy rain, a short section of the road ahead can become muddy and impassable.) After nine miles of dirt-road travel in all, you arrive at the junction of primitive roads going into Butler and Rockhouse canyons. Park near here.

On foot, follow the Rockhouse "road," a rough jeep track at this point, north into the broad, dry wash of Rockhouse Canyon. The San Jacinto Fault (a San Andreas splinter) parallels this section of canyon. At about three miles, there is a road-closure sign. Continue another mile to Hidden Spring — more of a seep than a spring — identified by a sign on the left. The small basin there may hold a gallon or two of insect-infested, nonpotable water.

From the spring itself, a path past some mesquite bushes will guide you to a deeply worn, eroded trail slanting south and upward across a 200-foot-high bluff. Just over the top, on the eastern edge of Jackass Flat, are the remains of a Cahuilla Indian village occupied as recently as the late 1800s. You may chance upon some old fire pits, pieces of pottery, and flakes of a metamorphic rock known as wonderstone, which was once used for stone tools. Do not

remove any items of any kind (a state-park rule), no matter how small they are.

Now head west about a mile to the head of Butler

gorge you'll come upon wheel tracks that lead right back to your parked car.

This article contains information about a publicly

JACKASS FLAT/BUTLER CANYON

Explore a lonely corner of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, and visit a site of archeological interest.

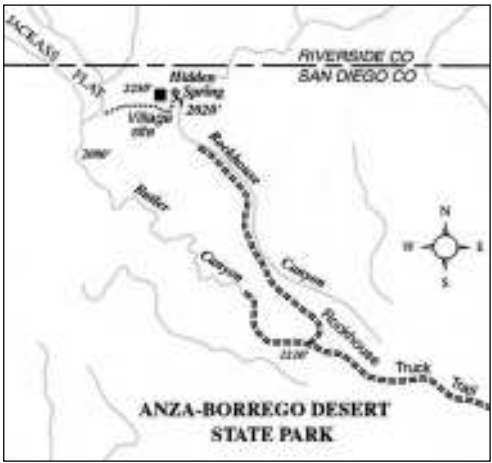
Distance from downtown San Diego: 110 miles

Length: 10 miles

Difficulty: Strenuous

Canyon, which carries water from Jackass Flat south. Follow Butler Canyon, assisted by gravity all the while, as it descends for four miles through a sinuous gorge carved out of gleaming granitic rock — a rewarding concluding segment of the hike. Beyond the mouth of this

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.



IN PERSON

World-Beat Music and Dance, Damaru performs along with bellydancer Sultana Rose and Afro-Cuban dancer Karen Tapia, Thursday, January 4, 9 p.m., at Claire de Lune Coffeehouse (2906 University Avenue). \$5. 619-688-9845. (NORTH PARK)

Who Is the First Lady of OBC?

Find out when Jessica Cook performs for Ocean Beach Comedy along with Stu Swanson, Travis Taylor, others, Friday, January 5, 6 p.m., at Winstons Beach Club (1921 Bacon Street). Free. 619-222-6822. (OCEAN BEACH)

Author Kaza Kingsley signs *Erec Rex: The Dragon's Eye*, Saturday,

when exhibitions director Catherine Gleason and Quilt Visions president Patti Sevier speak on Thursday, January 11, 7 p.m. Find museum at 704 Pier View Way. \$5. 760-721-2787. (OCEANSIDE)

Get Outside! Wilderness Basics Courses with lectures and four weekend field trips offered by Sierra Club. Ten-week courses begin

Tuesday, January 16, at San Pasqual High School (3300 Bear Valley Parkway South) and Tuesday, January 23, at Scottish Rite Masonic Temple (1895 Camino del Rio South). Subjects include wilderness ethics, first aid, equipment, water filtration, nutrition, map and compass, more. Fee: \$95 Escondido, \$110 Mission Valley. 858-467-5074. (ESCONDIDO, MISSION VALLEY)

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Bridal Bazaar Sunday, January 28 SD Convention Center, 10am-5pm. More than 300 exhibitors with everything for your wedding: Info, coupons, www.bridalbazaar.com **5208**

January 6, noon, at Borders Books and Music (11160 Rancho Carmel Drive). Free. 858-618-1814.

Busy at noon? Kingsley also signs books on 6th at 3 p.m. at Borders Books and Music at 1905 Calle Barcelona (760-479-0242). Free. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN, LA COSTA)

Stand-Up Comedy by Iliza Shlesinger, Ari David, Eric Koziatek, Sarah Blevins, Jeremy Paul, Brandon McPherson, Jason Bang, Saturday, January 6, 8:30 p.m., at Milano Coffee Company (8685 Rio San Diego Drive, suite B). \$6. 619-263-3335. Not suitable for those under 14. (MISSION VALLEY)

Suspense Author Carol O'Connell signs and discusses *Find Me* on Sunday, January 7, 2:30 p.m., at Mysterious Galaxy (7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard). 858-268-4747. Free. (CLAIREMONT)

"Sea Wall Singer" Jerry Leggett starts "a year-long peace mission" with concert on Monday, January 8, noon, in parking lot at Surf Motel (3136 Carlsbad Boulevard). Performance includes "classic peace standards" by Beatles, Bob Dylan, Tracy Chapman, originals. Leggett plans to take his Peace Bubble trailer and message across country and back to West Coast. Donations welcome. 760-458-6966. (CARLSBAD)

Open-Mike Poetry Readings, Monday, January 8, 8 p.m., Twigg's Tea and Coffee (4590 Park Boulevard). Free. 619-296-0616. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Sci-Fi and Thriller Author John Ringo discusses military thriller *Unto the Breach*, Tuesday, January 9, 7 p.m., at Mysterious Galaxy Books (7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard). 858-268-4747. Free. (CLAIREMONT)

Joe Chambers takes stage for KSDS-Jazz 88's *Jazz Live* series, Tuesday, January 9, 8 p.m., in Saville Theatre at City College (14th and C streets). \$10. 619-388-3037. Concert may be heard broadcast live on KSDS, 88.3 FM. (DOWNTOWN)

Winter Music concerts planned on January 10 and 11 at San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts (2425 Dusk Drive). Intermediate students perform Wednesday, advanced students on Thursday. \$7. 619-475-8556. (PARADISE HILLS)

Hawthorne's Most Wanted Tour, hip-hop concert with Pigeon John, Redcloud, DJ Wise, Wednesday, January 10, 6 p.m., at the Movement (1370 San Marcos Boulevard). Also performing: Nomis, the Break, Tee-Jay; food vendors, MC battle, graffiti wall. All ages. \$10. 760-510-1160. (SAN MARCOS)

An Adventure into Northeastern Brazil is planned on Wednesday, January 10, at Institute of the Americas Complex, UCSD (10111 North Torrey Pines Road). Exhibition of Brazilian folk carvings, traditional woodcut prints known as *folhetos* (small, cheap chapbooks or pamphlets written in verse, better known as *literatura de cordel*), talk by Jonathan Freedman, *folheto* reading, music by Rob Curto and his Forró for All band. Free. Requested reservations: 858-453-5560 x122. (LA JOLLA)

"Furry Fantastic" signed by Belle Holder, Wednesday, January 10, 7 p.m., at Borders Books and Music (1072 Camino del Rio North, 619-295-2201). Free. (MISSION VALLEY)

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Author Nancy Holder visits Borders Books and Music (1072 Camino del Rio North) to sign *Daughter of the Blood*, Wednesday, January 10, 7 p.m. Free. 619-295-2201. (MISSION VALLEY)

Radio Talk Show Host and Author Laura Schlessinger signs *The Proper Care and Feeding of Marriage*, Wednesday, January 10, 7 p.m., at Borders Books and Music (159 Parkway Plaza). Free. 619-593-5119. (EL CAJON)

The Campanile Ringers play traditional winter holiday music for family music series on Wednesday, January 10, 7 p.m., at Carmel Valley Library (3919 Townsgate Drive). Free. 858-552-1668. (CARMEL VALLEY)

The 22nd Season of "Plays by Young Writers" presented by Playwrights Project and Old Globe runs January 11–21. Scripts were selected from 234 submissions by teenagers nationwide. Full productions presented of *Elevated*, *The Courier*, *Stage Directions*, and *The Aftermath of Cassidy*; three additional scripts will receive readings.

Project convenes on Cassius Carter Centre Stage at Old Globe Theatres. Tickets: \$15 general, \$12 for students, seniors, military. Times, reservations: 619-239-8222. (BALBOA PARK)

"The Art of Living Well, Looking Good, Feeling Great" signed by actress Joan Collins, Thursday, January 11, noon, at Warwick's Bookstore (7812 Girard Avenue). Free. 858-454-0347. (LA JOLLA)

Mystery Author J.A. Vance signs, discusses *Web of Evil*, Thursday, January 11, 1:30 p.m., at Mysterious Galaxy Books (7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, 858-268-4747). Free. (CLAIREMONT)

Author David Newsome discusses, signs *The New Orleans Program*, Thursday, January 11, 7 p.m., at Borders Books and Music (1072 Camino del Rio North). Free. 619-295-2201. (MISSION VALLEY)

New York City Vampire Detective Joe Pitt is "caught in a supernatural gang war of sorts" in noir prose/comic author Charlie Huston's *No Dominion*, which he signs on Thursday, January 11, 7 p.m., at Mysterious Galaxy Books (7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard). Free. 858-268-4747. (CLAIREMONT)

Afro-Colombian Emigré Band La Cumbiamba eNeYé plans AcousticMusicSanDiego concert, Thursday, January 11. Tickets: \$15, \$20. Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. at Normal Heights United Methodist Church (4650 Mansfield Street). 619-303-8176. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

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)

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Reading

Moon Pies and Movie Stars



By Amy Wallen
Viking, 2007, 308 pages, \$23.95

WHAT THE REVIEWERS SAY:
Booklist: Ruby Kincaid can't believe the way her life is going. While running her late husband's bowling alley, she is also taking care of her wayward daughter's two small children. When she sees her daughter, Violet, on television in a Milk Maid commercial, Ruby decides that she has no choice but to go to California and bring her daughter back home to Texas. What transpires is a road trip in a metal Winnebago across the desert and four states with Imogene, Violet's star-struck mother-in-law; Loralva, Ruby's sexy, game show crazy sister; and Ruby's two rambunctious grandkids.

Amy Wallen

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Amy Wallen is the host of open-mic night for San Diego Writers, Ink. She also teaches creative writing at University of California San Diego Extension. This is her first novel.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR:

On the day I phoned Ms. Wallen, Seattle was in the second of what would turn out to be a four-day power outage, following a horrendous winter storm. I had hoarded the last of my cell phone's battery power and lit a dozen candles in order to scratch notes on a yellow legal pad while we spoke.

"I understand you traveled a lot as a child."

"I was born in Louisiana, but my folks are from Texas, originally. My dad worked in exploration for an oil company, so his job took us all over. We spent a lot of time overseas. We 'pillaged the world,' as they say. Eventually we came back to Oklahoma and I went to university there."

"Who was Genevieve Cleo Sims Wallen Freeman Williams Rudman, to whom you dedicated the book?"

"That's my grandmother, who is the inspiration for a montage of several of the characters. As you can tell, she was married

a number of times. I took the wild, crazy flavor from my grandmother for the character of Loralva.

"The book actually started as a writing exercise in November of 1996 where a teacher passed out random magazine pictures. Mine was of an older woman talking on the telephone and she had a menu on the wall behind her. My grandmother had owned a sort of honky-tonk truck-stop place, so it made me think of her. I wrote a one-sided phone conversation, and that's where the novel came from."

"Are there characters in the book that are like you?"

"I actually believe that it's

hard to write something that's not basically all me. I think I'm a little bit of all of them, even though there are some of them I wouldn't want to be like."

"Where did you meet and work with Janet Fitch (author of *White Oleander*)?"

"Janet was teaching a workshop in Los Angeles and had an opening. Another teacher of mine nominated me and I got in. Over four years, Janet worked with me closely on this whole novel."

"You also worked with Mary Gordon, who wrote *Pearl*."

"I've worked with Mary Gordon for the last three years. She was part of a summer writer's institute in New York that I go to.

"We're still writers even if we aren't published, but, at least in America, publishing is the way we feel validated."

Pianist George Winston plans concert on Monday, January 15, 7:30 p.m., at La Paloma Theatre (471 South Coast Highway 101). Winston's latest release is *Gulf Coast Blues and Impressions — A Hurricane Relief Benefit*, said to be "motivated by George's desire to support the Gulf Coast after the recent hurricane devastation." \$35 in advance, \$38 at door. 760-436-7469. (ENCINITAS)

Guitarones, Jaranas, Baja Sextos! Enjoy "An Acoustic Evening with Los Lobos" on Thursday, February 8, 8 p.m., in UCSD's Mandeville Auditorium. Expect classic Los Lobos tunes, material from new CD *The Town and the City*, traditional folkloric songs from Latin America. Tickets for this ArtPower concert are \$32, \$36, available at 858-534-TIXS. (LA JOLLA)

SPORTS

North County Jr. Express Ride, join Sierra Club bicyclists for ride with moderate hills, peppy pace on Saturday, January 6. Ride starts at 9 a.m. behind Barnes and Noble Bookstore (Del Mar Highlands shopping center, at Del Mar Heights Road and El Camino Real). Route includes Highway 56 bike path, Rancho Santa Fe. Minimal regroupings, no snack stop. 858-974-4871. (DEL MAR)

2007 San Diego Resolution Run 5K and 10K raises funds for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Race takes place Saturday, January 6, starting at 9 a.m. on North Jetty Road parking lot (at end of Mission Boulevard). \$25. 619-890-6067. (MISSION BAY)

Tennis, Everyone! Family tennis day planned by Poway Adult School and San Diego District Tennis Association on Saturday, January 6, noon-2 p.m., at Westview High School (13500 Camino del Sur). All ages and abilities. Free. 858-484-8351. (POWAY)

Convair Waterski Club provides three ski boats for waterskiing and wakeboarding 8-11 a.m. on Sundays year-round. Instruction on request. Group meets at south end of Crown Point Beach. All skill levels welcome. Nonmember fee: \$15 per run (about 15 minutes). 858-863-4755. (MISSION BAY)

The San Diego Wildcats play basketball against Las Vegas Venom on Sunday, January 7, 5:05 p.m., at Hoover Senior High School (4474 El Cajon Blvd). \$5. 619-696-5123. (COLLEGE AREA)

SPECIAL

San Diego Boat Show, over 500 boats and yachts, boating and sailing lessons, fishing seminars, kids' area, and live music, January 4-7 at San Diego Convention Center and

Marriott Marina (111 West Harbor Drive). Hours: Thursday and Friday, noon to 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. \$10 adults, \$5 kids 12-16, free for kids under 12. 858-274-9924. (DOWNTOWN)

Tours of Holiday-Decorated Marston House offered Friday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., through Sunday, January 7. \$5. Find Marston House at 3525 Seventh Avenue. 619-232-6203. (HILLCREST)

Yoga for Inflexible People presented by hatha yoga instructor Jaruska Solyoova, Saturday, January 6, 10 a.m., at La Jolla Cove Bridge Club (1160 Coast Boulevard). Gentle poses require little or no flexibility. Free for first time, \$15 after. 858-456-9964. (LA JOLLA)

Sail on an America's Cup Yacht at 11 a.m. on weekends, January 6-February 25, departing from "A" dock at San Diego Marriott Marina. The *America* sailing adventures head out in search of migrating whales. \$75 for adults, \$37.50 for those 12 and younger. Reservations: 800-644-3454. (DOWNTOWN)

Psychic Fair and Metaphysical Conference, Saturday and Sunday, January 6 and 7, noon-6 p.m., at Alexandra's Book-Store (3545 Midway Drive, suite G). Alexandra Andrews makes "Predictions for 2007 and Beyond" on Sunday. Tarot, palmistry, nu-

merology, other psychic arts featured. \$20 per reading. 619-298-3422. (SPORTS ARENA)

California Wolf Center hosts public programs focusing on North American gray wolves every Saturday at 2 p.m. Programs include slide show, visit and tour with resident wolf pack. Tickets: \$8 general, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for children ten and younger. Required reservations: 619-234-WOLF. (JULIAN)

"The 2007 Juried Biennial Exhibition" is on view Sunday, January 7, through Sunday, March 4, in Cannon Art Gallery at Carlsbad Library (1775 Dove Lane). Biennial attracted 288 artists who submitted more than 110 slides for this year's competition; juror Elizabeth Armstrong selected 68 works of art by 33 artists. 760-602-2021. (LA COSTA)

Time for San Diego Restaurant Week! Dining deals offered at a variety of San Diego County restaurants, January 7-12. Diners select from special three-course, *prix fixe* dinner menus at over 125 restaurants. \$30 or \$40 per person depending upon restaurant (excluding tax, gratuity, beverages). Reservations, details: 619-297-8200. (SAN DIEGO COUNTY)

Living History in San Pasqual, cannon-firing drills, demonstrations of crafts and skills from the 1800s, history lectures, entertainment, volunteers in period attire,

and authentic food for sale during San Pasqual History Days, Sunday, January 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park (15808 San Pasqual Valley Road). Free. 760-737-2201. (ESCONDIDO)

Stamp-Collecting Show, stamp and cover dealers offer wares, Sunday, January 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Al Bahr Shrine Temple (5440 Kearny Mesa Road). Free. 619-218-7835. (KEARNY MESA)

Seventh Annual Archaeology Fair hosted by Archaeological Institute of America, Sunday, January 7, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina (333 West Harbor Drive). Learn about past by participating in hands-on exhibits, meet field archaeologists, ask questions of experts about ancient civilizations. Archaeologists, field experts from around country present activities. Children can reconstruct clay pots, play ancient board games, participate in mini-digs, enjoy contests. Children: \$5, adults: \$7, \$14: family. 617-353-8703. (DOWNTOWN)

Fifth Annual Native Plant Sale and open house planned Sunday, January 7, noon-5 p.m., at Coastal Sage Gardening (3685 Voltaire Street). Botanical crafts for family demonstrated by Aenne Carver. Free admission. 619-223-5229. (POINT LOMA)

Coronado Islands Marine Mammals Trip hosted by San Diego Natural History Museum onboard 88-foot *Pacific Queen*. Informative program on Thursday, January 11, 6:30 p.m., followed by journey to the islands on Saturday,

January 13, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Participants will watch for migrating whales. For those 12 and older. Nonmember fee: \$85. Reservations: 619-255-0203. (BALBOA PARK)

Why Is There Such Interest in the Paranormal Today? Bring your opinion to Other Side Coffee House (4096 30th Street) for discussion on Thursday, January 11, 7 p.m. Free. 619-421-1879. (NORTH PARK)

The Smallest Show on Earth! 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)

Have a Story to Tell? San Diego Public Library's digital community storytelling station remains available through June. Gather reminiscences of your neighborhood, memories of interesting jobs, tales of special interests and activities, to record San Diego history as told by general public. Find library at 820 E Street. Requirements, reservations: 619-236-5821 or 619-230-1938. (DOWNTOWN)

Witness the Gray Whale Migration during outings hosted by Birch Aquarium and San Diego Harbor Excursions daily through April 1. Scripps naturalists and assistants are on hand during cruises to search for whales, on their way

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They are very different teachers, so I feel lucky to have gotten the best of both worlds from them."

"What did you learn from them?"

"Janet has a good way of nudging you to take your writing deeper and to open all the doors you can and to look for all the detail. Mary has this amazing brain. I felt safe writing whatever I wanted to write with her. She made me feel like I could write my story how it was supposed to be and not to worry about what others thought."

"How did you come to teach creative writing at UC San Diego Extension?"

"Judy Reeves was already teaching there and she referred

me. At first I taught a basic creative-writing class and a character class. One of my strengths was creating characters, so I felt I had a lot of ideas to share."

"What kinds of challenges do your students face that are also challenges you have in writing?"

"I'm teaching a novel-writing class right now. I did two different things with them. From my experience with Janet Fitch, I encouraged them to keep expanding and to keep going further. Then, I did an exercise where I told them to cut everything way down. It was interesting to see their reactions. For me that was always a fine balance — deciding when to make something bigger and when to make it smaller."

"How has publishing a novel changed you as a teacher?"

"It actually makes me feel more confident that I can share how it all works and that what I have to pass on really can help them."

"As much as I try to tell students that publishing isn't the first thing they should focus on, it's always what they want to know most about. The first night of class I tell them we can't talk about publishing until the end of the workshop. Unfortunately, it seems to be the thing no one can get away from. We're still writers even if we aren't published, but, at least in America, publishing is the way we feel validated."

"About people who move to California from other places,

one of your characters says, 'People come here to find themselves, to leave behind who they used to be, to get discovered.' In what ways was that true for you?"

"When I was writing that, I felt it was an observation about others. Many people come here with hopes of becoming actors — of being discovered or discovering themselves. Yes, maybe I did that. You do have a certain freedom here that you don't have in the Midwest — of just being who you are."

"I moved here in 1988, so I've been her almost 20 years."

"What keeps you in San Diego?"

"The weather. I have to admit, having lived in lots of different places with lots of dif-

"You do have a certain freedom here that you don't have in the Midwest — of just being who you are."

ferent weather, it really is easy to live here. I chose San Diego because it reminds me a lot of Latin America, where I spent so much of my childhood. You have the same architecture and the same climate. I speak Spanish, so the Hispanic community is a draw too."

"What is Writer's Ink?"

"They are a local organization whose goal is to keep the writing community of San Diego going. I'm on their advisory board, but my main role is hosting First Friday Open Mic."

"We do strictly prose read-

(continued on page 78)

to lagoons in Baja California to calve. Fee: \$27 weekdays, \$30 weekends for adults, \$15 for those 4–12. Registration: 619-234-4111.

San Dieguito Lagoon Bus Tour planned Saturday, January 13. Learn about cultural history, biological resources, wetland restoration project now underway. Tours begin at 9 and 11 a.m. at Strawberry Stand Wetland Learning Center (on San Andres Drive, off Via de la Valle). Free. Required reservations: 858-674-2275. (DEL MAR)

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 Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" is next production for actors and crew of San Diego Junior Theatre, running January 5–21 in Casa del Prado Theatre. Four curious kids enter a magic wardrobe and find Narnia, where adventures abound, animals talk, and a wise lion named Aslan reigns over all. Directed by Katie Rodda, based on *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis. For those

eight and older.

Curtain rises at 7 p.m. on Friday; 2 p.m. on Saturday, 4 p.m. on Sunday, January 7. Performance on January 20 is ASL interpreted. Tickets: \$8–\$13. Reservations: 619-239-8355. (BALBOA PARK)

Pet Pals Kids Club convenes Saturday, January 6, 10 a.m.–noon, at San Diego Humane Society and SPCA (5500 Gaines Street). Kids 6–13 have "fun with other animal-loving kids." \$15. Required reservations: 619-243-3432. (LINDA VISTA)

"A Kid's Life" with Zack, Zoe, and a golden retriever named Starsky is presented Saturday, January 6, at 2 and 5 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Tickets: \$10–\$15. 760-839-4100. (ESCONDIDO)

Botanical Craft Class, this Botany for Kids class is offered Sunday, January 7, 1:30 p.m., at Coastal Sage Gardening (3685 Voltaire Street). Free. 619-223-5229. (POINT LOMA)

Round-Robin Chess tournaments planned through June for those from kindergarten through 12th grade at La Colonia Community Center (715 Valley Avenue). Series one is Saturday, January 27, 2:30 p.m. Points awarded at each tournament, with overall winners determined after June 23 competition. Preregistration is \$27 per tournament, or \$140 for all six tournaments; space-available day-of-tournament fee is \$30. 760-721-4400. (SOLANA BEACH)

"A Disneyland Adventure"

hits ipayOne Center for performances January 31–February 4. This Disney on Ice production hosted by Mickey and Minnie Mouse considers what happens when the Incredibles take a family vacation at Disneyland.

Shows begin at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday; at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Friday; at 11 a.m., 3:30, and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday; and at 11 a.m., 3:30 p.m. (in Spanish), and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets: \$15.50–\$51.50, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (SPORTS ARENA)

MUSEUMS

Bancroft Ranch House Museum houses indigenous Indian artifacts and memorabilia of early settlers in the area, run by the Spring Val-

ley 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)

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.

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Reading

(continued from page 77)



ings. We give a time limit of three minutes for each reading. Most people balk at it at

first, but they keep coming back. It only goes for an hour and a half. We get about 30 readers who each bring one little gem and they share it that night. It ends up being fun and fast paced.

"I'm really strict on the time. They call me the time Nazi. But it's come to the point where if anyone goes over everyone reacts. We've started recording them as well. We have a web-site where people can go on and listen. It's www.firstfridayprose.com."

"Are the readings open to the public or just to the writers who are reading?"

"We usually have 50 people there listening and 30 who have come to read. It's at the Grove on 30th and Juniper in

South Park. We have a lot of fun. We just had our second anniversary in October."

"Violet is the only tragic character in your book. What are the challenges, as a writer, of placing such an element in an otherwise light and hilarious story?"

"I did worry about becoming maudlin with it. Of course, she is more spoken of than actually there until the very end, so I was able to avoid that. I prefer writing humor but I did want it to have a meaningful real quality, because life isn't just fun and games. Violet gave me that little bit of depth, especially for the main character, Ruby."

"All of the Texans I know are incredibly 'State-Proud.' Some of them speak of their state as if

it were a country unto itself. What explains that?"

"My father tells me repeatedly that Texas is a republic and that it can become, once again, its own country as it was at one time. I think they stick to that whole John Wayne, 'Remember the Alamo!' thing."

"When I was young I'd go and visit my grandmother, who lived out in the country. My observation was that they are very independent people. They do have to survive in a pretty wild place. There is still a bit of the old West going on there. I think they're just proud that they're still able to do it and that they don't have to conform to what everyone else is doing."

"California has a whole lot to be proud of, and they have so

"I'm really strict on the time.

They call me the time Nazi."

much. They have oranges and wine and great tourist attractions. Texas has its own cowboy version of the same things. I suppose that if Texas were to decide to suddenly secede from the union they would probably do just fine."

"Will any of your Texas relatives be put off by the way you have portrayed them?"

"I don't think so. I mentioned that Loralva is modeled after my grandmother who was

married so many times, but I sort of took my grandmother and pieced her into several different characters."

"My family likes the book a lot because they know all the family stuff and they recognize little bits of people we all know."

Readers can hear Ms. Wallen read from *Moon Pies and Movie Stars* on January 23 at Warwick's in La Jolla at 7:30 p.m.

— Jerry Miller

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

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

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

Heritage Walk Museum, the museum includes the restored Vic-

torian 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)

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, "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 County Sheriff's Museum, the 150-year history of 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 Diego Natural History Museum, "Fossil Mysteries," a new permanent exhibit, showcases last 75 million years in Southern California and Baja California region, a time known for its rich fossil record. Highlights include life-size models of *Albertosaurus*, *Lambeosaurus*, a sea cow, megalodon shark, more.

"Visions of the Natural World through the Lens of the Masters," continuing through Sunday, March 11, is collaborative effort between museum and Ordover Gallery, with variety of nature-based photography. "Alison Shaw: Until I Saw the Sea," featuring fine-art photography by artist who has lived on Martha's Vineyard for 31 years, continues through Sunday, January 7. Also on view and for sale: sculpture and glass.

Winning images from Olympus BioScapes Photo Competition are on view through Monday, March 5. Olympus hosts competition to honor finest life-science

still images and movies as captured through light microscopes.

"Earth, Wind, and Wildfire!" continues through April, exploring powerful forces (such as fire, nature, people) shaping the landscape of Southern California. The exhibit is "designed to raise awareness of the history and inevitability of fire in Southern California's arid and diverse wildlands."

Current "giant-screen films" are *An Inconvenient Truth* (through January) and *Ocean Oasis*. 619-232-3821. (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 Califor-

nia coastline, Mexico's Sea of Cortés, and the South Pacific. One highlight is the La Jolla Kelp Tank, a two-story-high tank with giant kelp plants and nearly 30 species of local marine life. "Sea of Genes" offers visit "to the genomic frontier"; "Earthquake! Life on a Restless Planet" explores earthquakes and their impacts on life. "Wonders of Water" waterplay area includes three interactive stations. The Lynne and Howard Robbins Shark Reef Exhibit features a 13,000-gallon shark tank with black tip, white tip, nurse, and wobbegong sharks.

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

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

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

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Calendar

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Events that are underlined occur after January 11.

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

Scott Pratt presents a “New Year’s Piano Celebration” for First Thursday Concert in Escondido Library’s Turrentine Room (239 South Kalmia Street) on January 4, 7 p.m. Free. 760-839-4329. (ESCONDIDO)

Tokyo String Quartet plays “String Quartet in F Major” in recognition of 150th anniversary of Schumann’s death for La Jolla Music Society’s Revelle Series, Saturday, January 6, 8 p.m., in Sherwood Auditorium, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (700 Prospect Street). Also on program: pieces by Beethoven, Debussy. Pre-concert talk by Ronald Shaheen, 7 p.m. Tickets: \$25–\$75. Reservations: 858-459-3728. (LA JOLLA)

“Primarily Praetorius,” seasonal concert by La Jolla Renaissance Singers of sacred music — including rarely performed works by Hieronymus Praetorius, Jacob Praetorius II, and celebrated Michael Praetorius — Saturday, January 6, 7 p.m., at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church (6628 Santa Isabel Street). Offering. 760-224-8223. (LA COSTA)

Guest Organist Jared Jacobsen presents concert on Sunday, January 7, 2 p.m., in Spreckels Organ Pavilion. Free. 619-702-8138. (BALBOA PARK)

The San Francisco Chamber Orchestra plays Handel’s “Trumpet Concerto” with trumpeter Jeff Strong, the Shostakovich “Piano Concerto No. 1” with pianist Robert Schwartz, and “Symphony No. 5” by Schubert for Fallbrook Music Society concert, Sunday, January 7, 3 p.m., at Bob Burton Center for the Performing Arts (2400 South Stagecoach Lane). Conductor’s preview: 2:30 p.m. Tickets: \$35 general, \$10 students. 760-451-8644. (FALLBROOK)

“Music at the Madeleine” series continues with German baroque and high Italian Renaissance music by La Jolla Renaissance Singers on Sunday, January 7, 3 p.m., at St. Mary Magdalene Church (1945 Illion Street). Free. 619-276-1041 (BAY PARK)

Pacific Camerata presents post-holiday concert of international music, Sunday, January 7, 4 p.m., at San Rafael Church (17252 Bernardo Center Drive). Program includes pieces from von Bingen to Gregorian chant, Palestrina, Franck, “newly composed Armenian liturgy with roots in ancient

Byzantium.” Offering. 858-487-4314. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

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 January 11.

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

GALLERIES

“Postcards from the Edge” by Baja California artist Marcos Ramírez ERRE opens with reception on Friday, January 5, 6:30 p.m., at Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street). Exhibit includes works combining photographs and text; ERRE’s art emphasizes “political and social issues of the border region.” Also opening in the rotunda: “Resurrection” by Jonas Dupuis. Both exhibits close Saturday, February 10. 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

“Viva Oaxaca” — exhibit of collaboration between photographer Jack Alger and many contemporary artists utilizing his images to create new artworks opens with reception on Friday, January 5, 7 p.m., at Voice 1156 (1156 Seventh Avenue). Through Tuesday, January 30. 619-235-6922. (DOWNTOWN)

“Polaroid Manipulations” by Jack Iskin are featured in Ocean-side Photo and Telescope Underground Photographic Gallery (918 Mission Avenue) beginning with reception on Saturday, January 6, 6 p.m. Works by seven other photographers are on view with Iskin’s through Saturday, February 3. 760-722-3348. (OCEANSIDE)

ART MUSEUMS

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 92186-5803. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.

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 handcraft. 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” continue 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), di-

rectly 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 Cucullu. 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 Agustín

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.

“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)

Gregorian Chant Mass



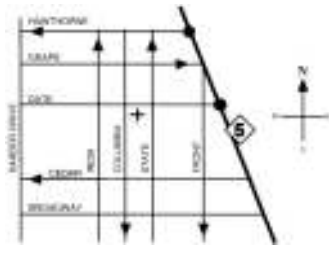
Schola and congregational singing.
Hymnals/missals provided with Latin-English pages.

Sunday, January 14, 4:00 pm

Pizza Social with singing by the Schola after Mass.

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San Diego’s Jewel Box of Baroque and Rococo Art
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Downtown San Diego



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Save Your Tears After Rocket From the Crypt's final hometown gig on Halloween 2005, the Sultans became the last John Reis band left. Last

which took 55 firefighters, eight engines, and four trucks an hour to contain, caused over \$1 million in damages.

What Reis fans read most clearly was the announcement that the show would be the Sultans' last; then there was concern that damage had been done to the footage Gariss was using to

had one too. Prior to this I was already thinking of wrapping things up...to simplify things by focusing on one thing at a time.... If it wasn't for this benefit, [Sultans] would not be playing again. It will not be a teary goodbye. I definitely don't want to say we will never EVER play again, but I just don't see it happening."

— David Stampone

Aching for Rock School

"I just got named the national music director of the Paul Green School of Rock and will be opening a San Diego branch of the school early next year," says guitarist Mike Keneally. "I've come to know a lot of brilliant musicians in San Diego through the years, and I'm looking to see who among them's got the teaching bug.... The locale is still being sorted out. Our plan is to be open for business by early February."

Founded in 1998 by musician Paul Green, the School of Rock Music (unrelated to and dissimilar from the 2003 Jack Black film) has facilities operating in around a dozen U.S. cities. For tuition that ranges from \$180 to \$280 a month, students between the ages of 7 and 18 get weekly private instruction on the instrument of their choice and supervised rehearsals with other students. Professional touring musicians often guest-lecture, and seminar topics include "Songwriting," "How to Get Gigs and Promote Your Band," "Music Business 101," and "What Really Goes Into a Tour."

"This certainly will cut into time devoted to my

career," says Keneally, the former Frank Zappa sideman, "but I was pretty



HEADMASTER/GUITARIST
MIKE KENEALLY

much aching for some kind of a change anyway."

Keneally will perform with a touring lineup of School of Rock Music students at the Epicentre on January 21.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Hardcore Holiday "We played a small show on a cold, snowy winter evening in Flint, Michigan," writes Brian Sheerin, vocalist for Mower, a

"The road conditions were horrible, and it was a small turnout, about 50 people, so we stepped it up a notch. At one point we invited the crowd to join us on stage and the next thing you know just about everybody in the crowd came up with us. It was great. A mosh pit even formed on the stage. We were dumping bottles of wine over our heads and just partying really hard because it was a winter night and an intimate setting."

After the set, the club owners, who had been impressed by a Mower performance several months earlier, invited them back to the club to hang out over the weekend.

"They said if we were still going to be in town, we should come back and have a drink with them because Taproot [from Ann Arbor, Michigan] was playing both Friday and Saturday night. As it turned out, the next town we were supposed to play [Creve Coeur, Illinois] got

"We had played with Taproot once before in San Diego at Cox Arena with Disturbed and Papa Roach. We arrived at the Machine Shop with some booze as a gift for the band, all of whom were really down to earth and cool.

"So, that Friday night we watched Taproot rock a packed house, and after the set we told them that we were snowed in in the Flint area and asked if we could play with them Saturday night. There were a number of local bands on the bill, but we told them we'd open up early in the night if they wanted and that we would play for free. We figured, what the hell, it can't hurt to ask.

"The Taproot camp was so generous; they not only let us play on their sold-out hometown show, they put us in the direct-support slot right before them.... We went from having nothing to do in Michigan to playing for a sold-out crowd."

— Edwin Decker

Jewel Watch *Blender* magazine reports that Jewel (Kilcher) has left Atlantic Records after a six-album deal that began in 1995 with *Pieces of You* (which sold ten million copies worldwide) and ended with last year's largely ignored *Goodbye Alice in Wonderland*. Atlantic claims Jewel has sold more than 27 million records worldwide.

Following the success of *Pieces of You*, it was reported that Jewel and her mother Nedra Carroll lived in a Rancho Santa Fe Tudor-style home valued at \$2 million. The 31-year-old singer/songwriter now lives on a ranch in Texas with

blurt

the inside track

Wednesday, news of the Sultans' "last show ever!" was included in a press release. The band will play a January 10 benefit at the Casbah for

make a DVD of Rocket's last show and a Hot Snakes retrospective.

On the Swami Records message board, Reis assured



THE LAST SULTANS (REIS, LEFT)

Fourth Project Entertainment, the film and graphic design concern of Marc Gariss (member of Radio Wendy, proprietor of Bandwagon clothing line). Gariss's India Street office was ruined by a fire on December 17. The blaze,

all that the DVDs would be forthcoming, and as for the Sultans: "The Sultans have been on permanent hiatus ever since the last time we played. [Drummer] Mario [Rubalcaba] and his wife had a baby and...my wife and I



MOWER FINDS SHELTER FROM COLD

San Diego hardcore band that's now on tour. "It was at a really cool club called the Machine Shop.

blasted with freezing rain and snow and we had to cancel...so we took them up on their offer.

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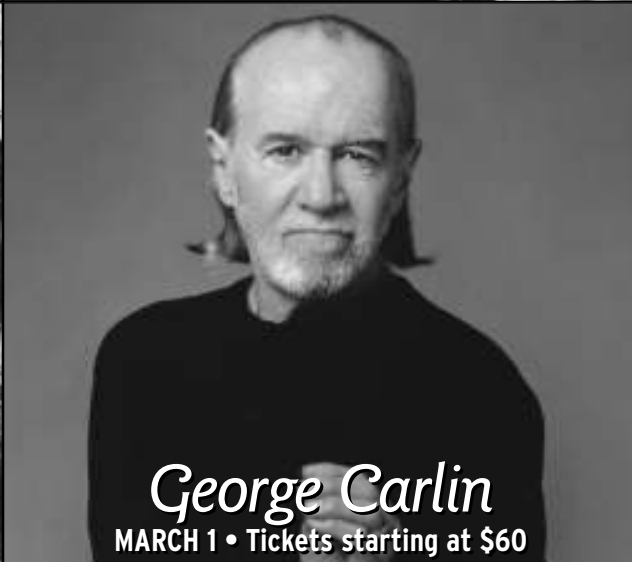
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Calendar
MUSIC SCENEblurt
continued

retired rodeo star Ty Murray.
Jewel's recent 16-city
acoustic tour in the Northeast



JEWEL'S "GOODBYE" MAY
NOT BE HER LAST

included dates in theaters and casinos. Former boyfriend Steve Poltz (who shared writing credits on "You Were Meant for Me") opened some of those shows. Jewel has appeared as an actress in recent episodes of *Las Vegas* and *Men in Trees*, and she was a judge at Minneapolis auditions for the upcoming *American Idol* season.

Last year, other local artists with major-label ties branched out with their own independent labels. Unwritten Law (Atlantic, Interscope) is now on their own, and Slightly Stoopid (Columbia) now releases product on their Reincarnate label.

— Ken Leighton

Mary Poppins Gone Mad "Our band revolves around a purple electric guitar, drums, and a multicolored toy xylophone

that cost \$14 at Target," says Tragic Tantrum Cabaret singer/guitarist Zeph. "We aren't afraid to venture into the territory of melodicas and glass bottles either." The performance-art trio appears frequently at Twiggs Coffeehouse, calling itself "punk cabaret" in flyers.

"The term was coined by the Dresden Dolls, who have [in their act] living statues you can write on, ballerinas, milk maids, belly dancers.... We're currently working with a puppet-maker on props for one song, we have a projector for film and photography, and we're attempting to work a sculpture or two into the act."

Singer/lyricist ZöE says, "It feels a bit like Mary Poppins gone mad, or like you've fallen through the looking glass into a world of red, black, white, stark colors, make-up, masks, and burlesque theater. At the same time, it can be very emotional, deep, human, and erotic...." Tragic Tantrum's third member, Meagan Widdes, "hits things," explains ZöE. "Mostly drums."



TRAGIC TANTRUM:
OPEN TO MIMES

Once, she had a boyfriend who was sort of drum-shaped. It didn't last."

An occasional fourth member, Zaza, sometime dances and sings with the group, though "she's not

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always available for performances," says Zeph. "She studied ballet when she was younger, and she's a talented painter.... We're currently on the lookout for new dancers, as well as other painters and art-centered locals. Actors, photographers, puppeteers, filmmakers, face painters, clowns — we'll even take a mime. What the hell, nobody else will."

— Jay Allen Sanford

Unscrewed "Mark and Tom made the call to MCA," says former Finch drummer Alex Pappas. Five years ago, former blink bandmates Mark Hoppus and Tom DeLonge signed Finch to their Scout Management company. The duo helped engineer the band's deal with MCA/Geffen. The first Finch record, 2002's *What It Is to Burn*, sold half a million copies, according to Pappas. Finch toured with New Found Glory, Brand New, and Coheed and Cambria.

Pappas left Finch in 2003 because of "artistic differences," but he was fortunate enough to get publishing/songwriting credits on *Burn*. It paid off for all the Finch boys.

"The other guys bought cars. I bought a Pro Tools [recording] rig," says Pappas. "People get screwed on publishing deals. They may sign away the rights for, like, \$150,000 and end up losing out big time later on when you could have gotten more."

Pappas, who tours with a four-man band called Redgun Radar, found a home for his mobile recording



PHOTOGRAPH BY RYAN LOYKO

"BURN" PAYS OFF FOR PAPPAS

setup at DML Studios, the 20-year-old Escondido studio that has recorded blink, Unwritten Law, and New Found Glory.

"Most major studios are

all sucking wind," says Pappas. "I had a buddy who was the lead engineer at Royaltone in Burbank. They did No Doubt, Van Halen, Guns n' Roses. But they couldn't keep the doors open.... You can get all the recording equipment you need to make a great record from Guitar Center if you have to."

Pappas offers another pointer for fledgling bands: "You don't need to sign a deal with a manager. If he produces for you, you keep him. If he doesn't, he's out. Never sign a management contract. Managers are not there to help the band anyways. If the manager really cares about the band, they'll work without a safety net; i.e., a contract."

— Ken Leighton

Pod Man "The dude [onstage] was wearing a strap-on dildo," says local scenester Dammit Dan of an unnamed band seen at Scolari's Office. "So he's wearing that, and he sprayed Zippo lighter fluid all over [it], and then he lit the dildo on fire and was running up and down the bar with it!" Dan tells this and other hotspot horror tales on the Internet radio program

Uranus Radio.

"I've been doing the podcasts for about a year now," says operator and host Jorge Knapp, a 29-year-old computer-science major at SDSU who works at a downtown print shop. "It ranges in subjects, but I try to focus on San Diego music. I record at home using Shure SM-58 mikes, my computer, and a cheap mixer. I already owned most of the equipment except the mixer, which was about 50 bucks." As for operating costs, "It's about ten bucks a month for *libsyn.com* to host a podcast, with monthly payments and no initial fees."

Regarding frequent guest Dammit Dan — a moderator at local-themed *thepunkboard.com* — Knapp says, "He always has crazy stories. He told one about how an old Mexican dude on El Cajon Boulevard was hitting on him." Uranus Radio podcasts can be found at <http://uranusradio.libsyn.com>.

— Jay Allen Sanford

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

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Linda + Elvis 4ever

“Uncle Vester...yelled, ‘I thought I told you not to touch anything!’”

When Lisa Marie Presley played at the Belly Up Tavern in November, I saw Linda Love Saenz, whom I had met at a party a month earlier. Years ago, I had seen her collection of Elvis memorabilia at the Del Mar Fair. She wanted to tell me about every Elvis collectible she owned. Some of the stuff was fascinating. For example, she has some of the leather from the same roll that was used to make Elvis’s outfit for his 1968 “comeback special” on TV. That was interesting, but I wanted Mrs. Saenz to tell me about the time she partied with Elvis....

“I was maybe eight years old, living in Nashville, Tennessee. My mom and dad bought our first TV when we heard that Elvis was going to be on the *The Ed Sullivan Show*. My entire family gathered around to watch him that night. And from that day on, Elvis has been the love of my heart. There was never anyone I wanted to meet, except for Elvis. I never thought I would.”

When Linda met her husband Del at the Tennessee State Fair over 40 years ago, he was a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division. He got out of the Army and was heading home to California. On their way out West, they stopped by Graceland.

“Nashville isn’t that far from Memphis,” says Linda, “and in 1964, it wasn’t opened to the public. We went to the gates, and there was Elvis’s Uncle Vester at the security gate. We asked if we could drive up the road to the mansion, and he said, ‘Yes, as long as you don’t touch anything.’ He opened the gates, and we drove up. We got out of the car and took some photos. I couldn’t resist ringing the doorbell. Elvis’s housemaid came to the door and was very kind and said, ‘Elvis is in Las Vegas making a movie.’ About that time Uncle Vester was right there. He

yelled, ‘I thought I told you not to touch anything!’...”

“When we made our home in Venice, California, we would tour his different homes in Bel Air. Charlie Hodge, his right-hand man, would come out and talk to the fans, but never did we see Elvis at the homes. One time, Lisa Marie, who must have been around seven, was on the back of a motorcycle with a security guard. They stopped their ride, and Lisa Marie came over and said, ‘People, people, please, please go away. If you stay, I will not get to stay out and play. My daddy is in Las Vegas.’ We did what she asked; we left. The guard never had to say a word....

“In 1970, we went to Vegas to see him at the International Hotel. We also stayed there. I sat third person from the stage, with Del next to me. Ladies were going to the stage for a kiss from Elvis, but I could not move from my chair. I was in awe. I was mesmerized. The show, with dinner and two drinks, cost \$15 a person....

“The next year we went to see Elvis at the same place. I couldn’t keep myself away from the stage, and I got three kisses. It was his first of two shows of the evening on February 13, 1971. When the curtains came down and it ended, we had to leave so the crew could get ready for the second show. As we were in the lobby I spoke to one of the [members of the] Stamps Quartet, his backup singers. He told me that after Elvis’s second show, [Elvis] would be having a wind-down party at his hotel suite and if I wanted to go I’d have to talk with the security guard up there. I asked if I could bring Del, and he told me only ladies were invited to go to Elvis’s party, except for his bodyguards, family, and special guests. My friend, also named Linda, and I went up to the suite, and it turned out the guard was



Linda Love Saenz and Elvis (cardboard cutout)

from Kentucky, where my friend was from. We talked to him while Elvis performed his second show. Then his entourage and others started to come up to the suite. The guard asked one of Elvis’s stepbrothers if we could go to the party, and we got to go in. This was around 2:30 a.m. on February 14, Valentine’s morning. There was no way that our husbands would have told us we couldn’t go to Elvis’s party. They were actually happy for us....

“We had all gathered in the suite, in the living room, and dining area. There were drinks and hors d’oeuvres being served. I was sitting on a sofa which faced the front door, where Elvis would enter. We were told by one of the guards, ‘No screaming, no photos.’ We were to be perfect ladies, or we would be asked to leave the party. Elvis came in, wearing a red shirt with elastic around the sleeves. He was drinking Gatorade, and when he’d finish one his stepbrother would have another ready for him, every time. Elvis was like a kid in a candy shop, talking, showing off his honorary sheriff’s badge and other badges he received. He played albums on a record player, but not his music; it was Mac Davis, Joe South, and others....

“At one point, I went to the restroom. It was large. It had a barber chair and was decorated in all black and white. I had my camera with me, but in fear that I would be seen from a hidden camera, I didn’t take a photo. All the ladies were very nice and talked. Elvis did most of the talking, though.

“It seemed 5:00 a.m. came really fast, and all the ladies lined up to leave. My friend and I were at the end of the line. All received a kiss from Elvis as they left his suite. My friend and I — and I don’t remember for what reason — got to stay. It was just Elvis and us left in the party room. I remember my friend standing behind the bar, and Elvis and I were standing in front of it. I could not keep from touching him on the left side of his face. I took one finger, smoothly over his cheek. He turned to me in a surprised look. I said, ‘Elvis, I would never hurt you.’ He was just so beautiful; I couldn’t resist.

“He showed my friend and I pictures from his wallet of Lisa Marie and Priscilla. He showed us his rings. One of them Priscilla had designed for him. He even let us try them on.... He was a perfect gentleman the entire morning. He didn’t even drink alcohol. Just Gatorade.” ■



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Saturday January 6



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Upcoming Events



Friday January 12
Kaskade
Dj Ideal | Cris Herrera



Saturday January 13
Landshark
Lance Desardi | Erick Diaz | Markalan



Friday January 19
Gabriel & Dresden
Boris MD

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Downtown San Diego

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Calendar CONCERTS

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THIS WEEK'S CONCERTS

THURSDAY

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.

FRIDAY

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

Christian Scott: Humphrey's Backstage Lounge, Friday, January 5, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego. 619-224-3577.

Barrington Levy: Belly Up Tavern, Friday, January 5, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

SATURDAY

Akon: 4th & B, Saturday, January 6, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Dennis Quaid & the Sharks: Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, January 6, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

SUNDAY

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.

MONDAY

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

UPCOMING CONCERTS

JANUARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

The Kottonmouth Kings: House of Blues, Wednesday, January 24, and Thursday, January 25, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

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.

Brian Wilson: 4th & B, Friday, January 26, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Pennywise: House of Blues, Saturday, January 27, and 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, and 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.

Jack's Mannequin: Soma, Friday, February 2, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

Livingston Taylor: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Thursday, February 8, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Bob Weir: House of Blues, Friday, February 9, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Maná: ipayOne Center, Friday, February 9, and Saturday, February 10, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Venice: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, February 9, and Saturday, February 10, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

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.

Bob Schneider: Belly Up Tavern, Friday, February 16, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Steel Pulse: 4th & B, Friday, February 16, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Dave Alvin: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, February 16, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

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.

"Tribute to the Reggae Legends": ipayOne Center, Monday, February 19, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

"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.

Ian Tyson: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Tuesday, February 27, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

"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, and 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.

My Chemical Romance: ipayOne Center, Tuesday, March 13, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

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.

Gwen Stefani: Coors Amphitheatre, Sunday, April 22, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

David Wilcox: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, April 27, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

MAY

Fairport Convention: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, May 11, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

The Be Good Tanyas: Belly Up Tavern, Friday, May 18, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

JUNE

Hot Tuna: House of Blues, Monday, June 25, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Calendar CLUBS

DANCE

If you would like to include your DJ event, e-mail sellis@nethere.com or submit a listing online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the music section. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, the week prior to publication. The listings are free.

Air Conditioned: Thursdays, *College Night*, old-skool hip-hop, '80s, and funk with DJ 1979. 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, *Amat* 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.



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SATURDAY : JANUARY : 6TH

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Calendar

CLUBS

DANCE

(continued)

Club Montage: Wednesdays, *Club Thizz*, hip-hop, reggae, and drum 'n' bass. 2028 Hancock Street, San Diego. 619-294-9590.

Crudo: Thursdays, deep, soulful, and sexy house grooves with guest DJs. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. No cover. 1953 India Street (at Grape), Little Italy. 619-398-2974.

Dino's: Fridays, *Gimmie Gimmie Gimmie*, punk, goth, and rock with DJs Bryan Pollard, Morgan Young, and guest. 3929 30th Street, North Park. 619-291-3466.

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

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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 Wallcrawler, 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 students and up. 775 Metcalf Street, Escondido. 760-741-1271.

Jack's Lounge: Fridays, sexy dance music with DJ Misha and weekly guests.



21 and up with ID

THURSDAYS
KARAOKE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5
SOCKETSEVEN SILENT TYPE & GUESTS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6
ANOTHER ZEKE PROD'NS PRESENTS
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MONDAY, JANUARY 8
BLUES JAM 8:00
HOSTED BY MYSTERY TRAIN

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9
ANOTHER ZEKE PROD'NS PRESENTS
SOMEDAY ASSASSIN THE WRONSKI FEINT CRIS CORDERO

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10
BENEFIT SHOW WITH
BILLY RAPHAEL PODUNK NOWHERE JOHNNY DIFFERENT

UPCOMING
1/13: TAPWATER
1/19: SWEETTOOTH
1/20: RACE AGAINST SPACE
1/27: SUPERUNLOADER

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Saturdays, vocal house with DJ Sean Wilson. 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-456-8111.

Kadan: Wednesdays, *Darkwave Garden*, punk, gothic, and ethereal with DJs Bryan Pollard, Stern, and Grimderella. First Saturday of the month, *BrokenBeat Night*, live electronic, machine funk, and breaks. Second and third Saturday of the month, *Underground Playground*, breaks, house, and progressive with Jack Tripper and guest DJs. Tuesdays, *Distortion*, mashups, bastard pop, and cybertrash. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. No cover. 4696 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500.

The Kava Lounge: Second Friday of the month, *Ascension*, Robin Roth and Tom King spin the best in dark underground dance music. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. 2812 Kettner Boulevard, Middletown. 619-543-0933.

The Kensington Club: Wednesdays, *Sub-Par*, hip-hop, rock 'n' soul, and funk with DJs Buddha and SC. 9:30 p.m. 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington. 619-284-2848.

Michael's Lounge (Hyatt Regency): Thursdays, DJs Neko, Sky, and Chris Mullins spin hip-hop, dance, and '70s/'80s. 9 p.m. 3777 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla. 858-552-1234.

Mission Valley Resort: Thursdays and Fridays, *Mambo Lounge*, salsa, bachata, and cha-cha with DJ D2. 8 p.m. to midnight. 875 Hotel Circle South, Mission Valley. 619-298-8281.

Moondoggies Pacific Beach: Saturdays, hip-hop and R&B with DJs Enigma and Cisco. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. No cover. 832 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-6550.

Moose's Gaslamp: Sundays, *Nocturnal*, house and trance with DJ Neko. 9 p.m. 535 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-702-5595.

Riley's Sports Bar: First Friday of the month, *Sin Factory*, fetish, gothic, and industrial with DJs Darkman and guests. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. 2901 Nimitz Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-255-8635.

San Diego Sports Club: Wednesdays, *Club Pussy Galore*, Robin Roth and other female DJs spin indie rock, electro pop, and '80s Second and fourth Saturday of the month, *Club Fashion Whore*, electroclash, Brit pop, and indie dance punk with DJs Nate Soixante, Saul Q, Barry Weaver, and more. Third Saturday of the month, *Club de Sade*, gothic, industrial, and fetish with DJs Darkman and Creep. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-299-7372.

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

Shooterz: Thursdays, *Club '80s*, new wave, new romantic, and punk synthpop with DJs Bryan Pollard, Sickboy, and Stern. Saturdays, *Underworld*, industrial, gothic, and dark electro with DJs Bryan Pollard, Cybian, and Harlot. 3815 30th Street, North Park. 619-574-0744.

BEST SEATS

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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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BERKLEY HART &
THE SLIDEWINDERS

Tue 1/9 • 8:00 PM



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FEATURING
KIM WILSON
BILLY BOY ARNOLD
RICK ESTRIN
PAUL OSCHTER • RUSTY ZINN
MARK HUMMEL
BEN HERNANDEZ & NATHAN JAMES

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

Z002 • DJ DREW

Sat 1/13 • 9:00 PM



RHETT MILLER

MATT CURRERI

Sun 1/14 • 8:00 PM



THE UPSTARTS
FEATURING
LATANYA LOCKETT &
KEVIN BROWN

CD RELEASE
PARTY

DJ AESTHETIC

Wed 1/17 • 8:00 PM



bill

JACK THE ORIGINAL
EMERY BYRD

Thur 1/18 • 9:00 PM



DIRTY DOZEN BRASS BAND

THE K23 ORCHESTRA

Fri 1/19 • 9:00 PM



BOOGIE NIGHTS PRESENTS

THE ULTIMATE '80s
GLAM ROCK EXPERIENCE!

Sat 1/20 • 9:00 PM



FM 94.9 PRESENTS
COLD WAR KIDS

PIERS FACCINI & GUEST

Mon 1/22 • 9:00 PM



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FIYAH ANGELS

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THE DEVASTATORS
KINGTON

Tue 1/23 • 9:00 PM



HOT BUTTERED RUM

7th DAY BUSKERS

Wed 1/24 • 8:00 PM



CARBON LEAF

W/GUEST

Thu 1/25 • 9:00 PM



TWO NIGHTS!
SUPER DIAMOND

1/26 THE CURED
1/27 RANDY FONTAINE &
THE SWINGERS

1/26 & 1/27 • 9:00 PM



TIM REYNOLDS

THE WHITE BUFFALO

Sun 1/28 • 8:00 PM



JAKE SHIMABUKURO

TODD HANNIGAN

Wed 1/31 • 8:00 PM



SISTER HAZEL

W/GUEST

Thur 2/1 • 9:00 PM



THE ENGLISH BEAT

GADFLY

Fri 2/2 • 9:00 PM



FM 94.9 PRESENTS
CAT EMPIRE

W/GUEST

Sat 2/3 • 9:00 PM



THE AIR PUSHERS
MUSICIANS OF
THE BLACK EYED PEAS BAND

Tue 2/6 • 9:00 PM



SPARKLEHORSE

JESSE SYKES &
THE SWEET HEREAFTER

Wed 2/7 • 9:00 PM



PONCHO SANCHEZ

W/GUEST

Thu 2/8 • 8:00 PM



COMMON SENSE

THE BIG PROVIDER

Fri 2/9 • 9:00 PM



ELIJAH EMANUEL & THE REVELATIONS

JUST ADDED!

W/GUEST

Sat 2/10 • 9:00 PM



VALENTINE'S DAY
WHO SAYS YOU
CAN'T BUY LOVE?
B&B
BENEFIT BASH

FEATURING BACHELORS &
BACHELORETTEES FOR BID!

Wed 2/14 • 7:00 PM



JUST ADDED!	2/18 Neko Case On sale Friday @ noon!	2/24 B-Side Players	3/2 Pine Mountain Logs	4/1 FM 94.9 presents TV on the Radio On sale Friday @ noon!
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2/15 Todd Snider w/Guest	2/21 Benefit for the Grauer School	3/3 New Monsoon	3/26 Brett Dennen	6/17 Johnny Winter
2/16 Bob Schneider Band	2/21 feat. Joe Walsh	3/8 Leo Kottke & David Lindley	4/5 Dark Star Orchestra	6/21 Iris DeMent
2/17 The Hacienda Brothers	2/22 Dave Mason & John Mayall	3/9 & 10 Ozomatli - Two Nights!	4/26 Railroad Earth	
	2/23 The Aggrolites	3/13 Jorge Drexler	5/18 The Be Good Tanyas	

SWINGIN' HAPPY HOURS!
1/5 **BUICK WILSON BAND** • 1/12 **THE MAR DELS**
1/19 **BIG RIG DELUXE** • 1/26 **BAYOU BROTHERS**
SALSA SUNDAY: 1/7 & 1/21 @ 7:30 pm



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Calendar

CLUBS

DANCE

(continued)

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, San Diego CA 92186-5803. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the music section.

BEACHES

Bahia Resort Hotel, 998 West Mission Bay Drive, Mission Beach.

858-488-0551. Tangier Lounge: Thursday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., also, Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., and Wednesday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., *John Cain*, jazz/Latin/international/pop standards.

Bar Leucadian, 1542 North Coast Highway 101, Leucadia. 760-753-2094. Friday, *Trunk Monkey*, rock. Saturday, *Uplift*, reggae.

Beaumont's, 5662 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla. 858-459-0474. Thursday and Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday, live classic rock/blues.

The Calypso Cafe, 576 North Highway 101, Encinitas. 760-632-8252. Nightly live blues/rock/reggae.

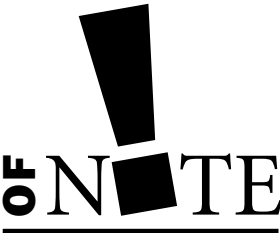
'Canes, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780. Thursday, *Kavena*, *Audible Mainframe*, *One Theory*, and *Crowley*, metal/hardcore. Friday, *Beautiful Trouble*, *FONO*, *Call Down Fire*, and *Kemistry*, rock/indie/alternative. Saturday, *Wild Child* and *Dazed and Confused*. Monday, *Way Cool, Jr.*, '80s metal.

Ché Café, UCSD Campus, 9500 Gilman Drive, Student Center B-0323C, La Jolla. 858-534-2311. Saturday, 8 p.m., *Kittykat*, *Lollipop*, *VW Morgue*, *Yacht*, *Hawmay Troof*, and *Powdered Wigs*, progressive/screamo/punk. Sunday, *the Hope Conspiracy*, *Ceremony*, *Final Fight*, and *Tamora*, hardcore punk.

Clay's, atop the Hotel La Jolla, 7955 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla. 858-459-0541. Live jazz.

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. Thursday, *Michael Collins*, *Zig Zag*, *Bang Squad*, and *Da Crew Boyz*, hip-hop. Friday, *Dirty Madame*, *Ten 13 Concept*, *Calabria*, and *Elephant Army*. Saturday, *L.I.V.I.D.*, *Disaster Magnet*, *Sex with Strangers*, and *Briegade*. Wednesday, *Forgotten Vision*, *Tried By Fire* and *Middle Finger*.



BY DAVE GOOD

At the age of 22, **Christian Scott** is a brilliant reminder that even though his predecessors have left nothing to be discovered, the jazz trumpet is still a vivid instrument and worth a listen. Scott's jazz is deep and more of a personal statement than a smooth-jazz confection. His tone is a breathy intonation of warm notes, and his compositions sound wiser than his years, jazzed by youth but solidified by a mature grasp of the fundamentals. It's like the Miles thing in the '80s, only this time around with an electronic groove, loud guitar, and retro bebop overtones.

By the late 1950s, artists such as Miles Davis, John Coltrane, and Ornette Cole-

man were moving away from the split-second near-psychotic reactions of bebop and into a more cerebral expression where negative space — the silence preceding or following a note — became important. In Davis's case, especially, the note not played often carried as much weight as the note that was. Scott understands that. A New Orleans native and a New Yorker by choice, he has ripened quickly into an entertaining jazz artist and has called Davis a major influence, especially Davis's *Man with the Horn*.

Miles's trumpet alternated between bullish and brittle on that record but was energized by the electric rock undercurrents he had so correctly nurtured more than a decade earlier for *Bitches Brew*. Scott nailed that *Man with the Horn* sound as part of a student quartet while at the Berklee College of Music in New York. With his current elec-



CHRISTIAN SCOTT

tric sextet, he has gained sure footing as an original performer and composer in a cunning synthesis of sounds both past and present. Jazz, and its cousin fusion, hasn't sounded this good in years.

CHRISTIAN SCOTT, Humphrey's Backstage Lounge, Friday, January 5, 7 p.m. 619-224-3577. \$15.

Hennessey's Tavern (PB), 4650 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach. 858-483-8847. Friday, live music. Saturday, *I-Sao-7*, reggae/hip-hop/old skool.

The Kraken, 2531 Old Highway 101, Cardiff. 760-436-6483. Friday, *Blue Heat*, blues/rock. Saturday, *the Travel Agents*, alternative. Sunday, blues jam with *the Blues Brokers*.

La Scala, 1101 Scott Street, Point Loma. 619-224-2272. Friday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., jazz. Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., piano bar.

La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street, La Jolla. 858-454-0771. Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Barry Leitch*, 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.

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 *the Cynthia Hammond*. Saturday, 8:30 p.m. *Mario Oliveras* and *Latin Spice*, Latin jazz.

Portugalia, 4839 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach. 619-222-7678. Tuesday, 9 p.m., *Trece de la Suerte*, salsa/Latin.

Riley's, 2901 Nimitz Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-255-8635. Sunday, 5 p.m., *Big Slim*, blues jam.

710 Beach Club, 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-7844. Thursday, *Warner Drive*, *Nikky D.* and *the Whiskey Dicks*, *Reason to Rebel*, and *the Four Kids*, rock. Saturday, *Mystic Roots*, *Gadfly*, and *Eco Save*, reggae/rock. Saturday, *Elijah Emanuel* and *the Revelations* and *the Mayan Kings*, reggae. Wednesday, *the American Hitmen*, *the Revents*, *Bedpost Buzzard*, and *Orange Kap*, 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,

Brain Buckit, rock. Saturday, *the Tigersharks*, rock. Wednesday, *Shockwave Four*.

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.

Turquoise Cafe, 873 Turquoise Street, La Jolla. 858-488-4200. Friday, 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., *Jazzilla*. Saturday, 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., live world jazz.

Winstons, 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-6822. Call club or see ad for information.

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Tuesday, January 9
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Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday, *Steve Brewer*, acoustic.

Borders Books and Music (Gaslamp), 668 Sixth Avenue, San Diego. 619-702-4200. Friday, 8 p.m., *Jim Earp*, acoustic folk. Saturday, 8 p.m., *Terry Matsuoka*, pop.

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, *the Truckee Brothers*, *Loam*, and *Dead Rock West*. Friday, *Grand Ole Party*, *the UV Tigers*, and *the Prayers*. Saturday, *Transfer*, *Swim Party*, and *the Modern Rifles*. Sunday, *Stephen Malkmus and the Jicks*. Monday, *Fifty on Their Heels*, *the Strikers*, *Vinyl Radio*, and *Peter and the Wolf*. Tuesday, *Helmet* and *Totimoshi*.

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, *David Patrone*. Friday, *Yavez*. Saturday, *Primo*. Sunday, *Shep Meyers* and *Yavez*. 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 and Sunday, *the Disco Pimps*. Monday, *the Atomic Cowboys*. Tuesday, *Dregg's of Sada*. Wednesday, *Private Domain*.

Dizzy's, 344 Seventh Avenue, downtown. 858-270-7467. Saturday, 8:30 p.m., *Brian Levy* with and *Gilbert Castellanos and His Quintet*, jazz.

Dublin Square, 554 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-239-5818. Saturday and Sunday, *the Whooligans*, Irish music.

4th & B, 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343. Friday, *Grand Wizard Theodore*, *Deep Rooted*, and *Steven Flex*, hip-hop. Saturday, *Akon* and *Monica*, hip-hop. Sunday, *Beres Hammond*, *Marcia Griffiths*, and *Leon and the Peoples*, reggae/soul.

Gaslamp Tavern, 868 Fifth Avenue, San Diego. 619-239-3339. Tuesday, *Fishbait*, country. Wednesday, *Mark Fisher*, classic rock.

G5-Georges on Fifth, 835 Fifth Avenue (between E and F Streets), downtown. 619-702-0444. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, *Tom Barabas*, pianist.

Henry's Pub, 618 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-238-2389. Thursday, *the Brat Pack*. Friday, *Good Times*. Saturday, call club for information. Tuesday, *the Stiletos*, rockabilly. Wednesday, *Lady Dottie and the Diamonds*, blues.

House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-299-2583. Thursday, *Blues Traveler*. Friday, *Zebrahead*, *the Dirty Heads*, *the Bangkok Five*, and *the Strangers Six*. Tuesday, *Lady Sovereign*, *Young Love*, and *Honeycut*.

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., live disco/Top 40. Monday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Insight*, jazz. Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Mystique*, jazz/R&B. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *the Soul Revue*, dance/Top 40.

Martini Ranch, 528 F Street, downtown. 619-235-6100.

Patrick's II, 428 F Street, downtown. 619-233-3077. Music is blues/soul unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *Blue Four*. Friday, 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Blue Four*, 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., *the 145th Street Deluxe Blues Band*. Saturday, *Southbound Blues*. Sunday and Monday, *Ronnie Lane*. Tuesday, *Len Rainey and the Midnight Players*. Wednesday, *L.A. Jones*.

Princess Pub and Grille, 1665 India Street, Little Italy/downtown. 619-702-3021. Saturday, *J.D. Boucharde*, piano.

Rock Bottom, 401 G Street, Gaslamp. 619-231-7000. 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.

Sevilla, 555 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-5979. Club Salsa: Thursday, *Ritmo Caliente*, salsa. Tuesday, *Salsa Caliente*.

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 and Friday, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., *Peter Prince of Piano*, pop/jazz/standards, 7 p.m. to

midnight, *Fran Loskota*, pop/jazz/standards. Saturday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Karen Giorgio*, pop/standards/Broadway. Monday through Wednesday, *Peter Prince of Piano*.

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 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.

The Alibi, 1403 University Avenue, San Diego. 619-295-0881. Live rock/indie/alternative.

Blarney Stone Pub, 5617 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont. 858-279-2033. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, *Chris and Harold*, Irish folk. Monday, *Pat and Joe* and *Allison Gill*, folk. Tuesday, Irish jam session.

Borders Books and Music (Mission Valley), 1072 Camino del Rio North, Mission Valley. 619-295-2201. Friday, 8 p.m., *Lee Tyler Post*, acoustic rock.

Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Avenue, Bay Park. 619-275-LIVE. Friday, *Wahbah* and *the Ovals of Cassini*, alternative. Saturday, *Instinct of Aggression*, *Audkik*, and *One Theory*, metal.

Claire de Lune, 2905 University Avenue, North Park. 619-688-9845. Friday, 8:30 p.m., *the Speak Easy Quartet*, '40s traditional jazz.

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.

Harry's Bar and American Grill, 4370 La Jolla Village Drive, San Diego. 858-373-1252. Friday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *the Jaime Valle-Bob Magnusson Jazz Duo*.

Hot Monkey Love Cafe, 6875 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego. 619-469-4113. Thursday, jazz. Friday live band. Saturday, 9 p.m., *Scott Wilson*, modern

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 6



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MONDAY, JANUARY 8

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 20



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Calendar CLUBS

SAN DIEGO

(continued)

rock/alternative. 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, *Len Rainey and the Midnight Players*, blues. Friday, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Christian Scott*, jazz, 9:30 p.m., *the Detroit Underground*, rock/soul. Saturday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., *Patty Zlaket*, folk rock, 9:30 p.m., *Makai*, dance/disco. Sunday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Jason Weber*, jazz. Monday, *Chet Cannon*, blues. Tuesday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *the Taylor Harvey Band*, rock. Wednesday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *the Soul Persuaders*, funk/soul/dance.

In Cahoots, 5373 Mission Center Road, Mission Valley. 619-291-8635.

The Kensington Club, 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington. 619-284-2848.

Friday and Saturday, live garage rock/punk/alternative.

Lestat's Coffee House, 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-282-0437. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *Rob Deez* and *Shannon Curtis*. Friday, *Big Rig Deluxe* and *the Dukes of Haggard*, country/rock. Saturday, *Evan Bethany*, *Lindsey Yung*, and *Aaron Bowen*. Sunday, *Angela Patua* and *Chad Farran*. Monday, open mike. Wednesday, *the Rarities* and *Circus*, rock/alternative.

Lucky Star Nightclub and 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 and Saturday, live rock/punk/alternative.

The Ould Sod, 3373 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-284-6594. Friday, *Gene Warren*, Irish folk. Tuesday, traditional Irish jam session.

Red Fox Steakhouse, 2228 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-297-1313.

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<p>THURSDAY 1/4 TONIGHT Live Hip-Hop DJ Boogie Down Michael Collins Zig Zag • Bang Squad Da Crew Boyz Mercenary Click</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY 1/10 Forgotten Vision Tried by Fire Middle Finger</p>
<p>FRIDAY 1/5 Bandminuslabel.com presents Dirty Madame Ten 13 Concept Calabria Elephant Army</p>	<p>THURSDAY 1/11 Live Music — Hip-Hop Ellaydee • Clockwork Of One Mind</p>
<p>SATURDAY 1/6 L.I.V.I.D. Disaster Magnet Sex with Strangers Briegade</p>	<p>FRIDAY 1/12 Colporter • Dead Valley Above the Platypus Counter Launch</p>
<p>SATURDAY 1/13 Live Music Jason Lee • Bamboula The Strikers Zombie Surf Camp The Barroom Shakers The Professors</p>	

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**Len Rainey &
The Midnight Players**

Saturday, Jan. 6
6 pm • Singer/Songwriter
Patti Zlaket

9:30 pm
Dance & Disco

Makai



Friday, Jan. 5
7 pm • Jazz Trumpet
Christian Scott

9:30 pm • Motown & Dance

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Monday, Jan. 8
7 pm • Blues
**Chet Cannon's
Blue Monday
Blues Jam**

Tuesday, Jan. 9
8 pm • Rock
Taylor Harvey

Wednesday, Jan. 10
8 pm • Funk, Soul & Dance
The Soul Persuaders

UPCOMING SHOWS

Thursday, Jan. 18
8 pm • Mediterranean Guitar

**Peppino
D'Agostino**



Saturday, Jan. 20
7 pm • Chicago Blues

**Sean
Costello**



Friday, Jan. 26
9:30 pm • Blues Guitar

**Joe Louis
Walker**



2241 Shelter Island Dr. • 619.224.3577

Tickets for "Upcoming Shows" available at Ticketmaster and Humphrey's. Reserved seating for "Upcoming Shows" available with dinner. All shows are 21 years and up.

Calendar

CLUBS

SAN DIEGO

(continued)

Thursday through Sunday, and Wednesday, *Eddie Rossi* and *Joe Soprano*, piano. Monday and Tuesday, 9 p.m., *the David Shaw Duo*.

Rosie O'Grady's, 3402 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-284-7666. Saturday, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., *the Micromaniacs*, indie/garage rock.

Scolari's Office, 3936 30th Street, San Diego. 619-296-3546. Live rock/alternative.

Second Wind, 8515 Navajo Road, San Carlos. 619-465-1730. Friday and Saturday, *Serious Guise*, classic rock.

Sham Rocks Shack, 7059 El Cajon Boulevard (half block east of 70th Street), College Area. 619-463-2263. Friday and Saturday, live bands.

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. Friday, *NOFX*, *Strike Anywhere*, *Dead to Me*, and *Love Equals Death*. Saturday, *Etched in Red*, *Tempemoi*, *Aghori*, *Discord*, and *Damcyan*. Wednesday, *Alesana*, *Love Hate Hero*, *Bless the Fall*, *Glasgow Drive*, and *In Fear and Faith*.

Tio Leo's, 10787 Camino Ruiz, Mira Mesa. 858-695-1461. Live rock.

Tio Leo's Lounge, 5302 Napa Street (at Morena Boulevard), Bay Park. 619-542-1462. Friday and Saturday, live bands. Tuesday, zydeco blues. Wednesday, 7 p.m., *the High Society Jazz Band*.

The Tower Bar, 4757 University Avenue, San Diego. 619-284-0158. Monday, *Lady Dottie and the Diamonds*, blues. Tuesday, *Ratt's Revenge*, garage rock/surf rock/punk/soul.

Tutto Mare, 4365 Executive Drive, La Jolla (Golden Triangle area). 858-597-1188. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *the Jaime Valle Quartet*, jazz.

Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company, 4590 Park Boulevard, University Heights. 619-296-0616. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, 8 p.m., *Tiffany and Haale*. Friday, 8 p.m., *Leviticus*, *Stereo Suicide*, *Dino*, and *Alpine Daze and Boogie Nights*. Saturday, 8 p.m., *the Working Cowboy Band*, country, *Sarah Green*, *Rory Stiitt*, *the Green Water District*, and *Dawn*. Sunday, 4 p.m., *the Celtic Ensemble*, 8 p.m., *Bushwalla*. Wednesday, open mike with *Tim Mudd*.

Vesuvio Gourmet Restaurant, 3025 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-282-7040. Thursday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., *the Paul Ingram Trio*, 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., *Barrington Levy* and *Diego Roots*, reggae. Friday, *Barrington Levy* and *the B-Foundation*, reggae. Saturday, 9 p.m., *Dennis Quaid and the Sharks*, rock/country soul, and *Billy Watson*, blues. Sunday, 8 p.m., *Primo*, Latin jazz/salsa. Tuesday, 8 p.m., *Tim Flannery*, *Eve Selis*, *Berkley-Hart*, and *the Slidewinders*, acoustic. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., *Mark Hummel* and *Kim Wilson*, blues.

The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe, Flower Hill Mall, I-5 at Via de la Valle, Del Mar. 858-755-3735. Friday, *Blue Largo*, jazz/blues.

Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad), 1905 Calle Barcelona, Carlsbad. 760-479-0242. Friday, 8 p.m., *Tim Mudd*, folk. Saturday, 8 p.m., *Steve Ybarra*, folk.

Borders Books and Music (Carmel Mountain), 11160 Rancho Carmel Drive, Carmel Mountain. 858-618-1814. Friday, 8 p.m., *Mike McGill*, folk rock.

NOTE

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

In Pavement's best-known song, "Cut Your Hair," **Stephen Malkmus** took a typically (for him) fractured look at rock. The song ends with him singing, "Attention and fame so career, career, career...." He repeated the word until it sounded as though he was singing, "Korea, Korea." And that made a sort of sense: Actually making a career in it must have seemed a foreign concept to Pavement. This, after all, was a band that was famous for sloppy musicianship, a casual approach toward singing in tune, surreal lyrics, quirky song structures, and sometimes cheap-sounding recordings. These things could have been liabilities, but in the midst of

the alt-rock boom of the early '90s, they made Malkmus and his cohorts into heroes.

Pavement is now long gone, and Malkmus has made a career for himself in rock. If he hadn't been so oblique about it, that "Career/Korea" line would probably have come back to haunt him as often as the Who's "I hope I die before I get old."

In his solo career, Malkmus has sometimes seemed to fumble around, looking for a new direction. He's tried more straightforward lyrics ("Jenny and the Ess-Dog"), shown off his newfound guitar chops (*Pig Lib*), and dived into psychedelic weirdness (*Face the Truth*). The former Stockton resident has lived in Portland for more than ten years now, and his backup band the Jicks has included an often-changing lineup of other hard-working Portland indie veterans. When John Moen



STEPHEN MALKMUS

left to become a full-time Decemberist, powerhouse drummer **Janet Weiss** (of the late, lamented Sleater-Kinney) became a Jick. Expect her to bring the rock.

STEPHEN MALKMUS & THE JICKS, The Casbah, Sunday, January 7, 8:30 p.m. 619-232-4355. \$16.

Cheers, 2475 Main Street, Ramona. 760-789-0270. Friday and Saturday, live classic rock/country. Tuesday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Mike Gardner*, acoustic rock/folk.

Coyote Bar and Grill, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4695. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Billy Watson*, blues. Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *Fish and the Seaweeds*, classic rock. Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *the Jerry McCann Band*, reggae. Sunday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Mark Lessman*, jazz. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Red Lane*, rock/blues.

Del Dios Bar and Grill, 20154 Lake Drive, Escondido. 760-489-4800. Friday, *Joe Rathburn*, tropical rock. Saturday, *Meliesa and the Monkeybites*, '70s music.

Game Time Tavern, 12735 Poway Road, Poway. 858-748-0015. Friday and Saturday, live 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. Friday, *Silent Civilian*, *Unset*, *Shadowcide*, and *Audkik*, metal/rock. Saturday, *Ten 13 Concept*, pop punk/ska/rock. Wednesday, *Lions' Paw*, *Kingsland*, *Irie I*, and *Fighting Chance*, reggae/dub/ska.

Mas Fina Cantina, 2780 State Street, Carlsbad. 760-434-3497. Wednesday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Mike Gardner*, acoustic rock/folk.

McCabe's Beach Club, 1145 South Tremont Street, Oceanside. 760-439-6646. Friday, 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., *the California Rangers*, country.

North Bar Sports and Spirits, 200 West El Norte Parkway, Escondido. 760-480-8228. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Mike Gardner*, acoustic rock/folk.

Ocean House, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4131. Friday and Saturday, live rock music. Tuesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *the Credit Union*, swing. Wednesday, open mike, blues.

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. Friday, *Lifelike*, rock. Saturday, *Maybe Tonight*, rock. Wednesday, open mike.

Tom Giblein's Irish Pub and Restaurant, 640 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-7234. Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Adrienne Nims and Raggle Taggle*, Irish dance cabaret.

SOUTH BAY/CORONADO

Buon Giorno Restaurant, 4110 Bonita Road, Bonita. 619-475-2660. Friday, 9 p.m., *Jesse Davis*, variety. 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.

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Calendar CLUBS

SOUTH BAY/ CORONADO

(continued)

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.

Galley at the Marina, 550 Marina Parkway, Chula Vista. 619-422-5714. Friday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *the Justin Brothers*, rock and roll. Saturday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., live rock. Sunday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., *David Hauser*, acoustic. Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Gary Seiler*, acoustic.

Hotel del Coronado, 1550 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-6611. Babcock and Story: Thursday through 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Tony Lasley*, Latin jazz. Friday, 8:30 p.m., *Barbara Jamerson* and *Joe Tarantino*, jazz. Saturday, 8:30 p.m., *Stellita* and *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 and Saturday, *X Factor*, rock.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill, 1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-5280. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *the Justin Brothers*. Friday, live music. Saturday, *the Offbeats*, rock. Sunday, *Jim Moore*. Monday, *David Houser*. Tuesday, *2 Guys Will Move U*. Wednesday, live music.

EAST COUNTY

Dirk's Niteclub, 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove. 619-469-6344. Friday, Saturday, *Zone 4*, classic rock.

Don's Cocktail Lounge, 13321 Business Highway 8, El Cajon. 619-443-2444. Friday and Saturday, *the Taylor Harvey Band*, rock.

Fannie's Nightclub, 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley. 619-698-2204. Friday, *Ironworks* and *Disaster Magnet*, metal. Saturday, *the Love Handles*, classic rock.

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

Renegade Inn, 14335 Old Highway 80 (half mile east from Lake Jennings turnoff), Flynn Springs. 619-561-8105. Friday and Saturday, *the Honky Tonk Kings*, country.

Second Wind, 8528 Magnolia Avenue, Santee. 619-596-8350. Friday and Saturday, *Nemesis*, 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 and Friends*, swing/standards.

Wagon Wheel, 8861 Magnolia Avenue, Santee. 619-448-8550. Live country music.



Blues Travelers, January 4, House of Blues

Calendar BANDS

ALTERNATIVE

Aghori: Soma

Alesana: Soma

Audible Mainframe: 'Canes

The Bangkok Five: House of Blues

Bless the Fall: Soma

Call Down Fire: 'Canes

Ceremony: Ché Café

Circus: Lestat's Coffee House

The Creepy Creeps: The Kensington Club

Damcyan: Soma

Dead to Me: Soma

The Dirty Heads: House of Blues

Discord: Soma

Eco Save: 710 Beach Club

Etched in Red: Soma

Final Fight: Ché Café

Glasgow Drive: Soma

Grand Ole Party: The Casbah

Helmet: The Casbah

Honeycut: House of Blues

The Hope Conspiracy: Ché Café

In Fear and Faith: Soma

Kavena: 'Canes

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MONDAY • JANUARY 8 TIM PYLES PRESENTS ANTI-MONDAY LEAGUE WITH FIFTY ON THEIR HEELS THE STRIKER VINYL RADIO PETER & THE WOLF	THURSDAY • JANUARY 11 MICKEY AVALON	FRIDAY • JANUARY 19 JESSE DAYTON BIG SANDY HACIENDA BROTHERS
TUESDAY • JANUARY 9 HELMET • TOTIMOSHI	FRIDAY • JANUARY 12 THE F___ING CHAMPS EARTHLESS	SATURDAY • JANUARY 20 ILYA • a.m. vibe BIRDMONSTER
	SATURDAY • JANUARY 13 THE NORTH ATLANTIC SECRET FUN CLUB ASPECTS OF PHYSICS	FRIDAY • JANUARY 26 AVAIL • THE DRAFT
		SATURDAY • JANUARY 27 CD RELEASE SHOW BLOODY HOLLIES
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Calendar

BANDS

ROCK

Allied Records: Dreamstreet
Alpine Daze and Boogie Nights: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
The American Hitmen: 710 Beach Club
The Atomic Cowboys: Dick's Last Resort
Audkik: Brick By Brick, The Jumping Turtle
Beautiful Trouble: 'Canes
Bedpost Buzzard: 710 Beach Club
Blue Heat: The Kraken
Brain Buckit: Tiki House
The Brat Pack: Henry's Pub
Dazed and Confused: 'Canes
Dead Rocket West: The Casbah
The Detroit Underground: Humphrey's
Disaster Magnet: Fannie's Nightclub
The Nate Donnis Trio: Dreamstreet
Dregg's of Sada: Dick's Last Resort
The Dukes of Haggard: Lestat's Coffee House
8 West: Dreamstreet
Fifty on Their Heels: The Casbah
Fish and the Seaweeds: Coyote Bar and Grill
Mark Fisher: Gaslamp Tavern
FONO: 'Canes
The Four Kids: 710 Beach Club
The Taylor Harvey Band: Don's Cocktail Lounge, Humphrey's
The Instinct of Aggression: Brick By Brick
The Ironworks: Fannie's Nightclub
Juan Peso: Dreamstreet

Leviticus: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Lifelike: Surf N'Saddle
Loose Canon: Dreamstreet
The Love Handles: Fannie's Nightclub
Maybe Tonight: Surf N'Saddle
The Modern Rifles: The Casbah
Nemesis: Second Wind (Santee)
Nikky D. and the Whiskey Dicks: 710 Beach Club
The Offbeats: McP's Irish Pub and Grill
One Theory: 'Canes, Brick By Brick
Orange Kap: 710 Beach Club
Peter and the Wolf: The Casbah
Private Domain: Dick's Last Resort
Dennis Quaid and the Sharks: Belly Up Tavern
The Rarities: Lestat's Coffee House
Joe Rathburn: Del Dios Bar and Grill
Ratt's Revenge: Tower Bar
Reason to Rebel: 710 Beach Club
Red Lane: Coyote Bar and Grill
The Revents: 710 Beach Club
Rice Rocket: Dreamstreet
Rockstar: Dreamstreet
Dane Scott and the Panty Peelers: Dreamstreet
Serious Guise: Second Wind (San Carlos)
Shockwave Four: Tiki House
Silent Civilian: The Jumping Turtle
The Stilettos: Henry's Pub
The Strikers: The Casbah
Ten 13 Concept: The Jumping Turtle
The Tigersharks: Tiki House
The Tijuana Marauders: Dreamstreet
Transfer: The Casbah
The Truckee Brothers: The Casbah
Trunk Monkey: Bar Leucadian



Album: *A Way to Hide* (2006)
Artist: Scar'd Sanity
Label: Gotham Records
Where available/price: Lou's Records for \$8.99. Online at BestBuy.com (\$9.99), FYE.com (\$10.99), Amazon.com (\$9.98), Target.com (\$9.98), iTunes (\$.99/song), Napster (\$.99/song), Rhapsody (\$.99/song), Wal-Mart (\$.99/song)
Band: Mike Prince (vocals), Adam Cunningham (guitar), Paul Cunningham (bass), Clayton Payne (drums, percussion)
Songs: 1) Killing Off Time 2) Edge of the World 3) Bleed 4) Hard to Breathe 5) Why Do You Feel 6) Stop to Pretend 7) Suffocate Me 8) Brand New Day 9) Fear Fight 10) I Remember 11) Reflections 12) Window Pain
Website: www.scardsanity.com
Extra Info: Scar'd Sanity is scheduled to play the Jumping Turtle in San Marcos on January 13.

Paint-by-numbers rock evolved from nu-metal. When people rolled their

eyes at Fred Durst's rapping and turntabling hybrid, paint-by-numbers rock was born.

Unset: The Jumping Turtle
Vinyl Radio: The Casbah
Warner Drive: 710 Beach Club
Way Cool, Jr.: 'Canes
Wild Child: 'Canes
Scott Wilson: Hot Monkey Love Cafe
X Factor: Island Sports and Spirits
Patty Zlaket: Humphrey's
Zone 4: Dirk's Niteclub

POP / TOP 40

PTrak Armenta: Pasquale on Prospect
Gil Barron: Pasquale on Prospect

Jesse Davis: Buon Giorno Restaurant
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
Terry Matsuoka: Borders Books and Music (Gaslamp)
Meliesa and the Monkeybites: Del Dios Bar and Grill

Scar'd Sanity has the formula down: take rhythm-centric guitar with few or short guitar solos reminiscent of Taproot or Staind; heavy bass lines from Tool and Helmet; rock hard for a minute, then back off; lift the vocals into a sensitive-sounding sissy-ish voice, then get back to rocking. Every once in a while, whisper, scream, or growl the lead vocals. Repeat. Scar'd Sanity's lyrics are emotional, playing every bit the part of the jilted lover or disillusioned adolescent whose parents are divorcing. They're also talented, professional, and polished, as good as Staind, Disturbed, Taproot, or any of the opening acts for national-selling bands. I don't *want* to like paint-by-numbers rock, but I'm caught in Scar'd Sanity's fat



Scar'd Sanity

chords and lilting vocals. My favorite is "Stop to Pretend." If you're a new rock or alternative metal fan, this disc should be in your CD collection.

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

The Soul Revue: Jimmy Love's
The Stepping Feet: Whiskey Girl
JAZZ / BIG BAND
Burnett Anderson: Cafe LaMaze
Tom Bishop: Rancho Bernardo Inn
Blue Largo: The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe
Ray Briz: Hotel del Coronado
The Jorge Camberos Quintet: Croce's Jazz Bar
Sammy Canonizado: Cafe LaMaze
Gilbert Castellanos and His Quintet: Dizzy's

Sandy Chappel: Cafe LaMaze
The Credit Union: Ocean House
Edo Brazil: Samba Grill
Nick Fiore: Pasquale on Prospect
Franco Z and Friends: Tommy's Italian Restaurant
Karen Giorgio: The Westgate Hotel
John Guilino: Pasquale on Prospect
Cynthia Hammond: Busalacchi's Ristorante, Pasquale on Prospect
The High Society Jazz Band: Tio Leo's Lounge
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Thursday, January 11

“BENEFIT FOR ALBERT PONCE”

Friday, January 12

MOMMY’S LITTLE MONSTER
(Social Distortion tribute)
DUKES OF HAGGARD
THE WHISKEY DICKS

Sunday, January 14

“REZUREX FIENDFORCE TOUR”
Featuring members of Tiger Army & Nekromantix
BLITZKID (Virginia)
THE OTHER (Germany)
LOS KRANEOS (Mexicali, Mexico)

Wednesday, January 17

THE DIRTY DIAMOND
STATIC FOR ZEN

Thursday, January 18

UNSET
INVITRO
Featuring Mikey Doling of Snot/Soufly

REIGNITION
Featuring ex-members of Skinlab

UNDER THE STONE
INDORPHINE

Friday, January 19

Kaotic Wayz Entertainment presents

“SICC MADE’S B-DAY BASH”
Live performances by
CROOKED I • ECAY UNO
MARYJANE JUNKEEZ
THA COR • DAGO BRAVES
and more to be announced

Saturday, January 20

“ACOUSTIC ALLIANCE”
Michael Tiernan, David Patrone, Nisha, Chris Torres, Lee Coulter, Sheila Sondergard, Billy Raphael, Derek Evans, Lindsay Young, Alex Arndt, Steven Ybarra, Blake Williams
With special guests: Kemistry (featuring members of Sprung Monkey & Dirty Sweet) and the Donnis Trio

1/27 **Dirty Frank** (Pearl Jam tribute) • **Gish** (Smashing Pumpkins tribute)
2/23 **L.A. Guns** • 2/24 **Run Run Run** • 4/14 **Anti Nowhere League** • **Lower Class Brats**

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In Cahoots	<u>2 for 1 cover</u>
Lucky 7 Match	<u>\$5 off speed dating</u>
Martini Ranch	<u>Free appetizers</u>
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Second Wind Navajo	<u>No cover</u>
710 Beach Club	<u>2 for 1 cover</u>
Tio Leo's Lounge	<u>\$1 off club admission</u>

SanDiegoReader.com

Calendar

BANDS

ACOUSTIC / FOLK

Berkley-Hart: Belly Up Tavern
Evan Bethany: Lestat's Coffee House
J.D. Boucharde: Princess Pub and Grille
Aaron Bowen: Lestat's Coffee House
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
Chris and Harold: Blarney Stone Pub
Shannon Curtis: Lestat's Coffee House
Dawn: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Rob Dee: Lestat's Coffee House
Dino: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Jim Earp: Borders Books and Music (Gaslamp)
Chad Farran: Lestat's Coffee House
Tim Flannery: Belly Up Tavern
Mike Gardner: Cheers, North Bar Sports and Spirits, Mas Fina Cantina
Allison Gill: Blarney Stone Pub
Sarah Green: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
The Green Water District: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Haale: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
David Hauser: Galley at the Marina
David Houser: McP's Irish Pub and Grill
The Justin Brothers: McP's Irish Pub and Grill, Galley at the Marina
Mike McGill: Borders Books and Music (Carmel Mountain)

Jim Moore: McP's Irish Pub and Grill
Tim Mudd: Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad), Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Adrienne Nims and Raggle Taggle: Tom Giblin's Irish Pub and Restaurant
Pat and Joe: Blarney Stone Pub
Angela Patua: Lestat's Coffee House
Lee Tyler Post: Borders Books and Music (Mission Valley)
Gary Seiler: Galley at the Marina
Eve Selis: Belly Up Tavern
The Slidewinders: Belly Up Tavern
Rory Stitt: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
Tiffany: Twiggs Tea and Coffee Company
2 Guys Will Move U: McP's Irish Pub and Grill
Gene Warren: The Ould Sod
The Whooligans: Dublin Square
Steven Ybarra: Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad)
Lindsey Yung: Lestat's Coffee House

BLUES / SOUL

Akon: 4th & B
Big Slim: Riley's Sports Bar
Blue Four: Patrick's II
The Blues Brokers: The Kraken
The Blues Traveler: House of Blues
Deep Rooted: 4th & B
Dirty Town and the Odd Couple: Dreamstreet
Grand Wizard Theodore: 4th & B
Mark Hummel: Belly Up Tavern
L.A. Jones: Patrick's II
Lady Dottie and the Diamonds: Tower Bar, Henry's Pub
Ronnie Lane: Patrick's II
Mpire Da Regiment: Dreamstreet
The 145th Street Deluxe Blues Band: Patrick's II

as i hear it

BY BRIAN CARVER

Artist: **Hammerflo**
Song: **"IBISOK"** (from their self-titled CD)
Heard By: **Joe Smey**, Normal Heights



Joe

They seem pretty mainstream — just rock and roll to me. The lead singer's voice stood out. I liked the voice. Parts of it [sounded like] Eddie Vedder when he gets really low. Musically, for some reason it struck me that I'd like to see them live. It got a little repetitive at the end, I thought. It's something that I think wouldn't be that objectionable to people if you threw it on in the background.

SAN DIEGO SONGS TAKE THE STREET TEST

Artist: **The Heartaches**
Song: **"Time"** (from the CD *Too Cool for School*)
Heard By: **Andy Urzua**, Banker's Hill



Andy

The melody, for some reason, I kept thinking of Buddy Holly. Buddy Holly meets the Clash or something. It had a constant riff and it didn't really change and his singing would be the part that I say sounds like the Cure. It had a nice little rhythm to it. I would like to hear that [song] on the radio or maybe catch it at a show. That constant riff is what keeps it going — I put that kind of music on when I'm driving. It makes it feel like you're driving faster.

Artist: **Axe**
Song: **"Ragga Muffin Soldiers"** (from the CD *Shining in the Shade*)
Heard By: **John Nguyen**, Pacific Beach



John

It reminds me a lot of Sean Paul. It [also] reminds me of the guy who sang "Mr. Boombastic." It was reggae meets gangsta rap — they had gunshots going off in the background. It didn't sound right to me when you mix it together. I think they were trying to be catchy [and] get just some airplay for the group or that song. It was more of a "hang out" song [for] either cruising in your car or hanging around with all your friends.

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EVERYTHING ELSE

Ang the Mcee: Dreamstreet
Tom Barabas: G5-Georges on Fifth
John Cain: Shooters Bar and Grill, Bahia Resort Hotel, Hotel del Coronado
Ray Correa: The Butcher Shop
G Mon and the Fern Tee: Dreamstreet
Jim Gibson: Hotel del Coronado
Hawnay Troof: Ché Café
Kittykat: Ché Café
Lil' Daddy Rich: Dreamstreet
Lollipop: Ché Café

The Powdered Wigs: Ché Café
Roy Resnikoff: Cody's La Jolla
Eddie Rossi: Red Fox Steakhouse
The David Shaw Duo: Red Fox Steakhouse
Joe Soprano: Red Fox Steakhouse
Steven Flex: 4th & B

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The Best of Tastes, 2006

Yesterday — all those dinners seem so far away. Another hundred-odd restaurant meals have gone to my hips since the Best Bites of '05. This past year has seen more chefs who are dedicated to cooking as a creative art, or at least a devotional craft, using the best ingredients they can find — which means our region's amazing local produce, along with well-cared-for heritage breeds of meat and poultry and non-endangered wild fish. At the same time, the dreary, once-ubiquitous steamed "Sysco veggie medley" of pre-cut blah produce is growing less common, though still served at some of the older "view" eateries and neighborhood hash-houses. Is San Diego reaching the tipping point to becoming a "foodie city"? I suspect so.

The year has also seen positive changes at the lower price end. Many new and remade ethnic restaurants are serving food with some actual resemblance to the cuisines of their homelands, rather than a mess of American-oriented compromises. And when it comes to all-American favorites, this year a couple of newbies reacquainted me with the joys of serious, non-chain burgers and pub grub.

With so much variety, it's always impossible to choose a single "Best Restaurant," but here are some where I've enjoyed exceptionally good meals this year — plus more where a particular dish was especially memorable.

Best New "Money-No-Object" Restaurant:

Blanca (Beachwalk Plaza, 437 South Highway 101, Solana Beach, 858-792-0072). Sleek and sophisticated Blanca is our first true 21st-Century restaurant. That the cuisine is driven by wholesome and delicious ingredients is just a start. Then comes the art of highlighting perfect ingredients so radiantly and originally that diners rouse to rapt attention. Chef Wade Hageman, a protégé of renowned San Francisco chef Michael Mina, has imported a similar complex, intellectual, labor-intensive style of cooking that appeals as much to the mind as to the senses. You can't quite taste all the flavors layered into each dish here, so much as sense their presence. The only flaw lies in a stony-cool ambiance with a soupçon of "in-crowd" clannishness. But if you concentrate on the cooking, you won't even notice it.

Best New Almost-Affordable Restaurant:

Market (3702 Via de la Valle at El Camino Real,



Market Restaurant



Galileo 101



Confidential



Blanca

Del Mar, 858-523-0007). Carl Schroeder left Arterra to open his own restaurant, and it's a winner in decor, ambiance, and especially food. The restaurant's name is a hint that it specializes in "market-driven cuisine" — the daily changing menu is inspired by whatever seasonal foodstuffs the chef finds at the local produce market (Chino Farms, in this case). Not only are the flavors fine, but this is an exceptionally comfortable restaurant, with great care taken to keep sound levels moderate and diners' bodies well-cushioned, so nothing interferes with the enjoyment. Don't skip dessert: Pastry chef James Foran's sophisticated sweets are as finely honed as Schroeder's main menu, rivaling Jack Fisher's (at Addison) as best desserts of the year.

Best New Restaurant to Gobble French

Food Until the Wee Hours: Modus (2204 Fourth Avenue at Ivy, Banker's Hill, 619-236-8516). Nathan Coulon, the scion of the Belgian Lion family, makes good on his own, serving

made-from-scratch Belgian-French chow at a neighborhood-style place where you can drop in for flawless *pommes frites* and a handmade cocktail or glass of wine, or go for dinner at midnight. The international wine list may not

be a tome, but sommelier Scotty Johnson offers some of the most interesting bottles in town.

Best-Kept Secret:

Galileo 101 (West Tower, Harbor Club, 201 J Street at Second Avenue, Suite 101, downtown, 619-702-7101). Like the heavenly bodies studied by its namesake astronomer, Galileo has ever been in transit, moving through various phases, from upscale Italian cuisine to its current "progressive European cuisine." Let's hope that it now becomes a fixed star. At an odd but pretty location across from the Convention Center, Joe Craig (formerly sous-chef of Chive) has taken over the kitchen, turning out dishes with superb ingredients, imaginative preparations, and consistently fine execution. The room is beautiful in a spaced-out mode, but the food is down to earth. Try

scallops with osso bucco, or a wild mushroom and duck confit tart, and you'll be glad there's life on this planet.

Best Nuevo Wavo Tapas: Confidential (901 Fourth Avenue at E Street, Gaslamp Quarter, 619-696-8888). Chef Chris Walsh has hit his stride with a menu of inventive international "small plates" to please the taste of every grazer and a kitchen staff of sufficient size and skill to carry it off. His masterpiece revision of shrimp on sugar cane (spiced up and served over sorbet) was such a kick, it nearly set me squealing Little Richard-style. Look for a new Walsh eatery early in the new year; Walsh will continue as a consultant at Confi.

Best Turnarounds and Upgrades:

Hawthorne's (Stephen and Mary Birch North Park Theatre, 2895 University near 29th Street, North Park, 619-544-0940). The happiest sign of changing times was when Fifth and Hawthorne reopened in North Park with an upgrade in both produce and sauces. Yes, the chef gave up on Sysco medley and started to use real veggies, while taking up made-from-scratch meat and poultry stock to serve as the base for gravies — and yes, you can taste the difference, absolutely!

Meanwhile, Lotus Thai (3761 Sixth Avenue at Robinson, Hillcrest, 619-299-8272, and 906 Market at Ninth Street, downtown, 619-595-0115) abandoned Americanized vegetarian-flirting blandness and introduced chef-specialty sections on the menu of both its old and new locations. The chefs are from Northwest Thailand, and in their lively dishes now you can almost smell the Ping River and the fog-shrouded hills of Chiang Mai. Oh, and their Rambutan Cosmo vies with Samba's *caipirinha* for my "cocktail of the year."

Best New Ethnic Restaurant:

Kous Kous (3940 Fourth Avenue, Suite 110, downstairs, below street level, Hillcrest, 619-295-5560). The Moroccan food at Kous Kous is delicious, authentic, and healthful — and a bit too exotic to readily cook at home, making this something like an ideal neighborhood restaurant. The atmosphere is relaxing and casually sensual. The staff run the restaurant as if they're entertaining friends. And you don't have to sit on the floor to partake

REVIEW

NAOMI WISE

"Best Thai" — *944 Magazine* Editor's Choice, 2006

★★★ (*Very good*) — *San Diego Reader*, 2006

"Best Thai Restaurant" — *San Diego CityBeat*, 2004 & 2005

"If you like Thai food and haven't been to Lotus Thai lately, you may be missing out on a treat!"

— Naomi Wise, *San Diego Reader*, 2006



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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

of the unique, richly seasoned cuisine from an ever-expanding menu. You sit at tables with chairs, making the experience less “Arabian night out” and more about enjoying great cooking and charming service, bistro-style.

Honorable Mentions, “Ethnic Gets Serious”

Category: D’Mood (4628 Park Boulevard at “University Heights” overhead street sign, 619-297-6663). Persia’s vastly civilized culture comes with the cooking here, which embraces traditional dishes and creative improvisations on Middle Eastern themes, including a bar menu of “small plates” available until late on weekend nights. The food is delicious (try the pomegranate-glazed roast game hen and the Persian ice creams), and the room celebrates a cosmopolitan culture with a bohemian edge. The owners, adherents of the peace-loving Bahai religion, came from a country now called Iran. They, fortunately, had the resources to emigrate; others like them did not. Keep that in mind when you hear the sabers rattling.

Rannoosh (3890 Fifth Avenue, south of University, Hillcrest, 619-325-1360). What makes Rannoosh stand out from the field of indistinguish-

able Middle Eastern restaurant clones is that their Lebanese-Jordanian cooking is all “from scratch.” The labor pays off: I never thought I’d like falafel until I tried the cinnamon-scented stuffed falafel, filled with a moist mixture of onions and rice. Their vegetarian kebbeh and house-made sausages are terrific, too.

Samba Grill (top level, Horton Plaza, 510 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp Quarter, 619-236-1000). This Brazilian eatery offers a *rodizio* (grilled-meat orgy), with plenty of interesting side dishes, but even more delightful is its spirited Brazilian atmosphere — helped along if you sip one or two of the sublimely limey *caipirinhas*.

Gourmet India (810 Fourth Avenue, south of F Street, Gaslamp Quarter, 619-702-7967). This restaurant offers a chance to try some genuine regional Indian dishes without pledging to a Tamil vegetarian diet. Many of their offerings, especially those from Bombay, are absent from the cookie-cutter menus of local Indian restaurants. Wake up your mouth with a refreshing blast of vibrant, tamarind-tinged *sev poori* or a delicate pizza-like *ut-tapam*. Live a little!

Casual Gets Serious: Tioli’s Crazy Burger (4201 30th Street at Howard, across from Vons, North Park, 619-282-6044). What happens to a hamburger when it’s cooked by a European chef? It turns into a dozen-odd

varieties of burger with a choice of meats (including ‘gator and bison) and distinctive sauces matched to each protein. Hence, Crazy Burger turns out the only turkey-burger I’ve ever found edible and the best ostrich any which way (ask for it rare) I’ve ever tasted. The mustard is house-made, and even the chipotle ketchup has been fiddled with. It’s the ultimate burger joint. You can also get great German sausages here, not to mention a glass of good cheap Italian wine.

Batter Up (Market Creek Plaza, 342 Euclid Avenue at Market Street, Diamond District, 619-262-3333). Chef-owner Mel Johnson cooked at the dearly departed Juke Joint, and here he’s turning out equally worthy casual food. Fish and shrimp are fried tender and moist, coated in a thin, flavorful cornmeal-wheat flour batter jazzed up with black pepper, cayenne, and a pinch of Cajun spices. The tartar sauce is house-made, or you can choose cocktail sauce or house-made Dijon remoulade. The chicken tender sandwiches actually *are* tender — and chef Mel’s thick, juicy, and incendiary “Bring on the Heat” burger left me happily breathing fire.

Eight Great Dishes: J-6 (Hotel Solamar, 616 J Street at Sixth Avenue, downtown, 619-531-0744). Chef Christian Graves’ truffled white-corn ravioli with butter-sautéed whole, fresh chanterelle mushrooms in a creamy chive-and-lemon fon-

due sauce — devastating!

Paradise Grill (Flower Hill Mall, 2690 Via de la Valle at I-5 off-ramp, Del Mar, 858-350-0808). The marinated grilled shrimp kebabs coated (for crunch) with Rice Krispies, impaling a hunk of grilled watermelon, is a wickedly witty dish. But even more impressive is the miracle that chef Justin Hoehn confers on quinoa, that bland “good for you” Peruvian grain — turning it into a lively, tomato-spiked “couscous.”

1500 Ocean (Hotel Del Coronado, 1500 Ocean Avenue, Coronado, 619-522-8490). There are plenty of great dishes here, but my favorite was “Bubalus Bubalis buffalo ricotta gnudi.” “Bubalus” is Latin for water buffalo, the source of chef Jason Schaeffer’s California cheese enclosed in the gnudi — thin-skinned dumplings resembling ricotta-filled dim sum. The ricotta tasted fresh and sunny, and the Meyer lemon sauce that robbed the spheres was so flawless a match that I wanted to lick the plate.

Stingaree (454 Sixth Avenue between J and K, Gaslamp Quarter, 619-544-9500). Chef Antonio Friscia’s Torchon of Foie Gras was extraordinary, up there with Tapenade’s benchmark version: gentle-tasting, with an ethereal marshmallow texture that truly melts in the mouth, plated atop a brioche crostini.

Red Pearl (440 J Street between Fourth and Fifth Avenues, Gaslamp Quarter,

619-231-1100). Strawberry Cinnamon Short Ribs is a dish that chef Jason Marcus ate in Ho Chi Minh City, albeit changed a bit in this version. The fall-off-the-bone braised spare ribs are crisped on the grill and slathered with a thick, sweet, compelling, cooked-down strawberry sauce redolent of cinnamon and star anise. It tastes like Hoisin from heaven.

Island Prime (880 Harbor Island Drive, Harbor Island, 619-298-6802). Debra Scott’s Shaved Corn with Black Truffle and Fresh Herbs has become the restaurant’s signature dish. The truffle component isn’t the usual splash of oil, but actual crunchy black truffle shavings, lending earthy contrast to the supersweet corn kernels and lush cream sauce. This dish alone is worth a dinner here.

House of Blues (1055 Fifth Avenue, north of Broadway, downtown, 619-299-2583). The smoked roast beef from the carving station at the Gospel Brunch is rich, tender, rare (if you want it rare) — as good as roast beef gets.

Thee Bungalow (4996 West Point Loma Boulevard, Ocean Beach, 619-224-2884). Sometimes the old ways are the best ways. Case in point: Grand Marnier soufflé. There are many great desserts in the world, but this oldie and goodie stands the test of time — the ideal dessert to finish a dinner when you really don’t want

more substance, just a faint, airy touch of bitter-sweetness.

Minor Disappointments:

“Chef Cuisine to Feed Multitudes.” Some of the hottest new restaurants are, to my mind, just too big, seating so many customers that you don’t get exactly the chef’s cuisine, you get the line cooks’ harried, frantic compromises to get things to the tables on time. The ideas are often swell, but the execution — not necessarily. A lot of precious Jidori chickens are being overcooked out there. You can find excellence at such restaurants — but not quite the same degree and consistency of excellence as at smaller, more manageable dining rooms.

Pet Peeve: Ear-splitting parties in quiet restaurants. No surprise when restaurants known for loud bars with singles’ scenes host raucous parties with hot-and-cold squealing faux-blondes — but lately, grayer groups are making rowdy ruckuses at gracious places like Thee Bungalow and Paradise Grill. To use two German shrink-words in one sentence, the American zeitgeist is clearly angst-ridden. I know you guys are really suppressing a scream — but please, baby-boomers (and frankly, I’m one of you, rescued from gray only by Clairol Old-Hippie Herbal Hair-Helper), when you feel a vocal big BOOM coming on, take it to someplace that’s already racy. ■

† “If you want to learn about a culture, spend a night in its Bars” †
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A Surprise On Sourdough

Something about the flavor of that goat cheese, and what the pear does to it.

'See?" says Hank. He's pointing at a piece of salmon in the chilled display cabinet. It's sitting on a piece of wood.

"Cedar," says Hank. "They cook it on that. Northern peoples. Arctic. Ancient recipe. Makes all the difference in the world."

"North Pole? Cedar trees?" I say. "This I gotta test-taste."

"Except, dude, I'm having the salmon, and it's bad luck to order the same thing."

"Oh, yeah? Since when?"

"Since it's gonna cost about 12 bucks and you don't have two dimes to rub together. I don't have enough *dinero* for two salmon plates."

"Great."

"But I've got a special treat for you."

"Oh, yeah?"

"Yeah."

And that's how I come to make the greatest sandwich discovery since I was six and Mom stuck a banana in my peanut butter sandwich.

Hank's been crowing about this place for months. It's quite small, maybe 15 feet wide, but deep, with pale lime walls, a white acoustic ceiling, and four black ceiling fans. The kitchen is all in the open, with green, red, and yellow enamel pots dangling from

hooks. They have three tables inside and a couple out under the veranda. There's a sandwich list on a chalkboard to the right and, huh, a bookshelf on the left. The bottom half holds six-packs of Cokes, traditional bulgy small bottles. Cookbooks fill the upper shelves. Dozens of them. *Whole Foods Market Cookbook*. *Chez Panisse Café Cookbook*. *Hugh Johnson World Atlas of Wine*. Good sign. Someone here's interested in food.

So Hank makes mystery orders for the two of us. Ten minutes later, one of the cooks, Andy, brings out this big wide square china plate loaded with a rainbow of roasted vegetables, like zucchini, mushrooms, squash, red and green peppers, and tomatoes, and a rosy square of salmon. Wow. Classy. Hank lets me take a couple of chunks. Mouth-melters, with a sorta sweet, sorta herby, and maybe I'm imagining this, but, a slightly "woody" flavor. A little salt, and for me, perfecto.

But now Andy turns up with my plate. Jeez. Just a sandwich.

"Where's the justice, dude?"

I mean, deep down, I'm not a sandwich guy. And, okay, the place is pretty sandwichy. The board shows they do everything from grilled cheese (\$4.50) to fried egg with cheese, bacon, and tomato (\$5.50) to roast beef (\$7.00). But they

also do wraps, like the chicken Caesar (\$6.50), and some pretty interesting salads, like the curried chicken with chutney (\$4.25).

But what turns up is this basket with...grilled sourdough filled with, what? Spring-mix lettuce, slices of fruit, and some white gunk...

"Okay, what is it?" I say. I clamp my jaws down on one piece of the sandwich. Chomp. Oh, man. Shaft of light pours through the clouds. The waters part. I taste the sourdough. I taste the lettuce. I taste the sweetness of pears. I taste the sharp, strong gunk at the bottom, and the candied crunch of something nutty between. My eyes search the menu board. Of course! Goat cheese and d'Anjou pear (\$7.00), with mustard, candied walnuts...

"My man," I say. "For once, you've nailed it. This is awesome." The combo taste is really great. Something about the flavor of that goat cheese and what the pear does to it. And how those walnuts come in like referees and say, "Come on now, fellas, cool it a little."

The iced tea Hank ordered (\$1.50 each) hits the spot too.

But maybe I should've had Coke. "We get it from Mexico," says Clive. The owner. "They still use cane sugar. U.S. Coke uses refined white sugar. There's a difference."

Clive trained as a chef in Baltimore. His dad was a Navy captain. "We were always moving," he says. The same happened when Clive became a chef. Now

he's got a four-year-old of his own, and when this site came up a couple of years ago, two blocks from his home, he grabbed the opportunity. "It's brought our family together," he says. "My dad comes around. He loves working with the 'family firm.' We grow our own herbs in our garden up the road, recycle 40 percent of our green waste into compost." Whew. "I just love cooking," Clive says. "We did a North African carrot ginger soup [\$4.50] the other day."

And Hank's cedar plank salmon Arctic thing? "I saw it on a Williams-Sonoma cover," Clive says. "The idea comes from the Inuit Indians. They soak a plank of cedar in water, tack the salmon to it, then cook it on the edge of an ember fire. It gets cooked three ways. Steam from the wet wood steams it, smoke from the fire, and indirectly from the heat. We do just the same, and we finish it with honey, rice wine vinegar, or rosemary and lemon. But cedar definitely adds one of the flavors. The place smells like cedar when we're cooking."

Huh. At a table outside, this couple, Janet and Bob, are just finishing off a hot pastrami panini. "Have this next time," says Janet. "It's as good as at the Wine Cask in Santa Barbara."

"So what do most people ask for?" I ask Clive.

He looks a little embarrassed. "Actually, the fried egg sandwich," he says.

"If it hadn't been for the big guy here," I say, "that's what I would've ordered. For once, I'm glad I followed orders." ■

The Place: 3 Squares Gourmet, 6366 Del Cerro Boulevard, Del Cerro, 619-286-1636

Type of Food: American

Prices: Fried egg breakfast sandwich (with two eggs, cheese, bacon, tomato), \$5.50; grilled vegetable omelet, with cheese, \$5.50; steak and egg panini with cheese, \$6.50; chicken Caesar wrap, \$6.50; goat cheese and d'Anjou pear sandwich, \$7.00; eggplant Parmesan, \$10.00 per pound; lasagna Bolognese, \$11.00 per pound; curried chicken salad with chutney, \$4.25; mezzaluna salad (with provolone, salami, olives, garbanzos), \$8.00

Hours: 6:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Monday-Friday; 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Saturdays; closed Sundays

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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

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

Americana 1454 Camino Del Mar (southwest corner at 15th Street), Del Mar, 858-794-6838. Housed in a historic building, this casual breakfast/lunch joint turns into a serious dinner house at nightfall. The cooking represents the American melting pot, featuring worldwide flavors. Mornings, along with flawless eggs Benedict and utopian waffles, you can get a "Roman breakfast" of prosciutto, mozzarella, and fried egg on English muffin. At dinner, don't miss the lamb chop and eggplant appetizer or the duck breast with fig sauce. During summer, some of the veggies come from chef-owner Randy Gruber's home garden; the French fries (which don't come from his garden) are world class. To finish, a banana *tarte tatin* shouldn't be resisted. Thoughtful, reasonable wine list. Breakfast (until 3 p.m.) and lunch daily, dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Kids' menu available. Breakfast and lunch inexpensive to moderate; dinner moderate to expensive. — *A.M. (1/05)*

Big Jim's Old South Barbecue 190 North Coast Highway 101 (two blocks north of Encinitas Boulevard), Encinitas, 760-635-1166. At this outstanding barbecue, you can "Put Some South in Yo' Mouth!" The smoking-wood is mellow hickory, and each type of meat (sublime "pulled pork," smoky skewered shrimp, huge pork ribs, chicken, beef ribs, steak) gets individualized treatment, including a tangy Alabama-style mustard sauce for pork and chicken. (Beef gets the more familiar tomatoey Texas-style sauce.) You don't eat meat? The ever-expanding menu now includes a delicious, spicy blackened grilled salmon steak. Side dishes are superb: Don't miss the thick, smoky-sweet Brunswick stew (you'll not find its like anywhere on this coast), exemplary hush puppies, corn muffins with honey butter, well-balanced slaw...oh, just taste everything you can fit under your belt. Lunch and dinner daily. Low moderate. — *N.W. (6/05)*

The Bird House Grill 250 North Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-944-2882. A great place to check out real Turkish cuisine. The inside has a fine collection of blue-and-white wall plates and blue glass eyes to ward off evil spirits. Try the house specialty, Iskender Kebab (ground meat kebab, rice, tomato sauce, and house-grown yogurt) — "Iskender" means "Alexander." Or the Kofte plate (ground meat kebab, rice, salad, pita, and *tzatziki* sauce). The shepherd's salad is a traditional dish brimming with fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, parsley, oil, and lemon. Good healthy Mediterranean diet. Even the baklavas are less gloopy. Open Monday to Saturday, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (12/04)*

Calypto Cafe 576 North Coast Highway 101, Leucadia, 760-632-8252. This "Calypto" has nothing to do with Caribbean music (or food), despite its tropical tiki-hut decor. The cuisine is French, ranging from old warhorses like onion soup and *coq au vin* to newfangled Gallo-Cal-Italian-Pacific Rim hyphenates. The traditional dishes are generally the most successful. Mussels are the house specialty, and their rapid turnover here ensures freshness. Although there's nothing revolutionary coming from this kitchen, the cooking is generally agreeable. Dinner nightly, reservations advised. Upper moderate. — *N.W. (9/01)*

Cuvee 2334 Carmel Valley Road, Del Mar, 858-259-5878. Seasonal California-Mediterranean cuisine, bolder and more

complex than at the original, now-closed La Jolla branch. Cuisine is designed to accompany an interesting, affordable wine list. A reserve list includes fancier choices, still at minimal markups. Corkage fee for BYO is \$10, but waived on Tuesdays. Reservations urged. Lunch weekdays, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Moderate. — *N.W. (12/04)*

Jamroc 101 101 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-436-3162. At this former site of D.B. Hacker's, you can still get great fish'n'chips — but the Brit batter now gets its lift from Jamaica's Red Stripe beer, mon. The shack by the tracks now sports bright tropical designs on its back-patio walls, and the fare is casual Jamaican (plus a couple of Cajun dishes). Check out the bargain-priced samplers which include luscious soft-fried plantains and splendid patties (empanadas to you and me) with a choice of beef, curry chicken, or veggies. The spicing of the jerks and curry entrées are down-tuned to suit tourist tastes, but the table bottle of Walkerswood Scotch Bonnet Hot Sauce can kick that right up. Don't miss the fresh coconut water, served out of a young Thai coconut. Soca, ska, and (clean) reggae set the mood, and there's live steel pan weekend evenings. Beer, wine, Bigga soft drinks. Open Sunday through Wednesday until 8 p.m., Thursday through Saturday until 9 p.m. Inexpensive. — *N.W. (4/05)*

Knockout Pizza 2959 Carlsbad Boulevard, Carlsbad, 760-434-4468. It's New York pizza only here. They make the pies with traditional thin, crisp crusts and toppings like pepperoni, meatball, garlic, and "whitestone" (mozzarella, Parmesan, ricotta, garlic, and spinach). Maybe their best is the "Bronx Special," an assortment of pepperoni, sausage, onions, olives, mushrooms, pepper and garlic. Open daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (5/02)*

Paul's Place 3671 Mission Avenue (at El Camino Real), Oceanside, 760-721-0124. This restaurant looks like a McDonald's or Wendy's (the building used to be a franchise) and the food comes fast, but it's no chain. The menu strikes a balance between American and Greek fare. The baked Greek half-chicken, the spiced grilled chicken sliced up on a salad with pita bread, and the gyros (all at earthy prices) mix with all-American three-egg breakfast specials with home fries. Lunch offers include meaty hamburgers, gyros with fries, or a surprisingly tasty turkeyburger. Open

seven days for lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (12/01)*

Tip Top Meats 6118 Paseo Del Norte, Carlsbad, 760-438-2620. This geranium-splashed blue-and-white Bavarian chalet is more than a butcher's shop. It's a combination butcher-deli-diner. Enter through the bulging deli and listen for the shouts and clatter of serving ladies. Look for the "*Es ist Wunderbar!*" sign over the counter. Try German and American dishes like Big John's all-you-can-eat bacon, pork-link sausage, bratwurst, or ham breakfast with three eggs, home fries, and toast. Or the sausage plate: bratwurst, knackwurst, and smoked Polish with German potato salad and traditional stuffed cabbage. Owner Big John is a heavyweight Olympic boxer from the former East Germany with an M.A. in meat sciences. Generous portions abound. Friday through Sunday after 4 p.m., he roasts his famous prime rib dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/00)*

Vigilucci's 505 South Coast Highway 101 (at D Street), Encinitas, 760-942-7332. In the Land of 10,000 Trattorias, this is one of the most popular — and for good reason. The restaurant's motto, "a little piece of Italy," is actually accurate. Freshness, simplicity, and savvy seasoning — that's Italian. The pastas are luscious (try the comforting cannelloni with an unusual stewed meat stuffing) and the flavorful entrées come with honest fresh vegetables. The staff is bouncy and jokey, the wines are mainly affordable, and spirits run high. Of course it's crowded, so reserve to avoid a long, hungry wait. Other locations include Vigilucci Cucina in Carlsbad, Vigilucci's Pizzeria in Leucadia, and Vigilucci's Seafood and Steakhouse in Carlsbad. — *N.W. (10/01)*

NORTH INLAND

A Delight of France 126 West Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-746-2644. This authentic French bakery is one of the best in the region, offering daily baked authentic baguettes, brioches, quiches, and croissants, including a luscious almond croissant studded with nuts and laced with sweet almond paste. They claim to use all-organic ingredients, even the eggs, and locally grown produce. For a hearty breakfast, you can choose

omelets, frittatas, French toast, and eggs. Lunch dishes include several savory tarts, a French deli plate, crêpes, salads, and sandwiches. And ooh la la, there are dessert pastries, too. Open for brunch/lunch and pre-dinner snacks Tuesday through Saturday; lunch/brunch only on Sunday. Inexpensive. — *N.W. (5/05)*

Bolsa Vietnamese Restaurant 9225 Mira Mesa Boulevard #118 (behind Wendy's), 858-693-3663. "The name 'Bolsa' isn't Vietnamese," says Kim Trang. "It's Spanish for 'bag.'" She's playing on words here: Trang once owned *Pho Bolsa* on University Avenue, and every Vietnamese knows *pho bo* is Vietnam's most popular quick meal, a beef rice noodle soup. At this location, Trang still makes excellent *pho bo*, but she has 122 other items as well, including fried catfish with ginger fish sauce, healthy (non-fried) Vietnamese spring rolls, or egg rolls with lettuce and mint in which to wrap them (sprinkled with *nuoc mam*, Vietnamese fish sauce). We're talking family-style cooking. Come once and Trang will remember you and everything you ate — even if it was just *pho bo*. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (2/03)*

Golden Egg Omelet House 316 West Mission Avenue (at Escondido Boulevard), Escondido, 760-489-6420. This breakfast-lunch treasure-house is vast but cute, its brick walls and open beams festooned with knickknacks (all for sale). This is *the* place on Sunday mornings, when three generations bond over great, generous breakfasts. Omelets are perfect — light, thin crêpe-like eggs wrapped around tall mounds of elaborate fillings. Thick waffles can be topped with fresh seasonal fruit. And then there are eggs, hash, crêpes, humongous burgers, and sandwiches. The potato casseroles, with a choice of a dozen fillings, are as huge in flavor as they are in size. Whatever you choose will carry you through until dinner. Reservations on weekends. In back of a mall. Easiest entry from Mission is at SDGE driveway; do not pass McDonald's. Good handicap access; sturdy high-chairs; low-salt cooking. Open daily, breakfast and lunch. Inexpensive. — *N.W. (9/03)*

Hunan 16719 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-487-8131. This casual family restaurant serves the cuisines of two spicy Chinese provinces, Szechuan and Hunan — each with its own dedicated chef — but both chefs

tone the spice way down to a suburban American comfort level. If you don't already know the difference between these neighboring cuisines, you're unlikely to learn them here. But you can have an enjoyable meal: Tea-smoked duck, eggplant Hunan-style, and shredded potatoes with pickled vegetables are the outstanding dishes. If you're planning on a multicourse feast, order your meal a few dishes at a time or everything will be served at once; the staff is accommodating but limited-English. Over 20 vegan entrées. Full bar, Chinese beers, generic wines. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — *N.W. (8/04)*

Madras Cafe 9484 Black Mountain Road, Mira Mesa, 858-695-6229. In the same strip mall as Ashoka the Great, this family-friendly café features the savory vegetarian cuisine of South India. It's distinctly different from the standard North Indian menus, centering on numerous varieties of stuffed pancakes — from thin, crisp (and irresistible) crêpe-like *dosais* stuffed with vegetable curry to lacy rice-flour *aa-pams* drenched in coconut milk to hefty, frittata-like *uttapams*. (Try the latter with the delicious, not-too-spicy chile-onion stuffing.) Puffy *poori* bread and tamarind rice are spectacular. Order your dishes in the sequence you hope to eat them — that's usually how they come out of the kitchen. And don't expect hovering "Raj"-style service — it's just not the Tamil way. Seasoning is generally mild, to accommodate kiddies; spicy sauces are on the table. No alcohol. Open Tuesday through Sunday with buffet lunches and à la carte dinners. Inexpensive. — *N.W. (1/03)*

Pearl Chinese Cuisine 11666 Avena Place (at Webb Park), Rancho Bernardo, 858-487-3388. At Emerald Restaurant's younger, prettier suburban sister, you'll find modern Hong Kong-style Chinese cuisine, including both familiar and exotic dishes. Day-times are for dim sum (Chinese tapas), served daily until 3 p.m., plus champagne dim sum brunches on weekends. Along with standard items, the choices here leap to the latest Pacific creations, some rarely found this side of the ocean, including irresistible Shanghai soup dumplings. Dinners range from folk food to showy "gold cup" dishes. For a taste treat and visual hoot, try the sea bass with pine nuts, sculpted to resemble a dish sponge. International wine list at modest markups complements the cooking. Full bar. Frying done in



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salad (not peanut) oil. Reservations advised. Lunch and dinner on weekdays; three meals on weekends. Moderate, with some expensive specialties. — N.W. (8/04)

LA JOLLA

Brockton Villa 1235 Coast Boulevard, La Jolla, 858-454-7393. Pretty and romantic, this sprawling cottage perches above La Jolla Cove and offers heated terraces as well as semi-enclosed tables indoors to admire the view. The culinary masterpiece is “Coast Toast,” invented for breakfast but now served all day — it’s the French toast of your happiest dreams, puffy and airy with a lovely orange flavor. (And the coffee is excellent.) Lunchtime features sandwiches on flavorful Bread & Cie breads while dinner runs to San Diego international-eclectic cookery that can be hit-or-miss. Affordable wines and corkage. Steep stairs to all dining areas. All nearby pay parking is uphill in a garage under Trattoria Acqua or up on Prospect. Unisex restroom. Open three meals Tuesday through Sunday; breakfast/lunch Monday. Moderate to expensive. — N.W. (3/04)

The Cheese Shop 2165 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla, 858-459-3921. Used to be the Cheese Shop had 100 varieties of cheese from all over. No more. “The cheese trade is dead,” says owner Phil Schutz. They still have all-cheese sandwiches with mixes of provolone, Monterey Jack, Cheddar, Swiss, Muenster, Danish Havarti, or Norwegian Jarlsberg. But today this small, busy café is more famous for its “overstuffed” meat sandwiches. The leg of lamb, top round beef, and roast pork loin are all spit-roasted right beside you as you walk in, to waken your taste buds. Cheeses like crumbled Greek Mizithra add tang to the taste. If you’re into salami and ham, try the foot-long. Inexpensive. Other location: 427 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-232-2303, open daily breakfast to late lunch, with delivery to downtown addresses. — E.B. (10/01)

Harry’s Coffee Shop 7545 Girard Avenue (at Pearl), La Jolla, 858-454-7381. When Harry Rudolph II opened Harry’s back in 1960, his idea was simple: to create a down-home eatery and soda fountain where all La Jolla — rich, poor, Brahmins, and gardeners) — could mix and meet with plenty of good eats. Everyone from Joan Kroc to Junior Seau to Brooke Shields has been spotted here, along with regular folks who’ve been coming in for three decades. Now Harry III reigns quietly among a dozen whirling dervish waitresses at lunch, while his dad still works the breakfast shift. The big ham steak and eggs is a favorite breakfast, as is the simple, rich “Hot Creamy Oatmeal” with strawberries. Pecan pancakes and thin, crisp waffles ring true to many Easterners (though

Harry offers thick Belgian-style waffles, too), and for lunch, turkey burgers and the bacon-loaded British Burger are popular. At the counter, the banter between been-here-forever waitresses and customers sounds like family life. Nice sidewalk patio, too. Breakfast and lunch daily. Long lines on weekends. Inexpensive. — E.B. (2/03)

La Jolla Brew House 7536 Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-6279. Don’t expect to see the beach. Do expect to taste some good beers made right here and good solid food, such as the prime rib sandwich (which goes great with their Irish Stout) or the roasted potato. Or maybe best of all, the buffalo burger — big, hefty, and low on cholesterol. You’d call this a family, multi-generational sports bar eatery. Nice mix. It’s La Jolla, so it’s not dirt cheap, but the guys here seem really interested in making interesting brews and good food to accompany them. Open for dinner seven days; lunch and dinner weekends. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B. (1/04)

Marrakesh 634 Pearl Street (at Draper), La Jolla, 858-454-2500. The North African fare of Morocco is like no other in the world — influenced by Arab cuisines, but more intense and sheerly hedonistic. At our sole Moroccan restaurant, the fare is arranged into a nightly five-course prix fixe feast, with superb lentil soup (*harira*), a salad plate, *bastilla* (a chicken-filled filo pie), an entrée, and finally mint tea poured from on high to accompany almond baklava perfumed with orange-flower water. The setting and service are dramatic — tented ceilings, low banquette seating at carved round tables, belly-dancing interludes, servers in fezzes. (You’re the Sheik of Araby.) A short list of entrées (a maximum of two choices per table, to be shared) features fine chicken (or lamb) with olives and preserved lemons; moist, fatless duck; lamb with couscous; and rather dry fish. You can request the dreamy lamb with honey, an extravaganza that includes fruits, almonds, sesame, and cinnamon. Lunch and dinner daily; reserve for weekends. Moderate. — N.W. (4/01)

Trattoria Acqua 1298 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-0709. This popular restaurant has charming decor, with arched doorways dividing a warren of white-painted, high-ceilinged rooms and terraces arranged around a tiled, heated courtyard. The seasonally changing menu could be called “avant-garde Italian,” a style that more than pushes the Italian envelope with assorted international influences. The food can be divine — or dismaying. Given Acqua’s “destination restaurant” status, there’s a surprising air of bean-counting that manifests itself in oddly lightweight silverware, waiters unclear about proper wine service, and, at times, tired veggies. Desserts, though, are superb. Full bar with extensive, wide-ranging wine list that includes

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half bottles as well as choices by the glass. Walk-ins accepted but weekend reservations advised. Restaurant is two floors down from Prospect, with validated parking in underground garage on Coast Boulevard. Elevator access from both directions (Acqua’s stop is the first floor). Lunch or brunch and dinner seven days. Moderate (pastas) to very expensive. — N.W. (11/04)



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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

MISSION VALLEY & THE MESAS

Aladdin's Cafe 5420 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Clairemont, 858-573-0000; Uptown Shopping Center, 1220 Cleveland Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-574-1111. These cafés offer a bright, clean atmosphere for bright and clean, if rather generic, Middle Eastern favorites (hummus, tabbouleh, kebabs, *shaw-erma*, etc.), plus imaginative Levantine-flavored pizzas and salads. There are ample choices for vegetarians. Both locations offer beer and wine. Hillcrest's owners offer a more Lebanese cuisine. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W. (11/00)

Dumpling Inn 4619 Convoy Street #F, Kearny Mesa, 858-268-9638. Hole-in-the-wall? Yes. But what a hole-in-the-wall. For those who love the Far East and its food, finding the Dumpling Inn is a little revelation. It's located in the busy Jasmine/Korean Market Center among Oriental herbalists, man-size-vase shops, even feng shui experts. The Inn itself is tiny but charming. Long hanging lanterns, decorative strings of scarlet and

gold firecrackers, Chinese flutes, and even the odd conical straw hat. The food is serious but not expensive. Dishes like ten fish and green chive dumplings, spicy stir-fried three-ingredient *lo mein* (thick noodles, jumbo shrimp, calamari, and chicken plus hot red peppers) are challenging and exciting, as is the Dumpling Dinner (including hot-and-sour soup, cold cuts, shredded pork bun, pot-stickers, shrimp and pork dumplings). Don't miss their divine jellyfish salad — crunchy-tender, bright and spicy (but not too) — you'd be hard-pressed to find its like outside of Hong Kong. Open 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., closed Monday. Inexpensive. — E.B. (5/02)

East Buffet 8998 Miramar Road, Miramar, 858-566-1888. Curly-haired stone lions greet you outside one of the grander dining halls in the county. "The biggest buffet of San Diego" claims the menu, with "over 200 items daily." Start at the Mongolian grill. Pick your raw prawns, chicken, pork, beef, *satays*, and hand the plate-load to the Iron Chef. He'll stir-cook them on the hotplate for you. You'll need hiking boots to cover the endless rows of steaming chafing dishes. Must-eat: the fresh sashimi, like salmon and tuna — mouth-wateringly scrumptious. And try the chicken feet (they taste a bit like cow tongue, or brains). Open daily, brunch through dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B. (4/05)

Lightnin' Jacks BBQ Clairemont Town Square, 4705-H Clairemont Drive (near movieplex), Clairemont, 858-270-8227. Clean, cute, and a little

self-conscious, this barbecue has black-and-white Western pictures on the walls and some seating on barstools with metal "saddles" (more comfortable than they look). The barbecue mechanism is a Texas-style pit smoker burning sweet hickory. The meats that emerge from it aren't the smokiest, but they're tasty enough. Pork ribs are tender and moist, and beef brisket carries enough smoke flavor to pass muster in Texas; other meat choices are less successful. The tomatoey sauce is pleasant but ordinary. A fried catfish plate makes a flavorful alternative (but beware the cat sandwich, awash in hot sauce). Hush puppies and sweet potato fries are the most savory sides. Check your take-out bag to make sure you're getting what you ordered, as youthful staff is easily flustered. Kiddie plates available. Draft beer and wine available. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W. (1/05)

Sunrise Buffet 3860 Convoy #121, Kearny Mesa, 858-715-1608. "Oysters are here!" It's what everyone here waits for. Apart from the usual array of meats, fish, shellfish, and novelties like stuffed mushrooms, stuffed clams, dragon rolls (cucumber, avocado, asparagus), and *mochi* (sticky rice cake), these plates of raw oysters in their big shells are one of the big draws. This buffet restaurant is smaller than many, but it still looks like a mega-McDonald's eating barn inside, except for a sky-blue-lit ceiling recess "heaven." Like McDonald's, it attracts lots of families, maybe because it's not just all-you-can-eat, but all-you-can-

drink, too — included in the price. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — E.B. (4/05)

THE BEACHES

Bare Back Grill 4640 Mission Boulevard (at Emerald), Pacific Beach, 858-274-7117. This may be the first New Zealand food place in town, but that's not what keeps the customers coming in. It's BBG's claim that most of their meat is certified organic. The owners guarantee hormone-free beef and lamb, both from New Zealand. So, what to eat? Burgers, burgers, burgers — all kinds — from prime NZ Angus to "Bare Li'l Lamb" burgers with wasabi dip. They also offer chicken. Decor inside is strictly Kiwiland, from the all-black rugby shirt on the wall to the declaration of food principles. People who had given up on hormone-treated meat are coming here for their first burger in years. Open seven days, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/05)

Fairouz Cafe And Gallery 3166 Midway Drive, Loma Portal, 619-225-0308. Seek out this family-owned-and-operated restaurant for wonderful Lebanese and Greek food. The owner, a noted artist, displays his paintings on the dining room walls. The extensive menu offers excellent lamb, stuffed grape leaves, and a wide selection of exotic vegetarian meals. Copious all-you-can-eat buffet available at lunch or dinner in addition to the regular menu. Given 24 hours, this café will prepare an astonishing Lebanese feast at low cost. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — E.W.

Great Moon Buffet 1840 Garnet Avenue (Pacific Plaza 2 shopping cen-

ter), Pacific Beach, 858-273-6868. This is one of the classier Chinese all-you-can-eat buffets in town. They boast a glittering chandelier hanging in the octagonal entrance, plus "over 150 items daily." Certainly they have great surf-n-turf, like prime rib and jumbo shrimp or mayonnaise mussels. Or Japanese charcoal-grilled eel with sesame seeds on rice (*unagi-zushi*). It tastes salty yet caramel-y too. Eel-icious. Or Chinese baked crab meat on crab shell. Add crab legs, and maybe some roast duck. Cramming? Feast today, fast tomorrow. Dessert fruits include loquats, pineapple, peach, longan. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B. (4/05)

Karinya Thai & Vegetarian Cuisine 4475 Mission Boulevard (SeaCoast Square), Pacific Beach, 858-270-5050. Think of the movie *The Beach*, with a bunch of Leo DiCaprio look-alikes getting off on the coconut curries like *gang ped*, *panang*, and *kang kari*. Or noodle dishes like the famous *pad thai*. But they're in the right place: Karinya remains true to its Thai origins. The *tom yum kung* (hot and sour shrimp soup) is a meal in itself. Steaming away with its fierce little charcoal fire at your table, the hot pot holds plenty of shrimp, and you can taste the essential mushrooms, lemon grass, ginger, lime juice, cilantro, and of course *nam pla*, Thai fish sauce. A nice counterpart to the hots of the soup are the Fresh Spring Rolls, filled with tofu and vegetables and mint. Another sizzler: *pad talay*, a sauté pan full of mussels, shrimp, squid, and other seafood in a great spicy sauce. The recipe's from Koh Samed, an island like the one featured in *The Beach*. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B. (2/03)

Ranchos Cocina 1830 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, Ocean Beach, 619-226-7619. Also at 3910 30th Street (at University Avenue), North Park, 619-574-1288. At

both locations of this delightful mini-chain you'll find healthy, creative Mexican and vegetarian cuisine in cheerful, tropical-style settings burgeoning with plant life and craft objects. A big plus: zero attitude. You don't have to be virtuous to enjoy full-flavored combinations that are as creative as they are wholesome. Try anything with lobster or calamari steak — in fact, all the seafood here is pristine. Try, even, an *antojito* stuffed with beef — it's stewed, not ground. And sample something with the house-made mole sauce of a zillion ingredients. Actually, try...anything. (Well, the chicken breast is as dry here as everywhere else. Try anything else.) Open daily breakfast through dinner. No reservations, but call ahead for large parties. Inexpensive. — N.W. (6/01)

Rum Jungle Smoothies and Deli 4150 Mission Boulevard #153, Promenade Mall, Pacific Beach, 858-273-2227. Why do Brazilians have more fun? *Açaí* (ah-saa-ee). Why do Brazilians settle in PB? Maybe it's because Rum Jungle Smoothies serves up *açaí*, the flesh of a Brazilian palm nut, for breakfast. The dark purple mush comes from the *açaí* palms that grow around the Amazon River delta. Rum Jungle adds granola, banana, strawberries, blueberries, mango pieces, and honey to make a surprisingly filling breakfast. Of course this bright little place has lots of other smoothies, too, along with sandwiches. But the *açaí* power fruit bowl is what keeps them coming back. Open until 7 p.m. weekdays, until 8 p.m. weekends. Inexpensive. — E.B. (1/04)

Sportsmen's Seafoods 1617 Quivira Road, Mission Beach, 619-224-3551. Fifty years ago this restaurant-fish market was a tuna cannery, part of San Diego's late-lamented fishing industry. The same Sicilian family still owns it, and still knows everything about



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fish and how to cook it. The menu is devoted to the “fruits of the sea” and includes a wonderful seafood platter (shrimp, squid, clams, fish, fries, and salad). And, of course, a crispy-crunchy fish-and-chips platter. Eat outside on deck, contemplating the small ships on the bay. They buy seasonal catch from local fishboats and also sell it at their attached retail market. They’re famous for smoking fish for the fishermen. Open daily, lunch/early dinner. Retail market closed Monday. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/00)

World Famous 711 Pacific Beach Drive, Pacific Beach, 858-272-3100. World Famous is as on-the-beach as it gets, right on PB’s boardwalk. It has a covered porch, a side-slung patio, and low-slung ceilings, so everything feels intimate. You sit at varnished inlaid wooden tables with lots of diagonal timbering and sexy blue lighting. It’s often crowded and laugh-loud noisy. Who’s gonna be food-picky here? You, when you’re paying twenty-some bucks for a steak or a piece of mako shark. On the other hand, the prime rib, surf-n-turf,

and tournedos will fill you fine. If you want to beat the big prices, try the beach burger or a seared ahi Caesar salad. The view is free. Breakfast and lunch inexpensive; dinners moderate to expensive. Open daily. — E.B. (1/04)

CENTRAL SAN DIEGO

Elaine’s Coffee Shoppe 1212 South 43rd Street, Southcrest, 619-264-6525. When Su Cha Yang took over Elaine’s a quarter century ago, this was one tough part of town. No problem. Su had survived the Korean war and Vietnam before she came here. Now, with Southcrest looking up, she is famous for her fun and her food. Most customers are regulars — judges, ministers, teachers among them — and they don’t want change. So Elaine’s remains a bright, genuine 1970s-style breakfast-all-day coffee shop. Breakfast: try the ham, bacon, mushroom “Hunter” omelet.

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Lunch: the pork chop plate is a great filler. Su Cha Yang also cooks dishes for vegetarian, Muslim, and Korean customers. Breakfast and lunch six days; closed Tuesdays. — E.B. (5/06)

Huffman’s Bar-B-Que 5039 Imperial Avenue (at Euclid), Chollas View, 619-264-3115. This café has a huge multigenerational following, some famous — check out their wall photos, in which Jesse Jackson and Muhammad Ali are just two — and some not so famous. The big draw is Huffman’s fabulous Southern soul food. Try their gravy-smothered fried chicken served with collard greens, yellow peppers, red beans, rice, and white mopping-up bread, or their Louisiana Creole gumbo, thick with crab, shrimp, links, ham, and chicken. Other fine eats include the catfish sandwich and half-pound rib tips. Open daily, lunch and dinner, to 11 p.m. weekdays, 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive. — E.B. (11/00)

Just Fabulous Kensington 4116 Adams Avenue, Kensington, 619-584-2929. At this usually-packed café, painted in cheerful Creamsicle colors, noted owner and executive pastry chef Beryl Ann Byrd and executive chef Marcello Alvarez offer a full menu of seasonal California-Mediterranean cuisine. At dinner, appetizers are generally fun to eat but entrées can be inconsistent. Weekend brunch dishes are terrific. The primary emphasis is on desserts, of course: Byrd’s pastries are of the Euro-influenced American mode — very sweet, a little heavy, a touch more sophisticated than Mom’s apple pie. The pastry case doubles as a retail counter for sweets-to-go. Affordable international wine list and coffeehouse specialty beverages. Few tables, no reservations. Arrive early or late on weekends or expect to wait. No alcohol allowed at outdoor tables. Street parking only. Dinner daily, lunch Tuesday through Friday, breakfast Saturday and Sunday. Moderate. — N.W. (9/04)

Jyoti-Bihanga 3351 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-282-4116. Oh sure, you’ll be watching Sri Chinnmoy, the Bengali guru, on TV juggling, declaring Geneva International Airport a “Peace Blossom,” or boarding his Italian “Treno della Pace.” Plus, his books, his portraits, his paintings, and his chant-songs surround you. Apart from that, not only is this heavenly blue-domed restaurant run by his students peaceful, but the fresher-than-fresh Bengali-tinged health food is delicious. Their chutney-topped “Neat-loaf” bursts with nutty, intriguing flavors. Even the accompanying mashed potato and gravy tastes different. Also delish: Brahma Burrito, “Infinite Blue” (interesting brown rice salad with bleu cheese dressing), and the Shiva Wrap (tofu and fresh veggies with a well-integrated curry flavor). On cold days, start with a steaming sweet pea soup. Monday through Saturday lunch and dinner (no dinner Wednesday); Sunday occasional brunch only. Inexpensive. — E.B. (10/01)

Kensington Grill 4055 Adams Avenue, Kensington, 619-281-4014. This spiffy spot in an old, staid neighborhood proves change can be good, delivering intelligent, inventive cuisine. Preparations follow the convention of contrasts in sophisticated cuisine — sweet vs. salty, soft vs. crunchy, hot vs. cold. Kensington Grill proves a talented, hardworking kitchen. Open for dinner nightly. Moderate. — M.N. (8/99)

Phuong Trang Vietnamese Seafood Restaurant 5296 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-582-0603. Original branch at 4170 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-565-6750. Tired of putting up with the crowds at the popular Convoy Street restaurant? Go east, where you’ll find the same menu without the hassles. The fare centers on Vietnamese “people’s food” emphasizing numerous genres of noodle soups, but there are a handful of more elegant house specialties — including the extraordinary “Special Sauce” Dungeness crab from the live tank. (The sauce is tangy tamarind.) Call ahead to order steamed or grilled live-tank catfish. Reservations and credit cards accepted, both branches. Vietnamese beers including “33”; just two generic wines. Also bring a pad and write down the numbers of your orders to give the waiter, as staffers speak little English. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate (higher for live-tank seafood). — N.W. (3/04)

Zensei 3396 30th Street (at Upas), North Park, 619-546-6171. This much-



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Calendar
RESTAURANTS

welcomed neighborhood restaurant in a restaurant-starved neighborhood offers a changing menu of sushi, fusion appetizers, and Japanese entrées emphasizing noodle dishes. The sushi is the main draw. It's well made and based on seafood from the same fishmonger used by Ota and Nobu. The "party rolls" (such as "stuffed tomato" and "honey-mooners") may not be original, but they're delicious fun. Free parking behind restaurant (enter by alley on Upas east of Jack in the Box lot). Reservations advised for Friday/Saturday evenings, accepted for two or more at sushi bar, four or more at tables. Japanese and American beers, sakes, and wines. Lunch and dinner daily. — *N.W. (1/05)*

EAST COUNTY &
COLLEGE AREA

Cafe Zia 6686 El Cajon Boulevard (at Montezuma), College Area, 619-337-3937. South Asia meets Mexico! Khaled Zia had the brilliant idea of combining wraps with chicken and South Asia's great gift to the world: chutney — mango chutney, papaya chutney, peach, apple, even a serrano chili pepper chutney. The combo works with them all. As soon as you smell the chicken strips hissing away on the grills, you're hooked. Then when they come smothered in peach or mango chutney, or cooling yogurt, along with sweet-sauced potatoes, what can you do? Do as half of San Diego State does: just say yes. Open daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (12/01)*

Chef Taka 7520 El Cajon Boulevard (at Parks), Mesa Plaza, La Mesa, 619-463-0231. This is indeed the same chef Satate Taka who co-founded Taka in the Gaslamp, and then Octopus Garden. In July 2003 he moved his kitchen to La Mesa where he now cooks his inventive Japanese-based fusion cuisine with French, Mexican, and Chinese touches. Try the dreamy soft-shell crab with "salsa cream aioli," the tender tempura, or the traditional Teishoku dinner. Taka generally presides at the sushi bar. The staff is small so for the best cooking and service, dine on a weeknight and make an evening of it — weekends can be hectic. For a bubbly treat try chilled Nigori (unfiltered) sake, served in the traditional manner in an overflow-

ing square wooden cup. Open daily for dinner. Happy hour bargains nightly; regular prices moderate to expensive. — *N.W. (3/04)*

Downtown Cafe 182 East Main Street, El Cajon, 619-440-5687. Surprise! Not far from Magnolia and Main, a French-style sidewalk café. The successful "Por Favor" eateries' owner launched this as a kind of Mexican patio restaurant, but serving gringo food. And it works, maybe because of reasonable prices for baby-back pork ribs, giant burritos, or Louisiana Chicken strips. Or even the veggie burger. But it's partly where you dine: out on the patio. The place has lots of ancient doors and wrought iron-and-wood window frames, laced with creepers. Inside is a beautiful long bar with a counter on the street and chess sets so you can play and watch the world go by. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B. (5/03)*

Tyler's Taste of Texas 576 North Second Street, El Cajon, 619-444-9295. Unfussy home cooking. Some dishes outshine others. The slab of smoky ham steak that comes with the first-rate breakfast is in itself enough to rouse the sleepiest appetite. Expertly sautéed onions and mushrooms lend flavor to fried potatoes and omelets, respectively, while pebbly-smooth hash and gingery sweet potato pancakes give the lineup character. For lunch and dinner, the Texas menu features Texas-style barbecue (chicken, beef, pork, and sausage) that's sufficiently smoky, but a little uneven in texture. The barbecue beef is reliable and the sweetish sauce shows well on the chicken. Pleasant surprises: a substantial, peppery cornmeal crust on the tender catfish and the fried green tomatoes, and the rich stock in the vegetable soup. All-you-can-eat catfish Wednesdays and Fridays. Open 24 hours. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *A.M. (2/02)*

FAR EAST

Alpine Inn 2225 Alpine Boulevard, Alpine, 619-445-5172. Beef lover's heaven. Also, try the house special, the Texas burger, ground in-house and served on a Kaiser roll with steak fries. Dark interior with large booths. Very crowded for dinner on Sunday. Inexpensive early-bird dinner Monday through Saturday. Dinner daily except major holidays; call ahead. Moderate to expensive. — *E.W.*

Pablito's of the Desert 590 Palm Canyon Drive (in The Center, #8), Borrego Springs, 760-767-5753. Pablito's

claims "Authentic Mexican Cuisine, patio dining, and great tequila margaritas." Well, the gorgeous patio is open only during busy times and the cuisine runs to gringo favorites in the Mexican mode (lots of combo platters), but the flavors are honest and pleasing. The most authentic dishes come from the "Specialties" section of the menu, including a good *chile verde* (pork in green chile sauce), numerous varieties of enchiladas, and several flavors of *chilaquiles*. Full bar, including sangria, margaritas, Mexican beers. Closed in the summer; other seasons, open for lunch and dinner (with a break between), Wednesday through Sunday. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W. (4/03)*

Ramon's Smokehouse BBQ 1730 Alpine Boulevard, Suite 110, Alpine, 619-445-1008. The smell of mesquite wood burning under fresh-cut beef rib is beyond resistance. The secret Texas recipe draws crowds. Go Sunday morning, especially, when chefs in maroon aprons dance around the fat-spitting fire, disappearing into the clouds of fragrant smoke to flip the racks of beef and pork ribs. In good weather you can eat out back next to an authentic chuck wagon. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/00)*

UPTOWN &
OLD TOWN

Bamboo Bistro 3882 Fourth Avenue (at University), Hillcrest, 619-299-9727. How many American chefs do you know who actually went to Asia and learned by working in traditional restaurant kitchens of Vietnam, Indonesia, India? Chef Alexandria did. The result is her Asian Fusion Cuisine. The Bistro is huddled in the corner of a strip mall, but you can still eat under exotic umbrella lampshades (inside) or tropical palapas (outside). The food is fresh, original, and often tasty. Dishes to try include Chinese Chopstick salad (shredded chicken, fried rice noodles, mandarin oranges, toasted almonds), Indo-Chinese burrito with steak (beef, rice noodles covered with a sesame and lime sauce), Drunken Noodles (chicken, steak, shrimp, salmon, or tofu), and Sea Salad (glass noodles, wild salmon, greens). Lunch and dinner six days, closed Sundays. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (12/05)*

Brians' American Eatery 1451 Washington Street (near Lincoln), Hillcrest, 619-296-8268. Also at 828 Sixth Avenue, Gaslamp. Note the apostrophe: Not one but two Brians have taken over what had been Topsy's, a venerable coffeehouse/eatery for 40 years. They've

done a good job of cleaning it up without gutting the fifties roadhouse character. It's open all night on weekends, and late night is quite a scene. But for a lot of people, breakfast is the thing. The Brians' eight-ounce charbroiled top sirloin steak with eggs and country potatoes is a great Saturday morning treat. Or the "Hey Ricky!!", an omelet with chorizo, avocado, green chilies, onions, and cheeses. Or ask for their off-menu breakfast special — it's always cheaper. Another good thing: coffee comes by the thermos-full. Three meals until 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; open 24 hours from early Friday morning until Sunday evening. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (10/02)*

Celadon Royalty Thai Restaurant 540 University Avenue (near Sixth), Hillcrest, 619-297-8424. The menu was originally devised by a chef who cooked for the Siamese royal family. Some dishes taste luxurious, and all the dishes taste authentic — and carefully prepared. The regular entrées offer a choice of sauces (red curry, green curry, etc.) with your choice of protein, but go straight to the Chef's Specialty items on the menu to find the best and rarest. Stuffed chicken wings are extraordinary, seafood soup *talay* is fabulous, and among the entrées, don't miss *choo chee duck* or the Queen of Thailand's favorite, pineapple fried rice. Lunch Monday through Friday, dinner nightly. — *N.W. (5/05)*

City Delicatessen 535 University Avenue (at Sixth), Hillcrest, 619-295-2747. Some folk come for the Jewish food (chicken-in-the-pot, brisket of beef, chopped liver), others to soak in the art-deco colors — the cornucopia of fruit above the entrance, the mustard yellow walls, the black-and-white checker tile, or the flower bunches of red, blue, green, and yellow lamps. And then some come for both: the stuffed cabbage roll (with ground beef and rice inside) is a glowing red ball with maroon, oniony, sweet-and-sour raisin sauce to die for, set off by green parsley and bright orange slices. Scandalously delicious. Dowsnide? Our pastrami sandwich tasted dry and chewy by comparison. But City Deli is less strictly Jewish (they have bacon on their breakfast menu) and more of an everyday New York-style eatery. Wait staff are good-humored, and the Seeburg Wall-o-Matic tableside jukeboxes actually work. Bring plenty of quarters. Breakfast all day; early-bird dinner specials; late-night dining. Open from 7 a.m. till midnight; until 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B. (5/03)*

European Market & Deli 4135 Park Boulevard (north of El Cajon Boulevard), Hillcrest, 619-298-8661. Basically a Greek deli, but charming, especially if

you're into patios. Inside has painted grapes, hanging copper pans, and framed pictures of Paris cafés. The most popular dish is the lemon-roasted chicken, but if you love lamb, Paul's Special, with potatoes, salad, and pita — Fridays and Saturdays only — is the way to go. (They do offer lamb sandwiches daily.) Other good dishes include the Veggie Diabolou pita sandwich (hot and spicy), the ground beef moussaka plate (eggplant, potatoes, and béchamel sauce), Greek chicken soup and, of course, gyros. But go just to play bon vivant on the patio. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, till 5:30 p.m. Saturday. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (1/05)*

Hong Kong Restaurant 3871 Fourth Avenue (at University), Hillcrest, 619-291-9449. Where to get a good Chinese meal after midnight? This restaurant (next to Column One's statues and fountain shop) serves meals till 2:30 a.m. Inside is typical Asian decor, including black-and-white Chinese brush paintings and carved cherry wood chairs. Their huge menu offers traditional Szechwan and Mandarin fare. The fried, pork-filled wontons on raw cabbage are delish, especially splotted with fiery Chinese mustard. The Singapore Style Rice Noodles (not often featured in Chinese restaurants) are tanged with curry, and excellent, as is the Kung Pao chicken. Also look at egg drop soup, pork chow mein, shrimp with lobster sauce, and scallion ginger chicken. Service is super quick. Lunch and dinner, seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/05)*

Kemo Sabe 3958 Fifth Avenue (off University Avenue), Hillcrest, 619-220-6802. Audacity is Chef Deborah Scott's culinary signature. In her cooking, Southeast Asia meets the Southwest, with Japanese touches and towering heaps of garnishes. All the edible frou-frou decorating the appetizers can wear you out, but most entrées are more focused and friendly. Good choices include a starter of mussels in a seductive *chipotle* cream sauce, and entrées of spicy, sweet-sour layered "jerk" chicken or the signature "Skirts On Fire," a miraculously tender grilled skirt steak imbued with a *picante* marinade. Desserts by Sharon Bristol follow the house style — sky-high, ornate, complex. Casual atmosphere, very noisy. Heated patio. Dinner served daily. Reservations strongly advised. Prices moderate. — *N.W. (11/00)*

La Posta de Acapulco's Taco Shop 3980 Third Avenue (at Washington), Hillcrest, 619-295-8982. (Also in Lakeside and Spring Valley.) People have been coming to this orange-and-white drive-through-without-cars for 20 years. One of the main reasons is the

carne asada burritos. Rich-tasting, fresh, generous. Folks sit around the outside benches right next to Washington Street, oblivious to the traffic. Also much loved here are the *chile verde* and the quesadilla with *carne asada*. For breakfast, think chorizo burrito. And for value, just to fill you up, you can't beat the bean tostada. You can drink *horchata*, a rice drink, or *jamaica*, made from hibiscus flower, to complete the picture. Open 24 hours. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (1/04)*

Phil's BBQ 4030 Goldfinch Street, Mission Hills, 619-688-0559. Check the lines around Phil's any lunchtime. Although Phil grills his BBQ (rather than slow-smoking it), he must be doing something right. He is: That sweet, rich rib sauce he invented is one thing. The fall-off-the-bone pork and beef is another. The sweet baked beans a third. Plus, the restaurant is a rabbit-warren that grew, but it's kid-friendly, has open wash-basins for your greasy mitts, and has paper towel rolls at every table. Ribs can be expensive, but a quarter-rib (four bones) will fill you fine. A great second-best is the BBQ sandwich with char-grilled pork shoulder. Remember: you'll get pork unless you specify beef. Open for lunch and dinner; closed Monday. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B. (3/06)*

Sausage King 811 W. Washington Street, Mission Hills, 619-297-4301. Not too many delicatessens in the county still make their own sausages, luncheon meats, and jerky. But the German couple who runs this place does. They make an unbelievable 34 different sausages and luncheon meats, plus 10 different smoked meats like turkey, beef, Westphalian ham, Black Forest ham, and even bacon. For lunch they will make you a really cheap bun-sandwich filled with anything from home-made liverwurst to blood sausages to salami. Two would really fill you up. As with the nearby cheese shop (see Venissimo), the Starbucks at Falcon and Washington is a good place to chow down this unique sausage experience. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (5/06)*

Taste of Szechuan 670 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-291-1668. Friendly staff serves up standard Szechuan Mandarin fare at this archetypical Chinese restaurant. Szechuan Garlic Shrimp is number one on the list of twelve House Specialties for good reason. This tangy dish of crispy, deep-fried shrimp is one of their best. Not often seen on the menus of strip mall Chinese restaurants, the Szechuan Orange Fish is also recommended, but don't be misled by the "hot & spicy" star next to this item. As with any of their "spicy" offerings, the heat in this dish barely regis-



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ters. Spice lovers should ask for an extra kick. The Toffee Banana and Toffee Apple desserts may tempt you, but unless you have a dentist on-call, it's best to pass on these super-sticky sweets. Inexpensive lunch specials. Open late until midnight Monday through Thursday, until 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday, and until 10 p.m. on Sunday. Inexpensive to moderate. — *B.D. (6/05)*

Venissimo Cheese 754 W. Washington, Mission Hills, 619-491-0708. Just don't ask for Velveeta here. Everything else, they've got: sixty-plus varieties of cheese, most from Europe. But a meal? Yes. You can get a baguette-style sandwich stuffed with cow cheese, sheep cheese, goat cheese, fruity, moldy, runny, stinky, any cheese in the house, same price, around five bucks. Even *Boschetto* cheese, with truffles in it, which sells at around \$30 per pound, or Napoleon's favorite, stinky *Epousses Berthaut*, or the beautifully tangy *Schloss*. Plus you get grapes or a pear to go with the sandwich. Where to eat it? Starbucks, with five doors down, usually doesn't mind. Coffee, bread, interesting cheese, fruit — it's the perfect combo. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (5/06)*

DOWNTOWN

Bay Cafe 1050 North Harbor Drive, downtown, 619-595-1083. If you're hungry at the city ferry landing, you can eat in the bare-bones interior or take your tray upstairs to a handsome bayview terrace (with no wheelchair access). After a chilly crossing, try the enjoyable New England-style clam chowder, which is milky, clean, and not over-thickened, with tender clams and tiny diced potatoes. The menu features breakfast dishes, burgers, sandwiches (all served with generic fries), variations on fish and chips including prawns, plus some entrée salads. The burgers are genuinely "have it your way" — for a few extra cents each, the kitchen will add extra ingredients (Jack or Cheddar, mushrooms, grilled onions, bacon, jalapeño). Breakfast, lunch and early dinner, daily. Inexpensive. — *N.W. (8/01)*

Dakota Grill and Spirits 901 Fifth Avenue (at E Street), Gaslamp, 619-234-5554. The name may hint at cowboy cooking, but look for simple mid-American comfort food at one of

the many local eateries under the Cohn Restaurant Group aegis. A typical entrée includes a hunk of red (or "the other white") meat cooked on a wood-fired grill, smeared with a precooked sauce that, for better or worse, first meets its mate on the plate. Meat-avoiders will find fish and poultry dishes, too. Tasty taters but dull veggies come with most entrées. Desserts run to fruity favorites like cobbblers, crisps, and upside-down cake. Treats from the wide-ranging beverage list include three-glass wine flights in four styles of wine, and a pleasant house brew, Dakota Pale Ale, that suits the food. The two-floor restaurant offers big plush booths, tall windowed walls, and a piano player gliding from rinky-dink 1950s pop to Fats Waller stylings and Ellingtonian riffs. Valet parking. Full bar. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. High moderate to expensive. — *N.W. (9/04)*

Darband Fifth Avenue Grill 1556 Fifth Avenue, downtown, 619-230-1001. Darband is named after an exotic mountain resort north of Tehran. Quite a contrast to this sloping office-and-car-park strip of Fifth. Lunchtimes, office workers fill the tables. Evenings feel more, well, Persian. It's mostly men, some playing backgammon, talking, arguing, laughing. With all the Farsi flying round, it feels like a local café back in Tehran. Food is good, fresh, regular Persian. "Khoresh Bademjan" is a tasty baby eggplant and beef stew. "Barg" is a safe bet, too — marinated beef tenderloin with rice. So is the vegetarian plate, though the veggie wrap's cheaper. Of course, kabobs star, as do yogurt-y, cucumber-y, minty flavors. Open breakfast through dinner; closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (4/06)*

DeMedici 815 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-702-7228. This lovely, cream-and-sepia dining room evokes an Italian Renaissance villa, while its sidewalk patio offers a prime pageant of Gaslamp folies. Either way, you'll enjoy exceptional service — attentive but utterly unobtrusive — and a menu centered on succulent pastas and refined seafood dishes. The nightly specials and the waiter's recommendations for the freshest catch will lead you to the evening's best entrées. Fish dishes are exquisite, and anything with calamari (fresh local catch) is worth ordering; Atlantic shellfish, though, tend to be a tad overcooked. Reserve, and dress on the spiffier side — some Hollywood celebs hang their Borsalinos here, upping the clothing curve. Dinner 5

p.m. to 10:30 p.m. weekdays, 5 p.m. to midnight weekends. Moderate-priced valet parking available. Moderate (simpler pastas) to very expensive. — *N.W. (8/01)*

Dublin Square 554 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-239-5818. The entire pub was hand-crafted in Waterford, shipped over, and installed (by Irish craftsmen) in the Gaslamp. The exterior indeed resembles a real (but very new) Dublin pub; the interior has authentically dim lighting and spirited Irish music, including live bands (acoustic but loud) during happy hours and some evenings. If you're looking for food, too, there's a fine corned beef and cabbage, resembling the corned beef of Katz's Deli on the Lower East Side — it's that wee touch o' the garlic that does the trick. Other choices include Guinness beef stew, shepherd's pie (made with ground beef), steaks, lamb medallion, fish and chips, and grilled fish, plus standard pub grub. Lunch and dinner (including Irish breakfast any time) daily. Moderate. — *N.W. (3/02)*

House Of Blues Restaurant 1055 Fifth Avenue, downtown, 619-299-2583. Best thing HOB did was *not* tear down Woolworth's old sidewalk canopy. Now it shelters their streetside café, where you can just do coffee and people watch, or get into their Southern-inspired cuisine. This is a classy joint, with heavy flatware, big white cloth napkins, and solid china plates and cups. Can a fellow on a tight budget afford to eat here? Yes and no. Meaning, for a song you will find great chicken gumbo mixing it up with andouille (Cajun) sausage and okra in traditional brown roux with French bread, or skillet-baked rosemary cornbread with maple butter, or their delicious sweet potato fries. But you'll need bigger notes to finance the all-beef Blues Burger with cheese and fries or the luscious baby back ribs with mashed sweet potatoes. Value dessert? The white chocolate-banana bread pudding with Jack Daniel's crème anglaise, whipped cream, and a "caramel halo" will have you singing with the angels — not the blues. Open daily, 10 a.m. to midnight. Moderate to expensive. — *E.B. (11/05)*

Kansas City Barbecue 610 West Market Street (at Harbor Drive), downtown, 619-231-9680. Scrumptious smells waft across the tracks at the Seaport Village trolley stop — barbecued pork and beef. And yeah, this is the joint where Tom Cruise and Kelly McGillis did their

"sleazy bar scene" in *Top Gun*. And it is kinda sleazy, especially in the shadowy horseshoe bar, with memorabilia like hanging bras, Czech license plates, and stickers ("Grow Your Own Dope: Plant A Man"). The beef and pork ribs (or rib tips or chicken breast) are worth it. They're cooked over an oak-fueled fire. Nice long happy hour (3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., at bar only) has great food/grub deals. Open daily, lunch until late, serving until 1 a.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B. (3/01)*

Max New York Steakhouse and Seafood 827 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-235-8500. As steakhouses go, Max is a good value, offering huge portions of fine, gently raised near-organic meat, cooked to order and offered at relatively gentle prices. You don't even have to pay extra for your veggies. For beef, there's full-flavored naturally raised Angus or butter-tender Kobe-style Wagyu beef from New Zealand. Or you can choose a giant rack of lamb, so tender it should be called "Certified Angus." Sauces tend to be pedestrian; request them on the side. The classic steakhouse appetizers are done with some smart twists. Superb international wine list at below-average markups, including plenty by the glass. Full bar. Valet parking, or inexpensive lot via alley two doors north. Open nightly, until midnight on weekends. Upper moderate to very expensive. — *N.W. (3/04)*

Mediterranean Cafe and Lounge 1352 Fifth Avenue (between A and Ash), downtown, 619-515-2233 or 619-325-1900. Don't come early. You'll be all alone. Turn up around midnight, and you'll see just how social the Lebanese can be. Meals are spread over a couple of hours with lots of conversation, probably finishing with a baklava, Turkish coffee, and a *sheesha* — water pipe (much cheaper by the hour here than down in the Gaslamp; best flavor: rose). They have the whole panoply of Middle Eastern and Greek food, but the best deals are probably the single lamb skewer on a roll of pita bread with hummus, tomato, lettuce, and pickles, or the meat pie on pita. Open 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., seven days. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B. (2/06)*

Morton's of Chicago 285 J Street (between Second and Third), Gaslamp, 619-696-3369. This famous Chicago steakhouse is swanky, in a manly way: dark, clubby, luxurious, and louche. You go to Morton's for great steak. Their Ne-

braska beef is aged and meticulously grilled to your specifications. You can get a one-and-a-half or three-pound porterhouse, which will be juicy, marbled with flavorful fat. You can also get good fish at Morton's. The big, golden salmon fillet flakes to the fork and is moist, sweet, buttery. The pricey à la carte sides are either bad or mediocre. The Morton's Hot Chocolate Cake is exceptional. But go for the steak. Expensive. — *M.N. (9/99)*

Puerto la Boca 2060 India Street (at Hawthorn), Little Italy, 619-234-4900. Argentines love their beef and they love it lean and wholesome — free-range and grass fed. That's what you'll find at this uncompromisingly authentic outpost of Buenos Aires cuisine. The great national entrée is the mixed grill (*parrillada*) for two or more — a massive meatarama featuring numerous grilled cuts of marinated beef, chicken, and sausages. Start with luscious beef or corn empanadas or, if you're feeling hungry and adventurous, *matambre* (rolled beef galantine). Not a steak lover? Try the shrimp "la boca." Don't eat meat? There are vegetarian pastas and pizzas. Gnocchi (*rioguis*) are served only on the 29th of each month. International, affordable choice of wines, plus Latin and U.S. beers. Full bar. Patio dining. Lunch and dinner daily. — *N.W. (8/05)*

Rainwater's on Kettner 1202 Kettner Boulevard (at B Street), Little Italy, 619-233-5757. You *could* order the fish, the chicken, or even the lamb, but odds are you're here because you want steak, prepared by people who respect your enthusiasm and offer prime beef in multiple cuts. And you're here because Rainwater's is venerable and local. You can dine old-style and enjoy it — warm cornbread fingers, a fine loose-packed crab cake, a crisp, watery wedge of iceberg lettuce under a blue cheese blanket. As for the beef, New York strip takes the day. You actually have to chew it — it ain't filet — but every chomp gives up scads of flavor. Order a side of greasiness, firm-bodied onion rings and wash it down with something from the exhaustive (and expensive) wine list. Lunch Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m.; dinner daily. Very expensive. — *A.M. (6/03)*

Sally's on the Water Manchester Grand Hyatt, 11 Market Place (Market and Harbor Drive, adjacent to Seaport Village), downtown, 619-358-6740. On an isolated "island" between the Hyatt

and Seaport Village, in fair weather you'll catch great marina views from the terrace. Under inventive young French chef Fabrice Tissier, the fare is California-French with a summery Provençal accent and an accent on seafood. Don't miss the exquisite crab cakes or the classic bouillabaisse. If you'd like to know what the chef can do when he isn't limited by the tastes of hotel diners, with 72 hours to a week's notice you can book "The Chef's Table" inside the kitchen for six to twelve people and collaborate with him on a custom menu. Sally's interior is hard-edged modern and can be noisy. Full bar, good mainly California wine list. Validated parking in hotel garage. Call for wheelchair-access directions. Lunch and dinner daily. Expensive. — *N.W. (10/04)*

Sidebar Deli California Western School of Law, corner of Second and Cedar, downtown, 619-525-1444. The motto of this place is "Every day's a good day, but some days are better than others." It certainly applies to the Sidebar, just because the daily specials can be gone in a flash. Students have fought class actions to secure lunch specials like spaghetti and meatballs with garlic bread. Of course there are always breakfast burritos, breakfast sandwiches like bacon or sausage and cheese, French Dip sandwiches, or California wraps. Open to the public, breakfast and lunch, weekdays. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (10/05)*

Strip Club 340 Fifth Avenue (at J Street), Gaslamp, 619-231-3140. This grill-your-own steak joint is a homage to Golden Hill's Turf Supper Club — but if Turf is a low-budget indie cult film, Strip Club is the Gaslamp's big, brassy, high-budget Hollywood remake (even though prices, like those of movie tickets, are roughly the same). It's loud and handsome, and if the USDA Choice steaks (available in numerous cuts) are not quite as flavorful as Turf's, they're still good enough for the price — and you can take them up a notch with numerous spice blends and sauces on hand at each gas grill. Other choices include burgers, chicken breast, ahi tuna steak, and meat or seafood kabobs (the shrimp is particularly good, with peppers, onions, and meaty hunks of portobello mushroom). Entrées come with salad and puffy, cook-it-yourself garlic bread, resembling hamburger buns with gigantiasis. Six veg and starch side dishes (including two types of gluey mashed potatoes) are available at extra cost; desserts are commercial ice cream nov-



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Tesoro 548 Fifth Avenue (between Island and Market), Gaslamp, 619-234-5670. Sharp modern decor meets contemporary Mexican resort-style cuisine. Highlights include appetizers of *panuchos de cochinita* (souful Yucatan-style pork and black bean minitostadas) and *tarta de rajas*, puff-pastry layers covered with strips of poblano chile and melted Oaxaca cheese in cream. Chicken in black Oaxacan mole sauce is an interesting, authentic entrée, and filet mignon in a sauce of *jamaica* (hibiscus flowers) is luscious. Unfortunately, few entrées include any veggies or starches, and since flavors are intense, the mouth yearns for relief. Side dishes (costing extra) are largely limited to rice, good beans, house-made tortillas, chiles. Full bar, including specialty tequila and beer drinks, Baja wines. Elevator available to mezzanine dining room and basement nightclub levels. Smart-casual dress, spiffy on weekends. Open daily, lunch and dinner. High moderate to expensive. — *N.W. (4/05)*

SOUTH BAY & CORONADO

Asian Noodles Bay Plaza Shopping Center, 1430 E. Plaza Boulevard, Suite E-12, National City, 619-477-5390. You've got to be a noodle fan to be into this. It's an outpost of the venerable Ma Mon Luk family's Filipino restaurant empire. Mr. Ma went to Manila from China nearly a century ago and introduced the idea of egg noodles in a chicken soup (instead of rice noodles). His now-famous soup (with beef or chicken these days) came to be called MaMi, (Mr. Ma's "Mi" — noodles). Yes, MaMi's a little bland, but it's filling, and their *siopao* (stuffed steam buns) make a good accompaniment. Most interesting is another invention

Ma Mon Luk claims: sweet spaghetti. Open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (3/06)*

Bistro D'Asia 1301 Orange Avenue (at B Avenue), Coronado, 619-437-6677. The relaxing restaurant attached to the hardy "Lizard Lounge" serves gentled-down dishes from all over East Asia. Among the tastiest are delicate lemon shrimps, vegetarian "monk's curry," and ice creams from Mootown Creamery. Peking Duck is accorded the full service, with a waitress garnishing the table's first round of delicate "flower buns" with crackly duck skin, scallions, and hoisin sauce. Lizard Lounge next door now houses a sushi bar as well as a liquor bar. Reserve for weekend dinners. Street parking. Well-chosen wine list. Lunch and dinner daily. — *N.W. (11/04)*

China Super Buffet 3007 Highland Avenue #9, National City, 619-423-9989. This buffet promises "over 100 items daily." Yellow-gloved girls constantly rove the rows checking, stirring, wiping. A lot of the stuff is very good, like the marinated baby octopuses that look like large blushing spiders, or the mussels in their shells, bubbling golden on top with melted cheese, and of course, roast beef au jus. If you must be healthy, they have groaning salad bars and adequate sushi. It's an incredible value. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (4/05)*

Giant Pizza King 600 Palm Avenue (at Rainbow), Imperial Beach, 619-423-7601. If pizza size matters to you, try on these nine-inch-wide, foot-long, loaded pizza slices. They can flop, but they can't fail. For alternatives, the fish and chips dish is pretty generous, they make a large lasagna with garlic bread and salad, and the half-pound shrimp combo, fries, and salad is good value. You're near enough here to the beach to get supplies for sunset "green flash" parties — this is a full-on Italian take-out eatery with ham or turkey subs, spaghetti with meatballs, half-pound burgers, and more. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (10/05)*

Lizard Lounge 1301 Orange Avenue (at B), Coronado, 619-437-6677. This venerable saloon, a Navy old-timers' favorite since the era when lounge lizards in leisure suits stalked the earth, now houses a good little sushi bar at one end of its spirits bar. The rice is well-seasoned, the seafood tastes

sparkling-fresh, and each *nigiri* is given its own individual garnish (e.g., lemon with the *hamachi* roll). Most of the inside-out party rolls are variations of the California roll formula, with the same center of sweet crab and avocado, but there's also a lively mango-albacore roll, featuring tempura shrimp, avocado, and *ponzu*. For best seats and peaceful eating, come early; the bar fills fast and the room can get downright rowdy as the night rolls on. Street parking. Lunch/dinner daily. Moderate. — *N.W. (11/04)*

Lydia's Cafe and Nightclub 1628 Palm Avenue, San Diego, 619-429-3603. This easygoing dancing/eatery has a faithful following that goes back to 1957. But before you dance, eat! Check out the *birria en su jugo* (goat in its juices) with beans, rice, and tortillas, or enjoy filling snacks like *taquitos*, *cucaracha* (a corn tortilla stuffed with ham, cheese, and sour cream), or the snack Lydia says she invented: *botanas* (beans, pork, and melted cheese over corn chips). Open daily, three meals. (Call ahead for availability of the *birria*.) Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/00)*

McP's Irish Pub & Grill 1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-5280. With a crowd ranging from Navy retirees to chic singles barely of drinking age, the perpetual party on McP's' patio is nurtured by above-average Irish-Mexican-American pub grub (burgers, potato skins, nachos, etc.). The Irish fare includes a pleasing Mulligan stew served in a hollowed bread-loaf and an absolutely fabulous corned beef and cabbage plate with tender, thick slices surrounding cabbage so young and sweet it ought to be carded. Good soups, too. Open daily, standard pub hours. (Breakfast Sunday during football season.) Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W. (4/01)*

Village Club Card Room 429 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-425-3333. Yes, it's mostly poker players, but anybody can come in and order a meal. And here's the thing: first-time visitors get their meal free. Really. Players or nonplayers. Of course, the idea is to keep players' bellies full so they can return to the game, so even second-timers get a deal with down-home comfort-dishes like grilled chicken breast sandwich, spaghetti with meatballs and garlic bread, or garlic shrimp with fried rice and egg, plus Chinese dishes including Kung Pao beef or chicken, Mongolian beef, and a good wonton soup with noodles. Open 24 hours. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (1/04)*

BAJA

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

Big Boy Restaurant Agua Caliente Boulevard #9892 (across the street from the old bullring), Tijuana, 686-3788. Besides having excellent Mexican-American food, this Big Boy knock-off draws some of the most interesting people in Tijuana — journalists, lawyers, cattle ranchers, politicians, Baja's heavy hitters. Day or night, Big Boy is always busy. Gringo food's no problem. Breakfast includes eggs, bacon, sausage, chorizo or ham, plus hash browns or frijoles, toast, juice, and endless coffee. Nobody will object if you sit sipping the free refills till the moon comes up. But you won't — you'll crack and order more when you smell the popular, macho "royal" hamburger, with two beef patties, smoked ham, onions, lettuce, tomatoes, fries, and salad. Or the chicken breast marinated in tequila with cilantro, guacamole, and beans. Open 24/7. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (11/00)*

Café la Especial Avenida Revolución #718 (down the market steps), Tijuana, 685-6654. Café la Especial was once a great favorite of American aficionados of Tijuana's bullfights at the old downtown Plaza de Toros. Summer Sundays, fans would crowd into the café to chow down before the fights or rush back afterwards for a few drinks and a hearty meal. Inside, little has changed, not even the 50-50 locals-to-gringos ratio. Food is standard Mexican/American border fare, from tacos and tamales to *carne asada* and *bistek ranchero*, from cactus and eggs to steak and eggs. But the atmosphere is the real draw: the low ceiling, varnished wood, black furniture with flowers painted up and down the legs and portraits on the backs, and lots of murals of Mexico on the walls. Owner Humberto Brambila's aunt Justina started it all, he says, in 1948, with the steamed taco stand upstairs. That's still going too. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B. (5/02)*

El Faro de Mazatlán Boulevard Sánchez Taboada #9542, Plaza Financiera, Zona Río, Tijuana, 684-8882, 684-8883, or 684-2236. We're talking safe, reliable, middle-class fish-fare here. The "Lighthouse of Mazatlán" is bright, blue, and white with smart varnished wood furniture and delivers fish, lobster, oyster, squid, and shrimp dishes that are easy to like. Generous free appetizers in-

clude marlin ceviche, fried fish, and fish albóndigas soup. The interesting part is in trying dishes like the sea snail salad. (After a few closed-eye bites, it's delicious — like eating a sliced clam. It's great in a Caesar.) Look for original ways with octopus, *pez espada* (swordfish) and others. One of the simplest, best dishes: the cabicucho (Mexican sea bass), char-broiled but moist and really better without its ranchero sauce. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *E.B. (6/05)*

El Rodeo Boulevard Salinas #1647, Tijuana, 686-5640. This 30-year-old steak haven sits on traffic-drowned Salinas, but climb onto its porch and you're at some Sonoran desert rancho, saguaro cacti and all. Inside it's dark wood and brick, wagon wheels, lariats, rifles, longhorns, and generous amounts of cattle-ranch food. Entrée price includes a delicious soup of roast beef juices, beans cooked in their own juices, a quesadilla, a salad, two *botana* (snack) plates, of, say, vinegery veggies and potatoes, and a beef liver medley, flour tortillas, chips, and hot sauce. You can get any cut of steak you want. A *parrillada* — BBQ dish — gives you marinated beef rib, *carne asada*, and barbecued chicken, all sizzling on a rancho-style metal table-top grill that glows with hot coals. Best part: the roasted spring onions splayed across the meat. Dessert and coffee also included. Good place for a party. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. — *E.B. (5/05)*

La Escondida Santa Monica #1 (in Fraccionamiento Las Palmas), Tijuana, 681-4458. This hidden ("*escondida*") mansion has been a restaurant for three decades. The terrazzo and garden overlooking the Tijuana River valley make breakfast and dinners a treat. House specialties are more interesting than the regular fare. Try the seafood casserole (*cacerola de mariscos*), the *tambor* (a dish of layered beef, cheese, and pork), or the roasted baby Monterrey goat ("*cabrito tatamado*"). Desserts include the house *especial*, mango and ice cream with *rompope* (Mexican egg nog), and *crepas de cajeta* con *nieve*, crêpes with walnuts, green pistachio ice cream, and "burnt milk" caramel sauce — the nearest thing to liquid fudge this side of paradise. On weekends the place rocks with parties and live music. The big downside: It's hard to find. Take Agua Caliente Boulevard one half mile past the racetrack, turn right at Las Palmas, then left at the Rey del Pollo sign. The La Escondida entrance sign is in red neon at the road's end. Open daily for breakfast, lunch, dinner. Moderate. — *E.B. (1/05)*

La Vuelta Avenida Revolución #8210 (above 11th), Tijuana, 685-7309. Bring your lover here and hide away in one of

the cuddly *carretitas* — nooks. Even if traffic is ghastly at "the turn" ("*la vuelta*") where Revolución hooks left, you forget all that inside this vestige of Olde Tijuana, with balcony seating, resident mariachis, and food and drink all day and night. Dive into a *combinacion mexicana* (chile relleno, taco, and enchilada) or *carne asada* served in an *olla de barro*, an earthenware pot from Guadalajara. Even the gringo-sounding *filete mignon* with mushroom sauce somehow comes out Mexican. Most Mexicans actually turn up about 1 a.m., after their own parties, to be serenaded by the excellent ten-piece mariachi band. Inexpensive. — *E.B. (6/03)*

Restaurante Don Quijote Hotel El Conquistador (ground floor), 10750 Boulevard Agua Caliente, Tijuana, 681-7955. This tribute to the great windmill tilter himself serves as breakfast, lunch, and dinner anchor for the town's truest colonial Mexican *posada* (inn). It's a world of glowing stained-glass windows, heavy doors, and black wrought iron. You expect Zorro himself to come clattering out from the shadows on his horse. The food is standard middle-class Mexican fare, but between quail dishes and enchiladas, creations like cheese-stuffed shrimp wrapped in bacon pop out. Nicest surprise? *Sopa Azteca*, with tortilla strips, grated cheese, chopped dark red chiles, and avocado. Inexpensive to moderate. Open three meals, seven days. — *E.B. (2/06)*

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Buca di Beppo 705 Sixth Avenue (at G Street), Gaslamp, 619-233-7272. Also at 10749 Westview Parkway, Mira Mesa, 858-536-2822; 1921 Calle Barcelona, Carlsbad, 760-479-2533. People come here to celebrate, in party droves, by gobbling huge plates of "themed" Italian. Buca di Beppo ("Joe's Cellar") is a mighty national chain — but it works. Downtown's rabbit-warren of low-ceilinged dining rooms is plastered with Italian photos (check out Sophia Loren, transfixed by Jane Mansfield's breasts) and crowded with customers chowing down from portions large enough to feed two or more. Try the *penne arrabiata* with its spicy sausage or the popular chicken parmigiana. Standard stuff, but what the heck — you're having fun. Don't leave without conquering the mountainous, wicked Bella Festa, two huge balls of ice cream on double chocolate cakes running with sambuca sauce, caramel, and nuts on an 18-inch plate.

*** S.D. READER 2005

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Open for lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B. (12/05)*

California Pizza Kitchen 3363 Nobel Drive, La Jolla Village Square, La Jolla, 858-457-4222. Also at Beachwalk Plaza, 437 South Coast Highway 101, Suite 601, Solana Beach, 858-793-0999; Carmel Mountain Plaza, 11602 Carmel Mountain Road, Carmel Mountain, 858-675-4424; and Fashion Valley Mall (second level), Suite 901, 7007 Friars Road, Mission Valley, 619-298-4078. Two Beverly Hills lawyers started this chain in 1985 to exploit “the premium pizza segment.” Some 150 restaurants later, guess it worked. The place is all shiny chrome, glass, etched palm trees, golden wood and black furniture, and two pizza ovens with real logs burning inside. The Original BBQ chicken pizza, the chain’s first hit, is still their top seller. It has barbecue sauce, smoked Gouda and mozzarella cheeses, BBQ chicken, red onions, and cilantro. The BBQ chicken chopped salad is good too, as is the jambalaya. If you’ve got a sweet tooth, but are embarrassed to order “Hawaiian” pizza, try the pear and Gorgonzola. It has caramelized pears, caramelized onions, Gorgonzola and other cheeses, and hazelnuts. At night, the Nobel Drive branch features a view of the shining Mormon cathedral. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B. (2/03)*

Joe’s Crab Shack 7610 Hazard Center Drive, Mission Valley, 619-574-8617; 4325 Ocean Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-274-3474; 525 E. Harbor Drive,

downtown, 619-233-7391; 314 Harbor Drive, South Oceanside, 760-722-1345. Joe’s is silly with crab-shack ambiance (campy nautical paraphernalia on down to souvenir gimme caps), but the food’s not bad. You can choose buckets of steamed, barbecued, or garlic crab (of various subspecies), or go for fried or grilled seafood or steaks, or salads. Grown-ups may prefer the patio to the rockin’, raucous interior. Full bar, not much wine. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W. (5/01)*

The Original Pancake House 3906 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-565-1740. Starve yourself for eight hours, then come in here and order up an Apple Pancake — a foot-wide, batter-filled, five-egg paradise pelted with slices from two Granny Smith apples and baked till it puffs up like a golden mini-superdome. Cinnamon cinches it. The German Pancake, or its kid brother, the Dutch Baby, are good oven-baked alternatives, as is the really, really filling mushroom omelet, which comes with three pancakes. Oh, and the Eggs Michael: sausage patties and poached eggs lost somewhere under a mushroom-sherry sauce. The whole atmosphere — striped gold-and-cream wallpaper, dainty cups, shelves of ceramic dogs — feels like it’s the Fifties and your granny took you here when you were five. Okay, it’s a nationwide franchise, but it’s a comfy franchise, from Oregon. All-day breakfast only, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Inexpensive.

Other locations at 14905 Pomerado Road, Poway, 858-679-0186; 160 South Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas, 760-943-1939; 435 South Melrose Drive, Vista, 760-758-3441. — *E.B. (4/02)*

Ruth’s Chris Steak House 11582 El Camino Real (at Arroyo Sorrento), Sorrento Hills, 858-755-1454. Flash-cooked steaks from the finest wet-aged, corn-fed USDA Prime, seasoned with salt, pepper, butter, and parsley, are the hallmark of this 95-location chain. If you aren’t a salt offender, ask the kitchen to use a lighter touch. All side dishes are à la carte but come in portions large enough to feed two. The broiled tomatoes, caramelized with a touch of sugar, are a delight, and potatoes are offered in eight guises. A pecan-topped sweet potato casserole, although delicious, would be better as dessert. Non-beef-eaters can choose from numerous luxurious seafood dishes, a cheese-stuffed chicken breast, grilled portobello mushrooms, and six salads. Award-winning wine list is steep but serious, with an average bottle price of \$70 but reasonable markups and wines over \$100 offered at retail price. The main room harbors a fabulous view of the ocean if you arrive before sunset, but it’s noisy — tables upstairs are quieter. Dinner nightly; lunch Friday only. Also downtown, with equally stunning views, at 1355 North Harbor Drive, 619-233-1422. Very expensive. — *B.D. (5/05)*

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Gains, Losses, Highs, and Lows

Just across the courtyard, without fanfare, the Globe staged one of the year's gems.

I suspect I'll remember 2006 as much for its disappointments as achievements. This was the year Claudio Raygoza's Ion Theatre and Calvin Manson's Ira Aldridge Players lost their homes. Both had found flexible, promising spaces. Both produced several worthy efforts to growing audiences. Both gone.

After 65 years of continuous productions in La Mesa, including the last 30 at the Ben Polack Art Center, the Lamplighters Community Theatre lost its performing space in August. This pillar of local theater — which produced five shows a year, plus special events and solo performances — is currently looking for a new home.

The artistic disappointment of the year, by far, was Twyla Tharp's *The Times They Are A-Changin'*, a dance, musical, something-or-other based on the songs of Bob Dylan. It flopped at the Old Globe and on Broadway. The world premiere couldn't make up its mind what it should be about: Dylan's music; the shabby, pseudo-Melvilian, pseudo-carnival story Tharp concocted; or her memories from the time he first influenced her, which filtered through the 90-minute piece like a leitmotif.

Times needed changes, and one of the most persistent questions of early 2006 was how should

Tharp fix it? Some said more choreography — interpret the music physically — and more of her. Others said shore up the contrived storyline, flesh out the characters — make them more worthy of the music. Hard-core Dylan fans said to deep-

six the wreck (I thought it'd make more sense not to use all of Dylan's music, but take one of the albums, like *Blood on the Tracks*, and stage it). When I play *Times* back on

my mental DVD, I still can't figure out if it was a tribute to, or a parody of, the music. I still see those charcoal gray beach balls bouncing across the stage to the '60s anthem "Like a Rolling Stone" and want to pop every last one of them.

Just across the courtyard, without fanfare, the Globe staged one of the year's gems: *Body of Water*'s exhibit A of how a creative production can transform a fair-to-middlin' script into unforgettable theater.

In Lee Blessing's drama, Avis and Moss find themselves adrift. Were they husband and wife? Are they just strangers? And where are they? Neither recognizes the locale, a mountaintop surrounded by water. Do they have Alzheimer's? Trauma-induced amnesia? When a young woman calling herself Wren enters, rather than clarify, she sharpens the questions. She could be a caregiver, a doctor's sadistic assistant, or a lawyer defending



Rosina Reynolds, Joshua Everett Johnson, Jim Chovick in *Copenhagen*

the couple from the murder of their 11-year-old daughter. Or, the whole play could be happening in Moss's mind. Or Wren's. Or only yours.

Before coming to the Cassius Carter, the overly long, pseudo-philosophical script received a realistic staging back East. What an odd choice, since the play thrives on surrealism and a hall-of-mirrors psychology. At the Carter, director Ethan McSweeney and scenic designer Michael Vaughn made the mountaintop a stained-wood pool deck surrounded by pale blue water. All sharp angles, there wasn't a single curve in the sleek design. It could be a real place — the world's most pristine timeshare — or a netherspace where nothing intersects. Or both.

The set, York Kennedy's lighting — bright,

smog-free sunshine and slanting shadows — and Michael Roth's dissonant music combined for one of the finest uses of the Cassius Carter arena stage in quite some time.

Some of 2006's most interesting acting involved playing characters who are losing, or have lost, their center. In *Body of Water*, Ned Schmidtke, Sandy Duncan, and young Samantha Soule were never the same person twice. All three resembled shuffled decks of cards, with some new version of Moss, Avis, or Wren suddenly appearing.

Yasmina Reza's *Life X 3* asks four actors to play a dinner party from hell three different ways. But in doing so, they must play three versions of the same character: one berserk, one negotiating

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Jo Anne Glover, Jennifer Eve Thorn, Liv Kellgren in *Wet*



Jenn Colella, Michael Arden in *The Times They Are A-Changin'*

(or wavering) between the two, and one in control — like Freud's id, ego, and superego.

And when one changes, say, from id to ego, the three others also shift. Robert Smyth,

Glynn Bedington, Colleen Kollar, and Lance Arthur Smith turned four characters into 12 and turned in — along with the casts of *Body of Water* and Ion Theatre's *All in the Timing* — some of the year's best ensemble work.

(*All in the Timing*, Old Town Theatre's *Forbidden Broadway: Special Victims Unit*, and Starlight's wonderful *Urinetown* were the year's funniest shows).

In *Trying*, also at the Carter, Jonathan McMurtry played Francis Biddle, former U.S. attorney general under FDR. When the story begins, Biddle is 81, chronically arthritic, and losing chunks of his mind to senility. One second he remembers details from four decades ago; the next, vacant.

Actors have been trained for decades to make a character add up to something whole and rounded. In each new scene, McMurtry had to *subtract* some quality, physical or mental, from Biddle. In this memory play about memory loss, McMurtry showed how it feels to fragment in slow stages.

In the year's most detailed, astonishing performance, Joshua Everett Johnson played physicist Werner Heisenberg in *Copenhagen*. When he met with his mentor, Niels Bohr, after WWII, was Heisenberg just a slick-haired scumbag in post-Nazi denial, or had he tried to stop Germany from creating the atomic bomb? David Frayn's drama resembles Bohr's princi-



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ple of “Complementarity”: we cannot see two “contradictory pictures of reality at the same time.” An electron is either a particle or a wave.

Speaking with clipped, almost mathematical precision, his poker face betraying no emotional “tells,” Johnson gave Heisenberg two contradictory centers, repulsive and sympathetic. Like a spinning coil he’d be tails in one scene, heads the next — only you never saw the coin, just the sides. The amazing part: there was nothing vague about them. Heisenberg could be believably contrite, then just as believably manipulative. Here he’s a particle, there a wave.

JoAnne Glover, one of the area’s most versatile actors, played Ya Ya, a sly young French woman in Moxie’s *Limonade*

Tous Les Jours; she was an assertive Ophelia trapped in male-dominated Denmark, in New Village Arts’ *Hamlet*; and the silk-clad, buoyant spirit guide, Maryamma, in the San Diego Rep’s *Miss Witherspoon*. Glover concluded the year as cut-lass-flashing, “farg”-shouting Isabella in Moxie’s *Wet, or Isabella the Pirate Queen Enters the Horse Latitudes*. I can’t recall a body of work in a single year as varied — and admirably crafted — as Glover’s in 2006. ■

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.

THEATER DIRECTORY

Actors Alliance Of San Diego
3535 Adams Ave., North Park
(619) 640-3900 www.actorsalliance.com

Arts Tix
28 Horton Plaza, Downtown
(619) 497-5000
www.sandiegoperforms.com

Asian American Repertory Theatre
(888) 568-2278
www.asianamericanrep.org

Beacon Theatre
(760) 724-8218
www.beacontheatresd.com

Borrogo Springs Performing Arts Center
590 Palm Canyon Dr., Borrego Springs
(760) 767-4275 www.bspac.us

The Broadway Theatre
340 East Broadway, Vista
(760) 806-7905
www.premiereforkids.com

California Center For The Arts
340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido
(760) 839-4100 www.artcenter.org

Carlsbad Village Theatre
2822 State St., Carlsbad
(760) 729-0089
www.carlsbadvillagetheatre.com

Centro Cultural De La Raza
2004 Park Blvd., Balboa Park
(619) 235-6135 www.centroraza.com

Christian Community Theater
1545 Pioneer Way, El Cajon
(619) 588-0206 www.expaclive.com

Civic Theatre
3rd & B, Downtown
(858) 570-1100 www.sdccc.org

Clairemont Community Players
Holmes Elementary
4902 Mt. Ararat, Clairemont
(858) 560-5114

Community Actors Theatre
2957 54th St., State College
(619) 264-3391
www.communityactorstheatre.com

Copley Symphony Hall
750 B St., Downtown
(619) 235-0804
www.sandiegosymphony.com

Coronado Playhouse
1835 Strand Way, Coronado
(619) 435-4856
www.coronadoplayhouse.com

Cygnnet Theatre Company
6663 El Cajon Blvd., Ste. N, College Area
(619) 337-1525 www.cygnnettheatre.com

Diversionary Theatre
4545 Park Blvd., Normal Heights
(619) 220-0097 www.diversionary.org

East County Performing Arts Center
210 E. Main St., El Cajon
(619) 440-2277 www.ecpac.com

Educational Cultural Complex Theater
4343 Ocean View Blvd., Southeast
(619) 527-5256

Eveoke Dance Theatre
644 7th Ave., Downtown
(619) 238-1153 www.eveoke.org

The Fallbrook Players
Mission Theatre
231 N. Main St., Fallbrook
(760) 728-0998

The Fault Line Theatre
3152 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest
(619) 692-3382 www.faultlineprod.com

Fern Street Circus
(619) 235-9756 www.fernstreetcircus.org

The Fritz Theatre
(619) 233-7505 www.fritztheatre.com

Full Circle Theatre Company
Parker Auditorium
750 Nautilus St., La Jolla
(858) 454-3081 x 150

Grossmont College
Stagehouse Theatre, El Cajon
(619) 644-7234
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The Hispanic Theatre Of San Diego
(858) 278-6139

H.I.T. Productions Dinner Theater
Shirley’s Kitchen, 7868 El Cajon Blvd.
La Mesa (619) 561-8673

Horton Grand Theatre
444 Fourth Ave., Downtown
(619) 234-9583

Iris Theater
4580-B Alvarado Canyon Rd.
(619) 271-4144 www.irisrtheater.org

Laguna Playhouse
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Miracosta College Theatre
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The Muse Theatre
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National Comedy Theatre
3717 India St., Mission Hills
(619) 295-4999
www.nationalcomedy.com

New Village Arts Theatre
Carlsbad
(760) 633-1130 www.NewVillageArts.org

New World Stage
917 9th Ave., Downtown
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Don Quixote
The San Diego Repertory Theatre presents Paul Magid’s adaptation of Miguel de Cervantes’s novel, a “political satire with music.” Sam Woodhouse directed.
SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN, FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, THROUGH FEBRUARY 4; WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-544-1000.

Joey and Maria’s Comedy Italian Wedding
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Legends
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SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 303 C STREET, DOWNTOWN, TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, THROUGH JANUARY 14; TUESDAY AND THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SAT-

URDAY AT 2:00 P.M. AND SUNDAY AT 1:00 P.M. 619-570-1100.

A Moon for the Misbegotten
North Coast Repertory Theatre stages Eugene O’Neill’s drama about star-crossed Jamie and Josie, the former based on O’Neill’s alcoholic brother. David Ellenstein directed.
NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987D LOMAS SANTA FE, SOLANA BEACH, SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, THROUGH FEBRUARY 11; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 858-481-1055.

National Comedy Theatre
Improvitational comedy, making up funny stuff on the spot, is difficult enough. Years ago, however, Keith Johnstone thought it’d be more exciting if done competitively. He got the idea from pro wrestling (“where Terrible Turks mangled defrocked priests, while mums and dads yelled insults and grannies waved their handbags”). National Comedy Theatre, an offshoot of Johnstone’s TheatreSports (artistic director Gary Kramer says the two compare like “rugby and

San Diego Black Ensemble Theatre
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Sledgehammer Theatre
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The Spreckels Theatre
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Star Theatre
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(760) 721-9983 www.startheatre.org

Starlight Musical Theatre
Starlight Bowl, Balboa Park
(619) 544-7827
www.starlighttheatre.org

Sullivan Players
15321 Tyler Ave., Hillcrest
(858) 274-1731

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(619) 235-8466 www.sushiart.org

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(619) 246-4853 www.tonicproductions.org

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3710 Del Mar Heights Rd., Del Mar
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400 Rancho Del Oro, Oceanside
(760) 967-7918

University Of California San Diego
UCSD Theater, Studio Theater
Mandell Weiss Center
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www-theatre.ucsd.edu

University Of San Diego
5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego
(619) 260-7934 www.sandiego.edu

Vantage Theatre
(619) 262-6162
http://home.san.rr.com/vantagetheatre

Welk Resort Theatre
8860 Lawrence Welk Dr., Escondido
(760) 749-3448
www.welkresort.com/sandiego

The Wild Parrot Players Community Theatre
Point Loma United Methodist Church
1984 Sunset Cliffs, Ocean Beach
(619) 269-6946

Women’s Repertory Theatre
(619) 282-3277
www.womensrep.org

American football”), resembles an athletic event more than an improv. Teams wear uniforms and compete on ActroTurf. The night I caught the show, three San Diego comedians played a challenge match against players from the San Jose franchise. Using suggestions from the audience, they played “Emotional Sympathy,” “Shakespeare,” “Blind Line,” and “Freeze Tag,” with judges awarding points to the best scenes. Klunkers and groaners got booed; quick wit rewarded (one of the most refreshing parts of the contest: people acknowledge failure, abundantly, then forget it). It made for a lively, often quite funny, evening. And Gary Kramer is one talented comedian.

Worth a try.
MARQUIS THEATER, 3717 INDIA STREET, MISSION HILLS, OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. AND 9:45 P.M. 619-295-4999.

Pig Farm
Greg Kotis’s agricultural comedy (“the pigs are restless down on the farm”) plays at the South Coast Rep. Martin Benson directed.
SOUTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, JULIANNE ARGYROS STAGE, 655 TOWN CENTER DRIVE, COSTA MESA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, THROUGH JANUARY 28; TUESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY AT 7:45 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 714-708-5555.

Plays by Young Writers
The California Young Playwrights Contest presents stagings of its four award-winning scripts: Ariel Cowell’s *Elevated*; *The Courier* by John Gloucevitch; Thomas Hodges’s *Stage Directions*; Katherine Quinn’s *Aftermath of Cassidy Joan*. Every performance begins with readings of scripts by writers aged 14 or younger.

CASSIUS CARTER CENTRE STAGE, SIMON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, BALBOA PARK, THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, THROUGH JANUARY 21; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, AT 2:00 P.M. (FOR DATES AND TIMES OF SPECIFIC PLAYS, CALL 619-239-8222.

Readings of August Wilson’s Plays: Joe Turner’s Come and Gone

The San Diego Black Ensemble and Cygnnet Theatre could do for the late August Wilson what “Grass-roots Greeks” did for ancient Greek drama in San Diego. The companies present a series of staged readings of one of the American theater’s rarely performed but most important playwrights. Twice winner of the Pulitzer Prize (for *Fences* in 1987 and *The Piano Lesson* in 1990), Wilson wrote a cycle of dramas that probe the African-American experience through the decades of the 20th Century (he concentrated, he said, on the “largest idea that confronted blacks in each decade”). The readings will also be staged at the Performance Annex in City Heights and other locations. The series will culminate in a week-long staged reading festival of all the plays at Cygnnet in June 2007. Next offering: Floyd Gaffney directs *Joe Turner’s Come and Gone*.

Worth a try.
CYGNET THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, COLLEGE AREA, THROUGH MAY 8; *JOE TURNER’S COME AND GONE*, MONDAY AND TUESDAY, MARCH 5 AND 6, AT 7:30 P.M. FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF READINGS AND LOCATIONS, CALL 619-337-1525, X3.

San Diego Theatresports: The FunHouse
A cross between improvisational comedy and *Family Feud*. Improv, making up a funny scene as you go

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

Worth a try.
THE FUNHOUSE, 6822 EL CAJON BOULEVARD (BETWEEN 68TH AND 69TH), COLLEGE AREA, FRIDAY AT 7:45 P.M. SATURDAY AT 7:45 P.M. AND 9:45 P.M. 619-465-7469.

The Sopranos’ Last Supper
Dillstar Productions presents an evening with the notorious Baritone family: “gambling, dinner, dancing, and good old mobster fun.”

HOLIDAY INN ON THE BAY, 1355 NORTH HARBOR DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, OPEN-ENDED RUN; SELECTED SATURDAYS AT 7:30 P.M. 800-944-5639.

Triple Espresso: A Highly Caffeinated Comedy
Hugh Butternutt’s done his lounge act at the Triple Espresso Coffee-house 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 Pascarella 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. Pascarella directed.
IMPERIAL HOUSE RESTAURANT, 505 KALMIA STREET, HILLCREST, OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-544-1600.

As Good As It Got

The audience declared itself unwilling to follow this filmmaker down the path of anguish he has chosen to explore.

In recognition of 21st-century reality, I might say that the best new film I saw in 2006 was Hou Hsiao-hsien's *Café Lumière*, the Taiwanese director's centenary tribute to the inimitable Japanese master, Yasujiro Ozu, albeit in his own, no less distinctive style. To try to tighten my grip on reality, though, I would have to say that

that was the best new DVD I saw. (To tighten my grip still further, I should say the film was new in 2003.) But that's how we see things now. We program our own. And I elected to watch and write about *Café Lumière* in the midst of a drowsy summer. By the rules I observe on Prize Day—all contenders must have premiered in a San Diego theater between January 1 and December 31—it is strictly ineligible. Hou's newer film, *Three Times*, did in fact have a premiere at the San Diego Asian Film Festival in October, but it, while it has placed on other critics' lists around the country, was to me a sizable letdown. Which is not to take away any credit from the festival for showing it.

By default, then, the blue ribbon

this year goes to *Flags of Our Fathers*, Clint Eastwood's tormented war film (and, still tormented, postwar film) on the faceless flag-raisers of the Battle of Iwo Jima. Most, if not all, of the critics I have unscientifically sampled seem to give the edge to his Japanese-language companion piece, *Letters from Iwo Jima*, including those critics

in the San Diego Film Critics Society who voted it the best film of the year and who clearly play by a different set of rules from mine. (Abruptly moved forward from its nationwide opening date next February—apparently because *Flags* wasn't generating the anticipated Oscar buzz—it is now scheduled to open locally on January 12.) Inasmuch as I was out of town on the day of its single, spur-of-the-moment press screening, and inasmuch as I was utterly unaware of its existence when I was seeing *Flags*, I remain unswayed by it. I am judging *Flags* only in relation to the other 248 films I saw in the past year. Undeniably, it was something of a dud at the box-office, the mass audience declaring itself unwilling to follow this once

to give the edge to his Japanese-language companion piece, *Letters from Iwo Jima*, including those critics



Flags of Our Fathers

popular and still venerated filmmaker down the path of anguish he has lately chosen to explore. I can't really blame them, though I can't help but feel they are missing out on a remarkable spiritual odyssey. Maybe they'll catch up on DVD.

The red ribbon goes to *Looking for Comedy in Muslim World*, Albert Brooks's return to somewhere close

to peak form. Close enough, anyhow. The film dates from way back in January (when it began a good long run at a single theater, Pacific's Gaslamp), yet it still seems nearer in time and fresher in mind than such fast-fading midyear releases as *Mission: Impossible III*, *The Da Vinci Code*, *X-Men: The Last Stand*, *Superman Returns*, and so on, or even such final-quarter releases

as *The Prestige*, *Infamous*, *Running with Scissors*, *Marie Antoinette*. A "personal" film par excellence, pitilessly self-deprecating in its appraisal of Brooks's standing in our popular culture (in a word, he's unpopular), it no doubt told us much less about the Muslim world than about the comedian himself. But anyone who knows his work, regardless of how well he or

HOW DID IT EVER GO SO FAR?

WITNESS #2 SUSPECT #2 WITNESS #12

SUSPECT #3 MISSING 15-year-old white male SUSPECT #1

WITNESS #4 WITNESS #5 WITNESS #12

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she likes it, could have expected nothing else.

And the white ribbon goes to *Shut Up and Sing*, Barbara Kopple's (and Cecilia Peck's) documentary on the burst bubble of the Dixie Chicks after an ill-timed wisecrack, by their lead singer, about the warmongering President of the United States. It tells a story better than most fiction films tell one, and it tells a better story, too. You could argue perhaps that such documentaries as *An Inconvenient Truth* and *Deliver Us from Evil* had more urgent stories to tell, or more urgent information to impart, but that wouldn't make them into better movies. (And I'm not altogether sure about the greater urgency, either.) In view of our current inundation with documentaries, Kopple's narrative freedom, more specifically her freedom from narrator and interviewee, merits special commendation.

With that, I am fresh out of ribbons. Just to carry on and close out the

topic of documentaries, my Honorable Mentions, in no particular order, might start with *49 Up*, Michael Apted's dutiful continuation of his unique series on an arbitrary assemblage of same-aged but otherwise dissimilar Brits; *Unknown White Male*, Rupert Murray's provocative rumination on the question of identity, centered around a case of amnesia which demands to be either updated in a sequel or unmasked as a hoax; and *Wordplay*, Patrick Creadon's engaging group portrait of the oddish devisers and solvers of crossword puzzles.

To extend the honors: Woody Allen, on a prolonged sojourn in England, had a fruitful year with the reputedly darker, weightier *Match Point* (behind the camera only) and the reputedly lighter, slighter *Scoop* (behind as well as in front of it), pretty much a toss-up in my book. Terry Zwigoff, reunited with his *Ghost World* writer, Daniel Clowes, bounced partway back (from the bad *Bad Santa*) with *Art School Confidential*, a largely ignored but strongly motivated lampoon of artistic and academic types, when it wasn't getting sidetracked on a time-killing serial-killer subplot. Jason (son of Ivan) Reitman made a notable di-

recting debut, if not necessarily for his actual directing, in the take-no-prisoners political satire, *Thank You for Smoking*. And the middle-of-the-road Frank Marshall supplied good old-fashioned survival adventure, canine-variety, in the undervalued but unforgotten *Eight Below*.

The French-language cinema comes in for its usual, unfair share of mentions, for Michael Haneke's unsettling *Caché*, Dominik Moll's unnerving *Lemming*, Laurent Cantet's disquieting *Heading South*, Emmanuel Carrère's disconcerting *La Moustache*, François Ozon's slick and sentimental *Time to Leave*, Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne's unslick and unsentimental *L'Enfant*, and Olivier Assayas's untidy *Clean*. Other mentions for other tongues should go to Zhang Yimou's sumptuous and smoldering *Curse of the Golden Flower* and to Manuel Martín Cuenca's densely woven *Malas Temporadas*, the latter from last spring's San Diego Latino Film Festival, always a dependable source for at least one mention.

Among revivals, which I can never quite view as eligible for prizes, *Army of Shadows*, 1969, was not first-class Jean-Pierre Melville and *Classe Tous*

Risques, 1960, was not first-class Claude Sautet, but neither had ever before been circulated in the States, and both of them showcased the formidable Lino Ventura in their respective lead roles. Carol Reed's *The Fallen Idol*, 1948, was never so difficult to see but was nevertheless good to see again. All three were issued by the intrepid Rialto Pictures, as was Christian-Jaque's *Fanfan la Tulipe*, 1952, which could be mentioned, without honor, solely for the décolletage of Gina Lollobrigida.

But I have descended. ■

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; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Babel — Communication problems the world over. An American tourist is struck by rifle fire in Morocco, arousing erroneous worries of terrorism. An illegal-alien nanny drags along the two towheads in her care to a Mexican wedding, and runs afoul of the Border Patrol on their return. And a horny pantyless deaf-mute Japanese girl can't get a man, any man, to take an interest in her. These three storylines are fashionably "interlocked" (anyone who can recognize the voice of Brad Pitt over the telephone will immediately know the connection between two of them), and the film strategically ends in the same place, from a different point of view, as it begins, coming full circle. The illusion of complexity, for all that, could scarcely be more transparent. Mexican director Alejandro González Iñárritu, much in the manner of his *Amores Perros*, achieves depth only in the way that a hero sandwich achieves it; and it achieves length — almost two and a half hours of it — in the same way as a footlong at any Subway shop. Tenuous in construction, slack and sluggish in pace, sketchy and far-fetched in plot, the film does nothing to justify its epic length or its cosmic ambitions. (The Mexican storyline, particularly weak, goes nowhere until it goes bananas: a series of decisions so bad as to forfeit all sympathy for the characters, let alone for the storyteller who compelled the characters to make the decisions.) With a somewhat calmer camera than his norm, however, the director does some nice scene-setting, some impressionistic documentation of the locales, to help realize his goal in sheer duration. With Cate Blanchett, Adriana Barraza, Gael García Bernal, Koji Yakusho, and Rinko Kikuchi. 2006.

★ (GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

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 engaged 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

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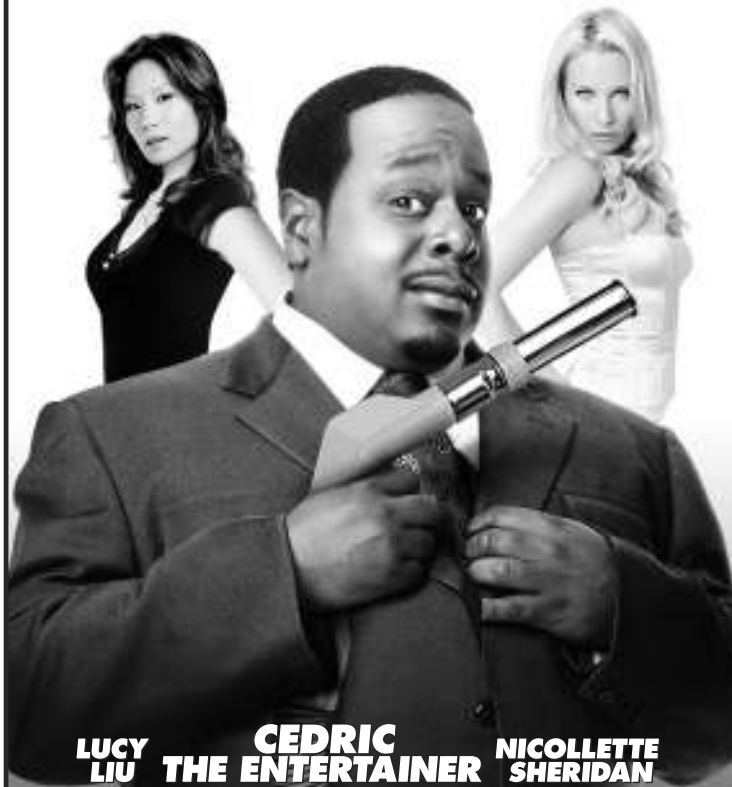
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The History Boys

clearly inexcusable. It's still inexcusable even now. (The on-screen standing ovation at the final curtain is an uns subtle 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.

★ (DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; SAN MARCOS 18)

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)

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 eyed Eva Green) attains an emotional weight beyond even the all-the-way-to-the-altar affair of *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*. The hero's lame quips and puns, meantime, have thoroughly been expunged from the script. And "I don't give a damn" is his response to the bartender's inquiry as to whether he'd like

his vodka martini shaken or stirred. All these changes are definite improvements. And yet, and yet, and yet.... The action, even if somewhat scaled back under the one-time Bond director Martin Campbell (*Goldeneye*, the beginning of the Brosnan Bonds, but scarcely a *new* beginning), is still more than sufficiently cartoonish. The plotting is skimpy. The whole thing runs on far too long. And then there's the fundamental question: if you want to do an alternative to James Bond, why call him James Bond? Why not put him out to pasture where at his age he belongs? Mads Mikkelsen, Jeffrey

Wright, Giancarlo Giannini. 2006.

★★ (ENCINITAS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Charlotte's Web — Gary Winick's rendition of the children's book by E.B. White, starring Dakota Fanning, with Julia Roberts as the voice of the spider. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6;

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San Diego Reader January 4, 2007 119

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.

★ (GASLAMP 15)

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 had dabbled in black-and-white before (most of *Kafka*, most of his sequence in *Eros*, but never till now whole hog), 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 also had 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. Tobey Maguire, Beau Bridges, Jack Thompson. 2006.

★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

The Good Shepherd — Espionage epic, reasonably described by one blurbist as “*The Godfather* of CIA movies,” but only if you are satisfied to retain all the pretentiousness of *The Godfather*, right down to the oppressive underillumination, and do without any of the enlivening pyrotechnics. (Despite those subtractions, the movie still comes to within ten minutes or so of *The Godfather*'s nearly three-hour duration.) Tremendously unentertaining, it slogs back and forth in time, beginning with, and regularly returning to, the Bay of Pigs fiasco and fallout, but retreating back as far as the protagonist's college days as a Yalie and an inductee into the Skull and Bones secret society in 1939 (and even, in a psychoanalytical flashback-within-a-flashback, as far as his boyhood and his father's suicide in 1925), and then working its way forward toward 1961 in incremental jumps. Second-time director Robert De Niro, who also has a small sedentary role as the protagonist's espionage mentor, may have convinced himself that the back-and-forth time shuttle (not to mention the Cuban connection) would transform this also into *The Godfather II* of CIA movies. But this, unlike that, is a single-generation narrative, and the continual interruptions in the story-telling serve little other purpose than to thwart any suspense. And since the block-of-wood Matt Damon hardly ages a day in twenty-plus years (nor does Angelina Jolie in the unaccustomed role of a neglected wife), our best hope to avoid confusion as to where we are on the timeline is to differentiate between his many eyeglass frames. Alec Baldwin, William Hurt, John Turturro, Billy Crudup, Michael Gambon. 2006.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; 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)

Happily N'Ever After — Computer-animated fairy tale, with the voices of Sarah Michelle Gellar and Sigourney Weaver, directed by Paul J. Bolger. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 1/5)

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, Britanny Murphy, Robin Williams, Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman, Anthony LaPaglia. 2006.

★ (CHULA VISTA 10; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18)

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,

SEEN ON

DVD

DESTIN CRETTON

Independent filmmaker, Flagpop Productions, *Flagpop.com*

Magnolia has been lingering on my top-three list since I watched it in 2000. It's Paul Thomas Anderson's third film (he also did *Hard Eight*, *Boogie Nights*, and *Punch Drunk Love*) and his largest endeavor to date. The ensemble cast includes Tom Cruise, Julianne Moore, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Jason Robards, and William H. Macy. It's not the type of movie you pop in to have a few laughs before bed. It's actually something of an event at three-and-some-plus hours. But at least for me, it's well worth it. It's funny, poignant, unpredictable, and it will make you think long after the closing credits have faded to black.

MAGNOLIA (USA) 1999
New Line Platinum Series
List price: \$26.98

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 overacted Headmaster. And the lads, while physically well differentiated, are democratically indistinct as personalities.) It might be easier just to say the focus is diffuse. 2006.

★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

The Holiday — Writer and director Nancy Meyers arranges an Internet home exchange, for two weeks at Christmastime, between two wounded women desperate to

JOEY CASTANIETO

Director, film editor, and DVD collector, *www.KingReyFilms.com*

Being a film nerd and film junkie, I have very specific criteria when I'm searching for that pretty package of a film. Not only does the feature have to be utterly fantastic to begin with, but it also has to be packed with extras that are better than taking a class at an expensive film school. So, with that in mind, *Dances with Wolves* is probably one of the most incredible DVDs I own. The film's flawless, and the DVD is amazing. Not only does it take you behind the scenes to witness a young Kevin Costner taking on an epic film as a first-time director, but it breaks down the who, how, and where as well as the past, present, and future of the film's creation like no other DVD. This DVD is a must for any serious collector, and an inspiration for young filmmakers out there.

DANCES WITH WOLVES (USA)
1990, MGM
List price: \$29.98

GEORGE SCHMALZ

Marketing coordinator, Landmark Theatres

The Woods centers on a '60s era girls' school run by witches. Agnes Bruckner plays the rebellious newcomer who thwarts their evil plans. Bruce Campbell has some great Bruce Campbell moments. This film is far from camp, though, as it's a beautifully shot, well-acted film high on atmosphere and low on cheap scares.

Hail the Conquering Hero is what Preston Sturges was building towards. He was always talky and there were always pratfalls, but *Hail* catches everything that was Sturges at that perfect moment before the wheels came off. His most fast-paced and breathless film. It's wall-to-wall dialogue with zingers and one-liners coming at you in waves. As always, the dialogue is delivered by his stable of character actors and anchored by William Demarest. Subtle as a sledgehammer, *Hail* is a wartime political satire that holds up as well today as it did 60-plus years ago.

THE WOODS (USA) 2006,
Sony Pictures
List price: \$24.96
PRESTON STURGES: THE FILMMAKER COLLECTION (THE LADY EVE, HAIL THE CONQUERING HERO, SULLIVAN'S TRAVELS, THE PALM BEACH STORY, THE GREAT MCGINTY, THE GREAT MOMENT, CHRISTMAS IN JULY) (USA) 1944, Universal
List price: \$59.98 (seven discs)

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF HERO AND HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS



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that she herself should be painted golden. With Jude Law, Jack Black, Rufus Sewell, Edward Burns. 2006.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; 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)

Kinky Boots — Painless gender-bender comedy about a staid old British shoemaking firm (“since 1895”), which, to survive in the brazen new world, seeks out a “niche market,” namely women’s shoes for men, under the counsel of a cabaret drag queen: “Look to the heel.... The sex is in the heel.” (Quality craftsmanship will be insufficient compensation if the style suits “a bloody Ukrainian peasant.”) The latter role permits quite an expansion of range for the protean Chiwetel Ejiofor, who looks a little bit Diana Ross, a little bit (more) Jesse Norman. The third-generation shoe man, Joel Edgerton, looks a bit Michael Anderson, Jr., just past his prime. Directed by Julian Jarrold. 2006.

★ (SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1/7, 2 P.M.)

Little Children — Todd Field’s sophomore directing effort, following up his quietly sensationalized *In the Bedroom*, is less quietly sensationalized, in other words more blaringly sensationalized, and truly more sophomoric. The adaptation of a Tom Perrotta novel, complete with a snooty third-person-omniscient (i.e., know-it-all) narrator, undoubtedly tells us less about the malaise of our young middle-class suburban parents today than about the jaded palates of our moviegoers and/or moviemakers. An adulterous playground liaison — between a killinglly 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-



The Holiday

discussion group — cannot be considered sufficiently spicy without the added tang of a neighborhood sex offender, a vigilante 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 accom-

panied 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.

★ (KEN)

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 harmo-

niously 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)

Night at the Museum — *Jumanji*-esque jumble of special effects, in which all the exhibits at the Natural History Museum in New York City come to life after dark. This allows for a lot of, frankly an excess of, variety: Lilliputian cowboys and Roman soldiers who tie down the new night watchman like Gulliver; a mischievous monkey who pees on him, pickpockets his keys, and engages in a Three Stooges-style slapfest with him; a T-rex skeleton who wants to play fetch; a talking, bubblegum-chewing Easter Island head; Attila and some Huns; some lions, an elephant, a zebra, a rhino, and so on. It also allows for logical mix-ups whereby, for example, the wax figure of Teddy Roosevelt knows full well he’s a wax figure of our twenty-sixth President, while the wax figure of Sakajawea is regarded as the actual, taxidermized Indian maid, a boon to the tour guide who is writing a dissertation on her. Director Shawn Levy oversees one decent cinematic moment, the contrasting views of the Lilliputians letting the air out of the tires of a van at the loading dock, an action which at close range looks as if they’re trying to plug a hole in the fuselage of a jetliner at 30,000 feet, while from a distance it looks as if all is calm. Mickey Rooney has a nice little role as a truculent security guard forced into retirement (addressing his replacement variously as “Hotshot,” “Hopscotch,” “Butterscotch,” etc.), and Ricky Gervais, of the British *The Office*, shows off his narrow range to good effect as another embarrassing boss, the high-handed museum director (“Control your young, please”). Ben Stiller, on the other hand, shows off his own narrow range at great length in the lead role, and Robin Williams (the wax Teddy) and Owen Wilson (toy cowboy) are instantaneously tiresome. With Carla Gugino, Dick Van Dyke, Bill Cobbs. Steve Coogan. 2006.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN

MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Call 444-FILM or the theater for missing information. Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

CENTRAL CLAIREMONT

Town Square 14
4665 Clairemont Drive (858-274-1234)
Casino Royale (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:25, 3:40) 6:40, 9:50 Sun. (12:25, 3:40) 6:40, 9:40; **Charlotte’s Web** (G) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 1:00, 2:25, 3:55) 4:55, 6:50, 7:30, 9:30, 9:55 Sun. (12:00, 1:00, 2:25, 3:55) 4:55, 6:50, 7:30, 9:30; **Children of Men** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:05, 2:40) 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 Sun. (12:05, 2:40) 5:10, 7:40, 10:05; **Code Name: The Cleaner** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:10, 2:30) 5:20, 8:10, 10:25 Sun. (12:10, 2:30) 5:20, 7:45, 10:00; **Dreamgirls** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:20, 3:50) 7:05, 10:10 Sun. (12:20, 3:50) 7:05, 9:55; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (1:35) 4:40, 6:55, 9:35; **Freedom Writers** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:45, 3:30) 7:20, 10:15 Sun. (12:45, 3:30) 7:10, 9:50; **The Good Shepherd** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:30) 5:00, 8:30; **Happily N’Ever After** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:50, 3:00) 5:05, 7:15, 9:20; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:15, 3:45) 6:45, 10:05; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (12:30, 2:55) 5:25, 7:55, 10:20 Sun. (12:30, 2:55) 5:30, 7:55, 10:10; **The Pursuit of Happiness** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:55) 4:20, 7:00, 9:45; **Rocky Balboa** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (12:35, 3:05) 5:30, 8:00, 10:25 Sun. (12:35, 3:05) 5:25, 7:50, 10:15

DOWNTOWN

Gaslamp 15
701 Fifth Avenue (619-232-0400)
Call theater for program information

Horton Plaza 14
Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM)
Call theater for program information

LA JOLLA

La Jolla 12
8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262)
Blood Diamond (R); **Casino Royale** (PG-13); **Children of Men** (R); **Dreamgirls** (PG-13); **Freedom Writers** (PG-13); **The Good Shepherd** (R); **Happily N’Ever After** (PG); **The Holiday** (PG-13); **Night at the Museum** (PG); **Notes on a Scandal** (R); **Perfume: The Story of a Murderer** (R); **The Pursuit of Happiness** (PG-13)

La Jolla Village
8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236)
Babel (R); **Curse of the Golden Flower** (R); **The Painted Veil** (PG-13); **The Queen** (PG-13)

MIRA MESA

Mira Mesa 18
10733 Westview Parkway (858-635-7700)
Call theater for program information

MISSION VALLEY

Fashion Valley 18
7037 Friars Road (858-558-2262)
Apocalypse (R) Fri.-Sun. 3:45, 7:05, 10:20; **Black Christmas** (R) Fri.-Sat. 12:20, 2:55, 5:35, 8:10, 10:45 Sun. (11:00) 1:35, 4:15, 6:55, 9:30; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.-Sun. 12:05, 6:30; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. 12:00, 3:15, 6:45, 10:05 Sun. 12:00, 3:30, 6:45, 10:05; **Charlotte’s Web** (G) Fri.-Sat. (10:30) 1:05, 3:40, 6:25, 9:00 Sun. (10:30) 1:05, 3:40, 6:20, 9:00; **Children of Men** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:40) 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:35 Fri.-Sun. (10:40) 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:35; **Code Name: The Cleaner** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:50) 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:25;

Déjà Vu (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 12:45p.m.; **Dreamgirls** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. 12:15, 3:20, 6:40, 9:45 Sun. 1:20, 4:25, 7:30, 10:30; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:15) 1:50, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50 Sun. (11:20) 1:55, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45; **Freedom Writers** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:45) 1:40, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10; **The Good Shepherd** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:55) 2:40, 6:20, 10:00; **Happily N’Ever After** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:30) 1:55, 4:25, 6:55, 9:20 Sun. (11:30) 2:00, 4:25, 6:55, 9:20; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:20) 2:00, 4:45, 7:25, 10:00 Sun. (11:25) 2:05, 4:45, 7:25, 10:00; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. 12:50, 3:55, 7:10, 10:15 Sun. (11:45) 2:50, 6:00, 9:10; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:35) 1:15, 3:55, 6:35, 9:15 Sun. (10:35) 1:25, 4:05, 6:45, 9:15; **Perfume: The Story of a Murderer** (R) Fri.-Sat. 12:25, 3:50, 7:20, 10:40 Sun. (11:15) 2:40, 6:10, 9:20; **The Pursuit of Happiness** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:55) 3:00, 6:05, 9:05 Sun. 12:10, 3:00, 6:05, 9:05; **Rocky Balboa** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:05) 1:45, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40; **We Are Marshall** (PG) Fri.-Sat. 3:25, 9:55 Sun. 3:25, 9:50

Mission Valley 7
7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)
Blood Diamond (R) Fri.-Sat. (10:45, 1:45, 4:45) 7:45, 10:45 Sun. (10:45, 1:45, 4:45) 7:45; **Children of Men** (R) 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, 10:30 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; **The Pursuit of Happiness** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15, 10:15 Sun. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15; **We Are Marshall** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:15, 2:15, 5:15) 8:00, 10:45 Sun. (11:15, 2:15, 5:15) 8:00

Mission Valley 20
1640 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262)
Apocalypse (R) Fri. 12:10, 3:20, 6:35, 9:45 Sat. 3:20, 6:35, 9:45 Sun. 12:10, 3:20, 6:35, 9:45; **Black Christmas** (R) Fri.-Sat. (10:45) 1:20, 4:40, 7:05, 9:40 Sun. 1:20, 4:40, 7:05, 9:40; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri.-Sun. 12:05, 3:30, 6:40, 9:50; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 12:15, 3:35, 6:45, 10:05; **Charlotte’s Web** (G) Fri.-Sat. (11:10) 1:50, 4:50, 7:30, 10:25 Sun. 1:50, 4:50, 7:30, 10:25; **Children of Men** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:55) 1:45, 4:25, 7:15, 9:55; **Code Name: The Cleaner** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 12:30, 2:55, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35; **Dreamgirls** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:30) 12:50, 1:35, 3:50, 4:35, 7:00, 7:45, 10:10, 10:55 Sun. (10:30) 12:50, 1:35, 3:50, 4:35, 7:00, 7:45, 10:10; **Eragon** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:15) 1:50, 4:45, 7:20, 10:00; **Freedom Writers** (PG-13) Fri. (10:35) 1:25, 4:20, 7:35, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. 1:25, 4:20, 7:35, 10:45; **The Good Shepherd** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:00) 2:45, 6:25, 10:15 Fri.-Sun. (11:00) 2:45, 6:25, 10:15; **Happily N’Ever After** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:40) 1:00, 3:25, 5:50, 8:15, 10:40; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:45) 1:30, 5:05, 8:10, 11:00 Sun. (10:45) 1:30, 5:05, 8:10, 10:55; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 1:05, 4:00, 7:10, 10:25; **The Nativity Story** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:40) 1:30, 4:15; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:50) 1:40, 4:30, 7:25, 10:20; **The Pursuit of Happiness** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:05) 1:55, 4:55, 7:55, 10:50; **Rocky Balboa** (PG) Fri.-Sun. 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30; **The New York Metropolitan Opera: Bellini - I Puritani** Sat. (10:30); **Three** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. 12:05, 2:35, 5:15, 8:05, 11:00 Sun. 12:05, 2:35, 5:15, 8:05, 10:55; **We Are Marshall** (PG) Fri.-Sun. 7:05, 10:05

STATE UNIVERSITY

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5831 University Avenue (619-287-8990)
Call theater for program information

Ken
4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)
Coffee Date (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. 4:40, 9:55; **Little Children** (Not Rated) Fri. 7:00p.m. Sat.-Sun. 1:45, 7:00

UPTOWN

Hillcrest Cinemas
3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)
Curse of the Golden Flower (R); **The Good German** (R); **Notes on a Scandal** (R); **The Queen** (PG-13); **Volver** (R)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center
1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)
Chronos (Not Rated) Fri. 7:00p.m.; **Deep Sea 3D** (G) Fri. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 8:00 Sat. 11:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 Sun. 11:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00; **Dolphins** (Not Rated) Sat.-Sun. 10:00a.m.; **Roving Mars** (G) Fri. 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 9:00 Sat. 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 Sun. 1:00, 3:00, 5:00; **Special Effects: Anything Can Happen** (Not Rated) Fri. 6:00p.m.

San Diego Natural History Museum
1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821)
Call theater for program information

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON

Parkway Plaza 18
405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456)
Call theater for program information

LA MESA

Grossmont Center
Grossmont Center (619-465-7100)
Call theater for program information

MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Notes on a Scandal — Two thespian heavyweights, Cate Blanchett and Judi Dench, going toe to toe, battling to a draw. The scandal, as it comes to light, is the illicit and illegal affair of a married-with-children, thirty-something art teacher, Blanchett, and a fifteen-year-old male student (Andrew Simpson), a ripped-from-the-headlines affair made perfectly plausible if not comprehensible. What doesn't come fully to light, except to the voyeuristic viewer, is how a self-deluding lonely old lesbian history teacher, Dench, attempts to use her knowledge of the affair to her own advantage, again perfectly plausible if not exactly politically correct. Both of the women are individuals, not representatives, and they're played that way. The drama gets a bit overwrought toward the finish, and Philip Glass's phone-it-in musical score is no asset, but all in all a compelling effort. With Bill Nighy and Phil Davis; directed by Richard Eyre. 2006. ★★ ★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA 12; FROM 1/5)

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. With Liev Schreiber, Toby Jones, and Diana Rigg. 2006. ● (FLOWER HILL 4, FROM 1/5; LA JOLLA VIL-LAGE)



Notes on a Scandal

Perfume: The Story of a Murderer — Olfactory fable about an 18th-century freak of nature, "born with a talent that made him unique among mankind," namely the world's most sensitive nose, to go along with a yearning to recapture the aromatic essence of the young virgin he had once killed by accident — even if, in order to recapture it, he must kill again and again. Tom Tykwer's adaptation of the Patrick Suskind novel boasts some kinky eroticism, some Daumier-esque squalor, and some uncommonly crystalline cinematography. (You can practically count the petals on flowers, the leaves on trees.) The film is not, however, so easy on the ears, what with John Hurt's arch narration, straight from the book, and Dustin Hoffman's uncertain accent as a démodé Italian perfumer in Paris. And the British Ben Whishaw, in the

lead role, is easier on the eyes than the novelist envisioned, a major component in the monster's overall whitewash. With Rachel Hurd-Wood and Alan Rickman. 2006. ★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; FROM 1/5)

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 filmgoers 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 post-war Italy, after all — comes in the form of a cash jackpot. Jaden Christopher Syre Smith, Thandie Newton, Brian Howe, James Karen, Dan Castellaneta. 2006. ● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ENCINITAS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKET-PLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROME-NADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Rancho San Diego 15
2951 Jamacha Road
Call theater for program information

SANTEE

Santee Drive In
10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447)
Eragon (PG) Fri,-Sun.; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri,-Sun.; **Rocky Balboa** (PG) Fri,-Sun.; **We Are Marshall** (PG) Fri,-Sun.

SOUTH BAY

CHULA VISTA

Chula Vista 10
Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)
Black Christmas (R); **Charlotte's Web** (G); **Code Name: The Cleaner** (PG-13); **Eragon** (PG); **Freedom Writers** (PG-13); **Happily N'Ever After** (PG); **Happy Feet** (PG); **Night at the Museum** (PG); **The Pursuit of Happyness** (PG-13); **Rocky Balboa** (PG); **Three** (PG-13); **We Are Marshall** (PG)

Palm Promenade 24
770 Dennerly Road (858-558-2262)
Apocalypse (R); **Black Christmas** (R); **Blood Diamond** (R); **Casino Royale** (PG-13); **Charlotte's Web** (G); **Children of Men** (R); **Code Name: The Cleaner** (PG-13); **Dreamgirls** (PG-13); **Eragon** (PG); **Freedom Writers** (PG-13); **The Good Shepherd** (R); **Happily N'Ever After** (PG); **Happy Feet** (PG); **The Holiday** (PG-13); **The Nativity Story** (PG); **Night at the Museum** (PG); **The Pursuit of Happyness** (PG-13); **Rocky Balboa** (PG); **Three** (PG-13); **We Are Marshall** (PG)

Rancho Del Rey 16
East H Street (619-216-4707)
Call theater for program information

IMPERIAL BEACH

South Bay Drive-In
2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727)
Call theater for program information

NORTH INLAND

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Carmel Mountain
11620 Carmel Mountain Road (858-674-9770)
Blood Diamond (R) Fri,-Sat. 7:30, 10:30 Sun. 7:40p.m.; **Charlotte's Web** (G) Fri,-Sat. (12:15, 2:35) 4:55, 7:20, 9:40 Sun. (12:15, 2:35) 4:55, 7:20; **Children of Men** (R) Fri,-Sat. (12:35, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (12:35, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00; **Code Name: The Cleaner** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (1:05, 3:35) 5:45, 8:05, 10:20 Sun. (1:05, 3:35) 5:45, 8:00; **Eragon** (PG) Fri,-Sat. (12:55, 3:30) 7:00, 9:30 Sun. (12:55, 3:30) 7:00; **The Good Shepherd** (R) Fri,-Sat. (12:50) 4:30, 8:10 Sun. (12:00, 3:30) 7:00; **Happily N'Ever After** (PG) Fri,-Sat. (12:25, 2:40) 4:45, 7:00, 9:30 Sun. (12:25, 2:40) 4:45, 7:00; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri,-Sat. (12:00, 2:30) 5:00 Sun. (12:15, 3:50); **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (1:00, 3:50) 7:35, 10:25 Sun. (1:00, 3:50) 7:35; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri,-Sat. (12:00, 2:30) 4:55, 7:30, 10:00 Sun. (12:00, 2:30) 4:55, 7:30; **The Pursuit of Happyness** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (12:10, 3:30) 7:10, 10:00 Sun. (12:10, 3:30) 7:10; **Rocky Balboa** (PG) Fri,-Sat. (12:35, 2:50) 5:15, 7:35, 9:55 Sun. (12:35, 2:50) 5:15, 7:35; **We Are Marshall** (PG) Fri,-Sat. (12:40, 3:25) 7:05, 9:50 Sun. (12:40, 3:25) 7:05

ESCONDIDO

Escondido 16
350 W. Valley Parkway (760-291-0119)
Call theater for program information

FALLBROOK

Galaxy 6
5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784)

Charlotte's Web (G); **Code Name: The Cleaner** (PG-13); **Happily N'Ever After** (PG); **Night at the Museum** (PG); **The Pursuit of Happyness** (PG-13); **Rocky Balboa** (PG)

POWAY

Poway 10
13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423)
Charlotte's Web (G); **Code Name: The Cleaner** (PG-13); **Eragon** (PG); **The Good Shepherd** (R); **Happily N'Ever After** (PG); **The Holiday** (PG-13); **Night at the Museum** (PG); **The Pursuit of Happyness** (PG-13); **Rocky Balboa** (PG); **Three** (PG-13)

SAN MARCOS

San Marcos 18
1180 West San Marcos Boulevard at Old California Walk (760-471-3711)
Call theater for program information

VISTA

Vista Village
Highway 78 at Vista Village Drive (760-945-7469)
Call theater for program information

NORTH COASTAL

CARLSBAD

Plaza Camino Real
2385 Marron Road (760-729-7469)
Night at the Museum (PG) Fri,-Sat. (12:20, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45, 10:10 Sun. (12:20, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45; **The Queen** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00

DEL MAR

Del Mar Highlands 8
El Camino Real at Del Mar Heights Road (858-646-9420)
Blood Diamond (R); **Charlotte's Web** (G); **Code Name: The Cleaner** (PG-13); **Eragon** (PG); **Freedom Writers** (PG-13); **Happily**

The Queen — A spot of simulated Royals-watching, ably guided by the seasoned Stephen Frears: a satisfying, if unsurprising and unrevealing and unimaginative re-enactment of what must have gone on behind closed doors in the week after the death of Princess Di, in specific the diplomatic efforts of the newly elected Tony Blair to compel the Royal Family ("a bunch of freeloading, emotionally retarded nutters," in the view of Mrs. Blair) to behave like human beings: "Will somebody please save these people from themselves?" Helen Mirren and Michael Sheen embody Her Majesty and the Prime Minister to two T's. In support of them, James Cromwell at least looks the part of Philip, but plays only one note, and Alex Jennings is a bit short in the snout (in complete contrast to Cromwell) but is otherwise credibly dyspeptic as Charles. The plentiful humor, out of deference to history and living persons, is very mild. 2006. ★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Rocky Balboa — The sixth installment in the *Rocky* series (despite the absence of a Roman numeral to remind us) comes thirty years after the first one and sixteen after the fifth. It will stand as a serviceable definition of "retarded." Written and directed by its sixty-year-old star, Sylvester Stallone, it wants nothing but to turn back the hands of time. Oh, Stallone may, in observance of auld lang syne, put his sanctified screen wife into the cold hard ground ("woman cancer"), and thus restrict Talia Shire, still listed in the credits, to youthful flashbacks. But what man, after all, with washboard abs and with veins bulging in his shoulders and biceps, could abide to be saddled with an old bag his own age? He can always get an eyelift, dip into the hair dye, put on the same hat, run up the same steps to the same music, replace the old Ugly Duckling with a younger Ugly Duckling (Geraldine Hughes, no spring chicken, but nonetheless a quarter-century his junior), and if the script says so, if wishful thinking wishes it, he can still give as good as he gets in a risible "exhibition match" against the current undefeated, but unrespected, heavyweight champ (former light-heavyweight champ, Antonio Tarver). Skill vs. Will, it's billed as, and no chance to mistake which is which. By rights, of course, Stallone ought to have taken over the Burgess Meredith role and left the fight-

(R); **Happily N'Ever After** (PG); **Night at the Museum** (PG); **We Are Marshall** (PG)

OCEANSIDE

Mission Marketplace 13
College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-806-1790)
Apocalypse (R) Fri,-Sun. (12:00) 5:35; **Black Christmas** (R) Fri,-Sun. (3:10) 8:40; **Charlotte's Web** (G) Fri,-Sun. (11:55, 2:20, 4:35) 7:10, 9:25; **Code Name: The Cleaner** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (12:15, 2:35, 4:50) 7:05, 9:25; **Eragon** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (11:50, 2:15, 4:45) 7:15, 9:45; **Freedom Writers** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (12:20, 3:25) 6:15, 9:10; **The Good Shepherd** (R) Fri,-Sun. (11:30, 2:50) 6:15, 9:40; **Happily N'Ever After** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (12:15, 2:30) 5:05, 7:25, 9:35; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (11:40, 2:05, 4:35) 7:00, 9:20; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (11:35, 12:05, 2:10, 3:00, 4:35) 6:00, 7:05, 9:00, 9:30; **The Pursuit of Happyness** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (12:05, 3:05) 6:20, 9:20; **Rocky Balboa** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (12:00, 2:25, 4:50) 7:10, 9:30; **We Are Marshall** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (12:15, 3:05) 6:05, 9:10

Oceanside 16
401 Mission Avenue (760-439-1733)
Call theater for program information

ing to, say, Hilary Swank. The glaring irony of it is that, while the on-screen Stallone is supposed to be the personification of heart and desire, the off-screen Stallone can only have been motivated by the thing that motivates his on-screen opponent and supposed opposite: lust for a big payday. Burt Young, Milo Ventimiglia. 2006.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN: CHULA VISTA 10; CINERAMA 6; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Roman Holiday — William Wyler’s poor-little-rich-girl fairy tale — checked by a powerful and rueful sense of reality — about a savvy American journalist who shows a sheltered princess a good time on the town. The feminine role, possibly Audrey Hepburn’s signature role, maximizes the actress’s opposite sides, her outward, otherworldly refinement and her unsuspected capacity for fun. And Gregory Peck is less starchy than normal, too. With Eddie Albert. 1953.

★★★ (BIRCH NORTH PARK THEATRE, 1/11, 7 P.M., AND 14, 2 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



The Painted Veil

get in the way of laughs, and the twisted logic sometimes trips up the plot developments (what does the author think she’s narrating when her hero is dashing to a phone to dial her own number?), and the voice-over prose samples do not remotely live up to the writer’s reputation. Nevertheless, the improbable romance between the inflexible tax man and a civilly disobedient, tropically tattooed baker, currently under IRS scrutiny, is oddly touching, thanks in large part to the touchingly odd line readings of Maggie Gyllenhaal, who can work wonders with an echoic little query like, “You don’t like cookies?” And immediately after that, her sensuous recital of the goodies in her early culinary repertoire hovers breathlessly between sheer poetry and utter pornography: “Lemon chiffon cake with zesty peach icing,” etc., etc. Directed by Marc Forster. 2006.

★★ (GASLAMP 15)

Sweet Land — A breakthrough role for the wholesome beauty and noble forehead of Elizabeth Reaser, as a mail-order bride advertised as Norwegian but in fact German, persona non grata in rural Minnesota in the days following the Great War. After an eye-catching supporting part in *Stay* and a barely noticeable supporting part in *The Family Stone*, the actress proves she can carry an entire movie, even much of the way in subtitled German, provided the movie is not too weighty. (No weightier, anyway, than the gramophone and two suitcases she lugs single-handedly into the hinterlands.) Ali Selim, the writer and director, treats it as a Simple Folk tale, quaint, square, ingenuous, uncomplicated, unshadowed, only a scudding cloud or two of small-town small-mindedness. One might wonder how it would have been rewritten by that native Minnesotan of the day, Sinclair Lewis. One suspects that Reaser could

have carried her share of that, too. With Tim Guinee, Alan Cumming, John Heard, Ned Beatty, and Lois Smith. 2006.

★ (KEN, THROUGH 1/4)

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 — Triumph-over-tragedy true story about the resurrection from literal ashes — a 1970 plane crash — of the Marshall University football team, the Thundering 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 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. 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. With Matthew Fox, Ian McShane, Anthony Mackie. 2006.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN)

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LA SEMANA EN ESPAÑOL

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Carrera mortal

Un tren de carga embistió a un autobús de pasajeros y lo arrastró por los rieles en el Estado de México el jueves pasado con saldo de 22 personas muertas y 14 heridas. El suceso ocurrió en la ciudad de Cuautitlán, al Norte de la Ciudad de México, declaró el portavoz local de la Secretaría de Seguridad Pública, Alberto Mena. Todas las víctimas eran pasajeros del autobús, propiedad de la compañía privada Melchor Ocampo. Mena afirmó que el percance ocurrió cuando el conductor trató de cru-

zar las vías antes que el tren. De acuerdo a autoridades, el tren jalaba 36 vagones vacíos. El conductor y el maquinista fueron detenidos para interrogarlos. El funcionario detalló que José Alberto Hernández Domínguez, chofer del camión, no logró encender el motor de la unidad que se había detenido justo en el paso de las vías. El conductor sólo atinó a bajarse del camión abandonando a los pasajeros, pero dos calles más adelante fue detenido por la policía.

san diego



Cargan baterías

Diario San Diego
Los Chargers de San Diego terminaron la temporada regular con la mejor marca de su historia, 14 juegos ganados y dos perdidos, y se perfilan como el gran favorito de la Conferencia Americana para llegar a la edición 41 del Súper Tazón que se jugará en la ciudad de Miami. El conjunto sandieguino es sin duda el mejor equipo de la Liga Nacional de Fútbol (NFL) con recursos de sobra en el ataque (LaDai-

nian Tomlinson y Antonio Gates) y defensa (Shawne Merriman, Jamal Williams, y compañía) para lidiar con cualquiera. La incógnita es el mariscal de campo Philip Rivers, quien en su primer año como titular no se sabe como responderá a la presión de los duelos de postemporada. El otro equipo de peligro en la Conferencia Americana es Baltimore quien terminó la temporada con récord de 13-3.

región



Cruzan menos

La cantidad de arrestos de inmigrantes ilegales en la frontera de México y Estados Unidos ha disminuido más de un tercio desde que los soldados de la Guardia Nacional estadounidense fueron apostados en la zona. Los agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza de Estados Unidos han arrestado a 149,238 personas menos desde comienzos de julio hasta el final del 2006. Esto representa un 34 por ciento menos que en el mismo período del 2005, según estadísticas mensuales proporcionadas el martes por

el portavoz de la Patrulla Fronteriza de Estados Unidos, Mario Sánchez. Los arrestos también habían disminuido un nueve por ciento en el mismo período del 2004 al 2005. Si la tendencia a la baja continúa, sería el primer descenso sostenido en arrestos de inmigrantes ilegales desde poco después de los atentados terroristas del 11 de septiembre del 2001. Los funcionarios de la Patrulla Fronteriza atribuyen los descensos del número de arrestos a que menos personas deciden cruzar.

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Desfile espacial

Cientos de miles de espectadores cubiertos de sacos y mantas desafiaron el frío el lunes primero de enero para ver la edición 118 del Desfile de las Rosas, que incluyó un saludo a la "Guerra de las Galaxias", en el 30 aniversario de la película. El evento comenzó con una majestuosa flota de la Fuerza Aérea B-2 que arrancó vitoriosos del público, apañado en gradas y en las calles.

Muchos asistentes acudieron para ver al Gran Mariscal del desfile, el realizador George Lucas, y una caravana de tres carrozas alegóricas de la "Guerra de las Galaxias" que incluyó 200 soldados del Imperio (stormtroopers).

El desfile incluyó 45 ca-

rruajes, 22 bandas musicales y 23 unidades ecuestres. El actor James Garner, Miss Estados Unidos Jennifer Berry y la leyenda del baloncesto Kareem Abdul-Jabbar también participaron.

Entre las flotas más anticipadas estuvieron "Una historia única", de más de 20 metros, en conmemoración de los 100 años de Oklahoma, y "Erase una vez", de 15 metros de altura, inspirada en las fábulas clásicas y las poesías infantiles.

Las temperaturas en la víspera bajaron a unos cuatro grados centígrados, pero durante el día rondarían los 15 grados. El año pasado el evento se vio empapado por la lluvia por primera vez en 50 años.



Es cementero

Jared Borgetti fue presentado como el flamante refuerzo de la Máquina Celeste del Cruz Azul por los próximos dos años y desde su llegada se mostró comprometido a entregar buenos resultados.

El artillero mexicano está consciente que la directiva retuvo algunos jugadores que considera pueden ayudarlo a recibir balones con oportunidades claras de gol y su labor será ser certero al momento de concretar.

"Buscaré aportar lo mío, mi fútbol, mi entrega y mis goles. Creo que dentro del equipo hay muy buenos jugadores", apuntó el artillero. Borgetti no le teme a la presión que sufren los jugadores que llegan a equipos de la calidad del Cruz Azul, pues siempre se ha considerado un hombre de

retos y ahora no será la excepción.

"Vengo a unirme al concepto y al sistema que se tiene. Siempre me ha gustado tener responsabilidades, tener retos y soy una persona que doy la cara en las buenas y en las malas", apuntó el goleador azteca.

Cruz Azul tiene la expectativa de coronarse campeón en el 2007 y para eso ha retenido también los servicios del argentino Marcelo Delgado quien se espera haga una gran pareja con Jared Borgetti.

Con su llegada al Cruz Azul, Borgetti espera ser tomado en cuenta para integrar la Selección Mexicana de fútbol que dirige Hugo Sánchez y cuyo primer compromiso es el próximo siete de febrero contra el conjunto de Estados Unidos.



Más dinero

El lunes entró en vigor en el Estado de California el aumento de 75 centavos al salario mínimo que subió de 6.75 a 7.50 dólares por hora. Los más beneficiados de este aumento son los latinos porque representan el 57 por ciento de los trabajadores que perciben sueldo mínimo y que en promedio reciben un ingreso anual de 14 mil 040 dólares.

El aumento al salario en California fue aprobado por las propuestas de ley presentadas a la Legislatura estatal por el senador demócrata Gil Cedillo, el senador republicano Abel Maldonado y la asambleísta Sally Liebre, cuya propuesta fue aprobada con algunas modificaciones. Durante el verano pasa-

do el gobernador Arnold Schwarzenegger firmó la ley para aumentar el salario mínimo un dólar y 25 centavos en un periodo de dos años, comenzando la primera fase el primer día del 2007.

La ley aprobada por Schwarzenegger contempla un incremento de 50 centavos más para el 2008, con lo que el salario de California será de ocho dólares por hora, uno de los más altos de la nación. El próximo año, 28 estados de la nación tendrán aumento al salario por arriba del mínimo federal de 5.15 dólares por hora. Se espera que el incremento en los salarios empuje los precios al consumidor en el Estado de California.

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ENTERTAINMENT. Sea World hiring: Culinary Operations, Merchandise, Education, Park Operations and Entertainment. Food and Merchandise discounts. EOE. M/F/V/D. For complete listing and descriptions of the available positions: SeaWorldJobs.com. Apply in person: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm: 500 Sea World Drive, San Diego 92109. 619-282-3842.

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\$12.86 per hr.

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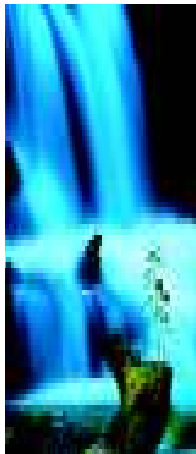
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Facials • Natural Nails • Massage

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6506 El Cajon Blvd., Suite A (at Aragon St.)
License #HHP31068

Be Daring This New Year– Try Clairemont Total Care Salon

Facials • Manicure
Pedicure • Highlights
Color • Cuts • Waxing

\$25 Off Any Two Services

With this ad. Expires 2-15-07.
First-time clients only.
Appointment necessary.

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Corie: **858-278-1128 • Open Mon.-Sat.**
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1-hour Jacuzzi & massage.
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9357 Mira Mesa Boulevard, San Diego
(off I-15, Black Mtn. Rd. & Mira Mesa Blvd., next to Burger King in Oak Tree Plaza)
858.831.0653
License #24099

for you! Leave in a relaxed, blissful state. 7 days/week. 619-583-1777.

DEEP TISSUE/HOT STONE massage. 4 massages for \$240. I combine skillful, soothing massage, advanced therapeutic techniques and thorough stretching for dramatic relaxation at last! Pain/injury/stress. Betsy, HHP-99007729. Call 858-442-3210. www.betsymassage.com.

RELAXING MESSAGE THERAPY by Brooke. Achy muscles, sore neck or back? Stressed out to the max? Try a massage. Lic-Z-12494. Call 760-415-2786.

A DEEPER MESSAGE. Experienced therapist works with headaches, neck/back pain. Combine deeper structural release with full body relaxation. New Years specials! HHP-95010074. Sheldon, 619-742-2506.

MESSAGE SO WONDERFUL, it's guaranteed to be the best part of your day. Come explore the magic of my touch. Heidi, 619-280-7784.

LOVELY HANDS BY DESTINY. Best light touch, deep and sweet massage with warm oil. Incall and outcall. MTP-0969. Call 760-415-8155.

A PAMPERING, full-body massage. From deeply relaxing Swedish to lightly euphoric. Beautiful, cozy atmosphere. Conveniently located. Warm oils, body shampoo. MTP-22537. Gina, 619-507-3411.

MESSAGE OF FIRE. Effleurage by Kim. Beautiful, clean, private. Conveniently located in North County. By appointment. Lic#107395. Effleuragebykim.com. Kim, 760-809-4581.

GRAND OPENING. All types of massage. Hot baths/body scrubs. Open 7 days, 10am-11:30pm. Walk in OK. Lic-98005569. Oriental #1 Massage, 3134 El Cajon Boulevard. 619-563-7949.

STRONG HANDS. Relax, recharge, release tension. Swedish, deep tissue/light touch. Satisfaction guaranteed. 10 years' experience. In/outcalls. Lic-00005923. No appointment necessary. Rocco, 619-246-9625.

SWEDISH SENSATIONS! A full body massage with my own special touches you're going to love! Outcalls/incalls. 10am-8pm. Julia, 619-253-5527.

EUROPEAN SILKY HANDS. Soft and tender for the ultimate in relaxation. Silent Touch, 619-708-2660.

SOOTHING SWEDISH MASSAGE! Let me put you to sleep. Relaxation at its best! Awakening Health Institute, 8 years experience. MC/Visa/Amex. 760-644-0404. www.dayoasis.com.

BALANCING TOUCH. Cranial-sacral massage. Joyful wellness from head to toe! 20 years experience! Georgiana, HHP-0317, 760-966-1672.

HEAVENLY HANDS MASSAGE. Exceptional. Professional. Experienced. Private. Deep tissue or light touch. Men and women. MTP-28415. North County. 760-634-3706.

FULL BODY MASSAGE. Allow me to help you relax. Call me for an unforgettable time and a no rush attitude. Davia's Massage, 619-222-8013.

RELEASE, RELAX, REVIVE. Let's get together for your ultimate massage. Deep tissue, Swedish, sports, cross fiber, whatever you want. Call Kim. Located in Encinitas. HHP. Lic-96001467. 619-417-9226.

ENTER A WORLD OF BLISS once you feel my tender touch. Let me melt your stress away! Incall/outcall. 24/7. Visa/Mastercard. 619-296-9877.

RELAX IN MY HANDS. Satisfying full-body stress-release massage by professional, experienced HHP. You'll like it! Lic-22746. Ken, 619-417-1350.

SCANDIA TOUCH. Let your troubles go. Within minutes pain and worries fade away. Travel to state where inner peace is norm. Lic-2001004829. Veronica, 619-400-7744. 619-269-3366.

WE CAN SURPASS even your greatest expectations. We know the way a quality massage is supposed to be. Call Far East Spa. Lic-98011375. 619-283-6122.

AN AWESOME MESSAGE by Veronique. Exquisite touch. Delightful healing and total relaxation. A must have! Inside/outside. Hotel/motels welcome. Credit cards accepted, MTP-6352. 760-724-3793.

IZABELA'S POWERFUL MESSAGE. Find out perfect way to relax yourself for New Year. Ask for special prices and set up an hour massage with free body scrub. Lic-003419. 619-281-8851.

HEALTH & FITNESS

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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 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 joyfulmovement.com.

JACUZZI, bubble spa, Homedics for the bath/tub, new, in box, \$65. 619-466-8663.

PRESCRIPTION EYEGLASSES, \$9. Custom made to your prescription, stylish plastic or metal frame, High-index, UV protection, anti-scratch lens, case, lenscloth for only \$9. Also available: rimless, titanium, children's, bifocals, progressive, suntints, ARcoating, etc. <http://zenioptical.com>. (AAN CAN)

WINTER OPEN HOUSE! Free classes January 8 and 9 at 6pm. Taoist Sanctuary of San Diego, 92103. 619-692-1155 or www.taoistsanctuary.org.

PARENT RESOURCES

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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.

INFANT CAR SEATS, \$10. Booster, \$10. Infant walker, \$15. Foldable stroller, \$7. Baby bath, \$5. My size Barbie, \$15. 760-858-8291.

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.

PREGNANT? Considering adoption? Talk with caring people specializing in matching birthmothers with families nationwide. Expenses paid. Toll free 24/7, Abby's One True Gift Adoptions, 1-866-413-6293. (AAN CAN)

WEDDING & PARTY GUIDE

PLACE PRINTED ADS in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.

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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.

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

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ABANDON YOUR ACTING FEARS! Actors' Workshop Studios. San Diego's number 1 film/TV studio! Professional 3-camera set. Weekly in-house auditions with Hollywood/local casting directors, producers, agents. www.actorsworkshopstudios.com; 858-587-6666.

ABILITY THROUGH TRAINING. The Robert Wald Actor's Studio focuses on moment-to-moment reality training. These classes unlock the actor's ability to work spontaneously and with the realism and intensity advocated by the industry's creative legends. Beginners welcome. Thursday evening class available, 6:30pm-10:30pm or Saturday morning. Call for information. 619-542-1216.

ALIVE ON STAGE! Point Loma Actors' Workshop. Taste the performance high! New session starts Monday January 8th. Sign up now for the most fun you'll ever have on a Monday night! Beginners welcome. www.pointlomaactors.com. 619-225-0044.

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.

AUDITIONS FOR MELODRAMA. Need 1 male, 1 female teens to 25 years. North Park Vaudeville, January 14 and 16. 619-647-4958.

CLASS, SCREENPLAY WRITING. Have a great story? Can't write it! We can teach you! Exciting, entertaining, fun, informative! Limited seats. For details, call SYDS, 760-591-7617.

COMEDY IMPROV WORKSHOP! Develop your comic/creative talents, spontaneity, expressive skills. Think on your feet! Beginning-advanced classes starting soon. Affordable and fun! 858-581-0050.

EXTRAS, ACTORS, MODELS. \$125-\$750/day. No experience required. All looks needed! \$2000+ in 2 weeks. Call now. For casting calls, 1-800-270-1807 x528 or x536. (AAN CAN)

HEADSHOTS BY PAUL SAVAGE: Award-winning photographer. Our mission is to provide you with affordable high-end photos. Visit our galleries. www.savages4hire.com or call 858-496-9629.

HEADSHOTS WITH MAKEUP, \$99. Three outfit changes, 36 or more photos all on CD. Zed cards available, 25 years experience. Member, BBB. 8"x10"/name, \$5 each. Call Kosmicki Photography, www.mgk-shooter.com; 619-583-2229.

MODEL WANTED, SWIMWEAR: Swim-suit, bikini and thong. Please call 703-371-8641.

MODEL. Male, 18-25 wanted for print work. Call Grant, 619-806-0235.

MODELING & TV COMMERCIALS. All ages for clothes ads, commercials and extras. No experience necessary. We are not a school. If you want straight talk, call 619-285-1495. 22 years in San Diego. www.ModelingandTV.com.

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.

MOVIE EXTRAS, ACTORS, models! Make \$100-\$300/day. No experience required. Full time, part time. All looks needed! 1-800-799-6215. (AAN CAN)

VOICEOVER WORKSHOP. Break into voiceover! Taught by voice actor/author James Alburger. Learn interpretation, character voices, microphone technique, more for radio/TV. www.voiceacting.com; 858-484-0220.

COUNSELING & SUPPORT GROUPS

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POST FREE ONLINE ADS with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. See thousands of classified ads not printed here!

ARE YOU MAD? Learn how to manage your anger constructively. Gain power, control, reduce conflict and improve your relationships. Classes begin soon. Mission Valley. Jay Schneider, LCSW. Lic-9573. www.manageangerdaily.com. 858-538-5587.

CLINICAL HYPNOTHERAPY. "What the mind can conceive, the body can achieve." All issues addressed. Free consultation. Patricia R. Parlin, Ed.D. CHT403-250. Call 619-442-3661 or 619-504-1935.

COUPLES WORKSHOP. Participants will learn how to sustain a committed relationship. Topics will include: Communication, Conflict Resolution, Intimacy. Friday 1/26 6-9pm, Saturday 1/27 9am-5pm. Sally LeBoy, MFT#14768. 619-685-5975.

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION. Relationship therapy: infidelity, sexual impulsivity, betrayal, guilt, resentment, anger, spousal conflict, relationship building, men's issues. Matt Burgan, MFT#41596. 858-735-4069.

FEELING STUCK? STRESSED? Experiencing crisis? Relationship issues? Career problems? Family conflicts? Grief? Sexual issues? Take back your power. Free consultation: 619-723-9244. Trish Deignan, LCSW21861.

FIND THE ULTIMATE Relationship. Are you tired of going from relationship to relationship and not finding happiness? Free consultations, individual coaching and seminars. www.sheilahenry.com. Sheila Henry, MFT-8408. 858-450-1965.

GAY/BISEXUAL MEN. Supportive individual therapy. Depression, anxiety, confusion, addictions, spiritual/religious issues. Married, closeted welcome. Discretion, confidentiality assured. Mel Karmen, PhD, MFC-12709. 619-296-9442.

HEALTHY ADULTS COURSE begins mid-January. Learn to heal childhood traumas from wounds of dysfunctional family. Includes Thought Field Therapy for eliminating anxieties and traumas. Free introductory session. Counseling for individuals, couples enrichment and family bonding sessions. Sharon Goodlove, TFT Diagnostician, and Glenn Goodlove, LCSW-1450. Goodlove Counseling Center, 858-569-8975. www.goodlove-online.com.

HOLIDAY BLUES? Depression, gay and lesbian issues, child and adolescent therapy are my specialties. Individuals, couples, families. Sliding fee. MFC-43174. Phaedra Scottaris, MFT. Call 619-972-0209.

MALE GROUP MEMBER NEEDED for mixed process/support group. Relationship difficulties, intimacy, self-esteem, childhood issues. Tuesday evenings, UTC area, fee. Susan Jorgensen, MFT-22281, 858-622-0632.

TIME FOR CHANGE? Affordable, effective solution-focused counseling services. Marriage, transitions, grief/loss, addictions, anger, confidence, stress, fear, spirituality, health, wellness. Brian Oltman, Psychotherapist, Lic-#1932. 619-804-2914. www.NDcounseling.net.

NOTICES

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ADDICTION PROBLEMS? Women for Sobriety is a non-12 step self-help program meeting Monday, Wednesday, Saturday. www.womenforsobriety.org or 858-549-3533.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS. Get group support at San Diego Area meetings. Adults who grew up in alcoholic, other types of dysfunctional households. Feel better about yourself. 619-276-6232. www.adulthoodren.org.

AL-ANON, Grupo paz mental. Sufré 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 REENCUENTRO. Hay problemas de alcoholismo en su familia? Sesiones Lunes y Jueves de 5:00-6:30pm, 3450 Bonita Road, #207, Bonita 91902.

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.

ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS. Tiene problemas con la bebida? Llamemos 24 horas. Oficina Central Hispana, 3628 University Avenue, San Diego, 92105. 619-280-7224.

ANXIOUS, depressed? Recovery Inc. has been holding self-help mental health meetings since 1937. Many suffer from nervous symptoms and fears. Voluntary offering. www.recovery-inc.org or 619-275-0364.

BHAGAVAD-GITA CLASSES: Monday through Thursday 7:15-9pm. Discourse and discussion, by a Vedic scholar. Hare Krishna temple, 1030 Grand Avenue, Pacific Beach 92109. 858-483-2500.

CANNABIS PATIENTS ACT. (Association Cannabis Therapeutics.) Nonprofit. Seeks registered nurses, LVN, RN, caregivers, to fearlessly join medicinal cannabis movement, Proposition 215, guidelines. Nurses, 800-419-4810, 619-528-0907.

DIVERSITY in the alternative press: The Academy for Alternative Journalism, established by papers like this one to promote diversity in the alternative press, seeks talented journalists and students (college seniors and up) for a paid summer writing program at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. The 8-week program (June 17-August 12, 2007) aims to recruit talented candidates from diverse backgrounds and train them in magazine-style feature writing. Ten participants will be chosen and paid \$3000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information and an appli-

cation visit: www.altjournalism.org. You may also e-mail us at altacademy@northwestern.edu. Applications must be postmarked by February 9, 2007. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator and employer. (AAN CAN)

DIVORCECARE MEETS SUNDAY, 9am weekly, Free seminar/support group for those broken-hearted, in/out divorce or live-in relationship. 4926 La Cuesta, Tier-rasanta #203. 619-461-4480.

DIVORCING/SEPARATING? Get guidance/support during your emotional adjustment. Group meets Friday, 6:30-8pm, in Allied Gardens off Waring Road. Divorce Anonymous, 619-442-1550.

EARN \$100 BEFORE YOU MOVE! If you are moving soon. Call us to schedule a home interview and environmental sampling. For just 2 hours you will earn \$100. SDSU Healthy Homes Study, 619-594-0501.

ENERGY FIELD TUNE-UP! Every Tuesday, 7pm-8:30pm, 2141 El Camino Real, Oceanside. Energy field cleansing and chakra balancing. Earth and Sky Church, 760-631-7900.

FREE BIBLE STUDY course by mail. Non-denominational. Increase your knowledge of God's word. Palomar Church of Christ, Minister Bill Sisco, Postage paid. PO Box 1473R, San Marcos 92078. 760-436-3730. San Diego. 619-299-6812.

FREE MEDITATION CLASSES: Tuesdays, 7pm; Wednesdays, 7:30pm; Saturdays, 11:30am. www.dharmacenter.com. 5059 Newport Avenue, Suite 303, Ocean Beach, CA 92107. 858-616-6308.

FREE PSYCHIC HEALING. Lecture Clinic. Free readings for new visitors. Mondays, 7:30pm, 1/1/07, 2/7/07, by Vessa's Clairvoyant Program students. 4455 Morena Boulevard, Suite #108. 858-509-7582.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE, stop crime and violence. Be a role model. Be a guardian angel! Free martial arts training. fwx619@yahoo.com. www.guardianangels.org. 619-964-8099.

MOVIE BUFFS, Interested in watching movies then discussing it afterwards, (like book club)? Ages 25 to mature welcome. Please call 619-850-6075 or 858-272-8727.

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.

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.

WRITERS WORKSHOP. Free. Every Monday, 10am-1pm. Joyce Beers Community Center. Hillcrest. Vermont Street, near University Avenue, 858-457-8477.

TRAVEL & GETAWAYS

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DISCOVER COSTA RICA Paradise! 40 lovely hotel/apartments. Great area to explore Costa Rica! From \$175 weekly, \$295 monthly. www.hotels.co.cr/scotland.html. Call 310-425-7333, 760-651-1101.

LUXURIOUS VACATION CONDO. Heart of the Village, 2 bedroom, 2 bath with ocean view. Fully furnished, Koa floors, limestone counters. Steps from La Jolla's finest shopping, restaurants, beach. 858-926-8123.

PERSONALS

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"M. PRESTON, EL CAJON, gray Echo driver with dark black tinted windows, male, 58 years. Baby you are the Sweet Thrill of My Life! Thank you: for the loving Illinois vacation; 35mph, black sledding runs, 2x per day as we laughed our guts out; your family's love; yummy duck, lamb; and Loving Each Other Up Full every day and every night but the most Sacred moment of all was when you put the diamond-studded platinum wedding band, along side my engagement ring, on my finger. You quietly asked me in the store "Laura will you marry me?" Excitedly, I said, "Yes." The same words said and felt for these 5-1/2+ years. You, Yeah, You." "You are So Perfect for Me." Dwelling in God's House to all ways living in light, love, and happiness together forever. This brown bunny of yours can't wait to bring you home! "Don't Stop!" "Don't Stop."

AMERICAN, DON'T BUY Land fill material, and you won't be down in the dumps. Session, cumulative. Herbs, my back broke from

MATCHES
WOMEN
SEEKING MEN

SEXY, CURVY, and fun to be with, pretty green-eyed brunette. Seeking 48-55 handsome, fit, fun, over-all great guy! Tall order but I'm worth it. (1/17) ☎70176

38-YEAR-OLD QUALITY lady, 5'4", slender, brunette/blue eyes and attractive. Seeking physically-fit gentleman, 36-48, for relationship. Must be established and presentable. (1/17) ☎70185

ASIAN, EXOTIC, SEXY, Nice legs/smile, curvaceous figure, 5'3", 115lbs, health-care professional, childless, homeowner. Desires fun, fit, nonsmoker, upscale, compatible, 36+ Asian/Caucasian stable gentleman. (1/10) ☎70172

QUEEN SEEKS KING, Loving woman searching for my best friend. Single parent, 2 boys, lives in Oceanside. Goal-minded and determined. 31, Blaxican, full-figured beauty. (1/17) ☎70178

MR. OLYMPIA WANTED, 57-67, is moral, enjoys life, has strong blue eyes, and is very very nice. Possible commitment, love. (1/17) ☎70182

MUST LOVE JAZZ. Attractive, Scottish redhead, 50s. Seeking tall, attractive,

black gentleman, 50-55, for dating, dining, movies, dancing, concerts, possible romance. Could this be you. (1/10) ☎70167

SINGLE MOM, 49, El Cajon. Looking for a forever partner. Could it be you? Check out singlmominsd in Reader Matches. Let's chat! (1/17) ☎70190

QUALITY WOMAN, Accomplished, retired professional, cultured, great body, lively, aware. Seeking financially/emotionally secure nonsmoking gentleman, aged 59-73 to explore life's possibilities. (1/10) ☎70166

51-YEAR-OLD FEMALE, white, 5'4-1/2", 140lbs., blue eyes, fair skin. Looking for white male, attractive, fun, honest, sin-

cere. I like dining, movies, dancing, more. (1/17) ☎70186

2007 SEIZE THE YEAR! 39, successful homeowner, nurse, voluptuous. Seeking average looking counterpart with Michael Lawdon personality for monogamous relationship. Travel, concerts, laughs, dinners, love. (1/17) ☎70188

ARTICULATE, ATTRACTIVE, Affluent, professional woman. Searching for an honest, educated, good-hearted professional man, 39 to 65, for possible relationship. (1/17) ☎70180

LETS MAKE 2007 OUR YEAR, Female 40s, sincere, romantic. Seeking Caucasian gentleman for a serious relationship, serious only need apply. (1/10) ☎70173

I NEED YOU for holidays. You, 47-60, work, car, time for me. Call me. I'm beautiful, 47, sexy, Latina Brazil, new in town, love beach. (1/10) ☎70168

2007, NEW YEAR, New adventures. 5'7", Caucasian, active, mature woman, good companion, loyal friend. To meet 70+ Caucasian, active, retired, nonsmoker man, for possible friendship. (1/17) ☎70183

STARTING A NEW YEAR, 53, 5'4", 140lbs: Travel, movies, walking on the beach, dancing in the kitchen. Looking for secure, honest, no games, Mr. Right. (1/10) ☎70170

SINCERE, ADVENTURESOME loving lady, 5'6", trim, no dependents. Enjoy outdoors. Seeking tall, white, healthy, 57-69, to blend our many nice qualities for lasting relationship. (858) (1/17) ☎70189

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, 59"+. (1/17) ☎70177

YOUNGER, HOT MALE That can keep up with me. Sexy, smooth, dark-brown skin, 5'6", 130lbs, 46. You attractive, 5'10"+, fit, clean-cut, nonsmoker, hair. (1/17) ☎70181

with similar qualities for friendship to long-term relationship. (1/17) ☎70191

CLASSY, PETITE SENIOR. Friendly. Likes dining out, movies, casinos. Not marriage-minded. Seeking reciprocal relationship with active, healthy, solvent man. Friends first. (1/10) ☎70169

EUROPEAN, 52. Looking for 52-60 Caucasian, educated, kind, honest gentleman who loves outdoors, god communicator, professional, sense of humor, caring, romantic Christian man. (1/10) ☎70175

SECOND CHANCE AT LOVE, Grace, beauty, intelligence, humorous, slender, long blonde hair, blue eyes. Seeks 48-61, single, unmarried man with intelligence, manners, good-looking, honest, funny. (1/17) ☎70179

LATIN, FUN, FIT, Professional, 50s, petite, cute, loving, caring. Love the outdoors, music, dancing. Seeking fun, honest, educated guy for lasting relationship. (1/10) ☎70174

Hottest Singles in
San Diego

Party for people over 30

Tuesday

94th Aero Squadron
8855 Balboa Avenue
Dance 7-11 pm
\$11 Admission

Saturday

Skies Lounge
Four Points Sheraton
Dance Party 8 pm-1 am
\$11 Admission
\$3 off before 9 pm

Hosted by Darlena Del Mar
Hotline: 858-259-6166
www.singlesinsandiego.com



Lucky 7 Match

SPEED DATING

Wednesday, January 10
Ages 28-38, 37-49 & 48-62

Thursday, January 25
Ages 24-34, 33-45 & 45-57

both at 30-TWO Downtown
Check-in 7 pm, event 7:30 pm
Advance registration required.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Singles & Sushi: Wed. 1/17
Rock 'n' Bowl: Sat. 1/20
Fondue Party: Tues. 1/23 & Tues. 1/30
Wine Tasting/Blending: Tues. 2/6

See website for details.
www.lucky7match.com
(619) 890-7117

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 _____

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
☐ Shared interests ☐ Man seeking a woman

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 _____

EMOTIONALLY AVAILABLE, Active, alert, young attitude, energetic, 5'8", 59, personable, communicative, non-traditional spirit, varied interests, linguist, teacher, author. Seeking female with similar attitude. (1/17) ☎ 70749

Chivalry Still Lives!

Educated, polite, chivalrous gentleman (6'2", 210, trim) searching for lady (40s-50s) to spoil with attention and care. Let's start something special. Wishing you well. (1/10) ☎ 70723

YOUNG 70s. Looking for that special woman, be sensitive, caring, optimistic and be looking for same sense of humor a must. (1/17) ☎ 70765

Fun, Traveled, Active

Spirited, 60, 5'8", 150, ready for fun, boatsman, travel, sports. Seeking nonsmoking, petite good-looker, under 52, no fat chicks, only healthy apply. (1/17) ☎ 70750

ALLERGIES? Good! Part-time worker? Even better! Let's walk low-tide beaches, visit Oriental buffets, sleep in, get out and live healthy. 55, 5'11", 160lbs. (1/17) ☎ 70758

63-YEAR-OLD WIDOW, Retired physician. Looking for Caucasian, attractive female; likes sports; plays golf, bridge, exercise; between 55 and 65, prefer Jewish. Coastal area. (1/17) ☎ 70753

FIT, ATTRACTIVE, And humorous Latino. I'm 40 and searching for a professional woman for a possible relationship. Let's start the new year with a bang! (1/17) ☎ 70761

SINGLE BLACK MALE. Handsome, fit, 48. Seeking female, race open. Me career, home, no drugs, nonsmoking. Seeking relationship built on foundation of mutual respect, honesty. (1/17) ☎ 70763

TALL, ATTRACTIVE, Loving, white male, 55. Seeks loving, affectionate female for dining, closeness, intimacy, sharing, loving times together. Let's have a happy, playful, sensual relationship. (1/17) ☎ 70757

50, POLICE OFFICER. Healthy Caucasian, gentleman's standards/morals, Fashion Valley. Seeking motivated lady, 44-53, to enjoy life's adventures and experiences, possible commitment. (1/17) ☎ 70747

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. (1/17) ☎ 70759

WHITE MALE, 50s, divorced, romantic man. Likes cuddling, walks on beach, dining out, movies. Spontaneous, easy-going, honest, very nice, affectionate, laughter, sense of humor. (1/17) ☎ 70760

WARM, WITTY, ATTRACTIVE GUY, 54. Seeking younger, sexy soulmate, for laughs and fun times. I'm 6', 175lbs, brown hair, hazel eyes, Caucasian, Libra. (1/10) ☎ 70731

Caucasian, 34, 5'10", Wants Asian Goddess

Good-looking, wealthy, adventurous, spontaneous, beachside homeowner, with a zeal for life, is ready for girl/woman of my dreams. You can be Asian, classy, petite, athletic, curvaceous, affectionate. (1/17) ☎ 70768

63, RETIRED, 6' tall. Looking for lady for fun, romance, walks, talks, grandkids, weekend trips, dining out, let's talk. (1/10) ☎ 70736

3 Ways to Respond to READER MATCHES ADS!

Call 1-900-844-6282

The cost is \$1.99 per minute. You must be at least 18 years old to call. Call and enter the number at the end of an ad to hear the advertiser's introduction and leave a message. The date in the ad is the last day to reply. The charge will appear on your phone bill as "Dating." Questions? 619-235-8200.

Use your credit card

No 900# access? Call anytime day or night to purchase a block of calling time and charge it to your Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express... for as little as \$1.25 per minute.

Call 1-800-360-9496 24 hours

No refunds. You may also purchase time at our office with cash or check only.

Send an e-mail

Matches ads are now on the Web. You may search them by specifying criteria such as age, ethnicity and nonsmoking. Respond to most ads by sending an anonymous e-mail for a nominal charge. You may also listen to intros online.

SanDiegoReader.com

From this page, click on "Matches."

TALL, ATTRACTIVE, blue eyes, 56, white male-fun, fit, romantic, financially stable. Seeking slender to average woman for quality time together. Is that you? (1/17) ☎ 70767

PRO JAZZ MUSICIAN, 6'1", 160lbs., 54, blue/red, shaved, swing dancer, road bicycle racer, nonsmoker/drinker/drugs, child-free. Seeking chemistry/connection! (1/10) ☎ 70734

LIFE'S GOOD, 6'2", brown-blue, athletic, educated professional. Enjoys surfing, sailing, travel, dining, conversation, music. Seeking special girl, slim, 35-45, similar interests. Friends first. (1/10) ☎ 70739

A HOLIDAY BEGINNING. Senior fellow likes trips, dancing, concerts, bridge. You are over 69 rather tall, full figured, enjoy many similar social activities. (1/10) ☎ 70744

LOVING RELATIONSHIP, Affectionate, positive, handsome, smart, loving, fun man. In search of young-at-heart, feisty, sexy, proportionate weight woman. (1/17) ☎ 70755

ASIAN LADY WANTED. I'm 5'11", 220lbs, 53 years old, mixed American Indian and black, never married, no children, nonsmoker, nondrinker. Looking for a nice lady. (1/17) ☎ 70764

FIRE IN YOUR EYES, Passion in disguise, screaming in the night, earthly paradise, taste my poison kiss, deep like an abyss, treasure so divine. Spells. (1/10) ☎ 70732

A KEEPER! Have your selection criteria disappointed? Try rational values! I offer sharp wit, superlative relationship skills, truly healthy lifestyle and snuggles. 53, 5'10", English. (1/10) ☎ 70738

NORTH COASTAL? Del Mar? Encinitas? Compassionate, loving, good-looking, growth-oriented, educated, holistic, fit guy. Seeks slim, similar type woman. I'm 5'10", 178lbs, 60. (1/10) ☎ 70745

TALL, HANDSOME, HEALTHY, Widower. Successful, retired, businessowner, homeowner, educated, well-groomed. Seeks attractive, affectionate, shapely lady, 50-67, few pounds extra OK. Dates, dining, companionship, romance, genuine! (1/10) ☎ 70737

70 YEARS, NICE GUY, Looking for nice lady, healthy, active. Like road trip, movies, walk, cruises. Retired, East County. (1/10) ☎ 70741

A SPORTS FAN, Asian lady for a date. I like football, soccer, boogie board, margaritas, Chargers, Padres, fishing, poker, theme parks, and anything fun. (1/17) ☎ 70766

YOUNG, 60-YEAR-OLD MAN Looking for nice and sweet woman in North County,

nonsmoker, with good sense of humor, who likes her life and herself. (1/17) ☎ 70748

SEEKING SMART, ASSERTIVE Woman with creative imagination. I'm 50, 5'10", decent looks, mellow, articulate. Like film, theater, comedy, art, outdoor activities. Age open, prefer unencumbered. (1/17) ☎ 70762

JEWISH MAN SEEKING WOMAN, 35-50, with similar interests such as lectures, walks, tennis, concerts, music, theater, and long term relationship can be in the future. (1/10) ☎ 70746

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EQUIPMENT /
INSTRUMENTS**

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APEX MUSIC SINCE 1952! Get the gear you need, at affordable prices. Sales, repairs and rentals. No one compares! 6210 El Cajon Boulevard. 619-583-1431, www.apex4me.com.

BASS AND CABINET, Fender Geddy Lee with DiMarzio pickups and J-Retro Preamp \$700 with case. Genz Benz 410T-XB2 \$500. Shure SM12A head-phone \$100. 858-457-4074.

DJ GEAR. Sales, installation, rentals and production services. Carwin Vega speakers-only \$300/each, Technics 1200-\$350/each. 619-216-4770. www.boogienightsinc.com. Check out our Ebay store-boogienightsinc.

DJ SYSTEM, Incredible sound. JBL speakers, SRX series. Peavey double 18" subs. Amps CA-9, CA-12. Roland double

equalizer. Tenon mixer DNX800. Aphex sound processor. Studio master crossover. Truss, stands, lights, \$6000/all. 760-715-3208.

DRUM SET, Gretsch Catalina Club Roll, 5-piece set with Gibraltar rack, \$1100. Ludwig Fab 4-piece set, \$1100. Just like new, stored. 619-766-4276.

DRUMMERS, We've been serving San Diego since 1989. For the absolute best deals on drum equipment, check out SanDiegoDrum.com or call 760-945-3935.

DW5000 DBL PEDAL LEFTY, \$200/DR202 Dr. Groove, \$125. Pedal mint condition. DR202 perfect, fully functional. 186 drum kits, 256 drum and bass sounds. 619-293-0245.

EFFECTS PEDALS-100s of different kinds in stock! Fulltone, Menatone, T-Rex, Maxon, Visual Sound, Barber, Xotic, Durham. Choose from many brands. www.SuperSoundMusic.com or call 760-739-9099.

ELRAYO GUITARWORKS. Joe Barden pickups are now on the wall. Demo these amazing pickups exclusively at elRayo. We stock Seymour Duncan, EMG, Lindy Fralin, DiMarzio, Rio Grande, TV Jones, Fender, Lace Sensor, Bartolini, Tom Anderson, Lawrence, Nordstrand, LR Baggs, Fishman, B Band, Shatten and more on the way. 3043 Adams Avenue. 619-280-1937, www.elrayoguitarworks.com.

GEAR. JBL P.A. Speakers (2), 15's and H. F. Horn in each, \$485. SKB 6 space Roto-Shock rack, \$135. SKB 4-space race, \$65. More! 619-466-6099.

GIBSON GUITAR SOURCE. Over 300 Gibson guitars in stock. Come and see why everyone's talking about Centre City Music, the only exclusive Gibson store in the USA. We guarantee better-than-big-store prices with small-store attention to service. We are now a proud dealer of Paul Reed Smith guitars. 1033 Sixth Avenue. 619-338-9033. www.cccitymusic.com.

GUITARS AND GEAR, PRS Custom 22 10-top, \$1799. 1980s Yamaha SBG-2000 Japan, \$529. ESP M-1 Custom Graffiti, \$874. Spider Bass, \$299. Marshall Valve-state 2000 amplifier, \$299. Orange 412 Cabinet, \$524. Crate 412 cabinet with ce-

lestions, \$249. B52 412 cabinet, \$412. Mesa Boogie 1x12, \$219. Crate Vintage Club 2x12 60 watt amplifier. At Moze Guitars, 619-698-1185.

MESA BOOGIE MARK IV, Widebody combo and matching 1x12" cab \$1100. Excellent condition, originally from San Marcos Guitar Centre. Cash only, will not split, 858-679-9885.

MIXER, Samson SD8, 8-channel stereo powered with 250-watt per channel and built-in digital effects, \$325. 619-397-3463.

PIANO, Technics digital, ebony finish, 455 sounds, 128 rhythms, 800 piano styles, 88 weighted keys, 64-note polyphony, excellent cone \$6400 new, now \$2500. 858-451-6944.

PIANO, Yamaha studio upright, model P22 professional series, no scratches, built in 1982, 45"Hx60"Wx24"D, solid spruce, excellent shape, walnut tone, plays really well, \$2700. 760-597-1884.

PIANOS WANTED! All pianos! Cash paid. Also, quality furniture and antiques. 1 piece or houseful. Bonded. Licensed. Since 1965. Same day pickup. 1-800-840-4447. www.southcoastauction.net.

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Didn't get what you wanted for the holidays? All the best guitars at holiday prices.

New Taylor Fall Limiteds now in stock!

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- Renaissance & Turner
- Taylor and Santa Cruz
- Fluke, Flea & Hawaiian Ukuleles
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8430 PRODUCTION AVE

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MON - FRI 10 AM - 6 PM / SAT 11 AM - 4 PM / CLOSED SUN

Across

- 1. "Knight Rider" car model
- 8. Elevs.
- 11. Theorem prover's sign-off
- 14. Popular pistol
- 15. ____ Lingus
- 16. Pujols production
- 17. How a Greek person might define "sigma" to an English speaker?
- 19. Counselors' org.
- 20. Hand holder?
- 21. "Put ____ writing"
- 22. What a broke soldier looks forward to?
- 26. Singles bar icebreaker
- 27. Sign in red
- 28. Fireplace fill
- 29. Something a piggy bank holds?
- 37. ____ Wednesday
- 38. Colorful cats
- 39. POTUS after FDR
- 42. What a diehard NFL fan may experience if the Super Bowl goes into overtime?
- 44. "Return of the ____"
- 47. French accords?
- 48. Send out
- 49. What an expectant mother hopes for?
- 55. Candle blower's secret
- 56. Stamp, as a document
- 57. Green card issuer: Abbr.
- 58. Ceaselessly (or an apt title for this puzzle)
- 63. "Comprende?"
- 64. Bolivia president Morales
- 65. Supplemental material
- 66. "____ Pinafore"
- 67. Ump
- 68. Son of Polonius, in "Hamlet"

Down

- 1. Cable Superstation
- 2. Rock's ____ Speedwagon
- 3. Kennel cry
- 4. Liberal leader?
- 5. Baffle
- 6. Skylit lobbies
- 7. Like beer
- 8. "Don't ____ cow, man!"
- 9. Itty-bitty
- 10. Univ. applicants, usually
- 11. Corporate asset replacement calculation
- 12. Falling back
- 13. Sawyer and Keaton
- 18. "____ be my pleasure!"
- 21. Maladies
- 22. Olympics coach Karolyi
- 23. What the Earth turns on

- 24. [Oh, well]
- 25. Biblical verb ending
- 30. Fort Worth sch.
- 31. ____ Andreas Fault
- 32. Munic. legislator
- 33. By way of
- 34. Like winter sidewalks
- 35. Turndowns
- 36. Clock std.
- 39. Happy ____
- 40. "SNL" offering
- 41. Radio host John
- 42. "Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the ____"
- 43. Versailles ruler
- 44. William Shatner or Leonard Nimoy
- 45. "8 Mile" rapper
- 46. Puts down on the street
- 49. Throw with force
- 50. "Don't give me ____ your lip!"
- 51. Fraternity letter
- 52. Kind of colony or code
- 53. Seinfeld's "etc."
- 54. Grass unit
- 58. German "the"
- 59. "Quit ____ joshin'!"
- 60. Que. neighbor
- 61. Quiet ending?
- 62. 101 instructors, perhaps

RULES OF THE GAME

- 1. The prize for solving the Reader Puzzle will be a Reader T-shirt.
- 2. All entries in the Reader Puzzle contest must be received by the Reader by 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, five days following the issue date (Fax to 619-231-0489 or U.S. Mail to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803).
- 3. All entries must be accompanied by your name and address.
- 4. Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.
- 5. In the event of disputes or ties, decisions of the judges will be final and arbitrary. We've only got five prizes each week to give away, so if there are more than five winners, we'll have a lottery.
- 6. All answers must be entered in the space allowed on the puzzle page. And please, no phone calls or trips to our office.
- 7. One entry per person.

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Solution to and winners of the Reader Puzzle for 12/28/06.

There were 86 entrants. The winners are:

- 1. David Fair, San Diego
- 2. Phuong Do, San Diego
- 3. Amanda Perez, Point Loma
- 4. Marie Woodward, La Jolla
- 5. Jacob Kelly, Lakeside

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SINGERS WANTED, Masterwork chorale Bach B minor concert on 5/20/07. Rehearsals Tuesdays, 7:30pm at First Methodist Church beginning January 9. No auditions. 619-297-4366 x135, swicks@funcsd.org.

VIOLIN, beautiful, full tone, 1930s made, includes carrying case, bow, rosin. Everything needed for beginner or expert. Paid

\$600+, hardly used, selling \$197/best. 760-727-2343.

VOCALIST NEEDED. Latin rock band seeks frontman with good vocal range, stage presence, professional image. Think Santana with killer rhythm section. Bilingual abilities. xolmani@yahoo.com; 619-710-5777.

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CLAIREMONT, Furnished 2 bedroom 2 bath duplex, quiet condo. Parking, pool, patio, laundry in complex. \$600/month, \$500/deposit, 1/2 utilities, 3 month commitment, davesheline@yahoo.com, 858-675-8556.

CLAIREMONT. \$565. Cozy 3 bedroom, 2 bath remodeled house. Fireplace, patio, dishwasher, washer/dryer. Shared utilities. Deposit. Quiet, very convenient neighborhood. No smoking/pets. 858-279-2869.

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COLLEGE AREA. \$600. Large master bedroom with private bathroom available in nice home. Shared utilities. \$600 deposit, \$20 credit check required. Call Jimmy Loucks, 619-252-2435.

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DOWNTOWN. \$600-\$700, \$250 deposit, furnished Victorian garden apartment. Includes: utilities, phone, digital cable with movies/radio, broadband, wireless, housekeeping, laundry. Review: www.newportplace.com. Interested? Send e-mail.

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LA JOLLA/DOWNTOWN. \$950+. Share beautiful townhome. Sunny room, furniture (optional), private bath, balcony. Ocean views, maid, roof deck, garage, pooches. Nonsmoker/drugs. Deposit. 858-456-2822.

LA JOLLA/UTC. \$575 plus utilities. Room in large 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath canyon view home. Fireplace, patio. Teak bed, desk, shelf, chest drawers. 858-558-0705.

LA MESA, \$535. Furnished bedroom, overlooking pool. Available now! Rent includes utilities. Pool/jacuzzi. Kitchen privileges. Laundry on-site. Deposit. Excellent location. Nonsmoker. Male preferred. 619-469-3468.

LA MESA. \$600. Large room, 15x17, nice home, big screen TV, pool/spa, Internet. Private entrance. Available immediately. Dan, 858-882-7856.

LA MESA. \$375. Tiny room with own private entrance in beautiful shared quiet house, washer/dryer, month to month. Linda, 949-701-3200.

LEMON GROVE, Rooms for rent. Not far from SDSU, 619-288-4808.

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.

LINDA VISTA. \$480. Three bedroom home, ocean view, central, tropical yard, quiet, new carpet/marble, laundry. \$300/deposit. No smoking/pets. Male preferred. Bill, 858-518-1517.

LINDA VISTA. \$625, 1/2 utilities. Share dual master suite condo. Get your own bedroom, own bath, and carport with storage. Washer/dryer in unit. 858-692-6529.

LITTLE ITALY. Room in new condo. \$850/month, \$250 deposit. Furnished, balcony, dishwasher, washer/dryer in unit. Internet waves, cable TV, pool, gym, kitchen, 5 minutes from downtown. Walk to India Street. Near I-5 freeway. No smoking/pets. E-mail livesd@hotmail.com.

MIRA MESA. \$750, 1/3 utilities, plus deposit. Pet friendly rental in nice large house with yard, garage. Nice room in 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath. 619-981-7750.

MIRA MESA/MIRAMAR COLLEGE. \$565 including utilities. Large room, quiet home Furniture available. Cable, private phone-line. Jacuzzi, pool. Male. No smoking/pets. Near buses. 858-359-0590.

MISSION VALLEY, Room in 2 bedroom condo in Mission Plaza complex. No drugs, no pets. \$550 plus deposit. Includes utilities. Juan, 619-283-3989 or juanflir@yahoo.com.

MISSION VALLEY. \$495. Share large quiet townhome with 2 nonsmoking males. Washer/dryer on premises, bus/trolley nearby. Pool/spa. Available now. Rich, 619-501-5044.

MISSION VALLEY, EAST. \$575, utilities, \$500 deposit. Nonsmoking female to share condo with female and cat. Own bathroom. Parking, pool, convenient. Available immediately. 619-823-8488 or 619-583-1329.

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NATIONAL CITY. Rooms for rent. 2 bedrooms available, share bathroom. Near bus line, I-805, 54, I-5. Laundry facilities, utilities,

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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.

OCEANSIDE, Room for rent \$650/month \$300/deposit. 8 blocks from beach. No pets. Available January 1, 760-271-5493.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$795. One bedroom with bath in 3 bedroom, 3 bath townhouse. Washer/dryer, private backyard, fireplace. Female only please. Amy, aj7171@hotmail.com. Erika, ejosephson@hotmail.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$880. Share 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment on Sail Bay. Huge deck, pool. Underground parking, gated building, cable, laundry. Mark, 858-273-4283.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$750. Own room and bathroom. Pool, tennis courts, Jacuzzi, laundry on-site. Close to Crown Point. Available immediately. Smoke outside. 858-243-1619.

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.

RANCHO BERNARDO. \$700/month. New house. Share bathroom with 1 person but separate sink. Includes utilities, washer/dryer, cable, DSL. No smoking/pets. Male preferred. 858-436-4101.

RANCHO PENASQUITOS, \$425 includes utilities. Clean room in large clean house. Share double sink bath. No smoking no pets. Female only. 858-538-7820.

SAN CARLOS, GROSSMONT. 2 bedroom condo. Nice, large sunny room, mirrored closets. Parking. No smoking/drugs, female only. Quiet. \$575 includes utilities. Has cat. 619-698-7350.

SANTEE. \$500 each room. 3 bedrooms in 4 bedroom, 2 bath house. 2-car garage, pool. Cat OK. Small deposit. Easy access to freeway. 619-992-5191.

SANTEE. 1 bedroom own bath, in 3 bedroom nice home, quiet, great neighborhood home. Female only. \$475 plus utilities + deposit. No smoking, drugs, pets. 619-517-9258.

SERRA MESA, 1 room in 3 bedroom 2 bath house. Have one dog, cat, snake, no more please. \$660 + 1/3 utilities, \$660/deposit required. 760-815-4883.

SERRA MESA/MISSION VALLEY. \$500 plus utilities. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house, 2 living rooms, garage, 2 patios, laundry, fireplace. No pets. Available now. 858-277-4555.

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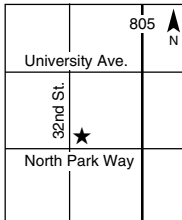
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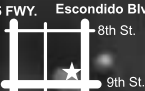
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NAME This Place



Last week's place: (clue: "First tree in California" died here) Memorial plaque at Taylor Street and Presidio Drive near Old Town recalls the "Serra Palm," the "earliest [European] planted tree in California," placed here in 1769 by Father Junipero Serra. Nearly 200 years later (in 1957), the dying palm was cut down and replaced by two similar date palms that now stand over the plaque. (Last week's winners: Thomas Jeffers, Karen McBride, Ima Lilly, Aura Powell, Oran Kennedy)

Q: Flight home?

Describe this location, name the nearest cross-streets, and win a *Reader T-shirt*. E-mail to NameThisPlace@SanDiegoReader.com; fax to 619-231-0489; or mail to *Reader*, Name This Place, Box 85803, San Diego 92186 — include your name and address. (Deadline, Tuesday, 9 a.m. In case of ties, lottery will determine top five winners.)



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.

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CLAIREMONT GARAGE. Single car garage for dry storage only. Has alley access, no electric. Available now. \$150/month, \$150/security deposit. Call 858-278-2562.

HILLCREST OFFICE for professional, commercial or massage use. Beautiful Hillcrest building, 4015 Park Boulevard. Great value, best rates in town. \$350/week. Larry, 619-889-4389, e-mail AAmerican@gmail.com.

SHERMAN HEIGHTS/DOWNTOWN. Storage shed/unit, 10x12. \$45/month. New, clean, secure. Dry storage only. Year lease. 2450 K Street. www.innoreventerprises.com. 619-233-5663.

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NORTH PARK OFFICE SPACE available from 315-1130 square feet at only \$1 per square foot. 3930 Oregon Street. www.utopiamanagement.com. 619-291-5555.

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PACIFIC BEACH. Thomas Avenue. 2 bedroom house, wood floors. 1-1/2 blocks to beach. Washer/dryer, water, trash included. January move-in. Pets OK. \$1895. 858-761-2317.

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Jeff Brown

Salesman

El Cajon

It does not scare me or influence me. I ignore it. It's way left of reality. By and large, mass media is way, way out of reality left. They are so far out of touch. The media can be so biased in just the verbiage they use. They slant everything as much as possible to reach their conclusions and feed the masses.



Antonio Sebastian

Florist

San Diego

No, the media doesn't influence people. You hear so much about things like terrorists, you just get used to it. I think movies influence people. And music does. Maybe television shows, too. There are things like that, but not the media so much. The media is more associated with news, and news isn't influencing people like entertainment. Yes, it can scare people. Especially all the violent things you see on the news. If someone only watched the news, they might think the world is a lot more violent than it really was. Someone might be afraid to even leave their own house.



Steve Levi

Real Estate broker

Spring Valley

You know what...no, it doesn't. Honestly, I'm one of those rare guys that will watch CNN and Fox News. I see the bias and see what's not. I'm a Chicago native. I've climbed my way through a lot of things and I'm fortunate. Listen...America is the greatest country in the world. I study history and I watch it. And the bottom line is, the truth comes out, no matter what the media does. They play games with the truth and with lies. I've been around the world seven times. I've been educated from all sides.



Anand Vadakkadh

Aviation employee

University Towne Centre

No, I can totally see that it is driven by business. It has to answer to readership and viewers. It's an issue. All the stuff that doesn't portray what the real point is. I look at that. I don't read the papers. I will look at the *New York Times* or the *L.A. Times*; those are good papers. I get my news from the BBC, too. Sometimes they might be liberal, and I can see that. I grew up in India, where the media is powerless. They try to mimic the BBC and the U.S. That's why the U.S. should set an example and a standard.



Bill Hernandez

Technical support

Serra Mesa

You have to see past what you read. You have to realize the media will tell you only what they want you to hear. For instance, when we went to war...why didn't anyone question why we were going there? And when we did, we were told we weren't patriotic. The media was afraid to ask the tough questions, and so nobody had the balls to ask that. The media wagon that Bush had made the story change every week. To me, the media is nothing more than a puppet. You have to get your news from somewhere, but I'd rather go to the *New York Times* or *L.A. Times* for world news. I read four or five papers every day, even if that's online.



Kimberly Ford

Theater student

Mira Mesa

Because of all the focus it gets, I take it off the media. I don't like them telling society how to act, what to do. And it influences so strongly. I've excluded myself from that. It seems to influence people in so many ways, whether it's inner turmoil and competing with money issues or political issues, style...everything. We already have ourselves that we have to live up to, let alone society. We battle inner demons in what is right and wrong and choices we make. It's getting ridiculous.

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CITY HEIGHTS. \$700. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1-car garage. No pets. 4193 Wynona. Agent 619-741-4378.

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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. 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.

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CLAIREMONT. Cozy 1 bedroom furnished apartment. All utilities, digital TV cable and high-speed Internet included. Parking, quiet and safe. \$845/month. 858-279-4487.

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LA JOLLA/UTC. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhouse. Remodeled throughout. New appliances. Tile floors. Double garage. Patio. Community pool. \$2390. 8267 Caminito Modena, La Jolla 92037. Available 1/15/07. 858-405-6234.

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LA MESA. \$1350. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Fireplace, balcony, washer/dryer in unit. Parking. A must see! Available 1/25/07. 4847 Parks Avenue #2. 619-295-1100. www.cethron.com.

LA MESA. Move in special, \$250/off first month. Townhomes, (2), \$985/\$995. 2 bedroom 1 bath, patio, laundry, parking, remodeled kitchen/bath, yard. No pets, 619-954-5286.

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LA MESA. \$725. studio, \$975, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Parking. Laundry on site. Cat OK. Move-in special. 5027 Guava. Viewing by appointment only. call 858-490-1600, Kandroproperties.com.

LA MESA. \$975. Move-in special. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath triplex. Laundry hook-ups. Patio. Cul-de-sac. Parking. No pets. Agent, 619-298-7724.

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LA MESA. \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, balcony; \$1095, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, upper, balcony; \$1150, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, downstairs, yard. 619-697-3285. For photo, floor plans, map and directions, see website: www.sdreader.com/rent/ 1035.

LA MESA. \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartments. Clean. Close to trolley and Grossmont Center. Laundry. Assigned parking. Cat OK. Section 8 OK. 619-469-3735. www.floot.com.

LA MESA. \$1250. 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Garage, pool, laundry, fireplace, patio. 5530 Jackson Drive #11. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

LA MESA. \$1050. 1 bedroom apartment, large, fantastic view in historic house in the Village, patio, all utilities paid. 8085 Pasadena Avenue #3. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

LA MESA. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$925/month. Move-in special! \$200 off 1st month. Pool and saunas. Off-street parking. On-site laundry facilities. Close to downtown La Mesa, trolley, shops, freeways. Cats welcome upon approval. Available now. Crestview Apartments, 4515 3rd Street. Call on-site Manager, 619-469-5010 or Bob Cota Realty, 619-465-9934.

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(Plus \$8.25 for certificate and \$2.50 communication fee. Most cars.) No appt. necessary.

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LA MESA. 2 bedrooms, \$995/up. Available now! Great location. Spacious. Air conditioning. Gated complex. Laundry. Tenant parking. No pets. Lease. 619-303-4969.

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LA MESA/CASA DE ORO. 3 bedroom, 2 baths, from \$1325! 2 bedrooms from \$1075! 1 bedrooms from \$895. Elegant, sculptured courtyards with flower gardens, fountains, gas lamps, park benches. Charming, New Orleans ambiance. Huge patios/balconies. Gated access and gated parking. Small pet OK. 3903 Conrad Drive. Call 866-894-6343. www.sdreader.com/rent/1017.

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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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MISSION BEACH. \$1350 rent. \$1450 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 800 square feet. 1 parking space. Available now. 740 Jamaica. Bill Luther Realty, 858-488-1580.

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MISSION BEACH. North. \$2200. \$2300 deposit. 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.

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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. Move-in special! \$750. Studio. Hardwood floors. Murphy bed. Intercom entry. Some utilities included. No pets. 630 West Washington. Agent. 619-298-7724.

MISSION HILLS. \$1200/up. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, Laundry, Parking. Pets OK. La Paloma Apartments. Open daily, 1-5pm. 3911 Dove. 619-297-1134.

MISSION HILLS. 2 bedroom downstairs condo. Bay views from bedroom/office. Large kitchen/living room/office. Fireplace. Hardwood floors. Ceiling fans. Nice backyard. Washer/dryer. Cat OK. Street parking. \$1695 includes water. Available 1/10/07. Jose. 619-846-4055.

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MISSION VALLEY. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 parking spaces. Amenities include pool, hot tub, clubhouse, tennis courts. Available 1/15. \$1395 plus security deposit. 619-540-7477.

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.

MISSION VALLEY. Gorgeous 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Amenities. Gated. Pool, spa, exercise. Balcony. Washer/dryer. Granite counters. Custom paint. Great central location! \$1650. 619-823-7002.

MISSION VALLEY. Move-in special: One month free! From \$1495! Brand new 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms and 3 bedrooms. Washer/dryer. Vaulted ceiling. Gated parking garage. Elevator. Theater. Fitness center. Steps to trolley, restaurants and shops! The Village at Morena Vista, 5395 Napa Street. Toll free: 888-602-4170. www.sdreader.com/rent/2153.

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_pacificiliving@crossfiremail.com. www.pacificiliving.com.

MISSION VALLEY. \$860. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs condo with balcony. Complex has 2 pools, tennis courts, clubhouse. Available 1/19. 5958 Rancho Mission Road. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

MISSION VALLEY/FRIAR'S POINT. \$997. Quiet, upstairs 1 bedroom condo with walk in closet, large bath. Air conditioning. Pet. Covered parking. Appliances. Jeff, 858-354-1852.

MISSION VALLEY/OLD TOWN. Large, quiet 1 bedroom, \$990. Near freeways, USD. Close to Hillcrest. Pool, spa, tennis. Laundry. Extended cable TV. Gas included. 619-823-6144.

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. \$965. 1 bedroom Mission Plaza condo. Top floor. Parking, pools/jacuzzi, tennis, gym, barbecue. Block/24 Hour Fitness/trolley. Nonsmoking/pets. Deposit. 619-282-5105.

MISSION VALLEY, EAST. \$850. Private, attached 1 bedroom apartment. Private entrance. Sunset views. Nonsmoking/pets. Vaulted ceilings, fireplace, near Kaiser, quiet neighborhood. Available now. 619-280-7752.

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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.

NATIONAL CITY. 2 bedroom, 1 and 2 baths, \$1050/up. Spacious. Balcony. Washer/dryer hookups. Lease. Gated. No pets. Parking/garages. 619-336-0436.

NATIONAL CITY. Move-in specials! 1 month free rent! Newly remodeled community. 2 bedroom townhomes. \$1200. Pool. Gated courtyard. Laundry facilities. New carpet, appliances, kitchen cabinets/counters. Available now. 900 Manchester View Drive. 619-881-7645. annette@cesnconstruction.com.

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.

NATIONAL CITY. \$580. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry, gated and parking on site. 619-262-4188.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$725. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet/paint. Quiet street. On-site laundry. Large closets! Near freeways, shopping. Fenced complex. Great condition! 4422 Boundary Street. 619-542-2437.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. New 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, first floor, 2 parking, 2 balconies, upgraded appliances. Gated community. Casa Bonita, Adams and Ohio. \$1650. 619-296-8555.

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. \$925. 1 bedroom. Remodeled unit. New carpeting. Tile, ceiling fans. Off street parking. Laundry facilities. Near bus line. Cat OK. Nonsmoking. 619-284-2092. www.flotit.com.

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. \$695. 1 bedroom, 1 bath with parking. No pets. Close to Adams. Available now. 4575 Idaho Street, #9. www.cethron.com, 619-295-1100.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$685. Spacious studio. Upstairs corner unit. Air conditioning. Full separate kitchen. Parking. Laundry. 4527 39th Street #10. Xlarent.com, 619-683-7638.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$795 rent. \$600 deposit, OAC. Lower 1 bedroom. Laundry

room. Parking spot. No pets. At 4742 East Mountain View Drive #3. Agent, 619-299-8515.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$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. \$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. \$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/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. \$800, \$700 deposit, \$700 1st month. 1 bedroom. New paint, tiles, carpet. Gated, laundry on-site. 4653 32nd Street. 619-315-5938.

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. \$775. Deposit \$700. 1 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs apartment. Garage. No pets. Available now. 4365 33rd Street. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

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. \$725. 1 bedroom. Downstairs. Gated 7 unit complex. Walk-in closet. Dining area. Tiled kitchen and bath. Off-street parking. Cat OK. 6 month lease. Agent, 619-234-9553. www.goldenhillpm.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1195. Beautiful 1 bedroom condo north of Adams. Stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, new carpet. Located near shops, restaurants, Normal Heights sign. 619-252-8268.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$800. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, upstairs. Refurbished. Laundry facilities, off-street parking. No pets. North of El Cajon Boulevard. 4356 McClintock. Chris, 619-698-0945.

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P185/60/R14

P175/65/R14

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P195/60/R14

P195/75/R14

P195/70/R14

P195/60/R15

P195/65/R15

4 Tires \$280

P205/65/R15

P205/60/R16

P215/60/R16

P225/60/R16

P235/60/R16

Christmas Mania (continued)

Latest Religious Messages

Fine Points of the Law

The Problem with Kids Is Their Parents

Least Competent Criminals

Recurring Themes

Country Livin' Is the Life for Me!

Cultural Diversity

San Diego Reader January 4, 2007 **161**

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- Change oil filter
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- Check suspension
- Top off fluids

- Clean battery terminals
- Check radiator, radiator cap & all hoses
- Check tire balance
- Inspect fuel filter
- Check differential fluid
- Check manual transmission fluid
- Check & tighten all belts
- Rotate four tires
- Check tire balance
- Adjust tire air pressure

Most cars and light trucks. We also honor extended warranties. We follow manufacturer's service schedule on inspection, adjustments, and replacement parts. Timing belt extra. Removal of plenium, injectors, etc. extra if necessary. Platinum plugs additional.

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NORTH PARK. \$775 rent, \$600 deposit, OAC. Lower, 1 bedroom, laundry, reserved parking spot. No pets. 4178 Kansas Street, #6. Agent, 619-299-8515.

NORTH PARK. \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs apartment in gated complex. Parking and laundry. No pets. 4054 Florida Street #6. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

NORTH PARK. \$1100, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 1000 square feet. \$900, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, attached garage. Newly remodeled. No pets. 4651 30th Street. Available for viewing. www.kanddproperties.com. Call 858-490-1600.

NORTH PARK/MORLEY FIELD. \$1025, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Laundry. Parking for 2. Gated entry. No pets. 3711 Arnold. Agent, 619-298-7724.

NORTH PARK. \$825. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs, microwave. Laundry on-site. New paint. No pets. Available now. 4344 Ohio Street #7. 858-483-5111 x10. www.melroyproperties.com.

NORTH PARK/HILLCREST. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, condo quality, microwave, laundry on site, dishwasher. No pets. Assigned parking. Close to Naval Hospital. Available now. 4078 Louisiana Street #2. \$1150. 858-483-5111 x10. www.melroyproperties.com.

NORTH PARK. \$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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NORTH PARK. \$1150. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, upstairs corner. Vaulted ceilings. Fireplace. Dining area. Tiled kitchen, bath. Balcony. Detached garage. Cats OK. www.goldenhillpm.com. Agent, 619-234-9553.

NORTH PARK. \$1095. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Great views! Historic building. Private entrance. Decorative fireplace. Modern kitchen. Hardwood floors. Patio. Off-street parking. No pets. 1 year lease. www.goldenhillpm.com. Agent, 619-234-9553.

NORTH PARK. 2 upstairs units: Small 1 bedroom, \$735; Large 1 bedroom, \$825. 1 downstairs unit: 2 bedroom, \$1025. Laundry onsite, no dogs. 619-339-4311.

NORTH PARK. \$845 rent. \$945 deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 600 square feet. Garage. Available now. 4514-1/2 Idaho. Bill Luther Realty, 858-488-1580.

NORTH PARK. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo with 1-car garage, washer/dryer inside condo, refrigerator, dishwasher and stove, back patio, renovated. Available for move-in 11/25, can show 9am-5pm Monday-Saturday. 3745 Swift Avenue #2. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400, www.peoplehelpingothers.com.

NORTH PARK. \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Laundry on-site. Assigned parking. Courtyard. Quiet. Gated. No pets. Available now. Manager on-site. 619-563-9727.

NORTH PARK, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, downstairs. New paint, good storage, off-street parking. 3662 32nd Street, #2. \$895/month. 619-683-9274.

NORTH PARK/CITY HEIGHTS. \$950. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Gated. Parking. Laundry. New carpet and paint. Available now. 4380 Van Dyke. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

NORTH PARK. \$800-\$975. Downstairs 1 and 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry. New carpet, paint. Garage. No pets. 4371 Swift Avenue #1 and #2. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

NORTH PARK. Five 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. \$895. Spacious 1 bedroom. New carpet and vinyl. Great view. Remodeled kitchen. Cat welcome. Gated community. Great location. Call 619-200-8205.

NORTH PARK. \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. New carpet. Laundry. Park-

ing. No pets. Available now. 4424 Mississippi Street #12. 619-220-4909 or 619-718-6565 x27.

NORTH PARK. \$1695. Deluxe 3 bedroom, 2 bath upstairs on one level. Modern condo-quality small building. Private garage plus parking. All amenities including fireplace, air conditioning, microwave, dishwasher, balcony. Coin laundry. Gated. Squeaky clean! No pets/smoking. 4158 Utah. 858-454-2024.

NORTH PARK. \$875. 1 bedroom. North of Morley Field. Downstairs in gated 8 unit complex. Fireplace. Dining area. Attached garage. Cat OK. Agent, 619-234-9553. www.goldenhillpm.com.

NORTH PARK/CITY HEIGHTS. Large, quiet, clean 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$750, and 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$850. Gated complex, laundry, reserved parking. No pets. 619-276-5520.

NORTH PARK/UNIVERSITY Heights. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New paint, hardwood floors. Off-street parking, laundry. Lower unit. Common area barbecue. Storage available. Terry, 619-778-2830.

NORTH PARK. \$200 off first month's rent! 1 bedroom, \$785. Small complex, gated, laundry, parking. No pets. 4128 Wabash Avenue. 619-281-0579. www.melroyproperties.com.

NORTH PARK/HILLCREST. \$200 off first month! 1 bedroom, \$825. Gated, dishwasher, laundry facilities, parking. No pets. Close to Naval Hospital, shops, freeways. 3722 Alabama Street. 619-299-1699. www.melroyproperties.com.

NORTH PARK. \$825. Bright 1 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet/paint, large walk-in closet, refrigerator, gas stove, coin laundry, parking. No pets. 858-361-3374.

NORTH PARK. \$750. Large, 1 bedroom 1 bath apartment in quiet complex. Refrigerator, stove, parking. www.utiapanagement.com. 858-598-1111.

NORTH PARK. \$885. Nice 2 bedroom 1 bath duplex. New carpet and paint. 3461 Thorn Street. Available now. www.utiapanagement.com. 619-291-5555 x193.

NORTH PARK. \$1095. Large 2 bedroom 2 bath. Ground floor. New paint/flooring. Off street parking, laundry, ceiling fan. Near library, shops and restaurants. 619-252-4742.

NORTH PARK, \$1175/month. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Fireplace, patio balcony with sunset view, underground gated parking, dishwasher, storage space. Cat OK with deposit. 619-795-7065.

NORTH PARK. \$950. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large rooms and closets. New carpet/paint. Small gated complex with laundry room. No pets/smoking. 4341 Idaho Street. By appointment only, 858-571-1181.

NORTH PARK. \$775 rent. \$700 deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upper unit, stove, refrig-

erator, new vinyl, fireplace, air conditioning. On-site laundry. 1/2 off first month's rent. 3805 Boundary #1. 619-723-0367.

NORTH PARK. \$1150 rent. \$1000 deposit. 1/2 off 1st month's rent. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, upper unit with stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, fireplace, air conditioning, balcony, gated, elevator, underground parking. On-site laundry. Cats OK. 3928 Illinois Street #206. 619-843-0796.

NORTH PARK. \$895 rent, \$895 deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upper unit in charming gated complex. Balcony, all appliances, air conditioning, on-site laundry, underground parking, elevator. Cats OK. 3928 Illinois Street #205. 619-843-0796.

NORTH PARK. \$825 rent, 4700 deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Lower unit in charming complex. New paint/flooring, stove, refrigerator, on-site laundry, off street parking. Near all. 3337 Herman Avenue #4. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. \$950 rent, \$895 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Gated upper unit in charming complex with new carpet/paint, balcony, stove, refrigerator, on-site laundry, off-street parking. Near park. Small pets OK. 4036 Oregon Street #20. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK, \$750. \$500 deposit. 1 bedroom apartment, 3940 Idaho. Gated. Close to all. Laundry on site. Near bus line, restaurants, shops. 619-298-8383.

NORTH PARK. \$775 rent. \$700 deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upper unit, garage, stove, refrigerator, fireplace, air conditioning. On-site laundry, off-street parking. 1/2 off first month's rent. 3805 Boundary #1. 619-723-0367.

NORTH PARK. \$1150 rent. \$1000 deposit. 1/2 off 1st month's rent. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, large upper unit with stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, fireplace, air conditioning, balcony, gated, elevator, underground parking. On-site laundry. 3928 Illinois Street #206. 619-843-0796.

NORTH PARK. Move-in special! \$1100, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Beautiful, spacious Ceramic tile. Berber carpet. Gated community. On-site laundry and parking. No smoking and no pets. 3967 Illinois Street. Call 858-751-6336. sunriseliving.com.

NORTH PARK. \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Large unit. Fireplace. Ceiling fans. Large kitchen. New paint. 1 parking, garage spot. Coin laundry. Nice courtyard setting. Call 858-571-1970 or e-mail Alfredo at avaquera@sunrisemgmt.com. sunriseliving.com.

NORTH PARK. \$995, \$30 credit check. 1 bedroom. Recently renovated, gated access, plush carpet, new paint, appliances, washer/dryer, fireplace, garage. Conveniently located. Suzanne, 858-684-3620.

NORTH PARK. \$1350. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath remodeled unit. Hardwood floors, stainless steel appliances, wood floors throughout. Pool. Gated community. 619-756-7645.

NORTH PARK. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, quiet courtyard apartments, \$975. 4031 Alabama or 4130 35th. 2-car garage,

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and up

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TRANSMISSION FLUSH \$49⁹⁵

Complete transmission flush by Trans Tech 2000 flush machine, unique in its class, flushing 100% of old fluid out and adding new fluid in. Labor only. Most 4-cyl. cars. Ask for details.

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State-of-the-art engine flush machine built by Bilstein. Complete engine oil flush from top to bottom. Labor only. Most 4-cyl. cars. Ask for details.

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MAJOR SERVICE 30K/60K/90K

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 - Change engine oil and filter
 - Inspect brakes
 - Clean & adjust rear brakes
 - Check all belts
 - Replace air filter
 - Inspect suspension
 - Transmission service-drain and refill
 - Top off all fluids
 - 4 tires rotation and balance
 - 38-point inspection

COOLANT SERVICE \$29⁹⁵

Includes 1 gallon of coolant. Most 4-cyl. cars. Dex coolant extra.

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Most 4-cyl. cars. Camber and shim extra. **\$39⁹⁵**

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BACK WHEN

In the Reader

Thirty Years Ago

Just a Suggestion, You Understand

After returning from Red China in November, Colleen O'Connor said she always believed that "the corporate executives ought to be on the line riveting bolts for a week and they'd improve the working conditions of the workers."

— "WHO 'DA THUNK?" *Carlos Bey, January 13, 1977*

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Jeremy Lighthouse was born fourteen months ago in a fiber-glass hot tub in the double garage of a La Jolla house on La Jolla Corona Drive. When he emerged from the body of his mother into the warm, salty water, he remained under the surface for 20 minutes. His parents, Jia and Patrick Lighthouse, 34 and 33 years old, respectively, shared the tub with him. Seven other adults were in the room, but apart from them, few people knew about this first documented underwater birth in America.

—CITY LIGHTS: "IT'S THE WATER," *Jeannette De Wyze, January 7, 1982*

Twenty Years Ago

Now Roger Hedgecock has joined the ranks of

electronics salesmen with an advertising pitch that trades directly on the format of his popular radio talk show.

The former mayor debuted December 8 as spokesman for Dr. Carlos Soria, a Baja California physician who claims his secret "Facial Rejuvenation" formula can "literally wipe ten to twenty years from your face" without scalpels, collagen injections, or chemical peels. Soria's clients pay \$3500 for 12 days at his Villa of Youth resort clinic near Tijuana.

—THE INSIDE STORY, *Paul Krueger, January 8, 1987*

Fifteen Years Ago

This letter is for the person(s) at your paper who call San Diego "Dago." I bet that when you write home to your parents in Anywhere, USA, that you write your return address as Sandy Eggo. That way you really sound as though you have put down your roots here! When people come to visit you at your home in sunny "SoCal," you probably show them around such places as Elka John, Jahmool, Jackoomba, and San Whyseedro. Don't forget one of the most popular spots for tourists, La Jawlah. How about taking the trolley down to Tiawanna for your friends to sample some taqweela?

M. Bucaro

Normal Heights

—LETTERS: "DAGO: LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT,"

January 9, 1992

Ten Years Ago

When my mother tells the story of her life, she says she knew not to marry a man like her brothers. She escaped as women usually do, by marrying a man from out of town. What she escaped from is picturesque, violent, and ordinary, like all lives told in anecdotes. There was the time she cut her head ducking under barbed wire and her hair turned red with blood. Her brother's friend pushed his hand under her sweater, her brothers fought, her Mormon father rolled his own cigarettes. She saw a car wreck once in the canyon, and a dead girl lay like a doll on the rocks. In times of heavy rain, my mother and her brothers would go down to the ranch and watch the river flood its banks.

— "FAIRY GODMOTHER'S ART," *Laura McNeal, January 2, 1997*

Five Years Ago

Chargers owner Alex Spanos, who, according to some reports, may be on the verge of



San Diego Reader, January 7, 1982

pulling his team out of San Diego for the greener pastures of Los Angeles, has given \$50,000 of so-called soft money to the Republican National Committee, according to end-of-year reports. Semptra Energy, on the other hand, gave \$50,000 to Senate Democrats ... Porn magnate Larry Flynt is said to be planning a new "upscale" dance club sans nudity in San Diego to be called Bar Flynt. At least that's what Jimmy Flynt, Larry's brother, is telling the media in Cincinnati, where the Flynts say they want to try the same concept.

—CITY LIGHTS, *Matt Potter, January 3, 2002*

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com

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OCEAN BEACH. Smell the ocean! Walk 3 blocks to beach! \$1650. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse apartment. Only 6 years old. New carpet. Tiled kitchen. Refrigerator. Gas stove. Dishwasher. Free washer/dryer. Tiny yard. Garage plus gated parking space. Available now. 4857 Voltaire. 619-224-7322.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1195. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, downstairs apartment with patio. Dishwasher and laundry. No pets. 4231 Voltaire Street #1. Call 619-222-4836 x 14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs apartment with parking and laundry. Blocks to beach. No pets! 2243 Abbott Street #C. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$875. Large downstairs studio just steps to beach! Includes utilities! Parking and laundry. No pets. 1994

Abbott Street. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$875. Studio cottage 1 block to beach with patio off kitchen. Hardwood floors. No pets. 5034 Brighton Street. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1175. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, front unit with small enclosed yard. No pets. 4658 Green Street. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1295. 2 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs unit with parking and laundry. 1/2 block to beach. No pets. 5041 Santa Monica #12. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$975. 1 bedroom. Large, upstairs, end unit. Stove, refrigerator. Coin laundry. Parking. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Steps to ocean. Available now. 4853 Orchard. DSPM,

Broker, 858-270-2071. www.delsolpm.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$950. 1 bedroom near beach. Small building, roomy, clean, quiet. No pets. Non-smoking. Nice home. 5050 Santa Monica Avenue. Manager #14. Call 9am-5pm. 619-222-3897.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1050. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. All amenities. Dishwasher, fire-place, large closets, pool, laundry, parking. No pets. 4825 Del Mar Avenue. 619-758-9565.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1450. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. All amenities. Dishwasher, fire-place, large closets, pool, laundry, parking. No pets. 4825 Del Mar Avenue. 619-758-9565.

OCEAN BEACH. Large 1 bedroom apartment, \$910, with garage, \$995. Patio. Laundry. Near beach. No dogs or cats. 5045-5053-1/2 Lotus. 858-292-6046.

OCEAN BEACH/POINT LOMA. \$1685. Deposit \$800. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath

townhome. Views. Quiet. Patio. Washer/dryer. Dishwasher. Parking. No pets. 4266 Montalvo. 619-221-0358.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1195 and up. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Available now. Complex is just 2 blocks from the beach! Gated courtyard setting, laundry, parking, barbecue. No dogs. 4955 Narragansett. 619-226-3171, plazadelsol.rasnyder.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1125. \$500 off first month! Upgraded 1 bedroom in small complex located a block from the beach. Parking, Laundry, barbecue, gated community, extra storage. 619-221-8158, parkdelmonte.rasnyder.com.

OCEAN BEACH. 1 bedroom. Ask about special! Newly remodeled small complex located less than 100 yards from Ocean Beach pier. Balcony, patio, garage with opener, laundry, gated community. Bike rack. 619-226-3171.

OCEAN BEACH. \$500 off 1st month! Spacious newly remodeled 2 bedroom, 2 bath. \$1525. Located a block from the beach. Gated courtyard setting, laundry, parking,

barbecue. No dogs. 4940 Del Monte Avenue. 619-226-3171. delmontepalms.rasnyder.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$500 off 1st month! Newly remodeled 1 bedroom. \$1125. Located a block from the beach! Gated courtyard setting, laundry, parking, barbecue. No dogs. 4955 Narragansett. 619-226-3171, plazadelsol.rasnyder.com.

OCEAN BEACH. Beautiful beachfront ocean view! 1 bedroom, \$995-\$1200. 2 bedroom, \$1350-\$1500. Serene security garden buildings. Hardwood floors, ceramic tile, laundry. Garages available. Pets considered. For address and availability, call 619-224-1748. For applications, call 619-501-5553.

OCEAN BEACH. \$975. 1 bedroom with courtyard, on-site laundry and parking. 4878

Saratoga Avenue #205. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1250-\$1300. 2 bedroom with on-site laundry. Half block to beach. 5043 and 5050 Del Monte Avenue. 619-279-6411 or 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1225. 2 bedroom, 1 bath in quiet four-plex setting. Parking, laundry. Near Robb Field. 4449 Mentone Street. TTPM, 858-699-3851.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1425. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, remodeled apartment. 2 blocks to the beach! Garage available. No pets. 5019 Longbranch. 619-231-2727 x233.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1275. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Dishwasher, laundry, parking. Blocks to beach. 4838 Santa Cruz #B. No pets. www.timcassidy.com. Cassidy, Broker, 619-275-LIST.

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OCEAN BEACH. \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath triplex, stove, refrigerator. Single level, 1/2 block to beach, off-street parking. On Narragansett Street. No dogs please. 858-676-3464.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1395 rent. \$1200 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, charming cottage-style unit, new carpet and paint, lots of windows, small private yard, stove, refrigerator, on-site laundry, great location. One block from the beach. 4980 Cape May Avenue. 619-804-3325.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1395 rent. \$1200 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, charming cottage-style unit, new carpet and paint, lots of windows, small private yard, stove, refrigerator, on-site laundry, great location. One block from the beach. 4980 Cape May Avenue. 619-804-3325.

OCEAN BEACH. Remodeled studio, cathedral ceilings, skylight, full kitchen and bathroom, laundry. \$785 includes utilities and parking. Quiet complex. Non-smoking. 619-222-3978.

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. \$1100. \$1200 deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 900 square feet, 1 parking spot, on-site laundry, 2266 Grand Avenue #1. Bill Luther Realty, 858-488-1580.

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PACIFIC BEACH/MISSION BEACH/La Jolla. Year-round beach units. 12-month leases. Check 24-hour Rental Line for current listings. 858-454-1900. Crown Management, BKR.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$935. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Rear duplex in Crown Point. 3758 Yosemite Street. Available 2/2. Call 858-483-0182 or 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1650. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 3 blocks to beach. Washer/dryer hookups, parking. Available now. Call 858-583-0182 or 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1430. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, minutes to beach, walk to all. 1 parking spot. No laundry on site. No pets. 1870 Diamond. Available 1/13. Call 858-483-3534 or 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

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. \$1400. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 3 blocks to beach. Ground floor, corner unit, 1 parking space. Laundry on site. 1057 Missouri Street. Available now. Call 858-583-0182. www.calprop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. \$2250. Upstairs condo with garage. Washer/dryer, 1000 square feet. 6-month lease. No pets. Available now. 1844 Diamond Street. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1295. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs unit steps to beach. Upgraded with ocean view, parking. Available now. 715 Santa Barbara. Call 858-483-3534 or 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$925. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment with parking and laundry. New carpet, paint and vinyl. No pets! 2035 Grand Avenue. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1495, includes cable/water. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Dishwasher, balcony, new bathroom and new carpet. 4750 Noyes. Small pets acceptable. Available immediately. 858-775-6458.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1650. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. New carpet/tile. Laundry on site, pool, spa, tandem underground parking. Cat OK. 4730 Noyes Street #410. Call 858-490-1600. kandrproperties.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$825. Bright 1 bedroom. California beach bungalow style. Quiet, clean. Hardwood floors, laundry. Available immediately. Near I-5. 3436-1/2 Del Rey Street. 619-222-9308.

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PACIFIC BEACH. Great values, nice, clean, convenient apartments in multiple Pacific Beach locations. Studios from \$765. 1 bedrooms from \$985. 2 bedrooms from \$1440. Parking, laundry. Some buildings with gated entry, pool and/or deck. No pets. 858-483-3796.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1400. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, downstairs, end unit. New carpet, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, fireplace, garage, coin laundry. No pets. 1 year lease required. Available now. 4122 Jewell. DSPM, Broker, 858-270-2071, www.delsolpm.com.

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 Inghram. DSPM, Broker, 858-270-2071. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1125. 1 bedroom, downstairs. Remodeled. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, 2 private patios, coin laundry. Shared garage. 1 block to Tourmaline Surf Park. No pets. Available 1/15 or sooner. 760 Sapphine. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. 41425. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large units both upstairs and downstairs. 2-1/2 blocks to ocean! Stove, refrigerator, balcony/patio. Coin laundry, parking. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 1/10/07. 945 Calcedonio. Del Sol Property Management, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1195. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs with vaulted ceilings. Stove, refrigerator, coin laundry, parking. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 2/10. 2154 1/2 Reed. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$975. Small, charming 1 bedroom, downstairs in a quiet duplex behind 3970. All utilities paid. Stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer, carport parking, storage unit. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 1/10. 3974 Honeycutt. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$780. Studio, 1 bath, laundry on site, refrigerator, stove, just blocks to the beach. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$995. Studio, 1 bath condo, pool, laundry on site, granite countertops, spa, tennis, gym. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$900. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, tile floors, parking included, laundry on site, great location. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1195. Large 1 bedroom, upstairs. Remodeled unit. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, coin laundry, parking. No pets. Available 2/1. 1346 Pacific Beach Drive. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1050. 1 bedroom plus den, 4467 Dawes. \$1025. 1 bedroom, 1433 Reed. Upstairs, laundry, parking. No pets. 6-month lease. 858-483-4553.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$2600. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, 2-car garage townhouse. Clean and painted. Fireplace, washer/dryer, patio, deck. No pets. Available mid-January. 1545 Hornblend. 858-270-4492 x203.

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MANGA-EYED TERROR

My boss is a crime lord.

I don't want to talk about why it is that a couple of weeks ago I was online at 5:20 in the morning, except to make myself sound suitably awesome with self-validations like "insomnia," "mosquitoes," and "pixel addiction." So I'm checking my e-mail and am vaguely shocked to learn that my boss is writing me from the airport.

You say: *Yeah? And?*

And then I say: *But I just saw his paunchiness in the bar spitting sunflower shells onto the floor a mere ten hours ago.*

I quote: *I got some family emergency, i will go back the states, i will call u when i got there. meantime Li Ge will take care the Biz. meantime if anyone ask for me the boss, just tell them my last name is Wang.*

His lechjesty is a crime lord.

Later that night, Kyle and I sat around in bed trying to rate his potential outlawness on the patented "duvet hogger-to-serial killer" scale.

Me: Mafia? Come on, it's got to be mafia. The third-string kind — three bosses before the final boss of level one.

Kyle: Naw. It's probably something disappointingly boring, like import-export fraud.

Me: Ooh, ooh, human trafficking!

Kyle: Subway ticket forgery.

Pause.

Me: Most likely.

He reappeared three days ago, and I can't stop tormenting him. Last night, I wore a serious face and pulled the unsuspecting bastard into the kitchen.

"You know, I forgot to mention that the police came around at eight. Asked me if you were here."

Oh, sweetest revenge. Glorious, quivery, manga-eyed terror. "And you said, 'yes'?"

"Nope. Told them the boss' last name is Wang." Wait for it.... "Oh, and the ladies is out of toilet paper. Better get Little Pai on that."

Next week: "A husky man with facial lacerations and a musculature tic asked for you. I told him your last name was

Owned."

There is a depressingly short dictator in all of us.

There's been some speculation as to what kind of trouble I, personally, stand to suffer from being involved, but not from anyone who's been in-country for any length of time. If there's one thing China teaches you to do, it's blink the blink of the old outsider. Here, my national identity comes with the handy perk that everyone thinks I'm a walking, stick-of-butter-eating, retarded wallet, too dense and straightforward to pick up on the intricacies of a culture whose intrigue has been cultivated for 5000 years.

They forget: I have a vagina.

The severity of whatever the hell is going on became doubly apparent when a local cop stopped by the bar to inform me that my staff would, right that second, be leaving to participate in a community rally at the west gate of Worker's Stadium.

Me: Now?

Him: Yes.

Me: But it's Friday night.

Him: I am a policeman.

Me: But that means we would have to close the bar.

Him, helpfully pointing out his badge: I. Am. A.

Policeman.

Cough

I'm grinning around a mouthful of worms, preparing for the inevitable escalation of insistence in my own little private, two-person

Burma, when Calculator Nazi materializes at my side.

"The boss' name is Wang!" she bleats.

Calculator Nazi is awesome. Thirty-two, unmarried, and wields ye old register key as if it was Anduril, Flame of the West. Her other titles include Seeker of Precision in Inventory, Perfector of the Inscrutable Hate-You Face, Scourge of Basically



Everyone.

I spent her first two weeks on the job praying that she'd be reincarnated as a condom, her mouth blissfully occupied with something other than turning the bar into an episode of *General Hospital*, complete with neener-neener gossip and the pleasant exchange of physical injury. But that was before we accidentally started liking each other, based on the strength of our mutual distrust of children and our thighs.

Now we spend all our downtime trading cultural euphemisms. I take your "black triangle" and raise you a "box." Calc Naz's double-

digit English vocabulary now includes such useful phrases as, "Bush, get out of my bush," and the increasingly poignant "No pain, no gain."

Anyway, since I figure it's only a matter of time before the place explodes in a gently fluttering storm of laundered massage-parlor gift certificates, I've decided our bar is going to double as a distributor of Beijing's underground zines. All two of them.

Putting out a zine in China has its own peculiar challenges. Being illegal, for instance. All publications, roughly photocopied or otherwise, are supposed to be registered with the Ministry of Culture and bear its seal of

approval. So the problem arises when the would-be authors of our blustery city are too refreshingly angst-filled to either bother with the bureaucracy or make it past the censors.

If I'm going to martyr myself for four walls and a kitchen full of roaches, I'm gonna do it with as much pretentious DIY-pushing as I can squeeze in before being forced to recant from the bottom of an outraged dog pile.

I never was very good at pacing myself.

Remember kids: fatalism is the stuff of life.

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BLOG DIEGO

POST DATE: December 8, 2006

POST TITLE: OMFG

Now that I have inhabited this plane of existence for 34.5 years, my tastes in certain things have changed. I still enjoy fiction (Nicole Krauss's *History of Love* is a good example), but except for my all-time fave authors like Lisa Kleypas, I'm not so big on impulse buys for romances anymore. So imagine my SHOCK AND HORROR when I got this e-mail from Amazon.com:

Dear Amazon.com customer...perhaps you might enjoy this book!!! *Pregnancy of Passion* (Harlequin Presents).

Pregnancy? Of Passion? Dear God.

The book blurb must be read with a fake, BAD Italian or Spanish accent otherwise you won't do it justice:

"It was a year since their tempestuous affair had ended. So why was he back? Elisa trusted Salvatore di Vitale as far as she could throw him. And, as the wealthy Sicilian was over six feet tall, that wasn't very far.

"Salvatore told Elisa he had come to protect her. And if their close proximity led to passion... and if passion should lead to pregnancy, all the better! Because then Elisa would have to marry him, which was Salvatore's plan all along."

Holy crap, it's Tom Cruise!

Yeah, Amazon.com...I don't think I'll be buying this book anytime soon...thank you very much.

TITLE: The Dim Sum Diaries | ADDRESS: <http://chiuster.blogspot.com>

AUTHOR: Mir | FROM: Carlsbad | BLOGGING SINCE: March 2003

POST DATE: November 21, 2006

POST TITLE: Happy Thanksgiving Week!

Went with Hubby last weekend to Gencon to meet up with a friend we know from World of Warcraft. Was slightly hesitant to seal my fate as a complete and utter geek in the eyes of my sister, as I asked her to watch the kids for the day whilst Hubby and I indulged ourselves in Gencon.

"Where are you going, again?" she demanded.

"Umm...you know, this game con, to meet up with some friends."

"What kind of games?"

"Hmm...good question. D&D type stuff, I think."

"Are you going to dress up?"

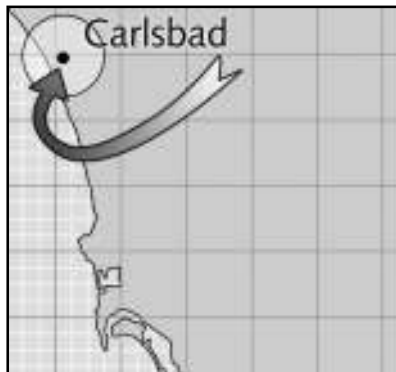
"Fuck no! Only dorks dress up. I am so over that."

"You did dress up as Captain Janeway FOR TWO YEARS IN A ROW for Halloween," she pointed out. "How do I know you're not hiding the outfit in the car?"

"For the love of God, N. (sis), I am not that *geeky*, ok?"

"Uh-huh." She remained unconvinced.

So off Hubby and I went, and it was quite interesting. I've never been into the trading cards or table-top games, but I wanted to go and see what it was all about. Oh, how I wish my cell phone hadn't run out of batteries, so I



could've taken some pictures. There was a booth selling cloaks, foam weapons, and an entire booth devoted to dice (every shape, color, and size you can imagine). There were rows and rows of tables set up so people could play games. I even played a table-top game. It was all about math and dice on this mini board that was square and landscaped (mini trees, houses as if from a

train station model). You measure out the distance your armies can move with a tape measure (interesting), and, based on your dice rolling and the stats of your armies, you hit, miss, etc. I played Hubby and was singlehandedly

kicking his ass until Helexa had to cheat and give him loaded dice. So I lost, but only just. Bloody men with small penises trying to compensate.

Though it was fun irritating the hell out of everyone by shouting out "I WIN! I WIN!" every time I rolled.

The biggest draw was Blizzard booth, where they had a perky Asian girl hosting and throwing prizes to a group of extremely eager young men who all pointed north toward her. It was amazing. We had dinner and overall had a good time. Apparently table-top games are big on the East Coast and in the Midwest, not so much in California. But it was interesting to see another aspect of geekery I have no intention of getting into. I will not dress up as a female elf in a leather bustier and g-string, no matter how much Hubby begs.

POST DATE: November 10, 2006

POST TITLE: Baby, You Still Got Game!

On the darkest hour of the darkest night, she lay in her bed sleeping, but it was not a restful sleep. It was fitful, really; she must have been dreaming about something that bothered her, for there was much twisting and turning. In the end, she settled by sleeping in a reverse of her usual position, her head at the footboard and her feet resting on her pillow. The air was very cold, so she'd wrapped herself up completely in her soft, flannel blanket for warmth, looking rather like a blue burrito.

The doorknob to her bedroom slowly turned and the door creaked open. A shadowy figure quietly slipped in and paused for a moment, gauging the scene before him. His eyes sharpened as he saw the burrito-shaped blob, a multitude of thoughts racing through his mind. He walked over to his side of the bed and slipped in, carefully adjusting his sheets and curling over to the furry blue mass' pillow next to him. It was still completely dark as he pulled down the blanket and gave his wife a deep, urgent, and longing kiss.

Suddenly he jumped back in shock. "Oh my God!" he cried. "Do not tell me I just kissed the bottom of your foot goodnight!"

The Blue Burrito looked up from the foot of the bed. "Tried to slip it some tongue, too. Dork."

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Property Management, 858-274-6856. www.booneproperties.com.

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.

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NORTH PARK. Grand Burlingame Craftsman on canyon lot with additional family room on lower level with French doors to covered deck, \$739,000-\$779,000. Ascent, Denise, 619-772-5972.

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\$18⁹⁵ Most cars. Vans, trucks, SUVs extra. Plus \$2 transfer fee and \$8.25 certificate. Free retest with repair.

TUNE-UP

\$22 • Install 4 new spark plugs
• Top-off fluids
• Inspect air filter & ignition wires
4-cyl. 6- & 8-cyl. slightly higher.

30K, 60K, 90K, 120K MAJOR SERVICE

\$130 4-cyl. • 40-point inspection
• Factory-scheduled maintenance
• Replace spark plugs (platinum extra)
• Replace oil & filter
• Replace transmission fluid • Replace air filter
• Replace differential fluid • Replace distributor rotor
• Lube chassis • Replace PCV valve if necessary
• Valve adjustment • Inspect front & rear brake

CATALYTIC CONVERTER

From **\$110** Parts & labor. Most cars. 1995 and older.

FRONT BRAKES

\$60 Parts & labor. Most cars. Includes rear brake adjustment if necessary. Machine rotors extra.

NEW RADIATOR

\$150 Most cars.

Honda & Toyota Specialists

Offers expire 1/25/07.

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Factory Major Service 30K/60K/90K Super Service

As Low As **\$99**

Most 4-cyl. cars. 6- & 8-cyl. higher. Platinum spark plugs extra.

Timing Belts

As Low As **\$54⁹⁵**

Most cars. Plus labor. R/C & power steering extra. Expires 1/18/07.

Tune-up \$24⁹⁵ 4-cyl. Includes: replace spark plugs, inspect ignition timing, top all fluids. Platinum plugs extra. 6- & 8-cyl higher. Expires 1/18/07.

FREE "Check Engine" Light Computer Scan

When repairs are done at this facility. Reg. \$45. Extra if diagnostic required. Expires 1/18/07.

Oil Change & Filter \$19⁹⁹ Up to 5 Qts.

Includes: 40-point inspection, tire rotation, top all fluids. Most cars. Expires 1/18/07.

Brake Special Free brake inspection.

As Low As **\$59⁹⁵**

Includes: replace brake pads or shoes, inspect rotors or drums, repack bearings, inspect hydraulics, bleed system if needed, road test. Most cars. Trucks and vans higher. Expires 1/18/07.

858-552-7860 • 6690 Miramar Road

www.pacificrimauto.com

Se Habla Español

FOR SOME REASON I WANTED AN OLD FASHIONED, hang-up paper calendar. I'd never had one before. I always relied on people telling me if the date was closer to Martin Luther King's birthday or Hanukah. I'm usually content to stand in line at the bank and ask, "Is it Friday?"

Saturday night I started harassing The Girl to get me a calendar on her trip to the grocery store. She returned without one.

Getting drunker and drunker on bourbon, I eyed the empty pale rectangle on the wall and I cursed her, "You can't help me out? All I wanted was a damn calendar."

"Settle down," she hissed and reached for my glass. "We'll get one tomorrow. We have to get cookies and wine for New Year's anyway. The Ultimate Fighting Championship's coming on. Get drunk and watch that, please."

She was at least making sense, even if she'd failed me.

The fights were good. My bourbon was smoky. Tito Ortiz got knocked out and so did I. Chuck Liddell successfully defended his title as Light Heavyweight Champion of the world.

After The Girl cooked breakfast and I brushed the dreadlocks off my teeth, we headed out for the store. "Wine and cookies," I muttered to a store clerk. "And a damn calendar. The ugliest one you've got."

"I don't think we have any ugly calendars. These are all so nice," the hefty black lady in the red apron said and ran her hand over the white spinning rack.

"Are you kidding me," I shouted at the clerk's back. "These are amazingly hideous. I just have to find the perfect one."

The Girl held up a shrink-wrapped tablet for my inspection. "This one's pretty bad. It's got a baby deer for January. 'God's Creatures' it's called."

"That's pretty bad," I agreed and held up my own. "But, here. Look. 'Seasons.' Oh, there's a red barn in a field, and a snowy tree."

She took it from me and inspected it. "That's pretty bad," she said, and held her animal calendar up. "But, look. The animals have Psalms printed on them."

I tapped the front of the "Seasons" calendar. "Emily Dickinson poems, here," I said. "Wow."

"I know." I held both options up to imagine how each would look on my wall. "I feel like these are both contenders," I said. "But, somewhere, the real champ is hiding."

The Girl emerged from behind the rack with a "Puppies in People's Outfits" calendar and said, "We have found our Chuck Liddell."

WHAT I WILL AND WON'T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

SPIN CITY
FX 9:00 A.M.
Who said that? Who said "Shake City?" That's mean. Michael J. Fox is handing out one-way tickets for an eternity in the Hot Place and whoever piped up with that little joke gets cuts to the head of the line.

DREAMGIRLS: DIVAS DRAMA AND DESTINY
VH1 8:00 P.M.
A block from my place is a gunshot and g-

string, five-and-dime, nudie club called The Minx. All this week there's been a man in a Santa outfit out front, hailing potential customers. Ah, strip-club owners. Is there a depth to which they won't sink?

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

COMMON AND WILL.I.AM PRESENT: FREEDOM WRITERS LIVE
MTV 8:00 P.M.
My dad got off the new-music bus about 1979. His last purchase was a Kenny Rogers 8-track.

He didn't understand and didn't like '80s music so he quit. I think it's time for me to do the same. I've got my Soundgarden tape. I'll be in the garage if anyone needs me.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

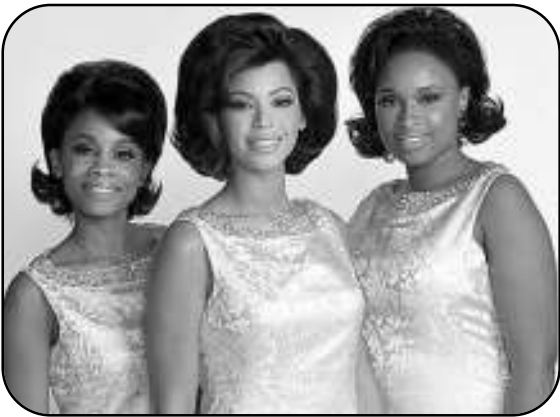
CRITTER GITTERS
KUSI 1:30 P.M.
Here's a great indication that you have a chemical dependency problem: *Critter Gitters* comes on and you don't give a damn. Your crap-house hangover prevents you from reaching for the remote so you settle into a half hour of whatever-the-hell-this-is. Call someone. If you've ever seen this show. Call someone and tell them you want to quit. *Critter Gitters* is step one.

WHEN INNOCENCE IS LOST

LIFETIME 7:00 P.M.
I remember when my innocence was lost. It's probably the same story everyone tells. I wore Laura Ingles pigtails. There was a fake leg and a glass of merlot. That poor frog was purple for a week. Try explaining that to the bicycle mechanic who has to fix your handlebar light. Ah, to be 26 again.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

AMERICAN DAD
FOX 8:30 P.M.
My father told my brother and me, "Whoever washes his hands first gets to plug in the Christmas tree." We raced into the bathroom, ran our hands under the water, jostling each other and fighting for the bar of soap. "YOU FOOL!" I cried as my brother stopped to dry his hands and I ran into the front room. I did a knee slide past the coffee table and gifts, and then clutched the green light string plug in one hand and the extension cord in the other. My eyes lit up like an Elvira pinball machine and I shot backward three feet, having just tasted 110 volts AC. My dad looked down at my smoking hands and hair and said, "Dumb bastard."



Dreamgirls: Divas Drama and Destiny

I bet you won't do that again."

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

GAY, STRAIGHT OR TAKEN?
LIFETIME 8:00 P.M.
Lifetime Channel, you are doing a bang-up job. Where would we be without you? (If you listen carefully on a quiet Monday night, you can almost hear an entire nation roll its eyes.)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

DATELINE NBC: BIGAMY MURDER
NBC 8:00 P.M.
I'm trying to convince the girlfriend that I need her plus two wives. She's been reluctant so far, but I'm breaking her down steadily. I think I got through to her the other day with "You won't have to do the dishes anymore. One of them will handle all the cleaning." I wonder if Mormon girls can cook.

THE 33RD ANNUAL PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS
CBS 9:00 P.M.
The 33rd Annual Self-Congratulations-A-Palooza What Do You Love About Me Show

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

40 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE SUPER BOWL
ESPN 9:30 P.M.
I know that seven-layer dip is delicious. Everything else about the Super Bowl is a list of inconsequential details.

AMD ATHLON, 13 Ghz 512MB DDR RAM, TV card, DVD CDRW, sound blaster, Windows XP office 2000. All genuine Microsoft. 22" flat CRT \$200 619-237-1990.

COMPUTER CIRCULATION CENTER. Buy, sell, trade. Laptops, PCs. Repairs, upgrades, virus/spyware removal. 24-48 hour turnaround. 9350 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, San Diego 92123. Call 858-573-0411.

COMPUTER HELP? One-on-one, fast, friendly, reliable. Repairs, upgrades, training, cable/DSL, networks. On-site or drop-off, \$35/hour. Also, music recording. 858-735-6680.

COMPUTER PRINTER, scanner, fax, copier, all-in-one Hewlett Packard, nice condition, works great. Needs new ink jet cartridge \$39/best. 760-732-1315.

COMPUTER, COMPLETE PENTIUM System, color monitor, printer, scanner, mouse, keyboard, USB, cable/DSL ready, free Internet, \$135. Laser printer \$50. <http://acdk.tripod.com>, 858-273-2290.

COMPUTER, desk and chair. Free! 760-746-5861.

COMPUTERS. Tower for parts only, \$7. 16" monitor, \$15. 15" monitor, \$10. Computer office chair, \$, Epson color 880 printer, \$15. Escondido, 760-685-8291.

LAPTOP BLOWOUT. FREE Diagnostic. Laptops starting from \$298 for ACER, Dell, IBM,

Toshiba and more. Laptop/projector rentals-\$25/\$75. 3 locations! Going fast, call now: 1-888-861-8347.

MONITOR, new, \$50. Color printer, new, in box, \$50. Computer keyboard, new, in box, \$12. 619-466-8663.

PENTIUM III, 800Mhz 512MB RAM DVD, CDRW, Windows XP office. 30GB HD clean install Sony monitor, speakers complete \$150. All genuine Microsoft software. Call 619-237-1990.

TOTAL COMPUTER. Commercial service. We do everything. Installation, set-up, training, repair, networking, telephones, wiring, upgrades. \$20 in-home diagnostics. 619-941-1809; cell, 619-607-0221.

BICYCLES

PLACE PRINTED ADS in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.

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OLD CHICAGO SCHWINN, 26 inch cruiser frames, 2 at \$50/each 619-691-8271.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2250. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo, upstairs unit. Fireplace, 1-car garage. Washer/dryer, refrigerator. No pets. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management. 858-488-2228.

TREK CARBON FIBER, Y-11 mountain bike 20" originally retailed for over \$1500. Light, fast with excellent Shimano components \$350. Call 858-483-1439.

WANTED / TRADE

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COINS, US only, before 1965. Collector will pay cash. 858-874-6508.

FISHING TACKLE, Collector wants for his personal collection wooden lures, reels, miscellaneous by Heddon, Plueger, Creek Chub, South Bend, Shakespeare, to name a few. 619-972-3488.

INDIAN arrowheads/artifacts. Must be authentic. Call Steve at 619-222-8562.

KIDNEY DONOR needed. Young family man needs help any A or O blood type. Save a life. 619-237-0602.

WINDOW TINTING

Lifetime Warranty!



Film Removal Available.

Window Tinting Starting at
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Over 15 years' experience

SMOG CHECK

\$15⁹⁵

Free retest when we do repair. Plus \$8.25 certificate and \$1.50 transfer fee. Vans & heavy-duty trucks extra. Cash only. Must present DMV renewal notice. *All prices plus tax. With this ad. Exp. 2/5/07.

OIL CHANGE \$19.95*

Most cars. Includes up to 5 qts. and new filter. Cash only.

BASIC TUNE-UP:

4-CYL. \$25/6-CYL. \$35/8-CYL. \$45*

Includes spark plugs. Additional parts extra. Most cars.

TIMING BELT SPECIAL \$95*

Includes parts & labor. Most 4-cyl. cars.

BRAKES...\$10 OFF

Front & rear. Turn rotors, drums, new pads, lining. Most cars, 4WD extra.

STEVE AUTO REPAIR

1370 Garnet Ave. • Pacific Beach

(858) 274-1195



San Diego Reader January 4, 2007 169

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.

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.

UPRIGHT BASS, 1 year old, 3/4 size bass (blue body) with position markers (for electric bassists/guitarists). Includes stand, gig bag, bow and rosin, pickup. 619-804-6878.

WANTED TO BUY: Old tools of carpenter, machinist, surveyor, watchmaker, shoe-maker, pattern maker, jeweller, blacksmith, sculptor, etc. The older better. No power tools. Bill, 858-535-0840.

WANTED, BOAT/SMALL rowboat/small sailboat about 8 feet long. If it needs work that's OK. 619-656-2831.

Antiques & Collectibles

PLACE PRINTED ADS in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.

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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.

COMICS. 200+ Punisher, GI Joe, Fantastic 4, and X-Men. Related comics and Action Figures. \$70. 760-753-8726.

INK WELL, Art Deco, Cater's Cube-Well, black and red, 1940s, made in USA, \$15. 619-296-7185.

PIANO, antique Grinnel Brothers upright, matching bench, seat lifts up to store sheet music, piano excellent condition, re-keyed and tuned, \$600. Questions to path@marksteinbeer.com.

Garage Sales

PLACE PRINTED ADS in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.

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CITY HEIGHTS. Moving sale. Saturday, 1/6/07, 7am. Furniture, decorating items, kitchen items, mountain bike. All must go! 3847 1/2 Wilson Avenue.

EL CAJON. Yard sale. Saturday, 1/6/07, 7am-12pm. Electronics, miscellaneous household items, printer/fax machine, treadmill, dog crate and more. 8102 Winter Gardens Boulevard.

ESCONDIDO, Moving sale, now until 1/7/07. Major appliances, electronics, audio/visual, small/large furniture, bedroom sets, collectibles, household, 9-6 daily. 1661 Forest Glen #106, 760-746-5861.

ESCONDIDO. Huge garage sale, Friday-Sunday, 9am-6pm. Electronics, furniture, beds, major appliances, household items, etc. 1661 Forest Glen #106. 92026 or 760-746-5861.

LA JOLLA. Garage sale. Saturday, 1/6, 8am (not earlier)-5pm. Remodel sale. Clothes, wet suit, small furniture, computer related items, books, decorations. 5427 Coral Reef Avenue.

OLD TOWN. Moving sale. Everything must go. Costumes, scenery, show memorabilia, furniture, computers, props, dishware, theatrical equipment, kitchen appliances and more! Thursday and Friday 1/11-1/12, 12pm-5pm and Saturday 1/13, 9am-3pm at The Theatre in Old Town, 4040 Twiggs Street. For more information, call 619-688-2491 x105.

SOUTH PARK. Multi-family garage sale. Saturday, 1/6/07, 7am-1:30pm. Furniture, tools, antiques, building supplies. 1834 29th Street, 92102.

Appliances

PLACE PRINTED ADS in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.

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FRIDGE, WHITE, 19 cubic feet. Great condition \$250. Magic Chef! 760-746-5861.

MICROWAVE, huge. Works very good. By Sharp. Only \$40. 760-532-0627.

OVEN, white, gas, new \$300. Dishwasher. Washing machine, \$275. Scanner and printer, \$50. 760-839-9195.

REFRIGERATOR FREEZER, 14 square foot capacity, white apartment size. 56"x28" aged, but still works like a champ! \$40 as is, you haul 619-697-4671.

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, white, Magic Chef, top freezer, excellent condition. Paid \$600, sacrifice \$250. 760-746-5861.

REFRIGERATOR, GE, white, 14.6 cubic feet, hardly used, \$325. 619-665-7904.

WASHER/DRYER, Sears Kenmore, heavy duty, excellent condition, moving, only \$250 for both. 619-390-9877.

Electronics

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!

DVD/VCR PLAYER, Panasonic, black, works excellent with remote control. \$75. 619-665-7904.

DVD/VCR PLAYER, Go Video, black, works excellent with remote control \$50. 619-665-7904.

MW26G71 HDTV/DVD/VCR, Toshiba, 26". Retail \$699.99, sell \$300. Flat CRT TV, progressive scan DVD player. JPEG viewer for photo slide shows. Compatible with Secure Digital. 317-410-3855.

SATELLITE TELEVISION, DirecTV, free equipment, free 4 room installation, free HD or DVR receiver upgrade. Packages from \$29.99/month. Call 800-380-8939. (AAN CAN)

STEREO SYSTEM, home theatre, RCA 630 watage includes receiver, speakers and remote control All for \$125. 619-665-7904.

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.tfwarehouse.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.

BED, California King size, 25 year warranty, orthopedic. Very good condition. Paid \$1350, sacrifice for \$700. 760-532-0627.

BEDROOM CLEARANCE 6-PIECE SET. \$599. Brand new, still in boxes, sold

wood bed, espresso color. Must move! Can deliver. 619-250-1446.

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. California King with headboard, dresser/mirror, 2 night stands, TV stand with TV and telephone stand. All whitewash. Nice set, only \$750. Will sell separate. 760-746-5861.

BEDROOM SET, brown, queen bed with side table drawer: 6-drawers includes mirror, all excellent condition with mattress \$500. Without mattress \$400. Contact 619-665-7904.

CABINET black with glass doors, holds DVD, VCR players, extra room for CDs and DVDs, Size 44x25x15. \$60. 619-665-7904.

CALIFORNIA KING BEDROOM. Set. White wash-head board, 2 night stands, T.V. stand, dresser, mirror-frame/Orthopedic/Monet 25 year warranty. 27" T.V. color/remote \$800 760-746-5861.

COMPUTER DESK, light oak, rollout, like new, antique-style drawer pulls, shiny brass. Sells for \$1047.50 to \$749 new. Asking \$395. Gently used. annbrengle@yahoo.com or 619-414-7723.

CONCRETE PATIO TABLE, seats 6, high grade, your choice of tile installed, all weather. \$300. Credit cards accepted. 760-250-7055.

COUCH, large, fair condition, only \$30. 760-746-5861.

DESK LIKE NEW, \$50. New mirror and light fixtures \$50. Brass and glass chandelier \$75. And more, moving must sell! Call 760-228-6971.

DINETTE, bamboo/rattan, 4 chairs, new upholstery, \$375. Antiques: Mahogany china cabinet, \$595. Mahogany vanity/desk, \$295. Mirror, \$55. Mahogany dropleaf clawfoot desk, \$375. 760-729-6571.

DRESSER, 5 drawer, maple, 4'Hx34"Wx19"D, bargain, \$25. 858-270-2061.

DRESSER, heavy duty, with 6 large doors and vanity mirror, dark wood, paid \$250, only \$80. 619-564-0558.

END TABLES, pecan wood with dresser and storage, excellent shape, \$50 for the set. 619-466-8663.

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER. 5,10 'Lx5.4'x1.6'D, open, adjustable, assemblable \$80. Head/Wall board, side-pier cabinets, upper lower bar, built-in lamps, 10'Lx5'H, assemblable \$270. 858-688-2136.

FURNITURE A DISCOUNT Factory Direct store. Lowest prices. Order from manufacturers' catalogues 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.

HOPE CHEST, cedar, Lane, excellent condition, \$150. 619-466-8663.

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.

JEWELRY BOX, wood, 8 drawers, 13"Wx12"Hx8"D, \$40. 619-296-7185.

LA-Z-BOY RECLINER, \$45. Double firm bed. \$70. Adjustable office chair, like new. \$20. 760-230-2902.

LAMPS. Touch lamps, neon, standing, etc. \$3-\$10. 760-746-5861.

LAZY BOY RECLINER, \$40/firm. Double bed. \$70. Adjustable office chair, \$20. 760-230-2902.

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 A DISCOUNT store-Mattress World in Hillcrest sells new beds at warehouse pricing lower than regular stores. Student specials, legitimate warrantees, 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.

OAK BEDROOM SET, traditional. Full-size bed with mattress. 9-drawer dresser/mirror. Perfect condition/possible small scratch. Can show photo through email \$550/best. 619-295-5176.

SECTIONAL, black leather by Copenhagen Interiors, good condition, \$800/best. Refrigerator, side-by-side, 25 cubic feet, GE, Hotpoint, great condition, \$600. 858-273-3052.

TALL WICKER CHAIR, \$25. Upright vacuum cleaner \$15, 858-458-4333.

TEMPURPEDIC MATTRESS, full with mattress supporter, barely used, no stains, full size. Includes bed supporter, frame. Must have time to pick it up. \$1000/best. 858-699-8267.

TV, 27", Hitachi, built-in stereo speakers, remote, manual, wood frame, swivel base, perfect condition. \$100. 858-546-1083.

TWIN BED FRAME, \$5. Small coffee table, \$7. Computer/office chair, \$5. 2 wood chairs, \$8. Patio furniture, 3 pieces, \$9/all. Escondido, 760-685-8291.

Miscellaneous For Sale

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APPLIANCES. Vacuum, upright, bagless, \$15. 3 floor lamps, halogen, \$15 all. Coffee maker, \$7. Large crock pot, \$5. Mixer/blender, glass jar, \$15. 760-685-8290.

ARCADE GAME, collection, Galaga, Ms Pacman, Operation Wolf, Super Cobra, Asteroids, Pong, Arabian and Commando. Can separate or all \$3500. Please leave message. 619-461-2643.

ART, framed, Dolphins, animals, safari, etc. \$5-\$15. 760-746-5861.

ARTWORK, beautiful, framed, being cleared out, several artists, frames, sizes, very professional, \$50, \$60, \$70. Warren, 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.

BLANKETS. Free! Kids, twin; adults, queen. 760-746-5861.

BOOK SHELF. Black. Can be used for DVDs and CDs. Only \$15. Like new, only 3 months old. 760-532-0627.

BOOKS, paper back, Disney Children's books, etc. Free! 760-746-5861.

BOOKSHELF, DVD/CD shelf-black, nice condition \$18 760-746-5861.

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T.G.I.F.

At the lobby, the clerk looks at you as if you had slaughtered goats up there last night.

By John Brizzolara

You started Friday afternoon at the office party, you think. Technically it was Friday morning with the eggnog instead of a second coffee by the fax machine where you started talking to Danielle. Okay, that much you have down. But where are you now? This is not my happy home...this is not my happy office...that is not my lovely wife...and you start singing all the wrong words to that Talking Heads song. My, my...chipper, aren't we? Always a bad sign when you know you passed out loaded. It means you're going to pay very hard and not much later.

Think. Put on your pants. Be a man, that's it. Wallet. Four dollars. Oh. C'mon. Look around. Motel. What the? Oh. Angie's after-party party. Where's Angie? That was going good. Your Casio diver's watch — that's a laugh — 5:55. What? A.m. or p.m.? Dark.

You stood up too fast. Take a minute, hang on the drapes. Oh, Chri-i... here it comes...see what you ate last. False alarm. Out the window is a parking lot, half dozen cars in the light of an Easy-8 sign. That's almost no help. There's a half dozen of them in your half of San Diego County alone. You are in San Diego, no? Man, you don't even know. C'mon, c'mon.

Looking at the soap wrapper, you see you are in Chula Vista. Why? God only knows. Throwing up in the shower, geez. Aw, that's gross...could be worse. No warning.

Shaking now. You've got to stop the shaking and the paranoia. What did you do last night and maybe Saturday night, for all you know? The money. Hey, the Christmas-bonus check! First a look around. Thank God there's cans

of flat, warm Newcastle Brown Ale. No memory of that. Thank God in heaven there is a tinfoil packet of Excedrin in your suit-jacket pocket. Where did all the mud come from on this thing?

Hands trembling out of control, that half-assed shower just accelerated the f-ing hangover. Curse the motherless sadist assholes that made this Excedrin pack. You would kill them right now with your shaking hands around the throat of some geek in a white lab coat and tie in packaging at —what is it? — Bristol-Meyers-Squibb?

You eye a mostly full bottle of Bailey's Irish Cream, the only evidence you had a chick in here, except...lipstick on the pillowcase and the smell of gardenias long dead and pressed into the pages of an old lady's Bible. An old lady's smell fills the room. Oh, God, did you bang some old lady? A mouthful of Bailey's sends you up against the toilet seat but not quite on target: pizza, some kind of cheese, shrimp, and chocolate cake? None of that stuff was at the catered office party. You launch the Excedrin against the baseboard behind the toilet, floating in bile and spit-warm beer and Bailey's.

After draining every other can of Newcastle Brown, including one full one, you've got it together enough to walk outside and see where you are. The shaking has subsided a little. You figure you've got about 20 minutes before it returns.

You've been in a third-floor room and you see the elevator. At the lobby, the clerk looks at you as if you had slaughtered goats up there last night. A newspaper stand just outside informs you that it is still Friday. That is, of course, impossible unless you went back in time. You are scared. Yes.

Easy. You could have been arrested. Obviously you weren't. As you walk toward neon lights in the fog — no idea what direction: *Like a complete unknown, with no direction home*...you half sing, half whimper.

Out of the fog, headlights along a freeway, 805 or I-5, you don't know. Rectilinear patterns of a chain-link fence separate you from oncoming traffic, which seems oddly welcoming now. Stuttering neon AUTO P R T S, and beyond, DONUTS. A wave of nausea almost brings you down. You stagger. Something tries to rise in your throat, fails. A break in the fog reveals a darkened sign, LIQUOR. A metal gate over the entrance. Leaning against the gate you remember to look for the check. Your Casio catches a streaking headlight. It is 6:26, morning. Gotta be. The shaking returns, cold and sugar/alcohol level dropping, and you walk along the frontage road toward a smear of floodlight against a parking lot and a brightly painted wooden sign you can't read except for the word Saloon.

As you approach, timing your arrival at what you can now see is the Boot & Saddle Saloon, for exactly 6:30 when, with God's mercy, they will open the doors, you find yourself weeping for no reason. Absolutely no reason at all.

What the hell is going on? There's one car in the lot. It's 6:32. A place with a name like that has to open at 6:30. What are they, Mormons? You turn away from car lights that enter the lot illuminating your tears and snot. Wiping your



David Byrne of the Talking Heads

face on your jacket sleeve, you see there is dried blood up and down the right arm. It's been there for a few days. No idea.

The man who gets out of the '79 El Camino is a Mexican-looking guy in a white cowboy hat, carrying a newspaper and a coffee from McDonald's. You suddenly laugh and call out, "The good guys in the white hats are here!" The good guy eyes you just like the night clerk.

"You don't look too good, amigo."

"Rough night."

"Rough night?"

Inside, \$4 buys you a double screwdriver. You find the crumpled check for \$1200; it had somehow gotten wet and the signature is smeared. "There's a Wells Fargo on Jacaranda, three blocks over, but it don't open 'til nine," the barman says. You get credit 'til nine because you help him load bottled beer into the cooler on the back bar. After the double, your shakes are fine, cool. Splendid.

Jaime, the *cantinero*, gives you some red quarters to play the jukebox. You're a lucky man, there; number A18, is the song you woke up with. You hit it and read Jaime's paper. It's Friday, January 5th, but you knew that pretty much somehow anyway. "Hey, at least I didn't kill anybody...probably. What's the problem?"

"What did you say, man?" Jamie's head is in the cooler.

"Nothing!" And you kind of sing/talk along with David Byrne on the jukebox, "Same as it ever was...same as it ever was."

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TOYOTA PICKUP, 1993, 4x4, V6, 5 speed, camper, power windows/locks, moonroof, new tires. 142,000 miles, excellent condition. \$5800/best. Se habla espanol. 619-528-1026.

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