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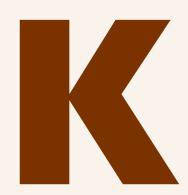
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as a girl had to be avoided. In fact I



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."

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

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- Michelle Stewart, San Diego

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– Mischa Shirazi, San Diego, CA

Q: Is the surgery painful or difficult?

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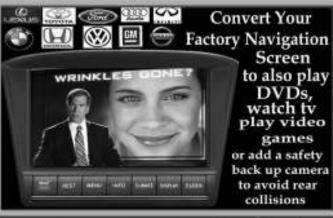
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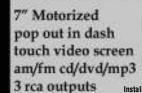
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An archive of City Lights stories can be searched on the Internet at SanDiegoReader.com

Juice city Ex-Democratic state senator **Steve Peace** kicked off his drive to remodel the San Diego waterfront last week by insisting that



Steve Peace

his boss, Padres owner **John Moores**, had no secret plan
to oust downtown rival **Doug Manchester** as developer of the
Navy Broadway Complex.
Maybe not, but there are plenty
of signs that the oft-mysterious Moores is roiling
downtown's dark waters of
cash and politics. And the

appearance by county supervisor **Ron Roberts** at the event, held at the bayside Holiday Inn, did nothing to dispel suspicion. Roberts is a big Padres fan and baseball memorabilia collector whose free rides aboard Moores's private jet cost him votes in his failed bid for mayor against **Dick Murphy** in 2000.

The intrigue is also being fueled by Peace's involvement in a small nonprofit corporation, the California Independent Voter Project, whose website says it was established as "a non-partisan, non-political organization dedicated to better informing voters on important public policy issues, and to encouraging non-partisan voters to participate in the electoral process." According to the site, Peace's just-announced "visionary plan to improve the waterfront of downtown San Diego" is one of three "topics we are currently following"; the other two are the federal Alternative Minimum Tax and "protecting your personal privacy and information."

Peace is described on the site as chairman of the board, which also includes **Linda Mitrovich**, sister-in-law of City Club proprietor **George**



David Takash

Mitrovich, both of whom came under heavy fire in 2002 when it was revealed that they had been paid by the Metropolitan Water District of Los Angeles to quietly propagandize against San Diego's plans for an Imperial Valley water deal. The only other boardmember listed is David Takashima,

Peace's onetime chief of staff and prodigious political fund-raiser who later went to work for Pacific Gas & Electric after he had helped Peace and former employer Southern California Edison craft the notorious 1996 state utility deregulation bill that critics said allowed Enron and others to manipulate the market and led to soaring energy prices.

According to state records, the voter project was incorporated last May 3; Takashima was listed as president; the address was given as 1115 11th Street, Suite 100, in Sacramento. That also happens to be the headquarters of KP Public Affairs, the lobbying firm where Takashima has worked since 2004. According to the firm's website, Takashima "has assisted clients in the areas of public utilities, state budgetary issues and infrastructure. His clients have included SBC, Southern California Edison, City of Millbrae, and the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association."

KP's lobbying filing with the secretary of state lists yet another KP customer: JMI, Inc., a Hous-

ton-based holding company owned by John Moores. According to a disclosure form dated last May 15 and signed by Peace as "senior advisor" to JMI, "KP Advocates" was retained for its assistance in "supporting legislative initiatives to help California's business climate." The effective date of the agreement was listed as March 27.

Both Peace and other representatives of Moores have repeatedly said the influential Padres owner was not interested in bidding for the Navy Broadway Complex, an opportunity created by the federal government's base-closing process. But as previously reported here, another Moores entity, JMI Realty of Del Mar, hired **Wayne Berman** and **Stewart Hall** of the Federalist Group, LLC, on September 30, 2005, to lobby Congress and the president regarding "base closure and realignment issues," paying them a total of \$160,000. That assignment ended last April 1, according to federal disclosure filings, the day after rival Manchester was awarded rights to the Broadway complex.

Asked at the event a week ago Tuesday who was backing his independent voter efforts, Peace said that "a lot of folks" had contributed money to the group and specifically named the big drug firm of Eli Lilly. Because it was incorporated less than a year ago, the voter project has not yet been required to file a Form 990 with the Internal Revenue Service disclosing how much it has raised and spent. Even when it does file, federal law does not require donors, whose contributions are tax exempt, to be identified, thus providing the group, which is said to have sought status as a 501(c)(4) "social welfare organization," cover against detailed financial scrutiny. According to the IRS website, under the law such a group "may engage in some political activities, so long as that is not its primary activity."

Big play in Peoria The plan by **David Copley**, who turned 55 last week, to sell off Copley-owned Midwest papers continues to stir controversy. In Peoria, the Copley-owned *Journal Star* reported on its business page about a big meeting at city hall called by "elected leaders and members of the Peoria arts community" to "emphasize the importance of maintaining an

independent newspaper in central Illinois." Sponsored by the Peoria Newspaper Guild, the event featured GOP state representative **Dave Leitch**, an ex-JS reporter, and Mayor **Jim Ardis**. Meanwhile, Copley senior V.P. **Hal Fuson** told Editor & Publisher that the company hoped to unload the



Hal Fuse

papers "within a very few months." He added: "Ownership is important, but the demands of those communities are ultimately what really matter. And these are all good communities and will require that the new owners serve their needs."

— 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.

Foreclosure Looming? Watch for Scamsters

By Don Bauder

s the second month of 2007 moves along, Wall Street and Main Street are still swashbuckling, but the San Diego economy

is noticeably buckling. San Diego stocks? They are historically so speculative and volatile that they could swagger *or* stagger this year — one reason why, in general, they are best left to the insiders who get their shares for pen-

will lower interest rates this year, and that the phenomenon of short-term interest rates being higher than long-term rates (called an inverted yield curve) does not portend a



nies and don't have to worry about the market's vagaries.

The U.S. economy grew by 3.2 percent last year, and economists look for 2.5 percent this year. But that's based on several rosy expectations: that the housing slump is ending, that the Federal Reserve recession, as it does 80 percent of the time. In short, most forecasters expect a "Goldilocks: not too hot, not too cold" economy, which is perfect for Wall Street but not Main Street.

Believing that all these things will happen requires blind faith. The nation has a negative savings rate. Consumers are tapped out. So are governments at every level. While housing is only 5 percent of the U.S. economy, it has provided 75 percent of the job growth in the past four years. Also, as housing prices went up, consumers borrowed money on those higher values. They spent 40 percent of that and spent

28 percent of the capital gains on homes they sold, according to economist Allen Sinai. If housing boosted jobs and consumer spending so much on the way up, it's probably going to hurt on the way down.

Says Wall Street power-house Merrill Lynch: "This is the most overowned, over-leveraged, and oversupplied housing market the U.S. has ever known." Them's frightenin' words from a brokerage house that prospers when the economy does well and stocks go up.

Don't convey such news to most of Wall Street; it is only listening to Little Mary Sunshine. Stocks rose about 14 percent last year, greatly because of \$3.8 trillion in deals worldwide. People bought a stock expecting somebody else to buy it at a higher price. That's sometimes called "the Greater Fool Theory." The

continued on page 8



Neal Obermeyer



Turnstiles for Lake Murray?

By Joe Deegan

Hey might want to consult history,"
Jim Brown says of city officials who
are trying to overhaul the San Diego Water

Department's reservoir recreation program. Brown served as the program's director from 1974 through 2003 and is one of many local residents who worry that the City's efforts may end up ruining a regional treasure. The Water

recreational activities are offered at nine lakes in the San Diego reservoir system: Hodges, Miramar, and Murray, within San Diego; Sutherland, northeast of Ramona; Barrett, El Capitan, and San Vicente, in East County; and



Jim Brow



Barbara Cleves Anderson

Department's webpage advertises the program as follows: "The public is provided supervised recreational access to all of the City's reservoirs for a variety of traditional outdoor activities, including fishing, boating, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, hiking, picnicking, waterfowl hunting...waterskiing, jet skiing and windsurfing."

Various selections of the

Upper and Lower Otay, east of Chula Vista.

Last summer the Water Department sounded an alarm when it announced plans to get out of the recreation business by June 30, 2007. Director Jim Barrett made the decision after a San Diego County Grand Jury report criticized a "service level agreement" his department made in 2003 with the Park and Recreation

cession stands at seven of the city's reservoirs. The stands, according to the report, sold bait, beverages, and snacks, and rented boats. They provided park use-permits, processed boat reservations and fishing licenses, enforced lake rules, and assisted the Water Department with unspecified lake maintenance. But the stands had lost \$1.9 million over the previous two years. "This is another example," said the report, "of the draining of enterprise funds to support activities more appropriately paid from the General Fund." As soon as Mayor Sanders became aware of the report, titled "Service Level Agreements Equal Back Door Funding," he responded by shutting down the Park and Recreation concession stands. The Water Department's

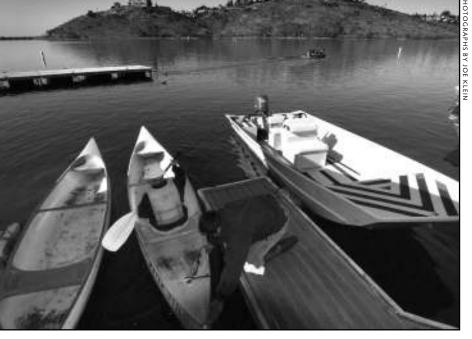
Department to operate con-

The Water Department's Barrett argued his case to get out of the recreation business by saying he wanted to restrict his department's future efforts to its essential task, providing San Diego with drinking water. The San Diego Union-Tribune wrote last July, "Barrett, who has been on the job for just over a month, said he hadn't been able to determine why the Water Department ever got involved in lake recreation."

The concessions problem and who should run reservoir recreation, however, are two different issues the city seems to be conflating. The grand jury report did not recommend that the reservoir



Road adjacent to Lake Murray



Lake Murray

recreation program be taken early days," he tells me, "peofrom the Water Department. ple like Colonel Ed Fletcher and It did recommend that the John D. Spreckels owned the mayor and city council "immereservoirs. That was before diately reduce the multi-milthe city got involved in securlion dollar financial losses to ing its own water supply. The the [Water Department] and city's water department actu-[Park and Recreation Departally began in 1901 when it bought the distribution sysment] in the operation of concession stands...." Although tem, including pipes and horse many lake visitors say they carts and other ways of movcan live without concessions at the lakes, they feel Water

has done a good job running

the overall reservoir recre-

ation program. A 1993 city

council policy called the pro-

gram "a secondary but highly

valuable byproduct of the

reservoir system," adding that

the city originally intended

the activities to operate "on

a self-sustaining basis with user fees offsetting all associ-

ated costs of the program."

The policy acknowledged, however, that more recent "non-revenue producing community use activities and access" make it "no longer possible or equitable for special interest users to bear the financial burden of the entire City Lakes Recreation Program." To supplement the fees

collected for fishing, hunting, waterskiing, and other activities, the policy authorized

the use of "general water

rates...to offset all costs asso-

ciated with basic levels of pub-

lic access, community usage and related grounds and facil-

To learn a little history, I visit

Jim Brown's Tierrasanta home,

where I first ask about the

evolution of concessions at

the city's lakes. "In the very

ity maintenance."

and the caretaker had to be paid a fee to keep an eye on things. And then fishing began at the lakes, as did hunting and camping. These were things people wanted to do. So the caretakers were told to run a program and collect, say, 50 cents a person. The operator is saying, 'I can pay this guy less if he's got this side income that



Turnstile at Lake Murray in early '90s

ing water at that time. In 1913 the city decided that, in addition to the distribution system, they should have the water resources themselves. So that resulted in a condemnation process. Eventually the parties agreed on a settlement and the city could say, 'We own these reservoirs.'

"Well, Spreckels used to keep a caretaker out there, I allow him to take.' So you had people like Seth Swenson at Lake Morena, a famous keeper. His wife was a good gook, and they had a spare room and could have people staying up there in a little bedand-breakfast operation providing for the fishermen, you go out today to Otay Lakes 3007

continued on page 8 🔻

Looming scamsters

continued from page 6

frantic deal making is continuing this year. Wall Street loves deals because it makes so much money from them, but mergers, acquisitions, buyouts, and stock buybacks are the worst way for stocks to go up. For example, last year's \$3.8 trillion in deals whooshed past the previous record year - in the year 2000, when the three-year bear market, one of history's worst, began.

Bottom line: the U.S. economy, buoyed by such factors as oil dropping below \$50 a barrel and lower inflation, might grow by about 2 percent this year, avoiding a recession. Stocks could do half as well as they did in 2006.

San Diegans are accustomed to seeing their economy outperform the economies of the United States and California. The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce just can't get out of this joyful rut: it predicts that San Diego, while slowing, will do better than the state and nation this year. Nonetheless, only 16,000 jobs will be added; there will be only 25,000 new residents, the slowest population growth in more than a decade, predicts the chamber.

But that's still too rosy, for one major reason: real estate. Even the optimists who believe that the U.S. housing slump is ending do not say that the worst is over for the oncesizzling markets on the West and East coasts. And San Diego's housing market sizzled more than almost all others. In 2000, the median price of a San Diego County home was around \$230,000. That shot up to \$518,000 in the fall of 2005 and has now dropped 7 percent. Sales were off 25 percent last year. With the inventory of unsold homes up sharply, San Diego has

San Diego Reader February 8, 2007

morphed from a crazy seller's market to a savvy buyer's market. This year, sellers will hold on longer, hoping for the market to stabilize; buyers will sit, expecting prices to go down further. The buyers will be right. The decline will hurt home builders. Peter Reeb of Reeb Development Consulting predicts that new home prices early this year will be down more than 12 percent from early last year.

During the housing-boom years, people took on exotic mortgages, betting that their incomes and their home values would continue rising. The latter is already deflating. Someone with an interest-only loan (paying only interest for five to ten years) is betting on rising home prices. Good-bye. Those with option adjustable-rate mortgages (families decide how much they want to pay each month) will likely get in trouble, because the balance of the loan keeps rising. It's called "negative amortization." It's poison.

In recent years, more than 50 percent of San Diego home buyers had some kind of exotic mortgage — a higher percentage than in other cities. Ouch. San Diegans' incomes are only about 15 percent higher than the national average, but the cost of living is 50 percent higher. Double ouch.

Perhaps as many as 12 percent of San Diego jobs are related to real estate — sales, construction, appraising, furniture stores, etc. That will come down. Industries that bring in money from the outside are weakening. Biotech jobs have dropped 9 percent in the past five years; computer- and electronic-manufacturing employment is down 20 percent and telecom down 3.5. Tourism jobs are up 17 percent, but wages are low. Much of the rest of San

Diego employment (services, retail, wholesale, and the like) depends on population growth, and that appears to be in the past.

Financial counselors often advise investors to stay close to home — buy stocks in local companies that can be monitored closely. Don't listen. Generally, San Diego stocks are for crapshooters. They are tech, telecom, and biotech stocks that tend to be extremely volatile. They enjoy great hype, but few turn out to be thriving companies. San Diego has 500 biotechs, but only a handful have been financially successful — that is, racking up steady profits for a reasonable period from a government-approved product.

Consider, for example, the

ten local stocks that had the biggest gains last year. In second place was biotech Illumina, rising 178.8 percent to \$39.31. But it had hit \$51.63 in 2000, the year it went public. In third place was biotech Sequenom, which rose 129.4 percent to \$4.68. But it had soared to \$573.75 in 2000, its first year, and traded at \$65 and \$32 in each of the next two years. In fourth place last year was Diversa, rising 126.7 percent to \$10.88. But it had zoomed 212 percent to \$75 on its first day of trading in 2000, continued up to \$169.19, and changed hands above \$10.88 much of the time until 2005. In fifth place was retailer PriceSmart, which rose 114.2 percent to \$17.91. But it had hit highs above \$40 from 1999 through 2002. In sixth place was biotech Isis Pharmaceuticals, rising 112.2 percent to \$11.12. But from 1996 through 2002, Isis generally sported yearly highs above \$20 and almost hit \$40 in 2000.

In ninth place was telecom Leap Wireless International. It rose 57 percent to \$59.47. But Leap sold at \$94 in 1999 and \$110.50 the next year. Then it plunged to zero in 2003 and 2004 as it went through bankruptcy reorganization, shedding \$2 billion in debt. Now it is riding tall in the saddle again. Ride these wild horses at your own risk.

If you own your home free and clear or have a conventional mortgage on a residence you plan to stay in, you may dodge San Diego's 2007 woes, and you probably will be able to buy some goods at discount prices. If home values get hit really hard, you might even speculate in the housing market. If the home bloodbath is severe enough, good population growth may resume, assuming there are jobs. But at 3.1 million, isn't the population high enough already? ■

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

Lake Murray

continued from page 7

County Park, you'll find that one bedroom of the ranger's residence there was the old Spreckels fishing and hunting lodge."

Brown thinks that in the years after the city took over in 1913, a formal separation of the reservoir keepers from concessionaires took place. After the separation, the concessions operated as private businesses. But in 2003 the most recent concessionaire cited difficulty making money and canceled its contract with the City. The Water Department then entered into the service level agreement with the Park and Recreation Department to continue operating the concession stands. The recent losses, not to mention projected future losses, that so upset the grand jury are the result of Park and Recreation's concession operations in 2004 and 2005. The City's choice of Park and Recreation to run concession stand operations bothered Brown, and a general sense that he was no longer being heard prompted him to retire in 2003 after 29 years as the recreation program's head.

"And it's an interesting thing to me," says Brown, "that this city, which now seems so prepared to walk away from running its recreation program, fought earnestly to have it. What happened when the city took over these watersupply reservoirs [in 1913] was that the state of California looked down and said, 'Now that the reservoirs are operated by a municipality' which the state had more control over than it did the private sector — 'now that these are operated by a city of the state, we have to tell them there is no more public access.' This did not sit well. The lakes had a history of being the locations where real movers and shakers met to make deals. More deals, it was said, were made in a duck blind or a fishing boat at Lower Otay Lake than in attorneys' offices downtown."

San Diego resisted the state's attempt to restrict access to the lakes, and an agreement was reached allowing the recreation activities to continue if certain state standards were followed. "And that's how the San Diego lakes program started to be recognized as the pioneer in the country, if not the world, on the concept of multiple use of water-supply reservoirs." The city's water department continues to use similar wording on its website: "The City of San Diego," it reads, "is widely recognized as a pioneer in the multiple use (for recreation) of water supply reservoirs."

But reflecting the Water Department's new attitude,

director Jim Barrett was quoted in the July Union-Tribune article as saying, "The reasons I've heard [for getting involved in lakes recreation] are like folklore shrouded in myth.... I'm from the East Coast and recreation wasn't allowed on drinking-water reservoirs there."

Last fall Barrett and Richard Haas, the mayor's deputy chief for public works, agreed to a meeting with disgruntled fisherman Kelly Salmans, president of the San Diego Council of Bass Clubs. Salmans, an El Cajon resident, was angry that the Water Department had allowed water levels at San Vicente Reservoir to drop so low that fishermen couldn't use docks to launch their boats. During the meeting, Barrett said that he didn't any longer have to hear Salmans's complaints since Salmans is a county, not a city, resident.

According to Jim Brown, who attended the meeting, Salmans asked, "What am I to tell the bass fishermen I represent, that they're going to lose fishing on the lakes? I'll encourage my people to write you letters appealing what you're doing." To which Barrett replied, says Brown, "Make sure the letters have a San Diego return address, because if they have addresses outside the city, the letters are going straight into the trash." Salmans tells me later that he reminded Barrett that the fishermen aren't freeloading. They pay for permits to fish on the lakes. "And the bass in the reservoirs," Salmans says he argued, "bring fishermen to San Diego from all over the world."

"In their defense," says Brown, "Barrett and Haas were trying to make the point that San Diego has problems enough without having to worry about someone outside the city who is not a taxpayer or water rate payer. They

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Lake Murray

continued from page 8

are trying to make whole a system that has them pretty well baffled. I was surprised and shocked that Barrett spoke to Kelly the way he did. I will give him credit for candor, however. On the other hand, it's rough saying things like that to someone who has fished those lakes for years."

Barbara Cleves Anderson is another vocal critic of the direction the City seems to be taking on the reservoirs. A San Carlos resident, Anderson is president of Friends of Lake Murray, whose members volunteer their time to, among other things, clean up trash

around the lake. For years Anderson has been an early-morning jogger around Lake Murray. She says that last fall Richard Haas told her that the City is considering ways of charging fees for basic access to the lake.

"What I worry about," she tells me, "are the numerous older people who walk the lake daily. I remember a time long ago when a fence was put up around Lake Murray and turnstiles were set up at both lake entrances. If the Park and Recreation Department takes over the lakes, I worry they'll charge fees. And once they get the fees in place, you know they'll start raising them. Many of our older people at the lake can't afford that

every day."

Jim Brown says he is a proponent of a "pay-as-you-go" approach to financing lakes recreation. He tells me, however, that it is a little extreme to ask everyone who walks onto reservoir property to pay a fee. "In the old days," he says, "the primary activities at the lakes were fishing, hunting, and camping. At Lake Murray today you might have 30 or 40 fishermen paying a fee while 1000 people are walking around the lake for fitness." And many are not city residents. People come to Lake Murray from La Mesa and to Lake Hodges from Escondido. That doesn't even take into account that six of San Diego's reservoirs lie not in the city but

in the county. Brown favors a plan to seek assistance from other jurisdictions to help San Diego pay for lakes recreation.

Whether there will be money in the general-fund budget for the reservoir recreation program is now the hot topic. If the program is too expensive, will user fees be increased, or will some of the services be dropped? The City says it is currently engaged in a "business process reengineering" analysis of the problem.

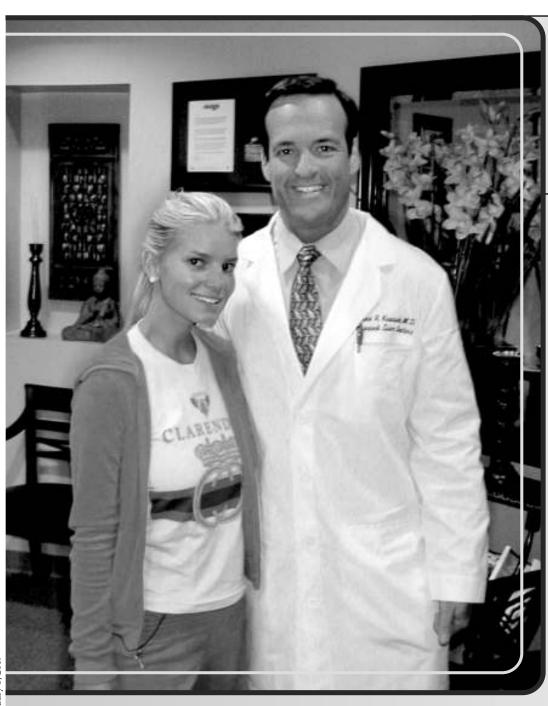
At its January 22 meeting, the San Diego City Council voted to use general-fund money to reimburse Water \$1,498,250 for the department's expenses in running lakes recreation in fiscal year 2007.

In support of the funding resolution, a city staff report stated: "The reservoir recreation program can be most efficiently and effectively managed by the City's Park and Recreation Department. Park and Recreation will bring professional management and innovation to this unique operation. Recreation is not a core function of the Water Department."

But Councilman Jim Madaffer made sure to distance himself from the statement. He did make the motion to have general-fund money authorized for relieving the Water Department of reservoir recreation costs. But Madaffer said he did not agree with "moving Park and Rec

employees, who are already spread so thin throughout the city, into our lake areas, especially Lake Murray. If you want to see half of District Seven down here in the council chambers, that is what will happen if this [idea] goes forward." Madaffer remarked that "we already have able Water Department employees" to run the recreation program. And he suggested that city funds could be used to pay the department, making sure that water rate payers don't subsidize the program in the future.

"And how do we know," asks Dorothy Leonard, "that Park and Recreation would do better?" Leonard is a member of the Mission Trails



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Regional Park Foundation board. Lake Murray is part of the park. Leonard's colleague on the board, Nancy Acevedo, is more direct. "To have Park and Recreation in charge of something at the Water Department reservoirs will involve two departments with separate chains of command trying to work together. That will lessen cooperation among city employees in getting the job done at the lakes." Acevedo notes that it would cause a duplication of trucks and other equipment at the lakes

Jim Brown agrees, adding that history warns against letting Park and Recreation run the reservoir recreation program again. The Water Department ran the program from 1913 to 1966, he says, when the City turned it aover to Park and Recreation. By 1981, however, Park and Recreation was being forced to make cuts in the program. In response to complaints from residents, the city's administration and council gave it back to the Water Department, asking Brown to continue as reservoir recreation director.

"We used to use a job order system," he says, "where employees would keep track of how much of their time went to water-supply tasks and how much to recreation." As far as Brown knows, the department still does that, allowing for the future possibility that it could charge the city's general fund for public-recreation expenses.

To emphasize that the Water Department rather than Park and Recreation is the better choice for running reservoir recreation, Brown wrote in a short paper he prepared as a possible editorial: "The Water Department employees who [have been operating lakes recreation] are not recreation leaders in any sense of the word. They do not organize, teach, lead or officiate recreational activities.

"They are in fact," Brown continues, "the caretakers of the reservoirs, the security buffer that oversees the public's access and use to insure that our water supply reservoirs and facilities are protected to meet Water Department requirements and standards. They primarily open and close the gates so that the public can lead itself in recreation, regulate the public's use to comply with applicable regula-

tions, check permits, issue rental boats, check private boats, maintain equipment and grounds, take reservoir readings, patrol the reservoir and provide information and assistance to the public, among other duties associated with

CITY LIGHTS

the operation and protection of the water supply reservoir in their charge.'

But a City-planned "community participation and public outreach effort" indicates that the Sanders administration has its mind made up.

The staff report for the January 22 city council meeting promises, "A community forum will be scheduled to provide greater clarity to stakeholders and obtain feedback as the Reservoir Recreation program transitions from the Water Department to Park and Recreation."

In a conciliatory vein the staff report also notes, "The reservoir recreation program is important to many residents in the San Diego region, and should be preserved to

the greatest extent possible." With the Sanders administration now looking to make every budget cut it can in the midst of San Diego's pensionfund crisis, those residents are worrying that the "greatest extent" may not be very great. ■

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LETTERS

We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader. Phone them in at 619-235-3000, ext. 460; address them to *Letters to the Editor, Box 85803,* San Diego CA 92186-5803; *fax them to 619-231-0489*; or use our web page at SanDiegoReader.com/letters. Include your name, address, and telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Found: Another Lost-And-Found

After reading "Where the Mail Goes" (Cover Story, February 1), I recommend that the Reader go to the San Diego airport's lost and found, because that is where everything else is that the USPS doesn't have!!

Howard G. via e-mail

Kite Tale

The story "The Old Man's Kite" (Feature Story, February 1) was delightfully charming. I don't know whether it was creative writing or a personal recollection, but if Mr. Cone has more stories, I for one would like to read them. Thank you for sharing this one with us.

> Janet England via e-mail

Cross Words For Crosswords

I just finished the Reader "Puzzle" for this week, and I'm extremely disappointed in Mr. Wilk. I expect the Reader's articles and columns to show the paper's leftwing antiestablishment bias. But the crossword puzzle? Whether the answer to 53-across is meant to imply that anyone on the right of the political spectrum is "nuts" or whether it is meant to cast particular aspersion upon the president and vice president of the United States, the clue and its answer were out of line.

I think it has been traditional for crossword puzzles to challenge our linguistic and factual knowledge without resorting to cheap shots of political propaganda. Mr. Wilk's puzzle in the February 1 issue has broken with that tradition and struck a new low in puzzle making. I'm disappointed.

Perhaps most readers of the Reader are the left-leaning, president-bashing types the editors take them to be, types who consider the direct insult of our elected leaders to be normal and proper speech. But I think most of its puzzle solvers will agree with me that crossword puzzles are and ought to remain sacred ground, where shared knowledge and rational capacity may find some respite from the political polarization that surrounds us everywhere else in the print and electronic media.

I demand an apology and a return to civilization. Preserve our haven of language and logic! Keep the crosswords free from the politics of insult!

G. Rappaport via e-mail

Me Too

This is in response to the Reader of February 1, "A Yahoo and His Pals" (Letters), written by Michael Wickstrom. I just wanted to say, Amen, I'm glad you wrote it, 'cause I was thinking the exact same thing. I'm glad someone decided to put it into words.

Name Withheld

Serendipity

Barbarella tries so hard to justify her self-centered choices in her tiny, insignificant life with her glamorized tales of life with David. As far as her latest snobby tirade ("Diary of a Diva," February 1), I am gladdened to know that those wonderful chance meetings that sometimes become great friendships are something she is eliminating from her precious environment. More for us, I say. You can keep your prescreened applicants and relationships; they are devoid of any of the magic that serendipitous meetings sometimes reward us with.

> Diana via e-mail

A Little Perspective

Re "We Have to Tell the Story" — the Lost Boys of Sudan (Cover Story, January 25).

And to think I get mad and cry because I don't own a home. How pathetic. Excellent article. Thank you.

Name Withheld Bay Park

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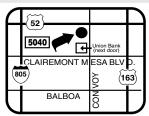
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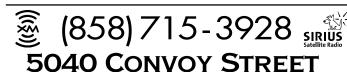
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SportingBox By Patrick Daugherty

What Separates Men From Boys

im Burcio, 57, is sitting on a shop stool with a block of wood in his hand. He appears to be tall. He is slender, with saltand-pepper hair and a ruddy, clean-shaven face. He's wearing a brown, camouflage shirt over a gray T-shirt, blue jeans, and tennis shoes. Burcio is busy about his work.

He carves decoys — mostly bird decoys as in the 5 a.m. shot of whiskey, bird blinds, bird dogs, orange vests, and guns kind of decoys. I wanted to know how it started.

"Several things came together at once," Burcio says. "I was majoring in biology up in Humboldt [State University]. I had an uncle who was a taxidermist. I'd taken four years of mechanical drawing in high school. And then I bumped into a book that showed a modern, contemporary hunting decoy. It sparked something in me. I started carving in the early

"A lot of people don't realize it, but it's an original American art form. Decoy carving comes from no other continent, no other culture except North America. They found decoys in the Lovelock Cave in Nevada. They were dated out at 1000 A.D.

"What kinds of wood do you use?"

"It's regional. Out on the West Coast you'd use redwood or sugar pine. If you're making something fancier you might use basswood. Down South they use tupelo. Back East they might use white cedar.'

I wouldn't recognized a tupelo if it walked up to me and demanded food. "How many decoys do you think you've carved?"

"I'm getting close to 1000."

"And how long does it take to carve one?"

"It can take anywhere from 15 hours for a fairly smooth project to...I've spent as much as

Somebody somewhere has spent 500 hours carving a bird decoy. "What's a complicated carving as opposed to a smooth carving?

"Depends on what level you want to take this to. If you want a rustic, artistic kind of thing it's fairly simple. If you want something where every feather is carved and painted and you're trying to match the live bird, if you want to go that far, there are people who carve that

I look at the block of wood in his hands, ask, "What's up with this guy?"

"I'm trying to carve to the round, get rid of any corners.'

"You're doing it out of your head?"

"At this point. Once I've carved this to the

round, I'll take a couple steps back and my eyes will pick up harmony or my eyes will pick up discord. If they pick up discord then I'll find out where it is and fix it. Sometimes I got a problem and I know I'm not going to be able to fix it right then, but I know when I get to that area I'll fix it.'

"Can you change birds mid-stream?"

"You don't want to change species, but you can change attitude. Like, if I get halfway through this project and I want to do something different with the head — maybe I want the head to be forward like he's leaning into the wave — I can change that. Right now, his head is kind of mid-range, floating on the water, a no-problems position.

'You can do a lot of different things. For instance," Burcio points to a decoy on a nearby table, "this Bonaparte [Bonaparte's Gull] has a little bit of attitude. Bonapartes get noisy. He'll get his tail up and he'll throw his head up and he'll give you a little what for, so you try to carve that. This bird," pointing to an unpainted decoy, "is a ruddy duck. The thing about ruddy ducks is they're small, they're round, and they've got short bills. So, when you first start carving, you're worried about all the measurements and all the this and all the that. And that's okay; you've got to get through that part. But, when you get to 35 years carving, you're carving an attitude. You're carving pudgy. Ruddy ducks are short and round, so I made it shorter. His bill is short and wide; I made it wider. His head is dipped, I made it scrunch down even more. I'm carving the character of a ruddy duck.'

Yeah, I can see it. "How hard is it to paint a

"Painting is extremely difficult. You can be a good carver in about three or four years, if you go at it pretty hard. Twenty-five years from now, you'll still be learning tricks about painting.

"So, some people are great carvers and lousy painters?"

"You got it."

"Painting separates the men from the

"Pretty much. The guys who are knowledgeable about paint, we call them artists. The other guys, they've got a hobby."

Pacific Southwest Wildlife Arts is hosting their 34th California Open featuring carved decoys at Balboa Park on February 24 & 25. Go to www.pswa.net or call Mike Dowell at 760-945-8442 for particulars.

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San Diego Reader February 8, 2007







PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

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"Come, now is the time to worship," crooned the praise leader to the congregation. Then he turned his call to heaven: "Come, Lord Jesus, come." Then back to the people: "Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away...as deep cries out to deep."

I visited Horizon Christian Fellowship because of their participation in a worldwide week of prayer and fasting, beginning February 5. "Fasting," read the handout available in the foyer, "is a spiritual discipline that causes one to dissociate him or herself from the natural desires of the flesh, and affords us an opportunity to focus our attention on seeking God's direction for our lives..." Every night, participants gather in their respective churches — "connected via high-bandwidth Internet video" — to pray. During the service, Pastor Mike Mac-Intosh called it "a great spark.... It's just wonderful to hear reports come in through the Internet. Thousands and thousands have joined together."

But the Web can help create other sorts of communities, warned MacIntosh.

The sermon treated John chapter 10, wherein Jesus calls himself "the good shepherd." "Now, if there is a good shepherd, there must be a bad shepherd. You've already learned that in John's gospel; he's always contrasting." A congregant had sent him a link to a website with people "filming themselves blaspheming the Holy Spirit, denouncing God the Father and God the Son, and giving their souls to the devil on camera — most of them young, thinking it's a fun thing.... The Psalms say that hell does enlarge herself daily.... The devil wants to drag you down into the pit of hell.... He wants to steal any good attribute that could possibly be in your life."

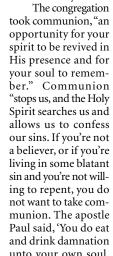
In contrast to the devil's malevolence, "there are so many wonderful attributes of the good shepherd that people just walk by...because they've taken it so far out of context.... It all boils down to when you die...you have to have your heart right with the good shepherd.... When death appears, that's the time you need the shepherd more than ever. We're all going to be there." Further, Jesus

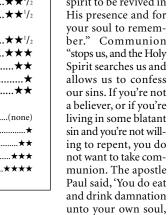
said that "I am the door...if any man shall enter in, he shall be saved and find pasture.... If God is going to take care of you for eternity, then it's his responsibility to take care of you in 2007."

MacIntosh asked the congregation to stand and read Psalm 23 aloud. "I want you to go back 750 years, before Jesus ever said that He was the good shepherd, and realize how King David had seen Jesus, and he knew. 'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures.... Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me.... Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.'

"Jesus comes with a single focus in mind for you," concluded MacIntosh, "to bring life and to bring life more abundantly. Do you really have abundant life? Does your life overflow with the fruit of the Holy Spirit? Or do

vou feel like you're being robbed of your energy? Do you feel like you're dying something is just stabbing your heart, your guts are being wrenched? Well, then, you don't have abundant life.... 'My sheep hear my voice. Can you hear Him this morning? Do you know Him? Are you following Him? 'If you are truly my disciple, continue in my word."





because you don't rightly discern the Lord's body."

What happens when we die?

"According to the Bible," said MacIntosh, "there's a place called Sheol — we call it hell — that's in the center of the earth.... The Bible says it was made for Satan and his angels. Heaven was designed for mankind, but then, when man sinned and turned from God — heaven would have been hell to someone if they didn't like God. So, being fair and righteous, He lets them go there.... On the other side, the Bible says, 'Believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and confess with your lips that He is Lord, and you shall be saved.' It's a narrow road and a disciplined life.... For those that put our faith in Him, as the good shepherd, He leads us to His Father. What heaven looks like, I don't know.'

— Matthew Lickona

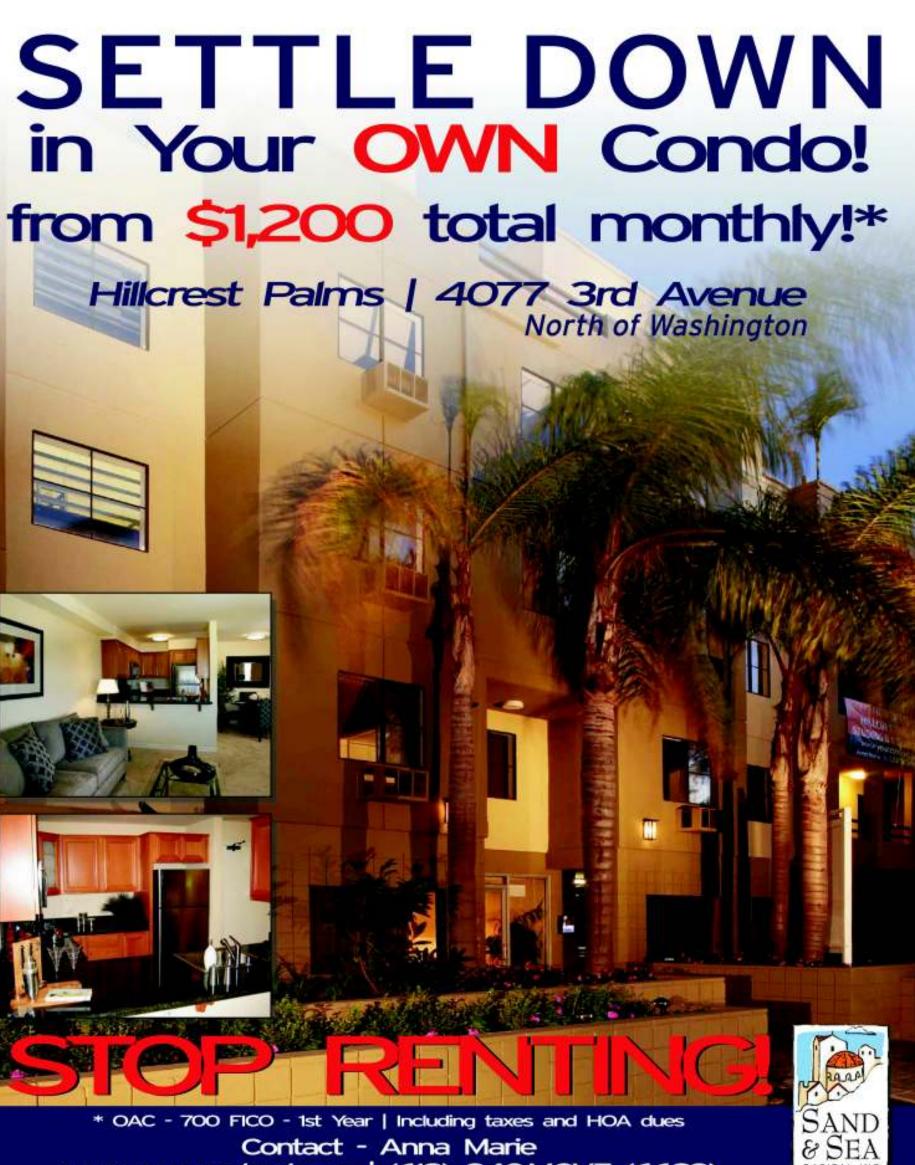
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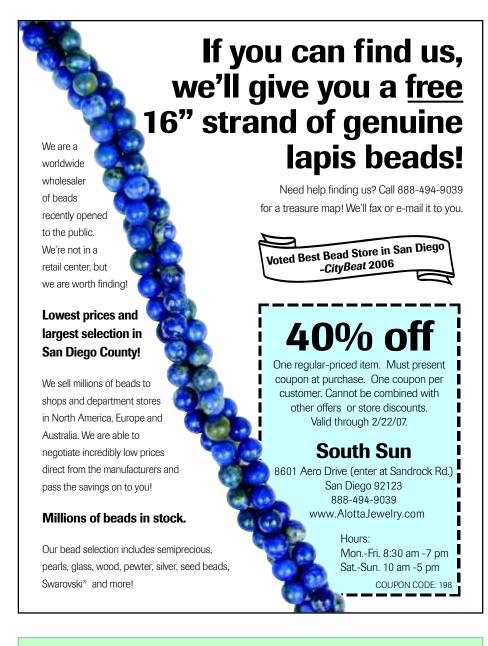
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BestBuys

-EVE KELLY

It is pronounced, 'bru-skay-ta,'" groaned my husband Patrick after I slaughtered the pronunciation for the millionth time. That thought kept popping into my head as I asked store clerks where to find bruschetta. Not one store clerk knew what I was asking for until I followed up with the Americanized pronunciation, "brushetta."

I was hunting out readymade bruschetta that tasted like homemade. My friend Bernice is throwing a Mardi Gras party for 75 people, and she wants to start the night with a round of bruschetta, but doesn't want to spend a lot of time chopping tomatoes. I suggested readymade bruschetta. She winced and said. "If you can find a good one, I'll serve it."

I ran to all the local stores and gathered all the bruschetta I could lay hands on, then called my friend Sarah to help Patrick and me taste-test them. Sarah lived in Rome for a few years. "They have the best tomatoes there," she said, "and my Italian friends would make bruschetta often. A few hours before serving it, they would prepare the topping — chopped tomatoes, basil, olive oil, and salt — and set it in the refrigerator. When the bread came out of the oven, they would rub half a clove of garlic on the bread, and the garlic flavor would sink into the bread. Then they would take the topping and spread

"It sometimes was served with a slice of a whole tomato, not diced tomatoes," she added.

it over the toasted bread.

We pried open the tub from Whole Foods: Cibo Naturals Bruschetta topping (\$6.99 for 10 oz.). Within a minute, the whole room was filled with the aroma of basil. "Smells good," Sarah said as she piled a little onto a slice of baguette, "but I am left a little disappointed after by the taste. It's kind of flavorless."

'Tastes like simmered-down spaghetti sauce," added Patrick.

The Buitoni Bruschetta Tuscan (\$4.99 for 10.5 oz. at Ralphs) was liked by the whole table but not as bruschetta. "The smoky grilledpepper taste is not a bad flavor, but it is more like a tapenade than a

bruschetta," said Patrick.

The Buitoni Bruschetta Classic (\$4.99 for 10.5 oz. at Albertsons) suffered a similar dilemma; good flavor, but not what one would expect out of a bruschetta.

Thus began a discussion of what makes a true bruschetta. Wikipedia says, "Bruschetta is a food originating in central Italy. It consists of grilled bread rubbed with garlic and topped with extra-virgin olive oil, salt, and pepper. Variations may include toppings of spicy red pepper, tomato, vegetables, and/or cheese.... The noun 'bruschetta' is from the verb in the Roman dialect 'bruscare,' meaning 'to roast over coals.' The meaning of the word has changed, so that now some Americans typically use the word 'bruschetta' to refer to the topping itself, not

"When bruschetta is made fresh," declared

"The noun 'bruschetta' is from the verb in the Roman dialect 'bruscare,' meaning 'to roast over coals."

Sarah, "the flavors are more individual, and the effect is closer to an antipasto or a salad as opposed to a spread or a salsa."

Patrick agreed. "When you put all the ingredients into a jar, the flavors all become one, and the texture becomes homogenous." We forged ahead.

Vons sold a frozen bruschetta, Safeway Select Bruschetta Pesto, Mozzarella, and Tomato (\$3.69 for a six count), which were slices of bread with the topping ready to be heated in the oven. "That looks horrible," said Sarah, pulling it out of the oven, "like something that has been sitting on the counter for a day or two." The taste was like pesto pizza — heavy basil, but not fresh basil, with a bland cheese flavor. "At best, this is a college-dorm snack," commented Sarah, "but you are probably better off just buying frozen pizza instead."

We finally found a keeper in Bellino Bruschetta Tomato Topping (\$5.29 for 17 oz.) from Mona Lisa in Little Italy. It had the con-

sistency of chunky tomato sauce, and instead of basil it had

oregano. But the tomato flavor was what it ought to be, and we decided that with a little sprinkle of basil, you could have something close to a fresh bruschetta. The

group was from Trader Joe's. First up, Trader Joe's Sun Dried Tomato Bruschetta (\$2.99 for 12 oz.), which was dripping in oil. The over-

powering richness of the sun-dried tomatoes combined with the oil left us grasping for our water glasses. "To me," Sarah said, 'it seems like something you'd use as an ingredient in another dish, maybe as a flavor base for some kind of sauce. I'd never serve this on toast."

Of the Trader Joe's Italian Bruschetta (\$3.29 for 14 oz.), Sarah winced, "The olives don't smell the best, though the smell is deceiving because the flavors are fresh and tasty.'

"It looks like salsa and tastes like olive tapenade," added Patrick. "It's something I would serve at a party — I like olive tapenade — but I wouldn't call it bruschetta."

Trader Giotto's Bruschetta (\$2.29 for 12 oz. in a glass jar) had a fresh blast of tomato and a good balance of tomato and basil, though the little bit of onion it contained made us all think of spaghetti sauce.

By dumb luck, we saved the best for last: Trader Giotto's Fresh Bruschetta Sauce (\$2.49 for a 14.5 oz. tub) from the refrigerated section at Trader Joe's. The diced tomatoes looked like they were chopped five minutes earlier. "You can see tomatoes and you can see clear juice," commented Patrick, "instead of a thick, homogenous spread like the rest of

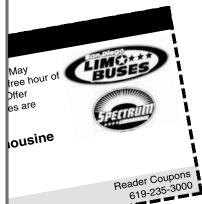
"The garlic hits you later," added Sarah, "fresh tomato, strong garlic. This one tastes most like the fresh bruschetta I ate in Italy."

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- 2. Bruschetta

18 San Diego Reader February 8, 2007

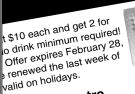
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Crasher

LET HIM EAT CAKE

by Josh Board

heard about a party near the UCSD campus, but because of other things I had going on that night, I didn't make it there until 11:00 p.m. I found the street easily enough, but parking was difficult to find. I had to park far away, and when I walked to where I thought the street was, I realized I was lost.

I walked around with a bottle of wine I brought for Wes's birthday until I met a guy walking toward me. I showed him my directions and asked if he knew were it was. "This looks like the party I'm going to," he said, and we ended up getting lost together, going down several streets before running into four women who knew where the party was. While we walked up the stairs, we told the women about how we got lost and how weird we thought it was that we ran into each other. The women didn't seem to care. They talked about how they weren't going to get as drunk as they did last time. Another said she was looking forward to dancing and that she heard they were going to have a DJ.



There were about 100 pairs of shoes by the front door and a sign that read, "No shoes, to protect the carpet!" I thought how moms always tell their kids to wear clean underwear in case they're in a car accident, but they never warn them to wear socks without holes in case they're at a

researchers at the university.

There was a diversity of races —
I met people from Vietnam, Ger-

"I'm paying a fortune for the go-go dancers and DJs, so I might as well dance a little bit."

party where they are told to take their shoes off.

There were a handful of UCSD students at the party, but most of the guests were

many, Argentina, Denmark,
Canada, Italy, Singapore, Iran,
London, Japan, China, and when I
went on the patio to have a cigar,
I talked to a black dude from

mimicking a line from *The Brady Bunch*.

When I got the chance to talk with Wes, I said, "I'm surprised you're white." He laughed. "Yeah, we got a good mix here, huh?" I said, "You're making everyone take off their shoes, but I notice there's some cake on the floor over there." He said, "I noticed some blue food coloring on the carpet, too." When I mentioned that he had an impressive collection of classic movies above his TV, he excitedly started talking about them. I said, "You know who you sound like?" He said, "Yeah. Quentin Tarantino. I hear that all the time.

"I have to go downstairs and dance," Wes said. "I mean, I'm paying a fortune for the go-go dancers and DJs, so I might as well dance a little bit." I grabbed a drink and followed him.

I talked to a woman from
France and asked her about parties there. She said that some are
similar to this one, but that there
are those with "a lot of talking
and good wine and cheeses." She
said that she'd been to parties in
France that went on for two days.

good clubs in Temecula to see live music, but when I told him that I didn't care for jazz, he tried to convince me to still check the venues out. Another guy, who had been a music promoter in New York, jumped into the conversation. I asked him why he was here, and he told me he took a job as a scientist at UCSD. A woman approached us and introduced herself. When she

said her name was Marsha. Wes

said "Marsha, Marsha, Marsha,"

Bottom left: Birthday boy Wes, with go-go dancers:

Temecula. He told me about the

Bottom right: shoe closet

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I talked to a guy who said that he was a photographer. He and I talked about concert photography. He was giving me good advice on how to best get a shot of the go-go dancers, but he couldn't help me figure out how to do it without the dancers thinking I was a pervert.

I had to walk back through the kitchen to leave the dance area in the garage. In the kitchen I met a tall Middle-Eastern woman, and we ended up conversing on a variety of topics. When I pointed out that they had three different cakes, she went over to the tables to grab a piece and brought me one. I thanked her, and when I set my drink down to take a bite, I noticed she was gone. The place was so packed, I couldn't see where she went.

Wes came into the kitchen for a drink, and we started talking again. He told me about the hookah pipes out on the patio, and I followed him out there. Two guests were having an interesting debate about smoking. One thought smoking hookahs was worse for your lungs because of all the flavored tobaccos. The other person said they are better because they are filtered and use water. I've heard the latter. It smelled like raspberry and apple on the patio.

A Vietnamese woman out there was acting crazy. She talked loud and waved her arms. A guy talking to her was trying to get her to speak with less accent. "Try it. Just say 'Ricardo.' Say it ten times. Try it." She'd repeat it loudly. He threw other phrases at her, but she said, "I'm tired of this crap."

A woman came up to me and said, "Are you the reporter? Can you put in your story that lab techs and graduate students should be paid excessively for their distinct contributions to the advancement of science and humanity?" Everyone laughed.

I asked one of the students from Argentina why she didn't study in Argentina. "Science there is terrible. The salaries are so

One woman who had had a little too much to drink said, "Can you write that the Italian guys all have really dark straight hair on their heads, but they have really curly pubes? And that the great thing about America is that we can get beer from all over the world here."

Wes heard this and told me that when his friend from Germany arrived, the first American beer he had was Pabst Blue Ribbon. "The guy didn't know that is the worst beer you can have."

I headed out hoping that my shoes would still be there and wondering how

many people had their feet stepped on. As I was leaving, I saw the Middle-Eastern woman who ditched me in the kitchen and said, "You gave me a piece of cake and then you disappeared. Is that your move for getting rid of someone?" She smiled and said, "You can't complain. I left you with cake." It was a good point. ■

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by Barbarella

The Mouths of Babes

Parents often talk about the younger generation as if they didn't have anything to do with it.

— Haim Ginott

osa was replenishing her glass with red wine when she announced, "I hate children." After taking a sip, she stared thoughtfully at the pâté and then, applying some of the paste to a seeded cracker, she added, "I really do."

I had recounted a recent news story about a family that was kicked off a plane for the parents' failure to subdue and strap in their tantrum-throwing three-year-

"There's a time and a place. I wouldn't go to a kiddie park in the suburbs to loudly talk about the great sex I had last night."

old. After they were booted so that the plane could take off and get the other 112 passengers to their destination on time, the couple was outraged. The airline refunded the family's tickets and gave them *additional* round-trip tickets to anywhere. But the couple was still pissed. They had wanted more time to convince their brat to sit down and buckle up, and then they had the audacity to be

offended when a hundred other people and the airline staff wouldn't give it to them.

"I don't blame kids for their bad behavior," chimed Andrew, who teaches at an elementary school and who, contrary to Rosa, really likes most children. "I blame their parents. I think I'm a lot less tolerant, though, because I *know* that you can make them behave."

"Yeah, no shit," I agreed. "My mom traveled back and forth across the country with four young girls in tow, and she managed to keep us in line and teach us that it's not cool to disturb other people."

"You shouldn't bring children to Hillcrest," said Josue. He and Rosa opted for a dog in lieu of a child. "We are 'gays,' that's why we came to this town. And now we are getting invaded by breeders." The heterosexual Josue often proclaims his gayness when it comes to art, design, and lifestyle and is proud to display the qualities associated with the stereotypically stylish homosexual man. "Imagine if I went to Chuck E. Cheese and ordered wine and lit a cigar."

"Right," agreed Janet. "There's a time and a place. I wouldn't go to a kiddie park in the suburbs to loudly talk about the great sex I had last night. We're already rolling out the red carpet for breeders with tax breaks and special treatment at work. We need some affirmative action for the childfree." This earned a few "Here here!"s from the cheese-nibbling crowd.

When discussing an individual's right to live a life uninterrupted and undisturbed, whether it be on a plane, in a coffee shop, at a movie theater, or in a nice restaurant, child-free-by-choice people can be a rowdy lot. As annoyed as we often are by inconsiderate parents (e.g., someone who refuses to whisk away her screaming child when it is possible to do so), we rarely confront them. Instead, we try to keep the peace by coughing and staring in the direction of the offensive tot until it ceases its racket. The problem is that, more often than not, it doesn't cease; and the parent, upon noticing the silent cues indicating annoyance, simply doesn't care.

"I agree with Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, who said, 'The right to swing my fist ends where the other man's nose begins,'" said David. "To the parents who proclaim that us childless folk can't understand how hard it is to control a child — as if that somehow authorizes them to be rude and inconsiderate — I say, 'You may not know how difficult it is to stop smoking, but does that give some guy with a three-pack-a-day habit the right to light a cigarette under your nose?' If a guy insists on keeping his screaming kid in close proximity to others, he is being selfish and inconsiderate, any way you look at it."

Whenever a child is seated near me, I grimace and then immediately feel guilty for doing so. This is something I'm working on, because there's no good reason for guilt after all, one cannot deny the fact that a child is much more likely to be irritating or disruptive than an adult. "But it's not the child's fault!" shouts the defensive, indignant mother. Right. On this point we agree. It's not the child's fault that I am getting a migraine from the high-pitched shrieking noise emanating from your child's mouth. It's your fault, for not removing your child from the scene and taking it to your car or your home or a designated kiddie park where it can finish its little tirade without audibly assaulting innocent bystanders.

If I was over at the Urban Grind, relaxing with a book and an espresso, and a





woman sat beside me and started to yelp in my direction, I would have no problem shooting her a "what the fuck is wrong with you?" look and then complaining to the establishment until the disturber of the peace was removed. So why (pardon the pun) do we don kid gloves when it comes to equally annoying and inappropriate outbursts from children?

To minimize my risk of having to deal with chattering children at the theater, I go to R-rated movies very late at night. Still, it seems there will always be at least one selfish and inconsiderate couple who insists on bringing their young, uncontrollable child along to the 10 o'clock showing of Saw II. Just as you, after ponying up ten bucks for a movie, assume I won't bring my boom box to blare the latest Eminem single in your ear, it is reasonable for me to expect you to keep your two-year-old quiet. So, the

next time you want to see the latest horror flick, unless your child is properly trained to shut up and sit still for up to three hours in a dark room while psyche-damaging images are being projected onto a big screen, hire a sitter and leave the brat at home.

After sharing my rant with friends, the ever-protective-of-innocent-children Andrew said, "People wouldn't be so anti-kid if parents made their kids behave.'

"Functioning in society is all about controlling a child," added Janet. "A mother is not just annoying her fellow citizens when she can't control her kid, she's failing that kid, because when he grows up, he won't be acclimated to society's rules."

I gestured to David, who kindly filled my glass. "I'm sick of the 'I have created human and therefore my rights and the rights of my amazing creation are superior to yours' attitude of many parents," I said.

"It's not like you invented the iPhone or won the Nobel Prize. It takes no more than a rut in the hay at the right time of the month to create another person. So I say, yay for the airline or movie theater or coffee house that refuses to tolerate the inconsiderate few for the sake of the inconvenienced many!"

"Chin chin!" said Rosa, raising her glass and clinking it against the other five in the room. "And what airline was that? I want to make sure I book my next trip with them." ■





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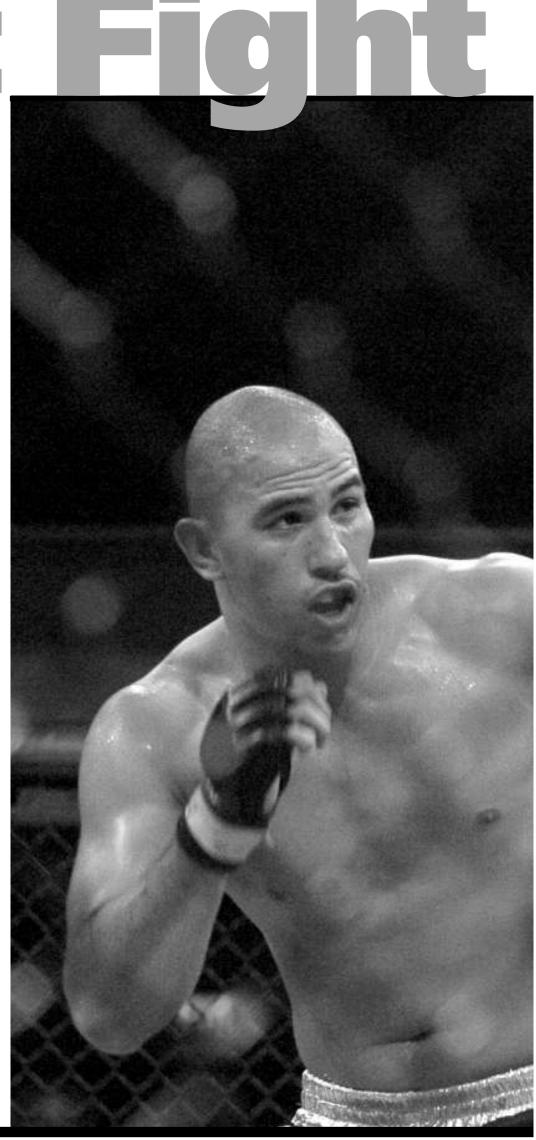
SWEAT DAY

Brandon Vera stands facing David Loiseau in the center of an Olympic-sized boxing ring. David is turned to the side, holding a blue pad, six inches thick, against his torso. Brandon deals David several swift kicks to the midsection. Brandon's shin snaps against the blocking pad with a loud pop. Even though David is braced for the impact, he's shoved backward with each blow. Brandon's hands stay up, in fists, next to his head. *Pop*. He snaps another one so quick it looks as though it takes no time, no coordination, no balance, no effort. *Pop*. Another kick. *Pop*.

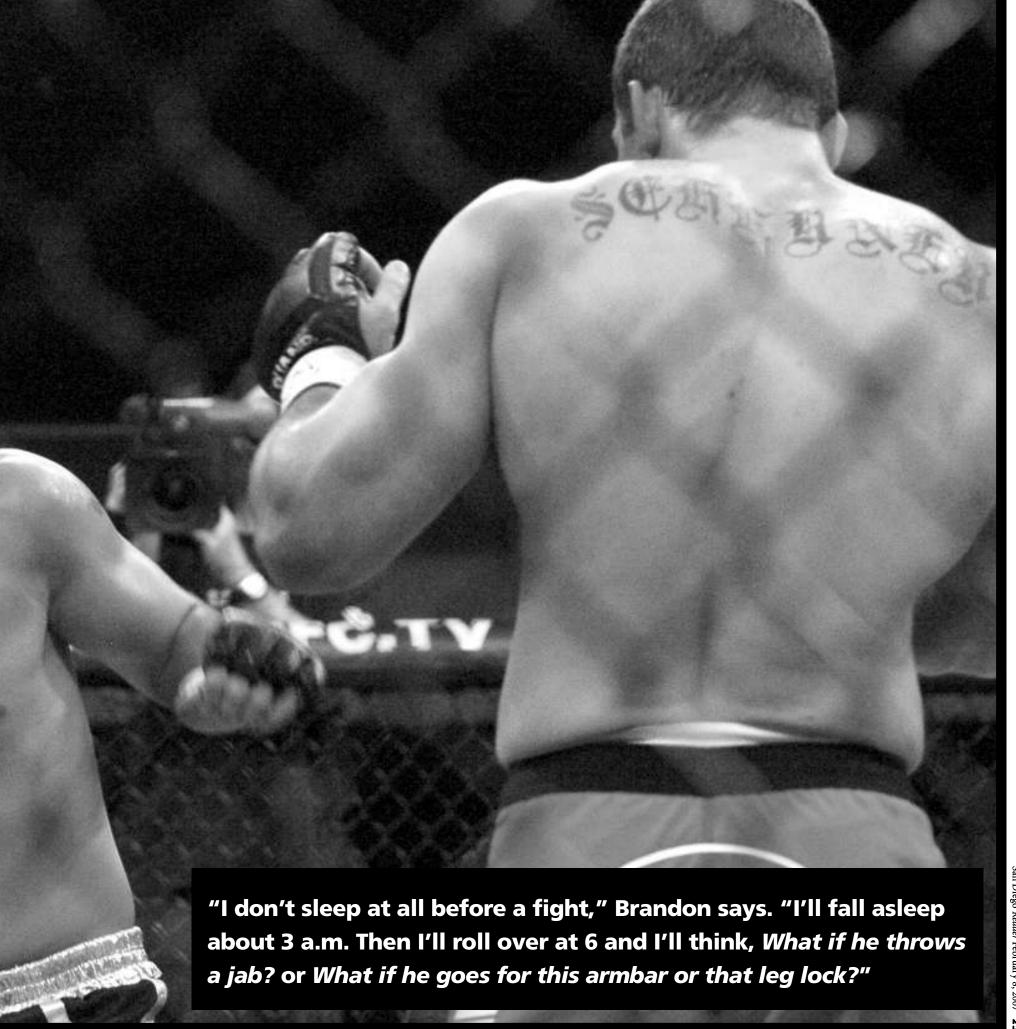
Brandon "the Truth" Vera is a heavyweight fighter, representing City Boxing and San Diego in the Ultimate Fighting Championship. He's training for an upcoming fight against former heavyweight champion Frank Mir.

When an alarm on the wall signals the end of a three-minute round, Brandon keeps dealing out kicks. His training partner, David Loiseau, says, "These are good. You want to stop?"

Pop. Brandon lets loose another right leg to the pad strapped to David's forearms and held against David's ribs. "Repetition," Brandon huffs, sweat rolling down his forehead. Another kick. Another three-minute round, and the alarm on the wall sounds.



The Money Makes Up for a Lot of Pain



Brandon stops to sip water and catch his breath. Between rounds of punishing his training partners, he steps to the edge of the ring to talk to his wife, his friends, and the gym members who train at City Boxing.City Boxing is a traditional fight gym. It smells like stale sweat. It's a barnsized, two-story building. In every location that could possibly hold one, a heavy leather bag — or a small bladder of air — hangs and drips from the walls. At each bag stands a hopeful fighter.

The lower floor is 85 by 40 feet. In the center sits an Olympic boxing ring, 20 by 20 feet, where Brandon is practicing with David. Just inside the front door is an open mat, an area covered in black rubber, where kickboxing and jujitsu classes are held, while on the other side of the ring is the weightlifting equipment, leg-press sta-



tions, squat racks, pullup bars, and dumbbells. A second-floor loft holds more punching bags, a smaller ring for sparring, and treadmills.

Taped to the white

walls are posters of fighting legends: Ali, Couture, Tyson, Duran, and others. On the lower floor, fighters watch themselves box and correct their technique in a long

mirror that covers the western wall. Taped to one corner of the mirror is a May 2006 Washington Post article that chronicles Brandon's last bout in the Ultimate

Fighting Championship.

On the opposite wall, a red electronic alarm blares every three minutes. When the alarm sounds, David ditches the pads, and he and Brandon start working takedowns and ground attacks. Brandon shoots for David's knees. He pulls them together, lifts David from the canvas, and drops him on his back. They stand again. Brandon catches David's legs, and David sprawls backward to defend the takedown. Brandon grips a single leg. He hoists David off the mat to — bang slam him down on his back.

Brandon wrestles David from up top. He overpowers him and sits on his torso, then grapples with David's wrists, seeking to control them and open David's face to attack. Brandon pins David's arms, holding one wrist and neutralizing David's other arm

with an elbow. With his free hand, Brandon smacks David in the face and ear. It's the old siton-somebody-and-hitthem-in-the-head maneuver that bullies deal out to nerds on the elementary school playground. In mixed martial arts, this technique is called "ground and pound." Since they're sparring and not fullforce fighting, Brandon taps David instead of punching him; Brandon's not hurting David.

The three-minute alarm sounds, but Brandon keeps training. They decide to practice Brandon's ground-fighting technique, called jujitsu. The fighters switch so that Brandon is on his back and David is in the top position. David is in Brandon's "guard," which means that Brandon's legs are wrapped around David's waist. Even though Brandon is on the bot-



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tom, he has a number of offensive and defensive options.

Brandon practices one of these techniques: the armbar. Holding David's left wrist, Brandon arches his back, swivels at the hips, and swings his right leg in front of David's face. Brandon pushes with his legs until David is rolled onto his back. Brandon is then sitting beside David, with David's shoulder trapped in a

scissor-lock between
Brandon's knees. David's
elbow is hugged tight
against Brandon's chest.
Brandon arches his back,
wrenching on David's
shoulder and elbow.
Before the arm snaps,
David concedes the
match by tapping on the
mat with his free hand,
and Brandon releases
him.

That's one way to finish off an opponent in the Ultimate Fighting Championship: put them in such pain that they "tap out." The other two ways to win are to knock the opponent out or take it to the end of the three rounds and win a judge's decision. Brandon's been here

Brandon's been here for half an hour, training kickboxing, wrestling, and jujitsu, and he's only now getting warmed up. The alarm sounds again, and he breaks for water and to talk. Brandon doesn't talk about his upcoming fight with former heavyweight Ultimate Fighting champ Frank Mir. He wants to talk about video games.

Young gym members stop by the ring and climb the ropes to shake Brandon's hand and talk gaming. Even though Brandon has the fight of his life coming up in less than two weeks, he still stops between rounds, smiles, and laughs with anyone willing to talk to him about video games. "Halo III is coming out soon," Brandon says,





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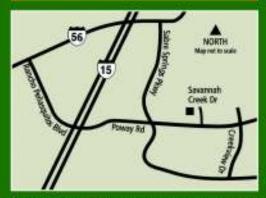
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leaning out and hovering from the top rope. "I've got to get that, bro. I need that game."

Brandon "the Truth" Vera doesn't look like an Ultimate Fighter. Sure, he's six three and 230 pounds, but he looks like a big Latino kid. A lot of fighters in the Ultimate Fighting Championship rock a multicolored mohawk or an ugly beard, but Brandon's hair is shorn close to his scalp and he's cleanshaven. In a T-shirt he has no visible tattoos, and he wears a friendly oval smile instead of a sneer while he's talking with the kids around the

The only clues to his profession are a heavy ridge across his brow and another around his eyes, scar tissue built up from being punched. His nose is also pinched and knotted at the bridge from taking shots to the face. Brandon doesn't

have a bodybuilder physique; he's ropy, strong-looking up top but carries most of his weight in his legs. He looks like a furniture mover, someone who grasps heavy boxes around the middle and steps them up flights of stairs all day.

Brandon, aged 29, grew up in a house of seven boys and three girls, born to a Filipino father, Ernesto, and an Italian-American mother, Amelia. He went to Lake Taylor High School in Norfolk, Virginia, where he earned a four-year wrestling scholarship to Old Dominion University. A year and a half into the college life, he knew he had to join the military; college wasn't for him.

He earned a place on the Air Force wrestling team and was invited to train at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In 1999, while preparing



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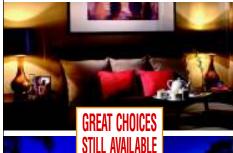


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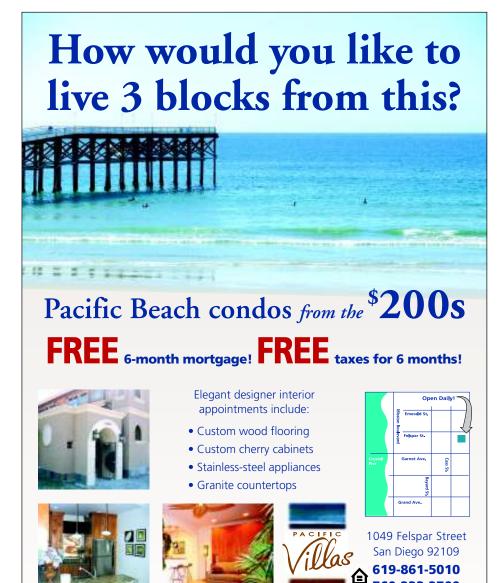
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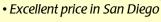
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for an upcoming match, Brandon shredded the ligaments in his right elbow. He underwent arthroscopic surgery, but the nerves in his right arm were damaged. He couldn't put the cap on a soda bottle or drive a manual transmission car. Brandon's muscles atrophied.

The Air Force released Brandon with a medical discharge, and Brandon moved back to Virginia. For a year and a half, he worked to rehabilitate his injured arm.

In 2001, Brandon returned to the competition he loved, grappling. He attended Grapplers Quest tournaments on the East Coast. In 2002, at a tournament, Lloyd Irvin, a Brazilian jujitsu coach, approached Brandon. Irvin had noticed Brandon's dedication and talent. "He saw how I came to the tournaments alone, warmed up alone, cut weight alone,"

Brandon says. "And he asked me to train with him in Maryland."

At Lloyd Irvin's Martial Arts Academy in Maryland, Brandon started fighting mixed martial arts, sometimes called "no holds barred," bouts. His first mixed martial arts bout was with a fight league called Excalibur Extreme Fight Challenge, on July 6, 2002. Brandon beat Adam Rivera with a knockout. His profes-

sional fight career had begun.

Brandon fought one more time in a minor league on the East Coast, then moved to San Diego on New Year's Eve, 2003. When I ask why San Diego, when his head coach, Lloyd Irvin, still lived in Maryland, Brandon says, "The weather, the girls, the job interview. It's San Diego, bro!" The job interview was for a training position at City Boxing.

The owner of City Boxing, Mark Dion, became Brandon's manager and set up more fights. Through Mark Dion, Brandon got an interview to train kickboxing with Rob Kaman at Legends Gym in Hollywood, California. Rob "the Dutchman" Kaman, with over 100 bouts under his belt, has held every major kickboxing title in his weight class and is often referred to as the greatest kickboxer

Brandon's been honing his skills in and out of the ring — as a kickboxer, wrestler, and jujitsu fighter — ever since

On October 3, 2005, Brandon fought in his first Ultimate Fighting Championship. At 3:22 in the second round, he had his first win in the big leagues, scoring a knockout victory over Fabiano Scherner at the Hard Rock Hotel in Las Vegas.

On his merit as a fighter, and his work ethic as head trainer at City Boxing, Mark Dion made Brandon co-owner of the gym. In San Diego, Brandon's career has really taken off. Including his first fight against Scherner, Brandon's won three Ultimate Fighting bouts since moving here. He's also found his current training partner, David "the Crow" Loiseau.

David is 26, a Haitian-Canadian born in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. He's a stout





black guy who was a gifted athlete as a kid, playing football and competing on a local level in karate. In French, Loiseau means "bird," and David's high school football teammates nicknamed him "the Crow." He still lives in Canada but trains in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and here at City Boxing in downtown San Diego.

David's shorter than Brandon but thicker up top, and he doesn't carry as much weight in the legs. Brandon's a heavyweight fighter, while David's a middleweight, weighing in at 185 pounds.

Like Brandon, he's friendly. He's soft-spoken, with a French-Canadian accent that is almost unnoticeable. To look at David, you'd never guess that he once stood in the Ultimate Fighting Championship ring, "the Octagon," face to face with then-middleweight champ Rich Franklin. In front of thousands of screaming fans in the Mandalay Bay arena in Las Vegas, in front of millions watching on pay-per-view at home, under the sparkling lights and before the flashing bulbs, this quiet kid fought his guts out for a gold belt and bragging rights. He took that fight the distance but lost in a unanimous decision.

Before the loss to Franklin, David had won five bouts in a row. But another loss after the Franklin fight and David's contract with the **Ultimate Fighting** Championship was cut.

Now "the Crow" is weighing his options for a future. Between rounds of sparring with Brandon, David talks on the phone. He's flying out later in the day to meet with his manager in Las Vegas. When asked about his fight career, David says, "I don't know what I'm going to do yet."

Going into his next

fight against Frank Mir, rising star Brandon Vera is undefeated in the Ultimate Fighting Championship, winning all seven of his professional fights in his total mixed martial arts career. But David Loiseau is a reminder

world of Ultimate Fighting can be taken for granted. The Ultimate Fight-

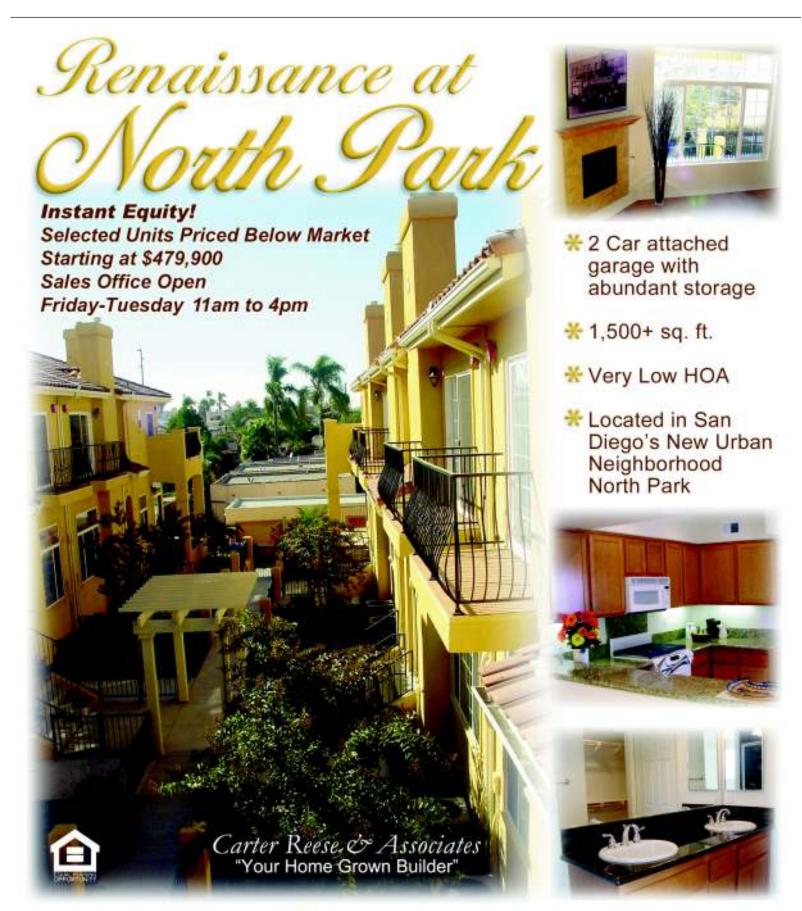
that nothing in the

ing Championship is a fight league with a brand name. Mixed martial arts is the style of fighting:

there are very few rules. Unlike boxing or kickboxing, mixed martial arts is fought both standing up and on the ground. And unlike wrestling or jujitsu, striking an opponent with punches or kicks is allowed. The first Ultimate

Fighting Championship, in 1993, had no weight classes. Competitors fought round-robin style and might fight three or four times in a single night. The only rules to

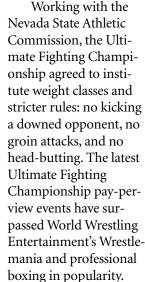
early Ultimate Fights were "no biting, no eyegouging." This loose style of governance drew political pressure, mainly from Arizona senator John McCain, and forced Ultimate Fighting underground.



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A reality television show on Spike TV, called *The Ultimate Fighter,*

was introduced two years ago, boosting popularity for the sport. On the show, mixed martial artists are pitted against each other. The top fighter from the TV show wins a one-year, six-figure contract to fight in Ultimate Fighting Championship bouts on pay-per-view.

Brand tie-ins. Promotions for sports supplements. Clothing lines. Huge crowds drawn to arenas and Las Vegas casinos have brought the **Ultimate Fighting** Championship and its

"Octagon" fighting cage out of the underground and into mainstream popular culture. It's no longer the blood-match spectacle of the early

Brandon's last fight, in Ultimate Fighting Championship 60, was against Assuerio Silva, a formidable fighter from

His only frustration with playing Halo online? "Eight-yearolds, man. I don't know what it is, but damn, kids are good, better than me, sometimes."

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Brazil. A first-round defeat of Assuerio earned Brandon the right to fight Frank Mir, former heavyweight champ.

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right in the eye, his knuckle just...bop..."
Brandon mimics the punch by putting his own knuckle gently into his left eye. "It didn't catch my cheek or anything but pushed my eye in. Whenever I blinked or closed my eye it hurt, but it's healed up now."

When asked if he's ready to fight the former champ, Frank Mir, Brandon replies, "I'm so ready to fight. I've been training forever."

For six weeks, Brandon's training has been three workouts a day, and for the month before that, he hit two workouts a day. "The training is what sucks," he says. "The fight is what I look forward to."

A typical training day starts at 8:00 a.m., when Brandon wakes up and braces for the day with a set of sprints or long-distance running, for up to an hour. In the afternoons, he'll train his kickboxing with Rob Kaman, either in San Diego or Los Angeles. When evening comes, Brandon trains jujitsu, rolling with an opponent for two hours or more.

Brandon has "hard training days" and "sweat days." The day I met him at City Boxing, he sparred with Loiseau for more than two hours. That was a sweat day. A hard day is when "Master Lloyd or Rob Kaman is on my ass," he says. In a heavy day of training, it's not uncommon for Brandon to run for the locker room to vomit from exertion. He washes his mouth out and gets back in the ring.

When Brandon pulls his sweat-soaked shirt off, his tattoos are visible. Centered in a square pattern that runs from his shoulderblades to his lower back are Alibata-Filipino symbols for water, earth, fire, and air. "They keep me grounded," he says. "There's always something out there bigger and badder than you.

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When I get a big head, I try to remember that." Brandon doesn't fight for any ancient code of ethics or philosophy. In his mother's words, he's a "happy-go-lucky kid."

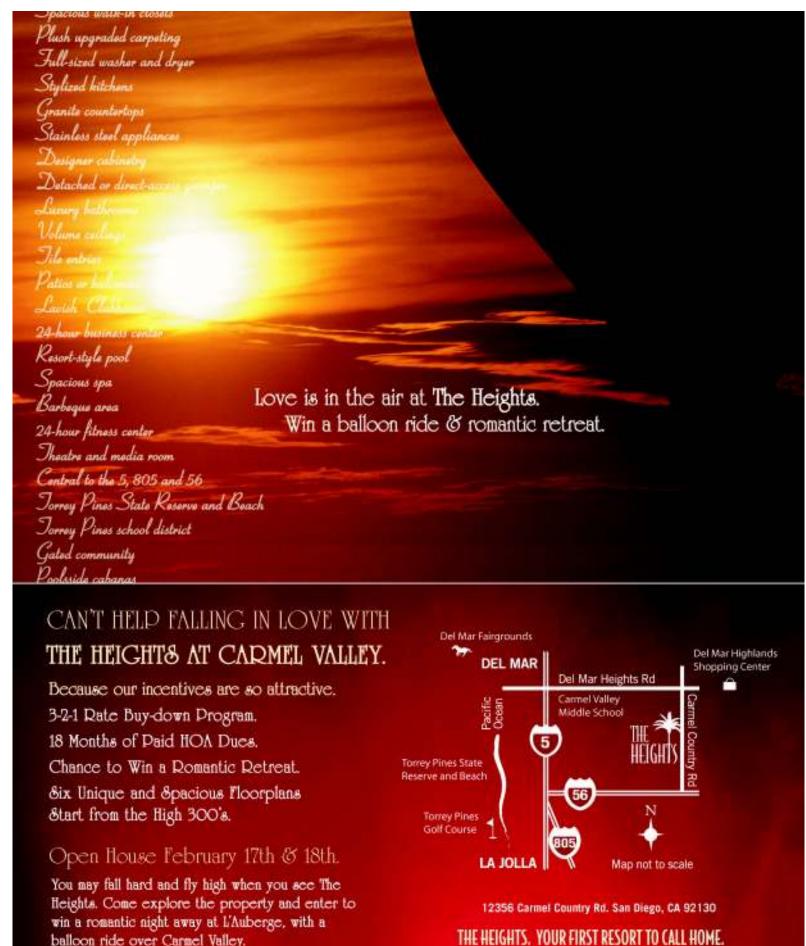
He's certainly no trash-talking Ali. He's never been angry at an opponent, and he's never badmouthed one. Brandon doesn't fight mad. "Tim Sylvia said something disrespectful to me one time. I can't even remember what. I just shrugged it off. It doesn't

mean anything. It's part of the game."

Tim Sylvia is the current heavyweight Ultimate Fighting Champion. If Brandon wins his upcoming match against Frank Mir at Ultimate Fighting Championship 65, he's in line for a title shot, but "I'm not going to take it," he says. And now we learn why Brandon does fight: "I'm going to hold out. To train more. And for more money."

In smaller federa-

tions that promote mixed martial arts, fighters demolish their bodies for purses so small they don't even cover the cost of ongoing medical problems; sometimes fighters get less than \$500 a match. For his



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fight with Assuerio, Brandon received \$16,000 to fight and an extra \$16,000 to win. With sponsorships, Brandon's payday was almost \$70,000. Ultimate Fighting Champs can earn up to \$250,000 per fight.

"I was kind of scared after my fight with Assuerio," Brandon says. "My eye hurt, and a friend of mine had just cracked his orbital ridge and couldn't see good, and he can't fight now." But Brandon's injured eye has healed, and the money makes up for a lot of pain.

It was at the Olympic Training Center, when Brandon was wrestling for the Air Force, that he met Ultimate Fighting Championship Hall of Famer and former heavyweight champion Randy Couture.

"Randy was straight up getting paid to whup people's ass," Brandon says. "There's no money in wrestling. You can't make a living wrestling."

He fights for money but also for the love of competition. "That's why I wrestled," Brandon says. "I was competitive, but I was terrible at team sports. With wrestling, it's just you and the other guy on the mat. I liked that."

It's the competition that spurs Brandon on while training. "When I don't want to run sprints, I think, *What's Frank Mir doing?* and I run. When I'm tired and sore and I've been training all day, I think, What's Frank Mir doing?

Frank is in shape.

Brandon received a covert report from Frank Mir's camp that Frank's been training

champion Tim Sylvia's arm in the first minute of the match. Yes. Breaking Tim Sylvia's arm earned Frank the title.

In September of 2004, on his way to work out, Frank's motorcycle was T-boned by a car at

When he wakes up he's starving, but he doesn't want to eat; he doesn't want to throw up in the ring.

hard. Frank Mir lives and trains at the unofficial hub of Ultimate Fighting, Las Vegas. He was once the heavyweight Ultimate Fighting champion, the belt won by breaking current

an intersection, crushing his thigh and throwing him more than 30 yards, after which he slid across the pavement and crashed into a curb. He had to relinquish his title, then began a year and a half of physical therapy. Tim Sylvia was once again champ.

But Frank wants his title back. And only San Diego's Brandon "the Truth" Vera stands in his way. Brandon and Frank are the top contenders for the title. If Frank Mir beats Brandon, he earns a shot at snapping Tim Sylvia's bones again. If Brandon beats Frank, he could renegotiate his contract for larger purses in upcoming fights, and the Ultimate Fighting Championship might offer Brandon a title fight against Sylvia.

Brandon's manager and the co-owner of City Boxing, Mark Dion, says they'll pass on the title fight. Mark would rather Brandon fight lower-ranked competitors. But it's not Brandon's skills as a fighter that Mark wants to hone. "He can beat Sylvia," Mark says. "He's going to beat Sylvia, eventually. Then he's going to drop his weight down to light heavyweight and take that title."

What Mark is holding out for is more money. Mark wants to hold off Brandon's fight with the champ to build demand with the Ultimate Fighting Championship. The more lower-ranked competitors
Brandon beats, the more the fans are going to call for him to fight Sylvia.
When the demand is high enough, the fight league will up their purse.

"You gotta be careful," Mark says with a tough-guy accent he earned growing up in Boston. "The UFC offers up title bouts to contenders for almost zero cash. Guys take it because they think it's their last chance, and they walk out of the ring with next to nothing. Why do that?"

Of course, Brandon has to get through former champ Frank Mir first. Brandon treats the fight on November 18 as a business meeting. He's confident. "I know what I'm going to do," he says. "Frank doesn't have the conditioning that I have.







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Brandon would like to keep it standing. Frank Mir is a renowned jujitsu specialist but is regarded as a weak striker, with no kickboxing skills.

Brandon has watched videos of Frank's fights. Before his motorcycle wreck, Frank Mir fought in seven Ultimate Fighting Championships, in Las Vegas, Atlantic City, and London, England, winning six of them to be champ. After the wreck, he fought two Ultimate Fights at the Mandalay Bay, in front of his hometown crowd in Las Vegas.

"He gasses out quick," Brandon says. He talks about Frank Mir's fighting with mechanical disinterest. "Frank gets tired after four minutes and drops his hands."

Brandon only perks up when he devises a gaming metaphor. "It's a video game, you know. He hits me. I hit him. I don't fight pissed off. It's like a video game."

Then Brandon holds his hands in front of him and wiggles his fingers, as if he's holding a game controller. "It's a video game. A, B, A, B, R, L, Up, Down, A, B," calling out the buttons he's pressing on his imaginary controller. "There are things I have to do in a game to get my character to do a certain maneuver. If something happens, I have to counteract it to move to the next level. Same thing with fighting. He hits me like this" — Brandon

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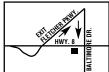
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jabs his left arm out and ducks — "I hit him like this." Brandon steps back and does a boxer's dance. "He blocks this, I hit him with that. A, B, A, B, R, L, Up, Down."

"I love to play

online," Brandon says of his favorite game, Halo. "The funny thing is, people talk mad shit when they're online. Guys always get upset when they lose, and they say they're going to drop by my house and kick

my ass. I don't get mad. My friends offer to give them my address, but nobody's taken them up on it yet. It's a joke to us, because nobody knows who I am online. I don't use 'Brandon the Truth Vera' as my online name. Nobody knows me." His only frustration with playing Halo online? "Eight-year-olds, man. I don't know what it is, but damn, kids are good, better than me, sometimes."

Brandon has one week of training left before he faces off against Mir in the Octagon. "Monday is a hard training day," he says. "Then I take a couple days to rest and go up Wednesday night, I think. To Sacramento. With Master Lloyd, Rob Kaman, David Loiseau, my manager Mark, and my wife Kerry."

Brandon and manager Mark Dion briefly discuss flight arrangements, Brandon's entrance music (a song written about Brandon), and T-shirts for the crew of trainers in Brandon's corner.

"Then we'll watch Nip/Tuck and Lost for a couple nights," Kerry says. "Until Brandon falls asleep for a couple hours. Then he'll get up, pace around, play video games."

When you think of a fighter's wife you might imagine mousy Adrian Balboa, sitting next to a





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radio and crying, wishing Rocky would retire. Adrian was a general pain in the ass and naysayer to her husband's fight career. Nothing could be further from a description of Kerry, a professional boxer herself. Kerry, 24, of Chula Vista, met Brandon while working on her boxing moves at the gym.

"He's been training so hard," she says. "He always trains hard."

When asked if she worries about him, she says, "Some. I mean, it's a fight. But, he's dedicated to his training and..." She pauses. "He's really good at this."

"I'll go up to Sacramento a couple days before," Kerry says of her

plans for Brandon's fight night. Ultimate Fighting Championship 65 will take place at Arco Arena. "I have to be up there. When he can't sleep. When he wants food. I have to take care of him. He won't sleep for days. If he can't sleep, we'll go watch a movie until he's tired, or hopefully, they'll have video-game hookups on the hotel TV."

"Before a fight," Brandon says, "I'll fall asleep about 3:00 a.m. Then I'll roll over at 6:00, and I'll think, What if he throws a jab? or What if he goes for this armbar or that leg lock? Then I'm up. I'm awake again and thinking about the fight. I do that for a couple nights. Then Saturday I fight."

The Fight

In Sacramento, Brandon spends the rest of the week sparring jujitsu

ton Grand doesn't allow console hookups, and so, after some phone calls, Brandon borrows a TV from a friend in Sacramento, one that'll accept

Brandon's anxiety wells into anticipation when he hears the lines from his entrance music. It's about him. The song starts, "From a journey full of trials and tribulations..."

with Lloyd Irvin, kickboxing with Rob Kaman, and putting it all together with David Loiseau.

The TV at the Shera-

his Xbox 360. The room is small, and he sets the TV on a table at the foot of his bed. He's disappointed that there are no Internet hookups; he

can't play Halo online.

On Thursday he weighs in: 230 1/2. Frank weighs in at 254 at the same height, six three.

Frank has come into his last couple of fights battling his motorcycle injuries, heavier, and out of shape. But for this fight he's trimmed down, and reports reach Brandon that Frank looks like "old Frank" when he was champ.

It's Friday, with Ultimate Fight Night Saturday closing in, and Brandon's schedule gets filled. Official Ultimate Fighting Championship interviews and promotional spots for television stations are filmed in convention rooms in the hotel. Leaving one of the taped sessions, Brandon

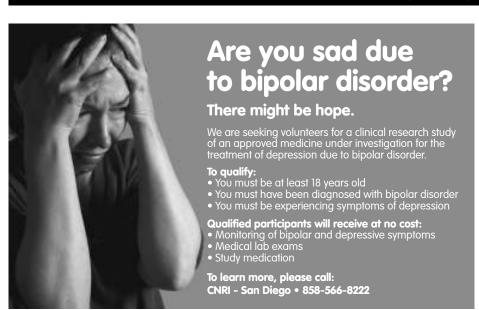
sees Frank Mir in the hall.

Frank looks good. Back in his hotel room, Brandon settles into a marathon session of his role-playing game, Enchanted Arms, until finally he shuts the console off and falls asleep at 1:00 a.m.

Uncharacteristically, he sleeps until 8:00 a.m. and wakes refreshed. He eats some eggs and a bowl of Lucky Charms at the hotel buffet, then walks his wife and trainers to the nearby Downtown Plaza shopping mall.

It's in the mall, between shops, that Brandon gets nervous. His hands and knees sweat and his stomach binds. "You guys stay and

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 - Have they become more confused?
 - · Do they require closer supervision?
 - Does their condition seem to be getting worse?

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MEDICAL CENTER FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH shop," he says, "but I've got to go back. I've got to be alone for a minute."

In the brisk Northern California November air, he walks to the hotel, thinking of the fight every step of the way. His legs are tired, and he wonders if he's trained enough.

In his hotel room, the anxiety and month of sleepless nights put him out. He naps until the afternoon. When he wakes up he's starving, but he doesn't want to eat; he doesn't want to throw up in the ring. But the fight is four hours away, and if he doesn't eat he'll never make it. He orders a bowl of chicken noodle soup from room service and eats half of it.

More interviews with the Ultimate Fighting Championship organization. More video games. The hours drag, and tension builds in Brandon's head.

It's almost time.
Just like boxing,
Ultimate Fighting
assigns fighters to either
a red corner or a blue
corner. The Arco Arena
is set up so the fighters in
the red corner have
dressing rooms on one
side of the stadium.
Fighters in the blue cor-

ner dress in rooms on the opposite side. The dressing rooms are set up so that rivals, and possible future matchups, are separated.

Brandon's given a dressing room with an undercard fighter, James Irvin from Citrus Heights, California, and an up-and-coming welterweight named Nick Diaz, who fights out of Stockton, California. The three fighters sit and talk to alleviate stress. James, Nick, and Brandon warm up and watch the preliminary bouts on a television placed in the corner.

Each has a small group of trainers. Rob Kaman, David Loiseau, and Lloyd Irvin make preps for Brandon's fight, while manager



Missing Something?



Have you noticed a decrease in sexual desire? You may qualify for a medical research study for women suffering from HSDD (Hypoactive Sexual Disorder), a common form of sexual dysfunction. We are looking for healthy pre-menopausal women over the age of 18. If interested, call:

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We believe we can help.

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



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

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

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

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Weight Gain

is often part of taking medications for



Schizophrenia

People taking medications for schizophrenia often worry about gaining weight. If you are taking an antipsychotic, you may qualify to participate in a clinical trial of an investigational drug that might not lead to weight gain.

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Each individual will be evaluated to determine her eligibility.

If you qualify, you'll receive study medication, medical exams, and lab tests at no charge. Financial compensation for time and travel may also be available.

Medical Center for Clinical Research 619-521-2841

Mark Dion heads off interview requests and finds Brandon's handwrapper.

The fight league provides hand-wrappers from the California State Athletic Commission. Brandon's asked for Don House. He's wrapped Brandon's hands in all of Brandon's Ultimate Fights, and after a short while he arrives for this one. Once Brandon's got his white trunks on, Don tapes his hands, and Brandon slips on his light, fingerless gloves.

A stage manager comes to call James Irvin to the ring, and Brandon shouts after him, "Hey, good luck, James."

Brandon and Nick watch James fight and win. Things are solidifying in Brandon's mind. *I'm fighting tonight.*

James returns from his fight and celebrates in the locker room with shouts of "YES!" and hugs and high-fives all around. He removes his gear while Brandon and Nick continue warm-

Nick's up next. A stage manager calls him.

When Nick and his entourage leave the dressing room, two Ultimate Fighting Championship camera crews



In warm-ups, Brandon throws kicks to the pads of Lloyd Irvin and Rob Kaman under bright lights and scrutiny. He gets frus-

documented.

trated with the cameras, and his trainers huddle him into a corner. The camera crew is professional; they get the hint and back off.

Kerry Vera (left)

Nick returns victorious.

Only Brandon is left to fight. His nerves are getting to him, but he remembers his training and Lloyd encourages him. "You've trained hard," Lloyd tells him over and over.





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Insomnia Research Study

Affiliated Research Institute is currently accepting participants 18 years of age and older for an insomnia research study involving an investigational medication for the treatment of insomnia.

- Primary Insomnia occurs in up to 10% of adults and 25% of elderly adults
- · Insomnia causes significant impairment in work, social and daily functions

We are looking for patients who:

- · Are 18 years of age or older · Have difficulty maintaining sleep
- Have difficulty falling back asleep once awakened
 Feel non-refreshed after sleep and tired during the day

Qualified participants will receive study-related physical exams, laboratory tests and investigational medication at no charge. Qualified participants will also receive compensation for time and travel.

For additional information regarding qualification for this study, please contact:

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





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

> To learn more about this research study or to schedule an appointment with our staff, call us today:

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If you are 12 years of age or older and have acne, you may be able to participate in a clinical research study testing an investigational gel medication.

Qualified participants will receive at no cost:

- Skin evaluations
- · An investigational gel medication for 12 weeks
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To qualify you should:

· Have acne on the face

• Be 12 years of age or older

· Be in good general health



Are you depressed?

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study for depression if you meet the following criteria:

- · At least 18 years old
- · Have a history of depression
- · Currently depressed for at least 2 months
- · Current episode of depression not lasting more than two years

Eligible participants will receive study medication, study-related care and diagnostic exams at no cost.

If you would like additional information regarding this study and are at least 18 years old, please contact:

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





Athlete's Foot Study

Affiliated Research is currently enrolling people with visible signs of athlete's foot to participate in a research study. This study will compare an investigational generic cream to an already-marketed prescription cream and a placebo.

You may be eligible to participate if you:

- · Are 12 years of age or older · Can visit our office 3 times in 6 weeks
- Have burning, itching or redness on your feet or between your toes

Study participants will receive:

• Free foot exams • Compensation for participation • Study drug or placebo

For more information about this study, please contact:

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Nothing has changed since his last fight except his elevating skill level. He's adhered to the training regimen, listened to his coaches, hell, he even got Don House to wrap his hands. Brandon's not superstitious, but he sticks with what works.

"Brandon, you're up. We've got to have you," says a man holding a clipboard and wearing a microphone headset. From the door he waves Brandon over.

James and Nick are now dressed in their street clothes, their duf-

fels packed, and Brandon turns to them in his fight gear and says, "See you guys in a minute."

In his other fights, Brandon's stood behind a curtain until the stage manager cued him. But there's no curtain at Arco Arena, so he stands at the bend in a long corridor that runs from the dressing room to the arena. At his side are David Loiseau, Rob Kaman, Lloyd Irvin, and Mark Dion. In front is a wild pack of fight fans, the Octagon, and Frank

Brandon gets the

cue to enter the arena. The sound system beats with his entrance song, written about Brandon by a musician in the

his bare feet. The crowd noise is incredible, but Brandon can't hear them. His nerves are at

When Brandon's hand passes Mir's face, he grabs the back of Frank's neck in a Thai kickboxing clinch.

Philippines. Brandon starts his long walk to the ring.

His head is down. He looks only at the gloves on his hands and their height. He's forcing his mind to cope by repeating, I can do this. I'm here for a reason.

Lloyd pulls Brandon close and screams over

the cheering fans, "This is why we trained so hard! This is what we do!"

Brandon's anxiety wells into anticipation when he hears the lines from his entrance music. It's about him. The song starts, "From a journey full of trials and tribulations..."

Lloyd Irvin shouts in his ear again, "This is why we've trained three times a day for the last six weeks!"

Fans lean from their seats and reach to touch Brandon's shoulders. They scream, hold banners, and watch as he walks the corridor. Seventeen thousand fans fill the seats, mostly men in their 20s, wearing the Tshirts of their favorite fighters.

Brandon's head is down, thinking only of the fight, hearing only Lloyd's words and the lyrics to his song. "He holds the torch/Given fire by the gods/To help the blind see."

That's me, Brandon repeats to himself beneath the din of the fans. I'm the little guy knocking out heavyweights.

RESEARCH STUDIES



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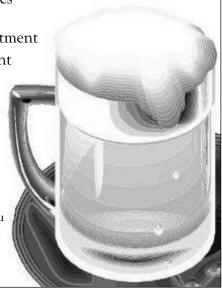
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Medical Associates Research Group

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Brandon halts at the steps to the caged ring. He's arrived at the Octagon. A referee in black clothing holds Brandon's arms out and runs a palm over his sides and under his arms, as if he's being swept for weapons at an airport. A "cut man" dots and wipes Vaseline across Brandon's cheeks, brows, nose, and jawline, a precaution to keep the dry leather gloves of Frank Mir from popping Brandon's face open on contact. Brandon can feel the heavy grease on his face. He's warm but not sweating. The cut man looks his face over and certifies that he can enter.

Brandon takes the three stairs up to the cage and steps over the knee-high black fencing. The gate behind him is shut and latched. He's in the Octagon.

In the bright lights Brandon can see spectators but can't hear them. His ears are filled with his racing heartbeat. He turns to his trainers, clasps his hands in prayer, and they return the gesture through the black chain link.

Across the Octagon stands Mir.

They're called to the center of the ring for an official briefing by the ref. Some fighters do a leering stare-down and curse their opponents while the ref is giving final instructions, but not Frank or Brandon. Whatever I say to him now is not going to matter. Whatever he says to me now is not going to matter, Brandon thinks. I can't go back and change the way I trained. I can't go forward to the outcome. I can only fight my hardest.

Brandon is face-to-face with his toughest opponent yet. Brandon looks Frank over. *Damn, Frank's 23 or 24 pounds heavier than me, and he's got abs. He took this serious. He's about to bring this.*

Brandon and Frank are sent back to their corners. They turn to face each other and, at the ringing of the bell, sprint to the center of the ring.

Brandon is nervous.

But he holds his left hand out, high in the air. Frank leans forward, and with his left they touch gloves. At the very second that their gloves touch, Brandon's nerves calm and he's in business mode. He's in trained attack-fighter mode. He's playing a video game.

Pop! Brandon gets the first shot off, a left jab, and Frank returns it. They dance, and Brandon watches Frank for the takedown, since Frank's specialty is fighting on the ground. But Frank doesn't go for the takedown and instead presses the action standing up.

Brandon sees

Frank's feet shuffle and notices Frank's been working on his stand-up game, but he's not as accomplished a kickboxer as Brandon. Brandon throws a straight glancing kick to Frank's

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midsection. Frank answers with a right/left combo that Brandon ducks.

Frank dances back and takes the center of the Octagon.

Brandon leans in.
Frank leans in. Brandon throws a left hook that catches Frank on the cheek, and Frank throws a straight left hand that opens a cut up on Brandon's nose. Brandon wipes at his nose and dances back toward Frank.

The next shot from Brandon starts an avalanche of trouble for Frank. It's a right cross that lands on Frank's chin so hard it makes his legs wobble. Brandon sees Frank's Bambi legs and gets excited. *Shit*, *I* might have him!

He jumps at Frank. He throws another straight right hand that glances. When Brandon's hand passes Frank's face, he grabs the back of Frank's neck in a Thai kickboxing clinch. With both hands holding Frank by the back of the head, he simultaneously pulls Frank's face down and swings his knee up for — poom! — one knee to the face, and poom! — a second knee to the face.

Brandon swings his leg back, setting up for a third knee to Frank's head. He holds Frank's head in position and swings the knee, but it misses. Frank is already falling sideways from the first two hits.

Frank goes down.
Brandon is on top of him, coming from the side and wrapping up Frank's arms. Brandon's about to explode with excitement. From the top position, Brandon tries to control Frank's arm and execute his "money move."

To motivate Brandon, Lloyd Irvin gives him a "money move" before each fight. The "money move" for Brandon's fight with Frank Mir is a crucifix hold, using an almost impossible amount of flexibility and cunning.

And Frank is in the perfect position.

Brandon forgets he's fighting in the Ultimate Fighting Championship and only sees dollar signs. He slides his leg around Frank's head to put him in the crucifix lock he and Lloyd devised before the fight. He can almost smell the extra money Lloyd's going to have to cough up. Six thousand dollars, baby! Brandon pulls on Frank's arm to position the hold.

But he can't get it. Frank lies on the arm Brandon needs.

Frank rolls to his back. Brandon kneels over him.

He can't get the money move. He remembers he's in a fight and that finishing the fight is first, Lloyd Irvin's six grand is second. Brandon resets his mind and thinks: *A, B, A, B, R, L...*

Frank's been rocked.

First by the straight right. Then by the knees. He can do nothing except lie there and cover his face with both arms. Brandon holds Frank, kneeling, and starts to send punches through Frank's guard.

One. Two. Three punches through Frank's closed arms. The shots land in the center of Frank's face, and the referee dives between the two fighters.

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screaming fight maniacs in Arco Arena — and millions at home.

With his trainers in his corner and wife Kerry in the stands.

Brandon told his dressing-roommates he'd be back in a minute. It took a minute and nine seconds. Sixty-nine seconds into his fourth Ultimate Fight, Brandon "the Truth" Vera stands with his arms raised in victory.

What's Next?

"If the title-shot money is right, I might do that," Brandon says, back at his day job, training members of City Boxing. "The president of the UFC was awful eager to talk to me after the fight. We'll see about that.

"If not, you know, if the money's not there, I'll just train and play video games, man."

— Ollie

RESEARCH STUDIES

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For more information on this research study or to find out if you may be eligible, please contact:

Medical Associates Research Group 858-277-7177

Type 2 Diabetes Research

Dr. Robert Henry and his associates at the VA San Diego Healthcare System are looking for volunteers (both veterans and non-veterans) to take part in a research study evaluating the effects of an investigational drug not approved by the FDA being developed to treat Type 2 Diabetes.

Qualified participants will receive study-related care by board-certified providers, study-supplied drug, and a glucose meter with test strips to last the duration of the study at no cost, as well as up to \$3,570 in compensation for time and travel.

To qualify, participants must:

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To learn more about the study contact Catherine DeLue at:

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The Diva of Grossmont



Ernestine Schumann-Heink

MADAME ERNESTINE SCHUMANN-HEINK'S

life had the before-and-after quality of a fairy story. She was born in poverty and achieved riches. She was plain in appearance yet had a regal and impressive bearing on the concert stage. She began her opera career modestly in Austria at age 15, but by the time she moved her family to San Diego, at 48, she was one of the most famous and revered women of her time.

She was called "Tini" by her parents, "Topsy" by friends in Germany, "the Heink" by composer Gustav Mahler, "Heinke" by impresario Maurice Grau, and "Nona" by her children. Those who did not know her personally called her "Mother" or "Madame," reflecting the gratitude, tenderness, admiration, and respect she inspired.

She was born Ernestine Röessler at Lieben, near Prague (then part of Austria), June 15, 1861. Her mother was Italian-born Charlotte (Goldman) Röessler and her father Hans Röessler, a cavalry lieutenant in the Austrian army. She would later say she inherited her willfulness and "fighting qualities" from her father, whom she once referred to as "a real old roughneck," but it was her mother who inspired her to sing. Schumann-Heink would recall for a biographer, "When I was three years old, I already sang. I sang what my mother sang.... I'd put my mother's apron around me and start to act and sing — singing all the different arias and dancing — always dancing."

The Röesslers confronted a life of continual want. An army salary could barely support a family of six. But the resourceful young Ernestine used her talents to supplement the family's table. The diva told stories of charming a dour grocer into giving her some Swiss cheese and an apple in exchange for performing a traditional folk dance. If Ernestine had no music for a performance, she would whistle the tune herself.

When her father was posted at Krakow, Ernestine's mother sent her off to convent school each day "with a big bottle of black coffee and a piece of dry black bread — butter was unheard of! That was all she could give me." But one day at lunchtime, Ernestine left the school grounds to explore the town's marketplace. "I was only 11 years old then and delighted to run the streets — I did not fear anything — and perhaps it was all well and good, because it was the beginning of my independence."

At the market, Ernestine discovered an Italian circus:

They were just having the midday

meal when I came along. Oh, how it smelled, so good! And I was so hungry—I was always hungry, you know. "Ach, what must I do to get some of that good food?" So I asked them, please, please could they give me something to eat—and I would work for it. They were astonished and roared at me with laughter and said, "Si, si! If you want to work, little one, clean the monkey cages first, then you can eat!"

I suppose they didn't think I'd really do it — they were just joking — but I did it. And what a meal they gave me! I was stuffed like a Strassbourg goose! And they began right away to like me.

Ernestine spent her afternoons working with the circus until her father was reassigned to Prague later that year.

Still only 11, Ernestine was sent to the Ursuline convent near Prague, where, though she could not read music, she sang the tenor parts in the Mass, which she had memorized by ear. Her impressive performance attracted notice, and she began tak-

"My dear girl, you better give up the idea of singing and let the people who brought you buy you a sewing machine and set you to work." ing formal music lessons. When she was 13, the family moved to Graz, where again Ernestine's deep contralto voice impressed a retired diva, who gave her lessons at no charge.

At 15, Ernestine sang the contralto part in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in her first public performance. On the strength of that performance, the chorus's soprano soloist suggested that Ernestine apply for a position with the Vienna Imperial Opera. But her hopes were dashed when the opera director, after her audition, sneered, "Why with such a face — no personality at all — how can you expect to succeed? My dear girl, you better give up the idea of singing and let the people who brought you buy you a sewing machine and set you to work. You will never be a singer."

Not long after the rebuff in Vienna, Ernestine was invited to try out for the Dresden Opera. After hearing her sing the demanding "O mon fils" from Myerbeer's *Le Prophète* and "Brindisi" from Donizetti's *Lucrezia Borgia*, the director engaged her at 3600 marks (about \$900) a year.

In 1878 the 17-year-old contralto made her debut as Azucena in *Il Trovatore*. Imbued with the high spirits and irreverence of youth, Ernestine said she had difficulty maintaining a straight face as she sang of throwing her child into the flames. It was at the Dresden Cathedral, where she sang to enhance her meager income, that Ernestine finally learned to read music.

In 1882, at 21, Fräulein Röessler married Ernst Heink, secretary of the Dresden Opera, though they did not first obtain the consent of management. As a consequence, she and her husband were dismissed.

In the fall of 1883, at the urging of a Dresden critic, the director of the Hamburg Opera awarded Fräu Heink a contract to sing utility roles with the company for a few hundred marks a season. In the first four years at Hamburg, she sang only bit parts. During that time, she gave birth to August, Charlotte, and Henry. The expected arrival of a fourth child (Hans) proved too much for Herr Heink, who left mother and children to fend for themselves.

Fräu Heink's situation was desperate. When the sheriff took her furniture to satisfy her husband's debts, she felt she had reached the end of her resistance. She resolved to throw herself

and her children in front of a locomotive. She later said it was the voice of her little girl Charlotte saying, "Mamma! Mamma! I love you! Take me home!" that brought her to her senses.

Throughout this time,

Ernestine continued to study and observe the work of the lead singers. At home, while nursing her babies, she diligently studied the major operatic roles.

A fellow performer soon asked her to sing at a bene-

fit in Berlin. Still pregnant with Hans but desperate for money, she left her three children in a neighbor's care and traveled all night by train. Arriving in Berlin early in the morning and unable to afford a hotel, she sat in a park until rehearsals began.
Her performance as Azucena that evening made her a sensation.

Back in Hamburg

Back in Hamburg, Ernestine's director realized (if he had not known before) that he had a superstar in

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his opera company. When his leading contralto refused to perform one evening, he asked Ernestine to sing the role of Carmen. Though she had not studied the role, Fräu Heink triumphed. It was true, as conductor Gustav Mahler pointed out, that she had memorized the faults as well as the singing of the many Carmens who had preceded her at Hamburg. Successes as Fidès in Le Prophète and Ortrud in Lohengrin followed. Before the season was over, 22-yearold Ernestine Heink was Hamburg's leading contralto.

The singer later admitted that her relationship with Gustav Mahler was not cordial. Because Mahler did not pay attention to her as a woman, she spread the rumor that he was homosexual. In these salad years, Fräu Heink's impish impulses and headstrong temperament kept her from taking art or herself too seriously.

From 1887 to 1898, the ambitious Ernestine sang in festivals and concerts in Berlin, London, Sweden, Norway, and, beginning in 1896, at the famous Bayreuth Festival, training that broadened her vocal style. The singer's increasing successes, her three-octave vocal range from low D to high B, and her self-assurance on the stage brought her dozens of feature roles in quick succession, including Amneris in Aida, Brängane in Tristan und Isolde, Katisha in The Mikado, Magdalene in Die Meistersinger, and Orsini in Lucrezia Borgia.

In 1892, at the age of 31, Ernestine divorced Herr Heink and married Paul Schumann, an actor and director of the Thalia Theater in Hamburg. Schumann taught his wife to interpret songs by speaking the words before she sang them. Her lifelong reputation for deft phrasing, pure diction, and thoughtful understanding of the content of lyrics owed much to her husband's guidance.

Bruno Walter, assistant conductor to Gustav Mahler at the Hamburg Opera during this era, recalled Schumann-Heink as a singer who combined remarkable talent with willful disposition. In spite of a tendency to resist, "She could be depended upon to use her



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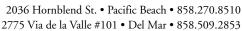
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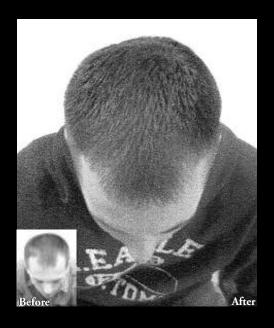
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info@clinicadeojosdetijuana.com www.clinicadeojosdetijuana.com gifts in a thoroughly artistic manner." Critic George Bernard Shaw was captivated by her fine contralto voice and the power and passion of her delivery at the Bayreuth Festival in 1896, but was less taken by the

summer gown and fashionable sleeves she wore under her blue-black Valkyrie armor as she sang Waltraute in *Die Götterdämmerung*.

Schumann-Heink's American debut took place in Chicago, in November of 1898, in the role of Ortrud in *Lohengrin*. She was at the time a member of the Maurice Grau Opera Company, predecessor of New York's Metropolitan Opera Company, and was on leave of absence from the Royal

Opera House Company in Berlin. Four weeks after the premiere, she gave birth to a boy in the Belvedere Hotel in New York City. At the suggestion of the doctor who assisted in the birth, she named her newest son George Washington Schumann. Her children eventually would number eight, including four by Heink (August, Charlotte, Hans, and Henry); George, Ferdinand, and Marie, her children by Schumann; and Wal-

ter, Schumann's son from a former marriage.

Her Metropolitan Opera debut as Ortrud took place just one month later, in January of 1899. The critic for the *New York Tribune* said that though her high register was not as beautiful as her low, she won admiration for her thrilling use of tonal color and her ability to depict a character who was "half woman, half witch and all wickedness personified."

In London that summer, she appeared before Queen Victoria in a condensed version of *Lohengrin* at Windsor Castle. Afterward, the Queen told her in German how much she liked her voice. In a bluffer manner, Edward, Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) asked her how she could have so many children and still find time to sing. Schumann-Heink was piqued but made no reply.

In 1904, Schumann-Heink left the Metropolitan and the world of opera to tour in a new musical comedy, Love's Lottery. Her new manager promised her an income at the improbable figure of \$240,000 for 40 weeks' work, plus a share of the gross receipts. Because her English was stilted and her accent heavy, her role as a German washerwoman in love with an English sergeant elicited much amusement from audiences.

Most critics were restrained in their comments, but *Leslie's Weekly* scored the singer's presentation. "Madame Schumann-Heink is not an unalloyed joy. Her comedy is pathetically heavy and her one idea of humor (?) is to mock her own broken English by saying repeatedly, 'Ist mein English goot?' "

In answer to those critics who deplored her desertion of grand opera, Schumann-Heink said she did it to get enough money to bring her ailing husband and her children to the United States. But Paul Schumann died in Germany in November of 1904.

The following February, Schumann-Heink took out United States naturalization papers in Cincinnati, and in May, at 43, she married William Rapp, Jr., a Chicago lawyer. He was her business manager and 13 years

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An attack of tonsillitis forced the diva to close her season with *Love's Lottery* in November of 1905. Physicians had told her that she would lose her voice permanently if she continued to sing in that role.

Early in 1906, the diva returned to Germany, where she succeeded in getting six of her eight children out of the country. According to German law, Schumann-Heink, by marrying a foreigner, had forfeited her property in Germany. Also, her boys were required to serve in the army before they could leave the country. The German courts finally decided the boys could accompany her to America and that she could retain one-third of the money in Germany since she, not her deceased husband, had earned it. Her home in Germany was confiscated, and she had to buy it back. Her two oldest children, Charlotte and August, remained in Germany. For the next five years, Ernestine, her husband, and six children lived in northern New Jersey.

After getting her children settled, Schumann-Heink left for Bayreuth in July 1906. Concerts followed in Munich and Paris. Returning to the United States in October, she began a concert tour that ended on March of 1907 with appearances in *Die Walküre* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. A review in the *New York Sun* implied that nothing had changed:

She has all her old merits, all her old faults. She still indulges occasionally in bad attack, in spasmodic and ejaculatory phrasing in cantabile passages, and in failures to take certain intervals faultlessly. But, on the other hand, she has still the splendor of tone, the magnificent sweep of utterance and the stimulating appearance of reserve power which made her singing a constant joy in days now well remembered.

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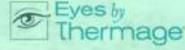
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Schumann-Heink was then enticed by Oscar Hammerstein I to join his Manhattan Opera Company for its second season. Eventually, the mercurial Oscar decided that the three prima donnas he had engaged, including Ernestine, were costing him too much money, and he maneuvered to get rid of them. Schumann-Heink sang only one performance, that of Azucena in Il Trovatore in January of 1908. She was idle for the rest of the

season and appears to have made up her losses by an extended European tour.

In a 1909 performance as Klytemnestra at the Dresden premiere of Richard Strauss's *Elektra*, Schumann-Heink complained that the vocal parts were "a thunderous medley of groans, moans, and sighs" and feared she had harmed her voice. Strauss, on his side, was disappointed with her wooden acting and Wagnerian style of declamation. A short while

later, she sang a much less demanding program of songs in a performance before Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Schumann-Heink was now a wealthy woman. Money coming in from recitals, opera appearances, and recordings for the Victor Talking Machine Company went out in investments in stocks, bonds, and real estate.

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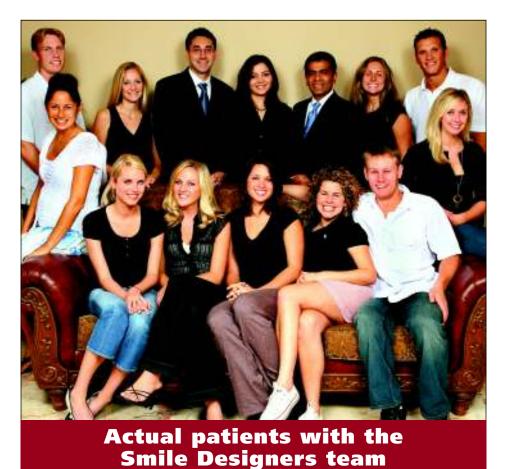
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the diva decided to live parttime in Grossmont, then an undeveloped tract of land north of Mt. Helix in eastern La Mesa. Local businessman Ed Fletcher and William B. Gross, a former actor and producer, owned this land, but Fletcher managed its development. He sold Schumann-Heink 500 acres of choice land for \$20,000. Besides a lot near the top of Grossmont, the purchase included a 14-acre orange and lemon grove and several

acres in El Cajon on which a stand of eucalyptus trees was to be planted.

This 1910 visit was a turning point in the diva's life. With the land purchase, she could now provide homes for herself and her adult children, and, though she did not state this publicly, she could control their destinies.

William Rapp, the singer's husband, opposed her plan to perpetuate her children's dependency, but

Schumann-Heink put the matter bluntly. "I do not see why my children should work hard when I have plenty to provide for all of them. I do not want them scattered. I want all of them near me all the time." In December 1911, Rapp left the New Jersey home, and the next month his wife announced her intention to sue for divorce. Before their divorce became final, there was a bitter trial at which each accused the other of adultery.

"Casa Ernestine," the Grossmont home, was designed by architect Dell W. Harris of San Diego. It cost about \$7000 to build and was ready for occupancy in 1913. It consisted of a basement foundation of granite rubble, a plaster-walled main floor, and a roof of red cement tile. On the north side of the living room, French doors opened onto a terrace commanding a view of El Cajon Valley and the mountains.

Son Hans Schumann-Heink moved onto a 15acre ranch on the slopes of Grossmont where he planted orange, lemon, and olive trees. He eventually took

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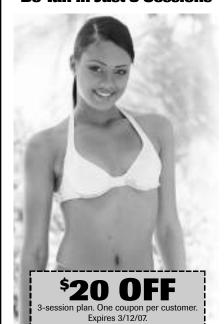
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With the coming of Schumann-Heink to Grossmont, local reporters played up her image as a devoted mother. This tribute is one of many paid to the diva:

Madame Schumann-

Heink is above all things else the mother, the greathearted woman, who has risen above the petty struggles, above the heart-aches and reverses and at the prime of her life is surrounded by loving children, eight in all, whose adoration for the "little mother" is the strongest thing of their lives.

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them thereafter except to include patriotic and sentimental songs in English that appealed to ordinary people. She wanted to sing before large audiences and insisted the price of admission to her recitals be as low as possible.

She did not employ a press agent because she was a master of the art of public relations. Upon her wellpublicized arrival in any new town, she would wait for a large body of citizens to gather round. Then, spreading her arms wide, she would proclaim: "Dis is my town. Here I am at home!"

During a Midwestern tour on the Chautauqua circuit, a manager wanted to cancel one of the diva's performances because a rainstorm had kept crowds at the tent shows very small. His gate receipts would not cover his costs. Schumann-Heink declared she would make up the loss out of her

he lose money, then Schumann-Heink, she no good! Her voice, it is kaput. But if Schumann-Heink go out and sing off key and the management make money, then he tell everybody, Schu-

"Never let them lose money on you.

If Schumann-Heink go out now and sing like the angel and that man, he lose money, then Schumann-Heink, she no good!"

own pocket. Her reason was very practical." If you stay in this business, is one thing to learn. Never let them lose money on you. If Schumann-Heink go out now and sing like the angel and that man, mann-Heink, she sing like the angel."

As soon as she was settled in Grossmont, civic leaders asked her for endorsements. Did she favor bonds for the upcoming Panama-California Exposition? Her first answer was wary. "Is it a check you want?" Then she gave the hoped-for response. "If the exposition will bring people to San Diego and the bonds are necessary to the exposition, I am for the bonds."

Following a bout of pneumonia in late 1914, the singer resolved to spend 1915 in San Diego resting. But such interludes were rare. While she was relaxing, the Panama-California Exposition declared March 22, 1915, "Madame Schumann-Heink Day." Some 6000 schoolchildren sang "America" before the diva at the organ pavilion in Balboa



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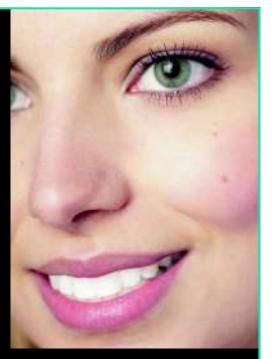


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Park, and Mayor Charles O'Neall presented her with an honorary citizenship. In return, she promised to give a free concert at the exposition in June. For the nearly 27,000 people who gathered at the pavilion on June 27, it was the event of the year. As the San Diego Sun remarked, "The greatest organ, the greatest voice, the greatest chorus, the greatest outdoors on earth...-



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she's glorious [sic]."

San Diego's honorary citizen gave a concert as good as any she might present in New York. She sang 11 songs — German lieder, art songs, and popular tunes and ended the concert with the audience joining her in "The Star Spangled Banner." Since Schumann-Heink didn't know the words to this song at the time, she sang the notes of the scale instead, mystifying listeners, who wondered what language she was singing.

In October, son Henry,

who was a city recorder at Paterson, New Jersey, was charged with embezzling funds. His mother made good the missing money, and the matter was dropped. The following year, stepson Walter Schumann would be arrested in New York City on a charge of burglary. The New York Times would not mention Schumann-Heink in connection with the case or report subsequently how it was resolved.

In December of 1915, Madame Schumann-Heink learned that her son Hans was ill with lobar pneumonia. She rushed from San Diego to Chicago to be with him. When it seemed he might recover, she returned to sing at the reopening ceremonies for the second year of the Panama-California International Exposition on the afternoon of January 1, 1916. The respite ended on January 5, when Hans died. His ashes were placed in a columbarium in Greenwood Cemetery in San Diego.

At midnight, January 1, 1917, the diva sang "A Perfect Day" by Carrie Jacobs Bond and "Auld Lang Syne" at the closing of San Diego's exposition. She was presented with a jewel made of stones found in San Diego County, which had been engraved, "To our beloved Schumann-Heink from the San Diego Exposition, 1915 - 1916."

Later in January, the singer announced a plan to make the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park the setting for a summer festival rivaling Bayreuth's. To get things moving, she donated \$10,000. The San Diego Union went into ecstasies:

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It is doubtful the diva's plan could have been realized because of the inadequacy of the pavilion for the purpose intended and because of the remoteness of San Diego from the population centers of the United States. In any case, the United States' declaration of war against Germany in April of 1917

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As an American of Austrian origin with a brother in command of an Austrian warship, a son in the German Navy, and two sisters living in Germany, Schumann-Heink found her love for her new country to be at variance with her love for her old. Anti-Germans spread the calumny that the singer had concealed gold on the grounds of her New Jersey estate to pay for espionage. Others claimed her gardener, William Besthorn, a former reserve officer in the German Navy and a naturalized US citizen, was operating an outlaw radio station at Grossmont. This led the US Department of Justice to post a guard outside

her Grossmont home. The infuriated singer responded by posting a guard inside the grounds to watch the one outside. Eventually, both guards were called off.

Henry Schumann-Heink and George Washington Schumann joined the US Navy. Ferdinand Schumann was a member of the US Army 242nd Artillery at Camp Funston, Arizona; and Walter Schumann, Schumann-Heink's stepson, was a cook in the New Jersey State Militia. Ferdinand was discharged from the Army after his lungs had been weakened by pneumonia. The transport George was on was torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of France, but he survived. August, on submarine duty in the German Navy, was lost in 1918 when

an American destroyer rammed his vessel in the English Channel.

In spite of her divided sympathies, Schumann-Heink became a champion of American defense, though she did not condone anti-German jingoism and continued to sing German songs during her recitals. When asked about her attitude toward the war, she responded, "Hatred is a horrible thing. I have read about all those awful things Billy Sunday has been saying. But he will not make American boys hate. They just don't know how. It isn't in them." She counseled mothers, "Don't write the boys anything but cheerful letters. They are going to face something worse than anything that is happening to them at home. Forget those little troubles and tell them you are proud of them and that you are happy because they are your boys."

For the duration of American involvement, Schumann-Heink gave herself wholeheartedly to fundraising for Liberty Bonds, the Red Cross, the Knights of Columbus, the Young Men's Christian Association, and Jewish War Relief, and to entertaining soldiers and sailors.

Her visits to San Diego were no longer rest stops. She spent her time singing, reviewing troops, and dining with servicemen in Balboa Park, Camp Kearny, and North Island. She sang frequently at military events; 10,000 people attended her charity concert in Balboa Park; 15,000 heard her sing at a Red Cross fundraiser.

And each Christmas, she sang in the program at San Diego's municipal Christmas tree in Horton Plaza, followed by midnight Mass at Camp Kearny. She even said she intended to go to France to sing in the trenches and to work in canteens. Though some people still assert she made such a trip, the US Department of State would not let her go because she had sons in the service.

Madame Schumann-Heink was decorated with regimental colors and named an honorary colonel of the 21st Infantry Regiment. She responded, "These boys of the 21st are now my boys. I love them all and will be a mother to them." Unscrupulous servicemen wrote letters to their self-proclaimed "mother," asking her for money to tide them over

San Diego was only one of many cities that benefited from the singer's largesse. Her home in Chicago was converted into a canteen for servicemen. On one day in October of 1918, she sold \$200,000 in Victory Bonds at five rallies in New York

imaginary emergencies.

When the war was finally over, her son George became a bookkeeper in San Diego, and Henry sold stocks and bonds. Ferdinand left ranching to seek work in the packing business or in newspapers (the indecisiveness was characteristic). Walter stayed in the East. An accommodating Schumann-Heink purchased the former home of William B. Gross at Grossmont for Henry and homes for George and Kaethe, widow of August,

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- **5** Appointments & costs



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- 2 Botox & wrinkles



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3 Effects of Botox

- 4 How much does it cost?



Extension 7030 **LipoSculpture** 1 What is it?

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- 5 Best candidates



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- 4 After surgery 5 Resumption of activities



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- 5 Exercise: How much?



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- 2 Who is a candidate?
- **3** What to expect
- 4 Resuming activities 5 About our center



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- 3 Is it painful?
- 4 How is skin affected?
- 5 How long does it last?

Extension 7080 **Laser Eye** Surgery

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- 2 Who is a candidate? 3 Your eye exam
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- **5** After surgery



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in San Diego.

During the first of 1919, the singer spearheaded a campaign for a memorial to be built by popular subscription for San Diego servicemen. This plan would involve lining Pershing Drive in Balboa Park with shade trees and monuments containing the names of those who died during the European war. There was much talk but little action. After a recital at the organ pavilion for the memorial fund, the exasperated promoter lectured her audience, "If you in San Diego who have conceived this great memorial would stop your scrapping among yourselves and

advance in one body for the good of your beautiful city. what could you do! You have been first to recognize the honor due to our sainted dead. Let us continue in this spirit."

In 1921, Schumann-Heink performed in the Far East — Tokyo, Osaka, Kobe, Hong Kong, Singapore, Shanghai, Batavia, Manila, and Honolulu. One outdoor concert was noteworthy because of thousands of bats flying about, some close to the singer's head, all busily eating mosquitoes. "It's fine," bemused singer remarked, "as long as they don't mistake me for a mosquito." Wherever she went,

she was applauded wildly, dined, feted, and showered with gifts.

Wishing to live closer to San Diego, the diva, in 1922, purchased a threestory gray stucco mansion in Coronado from John D. Spreckels. During a visit to San Diego the same year,





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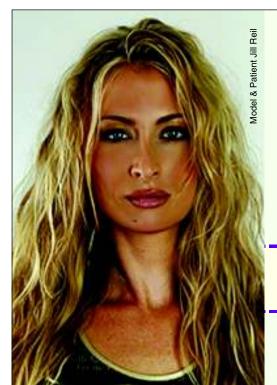


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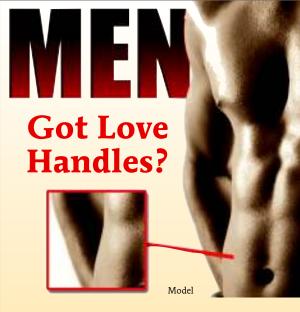
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she began giving concerts to benefit the Rest Haven Home for children. The following year, 30,000 San Diegans heard her sing in the city's memorial concert on the death of President Harding.

During 1926, Schumann-Heink, then 65, began

HEALTH AND BEAUTY



a series of national radio broadcasts and, remarkably, returned to the Metropolitan Opera in New York after a nine-year absence. She sang Erda in Das Rheingold, and, according to a critic writing in The Nation, "Her voice, though impaired in the heights, still rolled out, rich and controlled. And her art worked its old magic."

gold and Waltraute's narrative from Götterdämmerung with the New York Symphony under the baton of Walter Damrosch. Good Housekeeping magazine, in January 1927,

"Golden Jubilee" celebra-

tion, the 50th anniversary

of her first appearance on the

concert stage. She sang Erda's

warning from Das Rhein-

ran a series on the singer's life, as told to Mary Law-

"It is up to the war mothers to teach their children the love of law and not make a difference between black or yellow or brown or white skins. You make war among yourselves through your children."

In an interview for the San Diego Union in August of 1926, the aging singer announced she would retire from the opera and concert stages in 1928 and start teaching so she could pass on her art to others. She began her retirement tour that December in New York with her

Weekend

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ton, which in the following year was published by the Macmillan Company as Schumann-Heink: The Last of the Titans. The remainder of 1927 and the greater part of 1928 were taken up with nationwide farewell concerts. In honor of what she said would be her final appearance at San Diego, a pilot from Rockwell Field flew over her Coronado home and dropped flowers.

No sooner were her farewell concerts over than Schumann-Heink reappeared on the stage. In June of 1928, the diva sang "The Star Spangled Banner" at the Republican National Convention, which led Will Rogers to remark he wished she could have sung Senator Fess's keynote speech. (Schumann-Heink, incidentally, was a Democrat who campaigned actively for the election of Alfred Smith as President.) That same month, she appeared at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles; in August she sang in two appearances in San Diego.

Also in 1928, the singer deeded her estate at Grossmont to Mayor George E. Leach of Minneapolis, to be administered as a haven for disabled veterans of the world war. The gift was a way of saying thank you to the veterans who had drunk a toast to August, her "son who went down in the U-boat," during a Schumann-Heink appearance in Minneapolis in 1923. The veterans never occupied the site, and in 1932 Schumann-Heink's

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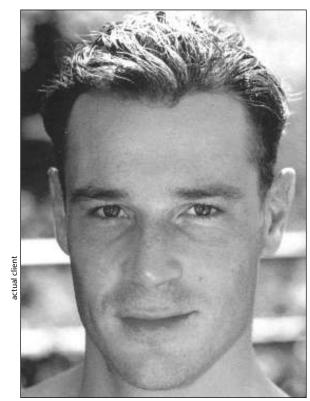
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daughter Marie acquired the estate by paying back taxes and accrued expenses.

In the fall of 1928, a San Diego jury convicted Henry of using \$3000 in securities deposited with his stock and bond firm as security for a personal loan. Henry's theft of corporation funds led to the collapse of the firm and losses to customers of approximately \$21,000. He was placed on probation on condition that he repay the stockholders the full amount

of their losses. As she had done before, Schumann-Heink made good her children's mistakes by paying Henry's debt.

Letters from Schumann-Heink to Alfred Wuest, her realtor and friend, indicate that the diva was under no illusions about her son's character. (About his womanizing, she once wrote, "What he is I know.... God will punish him and this rotten woman in time.... Elsie shall divorce him —

not lament — he laughs at her, lowers her in the eyes of the world. All laughs.") She rescued him from his financial predicament primarily to spare his wife and two children.

In January of 1929, at age 67, Schumann-Heink again appeared with the Metropolitan Opera as Erda in Das Rheingold. The New York Times wrote that by recognizing the limitations of her voice and by emphasizing tonality, sonority, and inflection, she was able to deliver the warning to Wotan in a masterly fashion.

To dispel any doubts, the contralto announced in February that 1929 would definitely be her last concert year. For the rest of the year, she performed, conducted master classes, appeared in radio broadcasts, and acted as opera counsel for the National Broadcasting Company. She also spent considerable time advising women, in magazine articles and speeches, to forgo politics, bobbed hair, smoking, unchaperoned dancing, lipstick, jazz, and



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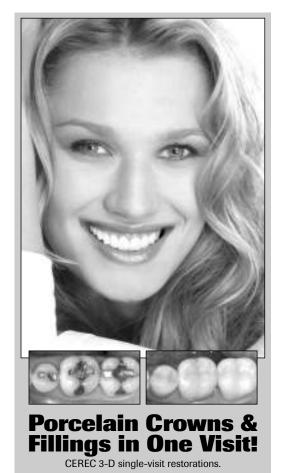
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bridge and to devote themselves to bringing up children.

The stock market crash of October 1929 wiped out the singer's investments. To support her sons and daughters and their progeny and her several retainers, Schumann-Heink put aside whatever wishes she had to lead a relaxed life. At age 69, she joined a touring vaudeville company, Roxy and His Gang. In attempting to describe the attraction of a woman of 69 singing in vaudeville, a writer for the Boston Transcript asked ambiguously, "Is it not the chief glory of her final years that she can persuade us to take the full singing will for the diminished vocal deed?"

Her son Ferdinand had become addicted to morphine, presumably while being treated for pneumonia in the US Army. Like Henry, he was inept at handling his finances and subject to temperamental outbursts. Ferdinand sent whining letters to Schumann-Heink, begging her to send him more money. ("We miss you we love you we adore you Mammy mine, and how we miss you, you can't conceive it possible," he once wrote to her.) To keep an eye on him, she began spending much of her free time in Hollywood, where Ferdinand worked as a writer and actor for the motion pictures.

In February 1931, Good Housekeeping magazine listed the singer as second in its list of outstanding contemporary American women (Jane Adams was the first). One reason for this selection was demonstrated shortly afterward, when Schumann-Heink publicly rebuked members of her audience for protesting the appearance of Chinese and Negro children in the dedication ceremonies of the Memorial Auditorium in Sacramento. Turning her back on the audience, she sang a lullaby for the children. Then she told the audience, "It is up to the war mothers to teach their children the love of law and not make a difference between black or yellow or brown or white skins. You make war among yourselves through

your children."

For the next two years, Schumann-Heink continued to sing in concerts and on the vaudeville circuit. A writer for the Long Beach Morning Star wrote of one performance, "It isn't singing as much as talking to the people across the footlights in the most beautiful of tones. And between songs she stops to hold a conversation. And the crowd catches on and talks back." Schumann-Heink told a reporter for the San Diego Union that she was making between \$4000 and \$6000 a month through appearances, instruction, and radio broadcasts. She gave this money, she said, to her children and grandchildren. She kept a chauffeur but had given up her secretary, maid, and house servants.

In 1935, at age 74, Schumann-Heink embarked on a new career as a motion picture actress, appearing as a music teacher in Here's to Romance, produced by Fox Studios, in which she

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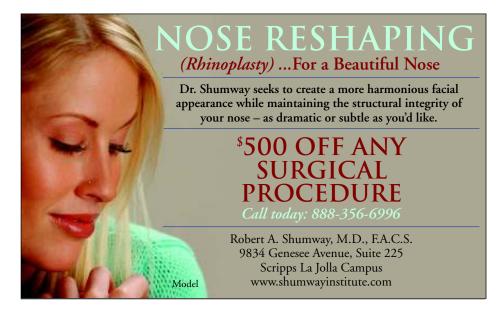
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sang Brahms's "Wiegenlied." Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer presented her with a three-year contract, and when the two studios filed suits against one another, the delighted actress exclaimed, "It's very comic, this quarreling among the motion picture men who call me terrific, colossal, and gigantic — I think I don't like that gigantic very much, hah?'

In a joking mood, Hollywood's newest and oldest discovery confessed to a San Diego Union reporter that actor Wallace Beery was the love of her life, and although she did not wear makeup, for Wallace Beery she would put on lipstick.

Schumann-Heink eventually sold her home in Coronado and moved to Hollywood. She said she was not giving up San Diego and that she intended to buy a cottage near the Grossmont home of her daughter Marie Fox.

A Reader's Digest article in April of 1936 described Schumann-Heink as eagerly anticipating her role as a poor grandmother in a film being made of Kathleen Norris's story "Gram." The grandmother in the story finds out after a fling at luxury that "money isn't everything." The article added that the former opera star had stopped giving away her earnings and that her youngest son George was managing her affairs.

But Schumann-Heink's expectations never came to fruition. She was suffering from leukemia, and on November 17, 1936, at the age of 75, Madame Schumann-Heink died in her Hollywood home.

The passing of Schumann-Heink was mourned in newspapers in almost every nation in the world except Germany. Schumann-Heink had been outspoken against the Nazis and had credited her own success to her heritage from "her little Jewish grandmother."

On November 20, Los Angeles paid its respects to Schumann-Heink with a funeral held in the clubhouse of Hollywood Post No. 23 of the American Legion. The American Legion and Disabled American Veterans stood watch over the body. In his brief remarks, the rabbi who assisted with the service said, "She was a grand old darling. That's the word, Darling. There's no use being high-falutin' in this moment of our grief." He went on, "She loved them all, white and black, American and European, Jew and Gentile. In this she showed herself a master in the greatest of all arts — the art of living." At the conclusion of the services, her body was taken to Union Station and placed on an observation car. As the train rolled down to Santa Ana and San Clemente, American Legion honor guards stood silent and solemn facing the train.

At San Diego, a police motorcycle escort, a Marine band, and members of the American Legion and Disabled War Veterans escorted the casket from the Santa Fe Station to the funeral chapel. Seats in front of the casket were occupied by Gold Star Mothers, World War Mothers, and members of the auxiliaries of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled War Veterans. National Guardsmen from San Diego's 251st Coast Artillery Company stood watch while a harpist and pianist played Gounod's "Ave Maria," Brahms's "Wiegenlied," and Bohm's "Silent as Night."

On November 21, the San Diego chapter of the Disabled American Veterans conducted a brief service, then placed the casket in a hearse, and members of the family and representatives of the service groups followed it to Greenwood Cemetery. Here a military squad fired a volley and a bugler sounded taps as the body was taken to the crematory. The ashes were later placed in a niche, though not in the same columbarium with those of her son Hans.

In her will, Madame Schumann-Heink left her \$34,000 estate to four of her six surviving children. Henry Schumann-Heink and Walter Schumann, having cost her emotional stress and exorbitant sums during her life, were left nothing.

On Memorial Day, 1938, Barbara Heink, granddaughter of the diva, unveiled a bronze, five-foot-square tablet honoring Madame Schumann-Heink at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion. The tablet had been purchased through popular subscription. Superimposed upon the tablet is a huge

star upon which is a lyre and an open book with the inscription"In loving memory of Mme. Ernestine Schumann-Heink. A Gold Star Mother. A Star of the World."

Critics regarded Schumann-Heink as one of a cluster of extraordinary singers, among whom are Jean and Edouard de Reszke, Pol Plancon, Enrico Caruso, Luisa Tetrazzini, Lilli Lehmarin, Lillian Nordica, and Nellie Melba. These singers had long and hard apprenticeships. They welcomed opportunities to do bit roles. They nurtured their voices carefully and took pains never to force their voices beyond their limits. They learned their techniques from one another and deepened their understanding of their parts through their association with the great composers of their time. They were not one-day wonders.

As a woman, Schumann-Heink was a contradiction. She represented an independent, self-made person eager to be known and to lead, yet she advised other women to stay at home and look after their husbands and children. She did not think women should vote or take part in politics, but, when the time came, she did both. As an artist she claimed to be indifferent to politics, yet as her years in the United States lengthened she became a proponent of national recovery and national defense and an opponent of prohibition. She admired Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, who was the antithesis of homebody.

As a writer for Commonweal put it, "The American people liked her because she was natural." It did not matter to those who heard Schumann-Heink's made-up stories, vernacular jokes, and sentimental songs if she was sincere or truthful, because her joy and vitality were contagious. A reporter in the San Diego Union in 1933 was overcome by Schumann-Heink's charisma. "An hour with Madame Schumann-Heink is like bathing in the stream of life. One comes out refreshed, one's mental cobwebs blown away with her rich humor; one's faith in God and the essential fitness and worthwhileness of life renewed; one's courage shamed into new being."

— Richard W. Amero

San Diego Reader February 8, 2007

Politics and Religion!

Open-Minded Discussions

y way of picking a topic is to make it kind of controversial," says Gary Grine. "I picked last week's title ['God Save Us from Religious Fundamentalists'] because I'm very concerned with fundamentalism, especially after the Taliban blew up the statues of Buddha. I was really upset about Muslim fundamentalists because I saw them as being ignorant or having too much power or being terrorists. Now I can see that they're operating out of fear of the Western culture taking over their religion.

LOCAL **EVENTS**

I don't agree with [fundamentalism], but the important thing at these meetings is that you keep your ear

open and learn something.

Every Thursday night Grine hosts "P&R Discussion Hour" at the Other Side Coffee House in North Park. "Politics and religion are the things you're not supposed to talk about in polite society," says Grine. On February 8 the topic is "Is There Still Poverty in America? If So, Why?" On February 15 it will be "History — Its Definitions and Importance."

Though no set rules are in place, Grine works to mediate and sometimes neutralize the discussion. "I had to kick one guy out. He was an atheist, and he was off his meds. He tried to direct the conversation toward atheism, like, 'It's all about me, and I'm going to try to convert you guys to atheism." At Grine's request, the manager of the coffee shop intervened and asked the man to leave.

Grine insists that, "unlike atheists," his group is "not a mutual-admiration society." Grine modeled his forum after the Socratic method — rather than proffering information, a teacher asks questions of the students under the supposition that they will eventually arrive at a deeper understanding of the material. Anywhere from 15 to 30 people attend each week, the majority of whom are men in their late 40s to 60s.

Grine often brings in a guest speaker. For a discussion of the fall of Berlin, a man who was a child during the Russian Army invasion of WWII was invited to speak. The speaker for a discussion of 'Understanding Mexican Politics" never showed, although around 12 Mexican-American students from UCSD did arrive, hoping to learn more about their parents' country. "We ended up questioning [the students] for two hours," says Grine. "They were very cynical and said, 'Nothing's ever going to change [in Mexico], there's just going to be a wide gap between the rich and poor because of the power of the rich.

The group's regulars represent various religious sects and political viewpoints. "You won't find a staunch Republican going to a Democrat club, and you won't find an Orthodox Jew going to a fundamentalist Christian meeting," says Bill Newsome III, who began attending the discussion group three months ago. "Because this group holds no affiliations like that, different opinions and even dissenting opinions are cherished. Gary nurtures vigorous dissent and, at the same time, prevents it from turning into a bar-



topic was "The War in Iraq – a De Facto Civil War?" "One individual made the comment that, 'Well, gosh, yeah, it's a big

ugly mess right now, but the Democrats sure haven't come up with any suggestions,' and then this other, really sharp guy, I think justifiably said, 'Wait a minute! You Republicans got us headfirst into this nightmare, this complete disaster that is getting worse, and then hand this bucket of mess to us and go, 'Do you have

Grine reminds his fellow conversationalists not to be blinded by labels. Before the issue of fundamentalism was discussed, the term was defined. Newsome explains: "What do you mean by fundamentalist? When you pull it apart and set the label aside you realize, 'Okay, these people have core beliefs, and here's where they get them from.' That doesn't turn everybody into a 9/11 attacker. When you stop and set the label aside, [the word | isn't what you thought.'

Newsome's favorite thing about these

meetings, which he likens to rap sessions from the "hippie era," is exposure to new ideas. "Not only do I hear other views that I don't necessarily share, but we get a succinct and sort of logical examination of those views instead of just, 'Here's what they think and what we think and never the twain shall meet'...it's time well spent, as opposed to watching ex-football players ballroom dance."

— Barbarella

Politics and Religion Discussion Group

Thursday, February 8: "Is There Still Poverty in America? If So, Why?"

The Other Side Coffee House 4096 30th Street North Park **Cost: Free** Info: 619-521-0533 or www.coffeeside.com





Calendar Local Events

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.

BAJA

Events that are underlined occur after February 15

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

Screening in the CECUT Omnimax: Vikingos, Viaje a la Luna, Oasis Marino.

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

"A Canto y Laurel," poems by people of Tijuana and San Diego read on Thursday, February 8, 7 p.m., at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street in Zona Río). Free. 011-52-664-687-9636. (IJUANA)

Nicho Hinojosa in concert, Thursday, February 8, 7 p.m., at Tia Juana Tilly's (Avenida Revolución and 7th Street). Tickets: \$30, \$40 U.S. 011-52-664-685-6024.

Electronic Music performed by DJ Hernán Cattaneo, Saturday, February 10, 9 p.m., at Baby Rock Café in Zona Río. \$30 U.S. 011-52-664-634-2404. (TIJUANA)

Run, Bicycle, Run! Etapa in Zona Río is starting point for biathlon with 4.5k run, 15k bike ride, and 3k run, Sunday, February 11, 8 a.m. 011-52-664-215-9000. (TIJUANA)

Mountain Biking state championship competition — 11k offroad ride starts at 10 a.m. on Sunday, February 11, at Rancho Bustamante. 011-52-664-215-9000. (TIJUANA)

Lobster Lunch and shopping tour hosted by Baja California Tours, Wednesday, February 14. The \$69 fee includes transportation, lobster feast in Puerto Nuevo, shopping in Rosarito Beach. Reservations: 858-454-7166 or 800-336-5454. (PUERTO NUEVO, ROSARITO BEACH)

Cuatro Para Tango — music, wine, snacks, all promised on Wednesday, February 14, 8 p.m., at Antigua Bodega de Papel (11th Street, between Avenida Revolución and Madero Street). \$14 U.S. 011-52-664-681-7084. (TIJUANA)

"Pasion Flamenca," Spanish music and dances at 100 Años Restaurant (José María Velazco #1407, Zona Río) on Thursday, February 15, 8 p.m. 011-52-664-634-3039. (TIJUANA)

OUTDOORS

Events that are underlined occur after February 15.

Ceanothus, or wild lilac, begins its annual blooming cycle this month — at least in the warmer coastal areas. Assuming sufficient rainfall arrives, by sometime in March virtually every chaparral-covered canyon and hillside on the coastal strip may exhibit blue- or white-flowering specimens. The peak of the ceanothus bloom will work its way eastward, reaching Ramona and Alpine by March or April, and the Palomar, Cuyamaca, and Laguna Mountains by April or May.

For the next several years, ceanothus growth will be rampant in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, where the devastating 2003 Cedar wildfire incinerated nearly all of the trees and opened up opportunities for post-fire, pioneering vegetation such as the ceanothus species

Ocean Water Temperatures, of late in the high 50s Fahrenheit, are finally on the upswing this month as the daylight hours lengthen and the sun arcs higher overhead in the sky each day. It will take about five months of spring and summer sunshine before the ocean's enormous mass and large heat capacity fully respond to the input of solar energy.

A maximum water temperature in the low to mid-70s is expected by August or September.

The Frost-Nipped Legacies of January's cold siege aren't hard to spot. Brown lawns, half-deadlooking avocado trees, and wilted ornamental plants like poinsettias tell the story plainly enough. But a common frost-sensitive native plant-the laurel sumac-is even more widely expressive. Laurel sumac is one of the largest and most conspicuous plants within the coastal-sage-scrub vegetation community growing on many of San Diego's coastal hillsides. Laurel sumacs tend to become noticeably frost-bitten in low-lying areas, where chilled air sinks and settles in during the night and early-morning hours.

The Sun Strides North in February, swinging higher across the sky each successive day. Already quite noticeable is the change in the time of sunset, currently almost a minute later per day, and sunrise, currently almost a minute earlier per day.

Saturn lies at opposition to the sun on Saturday, February 10. Look for this creamy white planet over the east horizon as evening twilight gathers. Saturn remains in the sky all night on the opposition date, setting at sunrise, and it remains a good telescopic target in the evening sky for the next three or four months. Saturn's rings are currently tilted moderately to the line of sight — not as fully open as they have been in the last several years.

"Walk through Early California," San Diego County Rockhoppers host 10k volkswalk at Leo Carrillo Park, Saturday, February 10. Walk at your own pace through historic park in landscaped canyon with adobe buildings, antique windmills, "features reminiscent of early California." Start: anytime between 8 a.m. and noon; finish by 3 p.m. Walk is free; optional *Volkssport* credit is \$3. Event begins at Jack-in-the-Box (3281 Business Park Drive). 858-451-2130, (MSTA)

Lovemaking on Kumeyaay Lake! View "love-crazy antics of mating shorebirds" during guided walk in Mission Trails Regional Park, Saturday, February 10, 8:30 a.m., starting at Kumeyaay Lake campground entry station (Two Father Junípero Serra Trail). Free. 619-668-3281. (SAN CARLOS)

An Expert Birder from San Diego Field Ornithologists leads bird walk on easy trail winding along Tecolote Creek on Saturday, February 10, starting at 9 a.m. at Tecolote Nature Center (5180 Tecolote Road). Free. Bring binoculars and drinking water. 858-581-9944. (CLAIREMONT)

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)

Second Saturday Nature Walks at the Reserve, San Elijo
Lagoon Conservancy hosts walk
exploring migratory birds and na-

tive plants, Saturday, February 10, 9 a.m. Free. Directions: 760-436-3944. (CARDIFF)

See Rare Vernal Pools and wildflowers when Diana Gordon leads walk, Saturday, February 10. Meet at 9 a.m. at Carmel Mountain trailhead (at Fairpoint Way and Shorepointe Way) with hiking boots, water. 858-484-3219. Free. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN)

Trail Repair Work in Paso Picacho at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park continues on Saturday, February 10, 9 a.m. Bring work shoes, gloves, hat, water, snack. Group gathers at Paso Picacho campground maintenance area behind fire department building. Free. Registration: 760-489-5676. For those 16 and older with a parent. (CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK)

Valentine Mating! Public and Legal — among fauna, that is — may be witnessed during guided nature walks set for Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday, February 10, 11, and 14, 9:30–11 a.m., in Mission Trails Regional Park (One Father Junípero Serra Trail). Free. 619-668-3281. (SAN CARLOS)

Valentine Orienteering Event hosted by San Diego Orienteering, Saturday, February 10, 10 a.m.—1 p.m., at UCSD (Northpoint Drive, off North Torrey Pines Road). Participants attempt to find as many "controls" as possible within one-hour time limit; learn about map reading, enjoy the outdoors. Fee: \$8 for individuals, \$10 for couples.

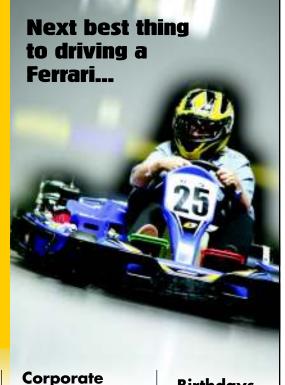
Junior orienteering event for kids from elementary school through high school, also planned on 10th, 10 a.m.—noon. Kids learn map reading, land navigation, increase awareness and respect for



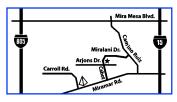
Valid Monday-Friday. With this ad. Not applicable for group reservations. One coupon per customer. Some restrictions apply. First-time customers only. Expires 2/28/07.

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- Up to 13 drivers racing wheel-towheel!

Group Events up to 400 people







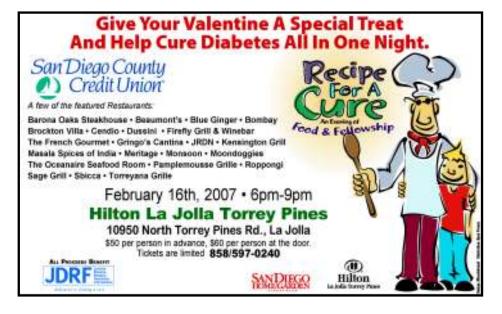
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Hotel and spa all inclusive \$159 US. Welcome margarita, oceanfront room, two 30-minute massages, getaway menu dinner, continental breakfast, 2 children 12 and under stay free. Per couple, per night plus tax, advance reservation required. Valid Sunday-Thursday. Friday-Saturday higher. Valid till 3/29/07. Limited availability. Room only \$69 with 14-day advance. www.Rosaritobeachhotel.com. 1-800-343-8582.

natural environment. \$10 fee includes map for course, "e-stick rental," goodie bag. Pre-registration for either event: 760-729-2116. (LA JOLLA)

Palm Walk, Offshoot Tours offers its monthly hour-long guided stroll exploring structure, growth habits, landscape value of palm trees, Saturday, February 10, 10 a.m., at visitors' center. Free. 619-235-1121. (BALBOA PARK)

Where Is South Park? Explore area, replete with Craftsman homes, during Urban Safari walking tour led by Patty Fares, Saturday, February 10, 10 a.m. \$10. Reservations: 619-944-9255. (SOUTH PARK)

Asian Pacific Historic District Tours offered on second Saturday of each month, including February 10. Tours start at 11 a.m. at Chinese Historical Museum (404 Third Avenue). \$2. Required reservations: 619-338-9888. (DOWNTOWN)

Stargazing in the San Pasqual Valley, Saturday, February 10, at San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park (16666 San Pasqual Valley Road). Oceanside Photo and Telescope co-hosts event, geared for beginners, which begins at 6 p.m., concludes around 11 p.m., weather permitting, 760-737-2698 or 619-884-5527. Free. (ESCONDIDO)

"Saturn: Lord of the Rings" is subject when "Desert Skies" lecture series by astronomer/photographer Dennis Mammana continues on Saturday, February 10, 7 p.m., at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park visitors' center amphitheatre. Program followed by telescopic viewing of night sky (weather permitting). If you'd like, bring binoculars, flashlight covered with red cellophane to preserve night vision. \$15 general, free for those younger than 12. Reservations: 760-767-0446. (BORREGO SPRINGS)

Pierre Bovet Adobe History Hike into Carroll Canyon planned on Sunday, February 11, 3–4:30 p.m. Who was Bovet, what was his role in San Diego history? Why have so many adobes in county deteriorated? Meet at fire station near corner of Scranton and Carroll Canyon Road. Free. 858-484-3219. (SAN DIEGO)

Beach Clean-Up hosted by I Love a Clean San Diego, Sunday, February 11, 10 a.m.—noon, starting at Veteran's Plaza. This "singles mingle cleanup" is co-hosted by Envirockers (you don't have to be single to participate). Free. 800-237-BLUE. (OCEAN BEACH)

Do Some Weekday Birding when birders from Audubon Society head out on annual La Jolla adventure from 8:30–11 a.m., Wednesday, February 14. Meet in vicinity of 303 Coast Boulevard, several blocks south of Children's Pool. Easy hiking. Bring a scope. Free. 619-692-3246. (LA JOLLA)

Cork Stopper, see "the famous Balboa Park cork tree" and Marston House grounds while on "half-speed," one-hour walk with Walkabout adventurers, Wednesday, February 14. Meet at Sixth Avenue and Spruce Street at 8:45 a.m. Free. 619-231-7463. (BALBOA PARK)

DANCE

Events that are underlined occur after February 15.

Senior Dance Productions offered Thursday and Friday, Febru-



San Diego Reader February 8, 2007

ary 8 and 9, 7 p.m., at San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts (2425 Dusk Drive). Tickets: \$6, 7.619-470-0588. (PARADISE HILLS)

Fancy One-Step Variations highlight beginner-friendly dance on Friday, February 9, 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-

Palomar Dance Festival presented by Palomar College Performing Arts Department, Friday and Saturday, February 9 and 10, 8 p.m., in Howard Brubeck Theatre. Choreography and dance performances by Axxiom Dance Collective, Palomar College students, Lower Left Dance Collective, Mesa College, SDSU, Opus Mixtus Post Jazz Ensemble, and MiraCosta College dancers. \$12 general. Find Palomar College at 1140 West Mission Road. 760-744-1150 x2453. (SAN MARCOS)

International Instructor, Choreographer, "dance personality" Joanne Brady leads low-impact line-dance lessons hosted by San Diego 'N' Line Dancers, Saturday, February 10, 10 a.m.-10:30 p.m., at Balboa Park Club ballroom (Presidents Way off Park Boulevard). Fees: \$12-\$30. 619-987-1750. (BALBOA PARK)

"Forces of Nature," San Diego Civic Dance Company presents 24th annual "dance collages" through February 18 in Casa del

ROAM-()-RAMA

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

he rustic city of Sierra Madre, just east of Pasadena, has long been a departure point for hikers seeking exercise and solitude in the adjacent San Gabriel Mountains. That part of the mountain range, known as the "front range" of the San Gabriels, rises quickly from the edge of the city, and contains a number of awesomely steep canyons and plunging ridges.

Sierra Madre has two departing trails, the historic and precipitous Mount Wilson Trail (once used to haul the earliest instrumentation up to what became the world-renowned Mount Wilson Observatory) and the more modern, easier, Bailey Canyon Trail, which gives access to a small waterfall. Typical users of

the Bailey Canyon Trail are hikers, runners, dog-walkers, and parents with kids. Mountain bikes are not allowed.

To get to the Bailey Canyon trailhead, exit from Interstate 210 at Baldwin Avenue in Arcadia and go north into Sierra Madre. Proceed to Carter Avenue, turn left, and drive west into Bailey Canyon Park, which features parking spaces and a small, shady picnic area.

From the end of the parking lot, head west and pass through a gate. You'll be walking on a paved service road upward past a Passionist Fathers monastery on the left, and a debris basin on the right. The road plays out, but you continue on the trail up along Bailey Canyon's often dry bottom.

When you come to the split where the Bailey Canyon Trail (bound for a high point called Jones Peak far above) diverges right, stay to the left, following the sandy canyon bottom. Take care to avoid exposure to poison oak. In a few minutes you'll come to the end of the line for easy hiking. A "dike" of dark, intrusive igneous $\,$ rock, squeezed between lighter granite walls, lies ahead. This natural barrier forces any water flowing in the canyon to plunge about 15 feet over a precipice. The waterfall trills like a bird only after significant rain has fallen. That could happen anytime this month through about April.

Falls in Bailey Canyon

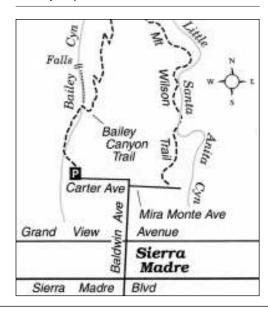
This article contains information about a publicly owned recreation or wilderness area. Trails and pathways are not necessarily marked. Conditions can change rapidly.

equipped and have safety and navigational skills. The Reader and Jerry Schad assume no responsibility for any adverse experience.

BAILEY CANYON

Discover an easy-to-reach waterfall just outside the L.A. foothill community of Sierra Madre.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 135 miles Hiking Length: 1.2 miles round trip Difficulty: Easy



Prado Theatre (on Village Place, off Park Boulevard). Program "uses different dance disciplines to explore the elements through dance." Recitals begin at 3 and 7 p.m. on Saturdays, 2 p.m. on Sundays. \$10. 619-702-3408. (BALBOA PARK)

Mardi Gras Dance 2007, 17th annual Bon Temps Social Club anniversary dance boasts Jeremy and the Zydeco Hot Boyz, Saturday, February 10, at Balboa Park Club (on Presidents Way, off Park Boulevard). Dance instruction at 6:20 p.m., live music from 7–10:30 p.m. \$14. 858-496-6655. (BALBOA PARK)

American Latin and Ballroom Dancing, Saturday, February 10, 7:30 p.m., at Pattie Wells Dancetime Center (1255 West Morena Boulevard). Dancing for singles and couples of all ages. Samba lesson at 8 p.m. \$7; first time free. 619-275-3533. (BAY PARK)

Flight Path makes music, Chris Page calls for contradance on Saturday, February 10, 8 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church (3030 Thorn Street). Beginners' dance workshop: 7:30 p.m. \$7. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-594-6828. Free predance music jam at 6 p.m.; bring food/beverages to share for optional potluck supper at 6:30. (NORTH PARK)

Israeli Dance Party led by Dalya Dallal on Saturday, February 10, 7 p.m., at Folk Dance Center (4569 30th Street). \$6. Bring snack to share. 619-281-5656. (NORTH PARK)

New York Hustle "Patriarch" and Broadway choreographer Arte Phillips is on hand when Hustle San Diego Club meets on Saturday, February 10, at Dance North County (535 Encinitas Boulevard,



Includes: 1 dozen long-stem roses, candlelight aromatherapy Jacuzzi, champagne & chocolate-dipped strawberries and a 1-hour massage each.

Only \$250 per couple

Minimum 24-hour advance reservation required.
Credit card deposit required.





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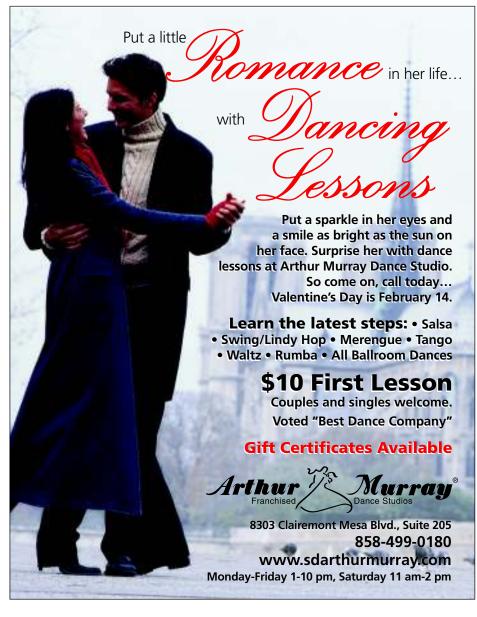
Motorclothes departments











San Diego Reader February 8, 2007 8

suite 100). Phillips leads hustle workshop at 7 p.m. (\$15); he'll judge "Jack and Jill hustle dance contest" (9:30 p.m.). Intro to hustle at 8 p.m. Dance admission: \$7. 760-803-9982. (ENCINITAS)

International Dance Festival is Sunday, February 11, noon-5 p.m., at Balboa Park Club (1549 El Prado). Dances from around world demonstrated and taught every half hour. Partners not required. Vendors on hand. Free. 619-286-1588. (BALBOA PARK)

Sunday Zapateado, Ballet Folklórico en Aztlán performs dances from different states of Mexico each month at Centro Cultural de la Raza (2125 Park Boulevard). Take in dances from San Luís Potosi, Mexico, on Sunday, February 11, 2 p.m. Free. 619-235-6135. (RALROA PARK)

"Sleeping Beauty," Moscow Festival Ballet brings classic tale to boards of California Center for the Arts, Escondido on Sunday, February 11. Company led by former Bolshoi Ballet principal dancer Sergei Radchenko boasts "50 dancers from across Russia." Curtain rises at 4 p.m. at 340 North Escondido Boulevard, \$50-\$65. 760-839-4100. (ESCONDIDO)

English Country Dancing takes place every Sunday, 6-9 p.m., at Jean Hart Academy of Dance (Oak Knoll Plaza, 12227 Poway Road). Callers are Janet and Ellie on February 11. \$6. 858-676-9731. (POWAY)

Lux Boreal, the contemporary dance company from Tijuana performs Flor de 7 Hojas, examining "narco-culture and drug traffic in northern Mexico," Wednesday, February 14, 7 p.m., in Arts 111 at CSU San Marcos (333 South Twin Oaks Valley). Free. 760-750-4366. (SAN MARCOS)

FILM

Events that are underlined occur after February 15.

Celebrating Life, Human Rights, and Freedom of Ex**pression** — the San Diego Jewish Film Festival runs February 8–18. Program showcases nearly 50 contemporary Jewish-themed films from around world, including short-subject, documentary, feature-length films, guest artists. Titles include Ira and Abby, The Rape of Europe, What a Wonderful Place, Code Name: Bayonet, Olga, Nobody's Business, many others.

Screenings offered at AMC La Jolla 12 Theatres in La Jolla Village Square, Ultrastar Mission Valley Cinemas at Hazard Center, Ultrastar's Poway Creekside Plaza 10, and in David and Dorothea Garfield Theatre at Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center. Single tickets: \$12.50; series passes available. Reservations, showtimes: 858-362-1348. (LA JOLLA, MISSION VALLEY, POWAY)

"The Animation Show 3," described as "full-length compilation of world's best and most cuttingedge animated short films," hits Spreckels Theatre (121 Broadway) on Thursday, February 8, with screenings at 6:30 and 9 p.m. Mike Judge and animator Don Hertzfeldt "created and personally programmed" the show. Tickets: \$12.75, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (DOWNTOWN)

"Black Orpheus" by Marcel Camus presented for winter film series, Thursday, February 8, 7 p.m., at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (700 Prospect Street). \$7. 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

"More Than a Movie: Singin' in the Rain" - series with timeless MGM musicals convenes on February 8 and 11 at Stephen and Mary Birch North Park Theatre (2891 University Avenue). Classic was directed by Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly, stars Kelly, Donald O'-

SLEEPING BEAUTY Moscow Festival Ballet at California Center for the Arts, Escondido, Sunday, February 11.

OUT & ABOUT

(SEE DANCE)



Connor, Debbie Reynolds. Next up: Vincent Minelli's 1953 classic The Band Wagon, February 15 and 18.

Cinema Society's Andy Friedenberg and film historian Scott Marks introduce films; cartoons, shorts, trivia contests precede each movie. Screenings begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, 2 p.m. on Sunday. \$9 general. 619-239-8836. (NORTH PARK)

The Chinese Film Not One Less (1999) screens for International Film Series at MiraCosta College on Friday, February 9. See film at 1 p.m. in room 201 at MiraCosta's San Elijo campus (3333 Manchester Avenue). Film also screens at 7 p.m. in room 3601 on campus at One Barnard Drive. 760-795-6612. Free. English subtitles. (CARDIFF,

The "Moody Nouveau Noir" Hollywoodland by Allen Coulter stars Ben Affleck as George Reeves (famous for playing Superman on TV), Adrien Brody, Diane Lane, Bob Hoskins. Mystery screens for Sunday Matinee on February 11, 2 p.m., at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). Free. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

"Granito de Arena" chronicles nonviolent protests by schoolteach-

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Both at 30-TWO Downtown

Check-in 7 pm, event 7:30 pm dvance registration require

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Fondue Party: Thurs. 2/22

See website for details.

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ers in Mexico as they "struggle for social and economic justice in Mexico's public schools." Film and discussion, Monday, February 12, 7:30 p.m., hosted by Ocean Beach Grassroots Organization and San Diego Activist, at Voltaire Street Space (4862 Voltaire Street). Free. 619-225-1083. (OCEAN BEACH)

Involved in Filmmaking? San Diego Filmmakers convene to hear assistant director Hope Goodwin (The Karate Kid, Rock V, Antwone Fisher), Tuesday, February 13, 6 p.m., in Scripps Ranch Theatre at Alliant University (10455 Pomerado Road). Donations accepted. 858-356-0203. "Anyone involved in any aspect of filmmaking" invited. (SCRIPPS RANCH)

Marilyn Monroe Films showcased during ongoing film series hosted by Carlsbad Library, beginning with How to Marry a Millionaire on Wednesday, February 14. Screenings begin at 6 p.m. in Schulman Auditorium (1775 Dove Lane). Free. 760-602-2026. (LA COSTA)

The 2006 Oscar-Nominated Short Films screen Wednesday, February 14, 6:30 p.m., for Film Forum at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). Animated and liveaction works include Six Shooter,

The Moon and the Sun: An Imagined Conversation, The Mysterious Geographic Exploration of Jasper Morello, Cashback, others, Free, 619-236-5800, (DOWNTOWN)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center. currently screening in the IMAX theater: Roving Mars, Coral Reef Adventure. "Fridays at the Fleet" promises Amazing Caves (6 p.m.) and Space Station (7 p.m.) on February 9. Ticket prices and showtimes: 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

LECTURES

Events that are underlined occur af-

"John Q. Public and Citizen Jane: Private Americans in the Political Domain" explores relationship of individual American citizens to their government at federal and municipal levels, through photographs, videos, and multimedia installations. Exhibition in University Art Gallery at San Diego State University includes lectures by participating artists Luther Thie on Thursday, February 8, 4 p.m., in Art 412, and Paul Shambroom on Thursday, February 15, 4 p.m., in Art 412. Series

concludes with artist Martha Rosler, Thursday, March 6, in Arts and Letters 201. Free. 619-594-5171. (SDSU)

Artists from Samson and Delilah participate in Artists' Round Table — offering look at music, characters, behind-the-scenes work — hosted by San Diego Opera, Thursday, February 8, 5:30 p.m., in Beverly Sills Salon of Civic Theatre (202 C Street), Free, 619-232-7636. (DOWNTOWN)

"The Imperative Nature of Urban Forestry and Its Critical Role in Society" explored Friday, February 9, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at San Diego Regional Energy Office (8690 Balboa Avenue, suite 100). What are fundamental roles of urban forestry? \$69. Space availability: 415-408-3222. (KEARNY MESA)

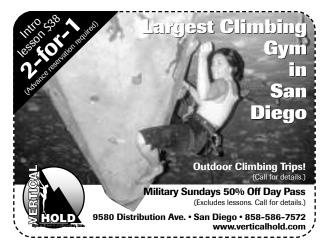
"Rococo: Just Frivolous or Something More?" UCSD art history professor Norman Bryson looks at wavs in which Rococo style has been denigrated from its own time down to today for Insight Gallery talk, Friday, February 9, 10 a.m., on Thursday, at San Diego Museum of Art. \$10. 619-696-1966. (BALBOA PARK)

Fallbrook Painter, art instructor Jack Whitney Ragland plans painting demonstration and lecture on "painting life and spirit through form and color" for Carlsbad-Oceanside Art League meeting, Friday, February 9, 1:30 p.m., Calavera Community Park (2997 Glasgow Drive). Free. 760-434-8497. (CARLSBAD)

Sign Up! Sharla Hank presents FasTrack Signing demonstration for parents and their toddlers, infants, Friday, February 9, 4:30 p.m., at 5268 Baltimore Drive. Free. Recommended reservations: 619-465-4860. (LA MESA)

San Elijo Lagoon lecture series marking 20th anniversary of San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy - begins with look at "Lagoon Geology: Earth's History Revealed." Mira-Costa instructor Chris Metzler speaks on Friday, February 9,









San Diego Reader February 8, 2007

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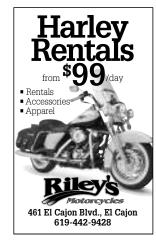
Sat.-Sun., Feb. 17-18 • 10:30 am Previews:

Thursday, Feb. 15, 5-10 pm Friday, Feb. 16, 10 am-10 pm Days of auction 8:30 am-10:30 am

Auction site: Scottish Rite Masonic Center 1895 Camino del Rio South, Mission Valley

For details preview the auction online:

www.kaminskiauctions.com







7 p.m., in room 201 at MiraCosta's San Elijo campus (3333 Manchester Avenue). Free. 760-436-3944.

"Sunshines: The Astrology of Being Happy" presented by Vanity Fair horoscope columnist Michael Lutin for San Diego Astrological Society, Friday, February 9, 7:30 p.m., at Joyce Beers Community Center (1230 Vermont Street). \$20. 888-405-6825. (HILL CREST)

Composting Workshop planned by Solana Center for Environmental Innovation on Saturday, February 10, 8-9:30 a.m., in Otto Center at San Diego Zoo. Learn to improve soil, compost use. Free. Reservations: 760-436-7986 x216. (BALBOA PARK)

"A Race Against Time: The Challenges of Preserving Rock Art in San Diego and Riverside Counties" explored by author, video producer Steve Freers for Second Saturday series at San Diego Archaeological Center (16666 San Pasqual Valley Road), February 10, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. \$10. Suggested 760-291-0370. reservations:

"Benefits of Home Ownership" addressed during workshop by Amber Anderson of California Equities, Saturday, February 10, noon, at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). Free. 619-238-6630.

"Chocolate-Dipped Valentine's Day," chef Bernard Guillas and Chuao chocolatier Michael Antonorsi plan afternoon "devoted to love and chocolate," demonstrate recipes, Saturday, February 10, noon, at Macy's School of Cooking (in Mission Valley shopping center, 1555 Camino de la Reina). Fee: \$6 or donation of six nonperishable food items for San Diego Food Bank. 888-424-3663. (MISSION VALLEY)

"Love Potion Number 9," chef Elizabeth Podsiadlo shares recipes "for two love potions" and Mexican chocolate brownies during cooking class, Saturday, February 10, 1 p.m., at Quail Botanical Gardens (230 Quail Gardens Drive). \$35 for nonmembers. Registration: 760-436-3036 x206. (ENCINITAS)

What Is Karma? Lecture and meditation seminar presented by Institute for Research in Human Happiness, Saturday, February 10, 2 p.m., at Days Inn San Diego (543 Hotel Circle South). Free. Registration: 310-782-7776 or 626-584-0701. (MISSION VALLEY)

"The Next 25 Years: A Humanist View" offered by Mel Lipman when the president of the American Humanist Association speaks for local Humanist Fellowship, Sunday, February 11, 2 p.m., at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). 619-670-4159, 619-544-0640. (DOWNTOWN)

Create a Copper Valentine when Maureen Ceccarelli hosts class in conjunction with "Heart to Heart" exhibition at Next Door Gallery (2963 Beech Street), Sunday, February 11, 2:30 p.m. 619-233-6679. (GOLDEN HILL)

"Which Dye When?" Sara Lam discusses commercial dyes available today, color selection and mixing, application methods, and more when Palomar Handweavers Guild gather on Monday, February 12, 9:30 a.m., at Trinity Episcopal Church (845 Chestnut

Street). Free. Workshop follows (\$95). 760-749-4903. (ESCONDIDO)

"Collections Care: Photographs" discussed by Sandra Ramirez for 12 O'clock Scholar program at San Diego Museum of Man on Monday, February 12. \$6. 619-239-2001. (BALBOA PARK)

The War on Terror provides topic for debate between UC Berkeley law professor John Yoo and USD law professor Mike Ramsey, Monday, February 12, 5:30 p.m., at University of San Diego's Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (5998 Alcalá Park). Free. RSVP: 619-260-6848. (LINDA VISTA)

"Tracking the Ocean-Climate Connection" — Lynne Talley "describes how she and others are using decades of ocean observations from floats, research vessels, and merchant ships to discern the long-term integrated signal of climate change that is recorded in our oceans" for "Perspectives on Ocean Science" series, Monday, February 12, 6:30 p.m., at Birch Aquarium at Scripps (2300 Expedition Way). \$8. Reservations: 858-534-5771, (LA JOLLA)

Learn About Saint-Saën's Opera Samson and Delilah when USD music instructor Ron Shaheen presents multimedia lecture on Monday, February 12, 7 p.m., at First Unitarian Universalist Church (4190 Front Street), Donation: \$2.25. 619-298-9978. (HILLCREST)

Examine Samson and Delilah by Camille Saint-Saëns during opera preview examining music, drama, and history of upcoming San Diego Opera production, Monday, February 12, 7:30 p.m., at Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street). Speaker is pianist, composer Nicolas Reveles, education director at San Diego Opera. \$8. 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

"Everyone Has a Story." Karon Jarrard presents "specific tech-







Feb. 8 from 6:30-8:30 pm

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Art LaBoe's Valentine's Love Jam Feb. 17

Supercross Feb. 17 Bunny Wailer, Eek-A-Mouse, Culture & more Feb. 19

Taste of Chaos Feb. 21 **David Copperfield**

Lyle Lovett Feb. 28 **The Who** Mar. 1 Lila Downs Mar. 2

Christina Aguilera Mar. 2 Snow Patrol Mar 3 **Doodlebons** Mar. 4

Julin Inlesias Mar 11 Patty Griffin Mar. 11

WWE Smackdown



March 20



Maná

My Chemical Romance Mar. 13 Stephen Lynch Mar. 15 Steve Lawrence/Eydie Gorme

Earth, Wind & Fire Mar. 23, 24

Rod Stewart Mar. 24 Boney James Mar. 28 Wayne Brady Mar. 30

Josh Groban Apr. 6 Brand New Apr. 6

The Killers Apr. 10 Gwen Stefani Apr. 22

ZZ Top Apr. 23 Chayanne May 26 Keith Urban June 10

Mexico vs. Venezuela Feb. 28

"Altar Boyz" Mar. 6-11 "The Wiggles" Mar. 9 **"Celtic Woman"** May 7

Coachella

April 27, 28, 29



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niques on how to collect data in an organized manner and prepare for publishing" when Computer-Oriented Group of North San Diego County Genealogical Society gathers, Tuesday, February 13, 1 p.m., in Carlsbad City Council Chambers (1200 Carlsbad Village Drive). 760-830-5720. Free. (CARLSBAD)

"Exercising the Law of Attraction" presented by Walter Holtschi, Tuesday, February 13, 6 p.m., at Sacred Pathway Bookstore (300 Carlsbad Village Drive, suite 107). Free. 760-729-2434. (CARLSBAD)

"Climate Change: A Looming Challenge to California's Water Supply" presented by Dan Cayan of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Tuesday, February 13, 6:30 p.m., San Diego Natural History Museum. Free. 619-255-0245. (BALBOA PARK)

"Influential Magician" Mark Wilson and his wife, Nani Darnell (who claims to have "appeared in more illusions than any other person in history"), will address International Brotherhood of Magicians, Tuesday, February 13, 7 p.m., at Jack's Magic Place (4275

University Avenue). \$25. 619-299-9037. (CITY HEIGHTS)

"Tomato Talk — More Than You've Ever Wanted or Needed to Know About Saving, Starting, and Growing Your Own Heirloom Tomatoes" presented by "heirloom tomato queen" Karan Cooper for Point Loma Garden Club, Wednesday, February 14, 10 a.m., at Portuguese Hall (2818 Avenida de Portugal). Free. 619-223-3315. (POINT LOMA)

"Day of Remembrance," Susan Hasegawa, history and political science chair at San Diego City College, reveals "history behind President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066' during lecture in conjunction with current "Nikkei Youth Culture: Past, Present, Future" exhibit. Order gave U.S. military power to "relocate" Japanese-Americans from towns within 60 miles from coastline of Washington, California. Talk starts at 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 15, at Museum of San Diego History. \$5. 619-232-6203. (BALBOA PARK)

"TRANSactions" Artist Salomón Huerta plans art talk at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (700 Prospect Street) on Thursday, February 15, 7 p.m. "Huerta is known for his paintings that challenge the conventions of

portraiture." Included in museum admission. 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

"Popular Poetics: A History and Development of the Narcocorrido" presented by Juan Carlos Ramírez-Pimienta for Center for Latin American Studies at San Diego State University, Thursday, February 15, 7 p.m., in Arts and Letters Building, room 204. His current research focuses on Mexican popular culture. Free. 619-594-1103. (SDSU)

"Word by Word," 12th annual Writer's Symposium by the Sea at Point Loma Nazarene University convenes February 21-23. "A Conversation with Anne Lamott" — author of Bird by Bird. Traveling Mercies, Operating Instructions — starts at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, February 21, in Crill Performance Hall (\$15). Wesleyan scholars John Tyson, Tom Albin, Patrick Eby plan dinner and discussion of "Charles Wesley's Contribution to Our Spiritual Life," Thursday, February 22, 4-7 p.m., in Cunningham A/B (\$10).

New York Metropolitan Opera bass-baritone Brad Garvin presents "A Concert of Wesley's Hymns" on February 22, 7:30 p.m., in Crill Performance Hall (\$15). Spend "An Afternoon with Eugene Peterson," author of $The\ Message\ Bible\ and\ A\ Long\ Obe$ dience in the Same Direction, Friday, February 23, 2 p.m., in Crill

Find Point Loma Nazarene University at 3900 Lomaland Drive. 619-849-2997. (POINT LOMA)

IN PERSON

Events that are underlined occur after February 15.

Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella is presented by Mira Mesa High School's performing arts department, February 8-17. Curtain rises at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 8; 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 10; and at 7 p.m. on Friday, February 9, and Thursday-Saturday, February 15-17. Find school at 10510 Reagan Road. \$8 general. 858-566-2262 x4401. (MIRA MESA)

"The Mystery of Mars" explored by astronaut and science mentor Sally Ride in her new book, which she'll read from and sign on Thursday, February 8, 7:30 p.m., at Warwick's Bookstore (7812 Girard Avenue). Free. 858-454-0347. (LA JOLLA)

Don't Expect Banjo when Livingston Taylor performs with his guitar and piano in concert for AcousticMusicSanDiego on Thursday, February 8 (\$20, \$25). Venice takes stage on Friday and Saturday, February 9 and 10 (\$18, \$22). Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m., at Normal Heights United Methodist Church (4650 Mansfield Street). 619-303-8176. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

Guitarrones, 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)

Mesmerizing! Taiko drumming by Kodo ensemble, Thursday, February 8, 8 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Performers dance, mime, play a variety of instruments, including massive o-daiko, a 900-pound decorated instrument carved from trunk of a single tree and played by two men. Tickets: \$41-\$56. 760-839-4100. (ESCONDIDO)

"Celebrities on Stage," the Edwards Twins present their versions of Elton John, Barbra Streisand, Billy Joel, Bette Midler, Cher, others at Lyceum Theatre in Horton Plaza. Performances begin at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, February 8-10, with 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, February 11. Tickets: \$40 and \$50 on February 8; \$30-\$50 Friday-Sunday. 619-544-1000. (DOWNTOWN)

Spring Concert by Point Loma Nazarene University Concert Band, Friday, February 9, 7:30 p.m., in Crill Performance Hall at Point Loma Nazarene University (3900 Lomaland Drive). Free. 619-849-2325. (POINT LOMA)

St. Valentine Concert featuring Katherine Pupping (soprano), John Danke (piano), and Peter

Pupping (classical guitar) boasting "love songs both human and divine" — Friday, February 9. Program of musical theater, movies, hymns, gospel, and jazz standards begins at 8 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (925 Balour Drive). Requested donation \$15, 760-943-0755, (ENCINITAS)

"Hearts Filled With Song," San Diego Choraleers adult mixed chorus, Inflections vocal jazz group, Women of Note, Men of Note, Serra-Naders, present annual variety show, Saturday, February 10, 4:30 p.m., at Patrick Henry High School (6702 Wandermere Drive). \$8 general, \$4 for those 12 and under. 619-427-2448. (SAN CARLOS)

Comedian Mark Whitney provides evening of comedy, accompanied by a dinner, silent auction benefiting Tip Academy, Saturday, February 10, 6 p.m., at La Costa Resort and Spa (2100 Costa Del Mar Road). \$85. Reservations: 760-274-2698. (LA COSTA)

"The Vagina Monologues" presented by Shakti Rising as part of V-Day San Diego 2007 on Saturday, February 10, 7 p.m., at LGBT Center (3909 Centre Street). \$15 in advance, \$18 at door. 619-501-2746. (HILLCREST)

Conscious Comedy Explosion, Black History Month events on Saturday, February 10, showcase comedian and author D'Militant, who is releasing new book Black Comedians on Black Comedy: How African-Americans Taught Us to Laugh. Comedy, booksigning, discussion, start at 7 p.m. at 415 North Euclid Avenue. Tickets: \$8 in advance, \$10 at door. 619-819-

Crystal Vibrations Ensemble Concert, Saturday, February 10, 7 p.m., at Shanti Yoga Center (6996 El Camino Real #C-1). Elivia Melodey makes music on her 42 crystal singing bowls, along with Native American flutes, didgeridoo, vocals. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at door. Bring blankets, pillows for "deep listening." 760-471-7304. (CARLSBAD)

7838. (SAN DIEGO)

2007 Darwin Birthday Concert planned by Dr. Stephen Baird and the Opossums of Truth, Saturday, February 10, 7:30 p.m., in Liebow Auditorium at UCSD School of Medicine (Gilman Drive), \$20. 858-481-0765. (LA JOLLA)

"The Songs of Joni Mitchell" may be heard when Robin Adler and Dave Blackburn perform for San Diego Folk Heritage, Saturday, February 10, 7:30 p.m., at San Dieguito United Methodist Church (170 Calle Magdalena). \$15. 858-566-4040. (ENCINITAS)

The Synergy Duo and pianist Paul Kenyon plan concert on Saturday, February 10, 7:30 p.m., in Crill Performance Hall at Point Loma Nazarene University (3900 Lomaland Drive). Free. 619-849-2325. (POINT LOMA)

Hot Rhythms! Brasil Brazil performs for spring World Music Series on Saturday, February 10, 7:30 p.m., at Star Theatre (402 North Coast Highway). Duo includes Brazilian singers Ana Gazzola and Sonia Santos. \$15. Recommended reservations: 760-435-5560. (OCEANSIDE)

The Ugandan Orphans Choir a ministry of Childcare Worldwide — plans concerts on Saturday and Wednesday, February 10 and 14, 7:30 p.m., at WorldBeat Center

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Reading

Dancing in the Streets: A History of Collective Joy



Barbara Ehrenreich

By Barbara Ehrenreich Metropolitan Books, 2006, 320 pages, \$26

FROM THE DUST JACKET:

It has been so suppressed that we lack even a convenient phrase for the desire for collective joy, expressed throughout the ages in ecstatic dancing, costuming, and feasting. Drawing on a wealth of history and anthropology, Ehrenreich uncovers the deep origins of communal revelry in human biology and culture. She shows that

they were indigenous to the West, from the ancient Greeks' worship of Dionysus to the early and medieval practice of Christianity as a "danced religion." Ultimately, church officials succeeded in driving the festivities out of the churches and into the streets, where they became "carnival." Reformation Protestants criminalized carnival, Wahhabist Muslims battled ecstatic Sufism, and European colonizers outlawed native dances. Elite fears that collective festivities could undermine hierarchies were not entirely unjustified: the festive tradition inspired French revolutionary crowds and countless uprisings of slaves and colonized

peoples from the Caribbean to West Africa to the American plains. Yet group ecstacy survives. Ehrenreich concludes that we are innately social beings, impelled almost instinctively to share our joy.

WHAT THE CRITICS SAY:

"Social critic and bestselling author Ehrenreich (Nickel and Dimed) teases out the many incarnations of sanctioned public revelry, starting with the protofeminist *oreibasia*, or Dionysian winter dance, in antiquity, and from there covering trance, ancient mystery cults, and carnival, right up to the rock and roll and sports-related mass celebrations of our own day.... Ehrenreich writes with grace and clarity in a fascinating, wide-ranging, and generous account." -**Publishers Weekly**

"Barbara Ehrenreich's lively and compelling history of col-

lective joy...reminds us that ecstatic dancing and Christianity were implicated a lot more closely and for much longer than the elders...might care to admit. In fact, early Christianity's roots were deeply entangled with those of the Dionysian cults that also bedeviled the Roman authorities, so much so that Ehrenreich sees evidence of significant similarity between their two wine-providing deities, Jesus and Dionysus. 'Both...upheld what has been called a hedonic vision of community, based on egalitarianism and the joyous immediacy of human experience – as against the agonic reality of the cruelly unequal and warlike societies they briefly favored with their presence." – Salon

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Barbara Ehrenreich is the author of 14 books, including the bestselling *Nickel and Dimed* and Bait and Switch. She has been a columnist at The New York Times and Time magazine and a frequent contributor to Harper's and The Nation.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR:

Barbara Ehrenreich sounds tired.

"Your book is wonderful," I say, although I know she has heard this often in recent days. "Such great writing. I got the impression that you might rank the mirror with the invention of the wheel." I quote one of her memorable lines: "'Mirrors don't show us our "selves," only what others see."

"Yah, strange things, mirrors"

"Did you know," I say, "they were used in South America by the European colonizers to bribe the natives into working? For a look in the mirror they would work a day in the mines."

"Really? The Indians were just so amazed?"

"Yes, such magic. People were more easily made happier and dazzled. Do you think raves, the club scene, and happenings and rock concerts and love-ins, carnivals, and such are expressions of longing for that earlier period in history when collective joy and communal identity were the norm?"

"Oh, yeah. I wouldn't even say they are longings for something lost. I think there is something hard-wired in us to greatly enjoy group events, even to the point of ecstasy. When I ask audiences if they've ever danced late into the night to the point of experiencing self-loss, or been to some kind of religious or sporting event where they felt caught up in the group and experienced

(continued on page 86)

"I think there is something hard-wired in us to greatly enjoy group events, even to the point of ecstasy."

(2100 Park Boulevard). Free. 619-230-1190 (BALBOA PARK)

Actor, Writer, Comedian Nick Swardson performs Saturday, February 10, 8 p.m., at Spreckels Theatre (121 Broadway). Swardson wrote and starred in two films produced by Adam Sandler productions last year — Benchwarmers and Grandma's Boy; this year, he'll be in Reno 911: The Movie, Blades of Glory, more. \$27.50 available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (DOWNTOWN)

The Hinges improv comedy troupe promises "dangerous, improvised sketch comedy," Saturdays, February 10 and 24, 10:30 p.m., at 6th @ Penn Theater

(3704 6th Avenue). Tickets: \$8 in advance, \$10 at door. 619-414-7723. (HILLCREST)

Bert Turetsky and Friends play jazz for mini-concert at noon on Monday, February 12, at Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street). Free. 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

Japan Policy Research Institute President and author Chalmers Johnson discusses and signs Nemesis: The Last Days of the American Republic, Monday, February 12, 7 p.m., at Book Works (Flower Hill Promenade, 2670 Via De La Valle). Free. 858-755-3735. (DEL MAR)

L-O-V-E Is in the Air! Openmike poetry readings, Monday, February 12, 8 p.m., Twiggs Tea and Coffee (4590 Park Boulevard). Free. 619-296-0616. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

San Diego Poetry Slam, Monday, February 12, 8:30 p.m., at Voz Alta (1544 Broadway). Donation. 619-239-3872. (EAST VILLAGE)

Two Debut Authors plan reading and signing on Tuesday, February 13, at Warwick's Bookstore (7812 Girard Avenue). Meet Alex Espinoza (*Still Water Saints*) and Antoinette May (*Pilate's Wife*) at 7:30 p.m. Free. 858-454-0347. (LA JOLLA)

The Benny Green Trio takes stage for KSDS-Jazz 88's Jazz Live series, Tuesday, February 13, 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)

A Lovely Evening! Steve Kowit reads from his new book *The Gods of Rapture: Poems in the Erotic Mood*, accompanied by harpist Rebecca Ramirez, Wednesday, February 14, 7 p.m., at Book Works (Flower Hill Promenade, 2670 Via De La Valle). "Kowit's poems are based on the ancient amatory poems of India written in Sanskrit." Free. 858-755-3735. (DEL MAR)

Evening of Taize Chanting

planned at Vision Center for Spiritual Living (11260 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard) on Wednesday, February 14, 7 p.m. Music, chants are designed for easy participation from attendees. Offering. 619-303-6609. (TIERRASANTA)

Linda Brown Memorial Poetry Reading planned by friends of Brown and Magee Park Poets, Wednesday, February 14, 7 p.m., at Cole Library (1250 Carlsbad Village Drive). Free. Open reading follows. 760-602-2026. (CARLSBAD)

The Tanosaki-Richards Duo presents new Japanese music written for them in concert, Thursday, February 15, noon, in Arts 111 at

CSU San Marcos (333 South Twin Oaks Valley). Program includes music by Itoh, Yamamoto, Honma, Aizawa. Free. 760-750-4366. (SAN MARCOS)

"Moonpies and Movie Stars" signed by author Amy Wallen, Thursday, February 15, 6 p.m., at Book Works (Flower Hill Promenade, 2670 Via De La Valle). Free. Reading followed by writing workshop inspired by Wallen's book led by Jill Badonsky at 7 p.m. (\$13). 858-755-3735. (DEL MAR)

Tea for You? Author Beatrice Hohenegger reads from and signs *Liquid Jade: A History of Tea from East to West*, Thursday, February 15, 7:30 p.m., at Warwick's



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this sense of self-loss, most people raise their hands. You've probably felt it at some point in your life. Right?"

Yes, quite often and quite formally. I should explain, my family is from a small Eastern European country - a tiny place. Its major holiday, to this day, larger than Christmas or New Year's, is the Summer Solstice. Probably because the best time in the group's history was before they became a revolving door for every other neighboring nation to dominate for centuries. And that period was the pagan. We're talking prior to the 11th Century. My countrymen still cherish that Dionysian period."

"What do you do on Solstice?"

"Imagine a pagan festival: there are huge bonfires, athletic contests, special foods, alcohol, performances, a great deal of communal singing, and endless dancing. They celebrate their tribal roots to this day that same way. Also, back then, anyone who had been baptized, for instance by the Teutonic knights, would go back in the river and wash it off."

Barbara laughs. "Oh, really!
To restore their pagan status?"

"Yes. They just sort of humored the proselytizers.

And to a great extent that is still in the core identity. The ring that identifies a member of the group is a design that's ancient and absolutely pagan. It's kind of funny, too; a great poetic work that is studied, preserved, and revered as a cultural tome is basically a vast, multivolume collection of dirty limericks, centuries old, bawdy and rowdy in the extreme."

"That's fascinating. Somebody was recently telling me that the reason the Irish dance in that stiff way, as in *Riverdance*, with their arms straight down by their sides, is because the British banned dancing." "I've heard that too from Irish friends. I believe that ballet may have originated in a similar way, that the Church banned dancing on your feet. It left loopholes. If you were on your toes, technically, it wasn't dancing. All these associations flooded my brain as I was reading your book. It's so associative.... You cover so much territory in your work."

"I labored on this one a long while. It took eight or nine years. I was writing other books at the same time. What got me riveted was the anthropologists who point out that there is a set of things people have done together since time immemorial — feasting, cos-

"They are each associated with wine. Jesus can make it out of water, and Dionysus *is* the god of wine."

tuming, making music, and dancing — that's almost universal."

"You make the point in your book that human consciousness — its experience of itself — may have been extremely different long ago, that people saw themselves in terms of the group or tribe, and that they were all, like Californians, looking for some fun, spontaneous experiences. Which is why, when the spirit took them, they danced and frolicked. Including the early Christians in their worship."

"I was really surprised by that, yes. But it's undeniable. I had thought of the early Christians as fairly staid. Yet this is

Bookstore (7812 Girard Avenue). Peet's Coffee and Tea will provide comparative tasting of teas from around world. Free. 858-454-0347. (LA JOLLA)

SPORTS

Events that are underlined occur after February 15.

East County Hills! Ready to climb? Knickerbikers leave Helix High School (7323 University Avenue) on bicycles at 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 10, to climb Mt.

San Diego Reader February 8, 2007

Helix, fly down into El Cajon, climb more out east, return through Rancho San Diego. Bring money for lunch at Casa de Oro. Thirty miles. 619-286-7511. (LA

2007 USA Sevens International Rugby Tournament

promises competition between teams from 16 nations playing 44 matches, Saturday and Sunday, February 10 and 11, at Petco Park. Rugby Sevens games played on traditional-size field with only seven players per team. Matches begin at 10 a.m., with final matches begin-

ning at 1 p.m. Tickets: \$35 general per day. 619-682-3407. (EAST

The 39th Annual San Dieguito Half Marathon and 5k run/walk are Sunday, February 11, starting and ending at San Dieguito County Park (on Lomas Santa Fe Drive, about one mile east of I-5), with scenic course through Rancho Santa Fe. Registration at 6:30 a.m.; run starts at 8 a.m. 619-298-7400. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

The XTerra Mission Gorge Trail Run boasts 5k or 15k offroad adventures for all ages, skill levels, Sunday, February 11. The 15k heads up north and south Fortuna Mountain; 5k heads through east Fortuna grasslands, along Old Mission Dam. Registration: 6:30 a.m.; 15k starts at 8 a.m.; 5k steps off at 8:30 a.m., at Mission Trails Regional Park (One Father Junípero Serra Trail). 619-668-3281. (MISSION GORGE)

Climb the Crest, join San Diego Bicycle Touring Society for ride from McDonald's on Telegraph Canyon Road (one block east of I-805) to Alpine and up Crest, Sunday, February 11. The 70-miler starts at 8:45 a.m. 619-426-8192. Free. (CHULA VISTA)

"Nothing Like It Tour," Harlem Globetrotters play their brand of basketball at ipayOne Center on February 16 and 18. Games start at 7 p.m. on Friday, 4 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets: \$16–\$135, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (SPORTS ARENA)

World Supercross competition with 125cc and 250cc stadium motorcycle racing hits Qualcomm Stadium on Saturday, February 17. Practice runs (12:30 p.m.) followed by main events (7 p.m.). Tickets: \$12–\$37, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (MISSION VALLEY)

SPECIAL

Events that are underlined occur after February 15

"Hidden San Diego" by native San Diego painter Monique Straub is on view Saturday, January 27–Friday, March 9, at Mission Trails Regional Park Art Gallery (One Father Junípero Serra Trail). 619-668-3280. (SAN CARLOS)

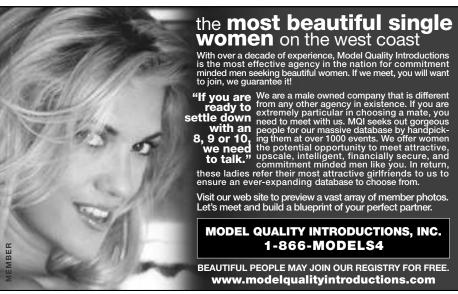
Eleventh Annual San Diego Bird Festival — celebration of birds making homes in San Diego County hosted by San Diego Audubon Society continues through February 12. Keynote speaker is wildlife photographer and birder Kevin Karlson. Field trips, classes, workshops, vendor product displays at Marina Village Conference Center (1936 Quivira Way, Pacific Beach). Fees, reserva-

SINGLES



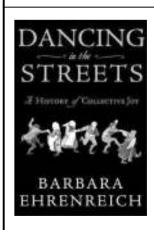








Reading



apparently not the case."

"They sound to be much more like the so-called charis-

matic Christians of today in their worship. Or black Pentecostals. It was essentially a 'danced religion,' influenced perhaps by Greek Dionysiac worship. In fact, you make the startling observation that Jesus and Dionysus had a lot in

"Surprisingly, yes. They are itinerant charismatics. Both scorned ordinary existence - just working and living and producing. They advocated leaving that behind, Dionysus calling people to ecstatic forms of worship. And Jesus saving, 'Don't worry about plowing and harvesting or where your next meal is coming from, just follow me.' There is even peculiar archaeological evidence that suggests there were overlaps in who actually worshipped them. The symbols get mixed up in the archaeological record, as if there was some confusion. Remember, in the Hellenistic world, they were much more open to others' deities."

"How else were Jesus and Dionysus similar?"

"They were both opposed to war and violence. They were very democratic. Dionysus's primary appeal was to women, who were considered lower class within ancient Greek society. Jesus, too. had a very strong appeal to women. Both were remarkably asexual beings and don't have regular consorts or lasting involve-

ments. They are each associated with wine. Jesus can make it out of water, and Dionysus is the god of wine. Each also holds out the possibility of a direct and personal relationship through participation in his rites. And each is the son of a great father-god: Zeus and the Hebrew god Yahweh. Each has a mortal mother, both are healers and work miracles. Each was persecuted by secular authorities: Dionysus by Pentheus, Jesus by Pontius Pilate. They upheld the poor and challenged the prevailing social hierachries. Both were victims themselves, both held out the promise of life beyond death."

"And Christians danced."

"The goal becomes to have a fun-free life."

"To lose themselves in ecstasy, to let go of their physical boundaries. Yes. As did nuns newly inducted and monks upon taking their vows...Deacons on St. Stephen's Day, priests on St. John's Day, choirboys on Innocents' Day. Parishioners danced in churches. It was a long-standing Christian custom."

"But Church authorities eventually turned against these practices."

"They did. They condemned

and forbade dancing as unseemly, disruptive, lewd, and gradually forced it out of the churches into the churchyards or squares, even cemeteries. Plays, too, and comedies that satirized and mocked authority. By the time of the Protestant Reformation, it's all banned, and the goal becomes to have a fun-free life."

"And Satan is depicted with the tail and hoof and horns of Dionysus."

-Juris Jurjevics

tions: 760-212-3543, (SAN DIEGO COUNTY)

One Book, One San Diego, dis cussion of Sonia Nazario's book Enrique's Iourney: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother planned Thursday, February 8, 10 a.m., at Tierrasanta Library (4985 La Cuenta Drive). Free. 858-573-1384, 858-279-5505.

In conjunction with "One Book, One San Diego," Nazario will discuss her book on Monday, February 12, 7 p.m., at San Diego Library (820 E Street). Free. 619-594-2106. (TIERRASANTA,

Volunteer on "USS Midway"

after community forum on volunteer opportunities, Thursday, February 8, 6:30 p.m., at Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, Bayview Baptist Church (6134 Benson Avenue). No experience required; training provided for all volunteers. No "military experience necessary; women and civilians are encouraged to apply." Exhibits interpret historical and educational aspects of naval aviation, rise of carrier power. Free. 619-398 8222. (ENCANTO)

Is There Still Poverty in America, and if so, why? Bring your opinion to Other Side Coffee House (4096 30th Street) on Thursday, February 8, 7 p.m. Free. 619-421-1879. (NORTH PARK)

"Ancient Dwellers of the Colorado Desert" provide theme for fourth annual archaeology weekend hosted by Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute and California State Parks, February 9-11. Weekend boasts field trips, lectures, demonstrations, Reservations, details, fees: 760-767-4063. (ANZA-BOR-REGO DESERT STATE PARK)

Lion Dancing, Firecrackers, performance by Dat Phan (from The Last Comic Standing), Vietnamese vocal artists, cultural displays, vendor booths - time for Vietnamese Lunar New Year "Tet" Festival, February 9-11, at Qualcomm Stadium. Festival hours: Friday, 5-10 p.m.; 10 a.m.-10 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. \$5 for adults, \$4 for those 4-12. 858-201-6098. (MIS-

San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society announces annual winter show, Saturday, February 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., in room 101 of Casa del Prado. Exhibitors on hand to answer questions. Free. 858-270-5544. (BALBOA PARK)

Make a Washi Paperweight on Saturday, February 10, 10:30 a.m., at Japanese Friendship Garden, \$15 fee includes materials. 619-232-2780. (BALBOA PARK)

Psychic Fair and Metaphysical Conference, Saturday and Sunday, February 10 and 11, 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, numerology, other psychic arts featured. \$20 per reading. 619-298-3422. (SPORTS

Evenings in the East Village, new event "promising an engaging social stroll through the evolving east side," Saturday, February 10, 5-10 p.m. Local winemakers from San Pasqual Winery offering wine tasting at Art Academy of San Diego (840 G Street), Free, 619-231-3900. (EAST VILLAGE)

Taste of Thailand — this benefit for Tovs for Thailand boasts Thai food created by San Diego chefs, cooking demonstrations by PBS chef Tommy Tang, exotic music and dance, foot massage, fortune telling. Enjoy party on Saturday, February 10, 6 p.m., at Seaside Center for Spiritual Living (1613 Lake Drive). Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at door. Reservations: 760-744-1150 x2188. (ENCINITAS)

Renowned Persian Contemporary Artist Hannibal Alkhas has exhibition of paintings hosted by Persian Cultural Center on Sunday, February 11, 4 p.m., in Forum Hall at University Towne Centre (4545 La Jolla Village Drive). Free. 858-653-0336. (LA JOLLA)

Get to Know San Diego Historical Society Staffers with "lunch bunch," Thursday, February 15, noon, at Museum of San Diego History. Archivist Jane Kenealy presents overview on how to research in San Diego Historical Society's archives. Bring your lunch. Included in regular museum admission (\$5). 619-232-6203. (BALBOA

"Celebrating History: Ballast Point to the North Side of the Presidio" is theme for "happy trails" reception planned by La Playa Trail Association, Thursday, February 15, 6 p.m., at United Portuguese Hall (2818 Avenida de Portugal). Longtime resident Edwina Goddard will talk about growing up in Point Loma; refreshments, La Playa Trail exhibits, history presentations. Free. 858-272-7357. (POINT LOMA)

"History: Its Definitions and Importance" examined during discussion on Thursday, February 15, 7 p.m., at Other Side Coffee House. Free. 619-421-1879. (NORTH PARK)

41st Annual Local Authors' Exhibit continues through February

at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). 619-236-5847. (DOWNTOWN)

February Is Museum Month! Half-price admission offered at 30 area museums. Museum month passes are free at all county Macy's stores. 619-276-0101. (SAN DIEGO

COUNTY)

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, reser-







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"The Writer's Muse: L. Frank Baum and the Hotel del Coronado" commemorates one of the Hotel Del's most celebrated guests. Baum wintered at Del beginning in 1904 and penned several of his Oz books during his stays. Exhibit with "rarely viewed items" on loan from Baum's family continues through Wednesday, February 28, in donor corridor of San Diego State University's Love Library (5500 Campanile Drive). Free. 619-594-6791. (SDSU)

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

FOR KIDS

Events that are underlined occur after February 15.

A Giant Dancing Dummy, space creature, and singing bear are part of fun when comic ventriloquist Lynn Trimble presents The Valentine Show through Sunday, February 11, at Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater. A Chinese New Year Show is planned by Weaver's Tales, February 14-18.

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

Hearts Galore! Alpine Artists present "Shrinky-Dinks" workshop with Valentine's Day theme for school-aged children, Thursday, February 8, 3:30 p.m., at Fantastic Ceramics (2710 Alpine Boulevard, suite D). \$15. Reservations:

All Aboard! The Chula Vista Live Steam Club provides train rides, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, February 10 and 11, at Rohr Park (4548 Sweetwater Road). Donation: 50 cents. Children under 48" must be accompanied by an adult. 619-421-5227. (BONITA)

Make Paper Airplanes during family science day at San Diego Air and Space Museum on Saturday, February 10, at 12:30, 1:30, and 2:30 p.m. (sessions last 45 minutes). Included in paid admission. Reservations: 619-234-8291 x19. (BALBOA

Learn About Hospital Point Critters when Birch Aquarium at Scripps hosts Tidepooling for Tots led by aquarium naturalist, Thursday, February 15, 1-2:30 p.m. Fee: \$12 per adult, \$8 per child. Required reservations: 858-534-7336.

"Mardi Gras Madness — Drum Carnaval" is theme for Young Audiences of San Diego performance on Thursday, February 15, 6:30 p.m., at Salvation Army Kroc Community Center Performing Arts Theatre (6845 University Avenue). Sol e Mar performs music from Cuba, Brazil; Mardi Gras mask-making with Susan Rothman. Free. 619-282-7599 x114. (ROLANDO)

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Events that are underlined occur after February 15.

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

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

CLASSICAL

The California Quartet plays pieces by Beethoven, Britten, and Bloch for Concert Hour series, Thursday, February 8, 12:30 p.m. in Palomar College Performance Lab (room D-10 at 1140 West Mission Road). The Dirty Laundry Percussion Ensemble plays for series at 12:30 on Thursday, February 15; these SDSU musicians will perform music by John Cage, Lou Harrison, Steve Reich, Ron Samuels, and David Friedman. Free. 760-744-1150 x2316.

UCSD Composer Nathan Brock's concert on Thursday, February 8, includes world premiere of his "Terrerae/Tesseract" (a cycle of pieces for soprano, flute, violin, viola, and cello), plus his "Texture Meditations" (for piano, bassoon, and strings) and pieces by Donatoni, Babbitt, and UCSD graduate student composer Charlie Wilmoth. Concert begins at 8 p.m. in Warren Music Studio A, Matthews Lane, UCSD. Free. 858-534-3229. (LA JOLLA)

Mainly Mozart Spotlight Series continues with all-Haydn concerts, February 9-11. Programs include the master's "Quartet in E Flat No. 2 (The Joke)," "Quartet in C No. 2," and "Quartet in D Minor No. 2 (Quinten)." Concerts begin at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday at Neurosciences Institute (10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive); \$42. Sunday's concert starts at 2 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton Church (6628 Santa Isabel Street); \$25. Reservations: 619-239-0100. (LA JOLLA, LA COSTA)

Shostakovich's "Symphony No. 9" may be heard when San Diego Symphony and conductor David Lockington are joined by guest artist Valentin Martchev (bassoon) for "Jacobs' Masterworks" concerts February 9 and 11. Program includes Haydn's 'Symphony No. 85 (La reine)," "Five Sacred Trees" by Williams. Concerts begin at 8 p.m. on Friday, 2 p.m. on Sunday, at Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street). \$20-\$85. Reservations: 619-235-0804. (ESCONDIDO)

Edvard Grieg's Life and Mu**sic** provide focus for presentation by pianist Knut Erik Jensen — on tour from Selbu, Norway — Saturday, February 10, 3 p.m., at Faith Lutheran Church (700 East Bobier Drive). Authentic Norwegian salmon dinner follows at Sons of Norway Lodge (2006 East Vista Way). Tickets: \$14 for concert only, \$26 dinner only, \$30 for both. Reservations: 858-229-0586, (VISTA)

The Annual Bach Festival hosted by Music Teachers Association of California culminates in concert by pianist Kristina Jacinth on Saturday, February 10, 7 p.m., in chapel at Army and Navy Academy (2605 Carlsbad Boulevard). Competitive recitals with works by J.S. Bach presented throughout day by students of area teachers; winners perform their pieces during evening recital. Free. 760-438-7748. (CARLSBAD)

St. Lawrence String Quartet, joined by soprano Heidi Grant Murphy and pianist Kevin Murphy, in concert for La Jolla Music Society's Revelle Series, Saturday,

February 10, 8 p.m., in Sherwood Auditorium, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (700 Prospect Street). Listen for pieces by Shostakovich, Beethoven, Chausson, new work by Roberto Sierra entitled "Songs from the Diaspora." Preconcert talk by conductor David Amos, 7 p.m. Tickets: \$25-\$75. Reservations: 858-459-3728. (LA JOLLA)

"Ninth Symphony" performed in concerts by La Jolla Symphony and Chorus, February 10 and 11. Concerts begin at 8 p.m. on Saturday, 3 p.m. on Sunday in UCSD's Mandeville Auditorium. \$26 general. 858-534-4637. (LA JOLLA) Civic Organist Carol Williams

Beethoven's Monumental

celebrates release of new CD during concert in Spreckels Organ Pavilion on Sunday, February 11, 2 p.m. Free. 619-702-8138. (BALBOA

The Brahms "Piano Quartet in A Major" and Arensky's "Piano Trio in D Minor" promised when Mykola Suk (piano), Bryron Tauchi (violin), Hanna Suk (viola), and Andrew Smith (cello) perform for Lake San Marcos Chamber Music Society, Sunday, February 11, 2:30 p.m., in Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library (1775 Dove Lane). \$24. 760-726-1524 or 760-630-4360. (LA

Symphonic Sounds in Sacred Spaces, the San Diego Young Artists Symphony Orchestra performs Mozart's "Magic Flute Overture," "Jupiter" from "The Planets" by Holst, "Symphony No. 5" by Tchaikovsky, and "Serenade for Strings" by Dvořák for ongoing series. Concerts offered at 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 11, for "Music at the Madeleine" series at St. Mary Magdalene Church (1945 Illion Street) and Sunday, March 18, 4 p.m., at San Carlos United Methodist Church (6554 Cowles Mountain Road). Offering. 619-235-8067. (BAY PARK, LA MESA)

Celebration Concert planned by Bryan Verhove — the Point Loma native holds graduate performance diploma in piano from Peabody Conservatory — Sunday, February 11, 5 p.m., at Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church

(2128 Chatsworth Boulevard). Concert honors founding in 1857 of the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, with Peabody alumni performing all over the world in February. Offering, 619-223-1633, (POINT LOMA)

The Winter Gala Concert hosted by California Institute of Music features Southern California Youth Symphony, the Sinfonietta, and Chamber Orchestra, in performance at Qualcomm Auditorium (6455 Lusk Boulevard), Sunday, February 11, 5 p.m. \$5. 858-259-5508, (SORRENTO VALLEY)

"Favorites" Concert planned by soprano Barbara Tobler, Sunday, February 11, 7 p.m., at La Jolla Presbyterian Church (7715 Draper Avenue). Tobler, joined by Ines Irawati (piano), Erin Breene (cello), and John Wilds (trumpet), will perform music by composers including Handel, Strauss, Catalini, and Rachmaninoff. Also on tap: Irish melodies, love songs. Offering. 858-729-5520. (LA JOLLA)

An All-Ravel Program! Pianist James Gary plays "Menuet" from Sonatine and complete "Mirrors" suite (which includes Night Moths, Mournful Birds, A Boat on the Ocean, Abode of the Jester, and Valley of Bells) for free family music program, Wednesday, February 14, 7 p.m., at Carmel Valley Library (3919 Townsgate Drive). Free. 858-552-1668. (CARMEL VALLEY)

Valentine's Day Soirée for Music Lovers, UCSD violinist János Négyesy and friends perform on Wednesday, February 14, 8 p.m., in Recital Hall at UCSD's Mandeville Center. 858-534-4830. \$8 general. (LA JOLLA)

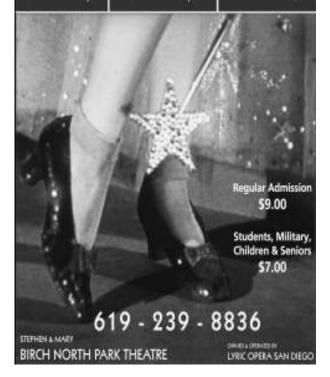


RPBS film historian Scott Marks will be on hand to introduc

Gene Kelly SINGIN' IN THE RAIN Feb. 8 - 7 pm Feb. 11 - 2 pm

Fred Astaire THE BANDWAGON Feb. 15 - 7 pm Feb. 18 - 2 pm

Judy Garland THE WIZARD OF OZ Feb. 22 - 7 pm Feb. 25 - 2 pm



Gregorian Chant Mass



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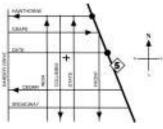
Sunday, February 11, 4:00 pm

Pizza Social with singing by the Schola after Mass.

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ART LISTINGS

Events that are underlined occur after February 15.

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

GALLERIES

Events that are underlined occur after February 15.

"Rooted Dreams: Paintings and Installation" by Erik Otto opens with reception for artist on Friday, February 9, 9:30 a.m., in Kellogg Library at CSU San Marcos (333 South Twin Oaks Valley Road). Piece explores "journey and the struggle to connect the awakened state to the desires found within." 760-750-4378. Closes Saturday, May 19. (SAN MARCOS)

Described as "The Child Prodigy of Painting," Alexandra Nechita will be on hand for receptions on Friday and Saturday, February 9 and 10, 6–9 p.m., at Wentworth Gallery (1025 Prospect Street). Exhibit includes over 150 pieces. 858-551-7071. (LA JOLLA)

"Hand Jive," new rings by 13 artists may be seen at Taboo Studio (16151Z2 West Lewis Street) through Friday, March 23. Meet artists during opening reception

on Friday, February 9, 6 p.m. 619-692-0099. (HILLCREST)

Open Studios slated for Friday, February 9, 7 p.m., at Brokers Building (402 Market Street). Expect "cheap wine, but great art!" 619-602-3801. (GASLAMP QUARTER)

"It's Still Life," new work by painters Pat Kelly, Jori Owens, Catherine Grawin collected in show opening with artists' reception on Saturday, February 10, 4 p.m., at Santa Ysabel Art Gallery (30352 Highway 78, at junction of Highway 79). Through Sunday, March 18. 760-765-1676. (SANTA YSABEL)

"A Distraction from Flowers: Artwork by Daryll Peirce, Sake, Aaron Kraten, and Gabe Leonard" opens with reception on Saturday, February 10, 5:30 p.m., at Distinction Artist Studios and Gallery (317 East Grand Avenue, 760-781-5779). Closes Saturday, April 7. (ESCONDIDO)

Pastel Artist Sammy Pasto has work featured at Sharp Gallery (3807 Ray Street) through Thursday, March 8. Show opens with reception in conjunction with Ray at Night, Saturday, February 10, 6 p.m. 619-546-9546. (NORTH PARK)

"Between Heaven and **Earth"** — Tania Alcala's second solo exhibition at 4 Walls Gallery boasts "recent intimate paintings" providing "detailed close-ups of her large-scale abstract expressionist work" tracing "relationship between her practice as a visual artist and her career as a commercial pilot." Intrigued? Meet artist during reception in conjunction with Ray at Night, Saturday, February 10, 6 p.m. Find gallery at 3813 Ray Street North Park, 619-501-0879. Closes Wednesday, March 7. (NORTH PARK)

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

"Love Handles," small-scale exhibition featuring work of 30 artists "approaching Valentine's Day from diverse perspectives" opens with reception on Saturday, February 10, 6 p.m., at Crossing Tracks Gallery (3275 Adams Av-

enue). Exhibit — continuing through Sunday, February 25 — includes work by over 25 artists. 619-521-0676. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

"Heartworks," explore this "international symbol of love and understanding" in show opening with Ray at Night reception on Saturday, February 10, 6 p.m., at John Stewart Studios (3805 Ray Street, 619-574-1135). Exhibition of hearts in a variety of media and interpretations continues through Saturday, March 3. (NORTH PARK)

"The Love No Love" group show, in which artists explore interpretations of love "from a multitude of viewpoints," opens with reception on Saturday, February 10, 7 p.m., at Mixed Media Art Gallery (4576 Federal Boulevard). Closes Saturday, February 24. 619-527-2508. (SAN DIEGO)

Seventh Annual "Invitational Drawing Show," showcasing contemporary drawing, opens with reception on Sunday, February 11, 1 p.m., at Earl and Birdie Taylor Library (Pacific Beach Library, 4275 Cass Street, 858-581-9934). Exhibition — closing on Sunday, March 25 — features approximately 50 works by 13 artists "who demonstrate an unusually high degree of elegance, complexity, maturity, and sensitivity to drawing media." (PACIFIC BEACH)

"Love and Casualty," Los Angeles—based artist Thomas Kidd has exhibition of paintings on view through Thursday, March 1, in MiraCosta College's Kruglak Gallery (in student center at One Barnard Drive). Kidd plans art talk during reception, Monday, February 12, 11 a.m. 760-795-6657. (OCEANSIDE)

"Eastern Sojourn" by Will Gibson and "Botanicals" by Blake Shaw open with reception on Thursday, February 15, 6 p.m., at Ordover Project (444 South Cedros Avenue, studio 172). Shaw shows interpretive botanical imagery that envelopes viewer in "a fantasy of form and color"; Gibson exhibits "poignant black-and-white photographs from his Eastern Sojourn portfolio." 858-720-1121. Continues through Sunday, March 25. (SOLANA BEACH)

ART MUSEUMS

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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

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

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown,

"Modern American Masters," in Jacobs Building, runs through Wednesday, February 14. Exhibit features major modernist paintings by Frank Stella, Andy Warhol, Barnett Newman, Clyfford Still, and Hans Hoffmann.

Richard Wright, an artist from Glasgow, Scotland, created two site-specific works in Strauss Gallery of the Jacobs Building during his August and September 2006 residency at MCASD. They're on view through Sunday, September 23.

Find the museum at 1001 and 1100 Kettner Boulevard (at Broadway), directly across from the Santa Fe Railroad Depot. 858-454-3541. (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.

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

Museum of Photographic Arts, images by contemporary artists addressing issues of narrative showcased in "Tell Me a Story: Narrative Photography Now," continuing through Sunday, May 13. Exhibition of work by Tracey Moffat, Gavin Hipkins, Pipo Nguyen-Duy, Polixeni Papapaetrou, Nikki S. Lee, Jem Southam, and others was curated by Merry Foresta, director of Smithsonian Photography Initiative.

"Rebels and Revelers: Experimental Decades 1970s-1980s, Gifts from the Joyce and Ted Strauss Collection," showcases images by Thomas Barrow, Barbara Kasten, John Pfahl, Jo Ann Callis, Arthur Taussig, Ivan Pinkava, Barbara De-Genevieve, Leland Rice, and Ruth Thorne-Thompson, others. Exhibition highlights photography's move beyond traditional blackand-white documentary school of artists like Ansel Adams to more expressive, personalized imagery. Closes Sunday, May 6.

"Woman: A Celebration," also running through May 6, includes photographs of women by celebrated photographers such as Henri Cartier-Bresson, Ruth Orkin, August Sander, Mary Ellen Mark, Hiroshi Himaya, others.

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

Oceanside Museum of Art, "Jusour wa Kusour: The Work of Doris Bittar, 1989-2007" opens with reception on Saturday, February 10, 5 p.m. (\$8). The title translates as "A Bridge and a Chasm" — solo exhibition featuring paintings, photographs expressing Bittar's reflections on cultural landscape of Middle East and her family's history in the region. She was born in Baghdad to Lebanese parents, and she spent her childhood in outskirts of Beirut. Continues through Sunday, April 1, at 704 Pier View Way. 760-721-2787. (OCEANSIDE)

San Diego Museum of Art, 'Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer's Life, 1990-2005," opening Saturday, February 10, features approximately 200 photographs by Leibovitz, including family photographs and portraits of public figures such as Colin Powell, Nicole Kidman, Brad Pitt, Merce Cunningham, Bill Clinton. Photographs provide glimpse into range of subjects captured by Leibovitz. Exhibition encompasses work Leibovitz made on assignment as a professional photographer, personal photographs of her family and close friends. Closes Sunday, April 22.

"Mel Bochner: Drawing from Four Decades" tracks continuity of the New York-based conceptual artist's various experimentations through four decades of artistic practice. Closes Sunday, March 18.

"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.

"Tastes in Asian Art," continuing through Sunday, May 20, introduces new and rarely exhibited works, exploring "diverse tastes of different social groups" — the imperial ruling class, scholars, warriors, common people, features separate section devoted to religious art, section dedicated to Persian art.

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



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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 • 2 PM MATINEE

FENCES Celebrating August Wilson in collaboration with Cygnet Theatre. Directed by Antonio T.J. Johnson. *Fences* earned Wilson the first of his two Pulitzers in 1987. The main character is Troy Maxson, a 53-year-old Pittsburgh sanitation worker filled with bitterness because racial discrimination cost him a chance to play major league baseball.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12 • 7 PM

FILM: ALL ABOUT DARFUR (Sudan and United Kingdom, 2005) 82 minutes in Arabic and English, with English subtitles. A Sudanese immigrant to the UK returns to her homeland to try and understand why the seemingly racially harmonious country of her memories has become the scene of one of the worst instances of ethnic cleansing in recent history.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 • 2 PM MATINEE MA RAINEY'S RIACK ROTTOM Disposed

MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM Directed by Calvin Manson. Vincent Canby of the New York Times says: "During the almost 20 years that August Wilson has been churning out dramatic experiences of African-Americans in the twentieth century, he has earned a place among America's most important and valued dramatists."

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14 • 7 PM

MR. HAMED Changing Faces film series. Directed by Terrance Grace. 52 min. Internationally renowned actor Naseeruddin Shah stars in this poignant drama of an Indian expatriate living in a small American town. The film paints a portrait of a man struggling to reinvent himself. "An enigmatic masterpiece." —The Times of India

FROM HARLING POINT Ling Chiu/National Film Board of Canada/Selwyn Jacob. 40 min. Color/2003. From Harling Point charts the journey of a Chinese community that migrated to western Canada but strived to maintain its Asian traditions and roots.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11 • 7 PM

MISSISSIPPI TRIANGLE Changing Faces film series. Directed by Christine Choy, Worth Long, Allan Siegel. 120 min. This is an intimate portrait of life in the Mississippi Delta, where Chinese, African Americans and whites live in a complex world of cotton, labor and racial conflict.

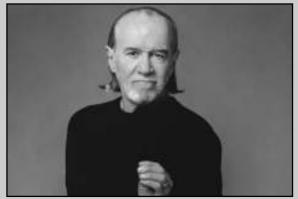
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Rockstar Supernova
FEBRUARY 25



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Now Flog This Last month, Carlsbad-based accordion player Matt Hensley said he would no longer tour with Flogging 200-capacity club.

The new ownership is expected to take over Squid Joe's in late March. The North County Times reported that two patrons leaving Squid Joe's on January 11 fired at each other in the parking lot as the bar was closing. A bullet grazed a bystander. Police recovered

the inside track



HENSLEY TO CO-OWN NEXT STAGE

Molly, the band he cofounded ten years ago. He was the only local member of the Irish punk band; the other six members live in L.A.

The decision to quit touring may be related to the news that Hensley is involved with a consortium that is buying Squid Joe's. The Carlsbad music venue hosts live rock, hip-hop, reggae, punk, and metal bands two nights a week. Agent Orange, U.S. Bombs, Tone-Loc, and Quino have headlined the

ten bullet casings but did not find the gunmen who fled. — Ken Leighton

To the Nines "We'll be filming at Mardi Gras and several clubs downtown from February 19 through the 21st," says XL Staffing and Security owner Joe Mackey of the still-unnamed reality show being produced about his firm. "It'll mostly focus on our staff and how they command in suits and ties instead of windbreakers and tattoos.

Founded in 2000, XL has around 220 staffers dressed to the nines and working around town at about two dozen venues, including On Broadway, Aubergine, Stingaree, Ole Madrid, and 94th Aero Squadron.

"Five locations downtown have agreed to let us film, but we're not announcing where the cameras will be ahead of time. We don't want someone showing up just to start a fight and get on TV."

Mackey says his company owns a portion of the program, along with MTV/VH1 producer Rob Cohen.

"I wanted to make sure I get something close to final say over what airs.'

Before the deal was signed, Mackey says several other TV programmers expressed interest in working with XL.

"Court TV contacted us about doing a show. Wife Swap wanted to have one of our female guards do a show for them.... Around ten percent of our staff is female. Fremantle Media, who do American Idol, they wanted us to do a show called 'Bounced,' where every episode ends with someone getting physically booted from someplace. We told them that's not what we're about.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Big in Norway While some local bands struggle to play outside the Southwest, the Bloody Hollies are planning their fourth tour of Europe.

The first time we played Tromsö, Norway, we got there at noon and it was already dark," says guitarist Joey Horgen. "We sold out all of our merch two hours before we even went onstage." Overseas, they play venues sized "between the Casbah and a 2000-seat hall" and usually earn three times what they would make at a U.S. gig. A Holland-based agent puts the tour together. They travel with a road manager who speaks six languages and acts as a roadie, translator, negotiator, driver, and merch boss.

Horgen says the European hookup was made before he joined the band two years ago. Since 2001, the Bloody Hollies have played Holland, Germany, Sweden, Italy, Austria, France, Norway, and Denmark.

"They don't really receive



LOOK OUT, U.S.A. (THE BLOODY HOLLIES)

a lot of bands over there. Plus, the name is a huge plus. It conjures up lots of visions. If I was some guy in Darmstadt, Germany, and I picked up the paper and saw the name Bloody Hollies, that would get my curiosity flowing.

Horgen says their gritty blues/punk/R&B style suits European taste.

are open to a lot more different things. They don't even know what the word emo is. Europe is heavy into garage rock just as the U.S. is into manufactured pop.

The Bloody Hollies left for a 32-city tour of the U.S. on Tuesday, which includes a stop at SXSW on March 16. Their European tour begins June 1.

— Ken Leighton

Rock Monster Fight!

With their Kiss-like makeup and occult lyrics, Crimson Moon released their first recording 12 years ago, though they never performed live until 2006. Core members Scorpios (bass, vocals, lyrics) and Nocturnal Overlord (guitars, keyboards, drum programming) have split and are now battling over the band name.

On January 25, Overlord announced an impending CM album (sans Scorpios): "[This] material was recorded between 1997-2000 solely by Overlord on a portable four-track and with an old drum machine," reads a post on Overlord's MySpace page.

"Overlord was kicked out [of Crimson Moon] in September of 2006, according to Scorpios. "This [new CM album] is another one of Overlord's desperate attempts to cause confusion...just because Overlord played in Crimson Moon in the past and decided to steal the logo, name, artwork, and concepts that are beyond his limits of understanding, bought out a bunch of domain names and made a MySpace page,

remain kicked out of the band."

Scorpios has grouped with three other players for his own version of CM. A new album is in progress.

Overlord responds: "In actuality, Scorpios was released from Crimson Moon in 2006 and has gone around making a fuss and started childish Internet drama ever since. He has even gone as far as to steal artwork, image files, HTML coding, avatars,



CRIMSON MOON IN HAPPIER TIMES

sound files...[it's] simply pathetic, and there is no need to explain why he was kicked out.

Dueling MySpace pages are titled "crimsonmoon666" (Nocturnal Overlord) and "crimsonmoonofficial" (Scorpios).

– Jay Allen Sanford

Everybody Loves Royalties "I'm not even sure where ['Jungle Love'] fits into the Everybody Loves Raymond mythology," laughs Escondido guitarist Greg Douglass, who cowrote the hit for the Steve Miller Band. The tune was used as the theme song for the final three seasons of the TV sitcom.

An area resident since

doesn't change the fact that "Europeans, in general, he was and will forever **7000 Frames...** 3 Convenient Stores

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San Diego *Reader* February 8, 2007

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1992, Douglass teaches guitar at Dusty's in Oceanside and the Music Playce in Escondido. He performs in surf-instro combo Mowasabe and the Fabulous Pelicans, a



DOUGLASS IN FLIGHT, 1978

wedding band. Over the years, Douglass has been a member of the Greg Kihn Band (playing on their 1983 hit "Jeopardy") and toured with Van Morrison, but his stint with the Steve Miller Band has been the most lucrative.

With Steve Miller Band bassist Lonnie Turner, Douglass wrote "Jungle Love" as a demo for British guitarist Dave Mason. "Instead, the song turned into Dr. Seuss on acid," and Miller opted to include it on his next album. Douglass was asked to join the group after Miller had trouble duplicating his riff in the studio.

Douglass admits that 'Jungle Love" was the second attempt to recycle the tune's signature guitar part.

"It was used by [my mid-'70s trio] Mistress; I wrote a

song called 'Paul' that used the same riff. And I also tried it while I was in Hot Tuna in a co-write with Jorma Kaukonen, but it never really gelled."

Released as a single in 1977, "Jungle Love" was an instant hit, though "It only reached number 22," says Douglass. "At the time, it was a little disappointing. But the song has been very good to me ever since.... It helped buy my house.'

The song is included on numerous Miller compilations, including Greatest Hits 1974-78, the 35th-biggest-selling album of all time (13 million copies sold).

— Bart Mendoza

He Don't Practice Santería... Robert

plays drums in two Brazilian bands, Jangada (a mix of samba and reggae) and Banda Braza (traditional Brazilian forró). Since 1998, he has traveled to Brazil seven times to study music. He's connected with Candomblé, an African religion brought to Brazil by slaves. Candomblé shares traits with the Afro-Caribbean religion of Santería; drumming is integral to both.

You use different drumming rituals to invoke the saints," says Robert, who admits he's not "fully initiated" as a Candomblé drummer. "You have to go through a series of initiations. Initiated drummers have to stay away from certain types of people and certain foods based on what saint watches over you. It might be determined the sacred fruit of your [saint] is pumpkin. You can never eat pumpkin. I offered a red shirt to a friend as a gift, and he said, 'Oh, man, I can't wear red.' When

a person becomes a full priest, he can only dress in

OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: DIZZY'S

About animal sacrifices (an aspect of both



Candomblé and Santería), Robert says, "People see it as devil worship. They see animal blood and they forget Jews used to sacrifice rams and sheep. There is nothing sinister with it. Nine times out of ten we eat what we sacrifice. The only time we don't eat it is if we want the animal to absorb negative energy."

Drummer Mark Lamson has introduced scores of locals (including Robert) to Brazilian drumming. He estimates that there are 300 San Diegans who practice Santería and a handful who practice Candomblé.

Jangada appears at Kava Lounge on Sunday and Banda Braza appears

Wednesday, February 14, at Portugalia.

— Ken Leighton

It's a Drummer's World Raised in greater Detroit, Evan Demko left the University of Michigan with a degree in industrial

engineering at a bad time. "Factories were moving

out, and plants were closing down [in 2005]. All that's left in Detroit is doctors and lawvers, but there is no one left to doctor or lawyer to.

Demko left Michigan in the summer of '05.

a local textbook company but quit after six weeks. "I had the balls to get out so I wouldn't be working at something I didn't like until I was dead.3

GA!GA!

fe dee Dee

GA GA

PHLBET

ERP!

So, he found other musicians and launched Animal Style, a dirty garagerock band.

"Our first gig was April '06. We wanted to play any place that appreciated real rock bands, like Blind Melons, the Tiki Bar, and O'Connell's." Demko says after about ten gigs, "People were starting to know us.

drummer Kevin was skating under the OB Pier. I was on the pier when I heard Kevin wail in pain. He hit the wrong bump. Î went down and asked him if he was okay. Every time he sat down it would take him 15 minutes to stand up again. We finally got him back to our house. We

laid him on the couch....

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

HEY.

all ages

MEANS *ALL*

AGES.

"The hospital trauma doctor said he had three broken vertebrae and was lucky to not be paralyzed. He can walk, but he has some reoccurring pain that shoots down one of his legs. He was overwhelmed, financially. He quit drumming. He'll spend the rest of his 20s trying to get out of debt. He had to sell his drums.'

Demko savs it took six months to find a drummer.

"If you're a drummer in this town or a drummer thinking about moving to this town, you will always have a gig.

Animal Style appears March 14 at the 710 Club (formerly Blind Melons).

— Ken Leighton



DEMKO RESTARTS ANIMAL STYLE

"I drove out to the farthest part of the U.S. I could drive to. I had four guitars, five amps, and a 4' by 12' speaker cabinet.'

Demko, 23, found a job at

Everything was building. We got booked for our biggest show yet at 'Canes.'

But, three days before that June '06 'Canes show, "Our

CONTRIBUTORS

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



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Cozy Up

"Thrash-metal fans are by far probably the nicest group of people you could ever meet."

DOWNLOADS

d Duke is a closet headbanger. Nothing in his outward demeanor would indicate that his listening preferences point to the extreme edges of rock's darkest fantasyland: thrash metal. Duke, clean-cut and 43, works as assistant manager of a thrift store in East

San Diego. In his spare time he feeds his alter ego "Edtrax" via Thrash Unlimited and Thrash Unlimited Radio, a locally based Web

forum and Web radio station devoted to international indie thrash. He is cofounder and content manager of both. I wonder how Ed Duke reconciles his dual identity.

"We've been stereotyped for so long into headbanging, beer-drinking pot smokers, and it's just not true," he says, in deference, I suppose, to the legion of metalheads who are head-banging, beerdrinking, tattooed, shaved-headed, metal-studded pot smokers. "It's amazing," he says. "Thrashmetal fans are by far probably the nicest group of people you could ever meet."

What exactly is thrash metal? "Death metal is actually thrash metal with deep, growling vocals. If you take away the Cookie Monster growling and add a cleaner style of vocals, you'd have a thrashmetal band." That, he says, and "absolute technical perfection."

'The '80s were indeed a unique era for thrash," he e-mails later. That's when he heard his first thrash. "I traded band tapes with fans from Brazil, Canada, New Zealand, and also Japan as well as Poland and Mexico, I treasure those days, I must add that tape trading was a crucial element of the underground thrash scene." In the days before the Internet, Duke says that fans of indie and Euro-

thrash connected through fanzines and metal mags like Circus and Hit Parader and Metal Edge. "Without tape trading," he says, "Metallica would likely never have

gained the widespread recognition that eventually broke them on a worldwide scale.

Thrash Unlimited (thrashunlimited.com) was started by Duke and a fellow thrash historian ("that's what we call ourselves") named Karoshiga. 'Part of why we created Thrash Unlimited," says Duke, "was for our desire to start an online community of like-minded thrash individuals." As of January 28, the site claimed 276 registered users of its forums. The newest registered user, it advertised, was someone named Aggressor.

Thrash Unlimited Radio (live365.com/ stations/edtrax) grew out of the success of the Thrash Unlimited forums and Duke's lifelong desire to be a DJ. He programs all of the Web radio station's content.

"My collection of thrash metal spans from the earliest years of thrash, all the way back to the very beginning, as far back as Motörhead. Bands like Artillery, Whiplash, and Viking, bands that were overshadowed by, you know, Metallica and

Slaver. Those early and virtually unknown bands were definitely plagued by promotional problems that basically led them into obscurity. And I felt that people needed to hear them." TU Radio also features unsigned and indie talent.

"I get a daily geographical statistic report that tells me where all the listeners are from and how long they're listening." Duke says the worldwide response to the radio station surpasses anything he could have imagined. "I'm looking at a report right now...the listeners that are tuned in are from Lithuania, Russia, the U.K., Ireland, Italy, Belgium, Finland, Australia, Chile, Poland, Peru, Turkey, the U.S., Sweden, Spain, and a country I can't pronounce...

"I thought I was the first one who ever had an MP3 player, to be honest with you. I had an Empeg or something way back in '99. The one that I use right now is a simple little iRiver 256 — and I have an iPod, and it sucks. I have the little Nano thing. It sounds like shit. The sound quality is just not what I want. My ears are really perceptive to tones, and the Nano has a real dead, flat tone. The trebles and the basses are . . . I'm just not happy with it.

'I end up back at my iRiver," he says, "because of all the MP3 players that I've had, the iRiver has the most crisp, clear, bassdriven sound that I've been able to find.'

Duke's Thrash Top 10:

- 1. Reckless Tide, "Vicious Circle"
 2. Pitch Black, "Standards of Perfection"
- 3. Mastery, "Lethal Legacy"



Ed Duke

- 4. Legion of the Damned, "Seven Heads They
- 5. Kayser, "Like a Drunk Christ"
- 6. Imagica, "My Bloodied Wings"
 7. Leprosy, "Suicida"
- 8. Headless Cross, "Servant to Your Death" 9. Death Angel, "Thicker Than Blood"
- 10. Braindeadz, "Shattered Youth" ■

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with **Anna**

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Service Industry Night 9 pm with **Amanda** No Cover

> TUESDAY 2/13 Happy Hour 4-7 with **Emilia**

No Cover Tropical Tuesdays 9 pm

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WEDNESDAY 2/14 Happy Hour 4-7 with **Emilia** No Cover

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Calendar CONCERTS

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THIS WEEK'S CONCERTS

THURSDAY

Livingston Taylor:

AcousticMusicSanDiego, Thursday, February 8, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

FRIDAY

Maná: ipavOne Center, Friday, February 9, and Saturday, February 10, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-

Bob Weir: House of Blues, Friday, February 9, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Venice: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, February 9, and Saturday, February 10, 4650 Mansfield Street Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

MONDAY

The Roots: House of Blues, Monday, February 12, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

TUESDAY

Common: House of Blues, Tuesday, February 13, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

WEDNESDAY

Pepper: House of Blues, Wednesday, February 14, and Thursday, February 15, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-

UPCOMING CONCERTS

FEBRUARY

Todd Snider: Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, February 15, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-

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-

Dave Alvin: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, February 16, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

The Goo Goo Dolls: Pala Events Center, Friday, February 16, 5 miles east

of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala. 760-510-4580.

"Valentine's Love Jam": ipayOne Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

"San Diego Brazil Carnival": $4 \mathrm{th} \ \&$ B, Saturday, February 17, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Cradle of Filth: House of Blues. Sunday, February 18, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-299-2583.

Neko Case: Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, February 18, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140

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.

Gomez and Ben Kweller: House of Blues, Tuesday, February 20, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Robert Earl Keen: 4th & B, Tuesday, February 20, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys: Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, February 20, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140

"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.

Joe Walsh: Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, February 21, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-

Willie Nelson: Pala Events Center. Wednesday, February 21, 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala, 760-510-4580,

Cheap Trick: 4th & B, Thursday, ry 22, 345 B Street, San Diego 619-231-4343.

Elefante: House of Blues, Thursday February 22, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Michael Franti & Spearhead: 4th & B, Friday, February 23, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Meat Loaf: Pala Events Center, Friday, February 23, 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala, 760-510-4580.

Guttermouth: 'Canes, Saturday, February 24, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

John McEuen:

AcousticMusicSanDiego, Saturday, February 24, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Rock Star Supernova: Pala Events Center, Sunday, February 25, 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala. 760-510-4580.

lan Tyson: AcousticMusicSanDiego Tuesday, February 27, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Leon Russell: Belly Up Tavern Tuesday, February 27, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

"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.

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.

Lila Downs: 4th & B, Friday, March 2, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

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.

Musiq: Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, March 4, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140

The Dropkick Murphys: House of Blues, Monday, March 5, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Ozomatli: Belly Up Tavern, Friday March 9, and Saturday, March 10, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach,

Robert Randolph: House of Blues. Saturday, March 10, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-299-2583.

Razorlight: The Casbah, Saturday, March 10, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego. 619-232-4355.

Willy Porter:

AcousticMusicSanDiego, Sunday, March 11, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Richard Thompson: Belly Up Tavern, Monday, March 12, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481

My Chemical Romance: ipayOne Center, Tuesday, March 13, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

EPMD: Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, March 14, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Eric Clapton and Robert Cray: ipayOne Center, Thursday, March 15, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-

Alejandra Guzman: Pala Events Center, Thursday, March 15, 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala. 760-510-4580.

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.

Tool: Cox Arena, Tuesday, March 20, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-594-

Badly Drawn Boy: House of Blues, Wednesday, March 21, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Killswitch Engage: Soma, Friday, March 23, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

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. Cowboy Mouth: Belly Up Tavern,

Wednesday, March 28, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140. Aterciopelados: 'Canes, Wednesday,

March 28, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780. Unwritten Law: 4th & B, Friday,

March 30, 345 B Street, San Diego 619-231-4343. Switchfoot: Soma, Saturday, March 31, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San

Sevendust: House of Blues, Saturday, March 31, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

APRIL

Diego. 619-226-7662.

The Ataris: House of Blues, Monday, April 2, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-299-2583.

Josh Groban: ipayOne Center, Friday, April 6, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Brand New: Soma, Friday, April 6 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

The Killers: RIMAC Arena, Tuesday April 10, UCSD campus, La Jolla. 858-534-8497.

Relient K: House of Blues, Wednesday, April 11, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583. Fu Manchu: The Casbah, Friday, April

13, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego 619-232-4355. The Mother Hips: Belly Up Tavern,

Saturday, April 14, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Moenia: House of Blues, Wednesday, April 18, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Huey Lewis & the News: Pala Events Center, Friday, April 20, 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala. 760-510-

Stone Sour: House of Blues, Sunday, April 22, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Gwen Stefani, Akon, and Lady **Sovereign:** 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.

Blonde Redhead: Belly Up Tavern, Friday, April 27, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.

MAY

Taylor Hicks: Palomar Starlight Theater, Wednesday, May 2, 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala. 760-510-4580.

Richard Marx: Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Friday, May 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445

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-

Chayanne: ipayOne Center, Saturday, May 26, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

JUNE

The Charlie Daniels Band: Paloman Starlight Theater, Thursday, June 7, 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala. 760-510-4580.

Keith Urban: ipayOne Center, Sunday, June 10, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

June 25, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

AUGUST

Heart: Palomar Starlight Theater, Friday, August 31, 5 miles east of I-15 on Hwy 76, Pala. 760-510-4580.

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Air Conditioned: Wednesdays, *RockBoxx*, '70s and '80s rock. Thursdays, College Night, old-skool hip-hop, '80s, and funk with DJ 1979. Fridays, oldskool disco, funk, and '80s with DI Junior. Saturdays, *Juicy*, classic booty-shakin' music with Mike Czech. Sundays, guest DJ night. 4673 30th Street, North Park. 619-501-9831.

Brass Rail: Fridays, Element, New York and Chicago house-music journeys with DI Ciel 9 n m to 2 a m 3796 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-298-2233.

The C Lounge: Sundays, Liquid, liquid funk and drum 'n' bass with residents Calculon, Knottyboy, Frizz, and more. 756 Fifth Avenue, downtown 619-233-2838.

Club Montage: Wednesdays, Club Thizz, hip-hop, reggae, and drum 'n' bass. 2028 Hancock Street, San Diego

The Flame: Second and fifth Saturday of the month, *Sabbat*, gothic, industrial, and dark '80s with DIs Robin Roth. Adam Atom, and Diskdroid. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. 3780 Park Boulevard,



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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 DI Ricky Wrecks and Mada; 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursdays, Deep, drum 'n' bass with DJs Wallkrawler, Probable Cause, and Skyler Mic; 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. 1409 C Street (corner of 14th Street, across from City College), downtown. 619-702-6010.

Inferno Young Adult Nightclub: Fridays and Saturdays, DJ Kool T spins hip-hop, house, and reggaeton. 9 p.m. to 1:15 a.m., high school students and up. 775 Metcalf Street, Escondido. 760-741-1271.

Jack's Lounge: Fridays, Injoy Fridays at Jack's, deep funky house music with DJ Misha and guests. Saturdays, vocal house with DJ Sean Wilson, 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-456-8111.

Kadan: Wednesdays, Darkwaye 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. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. No cover. 4696 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500.

The Kava Lounge: First Saturday 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 Lowdown, metal to old skool to classic rock to hip-hop with DJs Buddha and SC. 9:30 p.m. 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington. 619-284-2848.

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Hillcrest 619-291-5313 **Landlord Jim's:** Sundays, *Sunday Soulcial*, DJ Buddha serves up old soul, R&B, and positive hip-hop. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. No cover. 1546 Broadway, downtown. 619-233-9998

Mission Valley Resort: Thursdays and Fridays, Mambo Lounge, salsa, bachata, and cha-cha with Da Wizzrd. 8 p.m. to midnight. 875 Hotel Circle South, Mission Valley. 619-298-8281.

Moondoggies Pacific Beach: Saturdays, hip-hop, R&B, and Top 40 hits. 832 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-6550.

San Diego Sports Club:

Wednesdays, Club Pussy Galore, Robin Roth and other female DJs spin indie rock, electropop, and '80s. Second and fourth Saturday of the month, *Club* Fashion Whore, electroclash, Brit pop, and indie dance punk with DJs Nate Soixante, Barry Weaver, Edgartronic, and more. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-299-7372.

Shooterz: Thursdays, Club '80s, new wave, new romantic, and punk synthpop with DJs Bryan Pollard, Sickboy, and Stern. 3815 30th Street, North Park. 619-574-0744.

Whiskey Girl: Fridays, DJ Marc Thrasher mixes music videos. Saturdays, DIs Marc Thrasher and Famous Dave mix music videos. Sundays, DJ Famous Dave mixes music videos, Mondays, Manic Mondays, DJ Marc Thrasher mixes '80s and '90s music videos. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. 600 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-236-1616.

The Whistle Stop: First and third Saturday of the month, Transport, Brit rock, indie, and electroclash with DI 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. 2236 Fern

Street (corner of 30th and Juniper),

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 and Saturday, live classic rock.

The Calypso Cafe, 576 North Highway 101, Encinitas. 760-632-8252. Thursday, *Triple Shot*, blues. Friday, *Palos*. Saturday, *Jeff Moore* and *Billy* Thompson, blues. Sunday, the John Bennett Trio, jazz. Monday, Mick Overman, acoustic. Tuesday, Jack Tempchin, folk. Wednesday, Triple Shot

'Canes, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780. Thursday, Evidence, DJ Revolution, and Brendan B. and the Illiterates, rock. Friday, 9 p.m., One Drop, When I Rise, the Stone Senses, and Carbine, reggae/punk. Saturday, Luciano, reggae.



THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 8

REPUBLIC OF LETTERS **SWIM PARTY** THE ROMAN SPRING

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FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 9

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San Diego Sports Club Buy any drink, 2nd drink \$1

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MASTERPIECE 6:15-10:45 PM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9 The Reaganomics

9:45 PM-1:30 AM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

The Reaganomics

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 Diva Soul

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Monday, Feb. 12 & 19

WW.JIMMYLOVES.COM AVE 7 2 E.L.F T 144 ORNER OF 5TH & G 595-0123

Calendar

BEACHES

(continued)

Ché Café, UCSD Campus, 9500 Gilman Drive, Student Center B-0323C, La Jolla. 858-534-2311. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Bigfellas, alternative/pop/classic rock. Friday, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Melissa Vaughan, 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., the Donnis Trio, acoustic/folk.

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, live music. Friday, *Dirty Madame*. Saturday, *In Every Breath, Six Reasons, Thrill Razr, Kavena*, and the American Hitmen, alternative rock.

Hennessey's Tavern (PB), 4650 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach. 858-483-8847. Friday and Saturday, live music.

The Kraken, 2531 Old Highway 101, Cardiff. 760-436-6483. Friday, *Rokandy*, rock. Saturday, *the Bill Magee Blues Band*. 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 Levich*, jazz. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday, *Rick Ross*, jazz.

The Lodge at Torrey Pines, 11480 N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla. 619-453-4420. Lobby: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., *Dan Papaila*, solo jazz guitar.

Grill: Friday and Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., *Mike Nelson*, solo jazz guitar.

Manhattan Restaurant, 7766 Fay Avenue, La Jolla. 858-459-0700. Friday and Saturday, *the Joe Marillo Jazz Trio*.

Pasquale on Prospect, 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-456-0722. Thursday, Gil Barron, Mark Fulton, James East, and PTrak Armenta, acoustic pop/rock/Latin/soul. Friday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Jazz 101 Band featuring Nick Fiore, John Guilino, Dave Scott, and the Cynthia Hammond. Saturday, 8:30 p.m. Mario Oliveras and Latin Spice, Latin **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. Wednesday, 8 p.m., *Hugh Gaskins*, blues.

710 Beach Club, 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-7844. Thursday, the Leperkhanz, the Burning of Rome, Wayside Loop, and Lexington, indie/alternative/metal rock. Friday, Magnolia Black and Ithaca, alternative/rock. Saturday, DPI, the Gizzards, CDM, and 12 Cents, punk. Wednesday, Jeff Tuohy, Alyssa Jacey, and Drew Gasparini, pop rock/folk/acoustic.

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.

Tapenade Restaurant, 7612 Fay Avenue, La Jolla. 858-551-7500. Thursday, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *the Forecast Jazz Duo*.

Thrusters, 4633 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach. 858-483-6334. Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., *Willovealot*, smooth jazz/R&B.

Tiki House, 1152 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-273-9734. Friday, Dazed and Confused, rock. Saturday, the Rockin' Blues Hounds. Wednesday, Mick

Tower Two Beach Cafe, 5083 Santa Monica Avenue, Ocean Beach. 619-223-4059. Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., live 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. Thursday, Blue Turtle Seduction. Friday, Blue Turtle Seduction and Tap Water, rock. Saturday, the Wild Bunch and Soul Ablaze.

Monday, the Electric Waste Band, classic rock. Tuesday, Psydecar, reggae/funk. Wednesday, Podunk Nowhere and the Grams. folk/rock/indie.

DOWNTOWN

Blarney Stone Pub, 502 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-8519. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and

Borders Books and Music (Gaslamp), 668 Sixth Avenue, San Diego. 619-702-4200. Friday, 8 p.m., *Matt Barber*, jazz. Saturday, 8 p.m., *Teflon*, indie/rock.

The Casbah, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, midtown. 619-232-HELL. Music is rock/alternative unless otherwise noted. Thursday, the Republic of Letters, Swim Party, the Roman Spring, and DeeRay. Friday, Battalion of Saints, Duane Peters, and Gunfight. Saturday, Drag the River, Tim Barry, and the Cheap Leis. Sunday, Rafter, the Castanets, Bedroom Walls, and the Affair. Monday, the Antiques, the



BY DAVE GOOD

What caught my ear during a radio interview with **Bob Weir** a few years back was this: he never knew his biological father until late into his own life. Like Weir, I'd not met my "real" father either. Still haven't. Weir described the father-son rendezvous as unremarkable, even businesslike. Weir's father initiated contact, if I recall correctly, and the two had dinner, and in the telling Weir made meeting one's father for the first time sound easy.

This year Bob Weir will turn 60. Thus far, he has led a most charmed rock-and-roll life. At 16, he cofounded the Bay Area band Mother McCree's Uptown Jug Champions with a fellow picker named Jerry Garcia. Later they

became the Warlocks and eventually the Grateful Dead. The Dead was both Weir's 30-year career and his métier, even though I thought that Weir looked a bit out of place in early Dead photos, something like a hippie Shaun Cassidy surrounded by leathery bikers. But he wrote and sang some of the Dead's most memorable songs, and his acoustic guitar stylings were indispensable to the band's legendary sound. He once claimed that jazz artists like John Coltrane influenced his playing, although to this day I don't hear it.

Later, after Garcia's death, Weir soldiered on as front man for the Other Ones, the Dead-revival unit. In fact, Ratdog, the most solid of Weir's side ventures, sounds more Dead-like sometimes than the originals themselves did back in the day with their own take on covers, blues-rock originals, country folk songs, and Weir's rockers. No songs yet



about the importance of knowing your blood father in this life, but if Bob Weir wrote about the subject, I'd listen. I haven't tracked my father down yet, but I keep thinking that one day I will.

BOB WEIR, House of Blues, Friday, February 9, 8 p.m. 619-299-2583. \$35.

Clock Work Army, Dynamite Walls, and the Vision of a Dying World. Tuesday, the Octopus Project, Red Pony Clock, and the Color Turning. Wednesday, Rob Crow, the Jade Shader, and Division Day.

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, the Archtones. Monday, Dave Scott. Tuesday, the Shep Meyers Quartet. Wednesday, Shep Meyers and Dave Scott.

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, the Scott Carter Duo, rock. Friday, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., Blue Rockit, blues/rock. Saturday, 8 p.m., the Siers Brothers. Tuesday, Battle of the Bands. Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Private Domain, unplugged.

Dizzy's, 344 Seventh Avenue, downtown. 858-270-7467. Friday, 8 p.m., Eleanor England, Shep Meyers, Tripp Sprague, Bryan McConnell, jazz. Saturday, 8 p.m., the Downbeat Big Band.

Dublin Square, 554 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-239-5818. Music is traditional Irish. Thursday, *the Commoners*. Saturday, *Sligo*.

4th & B, 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343.

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, Groove Sessions. Tuesday, the Stilettos, rockabilly. Wednesday, Lady Dottie and the Diamonds, blues.

House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-299-2583. Thursday, Chris Torres, rock. Friday, West of Memphis, blues. Saturday, Bob Weir, acoustic. Monday, the Roots, reggae, and Lupe Fiasco, hip-hop. Tuesday, Common.

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., *Reaganomics*, '80s dance. Monday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Insight*, jazz. Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Mystique*, jazz/R&B. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Soul Revue, 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, Len Rainey and the Midnight Players. Friday, Alan Iglesias. Saturday, Aunt Kizzy'z Boyz. Sunday, the Bayou Brothers. Monday, Blue Largo. Tuesday, Chris James and Blue Four. Wednesday, the Texas Twisters.

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. **Sevilla,** 555 Fourth Avenue, downtown.

619-233-5979. Club Salsa: Thursday, Asison, salsa. Tuesday, Ritmo Caliente, salsa.

The Shout House, 655 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-231-6700. Rock and roll sing-along dueling pianos.

The Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Avenue, downtown. 619-238-1818. The Plaza Bar: All music is piano. Thursday and Friday, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Peter Prince of Piano, popljazz/standards,7 p.m. to midnight, Fran Loskota, popljazz/standards. Saturday, 8 p.m. to midnight, Karen Giorgio, pop/standards/Broadway. Monday through Wednesday, Peter Prince of Piano.

Xavier's Bar and Grill, 750 Fifth Avenue, San Diego. 619-233-0517. Thursday, 10 p.m., *SweetSize*, alternative/funk.

SAN DIEGO

AcousticMusicSanDiego, 4650 Mansfield Street, San Diego. 619-303-8176. Music is acoustic/folk. Thursday, Livingston Taylor. Friday, Venice.

The Aero Club, 3365 India Street, San

Albie's Beef Inn, 1201 Hotel Circle South, San Diego. 619-291-1103. Piano bar, call club for information.

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., Frances Chalotte,

Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Avenue, Bay Park. 619-275-LIVE. Music is heavy rock/metal/punk/rockabilly. Friday, Staring at Strange, Filth Juggernaut, and the Big Dame Hunters. Saturday, Black Fag, Second 2 Last, Muzzle, and Pig Champion. Sunday, Shiloh and Dead Serial Killers. Wednesday, Devil Doll, and Faraway Boys.

Epicentre, 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa. 858-271-4000. Saturday, the Urbanomics, Falling Face Forward, White Apple Tree, and Surfing Socrates, punk/indie/electronica.

Etta's Place, 6179 University Avenue (at College and University). 619-582-6730 Live rock/swing

6730. Live rock/swing.

The Gordon Biersch Brewery,

5010 Mission Center Road, San Diego. 619-688-1120. Friday, the Devastators,

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.

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Navajo

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Huge Rooster & Hectic Watermelon Friday & Saturday, February 9 & 10 • 9 pm

Friday & Saturday, February 9 & 10 • 9 pm Classic Rock



Serious Guise

Monday, February 12

Come Play!

Tuesday, February 13 • Mike Ruggirello presents

Huge Rooster & guests

Wednesday, February 14

Happy Hour 6-8 pm

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Thursday, February 8 8 pm **5 Miles High**

Friday & Saturday, February 9 & 10 • 9 pm Classic Rock



6 One 9

Monday, February 12

Come Play

Tuesday, February 13 8 pm **Fuzz Huzzi**

Wednesday, February 14

8 pm Hello Bystander • 9 pm The Exposed

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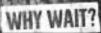


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Calendar

SAN DIEGO

Hot Monkey Love Cafe, 6875 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego. 619-469-4113. Thursday, jazz. Friday and Saturday live bands. Sunday, salsa Wednesday, 9 p.m., the Speak Easy Jazz

Humphrey's, Half Moon Inn, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-224-3577. Backstage Lounge Thursday, 8 p.m. to midnight, Coco Montoya, blues guitar. Friday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Electric Soul, soul/R&B, 9:30 p.m., Rockola, classic rock. Saturday, 8 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., the 11th Annual Superbowl Blues Fest. Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mark Lessman, jazz, 8 p.m. to midnight Nils, jazz. Monday, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Nathan James and Ben Hernandez, blues. Tuesday, the Citizen Band, classic rock. Wednesday, 8 p.m. to midnight, the Soul Persuaders, funk/soul/dance.

The Imperial House, 505 Kalmia Street, San Diego. 619-234-3525. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., Rick Lyon, pop standards/Top 40/variety.

In Cahoots, 5373 Mission Center Road, Mission Valley. 619-291-8635.

The Kensington Club, 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington. 619-284-2848. Thursday, the Followers, Vision of a Dying World, the Vaginals, and La Guerre de Mitaines. Friday, the True Crime Authors, Reed, and Moxie. Saturday, S'Cool Girls.

The Lafavette Hotel, 2223 El Cajon Boulevard, University Heights. 619-296 2101. L Bar and Grill: Thursday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Keith Jacobsen, smooth jazz

Lestat's Coffee House, 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-282-0437. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, Staring at the Sun record-release party with Marie Haddad, Grams. Friday, 4-Way Free and Billy

Shaddox. Saturday, A.J. Croce and Dave Howard. Sunday, Annie Dru, the Derren Raser Band, John Hull, and Rusty Jones. Wednesday, Guggenheim Grotto and

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.

Medgrill, 1263 University Avenue, San Diego, 619-683-2233, Thursday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Mike Nelson, solo jazz/Latin

O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub,

1310 Morena Boulevard, Bay Park. 619-276-5637. Music is rock/alternative unless otherwise noted. Friday, Superunloader and Radio Memphis Saturday, Sweet Tooth, the Silvia Brothers, and the Wild Truth. Monday, Mystery Train, blues. Tuesday, Broke on Friday, Tropical Depression, and the Tygers of

The Ould Sod, 3373 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-284-6594. Friday, Gene Warren, Irish folk. Tuesday, traditional Irish jam session

Pal Joey's, 5147 Waring Road, Allied Gardens 619-286-7873 Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m., classic rock/blues.

The Prado Restaurant, 1549 El Prado, San Diego. 619-557-9441. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Adrienne Nims and Raggle-Taggle, Celtic/Irish.

Rebecca's Coffeehouse, 3015 Juniper Street, San Diego. 619-459-3239. Saturday, 7 p.m., *Danny Sandock* and guests, acoustic/blues.

Red Fox Steakhouse, 2228 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-297-1313. Thursday through Sunday, and Wednesday, Eddie Rossi and Joe Soprano piano. Monday and Tuesday, 9 p.m., the David Shaw Duo.

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



BY WILLIAM CRAIN

A good singer is hard to find. A good songwriter is even harder to find. A good singer who can write good lyrics and can also command a stage is extremely difficult to find. A singer/lyricist who meets all these criteria and who also does not make you want to throw him or her out of the back of the tour van after a couple of weeks on the road well, that's just about impossible to find. So. one wonders: Why aren't there more instru-

The four well-dressed Texans who make up the Octopus Project present a really good argument in favor of ditching the vocals. When, a minute or two into a song like "Music Is Happiness" from the band's 2005 release One Ten Hundred Thousand Million, the music starts to sound a little repetitious, rather than introducing some "lie, die. cry" lyrics, the guitars, drums, and keyboards just back off a little to make room for a wild theremin solo. There may be no greater symbol of musical freedom than a theremin

The Octopus Project takes advantage of other kinds of freedom as well. First, and most notably, they seem to pay no mind to the supposed barriers between

rock and electronic music, experimentalism or pop. contemporary or retro. Guitars, bass. and drums share space with keyboards, and everything gets reshaped in digital editing. The Octopus Project doesn't even pay much attention to the supposed barriers between one band and another. Their most recent album, The House of Apples and Eyeballs, is

OCTOPUS PROJECT

the result of a year-long collaboration with another band, Black Moth Super Rainbow. Currently, the Octopus Project is playing a small tour before recording their next album.

OCTOPUS PROJECT. The Casbah. Tuesday, February 13, 8:30 p.m. 619-232-

San Diego Sports Club, 1271 University Avenue, San Diego. 619-299-7372. Music is rock/indie/alternative rock. Friday, Lexicon and Addiquit, rap/hip-hop. Wednesday, the Cured and Blasphemous Russian

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

Soma, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-SOMA. Friday, Pierce the Veil, Lower Definiti Underminded, Invictus, and a Dead Giveaway, rock/punk/metal/alternative rock. Saturday, the Fabulous Rudies, the Skank Agents, the Hi-Lites, Unknown Motive, and Rice Rokit, ska/reggae.

Tio Leo's, 10787 Camino Ruiz, Mira Mesa. 858-695-1461. Wednesday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Robin Henkel Band, blues.

LIVE DATION

Tio Leo's Lounge, 5302 Napa Street (at Morena Boulevard), Bay Park. 619-542-1462. Friday, Candye Kane blues. Saturday, Create. Tuesday, zydeco blues. Wednesday, 7 p.m., the High Society Jazz Band.

The Tower Bar, 4757 University Avenue, San Diego. 619-284-0158. Thursday, the Truckees Brothers. Friday rand Ole Party, the Vultures, and the Muslims. Monday, Lady Dottie and the Diamonds, blues

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., Tenacious Dave, Rob Deez,

Thomas Hodges, and Todd Martin Friday, 8 p.m., Alex DePue, Rob Grad, Sam Letic, Taran Gray, and James Drive. Saturday, 8 p.m., Bringing the West Back, Alvssa Iacev, and Drew Gasparini. Sunday, 4 p.m., the Celtic Ensemble.

Vesuvio Gourmet Restaurant. . 3025 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-282-7040. Thursday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., *the B-3 Four* featuring vocalist David Mosby, jazz. Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Peggy Lloyd, jazz.

NORTH COUNTY

The Alley, 421 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-434-1173. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the Love Rangers,

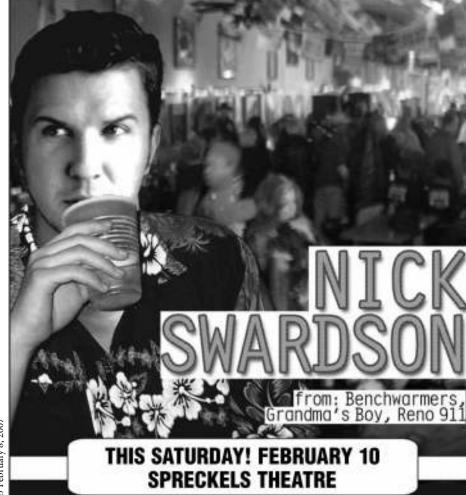
Belly Up Tavern, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022. Thursday, 8 p.m., Pancho Sanchez, Latin

jazz, and the Steph Johnson Band, indie/soul/jazz. Friday, Common Sense and the Big Provider, reggae/rock. Saturday, 9 p.m., Elijah Emanuel and the Revelations, Stranger, and the Black Heart Warriors, reggae. Sunday, 2 p.m., the Donnis Trio, David Lally, and Not Your Mom, acoustic/folk/rock, 8 p.m., Primo,

Boar Cross'n, 390 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-2989. Thursday, hiphop. Friday and Saturday, live classic rock.

The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe Flower Hill Mall, I-5 at Via de la Valle, Del Mar. 858-755-3735, Friday, Blue Largo, blues/jazz.

Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad), 1905 Calle Barcelona Carlsbad, 760-479-0242, Friday, 8 p.m.,



STEPHEN LYNCH MARCH 15

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February 8 | Thurs., 8:00pm | Mandeville Auditorium AN ACOUSTIC EVENING WITH LOS LOBOS

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3/7 Musiq Soulchild - New Date! • 3/20 Sondre Lerche 4/15 **Jedi Mind Tricks** On Sale Friday @ Noon! • 4/18 **Groundation** 4/29 **Velourouge** A Fundraiser for MS • 5/10 **Don Carlos**

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w/Eliza Gilkyson
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George Clinton &
Parliament Funkadelic
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Clipse

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3/25 KSON presents
Flynnwille Train
3/26 Bett Dennen
4/27 Cowboy Moust
w/Pat McGee
1/27 Srey & Mofro
3/31 Grey & Mofro
3/31 Jerus & Moro
4 Momic Punks

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2/9 BIG RIG DELUXE

2/16 BILLY WATSON • 2/23 CANDYE KANE

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4/1 FM 94.9 presents TV On The Radio-Sold Out 4/4 Son Volt 4/5 Dark Star Orchestra 4/9 Hal Ketchum 4/14 The Mother Hips 4/21 Boogie Nights—Metal Snake! 4/22 Earth Day Blues Festival w/ Tommy Castro & Charlie Musselwh

Railroad Earth Blonde Redhead Ghostface Killah RJD2 w/Pigeon John The Be Good Tanyas Johnny Winter Iris DeMent 4/2/ 4/30 5/13 5/18

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NORTH COUNTY

Marie Haddad, folk. Saturday, 8 p.m., Andrea Reschke, acoustic folk.

Borders Books and Music (Carmel Mountain), 11160 Rancho Carmel Drive, Carmel Mountain 858-618-1814. Friday, 8 p.m., Mike McGill, folk. Saturday, 8 p.m., John Borja contemporary jazz.

Carvers, 11940 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo 858-566-2400 Friday and Saturday, the Crossroads, classic rock.

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.

Covote Bar and Grill, 300 Carlsbad illage 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., the Restless Natives, rock/reggae. Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *Theo and the Zydeco Patrol*, blues. Sunday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Chris Klich, jazz. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Northstar, classic rock.

Del Dios Bar and Grill, 20154 Lake Drive, Escondido. 760-489-4800. Friday, the Clachan Boys, acoustic. Saturday, J.J. Slyde and the Blues Talkers, blues.

Game Time Tavern, 12735 Poway Road, Poway. 858-748-0015. Friday and Saturday, Steal Dawn, classic rock.

Hennessey's Tavern (Carlsbad), 760-729-6951. Friday, Da'Groove, rock. Saturday, Shockwave 4, rock.

The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, 5951 Linea del Cielo, Rancho Santa Fe. 858-756-1131. Thursday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Jerry Melnick, jazz/variety piano.

The Jumping Turtle, 1660 Capalina Road, San Marcos. 760-471-7778. Music is rock/alternative/metal. Thursday,

7:30 p.m., the Mentors, Willie Psychol Hungover Tomorrow, Flashburn, and Chaotic Mess, Friday, 8 p.m., Avner, De Sade, the Center, Sanu, and Obstinate. Saturday, 8 p.m., Irieside, Inberst, and Noiz Sunday, 7:30 p.m., Kyle Whitcomb. Stunt Double, Pitch Michael. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Animal Corpse and Darkness

Mas Fina Cantina, 2780 State Street, Carlsbad. 760-434-3497. Wednesday, 8 p.m. to midnight, Mike Gardner, ustic 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, live band. Saturday, Final Warning, rock. Tuesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Cradit Union, swing. Wednesday, open mike,

Ortega's Tamaleria, 4993 Niagra Avenue, Oceanside. 619-222-1722. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 7 p.m., John Tafolla and Friends, variety

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.

Ringer's Cocktail Lounge, 5517 South Mission Avenue, Bonsall. 760-941-5083. Friday and Saturday, a 5th of Blues

Surf N'Saddle, 123 West Plaza Street (Lomas Santa Fe and Highway 101), Solana Beach, 858-755-9474, Friday, Inhale, rock. Saturday, the Star Knights rock.

Tom Giblin'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.



Album: The Second Coming (2006)

Artist: Deep Rooted

Label: Openmyndz Entertainment

Where available/price: Access Music (\$10), Armory (\$10), or ordered online at www.mvspace.com/deeprootedent (\$10)

Songs: 1) Lil Boogie Intro 2) Memories 3) Celebrate 4) Break of Dawn 5) Can't Let Go 6) Live Your Life 7) Miles Away 8) Live On Stage 9) All the Way 10) Weekdays 11) Baby 12) Sweet Melodies 13) Move 14) Shine 15) Daddy's Little Girl 16) Feel Good Music 17) Pay Dues

Group: DJ Artistic (DJ), Johaz (MC), Mr. Brady (MC), Brea (vocals), OneBeLo (vocals), Aloe Blacc (vocals), Planet Asia (vocals), Main Flow (vocals), Abstract (vocals), Rude (vocals), Sha Dula (vocals)

Website: www.deeprootedent.com

Extra info: Deep Rooted plays at the World Beat Center on February 23 at 8:00 p.m.

I'm ambivalent about this album: when it was over I wasn't dying to hear more, but I admit the band is talented. I'll give it to them for shying away from the "booty, gold, diamonds, and look-atme" hip-hop that infects the airwayes.

The music is professional, but it's standard hip-hop: mix a five-second cut from an old record to lay down the beat, add in a dash of keyboard

and two male rappers up front with a female backup singer. Voilà! Repeat for every song.

Lead MCs Johaz and Mr. Brady have deep voices and can keep up fast-paced raps. The background music has the clear, crisp melodies of soulful New York-style hiphop of the early '90s. Singer Brea has a lilting voice that harmonizes well with the music and is a good counterpoint to the gruff rappers.

It was groundbreaking stuff when a Tribe Called Quest did it in the '90s. A



decade later, it only seems like stunted growth. Instead of saying, "This is what hiphop should've been without Puffy's commercialism," they're saying, "This is what hip-hop was." And that's fine, if you're nostalgic for Mos Def and

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SOUTH BAY/CORONADO

Buon Giorno Restaurant, 4110 nita Road, Bonita. 619-475-2660. Friday, 9 p.m., Iesse Davis, variety. Saturday, Stage 4 or Mikan and Friends,

The Butcher Shop, 556 Broadway, Chula Vista. 619-420-9440. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, 8 p.m., Ray Correa, standards/pop/Latin. Cafe LaMaze, 1441 Highland Avenue, National City. 619-474-3222. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. to midnight, Sandy Chappel and Sammy Canonizado, jazz/blues. Sunday, 8:30 p.m., Burnett Anderson, Robert Sebastian, and Scott Wallingford, jazz.

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,

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, 104Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-3456. Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., live music.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill, 1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-5280. Thursday, the Justin Brothers, acoustic. Friday, the Fall Guys, rock. Saturday, *Big City Shaman*, blues. Sunday, *Jim Moore*, acoustic folk. Monday, Gene Warren, Irish folk.



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Wednesday, February 21 THE HEAD CAT

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Friday, February 9

STARING AT STRANGE **FILTH JUGGERNAUT BIG DAME HUNTERS**

<u> Etix</u> Saturday, February 10

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Sunday, February 11

DEAD SERIAL KILLERS SHILOH (from NC)

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> **DEVIL DOLL FARAWAY BOYS** THE STRIKERS

Thursday, February 15 <u> Etix</u>

WIRED ALL

WRONG (featuring guitarist of Beck)

WAHBAH

Friday, February 16

KICKING K8 • EVOLOCITY COLPORTER TESTING TOMORROW

Saturday, February 17 Ctix **IMPERATIVE REACTION SHAOLIN PUNK**

<u> Etix</u> Sunday, February 18 **MYLIN • WENDY BAILEY**

"TALENTED TENTH"

PARKER EDISON THE NUMBER MAN SIX INCH MAN

Friday, February 23

L.A. GUNS **SLEDD • FUZZ HUZZI**

Wednesday, February 28

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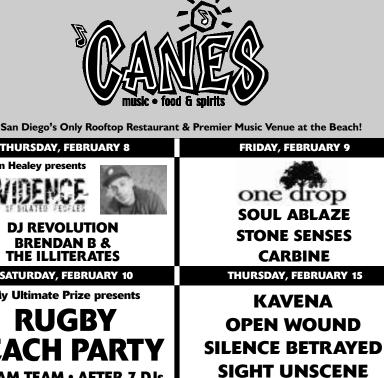
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SATURDAY, MARCH 17



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28



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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

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Van Halen)

WAY COOL JR. (80's Metal Tribute)

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STEPPING FEET (Dave Matthews

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SATURDAY, MARCH 31

ild Child (Doors Tribute)

JUMPING JACK FLASH (Rolling Stones Tribute)

Mission Beach Boardwalk www.myspace.com/canesmusic

Calendar **CLUBS**

SOUTH BAY/ CORONADO

Tuesday, Steve Brewer, acoustic. Wednesday, live music

EAST COUNTY

Borders Books and Music (El Cajon), 159 Parkway Plaza, El Cajon. 619-593-5119. Saturday, 7 p.m., *Joshua* Damigo, folk.

Dirk's Niteclub, 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove. 619-469-6344. Friday and Saturday, Phat Daddy, rock.

Don's Cocktail Lounge, 13321 Business Highway 8, El Cajon. 619-443-2444. Friday and Saturday, the Taylor Harvey Band, rock.

Driftwood, 9325 Mission Gorge Road, Santee. 619-562-2429. Saturday, 9 p.m., the Monsters of Rock, hard rock/classic metal.

Fannie's Nightclub, 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley. 619-698-2204. Friday and Saturday, live rock.

Renegade Inn, 14335 Old Highway 80 (half mile east from Lake Jenning turnoff), Flynn Springs. 619-561-8105. Friday and Saturday, *the Sundance Band*,

Second Wind, 8528 Magnolia Avenue, Santee. 619-596-8350. Friday and Saturday, 6one9, classic rock.

Tommy's Italian Restaurant, 1190 North Second Street, El Cajon. 619-440-2676. Friday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Franco Z

Wagon Wheel, 8861 Magnolia Avenue, Santee. 619-448-8550. Live country music.

Calendar BANDS

ALTERNATIVE

The Affair: The Casbah

Animal Corpse: The Jumping Turtle Battalion of Saints: The Casbah Bedroom Walls: The Casbah

The Bigfellas: Ché Café

Blue Turtle Seduction: Winstons

The Burning of Rome: 710 Beach

The Castanets: The Casbah

The Color Turning: The Casbah

Rob Crow: The Casbah

Darkness Enthralled: The Jumping

Dee Ray: The Casbah

Dirty Madame: Dreamstreet

Division Day: The Casbah

Dynamite Walls: The Casbah

The Followers: The Kensington Club

The Grams: Lestat's, Winstons

Guggenheim Grotto: Lestat's Coffee

Gunfight: The Casbah

In Every Breath: Dreamstreet

Inberst: The Jumping Turtle

Itacha: 710 Beach Club

The Jade Shader: The Cashah

The Steph Johnson Band: Belly Up

Kavena: Dreamstreet

La Guerre de Mitaines: The

The Leperkhanz: 710 Beach Club



Maná, February 9 and 10, ipayOne Center

Magnolia Black: 710 Beach Club

Moxie: The Kensington Club Noiz: The Jumping Turtle

Pitch Michael: The Jumping Turtle Rafter: The Cashah

Reed: The Kensington Club

The Republic of Letters: The

S'Cool Girls: The Kensington Club

Six Reasons: Dreamstreet

Superunloader: O'Connell's Pub and

SweetSize: Xaviers Bar and Grill Swim Party: The Casbah

Teflon: Borders Books and Music (Gaslamp)

Thrill Razr: Dreamstreet

The True Crime Authors: The

The Tygers of Wrath: O'Connell's

Pub and Nightclub Underminded: Soma

Unknown Motive: Soma

The Vaginals: The Kensington Club

Vision of a Dying World: The

The Vision of a Dying World: The

White Apple Tree: Epicentre

Zosia: Lestat's Coffee House

ROCK

The American Hitmen: Dreamstreet

The Antiques: The Casbah

Avner: The Jumping Turtle

Brendan B. and the Illiterates:

The Brat Pack: Henry's Pub

The Scott Carter Duo: Dick's Last

Broke on Friday: O'Connell's Pub

The Big Dame Hunters: Brick By

The Big Provider: Belly Up Tavern

The Black Heart Warriors: Belly Up

Blasphemous Rumors: San Diego

Black Fag: Brick By Brick

CDM: 710 Beach Club

The Center: The Jumping Turtle

Chaotic Mess: The Jumping Turtle

The Cheap Leis: The Casbah

The Citizen Band: Humphrey's

The Clock Work Army: The Casbah

Create: Tio Leo's Lounge

The Cured: San Diego Sports Club

Da'Groove: Hennessey's Tavern

Dazed and Confused: Tiki House

De Sade: The Jumping Turtle

A Dead Giveaway: Soma

Dead Serial Killers: Brick By Brick

Devil Doll: Brick By Brick

DPI: 710 Beach Club

Drag the River: The Casbah

The Electric Waste Band: Winstons

Evidence: 'Canes

The Fall Guys: McP's Irish Pub and

Falling Face Forward: Epicentre

Faraway Boys: Brick By Brick

Filth Juggernaut: Brick By Brick

Final Warning: Ocean House

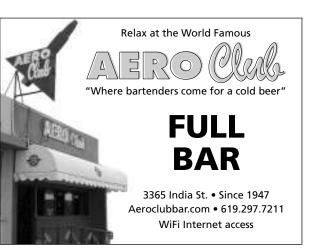
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ROCK

Flashburn: The Jumping Turtle The Gizzards: 710 Beach Club Grand Ole Party: Tower Bar

The Taylor Harvey Band: Don's

Hungover Tomorrow: The Jumping

Inhale: Surf N'Saddle

Invictus: Soma Lexington: 710 Beach Club Lower Definition: Soma The Mentors: The Jumping Turtle

The Monsters of Rock: The

The Muslims: Tower Bar Muzzle: Brick By Brick

The MLC Band: Carvers

Northstar: Coyote Bar and Grill Obstinate: The Jumping Turtle Duane Peters: The Casbah

Phat Daddy: Dirk's Niteclub Pierce the Veil: Soma Pig Champion: Brick By Brick

Private Domain: Dick's Last Resort

Radio Memphis: O'Connell's Pub

The Derren Raser Band: Lestat's

Red Pony Clock: The Casbah The Restless Natives: Covote Bar

Rockola: Humphrey's

Rokandy: The Kraken The Roman Spring: The Casbah **Sanu:** The Jumping Turtle Second 2 Last: Brick By Brick Serious Guise: Second Wind (San

Shiloh: Brick By Brick

Shockwave 4: Hennessey's Tavern

The Siers Brothers: Dick's Last

The Silvia Brothers: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclu

6one9: Second Wind (Santee) The Star Knights: Surf N'Saddle Staring at Strange: Brick By Brick Steal Dawn: Game Time Tavern

The Stilettos: Henry's Pub Stunt Double: The Jumping Turtle Surfing Socrates: Epicentre Sweet Tooth: O'Connell's Pub and

Tap Water: Winstons

Chris Torres: House of Blues Tropical Depression: O'Connell's

Pub and Nightclub The Truckee Brothers: Tower Bar

12 Cents: 710 Beach Club The Urbanomics: Epicentre The Vultures: Tower Bar

Wayside Loop: 710 Beach Club The Wild Bunch: Winston

The Wild Truth: O'Connell's Pub and

Willie Psycho: The Jumping Turtle

POP / TOP 40

PTrak Armenta: Pasquale on Prospect Gil Barron: Pasquale on Prospect

Jesse Davis: Buon Giorno Restaurant

Diva Soul: Jimmy Love's James East: Pasquale on Prospect

Mark Fulton: Pasquale on Prospect The Good Times: Henry's Pub

as i hear it

Artist: Luke Helms

Song: "Punch Me in the Eye" (from the CD Junkie)

Heard By: Jason Johnson, Ocean Beach



I could guess that they're influenced by Devendra Banhart. I liked the idea of it — I could see what they were trying to do. I think it was a poorly executed song. There was nobody keeping a straight tempo, and that's where I thought perhaps they were inspired by Devendra. Either they're imitating that [style] so well or they're just not very good. It sounds like some dude with a four-track who's learning the instruments. It's not worth listening to on purpose if you're sober.

SAN DIEGO SONGS TAKE THE STREET TEST

Artist: Johnny Different

Song: "Growin' Up" (from the CD Growin' Up)

Heard By: Jason Friesen, Ocean Beach



They obviously have their roots in punk, but they're trying to be a little mainstream. It reminded me kind of like an Unwritten Law lite or any kind of punk lite but without getting too mainstream like other bands these days. It's got a good melody, I guess. I'm kind of the guy who's always looking for new music — original music — and that wasn't very original. I definitely wouldn't buy it...I might download it. I could see [that song] pop up on some grade-B surf or skate film.

Artist: Darius Lux

Song: "The Great Unknown" (from the

CD Arise)

Heard By: David Turco, Ocean Beach



I kept thinking "Into the Great Wide Open" when I was hearing that song. so I guess [it's] along the lines of Tom Petty a little bit. I felt it was very overcoming, positive, uplifting. I didn't feel that the musicianship really set it apart; it was along the standard pop/rock lines. The words and the things he had to say were what caught me. [The music complements] a positive vibe or atmosphere that you have surrounding you.

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Jimmy Lavello: Dakota Grill and

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JAZZ / BIG BAND

Burnett Anderson: Cafe LaMaze Matt Barber: Borders Books and

The John Bennett Trio: The Calypso

Tom Bishop: Rancho Bernardo Inn John Borja: Borders Books and Music

Ray Briz: Hotel del Coronado

The B-3 Four: Vesuvio Gourmet

Sammy Canonizado: Cafe LaMaze Sandy Chappel: Cafe LaMaze

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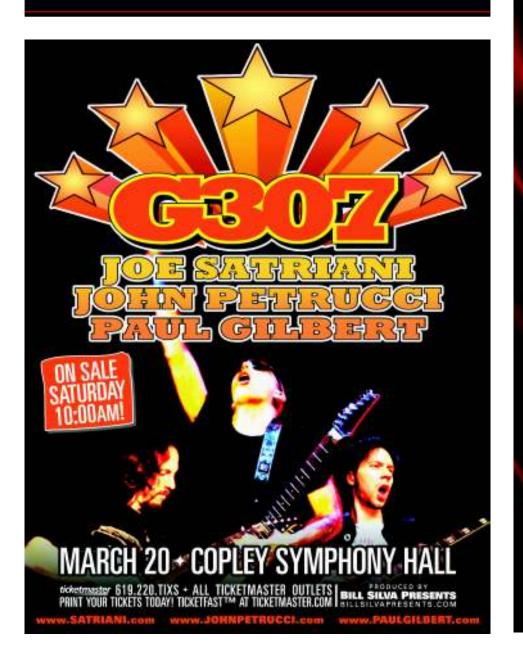
DJ/Dancing - Thurs.-Sat. 10 pm-2 am

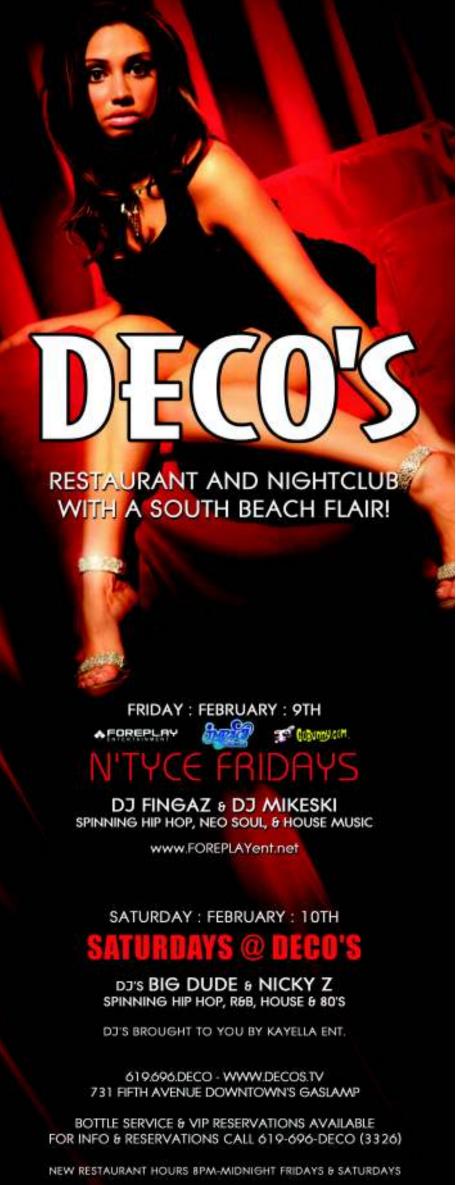
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San Diego Reader February 8, 2007

JAZZ / BIG BAND

The Downbeat Big Band: Dizzy's Eleanor England: Dizzy's

Nick Fiore: Pasquale on Prospec

The Forecast Jazz Duo: Tapenade

Franco Z and Friends: Tommy's

Karen Giorgio: The Westgate Hotel

John Guilino: Pasquale on Prospect

Cvnthia Hammond: Pasquale on

The High Society Jazz Band: Tio

Insight: Jimmy Love's

Keith Jacobsen: Lafavette Hotel

Barbara Jamerson: Hotel del

The Jazz 101 Band: Pasquale on Prospect

Jazzilla: Turquoise Cafe

The Jorge Camberos Quintet:

Chris Klich: Coyote Bar and Grill Dick Koenig: Cody's La Jolla

Tony Lasley: Hotel del Coronado Mark Lessman: Humphrey's

Barry Levich: La Valencia Hotel Stellita and Dave Lindgren: Hotel

Peggy Lloyd: Vesuvio Gourmet

Fran Loskota: The Westgate Hotel

The Joe Marillo Jazz Trio:

Masterpiece: Jimmy Love's Bryan McConnell: Dizzy's

Jerry Melnick: The Inn at Rancho

Shep Meyers: Dizzy's

The Shep Meyers Quartet: Croce's

Mikan and Friends: Buon Giorno

David Mosby: Vesuvio Gourmet

Mystique: Jimmy Love's

Mike Nelson: Medgrill, The Lodge at

Nils: Humphrey's

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Poncho Sanchez: Belly Up Tavern

Primo: Croce's Jazz Bar

The Victoria Rose Trio: Lucky Star

Rick Ross: La Valencia Hotel

Dave Scott: Pasquale on Prospect,

Robert Sebastini: Cafe LaMaze

The Speak Easy Jazz Quartet: Hot

Monkey Love Caf Tripp Sprague: Dizzy's

Stage 4: Buon Giorno Restaurant

Stefani Stevens: Cody's La Jolla

The Jaime Valle Quartet: Tutto

The Jaime Valle-Bob Magnusson Jazz Duo: Harry's Bar and American

Vintage Vegas: Martini's Bar and

Scott Wallingford: Cafe LaMaze

Willovealot: Thrusters

Yavez: Croce's Jazz Bar

REGGAE / SKA

Carbine: 'Canes

Common Sense: Belly Up Tavern

The Devastators: The Gordon

Elijah Emanuel and the Revelations: Belly Up Tavern

The Fabulous Rudies: Soma

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Luciano: 'Canes One Drop: 'Canes

Psydecar: Winstons

Rice Rokit: Soma

The Roots: House of Blues

The Skank Agents: Soma

The Stone Senses: 'Canes Stranger: Belly Up Tavern

When I Rise: 'Canes

COUNTRY

The California Rangers: McCabe's

Fishbait: Gaslamp Tavern

The Sundance Band: Renegade Inn

ACOUSTIC / FOLK

Tim Barry: The Casbah

J.D. Boucharde: Princess Pub and

Steve Brewer: Blarney Stone Pub. McP's Irish Pub and Grill

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The Donnis Trio: Ché Café, Belly Up

Annie Dru: Lestat's Coffee House

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Mike Gardner: Cheers, North Bar Sports and Spirits, Mas Fina Cantina

Drew Gasparini: 710 Beach Club,

Allison Gill: Blarney Stone Pub

Rob Grad: Twiggs Tea and Coffee

Taran Gray: Twiggs Tea and Coffee

Marie Haddad: Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad), Lestat's

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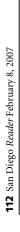
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Economical, and No Bad Acting

"In the age of the Internet, it's a small-scale way to keep in touch with the ancient art of story-telling."

READINGS

JEFF SMITH

round the turn of the century, a theatrical movement spread through San Diego that's still growing. Every company in the county, it seems, is doing staged readings. With only one or two rehearsals, three max, actors in

chairs, or behind music stands, read a play: no set, no props, and rarely costumes to define characters. And audiences — in droves — come to listen. Some even close their eyes.

There have probably been readings as long as there have been stages. Plays need a hearing before receiving a full production. In San Diego, the legendary Scripteasers has done public readings of new works since 1948 — and read an estimated 1200. Actors Alliance of San Diego has had an "On Book On Stage" forum for many years. But recently there's been a spike. I've asked some people involved in these projects to help me explain a local, and not a national, phenomenon.

READINGS ARE CHEAP, I. Theatrical productions have become so expensive that many plays cost too much to stage. Period pieces, especially those requiring large casts and detailed design work, are getting shoved aside. This is true of Renaissance classics — when was the last time

Music by RICHARD OBERACKER

Directed by STAFFORD ARIMA

Old Globe Theatre | NOW - FEB 18

you saw Dekker's *Shoemaker's Holiday*, or *The Changeling* by Middleton and Rowley, or John Ford's simpering tragedy, *The Broken Heart?*—as it is of Restoration comedy or the showcase pieces of '20s and '30s Broadway. But assemble

a cast, dress them in black, or civilian mufti, and they can present new, or rescue forgotten, works in an empty room.

READINGS ARE CHEAP, II. The cost of productions has raised ticket prices beyond what many theater lovers can afford. Staged readings, on average, charge between \$5 and \$15 per performance, most of which becomes a stipend for the actors.

One benefit, says T.J. Johnson, artistic director of San Diego Black Ensemble Theatre, is audience development: readings "increase the visibility of the theater. We can't afford a high-quality production, so we do high-quality readings." (One of the hottest tickets in town right now: SD Black Ensemble's doing five plays in August Wilson's cycle; at a recent *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* performance, they had to turn away 40 people and are urging audiences to order tickets in advance — for a staged reading, mind you — for *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*.)

AN AURA OF FORGIVENESS. Critics don't

and sons and pays tribute to the

achievements and sacrifices made by

aviation heroes of World War I and II.

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T.I. Iohnson

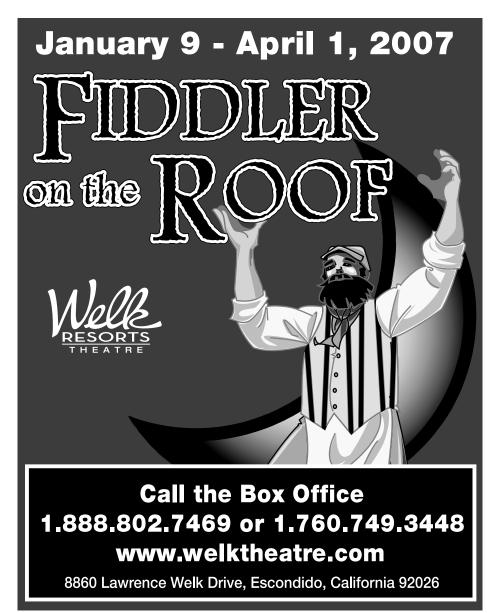
review them, and no one expects perfection from actors having a couple of rehearsals and going on. "People don't mind if things are still in flux," says Shirley Fishman; "they understand the work is in process." Fishman is dramaturge of the La Jolla Playhouse, whose Page to Stage series has produced two of the most acclaimed productions — Doug Wright's *I Am My Own Wife*, and Billy Crystal's *700 Sundays* — in the last decade. Unlike other readings, Page to Stage often has two to three weeks of rehearsal and a week or two

of performances. These workshops, says Fishman, "involve people in the artistic process of theater, in which the work is changing over time. They see how the new script develops and how each has different issues the playwright needs to address."

Most readings use a "play what you find" approach. Actors make discoveries and choices on the spot. A tone will evolve, or they'll suddenly discover a deeper connection with another character. These surprises, glints of recognition, lie



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at the heart of the creative process

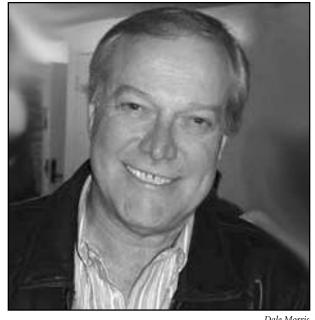
SURE, HOMER NODS. Some attempts fizzle. Everyone admits that. Dale Morris, whose 6th@Penn Theatre may have produced the most readings in the last five years, says there will occasionally be "clunkers where people count the pages. You know, looking at the script to see how thick it is - and watching it slowly get thinner."

Many of the least successful attempts, says Morris, happen when a reading gets too busy, overproduced with "elaborate staging.'

T.J. Johnson agrees: "I think people enjoy the lack of bad acting. In readings actors generally don't have the opportunity to go over the top. We want to be storytellers and not get in the way of the audience's experience of the author.'

One of the most successful series to date ranks among the most minimal. Linda Castro and David S. Cohen wanted to read rarely performed Greek drama. They joined with Morris at 6th@Penn and began Grassroots Greeks in 2002, approaching each play as if at a first rehearsal. Wrote David S. Cohen at the time, the popularity of the series "surprised us: our choice of method was pragmatic but, we've discovered, also effective." Grassroots Greeks may have spawned the staged reading movement in San Diego.

READINGS...A CHANCE



Dale Morris

TO AUDITION. Not just for Murray and Cygnet also actors. Two weeks ago, Cygnet plan "satellite" readings: when Theatre "read" Stephen Sondthey stage Thornton Wilder's heim's rarely produced musical Matchmaker, they will also read A Little Night Music. Over 300 his Our Town, to give audiences a fuller sense of the playwright people attended the benefit. Artistic director Sean Murray and his themes; when staging Eugene O'Neill's Desire under literally auditioned the piece. He wanted to hear the songs the Elms, they will read another and voices of his cast but also of his plays, possibly The Iceto "see it in the space, how peoman Cometh. ple come and go" and see if a EXERCISE THE IMAGI-

staging at Cygnet were possible.

Night Music as part of its

2007-2008 season, along with

August Wilson's Fences, which

SD Black Ensemble's recent

reading convinced Murray that

It is. Cygnet will produce

NATION. Readings range from "cold," first-time looks to Page to Stage. But most have just a few rehearsals. Jack Missett, of the Carlsbad Playreaders, encourages directors to avoid props, costumes, and "too much narration" but, unlike



others, likes to add sound effects and music. They make the show "like a radio broadcast" that encourages audiences, as the Prologue to Henry V says, "to piece out our imperfections with your thoughts.

"In the age of the Internet," Missett adds, "it's a small-scale way to keep in touch with the ancient art of storytelling in a room with other people who still seek the shared experience."

As with Cygnet's Night Music, a Playreaders' presentation of Beth Henley's Crimes of the Heart has led to a full production by New Village Arts, which will give John Patrick Shanley's Doubt a test-read later this year.

THE BOTTOM LINE, OR LINES. Staged readings usually take place on "dark nights" -Mondays, most often — and have become so popular that T.J. Johnson suggests a "calendar of readings so we don't have too many in one night.'

When Linda Castro began the Grassroots Greeks series, her bottom line was: "actors would exercise their acting and emotional skills, even if an audience never showed up."

But they did, and have. Why? Castro points to the intimacy of a reading and to the question-and-answer sessions — with the director and cast and sometimes other

experts on the subject — that often follow. These add, she says, to the "connection and communal feel of the event. One of the reasons they come. I think, is to have a conversation about it - like actors' tablework, but a public exploration.'

People come to the theater to be spectators (to see) and to be an audience (to hear). Plays are written for both, says Shirley Fishman, "positions in the space, clothing, atmosphere all are important. But there's also a hunger for wonderful language that's very real. And staged readings have that appeal. They create a space where language comes alive and makes itself at home." ■

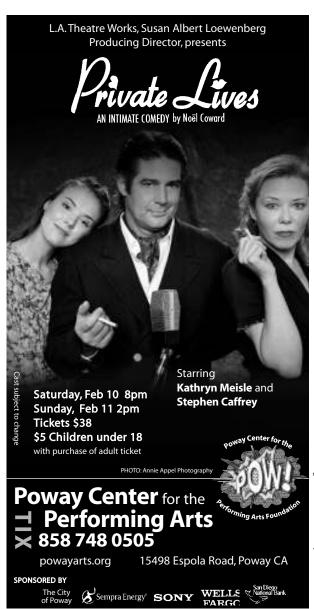
THEATER LISTINGS

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

One of the unwritten rules of theater: never let the audience get ahead of the story. If they can anticipate where you're going, you've lost them. Ace, a musical about flying and lost children and inept







San Diego Reader February 8, 2007

mothers, tells two stories, but they're the same story told twice. Fathers fly and die. Their sons grow up to be pilots. The musical depicts life-shattering events but never takes them beyond the generic - and manipulates them for easy emotions. Richard Oberacker's music's on a launching pad: rocketing into the upper registers at full volume. One number like this would be stirring ("I Know It Can Be Done," sung with Power of Positive Thinking conviction by Darren Ritchie, for example). But every song rages to uplift with epic feelings. The auditory overload's so pummeling you may not notice, in the end, that Ace has resolved almost every contradiction in the known universe. In the midst of the din, possibly because he's doing the opposite, young Noah Galvin gives a mesmerizing performance as Billy, identity-seeking foster child. Ace wants to engulf its audience. Galvin brings them in, with subtle facial expressions and minimal body language. He's genuinely confused and hurt (having to wear red Converse All-Star sneakers in 1952, when they didn't exist, would confuse ANYONE!). You'd think that a musical about the early decades of flight would have vivid theatrical representations of its subject. But when pilots take to the skies, director Stafford Arima and choreographer Andrew Palermo ground them with unimaginative miming: running in circles, crouching and turning, pumping their hands for machine guns like kids playing in the back yard. OLD GLOBE THEATRE, SIMON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS. BALBOA PARK, THROUGH FEBRUARY 18; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-234-5623

Brooklyn Boy

San Diego Repertory Theatre presents Donald Margulies's "comedy with serious undertones" that asks the question: What can happen if a dream comes true? Todd Salovey

SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA DOWNTOWN FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9, THROUGH MARCH 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.

Celebrities on Stage

The Edwards Twins do impersonations of popular figures, including Billy Joel, Bette Midler, Cher, Elton John, and Barbra. LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, THROUGH FEBRUARY 11; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUN DAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT

2:00 P.M. 619-544-1000 Crimes of the Heart

New Village Arts Theatre begins its new season with Beth Henley's Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy about three sisters "betrayed by their passions." Dana Case directed. NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, STUDIO

SPACE AT JAZZERCIZE, 2460 IMPALA DRIVE, CARLSBAD, SATURDAY, FEBRU-ARY 10. THROUGH MARCH 18 (NOTE: CRIMES OF THE HEART WILL RUN IN REPERTORY WITH ANTON CHEKHOV'S THREE SISTERS); THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 760-433-3245.

Dracula

Coronado Playhouse presents Bram Stoker's classic about the blood-hungry Count. James Gary Byrd directed. The production features an original score by Eric Scot Frvdler.

CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, THROUGH FEBRUARY 24; THURS-DAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M 619-435-4856.

Fences

Due to popular demand, the San Diego Black Ensemble and Cygnet Theatre present a reprise of their staged reading of August Wilson's drama about a baseball player (who resembles the great Josh Gibson) after his playing days are done. CITY HEIGHTS PERFORMANCE ANNEX. 3795 FAIRMONT AVENUE, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, AT 2:00 P.M. 619-641-6123

Fiddler on the Roof

The Welk Resort Theatre stages the popular musical about tradition and Tevye, a dairyman in the Russian village of Anateulea. WELK RESORT THEATRE. THROUGH APRIL 1: TUESDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, AND SUNDAY, AT 1:45 P.M. 760-749-3448.

The Four of Us

The Old Globe Theatre presents the world premiere of Itamar Moses' comedy about a playwright and a novelist. They are friends, until one enjoys success. Pam MacKinnon di-

CASSIUS CARTER CENTRE STAGE, SIMON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, BALBOA PARK, THURSDAY, FEBRU-ARY 8, THROUGH MARCH 11; SUNDAY, TUESDAY, AND WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 P.M. THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUN-DAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-234-5623.



Robert Levine and James Newcomb in Brooklyn Boy

Glengary Glen Ross

6th@Penn Theatre stages David Mamet's Pulitzer Prize-winner about the Darwinian world of sales Jerry Pilato directed. 6TH@PENN THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AV-ENUE, HILLCREST, FRIDAY, FEBRU-ARY 9, THROUGH MARCH 18; THURS DAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-688-9210.

Happy Endings Are Extra

Gabriel and fiancée Chantelle have an "open" relationship. He says his dalliance is "just sex." She sees sex as an act of love and tries to repress feelings of betrayal. Then she entertains fantasies and he makes a fatal mistake: he falls in obsessive love with teenage Chris, his favorite "rent boy." In Happy Endings Are Extra (the title refers to having more than a rubdown in a massage parlor), Ashraf Johaardian explores psychological boundaries in post-Apartheid, white South Africa. The play wants to be Harold Pinterlike, but Johaardian writes like a novelist new to drama: monologues overexplain the obvious, and the dramatic confrontations slump from predictably stock dialogue. Diversionary Theatre's production values (flowing curtains and scrim, penumbral lighting, a fine repressed-rage performance by Claudio Raygoza as Gabriel) are worthy of Pinter. And when it glances at open relationships, and how some partners prefer a larger aperture than others, the play has

www.MysteryCafe.net

interest. But Happy Endings concludes with a boffo surprise — call it reverse child abuse - and the script leaps into melodrama, buoyed by Madame Butterfly's Puccini-drenched hara kiri. The ending's a kicker, but it raises nagging M Butterfly questions about Gabriel's inability to make connections or see what's slowly become obvious.

DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BOULEVARD, UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 11; THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M., FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-220-0097.

Hay Fever

Moonlight Stage productions presents Noel Coward's stylish comedy about an ornately theatrical family, based on a visit to the home of Laurette Taylor. AVO PLAYHOUSE, 303 MAIN STREET, VISTA, THROUGH FEBRUARY 18: THURS-DAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 7:30 P M MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 760-724-2110

The Importance of Being Earnest

OnStage Playhouse presents a contemporary adaptation (set in Manhattan and the Hamptons) of Oscar Wilde's popular comedy. ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AV-ENUE, CHULA VISTA, THROUGH FEBRU ARY 10: THURSDAY THROUGH SATUR-DAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-422-7787

Joey and Maria's Comedy

Italian Wedding

Joey and Maria tie the knot in

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Life Is a Dream

South Coast Repertory Theatre presents Nilo Cruz's new adaptation of Pedro Calderón de la Barca's 17th-Century reverie about a banished prince and enigmas within enigmas. Kate Whoriskey

SOUTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE. SEGERSTROM STAGE, FOLINO THEATRE CENTER, 655 TOWN CENTER DRIVE, COSTA MESA, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9. THROUGH MARCH 11; SUNDAY AND TUESDAY AT 7:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:30 P.M. 714-708-5555

Master Harold and the Boys

To commemorate Black History Month, Community Actors Theatre stages Athol Fugard's awardwinning drama about the human cost of apartheid. COMMUNITY ACTORS THEATRE, 2957 54TH STREET, OAK PARK, THROUGH FEBRUARY 25: THURSDAY AT 7:00 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 3:00 P.M

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Jonathan McMurtry's excellent

performance in Eugene O'Neill's

in Romeo and Iuliet. McMurtry plays the pugnacious Phil Hogan,

crabby drunk and father of Josie

and three abandoned sons. Like

Mercutio, as long as McMurtry's

duction's funny and brimming

with life. McMurtry makes the

other actors - especially Karla

Josie — better and has great sport

giving Richard Baird's T. Stedman

Harder, pompous aristo, his come-

leaves the stage for the crucial third

September moonlight, the produc-

tion falls flat. Kash seems to shrink

and David Anthony Smith's hale

and dapper Tyrone doesn't even

approach the dissipation of a man

with "one foot in the grave from

effort — one word or gesture at a

fluid sorrow of the character based

on O'Neill's drunken, guilt-cruci-

asked for a run-down, rock-strewn

farm, and Marty Burnett delivers,

time - and never captures the

fied brother, James Ir. O'Neill

as do costumer Jeanne Reith's

consistently awkward lighting,

faded cottons. Michael Paolini's

however, casts actors' shadows on

Burnett's blue sky and, to frame a

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scene dramatically, jumps from

sunshine to darkness in a jiff.

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whiskey." Smith gives a rigid, linear

act, in which Josie and Jamie Ty-

rone slowly form a pieta in the

uppance. But when McMurtry

Kash's otherwise unassertive

onstage the North Coast Rep's pro-

Improvisational 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 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," "Shake-speare," "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,



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Night Watch

Poway Performing Arts Company stages Lucille Fletcher's suspense thriller in which Elaine Wheeler sees dead people in an empty chair. Sherrie Coburn directed. POWPAC THEATER, 13250 POWAY ROAD (UPSTAIRS IN THE LIVELY CEN-TER), POWAY, THROUGH FEBRUARY 11: FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 858-679-8085

Private Lives

Powav Center for the Performing Arts hosts a touring production, by L.A. Theatre Works, of Noel Coward's "intimate comedy," staged like an old-time radio serial.

POWAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 15498 ESPOLA ROAD, POWAY, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 858-748-0505.

Readings of August Wilson's Plays: Joe Turner's Come and Gone

The San Diego Black Ensemble and Cygnet Theatre could do for the late August Wilson what "Grassroots Greeks" did for ancient Greek drama in San Diego. The companies present a series of staged readings of one of the American theater's rarely performed but most important playwrights. Twice winner of the Pulitzer Prize (for Fences in 1987 and The Piano Lesson in 1990), Wilson wrote a cycle of dramas that probe the African-American experience through the decades of the 20th Century (he concentrated, he said, on the "largest idea that confronted blacks in each decade"). The readings will also be staged at the Performance Annex in City Heights and other locations. The series will culminate in a week-long staged reading festival of all the plays at Cygnet in June 2007. Next offering: 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 LO-CATIONS, 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 BOULE-VARD (BETWEEN 68TH AND 69TH), COL-LEGE AREA, FRIDAY AT 7:45 P.M. SAT-URDAY AT 7:45 P.M. AND 9:45 P.M. 619-465-7469

The Secret Garden There's "something wrong inside" Misselthwaite Manor, where the midnight wind goes "wuthering." Everything, not just Master Archibald's large garden, is walled off. Nothing dares to bloom. Francis Hodgson Burnett's 1911 novel joins a survivor, young Mary Lennox, with imaginary invalid Colin; they circumvent the rules of their elders and banish gloom. Lamb's Players' production, of the musical adaptation, begins and ends with Deborah Gilmour Smyth's bell-clear singing voice, like a radiant candle in darkness, inviting us to "Come to My Garden." Smyth sets a tone of enchantment that makes it easier to overlook a somewhat lumpy book (and what feels like four "11th hour" numbers when the climax beckons). Strong voices run throughout the cast: David S. Humphrey's hunchbacked Archibald, Randall Dodge's quasivillainous Neville, and Mike Buckley's Albert. That's the same Mike Buckley who designs sets for Lamb's and has done a beautiful job here - pointed gothic windows, roseate, see-through screens (which allow the play's chorus of "Dreamers," who may be ghosts, to waft in and out). As has Nathan Pierson's evanescent, gobo-rich lighting, Jeanne Reith's costumes, and a sharp five-piece band. Director Robert Smyth gives the evening a gentle flow (having scene-changers often exit down steps centerstage is a brilliant idea; like the ghosts, they just disappear). Smyth also had the smarts to encourage a leavening effect: to prevent the evening from becom-

Worth a try.

LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 OR-ANGE AVENUE, CORONADO, THROUGH MARCH 11; TUESDAY THROUGH THURS-DAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATUR-DAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AT 4:00 P.M. AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M 619-437-0600.

ing too breathless, young perform-

Austyn Myers (Colin) play bicker

ers Allie Trimm (Mary) and

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HOLIDAY INN ON THE BAY, 1355 NORTH HARBOR DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, OPEN-ENDED RUN: SELECTED SATURDAYS AT 7:30 P.M. 800-944-5639.

Sunday in the Park with George

Applauz Theatre presents a musical stage reading of Stephen Sondheim's story of a painting, Georges Seurat's La Grande Jatte, come to

APPLAUZ THEATRE, 450 FLETCHER PARKWAY, SUITE 201 (ACROSS FROM PARKWAY PLAZA MALL). EL CAJON. THROUGH FEBRUARY 11; THURSDAY AND SUNDAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-440-6714.

Triple Espresso: A Highly **Caffeinated Comedy**

Hugh Butternutt's done his lounge act at the Triple Espresso Coffeehouse 20 years to the day. While patrons sip a house blend -"Grape," [«]Scandinavian Blizzard," or "Mokoko Cocoa Mocha" Hugh plays '70s tunes on the piano. He and his companions, here to celebrate Hugh's anniversary, got stuck in the '70s. The trio used to be Maxwell, Butternutt, and Bean, a comedy group that never went far. They're "losers," they admit, but not "ordinary" ones. And, hey, their reunion could help them face searing issues from their mediocre pasts. A formulaic story line? Yep. Straight from Forever Plaid. There's also the Forever Plaid problem: the three comedians are far too talented to play inept characters. One's a whiz at the piano. Another's a first-rate mime, and the third's a crackerjack magician. The trio is so talented, when the plot has them complain of difficulties to overcome, you wish they'd quit trumping up the pseudodrama 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 THURS-DAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SATURDAY AT 5:00 AND 8:00 P.M. SUN-DAY AT 3:00 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M. 619-234-9583.

Twelfth Night

UCSD Theatre and Dance stages Shakespeare's "festive" comedy of mistaken identities, carousing, and well-deserved comeuppances Sarah Rasmussen directed. MANDELL WEISS FORUM, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DRIVE, FRIDAY, FEBRU-ARY 9, THROUGH FEBRUARY 17; THURS-DAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10 AT 2:00 P.M. 858-534-4574.

Win. Place, or Die...Mv Jockevs Are Killing Me!

Mystery Cafe Dinner Theatre presents James Pascarella and Patricia Harris-Smith's interactive "racetrack 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.

Yellowman

"I don't want to let anyone off the hook," playwright/poet Dael Orlandersmith said in an interview. Her drama looks at "internal racism," the rift between light- and dark-skinned African-Americans, and shows that "the people who have been enslaved" have taken on 'the very bias that's been done to us." Yellowman follows the lives, and love, of Alma, a large, dark woman, and Eugene, a "high yellow" (light-skinned) man. The play moves from their childhood to the promise of marriage. Throughout they encounter differences of skin that encircle, and eventually destroy, their bond. Orlandersmith writes a tough poetry that never sounds "poetic" or preachy and weaves scenes solely from words not stage directions. For Cygnet Theatre, talented director Esther Emery and a crack design team build visual pictures and move-

ment from the language (Nick Fouch's set, a beige wall of corrugated tin and brick, has a wide slash across the center, within which Eric Lotze's lighting blazes South Carolina sunshine and NYC cold). Everything, including Veronica Murphy's subtle costumes and George Ye's equally subtle sounds, enhances the text. The playwright might object that Monique Gaffney and Mark Broadnax are much younger than the ages she asks for (Alma's supposed to be around 40, Eugene, 45) but couldn't object to their fine performances. Each plays several characters, vividly, and traces the growth of Alma and Eugene with exactitude. The result resembles Greek tragedy: how the sins, or in this case the prejudices, of the fathers can ruin not just the innocence. but also the very lives, of the young.

Critic's pick.

CYGNET THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, COLLEGE AREA, THROUGH FEBRUARY 11; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-337-1525.

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Diego Reader February 8, 2007



Bread, Wine, and Marrow

I've always wanted to try Osteria Panevino, and when my hometown friends Robert and Gail blew through just after New Year's, they furnished a perfect excuse. When we first met, they'd just returned from several years' residence in Rome, where Robert composed electronic music and Gail taught ESL. Robert (a computer musician turned computer magician) recently took on a once-a-month side gig as a restaurant critic for the *SF Weekly*. Choosing a place to meet for dinner, I decided to take advantage of the couple's expertise in Italian cuisine. Panevino's convenience to their hotel cinched the deal.

I also suspected that Panevino might be a decent possibility for upcoming Valentine's Day, with a lighthearted, romantic ambiance and warm Italian service — and, it turns out, menu prices steep enough (about \$75 per person for three courses, plus beverages and tax) to demonstrate that you can support your sweetie in the style to which s/he'd like to be accustomed. My friends were astounded: "In San Francisco," Robert said, "there are so many high-end Italian restaurants coming in, there's too much competition for them to charge anything like this."

Osteria Panevino means "inn of bread-wine," the quintessence of the Italian table. It was the first restaurant venture (back when the Gaslamp was still a bit raunchy) of the group that now includes Greystone (the steakhouse) and Osetra (the glitzy Vegas-style fusionista seafood house), both in the same neighborhood, and with even higher prices. Initially, Panevino may have been just another Gaslamp Italian, but over time it gained a lasting reputation for excellent food — and gradually, the prices rose to exceed those of its cognates in "upscale" San Francisco.

The dining room, in a historic building, is faux rustic and faintly kitschy, with a long, antique wooden bar, brick walls, and colorful murals of Italian rural scenes. But don't look for red-checked napkins and Chianti-bottle candles — the tables are formally covered with white linen cloths. The walls are lined with comfortable banquettes. Panevino's pizzas used to draw raves and are still shown in the website's video feature, but the ovens were recently removed to make space for more banquettes.



NAOMI WISE

We decided on a classic family-style Italian dinner — antipasti (appetizers), a shared pasta course (a *primo*), and entrées (*secondi*). The best of our appetizers was a *fritto misto* (mixed fry) of calamari, shrimp, zucchini, and artichokes,

garnished with arugula. The batter was medium-light, the textures and flavors interestingly varied. The creamy sauce spiked with coarse mustard (like an ec-

centric tartar sauce) held our interest, complementing the calamari especially.

Mozzarella Campagnola features "home-made mozzarella," which proved similar to the *mozzarella fresca* sold at better supermarkets — not that there's anything wrong with that. It comes with succulent, herbal, house-marinated artichoke slices, roasted red and gold peppers, and a few cremini mushroom caps, all dressed in extra-virgin olive oil. A pinch of salt from the table shaker gave the dish the final spark it needed.

Funghi Ripieni, large cremini mushroom caps stuffed with crabmeat filling, are served atop a sea of thin, gentle, herbed sauce. The stuffing is a bit dry, but if you upend the caps into the sauce for a second, life returns. The sauce is also a delicious dip for the first round of bread — puffy squares of focaccia. (The second round are slices of dense Italian bread of the

sort sold at Little Italy's Solunto's Bakery.)

Carpaccio Traditionale offers thin slices of raw filet mignon topped with arugula and sliced

Parmesan. The dish included a lot of greenery with a tasty dressing but only a little beef. "This is not really *traditionale*," said Gail. "I was expecting a plate of meat, not a salad."

When we told our waitress we meant to share a pasta course, she suggested one specifically designed for a foursome — a trio of housemade ravioli, each available on the menu separately. (She didn't mention that the price would be \$60, which seems a bit out of line. The menu includes plenty of shareable pastas of at least equal interest for a third that price.) Each of us received a small plate with one raviolo of each type. One was stuffed with spinach and ricotta in a creamy wild-mushroom sauce.

Osteria Panevino ★★★ (Very Good)

7232 Fifth Avenue (between F and G Streets) Gaslamp Quarter, 619-595-7959 www.osteriapanevino.com

HOURS: Daily, lunch 11:20 a.m.—4:00 p.m., dinner 4:00–11:00 p.m. (midnight on weekends). **PRICES:** Appetizers, salads, and soups, \$6.50–\$17; pastas and risotti, \$18–\$30; entrées, \$21–\$36. Desserts \$7

CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: Upscale Italian cuisine from a long, enticing menu. Mainly Italian plus California wine list, with fine choices at all price ranges. Ample choices by the glass.

PICK HITS: Mozzarella campagnola, *fritto misto*, ravioli D'Agnello, osso bucco

NEED TO KNOW: Valet parking (price varies). Actual menu is shorter than website menu. Pizzas no longer served. Sound level lively on weeknights, may be loud on weekends.

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

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

One was filled with lobster, shrimp, and zucchini in a light, creamy tomato sauce, sweetened with carrots. And, best of all, one was filled with ground lamb, with a wild-mushroom sauce spiked with fresh rosemary. All were tasty, and the lamb ravioli were haunting, with their pairing of rich meat and the piney herb. The skins weren't thin but were well enough cooked to be silky.

As is so common at restaurants, the best of our meal was now behind us — except for a superb entrée of osso bucco Milanese, braised veal shanks. "Look at this!" said Robert: The Goliath-size hunk of meat arrived with a dainty fork inserted into the marrowbone to extract the seductive contents. Half the fun of eating a shank is enjoying the rich, fatty marrow, and Osteria made it easy to do this with manners and dignity intact. The marrow was soft, not





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- Naomi Wise, San Diego Reader, 2006

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*Offers not available for lunch specials or delivery. Dine-in only One coupon per party. Not valid with any other offer. dried out by overcooking, and the meat was fork-tender. It sat atop a bed of salty saffron risotto with flawless firm-soft texture. Robert added a lot of Parmesan, which only made it tastier — and also indicated that the cheese had been freshly ground.

In Gamberoni Ripieni, prawns are stuffed with crab, scallops, and rock shrimp and also, all too apparently, with a lot of bread crumbs, which dominate and flatten the seafood flavors. The overall effect was vaguely "nice," so that even as you chewed, you forgot what you were eating. The asparagus risotto served with it was not a bed but a tall cliff, a free-standing wall of rice - untraditional but tasty. Underneath was a pleasantly tart white wine reduction.

Saltimbocca proved another divergence from tradition. The name means "jumps in the mouth," referring to little packets of veal scallop wrapped around prosciutto, mozzarella, and sage. Here, the lightly breaded scallop pieces were flat, topped with the garnishes, and robed with a sherry wine sauce, all served over spinach. The veal was routine. Rather than jumping into our mouths, we had to convey it there with silverware.

The most serious disappointment was the bistecca Fiorentina, a "Tuscan-style" 24-ounce boneless rib-eye steak. This was our most costly entrée and should have been a stem-winder, so it deserves a little extra, uh, rant. "In Italy, the justly famous bistecca a la fiorentina is nothing more than a thick Porterhouse steak generously seasoned with salt and pepper, rubbed with extra-virgin olive oil, and grilled over hardwood coals, preferably olive wood," writes my old friend Bruce Aidells in his Complete Meat Cookbook. "What makes the steak so wonderful is the exquisitely tender and very flavorful Chianina beef, which is usually cooked blood-rare." Eat one of these in Florence, as I did some 20 years ago, and you'll always want another. To reproduce the dish here, Bruce suggests buying a thick, "at least USDA Choice" steak and marinating it in garlic and olive oil for two days.

I didn't mind the substitution of rib-eye for porterhouse rib-eye is usually the most "beefy" tasting American steak cut. But given that Panevino is a sister to Greystone, I expected outstanding meat, not a routine slab of bovine protein. (The Turf Club's garlic-marinated rib-eye comes closer to the Tuscan recipe at a third of the price, even if you do have to grill it yourself.) Our steak was big but not good. The meat had gristly edges and lacked the depth and carnivorous vibrancy that comes with rich marbling and careful aging. "It tastes like week-old dead cow," said Robert. "It doesn't seem like it had much aging, and it's too tough to be one of the higher grades — I'd guess maybe bottom of the Choice at best." Most of the beef came home with me, and I had the chance over several lunches to marvel at its mediocrity. It came with oven-roasted potatoes and a barely noticeable

veggie medley. (In Florence it would have been white beans, spinach, and those same potatoes.)

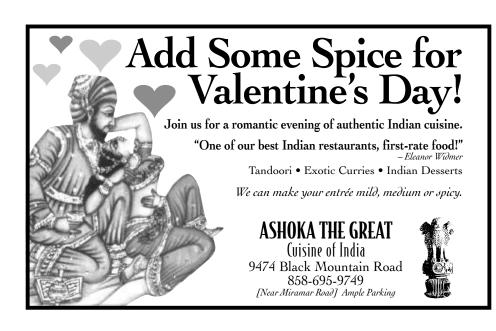
I could not verify the grade of beef because the chef, bicycling between restaurants, was unavailable for several calls before my deadline. I learned from Panevino's hostess that the well-regarded Giacomo Serafini was no longer there and that there was no on-site chef de cuisine who could discuss the food, merely "cooks." Executive chef Alberto Morealle now oversees all three restaurants in the group. He does visit Panevino regularly, but his office is at Osetra. This may explain some of our disappointments and my overall sense that Panevino is no longer fully living up to its glowing reputation. The food is still, mind you, very good but not the "four stars and heavenly music" that I'd hoped for.

My one fear before going was that the service staff might resemble those at sister restaurants Greystone and Osetra, where some of the waiters seem to be auditioning to play goombahs in a remake of

Goodfellas or The Godfather, Part XIII. (Oy, everybody's an actor!) Here, instead, they are Italians from Italy (not Mulberry Street), and they are charming, accommodating, eager to help you enjoy your evening. The wine list offers a clutch of exorbitant Super-Tuscans but also some great bottles at reasonable prices. Robert and I unanimously zeroed in on Sicily's delightful Lachryma Christi to accompany our first course, and he chose an enjoyable, modest Italian Felluga Merlot for our

Did we want dessert? We relented when our waitress told us that the cannoli are made by "an old Sicilian guy who lives in Little Italy." I hoped they'd resemble the superb cannoli that I used to buy from another "old Sicilian guy" at a bakery across the street when I lived in Little Italy, Manhattan. The shells served at Panevino were indeed excellent - crisp, dark, and fresh, with none of that refrigerator taste that spoils so many local cannoli. But the filling was too heavy, too rich, too sweet, not the barely sweetened pouf of ricotta, orange peel, and bittersweet chocolate bits that I grew up on. We also tried a lemon torta, which proved an amiable piece of lemon cake — soft, moist, creamy.

Getting back to the Valentine's Day issue: Choosing an Italian restaurant isn't a bad idea, considering how hard it can be to get a reservation for the usual California-French big-name suspects if you haven't done it by now. And there's nothing wrong with enjoying a little sensual carbo-loading on decadent pastas, or feeding each other nibbles of exquisite veal marrow - nearly as sexy as raw oysters. Other gala Italian possibilities are De Medici (Gaslamp Quarter, specializing in seafood), the superb Primavera (Coronado), Sante (La Jolla), Osteria Pescatore (seafood, Del Mar), Firenze (Encinitas), and high-end Vivace (Carlsbad). Or you can skip the marrow and the restaurant and go straight to the oysters, as my partner and I always used to do for Valentine's — buy a dozen or two fresh, make a light sauce, pry 'em open, and let the good times roll. ■











Frenchman's Tacos

Guess it's a macho thing, like I have to match-o Gustavo to show I ain't no lily-livered gringo afraid to eat tongue.

ED BEDFORD

he tongues. I can see them, maybe ten of them, foot-long lumps under the red-andwhite checkered cloth.

Cisco the cook flaps the cloth open, pulls a tongue out, plonks it on the chopping block. Chop

chop chop. Then under the cloth the surviving bit goes. Chop chop chop. The rest ends up as little

Some are gonna make my first-ever cow-tongue quesadilla. I've had tongue tacos, but now we're crossing new frontiers in my campaign: learning to love la lengua.

We're at Playas de Tijuana, half a mile south of the bullring, maybe a block from the sea. Not that I can see the sea. It's 8:00 at night. I just got here by the yellow-and-white communal taxi (\$1.00 for the ride over the hills from downtown TJ: what's wrong with that?). I'm looking for "the best tacos in Tijuana." That's what Héctor, a friend of Hank's, called Tacos El Francés ("Frenchman's Tacos"), this way-big open-fronted place with a bent Eiffel Tower as the "A" in "El Francés.'

I saw plenty of other taco joints, of course. The small, fluorescent-lit "Tacos El Poblano" across the road from El Francés looked sad and empty. Its three cooks gazed longingly over at the buzz of people hanging around El Francés's creamy, wide building. Heck, I almost went inside El Poblano, just to help them out.

But no. Later, I'll have to face Héctor 'n Hank and make a report. Soon I'm over the road, swinging my buns aboard a stool at the red counter. Chop chop chop. Smells of pork and cilantro. Huge spit of flaked, red-skinned pork rotates in front of roaring gas flames. Ceiling of brick arches ripples back like waves. Walls of red-and-white

checkered tile surround the open kitchen (all of us counter-customers sit facing the kitchen). Red-rimmed tables with wooden park-bench seats inside, and white plastic seats outside, make for a lot of seating. And there's plenty of customers chowing down -

yet the place is still only half full. "Just wait," says this guy sitting on my left. "Mexicans eat later. In an hour it will be packed." Name's Gustavo. He chomps into a quesadilla, a large corn tortilla covered with cheese and...

Tongue," he says. "They're famous for tongue. About three dollars. Everything here's a little more expensive, but it's worth it.

I look for a menu, but it turns out there are none. "Here," says Marie, a cute waitress in a blue smock. She shows me her "comanda," her order book. It has nine food items listed. Tacos, mostly: asada, adobada (pork), cabeza (cow's head), suadero (a kind of steakette of meat from the breastbone), tripitas (tripe), and lengua (tongue), all 12.50 in plata (pesos), say, \$1.15 in oro (dollars) — except for tongue, which is 13.50 (\$1.25). Quesadillas naturales (no meat) are 17 pesos (\$1.50). Add meat (like pork, beef, tongue) and they're 32 pesos (say, \$3.00). And then there're the mules ("donkeys"), which Gustavo says are

quesadillas with another cheese-grilled corn tortilla on top. But hey, they're the same price (\$3.00).

So, decision time. Guess it's a macho thing. like I have to match-o Gustavo to show I ain't no lily-livered gringo afraid to eat tongue. "I'll have what he's having," I say.

Cisco hauls out that tongue. Chop chop chop. Sonia the tortilla lady starts squishing out more dough-balls.

'So, is it, like, French-style?" I ask.

"No," says Cisco. " 'El Francés' was just a nickname they gave to the owner, Javier. He started this up 25 years ago."

There are a lot of middle-class people living in Playas," says Gustavo. "They like this place.' Gustavo's living proof, sort of. He's a refrigeration and AC technician. Comes down from San Diego to visit Carmen, the gal next to him. She lives right here in Playas. Then this suavely dressed lady comes in and sets up at the counter. Patricia. I ask her if this is her first time. "First time? Do you hear that, Cisco?" She orders a quesadilla natural. "I've been coming in for 20 years."

She's part of what I like here, life going on all around you. Right in front of me, two of the clean-up girls, Araceli and Veronica, stand chatting away, peeling onions to roast on the grill, along with roasted jalapeño chiles. Cisco lays out my quesadilla, then passes a plate of slightly vinegary cucumbers, freshly sliced. "Pepinos," he says.

I chomp into the cow-tongue quesadilla and, yes, with the grilled cheese and salsa, and a side chomp of one of those yummy, dragon's-breath jalapeños, plus pepinos to cool things a bit, it goes down fine. There's that squishy feel to the meat-but hey, that's what Cortés probably said when he chewed his first tomato, too.

"How many tongues do you go through a night?"

Cisco pats the lumps one by one. "Probably ten," he says. "Maybe 100 tacos."

I have the mula (\$3.00) next, two cheesegrilled tortillas stuffed with that spit-roasted pork — the *adobada* — along with squishy grilled onions and cilantro and guacamole. Now I can relax, chew, roll my eyes back, and taste a little bit of heaven. A swill of Jarritos ("little clay cups") brand pineapple drink (\$1.25) makes it even

Don't want to leave, but gotta get back, report to Carla, Héctor, Hank.

"The best?" Héctor'll say, tomorrow, when I call. And I'll say, "Heck yeah."

"Even the tongue?"

"Even the tongue...finger-lickin' good."

Truth is, it was great, but I've had plenty of other great tacos, right on the street, both sides of the border. Yes, this food's fresh and vivid and I know I've just scratched the surface — but what really makes this place is its atmosphere. It's a scene.

Back across the road, the three lonely cooks of Tacos El Poblano have one solitary eater. I stand outside their place on the dark street, waiting for a communal taxi. Feel bad. Want to ask them, "How's it going?"

But too late now, Judas.

I bite my tongue. ■

The Place: Tacos El Francés, Paseo de Playas de Tijuana #2553, Costa de Oro, Playas de Tijuana Type of Food: Mexican

Prices: Tacos, including carne asada, pork, cabeza (cow's head), suadero (braised beef brisket), tripe, around \$1.15 (exchange rate varies); tongue, \$1.25; quesadillas naturales (no meat), \$1.50; quesadillas with pork, beef, tongue, \$3.00; mules, \$1.25

Hours: 4:00 p.m.-midnight, Monday-Thursday; 3.00 p.m.-1:00 a.m., Friday-Saturday; closed Sunday Buses: Yellow-and-white communal taxis at 3rd (Felipe Carrillo Puerto) and Miguel F. Martínez, downtown

Nearest Bus Stop: Outside restaurant, at Paseo de Playas de Tijuana #2553, Costa de Oro, Playas de Tijuana











vegetables.



Welcome to the Neighborhood

"If people are this generous and this willing to teach others about wine, it can't be a bad hobby."

es, I know it's a bit late in the decade to be mentioning *Sideways* still, but bear with me on this one. Remember the restaurant scene? The montage of bottles, their labels paraded across the screen (and before the

protagonist's increasingly blurry field of vision) like contestants at a beauty pageant? That was my first glimpse of Sea Smoke, a wine that, up until then, I'd only ever heard about. One of those muchtouted Cal Pinots that you just can't get.

Or so I thought. David Brown

saw that scene, paid a visit to the Sea Smoke website, and signed up for the mailing list. "There was no waiting list at the time, and I got an allocation the first year. It's kind of an interesting system — the allocation is based on what you've bought previously, as well as referrals. You get so many points for every bottle you buy and so many for every person you refer. They have levels — C5 is the lowest, and C1 is the highest. Even at C5, I got a case of wine. I think I'll probably be a C3 this year. I bought my full allocation, and I referred probably a dozen people."

Not bad for a rookie, a guy who has been drinking wine for all of 12 months. Brown is 26;

he moved to San Diego five years ago from "rural New Hampshire — a middle-class country family that still drinks wine out of a box. I came out here for a change — I've always felt like a big-city kind of guy, and I had family here."

Once in town, he met Chris Womack. "He's in the business, and he's a couple years older than I am. We became really good friends, and we started going to Wine Steals when it first opened. I was probably one of the first customers in there when they opened for lunch on their first

day. Mike, who has been there since the beginning, opened a bottle of Opus One, and he gave me a glass for free. I thought, 'If people are this generous and this willing to teach others about wine, it can't be a bad hobby.' "He started tasting at the bar and bringing bottles home. "I still get wine there quite a bit — they have some of the best prices around for stuff that you drink every day and one of the best attitudes around."

The Opus aside, Brown resolved to hunt bargains. "I said I didn't want to ever spend more than \$15 on a bottle." That conviction lasted a full six months. "Then I started drinking the Sea Smokes and the Dunns. I started meeting peo-

ple who were more into wine than I was. You go to dinners and you go to parties and you start tasting stuff that is incrementally more expensive — sometimes, exponentially more expensive." He came up against one of the questions that plague the novice oenophile: "Does the quality increase proportionately with the price, and what's the level where it stops? I still haven't figured out quite where that is," but it's definitely enough to merit a \$20 bottle of Sea Smoke Botella. "It's a pretty stellar deal, and you can't buy it anywhere. It's their least expensive bottling, but it's my favorite."

The occasion for Brown's Sea Smoke reverie is a lunch at the Third Corner, to which he has brought a bottle of the stuff. It's a generous gesture, one he thinks is entirely in keeping with the wine lover's ethos. "I just bought a half-dozen bottles of Turley from a guy on the board" — the discussion forum at *eRobertParker.com* — "who was sharing his allocation with people on the winery's waiting list. People are willing to share, and they sell their wine at list price. I really appreciate that."

Brown found the board through his friend Womack. Now, he keeps the board's Firefox tab open whenever he's at work in his home office. "Ît's probably one of the most valuable resources I've had in the past year," he says, and not only not even mainly — because of collectors looking to share their allocations. "People are so willing to teach, and they do it without arrogance. Another recent purchase that I enjoyed was a 375 ml bottle of 2002 Louis Latour Chassagne-Montrachet from Vintage Wines. I had never had white Burgundy, only California Chardonnay. I thought, 'For \$15, I'll try it.' " (Wineries take note — half bottles are not without their virtues.) "I felt it was an amazing wine, and I went on the board and said, 'I had this



David Brown

amazing experience with a *village*-level white Burgundy. What can I buy that's similar and isn't going to cost me much more?' I got a list, and I've started working on it. I'll get pages and pages of recommendations from people. It's amazing."

Of course, the forum's members are all over the country (really, all over the world), and so Brown finds himself leaving the local market to find some of the bottles they recommend. "Most of the time, I buy my wine online, just because of availability. I shop a lot at Wade's Wines in Los Angeles. Also at Wine Exchange and K&L. I've done a fair amount of buying at Winebid and Winecomune, too." But he's also fond of the selection and the attitude at Vintage, and he's found some local gurus in the form of the shop's



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Calendar RESTAURANTS

Friday afternoon tasting group. "Someone from the board invited me. There's a lot of making fun of each other, but it's a great way to learn. The last time I was there — and this shows how little I know about Cabernet — one of the guys brought a '95 Dalla Valle Maya. I was, like, 'It's good, but I don't know enough about it to say whether it was worth what it cost.' I've never tasted a French Bordeaux — that's a path I'll probably stay away from until several more ratchets up the income ladder. I'm perfectly content drinking my \$20 bottle of Oregon Pinot Noir.

Oregon, says Brown, offers the "earthy, Burgundian style" of Pinot that he prefers — and he savs this even as we make our way towards the bottom of the Sea Smoke, a true Santa Rita Hills fruit grenade, so extracted as to resemble Syrah at first approach. "I find that my palate is all over the place," he grants. So he buys from here and there, usually in lots of one to three bottles, stashing the gems in his friend's cellar. "I've got 87 bottles, and that's more than I can even think about drinking right now. I don't want to get much bigger than that. I only buy cases when I'm on lists - stuff like Sea Smoke that's hard to find." There, the risk is minimized, "because — and I hate to say it - I know that if I don't like it, I can sell it." And if he does decide to sell, the board will be waiting.

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;

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 seri-ous dinner house at nightfall. The cooking represents the American melting pot, featuring world-wide 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 gar-den; 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 smokingwood 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

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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)

Calypso Cafe 576 North Coast Highway 101, Leucadia, 760-632-8252. This "Calypso" 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,

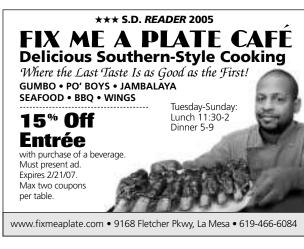
reservations advised. Upper moderate. — N.W. (9/01)

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)

El Callejon Restaurant Moonlight Plaza, 345 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-634-2793. This is a Mexican restaurant with a difference: Instead of the standard boring border foods and combo plates, it offers a long menu of genuine, zesty mainland dishes, some with original spins on traditional themes. Shrimp zarandeados with a rich sauce of chilies and beef in cilantro sauce are some of the delights. There's even a parrillada (mixed grill) to serve two. The atmosphere offers more pleasures. At lunchtime, the dining room seems like a serene hacienda. Evenings the restaurant may turn into a rollicking community center, where multi-generational families and groups of friends fill the dining rooms and spill onto the sizable patio hidden in back. Mariachi band on Fridays and Saturdays. — N.W. (9/06)

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 splen-did 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 turkey-burger. Open seven days for lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B. (12/01)

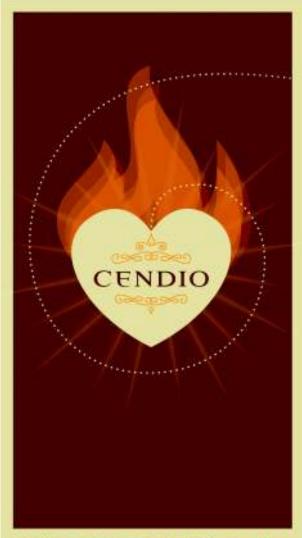
Santa Fe BBQ Company 1505 Encinitas Boulevard, Encinitas, 760-632-5227. Santa Fe's exterior may look like a chain restaurant (the site used to be a Pat and Oscar's), but there's original food here — Texas-style barbecue, slowly smoked over green oak in a giant enclosed pit-smoker. It's not the North County's smokiest "Q" (nor the moistest, either), but it's good, especially the tender beef brisket and beef ribs with a pleasing red Texas-style sweet sauce. (Remember, Texans love cattle — not pigs so much — so the pork items are lesser lights.) Side dishes include good, clean coleslaw (not too sugary) and thick, meaty beans. Order at the counter, and they'll bring your food to you to eat inside, outside, or to take home. Child friendly, with video games and a kiddie menu. Sports fans can watch the game on large plasma both indoors and on the dining patio. Beer and wine available. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Easy parking. Moderate. — N.W. (8/06)

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 sa-



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San Diego Reader February 8, 2007

Calendar RESTAURANTS

vory 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.* (2003)

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 crèpe-

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 cafe 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 aapams 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 vounger, 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 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

A.R. Valentien The Lodge at Torrey Pines, 11480 N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, 858-777-6635. A superb choice for a splurge: Chef Jeff Jackson cooks up a daily changing menu of California cuisine emphasizing the natural flavors of peak, in-season produce and top-quality well-raised meats and wild seafood. Not only is the food delicious and quietly inventive, but it's relatively healthy, with less fat, salt, and "bad carbs" than at most restaurants. Note that all dishes on the "chef tasting" dinner are also available solo. The setting (a "country inn" on a golf course) is beautiful, the warren of dining rooms quiet and romantic unless packed. Validated valet parking, free self-parking; full bar with steeply priced wines, moderate-price cocktails. Reservations essential for weekend and holiday dinners. Open three meals daily. Very expensive. — *N.W.* (12/05)

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," served until noon — 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; break-

fast/lunch Monday. Moderate to expensive. — *N.W.* (3/04)

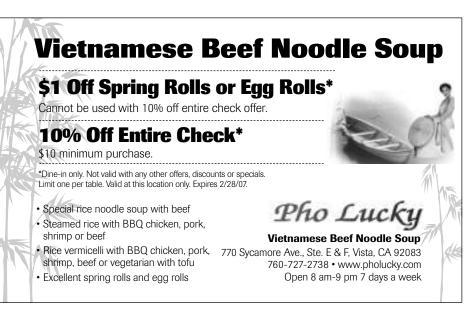
The Cheese Shop 2165 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla, 858-459-3921. Used to be the Cheese Shop had 100 varieties of cheese from all over. No more. "The cheese trade is dead," says owner Phil Schutz. They still have all-cheese sandwiches with mixes of provolone, Mon-terey Jack, Cheddar, Swiss, Muenster, Danish Havarti, or Norwegian Iarls berg. 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 spitroasted 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)

Donovan's Steak and Chop **House** 4340 La Jolla Village Drive, Golden Triangle, 858-450-6666. At this excellent traditional steakhouse, the menu includes a variety of appetizers, among them a cocktail of giant shrimp with a spicy, tomatoey sauce and a large, lightly sautéed crab cake with house-made tartar sauce. The wet-aged prime beefsteaks are seasoned with sea salt and pepper and cooked on a gas grill precisely to your order. Bleu cheese, béarnaise, and peppercorn sauces are available at extra charge. Non-beef entrées include fish, seafood, veal chop, pork chop, or a delicate Australian rack of lamb. Unlike many steakhouses where your money buys only the meat, entrées are served with vegetables and potato. Additional à la carte sides include creamed spinach and sautéed mushrooms. Among the house-made desserts the highlights are a light, creamy cheesecake with fresh strawberry sauce and a traditional creme brûlée. The service is attentive, friendly, and knowledgeable, in a masculine setting with dark wood-paneling, dim lighting, and only a moderate noise level. Cigar room off the bar. Open Monday through Saturday. Very expensive. — N.W. (9/02)

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 — 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 be-tween 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, bellydancing 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 in-cludes fruits, almonds, sesame, and cinnamon. Lunch and dinner daily; reserve for weekends. Moderate. — N.W. (4/01)

Tapenade 7612 Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-551-7500. This is not only one of the finest restaurants in the county but in the country. Featuring sunny Provençal flavors, famed chef-owner Jean-Michel Diot offers superb seasonal ingredients treated with the consummate ease of a master chef. Among the special joys here are a sophisticated foie gras torchon, luscious free-range veal, and top-quality seafood, with garnishes that display an impressive bal-ance of venturesome creativity and rigorous technique. Desserts are worth the calories, matching the style and flair of the earlier courses. And you don't even have to dress to the nines for your firstclass dinner - the sixes will do in the easy bistro atmosphere. Serving lunch (including a moderate two-course prix fixe) and dinner daily, including bargain-priced three-course prix fixe "sunset dinners." Otherwise, expensive to very expensive, and worth it. N.W. (9/03)

Trattoria Acqua 1298 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-0709. This popular restaurant has charming decor, with arched doorways dividing a war-ren 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 beancounting 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 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)

Zenbu 7660 Fay Avenue (at Kline Street), La Jolla, 858-454-4540. It was a natural for fisherman-restaurateur Matt Rimel to open a sushi bar/fish house, featuring sparkling fresh catch, much of it from his own boats. Sashimi and the simpler sushi are better here than the big party rolls, which can be lunkish. Don't miss the sashimi of live local *uni* (sea urchin) served on its shell most weekends. Cooked fish entrées feature equally sparkling seafood, sometimes in almost goofily elaborate preparations. No reservations; 30-minute wait likely on weekends. Sushi bar is up a short staircase; dining room and patio tables are wheelchair accessible. Several vegetarian choices. Full bar, good sake list. Dinner nightly. Upper moderate to expensive. — N.W. (6/01)

MISSION VALLEY & THE MESAS

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, shawerma, 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-inthe-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, mansize-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-andsour soup, cold cuts, shredded pork bun, pot-stickers, shrimp and pork dumplings). Don't miss their divine jel-lyfish 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 blackand-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 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)

Broken Yolk Cafe 1851 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-270-YOLK (9655). Breakfasting PBers love this place for three reasons: its sundeck, its 26 different four-egg omelets (which you can split with your partner, no extra charge), and the challenge of omelet #27. The dozen-egg "Broken Yolk Café Special" comes stuffed with a mountain of mushrooms, onion, cheese, chili, plus home fries and biscuits. If you can down it in an hour, pay just \$1.98 — you've got huevos. If you can't, the yolk's on you — pay around \$17. My advice: split a 4-egger. Open 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* (2/04)

C-Level 880 Harbor Island Drive, Harbor Island, 619-298-6802. California-Mediterranean comfort food with a Southern "Low Country" accent from Chef Deborah Scott; same menu lunch and dinner. Alas, the restaurant's name also gives away its grade — the food's okay but not spectacular, although the gorgeous heated patio at the edge of the bay does plenty to sweeten the pot. Your visiting aunt will swoon over the view and enjoy the food. Vast wine list with plenty by the glass, wide range of prices but some steep markups; good beer list. Full bar with creative cocktails. Ample free parking. No reservations except for large parties. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive. — N.W. (5/06)

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.

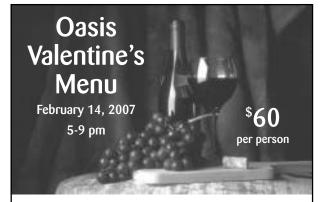
Great Moon Buffet 1840 Garnet Avenue (Pacific Plaza 2 shopping center), Pacific Beach, 858-273-6868. This is one of the classier Chinese all-you-can-eat buffets in town. They boast a glittering chandelier hanging in the octagonal entrance, plus "over 150 items daily." Certainly they have great surfuturf, 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. Eicious. 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)

Hancock St. Cafe 3354 Hancock Street, Loma Portal, 619-296-2060. If you spot Marilyn, Elvis, and Lady Liberty waving at you from the sidewalk, you're here. They are life-size fiberglass lookalikes, but Mario is real, and his restaurant is a living shrine to jazz pianist Herbie Hancock. Mario has pianos, guitars, and drums inside—even a little stage where you're often welcome to perform. The food? Italian home cooking. Mario is from New York and knows his pasta. You can usu-

ally expect a good-value special, like spaghetti and meatballs. Sometimes he'll even throw in a bottle of red wine. Here among the little factories and auto shops of Loma Portal may be San Diego's most popping cultural phenomenon. Worth investigating, even if you just want to eat. Open daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B. (12/04)

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 inÖ *The Beach*. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B. (2/03)

Ranchos Cocina 1830 Sunset Cliffs Ocean 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 vegi-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 housemade mole sauce of a zillion ingredients. Actually, try...anything. (Well, the chicken breast is as dry here as ev-



Lobster & Scallops Terrine, Citronette Sauce Jacob's Creek Sparkling Wine

Ravioli Valentine, Wild Mushrooms, Parsley Sauce Seresin Sauvignon Blanc

Pan-Seared Sea Bass on bed of Brussels Sprouts, Citrus Sabayon Rodney Strong Fumé Blanc

> Roasted Breast of Duck, Celerial Ragout Zaca Mesa Shiraz

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Soup: Seafood Soup

Choice of Two Entrées Per Couple

- Honey Chicken Crispy chunks of chicken mixed with honey and vinegar sauce
 Romeo & Juliet Shrimp Sautéed with wine and garlic and shrimp braised with red chili and onions in a Szechuan sauce combo
 - Lovers' Nest Shrimp, chicken and beef sautéed with fresh vegetables nestled in a crispy basket
 - Sushi Love Boat 7-piece Nigiri Sushi plus special California Roll

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erywhere 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, straw-berries, 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 açai power fruit bowl is what keeps them coming back. Open until 6 p.m. daily. 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 every-thing about 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, surfn-turf, and tournedos will fill you fine. If you want to beat the big prices, try the beach burger or a seared ahi Cae sar salad. The view is free. Breakfast and lunch inexpensive; dinners moderate to expensive. Open daily. — E.B. (1/04)

CENTRAL SAN DIEGO

Batter Up! Market Creek Plaza, 342 Euclid Avenue (at Market Street), Diamond District, 619-262-3333. Chefowner Mel Johnson was one of the founders of the Gaslamp's late, great Juke Joint Café. The food he serves at Batter Up! is less ambitious (so far) but talent will tell. The food at this friendly, casual sports bar (about ten minutes from Petco via the 94) may be 'pub grub," but the cooking is serious. Fried fish, fried shrimp, thick sand-wiches, and juicy Certified Angus burgers with creative dressings are well above the norm. Free parking in large lot patrolled by security guards. First timers should request sauces (especially the house hot sauce) on the side until you know whether you like them. Fairly noisy inside (depending on what's on TV); quiet patio outside. Beer and wine license pending. Open daily, lunch and dinner, with early closing Sundays. Inexpensive. — N.W. (6/06)

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 themthey 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. 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)

Hawthorn's Restaurant Stephen and Mary Birch North Park Theatre, 2895 University (near 29th Street), North Park, 619-544-0940. When this long-standing Banker's Hill restaurant moved to spiffy (if quite noisy) new digs here, the change proved positive in every way. Menu choices are now fewer but better, with superior ingredients including varied and seasonal locally grown vegetables matched to the individual entrées. The kitchen now does more from scratch, and you can taste all these improvements on the plate. The fare is Mediterranean-American with Mexican touches. Most desserts outsourced. Wide-ranging wine list, full bar, corkage a reasonable \$15. Reservations recommended, especially weekends. Expensive.

Heaven Sent Desserts 3001 University Avenue (at 30th Street, across from Union Bank), North Park, 619-793-4758. The developing district around the North Park Theatre desperately needed a bakery, and Heaven Sent arrived. They produce a full range of desserts, from breakfast pastries to cookies, tarts, pies, custards, and on through fancy cakes (the Tres Leches is especially good). The style is midwestern American, solid rather than ethereal. To drink: coffee, espresso, teas, hot chocolate, Italian sodas, and fruit juice. Open daily breakfast until afterdinner, past 11 p.m. on Fridays and Sat-urdays.—> — N.W. (6/06)

Jyoti-Bihanga 3351 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-282-4116. Oh sure, you'll be watching Sri Chinmoy, 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-thanfresh Bengali-tinged health food is de-licious. Their chutney-topped "Neatloaf" bursts with nutty, intriguing 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 Wednes-day); Sunday occasional brunch only. Inexpensive. — E.B. (10/01)

Kensington Grill 4055 Adams Ave nue, 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 numer-ous 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 livetank seafood). — N.W. (3/04)

Zensei 3396 30th Street (at Upas). North Park, 619-546-6171. This much 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 "honeymooners") 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,

Restaurant Coupons and Menus SanDiegoReader.com

Restaurants listed without coupon offers have only menus online. Restaurants with • have multiple locations. See online menu or coupon for all locations.

Pacific Beach, Mission Beach & Ocean Beach

Atoll at the Catamaran Hotel

Broken Yolk **\$2 off breakfast or lunch**

Canes Free wing basket Chateau Orleans 50% off

Costa Brava Free tapa for lunch

French Gourmet Free dessert

Great Moon Buffet 10% off total bill

Gringo's \$2 off Sunday Brunch

Lahaina Beach House **Free breakfast**

Limónz Rostizados 20% off chicken or ribs

Pacific Beach Bar & Grill 2 for 1 entrée

Pacific Rotisserie Free entrée

Sam's by the Sea

Saska's Free sushi or 25% off bill

TJ Oyster Bar 2 for 1 tacos/tostadas

Tower Two Beach Cafe **\$3 breakfast on the beach**

La Jolla

Aurora Trattoria 2 for 1 dinner Cafe Milano Free Comedy Store tickets

Clav's La Iolla

La Jolla Brew House Free lunch or dinner entrée

Marrakesh 50% off lunch

Regents Pizzeria Free large salad

Su Casa 20% off entire check• Trattoria Bella Vita 2 for 1 Italian entrée

Vida Gourmet

North County

Big Jim's Old South Bar-B-Q 50% off entrée Greek Village Free saganaki Jamroc 101 Free island sampler Ki's Restaurant Free appetizer or dessert Mikko Japanese 50% off sushi Noodles & Company Pho Lucky 10% off entire check Wild Note Cafe

South Bay & Coronado

Batter Up! 50% off Batter Up! basket Lai Thai **50% off entrée** Mariscos La Costa Azul Free combo plate

Uptown & North Park

A La Française

Awash Ethiopian 1/2-price entrée

B Fried Rice

Hob Nob Hill **\$2 off entrée**

House of India **Free dinner**

India Princess Free dinner

Lips 50% off dinner

Rudford's \$2 off entrée

San Filippo's Pizza & salad \$15.45

Midway, Old Town & Mission Valley

The Amigo Spot 15% off bill

Bali Thai Free entrée

Bennigan's **\$5 off lunch or dinner**

Forever Fondue 2 for 1 entrée

Lot 81 Free appetizer Old Town Mexican Cafe

Paradise Yogurt **50 cents off a smoothie**

Pizza Bella Free wine dinner

Shanghai Chinese \$1 off Mongolian BBQ

Tio Leo's **Dinner combos \$8.99 each** •

Todai 10% off lunch or dinner

East County & State College

Aroma Thai Free entrée Fix Me A Plate Cafe 15% off any entrée Greek Town Buffet **50% off dinner buffet** Habana Cuban Free appetizer Lucky Star Buffet 50% off dinner Shakey's Pizza Lunch buffet \$5.15

Clairemont, University City, Miramar Rd., Poway, Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch & Kearny Mesa

Ashoka the Great 50% off lunch or dinner

Filling Station Free appetizer

Honey's Cafe

Joe's Pizza 2 large pizzas \$22

Pampas Free empanada

Philadelphia Sandwich Co. Free sandwich

Thai Cafe **\$1 off buffet**

Downtown & Point Loma

Alambres Free soup

Blue Water Seafood 25% off

The Boathouse **2-for-1 entrée**

Dae Jang Keum Korean BBQ 50% off Korean BBQ

Dublin Square 15% off or free lunch

Embers Grille 50% off entrée

The Field **Free lunch**

Hard Rock Café

Hornblower Cruises

House of Blues 20% off restaurant receipt

Humphrey's

Jewel Box **2 for 1 entrée**

Lotus Thai Cuisine Free entrée

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant

Mister Tiki Mai Thai Lounge

Olé Madrid **2 for 1 lunch or brunch entrée**

RA Sushi

Rei do Gado

Rock Bottom

Samba Grill 1/2 off all-you-can-eat Brazilian feast

The Shout House

St. Tropez Bakery-Bistro 10% off •

Thai Time II **Free fried spring rolls**

Visions 25% off sushi

Whiskey Girl

Xavier's Free appetizer

or cooling yogurt, along with sweetsauced 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 overflowing square wooden cup. Open six days for dinner; closed Monday. 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 din-ner, the Texas menu features Texasstyle 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. Lunch and dinner (with inexpensive earlybird dinner) Monday through Saturday; brunch and dinner Sunday. 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 vou 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)

Bertrand at Mister A's 2550 Fifth Avenue (at Laurel), 12th floor, Banker's Hill, 619-239-1377. Bertrand Hug's airy, open renovation of this formerly "ancient regime" eatery offers a fabled panoramic city view with a casual-chic, highly romantic ambience. Chef Stephane Voitzwinkler's modern French cuisine is a fine fit for the setting, including bistro classics and fresh inventions, emphasizing top-grade seasonal ingredients. A huge, intelligent wine list covers a full range of prices, ages and origins, including "ripe" firstgrowth Bordeaux. Smoking and fairweather dining on wraparound terrace/observation deck. Note: parking entrance on Fourth Avenue; wheelchair access via ramp to left of reception desk. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Expensive. — N.W. (2/04)

Blue Water Seafood Market and Grill 3667 India Street (at Chalmers), midtown, 619-497-0914. This bright, clean charmer a half-block south of El Indio has a double identity: First, it's a retail fish market; aside from Whole Foods, this is the only restaurant-quality fresh raw seafood south of I-8 and west of City Heights. If you love oysters, don't miss the big, buttery bivalves here. Second, it serves simple, terrific seafood to eat in or out. Plates are plastic, but don't look for greasy fried stuff. Entrées are grilled gently until perfectly done, topped with your pick of flavors (the lemon-garlic butter is especially tasty) and come with rice and a huge salad with your choice of terrific house-made dressings. If indecisive, ask what's best that day. The overstuffed grilled fish tacos are messy and perfect, with just the right proportions of ingredients. Reachable only by driving north on India. Metered street parking by day. Good choice of beers; a few affordable wines; \$5 corkage for BYOW. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to low moderate. -N.W. (4/05)

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 glowering red ball with maroon, oniony, sweet-andsour raisin sauce to die for, set off by green parsley and bright orange slices. Scandalously delicious. Downside? 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)

Hob Nob Hill 2271 First Avenue (at Juniper Street), Banker's Hill, 619-239-8176. It opened in 1944 as a 14-stool lunch counter. Now, you sweep in under the maroon canopy to shiny red booth seats, deep blue carpet, blond wood, paintings, and a half-wall of wine. You're thinking "business class," but don't be fooled. We're talking coffee-shop prices, especially with





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Calendar RESTAURANTS

the all-day breakfasts and sandwiches, not to mention the burgers with a salad tossed in. It's across the street from a retirement condo complex and at dinner, says the owner, "We cater to seniors." While there are à la carte choices, affordable three-course prix fixe dinners (with a regular entrée for each day of the week, Mom-style) are the order of the day — e.g., tasty barbecued pork on Saturday, roast lamb or turkey Sunday. Open daily. Inexpensive to low moderate. — E.B. (10/01)

Hong Kong Restaurant 3871 Fourth Avenue (at University), Hill-crest, 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)

Joe's New York-Style Deli Royal Food Mart, 3401 First Avenue (at Upas), Banker's Hill, 619-295-7666. You enter a time machine: A cavernous concrete-floored deli that dates back to 1902, with a high ceiling, acorn-shaped hanging lights, and a big old-fashioned cooler-counter packed with cheeses, hams, and sausage meat. Old display

cases carry olives, pâté, Ryvitas. A sawed-off wooden barrel bulges with Hungarian wines. Go for wraps, jumbo hot dogs with sauerkraut, or East Coast-generous sandwiches like corned beef, dry Genoa salami, cotto salami, bologna, or liverwurst. That Boars Head liverwurst is da bomb. Caesar salad with chicken or a cup of tortellini soup are good light alternatives. Open breakfast through early dinner daily. — E.B. (4/05)

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-andwhite 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 in Hillcrest. Inexpensive. — $E.B.\ (1/04)$

Lotus Thai 3761 Sixth Avenue (at Robinson), Hillcrest, 619-299-8272. Also at 906 Market (at Ninth Avenue). downtown, 619-595-0115. This restaurant has taken a giant step up from standard Thai eateries. Most of the menu consists of the usual dishes, but each branch also offers a selection of chef's specialties. Some of these are more authentic; others are more creative than the norm. The chefs are from northern Thailand, and something in their cooking hints of their region — a certain zestiness, a love of strong citruses and fresh herbs that speaks of the Ping River and the hills of Chiang Mai. Well-chosen, affordable wine list, Asian and American beers, and cocktails based on soju (Asian lower-proof rice liquor), including a yummy rambutan cosmo. Noisy when crowded. Reservations recommended for Hillcrest on weekends. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Low moderate. — N.W. (4/06)

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.

Prado House of Hospitality, Balboa Park, 619-557-9441. In a magical space at the heart of Balboa Park, Prado features cute neo-Nouveau decor and a something-for-everyone menu of

American-Mexican-Italian-with-Asian-touches cuisine. The food brings few surprises, but is flavorful and served in huge portions. Top choices include meaty crab cakes and an as-tonishingly tender, slow-roasted pork loin. A meringue-based banana tres leches cake is everyone's favorite dessert. The bar makes a nice stop during a museum-crawl and offers ether real fried oysters and a range of gussiedup margaritas. Keep an eye out for special prix fixe dinners that include tickets to museum exhibitions. Dinner reservations vital. Vast interior can be noisy, but heated, umbrella-topped terrace tables are quiet and scenic. Moderate to a little expensive, with reasonable wine list. — N.W. (12/00)

Saigon on Fifth 3900 Fifth Avenue (on University), Hillcrest, 619-220-8828. This is the rare local Vietnamese restaurant that emphasizes the urban. French-influenced cuisine of colonial-era Saigon and Hué, rather than the ubiquitous pho noodle soups of the North. The list of house specialties includes many entrées you won't find elsewhere in San Diego, among them a smoked oyster omelet and a unique version of coconut shrimp served in the coconut shell. Many dishes here include honey, so the Boon (spicy noodle salad) deserves its name — a refreshing break from the sweetness. Well-chosen, reasonable wine list suits the food, as does the serene decor. Validated underground parking just north of the bank. Open daily, lunch and dinner until midnight. Low moderate. — N.W. (6/06)

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 bunsandwich 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 registers. 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, un-til 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, a few 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

Alambres Mexican Grill 756 Fifth Avenue (near F), Gaslamp, 619-233-2838. Surprise: this place strives to be inexpensive, like a Mexico City café-bar, where you hang out to watch soccer or talk over the night at two in the morning. They keep the kitchen open till the wee hours. Breakfasts are decent workaday deals, like the burrito stuffed with chorizo, spuds, and eggs. Try the interesting *chicharon de queso* that looks like a foot-long golden scroll, and watch for the impulse-cooked teaser plates like *cebollitas*, small grilled onions in "Maggie's sauce." Specialty is the namesake Alambres Mexico City-style taco, usually meat or fish plus bell peppers, onions, and bacon. Open 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* (5/06)

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)

Blue Point 565 Fifth Avenue (at Market), Gaslamp, 619-233-6623. In a handsome, plushy dining room, pris-tine seafood and Prime-grade steaks and chops are featured in well-focused preparations highlighting Pacific Rim and Mediterranean flavors. A fine lobster bisque includes plenty of lobster, and crab-stuffed trout and dayboat scallops are among the highlights of the menu. But at this conventioneers' favorite, be sure to specify the doneness you prefer, especially for fish, which defaults to well-done. Valet parking onsite, or inexpensive self-parking one block east at Park It On Market. Large sidewalk dining patio. Business-casual dress looks best here. Reservations urged. Dinner nightly. - N.W. (9/05)

Chive 558 Fourth Avenue (near Island), Gaslamp, 619-232-4483. Here you'll find a new cuisine for the upscale residential neighborhood rising around the restaurant. Diners can choose an adventurous meal or an evening of sophisticated comfort food. Urbane multicultural fusion dishes dance cheek to cheek with remade American classics and the occasional sleek French luxury dish. A "grazing menu" features small bites for folks on a diet or on the run. The menu changes seasonally, but you can trust the kitchen any time of year. Very noisy. Full bar. Dinner nightly, until 11:30 p.m. weekends. Full meals expensive; "grazing" can be moderate.
— N.W. (3/06)

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 woodfired 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 cobblers, 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.

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 lunch and 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 follies. 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. -

Dobson's 956 Broadway Circle. downtown, 619-231-6771. This rep-utable downtown restaurant offers class and comfort, geared for people who enjoy eating well. The food is good, often very good, as with chicken liver mousse pâté, Mediterranean blue mussels, and, when available, the crude but virtuous soft-shell crab. Their sweets, such as brownies, are hefty, louche, and cheap. Bring a date to the upstairs dining room. Dobson's is suave, its confidence infectious. Lunch and dinner Monday through Friday; dinner only on Saturday. Moderate to expensive. — M.N. (10/98)

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 Fast — 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

Fleming's Steak House & Wine Bar 380 K Street (at Fourth), Gaslamp, 619-237-1155. Original branch at 8970 University Center Lane, University City/Golden Triangle, 858-535-0078. Cityrodiden Triangie, 858-535-0078.
A steakhouse for ladies who power lunch, an "old girls" club, or just a happy place where the term "a nice piece of meat" isn't a bad thing? The mahogany of the "old boys" house genre gives way here to cheery cherry wood. When you get the fried cheese, it's Brie, rolled in panko bread crumbs and slivered almonds. And the

wine list boasts far more than just burly Cabernets and Bordeaux - over 100 of the far-flung offerings are available by the glass and you can assemble your own three-glass tasting flights. Prime steaks are the main event, perfectly cooked and well-seasoned. Try the Key Lime pie for dessert — custardy and full of limey bite. Valet parking. Dinner nightly. Very expensive. — A.M. (3/04)

Indigo Grill 1536 India Street, Little Italy, 619-234-6802. This second — and much grander — incarnation of chef Deborah Scott's Indigo Grill expands her original Native American motif, with its focus on root vegetables, game, and roasted spices. Now, the Pacific Coastal cuisine takes in more coast than most, drawing upon ingredients and techniques from Alaska to Oaxaca. (The decor, dark and urban-primitive, follows the theme.) Unexpected combinations are a mainstay; a single dishsuch as the seafood *mixto*, may span the entire distance, bringing together a multitude of flavors that work together to create a wondrous whole. Fine breads are made in-house, as are

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desserts (try the decadent, crispycreamy plantain cheesecake flautas) The wine list includes interesting varietals. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly; closes early Sundays, but open until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Lunch: inexpensive to moderate; dinner: moderate to expensive. — A.M. (11/02)

Kansas City Barbecue 610 West Market Street (at Harbor Drive), downtown, 619-231-9680, Scrump tious 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 un-

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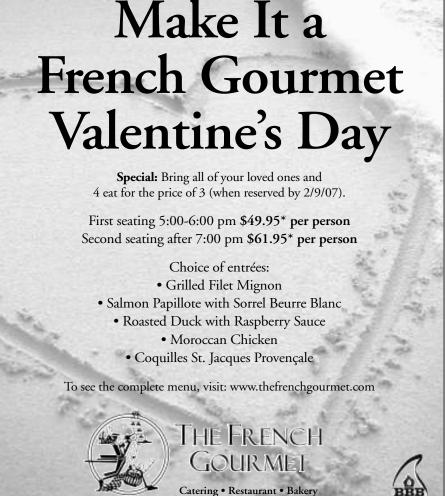
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til late, serving until 1 a.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.* (3/01)

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 Kobestyle 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)

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 Nebraska beef is aged and meticulously grilled to your specifications. You can get a one-and-a-half or threepound 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 Choco late 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 (ñoquis) 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 iceket. 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 greaseless, 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 Hvatt, 1 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 vou'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)

Sixth Avenue Bistro 1165 Sixth Avenue (at B Street), downtown, 619-239-4194. This charming, airy café offers some very credible New Orleansstyle cooking at affordable prices. Among the sandwiches are an outstanding oyster po' boy (with big juicy oysters and good light batter) and a fine, fully-packed approximation of a muffaletta, albeit with a kaiser roll standing in for Central Grocery's big, round Italian bread. The jambalaya is tasty, too, even with the substitute for andouille. Wine and beer. No reservations. Breakfast to dinner (closes 9 p.m.

Monday through Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday). Inexpensive. — *N.W.* (3/01) Stingaree 454 Sixth Avenue (between J and K), Gaslamp, 619-544-0867. This

huge restaurant has a nightclub on the mezzanine and an outdoor lounge on the roof. The Mediterranean food by chef Antonio Friscia comes in three plate sizes - little, medium, and large It's a built-in invitation to graze and share if you want to keep it light before you go dancing. The fare features premium, naturally raised meats, wild fish, and local organic vegetables. The rich international wine list is steep, but there's plenty by the glass; full bar. Friday and Saturday nights, dinner is a three- or four-course prix fixe only (your choices from the à la carte menu), but that gets you free entry into the club. Reservations advisable, urged for weekends. Dinner Tuesday thorugh Sunday; rooftop noshing on Sunday afternoons. Dinners very expensive. – *N.W.* (8/06)

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). En-trées come with salad and puffy, cookit-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 novelties. Casual, no reservations, street-patio dining available. Over 21 only, no minors even with adult accompaniment. Dinners nightly, open until midnight Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W. (11/02)

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 (soulful Yucatan-style pork and black bean mini-tostadas) and tarta de rajas, puffpastry 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

1500 Ocean Hotel Del Coronado, 1500 Ocean Avenue, Coronado, 619-522-8490. A lovely indoor-outdoor dining venue replaces the vener-able walled-in Prince of Wales at the Del. Now the food is breezier, too - Jason Schaefer (formerly of Laurel) cooks up refined "California coastal cuisine" with French and Asian influences, constructed with the beautiful luxury ingredients of each season. There's everything to like, from the patio with a beach view to the comfortable atmosphere that's dressy but not stiff. The wine list is awesome — rather steep but no gouging, including reasonably mature top quaffs from France. Validated parking. Request assistance with handicapped access (stairs) when calling to reserve. Dinner nightly. Expensive. N.W. (7/06)

Asian Noodles Bay Plaza Shopping Center, 1430 East Plaza Boulevard, Suite E-12, National City, 619-477-5390. You've got to be a noo-dle 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, 619-336-9989. 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 an ins 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, footlong, 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 *bir-ria*.) Inexpensive. — *E.B.* (11/00)

McP's Irish Pub & Grill 1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-5280. With a crowd ranging from Navy re-tirees 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 urs. (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 any body 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-









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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 vou won't - vou'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, middleclass 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 include marlin ceviche, fried fish, and fish albóndigas soup. The interesting part 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), charbroiled 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, vinegary 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 narinated beef rib, carne asada, and barbecued chicken, all sizzling on a rancho-style metal tabletop 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 over-looking 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 tatemado"). 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 Pal-mas, 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 Revoluci̳n hooks left, you forget all that inside this vestige of Olde Tijuana, with balcony seating, res ident 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 break-fast, lunch, and dinner anchor for the town's truest colonial Mexican posada (inn). It's a world of glowing stainedglass 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. Bucca 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. 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 seg-ment." 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 jambalava 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. Flashcooked 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 por-tions 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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LA SEMANA EN ESPAÑOL

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Lleno de capos

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Diario San Diego

Las prisiones federales de la ciudad de San Diego se han convertido en una caja de "fichitas" con la reciente extradición de cuatro importantes capos de la droga mexicana.

En el grupo se encuentran los hermanos Ismael y Gilberto Higuera Guerrero, presuntos jefes de la banda Arellano Félix, además el cabecilla del cártel de Sinaloa, Héctor "El Guero" Palma Salazar, y un miembro del

cărtel de Tijuana, Alberto Márquez Esqueda.

Los cuatro capos fueron enviados a este país para enfrentar cargos por delitos relacionados al tráfico de drogas, lavado de dinero, extorsión y actividades relacionadas con la mafia.

La Fiscalía de los Estados Unidos envió a los criminales al Distrito Sur de California para ser juzgados por crímenes cometidos en Baja California, San Diego, Valle Imperial y Sur de California.



Abraham Nudelstejer

Diano San Diego

Históricamente el Super Bowl no suele ser el mejor partido de la temporada de la Liga Nacional de Futbol (NFL).

Salvo algunas excepciones, los partidos por ganar el codiciado Trofeo Lombardi carecen de dramatismo y emoción.

El caso de la edición 41 del Juego por el Campeonato de la NFL entre Potros de Indianápolis y Osos de Chicago, es buen

ejemplo de que los duelos del Super Bowl no cumplen con las expectativas de los aficionados.

Como suele suceder en estos casos, el espectáculo de medio tiempo, protagonizado en esta ocasión por Prince, fue lo mejor del juego que se transmitió a 200 países del mundo.

Más allá de las estadisticas, el juego del domingo enfrentó a una verdadera potencia en contra de un equipo que apenas busca emerger.

espectáculos



Relinchan Potros Tierra de Oscares

Gabriela Casas

Diario San Diego

A pesar de todo lo que se dice y escribe sobre Tijuana, esta ciudad sigue siendo un sitio muy atractivo para muchos artistas de diferentes disciplinas, los grandes cineastas no han sido la excepción.

Varios han venido a la región a filmar y, no conforme con ello, han logrado que sus historias sean reconocidas por la Academia de Artes y Ciencias Cinematográfi-

cas de Estados Unidos al nominarlas al máximo galardón del Oscar.

En 1999 Steven Soderbergh escogió a Tijuana como escenario para su filme Traffic protagonizado por Michael Douglas, Chaterine Zeta-Jones, Benicio del Toro, Dennis Quaid y Don Cheadle.

También Alejandro González Iñárritu eligió a Tijuana como uno de los custro puntos importantes para desarrollar su historia en Babel 2006.









Costará más

Si usted quiere ser residente de Estados Unidos tendrá que desembolsar 905 dólares (casi el triple de lo que cuesta hoy), según la nueva lista de tarifas publicada por el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS).

El gobierno de Washington también dio a conocer las nuevas tarifas que entrarán en vistor probablemente en junio. Para obtener la ciudadanía los residentes permanentes deberán pagar el doble (595 dólares), mientras que una simple apelación a la corte de Inmigración costará casi 500. Todo esto sin contar trámites como huellas (80 dólares), exámenes médicos, abogados y

otros trámites.

La Oficina de Ciudadanía y Servicios de Inmigración (USCIS), que depende del DHS, dijo que incrementará la tarifa de la solicitud de ciudadanía (Formulario N-400) de 330 que cobra actualmente a 595, un aumento de 80 por ciento.

La cuota para pedir la residencia legal permanente (ajuste) subirá de 325 a 905, un incremento de 278 por ciento.

Y el permiso de trabajo, que cuesta 180, sumentará a 340, un aumento de 89 por ciento.

Organizaciones defensoras de los derechos de los inmigrantes, que esperaban el anuncio desde hace varias semanas, criticaron las nuevas tarifas.



Desaparecen

Después que se anunció que el Centro de Detenciones de Inmigración en San Diego sería demandado por la falta de seguridad y sobrepoblación, cientos de reos fueron removidos del lugar,

Hace algunas semanas se dio a conocer un reporte nacional que dejó en evidencia como la empresa que opera el Centro de Detenciones de Inmigración (CCA) en Otay Mesa lucra con la estadía de internos.

Debido a las condiciones en las que viven los detenidos en ese penal, manejadores de CCA y del departamentote Inmigración (ICE), enfrentarán demandas legales y civiles por la serie de abusos y violaciones a derechos humanos que los detenidos sufren desde hace años. Después de una larga investigación se pudieron comprobar las vejaciones de las que son objetos los reos.

La Unión de Libertades Civiles (ACLU) y el Proyecto de Inmigración Nacional ayudarán a los miles de detenidos que por años han vivido en condiciones infrahumanas.

Cinco detenidos del CCA firmaron la demanda ya que están cansados de vivir en un lugar saturado y con mínimos cuidados de salud que diariamente pone en riesgo seguridad y bienestar.

Como respuesta al anunció de ACLU, directivos de CCA removieron sin previo aviso durante el fin de semana pasado a unos 230 detenidos.



Todavía sopla

Una anciana japonesa fue homenajeada con una fiesta tras conocerse que, a sus 114 años, se ha convertido en la persona más vieja del mundo, algo acorde con la famosa longevidad de los habitantes del archipiélago nipôn.

Según datos del Comité Internacional de Supercentenarios (ICS en inglés), Yone Minagawa, que el pasado día 4 cumplió 114 años, ocupa el puesto dejado por Emma Faust Tillman, quien falleció la semana pasada en la localidad de Hartford, en el estado de Connecticut (EU).

El "reinado" de Emma apenas duró pues había sido nombrada la mujer más vieja del mundo dos semanas atrás. Según informó la agencia nipona Kyodo, Yone Minagawa participó en una sencilla celebración en el asilo de la provincia de Fukuoka en el que reside, donde la agasajaron con flores.

Nacida en 1893 en Fukuchi, Yone es la persons más vieja de Japón, el país con la media más alta del mundo en expectativas de vida para las mujeres, de 85 años, mientras los hombres nipones alcanzan un promedio de 78 años,

La actual mujer más longeva del planeta se casó en 1914 y tuvo cinco hijos, a los que crió en solitario, pues enviudó muy pronto, con la venta de flores y verduras en un puesto.





Calendar Movies

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.

Alpha Dog — Another occasion to be shocked, *shocked*, at the behavior of America's youth, specifically drug-dealing middle-class SoCal white kids who have embraced a black gangsta ethic ("Chill out, dog"). A true-crime wallow, with the names changed to protect the exploiters; long-drawn-out; overacted like mad. Emile Hirsch, Justin Timberlake, Anton Yelchin, Ben Foster, Shawn Hatosy, Bruce Willis, and, donning a latex fat suit for the epilogue, Sharon Stone; written and directed by Nick Cassavetes. 2007.

• (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; PALM PROMENADE 24)

Apocalypto — 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, practicaljoking 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-inthe-nose killjoys in search of sacrificial offerings to their god Kukulkan. A paradise,



Catch and Releas

in other words, no less than turn-of-the-13th-century Scotland in Braveheart or 1stcentury Palestine in The Passion of the Christ, where Gibson may indulge his appetite for mayhem, persecution, torture, martyrdom. (The nine-tenths-naked natives enable him, further, to indulge his lesser appetite for homoerotica.) 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.

(PALM PROMENADE 24

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 cir-

cle. 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 farfetched 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, how ever, 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

★ (CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; GASLAMP 15; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

Because I Said So — Relationship comedy, high-strung, low-stooping. As a meddlesome mother determined to marry off her third daughter, Diane Keaton is required to be both irritating and irresistible. She half succeeds. First half of the equation only. Although not without a certain slouching charm, Mandy Moore ("Actually, I love to sing") comes in more for pity than sympathy. With Gabriel Macht, Tom Everett Scott, Lauren Graham, Piper Perabo, and Stephen Collins; directed by Michael Lehmann. 2007.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SOUARE 14: VISTA VILLAGE)

Blood and Chocolate — Woman who runs with the werewolves. In specific, a young American in Bucharest, where the werewolf, or loup garoux as it is known to French-speaking Romanians, is better understood, properly revered. Any true horror fan should be open to a bit of werewolf revisionism, but this bit of it is open, in turn, only to the MTV demographic. Despite their five-millennia reign in Romania, the present population of werewolves, apart from one pair of parental figures, and pretty hip ones at that, seems to consist solely of the sort of crowd you'd expect to encounter at the local disco. (The German director, Katja von Garnier, is familiar over here chiefly for the punk-feminist Bandits.)



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Opens in theaters February 23.

● (GASLAMP 15)

Blood Diamond — Serviceable actionadventure despite frequent interruptions for sermonettes on human rights and capitalist wrongs. The ripped-from-the-headlines story (vesterday's headlines: civil war in Sierra Leone, 1999) features the stock figures of a self-interested soldier of fortune, in league with slaughterous rebels and unscrupulous jewellers, an engagé foreign correspondent, and a hapless native peasant enslaved in the diamond mines and separated from his family, all united on a treasure hunt for a priceless buried gem, "a pink," big as a walnut. Without the politics, the strong-arm manipulation of emotions would be inexcusable. Or rather, more clearly inexcusable. It's still inexcusable even now. (The on-screen standing ovation at the final curtain is an unsubtle elbow-inthe-ribs to the moviegoer.) Behind the oped posturing, the film roughly resembles a middle-period, middle-drawer Robert Mitchum vehicle, except that Leonardo Di-Caprio, 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

★ (GASLAMP 15: MISSION VALLEY 20)

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 toilettrained (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 builtin 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 chauvinistpig 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)

Breaking and Entering — Reviewed next issue. With Jude Law, Juliette Binoche, Robin Wright Penn, and Rafi Gavron; written and directed by Anthony Minghella. ★ (FASHION VALLEY 18, FROM 2/9)

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

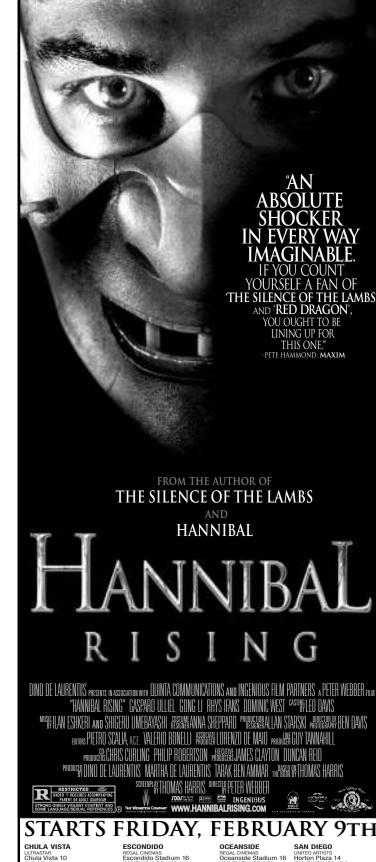
reality when Timothy Dalton came on board; and even in the midst of the reign of Pierce Brosnan, noises were made about toughening up his act. These proved to be only noises. The new noises are more. The obligatory pre-credits sequence, in blackand-white and sprinkled with flashbacks, shuns spectacle 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 evelined Eva Green) attains an emotional weight beyond even the allthe-way-to-the-altar affair of On Her Majesty's Secret Service. The hero's lame quips and puns, meantime, have thoroughly been expunged from the script. And "I don't give a damn" is his response to the bartender's inquiry as to whether he'd like his vodka martini shaken or stirred. All these changes are definite improvements. And yet, and yet, and yet.... The action, even if somewhat scaled back under the one-time Bond director Martin Campbell (Goldeneye, the beginning of the Brosnan Bonds, but scarcely a new beginning), is still more than sufficiently cartoonish. The plotting is skimpy. The whole thing runs on far too long. And then there's the fundamental

question: if you want to do an alternative to James Bond, why call him James Bond? Why not put him out to pasture where at his age he belongs? Mads Mikkelson, Jeffrey Wright, Giancarlo Giannini. 2006.

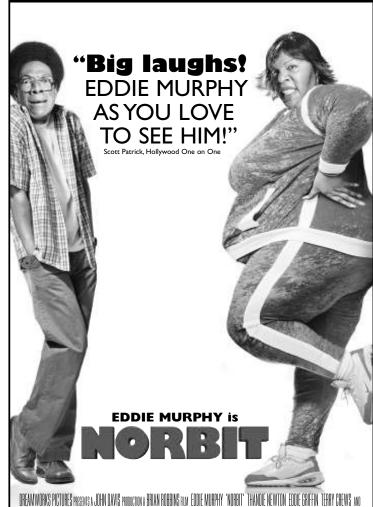
★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14)

Catch and Release — Romantic seriocomedy to do with a scheduled wedding turned funeral and the stranded bride's posthumous discovery that her intended groom had a secret big bank account and a secret small child. (They had seemed such a perfect couple: she's called Gray, he was called Grady.) If writer and director Susan-

nah Grant had wanted, as she appears to have wanted, to steer the thing toward the Lifetime Channel, she would have been advised to hire a warmer-blooded leading lady than the fish-lipped, marble-skulled, enamel-skinned, steel-eyed Jennifer Garner. It might seem odd, at the same time, to see the indie filmmaker Kevin "Silent Bob" Smith in the cookie-cutter role of the comical tubby Best Friend, persistently plugging Celestial Seasonings teas via T-shirt, mug, quotable quotations from the boxes, and place of employment. Then again, once you begin to recollect his own sorties into the mainstream, be they ever so futile - Jersey







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MOVIES

Girl, Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back, Clerks II — it ought to seem significantly less odd. With Timothy Olyphant, Sam Jaeger, and Juliette Lewis. 2007.

• (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15: MIRA MESA 18: MISSION VALLEY 20: OCEANSIDE 16: PALM PROME NADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RAN-CHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SOUARE 14: VISTA VILLAGE)

Children of Men — The basic idea from a novel by P.D. James, a departure from her detective fiction - of a worldwide plague of female infertility, even though not at all original (see The Handmaid's Tale, as a prime example), remains nevertheless a potent metaphor for that science-fiction staple, the End of the World; and the film can thus sensibly refrain from hashing over the significance of a miraculous pregnancy in England, as inexplicable as the plague itself, eighteen years after its onset in 2008. A potent metaphor, that, for Hope, even Faith. (The young black woman's deadpan protestation of virginity is of course only her own little joke. What she is carrying is not the Second Coming of

Reader

San Diego

happens, Eve.) Because the world went so fast to hell so near in the future - "Only Britain soldiers on" - the film is not overburdened with production and special effects. It shoulders just sufficient texture and detail for an illusion of reality: the unswept litter and uncollected trash in the streets, the electronic animated billboards, the pirated artworks preserved for no one's edification at the Tate Modern, the gratis government-issued suicide kits (brand name: Quietus; ad slogan: "You Decide When"), the concentration camps for illegal aliens, etc. There is really not much in the way of a story — underground dissidents squiring the expectant mother through chaotic countryside to an offshore rendezvous with a shadowy do-good organization known as the Human Project — but Clive Owen, the principal squirer, an uncommitted mercenary, has the ideal demeanor for the grimness of the mission; and the trek is nothing if not eventful, a mild word for an itinerary that includes three virtuoso action set pieces. If the camera sometimes calls attention to itself with its showboat mobility, and at one point with its blood-spattered lens, the staging of the action is always thorough and thought-out. As, for that matter, is the staging of the nonaction, in particular the hero's interplay with his exwife (Julianne Moore) and an aged flowerchild friend (Michael Caine), abubble with emotional undercurrents. Director Alfonso Cuarón's moderation in the use of close

Christ so much as that of Adam. Or, as it

ups, a rarer and rarer thing these days, disdains the easy way out. With Chiwetel Ejiofor and Claire-Hope Ashitey. 2006. ★★★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON

PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY 20)

The Departed — Martin Scorsese's career-changing turn to the overblown epic, a turn marked by Casino, would seem to be a course difficult to reverse. Kundun ... Gangs of New York ... The Aviator And now even a trashy light diversion, adapted from an average-length Hong Kong action film, will get dragged out to two and a half hours — this despite the delivery of dialogue at the machine-gun tempo of a hopped-up auctioneer (or of Scorsese's own casual conversation), and despite, too, the mere semblance of speed imparted by the free-associative cutting and the incongruous rockabilly beat of the background music, whenever the filmmaker isn't trotting out his collection of rock-and-roll oldies. The convoluted plot verges on farce: an upwardly mobile underworld spy in the Massachusetts State Police (Matt Damon, raising his eyebrows in an ostentatious show of innocence) and a downwardly mo bile police spy inside the mob (Leonardo DiCaprio, giving himself away with his meat-cleaver worry line) both become involved, first as clients and then as suitors, with a Harper's Bazaar idea of a psychotherapist (Vera Farmiga, she of the prow-like cheekbones, life-raft lips, blue-lagoon eyes). Not even the take-no-prisoners crescendo of gore toward the end, jolting though some of it is, can pull the movie back from the farcical brink. And Jack Nicholson, as showy an actor as Scorsese is a director (when he's only in it for the

money, anyway), plays the mob boss at a

pitch barely below his Batman Joker. With

Mark Wahlberg, Martin Sheen, Alec Bald-

win, Ray Winstone. 2006. ★ (CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8;

FASHION VALLEY 18; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VAL-LEY 7: MISSION VALLEY 20: PALM PROMENADE 24)

Dreamgirls — Broadway backstage musical - not, that is to say, backstage on Broadway but backstage in Motown charting the breakthrough of R&B into the pop mainstream in the Sixties, more specifically the rise of a girl group called the Dreams (rhymes with Supremes), and attendant heartbreaks, breakups, downfalls, and assorted other banalities. True, a musical can get away with a banal storyline if the music is good, but these Broadway-ized soul tunes are as insipid as they are incessant. It seems it's not easy to write another "Where Did Our Love Go?," another "Come See about Me," another "My World Is Empty without You," another "You Can't Hurry Love." And the one familiar number, the one unforgotten number, the big abandonment solo of former American Idol contestant Jennifer Hudson (big voice, big figure), screams out for earplugs if not a muzzle. Neither is it easy, evidently, to be another Aretha Franklin. Bevoncé Knowles looks glamorous enough as the Diana Ross diva who metamorphoses into disco queen Donna Summer (under the Svengalian guidance of the Berry Gordy stand-in, Jamie Foxx); and the period clothes and hairdos — something near a beehive on Eddie Murphy when we first meet him, higher and higher than Jackie Wilson are enjoyable as expected. Writer and director Bill Condon, who adapted the screenplay for Chicago but whose own directing credits run to Gods and Monsters and Kin sey, shows it's not easy to be Stanley Donen.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CINERAMA 6; ESCON-

DIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15: GROSSMONT CENTER: 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; VISTA VILLAGE)

Freedom Writers — Make-a-difference true story about an idealistic young English teacher at an "integrated" high school in Long Beach, where she brings peace and harmony to her fractious classroom (she appears to teach only one hour per day) and seemingly also to the community at large: the gang violence peters out dramati-cally as she takes the students on a field trip to the Museum of Tolerance, and distributes copies of The Diary of Anne Frank purchased out of her own pocket. The positive attitude and right-mindedness of the film, or at least the enthusiasm and resolve of Hilary Swank in the lead role, are disarming if not shaming. And Imelda Staunton puts up pitiable resistance as the rule-bound department head, a very human heavy. With Patrick Dempsey, Scott Glenn, John Benjamin Hickey, April Lee Hernandez, Deance Wyatt, Mario, and Pat Carroll; written and directed by Richard LaGravenese, 2007.

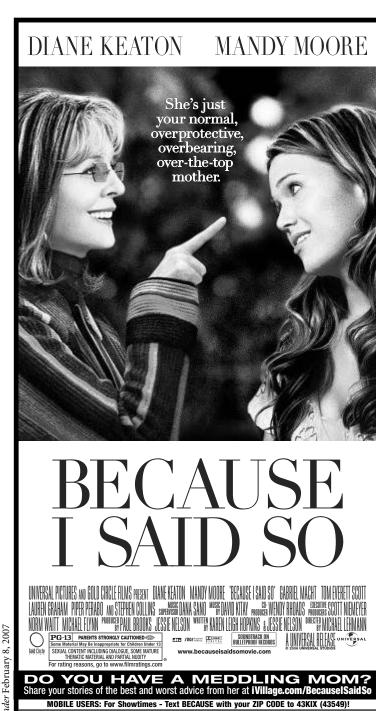
★ (CHULA VISTA 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GASLAMP 15; MIRA MESA 18; MIS-SION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24: PARKWAY PLAZA 18: SANTEE DRIVE IN)

Hannibal Rising — French actor Gaspard Ulliel as the young Hannibal Lecter, with Gong Li, Rhys Ifans, and Dominic West, directed by Peter Webber. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CIN-ERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSS-MONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18: MISSION MARKETPLACE 13: MIS-SION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROME-NADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RAN-CHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE;

The Hitcher — Extensive re-write of the 1986 road-movie thriller of the same name, altering but not eliminating the truck-pull pièce de résistance, the tearing of limb from limb. What emerges from the overhaul is a no-fun Spring Break for a collegiate Cute Couple harassed by a homicidal highway menace (supernatural or just supersilly?) against whom the New Mexico cops are as helpless as though they were up against the Terminator. What it tells us is nothing more than how rapidly time marches on. We now seem to have come to the point where a young filmmaker (Dave Mevers, a music-video guy) can reach back into his youth, no further than the mid-Eighties, and hold up as a screen classic such a complete pièce de crap. That very word, as it happens, issues from the car radio when a distant deejay introduces "a classic from David Soul," albeit an artifact from way back in the Seventies, "Don't Give Up on Us, Baby." Without any question this is meant as a joke, though it's hardly a bigger joke than an awestruck remake of The Hitcher. With Sean Bean, Sophia Bush, Zachary Knighton, Neal McDonough.

• (PALM PROMENADE 24)

Hollywoodland — The speculative investigation into the death of Superman — i.e., the man who played him on television, George Reeves — by gunshot on June 16, 1959, divides itself into the present-tense, but in no other sense tense, nosing-around of a shady private eye (Adrien Brody) and a past-tense review of the third-tier career of the deceased actor (Ben Affleck, a stiff even prior to death, several degrees colder and less supple than the real Reeves). An onthe-set vignette of Fifties grade-Z special effects is amusing in an Ed Wood sort of way; and the digital insertion of Affleck alongside Burt Lancaster in footage from From Here to Eternity, although not quite an exact match, is amusing in a different sort of way, a Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid way. And the vintage clothes and cars are nice. However, the parallel plotlines take a long time to shed any light on each other, and



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never very much light even by the end; and the present-tense one, padded out with the case of an extraneous jealous husband, doesn't hold up its end of things, is more of a rude interrupter, despite the anecdotal interest of the impact of the reported suicide on the detective's young son. None of the three possible scenarios restaged for the cameras alters the essential facts of the matter: Rashomon this is not. Suicide, for an actor imprisoned in a single role, made sense at the time. Suicide still makes sense. The further speculation never seems more than idle, First-time filmmaker Allen Coulter (a. TV veteran, albeit "quality" TV, The Sopranos, Six Feet Under, Sex and the City, etc.) keeps trying and trying to make it more of a story. And failing, failing. With Diane Lane, Bob Hoskins, Robin Tunney, Molly Parker. 2006.

★ (SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY, 2/11, 2 P.M.)

The Italian — The title refers to a Russian orphan, aged six, upon whom his fellow orphans confer the nickname "Italian" as soon as he is tabbed for adoption by a couple of that origin. During the waiting period prior to his departure for the sunny South, he, to the disbelief and dismay of everyone around him, becomes tortured by the thought that his birth-mother would never afterward be able to find him, resolves to track her down himself, and, in furtherance of that quest, learns how to read from a gold-hearted prostitute, all in less than two months. The film mines a vein of easy sentiment lying close to the surface and running shallow, and the kid (Kolya Spiridonov) is as cute as you can bear. Harder to do, and done to a turn by filmmaker Andrei Kravchuk, is the sketching-in of the workings of the orphanage (calling it "Dickensian," as some can't resist, would be an overstatement beyond even the reach of Dickens himself), the hierarchy of the staff, the cracked, rusted, run-down physical plant, and the bleak, snowy, foggy, isolated setting. These things afford solid footing beneath the slush. 2006. ★★ (KEN, THROUGH 2/8)

The Last King of Scotland — The selfconferred title of Ugandan strongman, and madman, Idi Amin Dada, a facile role for Forest Whitaker, who pitches into it with gusto. The true central character, however, is a fictitious young Scottish doctor (James McAvoy), the President's personal physician, "closest advisor," illicit lover of Wife Number Three, and all-around trivial distraction, With Kerry Washington, Gillian Anderson, Simon McBurney; directed by Kevin Macdonald. 2006.

★ (DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; RANCHO SAN DIEGO[R]15; SAN MARCOS 18)

Letters from Iwo Jima — The second part of Clint Eastwood's Second World War diptych, the Japanese-language Japanese-perspective counterpart to Flags of Our Fathers, an exercise in empathy whereby the filmmaker re-examines the same subject, the costly Battle of Iwo Jima, from the opposite side of the firing line. For an American production to attempt to view an American war through the eyes of the other guys — to attempt to portray the sameness, the oneness, of fighting men on whatever side - is in itself nothing new. It is, by one gauge, as old as the prototypical antiwar film, All Quiet on the Western Front, although that one, or any of its successors (A Time to Love and a Time to Die, The Blue Max, etc.), didn't attempt to do so in the other guys' native tongue. In addition to which, any number of films have attempted an internal balancing act, our side and theirs, sometimes even permitting the others to speak in their own tongues (The Young Lions, The Enemy Below, Hell in the Pacific, Tora! Tora! Tora!, etc.). More, then, than in the opposing-viewpoint angle or the foreign-language angle, the uniqueness of Letters lies in its distinction as part of a matched pair, an external balancing act if you will, sharing numerous points of intersection with Flags while sharing no actual cast members. (The momentous flag-raising on Mount Suribachi now rates as no more than a speck in the distance.) The singularity of Letters, paradoxically put, lies in its complementarity. It is much more a

straightforward battle film than its predecessor, which was more a memory film of battle and had as much to do with the aftereffects as with the immediate effects, filing away the warfare as indelible mental snapshots. Too, it comes across as a bit preachier than Flags, where the filmmaker, with firmer footing on home turf, may have felt freer to let vou draw vour own lessons. may have felt less necessity to show his personal "understanding." Nonetheless, it offers a useful, a purposeful, a further refinement of his evolving views on violence. And if it runs the risk of collapse under the cumulative weight of his solemnity (four and a half hours over the course of two movies), the risk proves to have been a risk worth taking, a risk rewarded. Ken Watanabe Kazunari Ninomiya, Tsuyoshi Ihara, Ryo Kase, Shidou Nakamura. 2006. ★★★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4;

HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA 18: MISSION VALLEY 7: OCEANSIDE 16: PALM PROMENADE 24: SAN MARCOS 18)

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 middleclass suburban parents today than about the jaded palates of our moviegoers and/or moviemakers. An adulterous playground liaison - between a killingly handsome Mr. Mom (Patrick Wilson, with his New man-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 bookdiscussion group — cannot be considered sufficiently spicy without the added tang of a neighborhood sex offender, a vigilante excop 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 flashcut fusillade of innocuous bric-a-brac at the outset. Or see the overly choreographed scene at the public swimming pool when the sex offender's arrival in snorkel and flippers gets everyone out of the water faster than if he were a Great White accompanied by the theme from Jaws. Or see the treatment of the night-league amateur football players, through distorting wide-angle lenses, as sneering bruisers suitable for an Adam Sandler comedy. In short, see, all too ostentatiously, the director direct. With Jennifer Connelly, Jackie Earle Haley, and Noah Emmerich, 2006.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18: LA JOLLA 12)

Little Miss Sunshine — The feature debut of music-video veterans Jonathan Dayton and his wife Valerie Faris was put together on the "quirky" assembly line, a product of the thriving "quirky" industry. Dad (Greg Kinnear) is a would-be self-help guru, "would-be," that is, if anyone were buying his Nine-Step Refuse-to-Lose System. Sample pearl, in casual conversation: 'Sarcasm is the refuge of losers." Mom (Toni Collette) is not such an arrant em-



IUDITH FRIEDEL

Chair, San Diego Jewish Film Festival, www.lfjcc.org/sdjff

Do yourself a favor and see Dear Frankie. One of the best movies I've seen in years. A beautiful, witty, heart-warming movie about a child yearning to reunite with his absent father, reminiscent of the exceptional Israeli film Katzhen, playing in this year's San Diego Jewish Film Festival

Last year's Oscar winner, Crash, was a powerful movie brilliantly addressing issues of prejudice and tolerance, a theme found in many of our festival movies. Like our closing-night Israeli film, What a Wonderful Place, Crash compellingly interweaves multiple stories.

Finally, Gloomy Sunday, a film we presented to considerable acclaim a few festivals ago. It has become an international cult favorite, mainly because of the title song, known as "the suicide song." It features noted German actor Ben Becker as the evil Nazi, and it's Becker who ironically stars in the title role of Just an Ordinary Jew at this vear's festival.

DEAR FRANKIE (England) 2004, Miramax List price: \$29.99 CRASH (USA) 2005, Lions Gate List price: \$14.98 GLOOMY SUNDAY

(Germany/Hungary) 2000, Warner Home Video List price: \$19.98

FRANCINE GINSBURG

Co-chair, San Diego Jewish Film Festival

I'd like to focus on three of the best movies from our 2006 festival. La Petite Jerusalem is a lovely and thoughtful French film about a beautiful lewish woman living with her orthodox family while falling in love with a Muslim co-worker.

A similarly themed film with a completely different tone is Only Human, a very funny Spanish film about a lewish woman who brings her Palestinian boyfriend to meet her chronically dysfunctional family. Family members include a neurotic mother, a shellshocked, blind grandfather, and a nymphomaniac sister.

Protocols of Zion is an explosive documentary about the fact that millions of people around the world blame the Jews for 9/11. This belief is a modern-day incarnation of the infamous "The Protocols of the Flders of Zion," the century-old forgery that some claimed to be the Jews' master plan to rule the world. This movie provides some startling perspectives.

LA PETITE JERUSALEM (France) 2005, Kino Video List price: \$29.95 ONLY HUMAN (Spain/Argentina) 2004, Magnolia List price: \$26.98 PROTOCOLS OF ZION (USA) 2004, Velocity/Thinkfilm List price: \$29.99

SANDRA KRAIISS

Producer, San Diego Jewish Film

Annie Hall is a classic. Not only is the movie hysterically funny, it's also innovative in its storytelling, using flashbacks, vignettes, voice-over commentary, animation, and subtitles. Ira and Abby, one of the most entertaining films in this year's festival, was clearly influenced by it with its emphasis on neurotic but lovable characters.

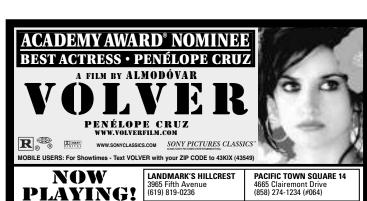
For pure inspiration, I love Shine. Geoffrey Rush's Oscarwinning performance is based on a true story of a man that triumphs over mental illness through his musical talent. Beautiful Music, in this year's festival, is a documentary with a similar message and effect.

Finally, Munich is an important movie and relevant to our current geopolitical situation. It's a perfect accompaniment to Code Name: Bayonet, a moving documentary that corroborates many of the details of Spielberg's movie. Munich was co-written by Tony Kushner, who is also featured at the festival as the subject of the documentary Wrestling with

ANNIE HALL (USA) 1977, MGM List price: \$14.98 SHINE (Australia) 1996, New Line Home Video List price: \$19.98 MUNICH (USA) 2006, **Universal Studios** List price: \$19.98

barrassment, is not really much of anything, except that she has taken responsibility for and custody of her homosexual brother (Steve Carell), a failed suicide and the self-professed, as opposed to acknowledged, "pre-eminent Proust scholar in the United States." Dad's dad (Alan Arkin), who resides in the same household, is a scurrilous cokehead. And the kids are a Nietzsche-reading teenage boy (Paul Dano) who has held fast to a vow of silence for nine months, though he is not averse to

communication via notepad ("I hate everyone"), and an owlishly bespectacled younger sister (Abigail Breslin) in competition for the crown of Little Miss Sunshine in Redondo Beach. Since the family lives in Albuquerque, a road movie ensues, with all members of the family packed into a yellow-and-white VW bus. You wait with dread for the moment that will cause the boy to break his silence, and even greater dread for the first public performance of the girl's "talent" as nurtured in secret by





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Granddad; and the dread in each case proves fully justified. Quirkiness does not preclude sappiness. There are ample compensations, however. Little Miss Breslin is a good crier, and her competitors in the beauty pageant are a frightening collection of JonBenét Ramsey plastic dolls, and the bus itself emerges as the best character, requiring a collective push after the clutch goes out en route, and emitting a rudesounding, unpredictable bleat after the horn gets stuck. 2006.

★ (MISSION VALLEY 7)

The Messengers — Hollywood directorial debut of the Hong Kong twin brothers, Danny and Oxide Pang. Routine hauntedhouse hijinks, unrelenting and undiscriminating, at a "run-down" farmhouse (to say the least) in North Dakota, with a flock of crows flown in from Bodega Bay out of Hitchcock's The Birds. Kristen Stewart, Dylan McDermott, Penelope Ann Miller, John Corbett. 2007.

• (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; CIN-ERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSS-MONT CENTER: HORTON PLAZA 14: LA JOLLA 12: MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MIS-SION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROME-NADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RAN-CHO DEL REY 16: RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15: SAN MARCOS 18; SOUTH BAY DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

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; CIN-ERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16: FASHION VALLEY 18: GALAXY 6: GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROME-NADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RAN-CHO DEL REY 16: RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15: SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Norbit — Screamingly unfunny comedy featuring Eddie Murphy in a dual role as a lisping four-eyed nerd and his fat browbeating wife, wearing walrus-weight latex. Eek! With Thandie Newton, Eddie Griffin,

Terry Crews, Marlon Wayans, and Cuba Gooding, Jr.; directed by Brian Robbins 2007

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN: CHULA VISTA 10: CIN-ERAMA 6; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALAXY 6; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA CINEMAS; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13: MISSION VALLEY 20: OCEAN-SIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS CINEMAS; SOUTH BAY DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE: FROM 2/9)

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-fromthe-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 Evre. 2006.

★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 16; FLOWER HILL 4; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; SAN MAR-COS 18: TOWN SOUARE 14: VISTA VILLAGE)

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.

• (LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Pan's Labyrinth — Guillermo del Toro. the migrant Mexican filmmaker, returns to the place and time of his Spanish Civil War ghost story, The Devil's Backbone, more precisely post-Civil War, mid-WWII. He centers on a preadolescent girl (wide-eyed, plump-lipped Ivana Baquero) chided by her nine-months-pregnant mother (Ariadna Gil, very intense) as too old to be still filling her head with the "nonsense" of fairy tales, especially since she has moved beneath the roof of her wicked stepfather (Sergi López, campily over the top), a Francoist martinet busily stamping out rebels in the woods, who has little tolerance for a child of another bloodline but is eager to get his leather-sheathed hands on his biological baby in his wife's womb. Much more welcoming of the little girl is the mythological faun (real or imagined?), the guardian of the off-limits garden, who identifies the newcomer straight off as the prodigal daughter of the King of the Underworld (what are the odds?). Del Toro, almost in spite of himself, is not altogether guiltless of conventional, parental, puritanical strictures against fairy tales. In his scrupulous, perhaps overscrupulous, bal-

ance of dark fantasy and brutal history, tilted (politically, diplomatically) a little toward the latter, he leaves nothing to chance. He establishes the Importance of his theme through the unassailable realm of Fascists and freedom fighters, and he connects that world to the parallel universe of fairy tales in a way that can best be termed didactic, academic, studied, possibly stifling. He makes a case. He does not make magic. Far more than The Devil's Backbone, the film that keeps coming to mind, always to this one's disadvantage, is Victor Erice's Spirit of the Beehive, 1973. That one, having in common a post-Civil War backdrop and a gullible little girl, made very much the same points, together with others, and made them more subtly, more ambiguously, more poetically; made them, moreover, while Franco was still in power; and made them without recourse to special effects beyond a Halloween get-up of Frankenstein's monster. Del Toro never lets his special effects here, some of them pretty tacky and icky, take over to the same extent as in his comic-book Hollywood movies (Blade II, Hellboy), but a mere black-gloved sadist, even with an open gash on his cheek, has a hard time holding his own against an arboreal goat-god, an insectile pixie, a featureless humanoid with eyes in the palms of his hands, an obscene giant toad, a Tim Burton-esque airless sunless tangled landscape, and so forth, 2006.

★ (ESCONDIDO 16; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKET-PLACE 13; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROME-NADE 24: PARKWAY PLAZA 18: RANCHO DEL REY 16; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

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 fivevear-old son ("Did Mom leave because of me?"). The star is the amiable Will Smith,

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) Call theater for program informatio

DOWNTOWN

Gaslamp 15

701 Fifth Avenue (619-232-0400) Alpha Dog (R) Fri,-Sun. 4:30, 7:10, 9:50; Arthur and the Invisibles (Not Rated) Fri,-Sun. 4:25, 6:40, 9:30; Babel (R) Fri.-Sun. (2:25) 5:35, 8:40; Blood and Chocolate (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (2:30) 5:05, 7:25, 9:45 **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri,-Sun. (2:20) 5:25, 8:30; **Catch and Release** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (2:45) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15; **Code Name: The Cleaner** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (2:50) 7:50; **Déjà** Vu (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. 6:50, 9:40; Dreamgirls (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (2:35) 5:30, 8:25; Epic **Movie** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (3:45) 5:55, 8:10, 10:20; **Freedom Writers** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (3:35) 6:40, 9:35; **The Good German** (R) Fri, Sun. (2:30) 5:00, 7:30, 10:05; **Happily N'Ever After** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (3:40) 5:45; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri,-Sun. 4:20p.m.; **The Holiday** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. 4:55, 10:00; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (2:40) 5:10, 7:40, 10:10; Primeval (Not Rated) Fri,-Sun. 7:50, 10:05 Rocky Balboa (PG) Fri,-Sun. (2:30) 5:05, 7:30,

ਜੂੰ Horton Plaza 14

Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM)

Because I Said So (PG-13) Fri. (12:20, 3:00, 5:30) 7:55, 10:25 Sat,-Sun. (12:20, 3:00) 5:30, 7:55, 10:25; **Borat** (R) Fri. (12:55, 3:05, 5:10) 7:20, 9:25 Sat,-Sun. (12:55, 3:05) 5:10, 7:20, 9:25; **Casino Royale** (PG-13) Fri. (12:50, 4:10) 7:15, 10:20 Sat,-Sun. (12:50) 4:10, 7:15, 10:20; Children of Men (R) Fri,-Sun. (12:00) 7:00; The Good Shepherd (R) Fri,-Sun. (3:25) 9:30; Hannibal Rising (R) Fri. (12:30, 1:00, 3:30, 4:20) 6:40, 7:10, 9:40, 10:10 Sat,-Sun. (12:30,

1:00, 3:30) 4:20, 6:40, 7:10, 9:40, 10:10; **The** Last King of Scotland (R) Fri,-Sun. (12:45, 3:35) 6:45, 9:35; Letters from Iwo Jima (R) Fri,-Sun. (12:35, 3:45) 6:50, 10:00; **The Messengers** (PG-13) Fri. (12:05, 2:20, 4:35) 7:30, 9:45 Sat,-Sun. (12:05, 2:20) 4:35, 7:30, 9:45; **Norbit** (PG-13) Fri. (12:10, 2:35, 5:00) 7:25, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. (12:10, 2:35) 5:00, 7:25, 9:50: The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13) Fri. (1:05, 4:15) 7:20, 10:05 Sat,-Sun. (1:05) 4:15, 7:20, 10:05; **Smokin' Aces** (R) Fri. (12:15, 2:45, 5:15) 7:45, 10:15 Sat,-Sun. (12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15; **Stomp the Yard** (PG-13) Fri. (1:10, 4:15) 7:05, 9:55 Sat,-Sun. (1:10) 4:15,

LA JOLLA

La Jolla 12

8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262) Because I Said So (PG-13); Children of Men (R); The Departed (R); Dreamgirls (PG-13); Hannibal Rising (R); Little Children (NotRated); The Messengers (PG-13); Norbit (PG-13); Notes on a Scandal (R); Pan's Labyrinth (R); The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13); Smokin' Aces (R)

La Jolla Village 8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236) **Babel** (R) Fri. 1:55, 5:00, 8:05 Sat,-Sun. 10:55, 1:55, 5:00, 8:05; **Letters from Iwo Jima** (R) Fri. 2:05, 5:10, 8:15 Sat,-Sun. 11:05, 2:05, 5:10, 8:15; **The Painted Veil** (PG-13) Fri. 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45 Sat,-Sun. 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45; **The Queen** (PG-13) Fri. 1:45, 4:25, 7:10, 9:35 Sat,-Sun. 11:15, 1:45, 4:25, 7:10, 9:35

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) **Alpha Dog** (R) Fri,-Sun. (10:50) 1:35, 4:20, 7:15, 10:15; **Because I Said So** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (11:50) 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:30 Fri,-Sun. (11:50) 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:30; Breaking and Entering (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (11:05) 2:00, 4:55, 7:50, 10:40 Sun. (10:35) 1:30, 4:30, 7:25, 10:20; Casino Royale (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. 12:30, 6:50; Catch and Release (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (10:55)

1:40, 4:35, 7:20, 9:55; Children of Men (R) Fri,-Sun. (11:45) 2:25, 4:50, 7:35, 10:10; **The Departed** (R) Fri,-Sun. (11:40) 3:15, 6:40, 10:05; **Dreamgirls** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. 12:40, 3:45, 6:45, 9:40; **Epic Movie** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (10:45) 1:00, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 9:50; **Freedom Writers** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (10:30) 1:20, 4:40, 7:30, 10:25; **Hannibal Rising** (R) Fri,-Sun. (10:30) 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 10:20; **Letters from** lwo Jima (R) Fri,-Sun. (11:30) 2:45, 6:05, 9:20; Little Children (Not Rated) Fri,-Sun. 3:35, 10:00; **The Messengers** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (11:55) 2:50, 5:20, 8:00, 10:25; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (10:45) 1:15, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45; **Norbit** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (11:35) 2:15, 5:00, 7:55, 10:35; **The Pursuit of Happy ness** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. 12:35, 3:40, 6:35, 9:35; Smokin' Aces (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:40) 1:30, 4:15 7:05, 9:50; **Stomp the Yard** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. 12:15, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00

Mission Valley 7

7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841) Babel (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:45) 7:30; Because I Said So (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 8:00; **The Departed** (R) Fri. (1:00) 7:00 Sat. (1:00p.m.); **Epic Movie** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (11:15, 1:30, 3:45) 6:00, 8:30, 10:45 Sun. (11:15, 1:30, 3:45) 6:00, 8:30; Hannibal Rising (R) Fri,-Sat. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15, 10:15 Sun (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15; **The Last King of Scotland** (R) Fri,-Sat. (10:00, 4:00) 10:30 Sun (10:00, 4:00); Letters from Iwo Jima (R) Fri,-Sat. (10:30, 1:45, 4:45) 7:45, 10:45 Sun. (10:30, 1:45, 4:45) 7:45; **Little Miss Sunshine** (R) Fri. (10:30, 4:30) 10:15 Sat. 10:15p.m.; Little Robots: In the Big Show () Sat,-Sun. (10:30a.m.); Smokin' Aces (R) Fri,-Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:15

Mission Valley 20

1640 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262) Babel (R) Fri,-Sun. 12:05, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45; Because I Said So (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. 12:10, 2:40, 5:20, 7:55, 10:40 Fri,-Sat. (11:15) 12:10, 1:45, 2:40, 4:25, 5:20, 7:10, 7:55, 9:55, 10:40 Sun. 12:10, 2:40, 5:20, 7:55 Sun. (11:15) 12:10, 1:45, 2:40, 4:25, 5:20, 7:10, 7:55, 9:55; Blood Diamond (R) Fri,-Sun. 12:45, 6:40; Catch and Release (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. 4:00, 10:25 Sun. 4:10, 10:25; Children of Men (R) Fri,-Sun 4:05, 9:55; **The Departed** (R) Fri,-Sun. 6:50,

10:05; Dreamgirls (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. 12:35, 3:55, 7:05, 10:10; **Epic Movie** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:10, 10:45 Sun. 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:10, 10:40; **Eragon** (PG) Fri,-Sun. 1:25, 4:10; **Freedom Writers** (PG-13) Fri. 1:10, 7:20 Sat. 1:10p.m. Sun. 1:10, 7:20; **Hannibal Rising** (R) Fri,-Sat. (11:05) 12:50, 1:35, 3:50, 4:35, 6:45, 7:30, 9:50, 10:35 Sun. (11:05) 12:50, 1:35, 3:50, 4:35, 6:45, 7:30, 9:50; **The Last King of** Scotland (R) Fri,-Sat. 1:55, 4:45, 7:40, 10:55 Sun. 1:55, 4:45, 7:40, 10:35; The Last Sin Eater (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. 12:05, 3:15, 6:25, 9:40; **The Messengers** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (11:25) 12:15, 1:50, 2:45, 4:15, 5:10, 7:00, 7:45, 9:35, 10:20 Sun. (11:25) 12:15, 1:50, 2:45, 4:15, 5:10, 7:00, 7:45, 9:35; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (11:05) 1:50, 4:40, 7:35, 10:30; **Norbit** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (11:10) 12:00, 1:45, 2:35, 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 8:00, 10:00, 10:50 Sun. (11:10) 12:00, 1:45, 2:35, 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 8:00, 10:00; The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (11:20) 2:05, 5:00, 8:05, 11:00 Sun. (11:20) 2:05, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35; **Smokin' Aces** (R) Fri, Sun. (11:00) 1:40, 4:20, 7:25, 10:15; Stomp the Yard (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. 12:20, 3:05, 6:15, 9:15

Mission Valley 7

7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841) Babel (R) Fri,-Sun. (12:45) 7:30; Because I **Said So** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 8:00; The Departed (R) Fri. (1:00) 7:00 Sat. (1:00p.m.); Epic Movie (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (11:15, 1:30, 3:45) 6:00, 8:30, 10:45 Sun (11:15, 1:30, 3:45) 6:00, 8:30; Hannibal Rising (R) Fri.-Sat. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15, 10:15 Sun (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15; **The Last King of** Scotland (R) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 4:00) 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 4:00); Letters from Iwo Jima (R) Fri,-Sat. (10:30, 1:45, 4:45) 7:45, 10:45 Sun. (10:30, 1:45, 4:45) 7:45; **Little Miss Sunshine** (R) Fri. (10:30, 4:30) 10:15 Sat. 10:15p.m.; Little Robots: In the Big Show () Sat, -Sun. (10:30a.m.); Smokin' Aces (R) Fri, -Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:15

STATE UNIVERSITY

5831 University Avenue (619-287-8990) Call theater for program information

4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)

The Rules of the Game (Not Rated) Fri. 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 Sat,-Sun. 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

UPTOWN

Hillcrest Cinemas

965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236) Notes on a Scandal (R) Fri. 2:00, 4:45, 7:35, 10:05 Sat,-Sun. 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:35, 10:05; Pan's Labvrinth (El Laberinto del Fauno) (R) Fri. 1:30, 4:15, 7:05, 9:45 Sat,-Sun. 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:05, 9:45; **The Queen** (PG-13) Fri. 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55 Sat,-Sun. 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55; **Venus** (R) Fri. 2:05, 4:50, 7:40, 10:10 Sat,-Sun. 11:20, 2:05, 4:50, 7:40, 10:10; Volver (R) Fri. 1:15, 4:00, 6:50, 9:35 Sat, Sun. 10:30, 1:15, 4:00, 6:50, 9:35

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center 1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233) Coral Reef Adventure (Not Rated) Fri. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 8:00 Sat. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 Sun. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00; **Dolphins** (Not Rated) Sat.-Sun. 10:00a.m.; Journey into Amazing Caves (Not Rated) Fri. 6:00p.m.; Roving Mars (G) Fri. 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 9:00 Sat. 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 Sun. 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00; Space Station 3D (Not

San Diego Natural History Museum 1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821 An Inconvenient Truth (PG) Fri,-Sun. 1:00, 3:00; Ocean Oasis (Not Rated) Fri,-Sun. 11:00, 12:00

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON

Rated) Fri. 7:00p.m.

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

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Rancho San Diego 15

2951 Jamacha Road Babel (R) Fri,-Sun. (11:40) 6:50; Because I

SANTEE

Santee Drive In

10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447) Because I Said So (PG-13) Fri,-Sun.; Catch and Release (PG-13) Fri,-Sun.; Freedom Writers (PG-13) Fri,-Sun.; Stomp the Yard (PG-13) Fri,-Sun.

SOUTH BAY

CHULA VISTA

Chula Vista 10

Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214) Babel (R) Fri,-Sun. (10:30, 1:30, 4:30) 7:45, 10:45; The Departed (R) Fri,-Sun. (1:15) 7:15; Epic Movie (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (11:00, 1:15, 3:30) 6:00, 8:15, 10:30; Freedom Writers (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (10:15, 4:15) 10:15; **Hanni**- $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{bal Rising} \ (R) \ Fri,\text{-Sun.} \ (11:15, 2:00, 4:45) \\ 7:30, \ 10:15; \ \textbf{Little Robots: In the Big Show} \ () \end{array}$ Sat,-Sun. (10:30a.m.); **The Messengers** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (11:30, 1:45, 4:00) 6:15, 8:30, 10:45; Night at the Museum (PG) Fri.-Sun (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45; **Norbit** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; **Smokin' Aces** (R) Fri,-Sun. (11:45, 2:30) 5:15, 8:00, 10:30; **Stomp the** Yard (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (12:00, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

Palm Promenade 24

770 Dennery Road (858-558-2262) Alpha Dog (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:50) 2:25, 5:05. 7:40, 10:15; **Apocalypto** (R) Fri,-Sun. 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:00; **Arthur and the Invisibles** (Not Rated) Fri,-Sun. (11:55) 2:10, 4:30; **Babel** (R) Fri,-Sun. 12:45, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50; **Because I** Said So (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (10:30) 12:10, 12:50, 2:35, 3:15, 5:00, 5:40, 7:30, 8:15, 9:55, 10:40 Sun. (10:30) 12:10, 12:50, 2:35, 3:15, 5:00, 5:40, 7:30, 8:15, 9:55; **Catch and Release** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (11:55) 2:25, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25 Sun. (11:55) 2:25, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20; **The Departed** (R) Fri,-Sun. 6:45, 9:55; **Dreamgirls** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (10:35) 1:25, 4:15, 7:05, 10:05; **Epic Movie** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (11:20) 12:30, 1:30, 2:40, 3:40, 5:00, 5:50, 7:10, 8:10, 9:20, 10:20; Freedom Writers (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (11:10) 1:55, 4:45, 7:30, 10:20; Hannibal Rising (R) Fri,-Sat. (11:00) 1:15, 2:00, 4:10, 4:55, 7:15, 8:00, 10:10, 10:50 Sun. (11:00) 1:15, 2:00, 4:10, 4:55, 7:15, 8:00, 10:10; **The Hitcher** (R) Fri,-Sun. (10:50) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:25, 9:35; **Letters** from Iwo Jima (R) Fri,-Sun. 12:40, 3:45, 6:50, 9:50; The Messengers (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (11:05) 12:35, 1:20, 2:50, 3:30, 5:05, 5:45, 7:20, 8:05, 9:30, 10:30 Sun. (11:05) 12:35, 1:20, 2:50, 3:30, 5:05, 5:45, 7:20, 8:05, 9:30; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (11:50) 2:20, 4:50, 7:35, 10:05; Norbit (PG-13) Fri.-Sat (11:15) 12:00, 1:45, 2:30, 4:25, 5:10, 7:00, 7:45, 9:40, 10:25 Sun. (11:15) 12:00, 1:45, 2:30, 4:25, 5:10, 7:00, 7:45, 9:40; Pan's Labyrinth (El Laberinto del Fauno) (R) Fri, Sun. (11:30) 2:05, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00; The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:35) 2:15, 4:50, 7:35 10:15; Smokin' Aces (R) Fri,-Sun. 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:40, 10:15; Stomp the Yard (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (11:10) 1:55, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45

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

Babel (R) Fri,-Sat. 9:55, (3:30) Sun. (3:30a m): Because I Said So (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. 5:00, 7:55, 10:25, (12:05, 2:35) Sun. 5:00,

7:55, (12:05, 2:35); Catch and Release (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. 5:25, 8:00, 10:30, (12:15, 2:55) Sun. 5:25, 8:00, (12:15, 2:55); **The De**parted (R) Fri,-Sun. 6:45, (12:00); **Dreamgirls** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. 4:40, 7:25, 10:20, (12:50) Sun. 4:40, 7:25, (12:50); **Epic Movie** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. 4:50, 7:10, 9:30, (12:30, 2:40) Sun. 4:50, 7:10, (12:30, 2:40); **Hannibal Rising** (R) Fri,-Sat. 4:30, 7:30, 10:30, (1:00) Sun. 4:30, 7:30, (1:00); **The Messengers** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. 4:55, 7:20, 9:45, (12:20, 2:50) Sun. 4:55, 7:20, (12:20, 2:50); **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri,-Sat. 5:05, 7:35, 10:10, (12:10, 2:45) Sun, 5:05, 7:35, (12:10, 2:45); Norbit (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. 5:15, 7:45, 10:15, (12:15, 2:45) Sun. 5:15, 7:45, (12:15, 2:45); **Notes on a Scandal** (R) Fri,-Sat. 5:30, 7:45, 10:00, (12:40, 3:00) Sun. 5:30, 7:45, (12:40, 3:00); The Queen (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. 5:10, 7:40, 10:05, (12:25 2:55) Sun. 5:10, 7:40, (12:25, 2:55); Smokin' Aces (R) Fri,-Sat. 4:35, 7:15, 9:50, (12:45) Sun. 4:35, 7:15, (12:45)

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) Because I Said So (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (12:45, 3:30) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (12:45, 3:30) 5:45, 8:15; **Epic Movie** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (11:00, 1:15, 3:15) 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 Sun. (11:00, 1:15, 3:15) 5:15, 7:30; **Freedom Writers** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (11:30, 4:45) 10:15 Sun. (11:30, 4:45); Little Robots: In the Big Show Sat,-Sun.

(10:30a.m.); Night at the Museum (PG) Fri, Sat. (11:00, 1:30, 4:15) 7:00, 9:30 Sun. (11:00, 1:30, 4:15) 7:00; **Norbit** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (12:15, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (12:15, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00; **The Queen** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (2:15) 7:45

POWAY

Poway 10

13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423) Because I Said So (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45; Catch and Release (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (1:30) 7:00; **Dreamgirls** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (10:30, 1:30, 4:30) 7:30, 10:30 Sun. (10:30, 1:30, 4:30) 7:30; **Epic Movie** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (11:00, 1:15, 3:30) 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 Sun. (11:00, 1:15, 3:30) 6:00, 8:15; **Hannibal Rising** (R) Fri,-Sat. (11:15, 2:00, 4:45) 7:30, 10:15 Sun. (11:15, 2:00, 4:45) 7:30; Little Robots: In the Big Show () Sat,-Sun. (10:30a.m.); **The Messengers** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (11:30, 1:45, 4:00) 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 Sun. (11:30, 1:45, 4:00) 6:15, 8:30; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri,-Sat. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15; **Norbit** (PG-13) 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 Queen** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (10:45, 4:15) 9:45 Sun. (10:45, 4:15); **Smokin' Aces** (R) Fri,-Sat. (12:00, 2:30) 5:15, 8:00, 10:45 Sun. (12:00, 2:30) 5:15, 8:00

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)

Because I Said So (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (11:00, 12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:00, 5:00) 6:30, 7:30, 9:00, 10:00; **Catch and Release** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (1:40) 7:00; **Epic Movie** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50) 8:10, 10:30; **Hannibal Rising** (R) Fri,-Sun. (11:10, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30, 4:50) 6:50, 7:50, 9:40, 10:35; **The Messengers** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (11:20, 12:35, 2:50, 4:30, 5:20) 7:35, 9:40, 10:15; **Night at the Museum** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (12:00, 2:30, 5:10) 7:45, 10:25; **Norbit** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (11:20, 12:15, 1:50, 2:45, 4:20, 5:15) 7:05, 7:45, 9:40, 10:20; Pan's Labyrinth (El Laberinto del Fauno) (R) Fri,-Sun. (11:15, 1:50, 4:30) 7:15, 10:00; The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (11:05, 1:50, 4:40) 7:25, 10:15; **The Queen** (PG-13) Fri, Sun. (12:00, 2:25, 4:50) 7:20, 9:40; Smokin' Aces (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:15, 2:50, 5:25) 8:00, 10:40; **Stomp the Yard** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (11:30, 2:10, 4:50) 7:40, 10:25

NORTH COASTAL

Plaza Camino Real

2385 Marron Road (760-729-7469) Because I Said So (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (11:30, 2:00, 4:30) 7:00, 9:20 Sun. (11:30, 2:00, 4:30) 7:00; The Last King of Scotland (R) Fri,-Sun. (11:55, 2:40) 5:25, 8:10; Norbit (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (12:00, 2:20, 4:45) 7:15, 9:35 Sun. (12:00, 2:20, 4:45) 7:15; Pan's Labyrinth (El Laber-

CARLSBAD

Flower Hill 4 2630 Via de la Valle (858-646-9425) **Dreamgirls** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (10:30, 1:30, 4:30) 7:30, 10:30 Sun. (10:30, 1:30, 4:30) 7:30;

(10:15, 4:15)

The Last King of Scotland (R) Fri,-Sat. (11:15, 2:15) 5:15, 8:00, 10:45 Sun. (11:15, 2:15) 5:15, 8:00; **Letters from Iwo Jima** (R) Fri,-Sat. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:15 Sun. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00: Notes on a Scandal (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

into del Fauno) (R) Fri,-Sun. (11:45, 2:30)

El Camino Real at Del Mar Heights Road

Babel (R) Fri,-Sun. (1:00) 7:00; Because I

(1:15) 7:15; **The Departed** (R) Fri. (10:00,

6:00, 8:15; Hannibal Rising (R) Fri,-Sat.

(11:00, 2:00, 4:45) 7:30, 10:15 Sun. (11:00,

3:45) 10:00 Sat. (3:45) 10:00 Sun. (3:45p.m.);

Epic Movie (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (11:15, 1:30, 3:30) 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 Sun. (11:15, 1:30, 3:30)

2:00, 4:45) 7:30; Little Robots: In the Big Show () Sat,-Sun. (10:30a.m.); The Messen-

gers (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (11:30, 1:45, 4:00) 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 Sun. (11:30, 1:45, 4:00) 6:15, 8:30;

Night at the Museum (PG) Fri,-Sat. (10:15, 12:15, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:15,

12:15, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15; Norbit (PG-13) Fri.-

(10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00; **The Queen** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (10:15, 4:15) 10:15 Sun.

Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sun.

Said So (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45)

5:15, 7:45, 10:15 Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45; **Catch and Release** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun.

DEL MAR

(858-646-9420)

Del Mar Highlands 8

ENCINITAS

La Paloma

471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-SHOW) Volver (R)

LA COSTA

La Costa 6

6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga) (760-599-8221)

Babel (R) Fri,-Sun. (2:00) 7:45; Because I Said So (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; **Dreamgirls** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15, 10:15 Sun. (10:15, 1:15, 4:15) 7:15; Notes on a Scandal (R) Fri,-Sat. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 Sun (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:30; The Painted Veil (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00; **The Queen** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (11:30) 5:00, 10:45 Sun. (11:30) 5:00; **Smokin' Aces** (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

OCEANSIDE

Mission Marketplace 13

College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-806-1790)

Because | Said So (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (12:45, 3:35) 6:35, 9:40; **Happy Feet** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (11:45, 2:30) 5:10, 8:00; **The Messengers** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (11:55, 2:25) 5:00, 7 10:15: Night at the Museum (PG) Fri.-Sun. (1:00, 4:00) 6:50, 9:40; **Norbit** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (1:05, 3:50) 7:00, 9:50; **Stomp the Yard** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (12:10, 3:30) 6:45, 9:45

Oceanside 16

401 Mission Avenue (760-439-1733) **Babel** (R) Fri,-Sun. (12:15, 3:30) 6:45, 9:45; **Because I Said So** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (12:15, 2:40, 5:05) 7:25, 9:55; **Blood Diamond** (R) Fri,-Sun. (12:30, 3:40) 6:55, 9:50; **Children of** Men (R) Fri,-Sun. (11:45, 2:15, 4:45) 7:40, 10:10; Dreamgirls (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (12:45, 4:05) 7:05, 10:05; **Epic Movie** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (11:50, 1:55, 4:00) 6:00, 8:05, 10:20; Freedom Writers (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (11:20, 2:05, 4:50) 7:35, 10:15; Hannibal Rising (R) Fri,-Sun. (11:25, 2:10, 4:55) 7:45, 10:30; **Let-ters from Iwo Jima** (R) Fri,-Sun. (12:40, 3:45) 6:50, 9:50; **The Messengers** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (11:30, 1:40, 3:50) 6:05, 8:15, 10:35; **Night at** the Museum (PG) Fri,-Sun. (12:00, 2:55 5:30) 8:00, 10:25; **Norbit** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (11:35, 12:05, 2:00, 2:30) 4:30, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00; Pan's Labyrinth (El Laberinto del Fauno) (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 1:50, 4:25) 7:15, 10:05; **Smokin' Aces** (R) Fri,-Sun. (12:25, 3:00, 5:25) 7:55, 10:25; **Stomp the Yard** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (12:10, 2:45, 5:20) 7:50, 10:35



San Diego Reader February 8, 2007

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ULTRASTAR Chula Vista 10

PACIFIC THEATRES Cinerama 6

University Avenue West of College 619/287-8990 #065

Broadway Betw 619/338-4214

★ ULTRASTAR

DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8

El Camino Real/

REGAL CINEMAS **ESCONDIDO STADIUM 16** 350 W. Valley Parkway 800-FANDANGO #519 AMC FASHION VALLEY 18 Hwy. 163 at Friars Rd. West 858/558-2AMC

PACIFIC THEATRES Grossmont center Stadium ten Grossmont Shopping Center 619/465-7100 #069 UNITED ARTISTS Horton Plaza 14 800-FANDANGO #519 LA JOLLA 12

EDWARDS CINEMAS MIRA MESA STADIUM 18 W. of I-15 on Mira Mesa Blvd. 800-FANDANGO #160 AMC Mission Valley 20

I-8 Exit Mission Center Road 858/558-2AMC OCEANSIDE CINEMA 16 Mission Ave @ Pacific 800-FANDANGO #152

AMC PALM PROMENADE 24 805 & Palm Ave. 858/558-2AMC REGAL CINEMAS PARKWAY PLAZA 18

Parkway Plaza Mall 800-FANDANGO #131 ULTRASTAR POWAY 10 Poway Road at Community 858/646-9423

REGAL CINEMAS RANCHO DEL REY 16 East H Street & Tierra 800-FANDANGO #126 a Del Rev EDWARDS CINEMAS RANCHO SAN DIEGO STADIUM CINEMA 15 Hwy. 94 At Campo 800-FANDANGO #132 SAN MARCOS STADIUM 18

2170 Coronado Avenue 619/423-2727 PACIFIC THEATRES TOWN SQUARE STADIUM 14 Clairmont Mesa Blvd 858/274-1234 #064 VISTA VILLAGE METROPLEX 12

25 Main St. 760/945-7469

Sorry, No Passes Accepted For This Engagement, For Additional Information, Call Theaters Or Check Directories, * Presented In Digital Projection

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 postwar Italy, after all - comes in the form of a cash jackpot. Jaden Christopher Syre Smith, Thandie Newton, Brian Howe, James Karen, Dan Castellaneta. 2006. • (ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSS-MONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARK-WAY PLAZA 18: RANCHO DEL REY 16: RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SOUARE 14)

The Queen — A spot of simulated Royalswatching, 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



Smokin' Aces

2007

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.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; GALAXY 6; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA COSTA 6: LA JOLLA VILLAGE: POWAY 10: TOWN SQUARE 14)

Rules of the Game — Jean Renoir's timely, finger-wagging comedy of manners about the French leisure class and its pastime pursuits, pre-WWII, offers a good deal more than the prologue promise of simple entertainment. It is more shrewdly conceived than normal for Renoir and more splendrously dressed and decorated. The acting, however, conforms to the customary, fey, hippity-hoppity gait, with Renoir

himself, in the role of old-faithful Octave, setting the pace. With Marcel Dalio, Gaston Modot, and Roland Tutain, 1939.

★★★★ (KEN, 2/9 THROUGH 15)

Singin' in the Rain — The growing pains, the lead-footedness, and the outright gaffes of early sound moviemaking are bullyingly mocked in a movie that is itself a faultless display of cinematic and choreographic razzle-dazzle. One of the most thoroughly satisfying of the MGM musicals, most thoroughly of all during the

Smokin' Aces — Callous and smartypants action thriller in the Tarantino mode, or better, Tarantinissimo, revolving around a horde of free-lance bounty hunters and hit persons (a lavishly pierced and tattooed heavy-metal trio, a couple of black lesbians, a scar-faced master of disguise in Mission: Impossible latex, among others) in competition to cut out the heart of a Mob-connected Vegas headliner, Buddy "Aces" Israel, now under the safeguard of the feds. Writer and director Joe Carnahan, easing up on the heel-grinding naturalism of Narc, though not on the finger-snapping tempo, is serious only about that most frivolous thing, tricking the audience at the end, and about that most mindless thing, spraying the audience with bullets and blood. The large cast includes Jeremy Piven, Ryan Reynolds, Ray Liotta, Andy Garcia, Ben Affleck, Peter Berg, Martin Campbell, Matthew Fox, and Alicia Keys, of whom

dance number where Donald O'Connor dances straight up the walls. With Gene Kelly and Debbie Reynolds; co-directed by Kelly and Stanley Donen, 1952. ★★★★ (BIRCH NORTH PARK, 2/8, 7 P.M.,

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN: CHULA VISTA 10: CIN-ERAMA 6; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20: OCEANSIDE 16: PALM PROME-NADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RAN-CHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

none has so much as a snowball's chance.

Venus — An abortive Pygmalion tale, written by Hanif Kureishi and directed by Roger Michell, about a septuagenarian onetime matinee idol ("You're famous?" "A little bit") who takes an interest in the hopeless would-be model and, in the meantime, ill-natured caregiver for her gay greatuncle, an old thespian crony of our Pygmalion figure. Some of the senescent sexuality has some interest in it for us, too, as we might expect from the indelicate writer of My Beautiful Laundrette, Sammy and Rosie Get Laid, My Son the Fanatic, and (also directed by Michell) The Mother. And yet, for all the outward thorniness, the film is a ball of mush at heart. Peter O'Toole, as the dried-up ham, gives a wearily bluffing performance that nevertheless seems to have won over the critics. Always prone to a heavy stress and a lurching cadence in his delivery of lines, a kind of vocal galumpher, he is now more ponderous and harderbreathing by half, going for the Henry Fonda Oscar — i.e., the sympathy vote and even, around the nipped-and-tucked hollowed-out eyes especially, looking a bit like late Fonda, a shadow of his former self (a "gorgeous" glamour shot from his salad days will remind us) or more accurately a cruel caricature of his former self. It is good to note that Vanessa Redgrave as his exwife continues to age beautifully, without taking extreme measures, and that she has still got a spark, a mere five years younger than O'Toole, Iodie Whittaker, in her screen debut as the Galatea figure, makes a pebble-sized splash. 2006. ★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

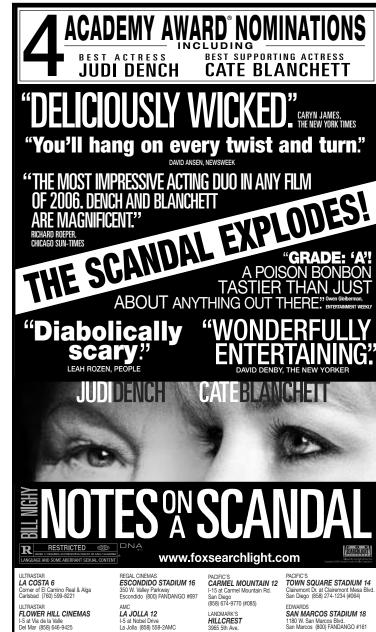
Volver — Almodóvar adds to his familiar sour comedy and mock melodrama the new element of an apparent apparition, a mundane ghost, a flatulent phantom, blended in with the familiar elements in uncertain tone. He shows nary a trace of the erstwhile "bad boy," nothing now but a good, good boy, devoted 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 seveneighths 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; LA PALOMA; TOWN

SAN MARCOS STADIUM 18







HILLCREST

AMC **PALM PROMENADE 24** I-805 & Palm Ave. San Diego (858) 558-2AMC

REGAL CINEMAS
PARKWAY PLAZA STADIUM 18

Cajon N FANDANGO #131

Mira Mesa (800) FANDANGO #160

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Rancho Valencia Resort is an EOE and provides an exceptional working environment for qualified employees. If you wish to apply for advertised job openings, please send your inquiries along with resumé to: hr@ranchovalencia.com or to: 858-756-0165. Applications are available at: 5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067. No phone calls, please.



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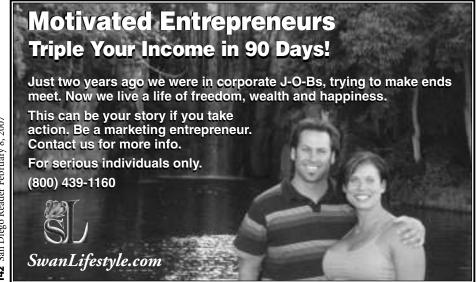
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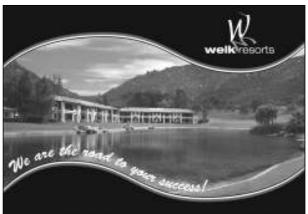
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CNA/HHA. Aides, CNA/Nursing students. Experienced Caregivers to assist Seniors in their homes. 4-12 hour shifts and Livein positions. Paid medical, dental. Top pay, cash vacation bonus, overtime for holidays. EOE. AALL Care In-Home Services. North County, 760-471-7033. San Diego: 619-297-9601.

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COMPANIONS/CAREGIVERS. Full/part time. Requires compassion, dependability, reliable transportation and clean DMV. No heavy lifting. Flexible hours, competitive pay, weekly payroll. Contact Right at Home today! E-mail: employment@rahlajolla.com; or call: 858-277-5900.

rahlajolla.com; or call: 858-2//-5900.

COMPUTER BUYER I. General Merchandising Department. Purchases computers/products for resale. Conducts supervisory responsibilities: strategic planning, budgeting, developing marketing plans for units. Email resume: jayne.laporta@sdsu.edu.

CONSTRUCTION, Laborers wanted, \$10 hour and up. Benefits. Clean DMV, clear drug test, responsible, motivated. Experience a plus. Call Laurie at 619-295-1230

CONSTRUCTION/REMODEL. Local home remodeling company is seeking experienced/skilled electricians, plumbers, drywallers and laborers. Interested applicants please fax resume to 619-946-4364 or call 619-271-5864.

CONSTRUCTION: Project Managers, Service Technicians, Installers. Seeking motivated, organized people experienced with design, blueprints, AV systems installation. Benefits offered. Send resume: dplotkin@audioassociates.com; fax 619-461-9469. EOE.

COOKIE AND CAKE DECORATOR. Immediate opening for conscientious, creative, trained cookie decorator. Mira Mesa area. Part time or full time. Previous experience required. Must speak some English. Email megan@lcmarket.com. Phone 858-453-9084. Fax 858-453-7273

CORPORATE CHAUFFEUR. Sedans/limousines, professional. Must be 25 years, have a cell phone and own trans-portation to work. Flexible hours. Clean DMV. Drug testing. 619-281-0900.

CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY PROBATION CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY PROBATION
Officer I. County of San Diego Probation
Department now hiring. Test Date: February 10, 2007, 8am, Montgomery Middle
School, 2470 Ulric Street, San Diego
92111. Must be 21 years, good physical
condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen or becoming a citizen. Pass criminal/personal background investigation.
No felony convictions. High school
diploma/GED. \$34,028-\$43,430/year.
www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation. Jobline:
858-514-8558.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP II. Hourly wage: \$16.64-\$20.80. (Plus excellent benefits including CallPERS 2.7% @ 55)

"Salary currently under review. The Otay Water District is looking for a proactive, innovative and dedicated Customer Service Representative to perform responsible duties involving the processing of water applications and billings; responding to routine customer inquiries and analyzing and resolving customer service problems. Please visit our website at www.otaywater.gov or call the job line 619-670-2740 for requirement details. Send a District application and Supplemental Questionnaire by mail to: Otay Water District, Attn: HR, 254 Sweetwater Springs Boulevard, Spring Valley, CA 91978; by fax: 619-660-7288 or e-mail to hor1@otaywater.gov by 5pm on Friday, February 16, 2007 for earliest consideration. EQE. CUSTOMER SERVICE REP II. Hourly

tion. EUE.

CUSTOMER SERVICE, part time. Experience needed in busy office. Good knowledge of EDI and MS Office a must. Also requires ability to analyze numbers and produce reports, excellent phone presence and organization, ability to multi-task. Bilingual a plus. E-mail resume to megan@lcmarket.com or call 858-453-9084

CUSTOMER SERVICE. \$12-\$14/hour after training. Data Entry skills required. American Satellite, Inc., 2667 Camino del Rio South, #204, San Diego 92108. E-mail resume: ams_sharpe@yahoo.com or call today for Interview: 858-926-8899.

sume: ams_sharpe@yahoo.com or can to-day for Interview: 858-926-8899.

CUSTOMER SERVICE. Looking for a call center unlike the others with no sales in-

volved? \$9 plus benefits, plus room to grow. Full time/part time. Call our current customers to conduct short surveys. We are only looking for 15 CSRs who want long term employment. 858-279-5585 x104, lisag@calmarketing.com, www.

> CUSTOMER SERVICE. Top pay \$15 \$22/hour! Immediate part-time openings Bilingual a plus. Average \$9-\$14/hour Flexible AM/PM hours. Base salary weekly pay. Paid training. Managemeni opportunities. DialAmerica Marketing Inc. www.dialamerica.com/sandiego. 9332 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, San

> CUSTOMER SERVICE. Up to \$500-\$1000+ weekly setting appointments! Paid weekly. AM/PM shifts. Full, part time. Medical, dental. Near Grantville trolley. Call today, start today! Mission Valley: 619-516-4276.

CUSTOMER SERVICE/SALES: 3rd Party Collections, Kearny Mesa, 1+ years experience required, \$11-\$15/hour DOE. Outbound Sales, Vista, 8am-5pm, \$10/hour. Outbound Sales, Sorrento Valley, part time 3:30-8:30pm Monday-Friday, \$9/hour. Retail, San Diego Airport, 1st and 2nd shifts available, 6+ months cashiering experience required \$9/hour. and 2nd shifts available. 6+ months cashiering experience required, \$8/hour Outbound Fundraising, Kearny Mesa, 9am-4pm Monday-Friday, \$12/hour, 6 months experience required. Inside Sales, Sorrento Valley, electronics, technical and hardware experience required. \$13.50/hour plus commission. Outbound Lead Generator, Downtown, \$10/hour, must have good data entry and typing skills. ABCOW Staffing, 2525 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 125, San Diego, CA 92108. 800-690-8367. recruiter@abcow.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE opportunities with a health services company in Downtown. Many positions in many departments. Solid computer skills, data entry skills. Long term and full time opportunities available. Great benefits. Apply at: chulavista-ca@appleone.com or call: 619-409-1401.

CUSTOMER SPECIALIST. Geico seeks professional, highly customer-focused New Customer Specialists. No cold call new Custoffier Specialists. No dolf daming! Will train. Guaranteed base \$31,000-\$36,300 plus performance-based bonuses! Advancement opportunities. Daylevening shifts. Medical, dental, life, 401(k), profit sharing, tution reimbursement. EOE. Drug test/physical/credit/back ground check required. Please apply online and select the "Customer ContactSales Agent" position: www.geico.com/

DANCE/MUSIC INSTRUCTORS. Maggrowing Performing Arts Department \$15-\$20/hour part time. Teaching experi ence required. Contact Human Resources: 200 Saxony Road, Encinitas 760-942-9622 x1008

DATA ENTRY CLERK. Service oriented attention to detail, ability to handle dead-lines. Experience helpful. Will be respon-sible for entering quotes and premiums and other clerical duties for commercial insurance company in Del Mar. Call Ap-pleOne, 858-490-6470.

pleOne, 858-490-6470.

DATABASE EDITOR. Work with manufacturer catalogs & price lists to maintain/update both product & price data for electrical/plumbing distributors. High-level detail orientation/strong computer skills required. Carmel Mountain Ranch area. Approximately \$12.50/hour. Full-time temporary position. Reply with retime temporary position. Reply with re-sume: Shirley_Vaughn@TradeService.

DELI/RESTAURANT. Phil's BBQ opens new location! Hiring: Customer Service, Bussers, Host/ess, Bartender, Cooks: (Grill, Fry, Prep), Dishwasher. Apply in person, Monday-Saturday, 9:30am-2pm, 3750 Sports Arena Boulevard. Ask for

Paul or Bryan. **DELIVERY DRIVER.** Full-time/part-time. \$8/hour. Weekends a must for well-established flower shop in Pacific Beach. Bring DMV printout to 1560 Garnet Avenue.

DELIVERY DRIVERS. Part time, evenings, \$10-\$15/hour. Weekends a must. Bring DMV printout. Apply Tuesday-Saturday, after 3pm: DiMille's Ustances and the property of the proper

DENTAL RDA and Front Office positions. Encinitas pediatric practice. Self-motivated, reliable, professional, kid-friendly personality. 4-day week, competitive wage, benefits, bonus. JoAnne, 760-635-3478. Fax resume, 760-635-9384.

DEPUTY SHERIFF and Deputy Sheriff Detentions/Courts. San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Hiring for two types of positions; take one exam, apply for either or both! Exam dates: Saturday, February 17, 2007, 7:30am arrival: Rancho Buena Vista High School, 1601 Longhorn Drive, Vista CA 92083 and Wednesday, February 21, 2007, 5:30pm arrival: Sheriff's Administration Center, 9221 Bidaphage. ministration Center, 9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego CA 92123. You must

register by e-mail or phone prior to the Ridgehaven test Only at recruite sdsheriff.org. Detention/Courts: \$37,901-\$58,675 annual salary, plus benefits. Must be 18 years old. Deputy Sheriff: \$47,338-\$67,714 current annual salary, Must be 18 years old. Deputy \$47,338-\$67,714 current annual salary, plus benefits. U.S. citizen or applied for citizenship; 20-1/2 years old. High school graduate or G.E.D. required. Bring valid photo ID and #2 pencil. Valid California Driver's License prior to appointment. Ef-fective oral and written communication in English. EOE. Additional test dates: www. joinsdSHERIFF.net. 858-974-2000.

joinsdSHERIFF.net. 858-974-2000. **DESIGN SPECIALIST.** Kojo Worldwide Corporation seeks a Design Stylist to design and develop the company's fabric collection lines. Applicant must possess at minimum a bachelor's degree in fine arts, in textile/fabric design or a related field plus three (3) years of design experience. Please send cover letter and resume to: Philip Haness, 9654 Siempre Viva Road, San Diego, CA 92126. **DETAILER.** Jimp company part time. Sat-

DETAILER. Limo company, part time, Saturday-Monday, washing, detailing and warehouse duties. Must be 25 years, able to drive large vehicles. Clean DMV. Drug testing. 619-281-0900.

DISPATCHERS/ALL SHIFTS. Dispatcher DISPATCHERS/ALL SHIFTS. Dispatcher experience required, training provided Excellent written/verbal, multitasking, detail-oriented skills/reliable. Western Towing offers comprehensive benefits package: 401(k), medical, dental, life, and more. Fax resume: 619-295-6892, Attention: Human Resources-Call Center; email: humanresources-@Westerntowing.com, subject: Call Center; or apply in person: 4370 Pacific Highway, San Diego 92110.

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DOG/CAT & OTHER PET CARE in your homé. Paid "Host Families" needed for va-cationing pets. Experience with animals necessary. www.pawsnplaypetcamp. com. Toll free, 888-320-PETS (7387).

DRIVER, DELIVERY. Company vehicle, \$8/hour, full-time, benefits. Nonsmoker, \$8/hour, full-time, benefits. Nonsmoker, bring clean DMV printout. Apply in person Monday-Saturday. Floral Supply Syndicate, 7904 Ronson Road, 92111. 858-268-4611.

DRIVER, DELIVERY/SERVICE, furniture.

sired, with clean DMV. \$12/hour plus benefits. Hold It Contemporary Home. Stuart, 858-874-6660, stuart@holdithome.com.

DRIVER, VENDING ROUTE. Full time. Experienced preferred or will train. Bring clean DMV. Good pay plus benefits, company vehicle. Apply Monday-Friday: 7988 n Diego.

Stromesa Court, San Diego.

DRIVER/CHAUFFEUR: It is very important that all applicants have a professional appearance, general knowledge of San Diego County, be able to work unpredictable hours, be over 25 and have a clean driving record. We prefer someone with a services industry background and will provide training to the right applicant. Call 619-585-0920.

Call 619-585-0920.

DRIVER: Part time. Must have own truck with shell or van. Clean DMV a must. Some heavy lifting. Afternoon hours available. Able to read Thomas Guide a plus. Please call between 10am-5pm, Monday-Friday, 858-560-9337.

Prioay, 888-860-9337.

DRIVER. Organized go-getter for on-location copying, process serving and court filing. Use of personal vehicle required. Hourly plus mileage reimbursement. Will train. 619-839-3400.

Irain. 619-839-3400.

DRIVERS WANTED. Requires valid CA driver's license, current H-6 DMV printout and good, safe driving skills. Hourly/comission/lips. Call 619-591-0300 fax resume to 619-591-0300. Xpress Shuttle, 1065 Bay Boulevard, Suite B, Chula Vista, CA 91911.

DRIVERS, DELIVERY. Sleep Train Mattress Centers. Over 21, clean DMV, back-ground check. Good customer service. Days, nights, weekends. Mira Mesa. Full-time, \$12-\$16/hour, great benefits. 858-693-6354.

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DRIVERS. Class A, B and Bus. Camp Pendleton. Pay \$18.64-\$20.34/hour. On Call. Call Good People Employment Services, 858-467-1348.

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Rancho Valencia Resort is an EOE and provides an exceptional working environment for qualified employees. If you wish to apply for advertised job openings, please send your inquiries along with resumé to: hr@ranchovalencia.com or to: 858-756-0165. Applications are available at: 5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067. No phone calls, please.



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Wholesale distribution company is looking for 16-18 people all to grow with our company. Advancement opportunities in all areas.

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Fine Dining (Suites, In-seat & Clubs) Tues., Feb. 20, 4-7 pm & Sat., Feb. 24, 10 am-4 pm Western Metals Building located across from Marriott

Qualified applicants should have fine dining food service background but will train the right individuals.

Positions available include:

Bartenders, Barbacks, Club Servers, In-seat Servers, In-seat Runners, Suite Runners, Cooks (event-only & pre-event), Food Preps (event-only & pre-event), Buffet Chefs, Portable Attendants, Club Cashiers, Hosts/Hostesses, Catering Attendants

Non-union positions: Level Supervisors Also Special Event Personnel (Check-in, Event Receptionist)

Concessions, Retail & Warehouse Mon., Feb. 26, 4-7 pm & Sat., Mar. 3, 10 am-4 pm **Western Metals Building located across from Marriott**

Qualified applicants should have food service or retail background but will train the right individuals.

Positions available include:

Stand Leaders, Stand Attendants, Stand Cashiers, Event Porters, Day Porters, Food Preps, Cooks, Vending Commissaries Leaders, Vending Commissaries Workers, Food & Beverage Vendors*, Retail Vendors*, Team Store Clerks, Program Vendors*

Non-union positions: Level Supervisors, Warehouse

Supervisors

Also Special Event Personnel (Check-in, Event Receptionist)

- Most positions require that you be 18 years of age or older. *You may be 16 years of age for these positions. Applicants under the age of 18 must have a parent or legal guardian present.
- Must be able to work Padres home games, including playoffs.
 - We will be conducting on-site interviewing Please dress in appropriate interview attire (no jeans, sneakers, sandals, T-shirts, etc.).
 - DNC Sportservice requires pre-employment drug testing and criminal background checks.

time hours only. Use your own car. Paid car allowances. Must bring with you: Driver's license, Social Security card, proof of insurance. Transportation and drug screening required. Apply or call 9am-1pm Monday-Thursday at 9586 Distribution Avenue, Suite K, Miramar, San Diego, 92121; 858-547-4427.

Diego, 92121; 698-947-4427.

DRIVERS. Local furniture company seeking part-time delivery drivers immediately. 15-20/hours per week. Experience an asset. \$9-\$15/hour. Clean driving record, manual transmission required. rious inquiries. 858-864-8722

DRIVERS. Must have Class B license with passenger endorsement and at least 6 months experience. Fixed route, Monday-Friday, 31-40 hours/week with benefits. Friday, 31-40 hour Call 619-287-0628.

Cail o 19-28/-0028.

DRIVERS. Restaurant delivery service, 9am-2pm. No experience necessary. Get cash daily. Apply today, start tomorrow! Need car, insurance, decent DMV. Call DDI, 888-334-9675.

DRIVERS. Transportation services provider for seniors and disabled. Great pay! At Your Home Familycare. E-mail: homecarejobs@atyourhomefamilycare.com. Call toll free: 1-877-903-JOBS.

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9867.

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California State Certified Only. Full-time with benefits. 3 years residential experience, work truck, tools and drug test are required. Fax resume to 619-448-7774 or e-mail to jamar@

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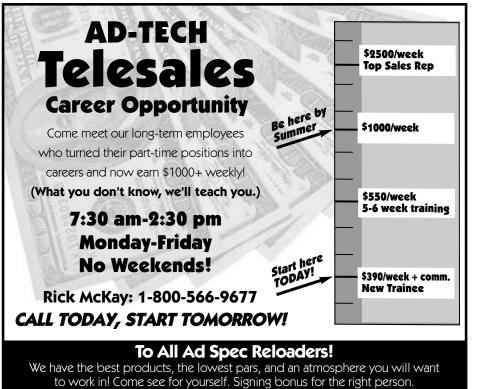
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HAIRSTYLIST/ESTHETICIAN. Booth rentals. Looking for motivated members for boutique salon. Stop by with resume: Salon Mirror Mirror, 148 South Solana Hills Drive, Solana Beach CA 92075. 858-794-0372.

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HEALTH CARE: Attentive Home Care has immediate assignments for Live-in Carejuers. CNAs, HHAs and hourly Carejuers. CNAs, HHAs and hourly Caregivers--part time or full time. 3 years experience and CA ID or driver's license, Social Security card required. Fingerprint and TB test a plus. Flexible schedules. Overtime for holidays. Health insurance and employer-matched 401(k) benefits available. Call for an interview in North County or San Diego: 760-434-4393 or 619-231-0151. "North County applicants, please mention where you're calling from. HEALTHCARE. CNAs/Caregivers/Trans-HEALTH CARE: Attentive Home Care has

HEALTHCARE. CNAs/Caregivers/Transporters needed for all shifts. The Experienced Home Care Registry Inc. community leader in private duty home care needs all shifts, 110 Escondido Avenue, Suite #207, Vista 92084. 760-724-

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Special **Education**, **Prevention Services and Treatment Programs**

Applications/résumés are accepted Monday-Friday 9 am-4 pm.

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All applications/résumés must include job title, www.vistahill.org

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SALARY: \$34,028.80-\$43,430.40 ANNUALLY Safety Retirement - Sworn Officers 3% at age 50. Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply

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or iax resume to: 619-298-3948.

HOTEL. Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines hiring: Restaurant Servers, Busperson, Coffee Bar Attendant, Room Service, Night Audit, Bell Person, Housekeeping, Assistant to Director of Finance, Security, Painter, Door Attendant. Apply/person: Monday-Tuesday, 9am-12pm, Wednesday-Thursday, 1pm-4pm. 10950 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037. 858-450-4543. EOE/AA.

EOE/AA.

HOTEL. Hyatt Regency La Jolla now hiring: Cafe Japengo Cook I, Cook III, Cook IV, Server and Sushi Chef II, Convention Services Floor Houseperson, Culinary Cooks III, Convention Services Meeting Concierge, Housekeeping Room Attendants, Housekeeping Houseperson, Security Officer, PBX/MIS Telephone Technician, Guest Services Concierge and Steward. Excellent benefits. AA/EOE. M/F/D/V. Please apply online: www.lajolla.hyatt.com.

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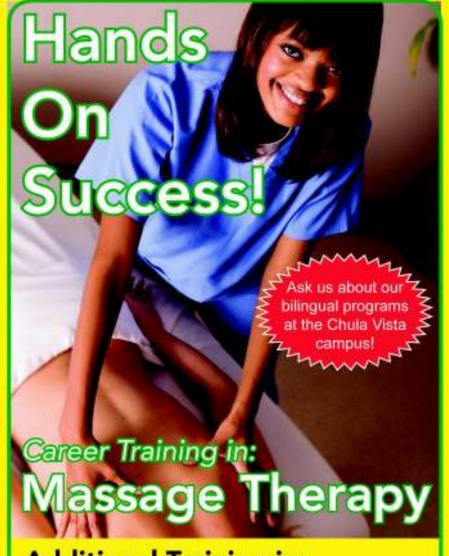
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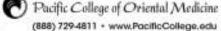


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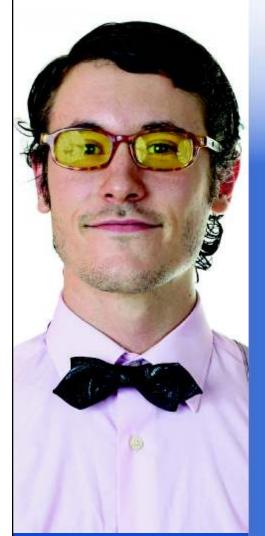
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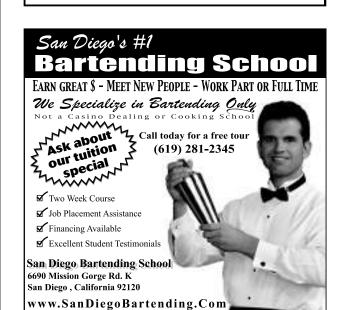
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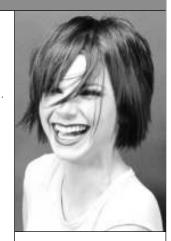
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- 1. Provider of a high-speed Internet connection
- 4. "Panthera unca" is its Latin name
- 10. Pastel hue
- 14. Posting at JFK
- 15. Plummer of "Pulp Fiction"
- 16. Press
- 17. Picker of peppers in a wellknown tongue twister

 19. Profilees in "Forbes," maybe
- 20. Palm, e.g.
- 21. "Quiet as a mouse," e.g. 23. Play of Shakespeare
- 27. Pop singer Iglesias
- 30. "Quick! Save me!," at sea
- 31. Pavarotti solo
- 33. Quit one's sanity
- 34. "Perhaps you're interested ...?"
- 36. Polite fellow
- 37. Peak in Switzerland
- 40. Quite obviously, the letters that begin all of the clues in this puzzle
- 43. "Picture that!"
- 44. Pupienus Maximus' 103
- 46. Posh accomodations
- 47. Place often referred to as "central Japan"
- 50. Princess in "Star Wars"
- 51. Quizzes for coll. credit
- 54. Queen Elizabeth II's realm
- 56. Phi preceder
- 58. Persona non grata 60. Paolo's supper
- 61. Press
- 63. Peals heard at Old Macdonald's farm
- 67. Part of morning calisthenics 68. Perform better than the incumbent, say
- 69. Pronoun for a boat
- 70. People, GQ and Esquire, for short
- 71. "Portrait of Jennie" actress Barrymore and others
- 72. Quick breaks in pro sports

Down

- 1. Pool measures
- 2. Panasonic purchase, maybe
- 3. Presses on into evening 4. Pickle holder
- 5. PA system component
- 6. "Pan" preceder, in a Chinese dish title
- 7. Potentially insulting
- 8. Person who danced with Fred before Ginger
- 9. Quite ready (to go)
- 10. Parabola's motion 11. Pal of Ishmael in "Moby Dick"

- 12. Private club, for short?
 - 13. Physical responses
 - 18. Pamphlet ending? 22. Prefix for early man
 - 24. Queer-sounding outburst
 - 25. Public radio host Glass and others 26. Patna instruments
 - 28. Popular eclectic bimonthly
 - 29. Punta del ____, Uruguay
 - 32. Quash, as a marriage
 - 35. Parisian goodbye
 - 37. Post-exercise feeling
 - 38. Quarterback or linebacker in Detroit
 - 39. Pastime that requires paddles

 - 41. Pharmacy swab
 42. Pretty large bodies of water
 - 45. Puerto Rico and Cuba, e.g. 48. Pirate's laugh
 - 49. Peerless
 - 51. Players in it include Yankees and Red Sox
 - 52. Pullover raincoat
 - 53. Plane terrorizers, in a 2006 movie
 - 55. Put off
 - 57. Part of a hosp.
 - 59. Potatoes-and-meat dish 61. PC maker

 - 62. "Pret-a-Porter" actor Stephen 64. Passing grade

 - 65. Plane that flies to Seoul, for short
 - 66. Parts of gallons: Abbr.

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 2/1/07.

There were 122 entrants. The winners are:

- 1. Thomas French, San Diego
- 2. Trevor Price, Chula Vista
- 3. Mindy Westinghouse, Escondido
- 4. Larry Jonsgard, Escondido 5. Jeff Sperling, San Diego

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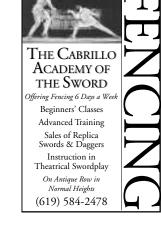
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PROFESSIONAL MASSAGE. 1-1/2 hours, \$75. Absolutely first-rate, healing, deep-muscle Swedish massage. Awesome shoulder, footwork. Legitimate, experi-enced, references. Lic-97005459. Jim, 619-523-1982; cell, 619-459-6872.

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TAI CHI AND QI GONG CLASSES. First class is free! Visitors welcome. Taoist Sanctuary, 4229 Park Boulevard, San Diego 92103. 619-692-1155 or www.taoistsancturary.org

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calling 619-235-8200. POST FREE ONLINE ADS with photos at SanDiegoReader.com. See thousands of classified ads not printed here! CAR SEATS, \$10 each. Walker, \$15. Stroller, \$7. Baby bath, \$5. Baby girl, 6-9 months, clothes, large bag, \$25. 760-685-8290.

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day, 619-584-5777. **HELP OUR CHILDREN.** Foster a promising future for a child in need. Become a Foster Parent. Singles and couples welcome. Financial reimbursement. License #370602780. E-mail: parents.sandiego@weldenfamily.org. For more information, call Walden Family Services today. 619-584-5777.

MITCHELL'S LITTLE MUNCHKINS. Lic 376618443. Affordable loving family day-care for your special little ones. 0-5 years welcome. Meals provided. CPR and First Aid Certified. Julie, 619-34-3627.

PLAY STRUCTURE, free. Back yard redwood play structure with slide. Well used but solid. You dismantle and haul. Mike, Kensington, 619-280-6941.

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

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ABANDON YOUR ACTING FEARS! AC tors' 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! Sign up now for the most fun Point Loma! Beginners welcome. www.pointlomactors.com. 619-225-0044.

AUDICIONES en Espanol. Lectura Dramatizada de 'Las Luminarias.' Actri-ces/Actores para representar 8 person-ajes femeninos. Principiantes OK. Sabado 17 febrero, 12 del dia. Encinitas, 760-942-0826.

AUDITIONS FOR Tenor/baritone/bass. Classical vocal ensemble. Sight-reading a plus. Weekday, holiday season, and occasional evening performances. Weeknight rehearsals, Tuesday. Some pay, Appointment, Vox.Nobili.Director@

AUDITIONS, Award-winning sketch comedy tv show, seeks San Diego based male/female actors. Look 18-30, talent trumps experience. Saturday 2/17. Won-

drous Strange Productions. 619-339-

AUDITIONS-INHERIT THE WIND, February 26 and 27, 7-9pm. Coronado Playhouse. Director Keith Anderson. 10 men, 8 women, 2 teens, all roles open. 619-890-9882, www.coronadoplayhouse. com, maryemily@rocketmail.com

com, maryemily@rocketmail.com.

AUDITIONS. SeaWorld. Saturday, 2110/07, 11am-3pm. Be part of the fun! Costume Characters, Comedic Actors, Show Hosts, Dancers, Bands and Groups, Performers, Backstage Professionals and more! SeaWorld Adventure Camp. 500 SeaWorld Drive, San Diego. Bring your talent to SeaWorld, experience the wonder and excitement. You may interview/audition for more than one category. Bring resume and headshot photo; 18 years of age; prepared audition no more than 2 minutes. Audition Hotline: 619-226-3607 or visit: www.seaworldsandiegoauditions.com

AUDITIONS. Gypsy, 2/10/07, noon-3pm. The Saville Theatre, 15th and C Street (San Diego City College). Bring sheet music amd dance clothes. 619-388-3617.

AUDITIONS: Short film. Seeking actress, 20-33, fit, attractive, 5'6"-5'11"; and sec-20-35, III, attractive, 50-50-77, 20.30-20-30 not actress, creative, exotic, and very fit, 5'5" or taller. No pay. Call 858-518-8396 or 858-483-9011.

EXTRAS, ACTORS, MODELS. \$125-\$750+/day. No experience required. All \$750+/day. No experience required. All looks needed! \$2000+ in 2 weeks. Call now. For casting calls, 1-800-270-1807 x528 and x536. (AAN CAN) HEADSHOTS BY PAUL SAVAGE: Award

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MODELING & TV COMMERCIALS. AI 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.

paid. Protession.... 379-4964. MODELS/INTERNET VIDEO. Females Poality-based/art photography. Ex-

18+. Reality-based/art photography. Ex-cellent pay. Flexible hours. Seeking all body types/races. Open-minded a plus. Paid daily. David, 619-203-3327.

MOVIE EXTRAS, ACTORS, models! Make \$100-\$300/day. No experience required. Full time, part time. All looks needed! 1-800-799-6215. (AAN CAN)

OLDER ADULTS THEATRE CLASS. No fee. Meets 6-9:30pm, Tuesday/Wednes-day. 2211 Massachusetts Avenue. Lemon Grove, February 13-June 7. Per-formance of variety show June 8/9. 619-606 5210 VOICEOVER WORKSHOP. Break into

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ANAJUUSY DEPRESSED? Relationship issues? New Year, new outlook on life. Individuals, couples, children and families all welcome. Sliding fee. MFC-43174. Contact Phaedra Scoortis at 619-972-0209.

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CLINICAL HYPNOTHERAPY. "What the mind can conceive, the body car achieve." All issues addressed. Free con-sultation. Patricia R. Parlin, Ed.D. CHT403-250. Call 619-442-3661 or 619

COUPLES WORKSHOP. Participants will learn how to sustain a committed relation-ship. Topics will include: Communication, Conflict Resolution, Intimacy. Friday 3/30 6-9pm, Saturday 3/31 9am-5pm. Sally LeBoy, MFT#14768. 619-685-5975.

EMOTIONAL ISSUES? PTSD, abuse, co-dependence, birth trauma, relationships, professional spiritual counselor, M.A. Hu-man Behavior, 4 decades experience. Teaching Credential #020171282. www. idaretoheal.com. 619-701-4621.

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION. Rela tionship therapy: infidelity, sexual impulsivity, betrayal, guilt, resentment, anger, spousal conflict, relationship building, men's issues. Matt Burgan, MFC41596. 858-735-4069.

858-735-4069.

FEELING STUCK? STRESSED? Experiencing crisis? Relationship issues? Ca-reer problems? Family conflicts? Grief? Molest survivor? Take back your power. Free consultation: 619-723-9244. Trish Deignan, LCSW21861.

FIND THE ULTIMATE Relationship. Are you tired of going from relationship to re-lationship 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 Kamen, PhD, MFC-12709. 619-296-9442.

HEALTHY ADULTS COURSE offers free preview evening Wednesday, February 7th. Call to arrange your complimentary introduction. Learn to heal childhood trampas from wounds of dysfunctional family. Includes Thought Field Therapy for eliminating anxieties and traumas. Counseling for individuals, couples enrichment and family bonding sessions. Sharon Goodlove, TET Diagnostician, and Glenn Goodlove, LCSW-1450. Goodlove Counseling Center, 858-569-8975, www.goodlove-online.com. HEALTHY ADULTS COURSE offers free

LOW-FEE COUNSELING/THERAPY for in dividuals, families, couples, adolescents and children (sliding scale starts at \$35/session) from highly skilled Interns. Stress Management, Dreamwork and Men's Groups. LSC-14487. Allen Pluth, Ph.D., 619-200-4042.

MALE GROUP MEMBER NEEDED for mixed process/support group. Relation-ship difficulties, intimacy, self-esteem, childhood issues. Tuesday evenings, UTC area. Susan Jorgensen, MFT-22281, 858-622-0632.

Notices

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL works for human rights. Meetings: 7pm, 2nd and 4th
Wednesdays. First Unitarian Church,
4190 Front (opposite UCSD Medical Center). Information, 858-576-3811.

through Thursday 7:15-8pm. Discourse and discussion, by a Vedic scholar. Hare Krishna temple, 1030 Grand Avenue, Pa-cific Beach 92109. 858-483-2500.

CANCER PREVENTION THE, Natural way, 2/15/07, 7pm-9pm Dan Harper MD at Price-Pottenger Nutrition Foundation (PPNF) in Lemon Grove \$20 (\$10) PPNF

CANNABIS PATIENTS ACT. (Association Cannabis Therapeutics.) Nonprofit. Seeks caregiver/patients with questions about collectibles/co-operatives, obtaining medicine, growing guidelines. Proposition 215, guidelines. Nurses, 800-419-4810, 619-528-0907.

DIVORCECARE meets every Sunday at 9am. A special free seminar and loving support group for the broken-hearted in divorce, completed divorce, broken life in friendship. 4926 La Cuenta, Suite 203, Tierrasanta. Bruce. Bruce@coastline-realestate.com or 619-461-4480.

DIVORCED AND PROBLEMS with child visitation, support payments, non-custo-dial rights, lawyers, and family law court? Change the system, join Coalition of Par-ent Support. Call 619-465-2677.

ent Support. Call 6 19-400-207...

DIVORCING/SEPARATING? Get guid-(2000-2014) during your emotional ad-

ance/support during your emotional adjustment. Group meets Friday, 6:30-8pm, in Allied Gardens off Waring Road. Divorce Anonymous, 619-442-1550.

DONATE that automobile, boat, RV, etc. to Ronald McDonald House Charities-San Diego, receive tax deduction and possibly a partial cash payment! Call toll-free, 866-244-8464.

EARN \$100 BEFORE YOU MOVE! If you are moving soon. Call us to schedule a home interview and environmental sam-pling. For just 2 hours you will earn \$100. SDSU Healthy Homes Study, 619-594-

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Stop Smoking For Good!



164 San Diego *Reader* February 8, 2007

ENERGY FIELD TUNE-UP! Every Tues-day, 7pm-8:30pm, 2141 El Camino Real Oceanside. Energy field cleansing and chakra balancing. Earth and Sky Church, 760-631-7900.

FACIALANTIAGING.COM or www.

FREE LECTURE/MEDITATION! "What is Karma?" seminar. Do you want to change and improve your life, but don't know how? Always face the same problems? Understand the true meaning of karma. February 10, 2pm-3:30pm, Days Inn San Diego, 543 Hotel Circle South, 92108. Reserve your seat now! www.irh-la.info, serve your seat now! www.irh-la.info, la@irh-intl.org, 310-782-7776, 626-584-0701.

FREE MEDITATION CLASSES: Mondays 7pm; Tuesdays, 7pm; Saturdays, 11:30am. www.dharmacenter.com. 5059 Newport Avenue, Suite 303, Ocean Beach, CA 92108 858-616-6308.

FREE PSYCHIC HEALING. Lecture Clinic. Free readings for new visitors. Mondays, 7:30pm, 2/5/07, by Vessa's Clairvoyant Program students. 4455 Morena Boulevard, Suite #108. 858-509-7582.

HERPES/HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS

(HSV/HPV) Support group. Accurate medical information and support. Recorded message. 619-491-1194. www. SanDiegoCityHELP.org.

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

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-

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS WOMEN'S Sup port group, meeting every third Wednesday of the month, 6-7:30pm, beginning February 21. Cardiff by the Sea library. 2081 Newcastle Avenue, Cardiff. Contact MS society at 760-448-8400, press 1.

NATIVE COUNCIL PROGRESS. Incorpo native council Progress, incorporated, non-profit, supports the repatriation of Mexican Indian immigrants. 4000+dead. Derechas para los migrantes sin papeles! Amnesty, yes! Wall? No! sancho69ya@yahoo.com.

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE Anonymous. Free 12-step meeting for people with OCD. Mondays, 6-7pm, Department of Health Services Complex, 3851 Rosecrans Street, Mission Room, San Diego. 619-757-6603.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Meetings daily. www.oasandiego.org or 619-521-

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. "Staying On Seab " Seabruary 27, 7-9pm. 3180

PATHWORK DISCUSSION: "The Spiritua Significance of Sexuality," February 15 2007 7-9pm, 1228-1/2 Camino Del Mar Del Mar. Open meeting, no fee, materials available. For information call 858-259-

PREGNANT WOMEN, Needed for an email survey. Must be pregnant for the first time, recovered from diagnosed eating disorder. Compensated with \$20\gift card Toys'R'Us. Edrecovery@yahoo.com.

PRIVATE COUNSELING. Your journey can be clearer, more peaceful; relation-ship issues, body image, self-esteem anger. I can help. Work toward accep-tance of yourself. Fee. 619-838-6817.

RECOVERY GROUPS for men women seeking freedom from addic women seeking freedom from addiction/ co-dependency. Fridays, 7pm. Cele-brate recovery, First Lutheran, 867 South Lincoln Avenue, El Cajon. 619-444-7444.

www.recovery4u.cc.

SAN DIEGO DRUID GROVE forming. Attention: Celtic Shamans and Tree Huggers. Infinite Deities Grove. RDG Proto-Grove. http://rdg.mithrilstar.org/First grove meeting: 2/25, 3pm. Contact infinitedeities@yahoo.com.

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.

STOLEN. 4 aluminum patio chairs and cast iron table stolen weekend of 1/1/07. Reward leading to recovery. RW Little Company, Inc., 3923 Pacific Highway. 619-238-2750.

STOP VIOLENT CRIME. Make a difference. Be a real life superhero. Join the Xtreme Justice League. Contact Mr. X(treme) for details. www.myspace.com/sdcrimefighters; xtremejusticeleague@hotmail.com or 619-819-7834.

hotmail.com or 619-819-7834.

SURVIVORS OF INCEST, Anonymous
Free 12-step support group for men and
women molested as children. Call Tim.
619-992-8344, www.siawso.org.

619-992-8344, www.siawso.org.

TRANSFORME el presente. Lo invitamos al grupo que se esta formando para escuchar y practicar las ensenanzas de Eckhart Tolle. Encinitas. Gratis. 760-942-

TRANSFORMING the present moment Join group forming to listen and practice Eckhart Tolle's teachings. Encinitas. Free 760-942-0826.

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.

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.

gratification! 619-543-6269.

VOLUNTEERS. Help stop the child abuse crisis. San Diego's abandoned/neglected children desperately need you. Become a child advocate. Information sessions: Wednesdays, 3/7, 3/28 (South Bay) and 4/4. Voices for Children, 858-569-2019 or

4/4. Voices for Children, 589-589-2019 or visit www.speakupnow.org.

WRITERS (2) looking for "Chicken Soup" type pet stories for new Book & Toon series with photos if possible. 858-693-3939; claudic@writersetc.com or cicdelarge.usbkin.sex piedpiper@newsblaze.com.

NAME This Place



Last week's place: (clue: New Heights of enlightened policing?) New police station being completed on El Camino Real at Elijah Court, in the Del Mar Heights area. Jeff Katz architects designed the light-flooded, clerestory-windowed, solar-powered, 22,000 square-foot facility. The idea is to create a new hub for SDPD's community-based policing strategy in the expanding region. (Last week's winners: James Bennett, Bob Monroe, Josh Omens, Greg G. Simmons)

YOU'RE WELCOME HERE! We're making adifference in Spring Valley. Join us! a difference in Spring Valley. Join us Spring Valley Community Church. Chris tian outreach. Sunday Worship: 9:30an English, 11:30am-Spanish. 73 Concepcion. www.svchurch.org.

Travel & GETAWAYS

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WANTED: Airline ticket, newspaper, and a place to stay in Sydney, Australia. This will be my first trip down under. Any advice welcome. Grant, 619-426-3635.

PERSONALS

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Student

Mission Valley

bought a car from a friend. It ended the friendship. The alternator broke. He tried to rewire it. Three days later, the car didn't run. He didn't want to take responsibility. I spent three grand on the thing. I felt like he knew all along, and his dad was just pushing him into the whole deal. He was saying the car had been checked out by a mechanic. I guess you shouldn't do business with friends.



Todd Miramon

Disc Jockey

Kensington

When I bought a computer years ago. I put so much crap on it I didn't need, they wouldn't take it back. I finally just gave it to my kids. I've bought guitars I regretted. I overpaid and would see the guitars cheaper somewhere else, like in the Reader ads. I've sold stuff like guitars I regretted, too. The last thing I bought I regretted was a scooter. It was almost five grand. It was an impulse buy, and I just never use it. Now I have payments.



Heidi Pennington Student

Linda Vista

shirt and sweatshirt I bought Ashirt and sweatonine. Lot today. I have a credit card bill already. All women spend little amounts each week shopping for clothes. And, I have a car payment that's \$235 each month. I'm going to Canada in two weeks, and I'm trying to save money for that. So, even though the shirts I bought today were only \$50, I already regret that because I should be saving. When I went to school in New Zealand, I spent a lot of money. I didn't regret that because at that time, I wasn't saving for anything.



Alexa Parashos

Waitress

North Park

ast year, I spent three days in line Lwaiting for an Xbox for my boyfriend. I regret that because they came out with two new systems This year, I waited in line for a PS3, which I didn't get. And then I waited two days for a Wii. I ended up getting that. I should've put in a reservation. We've been together so long, and I guess I've spoiled him. I can't just get him a sweater for Christmas.



Scott Renner Broker's Assistant

North Park

Dell computer. I wanted a Mac Aright after. Six months later I bought one. I gave the old computer to my mom. I don't have many regrets on things I've purchased. Once I got tickets to see Dashboard Confessional and Beck. Dashboard ended up not playing. And I'm not a big Beck fan. They wouldn't refund my money, because Beck had already started playing. I kind of regretted that.



Armando Torre

Entertainer

Coronado

 $\Gamma^{
m he\ Louis\ Vuitton\ wallet\ I\ got\ for\ $350.$ High-end stuff like that. I still buy it. Sometimes my parents help me out. I try not to go crazy when I shop. I spent \$300 at Urban Outfitters. I bought some shoes at Nordie's for \$250. Since I'm short, sometimes I have to get clothes tailored for me. Anyway, when I spend a lot on clothing, sometimes I end up regretting it.

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day, nonsmoker. 858-494-3440.

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531-4993.

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Visa • MC Lic. #11794 San Diego Reader February 8, 2007

CLAIREMONT, WEST. Room available in newly remodeled 4 bedroom, 3 bath house. Washerd/dryer, fireplace, yard. Quiet neighborhood. Parking. No smok-ing, drugs, pets. \$600. 858-272-2992.

COLLEGE AREA. Master bedroom, walk in closet, private bath, \$1000. Large room, separate entrance, shared bath, \$800. 2 bedroom suite, separate en-trance, shared bath \$900. 858-759-3563.

COLLEGE AREA, Female to share 3 bedroom 2 bath house. Walk SDSU. Large rooms, garage, appliances. \$750, 1 year lease, plus \$675/deposit. Available now! 619-336-6896.

COLLEGE AREA. Studio-style room with full bath, private entrance, \$720. \$200 off first months rent. Washer/dryer, wireless Internet. Additional room, \$640. 858-243-

COLLEGE AREA. \$600. Master bedroom with private bath available in nice home. Landscaped yard, wireless Internet, ca-ble, washer/dryer, shared utilities. Avail-able now. Jimmy, 619-252-2435.

COLLEGE/DEL CERRO. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with female. Large room with bath. Pool, jacuzzi. Have cat. Nonsmok-ing only. \$600, plus utilities. Toni, 858-731-3114; 619-235-2415, x30431.

731-3114; 619-235-2415, x30431.

COLLEGE/ROLANDO. \$600. House, Large master bedroom, second story, private bath, deck, yard, storage, cable TV/Internet, hardwood, quiet/nice neighborhood, mountain views. Tavis, 619-583-

DEL MAR. \$900. Master bedroom/bath in great location. Washer/dryer in unit. Tennis courts, pool, jacuzzi, parking. Available now. Small dog OK. Elisa,

DOWNTOWN. Female preferred. Nice furnished studio. \$199/month. Very small to share, to save money. Near Seaport Village, buses, trolley, shops, night clubs. 619-581-8693.

EASTLAKE/CHULA VISTA, \$475. Room mate wanted. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, nice new condo. Quiet area. Vaulted ceilings. Granite kitchen. Washer/dryer. Nonsmok-ing. Utilities included. 619-807-7662.

EL CAJON near downtown. \$430. Share 2 bedroom, 1-story apartment. Nonsmoker, nonalcoholic, nondrug abuser. Bus lines nearby and trolley not far. Male preferred. 619-440-4011.

EL CAJON. \$600. Share 3 bedroom, 2 bath home, all utilities included. Use of bath home, all utilities included. Use of washer/dryer and full kitchen. Male preferred. 619-390-6796.

ferred. 619-390-6796.

EL CAJON. \$550, 1/3 utilities, cable service. Quiet 1 big room, 1/2 acre country house, own entrance, 1/2 bath. Easy access to freeway, buses, mall. Washer/dryer. Available now. Prefer fe-

male. Call Linda, leave message, 619-749-1116.

ENCINITAS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Good-size bedroom, sliding doors to Good-size bedroom, sliding doors to backyard. Have dog and cats. No smok-ing/drugs. \$750, 1/2 utilities. Credit Check.

ENCINITAS. \$575, plus 1/2 utilities. Share 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Ample parking, tennis courts, large pool, washer/dryer in apartment. Great grounds. Pat, 760-635-3600; 619-235-2415, x25892.

ENCINITAS. Furnished/unfurnished 2 bedroom condo. Male. Large patio. View. Pool, spa, garage. Quiet, safe. Fireplace, cable, DSL, washer/dryer. New carpet. \$650 plus utilities. 619-335-3535.

ENCINITAS. \$550/month, 1/4 utilities. Room in clean, quiet modern house. Washer/dryer, cable, kitchen privileges, phone line available. Deposit. Won't last long. 760-753-1686; 619-235-2415, x30194

ENCINITAS. \$750 plus deposit. Downtown, near beach. 11'x13' quiet room, shared bath, walk-in closet, laundry, cable, yard, balcony, view. Nonsmoking. Have cat. 760-519-3937.

ESCONDIDO, \$550/\$300. Townhouse quiet neighborhood, freeway close Shared pool, jacuzzi, tennis, basketball Short-term, 6 months or less. Includes ca-ble, wireless Internet, electricity, laundry. No drugs. 760-443-7763.

No drugs. 760-443-7763. FLETCHER HILLS. \$200 off first months rent, \$560. Utilities included. Mile from Grossmont College, walk to shops. Nice neighborhood. Washer/dryer, wireless Internet. Darin, 858-243-1911.

HILLCREST. Share spacious 3-story townhome with female. Entire 3rd floor yours. Includes master suite, private bath, vaulted ceilings, washer/dryer, storage. \$800 month to month. No pets/smoking. 619-961-5058.

619-961-5058. HILLCREST. Share 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Washer/dryer, all new kitchen appliances. Gated complex. Friendly neighbors. Corner unit with view. Female preferred. \$645. 619-398-5050.

IMPERIAL BEACH. Large sunny bedroom in big 2 story clean custom home. Near beach. Kitchen privileges. Washer/dryer. Backyard bbq. Nonsmoking. Female preferred. \$525, 858-481-5551.

KEARNY MESA. \$750. Master bed-room/bath, walk-in closet, designated parking. Includes cable, gas and lights, phone, water. Laundry facility, workout room, pool. Near freeways. 858-571-5306.

KENSINGTON. \$875. Canyon view, prikensington, \$8/5. Canyon view, pri-vacy plus, 2 story Tudor, pool. Bedroom/ private bath, hardwoods, 3 fireplaces, gourmet kitchen, owner travels. Extra space available to same tenant. No pets. Nonsmoking, 619-283-9600.

LA COSTA. Master bedroom, \$800. Huge, spacious room. Movie theaters across

street. 5 minute walk to restaurants. Pool, jacuzzi, fireplace. 1-car garage. Storage space. 760-672-7064.

space. 760-672-7064. **LA JOLLA/UTC.** Room in large 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath canyon view home. Teak bed, dresser, desk. No smoking/pets. \$575, plus utilities. Anna, 858-558-0705. So/s, plus ullilles. Arina, 856-508-0705. **IA JOLA/VITC.** Own bedroom and bath. 350-square-foot patio. Share electric, cable, Internet. Gated community. 2 pools, 2 jacuzzis. Laundry onsite. \$850 (\$900/garage). 858-410-5547.

LA JOLLA/UTC. \$580, \$550 deposit, 1/3 utilities. Bedroom in 4 bedroom home. Private bath. Furnished/unfurnished. Clean house, quiet neighborhood. No smoking/drugs. 858-554-0018.

LA JOLLA/UNIVERSITY CITY, Share spa cious 2800-square-foot house, all amenities, canyon view, close to all. No smoking/pets. \$625, plus deposit. 858-539-1386, 619-213-8993.

LA JOLLA/UTC. \$675? plus utilities, share bath, deposit. 2000-square-foot home. Inground pool, fireplace, gazebo, fountains, wireless Internet, off-street parking. No pets. 858-455-9914.

LA JOLLA/WINDANSEA BEACH, \$950/ month. Lovely, complete Berch. 3930/ month. Lovely, complete furnished large master bedroom with large cedar walk-in closet. Everything included. Maid service. Private entrance. Nonsmoker. 858-459-3089; 619-235-2415, x23970.

LA MESA. \$500, utilities included. Female to share furnished 2 bedroom, 2 bath with female. Pool, jacuzzi, laundry. Own bathroom, patio. No smoking/drugs. 619-892-3161.

LA MESA. \$460, \$250 deposit. Third person needed for large, furnished bedroom. Washer/dryer. Utilities included. Share bathroom. No smoking, alcohol, pets. Nice neighborhood. 619-465-5746.

LA MESA. \$500. Room with view and private entrance in beautiful shared quiet house. Mirrored closet doors, hardwood floor. Washer/dryer. Month to month. Linda, 949-701-3200.

LA MESA/LAKE MURRAY. \$685. Quiet, carport, private entrance and bath, se cluded pool area. Laundry. Cable Inter net. Utilities all included. 619-316-0407.

LEMON GROVE. Sober living home. Spacious, newly remodeled, furnished house, \$550/month for large shared room. \$1000/month for private room. Deposit \$200. No pets/smoking. 619-263-8807.

LEMON GROVE. \$600. Furnished room in 3 bedroom, 1 bath house. Shared utilities. Huge yard, washer/dryer, garage storage. Outdoor smoking OK. No pets. 619-

LEMON GROVE, \$595. Private master bedroom and large bathroom in large home. Laundry, cable, internet, utilities paid. Deposit. 619-501-5260.

LEUCADIA, Share 2 bedroom 2 bath, private balcony, cable net. Rent \$725 first and last, 1/2 utilities. Roommate smokes. Very close to beach. Paul 760-942-3894.

LINDA VISTA. \$480. Three bedroom ocean view, central, tropical yard, new carpet/marble, laundry. deposit. No smoking/pets. Male red. Bill, 858-518-1517.

LINDA VISTA, 2 bedroom 1 bath duplex, yard, washer/dryer. No pets no smoking. yard, washer/dryer. No pets no smooth Off-street parking, \$550/month plus 1/2 utilities, \$550/deposit. Near Mesa/USD.

LINDA VISTA. \$480. Three bedroom home, ocean view, central, tropical yard, quiet, new carpet/marble, laundry. \$300/deposit. No smoking/pets. Male preferred. Bill, 858-518-1517.

MIRA MESA, Room for rent \$475/month, \$150/deposit. References. Pool, jacuzzi, kitchen, laundry. Please leave message 858-653-0423.

MIRA MESA. \$500/month, includes utilities. \$250 deposit with first month's rent. Clean, unfurnished room. Female pre-ferred. Shared bathroom. No smoking/pets. Contact Joy, 858-349-

MIRA MESA. Free rent in exchange for assistance. Female seeking female. Bed-room is fully furnished. Washer/dryer Pool, spa, sauna. No smoking/pets. Jay 858-472-2668.

MIRA MESA. \$500. Share house, pool, jacuzzi, deck, cable, wireless Internet, washer/dryer. Female only. No pets. 858-549-3197.

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MISSION VALLEY. \$550 includes cable/electric. Large 15x11 bedroom. Available now in 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Pool, parking, laundry. Bobby 619-358-3968.

NATIONAL CITY. \$580. Master bedroom, private bath for rent in large home. Easy access to freeway, bus and trolley. Please call for more information, 619-474-

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NORTH PARK. \$450. Small furnished

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OCEAN BEACH, Room available 2/15/07 in 3 bedroom condo, ocean view, 3 blocks beach. Laundry. No smoking/pets/drugs/excessive drinking. Male preferred. \$675. 619-246-8560.

OCEAN BEACH/POINT LOMA. \$650 plus deposit, includes utilities. Share spa-cious, custom, coed house with 4. Hilltop ocean views. Hardwood floors. No smok-ers/pets. Available 3/5/07. 619-223-8497.

OCEANSIDE, Large room for rent \$600/month with deposit includes utilities. Washer/dryer, dishwasher, fireplace, large yards. Cable. No smoking or pets. Full privileges 760-721-7978.

OCEANSIDE, 2 bedroom, walk to beach. Large kitchen/living room. Washer/dryer in house. Ample parking. Female preferred. \$575 plus 1/2 utilities, tile floors. OLD TOWN/MISSION HILLS. 1 bedroom

private bath in condo. Parking, weekly maid. Great location. Nonsmoker, no pets. \$700, utilities, cable included. 619-

PACIFIC BEACH/GROWN POINT: Share 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Own bath-room, closet space. \$750/month, \$600 security deposit, 1/2 utilities. Mike 619-665-4432, email bruin_000@yahoo.com.

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mate wanted in 3 bedroom, 2 bath cute townhouse. \$520, 1/3 utilities, deposit. Available 2/22. Female preferred. Maria,

Available 2/22: Female preferred: Maria, 858-243-9356; Maggie, 617-872-8344. PACIFIC BEACH. Free room in exchange for house cleaning, 8-10 flexible hours/ week. Some English required. Previous cleaning experience preferred. No drugs. 858-270-3401.

pac-2/u-34U1.

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POINT LOMA, 3 bedroom 3 bath, fully furnished condo. Unfurnished large room, private bath, walk-in closet. 2 story, vaulted ceilings, fireplace, washer/dryer, parking. No pets please. \$750/month, 619-226-1166.

619-226-1166.

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SAN CARLOS. Unfurnished room, 12x12, available in 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Share bathroom with male. \$600. 1/3 utilities about \$40/month. \$300 deposit. 619-

SAN CARLOS. Bedroom for rent. \$550, plus \$250 deposit. Kitchen, utilities shared. No drugs/drinking. 619-698-

SAN DIEGO, SOUTHEAST. 3 bedrooms, 3 bath house. 2 large bedrooms have own bath. Garage, off-street parking. From \$700-\$900, plus deposit. No pets. 619-

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SAN YSIDRO. \$450. Room for rent in nice Coral Gates area. Includes utilities/cable. Kitchen privileges. No smoking/drugs. Available now. Hablo espanol. 619-227-

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SANTEE. New and nice master bedroom with private entrance and private bath. \$645/month, includes energy/water. Near freeway 52 and 125. 619-852-8259; 619-258-4238; monicachavez68@hotmail.

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LITTLE ITALY, 1703 West Walnut. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. 1200 square feet, hardwood floors, garage. Beautiful view of bay. No pets. \$1400 rent. 619-6407530, www.sdforrent.com.

MIRA MESA. \$1795. 3 bedroom, 2 bath in nice area. Refrigerator, stove, laundry hook-ups, large yard, 2-car garage and community pool. www.utopiamanagement.com, 858-598-1111 x193.

MIRA MESA. \$1650. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Huge kitchen! Dishwasher, stove.

house. Huge kitchen! DISTIWASTIET, STOVE Carpet. Laundry hook-ups. 2-car garage Pets OK. 9344 Reagan Road. Agent, 619-

MISSION BAY. Manufactured homes: 1, 2, 3 bedrooms available. Pool, spa/sauna, spacious grounds, 24-hour security. References/deposit/lease. Well-behaved dog OK. \$1200-\$2000. 619-548-8992.

MISSION BEACH. \$2000. 3 bedroom, 1 bath beach cottage. Steps to sand. Hardwood floors in living room. No pets. Available now. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

MISSION HILLS, 2727 Columbia Street, 3

mission Hills. 2/2/ Columbia Street. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Gardener included. Hardwood floors. Washer, dryer, new refrigerator. Breakfast nook. All appliances. 10-foot window: best Bay view in town! Downtown views. Garage. Good freeway access. Pet considered. \$2100. 619-224-7923.

MISSION VALLEY. \$2550. Stonecrest 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath detached. Private hot tub, plantation shutters, granite kitchen/baths, balcony off master. 2 pools, tennis, gym. 858-229-9890.

MISSION VALLEY. Rancho Mission Road #3. Cerro De Alcala complex. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1500 square-feet. Wood floors, all appliances, 1-car garage, 1 space, patio. Panda Realty, 858-748-8850.

Panda Healty, 858-748-8850.

MT. HELIX. 9640 Plimpton Road. 1 bed-room, 1 bath house with den. Large deck, washer/dryer hookup, off-street parking. Pets on approval. Close to freeway, yet still secluded with lots of nature and trees. \$1200 rent. 619-640-7530, www. sdforrent.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS, 3 hedrooms, 2 haths

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 3 Dedrooms, 2 baths, \$2095, 3904 Madisson Avenue. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1375, 4565 39th Street. Both totally remodeled: hardwood/Travertine floors, granite, new appliances. 619-804-5030.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1000. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Parking. Quiet. 4572 Bancroft Street. CCPM, 619-296-6699.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1500. 2 bedroom, 1

bath. Beautiful Craftsman home. Hard-wood floors, upgraded bath, 1-car garage, washer/dryer hookups. 2509 Madison Avenue. Agent Sylvia, 619-459-

NORMAL HEIGHTS, \$1400, 2 bedroom, 1

bath. Beautiful Craftsman home. Hard-wood floors, upgraded bath, 1-car garage, washer/dryer hookups. 2509 Madison Avenue. Agent Sylvia, 619-459-9951.

NORMAL HEIGHTS, 2 bedroom 1 bath living room, dining room, modern eat-in kitchen. Laundry. Corner lot, picket fence. Covered porch covered patio. Beautiful Craftsman home on quiet street near pub-lic park. Pets OK. \$1700. 619-808-2293.

NORTH PARK/NORMAL HEIGHTS.

\$1475. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. 2-car garage. Fireplace. Washer/dryer Washer/dryer. Private yard. Appliances. Deposit. Cat OK. 619-461-0766.

Deposit. Cat Ok. 619-461-0706.

NORTH PARK, \$1000. Small 2 bedroom, 1 bath house, behind property. New paint, ceramic tile floor and carpet. Available 2/10/07. 4655 Utah Street. www.cethron.com, 619-295-1100.

NORTH PARK/MORLEY FIELD. \$1395. 2

bedroom, 1 bath duplex, fenced back pa-tio/yard, laundry hook-ups. Refurbished Pet? 2233 Landis. Drive by/call, 619-871

NORTH PARK. Duplex, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1400. Beautifully remodeled Craftsman, granite countertops, crown molding, hardwood floors, washer/dryet,

fenced patio. Must see. Yvonne, 619-847-5740.

NORTH PARK. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. \$395 off 1st month's rent! Newer carpet and appliances. Garage included.

Grand Opening!

An Oriental

Photograph from the San Diego Historical Society



Tichele and Emmanuel **▲**Petruzelli were laborers for Kate Sessions in the 1920s. No other info could be found... perhaps because Sessions's contributions may have eclipsed any credit due to her helpers. A

clipping from 1935 noted that civic leader George Marston "suggested that her present title, 'Mother of Balboa Park,' be changed to 'Queen Mother of the Whole Floral Kingdom."

— by Robert Mizrachi

Cat OK. 2608 University Avenue. 619-865-3992.

865-3992.

NORTH PARK. Classic Spanish revival. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 2-car garage, spacious home. Sunroom. Park-front to Morley Field and park. \$1695. 2620 Upas Street. Agent, 858-505-1300.

on cul-de-sac with view. No peis: Smaii yard. No garage. 2125 Jacot Lane, near Juniper dip. 619-701-1490.

OCEAN BEACH. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Great ocean views! Hardwood floors. Garage. Laundry hookups. Pets OK. \$2275 includes water/trash. Lease, deposit. 4652 Niagara, 619-920-2787.

OCEAN BEACH. \$2300. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, den, fireplace, laundry hookups, dishwasher, fenced yard, parking, nonsmoking, pets?, 4662 Santa Monica Avenue. Available now. 619-994-9088, 619-221-9047.

OCEANSIDE. \$1350. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath house, month-to-month lease, 3 blocks to

the beach. Fee. Free search at www. westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

westsiderentals.com. o19-307-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. Quaint 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Close to bay and beach. Fenced yard. Dishwasher, microwaye. ceiling fans, washer/dryer hookups, gardener. \$2450/month. 858-273-3233.

PACIFIC BEACH. Thomas Avenue. 2 bed-room house, wood floors, 1-1/2 blocks to room house, wood floors. 1-1/2 blocks to beach. Washer/dryer, water, trash in-cluded. January move-in. Pets OK. \$1895. 858-761-2317.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$2800 rent, \$2800 deposit. 3 bedroom 2-1/2 bath, 2050 square foot tri-level house. Garage. No pets, at 2338 Walmar Lane, 619-299-8515.

PACIFIC BEACH. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house in Crown Point. 2-story, high ceilings, 1-car garage plus driveway. Laurdy on-site. No pets. Available 2/8, 3922 Shasta. 858-483-3534 or 858-583-0182,

PACIFIC BEACH. 4 bedroom, 2 bath. 2175 Grand Avenue. New carpet, full bed and bath separate from main house. 3

parking spaces, washer/dryer, fireplace dishwasher. Landscaping included. \$2800. No pets. 858-483-3534 or 858-

PACIFIC BEACH, EAST. \$1750. 3 bed-PACIFIC BEACH, EAST. \$1750. 3 bed-room, 1 bath house with 3 units in rear. Stove, refrigerator, coin laundry, driveway parking. Shared patio area. Water/gar-dener paid. No pets. Available 2/5. 4475 Bond. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2150. 3 bedroom, 1 bath house with 2-car garage. Hardwood floors and front and backyard. No pets. 1875 Reed Street. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1650. Charming large 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Dishwasher, washer/dryer, large covered patio, fish pond, gardener, 1-car garage +1 parking space, dog OK. 2048 Reed Avenue. 858-270.4080.

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1**70** San Diego *Reader* February 8, 2007

PACIFIC BEACH. Remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 baths (all new), brand-new kitchen. 280-square-foot master suite, fireplace, skylights. Garage/off-street parking. \$3300, year lease. Pets OK. Available 3/1. 619-417-0851.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1300, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath house, 1-car parking included, re-frigerator, stove, yard, laundry on site Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals. com. 619-367-3329

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1045. 1 bedroom beach cottage. Fenced rear yard. Consider pet. Very clean. 2661 Figueroa Boulevard. Call for appointment. Shore Management. 858-274-3500.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH/West. \$2475. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with wood floors. Yard, gardener included. Washer/dryer hook-up. Available 3/8. Lease. No pets. 1073 Agate. TPPM, 858-699-3851 or 858-454-4200 x110.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1350. 3 bedroom, 1 bath house, washer/dryer hookups. 4438 Olney Street. Centre City Property Management, 619-296-6699.

PARADISE HILLS Townhome, \$1685. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, 1750 square feet. 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, 1750 square feet. 2 car garage, fireplace, stove, microwave, dishwasher, fenced back yard. Access to rec room, gym, 3 pools, basketball court, and tennis courts. Deposit \$1700. 2416 Manzana Way. 619-475-8935.

Manzana Way. 619-475-8935.

PARADISE HILLS. 4 bedroom, 3 bath house \$1750, cul-de-sac, large yard, 2 car garage, 1804 square feet, laundry hookups, available now. 7289 Danawoods Ct. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-

POINT LOMA, \$800 rent \$600 deposit OAC. 1 bedroom cottage. No pets, at 1657 Scott Street (at Keats) 619-299-

FOINT LOMA. 4 bedroom, 2 bath plus extra room. Large living/family room. Separate eating area. No pets! Year lease Available March. \$2500. 619-523-8135.

POINT LOMA. \$2395. 3 bedroom house with garage, washer/dryer and spacious backyard. 3789 La Cresta Drive. 619-226-7368 or 619-987-8079 or www.

POINT LOMA, \$2300. Charming Spanish 3 bedroom, 1.25 bath, 1400 square-feet. New carpet, paint, appliances. Large kitchen, breakfast nook, basement. Pets considered. 619-865-1022, sdagentlisa@

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POWAY. 4 bedroom, 2 bath. Large fenced yard, patio, panoramic view. Washer/dryer hookup, appliances, fire-place, carpet, window covers. \$1950. 12616 McFeron Road. 858-395-4596, Agent

POWAY. Bridlewood Prairie Vista, \$2700. One story, all appliances, family room, large yard, wood floors, huge patio, 3-car garage, lots of trees, gardener included. Panda Realty, 858-748-8850.

POWAY/Old Town, Midland Road, \$1550. 2 bedroom, 2 bath upper with

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et. Close to major shopping. Panda ty, 858-748-8850.

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POWAY/Olive Hills/Olive Meadows Drive, \$2580. 5 bedroom, 3 bath upgraded home. Pool and gardener included. 2 car garage, large family room, fireplace, dining room. Pet on approval. Panda Realty, 858-748-8850.

RAMONA. Near Ramona High, San Vicente. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 acre. Horse OK. Family room, living room, fireplace. Panda Realty, 858-748-8850.

RANCHO BERNARDO, \$2095. Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on golf course, Rancho Bernardo Country Club. 2-car garage, washer/dryer, refrigerator. Pets OK. 858-354-7924, kxpr@pacbell.net.

On. 896-394-7924, ktyplegacoeli.fiel.

RANCHO BERNARDO, \$3200. 4 bedroom plus den, 4 baths. Tile and berber. Large back yard, cul-de-sac, gardener, all appliances, granite counters, large kitchen island, 3-car garage, 3158 estimated square-feet, built 2002. No pets. Reata Way. Panda Realty, 858-748-8850.

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RANCHO SAN DIEGO. \$1750 rent. Single level 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. 2-car level 3 bedroom, 2 bath nouse. 2-car garage, yard, tile floors, laundry, air con-ditioning, spa, fireplace. No pets. 1540 Greencrest Court. 619-299-8515.

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SAN MARCOS/Santa Fe Hills, Avenida Abeja. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath plus den. Abeja. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath plus den. Custom upgrades, granite floors/coun-ters, 2600 estimated square-feet, large back yard. Small pet OK. Gardener, extra storage, 2-car garage, high tech hook-ups, top of the line appliances. \$2595/month, short term or long term,

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UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$1550. 2 bed room duplex. Fireplace, hardwood, dining room with hutch. Small yard. Laundry hook-ups. No pets. 4502 Campus. www. rowlandrealty.com, Rowland Realty, 619-

VALLEY CENTER, Woods Valley, \$4000. Over 4500 square feet. 4-car garage. On cul-de-sac. Brand new, move in anytime. Nonsmoking. No pets. Call for details, Top Notch Realty, Inc., 858-715-0688. RENTALS

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Maple Street. 619-234-1994.

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. \$2100. Agent: Michael, 619-886-BANKER'S HILL/DOWNTOWN. Efficiency studio, without kitchen at \$560. Mi-crowave, small refrigerator included. On-site laundry. Close to I-5. 236 Kalmia. No pets. Call 619-234-0236.

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858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

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minutes away from beach. \$1475/µp. 760-753-4101.

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CARLSBAD. 2 bedroom in the Village. Private patio, washer/dryer, 1 car garage. Close to all. \$1250/month. 760-729-0575.

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Minor Creek Lane. Pets OK! Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

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CHULA VISTA. Starting \$855, including garage, large 1 bedroom apartments. Walk-in closets, laundry on site. Pool, jacuzzi, gas grill, park-like setting. 619-425-0670.

425-0670.

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CHULA VISTA, \$1600. Otay Ranch 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhome. \$500 off first month's rent! Attached garage, washer/dryer. Great location. Near mall,

CHULA VISTA, \$750/month, \$150 de posit. 1 bedroom, fully furnished. 2 blocks from Chula Vista Center. Off-street parking. Laundry room. Lots of trees. 521 Park Way. Office open daily (near Fifth and G). 619-420-5084

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on-site laundry, parking. 196 Guava. 619-427-6960. CHULA VISTA. \$1050. Half off first month!

CHULA VISTA. \$ 1050. Half off first month: Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Parking. Laundry. Pool. Gated. Great location. Near I-5/Costco. Pets/Section 8 considered. 615 Moss Street. 619-405-7411.

CHULA VISTA. 1 bedrooms and 2 bedrooms from \$975. Newly remodeled in-

remodeled 1 bedroom, 1 bath. On-site laundry. Gated entry. Assigned parking. Move-in specials. Habla espanol. 4122 Marlborough. Call Benny, 619-521-4710.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$800/month. Ground-level large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Laminate flooring, ceiling fan, fenced patio. Gated community, pool, laundry, Jacuzzi facili-ties. Available 2/17. Agent, 619-463-

CITY HEIGHTS. \$1150. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, tile floors, swimming pool, jacuzzi, laundry, 2 parking spaces, gated. Pets OK. No Section 8. Miller Management, 619-813-3113.

CITY HEIGHTS, \$799. Charming, bright 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Newly renovated inside/out. Carpet/file, washer/dryer. Gated, parking. Cats OK. Year lease. www.innoreventerprises.com. 619-368-

CITY HEIGHTS. \$975 rent. \$600 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Parking spot. Dining area. Dishwasher. Balcony. No pets. At 4377 Marlborough Street #5. Agent, 619-00-0515

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.

Street. Agent, 619-299-8515.

CITY HEIGHTS. Cute 1 bedroom cottage, \$825. Centrally located between I-805, I-15, I-8 and 94 Freeway. Close to Balboa Park and Mission Valley. 3822 Wightman Street. 619-231-2727.

Street. 619-231-2727.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$925. 4265 Chamoune Avenue, across from KFC. 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse apartment. Downstairs/Jupstairs, carpet, dishwasher, central air conditioning, heating, laundry room in the building. Ample parking, not assigned. No pets. Section 8 OK. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686.

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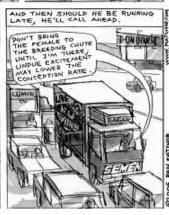












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near Beech, 619-233-7428.

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DOWNTOWN/El Cortez. Gorgeous 1 bed-room condo. Posh El Cortez Building with valet parking and doorman. Unit opens up to spacious patio. \$1700. www.sandiegobestrentals.com. 619-696-7368.

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DOWNTOWN/BANKER'S HILL. \$750. Studio in classic 1920s building. Built-ins, hide-a-bed. Drive by first, 2230 Albatross Street. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.

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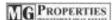
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Harry, 619-298-1059. HILLCREST. \$1150. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, large, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, bal-cony, gated, on-site laundry, under-ground parking, garden setting. 4155 Georgia Street #302. 619-297-7662.

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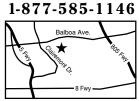
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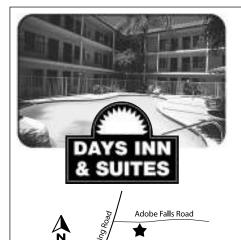
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(ABS) cylinder, lines, hoses and seals

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No pets. 619-276-5520.

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Walk on By

What I remember most about him were the sweet murmurs of love he would whisper in my ear while we sat and held hands in the park. Also, the way his eyes changed colors with the passing of the seasons. He told me they changed for me, to reflect how his love was growing inside of him with the passage of time.

Sweet Rafael. He was my first love, my first heartache, my first everything. He was older and more mature, while I was still a kid in school. All this happened at the tender age of 16, when I should have been focused on more important things than romance and men. But you can't tell a teenager anything.

We met through my younger cousin, who met him in reform school. My cousin gave him my address to write to and, of course, being young and silly, I wrote back. It was more of a jailhouse-rock pen-pal type of love from the beginning. When he got out, we met and began dating, moving our relationship forward faster than it should've gone. Our relationship had its ups and downs, but I

thought our requited love would make it all work out in the end. We were going to get married, have children, and grow old together.

But was I wrong. I should've known nothing good could come out of dating a man I met while he was in "kiddie jail." One day after school I saw him in the usual spot, waiting for me. Or so I thought. When I walked up to him with a smile on my face, he looked at me with annoyance. He was waiting for a friend and had other things to do, so he said. This struck me as weird, so I said, "Okay," and walked away.

But, unbeknownst to him, I waited around the corner to see what he was up to. And then he came, with another girl at his side. I was shocked! Where did our love go? I jumped from behind the wall where I was hiding and approached him with fire in my eyes. "Who is this? What are you doing with her?" I shouted at the top of my lungs.

This is where it got ugly, and my heart was broken beyond repair. He looked at me and turned to the new girl and said he didn't even know me. He told her to my face that I was lying and was only a minor associate that he had never dated but was truly obsessed with him. The tears started to flow from my eyes, the curses flew from my mouth, but nothing would budge him from saying that he did not know me.

Finally, I composed myself and walked away, after one final curse, never to see or hear from my first

love again. My heart lay broken in a million pieces from this breakup, so long ago, but now I look back and laugh at it. Oh, well. We live and learn, correct?

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LEAD STORY

- Inexplicable: Sudan Provost, 40, walked into the River City Bank in Sacramento, Calif., on Dec. 29 and, reported the Sacramento Bee, quietly announced to employees that he had come to "rob" it, but then handed a teller his driver's license and a money order to be cashed. The teller asked if he had an account, and Provost replied, "This is not a joke. I have a gun. I do this for a living." However, he opened his bag to reveal that he had no gun and then asked for a tissue for his runny nose. The teller said she didn't have one. Provost said he'd be right back and walked across the street to a drugstore, and by the time he had returned, police were on the scene. Provost was arrested on suspicion of attempted robbery.

Latest Religious Messages

 A 2006 Church of England report warned that disagreeable congregants, together with the pressures of the church's "feudal system" bureaucracy, were turning priests harshly negative and creating an "irritable clergy syndrome." One of the report's authors told The Times of London in December that priests are bothered by "having to be nice all the time to everyone, even when confronted with extremes of nastiness," such as aggressive and neurotic parishioners.

The recent traditional Christmas Nativity play at St. Stephen's church in Tonbridge, England, centered on music from the Beach Boys, with Mary turning into a "surfer girl" to sing "God Only Knows" and the Three Wise Men portrayed as Brian, Carl, and Dennis Wilson performing such favorites as "Fun Fun Fun" and "Good Vibrations" (according to a December Agence France-Presse report). Said the pastor, "Nativity plays...can just be a bit dull. [This] made it more realistic."

Cultural Diversity

 New York state food inspectors are having trouble keeping up with the illegal importation and sale of uninspected exotic meat for the city's immigrant population, including bush meat and meat from endangered species, according to a December Associated Press report. Inspectors found, among other items openly displayed in New York City storefronts, armadillo and iguana meat, cow lungs, smoked rodent, and an unidentified fish paste, along with crates of turtles and a tub of bullfrogs, and occasionally endangered gorilla and chimpanzee meat.

• The Continued Americanization of China: (1) Though most Chinese women still prefer whiter complexions, urban professionals are beginning to tan, either by sunbathing or in salons, for that "healthy" and "fashionable look," according to a November Wall Street Journal dispatch. (2) Chinese urban professionals are also turning more frequently to divorce (in a country in which it has been rare), especially women, who tend to file abruptly (the so-called "flash divorce"). Said one counselor (for a November Time magazine report), "Life in [urban] China has changed so fast that if things aren't new or exciting, people just end their marriages instead of working through their problems.'

Fine Points of the Law

(1) Sweden's English-language The Local reported in November that prosecutors were about to release both male suspects who acknowledge being present at a 1998 murder but who each blame the other. Prosecutors concluded that because there is no additional evidence, they could not convict either man. (2) A 59-year-old German man, identified as Gerold H. and serving life for murder, refused in October to accept his release after 34 years, according to a Reuters report. Said a spokesman for the Brandenburg justice ministry, "We can't do anything if someone sentenced to life in prison doesn't want to leave."

- Michigan Law: (1) A bill passed in November by the Michigan House of Representatives makes it a crime for a cohabiting boyfriend to pressure his pregnant girlfriend into having an abortion, including by moving out of the house. (2) The Michigan Court of Appeals, ruling in November, said an obscure but unambiguous state law makes any

"sexual penetration" a serious sexual assault if it occurs during any other felony, including simple adultery, with a maximum penalty of life in prison. Elementary schoolteacher's aide Kumi Houston of Williamson County, Texas, was fired in November after she allegedly admitted to a sheriff's detective that she allowed an 11-year-old boy to reach under her bra and fondle her (which would clearly be illegal). However, as Houston's attorney later explained, her statement (which Houston did not deny making) was not necessarily a confession. What happened, said attorney Robert Phillips, is that his client "made a statement. It may be an admission, or it may be just [her] version of what happened. That's not a confession." The Alabama Supreme Court, ruling in January, told leukemia-stricken Jack Cline that state law makes it either too early or too late for him to sue the manufacturer of benzene, to which he was exposed in his factory job, and it dismissed his lawsuit. He may have known he had been exposed to a carcinogen, but he couldn't sue until the cancer was actually diagnosed, but when it finally was, years later, the state's statute of limitations had run out. Several justices expressed concern about the catch-22, but they were in the minority.

Least Competent Criminals

- Lamest Defense: James Lane III, 27, was arrested in Carrboro, N.C., in January after police chased him in his car and later on foot. Officers tackled Lane about 20 feet into a wooded area and recovered a white plastic bag containing a pound of marijuana. When police pulled Lane to his feet, he said that someone must have left the bag on the ground at precisely the spot in the woods where Lane fell because he had never seen it before.

Recurring Themes

- Least Competent Lawyers: Jeffrey Leonard is on death row in Kentucky for murder and had challenged the fairness of his conviction, criticizing his court-appointed defense counsel. Lawyer Ferdinand Radolovich had represented Leonard all the way through his murder trial

without bothering to learn his real name; for his conviction and subsequent first appeal, Radolovich thought Leonard was "James Slaughter" (and he didn't know how to spell that name, habitually writing it "Slawter"). (Radolovich had told judges that he had previously handled four death penalty cases but in fact had done none.) Nonetheless, by a 7-7 vote, the U.S. Court of Appeals could not conclude that better lawyering would have helped Leonard.

Readers' Choice

(1) Neil Rodreick II, 29, shaved his body and posed as a 12-year-old boy, and then allegedly had sex with Lonnie Stiffler, 61, and Robert Snow, 43, in Chino Valley, Ariz., before all three were arrested in January (as the result of Stiffler's attempt to enroll Rodreick in a charter school as a boy). The two men were said to have been upset when police told them Rodreick was not 12 years old. (2) Inner Mongolian herdsman Bao Xishun, at 7-foot-9 reputed to be the world's tallest man, was recruited by a commercial aquarium in Liaoning province, China, in December to reach into the stomachs of two dolphins to extract some plastic they had swallowed and which was making them sick. Surgical instruments had irritated the dolphins' stomachs, but Bao's 41-inch arm did the trick.

Celebrate the Vegetables

- The Bosnian town of Bijeljina proposed in November to build a giant cabbage monument to honor its most important crop. "We very much appreciate this vegetable," said the director of the town's tourism office. ... Briton Richard Townsend, 24, on a personal mission in December, ate 36 brussels sprouts in one minute, seeking the world record, but fell 7 short. He said he had trained by eating a plate of brussels sprouts every day for six weeks.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com

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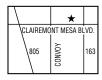




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In the Reader

Thirty Years Ago

BARRY, Work, Work, Work...How many days 'til we can play? I miss you. Love & Kisses, Marv.

TO THE QUEEN of Cups from the Jack of Hearts: Happy Valentine's Day to the finest lady I ever saw.

DEANNDRA — so only weird people send messages in the Reader personals. Now you're included. Tell swampwoman I want her. Suspenders.

—CLASSIFIEDS, February 10, 1977

Twenty-Five Years Ago

One of the more popular ploys, in the continued escalation of critical rhetoric — as can be judged by the fact that that prominent saberrattler, Pauline Kael, has used it twice within the space of a month — is the critic's contention that a movie has held him or her in a state of entrancement the like of which you might have thought unattainable by anyone with a free and fully conscious mind. Of Pennies from Heaven, first off, she wrote: "There was never a second when I wasn't fascinated by what was happening on the screen"—a statement that pressed especially hard on my mind during those long and numerous seconds when Jessica Harper, under police interrogation, choked out a confession about her husband's fetish for lipsticked nipples, and I felt my own fascination slump to the floor in a lifeless heap.

— "WHEN ALL THE WORLD WAS YOUNG,"

Duncan Shepherd, February 11, 1982

Twenty Years Ago

When local Republicans learned that Democratic attorney Mike Aguirre had committed his boundless energy and sizable bank account to winning a seat on the city council, they went searching for a more palatable candidate of their own.

—THE INSIDE STORY, Paul Krueger, February 12, 1987

Fifteen Years Ago

Greil Marcus: There was a lot of that [class consciousness] in being a fan of Elvis, when I was 10 or 11 years old and living in Palo Alto and Menlo Park.... And it came through for me, anyway, as fear. In other words, this guy isn't like me. He's strange, he's alien, he's everything I was raised to denigrate. I mean, I grew up in a very liberal household, where no degrading word said about black people

would ever be tolerated, a household very sensitive to bigotry. But there was one group that I somehow got the message that it was okay to be bigoted about, and those were backward, white Southerners. White trash.

—"DEAD ELVIS AND THE HOLY GRAIL," Gina Arnold, February 13, 1992

Ten Years Ago

"Beef stroganoff for breakfast," my seven-yearold son Jonah would say on Friday night, "and a hot coffee cake."

Early the next morning I would be whipping up the sour cream coffee cake with lots of cinnamon and sugar. I would apply a whisk or a broken fork to the batter, and because I cook very quickly, the cake would be in the oven before 8:00 a.m. Then I would wash, dry, and sauté fresh mushrooms and add them to thinly sliced filet of beef. A dash of freshly ground nutmeg and coarse kosher salt were the only seasonings. Just before serving, the sour cream was added to the mixture.

— "WHY AM I WRITING THIS?" Eleanor Widmer. February 6, 1997

Five Years Ago

Add another local big shot to the growing list of



San Diego Reader, February 6, 1997

those who got in on a sweet stock deal with Padres owner John Moores. San Diego State University president Stephen Weber lists an investment in Neon Systems stock, which he values between \$1000 and \$10,000 on his conflict-of-interest filing for 2000 as well as 1999. But Weber doesn't list the specific date of acquisition, which may ultimately prove troublesome for the educator, who last year moved into the university's multimillion-dollar official presidential residence, purchased from none other than Malin Burnham, the downtown real estate mogul and business partner of Moores.

—CITY LIGHTS: "MOORES AND MORE." Matt Potter. February 7, 2002

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com

www.timcassidy.com. Cassidy, Broker, 619-275-LIST.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1350. 2 bedroom, 1 near beach and bay. Patio. 1 parking 1423 Oliver Street. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

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Senior community gated, 55+. West of I-5. Courtyard setting. Close to shopping, bus routes. Minutes from Del Mar Fair Grounds and ocean. Laundry, elevator, club house with large screen TV. Computer on-line. No pets. Call for appointment, 858-755-5995.

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Spacious 2 bedrooms from \$895. Gated community. Casa Granada, 9121 Kenwood Drive. Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm. progressmanagement.net or call \$10.00 to 1050.

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\$1608. Call Top Notch 619-807-0327.

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PLAY NICE

We are staying in a quad of ten-man tents. There are four rows of ten tents. Between each tent is either a concrete barrier wall or a concrete mortar bunker. The ground outside the tents is loose gravel. I have given up drinking anything after dinner because the port-a-johns are at least 50 yards from the tent. One is a straight dash down the gravel road, gravel that will roll your ankle if you get ahead of yourself. The closer port-a-john is through the maze of concrete barriers, not fun if you take a wrong turn and it is chilly out. There are also no lights in the port-a-johns.

I wake up in the morning between 5 and 6 a.m. and work out. It is barely light enough out to see in the mornings. After my workout, I receive the morning reports from the platoon leaders and take a shower. The water here is recycled. They basically filter the gray water and put it back in the tanks. So we brush our teeth with Listerine or bottled water. After that, I eat breakfast and spend the morning evaluating the platoon training, coordinate supplies and equipment, and run errands around the camp. In the evening it gets pitch black, and we do night training and attend the brigade and battalion briefings.

We have many foreign nationals working at our camp. They sell odds and ends, do our laundry, work the dining hall, and clean the port-a-johns and shower trailers. Some of the Muslims still practice the old ways, like the left hand is better than toilet paper, "Men are for pleasure; women are for making babies." Things like that. They have special badges and are always supervised by a U.S. soldier or contractor. I

understand: we are trying to play nice together.

As far as other little things that make this different from home, we carry our weapons everywhere and have to re-clear them before entering the chow hall, then we wash our hands. We also use the alcohol hand sanitizer after using the port-ajohns. The problem with washing and sanitizing is the dust. I still always feel like my hands are dirty or dry. We also don't go anywhere without our sunglasses, mostly for the dust. (They're not only ballistic sunglasses; they also look cool.)

Lip balm is another challenge with the dust. My lips are either dry and chapped or the lip balm catches the dust and I taste dirt all day. We also have a mouse in our tent, and we are trying to catch it before we attract snakes.

On our ride in, we saw fruit stands along the road. Tomatoes everywhere. I wonder how supply and demand works with stands every 25 feet and nothing but tomatoes. They look good, these big, bright red tomatoes, but they don't

have adequate plumbing here, so the tomato fields are fertilized by raw sewage.

Nothing like the smell of burning plastic to wake up to. On the other hand, the detonated captured munitions provide an acoustic fireworks show on the evenings the explosive ordinance disposals (EODs) ignite small arms and mortars. It reminds me of the



scenes from Mary Poppins. In the middle of our conversations, the tents shake and things become crooked. We fix them without missing a beat during our conversation.

A group of guys from our company is manning a detention center, and I watched them process one of the guys a patrol brought in

for questioning. The rest of the guys are on security and other details inside the camp when we are not patrolling. The way it works is much like a town or condo association. Although there are several companies here with different tactical missions and their own chain of command, we all have to work together to support the community by performing vari-

> ous duties. Soldiers get tasked out for everything, from guarding a tower to watching the Internet cafés.

We are getting used to the test firing of the patrol's machine guns as they leave the gate for their patrol. Our company has the bad luck of

being close to the landing zone (LZ), and whenever air comes, it makes it difficult for us huddled around laptops to hear the DVDs we are trying to watch. We try to time it right during the war movies to get the real surround-sound effect.

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must see. Open house Sunday 1/28, 10am-4pm. Valle Verde #86. \$69,900/owner, 760-476-9181.

SANTEE Mobile home 20x45, older but comfortable. Space rent \$475. 3 bedrooms 2 baths. Near all. Asking \$54,000/owner. Call or leave message. 619-448-9459.

SANTEE. 4 bedroom. Family room. Updated kitchen, new stove, dishwasher, microwave. Central air/heat, covered patio, 2-car garage, \$515,000. RE/MAX, Bill Howland, 619-980-2455.

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DEL MAR. Lovely, sunny 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with pool and Jacuzzi. Monthly interest \$1695. \$15,000 down. APR only 5.9%. Call Agent, Elizabeth, at 619-286-5813.

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emaii: gpaiecek@paipacific.biz. **IA JOLLA-BELOW MARKET!** Large 2 bed-room, 2 bath. Many upgrades! Tile/hard-wood/Berber. Granite countertops. Near UTC/businesses. \$505K. 9263 Regents Road, #108B. 619-997-2867.

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Restaurant week is upon us in San Diego, and with it arrive opportunities and problems. This week is meant to allow San Diegans to get a taste of participating restaurants, with the reasonable investment of \$30 or \$40 (depending on the venue) for a three-course meal. It sounds good on the surface, right? Below the surface, however, lurk hidden pitfalls.

First, you should plan early. I found Thee Bungalow booked through the week when I called on Monday (they stuck to the \$30 price point, which proved popular). During a normal week, you could show up on a Tuesday evening and be seated without a reservation. Second, you may find certain high-end restaurants serving downgraded fare that is not on their regular menu. A glaring example would be the folks at A.R Valentien, who were exposed earlier this week by our own intrepid Alice Q Foodie (http://alicegfoodie.blogspot.com/2007/01/ restaurant-week-at-arvalentien.html). Third, since the restaurants are slammed with large crowds, you may not be seated right away, even with a reservation. On Tuesday night at the Marine Room, I was not seated until 35 minutes past my 9 p.m. reservation.

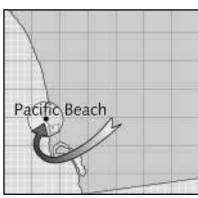
With all that said, 1500 Ocean proved to be a shining example of what restaurant week is meant to

TITLE: San Diego Restaurant Reviews | ADDRESS: http://sandiegorestaurants.typepad.com AUTHOR: Captain Jack | FROM: Pacific Beach | BLOGGING SINCE: May 2006 POST DATE: January 11, 2007 | POST TITLE: 1500 Ocean

I arrived a few minutes early and was seated immediately at an excellent table. There are several different styles of chairs used in the dining room. If you have a choice, I recommend the highbacked, aqua-blue leather chairs. Mine was one of the most comfortable dining chairs I have ever sat in. My friendly and efficient server, Chris, greeted me as soon as I was seated. Bus service brought me a generous basket of mini baguettes and cheese breads, both of which proved to be excellent. Although I was dining alone, I polished off the bread basket by the end of my meal.

For my first course, I selected the Bubalus Bubalis Ricotta Gnudi with grilled Swiss chard stems, Meyer lemon, and Figueroa Farms EVOO. I have had the fresh buffalo mozzarella from the California-based Bubalus Bubalis before and loved it, but I had never tried their ricotta. Clearly, I had been missing out. The ricotta was fresh and delicious as a filling inside

these thin-skinned dumplings. The Meyer-lemon-and-olive-oil sauce was so tasty that I used my bread to clean the plate for every last drop. The gnudi alone warrant a visit to 1500 Ocean. Chef



Jason Shaeffer outdid himself with this dish.

I ordered the Seared Foie Gras with a Port Wine Reduction (\$22.95) from the regular menu. Having enjoyed foie gras from New York to Hong Kong to Paris, I can say it does not get much better than this. Foie gras is about product quality, which this version had, and about not overcooking it, which Shaeffer did not. The ground pistachios and port wine reduction added a pleasant dimension to this offering. Now, let's talk about portion size. I admit that I conspired with Chris,

my server, to obtain the best possible results from the kitchen on this one. Chris came through big time. Chefs love food, and letting them know you are passionate about a certain menu item, from my perspective, has no downside. I took good care of Chris at gratuity time, as you should when a server goes above and beyond for you.

The foie gras was followed by my entrée selection of Crispy Duck Confit. This was an easy selection for me. I just love the concept of duck being preserved in its own wonderful fat. Duck Confit is also an effective litmus test for a chef's classic cooking skills. Chef Shaeffer did not disappoint. I enjoyed the way the flavor of the caramelized endive contrasted with the richness of the duck. I enjoyed the pureed celery

root with the pomegranate duck as well. Overall, this was a wellexecuted rendition of Duck

Finally, it was time for Warm Chocolate Chipotle Cake with Banana and Caramel Ice Cream. The cake was moist and had a solid chocolate flavor. The hint of smoky chipotle made for an interesting flavor component. My favorite part of this dessert, however, was the caramel ice cream. This dessert did not blow me away, but it was enjoyable.

Reflecting back over my meal, I could not help wondering, when did hotel dining in San Diego get so damn good? I had just enjoyed a first-rate, four-course dinner in the middle of a problematic restaurant week, and I did it for \$85 (including tax and a 27 percent tip).

Chef Jason Shaeffer (who, by the way, was sous chef under Thomas Keller for the opening of one of my favorite restaurants, Per Se in NYC) is a valuable asset to the San Diego fine-dining community. 1500 Ocean handled the intricacies of restaurant week with aplomb. Other fine-dining establishments that choose to participate should use them as an example of how to do restaurant week right. (Are you listening, A.R. Valentien?) I tried 1500 Ocean because it was restaurant week. but I will be back because my dining experience was so enjoyable. Isn't that the idea behind restaurant week to begin with?

Got a blog you'd like to flog? Send your best stuff — around 900 words' worth — to FlogYourBlog@SanDiegoReader.net. If we run your posts, we'll send you \$50.

BICYCLES

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COMPANERO DE BAILE. Danzon, salsa

DANCE PARTNER. Danzon, salsa, tango, you name it. I have space to practice in Encinitas. Age is not an issue. Medium height. 760-942-0826.

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FEMALE PARTNER for running, bicy Good shape. In my 50s, Encinitas.

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San Diego Reader February 8, 2007

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ELVIS MEMORABILIA in unopened pack ages, numbered and certified plus glass guitar, very old international coins, base-ball cards. Must sell or trade. 619-582-

ORIENTAL APPOINTMENTS ceramic col on, Japanese/Chinese vases, tea rice and lotus bowls, figurines s. 619-338-0751.

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PETER MAX PRINT, Infinity Watchers serigraph, #300 of 300, signed, 1970 Pics. Available via e-mail. \$5,200. 858-

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GARAGE SALES

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ALLIED GARDENS. Huge garage sale. Saturday, 2/17, 8am. Furniture, appliances, TVs, tools, home decor, clothes, toys, much more. 4884 Alfred Avenue

LA JOLLA, Sunday February 4. Jewelry, Valentine gifts, stuffed toys. 10am-3pm. 3302 Caminito Gandara. Near La Jolla Village Square. Via Marin/Camino Sonoma.

LINDA VISTA. Garage sale. Saturday, 2/10, 7am-1pm. Sofa, recliner, baby clothes/equipment, computer parts, sports equipment, household items. 6363

OCEANSIDE. Yard/moving sale. Saturday, 2/10, 9am-3pm. Everything must go Baby clothes, girls' clothes, crib, high chair, men's/women's clothes, toys, tools. 5225 Palmera Drive.

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RANCHO BERNARDO. Garage sale. Saturday, 2/10, 8am-1pm. Electronics, RANCHO BERNARDO. Garage sale. Saturday, 21(10, 8am-1pm. Electronics, games, computer, monitors, printers, toys, kitchenware, silk flowers/baskets, exercise equipment, Valentine flowers, rugs. 12374 Briardale Way.

SAN DIEGO. Garage sale. Saturday only, 2/10, 8am-noon. Priced to sell. TVs, household items, furniture, etc. 3525 Herbert Street.

Dert Street.

SANTEE, Saturday, February 10, 8am. 10133 Settle Road, Santee, Ca 92071. Everything must go. Couch bikes, baby items/clothes, craft materials, dishes, etc. 858-720-2568.

Serra MESA, Patio sale. 8577 Glen-haven, 9am-1pm Thursday-Sunday. Fridge/icemaker, room divider, rotisserie, ladies clothes, shoes, computer equip-ment, books, jewelry, knick knacks. Patio furniture. More.

furniture. More.

SPRING VALLEY. Moving sale. Sunday, 2/11, 7:30am-? Bed with frame, children's toys, furniture, 49° TV, washer/dryer, tons of miscellaneous, workbench, table, chairs books, patio set. Serious buyers. 9560 Upland Street.

APPLIANCES

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APPLIANCES: Refrigerator frost-free energy saver, stove, washer/dryer: \$135 each. 1-year warranty. Leon's Appliances, pick up and delivery. Repairs. Can deliver free. 619-702-3270.

GE FREEZER, 20.3 cubic feet, frost-free, 5 shelves, temperature control. White, bought new 2003 unplugged since 07/2005, 70"Hx32"Wx28.5D. Like new, barely used, \$150/best, 858-395-4571.

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OVEN, Built in, electric, black GE Truetemp, very clean, used only 3 years-remodeling 30' wide x 27"high \$175. Vista 760-941-0541.

REFRIGERATOR, Kenmore, 14.7 cubic feet, perfect condition, white, \$160. 858-597-0856. super clean

STOVE, Kenmore, very late model, energy saver, must see, can help deliver.

ergy saver, must see, can help deliver, \$150/best or trade. 619-670-8356.

TYPEWRITER, electronic, Brother Student-Riter XLI, uses cassette daisy wheel, cassette ribbon, correction tape, includes instruction manual, replacement ribbons. El Cajon, 619-442-6435

works well, \$13. El Cajori, 619-442-0435.

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WASHER/DRYER, stackable, \$295. Re frigerator side by side \$195. Dryer \$99 Can deliver. 619-584-1625.

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TV, COLOR, 27", remote, stereo, like new, excellent picture, \$99. 619-461-4805.

TV, Mitsubishi 36" TV Model CS-3521A.

TV stand included, \$350. Call Dave. 619-

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County, 800-464-6490.

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riod! Fine home furnishings and name brand mattresses, 30%-70% below retail everyday! 858-495-DEAL (3325), 4810 Mercury Street, San Diego, 92111. www. RealDealFurniture.com. BUNK BEDS. 4 new coaster bunk beds MITSUBISHI DIAMOND HDTV, 65" rear projection wide screen, huge screen for Superbowl, top of the line, excellent con-dition, paid \$5500+, sacrifice \$2100/best.

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\$30. Best offer. 619-582-0096.

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HEADBOARD, king, 4-piece wall unit, oak, side pier cabinets, upper/lower bar, built-in lamps, 10°Lx5°H, \$230. Entertainment center, open, 70°Lx6°Hx18rD, \$65. Both assemblable. 858-688-2136.

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MATTRESS A BABY-SOFT QUEEN \$145. w top mattress set. Brand new, in tic. Must move! Can deliver. 619-808-

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.

MATTRESS SET, Still in plastic. Can drop off, \$99, 858-232-8659.

on, ชุฮซ, ๑๐๖-๔๖๔-ชี6๖9.

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RETRO DRESSER, Laminate white, six drawers. 60"long x30-1/2"high x18"wide. Detachable mirror, 2 laminate white night stands, 2 drawers each, 20"high x26-3/4"wide, \$200. 619-339-8638.

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SOFAS \$199, fabric-\$399, leather. 3-piece coffee and 2 end tables, \$69.95. 5-piece dinette, \$99.95. Futon/pad, \$109, and much more! Dave 619-440-4080.

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729-6144.

BASKETS, POTTED PLANTS, "Rubras," huge plastic pot, lamp crystals (100 pieces) lamps, bar stools, 2 oak/wicker captain chairs, books, collectibles. Cheap! 760-753-6996.

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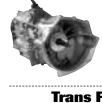
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ON THE BLACK UNIFORM of Polish police officers is a patch with a gold embroidered scorpion. There's a saying in Polish: "Don't get stung," or "Don't get stung by a scorpion." I only know how to say "hello" and "goodbye" and "thank you."

I'm at the foot of a statue of a poet, pigeon feet skritching at the stone around me, wings flapping over me. In my fingerless, gray wool gloves, I'm tearing off and eating bits of a warm pretzel that has hunks of salt the size of pebbles. I bought it from my favorite pretzel cart, a little yellow one by my hostel. The pigeons are angling, eyeing, and pecking at the

In the morning, four-man squads of cops march from the barbican to the castle through the main square in Krakow. One tall cop with a broad, flat nose and square jaw breaks off and approaches me. The cop says nothing as he grabs the notebook from my hand.

The blue lines on the paper are smeary with salty oil from my thumb. I've drawn a calendar on its pages. November I was in Germany on Thanksgiving. December I was in Scotland on Christmas. January, three weeks ago, I was in Ireland for New Year's.

Today is a holiday, too, but I can't remember which one. It's not marked on my calendar. From beneath his black cap, the cop eyes me, the book, my pretzel, my ratty gloves. "Dzien dobry," I say. "Good day."

"Dzien dobry," he says, in a deeper tone and thicker accent than mine.

He hands my notebook back and says, "Ah-mari-CAN?"

"Tak," I say. "Yes."

"Ah," he says, and leans back a little. "Soo peer bohl today," he says.

I set my pretzel down and the pigeons attack it. Flipping through my notebook, I look

He holds his arms and leans over in a classic Heisman-trophy stance and says, "Soo peer bohl too day. Ah mari can fyoot ball."

"Oh!" I say. "The Super Bowl's today. American football, tak!"

He points to an Irish pub a block down to his left. "Play soo peer bohl on TV there," he says. "Raid eers. Buck an eers."

His black boots turn and clomp on the cobblestones, moving away from me, and I wave and yell, "Dziekuje." "Thank you."

"Do widzenia," he says. "Goodbye."

SUPER BOWL ADS WEEK! YAY!

"LIVE THE FLAVOR"

Some dufus spots a hot chick while eating a bag of chips and crashes his car. The characters portray all the supposed qualities of a corn chip, including crunchy, cheesy, bold, spicy. There's no mention of the real essence of Doritos because I don't think a small-time actor could pull off "oddly powdery" or "aftertaste that makes you want to go 'yang, yang, yang." Only an Oscar-caliber thespian or professional mime could do "lacerated soft palate," and then we're getting into weird art-house performances and interpretive dance, and nobody likes that crap. When I think of Doritos, I don't think of surreal avant-garde. I think, I'm drunk and there's nothing to eat in this dump. Rating:

"KISSING MECHANICS" **SNICKERS**

No stars.

Oh, how hilarious! Two men, working on a car, "accidentally" kiss because of a log of chocolate wedged between their mouths and their uncontrollable urge to chomp on it. They then rip their chest hair out in a display of manliness. This commercial was obviously written by and for women. Insecure, dumb men, good only for menial maintenance tasks and overcompensating to correct for insufficient societal coping skills. Plus, there's chocolate. The end title reads "Snickers: Most Satisfying," but should read "Snickers: When You're Feeling Bloated and Just Can't Stand to Look at His Stupid Face Anymore." Rating: No stars and exasperated look on my face that says, "Great. This time of the month again."

"MOON OFFICE"

Here's a romantic idea, a corporation on the moon. An ad exec looked up at the night sky. behind deadline on his big package-shipping campaign, and felt the rushing inspiration that's fed the imagination, quills, and sheets of papyrus of every creative mind from Socrates to Ginsburg, and he thought, Huh, What if we put an office complex up there? WOE! WOE TO YOU, FED-EX AD EXECUTIVE! WOE, I WISH ON YOUR HOUSE AND HEAD! Rating: One finger. You know which one.

ALL BUD LIGHT COMMERCIALS THIS YEAR

Anyone notice anything about the Bud Light commercials? There are no women. Bud Light, why do you think we drink? That's right. Your product makes us more intelligent, betterlooking, and confident, and therefore much more attractive to the opposite sex. Stop with

the competition between guys, racing, tussling, and gaming for the "last" beer as if it isn't sold in stores. Tout the benefits of watery American lager: drinking this + women in bikinis = removed articles of clothing. Or, if you want truth in advertising: lonely + beer + chubby girl = phone number. It's not that complicated. Rating: No stars. No fingers. No grades. No thumbs. Nothing, as these ads are not even eligible on the basis that they're missing the point.

"COCA COLA VIDEO GAME"

COCA COLA

Ostensibly, this is a reversal of popular videogame themes. A tough street character hands out sodas instead of carjacking and looting. Toward the end there's a parade of twirling, dancing, singing people, rejoicing at the happiness brought to them by carbonated sugar water. A less obvious interpretation is that Coca Cola's psychedelic attributes can make things seem cartoonish, manic, and exciting. Caffeine the first gateway drug. Nobody wants to blame Coke for street junkies, but there it is. A kid gets his first buzz off a beverage today, and tomorrow he's dancing on the yellow line of University Avenue in tattered rags. He's 45, but he looks like he's 60. He's toothless and his fingernails are burnt and yellow. Above the old man's head is a red and white billboard with an iconic bottle; a child in a passing car tugs on his mother's sleeve and asks to stop in at the next gas station for a drink. The deadly cycle continues on, Coca Cola. For shame, Coca Cola. For shame. Rating: F, for little Johnny's undone homework when he gets strung out.

"DALMATIAN WINK"

A shop owner and larger, stronger male dog chase a scruffy white dog from neighborhood to neighborhood. He sees a dalmatian in a parade, gets splashed until he's spotted with grime, and jumps on the float. The final shot is the scruffy white dog being held by a beauty queen. Here it is. Budweiser understands what Bud Light doesn't. Alcohol gives you the strength when you've been kicked around by life and business, when you've got no self-worth. Alcohol is there when you can't possibly cope. Alcohol is there and always will be. Beauty queens guaranteed. Rating: Thumb up in salute, clutching a bottle of beer; my other hand gently wipes away my tears.

"GARMIN GODZILLA"

An unruly roadmap grows into a terrifying monster. A man with a GPS receiver on his

dash transforms into a silver-outfitted superhero and battles the Godzilla-style map beast. I like the tacit connection to Japan and the understanding that the Japanese are better than us at technological advances and cheesy, rubber-suit, mutant horror movies. Rating: Go go GPS man super happy fun time and good luck gadget!

"GM QUALITY"

GENERAL MOTORS

After it drops a bolt while assembling a car, a yellow robot arm is put out on the street in an attempt to convey GM's commitment to quality manufacturing. The robot then commits suicide by jumping off a bridge, only to wake up back at its rightful place on the line. It was only dreaming. This is the direction I want all things to progress toward: sentient discarded robots. Yes. I will collect all the robot arms that have been displaced. Then phase two of my plan to take over the world. Rating: Three little robotic fingers held high in an allegiant salute to me!

"PRIDE"

LIONS GATE FILMS

To prove to white rivals that they're good enough - no, better! - a team of inner-city youths rallies around a swim coach. Oh, no. I'm not touching this one. I already get a lot of hate mail. No comment. Rating: The two hands of Joe Frazier on Battle of the Network Stars, splashing, pawing, and clawing but going nowhere.

"CONNECTILE DYSFUNCTION"

In a stunning turn of playing on men's insecurities instead of women's, Sprint equates Internet connectivity with male potency. I'm ambivalent about this commercial. On one hand, I want to congratulate Sprint on turning the tables and instead of creating a feeling of inadequacy in women about their looks, they've found a way to do it to men. Well played. On the other hand, I'd like to beat the ad executive into next Christmas and blame it on suppressed performance anxiety and rage. Rating: Right here, Sprint. Right here.

\$4,000/firm/each, \$12,000/all three. Serious inquiries only! 760-240-0689

FIGURE SKATES, men's 11-2/3. Leather jacket, ladies' large. Derby hat. Microwave oven, movie memorabilia. Aluminum walker. Crockpot. Various

crowave oven, movīe memorabilia. Alu-minum walker. Crockpot. Various magazines. Much more 619-420-1028. FLAG POLE, white, 21'H, 2-3/8' diameter, galvanized, new with all accessories, ex-cept flag, \$230 installed. Steve, 858-279-0492.

FLOOR LAMP, Matching table lamp, dua lighting \$25. Wall unit 17x60x72", 12 oper compartments, adjustable shelves \$180.

Eleven-piece teak salad bowl set, \$25. 619-434-2028.

GENERATOR, Pramac 3750 diesel, used less than 10 minutes, 1 cylinder Yannar diesel engine, retails for \$1899, asking just \$1599. Cash and carry. sdbaysailor@ nengme, retails for \$1899, asking 1599. Cash and carry. sdbaysailor@et, 858-401-2370.

GI JOE, Killer whale, Shark 9000 and night landing craft \$55. 760-753-8726. **GREENWOOD MEMORIAL PARK, 2 com** panion crypts in Sanctuary of Thomas Value \$17,800; asking \$14,000/best. 619

HEATER SEARS, Free standing \$35. Propane, vented heater, wall \$15. Wet

suit outfit, complete \$200. Belts, for pole/tree work (no attachments) \$65.760-746-2042.

HOT GLASS SYSTEM, Murphy fire bucket, punty rods, stands, low préssure regulator, marvering table. All like new \$295. 858-272-9319.

JACUZZI, Whirlpool, seats 8, built-in stereo system, redwood decking, fully loaded, paid \$5500, asking \$2000/best.

LUGGAGE, TRUNK, FOOT LOCKERS for sale. Carry-ons with wheels. Laptop carry-ons also. Every Saturday, 9am6pm, Lobby of Handlery Hotel, 950 Hotel Circle North, 866-448-7865

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\$50, used once. 619-442-9533.

MINERAL COLLECTION, cabs, slabs, cutting rough, crystals. Knife collection, old Kershaws, Shrade IXLs, Henckels, others. Maui Jim sunglasses, like new, very high quality \$50. 619-260-8482.

MISCELLANEOUS. Tools, nails, hardware, drill 3/8" dead bolt, AM/FM radio and more, must see, \$23 takes all. 619-296-7185.

MISCELLANEOUS. 6' aluminum ladder, \$24. Hand truck, \$10. Electric hedge cutter, \$30. Mirrors, 13x50, \$10; 22x36, \$25; 20x16, \$19. All 3 best offer. 760-740-

MOVING SALE. Tuscany sofa, TVs, Schwinn ladies' 12-speed bike, floor lamps, silk banana tree, household items. Excellent condition. 760-214-5454.

MOVING SALE. Aquarium/stand, beds refrigerator washer/dryer, dishwasher TV/stands, VCR, stereo, records refrigerator washer/dryer, dishwasher. TV/stands, VCR, stereo, records, dressers, recliner, dining table/chairs, vacuum, glass tops, trailer, bikes. 619-670-7821. OLD GLASS AND POTTERY, Fulper, Mc-Coy, Roseville, Van Briggle, Scandina-vian, Silver overlay, depression ware, candlesticks, crystal perfume bottle, Wedgewood, Bakelike, Stoneware, \$30 to \$600 each 619-297-7636.

ORIENTAL RUG, Primarily red. Wool handmade. Like new \$100. 858-597-0856.

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PLANTS, Plants, large , potted, Ficus trees, palms, philodendren, pencil plants, jade, other succulents, outgrew patio. \$100. Pictures, 858-272-1944.

ROLLERBLADES, size 7/8DX, protective gear complete, like new, \$20. Umbrella gear complete, like new, \$20. Uniorena with stand. Adjustable walker, commode. Wooden desk 4'x2' with 2 drawers \$10/each. La Jolla 858-454-1422. ROLLERSKATES, QUADS, Riedell black

Leather tops. Pink "Bones" wheels, size 6 1/2-7, in great shape \$60. Cost \$200. 858-597-0856.

SCHWINN MOUNTAIN, Road bike, tall frame, 12 speed, unique. Beach cruiser bike, new, balloon tires, large seat, pedal brake. Table lamp like Tiffany, 619-298-

SILK FLOWERS/BASKETS and arrangements for office, house, care-free, elegant, 5 for \$25. 5 silk trees, \$20 all. Escondido, 760-685-8290.

SKI BOOTS, men's Salomon Performa 7.0, size 28.5, \$50. Poles, \$5. Men's pants, 34R and women's pants, 6R, \$10 each. Men's sweaters, medium, \$5 each. 858-558-3481.

STERILIZER, Professional capacity, Used in medical, dental, veterinary practices, tattoo/nail salons, hydrotherapy. Retail \$840, sale \$540. For additional informa-tion/pictures visit backpage.com or 760-

SWIMMING POOL, Large, above the ground. Had it for 3 years, but only put up during summers. With ladder/pump, \$75,

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619-850-7350-mg-... catalog/product_de?product_de=occ... THESHOPSMITH MARK 5, For sale. Shopsmith in good shape planer, table Shopsmith in good shape planer, to saw, jointer, lots more. \$1000. Must Call Roman after 4pm. 619-920-2626.

WEDDING DRESS, hat, shoes, excellent condition, \$100. Tires, off-road, 18" and 21", 2 each, \$5 each. Glass top table, 6'x3', \$20. TV stand, \$25. 858-277-7197.

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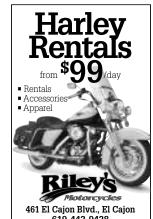
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BMW, 235C8, 2004. Only 34,960 miles. Under warranty. Automatic, steptronic, premium package. Black leather. Sunroof, heated seats, airbags. Single CD Harmon Kardon stereo. \$26,495, 858-20-636.

BMW, 318i, 1985. 4 door, 99,000 miles, 5 speed, sunroof, air conditioning. New tires, good condition \$1750, 619-749-3323.

BMW, 328i, 1998. Silver, automatic, 4 door sedan. Powerful V6, sunroof. New tires, front brakes, 6-CD changer, am/fm, A/C, leather! \$7900/negotiable. Private owner. 619-813-3113.

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gine in great condition, low mileage 94,000. Needs work, shocks and brakes need replacement. Interior in great condition \$1,800. 619-218-1466.

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1997, convertible, well maintained, 105K original miles, green exterior, gray interior, mechanically well maintained, 4 cylinder gas saver, \$5500. 760-632-

b341.

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DODGE NEON, 1997. Blown head gas-ket \$500, 619-420-7629.

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NFINIT 620, 1994. champagne color leather, 160,000 miles. 4 door, automatic transmission, all options, power CD, surroof, all maintenance records runs perfect. \$2975. 858-622-1402.

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MERCEDES-BENZ 230SLK, 2003, red

convertible, sweet ride, maintained very well, power everything, retractable hardtop, 6-CD changer, 47,800 miles, loads of fun, \$23,250. 619-829-6077 or 619-397-2911.

Myka_v169@msn.com.

TOYOTA AVALON, 1996, 4 door, automatic, gold, tan leather interior, 12-disc CD changer, all power, all options, sun-roof/moorroof, flawless, no scratches/dents, \$4500. 619-549-1349.

TOYOTA CELICA, 1981, very rare convertible, 4 cylinder, automatic, always garaged, 89K miles, \$3500. Fiber-glass camp trailer 11'x6' \$1300. 858-581-1869.

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miles, \$3800/best. 858-7/05-2U/U.

VOLVO V70 T5, wagon, 2001. 5-cylinder, 5-speed, turbo, automatic. Leather seats. Fold-down third row seat. Moon-roof. Black exterior and interior. Premium sound. 93k miles. Just had 90k dealer service. Everything works! Very clean. Must sell. \$10,950 or best. Gene, 619-659-0982, 619-985-3263.

VW BEFTLE GLS, 2005, new Beetle convertible, 1.8L, 22.700 miles, 17° alloy wheels, black leather interior, 6-speed automatic Tiptronic transmission, wind blocker, \$19,900.

VW PASSAT, 2001, black, GLS sedan, excellent condition, automatic, am/fm excellent condition, automatic, am/fm cassette, CD, air conditioning, 71,695 miles, \$9200/best. 858-405-6768.

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CHEVY, 1973 smog and rust free GMC, 3/r ton new 350/400 horsepower, tires, radiator, bucket seats. Straight and solid \$3200. Dodge 1980 \$680 1/2 ton. Trades? 619-660-8491.

DODGE CARAVAN, 2001, silver, this car anymore since I just bought a brand new car. Need to sell ASAP.

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His corpse and the face in the mirror look to be men who have eaten something bitter and disagreeable.

Bv Iohn Brizzolara

February 7th would have been my father's 88th birthday. I've never visited his grave. Though, of the two of us, I'm probably the more sentimental, I think his belief in the afterlife was stronger than mine. He always "bet that way," as he said, which meant that was pretty much how he lived - with glaring mortal lapses like everybody

I'm looking at his picture taken in Las Vegas during WWII. He is seated at his desk at a typewriter — pretty much how I remember him — and in uniform wearing corporal's stripes. Ostensibly, he is working on his column for The Horned Toad, the base paper; but in fact, he is simply posing for one of a series of publicity shots for the U.S. Army taken for recruitment purposes. In his early 20s, he is a manly and wholesome boy next door, the kind of matinee idol patriot we wanted up against the Japs, even in the rear echelons.

A dozen years after his death in 1968, when I read John Gardner's book On Moral Fiction, I thought my father could have written it. A writer from an early age, his published attempts at fiction in the Catholic press were unconvincingly sentimental, full of statues that came to life and always skirting the subject of sex, even when that was

what his stories were clearly building toward. His nonfiction garnered letters from J. Edgar Hoover and the Vatican.

My ideas and issues with the concept of responsibility and the power of well-crafted prose all come from him, as do my abhorrence of didacticism and mediocrity. $\tilde{\mathbf{I}}$ like to think he would be proud of my moderate success at writing fiction and would approve of my autodidactic approach to journalism: self-taught except for his lessons. He was my only teacher.

The Monday after his death, my mother went to his office and met with his co-workers at Allstate Insurance, where he had been head of advertising materials. Years later, she wrote about that day.

"It was a strange, otherworldly kind of morning. The group took over the cafeteria and in turns the conversation was very difficult then effusive until it reached its own level. The stories came out slowly, and then gained momentum until it seemed like a line, queuing up for the next turn to tell their own favorite 'Brizz-Bang,' which is what they called the witticisms and punch lines for which he was famous. 'For cry-sake, Schwartz, whatever became of personal responsibility?' elicited, perhaps the loudest response. They'd each heard it at sometime, directed at them as they explained why something difficult seemed out of their control.... [E] veryone took turns to quote 'the master' as he was now being referred to....

That "personal responsibility" thing was certainly familiar to his eight children. The younger half of those eight had limited exposure. The middle daughter, Amy, was 11 when her father's heart gave out on a fishing trip in Wisconsin. The youngest, Veronica, would have been four. Her memories, understandably, are largely second hand and confabulation.

It is getting close to 40 years since his death at 49 years of age. I was 17 at the time, and today, at 56, I am very much aware of his presence. When I look in the mirror, for example, and see the lines, the sagging skin beneath the jaw, the thin lips and furrowed brow, I see how he would have aged had he been given the chance. As morbid as I know this sounds, my last look at him was in the coffin; and I remember thinking, "Lord, death takes it out of you," which I eventually amended to life taking it out of you; but what I see in the mirror today is a far more thorough resemblance to my father than I ever possessed as a younger man. His corpse and the face in the mirror look to be men who have eaten something bitter and disagreeable.

When I say I sense him around me, I mean this in no supernatural sense; I mean, of course, genetics and memory and patterns of thought learned from him. Robert John Brizzolara is most evident when I, like him, rail inwardly (mostly inwardly) at someone or other - even myself — writhing out of responsibility. At the moment

I am evaluating much of my performance in the areas of personal responsibility in terms of what Bob would say (I never called him that but



Robert John Brizzolara

I always wanted to), and I don't think I'm doing badly. I don't think he'd give me full marks on handling money, and I'm probably not covering my bets sufficiently in terms of heaven. By the same token, I wonder if Dad ever spent the same kind of time I have in hell — on Earth. I can't say. No one knows about another person's hell — ever.

\$4300 negotiable. Maria, 619-921-

DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SPORT. zuuz. Converted for easy wheelchair access. Push a button, door slides open, ramp slides out and car kneels. Only \$24,000. 858-273-7710.

DODGE RAM 1500 SLT. 1998. 76K miles, clean title, original owner, perfect condition, white, longbed with toolbox, power windows, doors, seats, 76K miles, \$9100. 760-420-3014.

FORD EXPLORER XLT, 1999, 4x4, automatic, air conditioning, leather, moonroof, tinted windows, CD, rides like a nice car, 138K miles, moving, \$6100/best. Sandra, 619-216-4700.

FORD EXPLORER SPORT, 1998. Black exterior, gray cloth interior, 2 door, 5-speed. Airbags, CD AM/FM stereo. Cold A/C. Rear tinted windows. Rear wiper/defroster. Regularly serviced. Runs excellent, very dependable. Gas efficient.

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FORD EXPLORER, 1998, V-6, beautiful green, 4.0 SOHC engine, power steering, windows, mirrors, alloys, CD radio, cassette, CD changer, always taken care of, 619-318-0488.

FORD EXPLORER XLT, 1996, 4 door. Kelley Blue Book \$5070, asking \$4199. 131,000 highway miles. Brand new

painting. Lots of new parts, all paper-work, 619-944-1147.

FORD EXPLORER SPORT, 2002. 5speed, 87,000 miles, gold color, very nice, need to sell ASAP. \$4800 (salvage). Need money to pay mortgage. Ross, 619-519-0740.

FORD F-150, 2006, shortbed, new, 6 cylinder, air conditioning, tow package, excellent condition, 6500 miles, \$13,000. Dave, 619-540-7785.

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