SAN DIEGO WEEKLY

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The second lives of an Diegans

Story begins on page 24

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NOVEMBER 21, 2007

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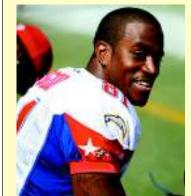


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ITYLIGHT

BREAKING NEWS

Presidents with benefits The



California state auditor has come out swinging against lax oversight of top executives' pay and fringe benefits at the California State University system, including San Diego State and its president, Stephen Weber. Issued earlier this month, the audit report calls for stricter limits on compensation to current

Stephen Weber and former university employ-

ees, singling out Weber for doling out cash from a university foundation to help pay a top coach's income taxes. Noting that "a head coach at the San Diego campus received supplemental compensation from a campus foundation totaling \$505,000 in fiscal year 2006-07" and that "the campus foundation also provided supplemental compensation of \$280,713 to another head coach in fiscal year 2006-07," the auditors concluded that state university-controlled nonprofit foundations operating largely out of the public eye - such as the San Diego State University Research Foundation and the SDSUcontrolled Campanile Foundation - have become virtual cookie jars for campus officials to dip into for dubious expenditures.

In one case, the audit says, Weber used \$6449

from a campus foundation to pay a onetime "bonus" to head basketball coach Steve Fisher, which Fisher then used to pay federal income taxes on both the bonus itself and on an earlier \$10,218 reimbursement for moving and house-hunting expenses. Weber told auditors that



Steve Fisher

though he had authorized the Fisher payment in the belief that the university had made an oral promise to pay the taxes, he left details to aides. Noting that "the coach's employment agreement clearly stated his obligation to pay withholdings and taxes due on applicable bonuses," the audit said that arbitrary exemptions to the university's compensation policy such as Weber granted Fisher had created "an environment that allows questionable reimbursements of relocation costs."

The auditors also investigated pay and perks for Weber himself and his lieutenants, finding that university foundations funded many of them. Weber, who is paid \$272,214 a year and gets a \$12,000 annual car allowance along with a state-funded "entertainment" allowance of \$300 a month, resides for free in a house paid for by a campus foundation, which also may "supplement" his entertainment fund for "community relations activities."

The audit reviewed "compensation and employment inducements" given to 76 "highly paid employees" of the state university system. At SDSU, in addition to Weber, the employees included head football coach Chuck Long, who currently gets \$200,856 from the state and another \$505,000 in foundation money, for a total salary of \$705,856. Basketball coach Fisher's base pay of \$208,620 combined with the foundation sup-

6 San Diego Reader November 21, 2007

plement totals \$489,333. In addition, Fisher's wife gets \$2000 to travel with him to games, and he has full use of two athletic department "courtesy cars," value unstated.

Doug Myrland, general manager of KPBS, the university-run public broadcasting arm whose programming has been in a downsizing mode of late, is paid \$192,744 and is provided with a \$11,178 foundation-funded car allowance along with a \$100,000 life insurance policy. Psychology professor Edward P. Riley receives base pay of \$160,140, supplemented by a campus foundation-funded research grant of \$76,177 and "research support" of \$38,327, for a total of \$274,644, according to the audit.

County of Chlamydia The federal Centers for Disease Control has just released 2006 statistics for sexually transmitted diseases, and San Diego County ranks near the top in two categories. In numbers of reported chlamydia cases, we're 7th nationally, with 11,980 total reported cases, a rate of 408.4 per 100,000 people. (Los Angeles County heads the list with 42,943 cases and has a rate of 432.2 per 100,000; the city of Saint Louis, Missouri, number 41 with 4581 cases, boasts the top rate of 1330.3 per 100,000.)

In the category of primary and secondary syphilis, San Diego came in 8th, with 235 cases, a rate of 8.0 per 100,000. (L.A., again heading the list, had 866 cases, a rate of 8.7 per 100,000; San Francisco County, which placed 4th with 244 cases, had a much higher rate of 33 per 100,000, largely due, the CDC says, to growing incidences of unprotected sex between men.)

In the category of gonorrhea, San Diego was in a more comfortable 18th place out of the 65 counties and 3 independent cities ranked, with 2767 cases, a rate of 94.3 per 100,000. That compares favorably with number one, Chicago's Cook County, with 12,605 cases and a staggering rate of 237.7 per 100,000.

High horses The racing season is long over at Del Mar, but 20 state legislators and their



memories of the meet, thanks to the generosity of the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club. According to its recently filed lobbying disclosure statement, the track laid out an average of \$126.50 a person to host

exclusive "Directors Room"

for legislators, staff, and their guests, including Assemblyman George Plescia, his wife Melissa, and chief of staff Shaun Flanigan; Darrel Ng, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's deputy secretary of communications for the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency; and Larry and Jennifer Levine, parents of Van Nuys assemblyman Lloyd Levine.

— 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.

Potrero: Still Burning

By Don Bauder

Potrero, 45 miles east of San

Diego and almost on the bor-

der. Just recently, Blackwater finally caught a break: the

2007 fires, which started in

Potrero. The company pro-

vided food, gasoline, and tents for those displaced by the fire.

The mercenary firm argued

that if it gets its training camp,

it will be able to supply firefighting gear and personnel.

benevolence stratagem will work."Those who are against

it are still against it, and those

who are for it are still for it,"

says Gordon Hammers, chair-

man of the community plan-

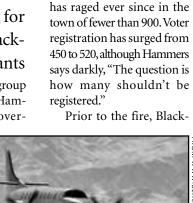
ning group, who has cham-

pioned the project, much to the chagrin of his neighbors,

But it's not clear that the

or months, everything went wrong for Blackwater Worldwide (formerly Blackwater USA), the mercenary firm that wants to put a training camp in tiny

community planning group members, including Hammers, who voted over-



Blackwater had been meeting with county officials since

May of 2006, but the little

hamlet didn't hear about the

plans - now on a fast track until October. Citizens then

erupted, and the conflagration



whelmingly for the training facility late last year. The ballots have to be in by December 11.

water had become a symbol of Pentagon buffoonery. The Iraqi government and the FBI continued on page 8

deliver the money he had promised. He moved the proceeds to the Turks and Caicos Islands tax haven and back

to a local brokerage account. He was sprung from Lompoc federal prison in August 2001. Now he is mailing out pitches again. Letters ask consumers for permission to use their names and home addresses on a couple of business brochures. If consumers want to join this money machine, they simply have to forward the information to others. If you agree, you get a check from Bendah. But to get in on the scheme, you must pay an up-front fee of \$19.90. In the past, Bendah has secretly piled other fees on top of the original up-front fee.

For example, he once had a "Venture Capital Trusts" program in which people were told they could make \$5 million. But first they had to send in the \$19.95 up-front fee. Bendah didn't tell them continued on page 10

relatives no doubt have happy

George Plescia admission and lunch in its

who are generally opposed to it. Last week, ballots were mailed to citizens who are voting on whether to remove

Mail Scammer Back At It

By Don Bauder

avid Bendan, Jan 2000 ster extraordinaire, is out of prison and Business Bureaus avid Bendah, San Diego's mail fraudback at it again. Better Business Bureaus

across the country are warning consumers that if they get mail from Bendah, they should turn it over to postal inspectors. "We are aware of what's going on," says Hilary Smith, postal inspector in the San Diego field office. "We know he is a recidivist, and we know what he is doing. We're interested in any type of fraud scheme he is perpetrating."

Read Don Bauder's Scam Diego blog every day! Go to SanDiegoReader.com and look in Blogs for Bauder.

Contact Don Bauder

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at 619-546-8529 or

But there is no formal investigation yet. The postal inspectors hope that some victims who read the Better Business Bureau reports will come

District Judge Judith N. Keep sentenced Bendah to 41 months in prison. He had pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud and one of money laundering. He had been working one of his favorite old scams: the envelope-stuffing caper, in which victims believed they would get paid a tidy sum for putting pieces of paper in an envelope. But Bendah charged them an up-front fee and then, as was his wont, didn't

forward. In November 1999, U.S.

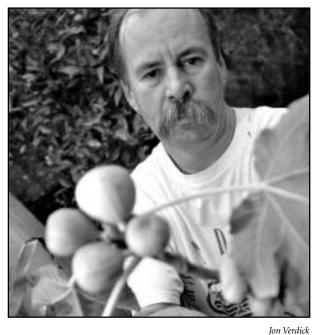


By Alastair Bland

ew fruits evoke the sunny blue skies of the Mediterranean and the balmy days of September quite so poignantly as the

fig, but local farmers and advanced agricultural science may be turning that image inside out. This year's fig season in the Imperial Valley is expected to run into the dead of winter, and in a year or two you just might find fresh California figs at the market on

outskirts of Niland, in Imperial County, in the spring of 2005. Most of the trees are Brown Turkeys, though Black Mission figs and Kadota figs make up a small portion of the orchards. Herman owns and manages several thousand acres of fig groves in the San



Valentine's Day.

That's the plan, anyway, of Kevin Herman, a fig farmer from Madera County who planted 240 acres of figs on the Joaquin Valley, where 90 percent of the state's fig crop is grown. Here, blazing hot summers are ideal for fig productivity as well as the sub-



sequent drying of most of the annual crop. However, the deciduous trees abruptly cease producing fruit in early November, slipping into winter dormancy when the temperatures begin hitting the 40-degree range at night.

But in the warmer climate of the Imperial Valley, the season lasts considerably longer, and Herman has found that the fall crop of the hardy Brown Turkey fig can be extended even further into the winter by slightly manipulating the trees' fertilizing, pruning, and watering schedules.

"You can accelerate the timing of the harvest and also slow it down by controlling these factors," said Herman, who farms many of his fig groves organically."Last year we kept getting ripe figs until late January, and this year we picked figs in mid-May. We're aiming for April, eventually."

Such off-season harvesting would be unprecedented for California fig growers, and as he burns the candle at both ends Herman is marching deep into uncharted horticultural terrain. But not all fig fanatics savor the idea of squeezing out a year-round crop of this ancient Old World staple, and some are simply asking, "Why?"

"It just seems so odd to me to have year-round figs," said Susan Thoen, cofounder of Slow Food San Diego. "When I think of figs, I think of the time of year that they ripen, the warm summer, and just that image has its own really special flavor, but if you have figs every day of the year, what's so special about it? Diversity is wonderful, diversity is inspiring, and to have the same thing all the time ----what's the point?"

Gary Spoto, another Slow Food San Diego member, also questions the concept.

"If you could do this sustainably and organically and so they taste good, it would be pretty cool, I guess, but then again, I have a Mission fig tree and I always look forward to the time of year that the figs come — June, July, and again in August and September and it makes it a special time of year. To suddenly have them all year would take away a big part of their appeal."

But Richard Matoian, manager of the California Fig Advisory Board in Fresno, sees a virtue in producing figs in the winter.

"So many of our consumers, like the restaurants and caterers, call us asking for figs in the off-months. Fresh figs aren't really imported, because they're too delicate, so figs may be the very last seasonal commodity. I feel really good that our own growers in California are finding ways to expand the market." Cultivated for over 10,000 years in the Middle East, figs

are beloved in the nations surrounding the Mediterranean Sea and have been praised in ancient literary works, most memorably in biblical scenes. The Spaniards introduced the fruit — actually a bizarre inverted flower - to the New World in the 16th Century and to Baja California in the



early 1700s. As the missionaries plodded northward, they brought the fig with them, planting small groves at most of their mission settlements. The variety the Spaniards

cherished most was a purplish black sort that would become known as the Black Mission fig and that would remain the most common variety of fresh fig grown in California.

> Figs are more popular in America than perhaps ever before, assert magnates of the fig industry. In the past five years alone, domestic fresh fig consumption has increased by 60 percent, a demand that California's fig farmers attempt to meet by air freighting their product as far away as New York City and Florida.

Herman sees four reasons for the increase in fig popularity.

"One, they taste really good. Two, they're really healthy for you. Three, when you cut them up and show people that creamy interior with the red flesh and the seeds, they can be really attractive. And four, a lot of people are trying to emulate the European lifestyle of wine and good food."

Yet the state's orchards are disappearing at an alarming rate. In the 1990s, over 20,000 acres of figs grew in commercial groves in Madera, Merced, and Fresno counties. Fewer than 10,000 acres remain today as housing developments encroach upon the orchards. In the Imperial Valley and the surrounding areas, however, the housing crunch poses a lesser threat to agricultural lands, and local growers see a future in figs in the Southern California desert.

In the Coachella Valley, farmer Alan Weeks has bumped up his fig production as national interest in the fruit accelerates. He first began farming figs in the region in 1992, and in 2000 Weeks tore out 40 acres of table grapes and 40 acres of lemons to replant the land with Brown Turkey fig saplings, now in their third year of production as fivefoot-tall shrubs. Weeks's Brown Turkey fig trees usually cease producing fruit by mid-December.

Kevin Herman's Brown Turkey fig experiments may be his most progressive, but he is also dabbling with other varieties for other reasons. The Sierra fig, for example, is a new hybrid that Herman believes is a contender for the eventual replacement of the famed Calimyrna fig, which makes up over 50 percent of the San Joaquin Valley's fig acreage and which has long been the favored variety for sun drying.

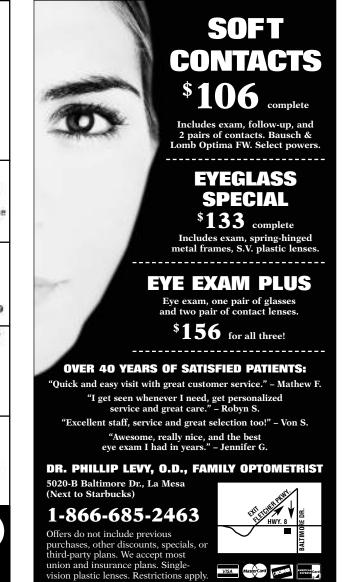
But an increasing trend of weather idiosyncrasies has been regularly damaging Herman's Calimyrna crops.

"I don't want to say it's global warming," he said. "I'm not a scientist, but the temperature spikes in summer and winter have been getting pretty extreme, and the climate variability and summer mate variability and summer D Dig moisture are becoming more growth and summer D Dig unpredictable, and all this plays hell with Calimyrnas." *Rodert November 21, 20 Continued on page 10 An archive of City Lights stories can now be searched on the Internet at*

on the Internet at www.SanDiegoReader.com

, 2007





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CITY LIGHTS

Potrero burning continued from page 6

are investigating a September shooting involving Blackwater that left 17 Iraqis dead. The FBI has determined that at least 14 of the deaths were unjustified. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has been investigating Blackwater's operations. A bill has been introduced in Congress to block the government from using private companies such as Blackwater to provide security for U.S. diplomats in Iraq. Representative Bob Filner, whose district includes Potrero, is in favor of the bill.

Meanwhile, Potrero is still politically afire. "The bad guys are sending out incredible things in hit pieces," says Duncan McFetridge of Descanso, whose group, Save Our Forests and Ranchlands, is battling Blackwater.

Raymond Lutz of El Cajon, who has joined the battle, is cited in the hit piece. He claims that the person who signed the mailing doesn't exist, at least in Potrero. The attack document says that "the folks in El Cajon do not care because they don't live here.... To them, Blackwater is a surrogate for the war in Iraq and President Bush." The letter calls McFetridge's group "an outside radical organization."

CITY LIGHTS

There has been skepticism about Blackwater's relief efforts. "The local sheriffs, who are in favor of Blackwater, let [Blackwater] come through but wouldn't let other groups do so," says Barbara Chamberlain, an opponent. "A lot of people thought [Blackwater's effort] was just publicity, strictly PR." For example, very few people used the tents, supposedly for that reason.

"The sentiment appears to be in favor of the recall," says Miriam Raftery, an East County journalist who has followed the Potrero ruckus closely. However, "Blackwater won some hearts and minds with their relief efforts," she says. She adds that a married couple, both on the ballot to be removed, lost their home in the fire, and that might sway sentiment.

> Hammers seems to realcontinued on page 10





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Potrero burning

CITY LIGHTS

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ize public opinion is not lining up in his direction. "The recall election will have no effect," he says. "The planning group is an advisory group. If the county wants it [the Blackwater facility], it will happen."

He understands how San Diego governments work.

Mail scammer continued from page 6

that they had to pay \$138 to \$5200 for brochures.

CITY LIGHTS

Bendah, who ran afoul of the district attorney's office in 1988, is a flamboyant character. He was featured on TV's Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous. In one pitch, he said, "A few years ago, I was dead broke. I was about \$50,000

in debt and worked for minimum wage.... Today, I am worth millions of dollars. I live in a 6000-square-foot home...I drive a Mercedes convertible coupe and a Cadillac." Investigators agreed that he in fact lived the high life. In a magazine article, Bendah identified his targets as "the moron market" but then denied having made the statement.

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He is a prolific author of

get-rich-quick books with such names as Making Five Hundred Thousand Dollars a Year in Mail Order, Cashing in on Government Auctions. Free Grant Money, Free Refunds from the U.S. Government, How to Use Your Hidden Potential to Get Rich, Hundreds of Ways to Get the Money You Need, and 25 Billion Dollar Treasure: Get Your Share of Unclaimed Government Money.

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Future figs

CITY LIGHTS

continued from page 7

Just two days of damp air, he explains, may cause the fruit's thin skin to split open, exposing the flesh inside to insects and mold, but the Sierra fig has a thick skin that resists the tendency to split during spats of high humidity. Herman is growing several acres of Sierra figs on his

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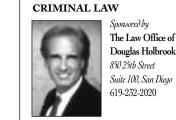
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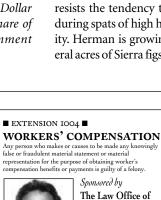
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Imperial Valley land, and if they thrive in the local climate he may consider expanding production, both in Northern California as well as the Southern California desert

сіту сіднтя

region. Jon Verdick, an amateur horticulturist in Encanto, is also riding high on the rising wave of fig popularity. In the past five years he has collected more than 300 common and obscure varieties, and through his website www.seedsavers.org he sells and ships plantable branch cuttings to interested gardeners, farmers, and collectors. Every November, each of Verdick's fig trees shuts down its natural fruit production and begins to lose its leaves, and Verdick relishes the thought of having fresh figs all year.

"I think that anybody I know who likes figs would love to get them for seven or eight months rather than just two or three. I'd love to be able to go outside in March and pick some figs or buy some at the market."

Since the days of the Spanish missionaries, California has established itself as the fig capital of America and one of the leading producers in the world, ranking behind Turkey, Egypt, Algeria, Iran, Morocco, and Syria in tons produced each year. California supplies the United States with nearly 100 percent of its domestically produced dried fig supply and 98 percent of its fresh figs. The fresh fruits are too soft to endure shipment from southern-hemisphere countries, such as Brazil, during the northern winter, but Herman hopes to supply offseason fruit stands with fresh figs within several years. It was once his goal, he says, to deliver fresh figs to New York City shoppers for Christmas. "We've accomplished that.

Now the goal is Valentine's Day. People associate figs with summer, but watch: you're going to start seeing a lot more figs in year-round supply in California."

Slow Food's Thoen wonders about the integrity of the fig's future in the face of such progressive farming. "Will figs be just another

apple, bagged and waiting

rather than being anticipated

for nine months and finally

available again, that amazing

purple lusciousness to grace our tables? That would be

really sad." ■



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Charger Haters

The Chargers are accustomed to seeing anti-Charger rants in the *Reader*, courtesy of Don Bauder. But most people know that Mr. Bauder is a confirmed Charger-hater from way back and read his words with that in mind. Unfortunately, the anti-Charger attitude now seems to have spread to, of all places, the *Reader*'s music section ("Blurt," November 8), the boldfaced headline "Go, Chargers?" and a report that a major concert promoter would be building a "12,500-capacity outdoor venue on the grounds of the Chargers summer training facility at 4020 Murphy Canyon Road." There is absolutely no truth to this story, and the Reader's use of this completely inaccurate information to suggest that the Chargers are leaving San Diego is, well, positively Bauder-like!

which recently contained

Mark Fabiani Special Counsel to the San Diego Chargers

Ken Leighton responds: The "Blurt" incorrectly stated that the new AEG concert venue would be located at the Chargers' current practice facility. According to Mr. Fabiani, it will be at the old Chargers' practice facility, near Qualcomm Stadium.

Say No

Regarding "Say What" (November 8): I would personally pay you to get rid of this trashy waste of ink. A "Sped" moment? Wow! That is certainly a new low. Why on earth are you talking to these people, and why on earth are you then printing a single word they are saying? There is absolutely no humor in ignorance such as this. Hey, "Gimli," next time you see a kid with Down syndrome, or even a kid in a wheelchair, are you going to have to try not to laugh? I thought so. Disgusting. The Reader doesn't need to spread this tripe. It's just not funny.

> Heather Em via e-mail

It's Economics, Stupid

Regarding the letters and blogs about the demise of KLSD as a radio voice for the liberal-progressive community in San Diego ("Jocks Talk, Liberals Walk," "City Lights," October 25), most of those who mourn its demise are missing a salient point — maybe the *only* salient point.

Broadcasting is a business — a business that people enter into with a reasonable expectation of making a profit.

With the exception of public radio and television, *none* of us in this business get government subsidies we exist solely on the revenue we generate through advertising sales.

I am no fan of Clear Channel and its monopoly of the San Diego radio airwaves, but face facts.

If there had been an advertiser base to draw from, if there had been enough support from the "50 percent" of the progressives in San Diego a previous letter writer talked about, maybe KLSD would still be on the air. There obviously wasn't that support, with the predictable result that Clear Channel decided to cut its losses and go to sports talk.

I've been in broadcasting for almost 42 years, so I have a nodding acquaintance with the facts — no advertisers means no revenue; no revenue means no radio station.

The demise of KLSD as a progressive voice in the community was *not* political in nature. It's basic Economics 1A.

> Doug Curlee via e-mail

Of Rock And Bedrock

This correspondence is in response to the November 15 letter entitled "Narc Notes," about Jay Allen Sanford's cover story, "A Yearlong Trip Down Crack Street" (November 1).

Because we'd corresponded before on other topics, I personally thanked Jay in a private e-mail but didn't take the time to publicly thank him for having the courage to share his story with San Diego at large.

Being a recovering addict myself, I could relate to much of his testimonial and, unlike the retired drug agent that penned the letter, I find it a great service to the community to speak openly about our personal bouts with addiction and compulsive behavior.

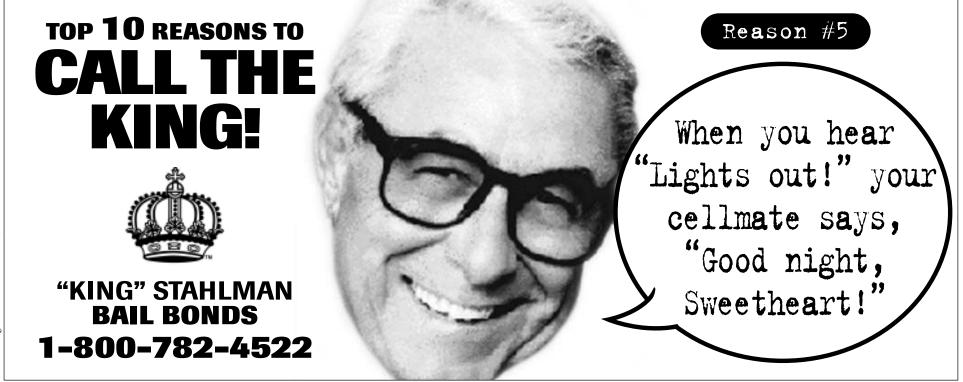
As addicts, we don't do such things because we're bad people; we do them because we're addicts and, while that doesn't excuse us from taking personal responsibility for our behavior, we find that many people who don't suffer the same burden simply do not understand.

The writer described Sanford's behavior as "the same old song sung by many a drug addict." I couldn't agree more. We as addicted people tried to stop but

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I do understand how those in law enforcement can become hardened and cynical when they see time and time again the results of the bad decisions we make when we're in the throes of our compulsion. But demonization and harsher criticism of the addict, I've found, isn't the answer.

Like Barbarella's similarly brave cover story, "Being Fat Sucks" (September 27), I've found that compulsive behavior can never heal in the vacuum of silence. We need help, and when we find the courage to ask, life suddenly becomes a more extraordinary thing.

I applaud those that speak openly of their particular affliction so that others are impelled to do the same. Thanks, Jay and Barbarella, for writing. Thanks, *Reader*, for publishing.

> J.D. North Park

Meth Underground

Mr. Lharles' comments (Letters, November 8) about addiction and spirituality are quite brief but show rare insight!

The progressive use of drugs and crystal meth in particular is no longer confined to the poor and criminal element and those who have hit bottom; these are a huge percentage of our "normal" society in all class levels. As an ex-drug addict myself and a child of the '60s, I personally know and have encountered quite a few active police officers, attorneys, doctors, teachers, college students, coaches and other members of youth organizations, and many parents in the middle-class suburbs, all of whom support ongoing addictions to meth.

This secret society of drug users is just one of many symptoms of the emotional and spiritual isolation produced by the endless pursuit of technological advancement and material wealth to the exclusion of all other pursuits. Innocent

victims of a joyless and disenfranchised society where many of us have lost touch with our inner ability to find ecstasy and connect to our inner spiritual power or to others in a spiritual way. Groups like NA and AA teach us the incredible healing that can be achieved through group consciousness. The ritual used in connecting to others creates the power of the drug, a different more healing ritual can create and provide a solution. We have the magic ability to heal each other and create a new awareness of our incredible inner power. To this end my friends and I have created an online public awareness magazine, communiversitymagazine.org. Catherine Bryan Ibarra via e-mail

Make Eye Contact And Smile

"Anonymous via e-mail" (October 11) said, among other things, that people stare at fat people. Now, while I do know many "nonfat" people do point, snicker, comment, etc., about fat people (as if they're deaf and have no feelings), perhaps some of the time people are staring *continued on page 64*





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DON'T FIGHT THE CROWDS

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SportingBox By Patrick Daugherty

Beginner's Eyes

A t the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Willows. Sound comes at you from the sunset, underneath the dome of an aqua-blue sky, the blue banded on its low end by a smaller band of flax yellow, which sits atop a blood-red horizon that melds into the purple of land. The sound is impossibly loud. Two, five, ten — who knows how many thousand snow geese have lifted from a marsh forming one huge skein of geese, a swarm of geese, a living tornado of geese, and is flying toward me, honking and flapping, making a noise so loud that its sound is all there is to hear.

This. Is. Thrilling.

I'm here for the cranes, the winter, the marsh, and the fog. Cranes are supposed to be the oldest living bird species. I've been told they're 6 million years old, and, in flight, they do remind me of pterodactyls — too long, too boney for our times. This is my first birding trip, and I have beginner's eyes. I don't know anything. I don't know what goes where. I don't know the slang. I don't know which birds are cool, which ones are ordinary. I don't know which birders are ridiculed. For a little while I can enjoy all of it, unfiltered.

I'm with a group of birders — 52 of them and two leaders. Everyone drives their own car, couples mostly, and meet, in this instance, at the Sacramento refuge. I like the take-care-ofyourself pace; be there on time or be left behind. It's a surprisingly brisk march through the day, and then dinner and to bed. This is a three-day trip.

I don't do well with groups — never cared for them — but I make all the group meets and take the tours (you have to be around someone who knows what you're seeing). But the group stays at the Best Western in Willows; I hole up in the Motel 6. They eat at the expensive Mexican restaurant-resort; I eat at the neighborhood cantina with Willows cops.

There is a bit of truth to the birder stereotype. I make the median age as 60, and every birder is white. Men in khaki pants and Tilley hats. Women wear L.L. Bean casual slacks and dark sweaters. We are wary of each other, but I'm giving it a try. It was 3:45, 4:00 p.m. before we left the visitors parking lot. Sunset was on. The Sacramento refuge has a drive-through African park sort of thing. After an overlong period of whining and begging from our environmentally friendly bird guides, we load up four to a car, drive onto a dirt byway that winds six miles around the refuge.

There are marshes on both sides and more birds than I've ever seen. A lifetime of birds. We drive 50 feet and stop. Four binoculars arise (we're not allowed out of the car). Birders regard the vista, then drive another 50 feet and repeat. Finally, after 40 minutes, we come to the lookout, which is a large platform set on stilts. Birders stretch, walk around, man binoculars, take pictures, chat. We'll exit the refuge and drive — sometimes for an hour or two — to another refuge or vantage point and do it again.

They've got names, the birds do. I might be able to say four or five from memory. Follows is taken from my notes. We saw white-faced ibis, white-fronted goose, snow goose, Ross's goose, cackling goose, red-tail hawks, northern pintail, mallards, pied-billed grebe, tundra swan, northern shoveler, herons, sandhill cranes... *enough.* The point is, there are about 3,000,000 ducks and 1,000,000 geese around here or on their way. That's the draw. It's an inconceivable number of birds; almost half of all waterfowl who use the Pacific Flyway migrate here.

The numbers are staggering, and you can feel the numbers. There's an opening in the reeds giving way to a view of 200 pintails. Another opening over there reveals 500 snow geese. Resting flocks are mixed together and constantly adjust their members. Birds pack in, butt feather to beak — so many, on a scale so different than anything I'd seen before, as to be closer to Alfred Hitchcock than to Walt Disney.

Looking north, beyond what you can see with your eyes, but in good sight with 8.5 x 44 binoculars, is another lift-off of blackbirds. This one is immense...looks like a black cloud, maybe a mile long, running left to right. Blackbirds by the thousand, by the many thousands, turn as one and fly south. Ten seconds later, in unison, the flock turns toward the west. I hear myself say, "I can see why people do this."

The Vegas Line

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·		day	
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CINCINNATI	Pk 'em	NL	Tennessee
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KANSAS CITY	6	35	Oakland
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Seattle	3	45 ½	ST. LOUIS
N.Y. GIANTS	3 7 3 3	41	Minnesota
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SHEEP AND GOATS PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Last week, the Evangelical Philosophical Society held its annual conference (in conjunction with the Evangelical Theological Society) at the Town & Country Convention Center in Mission Valley. On Friday afternoon, a crowd gathered in the center's meeting house for a session entitled "Catholics and Evangelicals in Dialogue." Paul Copan, current president of the society, set the stage: "When Francis Beckwith, then-president of the Evangelical Theological Society and past executive member of the EPS, joined the Roman Catholic Church, we thought it would be fitting to strike while the iron was hot and devote a session that addressed...questions and concerns in a spirit of graciousness and the mutual pursuit of truth."

He began with a prayer: "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...we pray that your presence will be sensed here as we discuss...things that often seem to create deep emotions and often anger, perhaps resulting in bitterness. We ask...that there will

We ask...that there will be love and grace shown by all." Copan's prayer was answered; everyone on the panel was quick to acknowledge that both Catholics and Evangelicals shared a love for Jesus Christ and sacred scripture, a commonality that had perhaps been obscured in Evangelicalism's early days. Balab MacKan

Ralph MacKenzie, chairman of the San Diego Christian Forum, started off with an allusion to those early days: "When Norr

early days: "When Norm Geisler and I began to interact with Catholics some 50 years ago in Detroit, we had to smuggle them in the side door. We had to ask the priests to remove their clerical collars."

Among the changes that extinguished the acrimony was the Catholic Church's Second Vatican Council, which termed Protestants as "separated brethren," and which "encouraged Catholics and Protestants to join in ecumenical Bible studies." One such, said MacKenzie, was Logos, a five-year, verseby-verse course taught by UCLA professor Bill Creasy — a Roman Catholic who had been mentored by the Evangelical J. Vernon McGee. MacKenzie suggested that attendees look at a tract put out by the American Tract Society that attempted, using Catholic sources, "not to save Catholics out of their church but to save them within their church" by helping them obtain "a personal relationship with Jesus."

Mark Brumley, president of Ignatius Press, spoke next and related the story of his conversion from Evangelicalism to Catholicism. "My thinking was not that I was jettisoning anything, but it was an idea of coming to a completion, a fulfillment." He cited the Apostles' Creed as an expression of common faith and argued that "the nature of the Church" was the fundamental disagreement between the two denominations. Commenting on this disagreement, he said, "The Baptist who says, 'Out of fidelity of Christ, I can't go with you on the papacy'; he is actually closer to Christ and closer to his Catholic brother than the Baptist who says, 'In order to get along, I'm going to go along."" There is a closer Christian communion among people who differ, precisely because they are being faithful to Christ in their differences."

Dr. Timothy George, dean of Beeson Divinity School, took up the notion. He praised "the ecumenism of the trenches," wherein Catholics and Evangelicals had found themselves side by side in the struggle over issues such as abortion. "Having found one another, we began to develop a deeper sense of unity," one that led to the creation of Evangelicals and Catholics Together, a sort of religious think-tank that produced statements on the various issues of division. "This is what I have called an ecumenism of convictions, not an ecumenism of accommodation.... We must seek unity in truth. There is no unity worth having that is not unity in truth. We are committed to the truth because Jesus Christ said, 'I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life.' If we're committed to Him, we can be committed to nothing less than the truth.... That means, sometimes, that we can walk this far but no further on an issue. We have to say, in good conscience, under

God, that we cannot walk together."

Father Anthony Saroki, director of vocations for the Diocese of San Diego, spoke of his admiration for Philip Johnson, author of Darwin on Trial and a man who combated scientism, "the notion that the only things you can have truth debates on have to do with science. When it comes to religion, you can't have debates about truth; it's debates about opinion." Saroki ĥad

encountered that attitude among both Christians and Catholics — the idea that "religion has nothing to do with our convictions and beliefs that these things are so."

NTHONY SAROKI, TIMOTHY GEORGI MARK BRUMLEY, RALPH MACKENZI

Evangelicals and Catholics

in Dialogue

President Copan stepped in to offer his own comment on truth: "Is there a relativism within Christianity...? No. All these expressions cannot be right. If the Catholic understanding of the Church and the Mass is correct, then the Evangelicals are incorrect. There are genuinely conflicting truth claims."

Later on, Dr. George made a kind of reply: "I think doctrine matters. I think theology matters. I think truth matters. Where we have differences, I don't think we sweep them aside, but we continue to follow the prayer of the Lord Jesus to the heavenly Father in John 17: 'I pray that they may all be one, so that the world might believe."

And Brumley offered this toward the session's conclusion, a probing exploration of the complex relation between faith and truth: "I would not want an Evangelical to profess those things which he regards as not true. That would be, at the very least, a sin, and...it may be damnable. But, if vou do come to believe that what the Catholic Church teaches is divinely revealed, then...not to accept those things and become a Catholic? How can I think that would be anything other than a sin ...? A man must be faithful to what God has revealed. I believe God is going to honor that and lead him to wisdom and understanding. I don't believe that we should expect that person to act contrary to his honest, prayerful conviction about what's true."

— Matthew Lickona

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-EVE KELLY

The Kelly household could use some fresh holiday traditions. I want my kids thinking globally during this holiday season. Happily, I have many friends from other countries and faiths from whom to draw ideas.

"In Budapest, people really don't decorate their homes," explained my Hungarian friend Kinga. "They put up the Christmas tree the evening of the 24th right before the com-

ing of Jesus. The children go to Mass with one of the parents. Whoever stays at home sets up the tree, decorates it with *szaloncukor* (a chocolate candy wrapped in shiny paper), painted walnut shells, real candles, and other homemade decorations. When the children

come home, they have a light dinner — usually fish. After dinner, someone sneaks out and rings a bell marking the coming of Jesus from heaven. The children are then allowed into the room with the decorated tree and all the presents. They say a prayer and then all hell breaks loose with the presents."

My Kenyan friend Edward says kids sing carols door to door for money beginning on December 12. "They take the money they earn to buy candies. In their homes, people decorate by stringing Christmas cards across the room, with the pictures visible and glittery paper between each card. The choice of colors is whatever color you can find, not the traditional American Christmas colors. Anything goes. People who live up in the highlands, as I did, use pines to decorate the home, but coastal people use palms. And on the trees, people use cotton balls as snow."

Filipino children also carol for money or food, explained Patti. "And the *parol* tradition is huge. The *parol* is the star of Bethlehem lantern, and they vary from simple to elaborate." The lit colorful lanterns, traditionally made with bamboo and rice paper, are hung outside homes during the holiday season.

"We have a pickle tradition," said Molly, "which comes from Germany. We hide a pickle ornament on the tree, and Christmas morning, the child who finds the ornament gets a special treat."

"Our Polish friends set an empty place setting at their Christmas table for Jesus," said Meg. "And if any unexpected guest

arrives, they are to be treated like Jesus. In our home, we do a Jesse tree in the days leading up to Christmas. We take a branch from our maple tree, set it in a pot, and the kids make an ornament that represents the stories from salvation history, from

before Christ's birth. Each day a child makes a new ornament for the tree and the story is read: an apple for the story of Adam and Eve, the ark for Noah, the ladder for Jacob's lad-

der. Then, on Christmas Eve, the Jesse tree is replaced with the Christmas tree." Clare filled me in on the Austrian tree. "All the ornaments are made from straw to represent

the ornaments are made from straw to represent the straw in Jesus' manger," she said. "And real candles are lit on the tree, so it makes for an extraflammable tree," she laughed.

"In Cuba," said Jose, "the big days are Christmas Eve and Epiphany. Gifts are exchanged on Epiphany. Christmas Eve, my family has a black"Decorations here in New Mexico are heavily influenced by Native Americans."

tie dinner — tuxes and formal gowns. And we serve black beans and rice, pork, and, of course, cocktails. And then we go to vigil Mass. The joke among our family is that other people at church must think we work at the nearby hotel since we show up in tuxes."

"Decorations here in New Mexico are heavily influenced by the Native Americans and Mexicans," said my sister Cathy. "There are lots of red chili-pepper wreaths on doors, some also with Indian corn and bows made from corn husks. People also use a lot of luminarias here. On Christmas Eve, people line their walkways with the luminarias, which are brown paper bags filled a bit with sand to hold a votive candle. Tradition is that you are lighting the way for the Christ Child. A lot of businesses will put electric luminarias on their roofs for the holiday season. As for other decorations, corn-husk angels are big, statues of Native-American shepherds, tin Lady of Guadalupe pictures, ornaments painted with lizards, bears, butterflies, and hummingbirds. They also decorate with kachina dolls. painted dolls that each represents a different spirit. And dream-catcher ornaments are also hung around the house. Originally, dreamcatchers were used by mothers who would suspend

dreamcatchers over their babies' beds so that the dreamcatcher would catch the good dreams."

My friend Pam shared some of her family's Hanukkah traditions. "I typically use gold, silver, and blue to decorate," she said. "I love specialty plates, and I have some gold and white ones that say 'Dreidel, dreidel, dreidel,' which are the first words of a

traditional song. I made them out of clay. My main decorations are on the table, as most of our holidays are spent eating. I have around 15 menorahs, and I put some on the table and some on the center island in the kitchen where I usually serve. I have blue-and-white napkins with a Star of David on them; I hate to use paper napkins or plates for this festive holiday. I serve latkes - potato pancakes - with applesauce and sour cream, and I have also made a sheet cake cut to look like a dreidel, the spinning-top game used during Hanukkah. Unlike Christmas, Hanukkah is a minor holiday, and we don't use lights or have a tree, but we give the children one gift per night for eight nights as we light each candle on the menorah. Tradition holds that oil from a lamp lasted eight days, hence the eight days of the holiday. I like to have a lot of friends over with their children, and when it is sundown, we turn off the lights and everyone gets to light a candle."

Bernice offered the pagan traditions of winter. "I do not do this in my home, but I have a friend who celebrates the winter solstice on December 21. She decorates with candles and cut evergreens. The evergreen represents the rebirth of life amid the winter whiteness. The candles represent the light coming back — the days getting longer. She also has a goddess collection — the maiden, the mother, and the crone. In the winter, she brings out the crone [the old woman], and she puts greenery and candles around the statue."

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- 1. Kachina doll
- 2. Menorah
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Breast Defense

by Barbarella

Were not I thine only nurse, I would say thou hadst suck'd wisdom from thy teat.

— William Shakespeare

"I can't look away; it's,

like, sucking me in." I could

hear the mixture of disgust

sister's voice

and morbid fascination in my

Jane's job as a drug-

pusher often brings her to my

drug-pusher," she argues, fol-

soundbite, "I provide infor-

could save lives.") My fore-

mation about medication that

neighborhood. ("I'm not a

lowed by the oft-recited

was standing in the kitchen, weighing the exertion of making my own coffee against the effort of going downstairs to Starbucks, when my phone rang. I glimpsed my sister's name on the screen and adjusted my answer accordingly: "Yo."

"Yo," said Jane. "I need your help. I'm stuck here at the light, and this guy is all bent over, he's pretty much touching his toes, and his butt-crack is in my face."

"Look away," I suggested.

"I *can't*. It's, like, plumber's crack, and it's just *there*. He's still bent over. That butt-crack is in my face." "Stop looking at it," I said, futilely.

"You don't have to
worry, ma'am.
Black underwear
and applesauce?
Nobody would
make that up."

head throbbed, reminding me of my primary need. "You're going to need some counseling after this butt-crack trauma," I said. "Which light are you at?"

"University and Fifth," she answered. "I have a little time before my next meeting. I was thinking of grabbing a coffee. Oh, thank God, the light just changed."

"Head on over," I said, already searching for my shoes. "I'll meet you downstairs."

After ordering our usual (Jane's tall-nonfat-iced-chaitea-latte and my tall-nonfatdouble-shot-latte-with-sugarfree-caramel-syrup), we nabbed a few chairs by the window. Looking across the table at my sister was like staring into a funhouse mirror, the kind that makes you more beautiful — in my "reflection," my long dark hair was thicker and more lustrous, my delicate features were more pronounced, and my face and neck were more slender and graceful.

"Did anyone tell you what happened to me at Target?" Jane asked. My sister shops at Target (which she pronounces *tar-zhay*) at least once a week, for anything from dog food to makeup to nonperishable foodstuffs. I shook my head. The last Target story Jane had told me was the one about getting home and realizing she'd forgotten one of her bags. When she'd called to plead her case and convince the clerk that the bag was hers and had been paid for, the clerk (who had located Jane's bag) said, "You don't have to worry, ma'am. Black underwear and applesauce? Nobody would make that up." Jane fumbled her apologies to the woman and attributed her forgetfulness to the fact that she was breastfeeding. Ever since our sister Jenny cited an article that said a woman's brain shrinks 7 percent when she's pregnant and doesn't return to its normal size until she's completed breastfeeding, Jane has used her boobs as two engorged getout-of-jail-free cards.

Now Jane eyed me suspiciously, as though gauging how her words might potentially be twisted and put to paper. "Come on," I coaxed. "What did you do this time?"

"I didn't do anything," Jane said, a little too quickly. One of my brows shot up involuntarily, revealing my doubt.

> "Tell me," I said evenly. "No." "Come on. Tell me." "No."

"Jane...come on. I'm going to find out anyway. You said yourself that other people already know."

"Fine." She'd put up a fight for appearance's sake, but it was obvious she was dying to share her most recent humiliation.

Jane explained how one Saturday morning, while I had been in Italy, she took her infant, Olivia, to Target. When she was in the parking lot, she noticed a shady-looking guy walking aimlessly through the lot. As he drew closer to Jane's car, she grabbed Olivia, shut the car door, and speed-walked toward the store. When she returned an hour later, her car was missing. "I thought maybe I'd grabbed the baby too quickly and didn't lock it," she told me. With a cartful of goods and a baby in tow, Jane searched desperately for her car. "I walked for 30 minutes before I called mall security."

"You thought your car was stolen and it wasn't, huh?" I said, beginning to smirk. Jane glared at me and continued her story.

"I started freaking out, thinking of all the things I had in the car. I called Simon and told him he'd have to leave work to pick me up, but the baby seat was in my car, not his, so I called Heather and asked if she could come down from San Marcos to pick us up." Our sister Heather was on the sidelines of her son's soccer game when Jane reached her. Jane also called the police and our sister Jenny, who called her boyfriend, Brad, who is a CHP officer. Brad said he'd be on the lookout for the black minivan. All the while, as Jane hysterically dialed and wiped away her tears, the mall security guard





stood by her side. "He kept asking me if I was sure I'd parked there, and I told him yes...I always park on that side of the mall." The guard insisted that protocol required that he take Jane through every row of cars on the premises before filing an official report. "I had to sit in the back of the car holding my baby à la Britney Spears."

I'd been waiting for the payoff to her story since the first mention of her missing car, and here it was: "It was on the other side of the mall, where I *never* park." Upon spotting her vehicle, Jane experienced a profound relief that was soon replaced by an intense shame. She called Simon first, then Heather, and then Jenny, who called Brad. Then she called the police. Finally, she thanked the security guard, got in her car, and drove away.

"But what did you tell everyone?" I asked.

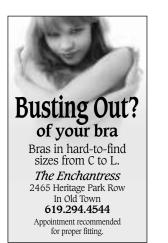
"I told them I was breast-feeding." I stared at her, dumbfounded. "There was nothing to say," she said, by way of explanation. "I'm stressed, exhausted, and losing my mind, apparently. But that's not the worst of it," Jane continued. "Two days later, I left Mom's house to go to the store and my car was not in the driveway." Jane was sure someone was messing with her. When we were teenagers, my father would steal items we'd left in

our cars, a lesson that if we don't lock the doors and roll the windows all the way up, we would have only ourselves to blame if something was stolen.

When Jane returned to the living room and announced her car was missing, she was met with blank stares. "You're kidding, right?" My mom said. My sisters were impassive. They held out to the bitter end, until Jane, in a panic, grabbed the phone to dial the police, and Heather called out, "Wait! Brad and Jenny moved it. It's parked around the corner."

"Can you believe they did that?" Jane said, taking a noisy last sip of her chai tea. "The whole family banded together to torture me. Especially Jenny. She even told me she thinks it's her duty to give me a hard time. I don't think she's ever going to let me live this down."

We chucked our cups



and were heading for the door when Jane got a text message. She flipped open her phone and groaned. "This is exactly what I'm talking about. She'll never stop." Jane tried to look angry, but I could see the

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with amusement. She handed me her phone, and I couldn't help but smile. Beneath Jenny's name and number was the message: "It's 11 a.m. Do you know where your car is?"

corners of her eyes crinkling

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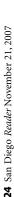
The second lives



John Crane 40 years old **Computer Geek**



Jopsy Pendragon 24 years old Teacher/Artist



of San Diegans

S YOU READ THIS, 40,000 people in the world are "in-world."

This doesn't mean that these people have left our world, the real world. It means that their real bodies are sitting in front of personal computers, and their consciousnesses have embodied an "avatar" who is in another place, in another life. In "Second Life."

In their second lives, these people's avatars might be playing games, meeting other people's avatars, listening to music, dancing, reading things, inventing things, teaching classes, buying and selling services and things, sitting around, exploring, discussing business, and even engaging in virtual sexual activities.



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Sound creepy? It might be creepy. But it's also "the next wave of the Internet," "a platform for learning," "an online playground," "a virtual environment," and "a new opportunity to make a whole lot of money" — depending upon whom you ask. According to San Francisco–based Linden Labs, the company that created it, "Second Life is a 3-D virtual world entirely built and owned by its Residents." There's No Difference between My Real Life and My Second Life One of those residents, Jopsy Pendragon, has long pointy ears that wiggle. He wears hippie clothes and floppy hair, and best of all, he sports a set of removable, multicolored, fully operational dragon wings. The wings are just for show, though, since everyone where Jopsy's from can fly, and also teleport.

Pendragon is an ageless, tall, thin, blond, barefoot elfin lampmaker and lighting-effects creator in the Teal region of Second Life. His particle laboratory there is famous. If you Google the name "Jopsy Pendragon," you get around 400 hits. He's got a video on YouTube. His real person writes a blog.

Diegoland

Pendragon's real person, John P. Crane, is a six-foot-tall, 230-pound, 40-year-old redheaded blue-eyed information technology specialist who lives in Hillcrest and

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works for a small biotech company in La Jolla.

Crane not only tosses around terms like "VRML" - which stands for virtual reality modeling language — he's fluent in it.

"I made Jopsy Pendragon from scratch," Crane tells me. "Pretty much everything except the hair, which I bought from somebody, because I'm terrible at making hair."

Crane doesn't look the part of your average computer geek. For one thing, his clothes and his own hair, and even his condo, are all quite clean. The walls of his living room are hung with bright, abstract artwork that Crane painted himself. As he chats with me, he sits down, turns on his computer, jogs his mouse and clicks it a few times, and there we are, in the castlelike home area of the famous Jopsy Pendragon.

On the screen of Crane's personal computer, Second Life has all the trappings of a good modern video game. Everyone's motions are robotic and herky-jerky, the trees and buildings shine bright and plastic and fantastical, and everything appears realistic enough, if you don't stare at it for too long.

But Jopsy Pendragon doesn't have a gun to shoot or a car to drive; he's got nowhere to go and no enemy to kill; and as far as I can tell, he doesn't have a mission or assignment to carry out. He's just there.

"Meet Jopsy Pendragon," John P. Crane says. "He's my avatar."

In Hindu religion, an avatar was the incarnation of a deity in human form. Nowadays, the word suggests an abstract manifestation or embodiment, as in the sentence, "Approaching the year 2008, Second Life is the most advanced avatar of virtual reality."

Avatars in Second Life have got the life.

They can't drown, won't age, don't have to eat (although they can), can't get hurt, don't have to go to the bathroom (although they can). No avatar is born anatomically correct (although — get this! —

they can have genitalia built for them). Basically, avatars are ideal versions of us. Like pixelated angels or something. And we are their creators.

Crane started visiting Second Life back near

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its beginning, in January 2004. He'd heard about the three-dimensional digital world from a friend in L.A. who shares an interest in virtual worlds.

Crane tells me that the earliest interactive

computer platforms were bulletin-board systems. You dialed in on your modem to a single phone line, and you left messages, and someone else would call in later and add a few messages of their own. The boards

got a little more complicated in the early '80s, with a couple of phone lines, and within a year or two, there was simultaneous text chat where people could type to each other.

The first color



graphics (2-D, some even drawn in perspective) and on-screen characters date to the mid-'80s, and point-and-click was invented in 1987.

In 1989, James Aspnes at Carnegie Mellon University invented Tiny-MUD, an online arrangement of virtual places where users could go and create content for other people to explore. Tiny-MUD was a big step forward, because it was user created, and the virtual situations would change as the users chose to change them.

Crane himself created a version of Tiny-MUD, called Dragon-MUD, by taking the source code, inventing a theme, and inviting players. For a long while, DragonMUD was Crane's main thing on the Internet. The game helped him meet people from all over, including someone who worked at Qualcomm and who helped him get a job



there. Crane ended up working at Qualcomm for over eight years.

Throughout the '90s, computer gaming continued to develop, with increasingly realistic graphics, 3-D technologies, and stereo sound. But discerning computer experts like Crane weren't satisfied. "Even by 2003," he says, "most of the stuff out there in virtual reality was just really flat. It looked artificial, it was slow, clunky, and was really hard to use. But then my friend came down to visit, and we went into the Apple Store in Fashion Valley, and he pulled down the Second Life client right there in the store, and he started running it. So we went in and looked at things and poked around, and I thought it looked pretty cool. I

Pollywog's home

agreed to sign up. At the time, it was a pay service; it cost \$10 to sign up. But they've done away with that. Now it's free."

Second Life's parent company, Linden Labs, was founded by Philip Rosedale, 39, in 1999. The site opened to the public in 2003.

So, Second Life is a virtual world and it's free to join. But why would you join? Why would you want to go into a virtual world?

"The hardest thing about Second Life is finding what you're into," Crane says, and he seems to be half-agreeing with me. "You have to bring in a lot of who you are, to find something you enjoy doing. Most people will look around, buy a few things, go to a club, dance a little, and that's about it."

But, Crane says, for some people, there's a whole lot more to Second Life. "If anybody has any degree of programming experience whatsoever, then picking up Second Life is really easy. And people who haven't done any programming can get so into this that they actually learn how. The scripts are pretty basic."

Crane persists, "It's









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like filling out a tax form, almost. It's trying to figure out what values to put in what blanks to make sure it all looks the way you want it to."

Jopsy Pendragon has been standing around, unattended, preternaturally patient, facing away from us and waiting there on Crane's computer screen while we've been chatting. But as Crane decides to show me an example of coding and scripting, Pendragon's broadshouldered and dragonwinged form is eclipsed by onscreen windows known as "editing widgets."

As I look on, Crane opens a widget full of fundamental shapes, called "prims," clicks on a box prim, spreads it out, elongates it, and then adds a second, triangular prim, which he places on top of the elongated box. Deft with his clicking mouse, Crane uses subse-







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The funny thing is, there's no real need for lamps in Second Life. If you want light, you click on a command that says "force sun," and you make it noontime. If you want more light still, you turn up the resolution on your computer. But Crane's lamps are beautiful, and they're also necessary if you want to authenticate a city streetscape. So lots of people buy them. That's right. They buy them. With real, first-life money.

The currency in Second Life, or "in-world," as they say, is Linden dollars. The variable exchange rate for Lindens is about L\$168 to one U.S. dollar. Jopsy Pendragon's lamps average a few hundred Lindens apiece, or just a couple of U.S. dollars.

Which is to say that many residents of Second





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money — both Lindens and Benjamins. One person even used his avatar to invent a computer game, called Slingo, which the person subsequently sold for millions to Nintendo. Most Second Lifers are making small amounts of money in small transactions, a dollar here, a dollar there. But those numbers do add up. In the past 24 hours, over \$1 million has been spent on clothes, hair, "real" estate, and goodness knows what other in-world items.

Crane later informs me that he has friends who've made Second Life their career. "I know a guy on the East Coast who does nothing but make trees," Crane says. "And gardens, and landscaping. And he buys a new computer off the proceeds every year. And I have a friend in Canada who does custom work, mostly costumes, and he's a starving-artist type, but now he buys his groceries and makes rent off his work in Second Life." Second Life? More

like a second job.

In fact, Crane does pretty well for himself in his first life — owning a Hillcrest condo and driving a convertible, for instance — but he's also one of the richer residents of Second Life.

"I sell my lamps," he tells me, "but I also have a particular bailiwick. My thing is to teach people how to do scripting for a special kind of special effect. You might call them particle splashes. It's a very dynamic special effect. It's like painting in 3-D with kind of a time element to it. I have a classroom that I built in-world that lets people show up whenever they want. They can go through all the samples on their own. Kind of like the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, where they have all the little exhibits. And the classroom's been there so

long, it's basically spread by word-of-mouth."

Crane shows me a variety of electricityshooting devices that look as if they belong in Dr. Frankenstein's laboratory.

I'm beginning to

understand that the two fundamental actions in Second Life are building and scripting. In essence, building a lamp and scripting how its light shines, and building sunbeams through the leaves in a tree and scripting

how those sunbeams glisten, and even building the tree itself and scripting how its leaves move — all of these objects and actions are designed and created the same way in Second Life. You edit some prims and

put them together and write up some code and voila! And if the residents of Second Life didn't build and script these things, then these things wouldn't exist.

"The world has a lot more detail and a lot

more craftsmanship than it ever did before," Crane says. "Things used to look a lot more blocky and more plain. But a lot of people have come along who are very good at building things." He opens a search



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window, clicks, and teleports to an example of what he's talking about. After a few seconds, Jopsy Pendragon appears in a new spot and begins to fly around. He lands next to the realistic and tragic form of a giant slumped snowman.

"This melting snowman sculpture was made by a fellow named Starax Statosky," Crane says. "He was an infamous sculptor. He's probably one of the most popular artists in Second Life. He created an object called a magic wand that could respond to keywords. If you said 'eye,' a huge eyeball would appear in the air, look around, fall to

HERE'S A LOT OF FREEDOMS IN SECOND LIFE THAT PEOPLE DON'T HAVE IN **REAL LIFE.**"

the ground, and roll away. If you said 'train,' a huge locomotive would appear on the horizon and roll across - smoke, steam, dust, train sounds, everything. It was an

amazing object. Unfortunately, though, Second Life is a world that's constantly changing. And when somebody comes up with a new way to bother other people, Lin-

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den Labs has to come up with a way to protect them. Not on an individual basis, but by finding ways to limit how scripts can be annoying. And unfortunately, Starax's

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magic wand used a lot of the same mechanisms as these scripts that were being used maliciously. So Linden Labs disabled a lot of the scripts that were used by this wand, and it broke really badly. Well, Starax was so upset he used to charge something like \$10 of real money for each wand and so many people were so upset that their wands broke, because they'd paid real money for this virtual object, and then Starax just vanished. We've never heard from him again. So the few sculptures that are left in the world of his are coveted and quite impres-

sive. They're so distinctive."

Crane tells me that he'd talked to Starax Statosky a few times inworld, but he doesn't know who he is in real life or where he lives.

As Jopsy Pendragon is landing at a shopping mall, a strange repetitive sound like crazy drunken giggling comes over the computer's speakers, and an avatar flies over. A bunch of spinning boxes with creepy smiley faces on them are bumping into the flying avatar. And no matter what evasive actions he takes, the boxes keep bumping into him. It's a bizarre scene and an example of what

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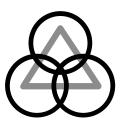


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HAVE ALL SORTS OF HAIR. THIS IS MY FAIRY HAIR. BUT I HAVE PURPLE HAIR AND FORMAL HAIR TOO."

Life is an open-ended

Crane means when he mentions scripts "being used maliciously."

"That poor guy," Crane says. "Someone's griefing him. For whatever reason, he's being dogged by those boxes and he can't get away, because someone else who was bored or whatever wrote up that malicious script to bother him."

Even though Second



fantasy land, with expanded possibilities and fewer consequences than in real life, some basic behavioral guidelines do exist to govern the conduct of its members. The six offenses against "community standards" are intolerance, harassment, assault, disclosure, indecency, and disturbing the peace. But Linden Labs engages in no policing and little governing. Instead, they leave it to members to report abuses, and then a dedicated team sits in judgment and looks at each report on a case-bycase basis. The police blotter on the Second Life website lists recent infractions and disciplinary actions such as suspensions and warnings.

The flying avatar who's being griefed by the spinning giggly boxes might well be taking the necessary steps to report his griefer. Or maybe he deserves the grief — who knows?

At any rate, the beleaguered avatar must have given up trying to get away from the boxes, since he disappears.

"It's easier to come up with something that annoys people than it is to come up with something that impresses people," Crane says.

I ask him to elaborate about the mischievous side of things in Second Life. He sits back in his comfy computer chair and smiles. "Well," he says, "there are entire businesses dedicated to the production of beds,

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

California CLINICAL TRIALS Finding Answers Together - Since 1982





Depression

858-571-1188

Toll-free 800-571-1188

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? If so, you may qualify to try an investigational medication being studied for depression.

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

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

- You receive up to \$450 for your participation.
- You receive no-cost research study medication and medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.





858-571-1188

Toll-free 800-571-1188

www.cctstudy.com

858-571-1188

Toll-free 800-571-1188

www.cctstudy.com

California Clinical Trials is conducting a research study to determine if an investigational medication can be used to help patients stop taking Ambien.

Every study conducted by California Clinical Trials is staffed by a team of skilled and experienced physicians and medical professionals.

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

- You may receive up to \$500 for your time and travel.
- You receive investigational study medication and study-related medical care.

• No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.



Are You A Night Owl Who Can't Fall Asleep Till Midnight (or Later)?

Who me? Yes, you, the one who is up most of the night. Have trouble getting up early in the morning? Feel like you could sleep all day and should say, "who, who" all night?

If you are healthy but have chronic problems falling asleep before midnight, you may qualify for a research study in our state-of-the-art sleep clinic and receive an investigational medication for poor sleep.

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

- If you participate, there is no cost to you...instead:
- You may receive up to \$2600 for time and travel.
- Receive no-cost study-related medication and study-related medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.







Are you being treated for your sleep apnea and depression but still have sleepiness during the day?

Because these two disorders have tiredness and fatigue in common, people who suffer from both feel like they drag all day long. California Clinical Trials is conducting a research study of an approved medication to see its effects on individuals with both sleep apnea and depression. If you are 18-65 years of age and in stable health, using your prescribed CPAP regularly and taking antidepressant medications, you may qualify to participate in this research study. Every study conducted by California Clinical Trials is staffed by a team of skilled and experienced physicians and medical professionals trained to place your comfort and well-being first.

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

- You will receive up to \$550 for your participation.
- You will receive study-related medication and study-related medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.







Do You Get Anxious in Social Situations?

Do you:

- Get very **NERVOUS** around people?
- FEAR being the center of attention?
- AVOID going to social events and meeting new people?

If you answered **YES** to any of the above, you may be eligible to participate in an experimental research study comparing several study drug options for social phobia. Medical assessment and clinical care are provided.

For more information, please call **1-877-UCSD-SHY (1-877-827-3749)** Or e-mail: veryshy@ucsd.edu



Are You Treating Your Insomnia... ...With a Prescription Medication?

Physicians nationwide are researching whether the use of an investigational medication may safely and effectively help you discontinue taking Ambien.

You may qualify if you:

- Take at least 10mg of Ambien four or more nights a week
- Are not taking Ambien CR (controlled-release)

If you qualify, you receive all study-related care and study medication at no charge. Financial compensation for time and travel may also be provided. To learn more, call:

North County Clinical Research 760-639-4378

for instance, that are scripted so you can have two or more avatars, um, 'playing with each other' in a variety of ways." In relation to this, he

tells me that lots of businesses specialize in the building and selling of genitalia.

I speculate that building genitalia must be like building a lamp. "Pretty much,"

Crane says, laughing. "A cylinder here, a sphere there, another sphere there..."

Crane also tells me that people make real money as virtual prostitutes. "They're not real bodies," Crane says, referring to the pixelated flesh and blood of avatars, "so you can pretty much do whatever

y much do whatever that bondage and S&M

you want with them."

Not necessarily. I've read about recent controversies involving age play, or child porn, in Second Life. Sure, it's creepy, but is it illegal? If someone engages in virtual sex with an avatar that looks like a child, but the real person behind the child avatar is an adult, then is a law being broken? Apparently not, since, according to the landmark decision of Ashcroft v. the *Free Speech Coalition*, "Virtual child pornography is not 'intrinsically related' to the sexual abuse of children." At any rate, age play has been disallowed in Second Life. Crane also tells me

are quite popular in Second Life "because so much of it is psychological, it's all power-play between people."

For his own part, Crane doesn't get into any of that. "I don't mind flirting in Second Life," he says, "but that's as far as I go. After that, I feel like I'm playing with puppets. When it's still in the flirting stage, you're in the person-toperson zone. But more than that, I don't know."

Crane sums it up this way: "There's a lot of freedoms in Second Life that people don't have in real life. When Second Life was started, it was meant to be a place that was enabling — for people to be what they wanted to be, pretty

Volunteers needed for computer test for Tinnitus

RESEARCH STUDIES



People with tinnitus are needed for tests of equipment that will be used for this problem. You will need to travel to an office in Oceanside for the test. You will have a hearing review and then be asked to sit at a computer, listen to sounds and take a sound player home and return it a week later. You may be compensated \$50 for participating. If you would like to volunteer for this test please visit the website: www.tinnitustesting.com

CLINICAL RESEARCH Bipolar Disorder • Depression • Schizophrenia

Researchers at Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital are currently enrolling men and women into inpatient and outpatient studies.

Eligible participants may receive all study-related care at no cost, and may be reimbursed for time and travel.

Participation is confidential and trials are safely conducted under the supervision of experienced physicians and research specialists.

To learn more, please call the Sharp Mesa Vista Clinical Research Center at

(858) 694-8350.



San Diego Reader November 21, 2007

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SYNERGY CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER *"Together...we can make a difference!"*

Research Study

If you are 18-65 years old and you are currently addicted to heroin or prescription opioid pain relievers,

you may be interested in learning more about a new clinical research study.

Synergy Clinical Research Center is conducting a clinical research study to evaluate an investigational new treatment. If you qualify, you will receive study-related care at no cost and you will be compensated.

If you are interested in participating in this study and would like more information, please call the number below:

1-888-619-7272

Have you or someone you know been diagnosed with **Bipolar Disorder?**

Are you currently receiving treatment with lithium, olanzapine, Larnotrigine, or valproic acid? Are you currently experiencing depression? You are not alone!

Synergy Clinical Research is conducting research studies for *Bipolar Disorder with Depression.* All study-related procedures will be provided at no cost. Participants will be compensated for time and travel after each completed visit. We understand...

Call Synergy Clinical Research at: 1-888-619-7272 Together...we can make a difference.



If you are one of the 15 million adults affected by depression, you may be eligible to participate in a research trial of a new depression medication now being studied.

You may be eligible for the study if: • You are between the ages of 18 and 70

• You are experiencing symptoms of depression

All qualified participants will receive study-related care and study medication for up to 8 weeks at no cost.

To find out if you qualify for this study, or for more information, please call: 1-888-619-7272 or visit: www.parAGOnstudy.com

Are you **one** of the **17 million** people in America who currently have **diabetes?**

Would you like to help others like yourself in finding better treatment options? If you have type 2 diabetes or if you have experienced symptoms such as increased thirst, increased urination, increased appetite, and fatigue, and a diagnosis is confirmed by your doctor...

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study for a potential diabetes treatment. You may be eligible if:

- You have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes and are currently being treated with Metformin
- You are between 18 and 75 years of age Women must be surgically sterile or at least 2 years postmenopausal
- You are not currently being treated with any other antidiabetic medication other than Metformin

For more information, please call: **1-888-619-7272**

Worry Too Much?

If you worry excessively, can't relax; have persistent anxiety, tension, nervousness; have difficulty sleeping, concentrating, worrying about how you'll deal with each day; or upset stomach and muscle tension, you may have **Generalized Anxiety Disorder**.

You may qualify for a no-charge medical research study to test an investigational medication for the treatment of anxiety. All inquiries are confidential and no insurance is requested. Study-related evaluations, blood test, study-related pills and exams are at no cost and you will be compensated for visit, travel and expenses.

For more information, please call:

1-888-619-7272

SCHIZOPHRENIA

Is your current medication working?

If you're taking Seroquel[®] and have experienced a return of symptoms, you may want to consider participating in a clinical research study.

This study is evaluating an approved medication to see if it may provide control of schizophrenia symptoms, and to evaluate its effect on weight.

Seroquel[®] is a registered trademark of Astra-Zeneca.

Do you qualify? You may qualify for this study if you:

- Are between 18 and 55 years of age
- Have been diagnosed with schizophrenia
- Have experienced a return of symptoms after taking Seroquel® for three months or more

All study-related care and study medication will be provided at no cost for up to eight months.

Please call: 1-888-619-7272



www.synergysandiego.com

much no strings attached, no consequences. People value that sanctuary. And they don't want it coming back and haunting them. Me, personally, I've been online way too long in my life, and anybody who sees my avatar's name, Jopsy, it's what a lot of people call me in real life. I've had the name since high school. It's kind of my initials run together phonetically, J.P.C. So I've had people who've found me from high school in here. And there's no real difference between my personality in real life and my personality in Second

* Most of us in SECOND LIFE CHOOSE TO LOOK LIKE FASHION MODELS AND ATHLETES."

Life. I'm just as reclusive or interactive or playful or silly or argumentative. My political views are the same, etc. But that's not how it is for a lot of people." It's Not a Game.

Pollywog Gardenvale's

lazing and swaying on a

hammock in her back-

the ocean must be

nearby. Gardenvale

looks relaxed in her

black bathing suit top

and a clingy sarong. Her

long black hair flairs to

yard. By the sound of it,

It's a Place.

RESEARCH STUDIES

Do you have Body Dysmorphic Disorder?

Are you **preoccupied** with a defect in your physical appearance, spending hours a day **worrying** about it or looking in the mirror? Do you groom excessively or try to **camouflage** your flaw? Do you **avoid** having people see it?

> The UCSD OCD Program is looking for people who are excessively concerned about a physical flaw to take part in a study that is providing: • 12 weeks free medication treatment • Brain imaging scans • Diagnostic evaluation • Neuropsychological evaluation

Study participants must:

Be age 18-65 • Not be on any medications that affect brain functioning
Not have any active medical conditions • Weigh less than 280 lbs.
• Not have a history of chronic substance abuse

There is NO monetary compensation for participation.

For more information call Dr. Jennifer Sumner at: (858) 534-8056

the sides in showy braids.

Claire Condra, 55, describes Gardenvale as her "inner, taller, thinner, younger self."

Condra resides in La Mesa. Her 1911 Victorian-into-Craftsmanstyle house is like a museum of vintage furniture and art. Her laptop rests upon a handmade wooden table that dates back to the 1850s. A lithograph of Alfred E. Neuman hangs over her sofa ("What — me worry?"). She has straight bangs across her forehead and a big, constant smile, and when her glasses aren't on her face, they hang from a beaded chain. She greets me by calling me "Sweetie."

One of the first things Condra has to do

with Pollywog Gardenvale, before we can go anywhere, is change the way she looks. "I was at a beach party the other night," she says. "So I'm still dressed for the beach."

Condra takes a few minutes to change her avatar's boots, pants, and top, using a menu that's chock full of sartorial options.

"Your default avatar is basically like Barbie or Ken," Condra says, "but you can buy all sorts of...um...equipment. For example, I just got some new skin that's a little better. And I have all sorts of hair. This is my fairy hair. But I have purple hair and formal hair too."

Condra has been in the computer industry since the early '80s. She's

Are you diagnosed with Schizophrenia?

Are you currently taking Risperdal?

You may qualify to participate in a research study involving an investigational medication. Qualified candidates will be compensated for time and transportation as follows: \$50 for your screening visit and \$100 at each scheduled visit after screening. Compensation up to \$650 will be provided.

Call 858-566-8222 for more information. The California Neuropsychopharmacology Clinical Research Institute, LLC "CNRI, LLC"



Smoking too much pot?

Researchers at the Scripps Research Institute are

working to develop treatments to help you quit smoking marijuana. This 12-week program involves medication.

For more information and to see if you qualify,

please call 858-784-7867

or visit **www.pearsoncenter.org** for more detailed information.

THE SCRIPPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

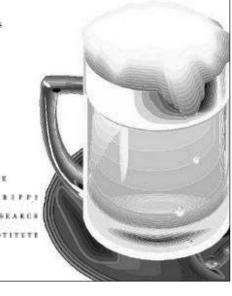
Attn: Heavy Drinkers

Researchers at The Scripps Research Institute are working to develop new treatments for people with alcohol problems.

Is your current alcohol use causing problems with your family, your work, your life? If you want to stop drinking, The Pearson Center for Alcoholism and Addiction Research is conducting a clinical trial to help you reach that goal.

Qualified participants receive lab tests, medication or placebo, individual counseling and compensation for travel. All information is confidential.

Call: 858-784-7867 (STOP) Or visit: www.pearsoncenter.org



RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

Are you taking only one of the following:

and experiencing any cognitive impairment?

Cognitive impairments include: deficits in areas such as memory, attention, planning, and problem solving problems with verbal and visual learning · having a hard time managing emotions

Medical researchers at UCSD are currently conducting a clinical research study to evaluate an investigational drug for the cognitive impairment in schizophrenia. Participants must be between 18 and 65 years of age to be eligible.

Medical and psychological evaluations and study drug will be provided at no cost. Eligible participants will also receive reimbursement for time and travel.

> For more information, please call: 866-550-UCSD UCSD Department of Psychiatry



New Research **Offered** For People with Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B-positive volunteers are needed to participate in a new research study of an investigational medication for the treatment of Hepatitis B.

You may be a candidate if you have:

- Chronic infection with Hepatitis B
- No prior treatment for Hepatitis B
- Are otherwise in good health

• Are HIV negative

All study-related care is at no cost if you qualify, including doctor visits, lab tests, and study medication.

Call: 858.277.7177

This study is being conducted by: **Medical Associates Research Group** An alliance of physicians devoted to the finest patient care through state-of-the-art research.



Do you constantly worry? Every day?

Do you feel nervous, tense, or "on edge" most of the time? Do you have trouble sitting still or is it impossible for you to simply relax? Are you having trouble sleeping? If so, you may be suffering from Generalized Anxiety Disorder. Affiliated Research Institute in Mission Valley is currently seeking adults between the ages of 18 and 64 who have been diagnosed with or are experiencing symptoms of Generalized Anxiety Disorder to participate in a research study of an investigational medication. Participants will receive all study drugs and studyrelated medical care at no cost. Health insurance is not needed to participate. So, if anxiety is getting in the way of a full life for you or someone you love, please visit our website or call.

> For more information about this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565 or visit us online at: www.ari-inc.com



Tired of the weight? A Type II diabetic?

Are you:

- A Type II diabetic?
- In overall good health?
- Between 18 and 70 years of age?
- · Currently suffering from obesity?
- · A non-smoker for at least 3 months?

If you answered yes to all these questions and are available for study-related visits for a year, you may be eligible for our investigational drug research study. If eligible, you will receive medical evaluations, including blood tests and electrocardiograms, nutritional counseling, investigational medication treatment, and visits to the clinic at no charge.

> For more information about this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565 or visit us online at: www.ari-inc.com



Is waking up tonight affecting your tomorrow?

Do you or someone you know have trouble staying asleep? Is it affecting daytime activities? A study of an investigational medication is under way for people who have trouble staying asleep, characterized by waking up throughout the night (sleep maintenance insomnia).

To qualify for participation in this research study, you must: • Be at least 18 years old • Have trouble staying asleep through the night • Be impacted in your daily life by your sleep problems

If you qualify and choose to participate in this study, you will receive an initial consultation, study-related examinations and laboratory evaluations, all follow-up visits, and you may receive study medication at no charge to you. Compensation for time and travel provided

If you are interested in learning more about this study, please call:

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



Sadness, low energy, trouble sleeping, can't concentrate... Depression – have your symptoms returned?

Clinical research study for adults with depression. If you or someone you know is:

- 18-55 years of age
- Currently experiencing a depressive episode and have a history of recurrent depression You may be eligible to participate in this clinical research study. Qualified study participants will receive:

A comprehensive medical evaluation as it relates to the study

- \cdot Supervised care by medical professionals during the study \cdot Study medication at no cost Compensation for time and travel and an aftercare program may be provided.
- If you are interested in learning more about this study,





If you have been diagnosed with schizophrenia and would like to participate in a study that monitors weight, you might consider participating in a medical research study that is studying an investigational drug for schizophrenia

You may qualify if you are:

- Diagnosed with schizophrenia Between 18 and 65 years old
- · Have taken Zyprexa (Olanzapine) or Risperdal (Risperidone) for the past 3 months
- · Have not been hospitalized for schizophrenia in the past 3 months

Those who qualify will receive study-related procedures, such as physical exams, laboratory tests, and study medication. For more information about this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565

See our website: www.ari-inc.com



Is Acute Mania Due to Bipolar Disorder **Throwing Your Life Out of Balance?**

We are seeking volunteers for a clinical research study of an approved medicine under investigation for acute mania due to bipolar disorder.

TO QUALIFY:

- You must be at least 18 years of age
- · You must have been diagnosed with bipolar disorder
- · You must be experiencing symptoms of acute mania

QUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE, AT NO COST:

- · Monitoring of bipolar and acute mania symptoms
- · Study-related medical and lab exams
- Study medication

PLEASE CALL TO LEARN MORE!

SYNERGY OF ESCONDIDO 760-871-0286

a self-proclaimed "technology evangelist." She tells me that "real, significant uses" of technology are few and far between but that Second Life is undoubtedly one of these significant advances.

"What is happening," Condra says, "is a migration from the 2-D Web to the 3-D Web. That's what this is about. And five years from now, there's going to be another browser war. All these new, conflicting standards are going to emerge." Then Condra draws

an interesting parallel. "When you have a 2-

D website," she says, "you don't think of other websites as your neighbors. But here, they are your neighbors. And when you want to visit, you knock on a door, come inside, and sit and talk. And that's because, in the 3-D virtual world, you are actually inside the

website. Instead of looking at things, you're inside there with those things, interacting with objects. And, the best part, you're interacting with other people who are also visiting the website. That's what this is about. It's so significant. And that's why all these companies are in there right now, trying to figure out, 'What are we going to do with this thing?'

The way Condra paints the picture, it sounds as though Second Life is preparing us for the next massive leap in human technology: we started with language, then the tool, the wheel, electricity, the combustion engine, relativity, genetics, the telephone, the television, computerization, the Internet... and now the 3-D Web.

As I stare at the computer, I suddenly feel like one of those apes swinging a bone next to the monolith in 2001: A Space Odyssey.

Says Condra, "What's happening is, all of these companies - who are the movers and shakers in the computer industry — are in there to define it and to really establish what this thing is. And they're learning from past mistakes, how it messes everybody up when you don't have standards. What Linden Labs has done with this is open it up to individuals and to businesses to develop it. So it's a total open-source platform, and they want people to add on to it and to continue to develop it. So IBM is in there, and they're developing. I think they have something like 13 different islands. They use Second Life for teleconferencing and collaboration and as a development platform for prototyping. They

RESEARCH STUDIES

OPIOID-INDUCED CONSTIPATION BRINGING YOUR LIFE TO A STANDSTILL?

GET MOVING AND JOIN OUR OIC RESEARCH STUDY Our clinic is conducting a research study to evaluate an investigational treatment injected daily, compared to placebo (inactive substance), for Opioid-Induced Constipation (OIC) in men and women with chronic, non-cancer related pain.

You may be able to participate if you are:

At least 18 years old

- Have a history of chronic non-cancerous pain
- Currently taking an opioid pain medication
- Have constipation due to taking an opioid pain medication

Study participation lasts approximately 16 weeks and includes 8 st visits and at least 1 telephone call to assess any side effects. All study-rela office visits, medical evaluations, and investigational medication or place be provided to qualified study participants at no cost.

For more information on these and other clinical studies, call (toll free) **1.8666.410.6767**

MISS RESTFUL SLEEP?

with insomnia.



QUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS MUST:

· Be between 18 and 64 years of age

• Have difficulty falling asleep over the past month

QUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE: All study-related medical exams,

Do you or a loved one struggle with going to sleep or

staying asleep?

If so, you should know about a research study for an investigational drug to treat the symptoms associated

- laboratory test, and study drug at no cost • Up to \$1,500 in compensation for time and effort

Do you have small, red, rough spots on your face or scalp?

You may be suffering from Actinic Keratoses or precancerous lesions. If you are at least 18 years of age, you may be eligible for a clinical research study.

You may qualify if you have: 4 or more red, rough and/or scaly spots or lesions on your face or scalp.

Please call University Clinical Trials at (619) 202-0173, to see if you qualify for this study.

Oualified participants will receive study related medical exams, and investigational medications at no cost. Compensation for time and travel may be provided.

Medical insurance is not required for study participation.



Good news! Finally there is help! Without injections, medications or surgery!

Spinal Decompression Computerized Therapy creates a vacuum effect to facilitate the transfer of fluids, nutrients and oxygen herniation back inside the disc.

Learn the importance of treating the cause of the problem, not just the symptoms. FDA approved! As seen on channel 6!

See us first for your second opinion! Call today – limited appointments available! We accept Workers' Comp.

Neck or lower back pain?

Arm or leg pain • Numbness Cramping • Weakness

Tired of nothing

working? Chiropractic, physical therapy, acupuncture, pain medication, muscle relaxers

After Bulging Decompression Disc • Disc Herniation • Degenerative disc Sciatica Spinal stenosis Facet syndrome

Complimentary consultation & evaluation!

See if you are a candidate for this new innovative treatment! Call for details. Offer expires 12/5/07.



Dr. Theo H. Kircher, QME, Chiropractor 3288 El Caion Blvd., Ste. 9 • San Diego 866-887-5790 • nospinesurgery.com

Do you or someone you know suffer from Generalized **Anxiety Disorder?**

Do you:

- Worry excessively and can't relax
- Have persistent anxiety, tension or nervousness
- Have muscle tension or upset stomach
- Worry about how you will deal with each day

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication.

Participants will receive at no cost:

- Study-related exams
- Investigational drug
- Compensation for time and travel

For more information call: 888-619-7272



SYNERGY CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTERS



Do you have cataracts?

Dr. Barry Katzman and West Coast Eyecare

at 6945 El Cajon Blvd. are currently conducting a research study involving an investigational eyedrop for the treatment of inflammation, pain, and photophobia associated with cataract surgery. Qualified candidates will receive some eye exams and study medications at no cost. Candidates may also receive compensation for their participation in this study.

Please call

West Coast Eyecare at 619-697-4600 ext. 118 for more information.



have showrooms."

Condra's whole life has been dedicated to the computer industry, so she has a real interest in this stuff, and she knows what she's talking about. She ran a publishing company in the '90s that specialized in computer books. And she's also worked as a technical writer and a trainer for computer companies. But now she dedicates her time to Second Life. "It took about three months for me to understand what this is all about," Condra says. "Because there are all these tools in there, 3-D modeling tools, and the programming language.

RESEARCH STUDIES

So somebody who's a graphic artist, like I am, and a programmer, like I am, or a writer or artist or musician — this is a totally creative environment. And you can just do all sorts of stuff.

Learning about Second Life was like learning how to play again. It was like going back. I had not used this part of my brain in probably 40 years."

But Condra's not just

in Second Life so that she can play. "Remember that I'm working to put out a newspaper," she says.

Together with her childhood friend Greg Campbell, aka Surfdaddy Orca, Condra publishes a monthly in-world newspaper called the *Seventh Sun.*

Says Condra, "Even though we publish a virtual newspaper for a virtual world, it's basically a real paper. It's every bit as much work as a real paper. I have to research articles and do all the production and distribution. And then, I mean, it's print-ready."

A sampling of nine headlines from recent issues of the *Seventh Sun*:

Gambling banned in Second Life — All bets are off in Second Life gambling ban.

Island Scam — Con man tricks six people into buying one island.

Happy Birthday Governor Linden. Thousands of avatars converged on the Second Life 4th Birthday extravaganza.

Voice comes to Second Life. The SL voice "First Look" client is now available on the main grid.

The MacArthur Foundation in Second Life. Jonathan Fanton, President of The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation appeared as an avatar along with Linden Lab CEO Philip (Rosedale) Linden to discuss Philanthropy in Virtual Worlds.

Honorable Land Dealers' Association. Where reputation and fair dealing are as important as making a fast buck.

Bella LaSalle and Arkady Yost unite in virtual nuptial. Avatars find real world romance in virtual world.

Technological Platform Capital. Is investment in technological capital more important than adding new features?

Who ya gonna call? Globetrekker Bob Lane, The Travel Man. No, he's not a ghostbuster, but he



San Diego's only online real estate listings with <u>exact</u> <u>addresses.</u>

SDReader.com/RealEstate

Menstrual Cramps?

A clinical research trial using a natural product to treat menstrual cramps is being conducted by Women's Health Care at Frost Street.

To qualify for this study, you must be:

Female, 18-45 years

WOMEN'S

- · Have regular menstrual periods for the last 6 months
- · Have cramps for the last 2 menstrual cycles

Participants will receive confidential study-related medical evaluations, study medication at no cost and reimbursement up to \$400.00 for time and travel.

HEALTH CARE 858-505-8672 www.womenwellness.net

Are you having diarrhea again and again?

Or, do you alternate between diarrhea and constipation?

We are now doing a clinical research study to test the safety and effectiveness of an investigational medication for **FEMALES** who have diarrhea-predominant or alternating irritable bowel syndrome.

You may qualify if you:

• Are having diarrhea for the majority of the time or are alternating between diarrhea and constipation for the majority of the time

Have at least 3 bowel movements per week

If you become a participant, all study-related care will be at no cost including doctor visits and study medication or placebo, and you'll also receive up to \$300 for time and travel.

For more information, please call Medical Associates Research Group: (858) 277-7177



Subjects are now enrolling for a clinical research study on insomnia at the Wetlin Research facility. To find if you pre-qualify, please read the information below:

Trouble sleeping through the night?

Insomnia is a condition where you might:

- Wake up frequently during the night
- Awaken during the night but usually fall back to sleep
- Wake up too early in the morning without being able to fall back to sleep
- Experience distress as a result of nighttime symptoms, or report problems with daytime fatigue or impairment

Those who have touble sleeping through the night may qualify to participate in an insomnia study of an investigational medication to see if it improves quality of sleep. You must be between 18-64 years of age to participate.

People who qualify to participate in this study will receive at no cost investigational

medication and medical care associated with the study, including lab work, ECG and physical exams.

If you are interested in participating in this clinical study, please call Wetlin Research at 619-583-1954, ext. 17, to schedule a screening visit.

can get you to haunted houses with his first ever *in-world travel agency.* It reads every bit as detailed and arcane and

involving as a list of headlines from the real world. "Everybody has a different take on what

Second Life is," Condra says, "because it's basically whatever you want to make it."

So Pollywog Gardenvale is like the Rupert Murdoch of Second Life. "Well," she says, "I'm

not rich." Not yet.

But Condra estimates that the time is right for an in-world publication that can cross over into the real world. "It's more than just a novelty," she says. "Enough businesses are in there, spending real money, and they need to get the news."

In the meantime, Condra does have other ways of turning a buck. She owns a hat shop inworld as well. "Hats and newspapers go together," she laughs. "My hat shop is really a newsstand."

Once Pollywog Gardenvale looks a little more presentable, Condra teleports her to a docked luxury cruise liner where her hat shop/newsstand is located. The ship has a conference room and ballrooms and stores and used to have a full working casino onboard before the recent gambling ban came into effect. "Since gambling is illegal now," Condra tells me, "the owner of the casino is thinking of making it into a casino museum."

Almost since the moment when Condra arrived in-world, Second Life has been alerting her that people are saying hello to her. Within ten minutes, a few avatars have already dropped by, and she's gotten dozens of instant messages. She's courteous with everyone, but she lets them all know that she's busy

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right now because she has a special guest (me). Condra has mastered the valuable computer-user's skill of being able to talk about one thing and type about another at the same time.

When yet another visitor stops in, I ask Condra whether she can show me how to use the newly voice-enabled Second Life software to talk to him instead of typing to him.

"Well, I would," Condra responds, "except that he's deaf."

In the idealized atmosphere of Second Life, of course, it's impossible to tell that anyone might have a real-life disability.

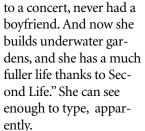
And then it occurs to me: in Second Life, older people don't have to deal with ageism, women can avoid sexism, a person with a physical deformity can keep that deformity a secret, racial differences

become undetectable, social class and pedigree are irrelevant, and even language barriers tumble, thanks to powerful online translators.

As residents of Second Life create their allbut-perfect synthetic identities, the playing field is leveled to the point where everyone might be valued solely for the strength of his or her contributions and ideas. In-world, "all (people) created equal" finally means something closer to what it was always supposed to mean. But is there some other kind of inequality at work here? Perhaps based on how interesting or sophisticated or technologically creative the avatars are?

"There are lots of disabled people who are living fuller lives thanks to this," Condra tells me. "I have one friend in here who's legally blind. In real life, she's never been

HEALTH AND BEAUTY



But isn't this problematic from a philosophical or moral point of view? Are you living a fuller life if that life is spent in a fantasyland? Couldn't that distract you from doing what you really need or want to do with your real life, disabilities and all?

Soon, Condra gets a hello from someone who seems important.

"Oh," she says, "now we have to go over there."

And we teleport to Dr. Dobb's Island, where two friends of Condra's/ Gardenvale's are dancing on a stagelike structure. Dr. Dobb's has been

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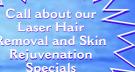
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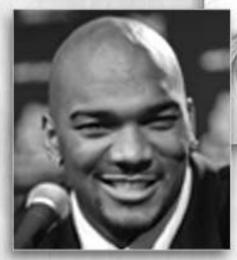
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and it has a major presence in Second Life. And now Condra's avatar is dancing with the avatars of two of Dr. Dobb's major players. In between dance moves, they're typing about business — impending summit meetings and whatnot.

These are apparently some very big-time people in the computer industry. One lives in Cape Cod, and the other lives in Washington State, but here is up-and-coming Claire Condra in La Mesa being invited to sit on an international panel with them.

I'm starting to see the bigger picture now, as Condra sees it.

"Soon," she says, and her eyes are bright, and her voice conveys a happy exasperation, "online-sales websites like Amazon are going to have 3-D catalogs that tie into 2-D order process-

Mode

ing. Or let's say you'll be shopping for a kitchen. You're going to be able to go in, design your own kitchen, try out new countertops, new cabinets, everything. So that's one way this is heading, in terms of e-commerce."

Condra also mentions the concept of distance learning, with virtual classes and students and teachers in different rooms on different computers in different cities. San Diego State has a virtual campus in Second Life already. And then Condra tells me how computer companies are using Second Life to get programmers together to work on projects without having to travel.

"And then there's also the social aspect," she says, "with all these people making friendships. And that's this whole other side of it. So this is a real mix of all of these things. Which is why I

don't think of it as a game at all. It's just a place."

Will Diegoland Ever **Break Even?**

"You're Poetry Tomorrow, right?" I hear Bob Hippen's voice on my telephone.

Hippen, 55, grew up in San Diego but now lives in Oregon. In the real world, he's a divorced radiologist with a 12-year-old son. Claire Condra has been his good friend since grammar school.

"Yes, Poetry Tomorrow," I say. I've created a stock avatar and taken on an only mildly embarrassing name.

"I just sent you an IM," he says. "I'm Champion Valiant. I'm at Diegoland right now."

"So am I," I say. I've already teleported there in anticipation of our meeting.

"Where are you?" he

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asks

"I'm standing behind the organ pavilion."

"Hang on. I'm looking for you. Stay in one spot."

I do nothing. "There you are," he says. "Hello, Poetry Tomorrow."

Our two avatars are standing there in front of each other. "This is bizarre," I mumble. I feel as if my 3-D self should walk up to Hippen's and shake his hand. I've read where people respond to virtual space the same way they respond to real space. For example, if Hippen's avatar comes too close to mine, then I'm supposed to feel like backing up, as though he's entered my personal area

"I've just added you as a friend," Hippen says. "Anyway. Okay. Let me get my little tour vehicle. Hang on just a sec."

A blue object appears that looks like the simplified interior of a sleigh or pedicab, with benchlike seats. It has a low seat in front and a higher one in back. "You right-click on it," Hippen instructs me, "and choose 'sit.' "

I do so.

"There you go," Hippen says.

Champion Valiant takes the seat in front of mine, and the blue tour vehicle begins to float around, carrying our avatars high above Diegoland, a replica of San Diego that Hippen "visioned" himself and built inside Second Life.

"I fly people around and show them the place," Hippen says. "It's a virtual San Diego. It's by no means a carbon copy or a Xerox of San Diego, of course. But it has elements of San Diego, carefully selected to evoke the sense, the feel, and, I suppose, the nostalgia of San Diego."

Hippen flies our tour vehicle down toward an image hanging on a wall in an office. "If you look

right in front of us right now," Hippen tells me, "you'll see that this is a map of Diegoland. We've got Coronado, with the Hotel Del, and the Point Loma lighthouse down here, which is where

Champion Valiant lives, by the way. And if you follow the road up north of the lighthouse, you've got Old Town right here, and then Mission Valley up here, which is where I grew up, back when it

was mostly farmland. And the beaches are out west, over here, where we have some beach houses for rent."

I notice that Hippen hasn't fully reproduced San Diego. Instead, it

looks a lot like a neighborhood at Disneyland. "Exactly," Hippen says. "Instead of Tomorrowland or Fantasyland, this would be Diegoland."

Hippen shows me

the Cabrillo Bridge, a Diegoland Gateway sign that's based on the Hillcrest Gateway sign, the Horton Plaza Fountain, the USS Midway, and the bell tower at Balboa Park. "What I did was, I

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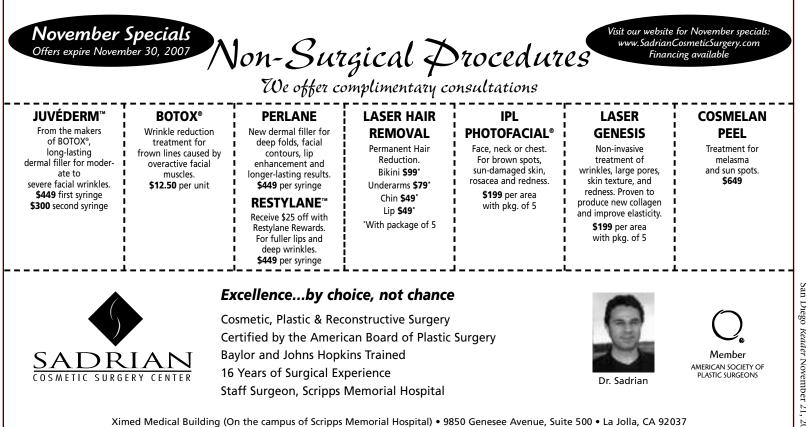
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craftsmanship, I hired other people to do it." For example, Hippen tells me that the poles on the real Hillcrest Gateway sign in Hillcrest were made by a local sculptor named Christopher Lee. So Hippen went and found Christopher Lee and had him design the Diegoland Gateway sign in Diegoland.

On top of the initial fee, it's another \$195 a month to keep a sim. The money is paid directly to Linden Labs. Hippen tells me that the fee for new land is now \$295 a month, but he still pays the old amount. "All told, I think I've invested about \$10,000 on Diegoland," he says.

How does Hippen justify paying so much on a virtual project?

"Well," he says, "first of all, it's been fun. If it wasn't fun, I wouldn't do it. And secondly, it's been a labor of love. I love San Diego. But this is also a business proposition, really, except, in order to make it work, I mean, as far as the business model, I basically have to try to get people to come to visit. And the reason why you want people to come visit is to spend money. I don't earn money from the people who come to visit. They come for free. But what you're hoping is, they're going to come and shop and buy things. So I charge rent from people who have shops. It's not very much; only about \$8 a month."

Hippen tells me that he'd be very happy if he could break even, eventually. "For this to work," he says, "the money I make off rentals really isn't enough. So what's needed is outside sponsorship. And some other sims have actually gotten that."

Hippen says he'll draw the line when it comes to corporate sponsorship. "I'd love to have Qualcomm sponsor Diegoland," he says. "But I don't want to name everything 'Qualcomm.' I don't want this to become 'Qualcomm's Diegoland.'"

Hippen throws live

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events at Diegoland almost every day, and he likes to be on hand for each one. Usually there will be live music or a DJ, and sometimes even a fashion show. "I get real musicians and real DJs to perform, and we stream their music into Second Life," he says. "A lot of these events have become quite popular."

Hippen even hosted a wedding in Diegoland recently. "That was a huge event," Hippen says. "I mean, the wedding, the rehearsal, and the reception, my God. That whole weekend, the traffic was over 24,000 people."

Hippen tells me that the people in the virtual wedding were from Argentina and Pennsylvania. "They've never met in real life," he says, "but I guess they fell in virtual love."

Then Hippen says something I find very interesting.

He says, "The world is virtual, and the characters are cartoonish and they look virtual, but the feelings are real. You can really feel like you're in love with someone. And you can really feel like you're angry. There can be all sorts of drama. That's not any different from real life."

And just as he's explaining this, we're visited by a shapely female avatar with long braided hair. Elphaba Scheflo is her name. "Oh," Hippen chuck-

les. "Here's my fiancée." His fiancée in-world? "Yes."

Has he ever met her in real life?

"No," he laughs. "I have not, and I don't think I will." So?

"It's a long story," Hippen says.

But I persist.

"I met her when I was starting out," he explains. "When I was what they call a 'newbie.' And she was working at a diner, and that's how we met. We became friends."

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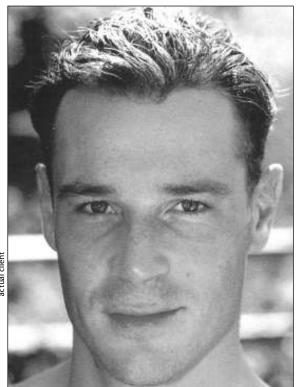
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Hippen instant messages her and tells her that he's having an important business meeting with me. She asks if she can tag along if she keeps quiet. Hippen says okay. And then I have this shapely female avatar with long braided hair sitting next to me on

the tour vehicle. I ask Hippen whether Champion Valiant and his fiancée have consummated their relationship.

He laughs. "I prefer not to answer that." Hippen does tell me

that Champion Valiant has no plans to marry Elphaba Scheflo anytime soon.

I'm reminded of statistics I read in the Wall Street Journal recently, where a national survey at Stanford indicated that 40 percent of men and 53 percent of women who have virtual friends say their virtual friends are better than their real ones.

Another recent study showed that 25 percent



of online gamers say that their biggest emotional highlight of the past week occurred in a computer world.

Do people risk spoiling their real lives by fixating on their second ones?

Or, stated more apocalyptically, will Second Life ever replace real life? Are these the first tentative baby steps toward the machinecentric world of The Terminator?

Hippen says he doesn't really think about any of that, but he does tell me that he read in *Time* magazine that by 2011, 80 percent of people will have at least some involvement in virtual worlds on the Internet.

"But Second Life isn't really quite as popular as the numbers say it is," Hippen tells me.

The numbers say Second Life has now topped nine million members, including almost one million who've logged on at least once in the past month.

HEALTH AND BEAUTY



"For one thing," Hippen elaborates, "a lot of people think that Second Life is too hard. They say it's too hard to learn how to get around and do things, and the learning curve is too much. I've heard a statistic that only one-third of the people who log into Second Life actually make it through orientation. Most people give up.

"So they say that over nine million people have signed up, but a lot of those are what they call 'alts,' or alternate characters. Including me. I have more than one character."

Why did Hippen need more than one avatar?

"What happens is, people start to know you," Hippen says. "You start to become famous in-world. And you just really can't do much when you get online ---you can't play around and try new things and explore and just have fun — without a whole bunch of people sending you IMs and really getting in your face, in a way. So you can't get away from it all unless you have an anonymous avatar. It's kind of nice to become known, but it's also inconvenient." And then he adds, "Of course, in real life, nobody knows me from Adam."

At this point, silent and sudden, a winged horse appears next to our tour vehicle and flaps its wings and waits for

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Elphaba Scheflo to jump up from her seat and hop onto its back. Then the winged horse flies her away. Wherever and whoever Scheflo's real person is, she hasn't heard a word that Hippen and I have been saying to each other on our telephones. Her avatar's just been sitting there next to our avatars in silence.

"There goes Elphaba," Hippen says fondly.

Twenty minutes later, the horse brings her back, and with no other sound than a flapping of wings, she takes her seat beside me again.

"I would say my primary avatar, Champion Valiant, is about two feet taller and about 25 years younger than I am," Hippen chuckles. "He's, like, perfectly buffed and toned, but I'm not. Pretty much most of us in Second Life choose to look

like fashion models and athletes. There's a few who choose to look potbellied and old and wrinkled and bizarre, but most look like something out of Cosmo or GQ."

Hippen tells me that he logs into Second Life mostly in the evenings and on weekends. And when he's in-world, he's usually doing the same thing. "I typically greet people when they come to Diegoland," he says. "And I take people on tours."

Hippen is full of arcane historical knowledge about San Diego. Along our tour he gives me wonderful in-depth details about everything from the lamp at the lighthouse to stories about the Whaley House and the bells in Balboa Park. It seems as though there's nothing he hasn't learned about the first, material San Diego in his reconstitution of an

immaterial one.

I comment that building Diegoland must have been quite a task.

"It was a long, long process," he says, matterof-factly. Hippen sent hundreds of web links, many from the San Diego Historical Society, to dozens of builders, to help complete the Diegoland project. The place was constructed using over 10,300 prims.

Hippen has plans to expand. "I was thinking about doing the zoo soon," he says, "and San Diego State University, and then some of North County: La Jolla, Del Mar, Legoland, you know, those kinds of places. And then I want to do the Borrego Desert, too. I'm kind of ambitious about it. The problem is, before I do all those things, I really sort of need to figure out how to fund this one." — Geoff Bouvier

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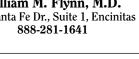
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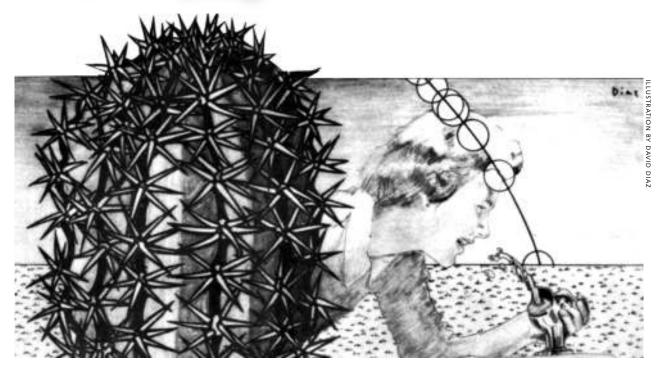
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Treading Near the Edge

heir plan was to start at Toro Peak, in the Santa Rosa Mountains just north of Borrego Springs, hike along the mountainous spine over Rabbit Peak and Villager Peak, then down through Rattlesnake Canyon to Fonts Point at the intersection of Highway S-22, a distance of about 30 miles. Four friends, two of them brothers, were taking enough food and water on their backs for a three-day hike. The journey was expected to be rough; supposedly there were no trails or water. They were only following the directions planned out by Ralph, who had read about this hike in a desert publication. The brothers, Steve and Eric, not taking the advice of their friends, decided to carry four gallons of water each, an extra gallon of water apiece.

Since they had left their ride at Highway 74, they had not met a single person, and nothing touched them except warm breezes and the occasional thorny outreach of a "Spanish dagger," which would block their way.



It was to be prophetic obstinacy. But now their packs weighed almost 60 pounds— 30 pounds of that being water.

It was arranged for a friend to drive them up to Toro Peak and for Ralph's brother to pick them up at Fonts Point. In back of the pickup, they passed around sipping whiskey to key down the windy ride. Two miles off Highway 74, up toward Toro Peak, the truck overheated, and their friend decided it would be better to let them off there rather than risk engine damage by continuing. Before leaving, they shared several beers while staring at the night and talking about tomorrow's hike up Toro Peak. They figured it was probably another five or six miles. After the beer was gone, so was their ride. They slipped on their packs and walked up the road about a mile and then it was time to camp. Next morning they were up early. It was a tough climb up while getting adjusted to their heavy packs and their booty that hadn't seen a trip in the last few months. Larry had brought cans of fruit juice and was freely giving them away to lighten his pack. Their philosophy was that the canned items weighed so much it was better to use up those first.

Later that afternoon they reached the piñon pine for-

est of Toro Peak and they stopped to rest. While roaming around free of his backpack, Ralph found an old long-handled axe covered in pine needles. He told his friends he planned to return for the ancient axe and he buried it again under the mulch.

Having reached the forest, the crest of Toro Peak, they started hiking down as originally planned. There were no trails, just open spaces

HEALTH AND BEAUTY



through the forest. About two miles farther along they came upon a clearing and saw a deer. They dropped their packs again, this time to view below them the desert floor and their destination. Coming up Toro Peak, they had used more water than planned, but the packs were lighter and this helped. The day was warm, in the mid 80s, and they were experiencing Santa Ana winds. Near this clearing they found a campsite for the night."We were dropped five miles below where we should have started," Steve recalled. "We had to spend the next morning catching up to where we should have been the first night. The next morning we got a fairly early start. The packs were getting noticeably lighter."

That second night and the following morning they had begun eating the heavier items in their packs. A lot of canned goods had been brought; because of the prospect of finding no water, it wasn't conceivable to bring dehydrated foods. But the trip seemed poorly planned. The packs were heavy and the terrain rough. That morning they had a wide area of brush to cross before reaching Rabbit Peak, the first of two peaks they had to cross before heading down to Fonts Point. The brush was so thick it took close to an hour to make one mile. "Following directions from an article I read by a guy who did this same hike, we found a bandage box in a rock cairn," said Ralph. (A cairn is a pile of rocks indicating a landmark or message.) "Inside the bandage box were pieces of paper, a pencil, and some old messages, some dating back to 1971. The guy whose article I read made a message concerning the lack of water in the area."

The hike took them up and down steep inclines. The area was very rugged, but the unbroken silence, except for their own footsteps, made the terrain enthralling. Since they had left their ride at Highway 74, they had not met a single person, and nothing touched them except warm breezes and the occasional thorny outreach of a "Spanish dagger," which would block their way. The wind was blowing toward them, which allowed sights of deer grazing on scrub. Eric, who had been wearing only tennis shoes, was lagging behind, and with everyone pushing forward to make up lost time and miles, he was soon out of sight.

Steve decided to trail back and look for him. Larry and Ralph waited, but a half

an hour passed and no one came back. Larry called for Steve but no one answered. Ralph was worried. He was concerned about conserving the remaining water, and this minor manhunt was wasting valuable energy.

Ralph and Larry decided to split up and look for them. Soon Larry came upon Eric and later they found Steve a little way below.

They climbed one more hill before stopping for the day. Their bodies ached with

exhaustion. It felt good to unlace the boots and rub out the soreness. All agreed they must have done 15 miles that day, but it felt better for having made up a bit of the schedule. Just over the next rise the path to the end of

the journey would be seen. "At the end of the second day we were a little concerned about water," recalled Ralph. "It had been harder than we expected. We found a nice rock ledge to camp on that night. It overlooked the desert

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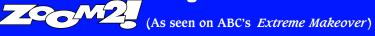
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from all angles. We could see Palm Springs, the north end of the Salton Sea, Borrego Springs, Clark Dry Lake, Anza, and Palomar Mountain. A fantastic view in all directions. Near us was Rabbit Peak, some 6600 feet high."

Ralph, the unofficial leader, told the others that it would be best to abandon earlier plans. They had not yet reached Rabbit Peak and they still had Villager Peak to climb before heading down to Fonts Point. If they had not the stamina to have done one peak today, would they be able to conquer two tomorrow? He criticized the way the water supply had been handled, and he was angry at Eric for having wasted a good hour of everyone's energy and water. From here on out, the water would be rationed.

Since the canned goods had been eaten earlier, the dinner that night was fairly slim. They were feeling nauseous from the strenuous call on their bodies, so no one cared if he ate much. It was fortunate that Steve and Eric had brought an extra two gallons of water; they pooled their supply with Ralph and Larry and the water was divided to the ounce between them. Each was now responsible for making his share last by careful rationing. The next morning they were up before the sun rose and again food was a

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problem, which caused them to be sluggish and weak. They had only a breakfast bar apiece.

"The next rise was not so little as we had expected and we all felt as tired as we were the afternoon before," said Steve. "When we got to the top rise, we were even more disappointed, for our path was much longer and much hillier than we had thought possible."

Following animal trails to the top of Rabbit Peak, they found another message box. They stopped to look ahead of them and to look down. Each was down to a gallon of water, and they had to reach Fonts Point by nightfall. Being forced to hike up

Toro Peak the first evening had severely changed the outcome of the trip. They were exhausted and they had a limited water supply. Normally a gallon of water would be plenty for most during the day; however, they were sweating out their moisture and they were exposed to the heat of the sun. In the mountains the temperature was about 85 degrees, but they knew that as they declined, the temperature could increase 10 or 20 degrees. It was either straight ahead on the same type of terrain they had been battling or straight down to the desert floor. They decided to drop to the floor as soon as possible. It was agreed that the next rise, Villager Peak, could not be assaulted.

They chose a ravine to descend the 6666 feet to the badlands. First appearances of the climb down had seemed easier than what it actually turned out to be.

Gradually it became steeper, and huge rock formations with 50-foot drops would bar the way. They either had to take off their packs and hand them down like water

rocks, Eric slipped into a cactus. He fell with such force the spines penetrated deep. The curved end of each spine was like a curve in a whaling harpoon, and so they

"My mind began going in funny circles," said Steve. "I realized the predicament we were in. I felt on the verge of hallucination. I worried over silly items, such as if we were rescued would they mind if my shirt was unbuttoned? I wondered if my mom would forgive me for the fact of losing two of her sons because of me."

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buckets to a fire as each man found his own precarious foot- and handholds, or a way around had to be found. Coming down between two

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remained in his leg. As they continued to descend, the temperature rose, and when they reached the Borrego Badlands, some three hours



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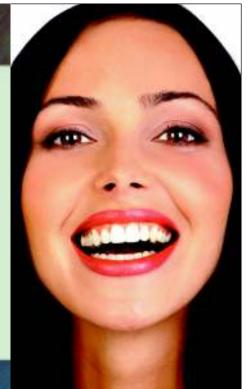
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from the top, the temperature had risen to 106 degrees. "We were amazed at the mountain we came down," Steve recalled. "I would never have thought of climbing it from its appearance. I had toward that reflection; it was the only thing different in the endless desert scenery of rock, sand, cactus, and scrub. From the top, the area surrounding the reflection was smooth and empty. They

All of them gave Larry what water there was left, and he assured them he would be back.

almost fallen on numerous occasions and had plenty of cuts, scratches, and abrasions to prove it."

"We were all exhausted," Ralph added. "It was getting pretty bad, but we were all in good spirits. We didn't anticipate the badlands, though."

The Borrego Badlands are between the Santa Rosas and the desert floor. It is a plateau from which fat fingers of land, separated by miniature canyons, stretch out, sloping down to Clark Dry Lake. From the top of Rabbit Peak they had spotted a reflection at the south end of the dry lake. They picked a ravine that seemed to have the most direct route hoped it was an airport. At the bottom of the Santa Rosas they now had less than two quarts of water between them. Each had conserved until the dryness of his mouth and the rising heat

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caused him to sip. Now, as they climbed down the ravine to the floor, they had to have water every once in a while. Sometimes the ravine was a sandy wash and other times they had to make several large drops, or they would jump from one boulder to another. "I could not depend on my legs after a ways," said Steve. "They were rubbery...the going got slower and slower as I had to depend more and more on my arms. I couldn't just leap from rock to rock."

"When we had to jump from boulder to boulder, the whole weight of the backpack would hit your legs," Ralph said. "We were getting really tired. Eventually we got spread out again, and we took lots of breaks waiting for everyone to group back together.

"The ravine got real discouraging as we kept making turns with no end," he continued. "We'd go through one turn and we'd see two more. We go through those and see three more, then two, then one, and we would get our hopes up and then we'd see another turn.

"Larry and I lost voice contact with Steve and Eric. Finally, with the sun beating down on my head, I said to Larry, 'This has to be the last turn,' and sure enough it opened up to Clark Dry Lake. I spied a boulder as big as a house and I said, 'Let's go over here and wait." Eventually Steve and

Eric caught up. Steve's feet were full of blisters caused by his boots and he was barely shuffling along. They both fell into the sand shaded by the huge boulder. Also resting in the shade was an animate angel of mercy."A lot of people say you can't derive usable moisture from barrel cacti; others swear by it," Ralph had said as he pulled his minihatchet from his pack.

"Let Eric do it," Larry had cautioned. "He seems to be the only one with extra energy."

Eric had been nervously

Toro Rabbit eak ? Villager, Peak X Anza-Borrego Rattlesnake Canyon 5

tapping two rocks together. While the others were stretched out with no more movement other than wetting their lips, Eric seemed only nervously waiting to move on. He tossed away the

object of frustration, took Ralph's hatchet, and began hacking at the tough skin. Eric couldn't finish, so the others took turns chopping the cactus until they had the top cut off. Inside was the

juicy pulp and they cut into it, taking out wedges. They sucked and chewed the pulp until they got enough moisture to have made the effort worthwhile. The juice was bitter but everyone ate it like a watermelon at a picnic.

The plan was to wait under the shade until the sun went down and then cross the desert. No one talked much, except for an occasional comment about how good a glass of lemonade would taste right now. They had three to four ounces of water left between them. Overhead they heard the passing of a small passenger plane. Ralph had brought a mirror and he and Steve went out into the sun to signal with it. No reply. They tried again when a second plane flew over, but again the pilot did not see or recognize their SOS signals. They lay down to rest. The sun would soon be down and they would start across the desert to an oasis of cottonwood trees that Ralph knew to be ahead of them in the distance. All four were becoming a little delirious from the lack of water and exhaustion. "My mind began going in funny circles," said Steve. "I realcontinued on page 60



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ized the predicament we were in. I felt on the verge of hallucination. I worried over silly items, such as if we were rescued would they mind if my shirt was unbuttoned? I wondered if my mom would forgive me for the fact of losing two of her sons because of me."

Finally the sun set and they started walking. The rest and the loss of the sun did not seem to revive them. Walking on flat land was difficult, almost like walking up a steep incline. A clump of trees was seen in the distance, but it seemed to take a long time to get there."The next indication of trouble was that we were so exhausted," said Larry. "We had to keep taking breaks. I knew the others were get-



ting discouraged, and I knew when we reached the trees I was going to leave my pack and go on for help.

"I looked back at Steve once and he had this crooked smile on his face. He said, 'I'm getting a little discour-

HEALTH AND BEAUTY

aged.' Steve - the most optimistic person in the group. I was a little worried now. After that I never looked behind me. None of us did. We just hoped everyone could make it to the trees."

When they reached the oasis, there was no water, only salt bushes. They had arranged for Ralph's brother to pick them up, and in the far distance, at Fonts Point,

they could see the headlights of a waiting car. They began to panic. The climb down had saved them from hiking over Villager Peak, but now they were far from their proposed trail and no one would think of looking for them here. Ralph and Steve knew they would perish by tomorrow if help did not come. Both tried lighting signal fires to attract the

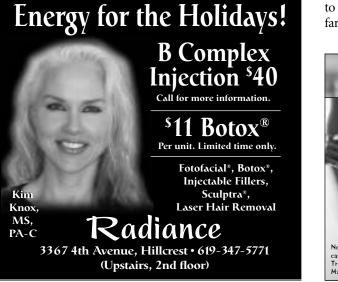
Borrego Badlands

brother's attention, but the headlights did not move. Each fire was a chore and they would have to rest between gathering sticks and lighting them. They finally became discouraged and lay down to rest. Four swallows of water were left.

Eric got up and started to wander around the oasis. Getting above the horizon of the topmost tree, he could

see a steady light in the distance. It was in the same place they had seen the reflection earlier that day. Perhaps we could hike to that light, thought Eric. He walked back to the others and sat on a rock behind Larry, He pulled out his canteen and looked at Larry stretched out on the sand with his eyes closed. Larry had been the only one who could rest. "My body was so hot. I knew that things were getting worse," Larry recalled."I took off my clothes and laid in the sand. Heat was pouring off me like an oven. I laid there and thought, 'I'm not going to lie down here and die.' I watched Steve and Ralph lighting signal fires to be seen from the highway. The highway...sometimes we would forget about the highway. We were so delirious that a curtain would shut out real thoughts.

"Eric came up behind me and said he saw a light in the distance. Then I heard Eric take a big gulp of water. I yelled, 'What are you doing! We can't drink the water. We've got to save it!'







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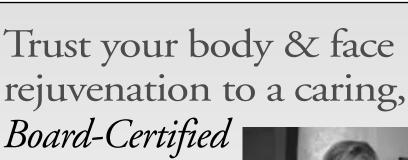
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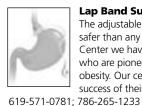
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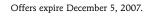
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"Seeing the light firmed my decision to go ahead and I told the others I was going to head out toward the light and get help," Larry continued. "I wasn't going to leave behind a wife and two kids. I planned to see them before I died."

Eric wanted to go with Larry but Steve wouldn't let him. There was really only enough water for one, Steve told him. All of them gave Larry what water there was left, and he assured them he would be back. "I made up my mind I was going," said Larry. "I wanted Eric to go with me but Steve wouldn't let him. I wanted Eric to go along for company but at the same time I didn't want him to go. I was afraid something might happen to him and I would have to leave him where he dropped. Steve

told him that, too."

Eric showed Larry the light. It was small. It was hard to judge just how far away it could be. The air was so clear that judging distances accurately had eluded them the entire trip. Eric and Steve walked with Larry a short way. They found a road but it headed east instead of south. Larry wanted to cut straight for the light and take no chances; he walked ahead, dodging shrub and cactus. His mind was vague and thoughtless except for the driving force of reaching that light. "After 30 minutes, the light got bigger," Larry recalled. "Soon I hit some kind of road and the walking got easier. I could see a trailer in the distance with its lights on, and I knew it was going to be all right.

"I walked straight ahead

to a group of telephone poles. There were two straight lines of them and they intersected like a cross. Earlier, when we saw the area on top of the mountain, we thought it was an airport.

"I wanted to turn on the lights to attract attention. The trailer was within walking distance but I wanted to turn on the lights. I found a power box and started to unscrew the back with my knife. I wanted to turn the lights on, but I couldn't get the screws off.

"I was discouraged. I walked to the trailer and knocked. A man answered and I said, 'We're hiking and we ran out of water. There's four of us. Can you help us?' "

" 'Well, the last guy that came through here was crawling,' said the man. 'You're in pretty good shape. Come in.'

"I came inside," said Larry," and I was trying to tell him where they were. I kept spilling the water I was drinking. 'I'm sorry,' I would say. 'I'm sorry I'm spilling water on your floor.' And I kept staggering around like I was drunk.

"He asked me their condition and I told him they hadn't had water since this morning. I think I worried him that they were dying."

The man told Larry he would get his jeep. He said he knew where they were and that there was a road leading up to the grove of trees. The jeep wouldn't start; the battery was dead. He told Larry not to worry because he could jump it, but that didn't work. Larry was getting irritable and impatient. He had found help close by and the jeep wouldn't start. "I could hear the cars driving by on the highway," said Larry. "We could have made it if we hadn't been so exhausted. It was embarrassing being so close to help."

The man finally decided to take his Volkswagen Bug. They wouldn't be able to go as far as the jeep, but they could make it to within a short walking distance. As they got closer to the grove Larry yelled out to his buddies. "I couldn't remember

anybody's name but Ralph," said Larry. "I kept yelling, 'Ralph, we're coming!' "

"In a shorter period than we expected, we heard a shout from the end of the valley," recalled Steve."It was Larry. We answered and were finally greeted by words which brought renewed life. 'Hang on buddies! I'll be there!' Larry had reached help." - Desiree Webber

Originally published in the *Reader* on July 23, 1981.





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LETTERS

continued from page 14

because they think she's hot. I tend to (hopefully discreetly) stare at all kinds of women. All shapes, colors, sizes, ages, etc., when I find them attractive. I may be waiting (hoping) for eye contact. Or I may be simply enjoying how they look. Don't assume that everyone is thinking and/or saying something negative. And even if they are, what they think of others is not nearly as important as what we think of ourselves. The men setting a spell and staring at you on your walk might just be enjoying how you look. See what happens if you make eye contact and smile. It will make the situation better, I guarantee. John Ross via e-mail

Comments from Reader Website

Theater Review Published November 14

Posted by Lee on a guess

11/14/07, 1:33 p.m. Thanks so much for writing this wonderful article about Bob Landis. I've had the pleasure of knowing him and his incredibly talented family for 40 years and once had the privilege of having him write a part for me. More recently, I was in a position to have to slap him night after night in a production of Applause. It still pains me to think of it — but he was and is a consummate gentleman, and an amazing person. I am glad to know just a little bit more about him than I did before.

Diary of a Diva Published November 14

Posted by Staci on 11/14/07, 2:04 p.m.

Perspective. The people who you held up to allow the elderly gentleman to pass might have said you were the one being rude. Personal space is a cultural phenomenon. I don't pretend to have personal experience in the countries you went to but I would hazard a guess to say that their per-

a guess to say that their per-

sonal space requirements are much less, their allowance for personal touch much greater, and the speed of life at least in transit much faster. We walk into experiences with a cultural bias. I would remind those people with whom you interacted that you are not rude because of the cultural bias of being from the US but I would remind you too that the people you interacted with are not "ugly" because of their cultural bias. On an exaggerated scale, imagine going to India and eating a hamburger. To the Hindus there you would have been committing an atrocious act whereas for yourself your opinion probably would have just been that you were satisfying your hunger. Perspective.

Posted by ZORRO on 11/15/07, 8:01 a.m.

In Europe, I used my 'in-country words list,' i.e., 'hello, good morning, please, thank you,' and It worked every time. I've noticed how "Americans," often demand that someone speak English, while other tourists

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San Diego Reader November 21, 2007

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make efforts to speak the local language. As for "personal space," it has a different concept in a foreign place — nothing personal. We "Americans" are like ambassadors --- we are ob-served — by the Frenchman on the airplane seat next us, the little old lady on the trolly in Zagreb or the politically savy taxi driver in Buenos Aires who's confounded on how little "Americans" know about politics. I do volunteer work at the airport helping passengers. It never ceases to amaze me how the foreign traveler thanks me while the "American" walks off mumbling into the cell phone growing from his ear. Yes, God bless America, but don't forget to vote or try to weasel out of jury duty. Thanks, Merci, Danke, Gracias and Ciao (not chow) Swish! — ZORRO Posted by Stephapalooza

Posted by Stephapalooz on 11/15/07, 4:05 p.m.

Dealing with rude and/or oblivious people can almost take the joy out of travelling. I commend you for maintaining your composure during the times when cultural differences can be beyond frustrating. Once I was in an airport in Jamaica and fell down, breaking glass and cutting myself, and cried like a little girl to an airport employee who proceeded to completely ignore me and walk away. I had had it with people and their rudeness, and yelled at his departing back in frustration. He returned less than two minutes later with a bag of ice, some bandaids, and a concerned look on his face, and helped clean me up. I realized that not making eye contact or acknowledging you is just part of Jamaican culture, and they really aren't being rude. Life lesson learned while travelling....Keep up the good work!

Posted by susan page on 11/16/07, 7:45 p.m.

I've traveled a lot in Europe (most recently a year ago i spent a week in Paris). I am proudest of being an Amreican when I see how little they do for the disabled. I'm not disabled myself but am proud of the many accommodations we in the U.S. have made for the disabled so that they can get around. You see NOTHING like this in Euopre — it is a very disabled unfriendly place, even Scandinavia.

Posted by Kazzie on 11/18/07, 3:48 a.m.

Personal space is custom-bound and not limited to the physical. In graduate school I knew a girl from Germany who came to my academy for her degree. It was her first time in the US. She was offended when she went to the bank to open an account and the bank teller addressed her by her first name. In Germany she would have been addressed as Frau Schmidt and in the formal you. We had to explain to her that the teller didn't mean any offense, she was just being friendly. I don't find Germans to be cold, they just have more formal boundaries then we do. If these two had met at a party and introduced by a friend, they would have used first names. Americans' friendliness confuses foreigners. Because we are outwardly friendly, they expect it to have some depth, but it often doesn't. We don't ask people "how are you" because we want to know. We say "let's get together" and they wait for an invitation. Their perception is that we are friendly but superficial.

Blurt

Published November 14 *Posted by Lazy John on*

11/14/07, 3:41 p.m.

The Poway HS teacher needs to quit his whining. It's not a life-or-death issue. Robert Plant can't carry a tune anymore, so who cares if Led Zeppelin plays here?

City Lights, by Joe Deegan Published November 14

Posted by James on 11/15/07, 8:37 a.m.

The current size and scope of this project is totally out of character for our neighborhood. The project needs to be scaled back and stay within the 30 foot height limitations. The developer and City are trying to railroad this project through the process with as little citizen participation as possible. Only because of a few good residents noticing the neighborhood were 300 people at the meeting last night, mostly all against the project. The Community Advisory Board and Planning Commission are just sitting back, giving the devloper whatever they want. Traffic and parking have not been adaqutely addressed. Our quality of life will be significantly negatively impacted if this project is developed as proposed. SCALE BACK THE PROJECT AND PROVIDE MORE UNDER-GROUND PARKING. NO MORE STOP LIGHTS. PUT IN ROUND ABOUTS IN-STEAD.

Posted by Urban Neighbor on 11/15/07, 8:47 a.m.

In older neighborhoods in SD, the city is pushing infill/densification. The "Planning Committee spokesman said the night's meeting wouldn't have been necessary if residents would come to the meetings or become committee members." Maybe, but the reality is that notices stating what is at stake are not MAILED to all property owners. Planning Groups, agents of the pro-developer/pro-business city, benefit by operating under the radar. Busy residents kids, jobs, school, family, groups of their own choosing - don't spend evenings/ weekends cruising, looking for meeting notices and have little time for meetings. Notices mailed only to owners within 300 feet: not good enough. City/Planning Groups need to mail notices/meeting minutes and development details to every owner in a district. It is always late in the game that concerned residents opposing excessive development are able to spread the word, and they are at a disadvantage because they don't have equal resources.

Posted by Kensingtonian on 11/15/07, 11:23 p.m.

I just found out that this project was approved today - yippee!!! Unlike the opponents of this projects, I have a positive vision of this project. It's not like there is a 10 story building being built in our small commercial district - it's a mid density project that fits in well in the neighborhood. Like it or not, Kensington is an urban neighborhood. If I wanted total peace and quiet, I'd live in Rancho Bernardo or Poway. I like having a vibrant "Main Street" within walking distance and having more choices and places to go will only benefit us residents. Hooray for Kensington Terrace!!!



Ayn Rand Lives

Union thugs and Warren Buffett

ccording to government legislation, people aren't responsible enough to survive doing anything," says Frank H. Steensnaes. "What if footwear was determined to be a crucially important element of human survival and the government decided to regulate and fund it? The result would be shoes that did not serve us as well as the shoes we have today. According to the text, that's exactly what happens with education, because the government steps in [having decided] it's so crucial."

The text to which Steensnaes refers is Nathaniel Branden's essay "Common Falla-



iteensnaes refers is ay "Common Fallacies about Capitalism," chapter five of Ayn Rand's book, *Capitalism: The Unknown Ideal.* On Sunday,

November 25, the San Diego Objectivist Discussion Group will meet to discuss Branden's essay. "The purpose of our club is to go through Ayn Rand's writings and to learn about objectivism," explains Steensnaes. At the previous meeting, the group discussed Alan Greenspan's essay "Antitrust," which precedes Branden's essay in Rand's book. According to Steensnaes, the only social system that "systematizes" the political philosophy of objectivism is laissez-faire capitalism.

"When you have redundancy in a system, when you have competition, it forces quality up and prices down." If power grids were privately owned, Steensnaes argues, "You would have smaller producers finding the most efficient ways" to produce alternative, perhaps more reliable, sources of power. "If you only have a hammer, every problem looks like a nail. What you can do, if you're a politician, is make laws — laws that typically restrict, or so-called 'guide,' people's behavior for the betterment of themselves, whether or not they want to be bettered."

In his essay Branden contends that a recession or a depression in the marketplace is caused by government intervention. "In 1913 the Federal Reserve System was established, and their mission was stated as being to free the individual banks from limitation in lending," says Steensnaes, who adds that the depression in the 1930s was the direct result of the Federal Reserve System. Steensnaes cites the recent financial crisis resulting from widespread mortgage loan defaults as a current example of government-induced recession. "Two government entities underwrite loans, package them up, and sell them to securities markets on Wall Street. I think that if all the banks individually had to assess all these loans, they probably wouldn't have approved them all.'

Another issue raised in Branden's essay is that of labor unions. "Unions have not created a better standard of living for American workers," says Steensnaes. "According to Branden, there is another reason for our high standard of living, and that is productivity. What the unionists are doing is creating artificially high wages for their members for a relatively short period of time. Unions are nothing but thuggery: 'You can't individually negotiate, you have to go through us, and we'll look after your well being.' [The text] does say in a different section that statism is nothing but gang rule — the opposite of objectivism and capitalism is a statist economy, in which all production resources are owned by the state."



San Diego Objectivist Discussion Group

Warren Buffett, a self-made billionaire, has been in the news recently, voicing his support for an estate tax. According to Rand's philosophy, as interpreted by Branden, taxing inherited wealth — to preserve the morals of the inheritor — is misguided. "What a producer does with his or her money is not relevant," says Steensnaes. "I've read about these trust-fund babies too, and they are morally reprehensible; they don't do anything productive. But there is a quote in the text that describes that the marketplace will always take care of these kinds of issues if the recipients don't guard their wealth or produce anything."

The nature of objectivism, Steensnaes explains, is that race and ancestry do not matter — a person's character should be judged only by a person's actions. "Warren Buffet has the right to do with his money what he wants, just like anyone else. If inheritors don't take care of the wealth, they will lose it eventually. They should not be taxed. Here's the crazy thing: Who is Warren Buffett to tell some other person what to do with his or her money?"

Óbjectivists following the word of Ayn Rand contend that capitalism is the most practical economy, both for underdeveloped and complex societies. "I heard on the news

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not too long ago that people in the Middle East were not developed and therefore couldn't handle democracy," says Steensnaes. "I've heard that repeatedly, that one developing country or another is not ready for economic freedom. This is a fallacy, according to objectivists, because the only reason why they are developing countries instead of developed countries is because they have a restrictive, highly regulated society." On the other hand, he says, "The more complex an economy, the greater number of choices and decisions that have to be made. The more choices we have, the more difficult it would be for a central authority to control all the choices and products, and we would have an astronomical bureaucracy.'

— Barbarella

San Diego Objectivist Discussion Group: "Common Fallacies about Capitalism" Sunday, November 25 6 p.m. Claire de Lune Coffee Lounge 2906 University Avenue North Park Cost: Free Info: 619-277-5840 or www.aynrandcenter.org



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Events that are underlined occur after November 29.

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

BAJA

Renaissance Airs promised when Woodwind Ensemble of UABC School of Arts performs Wednesday, November 21, 7 p.m., at Centro Estatal de las Artes (CEARTE, at Boulevard Costero and Calle Riviera). 011-52-646-176-3005, 011-52-646-177-1195. (ENSENADA)

Music by Franz Schubert may be heard when Orchestra of Baja California is joined by pianist Daniel Noli in concert, Thursday, November 22, 8 p.m., at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street), \$15 U.S. 011-52-664-687-9636, (TUUANA)

Cuban Performer Amaury Pérez in concert, Friday, November 23, 8:30 p.m., at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, in Zona Río), Tickets: \$30, \$35 U.S. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

Molotov and Nine Other Rock Bands plan concert, Friday, November 23, 9 p.m., at Alamar Stadium. \$20 U.S. 011-52-664-634-1180, (TUUANA)

Rock Concert with performances by La Gusana Ciega, Pastilla, Fátima, Casa Wagner, Karma, Aeroplanos, Debussy, Valium Radio, and others on Friday, November 23, 9 p.m., at El Foro (on Avenida Revolución). 619-734-2333. (TUUANA)

More Than 2000 Walkers expected to take part in 5k walk benefiting fight against breast cancer, Saturday, November 24, starting and finishing at 8 a.m. at Tijuana General Hospital in Zona Río. 011-52-664-104-2400. (TIJUANA)

Mexican Folkloric Dancing by Ballet Ticuan, Saturday, November 24, 7 p.m., at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street). \$10 U.S. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

"Raztlan Festival" — rock music by Gondwana, Half Pint, Alika, Natty Combo, others, Saturday, November 24, 8 p.m., at Caliente Race Track (on Boulevard Agua Caliente). 011-52-664-633-7300. (THUANA)

Mexican Alternative Rockers Plastilina Mosh in concert at El Foro. Jai Alai Palace (on Avenida Revolución) on Saturday, November 24, 9 p.m. 619-734-2333. (TIJUANA)

Run for Fun during 10k run starting at 8 a.m. at El Mexícano newspaper offices (on Arroyo del Alamar) on Sunday, November 25. 011-52-664-104-2400. (TIJUANA)

Chayanne in Concert, Sunday, November 25, 8 p.m., at Monumental Bullring by the Sea. Tickets: \$30-\$150. 011-52-664-686-1510. (PLAYAS DE TIJUANA)

The Comedy Una Pareja Con Angel may be seen on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 27 and 28, at 7 and 9:30 p.m., at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes



posers Chopin, González Medina, Ravel, Gershwin. Free. 011-52-646-173-4307, 011-52-646-173-

Latin Jazz Jam Session hosted by Turiya Mareya, on Wednesday, November 28, 8 p.m., at El Lugar del Nopal (Callejon 5 de Mayo #1320). Bi-nacional Jazz Descarga features performances by David Millard (flute, guitar), Daniel Jackson (saxophone), Talia (vocals). \$5.011-52-664-685-1264. (TIJUANA)

Centro de Estudios Musicales Orchestra, led by conductor Ernesto Rosas, takes stage on Thursday, November 29, 8 p.m., at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street). \$8 U.S. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

"Sones para un Sol Nuevo (Sounds for a New Sun)" - Mex-

ican fusion concert by Mexico City's Grupo Zazhil on Thursday, November 29, 8 p.m., at Centro Estatal de las Artes (CEARTE, at Boulevard Costero and Avenida Club Rotario). Group is said to "combine traditional Mexican rhythms with jazz and rock." \$10 U.S. 011-52-646-173-4307. 011-52-646-173-4308. (ENSENADA)

OUTDOORS

"Rainbow Season" arrives with the first rains of late fall. Scattered showers are best for rainbow watching: sunlight refracting and reflecting through the raindrops causes two bows to appear — an intense circular arc at 42° and a bigger but weaker arc at 51° from the antisolar point (the point in the sky diametrically opposed to the sun's position). From November through mid-February, the sun never gets higher than 42° above the horizon as seen from San Diego, so (rain and sunlight permitting) the brighter of the two arcs may appear above the horizon at any time of day. In spring and summer, rainbows are never seen in the sky around midday because the sun is too high - and the antisolar point is too low.

This Weekend's Extreme Low Tides, which are centered around the time of full moon, are perfectly timed for afternoon tidepool discoveries. On Friday, November 23, at 2:14 p.m., the tide level dips to -1.4 feet. Saturday features a low tide of -1.6 feet at 3:02 p.m. Sunday's low tide, also -1.6 feet, occurs at 3:53 p.m. Monday's low tide of -1.4 feet takes place at 4:43 p.m., about the same time as sunset. The string of days featuring extreme low tides also includes instances of extreme high tides. There are +7.1-foot high tides at 7:54 a.m. on Saturday, November 24, and at 8:37 a.m. on Sunday, November 25.

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tle for concert planned by pianist Montserrat Rodríguez Corral on Wednesday, November 28, 7:30 p.m., at Centro Estatal de las

and Mina Street). Tickets: \$35, \$40

U.S. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

"Acerquémonos a la Música

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Artes (CEARTE, at Boulevard Cos-

tero and Avenida Club Rotario).

Program includes pieces by com-

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4308. (ENSENADA)

Fall Migration Is Underway, and Tom Troy leads basic birding program on Saturday, November 24, 8:30 a.m., at Buena Vista lagoon landing (2202 South Coast Highway). Emphasis on identifying birds by sight and sound and using binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides. Free. Directions: 760-967-6915. (OCEANSIDE)

How Did Natives Build a 5.5-Mile Flume to move water to mission crops? Learn during guided nature hike, Saturday, November 24, starting at 8:30 a.m. at Kumeyaay Lake campground entry station (Two Father Junípero Serra Trail). Free. 619-668-3281. (SAN CARLOS)

Audubon Society Bird Walk in Tecolote Canyon on Saturday. November 24, 9 a.m., at Tecolote Nature Center (5180 Tecolote Road). Free. Bring binoculars and drinking water. 858-581-9944. (CLAIREMONT)

Help Remove Invasive Plants and refuse, care for native plants in coastal dune habitat, and continue construction of a barrier fence along San Diego River with Audubon Society volunteers, Saturday, November 24, 9 a.m.-noon. Wear work clothes; bring work gloves and weeding tools if you have them. Free. Directions: 858-273-5242, 619-682-7200. (MISSION BAY)

Trail Repair Work in Paso Picacho at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park continues on Saturday, November 24, 9 a.m. Bring work shoes, gloves, hat, water, snack. Group gathers at Paso Picacho campground maintenance area behind fire department building. Free. Registration: 619-669-1697.

For those 16 and older with a parent. (CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK)

Kumeyaay Thanksgiving? What were San Diego's natives eating around 1620? Find out during guided trail walks on Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday, November 24, 25, and 28, 9:30 a.m., in Mission Trails Regional Park (One Father Junípero Serra Trail). Free. 619-668-3281. (SAN CARLOS)

Discover Old Escondido West during walking tour led by Escondido Citizens Ecology Committee, Saturday, November 24, starting at 11 a.m. at southeast corner of Grand and Broadway. Free. 760-743-8207. (ESCONDIDO)

November's Full Moon rises dramatically in the east at around 4:50 p.m., a few minutes after the time of sunset, on Saturday, November 24. Some folk names for the November full moon are "snow moon," "fog moon," "mad moon,' and "moon when deer shed antlers." Barring the incursion of overnight low clouds, San Diegans should witness the same full moon setting over the Pacific Ocean at sunrise the following morning.

Volunteers Called to pick up trash in López Canyon, Sunday, November 25, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Bring sun protection, water, gloves if you have them. Meet at Lopez Ridge Park, 7245 Calle Cristobal. Free. 858-538-8066. (MIRA MESA)

Encinitas After the Tourists Leave, it's the theme for a Walkabout adventure on Sunday, November 25. The moderately paced, mostly flat walk starts at 2:30 p.m. at corner of South Coast Highway and West K Street. See a schoolhouse over 100 years old,

explore back streets. Free. 619-231-7463. (ENCINITAS)

Shaman's Hike led by Will Bowen in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Sunday, November 25. "Walk the path of the shaman with nature as the vehicle to the sacred world...take a short hike to a power spot to reflect, renew." Bring a drum or rattle (optional), blanket to sit upon. Adventure starts at 3 p.m. at west-end staging area on south side of Sorrento Vallev Boulevard (one-half mile east of intersection of Vista Sorrento Parkway). Free. 858-342-8856. (SORRENTO VALLEY)

See "Wintering Specialties" with Audubon Society birdwatchers at Kit Carson Park, Wednesday, November 28, 8 a.m. Possible species: canvasback, cedar waxwings, American goldfinch, American pipit, Townsend's warbler, Hutton's vireo. Meet at El Arroyo picnic area; find Kit Carson Park at 3333 Bear Valley Parkway. Easy hiking. 619-692-3246. Free. (ESCONDIDO)

DANCE

New West Ballet Theatre offers 28th season production of The Nutcracker, November 23-25, at Poway Center for Performing Arts (15498 Espola Road). Traditional production boasts "easy-to-follow storvline and animated choreography." Curtain rises at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, with 2 p.m. performances on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets: \$15, \$22, \$27. 760-738-4751. (POWAY)



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Viennese Waltz dance lessons offered on Friday, November 23, in room 207 of Casa del Prado. Lesson at 7:30 p.m. followed by open dancing, 8:30-9:45 p.m. All ages and abilities. Partners not required. Donation: \$1. 619-583-9956. (BALBOA PARK)

More the Merrier makes music, JoAnn Koppany calls for contradance, Saturday, November 24, 8 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church (3030 Thorn Street). Beginners' dance workshop: 7:30 p.m. \$7. Wear softsoled shoes. Graham Hempel leads waltz workshop, 4-6 p.m.; \$5. 619-283-8550, (NORTH PARK)

USA Dance Ballroom Party with wide variety of music, Saturday, November 24, at Synergy Dance Zone (7480 Miramar Road). Ballroom, Latin, swing, salsa, more. Lessons at 7 p.m., dancing from 8-11 p.m. All ages, ability levels, singles, couples. Casual dress. \$7. 760-525-5124. Fourth Saturday each month. (MIRAMAR)

American Latin and Ballroom Dance Party, Saturday, November 24, 7:30 p.m., at Pattie Wells Dancetime Center (1255 West Morena Boulevard). Dancing for

singles and couples of all ages. Cha-cha lesson at 8 p.m. \$7; first time free, 619-275-3533, (BAY PARK)

English Country Dancing, Janet and Terri call for English country dancing, Sunday, November 25, 6-9 p.m., at Jean Hart Academy of Dance (Oak Knoll Plaza, 12227 Poway Road). Beginners' instruction at 6 p.m. \$6. 858-676-9731. (POWAY)

Bellydancing Solos and Duets by Jessenia and Shalimar with music by Middle-Earth Ensemble, Sunday, November 25, 8 p.m., at Turquoise Cafe Bar Europa (873 Turquoise Street). \$10 cover. 858-488-4200. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Zydeco Dances with lessons are offered Thursday, November 29, at Tio Leo's (5302 Napa Street, between Morena Boulevard and Linda Vista Road). Beginning dance lessons at 7 p.m.; open dancing to recorded tunes from 8-10 p.m. \$5 (first visit free). 619-857-8409. (LINDA VISTA)

"Breaking Boundaries: Student Choreographers' Showcase" runs November 29–December 2 in Stagehouse Theatre at Grossmont College (8800 Grossmont College Drive). Variety of dance styles including modern, ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, and swing presented by Grossmont College Dance Department. Curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; with 2 p.m. matinees on Saturday and Sunday. \$11 general. 619-644-7766. (EL CAJON)

<u>OUT & ABOUT</u>

CUBAN PERFORMER AMAURY PÉREZ Friday, November 23, Centro Cultural Tijuana.

(SEE BAJA)



Student Dance Concert, Thursday, November 29, 8 p.m., in ENS-200 (dance studio) at San Diego State University. \$10 general. 619-594-1696. (SDSU)

FILM

Rollicking Road Odyssey! Enjoy Viva Cuba when Juan Carlos Cremata's 2005 film screens in Spanish with English subtitles, Wednesday, November 21, 6:30 p.m., for Film Forum at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). Free. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center. currently screening in the IMAX theater: Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure, Dinosaurs Alive, The Living Sea. "Fridays at the Fleet" showcases Africa: The Serengeti (6 p.m.) and Mysteries of Egypt (7 p.m.) on November 23. Ticket prices and showtimes: 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

The San Diego Afrikan Mental Liberation Film Festival is Saturday and Sunday, November 24 and 25, noon-9 p.m., at World Beat Center (2100 Park Boulevard). Roster includes Harlem Globetrotters: No NBA Without Them, Afrika's Heritage in the Caribbean, Beyond Beats and Rhymes: A Critical Look at

Hip-Hop, The Dinka of Sudan, The N-Word: Looking at a Horrendous Word, Ida B. Wells: A Great Woman in American History, others. Free. 619-230-1190. (BALBOA PARK)

"Cyrano de Bergerac," Jean-Paul Rappeneau's 1990 version of Rostand's classic tale stars Gérard Depardieu. Catch the film when it screens — in French with English subtitles — for Sunday Matinee on November 25, 2 p.m., at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). Free. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

Rory Kennedy's Ghosts of Abu Ghraib, "which shows disturbing pictures of torture and ill-treatment at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison," screens Sunday, November 25, 2 p.m., at Mission Valley Library

Human Rights at San Diego, Survivors of Torture, International, other groups. Discussion follows. Free, 619-223-8074, (MISSION VALLEY)

Luc Besson's 2006 Romantic Fable Angel-A is showcased during Film Forum at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street) on Monday, November 26, 6:30 p.m. This "Art Deco ode to the City of Light" is in French with English subtitles. Free. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

"The Prestige" — a thriller starring Hugh Jackman, Christian Bale, Scarlett Johansson - screens for ongoing Carlsbad Library "Magical Film" series, Wednesday, November 28, 6 p.m., in Schulman Auditorium (1775 Dove Lane). Events begin at 5:30 p.m. with "behind-the-scenes features." Free. 760-602-2026. (LA COSTA)

Charge into Winter! Warren Miller's Playground hits the county, opening with screenings on Wednesday and Thursday, November 28 and 29, 8 p.m., at La Paloma Theatre (471 South Coast Highway 101). Playground boasts winter sports footage filmed from Sweden to Canada, Alaska to Japan, Dubai, other locales. 760-436-7469.

Film moves to Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (700 Prospect Street) for screenings on November 30 and December 1. See film at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. on Friday; at 6 and 9 p.m. on Saturday. 858-454-3541.

Final screenings start at 4 and 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 2, at Carlsbad Village Theatre (2822 State Street, 760-720-2460). Tickets: \$18. (ENCINITAS, LA JOLLA, CARLSBAD

"Avant-Shorts" featured during Cinema Lounge Series hosted by Sushi Performance and Visual Art on Thursday, November 29, 7 p.m., at Rubber Rose (3812 Ray Street). Series promises "high-con-



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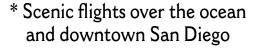
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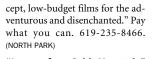
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"Journey from Spirit Mountain" Preston Arrow-weed's film is "told from the perspective of the Quechuan people, cinematically weaving together...desert elements, oral tradition, and Quechuan culture." Arrow-weed presents his film for Sierra Club on Thursday, November 29, 7:30 p.m., at Jovce Beers Center (3900 Vermont Street). He'll be on hand to discuss the film. Free. 619-585-3773, 619-299-1743. (HILLCREST)

LECTURES

"The Real Mr. Claus," where did the "Santa tradition" begin, and who was the first Santa? Find out during program - for adults only - Saturday, November 24,

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11 a.m., at Valley Center Library (29200 Cole Grade Road). Free. 760-749-1305. (VALLEY CENTER)

"Avian Basic Care" addressed during seminar hosted by Parrot Education and Adoption Center on Saturday, November 24, 1 p.m. "Lifestyles for Successful Parrot Caregivers" presented at 2:45 p.m. Explore "The Wonderful World of Amazons" on Sunday, November 25, at 1 p.m., followed by "The Parrot Gourmet" at 2:45 p.m.

Classes offered in room D-6 at Marina Village Conference Center (1936 Ouivira Wav). \$15 per day. Reservations: 619-287-8200. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Jerusalem-Based Genealogist Michael Goldstein focuses on how to find Israeli relatives when San Diego Jewish Genealogical Society meets, Sunday, November 25, 1 p.m., at Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center (4126 Executive Drive). Goldstein will share "how he uses data to solve family mysteries

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San Diego Reader November 21 ,2007



via lesser-known Israeli archives." Free. 619-583-0826. (LA JOLLA)

"The Law and the Cross on Mt. Soledad" is topic when Jim McElroy, attorney for the plaintiff, speaks for Association for Rational Inquiry on Sunday, November 25, 7 p.m., at Joyce Beers Community Center (1230 Vermont Street). Free. 619-421-5844. (HILLCREST)

"The Craft of Creative Writing,"

presented by editor, author Yvonne Nelson Perry during workshop hosted by La Jolla Pen Women, Monday, November 26, 1 p.m., at La Jolla Library (7555 Draper Avenue). 858-245-1677. Free. (LA JOLLA)

Hoping the Chargers Move to Chula Vista? Mark Fabiani and Chula Vista councilman John Mc-Cann present the Chargers' side of the issue for Southwest Chula Vista Civic Association on Monday, November 26, 6 p.m., at MAAC Charter School (1385 Third Avenue). Expect presentations and discussion of pros and cons of proposal. Free. 619-425-5771. (CHULA VISTA)

"Managing Your Irrigation Water" is topic for Monday Night Water Wise series, November 26,

6 p.m., at Water Conservation Garden (12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West). How do soil, plant, and water relationships result in better plant health, improved water management? \$15. 619-660-0614 x10, (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

Bird Flash-Photography workshop planned at San Diego Natural History Museum. Learn external flash equipment techniques for capturing bird photographs. Required equipment: SLR camera, external flash, tripod, flash extender; flash bracket is optional. Classes offered Mondays, November 26 and December 3, 6:30 p.m.; field trip is Saturday, December 1; 6:30 a.m.-5 p.m. \$75. Reservations: 619-255-0203. (BALBOA PARK)

"The View from Jerusalem" offered by David Goodblatt, endowed chair in Judaic studies at UCSD, Monday, November 26, 6:30 and 8 p.m., in conjunction with the "Dead Sea Scrolls" exhibition at San Diego Natural History Museum. "How would residents of Jerusalem, the capital city of Second Temple Judah, have viewed the few dozen residents of Qumran and their literary production?" \$25. 619-255-0203. (BALBOA PARK)

Knife-Sharpening Clinic — learn to keep your cutlery in good condition as well as how to sharpen them properly, Tuesday, November 27, A GUIDE TO UNEXPECTED SAN DIEGO AND BEYOND I BY JERRY SCHAD

ROAM-(__)-RAMA

his trail highlights the Engelmann oak (or mesa oak) — a somewhat rare evergreen oak tree found only in parts of inland Southern California. Along the way you'll also see the ubiquitous coast live oak, with its characteristic dense and dark green foliage. Engelmanns, with sparser foliage and grayish-green leaves, tolerate dryness better and tend to thrive on high, as well as low, ground.

The starting point for the Engelmann Oak loop hike is Daley Ranch's westside (Cougar Pass) trailhead. To get there take the Highway 78 freeway east from Interstate 15. After only one mile, the freeway ends at Broadway. Turn left on



Engelmann oak tree

Broadway and drive 4.8 miles north to unpaved Cougar Pass Road on the right. Follow the winding Cougar Pass Road 1.4 miles to the Daley Ranch trailhead on the right.

From the trailhead, enter Daley Ranch property on Cougar Ridge Trail (a dirt road). You traverse a grassy flat and soon plunge into coast live oak woods, where perpetual twilight reigns. A small

stream trickles through here during the wetter half of the year. At 0.7 mile ignore the first road on left, the northern leg of the Engelmann Oak Trail. At 0.9 mile stay right, avoiding the lesser trail on the left (this Bobcat Trail will be your return route). You climb more briskly now, reaching a saddle. Stay on the main road,

which angles east upward along a ridge, and negotiate your way over a steep section with loose rocks underfoot. Most of the city of Escondido lies in view below, nestled in a bowl surrounded by rounded hills. You can understand how Escondido (Spanish for "hidden") deserves its name.

At the next junction, 1.5 miles, bear left on the Engelmann Oak Trail. Continue climbing and don't miss the old stock pond on the right, which brims with water after winter rains. Continue through a park-like spread of coast live oaks - where, on a warm spring day, sweet, toasty aromas rise from the drying grass and oak leaf litter.

Next, you skirt the south base of Burnt Mountain, a rounded, boulder-studded promontory guarded by thick chaparral. The newly opened Burnt Mountain single-track trail intersects on the left — a rougher alternate and slight short-cut route along the base of the mountain. For easier walking or riding, stay on the Engelmann Oak Trail, which soon curls left and goes northward. You catch sight of the rolling mesa to the northeast occupied by the rural community of Valley Center.

Diego County Native Plants, pre-

sents slide-illustrated lecture for

California Native Plant Society on

Tuesday, November 27, in Casa

del Prado room 104 or 101. Dis-

cussion, plant sales, at 6:30 p.m.;

meeting at 7:30 p.m. Free.

History and Future of Islam

examined when professor Khaleel

Mohammed of SDSU's religious

studies department speaks for

Atheist Coalition of San Diego,

Tuesday, November 27, 6:30 p.m.,

at North Park Recreation Center

(4044 Idaho Street). Free. 619-342-

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7388. (NORTH PARK)

619-282-3645. (BALBOA PARK)

10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Bloomingdale's San Diego (7057 Friars Road). Bring vour knives and have them sharpened. Free. Reservations: 619-610-6400. (MISSION VALLEY)

"Nutrition Solutions for Common Challenges During Treatment" is subject for Vicki Newman, R.D., Tuesday, November 27, 10 a.m., at Moores UCSD Cancer Center (3855 Health Sciences Drive). Free. Reservations: 858-822-2236. (LA JOLLA)

"Clockwork Genes: Biological Rhythms in Health and Agriculture" - Steve A. Kay, dean of division of biological sciences at UCSD, speaks for Grey Matters lecture series at San Diego Natural History Museum, Tuesday, November 27, 6:30 p.m. Free. 619-232-3821. (BALBOA PARK)

Take a "Tour of San Diego County's Tallest Trees" when James Lightner, author of San 4924) and REI Encinitas (1590 Leucadia Boulevard, 760-944-9020). Head to REI San Diego (5556 Copley Drive, 858-279-4400) on Wednesday, November 28, 7 p.m. Free. (CHULA VISTA, ENCINITAS, KEARNY MESA)

"Create a Wildlife-Friendly Garden" after Mel Hinton of San Diego Audubon Society speaks for Friends of Famosa Slough meeting, Tuesday, November 27, 7 p.m., at Loma Riviera clubhouse (3115 Loma Riviera Drive). Free. 619-224-4591. (POINT LOMA)

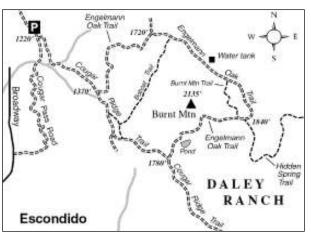
"Uncovering Local Art and Industry: The Discovery of Hidden WPA Murals at SDSU" presented by Seth Mallios for Meet the Masters program at San Diego Museum of Art on Wednesday, November 28, 6 p.m. Mallios is director of South Coastal Informational Center at the California Office of Historic Preservation and Ridge Trail, and return to the Cougar Pass Road trailhead.

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

ENGELMANN OAK LOOP

High above Escondido, enjoy the bucolic splendor of the Engelmann Oak loop hike in Daley Ranch.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 40 miles Hiking length: 5.1 miles Difficulty: Moderate



associate professor of anthropology at SDSU. \$15. Reservations: 619-696-1966, (BALBOA PARK)

"Adventures on the Pacific Crest Trail." Dana Law has hiked the first 800 miles of the 2650mile-long trail in four years, on 21 separate journeys. He'll share stories, photographs from trail, Wednesday, November 28, 6:30 p.m., Otay Mesa-Nestor Library (303 Coronado Avenue). Free. 619-424-0474. (NESTOR)

Ancient Rock Paintings discussed by Harry W. Crosby and Robert W. Hansen, Wednesday, November 28, 7 p.m., at Art Expressions Gallery (2645 Financial Court, suite C). Crosby (The Cave Paintings of Baja California: Discovering the Great Murals of an Unknown People) will discuss experiences in remote mountain caves in Baja California, where he has photographed more than 200 sites painted in "great mural" style. Hansen (Yucatán Passages, A Photographer's Pilgrimage through Southern Mexico) will focus on adventures in Four Corners area of Southwest. Booksigning follows. Free. Reservations: 858-270-7577. (BAY PARK)

"Do Gods Exist? The Traditional Arguments, Part II - First Cause, Fine-Tuning, the Problem of Evil, and More" is topic when North County Agnostics gather, Wednesday, November 28, 7 p.m., in Oceanside Mission Library community room (3861-B Mission Avenue). Free. 760-445-8112. (OCEANSIDE)

"Rome: The Academy of Europe" examined by UC Santa Barbara art history professor Carole Paul for Art in the Afternoon lecture at Timken Museum of Art on Thursday, November 29, 12:30 p.m. Free. 619-239-5548 x15. (BALBOA PARK)

'Tis the Season! Chef loev prepares some of his favorite holiday appetizers, Thursday, November 29, 1 and 6:30 p.m., at Bloomingdale's San Diego (7057 Friars Road). Free. 619-610-6400. (MISSION VALLEY)

"Rethinking Nuclear Terrorism" presented by Michael Levi, Fellow for Science and Technology on Council on Foreign Relations, Thursday, November 29, 4 p.m., in IR/PS Robinson Building Complex room 3201 at UCSD. Free. RSVP by November 26: 858-822-5297. (LA JOLLA)

"Post-Career Planning: What Parachute?" Trainer, work-life coach Beth Levin outlines key questions for freelancers when SD/PEN Editors Network gathers, Thursday, November 29, 6:30 p.m., in Clairemont Community Room (4731 Clairemont Drive). Free. 858-451-3266. (CLAIREMONT)

"El Corazon Park: What's It All About?" Find out when Jami Williams of RRM Design Group talks about the park's design and how project is progressing for Buena Vista Audubon Society on Thursday, November 29, 7:30 p.m., at Buena Vista Nature Center (2202 South Coast Highway). "Imagine a 465-acre park in the center of Oceanside with a rural look and feel to the trails." Social time: 7 p.m. Free. 760-439-2473. (OCEANSIDE)

IN PERSON

28th Annual San Diego Thanksgiving Dixieland Jazz Festival continues through November 25 at Town and Country Hotel and Convention Center (500 Hotel Circle North). Over 25 bands, guest artists play jazz, rag-







At 3.3 miles (about 0.4

mile past an old water tank

on the right), in a grassy vale,

turn left on the narrow Bob-

cat Trail. A delightful one-

mile descent down a shal-

low ravine ensues, first through

swaying grass, then amid fra-

grant chaparral, then under

densely clustered live oaks

whose intertwining limbs

nearly blot out the sky. When

vou reach the next trail fork.

bear right, hook up with Cougar

BY SONIA ELIOT

What's That You're Reading?

NAME: CHRIS COKLEY | AGE: 26 | OCCUPATION: EMPLOYEE AT PANERA BREAD NEIGHBORHOOD: POINT LOMA | WHERE INTERVIEWED: BORDERS IN THE GASLAMP



What are you reading now?

"Battlefield Earth: A Saga of the Year 3000, by L. Ron Hubbard. I picked it up because I saw the film when it came out a couple of years ago. It starred John Travolta; he had long hair and a thing in his nose. I had nothing to do today, so I rode my bike here and picked up this book. I'm on page 507 now." Tell me about the book.

"Aliens attack the earth, and for about 1000 years, the aliens rule the planet. There are a few people left.

They're primitives — rubbing sticks together and hunting animals. They can't even speak. Then, one of the aliens teaches one of the men how to talk so that the man can work for him. The man ends up learning the history of his planet and teaches it to all of his people. The humans then revolt against the aliens. I like the setting — 1000 years in the future, and they're discovering how we're living now, finding old books and learning about people. It's like the way we look back at people who lived during the Roman Empire and wonder about them. The humans in *Battlefield Earth* look back at our present political situation and our religious stuff as trivial, because they're focused on living, providing food." Any favorite characters?

"There's an alien named Kerr. The aliens look like people, except they're 10 or 11 feet tall, 3 feet wide, are extremely strong, weigh about 1000 pounds, and have bones for eyebrows and lips. Kerr gets captured and ends up working with the humans. He can't go back to the aliens because he's done some bad things, and the aliens want to kill him."

Tell me about the style and language.

"It's really descriptive of places and people. Right now, where I am in the book is set in South America. It's very humid — the author writes that it's so hot, even the paper is wet. And when he writes about different groups from Scotland or London — he writes the dialogue with the accents and dialect of the area."

Compare this with other books you've read.

"I read everything; I have to mix it

up. I can't read just one kind of thing, or I get burnt out. The last book I read was by Bill Bryson: I'm a Stranger Here Myself: Notes on Returning to America after Twenty Years Away. It's a travel memoir, Bryson going through small towns in America and writing of his experiences in a very humorous way. He'll write about how he got drunk in a bar, thought the people there were idiots, and then forgot how to walk. He's very opinionated and very descriptive." Tell me about your favorite authors.

"I like Arthur C. Clarke; he wrote 2001: A Space Odyssey. I was a kid, and I got the book for free. It made me want to grow up and be able to go to space." What magazines or newspapers do you read?

"I read *Mountain Bike* or *Dirt Rag* mountain-bike magazine. I read them every month, pretty much cover to cover." <u>Do you talk to your friends</u> <u>about reading?</u>

"Some of my friends are mountain bikers, so we'll talk about the magazines. Or, if we've read the same book, we'll have a discussion. A friend and I just read What the Bleep Do We Know !? It's about science, metaphysics, religion, and all kinds of stuff. It gathers all these different opinions of reality, and it made us discuss our own opinions about reality. One thing that came up was science and religion — how people try to separate them. In Buddhist meditation, you can go to a certain Nirvana. The Bible says, 'An open eye sees light.' And then you have some people who say, 'Think of evolution. Everything can be explained. It's all hard facts; there's no such thing as the power of the mind, or spirit.' Science will say that we're not a soul — just a bunch of chemicals sitting here, doing what we do. Why make them separate? If you put science and religion together, they would probably answer a lot of each other's questions."

time, and swing for dancing and listening. Participants include Yerba Buena Stompers, Cornet Chop Suey, Butch Thompson, Side Street Strutters, Mission Bay High Dixie Band, Heliotrope Ragtime Orchestra, more.

Hours: 7–11 p.m. Thursday (\$20), 10 a.m.–11 p.m. Friday (\$30), 9 a.m.–11 p.m. Saturday (\$30), 8 a.m.–10 p.m. Sunday (\$25). Ticket packages available. 800-433-0078. (MISSION VALLEY)

Reggae Legend Half Pint joined by Kush, Blood Fiyah Angels, Keys of Creation in concert, Thursday, November 22, 8:30 p.m., at WorldBeat Center (2100 Park Boulevard). \$12.50 in advance. 619-230-1190. (BALBOA PARK)

John and Alice Coltrane Memorial Concert featuring Azar Lawrence Quartet and Toni Hackley on harp, Friday November 23, 8 p.m., at WorldBeat Cultural Center (2100 Park Boulevard). \$12. 619-230-1190. (BALBOA PARK) **"The Producers,"** this Mel Brooks comedy is "winner of the most Tony Awards ever," following exploits of a Broadway producer and an accountant whose goal is to produce the world's worst musical. Enjoy performances at 8 p.m. on Friday, November 23, and at 2 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, November 24, at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Tickets: \$55–\$70. 800-988-4253. (ESCONDIDO)

Pianist/Singer/Composer John Cain leads journey into world of Latin music with Puerto Rican percussionist Kiko Jimenez during concert and booksigning, Saturday, November 24, 2:30 p.m., in Greene Music recital hall (7480 Miramar Road). Free. 877-652-8523. (MIRAMAR)

Open-Mike Poetry Reading, Monday, November 26, 8 p.m., at Twiggs Tea and Coffee (4590 Park Boulevard). Free. 619-296-0616. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Celebrate American Indian Heritage Month when Native American Indian dancer Eric Runningpath visits Linda Vista Library (2160 Ulric Street) on Tuesday, November 27, 10 a.m. Intertribal dancing styles reflect cultures of Plains, California, Navajo, Kumeyaay, and other tribes. Free. 858-573-1399. (LINDA VISTA)

Poet and UCSD Professor Eileen Myles plans reading and signing of her latest book, *Sorry*, *Tree*, Tuesday, November 27, 7:30 p.m., in Hyde Art Gallery at Grossmont College (8800 Grossmont College Drive). Myles has published more than 20 volumes of poetry, fiction, articles, plays. Free. 619-644-7486. (EL CAJON)

San Diego Jewish Book Fair closes with appearance by Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, "a powerful voice against hatred, discrimination, and violence worldwide." Foxman will speak and sign *The Deadliest Lies: The Israel Lobby and the Myth of Jewish Control,* Tuesday, November 27, 7:30 p.m., at Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center (4126 Executive Drive). Booksigning follows. \$15.50. 858-362-1348. (LA JOLLA)

"Where Have All the Flower Children Gone?" Author Sandra Gurvis reflects on lives of baby boomers in their 50s and 60s in her new book, which she'll discuss and sign, Wednesday, November 28, 6:30 p.m., in third-floor auditorium at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). Free. 619-236-5821. (DOWNTOWN)

Middle-Earth Ensemble performs original and traditional Middle Eastern music for belly dancers Sabrina and Dilek, Wednesday, November 28, 9 p.m., Lestat's West (3343 Adams Avenue). \$5. 619-282-0437. (NORMAL HEIGHTS) **Cider Celebration,** enjoy cider and musical Christmas favorites sung by the choir, Thursday and Friday, November 29 and 30, 6 and 8 p.m., in Crill Performance Hall at Point Loma Nazarene University (3900 Lomaland Drive). \$8 general. 619-849-2344. (POINT LOMA)

Jazz Guitar Ensemble at SDSU in concert, Thursday, November 29, 7 p.m., in Smith Recital Hall at San Diego State University. Free. 619-594-1696. (SDSU)

"Legends in Concert," celebrity impersonators John Anthony (Rod Stewart), Lori Mitchell-Gay (Tina Turner), Bobby Brooks (Steve Wonder), Jeff Fairchild and Tony Mosti (Blues Brothers), Harry Shahoian (Elvis) perform November 29–December 6 in Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre (5469 Casino Way). Shows begin at 7 and 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, 9:30 p.m. on Friday, 4 and 7 p.m. on Saturday, 4 p.m. on Sunday, and 8 p.m. on Thursday, December 6. \$30. 619-659-3380. For those 18 and older. (DEHESA)

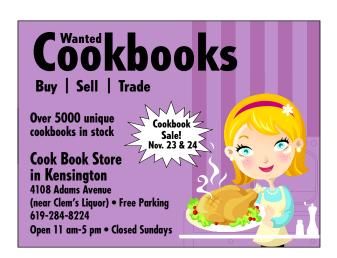
Vineyard Owner, Author Ferenc Mate will discuss and sign A Vineyard in Tuscany, Thursday, November 29, 7:30 p.m., at Warwick's Bookstore (7812 Girard Avenue). Free. 858-454-0347. (LA JOLLA)

Oscar-Winning Actress Patricia Neal visits D.G. Wills Books with her biographer, Stephen Michael Shearer, to discuss *Patricia Neal: An Unquiet Life* on Friday, November 30, 7 p.m. They will also discuss Neal's forthcoming film, *Flying By*, filmed partly in San Diego. Free. Find shop at 7461 Girard Avenue, 858-456-1800. (LA JOLLA)

Folk Music Icon Tom Paxton performs for San Diego Folk Heritage on Saturday, December 1, 7:30 p.m., at San Dieguito United Methodist Church (170 Calle Magdalena). \$18. 858-566-4040. (ENCINITAS)



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San Diego Reader November 21, 2007 73



SPORTS

Rides to Suit Every Rider! San Diego Bicycle Club's "world famous" Saturday rides start at 8:30 a.m. at 8715 Via La Jolla Drive (in parking lot at La Jolla Village Square). Fast rides, core training, and development rides offered. Helmets mandatory. Free 619-522-0058. (LA JOLLA)

Father Joe's Thanksgiving Day 5k Walk and Run starts at Museum of Man in Balboa Park at 8 a.m. on Thursday, November 22, finishes beyond Balboa Fountain. 888-478-6925, (BALBOA PARK)

Move Your Feet Before You Eat! O'side Turkey Trot, Thursday, November 22, from Oceanside Civic Center to Oceanside Pier. Open 5k run/walk for nonresidents at 7:15 a.m., locals-only 5k at 8 a.m., kids' pier-to-pier run (one miler) starts at 9, 9:15, 9:30 a.m.; registration opens at 6:30 a.m. 760-434-5255. (OCEANSIDE)

Run for the Hungry Thanksgiving Day 5K and 10K, Thursday, November 22, starting at 8 a.m. at Petco Park East (at Imperial and 13th Street). Race-day fee: \$30 general, \$20 for children. 619-298-7400. (EAST VILLAGE)

Up for 25 That Feel Like 40? Join Knickerbikers bicyclists for a 25-mile ride starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, November 24, in Ross shopping center (987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive). Ride through Rancho Santa Fe, up El Camino Real, to Del Mar Heights Road. Bring money for lunch at Fidel's. 760-525-6833. (SOLANA BEACH)

Elfin Forest Bicycle Ride (68 miles long) hosted by San Diego Bicycle Touring Society starts at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday, November 25,



in Doyle Park (8175 Regents Road). 858-277-7499. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

San Diego Chargers host Baltimore Ravens in Qualcomm Stadium on Sunday, November 25, 1:15 p.m. Game broadcast on CBS; listen on radio station KIOZ, Rock 105.3. Tickets: \$54-\$92, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS).

Jingle Bell Horse Show runs Wednesday-Sunday, November 28–December 2, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., at Del Mar Horsepark (14550 El Camino Real). Free. 760-794-1171. (DEL MAR)

SPECIAL

"Beaujolais, Burgundy, and More," learn to "boost your Burgundy-buying confidence" during tasting, Wednesday, November 21, 5 p.m., at WineSellar and Brasserie (9550 Waples Street, suite 115). \$16. 858-450-9557. (MIRA MESA)

"Demons, Golems, and Dybbuks: Monsters of the Jewish Imagination" is theme for "Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature" reading, discussion series at La Jolla Library (7555 Draper Avenue). Focus on The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka on Wednesday, November 21, 6:30 p.m. Free. Registration: 619-236-5817. (LA JOLLA)

Holiday of Lights at Del Mar Fairgrounds is display of seasonal festive lights, with holiday-themed displays and more than 350 displays on view Thursday, November 22, through Tuesday, January 1. Visitors drive cars through fairgrounds to view displays.

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

Skating by the Sea, outdoor ice-skating rink overlooking Pacific Ocean is open at Hotel del Coronado (1500 Orange Avenue) through Tuesday, January 1. Three-hour skating sessions begin at 2 and 6 p.m. daily, with 11 a.m. session on weekends. \$20 general, \$15 for kids; skate rental: \$5. 619-522-8041. (CORONADO)

Thanksgiving Yoga Benefit class led by Dana Rae Paré on Thursday, November 22, 9 a.m., at Infinite Yoga at Malashock Dance Studio (2650 Truxtun Road, suite 202). "Yoga Blast!" for all levels. \$15 donation benefits National Disaster Relief Fund of American Red Cross. 619-269-7043. (POINT LOMA)

OUT & ABOUT

THE PRODUCERS

California Center for the Arts, Escondido, Friday and Saturday, November 23 and 24.

(SEE IN PERSON)

San Diego Arts Festival - with

over 200 contemporary craft and

fine art exhibitors offering their

wares — November 23–25, at San

Diego Convention Center (111

West Harbor Drive). Show opens

at 10 a.m. each day, closes at 6 p.m.

Friday and Saturday, 5 p.m. Sun-

day. Tickets: \$8 general, \$7 seniors,

free for kids under 12. 805-461-

"Rancho Christmas" festivities,

Saturday and Sunday, Novem-

ber 24 and 25, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at

Rancho Guajome Adobe (2210

North Santa Fe Avenue). Each of

the 28 rooms and two courtvards

of this national historic landmark

will be transformed into "Victo-

rian splendor." Live music, danc-

ing, traditional Christmas carol-

ing. \$6 general. 760-724-4082.

Rack 'em Up! Celebrities Tim

"the Monk" Miller and "trick shot

artist" Scott Lee will be on hand

during grand opening celebration,

Sunday, November 25, 10 a.m., at

Monk Billiard Academy and Bil-

liards Direct (8868 Clairemont

Mesa Boulevard, suite J). Free.

858-277-6665. (CLAIREMONT)

6700. (DOWNTOWN)

(OCEANSIDE)



Stamp-Collecting Show, stamp and cover dealers offer wares, Sunday, November 25, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Al Bahr Shrine Temple (5440 Kearny Mesa Road). Free. 619-218-7835. (KEARNY MESA)

"Common Fallacies About Capitalism," Objectivist Discussion Group meets to discuss Nathaniel Branden's essay, Sunday, November 25, 6 p.m., at Claire de Lune Coffee Lounge (2906 University Avenue). Newcomers welcome. Free. 619-277-5840. (NORTH PARK)

"Downtown San Diego" over 100 vendors and dealers of arts, crafts, collectibles, antiques gather on Sunday, November 25, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., between Second and Third Avenues (at A Street). Music by Magic Memories. Free. 760-737-0334. (DOWNTOWN)

It's C-Note Time! Annual winter "C-Note Fundraiser" at San Diego Art Institute: Museum of the Living Artist begins with previews November 26, 27, 28, and 30. C-Note Night is Saturday, December 1, 5-8 p.m. Original artwork by institute member artists offered for \$100, \$200, or \$300. Art replaced on walls as pieces are sold. Admission: \$3. Continues through Sunday, December 9. 619-236-0011. (BALBOA PARK)

Food and Wine Pairings examined by Firefly Grill and Wine Bar owner Jim Barasso when he teaches cooking class, Monday, November 26, 6 p.m., at Kitchen Witch Gourmet Shop and Cooking School (127 North El Camino Real, suite D). Recipes for seared scallops served with cheddar cheese grits and crispy bacon, grilled Kobe sirloin steak served with sautéed arugula and roasted parsnips, apple cobbler with vanilla bean ice cream, \$55. Reservations: 760-942-3228. (ENCINITAS)

"Spanish Masterpieces" explored during wine tasting, Wednesday, November 28, 5 p.m., at WineSellar and Brasserie (9550 Waples Street, suite 115). \$15. 858-450-9557, (MIRA MESA)

Lux @ Night, studio tours, music, and refreshments promised Wednesday, November 28, 7 p.m., at Lux Art Institute (1550 South El Camino Real). Chilean artist Tomás Rivas will show newly com-

Happy Thanksgiving

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"With Gratitude...Selections from the Collection," exhibit of more than 20 paintings and prints by such artists as Dürer, Rembrandt, Goya, Bierstadt, Chagall that were gifts to fine art collection at University of San Diego continues through Friday, December 21, in Robert and Karen Hoehn Family Galleries of Founders Hall at University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park). Free, 619-260-4261, (LINDA VISTA)

Looking for Unique Art Objects?

Semi-annual student art and pottery sale runs November 29-December 1 at Palomar College, at south end of campus between Howard Brubeck Theatre and Lot 15 under green roof (1140 West Mission Road). Sale opens at 9 a.m. each day, closes at 8 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, 2 p.m. on Saturday. 760-744-1150. (SAN MARCOS)

Mispronounced, Misspelled, **Misunderstood Nietzsche** P&R discussion group meets on Thursday, November 29, 7 p.m., at Other Side Coffee House. Free. 619-370-1027. (NORTH PARK)

FOR KIDS

San Diego Surf College Cup 2007 soccer competition for teams of boys and girls in "under 16" and "under 19" age divisions runs Friday-Sunday, November 23–25, at San Diego Polo Club (14555 El Camino Real), 760-809-5460. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

"Santa and the Ho Ho Thief" performed by Big Joe Productions, Friday-Sunday, November 23-25, in Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater. Next up: Puppet Express and The Merry Christmas Show, November 28–December 2.

Shows begin at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday-Friday and at 11 a.m., 1, and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Find theater at 2130 Pan American Place. Admission: \$3 for children, \$4 seniors, \$5 general. 619-544-9203. (BALBOA PARK)

Teen Council Meeting - providing opportunity for those 12-18 to earn community service hours, gain leadership experience, "have a say in programming and material selection for teens" - convenes Wednesday, November 28, 7 p.m., at Rancho Peñasquitos Library (13330 Salmon River Road). Free. 858-538-8159. (RANCHO PENASQUITOS)

"The Prince and the Pauper" — Mark Twain's classic tale adapted for stage by Anne Coulter Marten is current production for Theatre School at North Coast Repertory Theatre. Curtain rises at 7 p.m. Thursday-Sat-



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urday, November 29-December 1, and at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, December 1 and 2. Tickets: \$12 general, \$9 for children. 858-481-1055 (SOLANA BEACH)

MUSEUMS

Bancroft Ranch House Museum

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

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

Birch Aquarium at Scripps, an aquarium and museum under one roof, the facility is a component of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD. More than 60 tanks contain marine life of Pacific Northwest, California coastline, Mexico's Sea of Cortés, and South Pacific. The La Jolla Kelp Tank is a two-story-high tank with giant kelp plants and nearly 30 species of local marine life. "Feeling the Heat: The Climate Challenge" examines science behind climate change; "Art of Deception" explores undersea camouflage. "Wonders of Water" waterplay area includes three interactive stations. The Lynne and Howard Robbins Shark Reef Exhibit features a 13,000-gallon shark tank with black tip, white tip, bamboo, and wobbegong sharks.

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

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

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

Chula Vista Nature Center, an interactive living museum devoted

Rentals

Appare

"THE JOY OF TOYS: ANTIQUE TREASURES" Coronado Museum of History and Art,

through February 7. (SEE MUSEUMS)

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

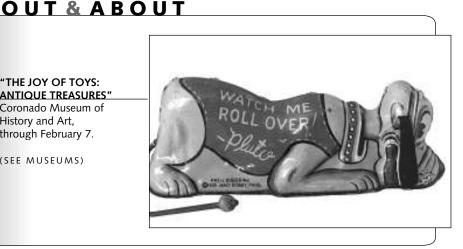
Visitors meet a shuttle bus at the Bayfront E Street Trolley Station or at the center's parking lot at the foot of E Street and Bay Boulevard. 619-409-5903. (CHULA VISTA)

Coronado Museum of History and Art, "The Joy of Toys: Antique Treasures," on display from Tuesday, November 20, through Sunday, February 3, includes variety of antique toys, furniture, vintage collectibles, comics, Winnie the Pooh's "40-Acre Woods," more.

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

Flying Leatherneck Museum, dedicated to the Marine Corps who provided air support, from the propeller-driven fighters and bombers of the 1940s to the modern jets and helicopters currently in use. Static displays of a variety of aircraft are included, along with equipment, insignia, paintings and photographs, scale models, and a research library. The museum is located in building T-2002, at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. 858-693-1723.

Gaslamp Museum of Historic San Diego, glimpse San Diego's colorful past at the museum, where displays highlight Wyatt



Alpine Historical Society, it is lo-

cated in the 1897 home/office of

Dr. Sophronia Nichols. She was the

first doctor in Alpine and the first

female doctor in the East County.

Indian artifacts from the Kingery

family on exhibit. The museum is

located at 2116 Tavern Road;

La Mesa Depot Museum, lo-

cated in a restored 1894 wooden

train station, exhibits include orig-

inal telegraph and telephone

equipment, pot-bellied coal stove,

period furniture. The adjacent

freight train display features 1923

steam locomotive, 1957 refrigera-

tor car, 1941 caboose. Find the

museum at La Mesa Boulevard

and Spring Street. 619-465-7776.

(LA MESA)

619-659-8740. (ALPINE)

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

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

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

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

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

Museum of Making Music hosts "The Ukulele and You: America's Enduring Love of the Jumping Flea" through Thursday, January 31. "Promoted as an easyto-play, portable, and fun musical instrument, the ukulele has enioved three major waves of popularity on the mainland U.S. Over the last 15 years, the instrument has been going through a third wave of interest both in Hawaii and on the mainland." Contemporary players are taking ukulele into rock, jazz, classical, punk. Collection includes over 300 instruments ranging from finely crafted rare and historic ukes made of koa, mahogany, other precious woods to inexpensive, plastic marvels produced in the '50s.

The past 100 years of American music and music making are highlighted at the museum, with over 450 vintage instruments, hundreds of audio and video clips, and an interactive stage. Find the museum at 5790 Armada Drive: 760-438-5996. (CARLSBAD)

Olaf Wieghorst Museum displays paintings and prints by Olaf Wieghorst and features exhibits of other artists' American West art. Adjacent to museum is courtvard with cactus gardens, 20 x 20-foot

reproduction of Wieghorst's painting Navajos at Castle Creek, and original restored home Wieghorst lived in for many years starting in 1945. The museum is located at 131 Rea Avenue. 619-590-3431. (EL CAJON)

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

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

San Diego Aerospace Museum, the technological advancements

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

Concurrently, see "The History of Commercial Aviation in









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

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

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

SINGLES

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 Every week The Social Place hosts a singles party that gives you achace to meet singles over 40!

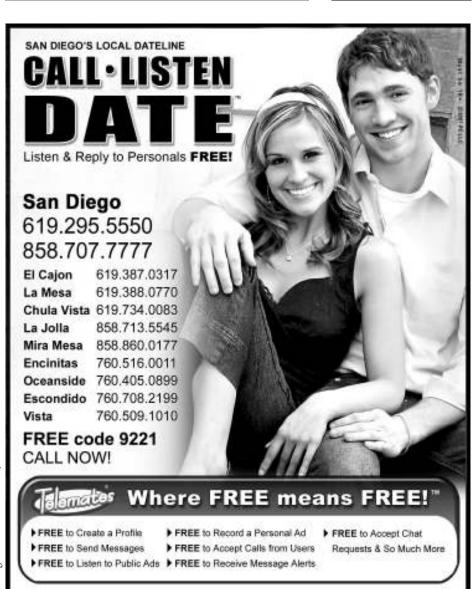
 Every week The Social Place hosts a singles party that gives you achace to meet more singles in one night than you could meet on your own in an entire year.

 This week our Singles Party will be on:

 Social Place hosts a singles party that gives you could meet singles.

 Description

 Saturday, November 24, 7:00 PM at Postcards American Bistro 350 Hotel Circle North 250 Hotel Circle North 250 Hotel Circle North 260 Hotel Circle North 2



Dateline for Men Seeking Women & Women Seeking Men

items, and memorabilia from Montgolfier hot-air-balloon era to Space Age, along with an International Aerospace Hall of Fame.

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

San Diego County Sheriff's Museum, the 150-year history of the sheriff's department is highlighted at the museum, which is located "just feet away" from the original cobblestone jail site, built in 1850. The museum boasts artifacts, photographs, equipment, uniforms, and vehicles, along with exhibits from each of the departments making up the organization such as crime scene, K-9, court service, detentions, crime lab, bomb squad, and many others. Find the museum at 2384 San Diego Avenue; 619-260-1850, (OLD TOWN)

San Diego Electric Railway Association, located in historic National City Santa Fe Depot (922 West 23rd Street), offers exhibits,

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

San Diego Natural History Museum, "Dead Sea Scrolls" exhibition described as "the largest, longest, most comprehensive ever assembled in any country" continues through De-



cember. Exhibit of 27 scrolls -

ten exhibited for first time

ever - showcases Dead Sea

Scrolls from Israel and Jordan,

never-before-exhibited ancient

Hebrew codices from Russian

National Library, medieval

manuscripts from British Na-

tional Library, and modern in-

terpretations of texts. To ensure

preservation of the 2000-year-

old parchment, 12 scrolls will be

displayed for first three months

and an additional 12 in last three

tography," a collaborative effort

between museum and Ordover

Gallery on view through Decem-

ber, features work by Neil Fol-

berg, David Harris, Didier Ben

Loulou, Duby Tal, others, and

sil Mysteries" showcases last 75

million years in Southern Cali-

fornia and Baja California re-

gion, a time known for its rich

The permanent exhibit "Fos-

includes sculpture and glass.

"Contemporary Israeli Pho-

months.

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fossil record. Highlights include life-sized models of *Albertosaurus*, *Lambeosaurus*, a sea cow, megalodon shark, more.

Current "giant-screen films" are Ancient Qumran: A Virtual Reality Tour and Ocean Oasis. 619-232-3821. (BALBOA PARK)

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

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

The San Diego Aircraft Carrier

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

Veterans Museum and Memorial Center, memorial to men and women who served in U.S. Armed Forces, Coast Guard, and Wartime Merchant Marine. Located in the former San Diego Naval Hospital Chapel (2115 Park Boulevard), the museum features original service-inspired stained glass, as well as historical murals painted by Richard DeRosset. Main exhibit hall features displays, exhibits of historic artifacts, documents, photographs, memorabilia, artwork honoring men and women who served. Museum is also home to San Diego Vietnam Peace Memorial and Veterans Memorial Garden. 619-239-2300. (BALBOA PARK)

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

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Events that are underlined occur after November 29.

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

CLASSICAL

Piano Ensemble Concert, by Eva Nalhi in Smith Recital Hall at San Diego State University, Wednesday, November 21, noon. Free. 619-594-6020. (SDSU)

Violin Studio Recital, Wednesday, November 21, noon, in Rhapsody Hall at San Diego State University, Wednesday, November 21, noon. Free. 619-594-1696. (SDSU)

Civic Organist Carol Williams presents concert on Sunday, November 25, 2 p.m., in Spreckels Organ Pavilion. Free. 619-702-8138. (BALBOA PARK)

Classical Guitarist Connie Shue performs for mini-concert, Monday, November 26, noon, in Lyceum Theatre at Horton Plaza. Free. Bring lunch. 858-454-5872. (DOWNTOWN)

SDSU's Mixed Chamber Ensembles in concert, Monday, November 26, 7 p.m., in Rhapsody Hall at San Diego State University. Free. 619-594-1696. (SDSU)

"Sounds of the Season," Pacific Camerata plans concert of early vocal music, Tuesday, November 27, 7 p.m., at San Diego Museum of Art. Listen for works by Hildegard von Bingen, Orlando di Lasso, Hieronymus Praetorius, and others while surrounded by paintings from the period. \$15. 619-696-1966. (BALBOA PARK)

UCSD's Chamber Orchestra plans fall concert, Tuesday, November 27, 8 p.m., in Mandeville Recital Hall at UCSD. \$10 general. 858-534-3229. (LA JOLLA)

Palomar Electronic Music Ensemble, directed by Madelyn Byrne, takes stage on Wednesday, November 28, 8 p.m., in Palomar College Performance Lab (room D-10, 1140 West Mission Road). Student performers "plumb the depths of the electronic music lab for fresh ideas and inspired performances." \$5 general. 760-744-1150 x2453. (SAN MARCOS)

USD Choral Scholars in concert, Thursday, November 29, 12:15 p.m., in French Parlor, Founders Hall, at University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park). \$10 general. 619-260-4171. (LINDA VISTA)

All-Chopin! Pianist Michael Sellers performs "F Minor Fantasy" and other pieces for Concert Hour series, Thursday, November 29, 12:30 p.m. in Palomar College Performance Lab (room D-10 at 1140 West Mission Road). Free. 760-744-1150 x2316. (SAN MARCOS)

Motets by Duruflé and excerpts from Handel's "Messiah" may be heard when UCSD Singers Ensemble presents concert, Thursday, November 29, 8 p.m., in Mandeville Recital Hall at UCSD. \$10 general. 858-534-4637. (LA JOLLA)

ART LISTINGS

Events that are underlined occur after November 29.

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event,

including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER ART, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.

GALLERIES

Landscape Paintings by mem-

bers of Plein Air Painters Association of San Diego may be seen through November at La Jolla Art Association Village Gallery (7932 Ivanhoe Avenue). Reception for artists: Friday, November 23, 5 p.m. 858-459-1196. (LA JOLLA)

"Once Again, Differently and Other New Painted Sculptures" by Jay Johnson commences with reception on Saturday, November 24, 6 p.m., at Quint Contemporary Art (7739 Fay Lane). 858-454-3409. Closes Saturday, December 29. (LA JOLLA)

"Italy" — exhibit of platinum photographs by Andrea Modica includes reception on Wednesday, November 28, 6 p.m., at Madison Gallery (1020 Prospect Street, suite 130). 858-459-0836. (LA JOLLA)

"FOFO-60: Art That Won't Match Your Couch" opens on Monday, November 26, in Flor y Canto Gallery of School of Art, Design Art and History at San Diego State University. Exhibit boasting "contemporary abstract and figure painting by American and European emerging artists" closes with gala reception on Thursday, November 29, 6 p.m. 619-594-6511. (SDSU)

"Jewish/Polish Posters: Communist Era to Present, a Collection of Contemporary Posters, New York" opens with reception and gallery tour on Thursday, November 29, 7:30 p.m., in Gotthelf Art Gallery at Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center (4126 Executive Drive). Tour is led by Ylain and Donald Mayer of Contemporary Posters in New York. "Jewishthemed posters produced during postwar Communist era and since 1989 encompass a diversity of fields including exhibits, festivals, books, film, opera, and theater." RSVP for tour: 858-362-1154. Closes Friday, February 22. (LA

ART MUSEUMS

California Center for the Arts Museum, "Rituality" features contemporary works from ten local artists alongside traditional artifacts from Africa, Native North America, the Pacific Islands. Exhibition examines role of ritual in exploration of identity, creation of community, construction of power, as mediated and expressed through art.

"Niki de Saint Phalle: A Spiritual Path" offers a closer look at de Saint Phalle's spiritual journey, her interpretation of traditional tarot cards. "Is the tarot pack only a game of cards, or is there a philosophy behind it?"

Fifty-four individual paintings by Teresa Villegas are gathered in "La Lotería: An Exploration of Mexico." Artwork draws upon Mexican traditions, historical figures, food, popular culture.

"The Poetics of Myth" features a series of bas-relief terra-cotta panels by Brad Burkhart, focusing "on the creation of modern myths and archetypes.3

Each of these exhibits continues through Sunday, January 27.

"Muerte de todos ofrenda de participación (Death Comes to Ev-Participatory eryone: А Offering)" - Eloy Tarcisio's 12th annual site-specific installation at California Center for the Arts, Escondido continues through Sunday, November 25.

The museum is located at 340 North Escondido Boulevard; 760-839-4120. (ESCONDIDO

Mingei International Museum · North County, "Paper Transformed," exhibition made up of "Crowning Glory — From Paper Bag Hats by Moses" and "Origami — The Art of Paper Folding" from Mingei's permanent collection continues through Saturday, December 29. For "Crowning Glory," Moses created more than 250 hats from paper bags contributed by merchants in his Hawaiian neighborhood. "Origami" boasts nearly 100 examples of traditional and contemporary paper folding; exhibition honors acclaimed local paper folder, author, teacher Florence Temko. Find the museum at 155 West Grand Avenue. 760-735-3355. (ESCONDIDO)

Mingei International Museum, "Craft in America: Expanding Traditions" surveys more than 200 works, spanning a period of nearly 200 years. Handcrafted furniture, ceramics, fiber and textiles, basketry, glass, wood, jewelry, metalwork are showcased. Closes Sunday, January 27.

Also on view: "American Viewing Stones: Natural Art in an Asian Tradition." Chinese connoisseurs began using large stones to decorate gardens, courtyards during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220); "Scholar's Rocks" is English name most commonly used for these items. American viewing stone collecting began with first- and second-generation Japanese-Americans who continued traditions of bonsai and suiseki.

The "Chinese Woodblock Prints in the Style of the Ten Bamboo Studio" are likely from a 19th-Century edition of Treatise on Calligraphy and Painting of the Ten Bamboo Studio. Prints are noteworthy for technique of printing using multiple blocks. Both exhibits close on Sunday, December 30.

Masterworks from permanent collection are gathered in "The Beauty of Use - Mingei International Museum at 30," showcasing significant objects from many cultures shown in relationships highlighting similarities and differences among them. Museum has formed a collection of mingei now comprising 17,000 objects from 141 countries such as collection of 19th-Century African tribal currency, group of masks including example of Amazonian feather work, ritual objects, selection of monumental containers. Closes Sunday, May 11. The Mingei is located on square with San Diego Museum of Art. 619-239-0003. (BALBOA PARK)

Museum of Contemporary Art

San Diego, La Jolla, "Soundwaves: The Art of Sampling" examines "a specifically late 20th-Century manifestation of the conjunction of art and sound," showcases works by artists including Tim Bavington, Helen Cohen, Sean Duffy, T. Kelly Mason, Alyce Santoro, others. Through Sunday, December 30.

"Cerca Series: Iana Quesnell," also closing on December 30, "investigates nomadism and temporary living situations." See several new large-scale drawings and an animation responding to artist's binational life between San Diego and Tijuana.

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

Museum of Photographic Arts, "Picturing Eden," continuing through Sunday, January 13, examines "many facets of paradise, from a place of contemplation and restoration to a site of loneliness and despair." Exhibition includes

work by more than 30 artists, including Michael Kenna, Sally Mann, Han Nguyen, and Doug and Mike Starn.

"Public Privacy: Wendy Richmond's Surreptitious Cellphone" is said to explore "how 20th-Century Americans occupy personal spaces while going about their daily lives in the public eye." Richmond allows viewers to observe people in mundane routines by shooting tiny movies on her cell-phone video camera. Closes Sunday, January 6.

Also on view through January 6, "New Light: Selections from MoPA's Education Programs," including photographic and multimedia pieces by more than 60 San Diego students.

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

San Diego Museum of Art,

"Everett Gee Jackson/San Diego Modern, 1920-1955," is retrospective of "San Diego's most important Modernist artist." Exhibit featuring more than 50 works spanning most significant and productive decades of artist's career "presents a representative range of Jackson's multifaceted work, while contextualizing Jackson within the broader scope of mid-20th Century American modernism." Closes Sunday, January 27.

"Animated Painting," continuing through Sunday, January 13, boasts "25 cinematic works by 14 international contemporary artists who adapt traditional painting and drawing methods to the concepts and technologies of animation." Participating artists include the Barnstormers, Sadie Benning, Jeremy Blake, Sebastián Díaz Morales, Kota Ezawa, Ruth Gómez,

William Kentridge, Ann Lislegaard, Takeshi Murata, Serge Onnen, Julian Opie, Wit Pimkanchanapong, Qiu Anxiong, and Robin Rhode.

"Tastes in Asian Art," continuing through Sunday, November 25, features over 80 new works, many of which have never been displayed before. Highlights include new subsection of sculptures of lohans (enlightened monks), newly restored Chinese ancestor portraits, a screen of samurai warriors, an elaborate deck devoted to Tibetan art featuring bronze sculptures, furniture, 18th-Century shrine doors.

"Lyric Visions from Nezami's Quintet" includes more than 20 paintings created for or inspired by Nezami's texts, "among the most celebrated and influential poetic works in all of Persian literature.' Paintings range in date from 15th to 20th Centuries. Closes Sunday, December 16.

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

Timken Museum of Art, "Drawn to Rome: French Neoclassical Sketchbooks and Prints" explores sketches and prints by young French painters and architects who studied in Rome. Work by these artists "helped spark a revival in classical aesthetics that transformed 18th-Century French art." Closes Sunday, January 13.

Permanent collection includes European old master paintings, 18th- and 19th-Century American paintings, and Russian icons. Saint Bartholomew, the only Rembrandt painting on public display in San Diego, is featured. 619-239-5548. (BALBOA PARK)



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Attendees will also have the opportunity to learn a few beloved chant hymns.

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Saturday 1 December 2007

Mass celebrated by Most Rev. Salvatore Cordileone

Workshop led by Kathy Reinheimer and Mary Ann Carr Wilson The Reader offers \$25 for news tips published in Blurt. Call us at 619-235-3000, ext. 456, or e-mail your tip to blurt@sdreader.com

Morning Sickness A blogger named GMike is not

happy with Z90. The station's morning DJ, "Chino," was replaced last

<u>the</u> i<u>nside tr</u>ack

month by the Big Boy's Neighborhood show, a syndicated program out of L.A. "They need to keep the L.A. cats in L.A.," GMike

complained on Chino's MySpace page. According to a Z90 employee, Chino moved back to the Phoenix area and is not working in radio right now. He'd been on Z90 since February 2006.

Radio stations continue to reduce their expenses by relying on syndicated music shows or out-of-town personalities. (Z90's major urban/hip-hop competitor "Blazin 98.9" uses the L.A.based Baka Boyz for its morning show.)

Big Boy's Neighborhood is syndicated to 13 cities. Insiders estimate Z90 paid

the staff of Chino's show between \$150,000 and \$200,000 annually. A spokesman for ABC Radio, which distributes Big Boy's Neighborhood, would not be specific about how much 290 pays for the program but says that it may be nothing at all: some stations carry the show in exchange



for airing commercials. According to one insider, the next local morning DJ to be replaced by a syndicated show is



WHITE LEAVES 91X

Chris Cantore, who has anchored the 91X morning show for 11 years. On November 14, his on-air partner Jennifer White announced that she was leaving 91X after 2 years. She is set to get her own morning show on Sophie 103.7.

It is rumored that Cantore in the Morning will



be replaced by the L.A.based Adam Carolla Show in January. Carolla's all-talk show replaced the syndicated Howard Stern Show in many cities when Stern switched to Sirius almost two years ago. Locally, the Carolla show was carried on Free FM, the now-defunct all-talk station at 103.7 FM. Weak ratings prompted 103.7 to switch to the female-friendly "Sophie"

music format. – Ken Leighton

Hot, Stinky Nights

of the Locust Since 2002, the insectoid stage outfits worn by the Locust have been created by fashion designer Ben Warwas.

"The first outfits I did were green, with masks that had mesh over the eyes," he says. "For a while, the eve coverings were white, but they discovered that stage lights would completely blind them, so I made the eyes black. The second set I did was green and red, then I did some white ones, a gray set, and the ones they wear now are aqua and fake fur."

He says the band occasionally commissions emergency replacements. "A few masks have been

stolen at shows. Now I make two sets of each outfit, so they can have a spare if something happens, or if the clothes get too stinky...it gets really hot inside them. They also travel with [their old] outfits, in case anything happens."

Warwas has toured with the band, shooting video footage he hopes to use

someday for a documentary. "Some people show up in outfits they made themselves," he says. "I'd love to make Locust masks that they can sell at shows, so the audience would be filled with insect heads, but at least for now it's too expensive to do as merchandise."

As of the newest tour, the band's soundman and a woman who takes photos and sells merchandise are also wearing custom Locust outfits. "It took a few years to talk the sound guy into it.



CUSTOM DUDS FOR LOCUST DUDES

The girl says she gets hit on a whole lot more now!" The Locust appears December 5 at Epicentre.

– Jay Allen Sanford All Business L.A.-based Carla Bozulich has been a frequent visiting performer in San Diego over the years, singing in Ethyl Meatplow and later leading alt-country indie-rock outfit Geraldine Fibbers. She's been touring the world supporting her

Evangelista album the past

couple years, performing with friends and mainstay bassist Tara Barnes, who booked shows at UCSD's Che Café and played in influential local art-

noise band Business Ladv. Last Wednesday in Paris, Bozulich was glad she had Barnes along for more than her musical abilities. In a

MySpace

bulletin

under the heading "Tara Is a

heading "My Face Looks Like

a Very Special Multi-colored

Bozulich informed fans last

Friday of an attack she and

Barnes suffered before a gig,

while strolling about the City

of Light with a film crew that

"We were...having a

great time when this bunch

towards us. One guy started

with the camera. I started

to get him to chill

major drugs. I don't

talking aggressively to the guy

talking to the bad guy trying

everyone — he was on some

Tara started fighting him off.

I had my guitar strapped on

and a mini-amp clipped to

my skirt and a microphone

pinned to me. The guitar

cord was wrapped around

getting hit and beating on

scrambling — I wanted to

my neck.... I saw Tara

him furiously. I was

remember everything but

"He started swinging on

of men turned a corner

Super Hero" and the sub-

Skin-like Bird Motif,"

shoots bands in said

performance context.

help but I was trapped inside my guitar cords and everything That was extremely frustrating because I could have beaten him with



THE PRICE OF ART: BOZULICH'S POUNDED FLESH

my guitar.

Tara beat him down and he ran away and we started moving up the street.... Then I saw a flash of him as he raced past Tara and slam[med] his fist into my face with all his force. He cracked me hard in the head.... I fell and was confused and cried.... I don't want to go to the doctor but will go tomorrow if I have anything but the natural signs of recovery from a bad pounding to the face. The guys got hit. Tara is ok. As she says, it would have hurt her more if it [had been] a couple of 12-year-old girls that jumped her. He couldn't get more than one punch in with her cuz she's too fast and strong. She also managed to jam her fingers into his eye sockets and tried to rip his ears off. I'm sure he's not feeling good today - the bad

guy. "I'm fine, or rather, I'll be fine soon enough. I've been laughing on and off all day and feel mostly that I've been a part of some surreal



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dream.... The gig tonite in Brussels is not canceled. None of the shows are canceled."

Barnes's blog entry on her MySpace page was more succinct: "Attacked by a sad bastard on the streets of gay Paris. It is debatable whether he was on crack, dust, or a cocktail of the two. What is the drug that makes dumb thugs want to beat up girls?" — David Stampone

For Him the

Mayoralty Calls As environmentalist Jim Bell prepares to launch his fifth run for mayor, he says local bands will continue to play a role in his fund-raising efforts.

"If you're trying to save the world and you're not having fun, you're probably on the wrong track," says Bell. "Music and dancing releases people and opens up minds."

He says "bands are lined up to play" the keg parties he stages at his Ocean Beach house on Voltaire Street. Bell says he's held 100 such fundraisers, featuring bands such as Vegitation, Psydecar, the Travel Agents, and Deep Rooted.

"If the cops come because of noise, we just shut the music off," says Bell. "We haven't seen [police] in a long time.... We soundproofed our front room." He says he has never encountered any problems hosting all-age parties with live music and help-yourself beer.

"We charge a \$5 donation at the door, and beer is free. But you can't get beer unless you have a bracelet that says you are 21. We have someone watching the keg."

Bell, who pays bands half of the money taken at the door, says, "They can make as much as \$300 or as little as \$40."

Bell has spent many



BELL MAY SAVE THE WORLD YET

nights dancing to reggae and jam bands at Winstons.

"I don't go there as much as I used to. It got old after a while. I found other venues. I like the Kava Lounge.... The hip-hop people have gotten to know me."

Does Bell think he ever has a chance at being elected?

"In the 2004 election, I won all three precincts west of Sunset Cliffs Boulevard. Overall, I got just under 19,000 votes or 7.6 percent.... Congressman [Bob] Filner endorsed me on September 1 at his annual birthday/picnic in Chula Vista."

One of Bell's detractors is former mayor/talk-show host Roger Hedgecock.





"He tried to paint me as a communist or a socialist or something like that," says Bell.

OVER

BY CHRIS

T. Irie Dread and Skajah appear at Bell's next fundraiser on December 1. "It will also celebrate my 66th birthday."

. — Ken Leighton

Zeroed In Less than a year old, Zeros tribute band Wild Weekend has signed a deal for two singles with Spanish indie Munster Records. (In the '90s, when the Zeros reunited,

the label released an album and three singles for the Chula Vista punk rockers.) On November

November 11, Wild Weekend performed in the Zeros' stead when the band was

unavailable to play Los Angeles punk club the Masque's 30th anniversary show. The Plugz, the Eyes, and the Skulls also performed.



YOUR TIP,

"We just made these recordings for fun when we first started playing. They're kind of rough," says singer Maren Parusel, who also



WILD WEEKEND STRIKES A FAMILIAR POSE

performs in Squiddo with former Zero Hector Peñalosa. The discs will include

The discs will include versions of "Don't Push Me Around"/"Wimp" and "Black and White"/"Cosmetic Couple." On the cover art, Wild Weekend struck the same poses as the Zeros did for their releases.

WWW.MYSP/

Wild Weekend recently lost their girl-group status after drummer Melissa ("Christy Beats") and bassist Kaitlin ("Kait-O") left to concentrate on their own combo, the Atoms. The newly coed Wild Weekend now includes guitarist Kelly Alvarez, former Prayers drummer Brian Hill, and Sexies bassist Wendy Jeffers. — Bart Mendoza

For a Song... Record labels and music publishers owned by EMI are suing locally based MP3tunes for copyright infringement. MP3tunes owner Michael Robertson is named in the suit, which accuses MP3tunes' *sideload.com* of illegally providing free access to thousands of playable songs online.

The lawsuit, filed November 9, alleges that MP3tunes "does not own the music it exploits, nor does MP3tunes have any legal right or authority to use or exploit that music." Robertson's previous endeavor, *MP3.com*, was sued in 2000 by record labels and music publishers. The company agreed to pay an eventual settlement of over \$100 million.

SANFORD/PENTZER

Sideload.com was launched in early 2006, offering users access to "29,000 songs from more than 7,000 different artists," according to its initial press release. "No music is actually stored on *Sideload.com*...only links to files that are publicly available elsewhere on the net are collected." New links are frequently added, with the site's current list containing approximately 70,000 songs. "It's possible some of the

"It's possible some of the tracks may be unauthorized," Robertson said last year. "But the difference between Sideload and [the original] Napster is that we're simply a search engine; we're no different than Google. You can type that song name into Google or MSN or Yahoo! and chances are you're going to find the same song [link].... All we're doing is providing a nice interface where you can play it...." — Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS

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



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crawler

Wednesday Did Death From Above 1979 split or is esse Keeler just gettin' his DJ on with **MSTRKRFT**? The Torontobased electronic dance duo — Keeler and soundsmith/producer Al-P — will mash it up on turntables and laptops at 4th&B Wednesday, when the downtown club hosts a bevy of like bands. Check out all this bold type: Lazaro Cassanova. Shark Attack, Kid Lightning, and **Buddy** Akai. Sounds like a frat party.... San Diego's favorite ska unks Buck-O-Nine will play their

annual

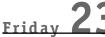
Thanksgiving gig at

JENNIFER HERREMA AT SCOLARI'S

Belly Up. This year the Bucks dropped their ninth studio disc, *Sustain*. The reggae-flava'd **Social Green** will toast the room.... L.A. party-boy rapper **Mickey Avalon** rocks the mic at Belo. The club kid propped his s/t debut on MySpace last year, and it's since been picked up by Interscope for hardcopy product placement. I'm sorry, I couldn't think of any other way to say that.... Bust yer moves, Casbah throws a free Thanksgiving eve **Jivewire + One Nation Under a Groove** joint feat. dance DJs **Blackstone**, **ATARI**, and **T-Money.** See you at the taco cart.

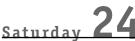
Thursday 22 Thin fare this fat Thursday, ya'll: World Beat Center's

dishing a reggae helping with **Half Pint,** a Jamaican dancehall playa with 'istry. The Half Pint Music Group came up in the early '80s with a number of hits, including the Stones-covered "Winsome" (renamed "Too Rude," on their *Undercover of the Night* disc). Work dem 'ips and work off dinnah.



Things pick up Friday as Jennifer Herrema and her Royal Trux follow-up, **RTX**, take Scolari's North Park room by storm. If you remember the Trux, then you know the ex-model's the consummate Mick chick, and she's got a new record. *Western*

Xterminator came out in March, and for my money, Jen's supplanted all the Neil Haggerty foggerty, if ya know what I mean.... Mirror in the bathroom! The English Beat boys, uh, gentlemen, re-re-re-revisit their Belly Up fanbase. Dave Wakeling and his ska band settle into the Solana Beach showroom for two nights starting Friday. And power pop five-piece New Found Glory will move into House of Blues for the weekend. The South Florida band is touring behind new disc From the Screen to Your Stereo Part II. Part I was an e.p. (2000), in case you're wondering. Just realized, these boys went to my high school. Yup, they were Coral Springs Colts. Senses Fail, The Receiving End of Sirens, and A Cursive Memory in support.... L.A. death metal band As Blood Runs Black and Detroit headbangers Walls of Jericho join forces for the Farewell to Allegiance tour. Catch 'em and a couple others at Soma.



Huntington Beach new-core kids **Guttermouth** will shake your brain at Canes Saturday night. The O.C. punks signed to surf/skate merch magnate Volcom for last year's *Shave the Planet*, a disc that recalls L.A.'s late-'80s heyday (Social D, Bad Religion). **Critical Me** and the **Hedrons** open.... **Cash'd Out** exhumes the man in black at Casbah. The tribute band had J.C.'s approval as "the next best thing." It's all country cool Saturday night as **Palominos** play and San Diego's sweet tarts the **Sultry Savage Burlesque** do their vintage dance routine.... Prefer your dance routines now and wow? Get to Whistle Stop for club **Booty Basement** and shake that thang.

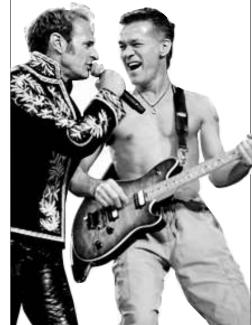
Sunday 2

Not rockers with walkers, says Diamond Dave. The new Van Halen, just like the old Van Halen, features David Lee Roth on vocals. Roth told CNN, "This is not a reunion tour...this is a whole new band." The singer was referring to the absence of original bassist Michael Anthony who was replaced by Eddie Van Halen's 16-year-old kid Wolfgang (yeah, I know). The original Van Halen formed in 1972 in Pasadena and this year that lineup was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Reggae son Ky-Mani Marley will kick off the Cox ... Johnette Napolitano tours new Hybrid gig.... Johnette Napolitano tours new Hypru disc *Scarred* through Belly Up Sunday night. The former Concrete Blonde singer hooked with Bauhaus bassist David J on the recording. David J will open the sets and then back Napolitano Jump-n-jive throwbacks Big Bad Voodoo Daddy have cancelled their House of Blues set. You can put your zoot back in the hall closet.

This Week In Music

Monday 26 Pop troubadors José González and Cass

McCombs split the bill at Belly Up Monday night. González is a pop star in his native Sweden and has ridden the wave of Swedish bands into the U.S. market (the Hives; Peter, Bjorn, and



VAN HALEN AT COX AREN

John...Abba!). McCombs is a Chicago-based adult-contempo artist. His latest Domino disc Dropping the Writ has him rocking a Jeff Buckley vibe. Solid double bill for fans of singers and songwriters.... Casbah's Anti-Monday League recruits Brooklyn band White Magic, whose Drag City e.p. Dark Stars dropped last month The indie experimentalists prop piano-driven dirges under Mira Billotte's haunting vox. White Magic will be joined by local comers Vision of a Dying World and psych folks the Donkeys, which, by the way, if you haven't checked out the local quartet's 2006 s/t debut...well, you lose Weird bit: the Donks used to be Cass McCombs's backing band.... English alt-rock act **Travis** tout their fifth Sony disc Boy with No Name at House of Blues. Travis is often accused - I mean, credited for paying the way for bands such as Coldplay and Keane. Fellow buttoned-down Brits Maximo Park share the downtown stage.

Tuesday **27**

Sam Beam, aka **Iron and Wine**, will deliver Southern gothic folk rock to 4th&B Tuesday night. In the five years since Beam's debut *The Creek Drank the Cradle*, the artist's band and beard have grown prodigiously. 2005's *In the Reins* saw Beam front a subdued Calexico for the songwriter's first foray into full-band territory. He must have enjoyed the experience because for his latest, *The Shepherd's Dog*, Beam assembled a band, including Burns and Niehaus of Calexico, rather than playing all the instruments and writing all the parts himself. The constants in the arc of Iron and Wine's evolution are the singer's voice, which remains a wisp behind his folksy poetics,

and guitar cadence, which continues its finger-picked cantor and gallop. Chicagoland shape-shifters **Califone** open. Check the creeky songcycles on 2006's *Roots and Crowns*, the bands most accomplished work yet. Can't recommend this ticket enough.

Wednesday **28**

Glasgow she-punks the **Hedrons** hang round town after their Guttermouth gig at HOB (see



Saturday) to play a set at Beauty Bar. The girls' MySpace samples from 2006 debut One More Won't Kill Us are a little Joan Jett-y, and as y'know, a little Jett goes a long way. One of my local faves, the **Sess**, will open. If you haven't been to the Sess...well, again, you lose.... Big rawk show at

IRON AND WINE AT 4TH & B

Casbah, as **Daredevil Jane** lay out debut *New Disease*, released last week, and **Roses on Her Grave** turn it up to 11 and get their kid rock on.... Rob Garza's new incarnation, **Dust Galaxy**, will rain down on Belly Up Wednesday night. The electronic pioneer promises "Indian psychedelia, British paisley beats, post-punk, and roots rock." Garza will warm the room as DJ.

— Barnaby Monk





ticketmaster CHARGE BY PHONE: 619-220-TIXS

ALL DATES, ACTS & TICKETS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. A SERVICE CHARGE IS ADDED TO EACH TICKET PRICE

Reader Nover

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, 2007

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Produced by LIVE NATION



Great Shot

"Pete Doherty is the best rock 'n' roll loser we've had in decades."

argo got his first taste of fame at the age of 16 when his song "Giving" was selected as official theme song for the 1999 South Africa Peace Conference. "I wrote that when I was 8 years old, in choir," he says. "While

performing in Oregon [years later], I got to do that song. A woman approached me and said that they were looking for a theme song to kick off that event."

A 2000 performance opening for Seal earned him praise from the headliner ("This young man's music moved me deeply"). Hargo says, "That was around 2000 in New Mexico at the Peace Festival. I played him a few of my songs on a 12-string. He flipped it over, Hendrix style, and played a song from his new album. He asked me what I thought about another song he played, and I told him it had interesting chords. When he played the bridge, I told him I thought it was too chordy, that it took away from the strength of the melody."

The photograph of Hargo used here was taken by legendary rock photographer Mick Rock. "His photos were being displayed at Morrison Hotel [in La Jolla]," says Hargo. "We saw in the *Reader* that he was going to be there, but we missed it by a day. When my dad mentioned it to a yoga teacher in New York, the guy said, 'He's one of my students.' When I was [in New York], I asked if I could meet him.

"He's a really cool, laid-back guy...I was one of only three people he's ever photographed that wasn't already famous. And he did it at a greatly reduced rate. Before he'd take pictures, he'd twirl around with his eyes closed. Then he'd open his eyes and just start shooting pictures. I'd hear him say, 'Okay, Hargo, we got a great shot, you motherfucker!' It was a lot of fun."

WHAT'S IN YOUR CD PLAYER?

TS

1. The Libertines, self-titled. "Because Pete Doherty is the best rock 'n' roll loser we've had in decades. Somebody's got to do the job. The songwriting is actually really good on this album —

a nice raw sound that brings back the Clash." 2. Cat Stevens, *An Other Cup.* "I

JAY ALLEN SANFORD love this CD, as it's Cat's first in 30 years or something. There are some great songs which have the same soul and

energy of his great stuff from the '70s." 3. Marilyn Manson, *Eat Me, Drink Me.* "I've

been a fan of Marilyn's ever since he scared the shit out of me when I first heard *Holy Wood (In the Shadow of the Valley of Death)* at boarding school in India. This album is more hard rock than goth-glam metal, with some really excellent songs like 'If I Was Your Vampire' to get the blood pumping."

4. Anoushka Shankar, *Live at Carnegie Hall.* "The daughter of Ravi Shankar, one my musical idols growing up. This is a great CD, with excellent *raag* and *taal* [the melodic foundation of Indian musical forms]. Especially track three, which is in *rupak taal* of seven beats and has a tabla duel that is quite special."

5. Coldplay, A Rush of Blood to the Head. "Because this is the best new-ish band in the world, by far, and this is their best album. The songwriting is excellent, and the melodic guitar work really does it for me."

BEST ADVICE YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?

"Shortly after I had decided to really make a move in the music scene in San Diego, Kate Pierson of the B-52's told me to stick with my nickname Hargo, as opposed to some stage name or something. She said, 'It's one word, unique, and easy to remember.' "



BIGGEST POLITICAL CONCERN?

"Bush being the worst representative of our country to the world, causing everybody to assume we're a bunch of cowboy 'shoot first, ask questions later' hillbillies with no intelligence whatsoever."

FAVORITE MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION?

1. *"Rolling Stone.* Because it's *Rolling Stone.* 2. *"Riviera.* It's free, and some of the flashy photos are cool."

THREE GREAT WEBSITES?

1. *Terrygoodkind.net* "He's the greatest living author on the planet."

2. *Rogerfederer.com* "The man is already a [tennis] legend, and it's great to read about his latest accomplishments and what they mean to him." 3. *Sifex.co.uk* "Ever since I was 15 I've been fascinated by medieval châteaux in France, and this is the most comprehensive database of châteaux for sale."

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU FEW WOULD KNOW OR GUESS?

"I've always been a pensive person, and I'm really interested in astrophysics, Chinese acupuncture, as well as physiological psychology — or neuroscience, if you will. Not exactly rock 'n' roll, is it? But I guess I've always been interested in why people do what they do and in helping people make themselves better and happier. I try to do that through my music." ■

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TOGRAPH BY MICK ROCK





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ERIC MARIENTHAL & CHUCK LOEB



SAT 12/1 7:30 & 9:30PM

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UPCOMING S	HOWS!
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CHARLIE HUNTER	12/4 & 5
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DAVE MASON	12/15
RONNIE BAKER BRO	OKS 12/15
NEW YEARS' EVE • LE & ANTHOLOGY HOUSE	

Reader November 21, 2007

Diego

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BENNY HOLLMAN'S BIG BAND EXPLOSION



FRI 11/23 7:30PM

OLETA ADAMS SOUL/R&B VOCALIST



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All shows subject to change.



Calendar CONCERTS

Music videos for all concerts now or SanDiegoReader.com

THIS WEEK'S

CONCERTS

FRIDAY

New Found Glory and Senses Fail: House of Blues, Friday, November 23, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583

The English Beat: Belly Up Tavern, Friday, November 23, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140. La Quinta: San Diego Sports Arena,

Friday, November 23, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

SATURDAY New Found Glory and Senses Fail:

House of Blues, Saturday, November 24, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583. The English Beat: Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, November 24, 143 South

Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140. **Guttermouth:** 'Canes, Saturday, November 24, 3105 Ocean Front Walk,

Travis and Maximo Park: House of

Mission Beach 858-488-1780

SUNDAY

Van Halen: Cox Arena, Sunday

November 25, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-594-0429.

MONDAY

Blues, Monday, November 26, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

TUESDAY Iron and Wine: 4th & B, Tuesday,

November 27, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

WEDNESDAY

K-Ci and JoJo: Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Wednesday November 28, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

NOVEMBER

Aimee Mann: Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, November 29, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140. "Cake's Unlimited Sunshine

Festival": 4th & B, Thursday, November 29, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

As I Lay Dying: Soma, Friday, November 30, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

Oleta Adams: Anthology, Friday, November 30, 1337 India Street, San Diego. 619-595-0300.

The John Butler Trio: 4th & B. Friday, November 30, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

DECEMBER

Lucy Kaplansky: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Saturday, December 1, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176

Fall Out Boy: San Diego Sports Arena, Saturday, December 1, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Cafe Tacuba: 4th & B, Saturday, December 1, 345 B Street, San Diego 619-231-4343

Motion City Soundtrack: Soma, Saturday, December 1, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662

Christian Castro: Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Saturday, December 1, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Chimaira: House of Blues, Sunday, December 2, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Blues Traveler: Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, December 2, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Social Distortion: House of Blues Tuesday and Wednesday, December 4 and 5, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Juliette & the Licks: The Casbah, Thursday, December 6, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego. 619-232-4355.

Issa: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Thursday, December 6, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Terri Clark: 4th & B, Thursday December 6, 345 B Street, San Diego 619-231-4343

Ahmad Jamal: Anthology, Thursday through Saturday, December 6-8, 1337 India Street, San Diego. 619-595-0300.

Shonen Knife: The Casbah, Friday, December 7, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego. 619-232-4355.

Avenged Sevenfold: San Diego Sports Arena, Friday, December 7, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Marc Cohn and **Amy Correia:** Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, December 8, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

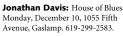
The Aquabats: Soma, Saturday, December 8, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

Eek-A-Mouse: 'Canes, Saturday, December 8, 3105 Ocean Front Walk,

"Star 94.1 Jingle Ball" with Matchbox 20, Duran Duran, Lenny Kravitz, and Vanessa **Carlton:** San Diego Sports Arena, Sunday, December 9, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

Angels and Airwaves and Bad Religion: Cox Arena, Sunday December 9, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-594-0429.



Modest Mouse: Soma, Monday, December 10, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

Fuel and Trapt: Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Monday, December 10, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Tori Amos: Copley Symphony Hall, Wednesday, December 12, 1245 Seventh Avenue, downtown. 619-235-0804.

Hawthorne Heights: House of Blues, Wednesday, December 12, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Cowboy Mouth: Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, December 12, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

The Melvins: The Casbah, Wednesday and Thursday, December 12 and 13, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego. 619-232-4355.

Mannheim Steamroller: San Diego Sports Arena, Thursday, December 13, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224 4171.

The Knitters: Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, December 13, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Unwritten Law: House of Blues, Friday, December 14, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Etta James: 4th & B, Friday, December 14, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Dave Koz: Copley Symphony Hall, Friday, December 14, 1245 Seventh Avenue, downtown. 619-235-0804.

The Young Dubliners: Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, December 15, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Jim Kweskin and Geoff Muldaur: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Saturday, December 15, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Venice: Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, December 20, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Shiny Toy Guns: House of Blues, Friday, December 21, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-299-2583.

The Kottonmouth Kings: House of Blues, Saturday, December 22, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Peter White: Spreckels Theatre Saturday, December 22, 121 Broadway, downtown. 619-235-9500.

K.C. & the Sunshine Band: 4th & B, Saturday, December 29, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Pato Banton: Belly Up Tavern Saturday, December 29, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140

Cracker and Camper Van **Beethoven:** Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, December 30, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

The Aggrolites: Belly Up Tavern, Monday, December 31, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

for







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Calendar

Reverend Horton Heat: House of Blues, Monday, December 31, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

JANUARY

The Circle Jerks: House of Blues, Saturday, January 5, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Skid Row and **L.A. Guns:** House of Blues, Thursday, January 10, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Xavier Rudd: House of Blues, Friday, January 11, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

The Blue Man Group: San Diego Sports Arena, Friday, January 11, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-224-4171.

Al Kooper: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Wednesday, January 16, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Twista: 'Canes, Wednesday, January 16, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780. Pat Green: 4th & B, Friday, January

18, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.
Fu Manchu: The Casbah, Friday, January 18, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, San

Diego. 619-232-4355. Ryan Adams: Spreckels Theatre,

Saturday, January 19, 121 Broadway, downtown. 619-235-9500.

Tower of Power: Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Sunday, January 20, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

FEBRUARY

"Brazil Carnaval 2008": 4th & B, Saturday, February 2, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Robin Trower: 4th & B, Tuesday, February 5, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Humphreys

Backstäge

MUSIG CHIN

9:30 pm • Classic Rock

Rockola

Sunday, November 25

8 pm • Jazz

Nils

Tuesday, November 27

7 pm • Roots/Blues

Nathan James & Ben Hernandez

UPCOMING SHOWS

2241 Shelter Island Dr. • 619.224.3577

Tickets for "Upcoming Shows" available at Ticketmaster and Humphrey's. Reserved seating for "Upcoming Shows" available with dinner. All shows are 21 years and up.

Saturday,

December 8

Johnny "V"

Vernazza

Friday, November 23

6 pm • Rock

Scott Carter & New Breed

The Wallflowers: Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Saturday, February 9, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Jimmy Webb: AcousticMusicSa

AcousticMusicSanDiego, Saturday, February 9, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Styx: House of Blues, Saturday, February 16, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Queensrÿche and **Don Dokken:** House of Blues, Thursday, February 21, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-

Siouxsie and the Banshees: 4th & B, Thursday, February 21, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

MARCH

The Blind Boys of Alabama: Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, March 9, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

APRIL

Ministry: House of Blues, Monday, April 7, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Avril Lavigne and Boys Like Girls: Cox Arena, Wednesday, April 30, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-594-0429.

JUNE

The Cure: Cox Arena, Tuesday, June 3, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-594-0429.



DANCE

If you would like to include your DJ event, e-mail sellis@nethere.com or submit a listing online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on

www.humphreysbythebay.com

Thursday, November 22 • 11 am

Thanksgiving Brunch

with Jose Molina Serrano

Saturday, November 24

9 pm • Doors & Stones Tribute Bands

Peace Frog &

Jumpin' Jack

Flash

Monday, November 26 • 7 pm • Blues

Chet Cannon's Blue Monday

Blues Party

Sunday,

December 9

Matt

Marshak

Wednesday, November 28

8 pm • Sweet Soul Music

The Soul Persuaders

5NTE

If 1984 was the best **Van Halen** album ever, then *Van Halen III* had to be the worst. With Sammy Hagar gone, *III* featured vocals by temporary replacement Gary Cherone. Call it Van Halen Smooth; the material just wasn't there. Bassist Michael Anthony played on only three tracks; he and the brothers hadn't been getting along for some time.

Hagar (who returned and then split again or was fired, depending on who tells the story) was recruited for the first tour of duty after Patty Smyth, singer in the one-hit band Scandal, wouldn't take the job. Had she signed on, one wonders how things might have gone for her and for the band. Smyth eventually married John McEnroe and continued to record and write. Hagar and Anthony bonded, went off on their own, and now perform as the Other Half, as in the Other Half of Van Halen. Eddie went to rehab, and his son **Wolfgang** joined the tour. Reads like a soap opera, doesn't it? And I haven't even mentioned David Lee Roth. Diamond Dave fronted

Van Halen almost from the beginning and essentially created the Van Halen brand. He was the face of Van Halen. For many fans, it was a hard day when animosity between him and Eddie forced the split. After

'80s, Second Friday of the month, Club

Sabbat, old skool'80s, gothic, and industrial with DJs Atom, Liquid Grey,

and guests, 3796 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest,

Candelas: Thursdays, deep soulful

Club Rio: Wednesdays, Hot

house by DJ ALA and guests. 416 Third Avenue, downtown. 619-702-4455.

Wednesdays, dancehall, raggae, and R&B.

9 p.m. 1299 Camino del Rio South, Mission Valley. 619-843-7400.@bold:The

Flame: Second Saturday of the month

Robin Roth, Adam, and Diskdroid.

Sabbat, gothic and industrial with DJs

9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. 3780 Park Boulevard, Hillcrest. 619-295-4163.

619-298-2233.

Fashion Whore, fashion show and discotheque. Fourth Friday of the month,

Roth left (or was fired, depending on who tells the story), the new band became known as Van Hagar, such was the Red Rocker's influence. Roth-sung hits weren't forgotten in the years that followed, but the heavy influence went to the new Hagarinspired material, supplanted in concert with stuff from Hagar's vast catalogue.

Still, and I mean no disrespect to Eddie's guitar, it was Roth's arena ham that

Inferno Young Adult Nightclub: Fridays and Saturdays, DJ Kool T spins Top 40, techno, and '80s. Wednesdays, guest DJs spin hip-hop, R&B, and Top 40. 9 p.m. to 1:15 a.m., high school students and up. 775 Metcalf Street, Escondido. 760-741-1271.

HALEN

Kadan: First Saturday of the month, *BrokenBeat Night*, live electronic, crunk, and glitch hop. 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, underground dance music with DJs Robin Roth and Tom King, Wednesdays, Mixtape Sessions, hip-hop, downtempo, and breakbeat with DJs Mada and Ricky Wrecks. No cover. 2812 Kettner Boulevard, Middletown. 619-543-0933.

defined Van Halen. This year he reioins his

old band, still minus Michael Anthony. Me?

I'm not stingy with my Van H love. Hagar,

Roth, I couldn't care less. They fronted two

different groups, each of them the best rock

VAN HALEN, Cox Arena, Sunday, Novem-

ber 25, 7:30 p.m. 619-594-0429. \$79.50

band on the planet.

to \$149.50.

Mission Valley Resort: Thursdays (18 and up) and Fridays (21 and up), *La Maraca*, merengue, cumbia, and reggaeton. 9 p.m. 875 Hotel Circle South, Mission Valley. 619-298-8281.

Moondoggies Pacific Beach: Saturdays, *What's Good* with DJs Enigma and Cisco. Hip-hop, R&B, and Top 40. 9 p.m. No cover. 832 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-6550.

Shooterz: Wednesdays, Funk It Up, elektro, indie, and nu-rave with DJ Flyxfx and guest. Thursdays, Club '80s, new wave, punk, and synth-pop with DJs Bryan Pollard, Sickboy, and Stern. First, third, and fifth Saturday of the month, Therapy, industrial, gothic, and





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Friday,

December 7

Coco

Montoya



the music section. Deadline is 5 p.m.

Friday, the week prior to publication.

Air Conditioned: Wednesdays, Club

Nigel, Steve West and DJ SG spin the '80s. Thursdays, Too Cool for School, old-

skool hip-hop, and '80s. Fridays, rare groove, funk, and disco. Saturdays, *Juicy*, classic booty-shakin' music. Sundays,

guest DJ night. Mondays, House of Rep,

hip-hop, funk, and soul. 4673 30th

Beauty Bar: Fridays, Feel the Noise,

electronic dance rock beats. 4746 El

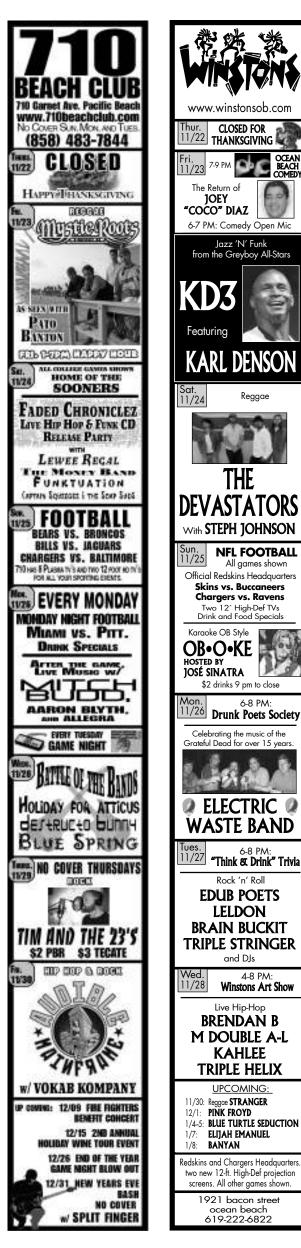
Brass Rail: Third Thursday of the

month, Pussy Galore, live bands with DJ Robin Roth spinning electro, indie, and

Cajon Boulevard, Talmadge. 619-516-4746.

Street, North Park. 619-501-9831.

The listings are free.



elektronica. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. 3815 30th Street, North Park. 619-574-0744.

Static Lounge: First Friday of the month, West Coast Mash Up, drum 'n' bass, jungle, and ragga. Fourth Friday of the month, Club Pop Noir, electro, '80s, and indie with DJ Groundfloor and Edgartronic. 634 Broadway (between Sixth and Seventh Avenue), downtown, 619-544-1609.

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Jazz 'N' Funk from the Greyboy All-Stars

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6-8 PM

6-8 PM

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KAHLEE

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UPCOMING:

ELIJAH EMANUEL

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1921 bacon street

ocean beach 619-222-6822

BANYAN

4-8 PM

Winstons Art Show

Karaoke OB Style

Reggae

The Return of

JOEY

Tio Leo's: Thursdays, zydeco dance with DJ Gator Boy. 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. 5302 Napa Street, Morena District. 619-542-1462.

Whiskey Girl: Fridays and Saturdays, DJ Marc Thrasher mixes music videos. Sundays, 10 Spot Sundays, DJ Famous Dave mixes video requests. Mondays, Manic Mondays, DJ Marc Thrasher mixes '80s and '90s videos. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, DJ Famous Dave mixes music videos. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. 600 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-236-1616.

The Whistle Stop: Second Friday of the month, *Pussy Galore Stripped*, live bands with DJ Robin Roth spinning electro, indie, and '80s. First and third Saturday of the month, *Transport*, Brit rock, indie, and electroclash with DJ Gabe Vega and guests. Second and fifth Saturday, *One Nation*, electro, '80s, and hip-hop with DJs Blackstone and Atari. 2236 Fern Street (corner of 30th and Iuniper), South Park, 619-284-6784.

CLUBS BY AREA

If you wish to submit a listing, call 619-235-3000, ext. 405, night or day by 5 p.m. Friday, the week prior to publication. To send weekly or monthly schedules, fax to 760-788-1309 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the music section.

BEACHES

Bahia Resort Hotel, 998 West Mission Bay Drive, Mission Beach 858-488-0551. Thursday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., Adrienne Nims and Spirit Wind, global jazz, Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, 9 p.m. to midnight, John Cain, international/jazz/blues/Latin/pop/ standards.

Bar Leucadian, 1542 North Coast Highway 101, Leucadia. 760-753-2094. Friday, *Appleseed*, rock. Saturday, Custard Pie, classic rock. Blue Parrot, 4993 Niagara Avenue,

Suite 103, Ocean Beach, 619-222-1722.





Wednesday, November 28 **John Bennett**

576 North Highway 101 Leucadia 760.632.8252 www.calypsocafe.net



1 Diego Reader November 21 2007



BEACHES

Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m., John Tafolla and Friends, guitar and vocals

'Canes. 3105 Ocean Front Walk. Mission Beach. 858-488-1780. Wednesday, November 21, 8 p.m., Dirty Heads, OPM, One Drop, the Stone Sen and Noiz, rock/reggae. Friday, 9 p.m., 40 Ounces to Freedom, the Stepping Feet, and the Big Provider, rock/alternative rock. Saturday, 8 p.m., Guttermouth, Critical Me, and the Hedrons, punk rock.

Ché Café, UCSD Campus, 9500 Gilman Drive, Student Center B-0323C, La Jolla. 858-534-2311. Wednesday, November 21, 8 p.m., the Winks, the Wrong Trousers, Miles Rozatti, Nothing Full, and the Gift Machine, psychedelic/folk/acoustic. Saturday, 8:30 p.m., the Scarlet Symphony, the Pravers, the Muslims, and the Fascination rock/nu-jazz/alternative.

Dreamstreet, 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-8131. Wednesday, November 21, Eve Black and Border Town Bust, alternative rock. Friday, 4 p.m., Red Octopus, Aten, and Going Blind, hard rock. Saturday, 4 p.m., American Hitmen, Silence Betrayed, Autumn's End, Dither, and Feeling of Hate, hard rock. Wednesday, November 28, 4 p.m., Alexxx, Bang Squad nent, Stay F.L.Y. Entertair Ente and Grizzo & Justice, hip-hop.

E Street Cafe, 128 E Street, Encinitas 760-230-2038. Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. to 9:45 p.m., open mike.

Hennessey's Tavern (PB), 4650 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach. 858-483-8847. Friday, *Pushin' Rope*, rock.

The Kraken, 2531 Old Highway 101, Cardiff 760-436-6483 Wednesday November 21, Jeff Moore and the Witchdoctors, Thursday, Frankie-Dee and the Funk-Natra Band. Friday, the Trave Agents, alternative rock. Saturday, Rock

Kandy, classic rock, Wednesday, November 28, Jeff Moore and the Witchdoctors

La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street, La Jolla. 858-454-0771. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., also, Sunday and Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Rick Ross, piano/jazz.

The Lodge at Torrey Pines, 11480 N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla. 619-453-4420. Grill: Friday and Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Mike Nelson, solo jazz guitar.

710 Beach Club. 710 Garnet Avenue Pacific Beach. 858-483-7844. Wednesday, November 21, *Lexington*, rock. Friday, *Mystic Roots*, reggae. Saturday, *Faded* Chroniclez, Lewee Regal, and The Monkey Band. Wednesday, November 28, Holiday for Atticus, Destructo Bunny, and Blue Spring, alternative/punk/hip-hop.

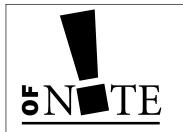
Shooters Bar and Grill, Sheraton La Jolla, 3299 Holiday Court, La Jolla, 858-453-5500. Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., John Cain, international jazz/blues/Latin/pop/standards.

Thrusters, 4633 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach. 858-483-6334. Friday, 8 p.m., *Modern Day Moonshine*, ul/rock/regga

Tiki House, 1152 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-273-9734. Wednesday, November 21, *Canon Ball*, rock. Friday, Earl's Son, rock, Saturday, the Hoodoo Blues Band. Sunday, open mike. Wednesday, November 28, Ancient Sunrise, rock/blues.

Turquoise Cafe, 873 Turquoise Street, Pacific Beach. 858-488-4200. Thursday, jazz trio. Friday, jazz quartet. Saturday, Latin jazz. Sunday eclectic/world music. Monday, Blue 44. jazz. Tuesday, flamenco. Wednesday,

Winstons, 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-6822. Wednesday, November 21, Vegitation, reggae. Friday, 9 p.m., KD3, jazz, and the Irwin Conspiracy. Saturday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. the Nodding Heads, 9 p.m., the Devastators, reggae. Tuesday, 9 p.m., Edub Poets, Leldon, and Triple Stinger, rock. Wednesday, 9 p.m., Brendan B.



BY WILLIAM CRAIN

There are many singer-songwriters trying to sound like the new Nick Drake, but that goal comes with some serious side effects. Fully inhabiting the role would require living in near obscurity and dying by one's own hand. Your record won't go gold until it appears in a Volkswagen commercial 20 years after you're dead. Who wants that? Better to cheer up a little, hire a good publicist, and get the car commercial while you're alive.

Anyway, Sam Beam, the guy behind Iron and Wine, is widely heralded as one of the best of the new Drakes. Iron and Wine first got the public's attention with a song in Garden State, the movie soundtrack that

DOWNTOWN

Anthology, 1337 India Street, San Diego. 619-595-0300. Wednesday, November 21, Eric Alexander and Jim Mulidore, jazz. Friday, the Benny Hollman Big Band Explosion. Saturday Greg Adams.

Blarney Stone Pub, 502 Fifth Avenue, downtown, 619-233-8519 Friday and Saturday, Steve Brewer, classic rock.

The Casbah. 2501 Kettner Boulevard. midtown. 619-232-HELL. Wednesday, November 21, Jivewire and One Nation Under a Groove. Friday, Pigeon John, Deep Rooted, and the Kneehighs, hip-hop. Saturday, Cash'd Out, Sultry Savage Burlesque, and the Palominos country/rock/alternative rock. Sunday. Say Vinyl, the Austin James Band, and a

Beautiful Noise. Monday, White Magic, Vision of a Dying World, and the Donkeys, experimental/indie/rock, Wednesday, November 28, Daredevil Jane, Roses on Her Grave, and Demasiado, rock.

burning down.

downtown, 619-233-4355. All music is jazz unless otherwise noted. Friday, Yavez. Saturday, Primo. Sunday, the Archtones. Monday, Dave Scott. Tuesday, the Shep Meyers Quartet. Wednesday, Fuzzy and the Bluesmen or Sue Palme

Avenue, downtown. 619-234-5554. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, contemporary piano. Dick's Last Resort, 345 Fourth

Avenue, downtown, 619-231-9100. Wednesday, November 21, Private Domain, rock. Friday and Saturday, live rock/blues. Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.,

the Dregs of Sada, rock. Wednesday, November 28, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Private

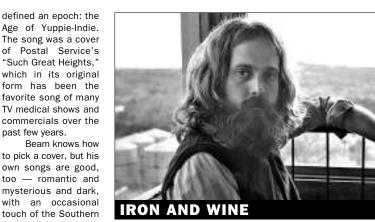
Dizzy's (Harbor Club Towers at Second and J Street), 200 Harbor Drive San Diego. 858-270-7467. Friday, 8:30 p.m., ESP, jazz.

Dublin Square, 554 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-239-5818. Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m., Adrienne Nims and Raggle Taggle, Celtic folk.

downtown. 619-702-0444. Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, Tom Barabas, pianist

Henry's Pub, 618 Fifth Avenue. downtown. 619-238-2389. Thursday, the Flock of 80's. Friday, Good Times. Saturday, *Good Times*, classic rock. Tuesday, *the Stilettos*, rockabilly. Wednesday, Lady Dottie and the Diamonds, blues.

House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue



whatever cliché vou prefer. I like his lyrics. even. It's just that Beam isn't the new Nick Drake — he's the new James Taylor. And good for him; no one deserves a fate like Drake's

IRON AND WINE, 4th & B, Tuesday, November 27, 8 p.m. 619-231-4343. \$20.

BrickbyBrick.com • (619)275-LIVE • 21 and up with ID <u>Ctix</u> Saturday, November 24 T.S.O.L **BATTALION OF SAINTS AUTHENTIC SELLOUT • CABRON** Friday, November 23 Wednesday, December 5 **BLUESPRING** BEHOLD **AQUA TRIBE** THE CRASHING MARBLES WENDY BAILEY BAND Thursday, December 6 Sunday, November 25 **TORE BACK • HEMLOCK BODY ELECTRIC ETCHED IN STONE** SINK TO SEE Wednesday, November 28 Friday, December 7 LUKAS ROSSI /Wi THE KPRI THE MATERIAL HOMEGROWN HOUR **ELECTRIC MISTRISS** with **OPPORTUNE TIME ASTRA KELLY BLACK CHERRY** WAR STORIES Thursday, November 29 CRASH ANTHEM **DYNAMITE WALLS KURT VATLAND PETE STEWART & SCARLET HAZE** THE PLASTIC SAVIORS <u>Ctix</u> Friday, November 30 **DR. KNOW** Saturday, December 8 THE RESENTMENTS **"THE 40 WHO STOOD** THE LUGERS **UP AS ONE**" **BLOOD STAINED REALITY** Honoring Deora Bodley and the NEVERLAND heroes of United Flight 93 **RANCH HANDS** Bands TBA 12/22 Shot Out Hoods Christmas Special • 12/28 Supersuckers LOT 81 ving lunch & dinner Etix.com Bookings: 1130 Buenos Ave.

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Thursday 11/22 • DJ Brendan B & Guest DJ \$3 Pyramid & Margaritas Friday 11/23 • Jason Ott Dance Party with DJ CC Saturday 11/24 • DJ CC • Mike from Sligo Rags Sunday 11/25 • Live music • Football Drink specials Monday Madness 11/26 \$3 well drinks all day and night Tuesday 11/27 • Live Zion \$3 Pyramid Pints & Margaritas Wednesday 11/28 - Tony Cummins



8

soul/indie/acoustic.

downtown. 619-299-2583. Friday and Saturday, New Found Glory, Senses Fail, 4th & B, 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343, Wednesday, November the Receiving End of Sirens, and a Cursive Memory, punk/pop/indie. Sunday, Big 21, MSTRKRFT, Lazaro Ca nova, Shark Attack, Kid Lightning, and Buddy Akai. Bad Voodoo Daddy, swing. Monday, Tuesday, Iron and Wine. Wednesday, November 28, the Detroit Cobras, Oakley Maximo Park, rock. Hall, Agent Ribbons, and King City, Java Jones, 631 Ninth Street, wntown. 619-696-9664. Saturday, 12:30 p.m., Watercolor Paintings, Foreign G5-Georges on Fifth, 835 Fifth Avenue (between E and F Streets), Friday & Saturday November 23 & 24 • 8 & 10:30 pm Harry Basil National headliner & from Funny Money Charlie Hill From David Letterman Vicki Barbolak Winner of "The Fur Mom in America" 4 FREE Wed., Nov. 21 ADMISSIONS 8 & 10:30 pm This is a fundraiser for the victims of the wildfires. All donations go directly to the American Red Cross To purchase tickets, call (858) 454-9176 916 Pearl Street • La Jolia • www.thecomedystore.com Must be 21 - All shows 2-drink minimum

warm, like your grandmother's pecan pie, or Domain, rock.

ized that they had Southern Gothic as far

south as Miami, which is where Beam is

from, but I don't know what else you would

call it when he starts cooing about drunk

mothers and praying for rain and farmhouses

I'm sorry. Beam's voice is soothing and

Croce's Jazz Bar, 802 Fifth Avenue,

Age of Yuppie-Indie.

The song was a cover

of Postal Service's

"Such Great Heights,"

which in its original

favorite song of many

commercials over the

to pick a cover, but his

own songs are good,

mysterious and dark,

with an occasional

Gothic. I hadn't real-

past few years.

Dakota Grill and Spirits, 901 Fifth

Loren, Kapiano, Running to the Embassy and Blue Fox, indie/acoustic/folk/pop.

Jimmy Love's, 672 Fifth Avenue (corner of Fifth and G), downtown. 619-595-0123, Wednesday, November 21, the Soul Revue, dance/Top 40. Friday and Saturday, 9:45 p.m., Diva Soul, disco/Top 40. Sunday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Mystique*, jazz/funk/R&B. 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, November 28, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Soul Revue, dance/Top 40.

Onyx, 852 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp 619-235-6699. Tuesday, Gilbert Castellnos, jazz.

Patrick's II, 428 F Street, downtown. 619-233-3077. Music is blues/soul unless otherwise noted. Wednesday, November 21, Bill Magee Blues, Thursday, Chet on and the Committee. Friday, Toni Dodd and Southbound Blues. Saturday and Sunday, *Tell Mama*. Monday, *Shelle Blue*. Tuesday, *Len Rainey and the* Midnight Players. Wednesday, November 28, Bill Magee Blues.

Rock Bottom, 401 G Street, Gaslamp 619-231-7000. Friday and Saturday, live pop/rock/disco/dance.

Sevilla, 555 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-5979. Club Salsa: Thursday, a Cuban Explosion. Tuesday, Ritm Caliente. Wednesday, Trece de la Suerte. The Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second

Avenue, downtown, 619-238-1818, The Plaza Bar: Monday through Friday, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., the Prince of Piano piano/pop.

Evening Entertainment: Thursday and Friday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Fran Loskota, pop/jazz. Saturday, 8 p.m. to midnight, Karen Giorgio, cabaret. Sunday and Monday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Julio de la Huerta, Latin. Tuesday and Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Faith Page, international/standards

Whiskey Girl, 600 Fifth Avenue downtown. 619-236-1616. Thursday, DaGroove, rock hits, and DJ Marc Thrasher. Friday and Saturday, DJ Marc Thrasher. Sunday, DJ Famous Dave Monday, Manic Mondays with DJ Thrasher. Tuesday, DJ Famous Dave. Wednesday, the Stepping Feet, a Dave Matthews Band tribute, pop/rock, and DJ Famous Dave

Worldbeat Center, 2100 Park Boulevard, Balboa Park. 619-230-1190. Friday, 8 p.m., the Azar Lawrence Quartet, straight-ahead jazz.

SAN DIEGO

Albie's Beef Inn, 1201 Hotel Circle South, San Diego. 619-291-1103. Friday and Saturday, also, Tuesday and Wednesday, David Timothy Smith, piano

American Legion Post 310, 465 47th Street, San Diego. 619-264-1919. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *the* Post 310 Blues Band. Sunday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Willovealot, smooth jazz/funk.

The Bahia Belle Cruise, the Bahia Hotel, 998 West Mission Bay Drive, Mission Bay, 858-539-7779, Departs 6:30 p.m. Friday. B Natural, pop/Top 40. Saturday, blues band.

Blarney Stone Pub, 5617 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont, 858-279-2033. Music is Irish/folk. Saturday, Skelpin Tuesday, Irish jam session. Wednesday, Robbie O'Reilly or Skelpin

Borders Books and Music (Mission Valley), 1072 Camino del Rio North, Mission Valley. 619-295-2201. Friday, 8 p.m., Steven Ybarra

Brick by Brick. 1130 Buenos Avenue. Bay Park. 619-275-LIVE. Friday, Blue Spring, Aqua Tribe, and the Wendy Bailey Band, alternative rock/rock. Saturday, T.S.O.L., Battalion of Saints and Authentic Sellout, hardcore/punk Sunday, Tore Back, Hemlock, and Etched in Stone, metal, Wednesday, November 28, Lukas Rossi, the Material, Electric Mistress, Opportune Time, and Black Cherry, rock/experimental/indie.

Claire de Lune, 2905 University Avenue, North Park, 619-688-9845 Friday, 8 p.m., Flashback, R&B/oldies

Epicentre, 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa. 858-271-4000. Saturday, Stepsonday, Long Live Logos, the Shenanigans, a Shattered Hope, and Desolace, indie/rock/folk.

The Gordon Biersch Brewery, 5010 Mission Center Road, San Diego 619-688-1120. Friday, Billy Watson, blues

Humphrey's, Half Moon Inn, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 619-224-3577. Backstage Lounge: Wednesday, November 21, 8 p.m. to midnight, Criminal Funk, '80s dance. Thursday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., *Jose Molina* Serrano, jazz. Friday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., *the* New Breed Band, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., Rockola, classic rock. Saturday, 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., Peace Frog and Jumpin' Jack Flash, classic rock. Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Patrick Yandall, jazz, 8 p.m. to midnight, Nils, jazz. Monday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Chet Cannon, blues jam. Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Nathan James and Ben Herna ndez. Wednesday

November 28, 8 p.m. to midnight, the Soul Persuaders, sweet soul.

JP's Pub. 10436 Clairemont Mesa levard, Tierrasanta. 858-576-2509. Friday, Blue Rockit, blues/rock.

Lestat's Coffee House, 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-282-0437. Music is acoustic/folk/roots unless otherwise noted. Wednesday, November 21, Eric Ethan, For Fairweather, and Tim Bassett. Friday, Gregory Page. Saturday, Cotton Fever and Rob Deez. Sunday, Amy Loftus, Pavia Nova, and Melissa Vaughn Monday, open mike. Wednesday,

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November 28, Middle Earth, Middle Eastern mus

Martini's Above Fourth, 3940 Fourth Avenue, San Diego. 619-293-0232. Saturday, 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Vintage Vegas, jazz

Miami Grille (UTC), 4545 La Jolla Village Drive, San Diego. 858-552-0668 Sunday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Jeff Blum, Cuban jazz

Mission Valley Resort Hotel, 875 Hotel Circle South, Mission Valley 619-596-9777. Mission Room: Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday,

6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Chet Cannon and the ittee, blue

O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub. 1310 Morena Boulevard, Bay Park. 619-276-5637. Wednesday, November, 21, the Neverland Ranch Hands, DMF Noisegod, Inciting Riots, and Tim Raldo, punk/rock/hardcore. Friday, 9 p.m., Negative Filter, Deny the Silence, Fat Man's Misery, and New Day Mile, rock/blues/metal/reggae. Saturday 9 p.m., U.S. Drag, Pepe's Revenge, Dave the Butcher, and the Gizzards

rock/alternative/punk. Sunday, 7:30 p.m., Phil Harmonic, acoustic

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Monday, 8 p.m., Mystery Train, blues. Tuesday, 9 p.m., Curbside and Los Otros, punk/rock. Wednesday, November 28, G.F.I., Solis, Nuclear Tomorrow, Tore Back, and Prosthetic Arms, punk/metal/hardcore

The Ould Sod, 3373 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-284-6594. Friday, live music. Tuesday, traditional Irish jam session.

Padre Gold, 7245 Linda Vista Road, San Diego. 858-277-8681. Monday, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., *the Jazz Project Big* Band, big-band swing.

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\$2 off all drinks (after 8pm) Enter to win our \$250 Turkey Day Giveaway

Thursday, Nov 22

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8pm-Close \$3 Jack Daniels Drinks Jack Daniels Girls + Prizes 6.

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\$10.95 Filet Mignon w/

\$10.95 Mini-Turkey Feast

lic Mashed Potatoes (reg. \$22)

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SAN DIEGO

Pal Joey's, 5147 Waring Road, Allied Gardens. 619-286-7873. Friday and Saturday, classic rock/blues.

Red Fox Steakhouse, 2228 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-297-1313. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, contemporary/jazz piano.

Rosie O'Grady's, 3402 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-284-7666. Friday and Saturday, live rock.

Scolari's Office, 3936 30th Street, San Diego. 619-296-3546. Live indie/rock/alternative.

Second Wind, 8515 Navaio Road, San Carlos. 619-465-1730. Friday and Saturday, 6one9, classic rock.

South Park Bar and Grill, 1946 Fern Street, San Diego. 619-696-0096. Thursday, J.J. Lim's Jazz Jam. Friday, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., the John Kopecky Trio. Saturday, blues jam sessi Sunday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Tim Ninnink and Doug Walker, modern jazz.

Tio Leo's, 10787 Camino Ruiz, Mira Mesa. 858-695-1461. Saturday, Just Been Funked, funk/rock.

Tio Leo's Lounge, 5302 Napa Street (at Morena Boulevard), Bay Park. 619-542-1462, Wednesday, November 21, the High Society Jazz Band. Thursday, blues, Friday, the Fremonts, blues Saturday, Mississippi Mudsharks, blues. Wednesday, November 28, the High Society Jazz Band.

The Tower Bar, 4757 University Avenue, San Diego. 619-284-0158. Music is hard rock/alternative rock. Friday, Roman Spring, Emery Byrd, and the Ex-Friends. Saturday, Chase Frank and Roxy Iones.

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. Wednesday, November 21, 9 p.m., Buck O-Nine and Social Green, ska/reggae. Friday, 9 p.m., the English Beat and Gadfly. Saturday, 9 p.m., the English Beat and Ricerokit. Sunday, 8 p.m., Johnette Napolitano, alternative rock. Monday, 9 p.m., Jose Gonzalez and Cass McComb Wednesday, November 28, Dust Galaxy,

Bistro 221, 221 Grand Avenue, Escondido. 760-737-7398. Friday and Saturday, Donnie Finnell and Company *East*, standards and light jazz.

Boar Cross'n, 390 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-2989.

The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe, Flower Hill Mall, I-5 at Via de la Valle Del Mar. 858-755-3735. Friday, 8 p.m., Jim Earp, acoustic.

Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad), 1905 Calle Barcelona Carlsbad. 760-479-0242. Friday, 8 p.m., Melissa Vaughan, folk.

Borders Books and Music (Carmel Mountain), 11160 Rancho Carmel Drive, Carmel Mountain. 858-618-1814. Friday, 8 p.m., Winterhawk, acoustic

Carvers, 11940 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-566-2400, Friday and Saturday, Crossroads, classic rock.

Cheers, 2475 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-0270. Friday and Saturday, Southbound Johnny, country. Tuesday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Mike Gardner, acoustic rock/folk.

Chin's Palace, 2241 South El Camino Real, Oceanside. 760-439-3600. Sunday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Marc Logan, jazz.

Coyote Bar and Grill, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4695. Wednesday, November 21, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Northstar, classic rock. Friday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., the Backwater Blues Band, blues. Saturday, 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., *Red Lane*, rock/blues, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Roots to Rockets*. Sunday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., the Blues Pharaohs, blues 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., the New Breed Band, jazz/pop. Wednesday, November 28, the Rhythm Method, classic rock.



Album: Cathouse Thumpers (2007)

Artist: Cathouse Thumpers

Label: self-released

Where available/price: At live shows for \$10. Online at cdbaby.com for \$11.99.

>hometown CDs

Songs: 1) Our Neck of the Woods 2) Cool 18 3) Chicken Legs 4) Spellcaster 5) Just for Kicks 6) Little Green Men 7) Big Daddy

8) Disappearing Girl 9) Sweet Sweet Gin 10) Chainsmokin 11) I Can't Stop 12) The Time of Our Lives

13) Eastbound and Down

Band: Gig Fortier (guitar, vocals), Jeremy Preston Rouse (bass), Mark Kaufman (drums)

Website: myspace.com/cathousethumpers

Cathouse Thumpers are creating a stir by playing KUSI's morning show on Halloween and pairing up

Cuvee Restaurant, 2334 Carmel

Valley Road, Del Mar. 858-259-5878.

Monday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Sambajazz,

Epazote, 1555 Camino Del Mar (in the

Del Mar Plaza), Del Mar. 858-259-9966.

The Flying Bridge, 1105 North Coast

Positive Groove, jazz/rock/pop/Top 40.

Hennessey's Tavern (Carlsbad),

760-729-6951. Wednesday, November

Highway, Oceanside. 760-722-1151.

Thursday, 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.,

Sunday, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Z-Bop,

2777 Roosevelt Street, Carlsbad

Thursday, 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Z-Bop,

Brazilian and American jazz.

jazz/swing/standards/blues.

jazz/swing/standards.

with Hot Rod Lincoln to play spots from here to Long Beach. There's also talk of an upcoming European tour, and for

21, DJ Dam. Friday, Point Blank, classic rock, Saturday, Rock Tricks.

Hensley's Flying Elephant Pub and Grill, 805 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-672-8305. Wednesday and Friday, November 21 and 23, also, Wednesday, November 28, 9 p.m., Joe Wood and the Lonely Ones, blues/rock. Saturday, 9 p.m., *the Clay Colton Band*, acoustic rock/folk.

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.

J.J. Lander's Irish Pub, 125 Main Street, Fallbrook. 760-731-0839. Wednesday, November 21, 9 p.m., Fear the Fat Guy, acoustic rock. Saturday, 9 p.m., Brehon Law, Irish folk, Tuesday, p.m., Tim Lee, acoustic. Wednesday, November 28, Fear the Fat Guy, acoustic rock

good reason.

imagine.

jazzy talents.

The band plays straight

rockabilly but with some cre-

ative twists. The pompadour

troubadours capture that mid-

century ambience that could

be featured in a Robert

Rodriguez film. Everything

on the album has a double

entendre, especially the songs

"Chicken Legs" and "Big

Daddy." With a name like

Cathouse Thumpers, you can

Men," front man Gig starts

off with a galactic ray-gun

noise on his guitar and then

launches into a 1950s-style

narrative of marauding Mar-

tians. Track five, "Just for

Kicks," is a moody instru-

mental that displays the band's

My favorite song is "Sweet

On the song "Little Green

The Jumping Turtle, 1660 Capalina Road, San Marcos. 760-741-7778. Music is rock/alternative/metal. Friday, 8 p.m. Wanted Dead, the Cut Throat Pirates, and Teenage Corpses. Saturday, 8 p.m., Flashburn, Tempernoi, Decompression and Given Life. Sunday, 8 p.m., Nihilist Earthless, Red Octopus, and Throat Closer. Monday, 8 p.m., *Hemlock* and *Fulcrum*. Tuesday, live metal.

Mas Fina Cantina, 2780 State Street, Carlsbad, 760-434-3497, Wednesday,

8 p.m. to midnight, Mike Gardner, acoustic rock/folk.

McCabe's Beach Club, 1145 South Tremont Street, Oceanside. 760-439-6646. Friday, 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., *the* California Rangers, country.

Miami Grille, 13670 Poway Road, Poway. 858-486-3300. Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Kyle Phelan, ballads/covers

Mille Fleurs, 6009 Paseo Delicias, Rancho Santa Fe. 858-756-3085. Wednesday through Saturday, *Tad Sissler* and *Randy Beecher*, piano/lounge.

Molly Malone's, 1270 Main Street, na. 760-789-9050. Friday, 9 p.m.



use Thumpers

Sweet Gin": it offers to slake your thirst with Gig's Southern-fried vocals and Rouse's popping bass. The album finishes with a treatment of the Jerry Reed trucker anthem "Eastbound and Down," from the Smokey and the Bandit movies. I love that.

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD **REVIEWED, PLEASE MAIL** IT TO: Music Editor, Hometown

CDs, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803

Lizard Fish, classic rock. Saturday, 9 p.m., Strive Roots, reggae/rock.

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, 9 p.m., DJ event. Saturday, 9 p.m. to midnight, Oh! Ridge, rock. Sunday, salsa. Tuesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Cradit Union, swing.

R. O'Sullivan's, 118 East Grand Avenue, Escondido. 760-737-0954. Wednesday, November 21, 8:30 p.m., *the Clay Colton Band*, acoustic folk/rock. Friday and Saturday, 8:30 p.m., *Tony Cummings*, Irish folk. Sunday, 5 p.m., *the Clachan Boys*, Irish folk. Wednesday, November 28, *Smug*, acoustic rock.

Rancho Bernardo Inn, 17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-675-8500. El Bizcocho Restaurant: Friday, 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., and Saturday, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Jerry Melnick* and *Tom Bishop*, jazz/variety.

Surf N'Saddle, 123 West Plaza Street (Lomas Santa Fe and Highway 101), Solana Beach. 858-755-9474. Friday, *Project Out of Bounds*, rock. Saturday, *Lifelike*, alternative rock.

Tom Giblin's Irish Pub and Restaurant, 640 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-7234. Wednesday, November 21, *the Clachan Boys*, Irish folk. Thursday, 8:30 p.m., *Tony Cummings*, Irish folk. Saturday, *Brehon Law*, Irish folk. Saturday, 8:30 p.m., *the Clay Colton Band*, acoustic rock. Tuesday, 8:30 p.m., *Brehon Law*. Wednesday, November 28, 8:30 p.m., *Fear the Fat Guy*, acoustic rock.

SOUTH BAY/CORONADO

Buon Giorno Restaurant, 4110 Bonita Road, Bonita. 619-475-2660. Thursday, *Yvonne Flores*, piano/jazz. Saturday, *Madera* and *One Thousand Eves*, iaz.

The Butcher Shop, 556 Broadway, Chula Vista. 619-420-9440. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, 8 p.m., *Ray Correa*, standards/pop/Latin.

Hotel del Coronado, 1550 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-6611. Babcock and Story: Wednesday, November 21, *Jim Gibson*, guitarist. Thursday through Sunday, 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Tony Lasley*, Latin jazz. Friday and Saturday, 8:30 p.m., *Ray Briz*, pianist. Monday, 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Gonzo Gonzales*. Tuesday and Wednesday, November 28, *Jim Gibson*,

guitarist. 1500 Ocean: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 9 p.m. to midnight, *Tony Lasley*, jazz guitar. Crown Room: Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to

2:30 p.m., *Ray Briz*, pianist, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., *Ping Hu*, harpist.

Island Sports and Spirits, 104 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-3456. Wednesday, November 21, *Diablo Dimes*, blues. Friday, *Jumpstart*, jump blues. Saturday, *Ron's Garage*, classic rock. Wednesday, November 28, *Mitchell Cornish and Moio* Risne, blues.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill, 1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-5280. Music is acoustic folk/rock. Wednesday and Friday, November 21 and 23, *Taylor Harvey*. Saturday, *the Offbeats*. Sunday, *Tommy Price*. Monday, *Gary Rich*. Tuesday, *Gene Warren*. Wednesday, November 28, *Steve Brewer*.

EAST COUNTY

Dirk's Niteclub, 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove. 619-469-6344. Friday and Saturday, *Full Xposure*, classic rock.

Don's Cocktail Lounge, 13321 Business Highway 8, El Cajon. 619-443-2444. Friday and Saturday, *Zone 4*, classic rock.

Downtown Cafe, 182 East Main Street, El Cajon. 619-440-5687. Friday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Joey and the Stingrays*, classic rock/oldies/country.

Fannie's Nightclub, 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley. 619-698-2204. Friday and Saturday, live rock/metal/punk.

Renegade Inn, 14335 Old Highway 80 (half mile east from Lake Jennings turnoff), Flynn Springs. 619-561-8105. Friday and Saturday, *the Honky Tonk Kings*, country. Second Wind, 8528 Magnolia Avenue, Santee. 6019-596-8350. Friday and Saturday, *Nemesis*, classic rock.

Thornton's Irish Pub and Grill, 1221 Broadway, El Cajon. 619-447-5665. Saturday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., *the August/Jarrell Quartet*, straight-ahead izez

Tommy's Italian Restaurant, 1190 North Second Street, El Cajon. 619-440-2676. Friday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Franco Z*, standards/swing/jazz.



ALTERNATIVE

Agent Ribbons: 4th & B Aqua Tribe: Brick By Brick Authentic Sellout: Brick By Brick Battalion of Saints: Brick By Brick The Big Provider: 'Canes Eve Black: Dreamstreet Bluespring: Brick By Brick, 710 Beach

Border Town Bust: Dreamstreet Curbside: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

A Cursive Memory: House of Blues The Cut Throat Pirates: The Jumping Turtle

Decompression: The Jumping Turtle **Desolace:** Epicentre

Earthless: The Jumping Turtle

 The Embalmers: 710 Beach Clubb

 The Fascination: Ché Café

 Flashburn: The Jumping Turtle

 Frightener: Ché Café

 Fulcrum: The Jumping Turtle

 G.F.I.: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

 The Gift Machine: Ché Café

 Given Life: The Jumping Turtle

 Holiday for Atticus: 710 Beach Club

 Inciting Riots: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

 The Lanterns: Ché Café

 Lewd Acts: Ché Café Lifelike: Surf N'Saddle Los Otros: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub The Material: Brick By Brick The Muslims: Ché Café Nihilist: The Jumping Turtle Nothing Full: Ché Café Nuclear Tomorrow: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub The Palominos: The Casbah The Prayers: Ché Café





ALTERNATIVE

Prosthetic Arms: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub Pulling Teeth: Ché Café

The Receiving End of Sirens: House of Blues

Miles Rozatti: Ché Café

The Scarlet Symphony: Ché Café A Shattered Hope: Epicentre

Solis: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub Stepsonday: Epicentre

Sultry Savage Burlesque: The

Teenage Corpses: The Jumping Turtle

Tempernoi: The Jumping Turtle The Travel Agents: The Kraken T.S.O.L.: Brick By Brick U.S. Drag: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub The Vision of a Dying World: The Casbah White Magic: The Casbah The Winks: Ché Café

The Wrong Trousers: Ché Café

ROCK

American Hitmen: Dreamstreet Ancient Sunrise: Tiki House Appleseed: Bar Leucadian Aten: Dreamstreet Autumn's End: Dreamstreet The Wendy Bailey Band: Brick By Brick The Band of Goodmen: Humphrey's A Beautiful Noise: The Casbah

Brax: The Ould Sod Steve Brewer: Blarney Stone Pub, McP's Irish Pub and Grill Emery Byrd: Tower Bar Canon Ball: Tiki House Chase Frank: Tower Ban Colossus of Roads: Ché Café The Cradit Union: Ocean House Criminal Funk: Humphrey's Critical Me: 'Canes Crossroads: Carvers Custard Pie: Bar Leucadian Daredevil Jane: The Casbah Dave the Butcher: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclu Demasiado: The Cashah The Detroit Cobras: 4th & B The Detroit Underground: Dirty Heads: 'Canes Dither: Dreamstreet DMF: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub The Donkeys: The Casbah The Dregs of Sada: Dick's Last Dust Galaxy: Belly Up Tavern Earl's Son: Tiki House Edub Poet: Winstons Electric Mistress: Brick By Brick The English Beat: Belly Up Tavern Etched in Stone: Brick By Brick The Ex-Friends: Tower Bar Fat Man's Misery: O'Connell's Pub and Nightchul Feeling of Hate: Dreamstreet 40 Ounces to Freedom: 'Canes Full Xposure: Dirk's Niteclub Mike Gardner: North Bar Sports and

Black Cherry: Brick By Brick

Mike Gardner: North Bar Sports and Spirits, Mas Fina Cantina The Gizzards: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub



Artist: Canobliss

Song: **"Riot"** (from the CD *Liberation* of *Dissonance*) Heard By: **Alan Castaneda**, Lemon Grove



Right away, I think I'd listen to it again. It's wasn't too predictable. They were combining a lot of different elements. The guitars have harmonies and tapping - real fast stuff. The vocals had a lot of melody, which I like. The vocals were pretty prominent. They reminded me of traditional heavy-metal bands, like Judas Priest and Iron Maiden — old-school bands that use their vocals in a more intelligent fashion. The lyrics were pretty sweet. What I could interpret [about the lyrics] was everything was falling apart and then the usual things like pain things that everybody goes through. It was a pretty strong song.

Artist: **The Space Lounge Syndicate** Songs: **"Omega Voyage"** (from the CD *Live from the Omega Station*) Heard By: **Rhett Peña**, North Park



It reminded me of stuff I'd hear on 94.9's *Big Sonic Chill*. It reminded me of Portishead or UNKLE. The vocals reminded me of Portishead a lot. It was really spaced out. It seems like something that I'd be lying in my bed staring at my ceiling and listening to...or aimlessly walking around late at night. It was shoegaze mixed with electronica. It was mellow, but at the same time the sounds were kind of dark and ominous. It'd definitely get airplay on *Big Sonic Chill*. I think it fits right in with DJ Shadow, Radiohead — those kinds of bands.

Artist: Jacqueline Grace

SAN DIEGO SONGS TAKE THE STREET TEST

Song: **"Detox"** (from her self-titled CD) Heard By: **J.C. Carino**, Chula Vista



I don't normally listen to pop music or anything mainstream-based. In my own opinion, it's pretty radio-friendly. It's clean, and it gives you a good feeling when you hear the music. She has potential. You don't really hear anything like that coming from San Diego, but that could be a good thing. She's a good singer. If she gets some airplay, she'll probably gain more of an audience. Her vocals and the whole production went really well together. I'm sure it's like Ashlee Simpson and stuff like that, but I wouldn't really put her in that category. This is more original. I picture when I was in high school when I listen to that song.

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD HEARD, PLEASE MAIL IT TO: Music Editor, As I Hear It, San Diego *Reader*, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803

Going Blind: Dreamstreet Good Times: Henry's Pub Guttermouth: 'Canes



The Hedrons: 'Canes

Iron and Wine: 4th & B The Austin James Band: The Casbah Joey and the Stingrays: Downtown

Roxy Jones: Tower Bar



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thinroom.com onyxroom.com

Just Been Funked: Tio Leo's (Mira Mesa)

Leldon: Winstons Lexington: 710 Beach Club

Lizard Fish: Molly Malone's Long Live Logos: Epicentre Maximo Park: House of Blues Negative Filter: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Nemesis: Second Wind (Santee) The Neverland Ranch Hands: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

New Day Mile: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub New Found Glory: House of Blues

The Nodding Heads: Winstons Northstar: Coyote Bar and Grill

Oakley Hall: 4th & B The Offbeats: McP's Irish Pub and

Oh! Ridge: Ocean House OPM: 'Canes

Opportune Time: Brick By Brick Pepe's Revenge: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Point Blank: Hennessey's Tavern (Carlsbad)

Private Domain: Dick's Last Resort Project Out of Bounds: Surf N'Saddle

Pushin' Rope: Hennessey's Tavern (PB) Tim Raldo: O'Connell's Pub and

Nightclub Red Octopus: Dreamstreet, The

Jumping Turtle The Rhythm Method: Coyote Bar

and Grill Ricerokit: Belly Up Tavern Rock Kandy: The Kraken Rock Tricks: Hennessey's Tavern

(Carlsbad) Rockola: Humphrey's

Roman Spring: Tower Bar Ron's Garage: Island Sports and Spirits

Roots to Rockets: Coyote Bar and Grill

Roses on Her Grave: The Casbah Lukas Rossi: Brick By Brick

Say Vinyl: The Casbah Senses Fail: House of Blues

Silence Betrayed: Dreamstreet 60ne9: Second Wind (San Carlos)

Smug: R. O'Sullivan's

The Stepping Feet: 'Canes, Whiskey Girl

The Stilettos: Henry's Pub Throat Closer: The Jumping Turtle Tore Back: Brick By Brick, O'Connell's Pub and Niehtclub

Triple Stinger: Winstons The Vulgar Herd: Humphrey's Wanted Dead: The Jumping Turtle Patti Zlaket: Humphrey's Zone 4: Don's Cocktail Lounge

POP / TOP 40

B Natural: Bahia Belle Cruise **Flashback:** Claire de Lune Coffee Lounge

The Flock of 80's: Henry's Pub Frankie-Dee and the Funk-Natra Band: The Kraken

The Love Rangers: The Alley Makai: Humphrey's

Positive Groove: The Flying Bridge David Timothy Smith: Albie's Beef Inn

The Soul Revue: Jimmy Love's

JAZZ / BIG BAND

Greg Adams: Anthology Eric Alexander: Anthology The Archtones: Croce's Jazz Bar The August/Jarrell Quartet: Thornton's Irish Pub and Grill



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CHANGA



Calendar BANDS

JAZZ / BIG BAND

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy: House of

Tom Bishop: Rancho Bernardo Inn Jeff Blum: Miami Grille (UTC) Rav Briz: Hotel del Coronado Gilbert Castellanos: Onyx

ESP: Dizzy's Donnie Finnell and Company East: Bistro 221

Yvonne Flores: Buon Giorno Restauran

Jim Gibson: Hotel del Coronado The High Society Jazz Band: Tio

The Benny Hollman Big Band Explosion: Anthology Insight: Jimmy Love's

The Jazz Project Big Band: Padre Gold

KD3: Winstons The John Kopecky Trio: South Park

Bar and Grill Fran Laskota: The Westgate Hotel

Tony Lasley: Hotel del Coronado The Azar Lawrence Quartet:

World Beat Center J.J. Lim's Jazz Jam: South Park Bar and Grill

Marc Logan: Chin's Palace Madera: Buon Giorno Restaurant Masterpiece: Jimmy Love's Kevin McCully: The Westgate Hotel Jerry Melnick: The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, Rancho Bernardo Inn

The Shep Meyers Quartet: Croce's Jazz Bar Jimmy Mulidore: Anthology Mystique: Jimmy Love's

Mike Nelson: The Lodge at Torrey

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The New Breed Band: Coyote Bar and Grill

Adrienne Nims and Spirit Wind: Bahia Resort Hotel

Tim Ninnink: South Park Bar and Grill One Thousand Eyes: Buon Giorno Restaurant

Sue Palmer: Croce's Jazz Bar Dan Papaila: The Lodge at Torrey

Dave Patrone: Croce's Jazz Bar Primo: Croce's Jazz Bar

The Prince of Piano: The Westgate Hotel Rick Ross: La Valencia Hotel

Sambajazz: Cuvee Restaurant Dave Scott: Croce's Jazz Bar **Reggie Smith and Pressed for** Time: Humphrey's

Vintage Vegas: Martini's Above Doug Walker: South Park Bar and



Franco Z.: Tommy's Italian Restaurant

REGGAE / SKA

Buck-O-Nine: Belly Up Tavern The Devastators: Winstons

Gadfly: Belly Up Tavern Mystic Roots: 710 Beach Club

Noiz: 'Canes

One Drop: 'Canes Shark Attack: 4th & B

Social Green: Belly Up Tavern

The Stone Senses: 'Canes

Strive Roots: Molly Malone's

Vegitation: Winstons

COUNTRY

The California Rangers: McCabe's Beach Club





Cash'd Out: The Casbah The Honky Tonk Kings: Renegade

Southbound Johnny: Cheers

ACOUSTIC / FOLK Buddy Akai: 4th & B

Tim Bassett: Lestat's Coffee House

Blue Fox: Java Jones

Peter Bolland: Lestat's Coffee House

The Clachan Boys: R. O'Sullivan's The Clachan Brothers: Tom Giblin's

Irish Pub and Restaurant The Clay Colton Band: R. O'Sullivan's, Hensley's Flying Elephant Pub and Grill, Tom Giblin's Irish Pub

Tony Cummings: R. O'Sullivan's, lin's Irish Pub and Restaurant

Delancey: Lestat's Coffee House

Rob Drabkin: Lestat's Coffee House Jim Earp: The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe

Eric Ethan: Lestat's Coffee House Fear the Fat Guy: J.J. Lander's Irish Pub, Tom Giblin's Irish Pub and Restaurant

The Flimz: Lestat's Coffee House For Fairweather: Lestat's Coffee

Foreign Loren: Java Jones Gonzo Gonzales: Hotel del

Jose Gonzalez: Belly Up Tavern Phil Harmonic: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Taylor Harvey: McP's Irish Pub and

Kapiano: Java Jones Kid Lightning: 4th & B

King City: 4th & B

Brehon Law: J.J. Lander's Irish Pub, Tom Giblin's Irish Pub and Restaurant

Tim Lee: J.J. Lander's Irish Pub

Adam Levy: Lestat's Coffee House Cass McCombs: Belly Up Tavern

The Rvan Montbleau Band:

Johnette Napolitano: Belly Up Tavern

Adrienne Nims and Raggle Taggle: Dublin Square

Robbie O'Reilly: Blarney Stone Pub Paul Sprawl: Lestat's Coffee House Sara Petite: Lestat's Coffee House Kyle Phelan: Miami Grille (Poway) Owen Plant: Lestat's Coffee House Tommy Price: McP's Irish Pub and

Gary Rich: McP's Irish Pub and Grill Amber Rubarth: Lestat's Coffee

Running to the Embassy: Java

San Diego Reader November 21, 2007

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Lisa Sanders: Lestat's Coffee House The Shenanigans: Epicentre Skelpin: Blarney Stone Pub Melissa Vaughan: Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad) Chris Velen: Lestat's Coffee House

Gene Warren: McP's Irish Pub and Grill

Watercolor Paintings: Java Jones Winterhawk: Borders Books and Music (Carmel Mountain)

Steven Ybarra: Borders Books and Music (Mission Valley)

BLUES / SOUL The Backwater Blues Band:

Coyote Bar and Grill

Blue Rockit: JP's Pub The Blues Pharaohs: Coyote Bar and Grill

Chet Cannon and the Committee: Patrick's II, Mission Valley Resort Hotel

Mitchell Cornish and Mojo Rising: Island Sports and Spirits Diablo Dimes: Island Sports and Spirits

Toni Dodd and Southbound Blues: Patrick's II

The Fremonts: Tio Leo's Lounge Fuzzy and the Bluesmen: Croce's

Jazz Bar The Hoodoo Blues Band: Tiki

House Jumpstart: Island Sports and Spirits

Lady Dottie and the Diamonds: Henry's Pub

Red Lane: Coyote Bar and Grill **Michele Lundeen and Blues**

Streak: Humphrey's The Bill Magee Blues Band: Patrick's II

The Mississippi Mudsharks: Tio Leo's Lounge

Modern Day Moonshine: Thrusters Jeff Moore and the

Witchdoctors: The Kraken Mystery Train: O'Connell's Pub and

Nightclub The Post 310 Blues Band: American Legion Post 310 Len Rainey and the Midnight

Players: Patrick's II Shelle Blue: Patrick's II Tell Mama: Patrick's II

Billy Watson: The Gordon Biersch Brewerv

Joe Wood and the Lonely Ones: Hensley's Flying Elephant Pub and Grill

RAP / HIP-HOP Alexxx: Dreamstreet

Bang Squad Entertainment: Dreamstreet

Deep Rooted: The Casbah Grizzo & Justice: Dreamstreet The Kneehighs: The Casbah Pigeon John: The Casbah Stay F.L.Y. Entertainment:

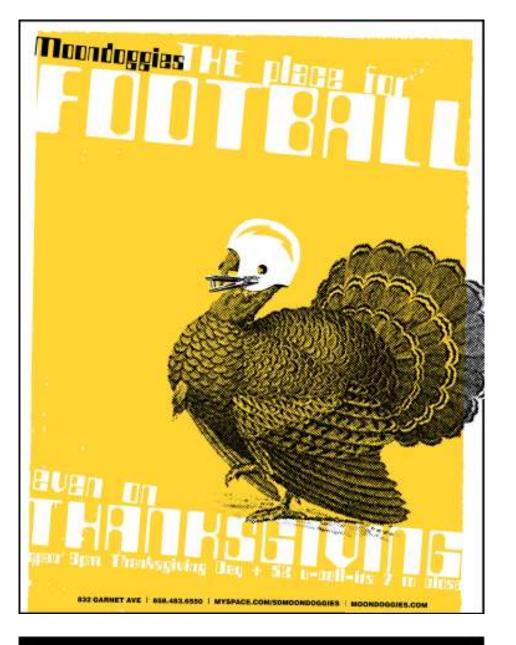
Dreamstreet

EVERYTHING ELSE

Tom Barabas: G5-Georges on Fifth Randy Beecher: Mille Fleurs John Cain: Shooters Bar and Grill, Bahia Resort Hotel Ray Correa: The Butcher Shop A Cuban Explosion: Sevilla

Julio de la Huerta: The Westgate Hotel

Destructo Bunny: 710 Beach Club Faded Chroniclez: 710 Beach Club Karen Giorgio: The Westgate Hotel Lazaro Casanova: 4th & B Faith Page: The Westgate Hotel Ritmo Caliente: Sevilla Tad Sissler: Mille Fleurs John Tafolla: Blue Parrot Trece de la Suerte: Sevilla





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All dates, acts and locket process subject to change vithout prior notice. A service charge is actived to such licket. The m

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San Diego Reader November 21, 2007 97

Crasher

SPLENDOR IN THE GLASS

by Josh Board

Lt was nice to go to two events that were in close proximity. The first was a glass art show in Balboa Park called "Splendor in the Glass."

There were a couple of musicians playing outside. They had a tip jar and I was tempted to put \$5 in and say, "That's only if I don't hear 'Free Bird,'" which is a joke you hear in bars with cover bands. But, considering they're playing acoustic standards without vocals, maybe "Girl from Ipanema" would work better.

There were lots of tables set up with fruits, cheeses, wines, and desserts.

Before I scarfed down four brownies, I thought I should at least check out the art. I was impressed by an artist named Susan Hirsch, who had large contemporary pieces.

There was a guitar made of glass that I was surprised only took third place. I joked with Leslie, the artist who made it, "I'd love to see Pete Townshend get a hold of this."



She didn't agree. It took her 70 hours to make.

She made a huge puzzle that the crowd surrounded. It had perhaps the longest title in glass art history: When Mrs. Jig Saw How the Pieces of Her Life Fit Together She Felt Less Puzzled.

When he started talking about the history of station wagons, I grabbed a brownie and headed out.

I overheard someone say, "Imagine if a kid was playing with this and broke it." I said, "Hey, a puzzle made of on one of my pieces once. Not this year." I said, "If that ever happens, you could just make it look like an abstract piece."

glass...probably still safer then

those toxic toys from China."

"break" and said, "A chair fell

Leslie overheard the word

I went outside to get some food and overheard a couple say, "Couldn't just anyone come up here and eat? Homeless people or tourists who aren't even here to see the glass work?"

wife Diane

Top ria

Bottom left: Charger cheerleaders; Bottom right: Pro football player John Brockington and

A guy named Marv, who I'm told used to do a lot of glass work, now works on his '47 Chevy woody. I asked him about working on his woody.

"When I got it, the brakes went out; the engine overheated. I put a lot of money into it. It's worth \$100,000 now."

I said, "You probably have a Club on the steering wheel."

He said, "I'm in the San Diego Woodies, which is the club I'll probably be president of next year."

I explained what I meant by "Club," and he told me car thieves don't take cars that are so easily recognizable.

He said, "We have a show in September in Encinitas with over 250 Woodies. People from all over the U.S.; 70 percent of the woodies, though, are on the West Coast."

When he talked about the ash and mahogany wood, I joked, "Do you have termites?"

Marv said woodies were the original SUVs to surfers, and when he started talking about the history of station wagons, I grabbed a brownie and headed out.

* * *

The next event was at the U.S. Grant downtown, a reception of the Sixth Annual Pro Ath-



letes for Life dinner. This was to raise money and awareness for organ donation.

I had heard actor Lou Gossett, Jr., was going to be there. He was in the most underrated boxing movie of all time, and I was thrilled about the chance to meet him.

Diane Brockington is the woman who got me into the event; she's married to former NFL star John Brockington, who had a kidney transplant. I asked how they moved out here (since he played for the Green Bay Packers), and she mentioned Willie Buchanon, who I saw walking around the event.

I saw a few famous athletes, such as Ben Davidson and his mustache.

Diane and I talked about the controversy over Mickey Mantle's liver transplant after supposedly ruining his liver from drinking, as did musician David Crosby. I asked if any religions prohibit organ

donation. She said, "The ethics of transplantation are interesting and complex. One way to get to the top of the list is to be really sick. They look at who needs it most, regardless of how they got there. If prior lifestyle were a consideration, then all those folks who eat themselves into diabetes and, as you point out, drink their way into organ failure. would be excluded." She took the time to explain the procedure to me.

I watched as she looked around the room. She did a fine job of greeting everyone. She had two Charger cheerleaders cheering for everyone who came in. A gang of fake photographers snapped photos as people entered, and fake fans asked for autographs as they walked by. Most guests smiled and enjoyed it. A few seemed confused.

Diane came back and picked up her conversation where she left off. She told me all major religions support and endorse organ transplants. I'm curious, however, when she mentions that Jehovah's Witnesses "require that the organ be cleansed of blood."

We talked about what a classy guy Walter Payton was. I told her I sent him a football card as a kid and that he autographed it and sent it back. She told me that Payton raised a lot of awareness in the Illinois area.

I laughed when Diane said, "For the hardcore in love with the idea of taking their pancreas to the great beyond, I would share a couple of facts...the 97,000 wait list in America would disappear in four and a half years if we all signed up."

I told her I hadn't seen Gossett walking around and she said, "Well, he says he's sick. So he won't be here." I was bummed.

I walked around and looked at the items up for auction. I saw autographed guitars from Bon Jovi, Tim McGraw, and Faith Hill for \$1500. Signed football helmets from several Chargers and Packers players. Players such as Tomlinson and Merriman are hard to read, and you wonder who would want those when you can't read it. But, Tony Hawk's autograph looks as if he printed it out.

I went to grab a Coke and pulled out \$2 for a tip. The guy told me it was \$4.50. I gave him \$5 and his tip went down to 50 cents.

A few guys at this event were having football players sign their programs. I was interested in a magician doing tricks for a small crowd. He was making silver dollars disappear. He joked about a huge diamond one woman had. I overheard a guy behind me say, "This is how David Copperfield can score all those women."

A lady passed by saying to her friend, "That Rolling Stones guitar was cool." I interrupted to ask where it was, and she pointed to it.

Nobody had bid on it. Its starting price was \$2500. I saw a Bruce Springsteen guitar nearby, which wasn't signed by any of the E Street Band. The Stones guitar had everyone in the band.

I placed my bid and left. ■

Jim Morrison

zing re-creation of a live Doors concert

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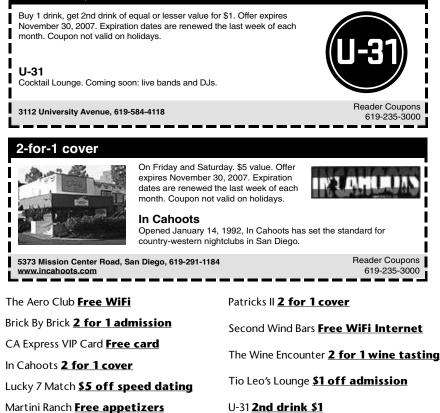




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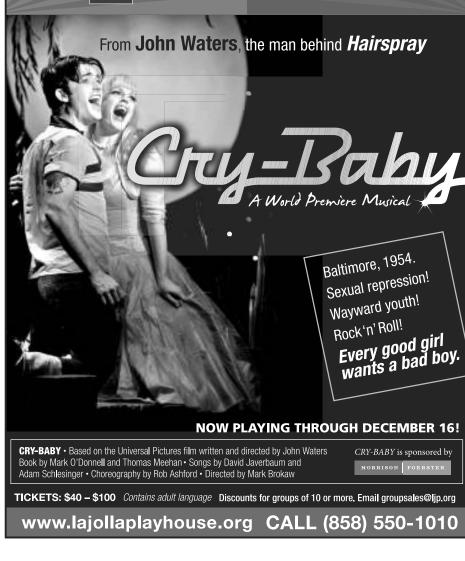
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San Diego Reader November 21, 2007 99

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE





THEATER LISTINGS

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

By the Bog of Cats SDSU School of Theatre, Televi-

sion, and Film presents Marina Carr's "play full of Irish mysticism and folklore loosely based on Medea.' EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE, DON POWELL THEATRE, SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVER-SITY. THROUGH DECEMBER 2: THURS-DAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M.

MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. (NOTE: NO PERFORMANCES THANKSGIVING WEEK.) 619-594-688 A Christmas Carol:

Not-So-Tiny Tim's Great Big Musical!

Vox Nova Theatre Company presents the world premiere of Ruff Yeager's holiday musical, in which Tiny Tim, now grown up, has three ghostly visitors. Susan Stratton directed 6TH@PENN THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AV-

ENUE, HILLCREST, SATURDAY, NOVEM-BER 24, THROUGH DECEMBER 23; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 858-539-6251.

Cry-Baby

La Jolla Playhouse presents the world-premiere musical adaptation of John Waters' cult classic movie: "bad boy meets good girl," but is he "as bad as they say"? Mark Brokaw directed. LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, MANDELL WEISS THEATRE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DRIVE, THROUGH DECEMBER 16: TUES DAY AND WEDNESDAY AT 7:30 P.M. THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATI-NEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 858-550-1010.

Gas

Palomar Performing Arts stages Georg Kaiser's expressionistic drama that "challenges the sustainability of our technological society." Michael Mufson directed. HOWARD BRUBECK THEATRE, PALOMAR COLLEGE 1140 WEST MISSION ROAD SAN MARCOS, THROUGH DECEMBER 2: FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. AND



THURSDAY AT 4:00 P.M. 760-744-1150 X2453

Irving Berlin's White Christmas

Welk Resort Theatre presents the San Diego premiere of a new musical based on the melodies of the 1954 movie, including "Blue Skies," "Happy Holidays," and the title song. Jon Engstrom directed and choreographed. WELK RESORT THEATRE. THROUGH DE-CEMBER 30; TUESDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE TUES DAY THROUGH THURSDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 1:45 P.M. 760-749-3448.

Joey and Maria's Comedv **Italian Wedding** Joey and Maria tie the knot in

not-so-ordinary interactive dinner theater." HOLIDAY INN ON THE BAY, 1355 NORTH HARBOR DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, OPEN-ENDED RUN. FOR DAYS AND TIMES CALL 800-944-5639

Medea

UCSD Theatre and Dance stages Euripides' tragedy about the unthinkable act that will keep Medea's children from the hands of her enemies. Isis Misdary di-

rected. MANDELL WEISS FORUM STUDIO, UNI-VERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, THROUGH SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1; AT 8:00 P.M. 858-534-4574.

National Comedy Theatre

Improvisational comedy, making up funny stuff on the spot, is difficult enough. Years ago, however, Keith Johnstone thought it'd be more exciting if gone competitively. He got the idea from pro wrestling ("where Terrible Turks mangled defrocked priests while 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 improve. Teams wear uniforms and compete on ActroTurf. Using suggestions from the audience, they play "Emotional Sympathy," 'Blind Line," and "Freeze Tag," with judges awarding points to the best scenes. Klunkers and groaners get booed; quick wit rewarded (one of the most refreshing parts of the contest: people acknowledge fail-

evening. And Gary Kramer is one talented comedian. Worth a try.

MARQUIS THEATER, 3717 INDIA STREET. MISSION HILLS, OPEN-ENDED RUN: FRI-DAY AND SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. AND 9:45 P.M. 619-295-4999

ure, abundantly, then forget it). It

makes for a lively, often funny

Night of the Iguana

OnStage Playhouse presents Tennessee Williams's drama about a defrocked Episcopal priest battling demons without and within. David Meredith directed.

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AV-ENUE, CHULA VISTA, THROUGH NOVEM-BER 30' THURSDAY THROUGH SATUR-DAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-422-7787



its incredible 10th year! The Globe is celebrating this milestone by updating the show with more dancing and three new songs, including the delightful carol "Fah Who

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The Producers

A touring production of the Tony Award-winning musical (winner of the most Tonys ever) comes to the California Center for a brief run. CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ES-CONDIDO 340 NORTH ESCONDIDO BOULEVARD, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, AND SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 800-988-4253.

Punks

Ion Theatre opens its promising new space with a warning: its take on Genet's The Maids "contains full nudity, strong language, sexual situations, simulated drug use, and smoke." It is also a taut, intense 90-minute piece that plays lethal hide-and-seek with two young Latino hustlers. They perform dominance/submission rituals, in their NYC apartment, for Papin, a letch across the street. But when aren't they performing? And who are they? Every time they drop a mask there's another underneath. As in The Maids (Claudio Raygoza's excellent writing keeps Genet ever in mind), Jesus and Cristobal (Markuz Rodriguez and Steven Lone, both riveting) dream of belonging in the world (as in Waiting for Godot, their play-acting helps them order, and gain partial release from, their lives). But they remain stuck in servitude, emblemized by the arrival of Papin (Robin Christ playing a man dressed as Marie Antoinette in a basketballsized silver wig). The script, con-

ceived and directed by Glenn Paris, shifts in styles, and the acting follows suit, leaping — often in a heartbeat - from the ornate and literary to drug culture desperation (the "tea" in Genet meant to poison Madame becomes street tea. heroin, in this version). Some of the stage business gets overextended, but overall Punks moves like a ticking bomb. Worth a try. ION THEATRE, ACADEMY OF PERFORM-ING ARTS, 4580-B ALVARADO CANYON ROAD, EAST MISSION VALLEY. THROUGH DECEMBER 15; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUN

The Rat Pack,

DAY AT 7:00 P.M. 619-374-6894.

Live at the Sands Broadway*San Diego hosts a touring production of the musical about Sammy Davis Jr., Dean Martin, and Old Blue Eyes himself, during the original filming of Ocean's Eleven in Las Vegas. Mitch Sebastian directed and choreographed. SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, THIRD AV ENUE AND B STREET, DOWNTOWN,

THROUGH NOVEMBER 25: FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. SUNDAY AT 6:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AT 2:00 P.M. AND SUNDAY AT 1:00 P.M 619-570-1100.

San Diego Theatresports:

The Funhouse A cross between improvisational comedy and Family Feud, The Funhouse combines improv 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 kick. The 90-minute evening offers different bits. The winner gets a banana, the loser a "forfeit." Some attempts went nowhere (improve is tough: I did it in my, as hindsight reveals, callow youth). Others made amazing twists and turns. The group has more hits than misses, and their guru, Keith Johnstone, wrote one of the very best books I've read about making theater. They put his pearls to good use. Their motto: "Remember, when it's not funny, it's art." Worth a try.

competitive scene-making, with

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.

Side by Side by Sondheim

Coronado Playhouse and Greene Music present the revue of Stephen Sondheim's earlier music from Gypsy, West Side Story, and A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum. Daniel Logan directed.

CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO, THROUGH NOVEMBER 25; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUN-DAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-435-4856



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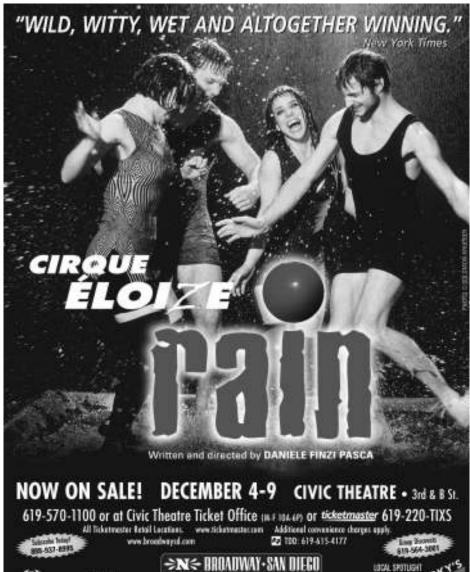
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Presented by



The Skin of Our Teeth UCSD Theatre and Dance opens its new season with Thornton Wilder's epic about the Antrobus family struggling to survive icebergs (in suburbia), nuclear war, and fickle time-warps. Sarah Rasmussen directed. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO. THROUGH DECEMBER 1; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY, DECEM-BER 1, AT 2:00 P.M. 858-534-4574.

Sweet 15 (Quinceañera)

The San Diego Rep stages the world premiere of Rick Najera's "interactive comedy" about Sonora Valderama's 15th birthday party ten years too late. Sam Woodhouse directed SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE. LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28. THROUGH DECEM

BER 16: WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. THURSDAY THROUGH SATUR-DAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-544-1000.



Torch Song Trilogy

Diversionary Theatre stages Harvey Fierstein's three-act comedy-drama about the adventures of Arnold Beckoff, "a Jewish homosexual drag queen." G. Scott Lacy directed. **DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK** BOULEVARD, UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS.

THROUGH DECEMBER 16; THURSDAY AT 7:00 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. SUNDAY AT 6:30 P.M. MATI-NEE SUNDAY AT 1:30 P.M. (ALSO "SE-LECTED MONDAY PERFORMANCES"). 619-220-0097.

The Fritz Theatre (619) 233-7505 www.fritztheatre.com

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Triple Espresso: A Highly Caffeinated Comedy Hugh Butternut's done his lounge act at the Triple Espresso Coffeehouse 20 years to the day. While pa-

trons 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. The story line's 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's so talented, when the plot has them complain of difficulties to overcome, you wish they'd quit trumping up the pseudo-drama and get on with this highly entertaining, if lightweight show.

Worth a try.

HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVENUE, GASLAMP QUARTER, THROUGH FEBRUARY 17: THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SATURDAY AT 5:00 P.M. AND 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 3:00 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M. 619-234-9583.

Where There's a Will... There's a Wake

Mystery Café Dinner Theatre presents James Pascarella and Will Roberson's interactive comedy, set in a 1920s speakeasy where suspicion shrouds every "gangster, game, and dame." Pascarella directed.

MYSTERY CAFE, IMPERIAL HOUSE RESTAURANT, 505 KALMIA STREET, MID-TOWN, OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. 619-544-1600.

THEATER DIRECTORY

Actors Alliance Of San Diego 2650 Truxtum Road, Suite 203 Liberty Station (619) 224-3600 www.actorsalliance.com Arts Tix 28 Horton Plaza, Downtown

(619) 497-5000 w.sandiegoperforms.com

Asian American Repertory Theatre (888) 568-2278 www.asianamericanrep.org

Beacon Theatre (760) 724-8218 www.beacontheatresd.com

Arts Center 590 Palm Canyon Dr., Borrego Springs (760) 767-4275 www.bspac.us

The Broadway Theatre 340 East Brodway, Vista (760) 806-7905 www.premiereforkids.com

California Center For The Arts 340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido (760) 839-4100 www.artcenter.org

Carlsbad Village Theatre 2822 State St., Carlsbad (760) 729-0089 www.carlsbadvillagetheatre.com

Centro Cultural De La Raza 2004 Park Blvd., Balboa Park (619) 235-6135 www.centroraza.com

Christian Community Theater r Way, El C (619) 588-0206 www.expaclive.com

Civic Theatre 3rd & B, Downtown (858) 570-1100 www.sdcivic.org

Clairemont Community Players Holmes Elementary 4902 Mt. Ararat, Clairemont (858) 560-5114

Community Actors Theatre 2957 54th St., State College (619) 264-3391 www.communityactorstheatre.com

Copley Symphony Hall (619) 235-0804 ww.sandiegosymphony.com

Coronado Playhouse 1835 Strand Way, Coronado (619) 435-4856 www.coronadoplayhouse.com

Cygnet Theatre Company 6663 El Cajon Blvd., Ste. N, College Area (619) 337-1525 www.cygnettheatre.com

Diversionary Theatre 4545 Park Blvd., Normal Heights (619) 220-0097 www.diversionary.org

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(619) 440-2277 www.ecpac.com Educational Cultural Complex **Theater** 4343 Ocean View Blvd., Southeast (619) 527-5256

Eveoke Dance Theatre 644 7th Ave., Downtown (619) 238-1153 www.eveoke.org

The Fault Line Theatre 3152 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest (619) 692-3382 www.faultlineprod.com Fern Street Circus (619) 235-9756 www.fernstreetcircus.org

The Hispanic Arts Theatre Of San Diego (619) 475-7496 H.I.T. Productions Dinner Theater Shirley's Kitchen, 7868 El Cajon Blvd. La Mesa (619) 561-8673 (619) 561-8673 www.dinnertheater.net Horton Grand Theatre

Grossmont College Stagehouse Theatre, El Caion

(619) 644-7234

(619) 234-9583 Inner Mission Productions (619) 245-4958

innermissionproductions.org Ion Theatre (619) 374-6894 www.iontheatre.com

Iris Theater 4580-B Alvarado Canyon Rd. (619) 271-4144 www.iristheater.org

Laguna Playhouse 606 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach (949) 497-2787

La Jolla Playhouse Center, UCSD (858) 550-1010 ww.laiollaplayhouse.org

La Jolla Stage Company 7887 Herschel (858) 459-7773 www.thelajollastageco.org

Lamb's Players Theatre Paul and Ione Harter Stage 1142 Orange Ave., Coronado (619) 437-0600 www.lambsplayers.org

Kithin States Community Theatre 8053 University Ave., La Mesa (619) 464-4598 www.lamplighterstheatre.org

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MiraCosta College Theatre One Barnard Dr., Oceanside (760) 795-6815 www.miracosta.edu

Mira Mesa Theatre Guild (858) 693-7328 Moonlight Stage Productions 651 E. Vista Way Vista

(760) 724-2110 www.moonlightstage.com The Muse Theatre (619) 239-2894

Mystery Cafe The Imperial House Restaurant 505 Kalmia St., Hillcrest (619) 544-1664 www.mysterycafe.net **National Comedy Theatre** 717 India St., Mis (619) 295-4999 ww.nationalcomedv.com

New Village Arts Theatre 2787 B State St., Carlsbad (760) 433-3245 www.NewVillageArts.org North Coast Repertory Theatre 987-D Lomas Santa Fe Dr., Solana Bea (858) 481-1055 www.northcoastrep.c trep.org North Park Vaudeville 2031 El Cajon B (619) 647-4958 Blvd., North Park

The Old Globe Theatre Cassius Carter Centre Stage Lowell Davies Festival Theatre, Balboa Park (619) 23-GLOBE (234-5623) ww.oldglobe.org

Onstage Playhouse 291 Third Ave., Chula Vista (619) 422-7787 www.onsta stage.itgo.com Palomar College Theatre 1140 W. Mission Rd., San Marcos (760) 744-1150 x2453 www.palomar.edu

Patio Playhouse 201 E. Grand Ave., Escondido (760) 746-6669 www.patioplayhouse.com Pine Hills Lodge 2960 La Posada Way, Julian

(760) 765-1100 www.pinehillslodge.com Point Loma Nazarene University Salomon Theatre 3900 Lomaland Dr., Point Loma

(619) 849-2433 www.ptloma.edu **Poway Center For The** ming Arts

15498 Espola Rd., Poway (858) 748-0505 www.powayarts.org PowPAC, Poway's Community Theater

13250 Poway Rd., Poway (858) 679-8085 www.powpac.org **Ramona MainStage Theatre** 626 Main St., Ramo (760) 789-7008

The Rehearsal Room 1159 6th Ave., Do (619) 589-9963

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San Diego Junior Theatre Casa Del Prado Theatre, Balboa Park (619) 239-8355 www.juniortheatre.com San Diego Musical Theatre

w.SDMT.org

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San Diego State University Don Powell Theatre and Experimental Theater (619) 594-6884

http://theatre.sdsu.edu/ San Diego Theatresports 1531 Tyler, Hillcrest (619) 465-7469 www.improvise.net

Scripps Ranch Theatre 10455 Pomerado Rd., Scripps Ranch (858) 578-7728

www.scrippsranchtheatre.org 6th @ Penn Theater 3704 6th Ave., Hillcrest (619) 688-9210 www.sixthatpenn.com

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(619) 482-6367 www.swc.cc.ca.us The Spreckels Theatre 121 Broadway, Downtown (619) 235-9500

Star Theatre 402 North Coast Highway, Oceanside (760) 721-9983 www.startheater.org

Starlight Musical Theatre Starlight Bowl, Balboa Park (619) 544-7827 www.starlighttheatre.org

Sullivan Players 1531 Tyler Av Hillcrest (858) 274-1731

Sushi Performance & Visual Art 320 Eleventh Ave., Downtown (619) 235-8466 www.sushiart.org

Teatro Mascara Magica (619) 231-3586 ww.sandiegoreps.con

The Theatre In Old Town 4040 Twiggs St., Old Towr (619) 688-2494 www.theatreinoldtown.com

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University Of San Diego 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego (619) 260-7934 www.sand

Vantage Theatre (619) 262-6162 http://home.san.rr.com/vantagetheatre

Welk Resort Theatre 8860 Lawrence Welk Dr., Escondido (888) 802-7469 ww.welkresort.com/sandiego

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Margaret Discovers Parsnips

"Moderately priced neighborhood bistro" and "chic spot for seasonal cuisine" may seem like contradictory phrases — in the neighborhood adjacent to Laurel and Mr. A's, you'd expect the chic but not "moderate" — but Avenue 5 encompasses both descriptions. The cuisine has those idealistic Alice Waters values that have (finally!) dribbled down to the southland: food that's fresh, local, and organic where possible. And even if the dining room looks spiffy, the food and wine prices are more middle class than plutocratic. What an (oxymoronic) adventure!

I needed a pleasing destination for a halfblind date. That is, the gal in charge of "my" year of my high school alumnae association in Manhattan e-mailed during the fires to see if I was okay. She gave me the e-dress of another alum living on the other (better) side of Balboa Park. Margaret and I had been in the same homeroom but barely knew each other. I chose Avenue 5 for our mini-reunion, because it sounded like the perfect restaurant for it and was close to her house.

On the former site of the tranny nightclub Lips (which moved to North Park), Avenue 5 has all-new decor, including a shiny modern bar, which was well-filled at happy hour. Banquettes along the walls face linen-clad tables and wooden chairs with a Pottery Barn look. High above, exposed cylindrical heating ducts coated with shiny aluminum paint crawl across the ceiling, like the giant worms of Dune, in the industrial-moderne style of Paris's Pompidou Museum. The dining room flows into a second room in back with an unadorned brick wall, like a stereotypical comedy club. A semi-open kitchen is walled in glass. This decor may play a (too predictable) role in your dining pleasure (or distress) on certain nights; stay tuned for details.

Margaret chose the spring greens salad, a fine example of its kind — several types of lettuce, bits of edible golden flowers (nasturtium petals or possibly Johnny-jump-up violas), glazed pecans, and chopped, cooked figs, plus a crouton spread with herbed goat cheese and fig confit, all perfectly and lightly dressed. At a later visit, my friend Sam mentioned that he'd tried the roastedbeet salad at a previous dinner and liked it very much. Evidently, salads are a forte.

The evening's cauliflower soup, smoothed with a touch of cream, was soothing and weighty,



REN

NAOMI WISF

strewn with greaseless "toasted" shreds of Maui onion for textural and flavor contrast. I craved one more element to complete it, something a bit darker and more sophisticated, and for once, I could even name what I thought might be missing: a touch of white truffle in any

form whatsoever, even oil, to supply a hint of "nasty" to balance all the "nice." But *chacun à son goût*, that's just my taste.

A killer entrée features seared scallops with risotto in a pear-and-chardonnay cream sauce. This was the sort of flashy chef-work I'd hoped to find here. The gentle sweetness of pear tastes almost like vanilla (a touch of rosemary provided the needed "edge"), and both the risotto and scallops were flawlessly cooked.

A salmon entrée showcased a tender topknot of flavorful fillet over a bricklike gratin of thick yam slices that looked as if it might be an additional salmon fillet with crisped skin on the bottom. (Margaret and I were rather sorry it wasn't.) The coral veggie-block was coated with thin, browned slices of potato (hence the resemblance to salmon skin). Alongside were succulent batons of parsnips, Margaret's first exposure to this fascinating vegetable, which resembles a white carrot, sweet but with a subtle, rooty sharpness. (If Tommy Lee Jones were a vegetable, he

might be a parsnip.) "My family was German," Margaret said. "Every holiday we ate rutabaga. Ever since, I'm turned off on all forms of turnips. But parsnips — these

are interesting. I think I might buy them in the future."

The Gainey California house chardonnay available by the glass proved bright and sunny, a good match for our meal. For the entrées, we tried a French chardonnay that's also available by the glass (unfortunately, I didn't note the name). It was heavier-bodied and more alcoholic, but also pleasing and apt. Good to find house wines worth drinking. French-born manager Nick Carbonne (you may recognize his face from previous encounters at Tapenade or other local restaurants) is responsible for the user-friendly wine list. You can find plenty of wines you want

Avenue 5 ★★★ (Very Good)

2760 Fifth Avenue (between Nutmeg and Olive Streets), Bankers Hill, 619-542-0394, *http://avenue5restaurant.com.*

HOURS: Lunch Tuesday–Friday 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.; dinner Tuesday–Sunday 5:30–9:30 p.m., Friday–Saturday until 10:00 p.m. or later. **PRICES:** Salads and appetizers, \$7–\$16; entrées,

\$20-\$26; desserts, \$7. **CUISINE AND BEVERAGES:** Seasonal Frenchinfluenced California cuisine featuring local ingredients. Well-edited international wine list at low markups, with many good buys for the adventurous.

PICK HITS: Salads, scallops with pear, prosciutto-wrapped "devilfish" (monkfish), baked fromage blanc, chocolate decadence cake.

NEED TO KNOW: Decor amplifies noise, very loud when crowded. Classy-casual dress (e.g., jeans and twinsets). Street parking (not too hard). Half-price for second bottle of wine on Thursdays. Please make reservations.

Ratings reflect the reviewer's reaction to food, ambience, and service, with price taken into consideration. Menu listings and prices are subject to change.

Go to *SanDiegoReader.com* to find hundreds of past reviews.

to drink here without depleting your mortgage money. The list goes light on those ridiculously overpriced California boutique wines and is strong on undervalued European bottlings.

For dessert, we tried a "chocolate decadence," which took the form of a rich dark cake, rather than the original ten-ton truffle wedge invented in the '70s by Bay Area chef Narsai David. (I loved it back then, never want it now.) Cooked raspberries pooled along one side, and figs dotted the other. Margaret's coffee was strong, my decaf espresso decent.

I returned a week later with the full posse, after downloading the (outdated) menu from the website. I came loaded for bear, with a full meal plan for four. But my scheme came to naught, be-



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cause the menu was suddenly much shorter. The kitchen is rather small, both in workspace and storage space, so dishes that hadn't been selling well had been ruthlessly pruned. (Those were, of course, the ones I most wanted to try.) Three appetizers were gone, two entrées vanished, and a third (pork belly, alas) was replaced with a more common and popular lamb rack, so my plan was shot all to hell. Some of the excised dishes will reappear from time to time as nightly specials, the chef says.

That night, the restaurant was heavily populated, and as I learned later, many of the diners hadn't reserved - they'd started at the bar during happy hour and then moved on to a table when hunger struck. The kitchen wasn't prepared for so many walk-ins, which delayed food delivery to a pace slow enough to melt your pocket watch. Naturally, the diners (some already well-lubricated from bar sojourns) filled the long gaps between courses with more wine. With the hardedged decor, a single loud table here makes the whole restaurant painfully noisy, and two such tables turn it into the soundtrack of Jumanji. In the brick-walled back room, which bounced all sounds around, there was a full-throated hyena octet (mainly the sort of surgically enhanced blondes who have more fun and everyone nearby has to hear about it). In the main dining room was the testosterone tetrad, bellowing like rogue elephants in mating season. And since the kitchen that night was so pokey, we were sentenced to spend a long evening with both parties of revelers. Sometimes I want to strangle all restaurant designers, or at least send them to Gitmo for a few months. (The chefowner later told me that he's planning to install some soundabsorbing devices, like live trees.)

The food was mainly very good, although better in the entrées than the starters. Sam, who'd eaten at the restaurant before, counseled ordering not one but two of the foie gras torchon appetizers to share. Sage advice, since each plate had only a minuscule portion of foie gras versus an excess of toasted brioche bread. Garnishes involved a frizzle of microgreens, a spiced honey reduction, and a rather picante pear chutney, which diminished my pleasure in the rich liver. I love hot pepper, ditto foie gras, but not together. The tiny torchon segments, however, had a heavenly texture.

The soup du jour was pumpkin with apple — sweet, festive, and again, a bit simple, like a liquid Little Mary Sunshine. As with the cauliflower soup, I felt it needed a touch of darkness or exoticism to jolt it

out of the nursery (cardamom comes to mind). But again, this is a question of taste; most people would surely find it utterly lovable.

A vol-au-vent pastry filled with escargot was a welcome departure from the standard butter-garlic treatment for snails, but upon tasting, none of us loved it. The filling of the puff-pastry shells mingled snail meats with an equal amount of mushrooms (with shallots and cognac) in a variant of heavy sauce brun loaded with black pepper and salt. Interesting idea, but quite a lot was left over, and nobody at the table wanted to doggy bag the remnants to face another day.

Our wine choice for the first course was unexpectedly apt: From the section called "Whites of Interest," I whimsically picked a French pinot blanc that proved surprisingly on the sweet side, delightful with the foie gras, and palate relief for the lashes of heat in the snail sauce and foie gras. A wellpriced Faiveley Mercurey (2003) Burgundy for the entrées was a tempting bargain but, still too young, it tasted somewhat clenched. If you order this, have it opened and poured to "air" in the glasses well before you need it; it did open up in the glass. (If I owned a bottle, I'd cellar it for another five years.)

Forget all that snobby folklore about "white wine with fish." If there was ever a fish made for red wine (try a Côte du Rhone), it's the "Devilfish," monkfish tightly wrapped with Spanish prosciutto and served with herbed-baked tomato slices and a slightly sweet, deepflavored sauce of sherry with reduced chicken broth and yeal glaze. This is a fish dish that tells your mouth it's meat. Alongside come perfect green beans and a mysterious golden mound resembling a light yellow yam, which turned out to be the chef's reinterpretation of Spain's tortilla española. Normally a rustic, chunky frittata of eggs, onion, and potato, here it's a compacted mound of mandoline-sliced potato and onion. It tasted faintly sweet but had an indefinable quality as well, as if the spuds had moved on to a higher social caste than their tuberous origins - the Anatole Broyard of the root world.

One of the favorites of regular diners here is rack of lamb. Served rare as ordered and cut into three thick, juicy chops, it was daubed with a verdant garlic-parslev butter purée and surrounded by a red-pepper oil. Alongside was a newfangled ratatouille of small, solid eggplant chunks and some faintly bitter, firm dice of salsify, aka oyster plant." (This rare, sublime root vegetable lives up to its name: slowly roasted or braised until tender, it takes on a flavor and texture vaguely resembling oysters.)

An organic chicken breast, just a bit dry, was food for the Inner Child, with a sweet, thin glaze of lavender honey, and accompaniments of mashed potatoes, young carrots, and a high-toned Mediterranean broccoli variant.

By the time we received our desserts, the noisemakers were departing and we could at last hear ourselves and our food talk. The sweetest voice of the evening belonged to a baked fromage blanc — essentially a dense, flavorful mini-cheesecake on a cracker-thin sweet crust, surrounded by crème anglaise with caramelized pear. It was a platonic ideal of cheesecake, just barely anchored to the reality of mouths and bellies.

Lemon panna cotta surrounded by berry compote was also fine, but to my taste oversweet. Comparisons may be odious, but I couldn't help imagining the same dish as it might by prepared by the local Emperor of Panna Cotta, Jack Fisher (now dessert chef at Jack's La Jolla). I think Fisher would have more lemon and less sugar, for a subtler, more austere seductiveness. I found this one over-friendly, even a bit slutty.

My minor arguments with Avenue 5 are mainly questions of personal taste versus restaurant economics (and, of course, physical design). Even if I want more complex flavors in several dishes, the neighborhood patrons don't, and they're the restaurant's mainstay. Anybody who lives nearby is surely blessed by its proximity. Most neighborhoods, we have to make do with taquerías and pizzerias which, even if they're good, don't compare with the interesting pleasures offered at merciful prices by Avenue 5.

ABOUT THE CHEE

Chef-owner Colin MacLaggan grew up in San Diego. "I was the kind of kid who could always go into the kitchen and whip up something that tasted good. The restaurant lifestyle attracted me — I was a busboy, then a waiter, then a bartender. but I finally realized that I wasn't that much of a people person. I'm more of an introvert. So I found my life in the back, in the kitchen. And I love music. I was a music major, and I figured one day I'll have my own restaurant and play my own music and have the freedom to do what I want to do. Have my own kitchen to do what I please. We play an iPod [over the sound system]. I probably have a thousand songs I collected in my travels, evervthing from Miles Davis to Latin to a really progressive but not-too-intense trance song. You can hear the music in the background at the restaurant. It's quite diverse, but I think that's what our restaurant is.

"I went to Catholic school here, and that's where I first met Nick [Carbonne], the GM, and we worked together in restaurants all through our lives. After high school, I got my associate's degree and didn't know where I wanted to go to college, and since I was working in restaurants, I decided to

get a live experience of language and everything else I could get out of it — but I couldn't get a visa for the Cordon Bleu in France, so I went to the one in London. I got the Grand Diplôme in April 1999, which is when you take both the pastry and the cuisine program at the same time. It's really tough - you have to go through back-to-back finals. You go to an eight-hour final, take a ten-minute break, and then you have another final. I love the perfect science of pastry, but cuisine — I love the fast pace, the creativity, and unlike pastry, you can always fix it if it goes wrong...So now, when it comes to pastries, I'm just a little bistro guy. I do homemade stuff, not super-garnished stuff.

"Meanwhile, I worked for Terrence Conran of the Conran Group in London. I was one of just a few students who worked the whole time I was studying. This made me who I am. Being the only American in a British-French kitchen, I got my skin toughened up quite right. They didn't just call me a Yank; at first they thought I was a Muslim because I'm big and dark, and I got all these bad looks from the waitstaff. I was starting to get real grief from those guys, until I finally told them that I'm Mexican and Scottish, and they were, like, 'Okay, that explains everything.'

"Then I found myself coming back home, and straightaway I worked for Doug Organ, first at Wine Sellar and then at Laurel...I went to work for Martin [Woesle] at Mille Fleurs, and... opening Bertrand at Mr. A's [as junior sous-chef], and that's where I met Carl Schroeder. We hit it off right away, we had the same theories about food and the same techniques, and then we opened Arterra together. I left because I didn't like working for the Marriott. Then I helped a friend open Crush, setting up the menu there, and went on to the La Jolla Country Club. All I wanted to do was cook and golf, not deal with the public. For a brief time, I worked at Rancho Valencia during that period of transition while they were renovating and shuffling chefs around. It wasn't for me. And then, with Nick as maitre d' and sommelier and business expertise from my brother, we were able to open this place.

"Most of my dishes are simple-three-component dishes. Food is very personal: you put it in your mouth, you feel textures, you taste tastes. Maybe it's because of my Old World training, but — I'm not trying to be on TV, and I'm not trying to do science projects on a plate. I want to eat and enjoy food, and that's it! If I don't personally eat it, I'm not going to serve it to you. And for this place, we're trying to train our service staff to build in all the fine-dining skills, but without the pretentiousness or the price tag attached. We know what we're doing, we like what we do, but we don't have to charge vou extra for that." ■



Burger Creativity

"We never got to go to McDonald's. Sometimes we were pretty hungry."

eez, mate. I'd been honing my finest Australian for this place. Hazitgyne? Box of birds, mate, you bloody galah. I'm getting my taste buds prepared for roo-burgers, hot koala-pockets, platypus platters...

I mean, the name's right: Boomerangs. I spot it from the 105 bus. A giant blue boomerang mural on a building's two-story side wall, peeking over a Pearle Vision corner shop.

I walk up to the front. Looking for signs of Aussieness. But so far all I see is a sign that says

"Gourmet Burger Joint. You'll Always Come Back For More." The place is kinda tucked in behind a Mexican restaurant, but it has nice outside tables and a fountain courtvard.

I walk inside. Couple of way-big rooms either side of a reception area but no one around. Okay, little late for lunch, as usual. Getting near twoish.

"Hello!"

The voice echoes down from upstairs. Guy leans over the balcony.

'Too late for lunch?" I ask.

"No way. You're good anytime. Come on up!" Turns out this is Tyler the cook.

I bounce up the stairs to - land's sakes alive! as Gramma used to say — two more big dining rooms, with a mighty polished-plank bar snaking down the middle.

I grab a barstool and look around. Saharasandy walls, aqua-blue walls, lots of art (for sale), flat-screen TVs spouting sports everywhere, and white-slatted shutters at the windows. Gives a plantation look. "Happy Hour during all Chargers and Monday Night Football games," says a sign at the end of the bar.

A couple is ordering in a corner booth. "Boomerang Burger," she says. "Me too," says the guy. Guess I should check that out.

Huh. First thing, there's nothing Aussie on the menu. No roo-burgers. Not a platypus platter in sight. But second thing, they have a fresh take on burgerland. Yes, they do the standard appetizers like buffalo wings (\$7.99) and potato skins (\$7.99, \$9.99 with steak), and soups (\$4.99), and salads (not that cheap: they start at \$9.99 for the Caesar with chicken). But when it comes to actual burgers, we're seeing original thinking here. A whole page with nuttin' but "create your own burger" options. You start with a one-third-pound (\$8.99, also on the pricey side at first glance), a half-pound (\$9.99), or a three-quarter-pound (\$10.99) burger, but

dards like mushrooms and bleu-cheese crumbles "The different thing we do," says José, the guy behind this giant, heavily lacquered log countertop, "is we actually mix

these items into your burger meat." You get a side, too, such as ED BEDFORD

then you can add three items. I mean anything,

from horseradish to artichoke hearts to carrots

to cranberries to pineapple, in addition to stan-

"twice-baked mashed potatoes," grilled veggies, or corn with cotija cheese. So the \$8.99 starts to look a lot better.

The problem is sorting it all out. The page starts to swim before you, with choice after choice. "Choose a cheese." "Choose a homemade side."

"Add a specialty sauce." (For sure, some of these sauces look worth a shot, like Thai peanut, chipotle pepper, citrus.)

I see the couple's house burgers coming upstairs (the kitchen must be below), and they look pretty darned good, so I go into my When Harry Met Sally routine. "I'll have what she's having," I say. 'Specially when I see it's got roasted garlic, red onions, green peppers, carrots, and mushrooms coming along for the ride.

"Good beginner's choice," says José. "See, we actually make your add-ins part of the burger, except for things like bacon slices and fire-roasted red peppers. We're the only ones in town who do it, as far as I know. It was my mom's idea.'

"In Australia?"

"In Chula Vista."

Uh, right. Still don't quite get the Australian connection. Whatever, I choose the roasted-garlic peppered fries for my side and go for the BBQ sauce (it was that or teriyaki) and the one-third pounder. And I get a coffee (\$2.50), even though I was tempted by the little countertop ad for Moose Drool brown ale (from Missoula, Montana, not Melbourne, Australia).

The Boomerang Burger comes on a big white heavy china plate. Not those little blow-away red plastic baskets and paper, thank the good Lord. And — not for the first time — the fries are the first stars. It's the garlic, of course. Dang, they're good.

Da boiger's not too shabby either. It's the kind of fall-apart burger you end up turning upside down so the soggy underside's up and eating with the big fat knife and fork they give you. But it's tasty and interesting to the end, with all those bits and pieces falling out, waiting to be scooped up.

Bruce, José's partner, studied at Johnson and Wales University cooking school - pretty famous place — but José learned at home in Chula Vista, with his mom. "There were 11 of us kids. My dad died when I was young. We had some really, really tough times after that. So we never got to go out to McDonald's. Sometimes we were pretty hungry. That's when we started stuffing burgers. It was Mom's idea. But I loved packing carrots and garlic into them."

We're certainly not starving here. Even though I'm going way over budget, I manage to cram in a pineapple, strawberry, banana, and cream cheesecake. Argh, \$5.25 more.

So I have two questions: Why are the burgers not, well, nearer to McDonald's prices? "Because we use only 100-percent Angus hormone-free beef," José says. "So, unlike other places, we can safely cook your burger rare. And it's always fresh, never frozen.'

And the Australian connection?

José laughs.

"None," he says. "Except we wanted the phrase 'You'll always come back for more' to stick. So we thought: 'Boomerang!'

And why not? But for me, José's mom's stuffed-burger idea is the thing. As they say, necessity is the mother of invention. 'Specially mom's necessity. My wheels are turning. Are we at the dawn of the Next Big Thing? Take the franchise to Sydney? ■



José

The Place: Boomerangs Gourmet Burger Joint, 4577 Clairemont Drive (at Clairemont Mesa Boulevard), Clairemont, 858-483-9500 Type of Food: American

Prices: Buffalo wing appetizers, \$7.99; potato skins, \$7.99, \$9.99 with steak; soup of the day, \$4.99; Caesar salad with chicken, \$9.99; Boomerang house burger, with roasted garlic, red onions, green peppers, carrots, and mushrooms, garlic fries on side, \$8.99 (1/3 lb), \$9.99 (1/2 lb), \$10.99 (3/4 lb); "Create your own burger" options: 1/3 lb (\$8.99), 1/2 lb (\$9.99), or 3/4 lb (\$10.99) with three items (e.g., horseradish, artichoke hearts, carrot cranberries, mushrooms, bleu cheese, pineapple)

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Born to Host

"I was built to bartend. It's what I was put on this planet to do."

was born to host," says Wine Cabana owner Keith Frantz. It's a calling with a simple enough first premise: "When somebody comes to your house, you make sure they have something to eat, a place to sit, and something to

drink." That's for starters; the common courtesy of manners and etiquette forms the next course. "My dad took all us kids to finedining establishments when we were, like, eight years old," he recalls. "He taught us the napkins, the forks — to get up when a woman gets up." And if some-

thing should somehow go wrong, "I deal with complaints the same way they deal with them at Disneyland — 'What can I do to make you happy?'"

Small wonder, then, that Frantz wound up filling a position that's as close to Professional Host as anything out there: a hotel bartender in Hawaii. "I love to bartend. I was built to bartend. It's what I was put on this planet to do. You get someone there for 15 days, and they're in your bar every day." You become the unofficial concierge, the friendly face in a strange place, pouring your opening round for the night. "You get celebrities, rich people saying, 'Where would you go to dinner?"

Answering that question is, in a roundabout way, what brought Frantz to where he is today. "All of these hotels have at least one fine-dining



place. I used to send people from the Hyatt Regency to the Grill Room at the Ritz-Carlton." And the restaurant was appropriately grateful for the business. "You're taking care of the people who take care of you — it's the service industry. So my

> girlfriend and I would have a \$450 dinner and a \$600 bottle of wine, and the bill would be something like \$80. Or the manager would say, 'Comp that.' And then you tip them \$300." That's how he started drinking the sorts of wines that any number of 27-year-olds only read about.

Eventually, he brought his newfound interest home from the restaurant. "On my way home, I'd have three or four hundred bucks from a shift, and I'd stop in a liquor store and buy a bottle. I built a little cellar in my condo, and pretty soon, I had something like 430 bottles," at least some of which now adorn the Wine Cabana's reserve list.

Frantz kept up the practice once he returned to the mainland — only now, besides bartending at Petco Park and elsewhere, he was running a casino dealing and bartending school in Kearny Mesa. As part of his bottle hunts, he started making regular visits to Julian Velovan at the Wine Lover. "He'd always sell me a \$200 bottle of wine," says Frantz. They must have showed well — when Velovan migrated to the Wine Encounter, Frantz followed him there. Later still, when the peripatetic Velovan got a bartending/wine coordinator gig down at the Westgate, he gave Frantz a call — the wine pro "needed to learn how to make some of the other drinks. After that, we just remained friends, and I told him, 'If I ever open a wine bar...'"

Frantz sold the bartending school in 2005. "When I sold the school, I was either going to open a sports bar or a wine bar, and I didn't want to have anything to do with my friends being wrecked on Jagermeister at two in the morning." In contrast, "Wine can complement food; it can complement your mood; it can complement a certain time." He remembers a three-liter of '99 Ridge Montebello, drunk with a childhood friend with whom he used to bike Montebello Road. "We saved the cork, wrote our names and the date on the cork. It was such a perfect time that we had together — that's part of what wine is for me." Wine it was.

Velovan and Frantz started scouting locations and found what they were looking for on Congress Street in Old Town. "There's a renaissance going on down here. They're building an Extraordinary Desserts-type place across the street. They're going to knock over the building next door and build a Mercado like this one. I walked from here to a restaurant nearby and drew everything just the way it is now in here on the placemat. I still have it, dated 3/25/06." (Various nightmare dealings with the Powers That Be pushed his opening date to November; the bar just celebrated its oneyear anniversary.)

This particular location, pre-renaissance, was a pottery shop and a sunglass shop, occupying one side of a three-sided courtyard. "I was thinking, 'Let's have wine in the title, but let's talk about Old Town. Wine Piazza, Wine Plaza, and then — Wine Cabana.' " Cabana it was, and cabanas there are — several inside, and several more



Keith Frantz

outside, along the courtyard's opposite wall. Countertop-ringed fire pits fill the space between. "There are a lot of little intimate areas," says Frantz, noting the main bar, the smokers' bar facing the street, the interior rooms, and the curtained cabanas. "I designed everything, and when I built this place, people said, 'What are you doing?' I definitely had a vision; I wanted a place in Old Town that was tropical — between San Diego and Cabo and Hawaii. I go to places like Baleen or the Catamaran, and I like those places. I didn't want downtown. I like to go downtown, but I wanted someplace more relaxed. I could never have gotten this vibe down there."

And response to the finished product seems to indicate that other people are okay with it, too.

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FOUNTAIN



Tourists find it an oasis during their tromps around the neighborhood, but there's a solid local clientele as well, partly because Frantz keeps things busy. "I wanted there to always be something going on. There are always people coming to visit - friends and family." What to do with guests? Check the calendar. Mondays are Monday Night Football and Industry Nights. Wednesdays get tastings (France vs. Italy, etc.), Tuesdays get chocolate, Sundays get Champagne Soirees and Dog Day Afternoon. "A girl came out on the patio, and she had her boxer out there, just sitting on the ground. I was, like, 'That's great. Let's have a day for that.' One Sunday a month, you bring your dog out here — we cover the furniture, and we have kibble and stuff for them." Also popular: uglyshirt contests and the end-of-month birthday bash. "If your birthday was in the month of November, you get cake, appetizers, and free champagne. Your friends get cake and appetizers."

The list itself is Velovan's baby and reflects his devotion to being both crowd-pleasing and wide-ranging (domestic Tempranillo, Greek Moschofilero, Ferrari-Carano Chardonnay). Flights sell well, and winetender Kevin says that the Taz Pinot Noir from Santa Maria is probably the best-selling wine in the house.

An expanded food menu offers Pupus, Bentos, Grinds, and Afters. What to drink with the homemade honey-roasted peanut butter with Granny Smith apple wedges? "I can give you the textbook answer, if that's what you want," says Frantz, smiling. "If we're going to Mr. A's or Donovan's, and you want to know what to have with the macadamia-encrusted

tilapia, I'm going to tell you that you need the '61 Chenin Blanc." For the apples, "You're probably going to want a Sauvignon Blanc," says Frantz, "or even something sweeter — a Riesling, maybe — that will bring out the citrus in the apple. But I sat out here and drank a big fat Merlot with it, and it was just as good. When most people say, 'What should I drink?' I say, 'What do you like?' It's just like in bartend-– when you ask, 'What ing should I have?' the first thing a bartender says is, 'Do you like sweet or sour?' "■

RESTAURANT LISTINGS

The Reader's Guide to Restaurants are recommended listings written by our reviewers (Ed Bedford, Barbara David, Ambrose Martin, Shari McCullough, Max Nash, Eleanor Widmer, Naomi Wise). Each issue contains only a fraction of over 500 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at

SanDiegoReader.com. Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a mid-range entrée. Inexpensive: below \$10; moderate: \$10 to \$19; expensive: \$20 to \$24; very expensive: more than \$25. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

NORTH COASTAL

Bubby's Gelato 937 South Coast Highway 101, Lumberyard Shopping Center, Encinitas, 760-436-3563. This tiny storefront does only a few things (sandwiches, gelati, and sorbet), but does them exceedingly well. The "gournet sandwiches" really do live up to their designation, with intriguing Mediterranean combinations (artichoke hearts, black olives, grilled eggplant, Gorgonzola are among the choice of ingredients) on soft, round Italian bread. (Or you can just get a tuna melt if that's your flavor.) Gelati are about twice as rich as Häagen-Dazs, and feature an ever-changing array of bold flavors, e.g., vanilla rosewater and

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eggs"), and pain perdu (for us peasants

that's French toast) with fresh fruit and

svrups. Some vegan items. After

11 a.m., try their Cajun chicken. Open

daily, breakfast to dinner. Inexpensive.

I Trulli Trattoria 830 South Coast Highway 101 (between G and H streets), Encinitas, 760-943-6800. An

enduring hit in Encinitas (where there's

no shortage of Italian restaurants), I

Trulli serves modern Italian food with fashionable new ingredients. The

 $-\dot{E}B$

Fidel's Carlsbad 3003 Carlsbad Boulevard (at Carlsbad 3003 Carlsbad Boulevard (at Carlsbad Village Drive), Carlsbad, 760-729-0903. It's not upscale modern Mex — no cumin-infused, mango-corn salsa on Fidel's menu — but who gives a flyin' fajita when you can order just about any traditional SoCal-Mexican dish and know it's gonna be good? Whether you try the chicken-and-rice soup with fresh cilantro and avocado chunks, fluffy *chile rellenos*, a crab enchilada, *carne asada* with all the trimmings, or a lonely à la carte chicken burrito, you're going to be a happy camper. Add a reliable margarita or a beer and you're set at this popular North County mainstay. Open seven days a week for lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — *S.M.*

Hill Street Coffee House 524 South Coast Highway 101, Oceanside, 760-966-0985. Organic in Oceanside? Really! Look for the sign: "Organic Restaurant and Espresso Bar" in front of a restored yellow-and-white Victorian house from O'side's past. Most of their meats, poultry, fish, and veggies are organic, and the menu is full of healthy dishes: tofu/spinach breakfast scramble, frittata *espinaca* ("Greek



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menu, subtitled "Nouvelle Italian Cuisine," resembles the somewhat ambitious, generically "northern Italian" bills of fare that you encounter all over Hillcrest and the Gaslamp. (It is, in fact, a partner restaurant to Hillcrest's Arrivederci.) The signifiers of seriousness are the pink peppercorns, goat cheese, sun-dried tomatoes, and light cream sauces that coexist with the more traditional mozzarella-tomato sauce arrays. Best bets are the daily specials, which offer the greatest chance for fresh ingredients and creativity. Busy, cramped, painfully loud inside. Street patio next to highway is also noisy. Reserve for dinner on weekends or expect an hour's wait. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — N.W.

Johnny Manana's 308 Mission Avenue, Oceanside, 760-721-9999. Local teachers hang out at this green- whiteand red-tiled place because it's such good value. Most dishes are Mexican. There's a Caribbean chocolatey, black bean, paprika, curry-in-the-rice thing going on. Pescado Veracruz (fish marinated in lime juice and garlic with rice, beans, and green salad) is good. The roasted chicken is delicious. The Big Breakfast Burrito Special (eggs, onions, beans, cheese, and rice, wrapped in a large flour tortilla) is *muy popular*, but then so is J.M.'s Great All-American Cheeseburger. Open daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Osteria del Pescatore 1201 Camino Del Mar (at 12th Street), Del Mar, 858-509-9293. The restaurant's name means "Fisherman's Hostelry," and you'll find expert, courteous service and well-crafted seasonal Italian fare here with a strong emphasis on zesty fresh seafood. Go straight to the singlespaced page-long list of daily specials for the most exciting dishes, including spaghetti *a cartocio* (baked in parchment paper) and lobster risotto. But save room for dessert, especially if the day's offerings include *torta alla nanna*, a rose-scented nut confection. Parking behind restaurant (turn east on 12th Street); heated dining patio available. Interesting international wine list. Reservations advised. Lunch Tuesday through Saturday; dinner nighty. High moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Pacific Coast Grill 437 South Coast Highway 101 (Beachwalk Plaza), Solana Beach, 858-794-4632. The grill features a free-form menu of Pacific Rim cuisine featuring fine ingredients and integrating Mexican, Hawaiian, and Asian flavors into So-Cal comfort cooking. Try the green salad with vibrant cranberry vinaigrette, the "Bag of Bones" (housesmoked pork ribs), and whatever fruit creation is on the dessert menu. Busy and noisy; reservations urged for weekend dinners and all summer. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Full bar. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Red Tracton's 550 Via de la Valle, Del Mar, 858-755-6600. Even though you know you're a half mile from the Pacific Ocean and across the street from the Del Mar Racetrack, one step inside Red Tracton's dining room sends you reeling back in time to an upscale, dimly lit, maroon-and-gilt restaurant of 1960s Chicago. The only thing missing is the scent of cigars. Food portions are enormous: The lobster sandwich (a touch heavy on the mayo) easily packs a half pound of lobster (available at lunch on Fridays). The selection is generous: steaks, prime rib, seafood, chicken, and pork — all expertly prepared and served in record time. On days when you don't give a rip about the Surgeon General's latest warnings, run to Red Tracton's and indulge your All-American ap petite. Lunch Monday through Saturday, dinner nightly. Expensive. — *S.M.*

Spices Thai Cafe 3810 Valley Centre Drive, Piazza Carmel Shopping Center, Del Mar (east of Carmel Valley turn-off), 858-259-0889; 6785 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-552-8845; 16441 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-674-4665. Superb Thai restaurant that's not only elegant but whose food contains no MSG and very little fat. The seafood dishes rate highly. Among other delicacies are duck and frog legs. Put Spices Thai Café at the top of your list. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.W.*

Tomiko 87 Encipitas Boulevard (at Best Western, just west of I-5), Encinitas, 760-633-3587. In a lovely setting overlooking Moonlight Bay you can enjoy Japanese and Pacific Rim fusion cooking and sushi in a serene but lively dining room. When the sushi bar is free from the weekend rush, the quality can be amazing: stunningly fresh *uni*, world-beating silky *toro*. The sushimaster also keeps an eye on the restau-rant's seafood purchases, so they meet exacting standards. Appetizers such as "salmon tower tartare" and "drunken black cod" are rewarding, as are the simple, excellent fusion-tinged seafood en trées. Reserve for weekends, especially for sushi bar. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Moderate. - N.W.

Tuscan Sun Italian Deli 1070 North El Camino Real, Encinitas, 760-633-4546. A town abounding in Italian restaurants ought to have a great Italian deli, and it does. You'll find domestic and imported deli meats and cheeses, fresh-baked breads and focaccia, marinated veggies, and a wealth of gourmet products from Italy. The specialty is the "Caprese" (tomatoes-plus) sandwich on focaccia bread with a variety of fillings, best served grilled and dressed with pesto. The eat-in/take-out menu includes pizza, pasta, salads, and a host of sandwiches. Open daily. — *N.W.*

NORTH INLAND

Athens Market Cafe 11640 Carmel Mountain Road, Suite 124, near Pacific Theatres, Carmel Mountain Plaza, 858-675-2225. At this offshoot of Mary Pappas's downtown Athens Market, sister Vickie's food is just as good. If you want a big start, order the saganaki, a cheese appetizer that comes flaming to your table. And you can't lose with mezedakia, a big oval sampler of dolmades (stuffed grape leaves), lokaniko (a delicious Greek sausage), spanakopita (spinach in filo pastry), tomatoes, cucumbers, tzatziki dip, hummus, feta cheese, and olives. But come for the

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lamb. It's wonderfully flavorful, skewered in the souvlaki entrée (which comes with beans and rice) or as lamb chops. Moussaka (baked eggplant, zucchini, and ground beef) goes down well too. Or what's wrong with a simple plate of feta cheese, kalamata olives, and a glass of Greek red? Open daily, 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — F B

Bamboo Hut Black Mountain Village, 9172 Mira Mesa Boulevard (one driveway west of Black Mountain Road), Mira Mesa, 858-348-0414. You'll find a taste of Hawaii in a strip mall in a neighborhood that's all-mall. The bright little "hut" has bamboo chairs, a bamboo ceiling, bare floors, and unclothed tables, with a sushi counter next to a tiny kitchen with a roaring gas grill. A large lattice awning offers outdoor seating a few steps from the door. The quality of the food is all over the map, though — this is not the place to try your first Spam sushi. The seafood sushi s good, though, including a fine Rainbow Roll with really sweet crab; the more creative rolls run to cream cheese and hot sauce. "Local food" choices include a tasty ahi *poké* and excellent chicken *katsu;* the *kalbi* short ribs are tough, though. Plate lunches include one to three entrées (priced accordingly) with steamed or mildly garlic-flavored rice, macaroni salad, and green salad with bright orange dressing à la Kraft French. Be sure they deliver what you ordered; there may be slipups. Open seven days, lunch and dinner. Very inexpensive. - N.W.

Bistro 221 221 East Grand Avenue Kalmia). Escondido, (near 760-737-7398. This genteel bistro with comfortable chairs and linen-covered tables inside and a shaded patio on the sidewalk — is especially tasty at lunch, with its sophisticated quesadillas and a classic burger and fries cooked your way. At dinner simple starters shine, including a "blonde" Florida ver-sion of gumbo and Maryland crab cakes with minimal filler. The dinner entrées are also the best, including beef tournedos with Gorgonzola and grouper caught just off the Florida shores. A "Louisiana" bread pudding is moister (hence more pleasing) than most of its

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namesakes. No wheelchair access for restrooms. Free parking behind restaurant. Ordinary wine list. Lunch and dinner Tuesday through Friday; dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Lunch moderate; dinner moderate to high. — *N.W.*

La Tapatia 340 West Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-747-8282. Take a walk on the mild side at this family-owned favorite, in business since the 1930s. You'll find standard Mexican fare in a comfortable dining room or, in good weather, a lovely, arbor-like stonewalled patio. The most celebrated dish is the "cheese crisp," a large tostada covered one-third in ground beef, one-third in beef chunks, and one-third in beans, with cheese, avocado puree, and sour cream over all. Many preparations (grilled seafoods, etc.) are healthy, and veggies taste fresh. Seasonings are rather de-tuned, but there's a saltshaker and a lively salsa on the table. Open daily, three meals. Moderate. — N.W.

The Place: El Parque 2659 Reche Road, Fallbrook, 760-731-2775. Just think Little Red Riding Hood — this is Grandma's place. Okay, it's not a little old, thatched cottage — it's a creampainted metal shed with a gazebo in front. But it is in the Live Oak woods, and you can sink your teeth into some pretty fair Mexican food here, sitting alongside an interesting bunch of agricultural workers and maybe some ruby miners. Good combination plates include the tostada and beef taco, and burrito and enchilada. The time to be here is Sunday morning, when those aggies pour in here for the *menudo*, cooked in a three-foot-high pot. Open daily, breakfast through early dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

The Wayside Cafe 507 South Main Avenue, Fallbrook, 760-723-9633. Locals love meeting and eating in this long low-porched building — parly because it all just feels small-town America. The place used to be Mahrs' Service Station. You can even sit in the old Lube Bay to eat. Count on generous servings, especially the mountain-piles of red-skinned home-fries as a side at breakfast. Open for breakfast and lunch daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*



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LA JOLLA

Barbarella 2171 Avenida de la Plava. La Jolla Shores, 858-454-7373. This popular restaurant sits nestled in an English garden just blocks from the beach. You can dine amidst the flora at street-side tables, in the enclosed patio, or in the small dining room. Once you're seated, the friendly staff provides fresh-out-of-the-oven sourdough wheat bread to nibble on. The menu changes daily, offering fresh fish, steak, chicken, pastas, soups, and pizzas, all cooked with a twist of imagination that delivers on the flavor. For instance: pizza topped with smoked salmon, crème fraîche, chives, and fried capers. Or delicate Alaskan halibut served over creamed spring onions with a water-cress salad. If a fresh fruit crêpe happens to be on the dessert menu, leap on it! Open for lunch and dinner daily. — S.M.

Cafe Japengo The Aventine, 8960 University Center Lane, La Jolla, 858-450-3355. Here Bentleys and Beamers far outnumber Buicks. Inside is contemporary with an Asian flair, complete with kimono stands and bamboo forests. Sushi is the specialty, and it's above average, although the sushi bar chefs aren't very friendly, and the seasoned rice tastes quite salty. The highly prized fatty tuna (*toro*) and flying fish roe tobiko are offered when available. Otherwise, they may be replaced by smelt roe, *masago*, which may be a minor disappointment. However, the *uni* (sea urchin roe) is pristine. If you appreciate subtlety, try the eggomelet sushi (*tamago*), a delightful mixture of eggs, sake, and mirin. Creative party rolls are especially popular here, including the amusing Tootsie Roll — sweet and spicy, crunchy and spongy, with fried soft shell crab topped with grilled shitake mushrooms, avocado, and a sake marinade. Entrées are often a letdown, but diners may be satisfied to make a meal from appetizers like the Char Su Duck Salad with goat cheese, candied pecans, and pomegranate vinaigrette; Duck Wonand tons with coriander pesto and *ponzu* sauce; and an excellent kimchi martini. No reservations for the sushi bar; arrive early for prompt seating. Lunch weekdays only; sushi bar opens at 5 p.m.; dinner begins at 6 p.m. Very expensive. - B.D.

Clay's Hotel La Jolla (11th floor penthouse), 7955 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, 858-551-3620. In this oddly cozy penthouse with wide windows facing west, the curtains rise at sunset to reveal a panorama stretching to the sea. It's comfortable, attractive, not too formal - casual-chic. Here, chef-owner Clay Bordan cooks up a creative, sophisticated, seasonal California-Fusion menu with international flavors seamlessly integrated, featuring organic veg-etables, wild fish, naturally raised meats and fowl. With his discerning palate, his fare is unusually delicious. And it's healthful, low-carb enjoyment with interesting veggies, little starch, minimal cream. Wine list includes some highend French bargains; good choices by the glass. Full bar. Free parking. Eleva-tor/ accessible restrooms same floor. Dietary restrictions accommodated. No kiddie menu, but child-size plates

half-price from regular menu. Reservations recommended. Live local jazz in lounge most nights after 7 or 8 p.m.; big band Sunday nights. Can be noisy. Three meals daily. Expensive. - N.W.

Cliff Hanger Cafe Torrey Pines Gliderport, 2800 Torrey Pines Scenic Drive, La Jolla, 858-452-9858. "You should never leave the ground on an empty stomach," says the sign near the cliff, which is where this café hangs What is it like to be at the Café at th End of the World? You sit, munch, and watch men becoming birdmen, jumping off the cliff beside you. The view of the Pacific Ocean is spectacular. But, hey, grub's good too. Try the Launch (a breakfast burrito with scrambled eggs, bacon, cheese, onions, bell peppers and salsa). Also great and grilled right there: generous half-pound hamburg-ers. Open daily for breakfast and lunch Inexpensive. — E.B.

The Marine Room 2000 Spindrift Drive (off Torrey Pines Road), La Jolla, 858-459-7222. High cuisine, high adventure, high seas - at only moderately high prices. With chef Bernard Guillas as top toque, the Marine Room has become the quintessen-tial great San Diego restaurant. The exhilarating coastal view meets Cal-French-Pacific Rim cuisine that's as exuberantly out-front as the waves whacking the windows. Guillas's oceanic culinary inventiveness with ul-tra-fresh, exotic ingredients makes every visit a voyage of discovery, and preparations are so elaborate that each listing on his precise menu reads like a whole tasting dinner. Reservations requested; slightly dressy but not stuffy. Easiest route: Make a right from westbound Torrey Pines onto Roseland or Viking and go left on St. Louis, which runs into Spindrift. Wheelchair ramp to the left of front door. Noisy when crowded. Dinner Sunday through Thursday 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Expensive. — N.W.

Roppongi 875 Prospect Street (at Fay), La Jolla, 858-551-5252. The hard part is deciding whether to sit in the drop-dead gorgeous interior or to peo-ple-watch on the large, heated street patio. Then you have to decide what to

eat from the long Euro-Asian fusion menu, with its vast choice of tapas and sushi options, as well as entrées. At lunch there are several imaginative sandwiches and appetizers. Reserva-tions highly recommended at dinner Open daily, lunch and dinner. Some tapas and sushi rolls are inexpensive, but if you enjoy grazing the bill can mount quickly. Entrées are expensive. — N.W.

Roy's 8670 Genesee Avenue, Costa Verde Center (across from UTC), La Jolla, 858-455-1616. Our own noisy outpost of top Hawaii chef Roy Yam aguchi's ever-expanding chain has ele ments of both "top chef" and "chain" about it. Decoding Roy's Rules of Or-dering can make the difference between a mediocre dinner and a very happy meal: 1. Steer clear of combination platters — the same dishes come off much better when ordered separately: 2. You can get any element of a combo by asking for it; 3. Don't waste your palate (or money) on weak umbrella drinks when the wine list is brilliant. The menu changes daily, but some fre quent tasty choices are pot stickers, lumpia "Kahana," or chocolate soufflé. Special dietary requests accommodated, including vegetarian meals. Re-serve, and hope for a table far from the raucous bar. Open nightly. Very expensive. -N.W.

Sante Ristorante 7811 Herschel Avenue, La Jolla, 858-454-1315. The name is Italian for "saint," and the Northern Italian/regional cooking shines here, especially the fish and seafood dishes. Fresh seafood specials are available every night, in addition to those on the menu. Excellent pasta with mushrooms, ravioli with quail, and lamb chops. Separate room for bar; separate private dining room. Lunch Monday through Saturday, dinner Monday nightly. Enclosed patio for lunch. Not to be missed. Moderate (pastas) to expensive. - E.W.

Sushi on the Rock 7734 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-1138. (Also at 1923 Calle Barcelona, Encinitas, 760-436-6261.) This noisy, high-energy spot — a boxy, saloon-like space with a sushi bar in back — draws a lively twenty-something crowd (although



older folks will have plenty of company, too). Unlike more traditional sushi bars, there's a vast selection of "rock and rolls" — huge, creative party sushi. And they're fabulous, with sparkling fresh seafood and immensely clever combinations. Try, for instance, the shrimp tempura roll, which wraps fried shrimp, crab shreds, *daikon* sprouts and Japanese mayo in deep-fried salmon skin - the combo would be just as impressive as an appetizer at a top Cal-French restaurant. The Orange Crush is another sublime invention, fresh and crunchy with veggies and to-biko wrapped in suave salmon. Even simple rolls are so well conceived, and the rice so nicely seasoned, you won't need soy-wasabi dip. No reservations, long waits (in cramped entryway) on weekends. Good sake list. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly, with deep dis-counts for happy hour specials. Moderate. Second (quieter, but with full bar) location at 1923 Calle Barcelona, Carlsbad, 760-436-6261. -N.W.

MISSION VALLEY & THE MESAS

Bali Thai Café 407 South Camino del Rio South (dead end, west of Auto Circle and Mission Center Road), San Diego, 619-297-0800. Expect the unexpected! This tiny, unique restaurant splits its menu between three nations with chefs from Indonesia and Thailand and a chef-owner from Suriname. a former Dutch colony (like Indonesia) in South America. The Thai menu is standard, although the tom kha koong (shrimp in coconut milk soup) is outstanding and authentic (don't eat the stuff at the bottom of the bowl!), while the tropical Indonesian dishes are so rare locally that culinary adventurers will want to explore such delights as "seafood delight roll," corn fritters, the soothing soto ayam (the Indonesian version of chicken-noodle comfort soup), Balinese fish filet, and the spicy *sambal goring* (shrimp in chili sauce), among others. Short but smart wine list, beer, sake. Easy evening parking. Heated, roofed patio. Large portions. Reserve for weeknights, no reservations accepted for weekends. Lunch and din-ner daily. Low moderate. — *N.W.*

King's Fish House 825 Camino de la Reina (west of Mission Center Drive), Mission Valley, 619-574-1230. (Also at 2015 Birch Road, Chula Vista, 619-591-1690.) To find King's in the mega-mall, go slightly west of Koo Koo Roo and follow the line of cars to the free valet parking. It's a chain, but it's a classy chain, offering fish and seafoods of a quality that's well above average, including crustaceans from a live tank and a half-dozen varieties of pristine oysters. Generously-sized en-trées come with soup or salad (including a Caesar that's above suspicion) and two hefty side dishes. The vast menu of American-style preparations changes daily to reflect the fresh catch, and in-cludes some rotating regional specialties (e.g., New Orleans, Hawaii, New England). Don't miss the prawn pot-sticker appetizer, if available, and for dessert, the miraculously light bread pudding. The atmosphere is goodtimey (with two patios and a barroom as well as a dining room), the service is enthusiastic, and the management will accommodate special requests if you call ahead. Kiddie menu available. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. -N.W.

Korea House 4620 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-560-0080. Korea House offers floor seating or a table if you want to barbecue your own food. The menu offers fine "down-home" Korean food, such as traditional man*doo* (beef) dumplings, and *yookhwe*, a steak tartare worth risking. Make a meal from enormous appetizers like gul bosam (raw oysters, pork, and cabbage leaves). Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. -M.N.

Live From Maine

Every Wednesday

Nijiya Market 3860 Convoy Street, Mesa, 858-268-3821. If you're not willing to sacrifice quality for convenience when eating fast food, try this Japanese market in Kearny Mesa. Nijiva Market offers prepared box lunches, or bento, that are pretty to look at, appetizing, and a real bargain. I suggest, however, passing by Nijiya's steam trays and heat lamps and going straight to the coolers, where you'll find deli-



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cious chicken cutlets, fresh sushi, and chilled noodles, as well as dessert delicacies like sweet bread roll filled with sweet bean paste. Inexpensive. - M.N.

Pampas Argentine Grill 8690 Aero Drive (at Montgomery Field), Kearny Mesa, 858-278-5971. The Argentine specialties feature grilled grass-fed beef, including a somewhat Americanized version of the *gauchos*' great *parillada* mixta (mixed grill), with a great chorizo but minus any exotic organs. The naturally raised meats are lower fat and lower cholesterol than feed-lot beef but are salted heavily in the kitchen unless you request otherwise. Specify rare or medium-rare, unless you really like brown cardboard. Lighter fare includes free-range chicken and fresh, well-treated seafood. Beef empanadas are a tasty, authentic starter. Potatoes (fries and mashed) are splendid, salads are exuberant. The full bar features Chilean and Argentine beverages with many affordable South American wines by the glass. Park in lot at restaurant's front door, not the back-door lot. Lunch (mainly sandwiches) on weekdays. Dinner nightly except Monday. Enter-tainment (harp) Friday through Sunday. Moderate. - N.W.

The Philadelphia Sandwich Co. 3904 Convoy Street (south of Othello), Kearny Mesa, 858-571-0888. This classic luncheonette is a monument to Philly culture, including sports pennants, historic photos, and colorful mummers' costumes. The menu is equally devoted to the city's cuisine, especially its two great cult sandwiches:

the hoagie and the cheese steak. The mixed-meat hoagie is way more than a hero — its flavor array is similar to (and just as intense as) a New Orleans muffulletta. As for the cheese steak, it starts with steak strips, onions and your choice of cheese, and expands from there. Philly natives may like the simple version with Cheez Whiz, but the luscious "Everything" with provolone is more likely to seduce the innocent. "Philly fries" (with garlic) are the right go-with. The menu also offers Penn sylvania-packaged foods ("Philadelphia Scrapple" to go, Tastykakes, Wise potato chips) to nostalgic émigrés. Lunch to early dinner nightly. Inexpensive. - N.W.

San Tong Palace 4690 Convoy Street (between Engineer and Balboa), Kearny Mesa, 858-571-6837. This unassuming, strip-mall restaurant is easy to overlook, but once found, impossible to resist. San Tong's hybrid Korean-Chinese menu draws from these regions' tastiest styles. The Rainbow Salad demonstrates this combination deliciously, and San Tong's dumplings are outstanding. The seafood dumplings are especially re-markable. For the adventurous, I recommend the jellyfish salad, a novel treat for westerners. At San Tong Palace, curious appetites are rewarded well. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. - M.N.

Seau's Mission Valley Center mall, 1640 Camino del Rio North (next to Robinsons-May), Mission Valley, 619-291-7328 Footballer Junior Seau contributes more to San Diego than just sacks. His extravagant multivenue sports pub is major league fun — a reallife reincarnation of some 1960s McLuhanite media art show, with 70 video screens (ranging from large-nor-mal to giant HDTV) running sportscasts and a professional DJ on high, periodically spinning cool sounds over muted talking heads. The menu offers mainstream "something for everyone" choices, including pizza, hefty but so-so burgers, some elemen tary sushi, all-American entrées, and Seau's family recipe of Samoan teriyaki "plate lunch." Above all, there's pub grub. The chicken wings are pretty good, and you can get all three sauces (Buffalo, BBQ, and Asian) on one order. Perfect hangout for mismatched couples with one sports fan and one fashionista (the latter can head for Nordstrom and Saks discount outlets nearby). On game days, patrons are allowed just one game in the dining room (\$15 minimum), but you can linger from wake-up to closing on the patio or in the bar. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. - N.W.

THE BEACHES

Baleen Paradise Point Resort, 1404 Vacation Road (off Ingraham Street), Mission Bay, 858-490-6364. Take a quick trip to chic Miami at the local branch of Florida's famed new resort restaurant. Whimsical tropical decor features a monkey motif (carved in the chandeliers, peeking from the paint-ings) and mambos play on the speakers. But the unlisted prices for chilled shellfish may make a monkey of you unless you ask before you buy. The menu features high-quality seafood and land creatures in refined renditions including gorgeous lobster bisque, herbed sea bass, and a hunk of free-range veal. Servers are charmers. The wine list is long and rather steep at the bottom end with better values

farther up the range. Reservations recommended. Very expensive. -N.W. The Bar-B-Que House 5025 Newport Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-4311. OB's piling in, and for good reason: the chicken and ribs are smoked on an oakwood fire, then charbroiled. Beef, pork, and ham spend eight to ten hours in the smoker. Of course, they have pork ribs. A goodvalue combo is the Southern-Style sandwich — beef, pork, ham, or chicken with coleslaw inside, along with a sauce that's just right: sweet, tangy, spicy. Most original idea? A BBQ burrito with meat, baked beans, coleslaw, and sauce wrapped in a flour tortilla. Expanded menu includes gyros. Open seven days, breakfast through dinner, till 10 p.m. (11 p.m. Fridays). Inexpensive. - E.B.

Brazil by the Bay Restaurant and Sports Bar 3770 Hancock Street, Loma Portal, 619-692-1410. It's not by the bay, but the food is definitely by-the-book Brazilian. You know because the first things you see are *guaraná*, the Amazonian energy drink, and *açaï*, the Amazonian palm berry energy bowl. If you're not strapped for cash, go for the popular *feijoada* stew, black beans cooked slowly with "six types of pork and two kinds of beef," offered Saturday and Sunday. If you don't have the dough, have what most of Brazil eats every day the "PF," *prato feito* ("ready plate"). It's beef, chicken, or fish with rice and Brazilian beans. End with the cheapest dessert, the wicked *brigadeiro*. Open seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Cafe Athena Pacific Mall, 1846 Garnet Avenue (at Lamont), Pacific Beach, 858-274-1140. With a more upscale, eye-catching decor and a longer and more serious menu than most Greek cafés, this is a popular destination, so be sure to reserve for dinner or you'll risk a long wait. The choices include good soups and appetizers (except for a sub-par *taramasalata*), outstanding moussaka, above-average gyros, and interesting, unusual desserts. There's plenty for vegetarians. Rather noisy when crowded. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to low moderate. - N.W.



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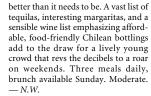
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Pacific Beach 1851 Garnet Avenue (858) 270-YOLK

Costa Brava 1653 Garnet Avenue Pacific Beach. Jewel), (at (at Jewei), Facilie Learn, 858-273-1218. Cordial owner-host Javier Gonzalez opened this charming restaurant so that local Spaniards would have a place to gather with an authentic atmosphere of home, and in-deed, the "Euro" atmosphere and late hours give a truly Iberian feel. The lively garlic-rich dishes here include a wide array of tasty tapas and, among the entrées, a paella that's made to order (sized to serve two or four; call ahead for larger groups). Patio seating in good weather. Parking lot and wheelchair access via the alley behind the restaurant. Open daily 11 a.m. to midnight, with bargain prices at Sunday brunch. Reservations advised for weekend evenings. Moderate. - N.W.

The French Gourmet 960 Turquoise Street, Pacific Beach, 858-488-1725. In the mood for pâté, ratatouille, or calf's liver in a homey atmosphere? Make a reservation at The French Gourmet tout de suite. Start off with traditionally prepared escargots or mussels. The onion soup is good, but hope that the soup du jour is gingered cream of carrot. Entrées include lamb loin, veal tenderloin, bouillabaisse, and fish, with several prepa-ration choices for chicken or filet mignon. The pan-roasted halibut is gently enhanced with a champagne beurre blanc sauce and topped with crispy braised leeks. Desserts abound, with an imported French cheese plate topping the list — along with pastries, meringues, etc., all freshly prepared in-house. Bakery, breakfast, and lunch daily; no dinner Sunday or Monday. Moderate to expensive. — *S.M.*

Gringo's 4474 Mission Boulevard (at Garnet Avenue), Pacific Beach, 858-490-2877. With better cooking than you'd guess from its name, this ambitious spin-off of the local Moon-doggies chain serves the sort of Mexican cuisine you might find at a seaside resort in Cabo or Puerto Vallarta skillfully prepared with good, fresh in-gredients, just a bit dumbed-down in the flavors. The chile verde, say, is beautifully seasoned, if barely picante. Given the surefire location at the hub of PB party town, the food is actually



Humphrey's by the Bay 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island, 619-224-3577. Most diners at this resort/concert venue restaurant eat at the prix fixe pre-show dinners because they guarantee good seats for the concerts at the next-door ampitheatre. But better food emerges once the musicmavens leave the premises. The kitchen features fine seafood, juicy meats, and prime steaks with seasonal veggie garnishes. Preparations are pleasing but in no way startling — it's a hotel restaurant, after all. Reserve for show-nights or to snare a window table with a gorgeous marina view. Free parking when there is. Dining room pleasantly quiet. Open daily breakfast through dinner; brunch buffet Sunday. Pre-show prix fixe upper moderate, à la carte expensive/very expensive. - N.W.

Island Prime 880 Harbor Island Drive, Harbor Island, 619-298-6802. Deborah (Kemo Sabe) Scott is the chef and co-owner (with the Cohn Restaurant Group, owners of many San Diego restaurants) at this high-end steakhouse with a bay view. The steaks and roast beefs are delicious, as vou'd expect, but also enjoy creative appetizers and sides like shaved corn with black truffle and a seared ahi stack. Salt runs freely, and the excellent international wine list runs high. Do reserve; free parking. Open daily, dinner only. Very expensive. -N.W.

Kaiserhof 2253 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, Ocean Beach, 619-224-0606. Even on weeknights, crowds fill this restaurant and *biergarten*, chowing down on hefty, hearty German cooking in a festive atmosphere. Flavors are authentic, but can be monotonous due to the kitchen's reliance on commer-cial products (especially a heavy-flavored beef base that makes all the sauces taste alike). Good schnitzels, potato pancakes. The excellent apple strudel is the only dessert made inhouse. Reservations advised, especially for patio seating. Full bar. Lunch Friday through Sunday. Moderate. -N.W.Kono's 704 Garnet Avenue (on the boardwalk), Pacific Beach, 858-483-1669. This inside-outside café is your prototypical California surfer hangout. It's cream and green with maroon canvas window canopies, redpainted make-believe shutters, and three surfboards sprouting through the roof. On weekends, lines of tourists come looking for their California fix. But Kono's is known among locals, too, for generous breakfasts. Check out their PBS: Pancakes, Bacon and Scrambled eggs. Or the breakfast sandwich with eggs, bacon, cheese, and tomato on a toasted English muffin. Or the CB Burger (chicken breast, green chili, and pica sauce). Best time: foggy mornings. Chow down on their patio on the pier while you enjoy a birds-eye view surfers appearing out of the mists be-





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San Diego I

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low. Breakfast and lunch daily. Inexpensive. - E.B.

The Mission Cafe and Coffee House 3795 Mission Boulevard (at San Jose Place), Mission Beach, 858-488-9060. Gourmet and Latino breakfasts served in funky surroundings. Outstanding are cinnamon French toast, blackberry-banana pan-cakes, and roast beef hash with rosemary potatoes and eggs. Chino-Latino lunch items. All dishes plus fabulous bread, scones, muffins, available for take-out. Open daily 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Inexpensive. - E.W.

MZM Seacoast Bistro 875 Seacoast Drive, Imperial Beach, 619-424-5800. If you can make it past the bland exterior, you'll discover a well-disguised classy joint inside. A harbinger of a new I.B.? Interior is all peach-colored walls, trendy blue sconce wall lights, tweedy booths, and photos of owners Marek and Zofia Migdalski with people like President Bush, Lloyd Bentsen, Sam Donaldson, and Joan Kroc. Migdalski is a recog-nized private chef who has decided to put I.B. on the gastronomic map. Breakfast, available Saturday and Sun-day, tends to be simple but sophisticated, like frittata with Polish sausage, prime rib steak and eggs, or scrambled eggs with smoked salmon. Burgers at lunch are often lamb sirloin. Dinner can be anything, including filet mignon or flatiron steak. Reservations recommended. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

Red Sails 2614 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island, 619-223-3030. One of the city's oldest eateries has been renovated to look like it always has, but fresher. The dining rooms resemble those on a river paddleboat or a small, rakish cruise ship, while the bayside patio is a funky waterside pleasure, be-set by pigeons. The menu runs to simseafood and steaks (wet-aged USDA Choice), but quality is uneven. Tasty starters include briny littleneck clams on the half-shell, an interesting clam chowder, and a classy house salad (but ask for vinegar and oil on the side to dress it). The coconut shrimp entrée is a good, guilty pleasure, but the finfish and fried entrées taste like supermarket frozen food. For the starch accompaniment, baked potato is the most flavorful option. Full bar, strong cocktails, weak wine list. Kiddie menu available. Daily three meals until 11 p.m. Low moderate. -N.W.

Sapporo Japanese Restaurant 5049 Newport Avenue (by the pier), Ocean Beach, 619-222-6686. It's small, but Sapporo has big deals, particularly the lunch specials that usually give you a miso soup, salad, and a combo such as chicken teriyaki and California rolls and white rice — all presented like a piece of performance art. Other specials include *yaki soba* (stir-fried sautéed chicken, vegetables, and noodles) and *champon* noodle soup (*udon* noodles, scallops, shrimp, vegetables),

and the value-packed Chicken Bowl — a big plate of sliced chicken, broccoli, other vegetables, and a swag of rice. Dinner daily, lunch daily except Monday. Inexpensive. - E.B.

The Surfside 4527 Mission Boule vard (at Garnet Avenue), Pacific Beach, 858-273-2979. In the evenings, it's a "scene" here — for good reason. You'll find fresh sushi, sashimi, and "California coastal cuisine," i.e., fun california coastal cuisine, 1.e., run and flavorful fusion-y tapas, many of them going for half-price during weeknight happy hours. You can ac-tually reserve for the sushi bar (it'll put you at the head of the line), where the chefs are unusually friendly. They shine on simple, pure Japanese sushi, although they make the usual "party rolls" too. Most seafood is of fine quality (except the *toro*, which seems to have problems). For those preferring a tapas-style sit-down meal, there's a breezy, informal dining room with large windows looking out on the street, plus a small private dining room for parties. At least four Japanese beers and more than a dozen sakes available. Reservations urged for large groups. Parking is tight; just one handicapped slot in front lot. Inexpensive to low moderate. - N.W.

> CENTRAL SAN DIEGO

El Comal Antojitos Mexicanos 3946 Illinois Street, North Park, 619-294-8292. Also 534 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-420-3811. No border compromises here, just great home cooking from the mainland (Michoa-can, Guerrero, Jalisco, Puebla, Oaxaca, and the Yucatan) in a pair of restaurants founded by by Luz Herrera Ibarra, a biology teacher from Aca-pulco. Stuffed tortilla dishes are back in their proper place as appetizers or lunches (don't expect numbered "combo plates"). A *botana* sampler plate that "serves two" (actually stuffs four) is a fun way to try a bunch of them, including outstanding porkfilled *sopes* that taste like somebody's loving *mamacita* made them. Also try a *mulita*, a soft, substantial, house-made tortilla folded over your choice of meat with melted cheese and gua-camole, perfect for lunch. For entrées, look to the casseroles, with such excit-ing choices as Lengua en Salsa Verde (tongue in tomatillo sauce), Barbacoa de Chivo (tender goat in a lively red "barbecue" sauce), and an excellent Mole Poblano (tender chicken breast in sweet-spicy chocolate-based mole sauce). Fish are also well treated. Grilled meat choices, which include a full *parrillada assortment* ("serves two," feeds six), are cut thin and cooked well done. Full bar at North Park location; Mexican and U.S. beers at both. Three meals, seven days (shorter hours in Chula Vista). Inexpensive. - N.W.

Lefty's Chicago Pizzeria 3448 30th Street (at Myrtle), North Park, 619-295-1720. An eight-pound pizza? That's what Lefty claims his "king of all pizzas" weighs at his often-crowded little corner pizzeria. Truth is, you can't help but be drawn, especially at night, to the little ribbon of lights framing the sidewalk canopy with its tables and benches. Lefty is determined to bring "the real Chicago" to San Diego. So of course we're talking deep-dish pizzas, as well as some thin and crispy. But the ultimate is his "stuffed" pizza, a 14-inch, eight-pound monster that needs one hour's "make and bake" time. They also do Chicago hot dogs, char burgers, beautiful spicy fries, juicy Italian beef au jus sandwiches, and a decent "Lefty's carbonara" (spaghetti, eggs, bacon, Parmesan, and cream). Open lunch and dinner six days, closed Mondays. - E.B.

Old World Restaurant 3930 30th Street, North Park, 619-238-0568. This is a delight for anyone who loves Northern European food. Their "Great Grilled Grueben" - homemade corned beef on rye with Swiss cheese, sauerkraut, Thousand Island dressing, and mustard is, as they say, "gemEtlich." Also, try the sausage plat-ter: grilled bratwurst, kielbasa, sauerkraut, potato salad, spicy mus-tard, and rye bread. Open for breakfast and lunch six days, closed Sunday. Inexpensive. - E.B.

Red Sea Restaurant 4717 Univer-sity Avenue (at Euclid), City Heights, 619-285-9722. You'll find richly sea-soned (and potentially very spicy) Ethiopian cuisine, served communally on a tray lined with a porous pancake, *injera*, which looks like an edible dish towel and serves as both an edible spoon and an edible tablecloth. (Use pieces of it to scoop up morsels in your right hand.) The meat combination platter here isn't nearly as exciting as several of the specialties. The *kitfo* (spicy beef tartare) is very good, the gored-gored (meat cubes in spicy but-ter) is excellent; both are cooked (or not cooked) to your order, and seasoned to your specifications (if you say "hot," expect fire). Vegetables are fine, too; the yellow split peas, especially, sing with flavor. Restrooms not wheelchair-accessible. Vegetarian friendly. Can be noisy on weekend evenings. Open daily. Very inexpensive. - N.W.

Uncle Joe's Pizzeria 4591 El Cajon Boulevard, Talmadge, 619-584-2535. The owner's a retired Navy medic, one of the first women to serve in the Middle East combat zone. She's named sandwiches for career stops, like "The Recruit Training Center, Orlando, Florida" (chicken breast, bacon, avocado, provolone cheese, spinach, tomato, and onion) or "North Island Dental Clinic" (turkey, ham, bacon). But try a main dish like eggplant Parmesan or chicken with sautéed mushrooms. Or a massive chunk of



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EAST COUNTY & COLLEGE AREA

Greek Town 345 West Main Street, El Cajon, 619-441-9708. Just another Greek buffet? Well, yes. Your choices are standard: gyros meat, spanakopita, moussaka, dolmades. And the decor is the usual blue and white with Greek is land posters. But it's the customers who give it an exotic feel, speaking languages from Russian to Greek to Somali. And if you're hungry, this all-you-can-eat deal is great. Have gyros meat, but also try the chicken souvlaki (grilled lemon chicken), or start with the excellent dol*mades* (grape leaves wrapped around beef and rice). The leaves' tangy taste and the lemony sauce inside get your juices running. Don't forget salad...or the dessert table (how could you leave without baklava?). Open for lunch and dinner, seven days. Inexpensive. - E.B.

Grossmont Student Center Cafeteria Grossmont College, 8800 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon, 619-644-7000. This is no UCSD, with its dozen food franchises and Persian and Somali food tents on campus Grossmont's single cafeteria (open to the public) is big, echoey, and sticks to standard-issue food like crumb-coated chicken katsu, cheeseburgers, burritos, and really, really cheap pizzas. Breakfast? How about a sausage and tater tot burrito? Health fans do have a plentiful salad bar. It's quite an experience, sharing lunch with local and foreign students, looking over the rolling hills to El Cajon — like being at an international finishing school in, well, Switzerland. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Mario's de la Mesa 8425 La Mesa Boulevard (at Grant), La Mesa, 619-461-9390. The man on the *burro* (seen on the restaurant's sign and menu) holds two flags, those of Mexico and the U.S.A. — very appropriate. Few dishes (except maybe the *menudo*) will push the paler palate too far in any direction, but gosh-all, everything is so darn tasty. Tamales are a house special: rich, pillowy clouds of cornmeal surrounding richer shredded pork scattered with raisins for a smidgeon of sweetness. Pork also gets loving treatment in the *carnitas rojas*, big chunks browned to the barest crisp, which falls away to melting tenderness. Great marinade (cumin?) on the *carne asada*; intense flavor and buttery richness on light as to seem whipped; rice is studded with peas and spicy carrots. Service is fast and friendly. Breakfast and lunch Sunday and Monday; three meals Tuesday through Saturday. Inexpensive. — *A.M.*

Woodstock's Pizza 6145 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area. 619-265-0999. It's a college pizza joint but the fare rates well above standard beer ballast. For that matter, the beers - Karl Strauss and Wyder's Ciders (along with the usual Coors Light and Bud) — aren't exactly chugsuds. Crusts — white or sweetly robust whole wheat — are pressed, tossed, and then folded over at the edge, producing a spongy, crunch-crusted rim. The mozzarella is rich, gooey whole-milk; the marinara sauce is dark and spicy; and the toppings are fresh, hearty standouts. Watching your weight? Two low-fat combos (half the cheese) are available. Inexpensive. — A.M.

FAR EAST

La Casa Del Zorro Borrego Springs Drive (five miles south of Palm Canyon Drive at Yaqui Pass Road), Borrego Springs, 760-767-5323. La Casa Del Zorro is Borrego Springs' most renowned and ambitious restaurant, set in a deluxe resort five miles south of town. (Drive through the parking lots until you reach the fenced swimming pool; the restaurant's small, dimly marked door is just to the left.) The menu offers elaborate seafood appetizers (out here in the desert) and entrées with fine, subtle sauces, fresh veggies from nearer the coast, and rather mildflavored, exquisitely tender meats, evidently chosen to be gentle to the dentures of the duffers. Desserts are few and very sweet. Full bar; great (but pricey) wine list. Reserve for weekend evenings. Open daily. Very expensive. - N.W.

Owl Cafe 674 Main Street (between 6th and 7th), El Centro, 760-336-0298.

This classic American café is over 50 years old and still serves good rib-sticking food morning, noon, or night. Try breakfast special #1: pancakes, two eggs, and two bacon strips. For lunch, the French dip sandwich. Full-plate dinners — and they are full — include roast beef and chicken-fried steak. Open Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

UPTOWN & OLD TOWN

Alex's Brown Bag 2550 Fifth Avenue (at Laurel), Suite 171, uptown, 619-231-2912. The reborn Alex's (now in the Mr. A's building) is rightly famous for its "Original Philadelphia cheese steak sandwich" (with fried bell peppers, onions, mushrooms, and mozzarella). The owners say what makes their sandwiches so special is that they have the meat trucked in from cheese steak central, South Philly itself. Other Italian-American goodies include the Italian Stallion (Genoa salami, capocolla prosciutto, and mortadella sausage meat), eggplant parmigiana with hot garlic bread, grilled pastrami, and cheese on rye. Open for breakfast, lunch, and just-after-work dinner weekdays. — *E.B.*

Berta's Latin American Restaurant 3928 Twiggs Street (at Congress, diagonal to Rockin' Baja Lobster), Old Town, 619-295-2343. Sampling the whole range of little-known cuisines from Guatemala down to Patagonia, Berta's lengthy menu reads like a culinary "pick hits" list of each country's best flavors, typically rendered with expertise and verve. Some outstanding dishes include sweet-savory Chilean *pastel de choclo* (a casse-role of beef, chicken, and corn pudding) from Berta's homeland, spicy ceviche and subtle *seco de cordero* (citrus-flavored lamb stew) from Peru, earthy Guatemalan *chilemal* (cilantroladen pork stew), aromatic beef curry from Trinidad, and a sensuous vatapa (seafood in coconut sauce) from Brazil's African-influenced Bahia coast. Vegetarians will find many meat-and-fowl-free options. Open for lunch and dinner; closed Monday. Moderate. — *N.W.*

California Cuisine 1027 University (between Tenth Avenue and Vermont), Hillcrest, 619-543-0790. Tod Atcheson is now the chef of this longlived neighborhood restaurant. Following house tradition, the menu is

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printed daily and the dishes are chosen according to the harvest and catch of the moment. Still, you can usually count on finding a relatively authentic Caesar salad, a huge and exuberantly garnished bourbon-brined Neiman Ranch pork chop, and irresistible grilled Asian barbecued jumbo shrimp. A summertime special of fresh corn and mussel bisque shouldn't be missed if it's on the menu. There's some dayto-day inconsistency, but a preponderance of deliciousness. Save room for outstanding, adventurous desserts. Comfortable atmosphere, but interior gets loud when busy. A heated garden patio surrounding a fountain offers romantic al fresco feasting. Dinner nightly. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Extraordinary Desserts 1430 Union Street (at Ash), Little Italy, 619-294-7001; also 2929 Fifth Avenue, uptown, 619-294-2132. Patrons looking for a quiet dessert still cling to the original charming cottage near Balboa Park. Those wanting more of a meal head for the newer Little Italy location, a vast, noisy space with industrial-chic decor and a menu of eclectic small plates - mezze spreads, bruschettas, sandwiches, and cheese plates. Flavors tend to be intense; some creations (such as a bacon-cured salmon sand-wich and *pantelleria*, a celery-date spread) are wonderful, others are exhausting even in small portions. Both locations offer pastry cases full of desserts that live up to "extraordinary," to eat on-site or to take home. Chefowner Karen Krasne incorporates flavors inspired by the global reach of her travels, from the cooking schools of Paris to the rice fields of Bali. The white cakes are food for angels. Wines (including champagnes), beers, fruit elixirs. Vegetarian-friendly menu. Both locations open seven days, three meals. Uptown location desserts only, all day. Moderate. - N.W.

Gulf Coast Grill 4130 Park Boulevard (between University and El Cajon), Hillcrest, 619-295-2244. The Gulf's faux-rustic, woodsy dining rooms and patio are great hangouts if you like a restaurant with a noisy party atmosphere. The menu focuses on the cuisine of the South and Southwest, with an emphasis on Louisiana and a heavy hand on the salt shaker. The kitchen does best with the straight Southern dishes, turning out divine fried soft-shelled crabs, airy hush puppies, and delicious little corn muffins. If you're deeply familiar with Cajun-Creole flavors, though, don't look for pure authenticity — you'll do better with jambalaya, étouffée, or the

Pampas

ARGENTINE GRILL

lunchtime oyster po' boy than with the soulless gumbo or the misconceived red beans and rice. Heated, smoker-friendly front patio. Wheelchair elevator to restrooms next to stairs. Free parking lot left of the door. Full bar. Lunch Monday through Saturday, brunch Sunday, dinner nightly (early closing Sunday). Moderate to slightly expensive. — N.W.

Harney Sushi 3964 Harney Street (off Congress), Old Town, 619-295-3272. This friendly little spot on a side street serves as a secret haven of pretty-good sushi just a few steps from Old Town's nonstop tacos and margaritas. You can also get sashimi, Japanese appetizers, and a few mixedethnicity entrées (noodles, pastateriyaki, tempura) made with seafood or chicken breast. Beef is served, but numerous dishes are vegetarian. Good sake list. Sound system runs loud inside; patio dining available in warm weather. Reservations for sushi bar accepted but not necessarily honored. Open weekdays for lunch, dinner nightly until midnight, with a DJ Tues-day through Saturday. Sushi prices lower than most, entrées inexpensive to moderate. -N.W.

India Princess 3925 Fourth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-291-5011. You walk in through a gold-and-red entrance. Inside it's all cream cloth-covered tables, vases with fresh flowers, teak chairs that look like giant cellos, silver art objects. This is classy. The deal here is to catch the daily lunch buffet, 20 items of interesting and fresh-tasting Northern Indian dishes like tandoori chicken or chicken *tikki masala*, *navratan korma* (veggies with nuts in cream sauce), or *keema muttar* (minced lamb curry with spices and peas). All for an unprincely sum (dinner is more expensive). Don't miss the wonderful tamarind chutney. Inexpensive (buffet), moderate to expensive (à la carte dinners). Tuesdays vegetarian dishes only. — *E.B.*

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, acornshaped hanging lights, and a big oldfashioned 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.

Kazumi Sushi 3975 Fifth Avenue (at Washington), Suite 120, Hillcrest, 619-682-4054. A simple neighborhood sushi bar offering imaginative rolls, each one so distinctively seasoned that there's no need to mar the pretty fishscapes with wasabi dip. The fish is su-per-fresh and includes salmon that . Kazumi-san cold-smokes himself. For a family-style dinner, "The Ultimate Boat" (serving two or more) is an en-cyclopedia of Japanese specialties, a huge platter of sushi, *gyoza*, assorted appetizers, yakitori, teriyaki, and terrific tempura. Need comfort food? The tempura also graces the top of a satisfying bowl of nabeyaki udon (noodle soup) with an onion-sweet broth. With just a small staff of family members in the kitchen and house, expect a wait for food at busy times. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner nightly. Inexpensive to moderate. - N.W.

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 re-gion — 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, afford-able wine list, Asian and American beers, and cocktails based on soiu (Asian lower-proof rice liquor), including a yummy rambutan cosmo. Noisy when crowded. Reservations recommended for Hillcrest on weekends. Lunch and dinner daily. Low moderate. — N.W.

The Mission 2801 University Avenue, North Park, 619-220-8992 (also in Mission Beach and East Village). "Urban assault food for a revolutionary people," say the wait staff's black Tshirts. But the food here is less revolutionary than halfway between healthnut and greasy spoon. Still, their "conscientious cuisine" is generous, good-looking, and intelligent, if a little middle-class timid. Breakfasts are big here. The delicious chicken-apple sausage and eggs comes on a foot-wide plate loaded with unskinned rosemary potatoes, scrambled eggs, and scrumptious baked-on-the-spot rosemary





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bread. Pancakes and French cinnamon toast are popular staples, as is the Zen Breakfast (scrambled egg whites, braised tofu, brown rice, with veggies). The roast beef hash can be chewy. Check out the "Chino-Latino" dishes (lunch only) like the mild-but-still-delicious ginger sesame tofu with brown rice and peanut sauce, which comes with a plethora of jicama-type veggies. The interior has an arty, post-indus-trial, coffee house feel. Open daily, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Inexpensive. - E.B.

Ortega's, A Mexican Bistro 141 University Avenue (at Third Avenue), Hillcrest, 619-692-4200. Owned by a member of the Ortega family, the Puerto Nuevo lobster pioneers, this is the Baja restaurant group's first northof-the-border venture. You'll find Baja-style cuisine featuring seafood and grilled foods, with a focus on lob-ster. Unlike the typical Ortega's, the lobster isn't deep-fried before grilling — an improvement in tenderness and flavor. Of course, the crus-tacean's best in season (October to February). Fish ceviche makes a good starter course. Other choices include small tacos, steaks, kebabs, etc., plus the standard Puerto Nuevo side dishes — stewed (not refried) beans, and an oddly bland guacamole fixed tableside. Full bar; fun margaritas in-cluding almond and pomegranate variations. Reservations recommended for weekends. Open daily, lunch and dinner Mainly moderate (lobsters and Kobe skirt steak expensive). — N.W.

Picasso Spanish Restaurant 3923 Fourth Avenue (near University Avenue), Hillcrest, 619-294-3061, Interesting Spanish tapas and entrées are served in a small, modern, art-filled room that draws a casual neighborhood crowd. The regional style is Basque, from Northern Spain, but these aren't the tiny *pinxos* of that area — in fact, these bites are larger than usual, sized generously for two eaters. Some top tapas include chicken-stuffed *empanadillas*, baby eels in garlic sauce, stuffed greenlip mussels, and an outstanding paella (available as both a tapa and entrée). Moderate. - N.W.

Prado House of Hospitality, Balboa Park, 619-557-9441. In a magical space at the heart of Balboa Park, Prado fea-tures 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 astonishingly 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 ethe-real fried oysters and a range of gussied-up 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.

Rannoush 3890 Fifth Avenue (south of University), Hillcrest, 619-325-1360. The full menu of Lebanese-Jordanian cuisine runs from mezze (tapas) to house-made sausages and kebabs to desserts — and includes fabulous falafel that's actually good enough to eat (especially the stuffed version). At this petite, pretty place with Scheherazade decor, all the cook-ing is from scratch — no nasty instant falafel mix or any other shortcuts, and you can really taste the difference. Other great dishes include vegetarian *kebbeh, soujok* sausages, and shrimp kebabs. Desserts include standard Middle Eastern items such as *baklava*. Wines and beers include food-friendly imports from Lebanon. Open daily, lunch 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. - N.W.

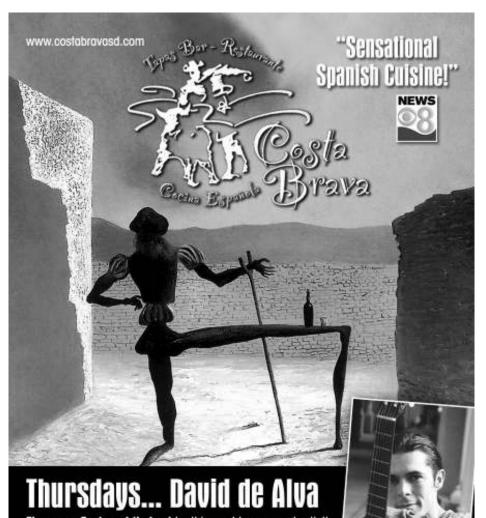
Saffron Noodles and Sate 3737 India Street, South Mission Hills, 619-574-7737. It's the smell of the spicy chicken grilling that will get you every time. Whatever the recipe is — and Su-Mei Yu, the owner and celebrated cookbook author, says it's from the Isaan, Thailand's ethnic Lao Northeast — it catches your nose. We're talking "boxing arena grilled chicken," after the place where she smelled its spicy cooking aromas while growing up in Bangkok. You have a choice of five sauces to go with the chicken, from peanut to sweet pepper. Also try the noodle soups, like Tom Yam with shrimp: sinus-clearing, de licious, and surprisingly filling. The food here is real, fresh, genuine Thai cuisine with Chinese echoes — like Su-Mei Yu herself. Middle-class San Diego seems to have adopted her eatery, despite the fact you're in a pretty stark gray-and-white room with views of I-

5. Open for lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. - E.B.

The Tractor Room 3687 Fifth Ave nue, Hillcrest, 619-543-1007. The folks who brought you the popular big-breakfast and lunch joint Hash House A Go Go (across the street) focus here on hefty portions of "plain American food" in a dinner house specializing in meat, game, and classic cocktails. The Brawny paper towel man would love it. The atmosphere combines a speakeasy (velvet curtains mask the doorway) and a hunting lodge. Menu highlights include identical stews of wild boar and buffalo, grilled salmon, and Prime grade bone-in rib eye, plus good sides of acorn squash and heavy-cream mashed potatoes and gravy. Nothing to write home to Mom about — it is Mom, if she's a Midwesterner, and Dad's a guy who says, "I shot it, you cook it." Well-chosen wine list with lots of appropriate Rhones and Syrahs, few by the glass. Huge list of cocktails. Wheelchair lift (painted to blend in) to left of front staircase. Heated, roofed smoking patio above street level. Valet parking; reservations urged. Closed Tuesdays, dinner six nights until midnight or later, weekend brunch. Moderate to very expensive. - N.W.

Whole Foods Market 711 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-294-2800. For vegetarians on the go, Whole Foods' prepared food sec-tion will feed you better — and faster — than any vegetarian restaurant in town. Outstanding selections include the Emerald Mushrooms salad, and especially the *farofa* salad — it's like American stuffing, but it's couscous studded with almonds, fat raisins, thin strips of scrambled egg, and bits of car-rot and bell pepper. Whole Foods' vegetarian meals will tempt any meat-eater with their delicious originality. La Jolla branch at 8825 Villa La Jolla Drive, 858-642-6700. Inexpensive to moderate. — M.N.

Zocalo Grill 2444 San Diego Ave-nue (a block north of Old Town Cemetery), Old Town. 619-298-9840. This casual, festive spin-off of the Brigantine chain features "Pacific coastal cui-sine," an eclectic international hodgepodge with a faint Mexican accent and "something for everyone." And some of those somethings are delicious — a stacked salad of shrimp and avocados, or coconut-shrimp kebabs emerging from a pineapple, or a huge, beauti-



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Traditional pumpkin pie with chantilly cream • Old-fashioned apple and berry pies Jack Daniel's chocolate-pecan tart • White chocolate bread pudding with rum crème anglaise Chocolate-passion fruit mousse cake • Tiramisù torte • Chocolate-hazelnut mousse crunch Assorted fancy petite pastries and holiday cookies • Chocolate marble cheesecake

Thanksgiving Day

at the Torreyana Grille



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fully grilled lobster with avocado salsa. Appetizers are discounted at happy hour, and you can make a whole dinner out of substantial "tapas" sized for sharing. The heated, semi-roofed outdoor terrace encourages al fresco dining year-round. Full bar with creative margaritas, eight draft beers, and California wines including Brigantine's own custom blends at good prices. Wheelchair lift in back, ramp at south side of terrace. Reservations strongly advised for weekends. Open daily, lunch Monday through Saturday, dinner daily. Moderate. — N.W.

DOWNTOWN

Acqua Al 2 322 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-230-0382. Despite its monicker, this isn't a seafood trattoria, but a near-fishless branch of a restaurant in Florence that won success by eschewing the standard Florentine menu while maintaining Tuscan purity of style. Chef-owner Martin Gonzales trained there and serves as charming host of the local outpost. Best bets are the vegetarian pasta and rice dishes made with aromatic porcini mushrooms. The tasting of five pastas may sound tempting, but they're chef's choice — and he tends to choose the dull ones. "Tastings" of salads, cheeses, and desserts are also offered. Mains are mainly rather plain. Lunch weekdays, dinner daily. Moderate (pasta) to expensive. — *N.W.*

Anthony's Fishette 1360 North Harbor Drive (at Ash), downtown, 619-232-2175. At the baby brother of Anthony's Grotto and Star of the Sea, the good news is you pay a fraction of the price, and you get to sit outside over the water. The chowder — New England or Fisherman — is fresh, thick, tasty. A meal. Their old fashioned fishn-chips or Baja squid steak sandwich are great fillers too. Also good: "hand battered treasures," like catfish strips, swordfish, oysters, crab claws, and clam nuggets. Breakfast served during summer only. Open for lunch and dinner seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Bandar Fine Persian Cuisine 825 and 837 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-238-0101. In a comfortable setting, the Persian menu offers just a "pick hits list" of popular dishes culled from this fabled cuisine, but the cooking is first rate, featuring fine ingredients prepared with care, skill, and healthfulness. The "Bandar Special" entrée combo lets you choose any two kebabs (chicken, game hen, or beef), beautifully marinated and cooked to your order. Entrées featuring rice with poultry are elaborate and refined, spiked with tangy barberries, sour cherries, or lentils and dates. The list of Persian desserts now includes Persian ice cream, a rose-scented exotic treat. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Moderate. — N.W.

Bondi Bar & Kitchen 333 Fifth Avenue (between I and K Streets), Gaslamp, 619-342-0212. What's loud, strange, and smart enough to catch the eye of every passerby? It's a huge, raucous Australian gastro-pub offering numerous Aussie brews — with urban Australian cuisine for ballast — plus a full bar (several of them) of well-chosen wines plus hard liquor. Prime seating is on the front patio and in large straw fish-traps suspended from the ceiling in the front dining room. (Dining rooms in back are dim; bring a mini-flashlight to read the menu.) The food resembles California Fusion cuisine but is often spicier, made with home-country ingredients including grass-fed beef, South Pacific fish species, and herbs you've never heard of. There's great grazing on appetizers, including outstanding Pacific oysters on the half shell, beef pies, tempura prawns, seafood pot stickers, and the fun of exploring cheeses from Oz. Mains are generally less exciting, with a tendency to overcook fish and meats. But it's a party Dress code: Wear clothes. Three meals seven days until 11 p.m., 2 a.m. on weekends. Mainly moderate, some entrées expensive. - N.W.

Broadway Pizza 1008 Broadway (at Tenth Street), downtown 619-232-6264. This restaurant, near the downtown, downtown Senior Center and City College, offers no-nonsense Italian American food. And they're not skimpy: from a pizza slice to barbecue beef sandwiches to a Louisiana-style sausage link sub, portions are generous If you want a hearty dinner, try the whole slab of beef ribs, with veggies, garlic bread, and salad. Unfortunately, the quality has dropped; the formerly fine pizza, for instance, is now marred by oily, low-grade mozzarella and notso-great optional deli-meat toppings But the main thing is, while the rest of downtown snores, they're still open, from 10 a.m. to to 3 a.m. Monday through Saturday, closing midnight Sunday. And they'll even deliver to nearby neighborhoods. Inexpensive. – N.W.

Buster's Beach House and Long-

board Bar 807 West Harbor Drive, East Plaza, Seaport Village, 619-233-4300. There really was a Buster, a surfer who traveled the world working in restaurants. Baja, Oahu, Fiji, Naples, Ocho Rios, Phuket - vou name it, there's a dish from each of those waters, and every one of them eth-nically incorrect. The menu's actually an international anthology of surferbar grub — and like Waimea Bay's waves, it has huge ups and downs. Skip the greasy "Short Board" pupu platter and risky daily fish special and go for the well-seasoned crab cakes, fish tacos, spicy "paella" (more like jambalaya), or pizza. The surfy, fun decor and breezy patio easily compensate for some of the spaciest service in town; a full bar offers a great beer list and decent umbrella drinks. To snag a patio table, reserve it and make sure they write it down. Three hours validated parking, kid-friendly, plenty for vegetarians. Open three meals daily. Prices cover the waterfront. -N.W.

China Too 916 Fifth Avenue (near E Street), Gaslamp, 619-239-4283 or 619-239-1456. Don't blink or you'll miss this Gaslamp bargain. The menu claims "New York-Style Fine Chinese Cuisine." Would you settle for decent Brooklyn- or Bronx-style eat-in/take-out? Here you're getting cheap-butgood Chinese fare for the price of a cup of soup nearby. Lunch specials (with soup, two egg rolls, rice) include green pepper steak with onions, kung pao hot chicken, beef broccoli, shrimp with veg-gies — all made with no MSG and minimal cornstarch. The owner's last place was in New York, where customers ranged from Kofi Annan to Robin Leach. Chef Chen even has some of his old dishes here, on a page of multi-re-gional "chef specialties" (#90 to #107 on the menu). But what really makes this a "New York-ish" spot will bring joy to hungry mouths all over the restaurant-starved stretch east and south of Balboa Park: free delivery from I-8 to Harbor Drive, from Pacific Highway to 805 or even farther. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; closed Saturday. Inexpensive. - E.B.

Chopahn Authentic Afghan Cuisine 750 Sixth Avenue (near F Street), Gaslamp, 619-236-9236. Authentic Afghan cuisine resembles Indian and Persian food but is singularly itself: the spicing is exotic but the flavors are clear and unmuddled. It emphasizes grilledto-order marinated meats (especially lamb), stews, and well-seasoned rice dishes, and uniquely delicious appetizers such as leek ravioli (*aushak*), leek or meat turnovers (*bulanee*), and battered vegetables (*pakawra*). The grilled salmon is excellent, and don't miss the side dish of sweet pumpkin topped with yogurt and meat sauce (*kadu*). Plenty for vegetarians, too. Interesting, affordable wine list; Mexican and domestic beers. Small patio. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Moderate. -N.W.

Downtown Johnny Brown's 1220 Third Avenue (in the Community Concourse at Third and B), downtown, 619-232-8414. Walk up through the Community Concourse past the ship fountain and bingo! - downtown's answer to a European sidewalk café. Place has a generous patio of chairs and umbrellas . All green and white. You get two types here: sport-minded types (a dozen TV screens, Chargers, Padres, Aztecs banners inside), and city government workers. Burgers are good, but try the breast of chicken burger with soup of the day or fries. Chicken's grilled, edgeburnt, spicy. Soup's bobbing with fresh-cut vegetables. Also, salads: taco or Southwest Chicken. What's best: sitting outside and watching people — not traffic — bustle by. — *E.B.*

The Field Irish Pub and Restaurant 544 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-232-9840. This spirited, colorful saloon, physically transported wholehog from the Ould Sod, offers delicious Irish music live most nights, and also attempts serious Irish cooking — with some successes. Try the lovely herb-rich Irish stew, or the boxty, potato crèpes rolled around your choice from a variety of fillings (salmon, beef, etc.). Or start the day here with a huge, carnivorous Irish breakfast. Open daily. Low moderate. — N.W.

Greystone 658 Fifth Avenue (at G Street), Gaslamp, 619-232-0225. The Italian steakhouse fare here centers on dry-aged prime beef, game meats (including exceptionally tender bison), lobster, and pastas as the main draws, with indifferent starters and desserts. An impressive wine list offers rewarding California and Italian bottlings at \$35 to \$50, but roars up to the stratosphere of first-growth Bordeaux, super-Tuscans and scandalously overpriced Napa reds. Bossy, sometimes-abrasive waiters push higher-priced choices. Patrons are mainly "suits" with deep expense-ac-count pockets, loudly talking business or enjoying raucous office parties in a testosterone-high atmosphere. Wheelchair access to the street patio and bar area only (dining rooms are up or downstairs). Reservations urged, but may not be honored promptly.

Dinner nightly. Extremely expensive. -N.W.

Monsoon Exotic Cuisine of India 729 Fourth Avenue (off G Street), Gaslamp, 619-234-5555. The younger sister to Hillcrest's Bombay Exotic Cuisine sometimes shares the same chefs and serves much the same standard repertory of "Northern Indian cuisine made easy," with a few tropical additions vaguely inspired by Southern fla-vors. Curries are indistinct from each other and run to the mild side, no matter what you specify. Breads are good; tandooris disappointingly soft-surfaced. A room-dividing fountain recreates the roar of the namesake tropical downpour. Add a lively dinner crowd and it's a (Gunga) din. Solid wine list, some Indian beers, full bar specializing in sweet cocktails, Open daily. Inexpensive buffet lunches; moderate à la carte dinners until 11 p.m. — N.W.

Mr. Tiki's Mai Tai Lounge 801 Fifth Avenue (at F Street), Gaslamp, 619-233-1183. If you loved Trader Vic's (or can remember it, anyway), you may be amused at the revival of the genre here. Check out the "grass skirt" decor with huge tiki gods and the vaguely "islander" cuisine featuring, in addition, Asian fusion items, elementary sushi, and the occasional sprint into fusioncuisine seafood. But, as you might guess, the greatest creativity in the house goes into the silly umbrella cocktails, and those are mainly delish. Age 21 and over after 9 p.m. (even with parents). Dinner nightly. Cocktails until 11 p.m., weekends until 1 a.m. Moderate. — *N.W.*

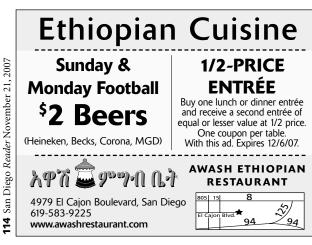
Osetra 904 Fifth Avenue (at E Street). Gaslamp, 619-239-1800. Possibly the most expensive restaurant in San Diego. Osetra is named for a precious, near-en dangered caviar (which it serves) and attracts patrons who enjoy throwing their money around. The atmosphere is pure Las Vegas, with two floors of loud ambient music, glitzy decor, and a "wine angel" in black tights hoisting herself around a gleaming glass tower to fetch your precious bottle. Celebrities and big spenders get attentive service, others take their chances. The menu is mostly seafood, but it, too, carries the Vegas imprimatur of vulgar bad taste. Too many bold flavors are at war on almost every plate, and even the simplest dishes are overwrought frenzies of fusion. Best bets for satisfying your palate and curiosity: raw oysters, the cold seafood platter, caviar (if your wallet and conscience can afford it). Disabled access to first-floor dining room only. Full bar. Dinner nightly to at least 10 p.m. Reserve well ahead. Exorbitant. -N.W.

The Palm 615 J Street (at Sixth Avenue), Gaslamp, 619-702-6500. This upmarket chain steakhouse, open since 1926, claims to be the oldest family-operated white-tablecloth restaurant in the country, and it's spread all over the country as well. The Gaslamp branch, its 30th, is just like all the other branches, even down to decor details, which is the whole point — business travelers with contacts to impress can rely on it wherever they go. The fare features tender, dry-aged and wet-aged USDA Prime beef from the chain's own wholesale butcher and, for the really high-rollers, monster-sized Nova Scotia lobsters. Other good dishes are Shrimp Bruno (with a Dijon sauce), baked crab cakes with no filler, and the "Slater Special," which combines the last two in an appetizer. Don't eat meat, but do eat garlic? Try clams and shrimp posillippo and scare off the vampires. All dishes à la carte. Portions are generally gigantic on up. Key lime pie (a normal-sized wedge) makes a good, tart dessert, and clean macchinettas make outstanding espresso. Excellent wine list, plenty by the glass; full bar. Valet parking. Dinner nightly. Very expensive. — N.W.

Panda Inn 506 Horton Plaza (top floor), downtown, 619-233-7800. Behind all the Panda Express fast-food stops is the smaller, more serious Panda Inn chain which originated many of the now-familiar dishes of semi-Americanized "Mandarin" cuisine (they claim to have invented orange chicken, and their version is vastly better than those at the 99-cent joints). Tofu with eggplant and "Mongolian Hotpot," a meat-ball casserole with Chinese cabbage, are among the more authentic choices. Preparations here are generally clean and greaseless with well-balanced flavors; spicy dishes are moderately hot unless you request otherwise. It's not the spot for high adventure, but it does offer dishes for all tastes. Moderatepriced banquet menus make this a good choice for family gatherings. Full bar. Validated parking in Horton Plaza garage; heated patio seating in dry weather. Lunch and dinner daily. Lunches inexpensive, dinner moderate - N.W.

Sluggers by the Ball Park 1219 Market Street (at Park), downtown, 619-546-5973. Not your typical hot dog stand. Sluggers café is all glass, steel, cinder block, and new. This eatery catches much of the Padres business, selling Vienna-brand beef hot dogs and Polish sausages. "Served Chicago-Style" meaning, the dog's topped with tomato wedges, mustard, pickle, relish, onions, and peppers, all, they say, on a steamed

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poppy-seed bun from Chicago. Other goodies from the Windy City include the Comiskey Park Pole (a charbroiled Polish sausage dog) and the Italian Stallion (charbroiled Italian sausage in bun). Place is still a little cinder blocky but a good rendezvous for a brewski and a dog after work. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Taka 555 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-338-0555. The seafood at this always-packed sushi bar and Japanese appetizer-restaurant is top quality. Ama ebi (sweet shrimp) from the live tank go down soft and silky smooth, unlike their frozen brethren. And the chefs are highly skilled: the well-seasoned rice is freshly made all evening, and for once the spicy scallop hand roll has scallops mayo, cuke, and hot pepper running all the way through, not just plopped on top. Savory appetizers supplement the sushi, including miso-baked black cod mushroom-topped agedashi and (lightly-fried) tofu. The one problem: the later you arrive, the louder it gets. Make reservations, and if you value your ears, go at an early hour. Dinner nightly. Most dishes inexpensive, but many little bites can eat a hole in your wallet. - N.W.

Tamale Cart Outside Rancho Fresco 1852 National Avenue, Barrio Logan 619-338-9140. If you've ever wondered what it would be like to eat as the Aztecs ate, come here and try some of the tamales — classic Aztec food — in all their flavors. Tamales are sort of steamed cornmeal dumplings wrapped in corn husks, served with sauce. The choice of goodies stuffed in the middle can include strips of pork, beef, chicken, or cheese, as well as pineapple, strawberries, or coconut, While vou're at it, try the traditional accompaniment, the *champurrado* drink: milk mixed with *masa* — ground corn meal — chocolate, and cinnamon. In this mainly Spanish-speaking market you can sit, watch, and pick up a few bargains too. Tamales make a great breakfast. Three should do vou. These are made by the Restaurant Chia paneco up at 25th and Market. Open breakfast through late lunch, seven days. Inexpensive. - E.B

SOUTH BAY & CORONADO

Azzura Point Loews Coronado Bay Resort, 4000 Coronado Bay Road (Silver Strand Boulevard), Coronado, 619-424-4000 or 619-424-4477. Not just for tourists, but a lovely getaway for locals, the luxurious dining room with its wraparound windows on the bay is one of the most romantic spots in town - comfortable banquette seating, a view from every table, and an atmosphere thatis quiet and festive, not formal. The light, elegant, health-ful Mediterranean-style cuisine (Northern Italy and Southern France) emphasizes seasonal ingredients, as lo cal and sustainably raised as possible. including herbs and some fruits organically grown on the resort grounds Combinations can be witty and a bit whimsical. An excellent wine list at very reasonable markups is strong on half-bottles. (If you want a tasting dinner with matching wines, speak to the knowledgeable, trustworthy somme-lier.) Inexpensive validated valet park ing at the porte cochere of the main lobby. Reserve a few nights ahead, as many dinners here are sold out or special events. Dinner Tuesday through

Sunday. Expensive. - N.W. Island Pasta 1202 Orange Avenue (at Loma Street), Coronado, 619-435-4545. This unassuming, spillout-on-the-street restaurant somehow got it right. Simple tables on the sidewalk, daily made-on-the-premises semolina pasta, most dishes costing in the single digits. A simple fettuccine Alfredo is a pleasure al fresco with a glass of wine, sparkling against the fresh flowers on the table, watching Coronado's world go by. One good – and vegetarian — special to ask for is the *verdure* pasta, a combo of artichoke hearts, spinach, capers, mushrooms, onions, and olives over spaghettini. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive, — E.B.

La Bella Pizza Garden 373 Third Avenue (at F Street), Chula Vista, 619-426-8820. From the outside, La Bella looks like an Italian farmhouse, with geraniums, bright green shutters and maroon canopies. A real extended family runs this business. Their secrets are: long hours (from breakfast until after midnight daily), big meals, and small prices. The menu includes stan dards like spaghetti with meatballs or lasagna, including sides of garlic bread soup, or salad. The hit with kids is "Papa's Favorite," an 8-inch pizza with mushrooms, pepperoni, and sausage. Open daily, three meals. Inexpensive. - E.B.

Mary J's Cafe 1930 Cleveland Avenue, National City, 619-477-6645 or 619-477-5306. Mary J and her café have been around for 40 years and about the only thing to change is the prices. This is the real National City. The regulars start piling in at 5 a.m. Mary always has specials going, but check the big board menu above the stove too. One of their most popular items is the Trucker's Breakfast (three eggs, ham, bacon or sausage, home fries, and toast), or steak and eggs with hash browns and toast. Mary's son Vic, the morning cook, always gives you more than enough. For lunch or early dinner, try the meat loaf with mixed veggies, boiled potatoes covered with gravy, toast, and soup or salad. Or chicken-fried steak with all the fixings. Also hefty: cheeseburgers or tuna melts (with fries plus soda included in the price) and that old American favorite, a fried egg sandwich with chips. Open 4:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. Inexpensive. - E.B.

Tin Fish Imperial Beach Pier, 910 Seacoast Drive, Imperial Beach 619-628-8414. At a table by this fish shack at the far end of the pier, you can watch people and pigeons (and people feeding pigeons) as you dig into huge portions of simple seafood, appetized by the sea air. The bill of fare features fish — fried, grilled, chowdered, or wrapped into burritos, tacos, or sandwiches. The big fried combos are about what you'd expect, but more piquant pleasures come in smaller packages. (Portions are generous whatever you order.) The spicy fish tacos are really spicy, while the fried onion rings are of surpassing delicacy. Best of all, the crab cakes are huge and seriously crabby, with plenty of meat and very little filler. With a call, they'll give you a lift from the parking lot to their restaurant. A second branch at 170 Sixth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-238-8100, offers patio dining across from the Convention Center, with live music during summer. Both locations open daily for lunch and early dinner. Inexpensive to low moderate. - N.W.

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.

Chiki Jai Avenida Revolución #1388 (at 8th), Zona Centro, Tijuana, 685-4955. Eat here and you're surrounded by ghosts: Errol Flynn, John Huston, Rita Hayworth, Anthony Quinn, Ava Gardner, and, they say, Ernest Hemingway, who all ate — and drank vino tinto — here. Plus the great stars of boxing and bullfighting. But mainly it was a haven for Spanish jai alai players desperate for Old Country

food. This is one of Tijuana's great historic eateries, its tale written on the walls. Old border photos, Don Quixote art, fighting bull ranchos' brands, and a matador's framed green cape with his blood still on it. The food's all Spanish, so paella is big (with soup, salad, French bread, and bleu cheese), but also try the baby eel appetizers chorizo (pork sausages), bacalao (cod fish) a la Vizcaina, trout with olive oil and garlic, and Gallican octopus. Vegetarian on request. Open daily. Inex-pensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

El Nido Boulevard Benito Juárez #67 -1/2 blocks north of Hotel Festival Plaza), Rosarito Beach, Baja, 661-612-1430. Head south if you're looking for a great dry-aged, mesquite-broiled steak at a bargain price — but don't stop there. Try the house spe-cialty, quail with garlic sauce (codorniz al moio de ajo), or venison, especially the savory *machaca de venado* (strips of meat with peppers, onions, and tomatoes). Both are locally raised on the restaurant's own ranches, and may be united in a brilliant breakfast of quail eggs with deer machaca. Seafood and surf-and-turf variations are tasty, too. The restaurant's name means "the nest" and the amusing indoor-outdoor decor is a sort of multiroom aviary with birds singing, chirp-ing, and fluttering all over. Full bar. If sensitive to smoke, don't sit next to the mesquite-burning hearth on the roofed patio. Dressy-casual. Bilingual staff and menu. Vegetarian on request. Open daily, early morning to late evening. Mostly moderate; cash only. — N. Ŵ.

La Diferencia Avenida Sánchez Taboada 10611-A, Zona Río, Tijuana, 634-3346 or 634-7078. Mexican haute cuisine, with inventive combinations of traditional flavors. The creative menu reframes the old dishes and devises new ones. Wine list centers on Baja wineries (Monte Xanic and Cetto) at reasonable prices. Vegetarian on request. Secure, free valet parking next to exterior courtyard. Menu is in Spanish (in a hard-to-read font), but some staffers speak some English. The restaurant is often noisy, even louder when mariachis play. Smoking permitted. Wheelchair access marginal. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. - N.W.

Los Pelícanos Calle de Cedro 115 #45 (west of Juarez), Rosarito Beach, Baja, 661-612-0445 or 661-612-1757. This hotel dining room is El Nido's little (and less gifted) sister, with a shorter menu and perhaps less careful cooking. It serves good steaks and surf-and-turf in a handsome room and, at lunch, on a pretty ocean-view terrace. To find it, look for large sign on west side of Juarez, north of the tourist hub directing you to the site. One winding flight up to the restaurant, no eleva tor. Bilingual staff and menu. Vegetarian on request. Full bar. Open daily, three meals. Moderate; cash only. — N.W.

Mercado Sobre Ruedas (From Tijuana, on toll road, take first Rosar ito exit; turn left at third traffic light then an immediate right onto Colonia Lucio Blanco.) Don't miss this huge flea market that materializes every Sunday (from morning until mid-afternoon) a couple of miles north of the tourist part of town. Its dozens of foodbooths offer a vast variety of local treats, ranging from barbecued mutton (borrego) to savory Jalisco-style goat stew (birria de chivo) to all manner of tacos, made-to-order hotcakes with syrup, "Mexican hamburgers," and Sno-Kones (don't worry about the ice; by law, it has to be made with purified water). The food is totally au thentic, cooked to Mexican tastes, and it's a carnival for the mouth. Many vendors speak some English. Rockbottom prices; cash only. - N.W.

Tacos Varios y Aguas Frescas Corner of Constitución and 3rd, Tijuana. This is "just" a cart, but don't let that stop your making the effort. Students, local businesspeople, and work-ers agree: this is the real thing. It's always causing a people-bulge on the sidewalk. However, the cart is only here from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., so you have to time it right. But from tongue to chicken mole, to milanesa, steak ranchero, carne asada, chile relleno, and *pescado* (fish), they create really big taco meals right there. Bonus: standing around chomping in the street is a great way to meet people and practice your Spanish. Nighttime only. Inexpensive. — E.B.

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Anthony's Fish Grotto 1360 North Harbor Drive (at Ash Street), downtown, 619-232-5103; 215 West Bay Boulevard, Chula Vista, 619-425-4200; 9530 Murray Drive, La Mesa, 619-463-0368. You're going to get a sore neck at the downtown flagship of this local chain, splitting your time between your meal, your part-ner, and the harbor scene outside. If vou don't want over-complicated food, Anthony's obliges. Fish and chips is still the simplest and the best.

Or Mama's Platter, cod combined with batter-fried calamari, shrimp, oysters, scallops, and clam strips. Anthony's has been up and running for six decades now, with the buying power to get the pick of the catch. The menu offers 18 different seasonal fish to choose from, plus — if you've got the bread - delicious lobster dishes (in season) like lobster thermidor with a creamy, winey sauce. Try to be there at sunset when the water-sky show will do its darndest to distract you. No reservations. Open daily, lunch through dinner. Moderate. - E.B.

Fish House Vera Cruz 360 Via Vera Cruz (in back of "Restaurant Row"), San Marcos, 760-744-7346. Additional locations in Carlsbad and Temecula. This affordable seafood eatery packs in diners like sardines. Fresh fish and lots of it is the hap penin' thing. On a recent day, 23 different fresh fish selections were available as daily specials, on top of the regular menu of crab, lobster, oysters, shrimp, catfish, etc. All fish are grilled plain, with nothing added but a dab of tartar sauce. The seafood is so fresh you don't really mind. Each entrée includes a choice of side dishes, two for lunch and three for dinner. The Manhattan chowder is especially tasty, as is their "krab" salad. This is an ideal place for families, but don't even think of it for a romantic meal out. Dinner daily, lunch daily except Sunday (dinner all day Sunday). Moderate. -S.M.

Il Fornaio 1333 First Street, Coronado, 619-437-4911. Also at Del Mar Plaza, 1555 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, 858-755-8876. Il Fornaio's defensive architecture walls it off from the Great Unwashed — the tourists wandering around Coronado's Old Ferry Landing — but it's worth breaching if only to get your teeth into their to-die-for bread. "Il fornaio" means "the baker," after all. Beyond bread, we're talking rustic-feeling, herbal, ultra-fresh salads, and everyday Italian dishes ranging from sfilatino con bistecchina (thin grilled steak on a baguette with creamy dijon and salad) to a giant mesquite grilled 22-ounce bistecca alla fiorentina, with lots of vegetarian and pasta dishes in between. A simple penne alla sorrentina — pasta tubes with a tomato, mozzarella, and basil sauce — is charming. Pizza puttanesca is heaven too, if you're into anchovies. Interesting regional menus from different provinces of Italy pop up during the first two weeks of each month. Most staffers seem mind-blowingly knowledgeable. Moderate. — E.B.



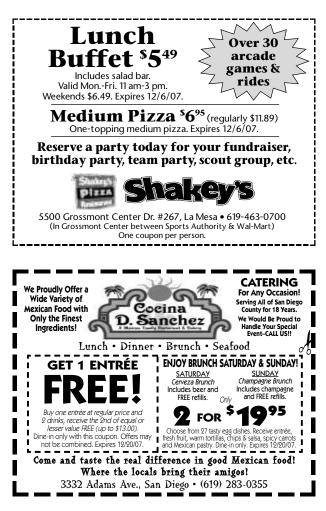


San

Diego Reader November 21,

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Hillcrest: 3925 4th Avenue (between Washington & University), 619-291-5011. San Marcos: 1020 W. San Marcos Blvd. (Restaurant Row), 760-744-7599. See website for hours. Lunch buffet daily at both. Reader Coupons

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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.

Across the Universe — Two-and-aquarter-hour promo for the Beatles without ever mentioning them by name. A generous, even overgenerous sampler of their songs (thirty-three of them, by the count in the press notes, leaving aside the numberless others that are quoted from or alluded to) has been re-recorded, or "covered" as they say in the business, by a fictitious cast of characters plunked down against the bil-lowing backdrop of the Sixties: the war, the draft, the protests, the drugs, the psychedelics, the Sexual Revolution, all that. To link the Beatles with the upheaval makes a certain sense. Unlike, say, the more enduring Rolling Stones or the goingnowhere Dave Clark Five, the Beatles were a group that really did evolve (or, as some would prefer, devolve) swiftly and dramatically, making them a useful weathercock for the winds of change. You are here reminded afresh of their range and their riches; and in new mouths, you hear the songs with new ears. (The tremulous, down-tempo rendition, for example, of "I Wanna Hold Your Hand" by an Asian-American high-school cheerleader, T.V. Carpio, brings the song a new, a re newed feeling, all by itself almost worth the price of admission.) By the second half, however, the inspiration irreversibly runs out of steam en route to a spluttering climax of "All You Need Is Love." (Wearily,



now: yeah, yeah, yeah.) Part of the problem is that, as the counterculture gains momentum in the sequence of events, there's a visible increase in music-video vulgarity, ornamental surrealism, Fellini-esque fantasy, all the elements that go into director Julie Taymor's fabled "vision." Another part of the problem may be that the later songs, even though the playlist in the film does not observe a strict chronology, tend to be more turgid. Part, too, may simply be that two-and-a-quarter hours are too long for a promo. With Evan Rachel Wood, Jim Sturgess, Joe Anderson, Dana Fuchs, Martin Luther McCoy, and cameos by Bono, Eddie Izzard, Joe Cocker, Salma Hayek. 2007.

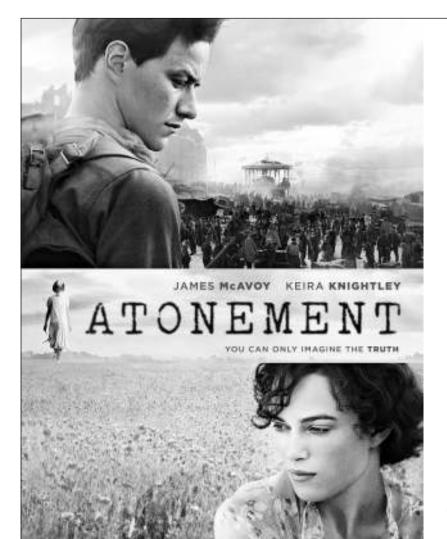
★★ (HORTON PLAZA 14; LA PALOMA; MISSION VALLEY 20)

American Gangster — Formula underworld drama poured into an epic template. Like Jiffy-brand waffle batter spread over an iron the size of a billiard table. "Based on a true story," it traces, in separate intertwined storylines, the converging upward paths of criminal and cop: the former (Denzel Washington) starting out as the servile driver and bodyguard for the legendary Bumpy Johnson, a big fish in the small pond of Harlem into the late Sixties, then expanding the pond, upon his boss's death, into an ocean; and the latter (Russell Crowe) working his way up as an undercover narc in New Jersey, studying for the bar in his spare time. Their eventual meeting comes, and drags on, as something of an anticlimax, after an excitingly staged drug raid from which the ganglord is lucky to be absent. The opposing paths up to that point are smoothly graded and well greased; and director Ridley Scott, the epit-

ome of slick (Alien, Blade Runner, Thelma and Louise, Gladiator, Black Hawk Down, and so on), moves things along at a tolerable pace, although there's the distinct impression that even if he knew any shortcuts, he wouldn't take them. His goal is epic, and he would gladly drag his feet to get there. At two and a half hours plus, he indeed does get there. Washington, to pay him a back-handed compliment, is never quite as credible as a through-and-through baddie, even though that seems to be the way to the Oscar (i.e., Training Day). Crowe on the other hand is a perfectly credible crusader, overcoming no greater obstacles on the road to respectability than his buoyant white sneakers and his unflattering, inexpensive period haircut, framing his face with folded wings. With Chiwetel Ejiofor, Josh Brolin, Lymari Nadal, and Ruby Dee. 2007. ★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; 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 PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15: RIVER VILLAGE 6: SAN MARCOS 18: TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

August Rush — Freddie Highmore plays a musically gifted orphan, with Keri Russell, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, and Robin Williams, directed by Kirsten Sheridan. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN: CHULA VISTA 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VAL-LEY 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)

Bee Movie — Cute name, even for an overhyped, presold, mega-budget money-making machine. (The return of Jerry Seinfeld! — as leading voice, co-writer, co-producer, and principal drum beater.) Cute is much more than you can say, however, for



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the spongy, marshmallowy computeranimated honeybees or for the premise that permits them to converse in English at equal volume with humans. The storvline of a rebel bee unready to settle down to his one and only Job-for-Life has its points of cleverness (e.g., the episode of getting stuck on a tennis ball, ultimately overelaborated), and toward the end of it there's a sententious lesson in ecology, more for grownups than for tots. With the voices of Renée Zellweger, Matthew Broderick, Chris Rock, Patrick Warburton; directed by Simon J. Smith and Steve Hickner. 2007. ★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6: LA JOLLA 12: MIRA MESA 18: MIS-SION 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: RIVER VILLAGE 6: SAN MARCOS 18: SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VIL-LAGE)

Before the Devil Knows You're

Dead — Interesting attempt by the eighty-

three-year-old Sidney Lumet to keep up

with the Tarantinos, piloting a caper film of back-and-forth time jumps and alternating points of view. The caper itself, a jewelry store stickup, is strictly small-time. "We don't want Tiffany's," the mastermind, a

drug-dependent real estate accountant (Philip Seymour Hoffman), pitches the idea to his vounger brother, a deadbeat dad (Ethan Hawke): "We want a mom-and-pop operation." More specifically, the operation of their own mom and pop (Rosemary Harris and Albert Finney), squeezed between Claire's and Foot Locker in a cookiecutter Westchester shopping mall. The rob-

bery goes very wrong very early, and the ensuing time scramble dispenses information and revelations on an unpredictable schedule. We meet "Grandma," for example, at a school play after we have seen her

younger brother is having an affair with his sister-in-law, the mastermind's wife (Marisa Tomei, more extensively attractive than ever), before we even know that the mastermind has any part in the plan. The totally botched robbery, leaving no prospect of success and profit, quickly eliminates much of the standard suspense in this sort of thing (cueing instead a brooding Fargo-esque musical score from Fargo's actual composer, Carter Burwell), and it permits the focus to shift to the deeply jaundiced view of family life - family discord, family disloyalty, family dysfunction. That view, while it lets in a fair share of malicious humor, is not to be taken lightly. Lumet, whose long list of credits runs along the lines of Twelve Angry Men, Long Day's Journey into Night, Fail-Safe, The Pawnbroker, Serpico, Dog Day Afternoon, Network, The Verdict, and the like, is by nature banished from lightness. 2007. ★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE) Bella — Love in New York City, with Ed-

shot in the holdup and before we find out she was not supposed to be at work that

day. And we find out that the recruited

uardo Verástegui, Tammy Blanchard, Manny Perez, and Ali Landry, directed by Alejandro Gomez Monteverde. (ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; PALM PROMENADE 24: PARKWAY PLAZA 18: RANCHO DEL REY 16: SAN MARCOS 18)

Beowulf — Computer-animated comicbook transcription of the unloved epic poem of the 8th Century. Director Robert Zemeckis goes even further with the motion-capture technique of The Polar Express, staking out the borderland between live action and cartoon, and throwing in 3-D to boot. Ray Winstone, voicing the dragon-slaying hero, has been prettified beyond recognition (unless you recognize him as Sean Bean), but Anthony Hopkins, if not his bare bum, is easily recognizable, as are John Malkovich, Brendan Gleeson, Robin Wright Penn, and Angelina "Fat Lips" Jolie. The novelty — motion capture plus 3-D — wears off eventually but not early. The visual effects are as liberated as any CGI, and are less apt to clash with their surroundings than the CGI in a live-action film. Still, we get plenty of clang and clank from the brutality, the gore, the coy nudity (in places approaching the fig-leaf silliness of an Austin Powers spoof), and the sheer bombast. 2007.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18: GROSSMONT CENTER: HORTON PLAZA 14: LA COSTA 6: LA IOLLA 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: RIVER VILLAGE 6: SAN MARCOS 18: TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Bourne Ultimatum — The Bourne absurdum. It isn't just that Part III in the adventures of the amnesiac superspy adds more ridiculousness. It's that, at these lengths, the ridiculousness multiplies exponentially. More ridiculousness, that is, and more and more ridiculous. (The sentimental soft spots found in Parts I and II are here concentrated in a couple of female, motherly, protective, nurturing CIA agents who, alone among their heartless colleagues, are interested in keeping the hero alive.) Paul Greengrass's frantic visual style - a hand-held camera in the grips of delirium tremens - fosters irritation where it intended excitement. With Matt Damon, Joan Allen, Julia Stiles, David Strathairn, Scott Glenn, and Albert Finney. 2007. (GASLAMP 15)

Cyrano de Bergerac — Jean-Paul Rappeneau's rendition of the Edmond Rostand play is a perfectly acceptable version of the piece for either someone who has never seen a production of it before or else someone who can't get enough of it. But the interest of the thing is infinitely more literary than cinematic. The English subtitles, composed by no less an eminence than Anthony Burgess, and purchasable in paperback at your local bookstore, attempt to preserve the rhythm and rhyme of the original French text ("You'll take care of him, then? You're such a dear friend"), and con-







stitute a literary event of some magnitude. But reading these while simultaneously hearing the spoken French puts a strain on the senses: poetry must be the hardest kind of literature to read with the television on in the background. The production, to be sure, is sumptuous and fastidious, even if the photography by Pierre Lhomme partly clouds it up and blots it out. And Gerard Depardieu, the beefiest of Cyranos, plays up the physical side of the role — the swashbuckling and the lusting - at the price of blunting and coarsening the wit. (A wit isn't supposed to bellow.) Depardieu's emphasis is particularly helpful with the Quixotesque overtones of the closing scene. He cannot, however, help that this scene passes beyond poignance and gets dragged out, and down, into bathos. 1990. ★ (SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY, 11/25, 2 P.M.)

Dan in Real Life — Annual family gathering (parlor games, touch football, talent show), complicated by romantic rivalry: two brothers, a widower with three girls and a reformed womanizer, both smitten by a worldly Frenchwoman. A showcase for Steve Carell's self-consciousness, somewhat more sympathetic than Dane Cook's luggishness. Juliette Binoche looks as if she could do better. With John Mahoney, Dianne Wiest, and Emily Blunt; directed by Peter Hedges. 2007.

• (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 16; FASH-ION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MIS-SION MARKETPLACE 13; 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 Darjeeling Limited — One thing to be said for a Wes Anderson film, and it's no small thing, is that it bears an individual stamp. A stamp as flat as a postage stamp, as emphatic as a rubber stamp. (Whap, whap.) A well-known commodity after Bot-tle Rocket, Rushmore, The Royal Tennenbaums, The Life Aquatic of Steve Zissou, Anderson favors fastidiously balanced, nailed-down compositions, the figures pinned to a shallow background like butterfly specimens. Stressing their separateness, he has no intention to hinge his shots together into a smooth and seamless line, but instead slots them into place as if on disconnected planes, setting up a clumping rhythm of starts and stops, glazing the screen with the deadest of deadpans, and erecting an invisible wall (invulnerable even to the occasional uncharacteristic zoom) between the filmmaker and his characters, freakishly feckless people, abject puppets manipulated by a man with little regard for human diversity and volition. The effect the unhumanness of these humanoids — is often amusing and always distancing. The danger in the director's method is that it can be too distancing and therefore not amusing enough. (Since he always clamps a tasteful mute on the audience's merriment, the standard laugh-meter is an unreliable measure.) If this outing seems a cut above

I'm Not There

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all previous ones, it may be the benefit of a real, a tangible, a substantial background against which to display his specimens: three, thirty-something brothers who have not spoken to one another in the year since their father's funeral, now heading out to-

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gether on a "spiritual journey" in a firstclass sleeper car across India, with the ultimate aim of tracking down their mother (a no-show at the funeral) in a convent at the foot of the Himalayas. In other words, a typical Wes Anderson operation, bringing about the insecure bonding of misaligned oddballs, but in an atypical exotic setting, the better to draw out their oddness. Owen Wilson, Adrien Brody, Jason Schwartzman, Amara Karan, Anjelica Huston, Bill Murray. 2007.

★★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

Elizabeth: The Golden Age — Cate

Blanchett, or a bloodless marmoreal likeness of her, resumes her role from the nineyears-earlier Elizabeth, under the same director, Shekhar Kapur, for a collection of the Virgin Queen's greatest hits: Mary, Queen of Scots; Sir Walter Raleigh; and, in a madly cross-cutting climax, the Spanish Armada, dispatched by the subtitle-speaking Catholic fanatic, Philip II ("Elizabeth is darkness, I am light"). A histrionic history lesson and courtly soap opera (the pregnant handmaid, the secret wedding, the queen's cracked heart but not visage), ludicrous in its extravagance, good for a snicker but not for an education. With Clive Owen, Abbie Cornish, Samantha Morton, Rhys Ifans, and Geoffrey Rush. 2007. ★ (HORTON PLAZA 14)

Enchanted — In an overlong prologue, a generic fairy-tale princess, rendered in a

pastiche of old-time Disney animation, is dispatched by a generic wicked witch to "a place where there are no happily-everafters," namely modern-day Manhattan in live action, whither she's soon followed by her betrothed prince, a CG chipmunk, and a witch's minion. The slothful working-out of this inspiration should pass as sophisticated among grade-schoolers. And maybe once in a while among grown-ups. (With a song, the princess rallies pigeons, sewer rats, and cockroaches to help with the domestic chores.) Amy Adams, far from the most plasticky actress, maintains a plucky air of innocence bordering on Blanche Du Bois delusion. With Patrick Dempsey, James Marsden, Timothy Spall, and Susan Sarandon; directed by Kevin Lima. 2007. ★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MIS-SION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MIS-SION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROME-NADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)





Fred Claus — Christmas comedy with Vince Vaughn, Paul Giamatti, and Rachel Weisz, directed by David Dobkin. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MIS-SION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARK-WAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Gone Baby Gone — Directing debut of Ben Affleck, who stays behind the camera and cedes the spotlight to his younger brother Casey, in the role of Patrick Kenzie, the Boston missing-persons private eye ("I find the people that started in the cracks and then fell through"), along with his 'snooty" partner Angie Gennaro (Michelle Monaghan), featured in a series of detective novels by Dennis Lehane. The plot, starting sensibly enough with the vanished daughter of a drug-addicted and derelict single mom, proves in the long run to be preposterous. But Affleck, meaning Casey more than Ben, works wonders to humanize Lehane's rather embarrassing literary creation, partly just by his youthful delicacy and his chipon-the-shoulder defensiveness about it. A singularly unprepossessing hero, he gains stature by holding his ground, however sullenly, against some highly showy perform-ances (Ed Harris, Amy Madigan, Amy Ryan, Morgan Freeman, among them). And the other Affleck, Ben, does some nice impressionistic detailing of his native Bean Town, and some candid thumbnailing of assorted lowlifes, before he succumbs to a muddying plot and a gagging resolution. 2007. ★ (GASLAMP 15)

Hitman — Video-game action with Timothy Olyphant, Dougray Scott, and Olga Kurylenko, directed by Xavier Gens. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; 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 SOUARE 14)

I'm Not There — Todd Haynes blows another cloud of mist into the mystique of Bob Dylan. The filmmaker, who once enlisted Barbie dolls to tell the Karen Carpenter story, now borrows a gimmick used by Todd Solondz in *Palindromes*, employing a rotation of dissimilar actors to play a single role, a multiplication of a gimmick used by Luis Buñuel in *That Obscure Object of De*-

sire. (Not a gimmick, in other words, exclusive to filmmakers named Todd.) The fact that Bob Dylan is a real person and a public figure, about whom we may have our own ideas, further complicates matters, and it is easy to lose track of the subject of the film when we are looking at a prepubescent black boy, Marcus Carl Franklin, hopping freight trains in Depression-period hobostyle, or looking at Richard Gere in granny glasses on horseback in the era of the model-T, and all the easier when they are masquerading under the aliases of Woody Guthrie and Billy the Kid, respectively. The songs in the film (sometimes sung by Dylan himself, sometimes by others) leave no doubt as to the protagonist's identity, and no doubt as to his uniqueness, but between the half-dozen different faces and pseudonyms, the film seems to be not so much about the "many lives of Bob Dylan" as about a half-dozen different lives altogether. The elusiveness of the man, the multifacetedness of him, would presumably be The Point, but that point could have

Love in the Time of Cholera

been made more subtly: the dissimilarity of Marcus Carl Franklin and Richard Gere amounts to gross overstatement. Adding to the confusion is a visual patchwork stitched together out of grainy black-and-white, glossy black-and-white, jaundiced color, and peachy color (Edward Lachman, cinematographer), not even counting the diverse cinematic allusions, catch them if you can, to Fellini, Godard, Peckinpah. With Christian Bale (who gets the speaking voice, the cadence, just right), Cate Blanchett (who additionally, cross-dressingly, gets the look just right), Ben Winshaw, Heath Ledger, and Charlotte Gainsbourg. 2007. ★ (KEN)

In the Valley of Elah — A more commendable writing and directing effort from Paul Haggis (writer only on *Million Dollar Baby* and *Flags of Our Fathers*, among others) than his hokey Oscar-winner, *Crash*. More focussed, more concentrated, more self-contained, more consistent: an uncompromisingly mournful murder mystery,

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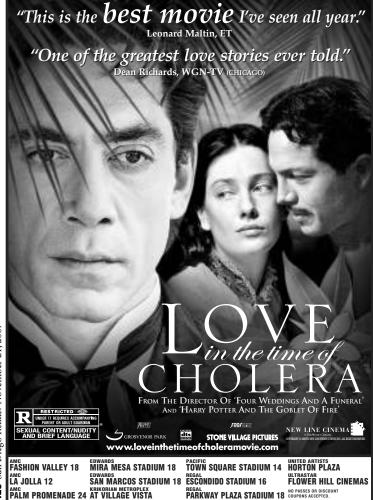
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and strangled antiwar cry, about a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom (remember when?) who goes missing upon his return to Fort Rudd, New Mexico, and who turns up on the outskirts of the base, stabbed, dismembered, and burned beyond recognition. Say what you will about the filmmaker's political point-making, it never clogs up the unrushed flow of the narrative; and at the same time he shows a true cinematic eye for tacky Americana, the streets, the stores, the townscapes, etc., so that whenever we go anywhere on screen - an army barracks, a motel, a public restroom, a strip club, a coffee shop, a "drive-up" bar, a fast-food joint - we can feel we've really been there, really seen it. (The mood lighting of nauseous green and blanched white is a case of whatever would be the opposite of gilding the lily — wilting the weed, possibly — and equally unnecessary.) Tommy Lee Jones, as the victim's father, a retired M. P. and current gravel hauler who presses the investigation forward when the military looks for an easy way out, has just the right amount of starch in his performance, touchingly repressed. Charlize Theron on the other hand, as the beleaguered civilian cop who eventually takes an interest, is perhaps more emotional than you want from a cop, but not more glamorous, with mannish attire, no makeup, and her hair parted in the middle and pulled back as severely as Emily Dickinson's. The rest of the cast has been carefully chosen down to the smallest role, with special mention reserved for Susan Sarandon, Jason Patric, James Franco, Jake McLaugh lin, Wes Chatham, Josh Brolin, Barry Corbin, and, nonchalantly topless in her mid-fifties, Frances Fisher. 2007. ★★★ (GASLAMP 15)

Into the Wild — Illustration, in a sketchy hand, of the Jon Krakauer nonfiction book on Christopher McCandless, a 1990 college graduate, on the doorstep of Harvard Law School, who gave away his tuition fund to Oxfam, obliterated his identity, renamed himself Alexander Supertramp, and swapped the evils of society for the purity of the northern wilderness ("No longer to be poisoned by civilization," he carved into a wooden shingle at his encampment), where ultimately he starved to death in 1992. It may not sound like much of an idea for a film. It isn't. A Seventies-style road movie, redolent of Seventies-style disaffection, it has a strong element of travelogue, as our happy-go-lucky hobo rides his aging Datsun westward to South Dakota, abandons it at Lake Mead, kayaks down the Colorado River, drifts into Mexico, trainhops up to L.A., thumbs his way to the Salton Sea, Anza Borrego, and Alaska. In that final destination, the travelogue veers toward nature documentary. At nearly two and a half hours, the film feels very, very long, albeit short on relatable incident: the





protagonist goes places, he meets people, and then he goes to a place where he won't meet people, where he will meet only his end, a martyr to something or other. Direc-tor Sean Penn unmistakably takes himself very seriously, and takes his protagonist almost reverently, painting him as something of a holy fool (a reader of Tolstoi, even though an eater of meat when he can get it), and offering up this speculative reenactment as nothing less than an endorsement. At the top, he sets the tone with a high-flown epigraph from Lord Byron: "I love not man the less, but Nature more" that one. The kid sister periodically supplies some explanatory narration ("I understand what he was doing"), and Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder chimes in with a half-dozen or so acoustic songs in sympathy and support. Of the real protagonist's earnestness and conviction, the film can tell us next to nothing. Of the filmmaker's, it can tell us much. And then it can tell us again. And again. With Emile Hirsch, Marcia Gav Harden, William Hurt, Jena Malone, Vince Vaughn, and Hal Holbrook. 2007. ★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

The Kingdom — A remedial history lesson on U.S. -Saudi relations, behind the opening credits, introduces a hypothetical massacre of a hundred-plus American citizens at an oil-company picnic, the handiwork of an "Osama wannabe." Speedily onto the scene — where were they on 9/11? — comes an FBI response team (Jamie Foxx, the take-charge family man; Jennifer Garner, the token superwoman: Chris Cooper, the token good actor; Jason Bateman, the obligatory wiseacre), to take names and kick ass, but first to burn the ears of the local Saudi investigator with their salty Free Speech. (Ashraf Barhom, in the part, is as likable as he is expendable.) Director Peter Berg's bob-and-weave camera, that cliché of immediacy and urgency, is a continual annoyance, and in the climactic action is worse than that. Our inability to follow what's happening can scarcely convince us it's actually happening. 2007.

• (GASLAMP 15; OCEANSIDE 16)

Lions for Lambs — Topics on the table: the war on terror, the lack of a battle plan to wage it, the governmental policy of disinformation, the complicity of the press in

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all this, the general lowering of journalistic standards, the apathy of the younger generation, the ivory-towerism of academe, and (if that's not enough) the responsibility of each and every individual citizen to get involved, make a difference, act out a slogan. The action in the film, which is to say the talk, talk, talk, takes place in three arenas: the Capitol Hill office of a go-getter GOP senator, entertaining a veteran newshound in an hour-long one-on-one interview ("My honest effort to keep the press better informed"); a snowy Afghan mountaintop on which two old college buddies lie wounded and marooned; and the office of their former Poli-Sci professor at "a California university," where he now, conscience-stricken over his vain attempt to dissuade them from joining the military, fights for the soul of a disengaged student of bright promise and smart mouth. The shifting focus from one arena to another, for all its geographical scope, is scarcely cinematic at all, but more like a shifting spotlight on a stage, a pool of illumination that circulates between three distinct twosomes. Although a few flashbacks combat this effect, the staginess - the soapboxiness - never for a moment relents. The film, really more a forum than a film ("Here we are," the truest statement the senator makes, "having a high-minded debate"), collects commonplace talk on the issues of the day, things you could hear spoken all around you, and it crams them into the mouths of tenuously connected, sketchily conceived fictional characters. Presented for the most part in a constricted face-shot style, and rather sickly in complexion for so eminent a cinematographer as Philippe Rousselot, it comes to us out of the evident conviction that we are at too

critical a time in our history to be bothered

with amenities such as art and artfulness, imagination and invention. (Still another indicator, like no shampoo on airplanes, that the terrorists have won.) And - despite an A-list cast of Tom Cruise, Meryl Streep, and Robert Redford, the last of whom also directed — it logs in at several ticks under ninety minutes, as if any greater elaboration would have dangerously delayed the delivery of the message. With Andrew Garfield, Derek Luke, Michael Peña. 2007. • (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 16; FASH-ION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; LA COSTA 6: LA JOLLA 12: MIRA MESA 18: MIS-SION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEAN-SIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

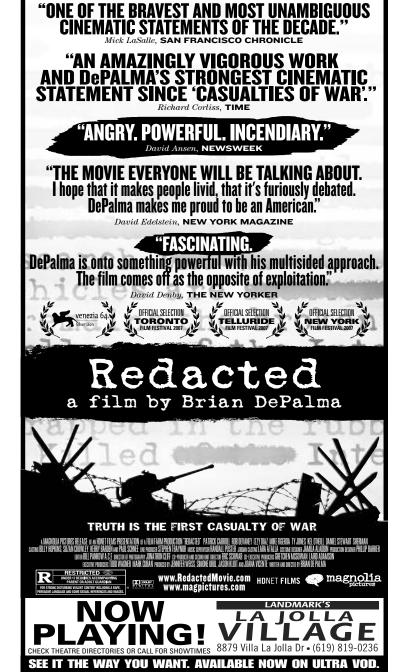
Love in the Time of Cholera — Half a century of unrequited love, too much time for Javier Bardem to span persuasively, ceding the early years to a younger unmatching actor (Unax Ugalde), then acting awkwardly younger than he looks, then donning a series of stick-on mustaches from coal black to salt-and-pepper to sooty gray. To make matters worse, the object of his love remains the same actress throughout, Giovanna Mezzogiorno, and changes but little. Even at two and a quarter hours, the film (adapted by Ronald Harwood from a hefty novel by Gabriel García Márquez) of-ten feels hurried and half-baked. With Benjamin Bratt, Catalina Sandino Moreno, Fernanda Montenegro, John Leguizamo, and Hector Elizondo; directed by Mike Newell 2007 ● (ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18;

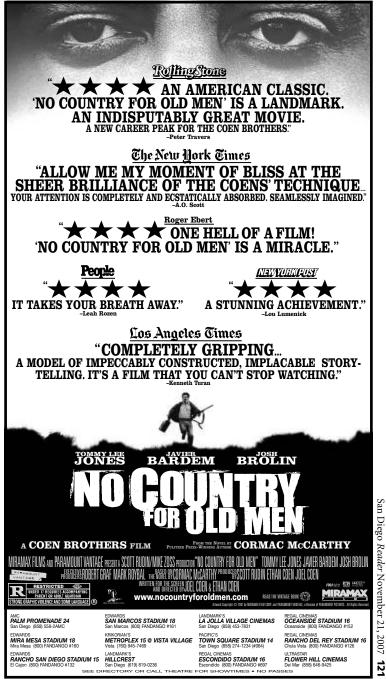
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 PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SOUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Martian Child — Sci-fi writer (and widower) adopts a problem child who believes he's from another planet. The means of expression are hackneyed and mawkish, and John Cusack's emotional reserves run only puddle-deep, but the warm, clean, well-lit photography of Robert Yeoman (on whose talents Wes Anderson holds no monopoly) will give the sensitive viewer something to cozy up to, something constant. With Bobby Coleman, Amanda Peet, Joan Cusack, Oliver Platt, Sophie Okonedo, and Anjelica Huston; directed by Menno Meyjes. 2007. ★ (GASLAMP 15)

Michael Clayton — The title figure is the designated fixer for the elite Manhattan law firm of Kenner, Bach & Ledeen, touted as a "miracle worker" but more modest in his self-assessment: "I'm not a miracle worker, I'm a janitor. The smaller the mess, the easier it is for me to clean it up." And a threebillion-dollar class action suit against his firm's biggest client, United Northfield, or UNorth for short, makes a very big mess. Aside from being George Clooney, the hero doesn't look like much. Crushed under a mountain of debt, sworn off the gambling habit (notwithstanding a prefatory relapse at the poker table), run ragged by his job, begging his boss for an advance and getting the brush-off, he has little time for his neglected son and none for a shave. In addition to all that, Clooney has firmly suppressed the head-waggling smugness that so often chills his charm. In fact he has sunken into the part quite deeply and depressively. We keep waiting to see some sign of a miracle. And waiting. In its bald essentials the soulless law firm, the monolithic corpo ration, the robotic hit men, the stirrings of conscience and poses of piety, the mechanics of comeuppance — the film is fairly standard-issue. But screenwriter (the *Bourne* series) and first-time director Tony Gilroy, beginning with the nonlinear narrative arrangement, has devised an all-over strategy of tease and obfuscation, very clever at disguising the lack of cleverness. Very clever, that is, in presentation, not in plot, character, idea. If we sometimes grow weary of not knowing what the hell people are talking about, we never altogether get weary of wanting to know. Tilda Swinton, Tom Wilkinson, Sydney Pollack. 2007. $\star \star$ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14)

The Mist — The third Frank Darabont film to have been adapted from the works of Stephen King, although the first two, The Shawshank Redemption and The Green Mile, were not the sort of work for which that author is best known. (Darabont's intervening film, The Majestic, was truly horrible, horrific, horrid, but not in any way intended.) This one, adapted from a King "novella," is much more what we would expect: "Something in the mist! Something in the mist took John Lee!" Said mist has rolled down from the mountain on which there is ostensibly some type of missiledefense base, rolled across the lake, rolled into town, and what's in it - including the thing that took John Lee - is a menagerie of jumbo insects, reptiles, mollusks, God knows what. By and by, we get a throwaway science-fictional explanation for this really more mythological than sciencefictional, more Pandora's Box than Frankenstein's Monster - but the concern of the townsfolk barricaded inside the local supermarket, The Food House, is simply to survive to the end of the movie: "It appears we may have a problem of some magnitude here," announces the skeptical store man-







SEEN ON

Branford Marsalis

TRIPP SPRAGUE Musician, trippsprague.com

Here are two of my favorite music-related DVDs of recent vears. They're very different as far as musical styles, but both capture the passion and excitement of music. Daniel Anker's Music from the Inside Out consists mostly of interviews and profiles of musicians from the Philadelphia Orchestra. Being a jazz musician, I found it fascinating to learn about the lives of classical musicians and the behind-the-scenes things that go on in the orchestra. One of my favorite parts in the bonus material explains why, to a jazz musician, the conductor's baton always seems to be ahead of the beat.

Branford Marsalis: A Love Supreme Live is concert footage of saxophonist Marsalis and his group performing John Coltrane's suite of songs from the Love Supreme album. The performance is driving and passionate! There are also great interviews on the topic of Coltrane from Michael Brecker, Marsalis, and others.

MUSIC FROM THE INSIDE OUT (USA) 2003, New Video Group List price: \$26.95 BRANFORD MARSALIS: A LOVE SUPREME LIVE (USA) 2004,

Marsalis Music List price: \$19.98 (two discs)



CHUCK PERRIN Musician and owner/operator of Dizzy's Jazz Club, DizzysSanDiego.com

Here are music DVDs to be thankful for. Thelonious Monk was a true jazz original steadfast in his vision of a music made up of angular melodies and unusual harmonic progressions. His compositions have become staples of the modern jazz repertoire. In Thelonious Monk: Straight, No Chaser you'll find him in classic black-and-white footage performing and recording as well as in private personal moments. My favorite visual images are of him doing his little shuffle dance onstage and walking through his New York neighborhood, greeted by shouts and handshakes from strangers who recognize him. Arguably the best "slice of life" jazz documentary you will ever see.

Calle 54, in contrast, is in vibrant color - a scintillating portrait spotlighting the legends of Latin jazz: Tito Puente, Gato Barbieri, Michel Camilo, Paquito D'Rivera, Chucho Valdes, Eliane Elias, and more. It's all here: the realness, the rhythms, the palpable, undeniable musical energy.

THELONIOUS MONK: STRAIGHT, NO CHASER (USA) 1988, Warner Home Video List price: \$14.98 CALLE 54 (Spain) 2000, Miramax

List price: \$14.99



BILL ANDREWS Bassist/music technologist

The late bassists Ray Brown and Niels-Henning Orsted Pedersen join pianist Oscar Peterson in Norman Granz lazz in Montreux Presents Oscar Peterson Trio '77. Two influential jazz bass players of the post-bop era lay it down with master pianist Peterson. Solo piano for a few tunes, then just acoustic piano and the two bass players.

Keith larrett: The Art of Improvisation offers enlightening insight to the life and attitudes of pianist Keith Jarrett. Nice footage of many of the greats he's worked with -Charles Lloyd, Miles Davis, to name a couple — as well as his current trio with Gary Peacock and lack Delohnette.

Dingo has Miles Davis in his only acting role. A traveling jazz band goes to the Australian outback and inspires a young boy to devote himself to the trumpet and jazz. Nice to see Miles acting just before his passing.

NORMAN GRANZ JAZZ IN MONTREUX PRESENTS OSCAR PETERSON TRIO '77 (USA) Eagle Vision List price: \$11.98 KEITH JARRETT: THE ART OF IMPROVISATION (USA) 2005,

Euroarts List price: \$24.99 DINGO (Australia) 1991, Spectrum

List price: \$24.99

ager after viewing the chopped-off tip of a tentacle, still thrashing, at the loading dock. The traditional voice against tampering with nature, though quite properly a religious one, is in this instance a stridently fire-and-brimstone one (Marcia Gay Harden's), going on about "the end of time," never mind the end of the movie; and there is no opposing voice more authoritative than Thomas Jane's, Toby Jones's, Jeffrey DeMunn's, Laurie Holden's, or Frances Sternhagen's (a no-star cast). The computer-generated creatures, very well-done, never overdone, are infinitely more congenial than this shrewish doomsayer, and not even Darabont's slushy, slapdash direction (shallow focus, rack focus lack of focus) can spoil the party. 2007. ★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; 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)

Mr. Magorium's Wonder

Emporium — Family fantasy with Dustin Hoffman and Natalie Portman, written and directed by Zach Helm. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 18; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6: LA JOLLA 12: MIRA MESA 18: MIS SION 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: RIVER VILLAGE 6: SAN MARCOS 18: TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

No Country for Old Men — The Coen brothers' adaptation of a violent Cormac McCarthy novel, starring Tommy Lee Iones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin. (ESCONDIDO 16; FLOWER HILL 4; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA 18; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; RANCHO DEL REY 16: RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15: SAN MAR-COS 18: TOWN SOUARE 14: VISTA VILLAGE)

Redacted — High-def video pseudodocumentary, or if you prefer, humorless mockumentary, about some Marines in Samarra (John O'Hara's Appointment in Samarra is de rigueur reading for one of them) who, in the line of duty, mow down a pregnant Muslim en route to the delivery room, and, in their leisure hours, rape and murder a fifteen-year-old schoolgirl. Just to hit the highlights. The "source material" consists principally of a fictitious video diary, which one of the leathernecks hopes will be his entrée into USC film school, and a fictitious French documentary with English subtitles, plus snippets of staged footage from security cameras and embedded journalists. Not to mention the authentically documentary photo montage at the end, to push your face into the war in case you weren't taking the film seriously enough, and to wrap it up in a cloak of sanctity. Brian De Palma, one of the few contemporary American filmmakers to possess a recognizable style (B-movie

baroque), is willing here to give all that up for a semblance, a guise, a pretense, of Unvarnished Truth. There may be dabs and dribbles of lyrical artiness in the French documentary (a shot of a scorpion aswarm with ants, a cliché since the opening sequence of The Wild Bunch), but that can be blamed on the French. In the main, the handheld digital camera, corralling a pallid picture in a wavering frame, proves to be the same labor-saving device for De Palma as it is for the pre-eminent mockumentarist, Christopher Guest. Different for De Palma, though, is the expectation that the device will vouch for his veracity and his verisimilitude. In spite of the unfamiliar faces that make up the cast (Izzy Diaz, Patrick Carroll, Daniel Stewart Sherman Rob Devaney), the naturalistic acting comes across as unnaturally actorish, and one wonders anew why it should be so difficult for actors to act natural. Any such shortcomings would of course be less of a drawback in a docucomedy, where, if the distortions do not actually enhance the comedy, they sabotage only laughs. They do not, as they do here, sabotage high dudgeon. 2007 • (LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Resident Evil: Extinction — Postapocalyptic posturing, in an ankle-length duster, with two sheathed machetes, by a feminine Mad Max, or to be more exact an Angry Alice, a plasticky, poreless, yet per-spiry Milla Jovovich. The door is left wide open to a third sequel. With Ali Larter, Oded Fehr, and Iain Glen; directed by Russell Mulcahy, 2007. (GASLAMP 15)

30 Days of Night — A tribe of subtitled vampires strategically targets the northernmost town in the U.S., Barrow, Alaska, hunkered down for a sunless month, free rein for nocturnal bloodsuckers. The majestic clouds and snowscapes on the last day of light ignite hope for a sense of style, but the superhuman strength and speed of the monsters soon prepare you for boredom and monotony, albeit *gory* boredom and monotony. A brief recurrence of majesty: the aerial view of slaughter, splotches of red on a field of snow, an action painting in motion. With Josh Hartnett, Melissa George, Ben Foster, Danny Huston, and Mark Boone Junior; directed by David Slade. 2007.

• (GASLAMP 15; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VAL-LEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18)

This Christmas — Family get-together for the holiday, with Delroy Lindo, Loretta Devine, Idris Elba, and Regina King, written and directed by Preston Whitmore II. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN: CHULA VISTA 10: FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15: SAN MARCOS 18: TOWN SOUARE 14)

Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

CENTRAL

007

CLAIREMONT

Town Square 14

4665 Clairemont Drive (858-274-1234) American Gangster (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:35, 2:55) 6:45, 10:05; August Rush (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 1:55) 4:35, 7:20, 9:55; **Bee Movie** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:50, 2:05) 4:40, 7:25, 9:40; **Be**owulf (PG-13) Fri -Sun (11:40, 1:40, 2:25) 4:20, 5:25, 7:15, 8:00, 10:05; **Enchanted** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 11:45, 1:45, 2:30) 4:25, 5:15, 7:10, 7:50, 9:50, 10:25 Sun. (11:00, 11:45, 1:45, San $2{:}30)\ 4{:}25,\ 5{:}15,\ 7{:}10,\ 7{:}50,\ 9{:}50;\ \textbf{Hitman}\ (R)$ **C** Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 2:20) 4:45, 7:00, 9:35; **Into the Wild** (R) Fri.-Sun. (3:15) 10:00; **Love in**

MOVIE SHOWTIMES

5:10) 7:50, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (11:55, 2:35) 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (11:35, 12:35, 2:10, 3:15)

4:45, 6:20, 7:20, 9:00, 10:05; Dan in Real Life

Sat.-Sun. (12:20, 2:40) 5:05, 7:35, 10:20; Eliza-

(PG-13) Fri. (12:20, 2:40, 5:05) 7:35, 10:20

beth: The Golden Age (PG-13) Fri.-Sun

(2:15) 7:30; **Hitman** (R) Fri. (11:45, 12:15, 2:05, 2:45, 4:25, 5:00) 6:45, 7:25, 9:10, 9:45

(PG-13) Fri (11:40, 4:55) 10:15 Sat -Sun

11:40) 4:55, 10:15; **Love in the Time of**

Sat.-Sun. (11:45, 12:15, 2:05, 2:45) 4:25, 5:00

6:45, 7:25, 9:10, 9:45; Lars and the Real Girl

Cholera (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:45, 3:45) 6:50, 9:55;

Michael Clayton (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:05) 6:05;

This Christmas (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. (1:00,

3:55) 6:40, 9:30

The Mist (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:50, 3:00) 6:10, 9:15;

La Jolla 12

8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262) American Gangster (R) Fri.-Sun. 12:00, 3:25, 6:40, 10:05; August Rush (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:00) 1:45, 4:35, 7:45, 10:35; Bee Movie (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:05) 1:25, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30. 10:50 Sun. 1:25, 4:00, 7:05, 9:25; **Beowulf** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:50) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45; Dan in Real Life (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:55) 1:10, 3:35, 5:50, 8:15, 10:55 Sun. (10:55) 1:10, 3:35, 5:50, 8:15, 10:40; **Enchanted** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:10) 1:55, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10; Hitman (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:30) 12:50, 3:15, 5:35, 8:05, 10:30: Love in the Time of Cholera (R) Fri Sun. 12:30, 3:40, 6:50; The Mist (R) Fri.-Sat. (10:30) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20 Sun, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20; Mr. Magorium's Wonder Empo**rium** (G) Fri.-Sat. (10:45) 1:05, 3:30, 6:00, 8:25, 10:45 Sun. (10:45) 1:05, 3:30, 5:45, 8:10, 10:25; This Christmas (Not Rated) Fri.-Sat. (10:35) 1:15, 4:05, 7:10, 10:00 Sun. 1:15, 4:05, 7:10, 10.00

La Jolla Village 8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236) Before the Devil Knows You're Dead (R); No Country for Old Men (R); Redacted (R)

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) American Gangster (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:25) 2:05, 5:45, 9:30, 10:05; August Rush (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:05) 1:00, 3:50, 6:45, 9:35; Bee Movie

the Time of Cholera (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:15) Beowulf (PG-13) Fri. (11:35, 12:35, 2:10, 3:15, LA JOLLA 4:45) 6:20, 7:20, 9:00, 10:05 Fri. (11:55, 2:35,

6:50; **The Mist** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:05, 2:00) 4:55, 7:45, 10:30; **Mr. Magorium's Wonder Empo-rium** (G) Fri.-Sun. (12:10, 2:40) 5:20, 7:35, 9:45; No Country for Old Men (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:25, 2:10) 5:10, 7:55, 10:35; This Christmas (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:15) 5:00, 7:40,

DOWNTOWN

Gaslamp 15 701 Fifth Avenue (619-232-0400) Call theater for program information

Horton Plaza 14

Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM) Across the Universe (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (2:50) 9:05: American Gangster (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 12:30, 2:55, 3:50) 6:15, 7:10, 9:35, 10:30; Au-gust Rush (PG) Fri. (11:40, 2:20, 4:55) 7:30, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (11:40, 2:20) 4:55, 7:30, 10:10;

(PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:00) 1:30, 4:00, 6:40, 9:10; **Bella** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 12:05, 2:30, 5:05, 7:35; **Beowulf** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:10) 12:30, 1:15, 3:45, 4:25, 6:50, 7:30, 9:55, 10:40 Sun. (10:10) 12:30, 1:15, 3:45, 4:25, 6:50, 7:30, 9:55; **Dan in Real Life** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30) 1:05, 4:10, 6:55, 9:40; **Enchanted** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 10:35) 12:45, 1:25, 3:30, 4:05, 6:15, 7:00, 9:00, 9:45; **Hitman** (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:40) 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30 Fri.-Sat. (11:40) 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30 Sun. (11:40) 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35 Sun. (11:40) 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35; **Love in the** Time of Cholera (R) Fri.-Sun. 12:00, 3:20, 6:35, 10:00; Michael Clayton (R) Fri.-Sun. 2:10, 7:40; The Mist (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:15) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:20; Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium (G) Fri.-Sun. (10:40) 1:10, 3:55, 6:30, 9:05; **Saw IV** (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:35) 5:10, 10:35 Sun. (11:35) 5:10, 10:30; **This Christmas** (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. (10:20) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:25

Mission Valley 7

7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841) Call theater for program information

Mission Valley 20

 Id40 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262)

 Across the Universe (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:40)

 1:30, 6:50, 12:05 Sun. (10:40)

 1:30, 6:50;
 American Gangster (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:50) 12:35, 3:20, 4:05, 6:55, 7:30, 10:20, 11:05 Sun (11:50) 12:35, 3:20, 4:05, 6:55, 7:30, 10:20; **Au-gust Rush** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:15) 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:40, 12:10 Fri,-Sat. (11:15) 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:40, 12:10 Sun. (11:15) 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:35 Sun. (11:15) 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:35; **Bee Movie** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:20, 11:00) 12:40, 1:20, 3:05, 3:45, 5:40, 7:55, 10:15; **Beowulf** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:15, 10:55) 1:10, 1:45, 4:15, 4:50, 7:10, 7:45, 10:10, 10:45 Sun. (10:15, 10:55) 1:10, 1:45, 4:15, 4:50, 7:10, 7:45, 10:10; Beowulf: Digital 3D (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30, 12:05 Sun. 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30; Dan in Real Life (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:25) 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00; Enchanted (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:45, 11:30) 1:25 2:10, 4:20, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 9:40, 10:30, 12:10 Sun. (10:45, 11:30) 1:25, 2:10, 4:20, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 9:40; **Hitman** (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:45) 12:30, 2:15, 3:00, 4:45, 5:30, 7:15, 8:00, 9:45, 10:35, 12:20 Sun. (11:45) 12:30, 2:15, 3:00, 4:45, 5:30, 7:15, 8:00, 9:45, 10:30; **The Mist** (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:10) 2:00, 4:50, 7:50, 10:40 Sun. (10:50) 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10; **Mr. Magorium's** Wonder Emporium (G) Fri.-Sat. (11:35) 1:55, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45, 12:00 Sun. (11:35) 1:55, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45; Saw IV (R) Fri.-Sat. 9:50, 12:15 Sun. 9:50p.m.; **30 Days of Night** (R) Fri.-Sun. 4:20, 9:40; **This Christmas** (Not Rated) Fri.-Sat. (10:30, 11:20) 1:20, 2:05, 4:00, 4:45, 6:45, 7:30, 9:35, 10:20, 12:15 Sun. (10:30, 11:20) 1:20, 2:05, 4:00, 4:45, 6:45, 7:30, 9:35, 10:20; Why Did I Get Married? (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. 7:15, 12:20 Sun. 7:15p.m

STATE UNIVERSITY

Ken 4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236) I'm Not There $\left(R\right)$

UPTOWN

Hillcrest Cinemas 3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236) Before the Devil Knows You're Dead (R);

The Darjeeling Limited (R); Into the Wild (R); No Country for Old Men (R) **Reuben H. Fleet Science Center**

1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233) Call theater for program information

San Diego Natural History Museum 1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821) Ocean Oasis (Not Rated) Fri. 10:10a.m.

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON

Parkway Plaza 18 405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456) Call theater for program information

LA MESA

Grossmont Center Grossmont Center (619-465-7100) Call theater for program information

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Rancho San Diego 15

2951 Jamacha Road American Gangster (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:35, 3:05) 6:50, 10:20; **August Rush** (PG) Fri. (11:40, 2:25, 5:10) 7:50, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (11:40, (1116) 2:25, 5:16) 7:56, 10:56 out out (1116) 2:25) 5:10, 7:50, 10:30; **Bee Movie** (PG) Fri. (12:05, 2:40, 5:15) 7:35, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. (12:05, (12:00) 5:15, 7:35, 9:50; **Beowulf** (PG-13) Fri. (11:30, 12:20, 2:15, 3:20, 5:00) 7:20, 7:45, 10:00, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (11:30, 12:20, 2:15, 3:20) 5:00, 7:20, 7:45, 10:00, 10:30; Dan in Real Life (PG-13) Fri. (11:55, 2:30, 4:55) 7:20, 9:55 Sat.-Sun. (11:55, 2:30) 4:55, 7:20, 9:55; **Enchanted** (PG) Fri. (11:30, 12:30, 2:10, 4:15, 4:50) 7:00,

7:30, 9:30, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (11:30, 12:30, 2:10) 4:15, 4:50, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:10; **Hitman** (R) Fri. (11:45, 2:15, 4:45) 7:40, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (11:45, 2:15) 4:45, 7:40, 10:20; **The Mist** (R) (11:43, 2:13) 4:43, 7:40, 10:20; The Mist (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:15, 3:15) 6:50, 9:45; Mr. Mago-rium's Wonder Emporium (G) Fri. (11:50, 2:05, 4:40) 7:05, 9:35 Sat.-Sun. (11:50, 2:05) 4:40, 7:05, 9:35; No Country for Old Men (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 3:30) 7:15, 10:15; This Christmas (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. (12:10, 3:10) 7:10, 10:25

SANTEE

Santee Drive In 10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447) Bee Movie (PG) Fri.-Sun.; Enchanted (PG) Fri.-Sun.; The Game Plan (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.

SOUTH BAY

CHULA VISTA Chula Vista 10

Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214) American Gangster (R); August Rush (PG); Bee Movie (PG); Beowulf (PG-13); En-chanted (PG); Fred Claus (PG); Hitman (R); The Mist (R); Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium (G); This Christmas (Not Rated) Palm Promenade 24 770 Dennery Road (858-558-2262)

American Gangster (R); August Rush (PG); Bee Movie (PG): Bella (PG-13): Beowulf (PG-13); Dan in Real Life (PG-13); Enchanted (PG); Fred Claus (PG); The Game Plan (PG-13); Hitman (R); Lions for Lambs (R); Love in the Time of Cholera (R); The Mist (R); Nr. Magorium's Wonder Empo-rium (G); No Country for Old Men (R); Saw IV (R); 30 Days of Night (R); This Christmas (Not Rated)

Rancho Del Rev 16 East H Street (619-216-4707) Call theater for program information

IMPERIAL BEACH

South Bay Drive-In do Avenue (619-423-2727) Call theater for program information

NORTH INLAND

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Carmel Mountain

11620 Carmel Mountain Road (858-674-9770) Call theater for program information

ESCONDIDO

Escondido 16

350 W. Valley Parkway (760-291-0119) American Gangster (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 3:05) 6:35, 10:05; **August Rush** (PG) Fri. (10:15, 1:10, 4:20) 7:15, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (10:15, 1:10) 4:20, 7:15, 10:00; **Bee Movie** (PG) Fri. (10:35, 12:00, 2:30, 3:45, 4:55) 7:35, 10:25 Sat. Sun. (10:35, 12:00, 2:30, 3:45) 4:55, 7:35, 10:25 3at.-Sun. (10:35, 12:00, 2:30, 3:45) 4:55, 7:35, 10:25; Beowulf (PG-13) Fri. (10:20, 11:35, 1:05, 2:20, 3:55, 5:05) 7:20, 7:50, 10:05, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. (10:20, 11:35, 1:05, 2:20, 3:55) 5:05, 7:20, 7:50, 10:05, 10:45; **Dan in Real Life** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:15) 6:45, 9:55; **Enchanted** (PG) Fri. (10:00, 11:20, 12:40, 2:00, 3:20, 4:45) 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:40 Sat.-Sun. (10:00, 11:20, 12:40, 2:00, 3:20) 4:45, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:40; **Hitman** (R) Fri. (10:05, 12:30, 2:55, 5:20) 8:10, 10:40 Sat.-Sun. (10:05, 12:30, 2:55) 5:20, 8:10, 10:40; Love in the Time of Cholera (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:55, 3:10) 6:55, 10:15; **The Mist** (R) Fri. (10:30, 1:30, 4:30) 7:30, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (10:30, 1:30) 4:30, 7:30, 10:30; Mr. Mago-rium's Wonder Emporium (G) Fri. (11:40, 2:15, 4:40) 7:10, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. (11:40, 2:15) 4:40, 7:10, 9:45; **No Country for Old Men** (R) Fri. (10:40, 1:40, 4:35) 7:40, 10:35 Sat.-Sun. (10:40, 1:40) 4:35, 7:40, 10:35; **This Christmas** (Not Rated) Fri. (10:25, 1:20, 4:10) 7:05, 10:20

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Sat.-Sun. (10:25, 1:20) 4:10, 7:05, 10:20

FALLBROOK

River Village 5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784) American Gangster (R); Bee Movie (PG); Beowulf (PG-13); Enchanted (PG); Fred Claus (PG); Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium (G)

POWAY

Poway 10 13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423) Call theater for program information

SAN MARCOS

San Marcos 18 1180 West San Marcos Boulevard at Old California Walk (760-471-3711) Call theater for program information

VISTA

Vista Village Highway 78 at Vista Village Drive (760-945-7469) Call theater for program information

NORTH COASTAL

CARLSBAD

Plaza Camino Real 2385 Marron Road (760-729-7469)

August Rush (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:30, 2:10, 4:45) 7:15, 9:45 Sun. (11:30, 2:10, 4:45) 7:15; **Be**owulf (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:40, 2:20, 5:00) 7:30, 9:55 Sun. (11:40, 2:20, 5:00) 7:30; **En-chanted** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:20, 1:50, 4:25) 7:00, 9:30 Sun. (11:20, 1:50, 4:25) 7:00

DEL MAR

Del Mar Highlands 8 El Camino Real at Del Mar Heights Road

(858-646-9420) American Gangster (R); Bee Movie (PG); Beowulf (PG-13): Enchanted (PG): Fred Claus (PG); Hitman (R); The Mist (R); Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium (G)

Flower Hill 4

2630 Via de la Valle (858-646-9425) August Rush (PG); Dan in Real Life (PG-13); Lions for Lambs (R); Love in the Time of Cholera (R); No Country for Old Men (R)

ENCINITAS

La Paloma 471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-SHOW) Across the Universe (PG-13)

LA COSTA

La Costa 6 6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga) (760-599-8221) American Gangster (R); Bee Movie (PG); Beowulf (PG-13); Enchanted (PG); Fred Claus (PG); Lions for Lambs (R); Mr.

Magorium's Wonder Emporium (G)

OCEANSIDE

Mission Marketplace 13 College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-806-1790) Call theater for program information

Oceanside 16

401 Mission Avenue (760-439-1733) 401 *Nission Avenue* (*No*-4*39-1733*) **American Gangster** (R) Fri. (12:30, 4:30) 8:30 Sat. (12:30) 4:30, 8:30; **August Rush** (PG) Fri. (11:10, 1:45, 4:25) 7:10, 9:45 Sat. (11:10, 1:45) 4:25, 7:10, 9:45; **Bee Movie** (PG) Fri. (11:50, 2:00, 4:20) 7:05, 9:35 Sat. (11:50, 2:00) 4:20, 7:05, 9:35; **Beowulf** (PG-13) Fri. (11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 1:35, 2:05, 2:35, 4:10, 4:40, 5:15) 6:50, 7:20, 7:50, 9:20, 9:50, 10:20 Sat. (11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 1:35, 2:05, 2:35) 4:10, 4:40, 5:15, 6:50, 7:20, 7:50, 9:20, 9:50, 10:20; **Enchanted** (PG) Fri. (10:55, 12:15, 1:25, 2:45, 3:55, 5:25) 6:45, 8:00, 10:25 Sat. (10:55, 12:15, 1:25, 2:45, 3:55) 5:25, 6:45, 8:00, 10:25; **Hitman** (R) Fri. (11:40, 12:50, 2:25, 3:20, 4:50, 5:40) 7:15, 8:10, 9:25, 10:35 Sat. (11:40, 12:50, 2:25, 3:20) 4:50, 5:40, 7:05, 8:10, 9:25, 10:35; **The Mist** (R) Fri. (11:05, 1:50, 4:35) 7:30, 10:20 Sat. (11:05, 1:50) **Emporium** (G) Fri.-Sat. (11:15, 1:30, 3:45) 6:00, 8:15, 10:30; **No Country for Old Men** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:45, 3:40) 7:00, 9:55; Saw IV (R) Fri.-Sat. (2:20) 6:55; **30 Days of Night** (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:20) 9:10; **This Christmas** (Not Rated) Fri. (11:20, 2:15, 4:55) 7:40, 10:15 Sat. (11:20, 2:15) 4:55, 7:40, 10:15

Diego Reader November 21, 2007

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577-2325 or e-mail to: sandiegohr@ gcserv.com. ACCOUNTING/FINANCE. Explore your new careerl Volt Services Group has im-mediate Temporary. Temporary-to-Direct Hire and Direct Placement opportunities. Competitive wages, paid weekly, paid holidays and vacation. Medical and den-tal insurance plans, state of the art train-ng, career management and more. www. jobs.volt.com. Call Volt Services Group for more information. EOE. 858-277-2821. E-mail: sandiegoaccounting@volt.com. ACTIVISM. Part time/full time positions. Great jobs to save our national parks. Ca-reer positions available. Earn \$325-\$525 per week. Call Lee at 619-297-5512. www.jobsthatmatter.org. ADMIN CLERK. Part time, light typing, an-swer phones, file, Internet research. 2 years experience, Vord/Excel/PowerPoint experience, 2 years college. \$10-\$13' hour..chrisina@roberthaleassociates. com. 858-404-0249.

com. 858-404-0249

ADMINISTRATIVE AND MORE! Tops ADMINISTRATIVE AND MORE 10ps Staffing has immediate openings throughout the county for professional, outgoing individuals! Administrative As-sistant, General Clerical and Food Prepa-ration day/night shifts. Paid weekly. 8889 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 201, San Diego, 92108. Call Tops Staffing today! 619-299-8770.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. Full-time opening in the Equine Department. Full-time experience a must. Proficiency in Word and Excel. Requires good customer ser-vice skills. \$10.50/hour plus excellent benefits. Fax resume to 858-756-7520 or visit our website at www.animalcenter.org for more information. EOE.

for more information. EOE. ADMINISTRATIVE/CLERICAL. Volt Ser-vices Group. Temporary, Temporary-to-Direct Hire, Direct Placement. Competitive wages, paid weekly. Paid holidays, vacation. Medical, dental, train-ing, career management. www.jobs.volt. com. EOE. San Diego: 858-576-3140; e-mail: clairemont@volt.com. Carlsbad:

Free Classifieds: web or mail

EARLY DEADLINE by 6 pm MONDAY

Applies to private parties. Other rates for roommates, rentals and paid services. Info: 619 235 8200 WEB: SDReader.Com MAIL: P.O. Box 85803, San Diego 92186 (up to 25 words)

***8 Classifieds**: phone or walk-in

LATE DEADLINE by 6 pm TUESDAY

Applies to private parties. Other rates for roommates, rentals and paid services. PHONE: 619 235 8200 WALK-IN: 1703 India Street (at Date) Little Italy

760-729-8916; email carlsbad@volt.com. El Cajon: 619-401-1524; email elcajon@ volt.com. San Marcos: 760-471-0800; email sanmarcos@volt.com. Scripps Ranch: 858-578-0920; email scrippsranch@volt.com.

AGENTS WANTED IMMEDIATELY! Obtain your Real Estate license now! Our fast-track program is 2-1/2 weeks with 1-on-1 coaching and free video cram. \$100K po-tential. Work for national brand now! Call tential. Work for national brand now! Cal Susan: 858-245-7880 or 800-319-1031.

TREATING

NEW CALL CENTER · START NOW · UP TO \$20-\$30/HOUR

WEEKLY PAY

⁵500 SIGN-ON BONUS!

HELP WANTED

ANIMAL CARETAKER. Part-time Pet Sit-ter. All areas. Permanent. 7 days plus hol-idays. Split shift. Infrequent traveler, bonded, positive minded, ethical, prompt. Reliable car. 619-685-7979. ANIMAL LOVERS NEEDED. Work with ex-otic birds, full/part time. Training. No ex-perience necessary. Apply in person, two locations: Our Feathered Friends, 4420 Rainier, San Diego, 619-280-5134; A Bird Haven, 249 East Grand Avenue, Escon-dido, 760-741-2622.

APARTMENT RESIDENT MANAGER. Part time. Pride of ownership beautiful ocean-front properties. Light maintenance, show apartments. Must have excellent refer-ences, credit and communication skills.

001029168

Call 619-501-5553. Fax resume: 619-222-APPOINTMENT SCHEDULER. \$15/hour

Provintiment Schebucket, \$15/1001 plus bonus. Appointment Setting busi-ness-to-business via phone, no selling. Part time only. Morning hours 7:30-11:30am, Miramar area. Paid training. Can earn up to \$20/hour. E-mail resume to employment@versacall.com or send resume to Schedular, 7047 Carroll Road, San Diego, CA 92121.

San Diego, CA 92121. APPOINTMENT SETTER. No selling! \$10/hour base pay. Earn up to \$20/hour! No experience needed. Just book ap-pointments. Money motivated, reliable people for 9am-3pm shift, Monday-Fri-day. Additional hours available. Gateway

Marketing. San Diego: 619-697-5600. Es-condido: 760-743-0050.

condido: /60-/43-0050. APPOINTMENT SETTER. www. monarchipols.com. Up to \$500-\$1000+ weekly! Paid weekly. AM/PM shifts. Full, part time. Medical, dental. Near Grantville trolley. Call today, start today! Mission Valley: 619-516-4276. ASSET PROTECTION OFFICERS. Guard

Management, Inc. provides all training, Guard Card testing, Live Scan for GMI potential hires. Hiring full/part time coun-tywide. Immediate placement with valid California Guard Card. Excellent compensation, growth potential to \$20.00/ hour for Field Officers. Recruitment bonus, 401(k), health, professional certification. Apply: 8001 Vickers Street, San Diego. Eligibility is conditional. 858-244-1896 or e-mail resume: FJohnson@ GMIweb.com.

BARBER SHOP/SALON seeking quali-fied/talented barbers, hairstylist, braiders. Having clientele preferred, not required. lewly remodeled, established Normal leights business. Booth rental or com-ission 619-284-4524

BARTENDERS NEEDED. Looking for part/full time bartenders. Several posi-tions available. No experience required. ourly wages and tips make up to per shift. Call 800-806-0082 x200. \$300 per sl (AAN CAN)

BODY WRAP TECHNICIAN. Will train. Must have sales experience, nutrition knowledge, flexible hours. Be depend-able, enthusiastic. La Jolla location. Visit: www.SuddenlySlimmer.net, employment section. 858-605-5827.

Www.budgengemannerstead section. 858-605-6827. **BOOKKEEPER** in San Diego area to man-age check writing and record keeping of individuals' client accounts and prepare reports for case managers as client's payee. Must know A/P, be able to recon-cile accounts. Experience in QuickBooks required. Strong organizational skills, work independently in busy office setting. Valid CA DL, clean DMV history, insur-ance required. E-mail resume with cover letter to Idonnelly@mhsnc.org.

CAREGIVER. Provide assistance to adults with developmental disabilities. Apply: Home of Guiding Hands, 1825 Gillespie Way #200, El Cajon, CA, 92020, on-line: www.guidinghands.org, call: 619-938-3057.

CAREGIVERS NEEDED For adults with developmental disabilities. Full time/part time. Up to \$9.50 and hour. Assist with light duties. Call 619-281-2258. Email resumes; abettelifetogether@yahoo.com. Fax: 619-281-1532.

CAREGIVERS, LIVE-IN: Attentive Home CAREGIVERS, LIVE-IN: Attentive Home Care has immediate assignments for Live-In Caregivers. 2-3 years experience and CA ID or driver's license, Social Se-curity card required. Eingerprint and TB test a plus. Flexible schedules. Hourly or live-in. Competitive pay. Overtime for hol-idays. Employer-matched 401(k). Health, vision and dental insurance available. Also hiring CNAs, HHAs and hourly Care-givers. 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. CAREGIVERS. Beautiful assisted living **CAREGIVERS**. Beautiful assisted living facility in Poway has day shifts available (7am-7pm). Benefits, bonuses, extra pay for weekends. Must be kind and caring! Call 858-674-1255 x206.

Call 858-674-1255 x206. **CAREGIVERS.** Full/part time. 24-hour live-ins. Male/female. 1+ year experience, ve-hicle required. Caregivers, Companions, HHAs, CNAs. Leave contact information and brief experience: 619-944-3327. CAREGIVERS. Home Instead Senior Care needs cheerful, dependable people to help seniors stay at home with our non-medical home care services. Competitive pay/training. Flexible hours. Great bene-

Area Sales Recruiters

Are you an outgoing, enthusiastic and driven salesperson? Do you thrive in a fastpaced, dynamic environment and want the opportunity to increase your earnings by achieving your professional goals?

Belcorp has over 40 years of experience in the beauty industry with over \$700M in annual revenue. Our product line L'Bel Paris consists of high-quality skin care, cosmetics and fragrances made in France.

Belcorp is growing rapidly in the U.S. and is looking for Area Sales Recruiters throughout San Diego County and Orange County with the ambition, business acumen and creativity to achieve sales objectives campaign by campaian.

Responsibilities:

- Recruit, motivate and train independent Beauty Consultants
- Grow and sustain profitable sales within the area
- Communicate product and program information to sales force on a timely basis
- Participate in training programs to improve your performance

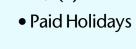
Qualifications:

- Self-motivated and able to work independently without constant supervision
- Field sales/service experience
- Experience recruiting and cold calling
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Ability to inspire, generate enthusiasm and motivate to action
 Bilingual (English/Spanish) skills are a plus
- College degree or AA desirable

Belcorp, U.S.A. offers a competitive base salary, bonus opportunities, car allowance and a comprehensive benefits package.

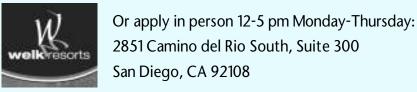


E-mail résumé to recruiting@us.belcorp.biz or call 415-362-LBEL for more information.



• 401(k)

Call: 760-497-5291



• Paid Training

124 San Diego Reader November 21, 2007

- Medical/Dental/Life Insurance
- Full-time Opportunities
- Cash Bonuses Paid Nightly



Need Extra Money for the Holidays?

We are hiring for:

- Valets (Seasonal in La Jolla) Must be able to drive stick and have a valid driver's license.
- Cashiers (Seasonal in La Jolla)
- Parking Managers (Full-time)

All positions must be able to work weekends and holidays including New Year's.

HIRING EVENT!

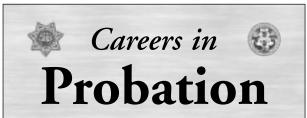
Apply in person Tuesday, November 27, 2007 1-7 pm:

2550 5th Avenue, Suite 105

San Diego, CA 92103 Call 619-234-9501 for more information.

Ace Parking is an EOE. Women and

minorities are encouraged to apply.



Correctional Deputy Probation Officer I

Minimum Qualifications

• 21 years old • Good physical condition • No illicit drug usage • U.S. citizen or in process of becoming a citizen • No felony convictions • High school diploma or GED

Salary:

\$35,069-\$44,741 annually Safety Retirement-Sworn Officers 3% at age 50. Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply.

Test date:

December 8, 2007 • 8 am

Montgomery Middle School 2470 Ulric Street • San Diego, CA 92111

Maximum 85 applicants. Applications available at the test site. For additional information, contact the department's

> Jobline: 858-514-8558 www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation

fits. Central/East Jobline: 619-433-6200. South Bay/Coastal: 858-277-3722.

CAREGIVERS. Immediate openings: Hourly, Live-in, Nights. Cheerful, compas-sionate Companions/HHAs/CNAs to assist soniate companions/HHAS/Crives to assist seniors in-home. Minimum 1-year experi-ence. Premium pay/bonuses/benefits, 24-hour office support. Flexible assignments. Age Advantage, 619-660-8881.

CAREGIVERS/COMPANIONS. Minimum 1 year experience non-medical home care for seniors. Valid California Driver's License. Serving Santee/La Mesa/Del Cerro/San Carlos. Maureen, Visiting An-gels, 619-749-7525.

CAREGIVERS/COMPANIONS. Visiting Angels, America's Choice in Homecare. Now hiring compassionate, caring Care-givers/Companions. Requires minimum 1 year experience in non-medical home care for seniors and valid CA driver's li-cense. Serving Poway, Rancho Pe-nasquitos, Scripps Ranch and Mira Mesa areas. Call for an immediate interview: 760-703-2192. CAREGIVERS: LIVE-INS. 2. 3. 4 or 5

CAREGIVERS: LIVE-INS, 2, 3, 4 or 5 days/week, \$120/day including sleep and meal periods. Weeknds and hourly: 4-hour, 8-hour and 12-hour shifts, AM/PM. Top pay, flexible shifts 24/7, 401(k), pro-duction bonus, rewards for good work. Requires valid driver's license, vehicle/in-surance, registration, one year of paid el-der caregiving experience, eligibility to work in the United States. \$50 Hiring Bonus after 90 days of employment. Comfort Keepers, 2006 Workplace Excel-lence Medallion Award SDSHRM, San Diego: 619-792-6036. San Marcos: 760-598-3400.

598-3400. CAREGIVERS needed for elder care facil-ities, North County and county-wide. Need to be experienced, bilingual and have own transportation. Kelly Senior Ser-vices is a fun, caring environment. Call 619-297-2576 or fax resume to: 619-297-1740

1/48. **CAREGIVERS** needed immediately. 1 year experience. All shifts available. Hourly and live in. Call Assertive Home-care Services, 3774 Grove Street, Suite L-1, Lemon Grove. 619-466-6890.

T. Lemon Grove. o 19-466-6590.
CASHIER. San Ysidro. All shifts available.
Good customer service and cash han-dling experience required. \$8/hour. Apply at www.sunsetparking.com or call 760-753-4004 x333.

Staffing: 858-277-5680. CLASSROOM AIDES. Work with develop-mentally disabled children in non-public school. Experience preferred. Allied Gar-dens, Chula Vista, La Mesa. Monday-Fri-day, 7:30am-1pm. \$9.75/hour to start. EOE. www.vistahill.org. Fax resume: 619-281-0453. EOE. Apply weekdays, 9am-4pm: Stein Education Center, Attention: HR, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego CA 92120.

staff for local transportation company. Must be familiar with Livery Coach software. Must be reliable. 619-224-1141.

Wate: Must be reliable: 019-224-1141.
CLOSERS WANTED, to generate leads for home improvement. No selling of prod-uctsl Average income \$20-\$30+/hour Part-Time! Monday-Saturday, day/evening. More info, 1-866-DRHARTY (1-866-374-2789). www.thhd.net.

2789). www.thhd.net. **CNA/CHHA.** Beginners, experienced. Family Caregivers, Childcare, Home Care Aides, Drivers. Great payl New-hire bonus! Nonmedical, in-home help for se-nicrs, children, disabled. 12-and 24-hour shifts! Training. Flexible schedules, bene-fits, retirement, childcare. At Your Home Familycare. E-mail: homecarejobs® atyourhomefamilycare.com. Toll free: 1-877-903-JOBS.

877-903-JOBS. COMMERCIAL CARPET CLEANING Fore-man. Carpet cleaning company is looking for a foreman to work with and supervise cleaning crews. Have strong communica-tion skills, self motivated, ability to super-vise and problem solve. Bilingual preferred. Clean driving record. Non-smoking. 619-947-4194.

smoking. 619-947-4194. [–] COMMISSARY Stores Supervisor. County of San Diego Sheriff's Department, In-mate Services Division. \$39,208-\$47,653. Responsible for operation of inmate com-missary store system consisting of bulk warehouse and a materials and supply operation located throughout the County. Central office services numerous deten-tion facilities. Filing Deadline: 11/27/07. For announcement and application, go to www.sdcounty.ca.gov or call Human Re-sources, 619-236-2191. COMMUNITY TRAINING Specialist/Lob

COMMUNITY TRAINING Specialist/Job COMMUNITY TRAINING Specialist/Job Coach. §9.75/hour to start. Assisi devel-opmentally disabled adults in the commu-nity. Behavioral and instructional programs. Implement schedules. 32.5 hours/week. Benefits. E-mail: steinjobs@ vistahili.org. Fax resume: 619-281-0453. Apply weekdays, 9am-4pm, Stein Educa-tion Center, Attention: HR, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego CA 92120.

Drive, San Diego CA 92/20. CONSTRUCTION. Home remodeling com-pany seeks Drywallers, Tapers, Rough/ Finished Carpentry and Painters. Full/part time. 6-7 years experience required. 619-277-1720.

277-1720. **CONSTRUCTION.** Immediate long-term positions. Labor, Home Prep, Customer service, Finish-Frame-Form Carpenters, Apartment Maintenance, Hang-Tape-Mud Drywallers, Commercial/Residential Plumbers, Painters. Full benefits available immediately. Call 858-292-8562, fax 858-292-0230, e-mail help@gostaff.com, ap-ply-online www.gostaff.com.

ply oflittle www.gostan.com. **CONSTRUCTION.** Project Supervisor/ Foreman needed for custom home/re-modeling company. Must have tools and transportation. Minimum 5 year's experi-ence supervising work crews. Drug test required. Fax resume to 619-741-1482.

SAN DIEGO SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT **Now Hiring!**



THE REFLECTION **OF SUCCESS Exam Dates:**

November 27, 2007 • 5:30 pm Arrival

Sheriff's Administrative Center 9621 Ridgehaven Ct., San Diego, CA 92123 Registration by e-mail or phone is required prior to the Ridgehaven test **ONLY.** recruit@sdsheriff.org

December 1, 2007 • 7:30 am Arrival

Southwestern College Cafeteria 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista, CA 91910

18-year-olds eligible to apply!

Bring valid photo ID and \$3 for parking at Southwestern.

www.joinsdSHERIFF.net 858-974-2000

San Diego County Sheriff's Department Open House November 29, 2007 • 6-8 pm

This FREE event is a great opportunity for anyone interested in a career in law enforcement. Talk to the heroes of the Sheriff's Department about the hiring process, qualifications, benefits, career advancement, the academy and much, much more!

> San Diego Sheriff's Department 9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego, CA 92123 Contact Deputy Laura Legler:

858-974-2336 Laura.Legler@sdsheriff.org

EOE

753-4004 x333. CIRCULATORS. Collect signatures on statewide petitions. No experience nec-essary. Paid 3x/week. \$10-\$30/hour. In-dependent contract work where/when you want. Full/part time. 619-230-9020. CLASS B DRIVERS. MDI offers paid holi-days after 520 hours and vacation bonuses after 2000 hours. Apply at MDI Staffing: 858-277-5680.

CLERICAL/ACCOUNTING STAFF. Seek

CONSTRUCTION/REMODEL. Local home bany is seeking exper enced/skilled electricians, plumbers, dry-wallers and laborers. Interested applicants please fax resume to 619-946-4364 or call 619-271-5864.

CONSTRUCTION: Project Managers, Service Technicians, Installers. Seeking mo-tivated, organized people experienced with design, blueprints, A/V systems in-stallation. Benefits offered. Send resume: dplotkin@audioassociates.com; fax 619-461-9469. EOE.

COORDINATOR (family services). Full time licensed-eligible intern or licensed CUMBDINATOR (Tatrily SerVices), Full time licensed-eligible intern or licensed MFT/LCSW. Working with SED, high-risk youth, families. Provide case manage-ment and counseling services for client and family. Positions available throughout San Diego County, including North County region. Bilingual a plus. MHS, Inc. is an EOE, offers excellent benefits/com-petitive salaries. resume and cover letter to famfor-admin@mhsinc.org or fax 858-569-1873.

CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY PROBATION Officer I. County of San Diego Probation Department now hiring. Test Date: De-cember 8, 2007, 8am. Montgomery Mid-dle School, 2470 Ulric Street, San Diego dle School, 2470 Ulric Street, San Diego 92111. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citi-zen or becoming a citizen. Pass crimi-nal/personal background investigation. No felony convictions. High school diploma/GED. \$35,068-\$44,740/year. www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation. Jobline: 838-514-8558.

CUSTOMER SERVICE. Face-to-face inter-viewing. No sales! Will train. \$10-12/hour. Full/part-time. 619-379-4237. **CUSTOMER SERVICE.** Setup and display. No experience necessary, we will train. Call for interview, 619-448-2294. CUSTOMER SERVICE. Up to \$500

\$1000+ weekly setting appointments! www.monarchjobs.com. Paid weekly. AM/PM shifts. Full, part time. Medical, dental. Near Grantville trolley. Call today, start today! Mission Valley: 619-516-4226

DELIVERY DRIVER. Courier delivery ser-vice seeks individuals for dedicated San Diego routes and on-demand Messen-gers for all areas. Full and part time.

Free Classifieds! Post free online ads with photos at SDReader.com

Clean DMV record, reliable vehicle. Will train. Call 24-hour Jobline: 877-574-3726. DEPUTY PROBATION OFFICER. County DEPUTY PROBATION OFFICER. County of San Diego Probation Department is now hiring. Test Date: December 15, 2007. Qualified applicants will be noti-fied by mail of the time and location of the test. Applications must be submitted Qualifications: Bachelor's degree with experience. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen or in process of becoming a citizen. Pass criminal/personal back-ground investigation. No felony convic-tions. \$50,752-\$61,672/year. Safety Retirement-Sworn Officers 3% at age 50. Bilingual men/women encouraged to ap-ply. Applications can be accessed on-line from the Job/Current Recruitment section of the County website at: http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov. Jobline: 858-514-8558.

http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov. Jobline: 858-514-8558. **DEPUTY SHERIFF** and Deputy Sheriff De-tentions/Courts. San Diego County Sher-iff's Department. Hiring for two types of positions; take one exam, apply for either or both! Special Exam Date: Tuesday, November 27, 2007, 5:30pm arrival, Sher-iff's Administrative Center, 9621 Ridge-haven Court, San Diego CA 92123 or Saturday, December 1, 7:30am arrival, Southwestern College Cafeteria, 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista CA 91910. Registration by e-mail or phone is re-quired for the Ridgehaven test ONLY at: recruit@sdsheriff.org. Detention/Courts: \$39,796-\$61.608 annual salary, plus ben-efits. 18-year-olds eligible to apply! Deputy Sheriff: \$49,704-\$71,099 current annual salary, plus benefits. U.S. citizen or applied for citizenship; 20-1/2 years old. High school graduate or G.E.D. re-quired. Bring valid photo ID and \$3 for parking at Southwestern. Valid California Driver's License prior to appointment. Ef-

ective oral and written communication in nglish. EOE. Additional test dates: www. sinsdSHERIFF.net. 858-974-2000.

DISPATCHER COORDINATOR, Social Services Coordinator, Van Driver, Care-giver or Homemaker, CNA, HHA, and PCA. Is it time for a career change? Com-petitive salary, benefits, flexible. Email inccg@sbcglobal.net, fax 760-428-9442. In-Home Care, 5963 La Place Court, Suite 114, Carlsbad, CA 92008. 760-931-5442. DISPATCHER, Experience preferred, Part time, 25-35 hours/week. Nights and weekends. Benefits. Old Town area. Ap-ply in person: 3140 Moore Street, San Diego 92110. 619-778-3807. Email betrogri2/@cox.net

ox.net. **DISPATCHER.** Seeking experienced Dis-Must be familiar with Livery Coach soft-ware. Must be dependable. 619-224ware

DOG/CAT & OTHER PET CARE in your home. Paid "Host Families" needed for vacationing pets. Experience with animals necessary. www. pawsnplaypetcamp.com. Toll free, 888-320-PETS (7387).

DOOR PERSONNEL. In Cahoots now hiring. No experience necessary. Apply in person, Tuesday-Friday, after 5pm: 5373 Mission Center Road, San Diego 92108.

DRIVER HELPER, SEASONAL: UPS is hir ing for Seasonal Driver Helper positions in Chula Vista, San Diego and San Marcos. Must be able to meet UPS driver appear-ance standards, able to meet driver in deance standards, able to meet driver in de-livery area, at least 18 years old, available to work during the day Monday-Friday (on-call basis), available to work October 1-December 31. \$8.50/hour. Apply online at www.upsjobs.com.

at www.upsjobs.com. **DRIVER**. Lakeside area. Class B with P endorsement and current DOT medical card. Experienced operating 16-26 pas-senger minibus with wheelchair equip-ment. California driver's license and clear DMV required. Full-time. 7am-4pm, Mon-

day-Friday. Excellent benefits. \$10.25/hour to start DOE. Unyeway Inc.: 619-562-6330.

619-562-6330. DRIVER. One full or 2 part time Drivers needed at beautiful retirement commu-nity. Days and shifts will vary. Must be available nights/weekends. Apply in per-son at 7450 Olivetas Avenue, La Jolla. Email ruthmorris@scphs.com. Call 858-450-5278 or fax 858-450-5207.

DRIVER. Tow truck. Full time. Experi-enced preferred but will train. South Bay enced preferred but will train. South Bay area. Clean DMV. Background checks re-quired. Salary plus commission and ben-efits. 619-543-8951. seveltow@aol.com.

BRIVER: TEMPORARY DRIVERS. You will be employed and paid by a staffing agency while on temporary assignment to FedEx Ground or FedEx Home Delivery. It's extra cash and a chance to work with an industry leader. You will be supplied with a truck and everything you need to pick up and deliver our customers' packages. Qualifications: 21 years or older; clean driving record; drug screen, background checks and physical required; customer service skills; 6 months driving/delivery experience recommended; no equipment necessary. Please inquire in person Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm: FedEx Ground, 9999 Olson Drive, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92121. Monday-Saturday, 9am-3pm: FedEx Home Delivery, 8515 Miramar Place, San Diego, CA 92121. Monday-Saturday, 9am-3pm: FedEx Home Delivery, Round-hedex Home Delivery. DRIVER: TEMPORARY DRIVERS. You

DRIVERS WANTED. Requires valid CA driver's license, current H-6 DMV printout and good, safe driving skills. Hourly/com-mission/lips. Call 619-591-0303 or or ap-ply in person at Xpress Shuttle, 1065 Bay Boulevard, Suite B, Chula Vista, CA 91911.

DRIVERS, DELIVERY. \$12+/hour, must be at least 21, clean DMV, Class C li-cense. Full-time positions, great benefits. Days, afternoons, weekends. Background check/drug test required. Excel-lent customer service skills. Apply in person: Sleep Train Mattress Centers, 9455 Cabot Drive, 92126. 858-877-2005. **DRIVERS, TOW TRUCK.** Full-time. All shifts. No experience required. Top pay/ benefits. Requires 214 - years, clean driv-ing record, background/drug screen. 3140 Moore Street (92110). Old Town area. email: chrisortiz2@cox.net or call 619-778-3807.

DRIVERS. Bonus paid! Auto parts deliv-ery with late model pickup truck, car or van. Clean DMV. Local and North County openings. \$1750 to \$2400 a month. Fue paid. Independent contractors. 619-233

4374. DRIVERS. Dominion Distribution is look-ing for part-time Drivers to deliver free publications on Mondays. Wednesdays and Fridays. You must have a truck, van or SUV and be currently insured. Call Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, 858-279-3137 x243.

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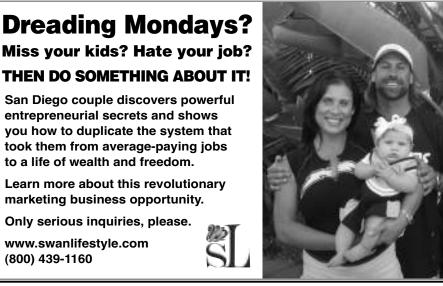
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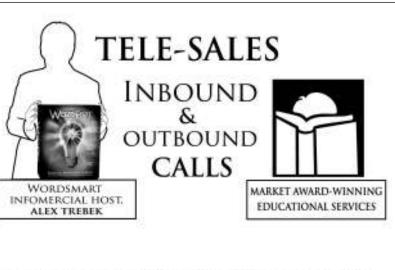
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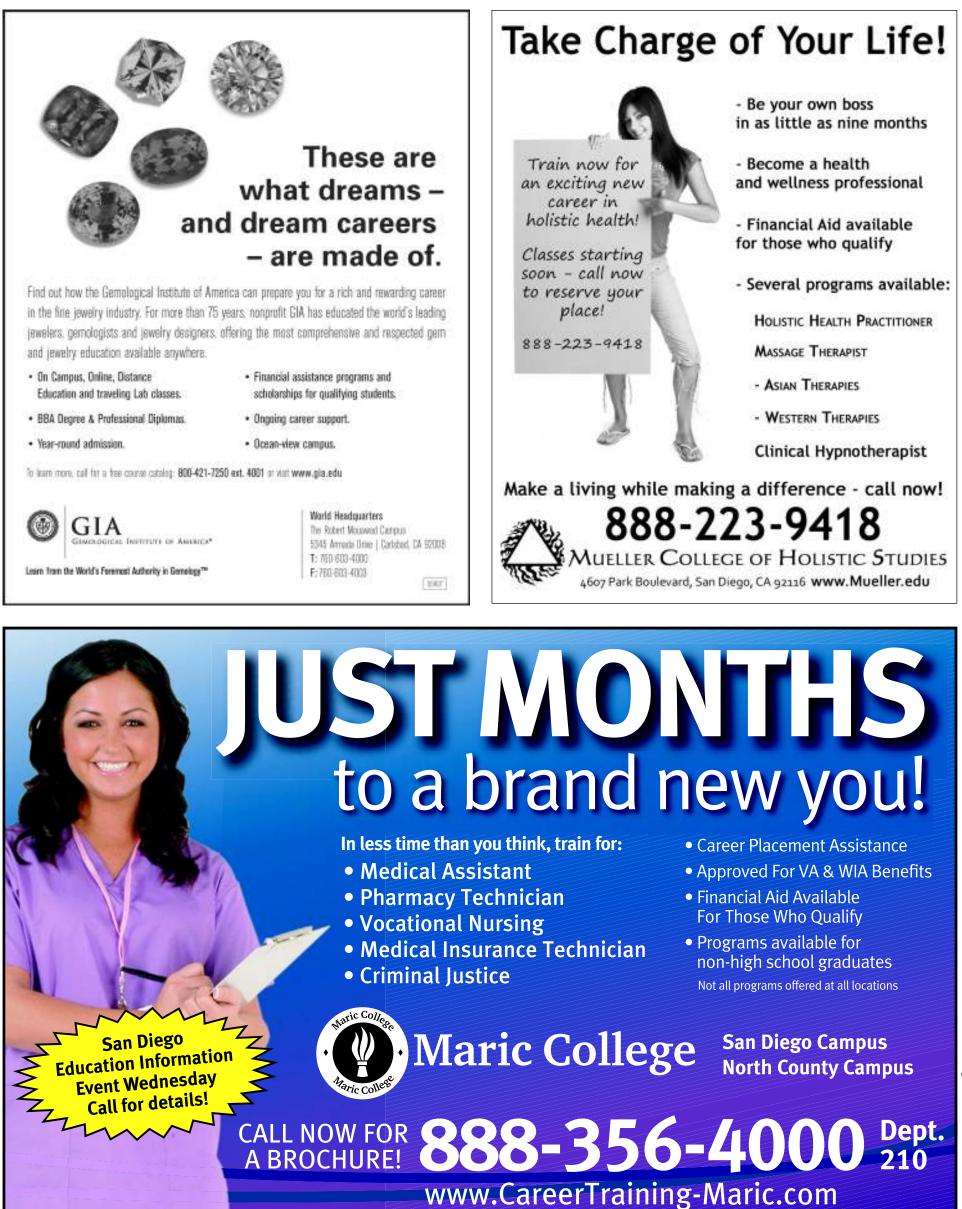
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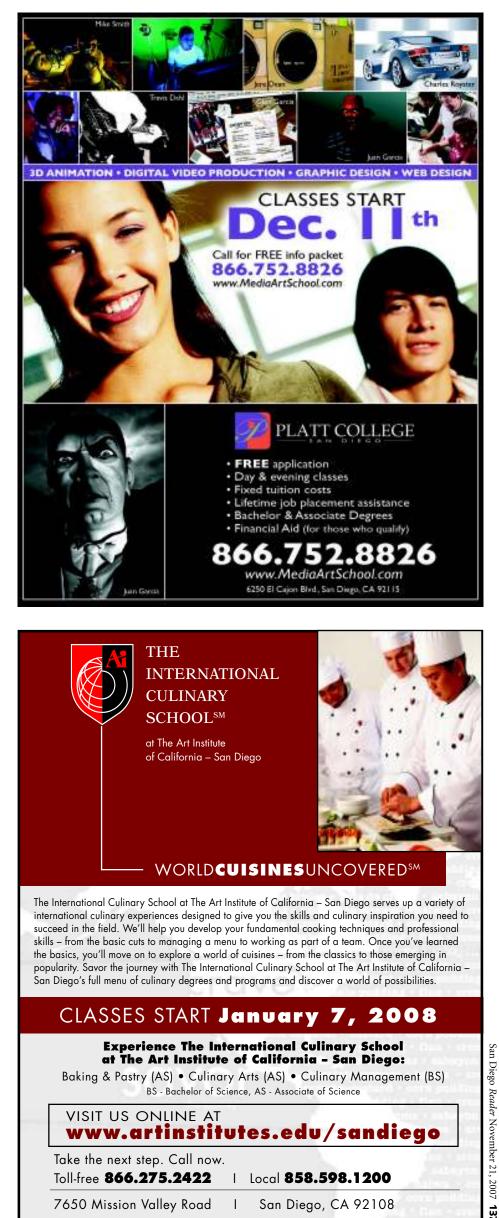


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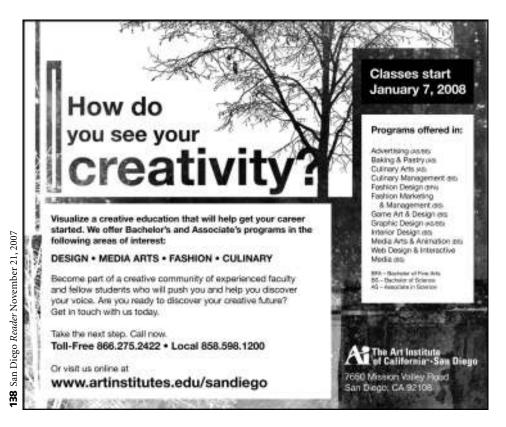
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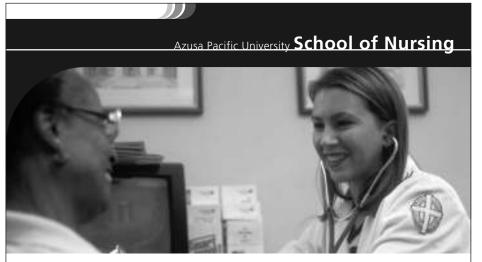
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THE READER PUZZLE

"This Boy's Life" author Wolff

Across Pinkett Smith of Hollywood Actress Ling of "The Crow"

14. British rocker Billy

19. List of corrections

Elizabeth Bishop

23. Stir someone's desire

31. Lith. and Ukr., formerly

35. Authority to act for another

27. Family member

movie)

29. Drippers

32. Hot dog

41. Disinclined

42. Roof edge

53. Fissures

66. "It would __

1. Peter Pan rival

5. Free-spoken

8. Not just "a"

10. Part of FBI

Cordelia

11. Bathing

them

hit)

24. Swed. neighbor

18. Stuff

2. 1969 Nabokov novel

4. MacGraw of "Love Story"

6. "Would you like to see _

7. Home to more than a billion

12. When King Lear disinherits

13. Elevators go up and down in

Tours of duty
 "_____ Excited" (Pointer Sisters

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(waiter's query)

9. Crew equipment

67. Doofus 68. Fearsome dino

3. Period

Down

56. Rat

43. Ballet's Rudolf

47. Uses the good china 48. French individuals

49. Like some collisions

55. Prepare for further battle

58. It's avoided by dieters (but it's the theme of this puzzle)

_ me ...

63. University of Oregon locale

64. Entangler for an angler 65. BMW rival

20. 1940s-'50s Phillies star Del_

22. "A _____ crushed and grease-

impregnated wickerwork":

28. "Hiroshima, Mon _____" (1959

15. K-O bridge

16. Hindquarter 17. Worn out

- 25. Melt together 26. You can RSVP to it on your
 - computer
 - "Snakes on a Plane" menace 28. 30. Auto racer Fabi
 - 32. Like wicker baskets
 - 33. Assuming it will happen at all
 - 34. Corn unit
 - 36. Bit of sun
 - 37. Type of mutual fund
 - 38. "Peter Pan" dog
 - 39. Stuntman Knievel 40. "May I help you?"
 - 43. "Grey's Anatomy" extras
 - 44. One-of-a-kind
 - 45. Safe place
 - 46. Look up to _ Yankees" 47
 - 50. John Hancock rival
 - 51. Some steak orders
 - 52. They rush on campus
 - 54. Gus Van ____ of film 57. Sign of summer
 - 59. Parked oneself
 - 60. Cat's pajamas?
 - 61. Fruity refreshment
 - 62. Scalpers' items, slangily



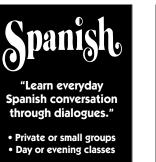
- 1. The prize for solving the Reader Puzzle will be a *Reader* T-shirt. 2. All entries in the Reader Puzzle contest must be received by the Reader by 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, five days following the issue date (Fax to 619-231-0489 or U.S. Mail to *Reader* Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego,
- CA 92186-5803). 3. All entries must be accompanied by
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- space allowed on the puzzle page. And please, no phone calls or trips to our office.

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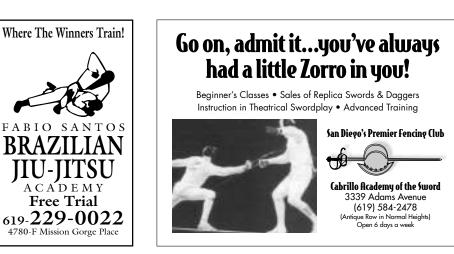
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7. One entry per person.

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SurfDIEGO

Names: Matthew and Kevin Live: Clairemont Surfing: End of P.B. Drive, Pacific Beach

Father and son Kevin and Matthew emerge from the surf to sit at the water's edge and talk about

their session. Dad — Kevin — taught Matthew to boogie board eight years ago and has coached him to be a confident surfer. Kevin taught himself to surf over 30 years ago.

"We started out with air mattresses. There used to be a rental place down here, and you could get them rock hard and actually stand up with them. Then some friends got surfboards, and that's how we progressed. That's how we gained knowledge of the wave."

Kevin has taken Matthew surfing several places locally, but they have not ventured outside of San Diego together.

"We haven't gone to Mexico yet. That'll be next; when he's more confident in the reefs."

Matthew, 14, took second place in the Jetty

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 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 cre-ative legends. Beginners welcome. Thursday evening class available, 6:30pm -10:30pm or Saturday morning. Call for information. 619-542-1216. AUDITIONS: For kids' vaudeville show. Singers, dancers, comics, musicians, specialty acts by kids and teens. Stipend. Call for appointment, 619-647-4958. Can for appointment, 513-647-4938. **MALE MODELS WANTED.** We are seek-ing attractive men, 18-25, for Internet, video and print work. No experience nec-essary! Earn up to \$2,000 per day! For more information, call Rose at 858-571-0512. www.platinumred.com.

MODELS. Amateur models needed for photo, video, web work. Ages 18-60. All

took the trophy for sixth place. Since then, competition has gotten tougher for him, but, he says, "I usually good enough to show off to my friends."

See the video Go to San DiegoReader.com Click on SurfDiego

types. No experience necessary. Cash paid. Professional setting. Call Jenn, 619-379-4964.

379-4964. **MODELS/INTERNET VIDEO.** Females 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/MODELS. Earn up to \$200 per day. All looks needed to work with film and TV production companies. No experience required. Call 877-282-

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Kids contest when he was make it to the second round." ten. The next year he Now Matthew is on advanced an age bracket and

the Mission Bay High School surf team and enters two surf contests each year. Though he does well, he savs his dream isn't to turn professional.

"I'd like to just stay

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10:30-11:30am; Tuesday, 6:30-7:30pm. For information please call 760-787-0700.

org/eventcalendar/3484. TWELVE STEPS NOT working for you? Try a self-empowering, skill-building ap-proach with S.M.A.R.T. Recovery, free support groups. 858-546-1100. UCSD/VA research study seeks older adults 60+ with worry or anxiety. Study in-volves drug and counseling compared to placebo. Compensation provided. Call Project Coordinator, 619-725-3530.

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TEMPLE OF BHAKTI YOGA. Sunday.

For information please Cain 700-787-0700. THE ROCK CHURCH Has new evangeliz-ing Hip Hop dance company, auditions December 8, 2pm, Culture Shock Dance Studio, 2110 Hancock Street, 2nd floor. All ages welcome, looking for profes-sional quality Hip Hop dancers that Love our Lord Jesus, rocksteadyministry@ yahoo.com, http://www.therocksandiego. org/eventcalendar/3484. endar/3484.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. The Earth Dis-covery Institute (EDI) is seeking docents to guide students at Crestridge Ecologi-cal Reserve. October-May, 4 hours/week. Training provided. chadgroup@cox.com; 619-749-5767.

WANT to START a consignment shop? Free information. Call 619-295-3583. WRITERS (2) looking for "Chicken Soup" type pet stories for new book and toon se-ries, with photos if possible. claudia@ writersetc.com or piedpiper@newsblaze. com or 858-693-3939.

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JACK, ERNIE, Humphrey's "not Hillcrest" 8/24. Hope you and yours are surviving the fires and aftermath all right. Alice, 4seasons1day@gmail.com. THANK YOU Holy Spirit for prayers an-

TIM, I can't and won't get over you. I feel like we belong together. I know we be-long together. Forever yours, Stephanie.

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Will Gee | Age: 27 | Occupation: Student | Lives: Ocean Beach

I like to make up my own slang, and I think **corduroy** is a great way to describe something that's really awesome - like wearing a great pair of worn-in corduroy pants. If something's good or generally appealing, you say it's

corduroy. I think it rolls off the tongue, and even though my friends aren't fans of it, I still say it all the time. I'm from Seattle, so maybe it's a regional thing. I guess people down here in San Diego don't wear corduroy as

much. But I'm convinced it's the perfect blanket term to describe anything cool.

See the video Go to San DiegoReader.com Click on Say What

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CLAIREMONT, 2 rooms for rent in 4 bed-room house, near Mesa College. Laundry avialable. Patio, backyard. First room \$550. Second room \$525. Rex 858-361-

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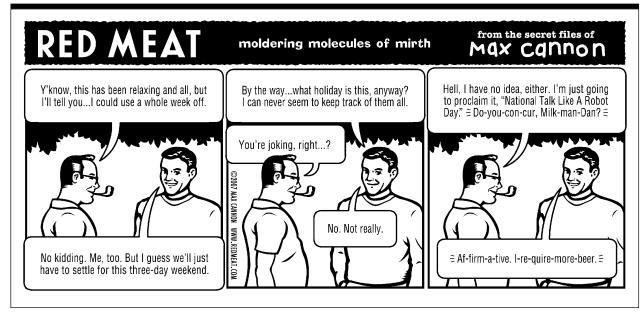
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945-0010 or 760-908-3947.

mates! Jacobs Electric, 619-843-9291.

trances. Nice neighborhood, quiet street. No pets. 858-546-8214. **UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS.** Room available in large 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. \$650/month, 1/2 utilities (cable, SDG&E, DSL), \$150 deposit. Month to month. No pets. 619-218-6613.

. VISTA. Sunny, furnished queen bed-room/private bath. \$900, includes utilities. cable TV, Internet, garage parking, fire-place, washer/dryer, barbecue, patios. Nonsmoker, no pets. margwallace@ adelphia.net; 760-727-6028.

RENTALS

COMMERCIAL

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GASLAMP ART SPACE! \$150 and up. High ceilings, tall windows. Gallery venue for shows. Uniquely affordable. 100-600 square feet. 402 Market. Hughes Man-agement, 619-239-1639 x102.

PACIFIC BEACH. 1452 Diamond, garage #3. \$150/month. \$85/deposit. Month to month lease. Storage only. Available 12/1/2007! 858-336-7997.

GOLDEN HILL. Storage, shed, 6'x10', clean, new, \$45, deposit \$45. 1-year lease. 619-368-9410

LA JOLLA OFFICE SPACE. 600 square feet. 2 separate units. Recently carpeted. Near ocean. \$1200. \$1300, kitchen and bath. Designated parking. New air condi-tioning. Lease. 6525-6527 La Jolla Boule-vard. 619-260-0752.

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GARAGE FOR RENT. Chula Vista. Single garage for dry storage only. Gated, 24/7 access. \$150/month. 619-425-6511.

DOWNTOWN, EAST VILLAGE. Retail, office or live/work. Free-standing building, 1200 square feet. Free-span open space. High ceilings. Commercial kitchen with large, unique skylight. Fenced yard. 1754 National Avenue. \$1499. 858-568-5081. NORTH PARK OFFICE SPACE available

from 315-1130 square feet at only \$1.00 per square foot. 3930 Oregon Street. www.utopiamanagement.com, 619-291-BANKER'S HILL/UPTOWN OFFICE. Won-

derful office near Downtown and Hillcrest. Free parking, elevator, interior restrooms, large waiting/reception area. Competitive rates. Call 619-846-8238.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. Awesome live/work loft, 900 square feet. Near City College, 1065 14th Street. \$1500 includes utilities. Call Pete, 619-888-3576.

OFFICE SPACE. 150 Square feet. \$300/ month. La Mesa. Easy freeway access. Quiet area. 8900 Grossmont Boulevard. Bob Cota Realty, 619-465-9934. GARAGE, NORTH PARK Vehicle only. Be

hind 3813 Villa Terrace. \$90/month plus security deposit. Hurry! Call 858-536-1900. SOLANA BEACH. \$995. Professional/

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erences. 30 years in the same business location! Office: 619-445-1623, cell: 619

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conditioning. Month to month lease with 60 day notice. 619-993-6089. MISSION BAY. Office Suite. 328 square feet at \$1.20. Next to 1-5. Easy access. Free parking. Near shopping center. 2445 Morena Boulevard #207. Juno, 619-

GARAGE, NORTH PARK Vehicle only. Be-hind 3813 Villa Terrace. \$90/month plus security deposit. Hurry! Call 858-536-1900.

RENTALS

HOUSES

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ALPINE. Great family home. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2 acres, pool, garage, fenced, secure. Furnished \$2600/month; unfur-nished \$2400/month. Plus utilities. 1-year plus lease. 619-445-1623; 619-857-8412. BAY PARK. Beautiful 4 bedroom, 2 bath BAY PARK. Beauliful 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-story home 2-car garage. Fenced yard. Nice canyon view. Downstairs: 2 bed-rooms, bathroom, living room, washer/dryer. Upstairs: 2 bedrooms, bathroom, living/dining room, kitchen. Dogs OK. 1381 Elevation Road. \$2700. Kevin, 619-261-4241.

Nevin, 619-201-4241. BAY PARK. 2262 Burgener Boulevard. Immaculate 4 bedroom, 2 bath home in lovely Bay Park! Enclosed backyard with ample parking on property for RV and/or boat. 1570 square feet. \$2495. Cassidy, Broker, 6 19-275-LIST(5478); www. timcassidy.com.

BAY PARK/MISSION BAY. Large 4 bed-room, 2 bath home. Top of hill with views! 2-car garage. Large front/backyard. Laundry. \$3000. First/last required. 619-619-275-5868.

BAY PARK/USD. \$2100. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house with 1-car garage. New car-pet and blinds. 5935 Mildred Street. Drive by first and call if interested. 619-226-7368 or 619-987-8079 or www.bkbinc.

CARLSBAD (Bressi Ranch). 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath. Built 2006, beautiful upgrades throughout. Gourmet kitchen, granite, stainless, washer/dryer. Community facili-ties. Carlsbad Unified school district. \$3650/agent 760-803-7953, janwestman@kw.com.

CARMEL VALLEY. 4 bedroom plus loft Furnished/unfurnished. 2-car garage. Yard, den with home theatre. Jacuzzi washer/dryer. Near beach/shopping/free-ways. \$3600. 619-807-0068.

CHULA VISTA/EASTLAKE. 5 bedrooms plus bonus room, hardwood floors, back-yard with jacuzzi. Amazing view from master bedroom! Clubhouse, pool, ten-nis. Available now. \$2550. 619-947-0394. EL CAJON. 4 bedroom, 3-1/2 bath, 3500 square feet, family room, fireplace, media room, 3-car garage. Pool, spa. Air condi-tioned. \$2500. Call Rob, 619-726-6116. EL CAJON/GRANITE HILLS. Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath custom home. Pool, large fenced yard, oversized 2-car garage, dogs OK. Property has back en-trance-RV parking, etc. \$2700 includes gardener/pool service. 750 El Rancho Drive. Kevin, 619-261-4241.

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HOME

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Reader November 21, 2007

San Diego

4

2 rooms/hall \$59. Call us first! Professional truck mounted carpet/upholsterv/tile. Absolutely no hidden charges. Clean guaran-teed. Since 1989. 619-298-9106.

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ENCINITAS. \$2100. 2 bedroom plus loft. Newer model home. 2-1/2 bath, 2 car garage. Washer/dryer. Quiet neighbor-hood. Gardener. 1246 Cambria Way. Available 12/11. 760-436-5168.

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ESCONDIDO. Historical Victorian. 4 bedroom, 3 bath home with separate studio with bath. Beautifully landscaped large yard. Gardener included. Nonsmoking. Small pet OK. \$2375. 760-739-1200. ESCONDID. \$1250-51500. Tired of apartment living? Beautiful 2 & 3 bedroom manufactured homes offer spectacular hilltop views. Full-sized washer/dryer, sorry no pets. 1924 Sheridan Avenue. 760-745-1677.

760-745-1677. ESCONDIDO. Pool! 3 bedroom, 2 bath! Estimated 1690 square feet. Air condi-tioning, dishwasher. Gas washer/dryer hookups, fireplace. 2-car garage. Pet OK with deposit. \$1900. Agent, 619-471-

ESCONDIDO/NORTH, 2 bedroom 1 bath house in the Country on 2 acres. Hilltop view. In the I-15 corridor, \$1450/month, water included. 949-633-1774.

water included. 949-633-1774. GOLDEN HILL \$1695. Spanish house 3 bedroom, fireplace, hardwood floors, ap-pliances, washer/dryer hookups, court-yard. 2 car garage, gardener, cat OK. Nonsmoking, 619-297-6636. . hth. 1200 esti

Nonstributing, 619-297-6036.
GOLDEN HILL \$1400/month. 1200 estimated square footage. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. Backyard. Washer, dryer. Freeway friendly. Call now for a showing: Agent, 619-471-2201.

GOLDEN HILL. \$2200/month. 1634 esti-mated square feet. 4 bedroom, 2 bath. Pets OK. Large fenced yard. New carpet. Extra den/office. Central heat/air. Agent,

HILLCREST. \$2400. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath home. Large yard. Gardener in-cluded. 2-car garage. Separate work-shop. Washer/dryer hookups. Available now. 1611 Myrtle Avenue. Agent, 619-298-7724.

How. To The Wynie Avenue. Agent, 619-298-7724. HILCREST, \$3095. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Beautiful remodeled, 1288 square foot Craftsman with glearning hardwood floors, large living room, with coved ceil-ings. Gorgeous remodeled kitchen with granite countertops, marble back splash, lie floor, stainless upgraded appliances. Master bedroom has attached office/den and master bath with large walk-in shower. Mud room with washer/dryer, off kitchen, central air conditioning, heat. 1 car garage. Private backyard with deck. Gardener weekly. Near Park Boulevard. 1521 Myrtle Avenue. 619-683-9274 or 619-846-6140.

HILLCREST. \$850. 1 bedroom. Immacu late, private cottage with hardwood floors. Excellent location. No pets. 1214 Essex Street. TPPM, 619-296-8802. Applica-tions available at www.torreypinespm.

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619-423-5153. **KENSINGTON.** \$3395.3 bedroom, 2 bath, classic, large Spanish, in the heart of Kensington. Hardwood floors throughout. Sunken living room with French doors that lead to courtyard with lush landscaping

and huge arches. Original fireplace with custom tile. Many original features. De-tails of Gumwood. Remodeled kitchen with upgraded appliances and cozy breakfast nook, mud room with washer/ dryer hookups. Private back yard with jacuzzi, detached 1-car garage. Walk to village and shops. Gardener weekly. 5128 Marlborough Drive. 619-683-9274 or 619-846-6140.

of 619-846-6140. **IA JOLLA.** Remodeled 5 bedroom, 3 bath plus library house. Near beach. 5-off-street parking. Lush garden/fenced yard. Redwood decks. \$4150 includes gar-dener. 858-692-4292.

dener. 858-692-4292. **IA JOLLA.** Charming 2 bedroom, 2 bath beach cottage, detached garage, hard-wood floors, one block from surfing beach. Walk to restaurants. \$2250 plus utilities. Rae Jean, 858-449-1434.

La JOLLA. 4 bedroom, 2 bath house. \$3200. Spacious backyard. Close to Tourmaline Beach. Stop by leasing of-fice at 5060 La Jolla Boulevard. 655 Wreiton. TPPM, 858-483-7412, www.casadelmar.info.

LA MESA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath plus office on mountain. Fantastic view to ocean! 2000 square feet. Garage. Family room. Fireplace. \$2675. Lease. Agent, Bill, 619-823-1674.

LAGUNA NIGUEL. Gorgeous 5 bedroom, 4.25 bath ocean view estate. Guest house. Pool/spa. Gate guarded. Partially furnished, \$6900. Furnished, \$8000. ww.DreamViewRealty.com. Broker, 949-487-1899.

LAKESIDE. \$1400. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. New carpet/paint. Large fenced yard. Laundry room in house. 1 car at-tached garage. Available now. 858-560-0272.

0272. **LAKESIDE.** Blossom Valley. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Built 2004-2005. 2232 square feet. 2-car garage. Recreation room. Landscaping. RV parking. Peters? Non-smoking, \$2300. 619-561-5584. LEMON GROVE. \$1375. Refurbished 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath duplex townhome. 1-car garage. Fenced yard. Laundry hookups. 619-218-6314.

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5200. LEMON GROVE. Quiet, secluded, spa-cious 3 bedroom, 2 bath 3000+-square-foot house, laundry hookups, central air, appliances, hardwood, 2 fireplaces, dou-ble carport, formal dining, large patio/yard. \$2600/month includes wa-ter/gardener. 619-698-8497.

Kergar denirer, o 13-036-8497. **LEUCADIA.** \$2300. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, West of Highway 101. Fenced yard, hard-wood floors, new bath and kitchen. 427 La Veta Avenue. Leasing Unlimited, 760-436-7273.

LINDA VISTA, \$1800, 3 bedroom, 2 bath house with garage. Large living room and large yard. 2402 Judson Street. Drive by first and call if interested. 619-226-7368 or 619-987-8079 or www.bkbinc.com.

MISSION BAY/BAY PARK. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Garage. Upgrades through-out. 7500 square foot lot. No pets. 2103 Burgener Boulevard. \$2700. 619-518-2005

MISSION BEACH. \$915. 1 bedroom, 1 bath house. Bayside. No pets. Nonsmokbath house. Bayside. No pets. Nonsmok-ing. Appliances. New paint. Carpet. Nice. Clean. Sunny. 817-1/2 Ormond Court. Juno, 619-275-3455. NAME This Place



Last week's place: (clue: Flower power crests here) Ever Bloom Flowers, 508 University Ave., Hillcrest. (Last week's winners: Cathy Catherman, Art Kashiwabara, Don Holmes, Joseph Rishel, Lillian Carpenter)

MISSION HILLS/NORTH Historical residential area. 2 bedroom, 2 bath 1650 dential area. 2 bedroom, 2 bath 1650-square-foot house. Patio, garage, hardwood floors, fireplace. On-site laun-dry, No pets. \$1895/month. 619-298-

MISSION HILLS. \$2695. 2 bedroom, 3 bath full house. Hilltop location with views of bay and Old Town. 2 levels. All appli-ances. Washer/dryer. Patio and balcony. 619-683-7638, Xilarent.com

MOUNTAIN VIEW. \$825. All new 1 bed-room house. Washer hookup. Section 8 OK. Fenced yard. No pets. Available now. 3885 Logan Avenue. Agent, 619-574-

MT. HELIX. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home. 2400 square feet. Quiet neighborhood. 2-car garage. Pool. No pets. Deposit. \$2300 includes gardener/pool service. 610_442_6102 -443-9192

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$2895. 1/2 month free rent! 4 bedroom, 3 bath. Must see-re-modeled 3,000 square foot interior. Panoramic view. Fireplace, balconies, new kitchen, etc. 2930 Copley Avenue. Agent, 619-281-0005.

Agenii, o 19-281-0005. **NORMAL HEIGHTS.** Charming 2 bed-room, 1 bath house, hardwood floors, tiled kitchen/bath, 1-car garage, washer/dryer, gardener included. Pets considered. Call Charmaine Hogan, 619-850-1544.

NORTH PARK. 3 bedroom historical house, garage, small fenced yard, small pet OK with deposit. \$500 off first, \$1820/month. 3719 28th, 92104. Lucy, 619-698-7520

NORTH PARK. \$2100. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with view, washer and dryer, 2-car garage. Pets OK. 619-540-6526. NORTH PARK. \$1050, rent. \$600 deposit

OAC. 2 bedroom, 1 bath detached house. 1-1/2 car garage, driveway. New carpet. Laundry. No pets. 3820 Pershing Avenue. 619-299-8515. NORTH PARK. 4418 Wilson Avenue #2. 2

bedrooms, 1 bath. Laundry room. reader@sdcpm.net. SDCPM, 619-220-4840. OCEANSIDE, 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, 3 car garage. Large fenced yard. Fire-place. Quiet neighborhood. Pets OK. \$2000, 858-450-1600.

OCEANSIDE. \$2095. 4 bedroom, 2 bath

Stove, dishwasher. Pool, spa. Hookups. Yard. Fireplace. Patio. Balcony. Landsca-per included. Pool service included. 690 Chimney Rock Drive. 858-598-1111 x190. PACIFIC BEACH. Mobile home on the

Bay! Cute and cozy 2 bedroom, 2 l washer/dryer. On De Anza C \$2200/month includes utilities/ca Mike, 858-456-0407; 858-344-1033.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1430. Amazing, se-cluded, 1 bedroom home with character. Fireplace and upgrades throughout. Large private yard with deck/rivit trees. Small pets considered. 619-733-7608. PACIFIC BEACH. \$2995. House with views of the Bay. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths. 2-car garage. Washer, dryer. Patio. New carpet. New paint. Available now. No pets. 1-year lease. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228 Property waragement, 858-488-2228. PACIFIC BEACH. \$2195. Darling 2 bed-room, 1 bath house. 2-car garage. Gar-dener included. Separate laundry room with storage and sink but no washer, dryer. Appliances. Older home but adorable. No pets. 1-year lease. Avail-able now. Coldwell Banker Property Man-agement, 858-488-2228.

agement, 858-888-2228. PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Rent \$1200. Deposit \$800. In-cludes water and trash. Close to Mission Bay. Off-street parking. 3454 bel Rey Street. 858-272-2889; 619-422-0792.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom plus office, 1 bath cottage, Large kitchen/nook. 2 parking. New carpet/paint. Very clean. Easy access beaches/freeways. Pets OK. Private fenced in deck \$1650. 540-462-7189.

POINT LOMA. Pristine, new 4 bedroom, 3 executive home. Panoramic views. -in TVs. 2-master suites. 2-fireplaces.

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Clue: Toast the health of an ambitious guy for this, Table-Toppers

Describe this location, name the nearest cross-streets, and win a Reader T-shirt. E-mail to NameThisPlace@SanDiego Reader.com; fax to 619-231-0489; or mail to Reader, Name This Place, Box 85803, San Diego 92186 — include your name and address. (Deadline, Tuesday, 9 a.m. In case of ties, lottery will determine top five winners.)



Immaculate landscaping. \$6500. Lease

POINT LOMA, Designer Remodeled 4 bedroom 3 bath, 2400 square foot, bedroom 3 bath, 2400 square toot, garage, Yard, patio/fountain. Kitchen stainless steel/granite countertop, stain-less steel appliances, lighted cabinets. Hardwood floors travertine/slate through-out. Spa tub, rainfall shower, dual sinks, large walk-in closet. Fireplace, wine cel-lar, \$3250, lease option. 619-368-9410. Point Lona. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Cul-de-sac. Attached 2-car garage. All appliances. 3211 Macaulay. \$1850. 6-month lease. Balcony. (No yard.) Agent, Cul-de-2021 619-463-297

RANCHO PENASQUITOS. \$2350. 4 bedroom, 3 bath. 2-car garage. Refrig-erator, stove. Dishwasher. Washer/dryer. Yard. Fireplace. erator, stove. Distinganica, Washer/dryer, Yard. Fireplace. Patio/balcony. Landscaping included. Dog OK. 13238 Sundance Avenue. 858-598-1111 x190. utopiamgmt.com. SAN CARLOS, 1/2 month free rent! 3 bedroom, 2 bath canyon home. Pool se vice/gardener. View. Fireplac Remodeled kitchen. 2-car garage. \$219 7476 Margerum. Agent, 619-281-0030. Fireplace \$2195

SANTEE, \$2000. 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom with bonus room. Washer/dryer hook-up. Newly remodeled. Yard/gardener. No pets/smoking. Available 12/1. 9451 Pike Road. 619-405-9051.

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Diego Reader November 21,

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esidential, office, or piano. Low rates, rving all of Southern California. Free esti-ates and wardrobes. No hidden costs, uick, friendly, professional. Fully insured. Quick, friendly, professional. Fully insured. (CAL-T-176377.) Birditt Moving, 619-258-8155.

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Praise Jesus Lord

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4583 Delaware Street. 619-683-9274. 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. VISTA. \$1850-\$2050. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Stove. Dishwasher. Spa. Hookups. Yard. Fireplace. Horses welcomel 172 Palmyra Drive. 858-598-1111 x 190.

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APARTMENTS / Condos

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www.sunsetpacificrealty.com. BANKER'S HILL Will go fast! \$800-\$900 per month. Deposit \$500. Spacious stu-dios in secured vintage building with great views. First Avenue/Hawthorn. Full size kitchen and bath. On-site laundry. On street parking. Only cats with \$200 deposit. 619-325-7332.

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BANKER'S HILL \$825. 1 bedroom apart-ment, laundry, close to all. Wood floors 1915 4th Avenue #5. AMI Property Man-agement. 619-697-6314.

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Chelsea Evans Poet North Park

was when I was eight. My mom I twas when I was eight. My mom had my dad's family over. He has a brother that was in a war. He was from the South, and...had a lot of personality. He had green beans on his plate with all the other food, and he smelled it first. This offended my mom a bit. My dad's whole familv did stuff that was bothering her. But the final thing was when my little brother said 'F you' and my grandfather's response was, 'That's my boy.''



Virginia Collins DJ

Orange County first Thanksgiving with my M first Thanksgiving will my husband. We got married at 15, and our parents kicked us out. So, we were poor and couldn't afford a big, nice meal. We had mashed potatoes and spaghetti. It was a good Thanksgiving because we were together. We've been married for 20 vears.



Chris Vannoy Solar Turbines South Park

was when my mother and father were at my sister-in-law's house. They didn't like her much. And there were other people there that didn't like other people, so everyone was in their own little spots and didn't talk to each other. It was very awkward for me. I was walking around, trying to go up and meet everyone. The next year it was at my house, so there were no problems



Ashley Pacillo Waitress

Bav Park don't think I've ever had really bad Thanksgivings. I had a really bad Christmas, when my brother passed away and my siblings fought over something one of them thought the other should've been given. I usually have to work on Thanksgiving, so that kind of sucks. The worst was when I worked at [a place] in Old Town because it was really busy. There were a lot of tourists from other countries, so maybe they didn't respect our holiday as much. They were ruder and didn't tip well. My friend, who I work with now did bring me up a plate of food, though

fresh. You got a choice of milk or soda to drink. We did have a beer night once in a while, but not on Thanksgiving. And we only had an hour to eat. Half an hour if you were

Kevin Daily

Sonar Technician

Kearnv Mesa was in the '80s, up in Alaska in

the Coast Guard, out to sea. There

were 40-foot seas, and we were try-

ing to hold on to our trays of turkey and dressing. The weather was cold

The food had been frozen for a few

weeks or whatever, so it wasn't that

on watch.

When was your worst Thanksgiving?

Sarah Cusey Nanny Normal Heights

t was two years ago. We have four groups of families that meet for Thanksgiving. And I had been away for college. I hadn't been there for a while, and when I returned for this Thanksgiving, I realized they were all conservative Republicans. And we ended up having a lot of political debates during the meal. It wasn't the most comfortable or fun time I've had at a meal.

pets. 161 5th Avenue. TPPM, 619-420-8161.

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COLLEGE AREA/TALMADGE. \$735-\$900. Nice 1 bedroom, 2 bedroom apartments. Quiet building, downstairs, large rooms. Coin laundry. Cat OK. 4438 Menlo Av-enue. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.

COLLEGE AREA/ALLIED GARDENS. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Up-stairs. Onsite parking/laundry. Pool. Vaulted ceiling (living room). No pets. 5553 Adobe Falls Road, #11. 858-488-8199, 619-606-9779.

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SERVICES





PICTURE STORY

Photograph from the San Diego Historical Society



ctress Lita Milan, in a phone Abooth on Harbor Drive and Market Street, 1958. An aide to Dominican general Rafael Trujillo Jr. seems to be offering counsel. Our local paper learned that Milan fled the general's yacht to hop a chartered plane for L.A., where she'd boarded the vessel three days earlier.

"The cruise with Trujillo at 1960. first appeared to have lost Miss

Trujillo." Trujillo and Milan married in

Milan her leading role in the

movie I Mobster. Later, however,

her Hollywood producer had a

change of heart and she was given

back the starring role.... On her

return to Los Angeles last night,

Miss Milan denied any romantic

ties in her friendship with

You can purchase this photo and many more at the San Diego Historical Society Research Library or online at www.sandiegohistory.org. For more information, call 619-232-6203, ext. 127.

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— by Robert Mizrachi

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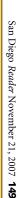
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858-270-2071. www.delsoipm.com. HILCREST. \$925. 1 bedroom, upstairs. Remodeled. Stove, refrigerator. Dish-washer, microwave. Coin laundry. Great location. Cat OK with additional \$300 de-posit. Available 11/21. 3730 First. Del Soi Property Management, Broker. 858-270-2071. www.delsolpm.com. HILLCREST. \$875. Small, quiet 1 bed-

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Special: \$200 off 1st month's rent. Waived credit check fee. Senior complex, 62 and older. Villa P r. Underground parking. Cats OK. Pacifica, 3630 Sixth Avenue. 619-3234. sunriseliving.com.

HILLCREST. 1 befrom available. Off-street parking. Private balcony. Dish-washer, microwave, stove, refrigerator. On-site laundry. Walking distance to ev-erything. Sorry, no pets. Call Patti at 619-291-8060.

291-8060. HILLCREST. \$950. Great cottage. 1 bed-room, 1 bath. Breakfast nook. Carpet. Laundry room shared with tenants. Street parking. No pets. Available now. 1819 University Avenue, behind "The Crypt." Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686 or Pablo, 610.640 2720. 619-249-2770

bit9-249-2770.
HILCREST. \$1150. Lovely 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Carpet. Breakfast nook. New kitchen. New bathroom. Fenced side yard. Street parking. Laundry room shared with tenants. No pets. Available now. 3819 Park Boulevard, behind "Num-bers." Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686 or Pablo, 619-249-2770.

HILLCREST. \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. HILLCREST. \$825.1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Carpet. One assigned park-ing space. Laundry room. No pets. Avail-able now. 3820 Georgia Street between Robinson and University. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686 or Pablo 619-249-2770. HILLCREST. \$1000. 2-1/2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Second floor. Carpet, air condition-ing, laundry room shared with tenants. Street parking. No pets. 3843 Park Boule-vard. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686, or Pablo 619-249-2770.

Pablo 619-249-2770. **HILLCREST.** Remodeled, luxury with garage! All redone granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, maple wood with water-wall. 1 bedroom, \$1295/month. Month to month. Lease option available. 4077 3rd Avenue. Sorry, no pets. Call Nicol at 619-807-7053.

Nicol at 619-807-7053. **HILCREST.** Newly remodeled, pool, washer/dryer. Month to month. Barbecue, clubhouse featuring a pool table, flat screen TVs and bar. Granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, maple wood cabinetry and large storage rooms. 2 bedroom, 2 bath \$1695/month. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath \$1395/month. Sorry, no pets. Lease option available. 1030 Robin-son Avenue. Call Nicol at 619-807-7053. son Avenue. Call Nicol at 619-807-7053. HILCREST. Wood floors, large floor plan. Month to month. Granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, maple wood cabinetry. 2 bedroom, 2 bath \$14850/ month. 1 bedroom, 1 bath \$1495/month. Sorry, no pets. Lease option available. 4093 First Avenue. Call Nicol at 619-807-7053.

HILLCREST. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. New paint, carpet, bathroom tile, kitchen countertops. Laundry. \$1100. Nice, quiet. Deposit, \$1100. Pets OK. 4014 Georgia Street. 858-613-1069.

HILLCREST. \$1795. 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhome with hardwood and tile floor-ing, granite counters, stainless appliances, washer/dryer, spa and sundeck with view. 858-598-1111 x192. utopi-

amgmt.com. HILCREST. Ask about our move-in spe-ciall Studios from \$750. 1 bedrooms from \$950. Great floor plan. Easy freeway ac-cess. 4124 Campus Avenue. 619-294-2871. www.rasnyder.com. HILLCREST. \$795. Large studio. Hard-wood floors. Gated complex. Laundry. Close to parks, stores and restaurants. Cats OK. 415 Juniper Street. 619-300-9487.

9487. HILLCREST. \$950. 1 bedroom, 1 bath (#3 & #6). Quite clean complex. Near shops and cafes. Available now. 4577 Park Boulevard #3 & #6. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100. HILLCREST/BANKER'S HILL. 1 bed-

rooms from \$1095. 2 bedrooms from \$1495. Minutes to downtown. Pool. Club-house. Parking. Laundry facility. No pets. 111 West Pennsylvania. 619-298-3225. HILLCREST/BANKER'S HILL. Luxury highrise 2 bedroom, 2 bath with washer/ dryer, huge windows and a view. Very light and bright! Call 619-296-2787.

Iight and bright Call 619-296-2787. HILLCREST/BALBOA PARK. \$1250. 1 bedroom. Vintage 1920s large downstairs in 4-plex. Stove, refrigerator, wood floors, formal dining room with built-in built-try system. Shared patio. Small garage. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 12/10. 1632 Upas. Del Sol Prop-erty Management, Broker. 858-270-2071. www.delsolpm.com.

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pets. 858-454-5419. IA JOLLA. 939 Coast. Studio. Luxury high rise. Steps to Village, ocean, pool. Valet/parking. Amenities. \$2200. 3-month lease. Mike, Agent, 858-344-1033. IA JOLLA. \$1250, 1 bedroom. 2nd floor. Controlled access. Pool. Secured park-ing. Laundry. No pets. Steps to beach. Available 12/6. 6655 La Jolla Boulevard. 858-882-7494. LA JOLLA. \$995. Studio in the village

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LA JOLLA/UTC. \$1645. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, 2-car parking included, pool, Jacuzzi, sauna, business center. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals. com. 619-367-3333.

LA JOLLA/UTC. \$1235.1 bedroom apart-ment, cat OK with deposit, near all, club-house, heated lap pool, fitness. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-ec7.page

LA MESA. \$925, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, bal-LA MESA. \$925. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, bal-cony; \$1125-\$1275. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, upper, balcony; \$1250. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, downstairs, yard. 619-697-3285. For photo, floor plans, map and direc-tions, see website: www.sdreader.com.

LA MESA. \$760, studio. \$350 deposit! Air conditioning. Dishwasher. Carport. Stor-age. Pool. Gated. No pets. Available 12/21. 5435 Morengo Avenue. 619-698-7006. viiluealeapth acc.

12/21, SHOS working Version and States of States 7926. villaknollsapts.com. Balcony. Air conditioning. Garden courtyard. Dish-washer. Intercom entry. Laundry. Off-street parking. 4311 Parks Avenue. 619-460-5406.

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manor Drive. 619-461-1940. **LA MESA.** \$975. Charming 1 bedroom, classic 1950s apartment. Located in the heart of the village of La Mesa. Unit still retains its original hardwood floors and kitchen cabinets. Current upgrades to the unit include new paint in designer colors, new shower enclosure, new windows and all new door hardware and updated light fixtures. Property has on-site laundry and is close to many shops and restaurants. Sorry, no pets allowed. Available Decem-ber 1, 2007. \$500 security deposit. Credit check required. 8446 La Mesa Boulevard at University. Please call between 9am at University. Please call between 9am and 5pm. Call Scott at 619-846-6615.

www.scott@hendershawandassociates

LA MESA. \$975. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Ready now! New paint/carpet. Clean, quiet, secure. If you can find one better, rent it. 7240 El Cajon Boulevard #21. Call Rachael 619-804-1044.

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san.rr.com. LA MESA. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. \$1300/month. 5350 Baltimore Drive #48. 1200 estimated square feet. Fireplace, heating and air conditioning. 1-car garage. Agent, 619-471-2201. LA MESA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1100 square feet. New carpet, balcony, air conditioning, pool, parking. No dogs. No Section 8. \$1375/month. 619-464-5557. LA MESA. Spacious 1 bedroom apart-

LA MESA. Spacious 1 bedroom apart-ments from \$900-\$920. Upper and lower units available. Balcony or patio, stove and refrigerator. On site laundry and parking. Units with garage available \$40, 4751-4757 Jessie Avenue. 619-619-460-8011

634-5772; 619-460-8011. LA MESA/CASA DE ORO. Large 1 bed-rooms from \$9451 Large closet. Lots of cabinets. Air conditioning and heat. Huge patios/balconies. Gated access and parking. Small pet OK. Elegant, sculp-tured courtyards with flower gardens, fountains, gas lamps, park benches. Charming, New Orleans ambiance. 3903 Conrad Drive. Call 866-894-6343. www. sdreader.com/rent/1017.

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LEMON GROVE. \$975. Garden apartments, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, newly remod-eled. 1 bedrooms, \$775. Great location. Cat welcome. Pool, laundry, parking. 8413-8427 Broadway. John, 619-462-6798.

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www.kandrproperties.com. LINDA VISTA. \$685-\$1200. Studios with utilities included, 2 bedrooms, 3 bed-rooms. Laundry, gated parking, \$400-\$800 deposits! No pets. Astro Vista Apartments, 2249 Ulric Street. 858-565-Apart 6400.

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with storage. \$2100. 619-944-0317. LITTLE ITALY. \$2090. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, modern-style condo, super nice, quiet, view, balcony. Hardwood floors, Italian glass tile. Move-in ready. No pets. Non-smoking. 619-819-8246.

structurg, 619-619-8246. LITTLE ITALY, NORTH. Secluded 2 bed-room, 2 bath. Popular restaurant area. 1700 square feet. Office room/third bed-room, washer/dryer, balcony view. 2 parking spaces. \$1695. 3667 #B India Street. 619-229-1934.

Street. 619-229-1934. LOGAN HEIGHTS. \$1100. 2 bedroom, 2 bath plus bonus room, upstairs. Off street parking. Laundry on site. No pets. 3142 National Avenue #2. 619-640-7530. www. dforrent.com

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enue. 619-804-3325. NORTH PARK. \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Gated community. On-site laundry. Park-ing. Spacious. Immaculate. No pets. No smoking. 3967 Illinois Street. Call 858-571-1970. sunriseliving.com. NORTH PARK. Studio. Private, spacious. Charming detached studio on quiet street. Washer/dryer. Water and utilities included. Parking. Available now. \$800 plus deposit. Anita, 760-632-7188.



MISSION BEACH. \$1625. 2 bedroom, 1 bath townhome. Stove, refrigerator, fire-place, parking. Close to beach and bay. Ask about pet upon approval. Available 12/15. 724 Santa Clara Place. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-0274.uwuk docher app 2071: www.delsolpm.cc

MISSION BEACH, SOUTH. \$1095. 1 bed-room, 1 bath. Upstairs. Year round. Park-ing. No pets. Available approximately 11/7. 733 Ensenada Court #C. More Prop-erty Management, 858-514-8201.

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bath apartment. Garage, laundry, view, quiet. 737 Torrance. AMI Property Man-agement. 619-697-6314. agement. 619-697-6514. **MISSION HILLS.** \$1150. Spacious 2 bed-room, 1 bath with balcony. Parking, laun-dry. Convenient location. Close to Hillorest, 1-5 and 1-163. No pets. 3679 Keating Street. TPPM, 619-546-5739.

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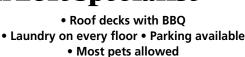
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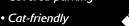




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by JOSHUA MEEKER

The Vagrant-Hippie Movement

I'll never forget my roommates. The following took place a few years ago when I was living in New Jersey. My girlfriend and I had rented a nice, small apartment that was below my landlord's house. After we moved in my landlord laid down two rules: One, no smoking, and two, no roommates. For those of you who may not know, take my word for it that it's never a good idea to live below your landlord. The slightest bump or sound will send him or her into a frenzy, believing that their home is being ravaged by hordes of rebellious youth (which turned out to be true in this case).

I was a young, well-mannered hippie, and I had many strange friends, most of whom lived a seminomadic lifestyle — hitchhiking across the country, begging for food, and regularly delving into reality-expanding pastimes. My first roommate, Lauren, was never officially a roommate, as we never discussed the issue, nor did she pay rent - therein lay the loophole in my agreement with the landlord.

Lauren was a colorful, cute girl. She didn't like to work and took any food or possessions in my home that she thought she might enjoy. I used to leave my front door unlocked, but after discovering that she was sleeping on my couch every night, I started locking it in an effort to keep her away from the pantry. That proved to be of little use — she would crawl in through the little cat door.

Supporting one other person was doable, but it wasn't long before my best friend Trip came to visit New Jersey. Trip had been living for the past few months in a 500-foot redwood tree in a place called Fern Gulley in Northern California in an effort to stop loggers from cutting down the tree. Knowing that he could keep a low profile, I agreed to let him stay with me for a while if he could help with the rent which he did, for a while.

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Then another friend returned to town, and with him came the end of any resident-landlord harmony. Rory is a little hard to explain. Few, if any, men of his kind still walk this earth. He was a hard-core gutterpunk who had turned hippie after having the realization during a party in an abandoned cigarette factory that Johnny Cash wore black so that he and future generations didn't have to. He was also the one who started the vagrant-hippie movement in our town. I let him stay with me, as he had no other place to go, and it was snowing. I should have known then that the situation could only end in disaster. Rory is a fiery individual with little regard for rules or boundaries. This, combined with Trip's sharp intellect and Lauren's "anything goes" attitude, turned my home into a brewing pot for chaos.

For the first couple of weeks I tried to keep the place under control, telling the three not to huddle and talk outside, to keep the noise down, and not to smoke cigarettes in or around the house. It was no use. I began to receive angry phone calls from my landlord, reporting that he could hear the loud playing of a guitar, people talking, and strange smells leaking through the vents. I would come up with some lame excuse. I didn't have the heart to kick anyone out. But it wasn't

long afterward that my girlfriend broke up with me, and I lost all will to keep the chaos at bay.

I decided that I was as good as evicted and figured, If you can't beat them, join them. It was more than once that I found myself with my roommates covered in black-light paint, contemplating the meaning of existence, or sitting atop a pile of furniture, clothes, and pillows in the heat of an African-style drum circle. The walls became decorated with everything from drawings and tapestries to tickets for public urination (accredited to Rory), and I won't even get into how messy the apartment got. I don't know how long this went on — time began to merge into one confusing moment. Meanwhile, I was the only one who had a job, and I made too little to feed and care for these crazy people.

Eventually the day came when I realized I couldn't make that month's rent, and we had also run out of food. Rory and Lauren took care of the food situation through their masterful Dumpster-diving skills, but the rent was another story. After discussing the situation, we decided that our only option was to take off and wander aimlessly across the great American frontier. I sold most of my belongings at the local pawnshop, found a home for the cat, and gave away everything else. My home was all but destroyed,

and I dreaded the moment that my landlord would discover this. To avoid the confrontation, I traded a set of plates and dishes, a spice rack, and an expensive set of kitchen knives with a friend in exchange for him to clean the house after we left.

I was still a little angry at my friends for ruining my life, but I was looking forward to the journey ahead. I still feel that it had been their plan all along to make me lose my home so that I would accompany them on their journeys. Lauren, Trip, Rory, some kid we had just met, and I stuffed ourselves into my Toyota 4-Runner along with a few backpacks, an electronic keyboard, some guitars, and a half-coyote dog named Lola. We began our journey in Florida, which is a whole other story. About halfway there I received a phone call from my unhappy landlord — my friend who was supposed to clean the apartment hadn't followed through on his part of the deal. There wasn't much I could do about it. I still feel kinda bad about that.

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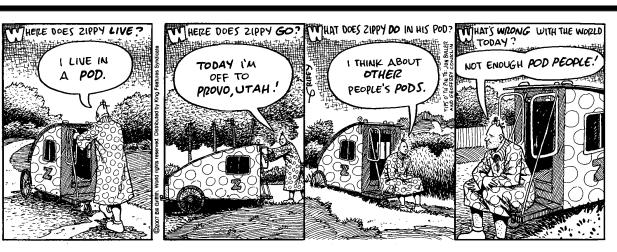
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POINT LOMA. \$1095 rent. \$600 deposit. OAC. Lower 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Parking. Laundry. No pets. At 4461 Valeta Street #C. Agent, 619-299-8515.

POINT LOMA. \$1095 rent. \$600 deposit. OAC. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Balcony. Laundry. No pets. At 4359 Mentone Street #1. Agent, 619-299-8515.

POINT LOMA. \$1300. Resort like setting! 2 bedroom, 1 bath top floor Pacific Isle condo. 2-parking spaces. Dishwasher. Pool/spa/tennis/gym. No pets. Available 1/1/08. 619-647-4332.

1/1/08. 619-647-4332. **POINT LOMA.** Lease now! No rent until January, 2008! Expires 12/16. 13-18 month lease. New luxury 1, 2 bedrooms from \$1435! Spectacular bay views! Cae-sar-Stone countertops. Stainless-steel appliances. Pool, spa, sauna. Sundeck. Fitness centers. Elevators. Air condition-ing. Cat friendly. Gables Point Loma. ing. Cat friendly. Gables Point Loma, 3811 Marquette Place. 619-223-6577. Gables.com. www.sdreader.com/rent/ 1003.

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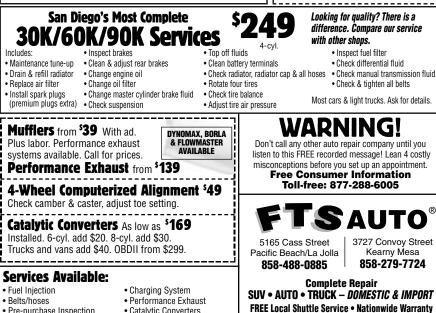
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news of the WeiRD

LEAD STORY

- Update: The man noted in "News of the Weird" in 1996 for keeping a detailed personal diary died in October at age 89. For 25 years, Rev. Robert Shields of Dayton, Wash., had chronicled his life in five-minute segments of banalities, leaving 37 million words on paper filling 91 boxes. His self-described "uninhibited," "spontaneous" work was astonishing in its mundaneness. Examples: Aug. 13, 1995, 8:40 a.m. "I filled the humidifying basin mounted over the Futura baseboard heater." 8:45 a.m.: I shaved twice with the Gillette Sensor blade [and] shaved my neck behind both ears, and crossways of my cheeks, too." July 25, 1993, 7 a.m.: "I cleaned out the tub and scraped my feet with my fingernails to remove layers of dead skin." 7:05 a.m.: "Passed a large, firm stool, and a pint of urine. Used 5 sheets of paper."

Ironies

— In interviews with reporters from McClatchy Newspapers in October, cemetery workers in Najaf, Iraq, lamented the recent downturn in violence in that city, as they admitted having grown accustomed to the income from the estimated 6500 caskets a month that they serviced. The number had fallen to less than 4000 a month. — In October, following 18 months' investigation, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission concluded that the state government requires too many reports (a total of more than 1600). About one-fourth of them either were duplicative of others or were still required even though the receiving agency no longer exists, or the annual reports are prepared even though it is evident that they go unread. The commission issued its findings in a 668-page report.

Compelling Explanations

— Hawaiian Airlines is suing Mesa Air Group on a business matter and believes Mesa's chief financial officer, Peter Murnane, had documents relevant to the lawsuit on his office computer but that, recently, the documents were deleted. Mesa acknowledged in a September court filing that Murnane had recently erased a huge number of files from his office computer but said he was merely deleting his massive collection of pornography.

 Monsignor Tommaso Stenico, an official with the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy, was suspended in October when he was recognized in a hidden-camera TV documentary about gay priests. However, he told *La Repubblica* newspaper in Rome a few days later that he is not gay but was only pretending to make sexual advances to a man in order to gain the trust of "those who damage the image of the Church with homosexual activity."

The Great Texas Outdoors

— (1) In August, entomologists found a spider web in a state park about 45 miles east of Dallas covering trees, shrubs and the ground along a 200yard stretch. The originally white web had turned brownish because "millions" of mosquitoes had been trapped in it. (2) In September, wildlife experts tried to assure the public that the jellylike blobs ("millions of tiny organisms known as zooids," wrote the *Dallas Morning News*) attached to trees and dock pilings along Grapevine Lake between Dallas and Fort Worth were harmless.

Recurring Themes

— Ticketed for DWEC (Driving While Eating Cereal): Four people were injured in Houston in October when a driver failed to stop for a red light while eating a bowl of oatmeal and collided with a transit bus. (Three passengers were hurt, in addition to the motorist, and witnesses said oatmeal was found all over the inside of the car, and also inside the bus and on the ground, according to a KPRC-TV report.) Two weeks earlier, in London, Ontario, a driver accidentally lost control of his car while eating cereal, drove through a grassy median, and hit two oncoming cars (but no serious injuries resulted).

The Poor Dear!

— A federal magistrate in Tampa, Fla., ordered a doctor's appointment in October for the incarcerated Brian Wilcox, who is being detained on several child pornography charges, after he complained that he was suffering from a series of medical problems. He said that his back hurt from a four-year-old injury; that he has problems with his eyes; that his feet and groin area are numb as if they are "asleep"; that there is a bulge on the left side of his groin; that he is worried about a mole on his nose because of his family history of cancer; that all of his remaining 16 teeth are either decaying or cracking (keeping him from eating, and he's lost 40 pounds); and that he has "severe flatulence at all times."

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego *Reader*, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com

pets. 2089 Chatsworth Boulevard. 619-222-0152.

POINT LOMA. 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath Sea Colony townhome. Double garage. 24 hour security, tennis, pool, jacuzzi, volleyball court. \$1700. Available November 20.760-533-1430.

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619-465-4879. SAN CARLOS. Super special! 2 bedroom townhouses. \$1375 and up. Stove, dishwasher, garage, large patio, pool, laundry facilities. Lakewood Villa Townhomes, 8492 San Carlos Drive, San Diego. 619-469-3585; 619-944-0671. SAN CARLOS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Carport parking, community pool. 6576 Bell Bluff #A. \$1200/month. Agent, 619-471-2201. SAN MARCOS. \$1400. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo overlooking Executive golf course. Carport. Storage. Covered deck. Air. Appliances. Washer/dryer. Vaulted ceilings Skylights. Lease. 856-945-4590. SANTEE. \$1395. 2 bedroom, 2 bath corner unit condo with wood floors and custom paint. Crown molding. Washer/dryer in unit. 1-car garage. 858-598-1111 x192. utopiamgmt.com.

Diego Reader November 21

, 2007

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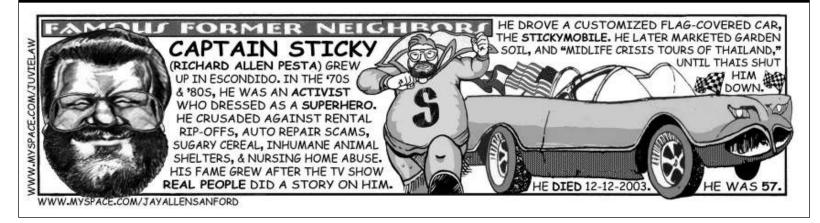
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FAMOUS FORMER NEIGHBORS

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SANTEE. \$825. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Also 1 bedroom, 1 bath for \$775. On-site laundry, off-street parking. No pets. 8527 Graves Avenue. 619-258-2584.

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SPRING VALLEY. \$1900/\$1900 deposit. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhouse, 2 car garage, on quiet cul-de-sac. 3122 Lamar Court. 619-466-8153.

SPRING VALLEY, 9924 Buena Vista Drive. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$795. 1/2 off first month. Section 8 OK. Won't last, clean and quiet. 9928 also available, \$795. reader@sdcpm.net. SDCPM, 619-220-4840.

TALMADGE. \$865. Large 1 bedroom. Clean, good condition. Nice, quiet area. On-site laundry, off-street parking, air

conditioning, security gated. 4544 Winona Avenue. 619-229-1406. Minoria Avenue. 6 19-229-1406. **TALMADGE.** \$1150. 1/2 off 1st month. Large, Iower 2 bedroom. Washer/dryer. New carpet. Fireplace, patio, garage. No pets. Near SDSU! 4471 Winona Avenue. 619-804-3325.

619-804-3325. TALMADGE/KENSINGTON. Deluxe 2 bedroom 1 bath with backyard starting at \$11201 Large closets, built-in shelving, ceiling fans, separate dining room. Re-frigerator, stove, dishwasher. Covered parking, courtyard, on-site laundry. Pool, spa with poolside WiFi. Outdoor billiards, barbecue lounge with WiFi. Fitness cen-ter, computer labl Pet-friendly. Talmadge Point, 619-282-1191. www.pacificliving. com.

com. TIERRASANTA. \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath Senior complex. Gated, quiet complex recreation room with activities, on-site laundry. Next to shopping, bank, phar-macy and more. Cat OK. Section 8 OK 4906 La Cuenta Drive. 858-278-4910. TIERRASANTA. \$2025. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhome. Washer/dryer. 1600 square feet. Garage. Recently upgraded. Community pool. Edge Park Way. Agent,

UNIVERSITY CITY/UTC. Avanti at Re-naissance. \$2250. 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhouse. 2-car garage. Fireplace, hardwood floors, laundry. Available De-

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cember. No pets. 1-year lease. Call Cold-well Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228. UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$1190. Beautiful

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sevillengmt.com. UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. Move-in special, \$500 off first month rent! OAC. \$1400. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house/duplex with garage. \$1000 deposit. Newly renovated unit. New tile, new paint. Convenient location. Coin operated laundry. Available 11/23/07. 3024 Madison Avenue. www. cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

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great community amenities. Must see! \$1395. 858-598-1111 x190. www.

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JAMUL. Almost 1.5 acres (2 separate parcels) all usable with seasonal creek and oak trees. 3 bedrooms, 1500+ square feet. Great room, fireplace, \$425,000. No Agents! Kelly Re/Max, 619-562-6999.

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szosy.ouo. call owner, o 19-384-4343.
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BACK WHEN

In the Reader

Thirty Years Ago

I met Diane Arbus in 1967 shortly after her first major show at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. My roommate at Yale, David Lippman, saw that I admired her work and said casually, "Would you like to meet Diane Arbus? I used to go out with her daughter, Doon." Pause. "In the third grade!"

Jon Hankin, our other roommate, accompanied us to her apartment in Greenwich Village at 131 $1/_2$ Charles Street. I was elated and apprehensive. What could I say to a talented and famous photographer? As it turned out, she did most of the talking. — "ARBUS/AVEDON: OUT OF FASHION INTO TRUTH,"

Alberto Lau, November 23, 1977

Twenty-Five Years Ago

A seven-foot-tall stucco wall is part of an intended \$110,000 spruce-up to the La Jolla Shores home of Dick Carlson, former TV newsman and now a San Diego Federal Savings executive. But Carlson's next-door neighbor didn't like the prospect of such a wall separating her property from his, so she got her son-in-law, William C. Kellogg, and his son, Bob, to lobby against it. The senior Kellogg, a well-known La Jolla burgher who runs the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club, is also a former member of the La Jolla Shores Planned District Advisory Board, before which the Carlson wall was debated.

-CITY LIGHTS: **"THE GREAT WALL OF LA JOLLA,"** Paul Krueger, November 24, 1982

Twenty Years Ago

I went in search of Southeast San Diego. I don't know if I found it. Everybody I talked to there had a different notion of Southeast, its boundaries, its living conditions, its prospects for the future. Southeast is in ferment, and whether it will ripen into wine or vinegar is an open question. What it is now depends upon the angle you view it from.

— "SOUTHEAST: IT'S MUCH MORE THAN MEAN STREETS," Neal Matthews, November 26, 1987

Fifteen Years Ago

But if anything, the La Jolla temple is stranger than any of these. Most Mormon temples, in fact, have been exuberant and fantastical exteriors, which are in most cases offset by more subdued, even severe interiors. Their effect of strangeness has to do with their populist monumentality. And by their so obvious desire to impose themselves upon time. The architects at Deems Lewis McKinley responsible for the La Jolla site were told quite bluntly to make the thing last for at least a millennium (\$20 million seems a small price to pay for such terrestrial permanence).

— "THE MOTHER SHIP HAS LANDED,"

Lawrence Osborne, November 26, 1992

Ten Years Ago

I've always wanted to host a Thanksgiving dinner at which I got clear to the violet and melancholy sunset and still felt wildly thankful. Too often, I approach the day mean and cranky. I dread list-making, dread shopping. I dread washing and ironing linens. I dread chopping celery and onions. I dread the damned cranberries, when they come to a boil, popping on my bare arm and leaving a blister. I dread hauling the big-ass 25-pound dead turkey up onto the chopping block.

--- "HOW FAR WE CAME TO BE HERE AND HOW MUCH ALONG THE WAY WE LOST," Judith Moore, November 26, 1997

Five Years Ago

Since the announcement late last month that the Cove Theater would cease operations after the holidays, I have made it a point when out <text><text><text><text><text><text>

San Diego Reader, November 26, 1997

in my car to detour past the movie houses I used to attend all the time but now attend no more, because they are movie houses no more. I have not sought to fatten the catalog with ones I personally never went to, or ones I could not find my way back to without the aid of a Thomas Bros., so there will be no gnashing of teeth over the likes of the Village, the Helix, the Linda, the Jerry Lewis Twin, the Pussycat.

— "SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY," Duncan Shepherd, November 21, 2002

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(20047) benind vorts. cdash oliny: LA JOLLA, Christmas boutique and garage sale. Saturday 12/1/07. 9am-2pm. Antiques, collectibles, food, art, crafts, clothing, household items, decorations! Good Samaritan Episcopal Church. 4321 Eastgate Mall, 92121.

Eastgate Mail, 92121. OLD TOWN. Garage sale. Saturday, 11/24, 9am. 21" Panasonic TV, electron-ics, knickknacks, collectibles, sporting goods, tools, hardware, leather goods, costumes, clothing, household goods. 4111 Mason Street.

RANCHO PENASQUITOS. Garage sale. Saturday, 11/17, 8am-noon. Clothes household appliances, furniture, more 12744 Benavente Way (92129).

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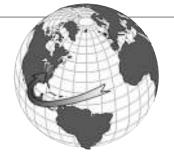
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MELINDA

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SCHOOLYARD SCUFFLE

Dear Noah,

It was sprinkling rain when I went to pick you up from school. As I came around the corner the principal came out to meet me. She wanted to call me earlier in the day but never had time. She knew she would see me coming to pick you up so decided to wait and take me aside then.

There was an "incident" today at lunch recess. Another little boy from your class kicked your lunch bag up to the wall of the school building but then picked it up to set it on the wall so it would not "get run over." This is what you told me. The principal said you totally misread the situation, and she never mentioned that the boy kicked your lunch bag...only that he picked it up and put it on the wall so it would not get run over. Run over by what I had no clue. Neither did you when I asked. So, we have conflicting stories, although I imagine the entire truth is a combination of everyone's story. The kid probably did kick it aside and then picked it up and placed it on the wall. Why you did not know and neither did I. The principal said the boy was trying to do a good thing, trying to help you, to protect your bag; but, it's not like cars drive around the playground, and all the other kids' lunch bags were sitting outside in lineup for when you went back to class. Why this child picked out your lunch bag to move is unknown.

Since you thought that this child was being mean, you tried to bite his arm and then successfully pinched his arm. You did not draw blood or break the skin. In fact, it sounds like

the attempt at biting was totally unsuccessful. But you got called on for it, which you should have. I hope the situation was clear to the teachers on the playground, as it sounds as if the incident was fuzzy. I hope the old trend of you being the last one being seen doing anything and, hence, the only one getting into trouble, is not going to repeat itself. You usually only react if provoked. I have seen the socalled monitors on the playground, and I have to say that they do not always do a great job in monitoring what is going on all the time. You apologized to the boy. He accepted your apology. All was fine.

However, you now will be spending your time with a duty monitor at recess, which is something I requested a long time ago. I requested that your paraprofessional be with you at all times, even during playground/recess. I guess she has to have a lunch break and have other times away from you, too, though I do not understand why she cannot be on the same schedule as you. Anyway, someone now will be with you at all times, and they are to watch you at all times to hopefully help redirect you and make sure you stay on track. I'm not sure how effective this can be if they do not really know your situation or needs. And those needs are always evolving as you progress.

When the story came out



today, my stomach instinctively knotted up as it used to every day when I picked you up from preschool because that is all we heard — all the things you did wrong. I am thankful you have made progress, but we still have work to do. We will keep plugging away. For moms out there with children diagnosed with autism, this is why the earlier you can begin working with your child, the better. It is much easier to try to teach these things to your child as soon as possible. It can take years for the child to master and understand them. You do not want to wait until they are teenagers to teach them social skills.

> An autistic teen could have an unfortunate incident where they instinctively act out or react inappropriately in a social situation and get into a lot more trouble — they are older and bigger and can inflict more damage.

Noah, we will continue working on appropriate reactions and responses to specific social situations here at home.

I love you, Noah, to infinity and beyond...forever. Mommy XOXOXOX

http://dearnoah.blogspot.com

ELECTRONICS

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CHINA CABINET, mahogany, Duncan Phyfe style, lighted display case, with 3 shelves, drawer, enclosed storage on bottom. Store value \$995. Yours for \$595. Photo available. 760-729-6571. COUCH, comfortable down filled with 5 toss pillows, large, 96Wx45Dx32H, paid \$1600, asking \$500 cash. Denise, 619-309-8195. DAYBED/FUTON, Bunkbed/trundle-

DAYBED/FUTON, Bunkbed/trundleheavy duty, very universal, space saver, can separate, \$80/best/trade. 619-670-8356.

DINING SET, Cream color. Extended rectangular table with 6 chairs, hutch and buffet included, excellent condition \$1200/best, 619-444-6794.

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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.

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wall mirror, \$10. Typewriter, office chair, \$8. Wheelchair, bird cage, sliding closet doors, carpet. 26' trailer, self-contained, live in or travel. 858-270-0565.

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BABY GRAND PIANO, \$850. Sacrifice. must sell. Cash only. Artificial Christmas tree, 7-1/2' tall, 800 stay-lit lights, nearly new, \$100. 619-449-7755.

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BARBLE, Vinter Fantasy, 1996, in box, special edition, \$35. Vintage black se-quined top, \$20. Vintage Victor Costa original strapless, black lace, cocktail dress, \$40. 619-282-9581.

BEANIE BABIES, 158, collected, never used. \$150. Call 619-464-6478.

BED\$ A PILLOWTOP MATTRESS Box Set. New in plastic with warranty. Queen \$169. King \$239. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

Central Air Conditioner, In good condition, \$300. 619-444-6794.

condition, \$300. 619-444-0754. CHAIR, Adirondac, excellent condition, \$175. Nordic Track, was \$1100, hardly used, excellent condition, \$345. Alice Bailey books, 15 hardback, 1 softback, master index, \$245. 858-270-8990.

CLOTHING. Authentic powder blue LT jerseys, new, with tags, throwback, size 52 (XL) and 50 (L). All names, numbers, bolts sewn on fabric. \$125. 619-818-2934 DECORATIVE GOLD FRAME Mirror with

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DESK, CHAIR, 6 drawers, 38"Wx78"L, \$50. Wedding dress, hat, shoes, size 8, \$100 all. Off-road tires, 18" and 21", 2 each, \$5 each. Table, glass top, \$25. 85-277-7197. DOLL HOUSE, 21"x12"x32"H, 4 levels,

urniture, \$109. Call 858-274-6358 Mith Infinite, \$105. Can 8536274-6538. DRILL KITS, Makita 9V, \$25; 12V, \$50. Overhead projector, \$75. Kirby vacuum, attachments, shampooer, self-propelled, like new, \$200. Men's Italian leather jacket, \$45. 619-449-8069. ENTERTAINMENT CENTER. Electronics

and other miscellaneous household goods. We are moving. For more info, please call Nick & Goldie, 619-574-8724

FT. ROCKVALE RESTAURANT. Set for casino on 1-1/2 acres. More information, 406-962-3963 (Montana).

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Stereo Outlet 2710 Garnet Avenue Pacific Beach • 858-581-2434 STARTLING ME FROM SLEEP, MY CLUNKY PHONE LIT UP AND BUZZED on the nightstand. *Ding ding! Brrrr!* I rubbed the sleep from my eyes, fumbled with the phone's blue backlit controls, and read the text message that woke me.

"I can't sleep."

It was my friend Jennifer, and for some reason she felt it necessary to include me in her insomnia

"So what?" I typed on the miniature keypad. "I can sleep. It's 1 a.m. Now leave me alone."

I pressed the "Send" button, punched up my R2D2 pillow, and lay back down on my chilly Incredible Hulk sheets. Watch over me, Hulk. Watch over me.

Rolling into bliss once again, my limbs stretched into satisfaction and my head swam through nighttime galaxies like a dandelion puff caught on the wind and ... Ding ding! Brrrr!

My damn phone went off and murderous rage compelled me to snatch it from the stand. The text, from Jen again, read, "Can't sleep because I've got 'Green Acres' stuck in my head."

"Oh, no!" I shouted. Oh, God, how I wished I could unread that last line, but my mental struggles were in vain. Quickly the infectious horns buh duh buhdumbump! and Zsa Zsa's voice crept into my head. "New ... York is where I'd rather stay."

I popped out of bed, growling, "Nooooo!" The foul woman had doomed me to sleepless repetition of a catchy TV tune. My phone lit up and buzzed in my hand again - Ding ding! Brrrr! The text from Jennifer read, "I get allergic smelling hay...'

My mind did the horn section — buh duh buhdumbump!

"Nooooo!" I yelled again, switched on the lamp, and set about texting a particularly nasty response. "I was asleep! I was fine! Now you've got that..." I stopped texting and hit the "Call" button

Jennifer answered with a surprisingly robust, "GREEEEEEEN acres is the place to be!" "No! No!" I shouted. "I was asleep!"

"Faaaarm living is the life for me!"

"I'm going to strangle you!" I said. "It's one in the morning! You booby-trapped me!" "Land!" she sang back to me, "spreadin' out so far and wide..."

"Ugh, you miserable woman," I said and rubbed my forehead. "All right. If we're going to do it, we're going to do it right. I'll sing his part and you do Zsa Zsa, and you better put a lot of funky Hungarian on it too. From the top ... "

WHAT I WILL AND WON'T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY (I'VE GOT SOME-THING FOR YOU TO BE THANK-FUL FOR, RIGHT HERE).

NOVEMBER 22

JUDGE MARIA LOPEZ

CW 10:00 A.M.

What in the name of John Oates's mustache is this? CW marches forth with their regularly scheduled programming even though there are parades and football games and all kinds of wonderment and mirth to be had on EVERY other channel. Who on Earth would watch a fake judge show when there are giant inflatable Transformers attacking the treetops of New York? I mean, really.

OPRAH WINFREY

CBS 5:00 P.M.

Legend has it that any man who can sneak into Oprah's dressing room and sniff her wig will be rewarded with a pot of gold, which sounds easy enough, but here's the catch: anyone who sniffs the wig turns to salt, which the hag then sprinkles on spanakopita. I'm not making this up. Seriously, I read it in an encyclopedia.

FRIDAY. **NOVEMBER 23** THE ANDY GRIFFITH SHOW CA4SD

On the back of Ron Howard's neck is an outlet. If you plug a set of headphones into it, you can use his ears to pick up shortwave radio. Aim his ears toward the sky and listen for alien broadcasts. Like in that Jodie Foster movie before she got all old and thin and weird looking like Madonna.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24 MY FRIEND RABBIT

NBC 10:00 A.M.

What I really want to know is why there aren't other races of Smurfs. Like African-American Smurfs and Mexican Smurfs. Smurfxicans, if you will. Are there Eskimo Smurfs near the North Pole, and do French Smurfs eat horsemeat? Because that would just be too weird. You're not supposed to eat horses.

COX PRESENTS: THE NUTCRACKER BALLET CA4SD 5:30 P.M.

There hasn't been this much snickering from teen boys since Wang computers ran a recipe for spotted dick in their magazine ads.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

MYSTERY!

PBS 6:00 P.M. The better show is Mystery! I've Got a Meatball Hidden Somewhere on My Person. It Could Be Perched Atop My Head, But I Think We Both Know Where You're Going to Look First. That's Right: The Crotch. You Dirty Thing, You. Or maybe I'm the only one who likes that show.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26 THAT '70S SHOW

FOX 6:00 P.M.

Damn, I love that show.

The little dark-haired one wants me and I know she's kinky. And not regular kinky, either, I mean things-you-wouldn't-even-understand kind of kinky. She wants to shave my body



and wrap me in plastic wrap and then pop balloons under my chin. See, I told you she was hot and strange. Don't be jealous of our love.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27 SEINFELD

TBS 5:00 P.M.

Am I the only person who thinks Seinfeld stunk out loud? It stunk like Orville Redenbacher's fake leg. (And, remember, he worked in kitchens. That thing got sweaty.) I'd rather lick a gas-station bathroom key than watch that stinkin' show. Dirty stinkin' show.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

CNN 5:00 P.M.

Here's what happens when we don't regulate the airwaves. We let any old Dick Cheney or Rudy Giuliani say whatever they want. When anarchy reigns, then what do you get? Unicorn poop in the vegetable crisper, that's what. Things can go haywire in a hot minute is all I'm saying.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29 CBS EVENING NEWS WITH KATIE COURIC CBS 6:00 P.M

Katie Couric clubbed a baby harp seal once. I know, it's deplorable, but she was in college and "experimenting." At the time she hated her dad and was really rebellious. She's patched things up with her family and keeps the seal stuffed on her mantel. You know, to remind her.

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"Well, I show up at all your stupid interventions."

<u>By John Brizzolara</u>

I am 57 years old and hardly into video games. Any sort of gaming, for that matter. With the possible exception of Scrabble, all board games bore me. Gambling bores me, even if I'm winning. So my son's suggestion that fatherand-son video gaming is akin to playing catch or tossing the old pigskin around is an idea I resisted. Still, one does what one can as a father, and this seemed at least reasonable. The game he had in mind is called World of Warcraft. You may be familiar with it. I certainly was not and remain almost as unfamiliar with it as I was before he had me attempt to play the thing. My character — one he pretty much assigned me - was a kind of minotaur hunter with a large club.

The graphics are both astounding and intentionally distracting. The movements of the specialized mouse are confounding and require a dexterity that only hours of practice, day after day, can provide. This is exactly what my son does, often well into the small hours of the morning after being at it all night. He is disabled and cannot work, so video-gaming is pretty much his full-time job. He has suffered enough in recent years that his mother and I offer no objection. After all, he's not taking drugs, gangbanging, or doing anything at all that seems

remotely harmful. Still, his pleading insistence that I join him in this is both heart-warming and exasperating.

His simple explanations of the game rules, techniques, et cetera, to me are inscrutable. "Click here, there, the other place...but only with your right thumb on the side of the mouse, and only the left side and the front lever, not the back one." The mouse I use for work has no levers along its side whatever, only a right and left sort of oblong hemisphere. Now, this clicking business along the side is only to accelerate or retard your character's progress as he chases down prey on the screen. To change his direction is...I forgot...some other unusual use of the mouse.

Now, mouse aside, there are four keys or characters on the keyboard itself that are used to pummel your intended prey, which is a kind of cross between a ostrich, an ungainly and overgrown duck or goose, and a long-legged, longnecked pigeon. These four keys are W, A, D, and S, known as ASWAD. I'm sure I have this wrong; but whatever their precise function may be, their use requires a left-handed coordination and proficiency that again seems to require years of tiresome repetition, inevitable failures (your character will die many times before you get it right), and a motivation that completely escapes me.

Granted, this is only one primitive aspect of Warcraft. There are many others. But my son wanted to introduce me to the basics. The basics of this game are the kinds of stuff — the right stuff, you might say — needed to fly an F-14 or the space shuttle or to navigate a lunar module.

I anticipate, even as I write these words, someone writing in to say, "You've got it all wrong! That's not how you play Warcraft at all!" That is precisely what I am trying to convey here. I have no idea how to play this game and no idea really what I'm talking about.

Less than 15 minutes into my son's coaching, I found myself quoting Homer Simpson. In one episode of The Simpsons, Bart wants his father to come to his Little League game. Homer rolls his eyes and says something to the effect that, "I told you, son. That sort of thing bores me!" To which Bart replies, "Well, I show up at all your stupid interventions." This is far too close to the literal truth involving the two of us playing Warcraft.

Did I mention that my son is not a child but a grown man? He used to



read widely, but now his literary diet consists of manuals or guides that are not meant to be read cover-to-cover, but dipped into for brief references to questionable situations that may come up while playing online with others in Akron or Brussels. He has perhaps two dozen of these expensive hardcovers with titles like Deathwing, Genestealer, Dark Millenium, or Demon: The Fallen.

This all began with Dungeons and Dragons years ago. As a boy, he tried to teach me to play that one too. I failed to grasp the simplest elements of the deal.

It is not as if I expect my boy to become a lawyer or real estate dealer. I am pleased that he finds so much pleasure in these pursuits. My true regret about the business is what appears to be severe brain damage on my part (likely, likely) and a seemingly increasing either reluctance or inability to learn.

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